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PM'S CLARION CALL: ROOT OUT TERRORISM

Respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity essential for connectivity and infrastructure, says the Prime Minister

AGENCIES
ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that terrorism in any form or manifestation cannot be justified and called on the international community to isolate and expose the countries that harbour terrorists, provide safe havens and condone terrorism.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar delivered these remarks on behalf of PM Modi at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) being held under Kazakhstan's Presidency in Astana.

Calling SCO a principle-based organization whose consensus drives the approach of its member states, PM Modi stated, "At this time, it is particularly noteworthy that we are reiterating mutual respect for sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, equality, mutual benefit, non-interference in internal affairs, non-use of force or threat of use of force as a basis for our foreign policies. We



External affairs minister S Jaishankar addresses during the SCO Plus format meeting, in Astana on Thursday. ANI

'Make in India' initiative can add to engines of global growth and help democratise the global economy, and highlighted the importance of creating multiple, reliable and resilient supply chains.

—Prime Minister Narendra Modi

have also agreed not to take any measures contrary to the principles of state sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The Indian Prime Minister called for giving priority to combating terrorism,

which he termed as one of the original goals of the SCO.

PM Modi stressed that terrorism if left unchecked can become a major threat to regional and global peace. He

PM Modi in Moscow on July 8-9

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on an official visit to Russia and Austria from July 8-10.

PM Modi will be in Moscow from July 8-9 at the invitation of Russian President Vladimir Putin to hold the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit.

In a press release, Ministry of External Affairs stated, "Prime Minister will be in Moscow on 08-09 July 2024, at the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin to hold the 22nd India-Russia Annual Summit."

The leaders will review the entire range of multifaceted relations and exchange views on contemporary regional and global issues of mutual interest, it added.

Two kanwariyas from Delhi washed away in Gangotri

AGENCIES
UTTARKASHI

Two kanwariyas (Shiva devotees) from Delhi were washed away on Thursday when the flooding of a stream along the Gangotri-Gomukh trek damaged the temporary wooden bridge over it.

The kanwariyas named Suraj and Monu, both residents of Delhi, were washed away by the raging waves of the Chirbasa stream as the bridge collapsed when they were crossing it.

The spot where the incident happened is about nine km from Gangotri, Forest Department officials here said.

The water level of the stream rose suddenly due to the melting of a glacier, they said.

Hemant Soren takes oath as J'khand CM for third time

TDG NETWORK
RANCHI

JMM executive president Hemant Soren took oath as the chief minister of Jharkhand on Thursday, a week after he was released on bail in a money-laundering case.

Hemant Soren replaced Champai Soren, who resigned on Wednesday after a brief stint of nearly five months as the Jharkhand chief minister.

Hemant was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor C P Radhakrishnan at the Raj Bhavan here. This is the third time the JMM leader has taken oath as the state chief minister.

Champai was also present in the swearing-in ceremony along with family members of Hemant Soren and others. Hemant Soren was re-



Re-elected Jharkhand chief minister Hemant Soren assumes his charge of work at Project Building in Ranchi on Thursday. ANI

leased from jail on June 28 after the Jharkhand High Court granted bail to him in a money laundering case linked to an alleged land scam. He had resigned as the chief minister, shortly before his arrest on January 31 by the Enforcement Directorate.

He became the 13th chief minister of Jharkhand, which was carved out of Bi-

har in 2000.

Soren became the chief minister for the first time in 2013 and was in power for a year and five months. After the December 2019 assembly elections, he was again at the top post but had to resign in January this year.

After taking the oath, Soren praised his predecessor Champai, saying he dis-

INSIDE

CROWD MANAGEMENT IS ALIEN TO INDIA

Unfortunately, India has witnessed at alarming intervals several incidents wherein hundreds of people lost their lives due to poor enforcement of crowd control. Many stampedes happen during religious festivals or events that attract massive crowds.



DETAILS P9

Millions vote in UK, future of Sunak and his party hangs in the balance

AGENCIES
LONDON

The future of Rishi Sunak as Britain's first Prime Minister of Indian origin and the leader of the Conservative Party - fighting anti-incumbency of 14 years - hangs in the balance as millions of voters cast their ballots in a historic general election on Thursday.

The British Indian leader and the man who wants his job - Labour leader Keir Starmer were among the early voters from an esti-

mated 46 million registered voters as around 40,000 polling booths opened across the country at 7 am local time.

Sunak and his wife Akshata Murty walked hand-in-hand to their local polling booth on a sunny day in his constituency of Richmond and Northallerton in Yorkshire, northern England.

A little later, Starmer and wife Victoria were at their polling station in Camden, north London, sporting Labour red colours.



Rishi Sunak

"Today, Britain can begin a new chapter," Starmer told voters in a statement.

"We cannot afford five more years under the Conservatives. But change will only happen if you vote La-



Keir Starmer

bour," he said.

Sunak, meanwhile, took to social media to drive home his message: "Polls are open. It's time to stop the Labour supermajority that would mean higher

taxes for the rest of your life."

Sunak, 44, is up against voter angst towards the incumbent Tories after 14 years in power and has had to contend with trailing far behind 61-year-old Keir Starmer-led Labour Party throughout the six-week campaign.

Earlier, both leaders wrapped up their six-week-long campaign with contrasting messages - Sunak urging voters not to hand "tax-raising" Labour a "supermajority" and Starmer

playing down the prospect of a landslide win for fear of a low turnout impacting the final outcome.

Candidates are being fielded for 650 constituencies across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, with 326 required for a majority in the first past the post system.

Besides the two main parties, voters will be choosing from a list of candidates representing the Liberal Democrats, Green Party, Scottish National Party

P4

Cricket fans take over Mumbai AS CHAMPS COME HOME



Indian cricket team conducts its victory parade and celebrates with a huge crowd of fans as they head to Wankhede Stadium, in Mumbai on Thursday. ANI

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Indian team crossed the ocean of fans who came in to celebrate their T20 World Cup success, and arrived at the Wankhede Stadium to continue the night of celebration. After their arrival at the Wankhede Stadium, the Indian cricket players danced to the tunes of dhol at the event, which is being held here after their victory parade.

The Rohit Sharma-led team kicked off the open-top bus parade from Ma-

The Rohit Sharma-led team kicked off the open-top bus parade from Marine Drive. Fans turned up in numbers, danced to the tune of India's success.

rine Drive. Fans turned up in numbers, danced to the tune of India's success, and celebrated the arrival of the T20 World Cup-winning team.

Throughout the parade,

players were seen lifting the coveted trophy high in the air and appreciating the support of their fans. The love of the fans was clearly visible when some

of them climbed on the tree and cheered for the team as the bus went past them.

DETAILS & MORE
PICUTRES P16



Team India earlier in the day called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Seen in the picture are head coach Rahul Dravid, captain Rohit Sharma and teammates with the ICC T20 Mens World Cup 2024 trophy.

Hathras stamped: 6 volunteers arrested

TDG NETWORK
HATHRAS (UTTAR PRADESH)

Aligarh Inspector General of Police, Shalabh Mathur, said on Thursday that six people have been arrested in a stampede incident at a religious event in Uttar Pradesh's Hathras.

The Aligarh IG also mentioned that Rs 1 lakh reward has been announced on the arrest of the main accused, Prakash Madhukar.

"The death toll stands at 121. All bodies have been identified and the post-mortem procedure completed," Mathur said.

"When the stampede occurred, the six 'Savadars' who are now arrested had run away from the site. Rs 1 lakh reward is being announced on the arrest of the main accused, Prakash Mad-



A view of the stage at the Hathras stampede incident site which left 121 people dead during a 'Satsang' (congregation), at Phutra village in Hathras on Wednesday. ANI

RAHUL TO VISIT HATHRAS TODAY

LUCKNOW: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will visit Hathras on Friday following the stampede in which 121 people were killed, party officials said on Thursday.

Baba not found; Police searches ashram

AGENCIES
MAINPURI (UTTAR PRADESH)

Uttar Pradesh Police conducted a search operation at Ram Kutir Charitable Trust in Mainpuri on Thursday for 'Bhole Baba', a self-styled godman who conducted a satsang in Hathras where a stampede took place killing 123 people.

An FIR has been registered on the incident naming organizers of the prayer meeting but 'Bhole Baba' has not been named yet.

Earlier in the day, Deputy

P4

RAHUL INTERACTS WITH LABOURERS DURING HIS VISIT TO GTB NAGAR

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday again surprised people as he made a sudden visit to labour chowk in the GTB Nagar area of the national capital and interacted with daily wage labourers and spent some time working with them at a construction site.

According to party leaders, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday morning around 9.30 a.m. left from his residence and reached the labour chowk near Kingsway Camp in the national capital.

During his visit to labour chowk, the newly appointed Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha interacted with daily wage labourers and



discussed their problems and issues they face in their daily life.

After having a brief discussion, Rahul Gandhi also worked with the daily wage labourers at a construction site.

This is not first time that the Congress MP from Ut-

tar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly has surprised the people.

In April last year, he went out in the national capital and had food with the public in Bengali market area and Jama Masjid area.

After some days, he again visited the North campus of Delhi University and

According to party leaders, Rahul Gandhi on Thursday morning around 9.30 a.m. left from his residence and reached the labour chowk near Kingsway Camp in the national capital.

had lunch with them and also made surprise visit to Mirthal in Haryana and from there he drove on trucks to Ambala to understand the problems faced by the truck drivers.

He also held discussions with the farmers after visit-

ing the farm lands in Haryana's Sonapat area during the sowing season in June last year.

He also had visited the Azadpur mandi in the national capital last year. He had also invited a vegetable vendor, whose video went viral on social media after he was unable to buy vegetables amid the soaring vegetable prices.

Rahul Gandhi had also interacted with the people and mechanics during his visit to Karol bagh and then also drove from Kargil to Ladakh in August last year from his bike.

After Bharat Jodo Yatra conclusion on January 30, 2023, Rahul Gandhi has been holding such brief discussion with the public and discussing their issues.

Battle over truth and lies likely to extend into Budget Session

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The tradition of Congress and BJP being at logger heads seems to carry on since ages. Now in the 18th Lok Sabha this trend was witnessed quite apparently. The first special session of the 18th Lok Sabha provided many insights into future politics. The government's and opposition's firm stances made it clear that neither side intends to back down. It seemed like a showdown between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi. Prime Minister Modi made decisions independently, disregarding the strong opposition, and specifically targeted the Congress party.

Prime Minister picked on Rahul Gandhi and the Gandhi family in both the houses. But Rahul Gandhi also came down harsh on him and as the leader of the

opposition for the first time, launched scathing attacks on the PM. He did not care about the fact that the leader of the house and Prime Minister Modi should be allowed to speak. The strategy adopted by Rahul Gandhi during PM Modi's speech was not in accordance with the dignity of the post in any way.

In this tug of war both the leaders kept pointing fingers at each other. Moreover, this conflict between the opposition and the government appeared to be personal rather than issue-based.

The way Rahul Gandhi conducted himself exhibits that in the beginning, the opposition is showing unity against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with Rahul Gandhi leading the charge. However, it remains to be seen if this unity will hold over the next five years. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Modi, sensing the opposi-

tion's stance, personally took charge and directed criticism towards the Gandhi family in both houses of Parliament. Rahul Gandhi initiated the confrontation with his speech in the Lok Sabha, prompting PM Modi to respond similarly in both houses.

From the attitude of the Congress, it seems that it is in full election mood right now. Because in both the houses, the Congress behaved exactly in the same way as if it has to go to the elections after this session. Whatever allegations the Congress made against the government, it did not seem to be in the mood to work at all in the Parliament. The opposition also supported it fully in the uproar. On the first day of the 18th Lok Sabha, it was clear from the attitude of the opposition that it would not allow any work to be done in the Parliament.

'Take steps to stop sewage discharge in Ganga, Yamuna ahead of Kumbh Mela'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) through the Government of Uttar Pradesh has directed the Prayagraj Administration to take all possible effective and expeditious steps in a time-bound action plan to ensure the minimum discharge or stoppage of sewage discharge into the Ganga and Yamuna rivers before the commencement of the Kumbh Mela.

The Principal Bench, headed by Justice Prakash Shrivastava and also consisting of Arun Kumar Tyagi (Judicial Magistrate) and Dr A. Senthil Vel (Expert Member), issued an order on July 1 stating, "Having regard to the fact that pilgrims/visitors of the Kumbh Mela will be bathing in the Ganga and Yamuna rivers and using their water for drinking, we are of the view that all possible effective and expeditious steps are required to be taken and

a time-bound action plan is required to ensure the minimum discharge or stoppage of sewage discharge into the Ganga and Yamuna rivers before the commencement of the Kumbh Mela."

"We grant a further eight weeks to the State of UP to file a report reflecting progress in this direction and concluding their bid on the time-bound action plan. The concerned Authorities will ensure that the water quality of the rivers is maintained at a level suitable for drinking and that this suitability is displayed to pilgrims/visitors of the Kumbh Mela at various bathing ghats," said the bench.

After reviewing the Joint Committee's recent report, the bench noted that the report clearly reveals that there are as many as 44 untapped drains discharging untreated sewage into the Ganga river.

The report further reveals that there are a total of 81 drains in the city discharging

289.97 MLD of sewage, and the sewage received through the sewerage network in the existing 10 STPs is 178.31 MLD. The untapped drains are discharging 73.80 MLD, and the gap in the treatment capacity is 128.28 MLD.

The tribunal also noted that the counsel for the State of UP submitted that there are three STPs with capacities of 90, 43, and 50 MLD in the process of being set up to cover the gap. However, a perusal of table 8 indicates that bids for the 90 MLD and 50 MLD STPs have not been finalized and the contracts are still at the tender stage. Work on the 43 MLD proposed STP began on March 19, 2024.

The tribunal also observed several shortcomings and deficiencies in the report: against the installed capacity of 340 MLD of the 10 STPs, 394.48 MLD of sewage is being received. It needs to be clarified how the excess sewage is treated and meets the standards.

Jairam slams govt over fresh report on air pollution

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Thursday raised concerns over air pollution after a report which highlighted that it is killing tens of thousands of Indians every year.

In a statement, Ramesh, who is also the party's general secretary and communication incharge said, "Unchecked air pollution is killing tens of thousands of Indians every year. A new study published in the prestigious global medical journal 'The Lancet Planetary Health' shows just how bad this crisis is.

Citing the report, he said that 7.2 per cent of all deaths in India are associated with air pollution - about 34,000 deaths each year in just 10 cities

He said, "Delhi is the worst affected, with 12,000 deaths each year. However, even cities with lower pollution - such as Pune, Chennai, and Hyderabad - witness thousands of deaths."



The Congress leader also said that the study found that even lower levels of PM 2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometres in diameter) pollution can cause many deaths.

Hitting back at the government, he said, "This public health crisis is a direct result of the failures of the non-biological Prime Minister's government, which has prioritised the profits of the Prime Minister's friends over the health of India's people."

The Congress leader highlighted that since 2017, the Modi government has continuously pushed back the deadline for coal power plants to install pollution-controlling

much too low to save lives," he said, adding that out of 131 cities under NCAP, most do not even have data to track their air pollution. Of 46 cities which have data, only 8 cities have met the NCAP's low target, while 22 cities actually saw air pollution get worse.

Taking a swipe at the government, Ramesh said, "The Modi government has launched an all-out war on India's environmental protection norms. The Forest Conservation (Amendment) Act of 2023 stripped protections for much of India's forests, the Biological Diversity Act and Environmental Protection Acts have been diluted, the Forest Rights Act of 2006 has been weakened, and Environmental Impact Assessment norms have been bypassed."

He also said that the National Green Tribunal has been made toothless, for the benefit of the PM's corporate cronies and there are clear steps the government must take moving forward.

He suggested that the government should drastically increase the funds made available under the NCAP.

The current budget, inclusive of NCAP funding and the 15th Finance Commission's grants, is about Rs 10,500 crores, spread across 131 cities. Our cities need at least 10-20 times more funding - NCAP must be made a Rs 25,000 crore program," he said.

He also said that air pollution norms for coal power plants must be enforced immediately. All power plants must install an FGD by the end of 2024. "The National Green Tribunal's independence must be restored, and the anti-people environmental law amendments made in the last 10 years must be rolled back. The NCAP must be given legal backing, an enforcement mechanism, and serious data monitoring capacity for every Indian city, beyond the current focus only on "non-attainment" cities," he said.

Day after joining Cong, BRS leader resigns as RS MP

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

A day after Bharath Rashtira Samithi (BRS) leader K Kesava Rao joined Congress, he resigned as Rajya Sabha MP on Thursday.

Rao on Thursday sent his resignation to Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. In his letter to the Chair-

man, Rao wrote, "I hereby submit my resignation from Membership of Rajya Sabha."

The development comes a day after he joined the Congress in presence of party chief Mallikarjun Kharge, party leader Rahul Gandhi, general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal, Telangana incharge Deepa Das Munshi and Chief Minister

A Revanth Reddy.

After Rao joined the Congress, Kharge in a post on X on Wednesday wrote, "Worthy homecoming! We welcome senior leader, K. Kesava Rao ji to the Congress party."

"We are confident that his vast experience in public service will strengthen the Congress party in Telangana,"

Kharge had written.

In the last few months, several of the BRS leaders had joined the Congress, where the party had ousted the K Chandrasekhar Rao-led BRS government in Telangana.

The Congress made a thumping comeback in the southern state for the first time after its formation in 2014.

'Indian Army is committed to the welfare of Agniveers,' says Rajnath

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Reacting to the clarification issued by the Indian Army on the emoluments to Agniveer Ajay Kumar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said that the "Indian Army is committed to the welfare of Agniveers."

Taking to X, the defence minister wrote, "Indian Army is committed to the welfare of Agniveers!"

Indian Army's Additional Directorate General of Public Information (ADGPI) posted a clarification on emoluments to Agniveer Ajay Kumar on Wednesday and said certain posts on social media have brought out that compensation hasn't been paid to the next of kin of the Agniveer.

"Certain posts on Social Media have brought out that compensation hasn't been paid to the next of Kin of Agniveer Ajay Kumar who lost his life in the line of duty. It is emphasised that the Indian Army salutes the supreme sacrifice made by Agniveer Ajay Kumar. The last rites were carried out with full Military Honours. Of the total amount due, family of Agniveer Ajay has already been



paid Rs 98.39 lakhs," ADGPI said in a post on X. "Ex - Gratia and other benefits amounting to approximately 67 lakhs, as applicable according to the provisions of the Agniveer Scheme, will be paid on Final Account Settlement shortly post-due police verification. The total amount will be Rs 1.65 Cr approximately. It is re-emphasised that emoluments due to a fallen hero are paid expeditiously to the Next of Kin of departed soldiers, including Agniveers," it added.

Earlier in the day, Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi accused Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh of "lying" on the floor of the Lok Sabha over the Agniveer scheme and demanded an apology.

In his video message on X, Rahul Gandhi said that Singh had lied in Parliament about the issue of compensation to families of killed Agniveers.

"The importance of truth in every religion. Rajnath Singh lied before Lord Shiva's photo about the compensation to the country, its armed forces, and Agniveers. I have said in my speech that don't listen to me or his (Rajnath Singh) speech, but listen to the family of Agniveer family," the Leader of the Opposition said in a video message.

He shared the video of the father of Agniveer Ajay Singh who died in Jammu and Kashmir and said that despite Singh's claims, his family had not received the promised compensation.

Ajay Singh's father said, "Rajnath Singh made the statement that families of killed soldiers have been given Rs 1 crore compensation but no such assistance had been received by his family. Rahul Gandhi is raising our voice in Parliament that families of martyrs must get all necessary help.

NEET-UG case: Arrested accused brought to special CBI court in Patna

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday brought the arrested accused in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET)-UG case to the special CBI court based in Bihar's Patna. Soon, the accused will be presented before the court.

On Wednesday, the CBI nabbed the suspected key conspirator in connection with the irregularities in the NEET-UG case, according to an official. The suspected key conspirator, identified as Aman Singh, was arrested in Dhanbad, Jharkhand.

This was the seventh arrest made by the central agency in connection with the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG exams 2024. Earlier, the CBI arrested the owner of a private school from Gujarat's Godhra for allegedly soliciting money from candidates in exchange for enhancing their scores.

The CBI also arrested a marketing

professional with a Hindi media organization. This came after the central agency, last Friday, nabbed two accused, Dr. Ehsaan Ul Haq and Intiaz Alam, who were working as the principal and the vice principal of Oasis School in Jharkhand's Hazaribagh. Haq was appointed the city coordinator for the NEET-UG exam 2024. These arrests followed two more arrests made by the central agency in Patna.

A senior CBI official confirmed the arrest of two people identified as Manish Prakash and Ashutosh, who were found to be operating from Patna. According to the official, Ashutosh was arranging safe house premises for the students, while Manish transported the candidates to a school to 'prepare' them for the exam. "Manish Prakash transported the students in his car, while the students were accommodated in Ashutosh's house," the CBI officer pointed out.

Earlier last month, the central government entrusted the CBI with the investigation into the irregularities in

the NEET-UG case. Accordingly, the CBI registered multiple FIRs related to reported paper leaks, impersonation of candidates, and cheating.

The National Testing Agency (NTA), which conducted the NEET-UG examination, is facing criticism over alleged irregularities. This prompted a series of protests across the country, with demonstrators and political parties demanding the disbandment of the NTA.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on July 8 a batch of pleas alleging paper leaks and irregularities in the NEET-UG exam. According to the cause list for July 8 uploaded on the top court's website, the pleas are listed before a bench of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. The apex court had earlier sought a response from the NTA on pleas seeking a fresh NEET-UG 2024 examination amid allegations of a paper leak and stated that the "sanctity" of the exam had been affected and required an answer from the testing agency.

Kharge slams PM Modi over inflation, says BJP should put a stop to it

ANAND SINGH
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue of inflation saying that he gives speeches for over two and half hours whereas he can't speak two and half words for inflation.

He also urged the government to stop snatching bread from the people's plage and the BJP must put a stop on inflation.

Slamming the Prime Minister over the issue of inflation, Kharge, who is also the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha in a post on X, formerly Twitter in Hindi said, "Mr Modi, you give speeches for

two and a half hours. On the issue of inflation...can't speak even two and a half words!"

Highlighting the people's condition due to inflation, Khaeche said that people earn their living through hard work and sweat, while he bakes false political breads.

"Stop snatching bread from people's plate... BJP should put a stop to infla-

tion," Kharge said, adding a graphic on how the prices of several essential commodities have gone up in last 10 years of BJP's rule.

The Congress has been critical of the government over the issue of inflation and on several occasions slammed te government over the soaring prices of several essential commodities.

HC TO HEAR GOVERNOR'S DEFAMATION CASE AGAINST MAMATA ON JULY 10

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

The Calcutta High Court said on Thursday that it will hear the defamation suit filed by West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose against Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on July 10. During an administrative meeting in the state secretariat, Banerjee had on June 27 said "Women have informed me they are afraid to visit Raj Bhavan due to recent incidents reported there".

Justice Krishna Rao told Deputy Solicitor-General Dhruj Trivedi, who appeared for the Governor, to make media organisations referred to in the suit, parties in the case before the hearing begins.

Bose filed the suit against Banerjee on June 28, a day after she said before the media that several women had told



her that they were afraid to visit the Raj Bhawan. "Women have informed me they are afraid to visit Raj Bhavan due to recent incidents reported there", the Chief Minister had said. Bose had criticised Banerjee for her remarks, saying it was expected of public representatives not to create "erroneous and slanderous impressions".

Banerjee's remarks were a reference to an allegation of molestation made against Bose on May 2 by a contrac-

tual woman employee of Raj Bhawan. The Kolkata Police is probing the issue. During Thursday's hearing, Justice Rao, observing that the defamation suit was filed on the basis of media reports, pointed out that the publications had not been made parties in the case and adjourned the hearing till July 10.

A woman contractual employee working at the Raj Bhawan had lodged a written complaint at the local Hare Street police station on May

2, alleging that she was molested by the Governor on two separate occasions - on May 2 and March 24 - who summoned her to his chamber on the pretext of offering her a permanent job. The allegation triggered a political row and became one of the issues in the recently held Lok Sabha elections. The Governor denied the charge in a statement issued on May 2.

The battle between the Governor and Mamata Banerjee and her party still continues. On May 6, after returning from a short trip to Kerala, his home state, Bose called the allegation a political conspiracy.

The molest complaint against the Governor was lodged with the Kolkata Police on May 2, five days before the third phase of Lok Sabha polls in Bengal and hours before Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived at Raj Bhawan to spend the night during a campaign tour.

Fed up by Governor's inaction, Bengal Speaker calls special session

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE
KOLKATA

Fed up with the Governor's inaction and non-cooperation, the West Bengal Speaker today hit back by convening a special session of the State Assembly.

Speaker Biman Banerjee, alluding to the impasse created by the running feud between the Mamata Banerjee Government and Governor CV Ananda Bose, said: "If someone thinks that we are helpless, then he or she is wrong. The Assembly is not helpless. You can't just force everything down our throats. There are rules, regulations, and constitutional norms. All of us have to abide by them."

For the past one month, the Government and the Governor have been engaged in a tense standoff regarding the swearing-in of two newly elected Trinamool Congress MLAs.



Today, Speaker Biman Banerjee, after summoning a special session of the West Bengal Assembly, asserted that the functioning of the House "was not solely dependent on the Governor".

"The Special Session will begin at 2pm tomorrow," the Speaker said, adding that the Business Advisory Committee meeting has been scheduled for noon on Friday and the tenure of the session will be decided in the meeting.

"The Assembly is not helpless, and everything is not in the hands of the Governor," the Speaker said even as the two newly elected Trinamool

Congress MLAs staged a sit-in protest at the West Bengal Assembly premises for the sixth day on Thursday, demanding that they be administered the oath of office in the House rather than at Raj Bhavan.

The duo - Baranagar MLA Sayantika Bandyopadhyay and Bhagabangola legislator Rayat Hossain Sarkar - had spurned an invitation from Governor Ananda Bose to take the oath at Raj Bhavan and have been insisting that they would not take their oath in Raj Bhavan and administered by the Governor. Instead, they have been demanding that the Governor nominate either the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker to administer the oath in the State Assembly premises.

Due to the pending swearing-in process, the two MLAs have yet to assume their roles as elected representatives. The Speaker, who previously sought the inter-

vention of President Droupadi Murmu on this matter, accused the Governor of turning it into an ego battle. This matter should be resolved so that the MLAs can take the oath and serve the people," he said.

Bandyopadhyay and Sarkar have resumed their sit-in protest near the statue of B R Ambedkar on the Assembly premises, holding placards that read "We are waiting for the Governor." The Mamata Banerjee Government has been engaged in a running battle with the Governor over a variety of issues. The latest is the stand of the Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee which has openly supported a young woman who held a temporary job in Raj Bhavan and had accused the Governor of making improper advances.

Raj Bhavan employee moves SC challenging immunity to WB Governor

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The woman staff member of the West Bengal Raj Bhavan, who had alleged sexual harassment by Governor CV Ananda Bose, has approached the Supreme Court challenging the immunity granted to the Governor under Article 361 of the Constitution.

She has asked the apex court to decide "whether sexual harassment and molestation form part of discharging or performing duties by the Governor", to grant him a blanket immunity under Article 361 of the Constitution.

According to Article 361(2) of the Constitution, no criminal proceedings can be instituted or continued against the President or Governor of a State in any court during their term of office. "This court has to decide whether a victim like the Petitioner can be rendered remediless, with the only option being to wait for the accused to demit his office, which delay will then be inexplicable during the trial, and render the entire procedure a mere lip service, without any justice to the victim herein," the plea stated. She claimed such immunity cannot be absolute and asked the top court to frame guidelines and qualifications to the extent of immunity enjoyed by the office of the Governor.

"The petitioner is aggrieved by the sexual advances/harassment made by the constitutional authority - the Governor, State of West Bengal in the premises of Raj Bhavan itself. However, due to the blanket immunity bestowed under Article 361 of the Constitution, the petitioner is left remediless despite the offence against her person, and therefore is constrained to approach this apex

court directly," the petition stated. The plea argued that the immunity provided by Article 361 should not be absolute, particularly in cases involving illegal acts or violations of fundamental rights. It stated that the immunity cannot impair the police's powers to investigate the offence or even name the perpetrator in the complaint/FIR, despite specific averments to that effect.

"Such powers cannot be understood to be absolute so as to enable the Governor to do acts which are illegal or which strike at the root of Part III of the Constitution. Moreover, the said immunity cannot impair the police's powers to investigate the offence or even name the perpetrator in the complaint/FIR, despite specific averments to that effect," it added.

Several projects, including the de-siltation of rivers, were initiated after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took feedback in Gopalganj and adjoining areas. It seems that engineers did not take care and the contractors were not careful, officials said, adding, "Engineers concerned seem to be at fault prima facie."

Special teams have been sent to the spot, and strict action has been taken against engineers and contractors, they said. Officials further said that new bridges will be constructed and the cost of construction will be borne by the contractors concerned. Most of these bridges were thirty years old and the foundations were not very deep, they said, adding that the foundation was damaged during desiltation. Notably, five bridges - in Araria, Siwan, East Champaran, Kishanganj, and Madhubani districts - have collapsed across the state in the last nine days. The first incident of a bridge collapse was reported on June 18 in Araria. The latest one took place in Madhubani.

6 bridges collapse on Gandak river in Bihar's Siwan, Saran over last two days

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

A total of six bridges collapsed on the Gandak river in Bihar's Siwan and Saran over the last two days, officials said on Thursday, blaming engineers and contractors for the back-to-back incidents.

Several projects, including the de-siltation of rivers, were initiated after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar took feedback in Gopalganj and adjoining areas. It seems that engineers did not take care and the contractors were not careful, officials said, adding, "Engineers concerned seem to be at fault prima facie."

Special teams have been sent to the spot, and strict action has been taken

Cattle smuggling PMLA case: Delhi HC lists bail plea of Sukanya Mondal for hearing on Monday

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday listed the bail plea of Sukanya Mondal for hearing on Monday.

She was arrested in a money laundering case connected with a multi-crore cattle smuggling operation.

Sukanya was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on April 26, 2023. Since then, she has been in custody. Her regular bail plea was dismissed by the trial court on June 1, 2023. Thereafter, she approached the High Court to seek bail.

Justice Neena Bansal Krishna listed the matter for hearing on Monday at 3 p.m. Her bail plea has been pending for a long time.

Recently, the apex court passed a direction to decide the bail application within

three weeks after the reopening of the High Court.

Senior advocate Vikas Pahwa appeared for Sukanya Mondal. He submitted that she was arrested in April 2023, and since then, she has been in custody. The Enforcement Directorate has already filed a prosecution complaint (charge sheet) against her.

He also apprised the court about the Supreme Court's order. Earlier, before the trial court, Sukanya's counsel, Advocate Amit Kumar, had argued that she should be granted bail in parity with another accused, Tanya Sanjay, who was not arrested, and a charge sheet was filed without arrest.

He had also submitted that Tanya is the wife of BSF commandant Satish Kumar, who is also one of the accused. Allegations against

Tanya are that she received bribe money for cattle smuggling from Enamul Haque and laundered the same.

Despite being accused in both the CBI and ED cases, Tanya was granted regular bail. Her bail was not opposed by the ED, the counsel had argued.

The ED, through a Special Public Prosecutor (SPP), had submitted incriminating material against the accused. A charge sheet has been filed suggesting Sukanya should not be enlarged on bail. The bail application may be dismissed. The SPP argued that this is an issue of national security and a matter of the country's economy. He also argued that Anubrata Mondal, the father of the applicant, is an uneducated person, and his whole business activities were taken care of by the applicant.

'MP budget is for public good, development-oriented': Scindia

TDG NETWORK
GWALIOR

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Thursday applauded the Madhya Pradesh for fiscal year 2024-25 presented in the state assembly on Wednesday saying the budget of the state was a budget for the public good and development-oriented.

Deputy Chief Minister and State Finance Minister Jagdish Devda presented the state budget of Rs 3.65 lakh crore in the state assembly. It was the first budget of the current Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led state government for the FY 2024-25. "The budget of Madhya Pradesh is a budget for the public good and development-oriented. In all the sectors be it urban, rural, education or health, the budget of everything has increased. I congratulate



CM Mohan Yadav for such a good budget to ensure the development of the people of the state," Scindia told reporters here.

He further said, "There will be a new revolution, both in the agricultural and industrial fields in the state and with an increase in investment, newer job opportunities will come."

The budget amount for the current fiscal year is around 16 percent more than that

of the previous year budget which was Rs 3.14 lakh crores.

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

Naidu meets PM Modi, Union ministers in Delhi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) Chief N Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Ministers - Nitin Gadkari, Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, and Piyush Goyal - in Delhi.

"Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri @ncbn, met Prime Minister @narendramodi", a statement from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

After storming to power in Andhra Pradesh, this is the first meeting of CM Naidu with the Union cabinet ministers. He had earlier attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing in ceremony.

The TDP is also a part of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led National Demo-



Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu presents a memento of Lord Venkateswara to Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Thursday. ANI

cratic Alliance (NDA) government.

The meeting also draws assumes significance as Naidu has declared rebuilding Amaravati, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh.

The project is expected to require central assistance and clearance. Naidu on Wednesday released a white paper on the Amaravathi capital region. He said that the name "Amaravati"

was mooted by Ramoji Rao after research.

"Amaravathi has a specific chamber in the British Museum. We are bringing back Amaravathi as the name of the capital, which was previously the capital of the Satavahana dynasty. Nobody anticipated the state's bifurcation.

Ramoji Rao suggested this name, and it was put to a public poll.

Petition in SC seeks audit of all existing, under-construction bridges in Bihar

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A petition has been moved in the Supreme Court seeking to issue direction to the Bihar Government to conduct the highest level structural audit of all existing and under construction bridges in the state and to demolish or retrofit weak structure depending of feasibility in the wake of bridge collapses

in the state. The petitioner and advocate Brajesh Singh, on Wednesday, urged the top court to issue directions to the Bihar Government to conduct the audit.

The petitioner said that the instant issue of bridge collapses in Bihar requires an urgent consideration of the top court as within two years, three major under-construction bridges and

other several incidents of the collapse of the large, medium and small bridges happened.

He said that in the said unfortunate man-made incidents some people succumbed and others were injured adding that in the future other incidents may also happen due to the gross negligence of the government and the corrupt nexus of the contractors and concerned agencies.

"It is a matter of grave concern that in a state like Bihar, which is the most flood-prone state of India, the total flood-affected area in the state is 68,800 sq. km which is 73.06 per cent of the total geographical area. Hence such routine accrual of the incident of falling bridges in Bihar is more disastrous as the lives of people at large are at stake. Therefore the

urgent intervention of this Hon'ble Court is required to save the lives of people, as the under-construction bridges before its accomplishment collapsed routinely," the petitioner said.

The petitioner has also sought appropriate direction specifically for the State of Bihar for making proper policy or mechanism for real-time monitoring of the bridges constructed,

old and under construction concerning the bridges falling exclusively under the domain of the respondent, the state of Bihar on the same analogy as developed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, vide dated March 4, 2024, for the preservation of National Highways and Centrally Sponsored Schemes and it was issued as a mandatory Guidelines

vide, subjected, identification and implementation of real-time Health Monitoring of bridges using sensors to the states including the respondent."

The petitioner has also sought to issue direction to respondents specifically Bihar for making an efficient permanent body through legislation or executive order, comprising high-level experts from the concerned

field for continuous monitoring of all the existing and under-construction bridges in Bihar and also for maintaining the comprehensive database on the health of all existing bridges in the state.

The Public Interest Litigation has highlighted various bridge collapses mostly river bridges in Araria, Siwan, Madhubani, and Kishanganj districts among others in Bihar.

ISSUE OF INDIANS STRANDED IN RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR ZONE WITH LAVROV

AGENCIES
ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday said he clearly and strongly raised the issue of Indians stranded in the Russia-Ukraine conflict zone with his counterpart Sergey Lavrov during a bilateral in Kazakhstan's Astana.

On whether he raised the stranded Indians issue with Lavrov, Jaishankar told ANI, "Very clearly and strongly... several Indians have been pressed into service with the Russian Army. Only when they come back will we know the full circumstances. But whatever the circumstances are, to us it is unacceptable that Indian citizens find themselves in the army of another country in a warzone. I told

him that we seek their co-operation and that they are our friend and partners. We have to find a way so that these people can return to India as quickly and effectively as possible."

EAM elaborated further and said Foreign Minister Lavrov appreciated the point and the Indian Foreign Ministry has been speaking to the Russian Defence Ministry in this regard.

"I urged him that we need a much stronger follow-up. I have taken it up and I intend to continue taking it up until all our people there come back," He said.

Jaishankar also shared his view on the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Russia and called it a great opportunity for both leaders to sit down and directly talk to each other on the growing economic re-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in a group photo with world leaders including President of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin during the Summit of SCO Council of Heads of States on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in Astana on Thursday. ANI

lationship between the two countries.

"There was a bit of a delay in our annual summits, it is a good tradition, we are 2 countries which have a strong history of working together. We did value the need for an annual summit. Last year when I went to Moscow, I carried a mes-

sage from the PM that we are committed to the annual summit and we will do it sooner...it is a regular recurrence. It is a way of taking stock of any relationship... one of the biggest changes has been that our economic relationship with Russia has grown tremendously...at the leadership of level, it will be

a great opportunity for PM Modi and (Russian) President Putin to sit down and directly talk to each other," Jaishankar said.

Notably, around 20 persons were allegedly duped into fighting for the Russian Army in the war against Ukraine on the pretext of lucrative jobs. At least two Indians have died.

The MEA confirmed in April that among the Indian nationals who were working as support staff in the Russian Army, 10 have returned to India.

Earlier this year, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), busted a major human trafficking network running across the country targeting Indian nationals on the promise of offering lucrative jobs abroad but allegedly sending them to the Russia-Ukraine war zone.

'We have to find way to respect LAC': Jaishankar to his Chinese counterpart

AGENCIES
ASTANA (KAZAKHSTAN)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, during his meeting with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi, emphasised that the relationship between New Delhi and Beijing is not normal, and that the two sides need to find a way to deal with issues that have been pending so as to ensure peace and tranquility at borders.

During his meeting with Yi, on sidelines of SCO Summit, Jaishankar also affirmed that normal relationship can't be maintained unless there is peace and tranquility at the border.

Speaking to ANI, Jaishankar said, "We discussed the

state of the relationship, which is not normal...two of us have been meeting fairly regularly since 2020, so that the disengagement issue needs to be completed. There are some pending outcomes...we have to find a way by which LAC is respected and peace and tranquility are ensured in the border area. You cannot disturb peace and tranquility and have a good relationship."

The EAM further said that the two leaders agreed to convene an early meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs (WMCC) to discuss the border situation. "We both looked at it, the

current situation is absolutely not helping the relationship...what we agreed at the end of it all was we would ask the mechanism, we call it WMCC (Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination on India-China Border Affairs), which deals with it to convene an early meeting," Jaishankar said.

"In my view, both sides need to make a push and find a way by which we can deal with issues that have been pending for some time," he added.

Speaking on the SCO Summit in Astana, he said that it was 'good one', both from the point of view of SCO as an organisation and from India's perception.

Cong in Kerala courts fresh controversy as video of alleged Black Magic emerges

AGENCIES
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A purported video allegedly showing objects related to black magic found at the residence of KPCC president and Kannur MP K Sudhakaran went viral on social media on Thursday. Television channels aired the video, which showed a few people extracting objects from buried spots, purportedly related to black magic, at Sudhakaran's Kannur residence.

After the video was broadcast, the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee president

told the media that it was an old video and that he was not afraid of such threats.

In the video, Sudhakaran and Kasaragod MP and senior Congress leader Rajmohan Unnithan were allegedly heard speaking.

"You can ask the details with Unnithan," Sudhakaran said when asked about their presence on the spot when the objects were dug out. Such threats will not affect me, he said. Unnithan has not reacted to the video.

When reporters inquired about the alleged finding of such materials at the party

headquarters, Sudhakaran said he had also heard about it. In the video, a third person, suspected to be an astrologer, was seen taking out certain figurines of Theyyam, some ash, and other coloured powders allegedly used for a black magic ritual.

The voice of a man in the video refers to an item recovered and says it was some black magic material meant to affect the head. The issue has sparked interesting debates on social media.

In a Facebook post, Congress ideologue Cherian Philip commented that in

this modern scientific era, those who believe and practice evil superstitions and black magic are cowards.

He said that in Kerala society, which has rejected superstitions and evil practices, those who still engage in sorcery and other evil acts are mere criminals.

"Those who adopt deceitful means to destroy their opponents have criminal minds. Progressives, political activists, and media outlets should never support such people. They should be dismissed with contempt," Philip added.

Ambani visits 10 Janpath, invites Sonia for Anant-Radhika wedding

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani on July 4 met former Congress president Sonia Gandhi at her 10 Janpath residence.

The industrialist presented Sonia Gandhi an invitation card of his son Anant Ambani's wedding to Radhika Merchant, daughter of businessman Viren Merchant. The wedding will take place at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on July 12.

The three-day celebra-



tion will feature several rituals and celebrations including 'Shubh Vivaah' on July 12, followed by 'Shubh Aashirwad' on July 13 and concluding with 'Mangal Utsav' (wedding reception) on July 14.



The Ambanis organised a mass wedding of over 50 underprivileged couples on July 2, marking the beginning of the wedding celebrations of Anant-Radhika. As a gesture of goodwill, each couple was presented with

gold as well as silver jewellery. In addition, each bride was presented a cheque of Rs. 1.01 lakh as 'streedhan'.

International pop sensation Justin Bieber is set to perform at Anant-Radhika's wedding. Celebrities including Katy Perry, Diljit Dosanjh, Rihanna have performed for the pre-wedding functions held earlier this year.

While Anant-Radhika's first pre-wedding celebration was held in Gujarat's Jamnagar, the second took place on a cruise in Europe in June.

Hemant Soren takes oath

CONTINUED FROM P1

charged his duties well.

Ahead of the swearing-in, Hemant Soren in a video message said: "People intoxicated with power tried to silence me, but now the voice of Jharkhand's residents will be strengthened."

"I was arrested on January 31... I had given a message to you about how the opposition hatched a conspiracy against me and how they succeeded in their evil designs. They attempted to keep me in jail for a long time but I chose to take resort of the legal battle. You supported me on the streets. Finally, justice was delivered and I was released clean," Soren said in the video clip, posted on X and other social media platforms.

The JMM leader also said that he was given an opportunity to serve the people in 2019 but "the conspirators could not digest that a tribal youth could reach such heights and finally on January 31, I was removed on false charges. There could be delay in God's plans but

ultimately truth prevails".

Soren said he was ready to serve the people of Jharkhand with dedication.

After taking the oath, Chief Minister Hemant Soren garlanded the statue of Sidhukanhua at Morabadi and offered floral tribute to the statue of tribal icon Birsa Munda at Birsa Chowk.

Later, he reached the state secretariat and assumed the charge of chief minister.

No decision has been taken about Hemant Soren's cabinet.

Asked about the council of ministers, Jharkhand Congress in-charge Ghulam Ahmad Mir said the party was yet to decide who will join the cabinet and the high command will decide about the party representation in the state government.

A celebration erupted outside the Raj Bhavan after Soren took oath as JMM workers were seen bursting crackers and distributing sweets.

A JMM worker said, "Sher (Hemant Soren) wapas aa gaya (Lion has returned)."

Another worker said that

they had been waiting for the day for the past five months.

Jharkhand BJP president Babul Marandi extended his wishes to Hemant Soren and thanked former chief minister Champai Soren for serving the people of Jharkhand.

"There are many political disagreements with you (Champai Soren) and will continue to be so, but very few people serve selflessly without any greed after reaching the top," Marandi, also a former chief minister, posted on X.

Taking a dig at Hemant Soren, Marandi said, "Hemant ji, as soon as you took the oath, it became clear that no one from your party, except the family, can become the chief minister. With only three months left for the elections, your love for power reflects your politics of selfishness."

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan claimed the development "proved that no one outside the Soren's family could become chief minister.

Baba not found; Police searches his ashram

CONTINUED FROM P1

Superintendent of Police (DSP), Mainpuri Sunil Kumar said "Baba has not been found inside the ashram."

"There are 40-50 sevadars inside the ashram. He ('Bhole Baba') is not inside, neither he was yesterday nor he is today..." said DSP Mainpuri Sunil Kumar.

SP City Rahul Mithas said,

"I had come to check the security of the ashram. No body was found here."

The police force was deployed around the ashram today early morning.

On Wednesday, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited the spot and ordered a judicial probe into the incident.

A three-member Judicial Inquiry Commission under the chairmanship of Justice

(ret'd) Brijesh Kumar Srivastava has been constituted to ensure comprehensiveness of the subject matter and transparency in the inquiry, according to an official statement.

The Judicial Commission will investigate the various aspects of the Hathras stampede in the next two months and after the investigation, a report will be submitted to the State Government.

The preacher 'Bhole Baba' identified as Suraj Pal is also known by the names of Narayan Sakar Hari and Jagat Guru Vishwahari.

As per the prima facie report, the devotees rushed to seek blessings and collect soil from around the preacher's feet, but were stopped by the security personnel of 'Bhole Baba'. Later, they started pushing one another due to which

several people fell to the ground, leading to chaos at the site.

Some people ran towards the adjoining field filled with mud, due to which they fell and were crushed by other devotees, the report stated.

"The injured were taken to the hospital by the police and security personnel present at the site," it further said.

Six Satsang volunteers arrested

CONTINUED FROM P1

Mukesh Kumar, and Manju Devi have been arrested. They are all members of the organising committee and worked as 'Sevadars'. As soon as the information of the incident was received, all the officers of Hathras district not only reached on time but also assisted the injured. Given the programme of these people, organizing things completely, arranging parking, prasad for the people, etc. are the major responsibilities," he added.

Earlier today, Uttar Pradesh Police conducted a search operation at Ram Kutir Charitable Trust in Mainpuri for 'Bhole Baba', a self-styled godman who conducted a 'satsang' in Hathras where the stampede took place.

An FIR has been registered on the incident naming organizers of the prayer meeting but 'Bhole Baba' has not been named yet.

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Since this year, carrying

The rules are intended to prevent any influence over how people choose to vote on election day, though many would have already made their choice through a postal ballot.

If opinion polls are to be believed, the incumbent Tories are in line to win anywhere between 53 and 150 seats, with Labour projected to win a landslide.

This will lead to Starmer taking over as Prime Minister, the first Labour leader after Gordon Brown to enter 10 Downing Street since 2010.

Since this year, carrying

PM's clarion call: Root out terrorism

CONTINUED FROM P1

asserted that cross-border terrorism requires a decisive response and terrorism financing and recruitment must be resolutely countered.

Calling on action by the global community to combat terrorism, PM Modi said, "While doing so, priority must naturally be given to combating terrorism, one of the original goals of the SCO. Many of us have had our experiences, often originating beyond our borders. Let us be clear that if left unchecked, it can become a major threat to regional and global peace. Terrorism in any form or manifestation cannot be justified or condoned."

"International community must isolate and expose those countries that harbour terrorists, provide safe havens and condone terrorism. Cross-border terrorism requires a decisive response and terrorism financing and recruitment must be resolutely countered. We should also take proactive steps to prevent the spread of radicalization among our youth. The Joint Statement issued during India's Presidency last year on this subject underlines our shared commitment," he said.

Stressing that climate change remains another

prominent concern, PM Modi said that they are working towards achieving committed reductions in emissions, including the transition to alternate fuels, adoption of electric vehicles, and building climate-resilient infrastructure.

He said, "Another prominent concern before us today is of climate change. We are working towards achieving committed reduction in emissions, including transition to alternate fuels, adoption of electric vehicles, and building climate-resilient infrastructure. In this context, during India's SCO presidency, a Joint Statement on emerging fuels, and a Concept Paper on de-carbonization in the transportation sector were approved."

PM Modi noted that the SCO Summit was being held in the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic impact, ongoing conflicts, rising tensions, trust deficits and an increasing number of hotspots around the world. He emphasised that these events have put significant strain on international ties and global growth.

He further said, "They have aggravated some of the problems that have emanated from globalization. Our gathering is aimed at finding common ground to

mitigate the consequences of these developments."

Recalling that India became a member of SCO under Kazakhstan's Presidency in 2017, PM Modi said, "India recalls with appreciation that its admission as a Member of SCO took place during the 2017 Kazakh Presidency. Since then, we have completed one full cycle of presidencies in SCO. India hosted both the Council of Heads of Government Meeting in 2020, as well as the Council of Heads of State Meeting in 2023. The SCO occupies a prominent place in our foreign policy."

The Prime Minister also congratulated Iran which is participating in the SCO Summit as a member and offered condolences over the demise of former Iran President Ebrahim Raisi and others in the helicopter crash. He also congratulated Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and welcomed Belarus as the new member of SCO.

Jaishankar is leading the Indian delegation in Kazakhstan at the 24th Meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of State (SCO Summit). The SCO was founded at a summit in Shanghai in 2001 by the presidents of Russia, China, the Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

MOSQUITO BREEDING FOUND AT DDA, DJB PREMISES; 37K CASES RECORDED

The MCD has issued around 40K 'challans' and notices to concerned officials.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The MCD has identified several mosquito breeding spots, including the premises of the DDA office, Delhi Jal Board pumping station, police stations and metro parking sites, civic body officials said on Thursday.

Around 37,000 cases of breeding were recorded in the last six months, they said.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi has issued around 40,000 'challans' and legal notices to concerned officials and owners of the properties where the breeding was found during this time for violating the Malaria and other Vector Borne Diseases Bye-Laws 1975 Act.

The MCD found the mosquito-genic conditions in places like fridge trays, containers, rooftop tanks, and construction sites during its annual inspection exercise.

According to a senior civic body official, the mosquito breeding was found at two



DDA offices in Dwarka Sector 8 and Manglauri, DJB pumping station in Yamuna Vihar, the Delhi police station in Bhajanpura, and a metro station parking in Ranjeet Nagar.

It also found mosquito breeding at a construction site in Delhi University's South Campus, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) office in Sonia Vihar, and the Central Bank in Karol Bagh during the inspection.

Asked if the waterlogging caused by monsoon showers had led to an increase in mosquito breeding in the last week, the official said that the situation was under control so far. However, the breeding of mosquitoes may arise

if rains continue to inundate the drains.

Monsoon showers that hit the national capital on June 28 brought the city to its knees and led to waterlogging in many parts, including upscale areas. The waterlogging has raised concern among a section of people as monsoon provides a suitable environment for mosquitoes to breed.

"The mosquito breeding does not take place in freshwater. So, the current waterlogging is not a matter of concern until the water remains there for long and becomes stagnant. It takes about 15 days for a larva to become an adult mosquito," the official explained.

"Most of the mosquito breeding was found during home inspections. It shows people are not following steps to prevent mosquito larvae from developing in their homes. It is a concerning topic because this larva later on becomes an adult mosquito and leads to the spread of vector-borne diseases like Dengue and Malaria," he added.

The MCD on Wednesday claimed that it had achieved the target of de-silting the drains by removing over 80,000 metric tonnes of silt that was choking the drainage.

The breeding of vector-borne diseases like dengue, malaria and chikungunya spiked by nearly 90 per cent in Delhi during the monsoon season last year as compared to 2022, as per an MCD report.

According to the report, there has been a spike in the number of such breedings found during home inspections in the last four years since 2020.

ACB to inspect 120 private hospitals, nursing homes for discrepancies

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) will inspect 120 private hospitals and nursing homes, beginning Friday, for discrepancies as part of a drive following a fire at a neonatal hospital in Vivek Vihar that killed seven infants in May. In the first phase of the drive in June, the ACB had inspected 62 private medical facilities and found that four were allegedly running illegally and 40 others with several dis-



crepancies. Officials said for the second phase, the ACB has identified 120 big and small private medical facilities in south, west and north Delhi.

The inspections will start from Friday and are expected to be completed by the end of July, an official said.

ACB teams will check docu-

ments, licences and registration certificates and whether the medical facilities are following safety norms, the officials said.

While ordering an anti-corruption probe into the Vivek Vihar incident, Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on May 28 said the incident has brought out the "sheer mismanagement, criminal neglect and connivance of officials of the health department" in granting and renewing registrations of nursing homes.

MCD demolishes unauthorised religious structure

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The MCD carried out a demolition drive at a religious structure in North West Delhi's Rohini area, sparking protests by some locals, officials on Thursday said. The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) carried out the demolition drive following a court order to take action against unauthorised construction of a religious structure encroaching upon a park in the area.

The removal of the unauthorised construction/encroachment was scheduled on



various occasions but could not be carried out due to non-availability of police force, said a civic body official.

The MCD along with a team of local police and paramilitary forces on Thursday morning reached the spot

at Rohini sector 22 and carried out the demolition drive against the illegal construction. The religious structure was built adjoining a park in the residential colony of Pocket 6 of Rohini sector 22.

The action sparked protests

by some locals but the situation was made under control, a police officer said.

"The demolition was undertaken by the MCD's Horticulture department following a High Court order to remove the illegal encroachment adjoining the park in Pocket 6 of Rohini Sector-22.

For the said work, the police force was provided by the Aman Vihar police station. There was a demand for the police force to remove the encroachment for a long time. It was removed when the police force arrived," the civic body official said.

Bansuri appointed member to New Delhi Municipal Council

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the appointment of Lok Sabha MP Bansuri Swaraj as a member of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).

Bansuri Swaraj, daughter of the late BJP stalwart Sushma Swaraj, currently represents the New Delhi constituency in the Lok Sabha.

This appointment follows Bansuri Swaraj's electoral debut from the New Delhi seat, succeeding Meenakshi Lekhi, who held the position for the past decade but was not included in the BJP's candidate list for the upcoming elections.

The MHA made the declaration to appoint Bansuri Swaraj as a member of NDMC in a notification issued on July 3 evening.



A member of the NDMC plays a significant role in the governance and administration of the New Delhi municipal area. The NDMC members contribute to the formulation and implementation of policies related to urban planning, including land use, zoning regulations, and infrastructure development.

The members of the NDMC are also responsible for overseeing the provision and maintenance of essential public services such as water supply, electricity, sewage, and waste management.

NCERT to recreate PM's 'Pariksha pe Charcha' for virtual exhibition

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's annual 'Pariksha pe Charcha' initiative might soon be recreated for a virtual platform, with the NCERT working on a proposal to develop a portal to host his speeches and allow students to capture selfies with him in an interactive 2D/3D environment. The move comes against the backdrop of a raging row over alleged irregularities in competitive examinations with the opposition raising questions on credibility of the examination processes in the country.

The Opposition has taken swipes at Modi, demanding that he should hold one such interaction on medical entrance exam NEET issue as well.

The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has released an Expression of Interest (EoI) document this week to identify vendors for developing the Virtual Exhibition for Pariksha Pe Charcha.

The plan is to develop a virtual platform with an interactive 2D/3D environment with features to facilitate attendee engagement and interaction.

The proposal says the plan is to draw at least one crore online visitors annually.

"The aim is to recreate 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' in a virtual format, allowing audiences from across the country to experience the event all through the year from the comfort of their homes. The virtual platform will showcase the arts, crafts, and innovation projects undertaken by students, providing inspiration and motivation to others," according to the EoI document.

"The experience will be an immersive 3D/ 2D experi-

ence, similar to the physical exhibition, offering attendees a unique and engaging virtual environment," it added.

The virtual exhibition will feature an exhibition hall, an auditorium, a selfie zone, quiz zone and a leader board.

"A dedicated selfie zone could be there to allow attendees to capture selfies with the Honorable Prime Minister, post them on a selfie wall or download them and share them on social media.

"The auditorium will feature speeches and addresses from the Prime Minister of India and esteemed ministers, as well as essential sessions and discussions necessary for students," it added.

The virtual exhibition hall in the proposed web platform will have booths that will host display projects from students in arts, crafts, and science.

Man shoots himself dead in Rohini

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A man allegedly shot himself dead in the Rohini area here on Thursday, police said.

The deceased has been identified as Sunil Thakur, a resident of Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, police said.

On July 4 at 8:44 am, the police received a PCR call regarding a gunshot victim found in Sector 17 Rohini, the police said.

The local police team quickly arrived at the scene and found an injured person, approximately 25-30 years old, with a gunshot wound, lying on the staircase. The unresponsive injured person was taken to the hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, police said.

On preliminary inquiry, a suicide note has been recovered from the place of the incident, which is being examined, police said.

Atishi halts compulsory teacher transfers

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Education Minister Atishi has instructed the chief secretary to immediately stop the mandatory transfer of 5,000 teachers who have been teaching in Delhi government schools for more than 10 years, following allegations of corruption in the transfer process. At a press conference here, Atishi highlighted the detrimental impact of the transfer order on the education system.

"This order is absolutely wrong and anti-education. It undermines the hard work of teachers who have transformed Delhi's government schools over the last 10 years," she said.

A circular was issued by the DoE on June 11, titled "Online requests for transfer of teaching staff of the Directorate of Education", wherein, vide Clause 16, it was directed that all teachers who



have served for more than 10 years in the same school shall compulsorily apply for transfer, failing which they will be transferred to any school by the DoE.

Atishi had ordered on July 1 that no teacher should be transferred solely because he has spent more than 10 years in a particular school.

The minister emphasised the crucial role these teachers play in the lives of their students, particularly those from impoverished backgrounds.

"These children are mostly first-generation learners with no academic support at home. For them, their teachers are their sole academic guides," she said.

Tis Hazari firing case: Arguments expected after one year

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After one year of firing and rioting incident at Delhi's Tis Hazari court, the case has been sent to the court of Sessions, and arguments on charges will likely begin mid-July. This incident took place between two groups of lawyers on July 5, 2023.

A charge sheet was filed on September 3, 2023. Judicial Magistrate First Class Chatinder Singh committed the case to the Principal District and Sessions judge for further proceedings.

LG praises DDA for airport waterlogging solution

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi LG, VK Saxena, has lauded the DDA (Delhi Development Authority) for its effort in constructing the airport drain, as a result of which, despite the recent record downpour, the IGI Airport remained free of waterlogging.

Right after taking over, the LG took up the task of constructing the airport drain from IGI Airport to PWD Trunk Drain No. 2, on the southern side of the airport, in a mission mode. The airport had faced flooding even

during the floods in the capital last year. After the infamous flooding of the airport runways and terminal in 2019, which had brought international disrepute, IGIA approached DDA, which in turn had started construction of the drain connecting the airport to TD-2 in 2020. However, the same had gotten stuck due to a lack of permissions by the GNCTD for more than two years. After taking over, the LG had asked DDA to move the Delhi High Court which in turn had directed GNCTD to give the required permissions, which finally came in August, 2022.

Man dies in rain water dispute

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A man died while another was injured after a fight broke out over splashing roadside logged rain water on a few men in south Delhi's Sangam Vihar on Wednesday evening, police said.

The incident took place when an auto-rickshaw got out of order and the occupants of the vehicle were busy in rectifying it. Meanwhile, a water tanker passed through the road, causing the logged rain water to splash on the occupants of auto-rickshaw - Arif Khan alias Vishu (18), Shakeel (18), Durga (24) and others.

Excise policy case: Court reserves order on Vinod Chauhan chargesheet

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Rouse Avenue court reserved an order on cognizance of the supplementary charge sheet filed against Vinod Chauhan and Ashish Mathur in connection with the alleged money laundering case linked to Delhi excise policy.

The court is likely to pronounce the order on cognizance on July 9. On the same day, a supplementary charge sheet filed against Arvind Kejriwal and AAP is also listed on the point of cognizance. Special judge Kaveri Baweja reserved the order after hearing submissions of ED's



Special Public Prosecutor (SPP) N K Matta and Investigation Officer. ED alleged that Vinod Chauhan was involved in sending money to Chanpreet Singh through hawala dealers. It is also said that Rs. 1.06 crores were also

recovered from Vinod Chauhan. ED's SPP submitted that the Agency traced the money trail of the proceeds of crime which were used to fund AAP Goa assembly polls. It is alleged that South Group's Abhishek Boinpally allegedly gave Ashok Kaushik 2 bags of cash who then gave them to Chauhan. Ashish Mathur, also named with Chauhan in the 8th supplementary chargesheet allegedly took this money on behalf of Chauhan and gave it to various angadis who then transferred it to co-accused Chanpreet. This money was then used in the Goa elections.

Fire breaks out at East of Kailash house

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A fire broke out early Thursday morning at a house in the East of Kailash area in Delhi, an official said.

The fire broke out at around 6 am today. Eight fire tenders were rushed to the site and dousing operations are underway.

No casualties have been reported so far. The reason behind the fire is yet to be ascertained.

Last week, a massive fire broke out in a factory located in the Okhla Phase 2 area in Delhi.

Rental vehicles, cabs, feeder buses to be available at all Delhi-Meerut RRTS stations

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a bid to improve last mile connectivity, the NCRTC on Thursday said that it will make rental two-wheelers, cab services, autorickshaws and feeder bus services available at all RRTS stations from Delhi to Meerut.

In a statement, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) also said that passengers at Sa-

hibabad and Ghaziabad stations will get a 10 per cent discount on Rapido bike taxis.

With the start of operations of Namoo Bharat trains, the NCRTC is also making efforts to provide the facility of rental two-wheelers, rental bicycles at the stations so that people get last mile connectivity, the statement said.

Currently, Namoo Bharat trains are running in the



34-km section of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) from Sahibabad to Modi Nagar North over eight

stations. Electric buses of Ghaziabad City Transport Services Limited have been made

available to all these operational stations for last mile connectivity. These electric buses are available at Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, DPS Rajnagar Guldhar, Duhai, Murad Nagar, Modi Nagar South, and Modi Nagar North stations, it said.

Apart from this, passengers using Rapido bike taxi are being given a 10 per cent discount for those travelling in Namoo Bharat trains at

Ghaziabad and Sahibabad stations, the statement said.

Soon this facility will be available for passengers at other stations as well, it said.

The NCRTC has now invited open expressions of interest from service providers to improve last mile connectivity in the entire corridor, the statement said.

Service providers for electric/CNG powered shuttle-bus service, pre-paid

electric/CNG powered taxi services, app-based electric/CNG powered cab service, prepaid/metrod electric/CNG powered auto-rickshaw service, electric/CNG powered sharing service, sharing e-rickshaw service, two-wheeler bike taxi service for point to point mobility from stations, two-wheeler rental service, rental cycle service from stations, electric/CNG rental car service

from stations etc. are being sought, it said.

Additionally, expression of interest has also been invited to set up at least one battery swapping station for feeder e-rickshaw service operation at all stations of the corridor. Battery swapping station will not only promote electric vehicles but will also provide last mile connectivity to the people, the statement said.

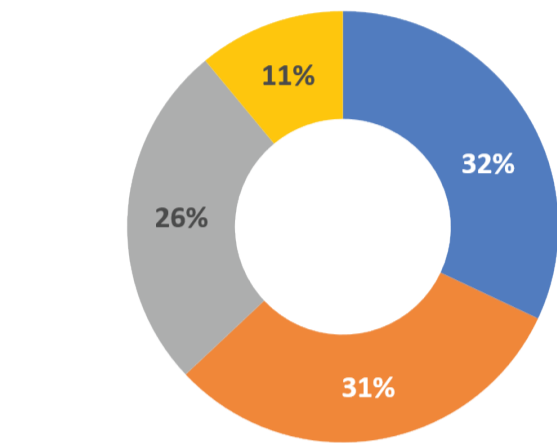
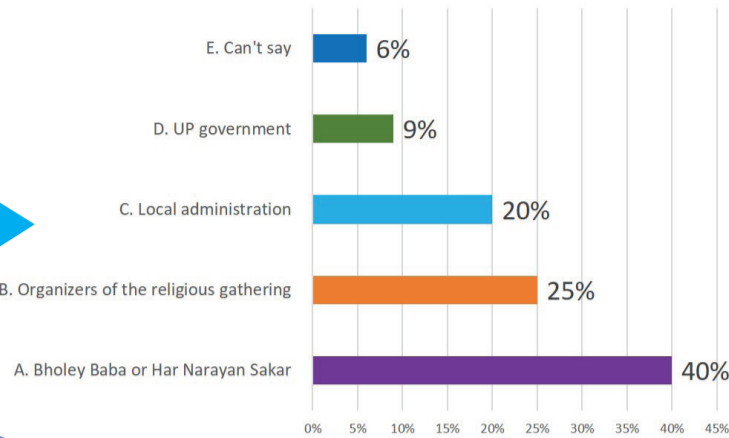
THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY — 4TH JULY 2024

HATHRAS SATSANG STAMPEDE

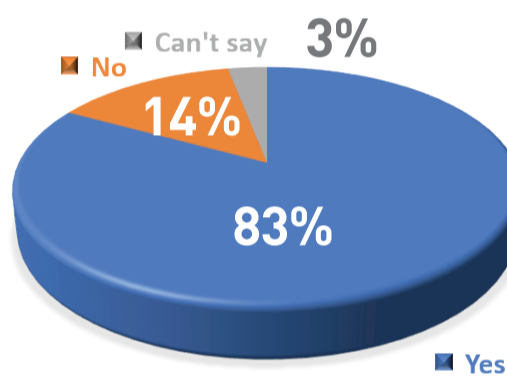
MALE: 93%

FEMALE: 7%

Q1. Who is most to blame for the deaths of more than 120 people in the stampede during the religious gathering in Hathras?

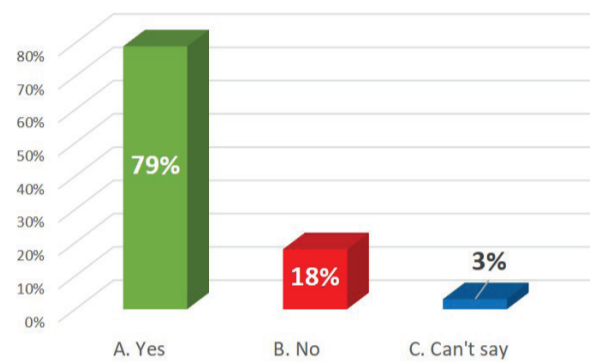


Q3. Does the administration go soft on enforcing guidelines at religious events?



Q2.

What action should be taken against those responsible for the Hathras stampede accident?

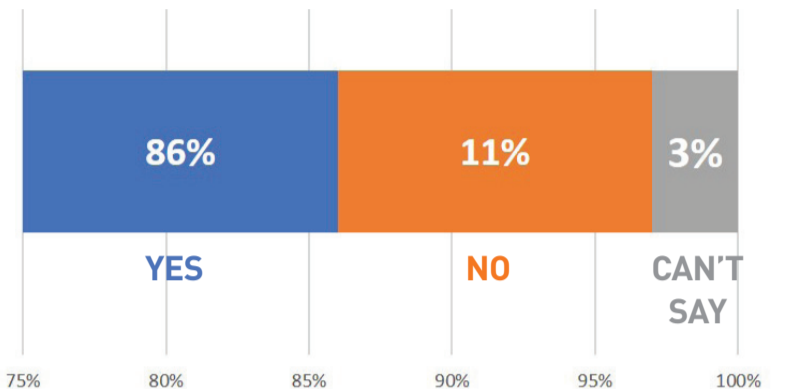


Q4.

Do the organizers not take crowd management seriously at religious events?

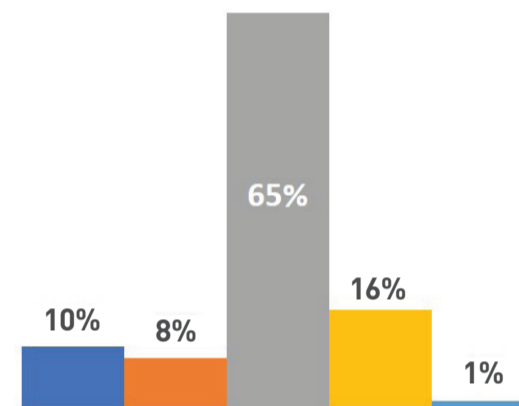
Q5.

Have religious gurus like Bholey Baba turned religion into a business?



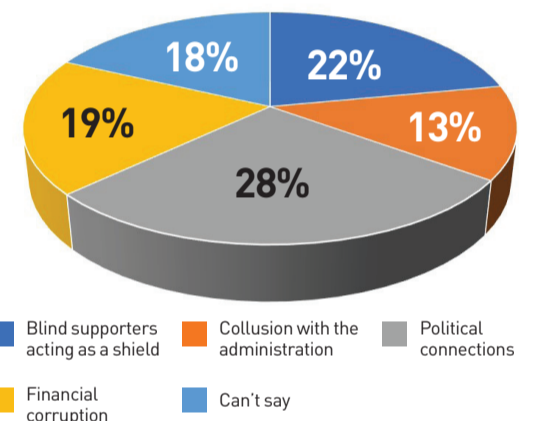
Q6.

What do you believe is the biggest reason for large crowds at fake religious gurus' events?



Q7.

What do you believe is the reason behind attempts to save Bholey Baba in the Hathras incident?



CITY

AAP QUESTIONS BJP'S 'SILENCE' ON TREE FELLING IN RIDGE AREA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Thursday questioned the BJP's silence over the "illegal" felling of trees in the ridge area, and said the saffron party's stand on Delhi's pollution is just "politics". Addressing a press conference, AAP senior leader Jasmine Shah said that since the issue has surfaced, the BJP and Lt Governor VK Saxena have maintained "silence" over it. There was no immediate reaction from BJP or the LG Office.

He said that on one hand, the Kejriwal government planted crores of trees in the last nine years to reduce pollution, closed coal-powered thermal power plants, provided 24-hour electricity to Delhiites and brought the



best Electric Vehicle (EV) policy in the country. On the other hand, the BJP is cutting trees in cities and mountains in the name of development.

A few days ago, an incident of illegal cutting of 1,100 trees came to light in the Chhatrapur Ridge area of Delhi. This ridge area is the most sensitive area of Delhi, it is called the lungs of Delhi. Despite this, the central government agency, DDA cut down 1,100 trees overnight

in February 2024 without the permission of the Supreme Court," he claimed.

Shah added that the Delhi government has formed a fact finding committee of three ministers, so that it can be known on whose orders and under whose pressure these trees were cut.

"Today when people from the Supreme Court to the whole country are speaking on this incident and raising questions on it, then the BJP and the Delhi LG are com-

pletely silent on this matter," he said.

"The BJP, which has not done anything against pollution in its states, also always sheds crocodile tears on the pollution of Delhi. It is surprising here that the BJP has become silent on the incident of cutting 1100 trees in the Ridge area of Delhi," he said.

The Fact Finding Committee of Delhi, formed a week ago, is continuously sending notices to the Forest Department officials and asking for the report, but the officers are not bringing the file, he alleged.

"Because all these officers come under the LG. Therefore, there is definitely pressure from above on them. The BJP should tell who is pressurising the officials of the Forest Department of the Delhi Government?" Shah asked.

Govt's pilgrimage scheme for seniors to resume soon

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The flagship scheme of the Delhi government, Mukhya Mantri Teerth Yatra Yojna, will resume soon with senior citizens going on pilgrimages of Puri and Tirupati, officials said on Thursday. The scheme was halted due to the model code of conduct imposed ahead of the Lok Sabha elections, which concluded in June.

Under the scheme operated by Teerth Yatra Vikas Samiti of the Delhi government, citizens aged 60 years and above accompanied by one attendant are sent on pil-



grimages across the country free of cost.

"The scheme was interrupted due to the model code of conduct. It is likely to resume from last week of July or the first week of August, with trains planned for Puri and Tirupati," Teerth Yatra Vikas Samiti chairperson Kamal Bansal said.

He said that there was a large demand from the senior citizens to visit Jagannath temple in Puri during the auspicious month of Shraavan, beginning from July 22.

Preparations for sending the pilgrims to different places have started in coordination with the railways, Bansal added.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal flagged off 89th train under the scheme before elections in February for Dwarkadhish. So far, over 84,000 pilgrims have visited different religious places across the country under the scheme.

Over a dozen pilgrim places, including Rameswaram, Shirdi, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Mathura, Vrindavan and Ayodhya, are covered under the scheme.

The scheme was launched by the Kejriwal-led AAP government in 2019 with five pilgrimage destinations and more were added later, the officials said.

Water tanker driver crushes youth

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

In a shocking incident, a water tanker driver while trying to escape crushed a youth who was pelting stones on his tanker in the Sangam Vihar area of the national capital.

On Wednesday evening, in the Ratia Marg Sangam Vihar area of South Delhi, some people pelted stones on a tanker when rainwater splashed on them. When the tanker driver, identified as 35-year-old Sapan Singh, tried to escape to save his life, a young man identified as 21-year-old Saddam came under the wheels of the tank-

er. He died on the spot.

Angry people again started pelting stones at the tanker. Meanwhile, an auto driver identified as Bablu came to the spot and opposed the stone pelting and got stabbed by those who were pelting stones and sustained serious injuries.

The situation in the area became tense. A police force has been deployed on the spot.

DCP South Delhi Ankit Chauhan said, "Saddam died after being hit by a tanker. Police have taken the body into custody and sent it to the mortuary for postmortem. The 21-year-old deceased lived with his family in the

Sangam Vihar area."

Additional DCP East District, Achin Garg says, "We got a call about stone pelting on a water tanker. In this, an auto had broken down on Ratia Marg in Sangam Vihar and some boys were fixing the auto. Meanwhile, a water tanker was passing by and some water splashed on the auto drivers, which led to an altercation. These auto drivers attacked the driver, and pelted stones. Seeing this, the driver got scared and moved the vehicle forward, in which one person came under the water tanker. When he was taken to the hospital, he was declared dead. The driver

of the water tanker left his tanker and tried to run away, the boys again pelted stones. Meanwhile, another auto driver was passing by and asked what happened, and why they were pelting stones. They also attacked the auto driver with a knife. He is currently inside the hospital...The investigation is underway..."

According to the police, Bablu's condition remains critical. He has been stabbed at two places in his body. He has been referred from Majidia Hospital to Safdarjung Hospital. No arrest has been made yet. The investigation is underway and the accused have been identified.

Zoo implements ayurvedic methods to safeguard animals during monsoon

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Delhi Zoo authorities are using ayurvedic methods, including neem oil, turmeric and quicklime, to keep the animals healthy and free from bacterial and viral infections during the rainy season. As the monsoon season sets in, Delhi Zoo is taking innovative steps to ensure the health and safety of its animals by incorporating traditional ayurvedic methods.

"The monsoon has entered the capital and we have to take all necessary measures to keep the animals healthy and safe during this season. We will use some Indian home remedies like neem oil, which will help protect the animals from common biting insects, including mosquitoes, biting midges and fleas," Delhi Zoo Director Sanjeet Kumar said.

Neem oil acts as an herbal disinfectant and fly repellent, said Kumar, turmeric, known for its anti-inflammatory and healing properties, will be used to treat itchy skin conditions,

infections and wounds. Turmeric dust will be applied to lesions and foot sores to expedite healing, he said.

Heavy rains often lead to waterlogging in certain parts of the zoo which create breeding grounds for mosquitoes. To counter this, quicklime (chuna) will be sprinkled in these areas to prevent mosquito proliferation.

"We are using quicklime in waterlogged spots to stop the growth of mosquitoes and keep our animals safe," the official said. After the heavy rains that lashed the national capital on Friday, recording 228.1 mm of rainfall in just 24 hours the highest in June since 1936 the Delhi Zoo was also affected.

A power failure occurred when floodwaters breached the zoo's boundary wall from the Sundernagar side, inundating the substation area and causing damage to the transformer.

This incident affected animal enclosures, administrative offices and staff quarters. Referring to this situation, Kumar said that measures have been taken to prevent a recurrence.

"The broken boundary is being re-

paired and barriers are being installed to prevent water backflow, ensuring water does not reach the animal enclosures," he said.

Additional measures include providing elevated platforms in areas prone to water accumulation, ensuring animals have dry spots to rest.

"The director also mentioned that we will purchase an additional generator dedicated to essential uses such as gate operation, Wi-Fi, control room, CCTV operations and animal enclosures for water pumping during rainy periods when electricity is cut off," said Kumar.

The official also said that Delhi Zoo presently has two generators: one for the animal hospital and another for operational needs throughout the facility, with the third generator to be allocated accordingly.

He emphasised the importance of preparing for rain-related health issues by stocking necessary medicines.

The National Zoological Park, also known as Delhi Zoo, is situated in a 176-acre area under the central government's jurisdiction.

HEAVY RAINFALL IN NW, NE INDIA BRINGS OVERALL DEFICIT DOWN TO 3%

The country has gauged 190.6 mm of rainfall against a normal of 196.9 mm since the start of monsoon season.

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Heavy rainfall in northwest and northeast India over the past few days has brought down the overall monsoon precipitation deficit in the country from 11 per cent on June 30 to just 3 per cent on Thursday, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD) data. The IMD reported that the rainfall deficit in northwest India has reduced from 33 per cent on June 30 to 14 per cent on Thursday, from 14 per cent to 8 per cent in central India, and from 13 per cent to 2 per cent in east and northeast India. South India has recorded surplus rains (13 per cent) in the monsoon season so far.



The Met office stated that 24 per cent of the sub-divisional area of the country experienced excess to large excess rainfall, 45 per cent received normal rainfall, and 31 per cent experienced deficient rainfall.

The country has gauged 190.6 mm of rainfall against a normal of 196.9 mm since the start of the four-month

monsoon season on June 1. June had ended with a rainfall deficit of 11 per cent, with the country receiving only 147.2 mm of rainfall in the month against a normal of 165.3 mm, the seventh lowest since 2001.

After making an early onset over Kerala and the northeastern region on May 30, and progressing nor-

mally up to Maharashtra, the monsoon lost momentum, extending the wait for rains in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and worsening the impact of a scorching heat wave in northwest India.

"Monsoonal winds remained stalled from June 10 to June 18 and made slow progress until June 26-27," IMD chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra had said earlier.

The annual rain-bearing system covered a major part of northwest India after June 25, the IMD data showed.

The weather department on Thursday said heavy rainfall will continue over northwest and east India in the next 4-5 days. Extremely heavy rainfall is predicted in northeast India during this period.

'World to witness 1st Indian in Space and another Indian in Deep Sea by 2025'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said on Thursday that by 2025, the world will witness the first Indian in space and another Indian embarking on a deep-sea mission.

Speaking at an event, Singh elaborated on India's advancements in space and marine exploration. He revealed that four astronauts, comprising three group captains and one wing commander, have been selected for India's first human space mission, Gaganyaan.

"Similarly, India's Deep-Sea Mission will see three Indians venture into the depths of the ocean in 2025," Singh said.

Addressing the audience, Singh also highlighted the significant infrastructure development in Northeast India over the past decade, citing it as a model of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for progress.



"Infrastructure overhaul in Northeast India in the last decade is the role model of PM Modi's development," Singh said.

Going further, he recalled the new airports made operational in the Northeast. Increase in the network of all-weather roads and highways, along with remote connectivity. The railways operating trains from Itanagar and new waterways that have been opened.

He categorically mentioned that, not only in terms of infrastructure but also in human resources development, it is commendable as recruiters in

the hospitality and aviation industries are now visiting these states for talent acquisition.

Going further, he stated that the Prime Minister is fond of the region and preferred Mizoram to establish a 'Citrus Fruit Park: A Centre of Excellence' in Mizoram due to its favourable conditions. "Record number of tourists in Kashmir nearly 2.5 crore in the last season is the testimony of development and peace," Singh said.

Jitendra Singh, when asked about the progress of Jammu and Kashmir in the last decade, said, "Record number of tourists visiting Kashmir

nearly 2.5 crore in the last season is the testimony of development and peace in the region." He also added that 1 lakh people have already arrived for Amarnath Yatra which also highlights boom in domestic tourism. He also mentioned that terrorism is in its last phase.

The media group congratulated Jitendra Singh for making a hatrick by winning from Udhampur constituency and also being the Minister for the 3rd time. The Science and Technology Minister recalled the recent progress and shared the path of India's vision.

He said "Space sector is limited to launch rockets and satellites but it will also propel growth and positively impact agriculture, infrastructure, communication, healthcare etc. Land Record management, new geospatial policy, new space policy, and initiatives such as soil health card, DBT, land mapping etc. will boost farmer productivity."

ED arrests Arvind Singh, Trilok Singh Dhillon in liquor scam

TDG NETWORK
RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)

The Enforcement Directorate, Raipur has arrested two persons, Arvind Singh and Trilok Singh Dhillon, in the ongoing money laundering investigation into a liquor scam in Chhattisgarh.

Singh and Dhillon who were arrested on July 1 under the provisions of PMLA, 2002, have been sent to the ED Custody till July 6.

"ED, Raipur has arrested Arvind Singh and Trilok Singh Dhillon on July 1, 2024, under the provisions of PMLA, 2002 in the ongoing money laundering investigation into the Liquor scam in the State of Chhattisgarh," the central probe agency posted on X.

"Arvind Singh and Trilok Singh Dhillon were arrested on July 1, 2024, at Central Jail Raipur and later the Hon'ble Special Court (PMLA), Raipur granted ED Custody till July 6, 2024," it added.

Earlier in May, the ED provisionally attached 18 mov-



able and 161 immovable properties worth about Rs 205.49 crore in a money laundering case linked to the alleged Rs 2000 crore liquor scam in the state.

The central probe agency recorded a fresh Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) on the liquor scam based on an FIR registered by the state police under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

"The attached properties include 14 properties in respect of Anil Tuteja, Ex-IAS worth Rs 15.82 crore; 115 properties in respect of Anwar Dhebar

worth of Rs 116.16 crore; 3 properties in respect of Vikash Agarwal worth Rs 1.54 crore; 33 properties in respect of Arvind Singh worth of Rs 12.99 crore; one property in respect of Arunpatri Tripathi worth Rs 1.35 crore; 9 properties in respect of Trilok Singh Dhillon worth Rs 28.13 crore, jewellery worth Rs 27.96 crore in respect of Naveen Kedia; movable properties worth Rs 1.2 crore in respect of Asheesh Saurabh Kedia/Dishita Ventures Pvt. Ltd.; and one vehicle worth Rs 0.13 lakh in respect of M/s Nexgen Engitech Power Pvt. Ltd.," ED said in a statement.

Medical exam question paper sale announced on social media: Kerala police books case

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Cyber Police registered a case on Thursday after an announcement was made on social media that the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) question paper and answer key were for sale.

After completing MBBS studies abroad, those who wish to practice in India are required to pass the FMGE conducted by the National Board of Examinations.

A state police spokesperson said that the City Cyber Crime Police in Thiruvananthapuram have registered a case against groups that advertised the sale of question papers for the July 6 exam on Telegram groups.

The case was registered under the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024, making it the first case of its kind in the state to be registered under this law, the spokesperson said in a statement.

As part of efforts to detect such frauds, the Cyber Division of the Police has started 24x7 cyber patrolling on social media platforms, including various Telegram channels, it said.



University campus clash sparks heated debate in Kerala Assembly

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Assembly witnessed uproarious scenes with a fierce verbal duel between Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan.

The topic of the acrimonious debate touched on the recent unrest in the state capital Thiruvananthapuram between student union members of the Communist Party of India (CPI-M) and the Congress parties - the Students' Federation of India (SFI) and the Kerala Students Union (KSU) respectively.

The Kerala Students Union has alleged that SFI members attacked KSU district leader San Jose inside the Kerala University campus in Karyavattom on Tuesday night.

The issue was raised as an adjournment motion notice moved by several Congress MLAs including M Vincent. The Chief Minister rejected the motion of the opposition



to adjourn the House.

Vijayan said that conflicts on campus are undesirable and should be condemned. He further said those action should be taken against those responsible.

The Kerala chief minister also defended the SFI describing it as a longstanding organization with a proud history, unlike the KSU, which he said, had declined in influence.

"This is not a movement that grew in blackrooms. KSU used to dominate every educational institution. How

did you end up in your current state?" the Chief Minister asked.

The Chief Minister also referred to the bomb attack on the AKG centre and the defacement of a Mahatma Gandhi portrait at the Congress office in Wayanad. He alleged that 35 people were killed simply for being SFI members. He challenged the KSU to provide a similar history and said that the Congress was employing wrong means to spread its propaganda against the Left party.

At 35.7°C, Srinagar sees hottest day in July in 25 years

TDG NETWORK
SRINAGAR

Heatwave conditions persisted in Kashmir on Thursday with Srinagar recording a maximum temperature of 35.7 degrees Celsius, six notches above normal and the highest in July in 25 years, officials said.

The city had recorded a high of 37 degrees Celsius in July 1999.

Srinagar was hotter than Delhi (31.7 degrees Celsius), Kolkata (31 degrees Celsius), Mumbai (32 degrees Celsius) and Bengaluru (28 degrees Celsius).

Other parts of the Valley also witnessed scorching temperatures with Qazigund recording a high of



The Valley has been experiencing rising temperatures and scorching heat over the past few weeks, leading to water shortage in many areas.

32.8 degrees Celsius and Kupwara 35.2 degrees Celsius, the officials said.

The Valley has been exper-

riencing rising temperatures and scorching heat over the past few weeks, leading to water shortage in many ar-

reas.

The health department has issued advisories to deal with the heatwave conditions. The school education department has already announced a 10-day summer vacation for all schools in the Valley from July 8.

Amid the heat, people are choosing to stay indoors.

Some respite from the heat is likely on Friday as the meteorological department has forecast intermittent spells of light to moderate rain or thundershowers at many places. There is also a possibility of intermittent moderate rainfall at many places and heavy spells at a few places in Jammu and Kashmir on Friday and Saturday, the weather office said.

Gujarat boosts water storage capacity by 11,523 lakh cubic feet

TDG NETWORK
GANDHINAGAR

Gujarat, known for its excellent water management system, has successfully created an additional water storage capacity of 11,523 lakh cubic feet this year under its ambitious water conservation campaign, Sujalam Sufalam Jal Yojana (SSJA).

Under this year's campaign, an additional water storage capacity of 4,946 lakh cubic feet was created in Central Gujarat, 2,831 lakh cubic feet in North Gujarat, 2,700 lakh cubic feet in the Saurashtra-Kutch region and 1,046 lakh cubic feet in South Gujarat.

The Gujarat government has been running a cam-



campaign for the last seven years to conserve the maximum amount of rainwater in the large and small water bodies. In these last seven years, Gujarat's water storage capacity has cumulatively increased by over 1,19,144 lakh cubic feet. The SSJA initiative not only involves massive public participation but

also smooth coordination between departments such as Water Resources, Water Distribution, Forests and Environment, Urban Development and Municipal Corporations, Narmada Corporation, Education Department, Panchayat and Rural Development among others. Providing detailed in-

formation about the work carried out under the seventh edition of SSJA, Water Resources Secretary K.B. Rabaria said, "Under the guidance of Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel, this year's SSJA campaign has been extremely successful. A total of 9,374 works were executed, including over 4,000 under public participation, over 1,900 under MNREGA, and over 3,300 by the Gujarat government's various departments."

"During this period, 7.23 lakh man-days of labour were also generated, boosting employment across Gujarat. This year, Gujarat's water storage capacity will increase by 11,523 lakh cubic feet," he added.

Assam floods: Death toll rises to 52; over 21 lakh people affected in 29 districts

TDG NETWORK
GUWAHATI

The flood situation in Assam is critical with a total death toll of 52 and about 21.13 lakh people are affected in 29 districts by the second wave of flood.

According to the flood report of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), 6 people died in



the last 24 hours in the state the total death toll has risen to 52.

More than 3.86 lakh people are taking shelter in 515 relief camps and distribution centres set up by the administration in 24 flood-hit districts.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority said that 11,20,165 animals were also affected by the deluge.

The number of affected villages has risen to 3,208 while devastating floodwaters have resulted in the death of 31 wild animals in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve (KNP), the field director of KNP said.

According to the reports of Kaziranga National Park authority, 23 hog deer drowned in flood waters while 7 other

hog deer died under care.

The flood-affected districts are Goalpara, Nagaon, Nalbari, Kamrup, Morigaon, Dibrugarh, Sonitpur, Lakhimpur, South Salmara, Dhubri, Jorhat, Charaideo, Hojai, Karimganj, Sivasagar, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Dhemaji, Hailakandi, Golaghat, Darrang, Biswanath, Cachar, Kamrup (M), Tinsukia, Karbi

Anglong, Chirang, Karbi Anglong West, Majuli.

According to the Morigaon District Administration, "The flood situation in Assam's Morigaon district is still grim as more than 55,000 people have been affected by the deluge. Thousands of villagers are now taking shelter on embankments, and roads after the flood waters entered

their homes."

As per the information from the district administration, 194 villages in the district are still submerged in the floodwaters.

Chandini Devi, from the Bhuragaon area in Morigaon district, told ANI that, for the last 4 days her family has been living in a makeshift tent on the embankment.

MODI 3.0 AND THE NDA: ONE NATION, ONE AGENDA FOR ECONOMIC RESILIENCE AND SOCIAL WELFARE

OPINION

SUMIT KAUSHIK &
ARUNANSH B. GOSWAMI

In the wake of the 2024 Indian General Elections, the political landscape has seen a notable shift. This new political equilibrium brings with it opportunities, particularly in the realm of development—a critical area that transcends political affiliations. The Indian populace, more than ever, is vocal about its demand for tangible developmental progress. Now is the time to shine the spotlight on new development-led initiatives and policies. The post-2024 election period presents a unique opportunity for India's political class to rise above partisan politics and prioritise the nation's development. The nation's clear message is that they seek progress and tangible im-

provements in their quality of life, irrespective of which party is in power. Both the ruling and opposition coalitions must heed this call, ensuring that development-led initiatives remain at the core of their governance strategies. As India navigates this new political landscape, the focus on development will not only sustain the political entities involved but will also propel the nation towards a more prosperous and equitable future. At the heart of the political mandate is the undeniable need for grassroots development. Both coalitions understand that to sustain their political viability and prove their worth to the populace, they must focus on concrete development at the ground level.

With the advent of Modi 3.0 and the strengthened NDA coalition, India is poised to embark on a transformative journey under the unifying banner of "One Nation, One Agenda: Development." This renewed mandate signals a robust commitment to propelling the nation towards unprecedented growth and modernization. The focus on development transcends political divides, aiming to uplift every segment of society and bridge regional disparities. By prioritising infrastructure, digital innovation, and social welfare, the government is set to create a cohesive and prosperous India, where progress is not just a goal but a shared reality for all citizens. In this era of unified vision, development will be the cornerstone that defines the nation's path forward, fostering economic resilience and global competitiveness.

The NDA focus will likely be on highlighting gaps in governance and presenting a unified front on issues that matter to the common man, such as employment generation, infrastructure projects,

healthcare improvements, educational reforms, grassroots development, the environment, and economic policies aimed at uplifting the rural and urban poor. The ruling coalition will leverage its governance experience to push through key development projects swiftly. However, the coalition nature of the government means that consensus-building and accommodating diverse viewpoints within the coalition will be crucial. The introduction of new policies should not only aim at short-term gains but also focus on sustainable and inclusive growth. Policies that drive rural development, enhance agricultural productivity, support technological transformations and digital infrastructure, and support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will be essential for long-term prosperity.

In "One Nation, One Agenda: Development," the complex and multifaceted nature of India's development journey should be explored through a humanistic lens. This thought-provoking concept delves into the broad

and often elusive concept of development, dissecting its many components and revealing the intricate web of definitions and contexts that surround each term. In an ideal scenario, the NDA should begin by acknowledging the myriad challenges and complexities inherent in achieving holistic development. It emphasises that there is no single theory or approach that can address the diverse and dynamic issues faced by India. Instead, it argues for a tailored and multifaceted strategy, recognising that different problems require different solutions.

"One Nation, One Agenda" calls for collaborative and collective efforts, stressing the importance of empowering the entire ecosystem—from policymakers to grassroots organisations, from urban planners to rural communities. It calls for the adoption of innovative policies and approaches that are inclusive and equitable, ensuring that no one is left behind in the nation's pursuit of development. This concept also challenges

traditional notions of development economics, proposing a new framework that is adaptable, empathetic, and responsive to the unique needs of different sectors and regions. It underscores the importance of rewriting development economics in a way that prioritises human well-being and sustainable progress.

According to the report titled "Systemic Impact Exemplars: Unique Approaches Towards Solving India's Development Challenges" by The Convergence Foundation, the Indian government spends about 18-19% of GDP on social development. In 2022-23, the Central Government and the State Governments together are budgeted to spend approximately Rs. 48 lakh crores (USD 600 billion) on developmental projects. Civil society too has made significant contributions with organisations working primarily at two ends—grassroots NGOs deeply embedded in communities and delivering services and/or building the capacity of the community at one end

and academic and research organisations creating evidence and policy recommendations on the other. Despite all these efforts by the government and civil society, India is far from reaching its SDG targets. Progress has undeniably been made, but we still rank 112th out of 166 countries. There are many reasons for this gap—notably the size of the problem in relation to the resources deployed, the complexity and interconnectedness of the issues, the wide range of actors and stakeholders involved, and the need to contextualise solutions to local needs. Therefore, silver bullets rarely, if ever, exist. India now needs systems change approach for large-scale impact. There is a need to address the root causes of problems to develop long-term solutions, avoiding quick fixes. Systems change can be adopted by any social-purpose organisation, regardless of sector or domain. In an emerging economy like India, addressing issues on a large scale and sustainably is critical. These social-purpose organisations work

closely with governments to enhance their effectiveness and capacity, recognising that governments are the primary actors in addressing India's growth and development challenges. Systems change is the road to achieving One Nation, One Agenda.

As India strives to position itself as a global leader and a truly developed nation, "One Nation, One Agenda" serves as a crucial guide and inspiration. It provides a roadmap for meaningful and holistic development, urging readers to rethink and reimagine the pathways to a better future for all. By embracing a humanistic approach, this concept offers a powerful vision of development that is not only about economic metrics but also about enhancing the quality of life and fostering a just and equitable society.

Sumit Kaushik, a PhD candidate at O.P. Jindal Global University and a Social Impact Consultant
Arunansh B. Goswami, Historian and Advocate, Supreme Court of India

An appeal to PM Modi seeking CSR funding for arts and culture

RASHEED KIDWAI

In a move that has resonated deeply within India's cultural and artistic circles, Sundeep Bhutoria, a prominent figure in India's arts and literature community, has penned a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Bhutoria has made a passionate appeal for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) support to bolster the cultural and literary landscape of India. This initiative aims not only to preserve and promote India's rich cultural heritage but also to foster intellectual growth and social cohesion through the arts.

Shared widely on social media, the letter intends to help secure essential funding for India's vibrant arts and cultural sectors, which remain underserved notwithstanding their pivotal role in building national identity and enhancing India's soft power. The change in CSR policy (in September 2022) has greatly impacted the attention received by the arts sectors, prompting an impassioned plea from Bhutoria.

His ideas have resonated with stakeholders across the spectrum, from literary scholars to cultural enthusiasts, who view CSR as a potent tool for promoting arts and culture amidst an evolving socio-economic landscape. Bhutoria's timely call has received endorsements from prominent figures such as actress Nandita Das and Grammy-winning musician Ricky Kej. Das commended Bhutoria for his advocacy: "Thank you Sundeep Bhutoria for taking the initiative to speak for art and craft communities that really struggle for sustenance. Preservation and conservation of art, craft and handlooms that are fast vanishing is super important..." Similarly, Kej emphasised the importance of integrating art, culture and literature into CSR frameworks, citing their profound

impact on societal well-being and global cultural diplomacy: "CSR initiatives need to include art, culture and literature...this is our soft power and our might!" Such sentiments were echoed by Indian classical veena expert Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, who said: "It's very important to think for preservation...of classical and folk arts. Let us all support this movement and request our Honourable PM of India to consider." Author Kiran Manral and columnist Koral Dasgupta also supported Bhutoria's call for investing in and supporting India's creative forces with an emphasis on encouraging artistic and cultural growth.

Bhutoria is known for his advocacy in promoting arts and literature through the Kolkata-based Prabha Khaitan Foundation, of which he is the managing trustee. Bhutoria has previously championed numerous initiatives aimed at promoting Indian culture and heritage through performances, discussions and educational outreach. The PKF's efforts are proof of how significant the role of CSR funding is in democratising cultural participation and fostering national pride.

"We [PK Foundation] work across the country for the sustenance and spread of Indian culture and heritage through performance and discussion. We also provide books to educational institutions in rural and semi-urban areas. Most of our events are held in Tier B and C cities, where availability of books is restricted and many readers can't afford to buy new books," wrote Bhutoria to the PM, about the necessity of CSR initiatives to provide platforms and opportunities for artists, musicians, writers and artisans, especially in places where cultural activities often face financial constraints.

Bhutoria emphasised his

professional and personal experience to bring out the impact corporate funding could have on preserving and promoting diverse artistic expressions across the nation.

The cultural heritage of India is a cornerstone of our identity and it is incumbent upon us to ensure its preservation and accessibility for future generations. Bhutoria's appeal aligns with global trends recognising the economic significance of creative industries. Globally, the creative sector not only contributes significantly to GDP and employment — factors that India, with its vast cultural heritage, can harness for socio-economic development — but also facilitates international trade and cross-cultural expansion. In this context, Bhutoria drew attention to buzzwords like "creative economy", which encapsulate the vast tangible and intangible value now held by the creative industry.

Bhutoria pointed out that "the creative sector has a share of 5.5% of global output, in terms of gross value added" and when it comes to "employment generation, the contribution of creative industries to national employment stands at a global average of 5.32%." Yet, according to Bhutoria, "the artistic and cultural core of our country is struggling to breathe" as many of the torchbearers of India's cultural legacy are unable to even make ends meet.

In order for India to regain centrality in the sphere of cultural heritage, we must first create a sustainable environment for the thriving of artistic output. The solution to the plague-like withering of cultural funding is the influx of corporate funds, which Bhutoria regards as "the lifeblood for India's artistic and cultural renaissance". By leveraging CSR funds to empower artists and

promote cultural diversity, India can reclaim its position as a global cultural hub while fostering economic growth through creative industries.

It is interesting that Bhutoria's letter requested not just the corporates but also the government, whose policy-making and execution have been instrumental in pushing CSR initiatives over the past decade, to usher in the promotion of arts and culture. Bhutoria pinpointed the need for governmental policies that incentivise corporate engagement in cultural and artistic endeavours. By advocating for the inclusion of arts within CSR mandates, Bhutoria seeks to bridge existing gaps in cultural funding, ensuring sustainable growth and visibility for India's artistic communities, both domestically and internationally.

"Taking the first steps towards an Indian cultural renaissance under your dynamic leadership would surely be an invaluable legacy for your third term in office," Bhutoria concluded in his letter, highlighting the impact PM Modi can have by virtue of his government looking more deeply into CSR funding for arts and culture.

Mahatma Gandhi famously said, "A nation's culture resides in the hearts and souls of its people". Bhutoria aptly observed that it is the arts — "ranging from the visual arts and crafts to literature, performing arts to design and architecture, and much more" — that can touch every heart of our country and connect the human spirit globally. As the nation looks forward to a future where art, culture, and literature thrive, Bhutoria's letter has become the catalyst for an explosive chain reaction, the outcome of which is likely to be a greater exuberance of India's creative industry, both at home and abroad.

Empowering girls through sports: Impact of mixed gender football leagues

In a world where goals know no gender, dreams take flight!

OPINION

RAVI SONNAD

In today's global workforce it is critical to learn how to interact and collaborate with people from various backgrounds, irrespective of gender, ethnic and economic background, or religion. Honing Life Skills and Leadership Skills is therefore a critical component for work and life. An essential part of these skills is learning about diversity and inclusion. To ensure that girls and women have equitable opportunities, gender biases must be eliminated. We need to ensure that both girls and boys see each other defined by their roles and not by their gender. Needless to say, in a world where goals know no gender, dreams take flight!

And, that is exactly the profound impact of mixed gender football league creating a nurturing space, fostering a community that encourages young people to pursue their dreams regardless of their gender.

Sport, especially team sport like mixed gender football, helps develop many essential skills that are crucial for success in work and life. For example, one learns to communicate and collaborate effectively, think on one's feet and make quick decisions, and build the grit and resilience to never give up. The aim is to empower girls while at the same time, change boys' perspectives and views. It is also a visually powerful way to demonstrate what equal-

ity and diversity means. In society, there is a belief that boys (and males) should engage in sports while girls should not. This difference is wider amongst socially and economically disadvantaged families and becomes more acute as children grow and gender stereotypes play into their behaviours and mindsets. The mixed gender

More importantly, it builds the necessary buy-in for the societal changes from all the stakeholders. When a parent can say, "My daughter plays football, and I saw her play a match. I am proud of how good she is," it becomes the starting point of change in societal norms.

When girls see themselves represented and celebrated in the world of football, it sends a powerful message about their worth and potential. It inspires future generations of girls to pursue their passions.

The mixed gender league format leverages behavioural sciences, backed by a curated curriculum and pedagogical practices that allow students to practice

report improved attendance at school, and class participation. Enrolment rates in these rural schools have shown an upward trend.

More importantly, parents and community members have become more supportive of children's future goals and aspirations. For example, parents and elders in rural areas have expressed that after seeing their daughters on the football field, they have realized their potential and want to encourage them to pursue their education and a career.

By showcasing the talents of both boys and girls on the same stage, these leagues send a powerful message about the importance of equal opportunity and rep-



league allows us to involve parents who then change their views about what their sons and daughters are capable of. Sports in general is a big equalizer since it allows one to discard these biases.

An essential component of intervention is the engagement of all the people involved in the child's development — schoolteachers, parents/caregivers, and community members. This ensures that the child gets all the support needed to develop leadership skills.

together, work on a strategy and a mindset that focuses on player positions and roles so that they can win by working together as a team.

In my numerous interactions with coaches, teachers, parents and students from underserved schools; we have seen positive changes across various demographics. Children can articulate their aspirations and set goals and work towards achieving them. Parents see changes in children's discipline and routine. Teachers

resentation. Despite the progress made by mixed-gender leagues, there are still barriers and inequalities that must be addressed. From disparities in funding and resources to entrenched attitudes and biases, there is much work to be done to ensure that all girls have equal opportunities to participate and excel; not just in sports, but in life.

This article has been written by Ravi Sonnad, CEO, Enabling Leadership.

CROWD MANAGEMENT IS ALIEN TO INDIA

Unfortunately, India has witnessed at alarming intervals several incidents wherein hundreds of people lost their lives due to poor enforcement of crowd control

KAUSHAL VERMA
NEW DELHI

Many stampedes happen during religious festivals or events that attract massive crowds. The sheer number of people in confined spaces can lead to chaotic situations. Inadequate infrastructure such as narrow pathways, temporary bridges, and lack of crowd management systems contribute significantly to stampedes.

HERE ARE SOME NOTABLE INSTANCES

Kumbh Mela: The world's largest and biggest gathering of devotees at Kumbh Mela, a massive Hindu pilgrimage, has seen multiple tragic incidents, including stampedes, due to the huge number of attendees and logistical challenges. One of the deadliest was in 1954 in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), where an estimated 800 people lost their lives in a stampede. 1954 Kumbh Mela "stampede" was a major crowd crush that occurred on 3 February 1954 at Kumbha Mela in Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh state in India. It was the main bathing day of Mauni Amavasya (New Moon), when the incident took place. 4-5 million pilgrims took part in the festival that year, which was also the first Kumbh Mela after India's Independence.

The figures for the tragedy varied according to different sources. While The Guardian reported more than 800 people died, and over 100 were injured, TIME reported "no fewer than 350 people were trampled to death and drowned, 200 were counted missing, and over 2,000 were injured". According to the book Law and Order in India, over 500 people died. The incident occurred near Phulrai village for a religious gathering led by Bhole Baba, also known as Narayan Sakar Hari, a self-proclaimed godman.

Victims, dead or unconscious, were brought to the Sikandara Rao Trauma Centre in trucks and other vehicles. Inside a government hospital, the bodies were resting on slabs of ice while grieving relatives awaited the return of the mortal remains.

1986: During the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar in 1986, a stampede broke out on the Birla Ghat bridge, leading to around 50 deaths.

2016: During the Simhastha Kumbh Mela in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, a stampede occurred at the Ramghat bridge, leading to at least 115 deaths.

Mandhar Devi temple (2005): In Maharashtra, during the Navratri festival, a stampede occurred at the Mandhar Devi temple in Satara district, resulting in the deaths of several devotees. On January 25, 2005, over 340 devotees were trampled to death and hundreds injured during an annual pilgrimage at Mandhardevi temple. The real trigger of the incident remains a mystery given the fact that the spot where the stampede occurred is an open field.

The 2011 Sabarimala crowd crush took place on 14 January 2011, Makara Jyothi Day at Pullumedu near Sabarimala in Kerala, India. It broke out during an annual pilgrimage, killing 106 pilgrims and injuring about 100 more declared later as "National disaster". The pilgrims were returning from a Hindu shrine on the last day of a yearly festival which attracts millions of devotees. It began after a Jeep toppled over.



Crowd at Mandhar Devi temple

January 2011, Makara Jyothi Day at Pullumedu near Sabarimala in Kerala, India. It broke out during an annual pilgrimage, killing 106 pilgrims and injuring about 100 more declared later as "National disaster". The pilgrims were returning from a Hindu shrine on the last day of a yearly festival which attracts millions of devotees. It began after a Jeep toppled over.

The incident happened around 8 p.m. local time. Most of the dead were from the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. There are various versions of the accident as reported in various newspapers and television reports. The victims were



Kumbh Mela



A huge congregation in India

going back home through the forest after Makara Jyothi darshanam, thought to be a celestial phenomenon on the hill shrine of the Hindu god Ayyappan. The crowd crush was reportedly caused by an SUV which blocked the path, near Pullumedu, possibly after breaking down. When moved it may have overturned and caused people to stumble, triggering the stampede or by too many people running down the hill towards the road where there was already a pack of vehicles. There is a version of an accident between an autorickshaw and a Jeep. The real trigger of the incident remains a mystery given the fact that the spot where the stampede occurred is an open field.

The 2011 Sabarimala crowd crush took place on 14 January 2011, Makara Jyothi Day at Pullumedu near Sabarimala in Kerala, India. It broke out during an annual pilgrimage, killing 106 pilgrims and injuring about 100 more declared later as "National disaster". The pilgrims were returning from a Hindu shrine on the last day of a yearly festival which attracts millions of devotees. It began after a Jeep toppled over.

Madhya Pradesh temple (2013): At the Ratangarh Mata Temple in Datia district, Madhya Pradesh, during the Navratri festival, a stampede resulted in 115 deaths. Approximately 25,000 people were on the bridge at about 9 a.m. on Sunday, 13 October 2013, and a section of the railing broke, and another said that the bridge had been hit by a tractor before the stampede. Others said that a group of pilgrims intentionally spread the rumour, hoping to cut the long line. Some witnesses said

drowned after jumping into the swelling river. Most of the victims were women and children.

There were conflicting reports about the cause of the stampede. One report said that the rumour of the bridge's impending collapse began when a section of the railing broke, but another said that the bridge had been hit by a tractor before the stampede. Others said that a group of pilgrims intentionally spread the rumour, hoping to cut the long line. Some witnesses said



Huge security forces required to manage crowds also at holy places.

These incidents underline the challenges of managing large gatherings in India, particularly during religious festivals where millions of people often converge. Authorities have since implemented various measures to improve crowd control and safety during such events.

that the stampede started when the police charged into the crowd wielding canes, but the allegation was denied by police officials.

Rescue operations were hampered by a 7-kilometre-long traffic jam on the only road to the temple. Angry at the delay, relatives of the victims pelted stones at police officers, injuring several. The Madhya Pradesh government has announced a compensation of Rs. 150,000 for each of the deceased and Rs. 50,000 to those who suffered serious injuries.

The Election Commission of India has, at the request of the State Government, suspended the District Magistrate (District Collec-

tor) Mr. Sanket Bhondwe, Superintendent of Police (SP) Mr. P. Chandrashekar Solanki, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Revenue (SDM) of Seondha Mr. Mahip Tejaswi, Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) of Seondha Mr. B.N. Basave, and the entire staff of the Seondha Police Station.

Congress Party representatives allege that the true death toll is higher, possibly touching 400. The representatives criticized the State Administration for allegedly fudging the records and demanded the resignation of Chouhan, but the ruling BJP rebuffed the demand and accused the Congress Party of playing politics.

Jodhpur (2008): At the Chamunda Devi temple

near Jodhpur, Rajasthan, a stampede during Navratri celebrations led to the death of 224 people, mainly women and children. On 30 September 2008, at the Chamunda Devi temple in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India, the tragic stampede occurred in which 224 people were killed and more than 425 injured. The 15th-century temple is dedicated to the goddess Chamunda Devi and is located within the premises of Mehrangarh Fort.

About 25,000 Hindu pilgrims were visiting the temple to mark the first day of the nine-day-long Navratri, a major festival in Hinduism dedicated to the worship of Goddess Durga. The devotees scrambled towards the door the moment it opened, resulting in the destruction of the barricades. Many people were injured when they lost their footing on the slope approaching the temple.

According to The Times of India, local reports suggest that a bomb blast in nearby Mehrangarh created panic among the pilgrims resulting in the stampede. However, the BBC News reported that a collapsing wall may have also caused the stampede. Some eyewitnesses told CNN-IBN that a rumour about a bomb being planted in the temple caused panic among pilgrims. Others said there was a scramble in the men's queue; some devotees slipped and soon there was

a massive resultant stampede where a day of celebration turned into one of mourning. An eyewitness also said that the path leading to the temple was very narrow with no emergency exit routes. **Chennai Mayana Kollai festival (2010):** At the Mayana Kollai festival in Chennai, a stampede occurred at the Muniyappan temple, resulting in the death of 42 people. Mayana Kollai is a festival celebrated after Shivarathri on the first full moon day of February at the Angala Parameswari temples in Tamil Nadu, India. **Patna Chhath Puja (2014):** During the Chhath Puja festival on the banks of the Ganges River in Patna, Bihar, a stampede occurred as devotees rushed to perform rituals, resulting in 33 deaths. Devotees were killed in a stampede after a makeshift bridge collapsed in Patna. Among the deceased were bodies of nine children, six women and two others. The injured were sent to the Patna Medical College and Hospital. Patna superintendent of police Jayant Kant, however, confirmed 14 deaths. "Several others are missing but we are still trying to ascertain the exact figure," he said. A huge throng of people had assembled for the first 'aragh' (offering/obeisance) to the setting sun, at Adalatganj ghat on the bank of the river Ganga in central Patna when the incident took place.

REASONS

Tragedies in religious gatherings in India typically occur due to a combination of various factors, including:

Large gatherings: Many stampedes happen during religious festivals or events that attract massive crowds. The sheer number of people in confined spaces can lead to chaotic situations.

Poor infrastructure: Inadequate infrastructure such as narrow pathways, temporary bridges, and lack of crowd management systems contribute significantly to stampedes.

Lack of crowd control: Insufficient crowd control measures, including inadequate policing or barriers, can exacerbate the risk of stampedes.

Sudden panic or rush: Panic can spread quickly in large crowds due to rumours, sudden changes in circumstances (like

weather conditions), or perceived threats, leading to stampedes.

Unforeseen events: Sometimes, unforeseen events such as structural collapses, fires, or natural disasters can trigger stampedes as people attempt to flee or find safety. Cultural and religious practices: Certain cultural or religious practices during festivals involve large gatherings and specific rituals that may increase the likelihood of stampedes if not managed properly.

Lack of public awareness: In some cases, attendees may not be adequately informed or educated about safety protocols or the potential risks of overcrowded events. Efforts to prevent stampedes include improving infrastructure, enhancing crowd management strategies, increasing public awareness, and implementing stricter regulations during large gatherings and festivals.

HATHRAS STAMPEDE: PIL FILED IN SUPREME COURT SEEKING ACTION AGAINST NEGLIGENT AUTHORITIES

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Vishal Tiwari v. Union of India and Others observed with respect to Hathras Stampede Incident, which occurred on July 02, 2024 wherein the Public Interest Litigation, PIL is filed before the Supreme Court to appoint a five-member expert committee under the supervision of a retired Supreme Court judge for enquiry.

The plea pleaded the Court to direct the State of Uttar Pradesh for submitting the status report for this incident and initiate legal action against the person's, authorities and officials for their negligent conduct.

The petitioner, Vishal Tiwari in order to ensure that such incidents are avoided in future has prayed for the direction against State Governments to issue guidelines for cases where there is large number of public gathering. However, the said incident of this stampede took place at a religious gathering, a Satsang event, and it killed at least 100 people. The plea stated that such incident prima facie depicts the serious condition of responsibility lapse, neg-



The petitioner, Vishal Tiwari in order to ensure that such incidents are avoided in future has prayed for the direction against State Governments to issue guidelines for cases where there is large number of public gathering.

ligence and unfaithful duty of care towards the public by the government authorities. Thus, from past decade various incidents have taken place in our country wherein due to the mismanagement, lapse in duty, negligent main-

tenance activities, there has been cases of huge public casualties which could have been avoided yet due to such arbitrary and undone actions have led to such work.

Therefore, to support this, similar incidents of Stampede,

which took place in religious festivals, ceremonies, and Events, have been cited.

The petitioner in the plea prayed for the following:

To Issue writ of mandamus or directions to the Respondents immediately to appoint

a Five-member Expert Committee Under the Supervision of Retired Supreme Court justice to enquire into the Hathras Stampede Incident which took place on July 02, 2024 and also direct committee in the Interest of Public Safety to Suggest and frame Guidelines, Safety measures to Avoid Such incidents in large Number of Public gatherings;

To Issue writ of mandamus or directions to the Respondent No.2 State of Uttar Pradesh To Submit Status Report in Hathras Stampede Incident took place on July 02, 2024 and also direct to initiate legal Action against the Person's, Authorities and Officials for their Negligent Conduct; To Issue writ of mandamus or directions to the Respondents or State Governments to issue directions and guidelines in order to prevent Stampede or other incidents for the safety of Public in Organizing any religious events or other events where large number of public Gatherers; To Issue writ of mandamus or directions to the State Governments to Submit the Status of the Medical Facilities available from Block or Tehsil or District level to deal with the incidents of Stampede and other.

Supreme Court rebukes NIA for 4-year delay in trial; says accused has right to speedy trial: 'Do not make mockery of justice'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Javed Gulam Nabi Shaikh Versus The State of Maharashtra And Anr observed and has granted bail to an accused who was in jail for four years, the Supreme Court sharply rebuked the National Investigation Agency for delaying the trial.

In the present case, the case was registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967. The court without mincing its words, asked the prosecuting agency to not make 'mockery of justice' and stated that even though the accused is alleged of committing a serious offence, he has the right to a speedy trial.

The bench headed by Justice Pardiwala in the case observed that do not make a mockery of justice...National Investigation Agency is the prosecuting agency, NIA. You are the State; you are the NIA...He i.e., the accused has the right to a speedy trial, whatever offence he has committed. He might have committed a serious offence, but you are under the obligation to start the trial. He has been in jail for the past four years. Till



date, the charge has not been framed.

The Judge while noticing that 80 witnesses are to be examined remarked that, You propose to examine 80 witnesses. So, tell us how long he should remain in jail?

The bench comprising of Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, was hearing an appeal against the Bombay High Court order that declined to release the appellant on bail in connection with the prosecution under the UAPA.

The counsel appearing for the NIA and the State prayed for time, however, considering the prolonged incarceration of the accused, thus, the Court declined to adjourn the matter.

As per the allegation, on February, 2020, at 9:30, the appellant was apprehended

by the Mumbai police on the basis of secret information. Such an operation was undertaken, counterfeit currency notes were recovered. Allegedly, the notes were from Pakistan.

The Supreme Court apart from considering prolonged incarceration, also noted that the two co-accused have been released on bail.

The court ordered that howsoever serious a crime may be, the accused has a right to a speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution of India.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has granted him bail and, as a pre-condition, asked him not to leave Bombay and be present before NIA's Bombay office in 15 days.

Supreme Court directs Kuki undertrial in Manipur jail to be taken to Assam for medical treatment after High Court cited threat to law and order

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Lunghongam Haokip Versus The State Of Manipur And Anr observed and has expressed its dismay wherein the accused lodged in Manipur Central jail could not be taken out for medical examination because he belonged to the Kuki community.

The court in the case directed the State to immediately make necessary arrangements to take the accused to Gauhati Medical College in Assam and get him examined there.

The bench comprising of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan in its order stated that the concerned officials to obtain detailed medical reports in this regard and place

the same before the Court on or before July 15, 2024.

The bench also made it clear in the order that all the expenses were to be borne by the state.

The court in its order observed that, this court notice something very disturbing. It appears that the petitioner is suffering from Piles, TB...he also complained before the jail authorities of severe backpain.

On November 22, 2023, the medical officer examined and noticed tenderness in the lower spine and recommended an x-ray of the same, but unfortunately such facility was not available at Manipur Central jail.

The court observed that the report does not say anything about TB or piles.

In the impugned order,



the High Court stated that the petitioner accused cannot be taken out of jail as he belongs to the Kuki community and it would be hazardous because of the law and order situation.

However, the accused was seemingly suffering from piles, TB and severe back pain and he also complained to the jail authorities about the same.

On November 22, 2023, the medical officer examined and noticed tenderness in lower spine and recommended x-ray of the same, but unfortunately such facility was not available at Manipur Central jail. Therefore, when the matter was taken up to the High Court, the High Court observed that the petitioner accused cannot be taken

out of jail as he belong to the Kuki community and it would be hazardous because of the law and order situation.

The Supreme Court in its order recorded that it could have observed as regards the approach of the State as well as the High Court, however, at present, it was refraining from do so.

The bench headed by Justice Pardiwala made it clear that if the medical report reveals something very serious, the Supreme Court will take it to task.

The court stated to the counsel appearing for State before parting that take it from us, Mr counsel...not as the counsel of the State, impress upon the authorities that this man should be taken.

Centre tells Madras High Court: Hindi names of new criminal laws are the wisdom of Parliament, do not affect any rights

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Madras High Court in the case B Ramkumar Adityan v Cabinet Secretary and Others observed wherein the Union Government informed that there was nothing unconstitutional in the Hindi names of the three new criminal laws. The response came in the petition filed seeking to declare the Hindi names of the new criminal laws as unconstitutional.

The bench comprising of Acting Chief Justice R Mahadevan and Justice Mohammed Shaffiq was informed by Additional Solicitor General ARL Sundaresan that the parliament, in its own wisdom had named the new three criminal laws and unless these were shown to be inherently illegal or unconstitutional, they cannot be interfered with.

Before the court, the Additional Solicitor General

ARL Sundaresan stated that it is the wisdom of the parliament and all of us have elected the parliament and these lawmakers, on their wisdom have named it. Their will is shown in the names. If it is against the constitution, then okay. But no rights are affected.

The counsel appearing for the petitioner informed the court that as per Article 348 of the Constitution of India, all authorities text was to be in English.

The counsel also pointed out that the names of the new criminal laws was also an authoritative text, which was to be quoted by lawyers often. He thus argued that the names should also be in English.

To this, the ASG argued before the court that the names of the new criminal laws were also in English as English letters were used.

Adding to it, he stated that with the passage of time, the public as well as the lawyers

would get accustomed to the new names.

It has also been submitted by him that the names of the new laws did not affect the fundamental rights of any person warranting an interference by the court.

It has also been argued by ASG that the interim prayer of the petition, seeking to restrain the Home Secretary from implementing the new law was not maintainable.

The court then asked the petitioner to not push for the interim relief.

The court also noted that a similar petition was pending in the Kerala High Court. Thus, the court stated that it will wait for the proceedings initiated before the Kerala High Court and adjourned the case.

The court while adjourning case stated that as of now, do not want to say anything on this. This court will post it on the 23rd. The Kerala case is on 22nd. We will post after that.

Supreme Court seeks explanation from trial court: If charges were framed in Nov 2022, why recording of evidence not commenced till date?

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Pravinkumar Balvantram Vana (Bisnoi) Versus State Of Gujarat observed and has sought an explanation from a Trial Court for not commencing the recording of evidence in the trial despite the framing of charges that took place way back in November in the year 2022.

The Vacation bench comprising of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan in the case observed and has stated that this court fails to understand that if the charge came to be framed way back in November 2022, why the recording of the evidence has not commenced till this date. This question should have been put by the High Court while passing the impugned order. Therefore, the



trial court owes an explanation in this regard.

In the present case, the petitioner or accused charged with the offences punishable as stated under Section 8(C), Section 22(C), and Section 29 respectively of the Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropics Act, is in custody for two years and seven months and

according to the petitioner, not a single witness has been examined by the prosecution till date.

The petitioner approached the Supreme Court against the order of Gujarat High Court wherein the court rejected the regular bail plea of the petitioner or accused.

The court while hearing

the submissions made by the counsel appearing for the petitioner agreed to issue notice to the respondents or State of Gujarat.

Further, the court directed the Registry to call for an explanation from the concerned trial court as to why the trial has not been commenced till this date.

Supreme Court criticises High Court order limiting bail of undertrial to 2 months when he has been under custody since 2022: 'Incorrect'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Kishor Karmakar v. The State Of Odisha observed and has reiterated the settled legal position that an accused's right to speedy trial is a fundamental right and closely connected to the right to life and personal liberty.

The court deprecated the order of the High Court wherein the court over-looked the said principle and released the petitioner on bail for merely two months when the trial would take a long time to conclude.

In the present case, the court was hearing a challenge to a bail order granted by the Orissa High Court.

As per the impugned order, petitioner was released on bail for only two months despite noting that the peti-



tioner was in custody since May 11, 2022 and only one witness had been examined so far.

Therefore, the charges are imposed on the petitioner were for the offense of contravention in relation to cannabis as stated under section 20(b)(ii)(c) of the NDPS Act. The Vacation bench comprising of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice Ujjal Bhuyan in the case observed and has granted bail to the petitioner while observing that the High Court erred in

limiting the petitioner's bail period to only two months.

The bench noted that this was in violation of the petitioner's right to speedy trial.

The court stated that in our opinion, it is an incorrect order. If the High Court in the case was of the view that the right of the petitioner to have a speedy trial could be said to have been infringed, then the High Court should have ordered for the release of petitioner on bail pending final disposal of the trial itself. Thus, there being no good

reason for the High Court to limit the period of bail.

The bench issued notice in the SLP, while placing reliance on the settled principle of law in the landmark case of Hussainara Khatoon v Home Secretary, State of Bihar.

The court stated that it is now well settled that the right to a speedy trial is recognised as a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution of India and is closely tied to the right to life and personal liberty, as held by this Court in the case Hussainara Khatoon & Ors. Vs. Home Secretary, State of Bihar, Patna.

Accordingly, the court directed that the petitioner shall continue to remain on bail pending further.

The counsel, Advocate Shyam Manohar appeared for the petitioner.

PTI LEADERSHIP CONTACTS FAWAD CHAUDHRY AMID RECONCILIATION TALKS

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

The senior leadership of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has reached out to former Federal Minister Fawad Chaudhry as discussions for his and others' return to the party gain momentum, ARY News reported, citing sources.

According to sources, the PTI leadership urged Fawad Chaudhry to abstain from criticising them. The dialogue between PTI leaders and Chaudhry centered on the country's current political landscape, highlighting the necessity for unity among opposition parties during these challenging times.

The sources further revealed that the PTI leaders concurred on the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve their objectives. "Fawad Chaudhry's positive suggestions were welcomed



The sources further revealed that the PTI leaders concurred on the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve their objectives. "Fawad Chaudhry's positive suggestions were welcomed by the senior leadership," sources privy to the discussions noted, according to ARY News.

by the senior leadership," sources privy to the discussions noted, according to ARY News.

Key figures, including Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and former Speaker of National Assembly Asad Qaiser, are reportedly in contact with Chaudhry.

However, PTI Chairman Barrister Gohar Ali Khan denied any direct contact

with Fawad Chaudhry. He clarified that the decision to readmit former members would be made by the party's founder. "In a meeting on Monday, the PTI founder said that he will take the decision (regarding those who left the party) after his release," Barrister Gohar Ali Khan stated.

Previously, PTI Information Secretary Raouf Hasan announced that Fawad Chaudhry, Imran Ismail, and Ali Zaidi were expelled from the party following the founder's directives.

Fawad Chaudhry has expressed his eagerness to rejoin PTI, insisting that he never intended to leave. In a recent statement, he lamented Junaid Akbar's resignation, describing him as a "valuable person."

Chaudhry also emphasised the potential of senior politicians like Parvaiz Elahi, Shah Mehmood, and Asad Qaiser to reinvigorate the party.

Security forces gun down terrorist commander in Pak

TDG NETWORK
KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

Amid deteriorating law and order situation of the country, the security forces gunned down a terrorist commander Irfan Ullah aka Adnan in an intelligence-based operation (IBO) in Bajaur district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media and public relations wing of the Pakistan Armed Forces said in a statement on Wednesday, reported ARY News.

"On 3 July 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Bajaur District, on the reported presence of a high profile terrorist," the statement said.

It further stated that a fierce gunfight resulted in the terrorist commander's death during the operation.

According to the ISPR, the terrorist who was slain was actively engaged in a number



"On 3 July 2024, security forces conducted an intelligence-based operation in Bajaur District, on the reported presence of a high profile terrorist," the statement said.

of terrorist attacks against security personnel, as well as extortion and the target-

ed slaughter of defenceless people, ARY News reported. "He was highly wanted by

the law enforcement agencies. Locals of the area appreciated the operation and expressed their full support to Security Forces in eliminating the menace of terrorism from the country," the statement added.

Earlier on Monday, the security forces killed nine terrorists, in two IBOs in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

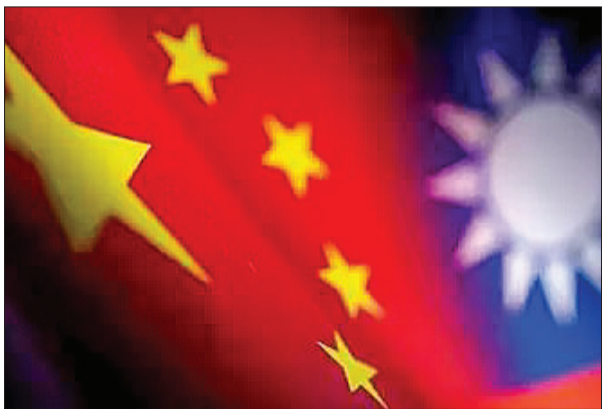
Taiwan reports Chinese military activity near its territory

AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) has said that it detected 30 Chinese military aircraft and 8 naval vessels operating near its territory from 6 am (local time) on Wednesday and 6 am (local time) on Thursday.

According to Taiwan's MND, 19 of the Chinese military aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, central, southwestern, and southeastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). In response to China's action, Taiwan sent aircraft, and naval ships and deployed coastal-based missile systems to monitor China's military activity, Taiwan News reported.

In a post on X, the Taiwan Ministry of National Defence (MND) stated, "30 PLA air-



craft and 8 PLAN vessels were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 19 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, central, southwestern, and southeastern ADIZ. We've monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

So far in July, Taiwan's MND has detected Chinese military aircraft 65 times and naval ships 20 times. Since September 2020, China has

intensified its use of gray zone tactics by increasing the number of military aircraft and naval vessels that operate around Taiwan.

Gray zone tactics are "an effort or series of efforts beyond steady-state deterrence and assurance that attempts to achieve one's security objectives without resort to direct and sizable use of force," according to Taiwan News reported.

This latest incident adds to a series of similar provo-

cations by China in recent months. China has increased its military activities around Taiwan, including regular air and naval incursions into Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) and military exercises near the island.

Taiwan has been governed independently of China since 1949. However, China considers Taiwan as part of its territory and insists on eventual reunification, by force if necessary.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's Coast Guard Administration (CGA) has called on China to explain why it seized a Taiwanese fishing vessel, the Da Jin Man No 88, and demanded the immediate release of its vessel and its six crew members, Taiwan News.

A vessel registered in Penghu named Da Jin Man No 88 was boarded and seized by the Chinese coast guard on July 2.

Israel increases quota for foreign workers by 14,300

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Israel's Committee of Directors General on Foreign Workers, chaired by the Prime Minister's Office Director-General Yossi Shelley, approves an additional quota for up to 14,300 more foreign workers to come to Israel in order to fill the labour shortage caused by the ongoing war against Hamas in Gaza.

This is in addition to a previous increase in the quota of 98,400 foreign workers.

The 14,300 will work in the following fields: A quota of 2,750 foreign workers for nursing institutions under the supervision of the Health Ministry A quota of 1,550 workers for nursing institutions under the supervision of the Welfare and Social Affairs Ministry A quota of 5,000 foreign workers for the transportation infrastructure sub-sector

UAE, Brazil celebrate 50 years of diplomatic relations

AGENCIES
ABU DHABI

The United Arab Emirates and Brazil have issued a joint statement to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of their diplomatic relations.

Below is the full text of the statement: "The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Brazil and the United Arab Emirates are pleased to mark 50 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Established on 10th June, 1974, these ties have evolved into a robust strategic partnership across political, economic and cultural fields.

Brazil established its Embassy in Abu Dhabi in 1978, and the UAE opened its first Latin American Embassy in Brasilia in 1991. This diplomatic presence was further expanded with the establishment of the Emirati consulate in Sao Paulo in 2017.

The strength of the bilateral relationship is evident



in the frequency of high-level official visits. In 2023, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva visited the UAE twice. In April, he met with the UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Following this, in December 2023, the Brazilian President participated in COP28 in Dubai.

The strategic partnership between the UAE and Brazil facilitates extensive governmental and investment cooperation, encompassing diverse sectors such as tech-

nology, tourism, culture, space, trade, and renewable energy. This alignment extends beyond bilateral frameworks, promoting joint initiatives in third countries.

The economic relations between the two countries are characterized by a high level of mutual investments and significant trade flows. The UAE is Brazil's second-largest trade partner in the Middle East. In 2023, bilateral trade surpassed USD 4.3 billion.

October 7 Hamas attack leaves grim reminder at Nir Oz Kibbutz museum

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

In a solemn testament to the horrors of the October 7 attacks by Hamas, Captain Adam Ibbat, spokesperson for Israel's Southern District Front Command, unveiled a makeshift museum at Nir Oz Kibbutz.

Rows of charred vehicles, once thriving symbols of everyday life, now stand as haunting relics of Hamas' brutal assault.

"This is a small museum created almost by mistake," Captain Ibbat somberly noted, explaining how the site evolved from a scene of tragedy. "It happened when soldiers discovered tons of human ashes, a grim reminder of the atrocities committed



here." The museum, initially unintended, serves as a poignant reminder of the magnitude of evil witnessed that day. "We have seen the viciousness Hamas is capable of," Captain Ibbat emphasised, warning of their willingness to repeat such acts. Inviting the world to bear witness, Captain Ibbat

stressed the museum's role in preserving the truth. "Everyone is invited to see why we must continue fighting for our existence," she urged, highlighting the importance of remembering the victims and the ongoing struggle for peace.

Reflecting on the horrors endured at Kfar Azza, Captain Ibbat recounted

the atrocities with a heavy heart. "Women were raped, children were mutilated, and innocent lives were taken," she recounted, underscoring the brutal reality faced by the community.

Despite the devastation, Captain Ibbat conveyed Israel's resilience. "No matter the adversity, we are committed to rebuilding and reclaiming our homeland," she affirmed, standing resolute against the backdrop of destruction.

The museum's collection of 1,650 burnt vehicles stands as a testament to the terror unleashed upon Nir Oz Kibbutz. Each car, once a testament to daily life, now tells a story of loss and survival in the face of unrelenting violence.

Hezbollah launches rockets at Israel in retaliation for commander's killing

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

Hezbollah has escalated tensions with Israel by launching a large barrage of rockets following the killing of a top commander in southern Lebanon, Al Jazeera reported.

The Lebanese armed group, known for its close ties to Iran, confirmed the death of Muhammad Nimah Nasser, also referred to as "Hajj Abu Naameh," in an Israeli airstrike. Hezbollah retaliated swiftly with the firing of approximately 100 katyusha rockets aimed at Israeli military positions, marking a dramatic escalation in the



ongoing conflict between the two adversaries.

The announcement of Nasser's death was made via Hezbollah's official channel on Telegram, although specific details about the location of the attack were not disclosed initially. Sources close to the group later confirmed to media outlets that Nasser had been killed in the Hosh area of Tyre, a city in

southern Lebanon known for its historical significance and proximity to the Israeli border, according to AL Jazeera.

Nasser held a senior rank within Hezbollah, comparable to that of Taleb Abdallah, another prominent commander who was killed in a previous Israeli attack in June. The loss of such high-ranking officials un-

derscores the intensity and strategic significance of the conflict, which has been ongoing for nearly nine months and has seen periodic flare-ups leading to concerns about broader regional instability.

Israeli military officials acknowledged targeting Nasser, describing him as a key figure responsible for Hezbollah's operations involving anti-tank and rocket systems in southwestern Lebanon. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) have maintained a stance of pre-emptive strikes against Hezbollah positions, citing security concerns and the need to protect Israeli territory from potential attacks.

Afghan girls accuse Taliban of sexual assault

AGENCIES
KABUL

Teenage girls and young women arrested by the Taliban for wearing "bad hijab" say they have been subjected to sexual violence and assault in detention.

In more than one case the arrests and sexual abuse that young women faced while in custody earlier this year led to suicide and attempted suicide, reporters from the Afghan news service Zan Times were told. In one case, a woman's body was allegedly found in



a canal a few weeks after she had been taken into custody by Taliban militants, with a source close to her family

saying she had been sexually abused before her death.

The UN say that many women were detained by

the Taliban for "bad hijab" in December 2023 and January 2024, following a Taliban decree that women must cover themselves from head to toe, revealing only their eyes.

At the time the UN called the arrests "concerning" and girls and women told the Guardian they had been subjected to beatings and intimidation while in detention. Now the girls and young women are coming forward to report that they also faced sexual violence and abuse by the Taliban police, with devastating consequences.

'Shutting Afghan women out of key UN conference to appease Taliban'

AGENCIES
KABUL

Excluding Afghan women from an upcoming UN conference on Afghanistan would be a "betrayal" of women and girls in the country, say human rights groups and former politicians.

The Taliban are reportedly demanding that no Afghan women be allowed to participate in the UN meeting in Doha starting 30 June, set up to discuss the international community's approach to Afghanistan, and

that women's rights are not on the agenda.

Since taking power in Afghanistan in August 2021, the Taliban have restricted women's access to education, employment and public spaces. In March, it was reported that they would reintroduce the public flogging and stoning of women for adultery.

The Taliban did not participate in UN talks earlier this year, with the UN chief António Guterres saying at the time that the group presented a set of conditions for



its participation that "denied us the right to talk to other representatives of the Afghan society" and were "not acceptable".

Tirana Hassan, executive director at Human Rights Watch, said: "Excluding

women risks legitimising the Taliban's abuses and triggering irreparable harm to the UN's credibility as an advocate for women's rights and women's meaningful participation."

In trying to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table now, the UN was giving in to their demands to exclude women's rights, said the former Afghan minister of women's affairs Sima Samar.

"This situation is an indirect submission to the will of the Taliban.

VOTING AT ITS PEAK



The UK Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, and his wife, Akshata Murty, arrive to vote at a polling station in Northallerton in Kirby Sigston, England. Source: The Guardian

AMERICANS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH PARADES

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON DC

Many Americans weren't letting worries about their pocketbooks keep them from traveling and enjoying fireworks as they celebrate their nation's birth with parades, cookouts and fiery splashes of colors against the evening sky.

Fireworks reached an all-time high with an untold number of backyard displays in addition to 16,000 professional shows lighting up the horizon from sea to shining sea, a consumer fireworks industry group said.

"This is how we celebrate. It's the bombs bursting in air. It's the rockets' red glare. That's how people show their pride and patriotism,"



Julie Heckman of the American Pyrotechnics Association said.

All signs pointed to big celebrations: The Transportation Security Administration reported that a record-breaking nearly 3 million people traveled through airports in a single day last week, and that figure is expected to be broken this week. And AAA projected that 60.6 million people will

travel by car during the holiday period.

Part of the boost in travel was attributed to easing inflation, even though Americans remain concerned about the economy.

Plenty of barbecues, deserts, cold drinks, and the Stars and Stripes were on tap. But Americans were also celebrating in other ways unique to their communities.

Some planned to enjoy lobster boat races off the rocky coast in Down East, Maine. Descendants of the Declaration of Independence signers were ringing the Liberty Bell 13 times — once for each of the original colonies — in Philadelphia. The California communities of Bolinas and Stinson Beach, north of San Francisco, were engaging in their annual tug-of-war contest in which losers end up in a lagoon. And, of course, there's the annual hot dog eating contest on New York's Coney Island. At least one community was in for a muted observance, however: The Northern California city of Oroville's annual fireworks were canceled as an estimated 26,000 residents remained displaced by the growing Thompson Fire.

Biden 'absolutely not' considering stepping down: White House

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON

In response to recent speculations, the White House has unequivocally denied any consideration of President Joe Biden stepping down, with Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre stating "absolutely not" when asked about the possibility.

Concerns are mounting about Biden's viability as a candidate following what has been described as a devastating performance in Atlanta, according to a New York Times (NYT) report. Jean-Pierre on Wednesday (local time) highlighted President Biden's recent engagements with supporters, acknowledging that while he has had challenging moments, his overall record and accomplishments should not be overshadowed.

"He had an opportunity to talk to supporters. He has done it a couple of times at this point and laid out what happened on that night, talked about how he understands, and it was not his best night. He understands that it is fair for people to ask that question," she told reporters at the White House. Emphasising the president's achievements, Jean-



Pierre added, "We cannot forget his record and what he's been able to do. We cannot forget how he has been able to deliver for the American people for almost four years. That matters, too. He has the most historical record of administration, the most in modern politics."

The Press Secretary's comments come amid ongoing scrutiny and debates about the president's performance and future plans. The NYT report also said that President Biden has confided in a close ally about his contemplation of continuing in the race, acknowledging the challenge of salvaging his candidacy following a disappointing presidential debate performance. The president's focus now

lies heavily on upcoming public appearances and interviews to sway public opinion, particularly an upcoming interview with George Stephanopoulos of ABC News and planned campaign stops in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

"He knows if he has two more events like that, we're in a different place," the ally, who spoke on condition of anonymity, emphasised, referring to Biden's criticised debate performance.

Meanwhile, former Fox News host Tucker Carlson claimed that several prominent Democrat leaders have suggested that US President Biden is "brain-damaged" and it is only a matter of time before they remove him from running for the post again.

Free Balochistan Movement announces campaign against Pakistan Army

AGENCIES
LONDON

The Free Balochistan Movement (FBM) has announced the launch of a social media campaign against Pakistani military aggression, dubbed "Operation Azm-e-Istikhkam," which they claim was initiated at China's behest to carry out genocide against the Baloch people.

The campaign is scheduled to take place on social media platforms, particularly "X" (formerly Twitter), on Thursday evening.

The movement has specified that the hashtags #StopBalochAndPash-tunGenocide and #ExpansionistChinaInstigatesBal-ochAndPash-tunGenocide will be used during the campaign to amplify their message.

In a press statement, the organisation said, "Reports from Pakistani media and other sources indicate that the Pakistani military is poised to launch a large-scale operation, 'Azm-e-Istikhkam,' allegedly to safeguard China's interests and investments."

The Free Balochistan Movement claims that this operation is aimed to further intensify the genocide against the Baloch people under the guise of achieving stability.

The Free Balochistan Movement's campaign aims to raise global awareness about the security situation in Balochistan and seek to convey their concerns to international powers, highlighting the deceptive portrayal of Balochistan's struggle for independence.



France to deploy 30,000 police after election runoff

AGENCIES
PARIS

About 30,000 police will be deployed across France on Sunday night amid fears of violence after the final results of a snap election in which the far right hopes to gain a majority in parliament.

Gérald Darmanin, the interior minister, said 5,000 police would be on duty in Paris and its surrounding areas to "ensure that the radical right and radical left do not take advantage of the situation to cause mayhem". Four people, including one under 18, were arrested after the government spokesperson, Prisca Thevenot, said she and her team had been attacked on Wednesday evening while putting up cam-



campaign posters in Meudon, outside Paris.

Her deputy and a party activist were injured after the team told a group of about 10 youths to stop defacing campaign posters. "We said to them, without being aggressive, that [defacing posters] was not allowed," Thevenot told Le Parisien. She said

police arrived less than five minutes after the attack.

"Violence is never the answer. I'll continue my on-the-ground campaigning," Thevenot wrote on X.

A candidate for Marine Le Pen's National Rally party (RN) in Savoie, Marie Dauchy, also said she had been attacked, by a

FRENCH PM SAYS NO PLACE FOR VIOLENCE AND INTIMIDATION IN POLLS

PARIS: 'Violence and intimidation have no place in our democracy', prime minister says
Late last night, the French prime minister, Gabriel Attal, said candidate Prisca Thevenot — the government spokesperson — and members of her campaign team were attacked by four individuals while putting up election posters.

shopkeeper at a market on Wednesday.

Sunday's decisive second round is expected to result in the far-right, anti-immigration RN becoming the biggest party in parliament, whether or not it reaches the 289 seats needed for an absolute majority to form the next government.

Both the centrist grouping of the president, Emmanuel Macron, and a broadleftwing coalition, have withdrawn more

than 200 candidates from the final runoff in a joint effort to limit the far right's seats. The exact number of seats the far right RN and its allies could win in the 577-seat national assembly is hard to predict, but Harris Interactive polling for Challenges magazine on Wednesday suggested they could take up to 220.

Le Pen on Thursday claimed the party could reach an absolute majority if voter turnout was high.

Hurricane Beryl roars toward Mexico post hitting Caribbean

AGENCIES
PLAYA DEL CARMEN

Hurricane Beryl ripped off roofs in Jamaica, jumbled fishing boats in Barbados and damaged or destroyed 95% of homes on a pair of islands in St. Vincent and the Grenadines before rumbling toward the Cayman Islands and taking aim at Mexico's Caribbean coast after leaving at least seven dead in its wake. What had been the earliest storm to develop into a Category 5 hurricane in the Atlantic, weakened to a Category 3 by early Thursday but remained a major hurricane. Its eye was forecast to pass just south of the Cayman Islands overnight. "Weakening is forecast



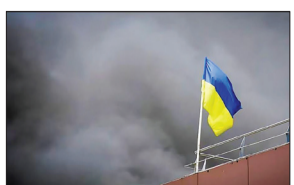
during the next day or two, though Beryl is forecast to remain a hurricane until it makes landfall on the Yucatan Peninsula," the National Hurricane Center in Miami said in its 8 a.m. ET update. Mexico's popular Caribbean coast prepared shelters, evacuated some small outlying coastal communities

and even moved sea turtle eggs off beaches threatened by storm surge, but in night-life hotspots like Playa del Carmen and Tulum tourists still took one more night on the town. Mexico's Navy patrolled areas like Tulum telling tourists in Spanish and English to prepare for the storm's arrival.

Election outcomes won't change its Ukraine support: UN

AGENCIES
KYIV

The U.N. General Assembly will keep standing up for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty whatever the outcome of national elections across the globe this year, the body's president said Wednesday, adding that



"no country has the right to invade another country."

That stance "cannot change because this is a matter of law," General Assembly

President Dennis Francis said during his first visit to Ukraine as Kyiv's forces battle Russia's invasion for a third year.

The U.N.'s main policymaking body has given broad support for efforts to uphold Ukraine's sovereignty, Francis said.

But elections this year in

the U.S. and in a handful of key European Union countries have raised concerns about a potential shift in policies among Western nations whose military and financial support has been crucial for Ukraine to thwart the Kremlin's ambitions.

"It will be for us to witness over time what the implica-

tions of the results of those elections are for the entire international system and in particular for the state of Ukraine," Francis said.

"I am convinced that the people of Ukraine will not give up," he said, whatever the election outcomes. "They will not accept it and they will not allow foreign domi-

nation of their homeland."

Speaking in Kyiv at the end of a two-day visit, Francis called on Russia "to withdraw immediately all its military forces from the territory of Ukraine" — a reference to a General Assembly resolution that was approved shortly after the outbreak of the war.

More than two years later, Moscow's army is slowly seizing new land in eastern Ukraine. Francis met with Ukrainian officials, including President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, to discuss peace and international security. He pledged support for Zelenskyy's peace plan, which was discussed at a recent

international gathering in Switzerland attended by scores of countries and bodies, including the U.N.

"I think there are many important elements in (Zelenskyy's plan) that can provide a foundation for dialog when that time is appropriate," he said. "Let us see where it takes us."

HRITHIK, SABA AZAD'S FAMILY PIC GIVES MAJOR 'HUM SAATH SAATH HAI' FEEL



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Pashmina Roshan, who recently made a Bollywood debut with 'Ishq Vishk Rebound,' shared a family picture featuring Saba Azad and Hrithik Roshan during her recent 'Ask me Anything' session on Instagram.

During the AMA session on her Instagram Stories, Pashmina tried to answer as many fan questions as possible. When one fan asked her to post a picture with her family, she promptly shared an unseen photo of the entire Roshan family, including Saba Azad and Hrithik Roshan.

The photo showcases the Roshan family, including Rakesh Roshan, Pinky Roshan, Sunaina Roshan, Rajesh Roshan, Hrithik and Sussanne's boys, and others.

Saba looked beautiful in a peach-colored saree, sitting beside her boyfriend's father, Rakesh Roshan. The picture radiates happiness and togetherness.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Hrithik Roshan was last seen in 'Fighter,' alongside Deepika Padukone, Anil Kapoor, Karan Singh Grover, Akshay Oberoi, and others. The film performed decently at the box office. Hrithik is now preparing for 'War 2,' directed by Ayan Mukerji, known for his films 'Wake Up Sid,' 'Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani,' and 'Brahmastra.'

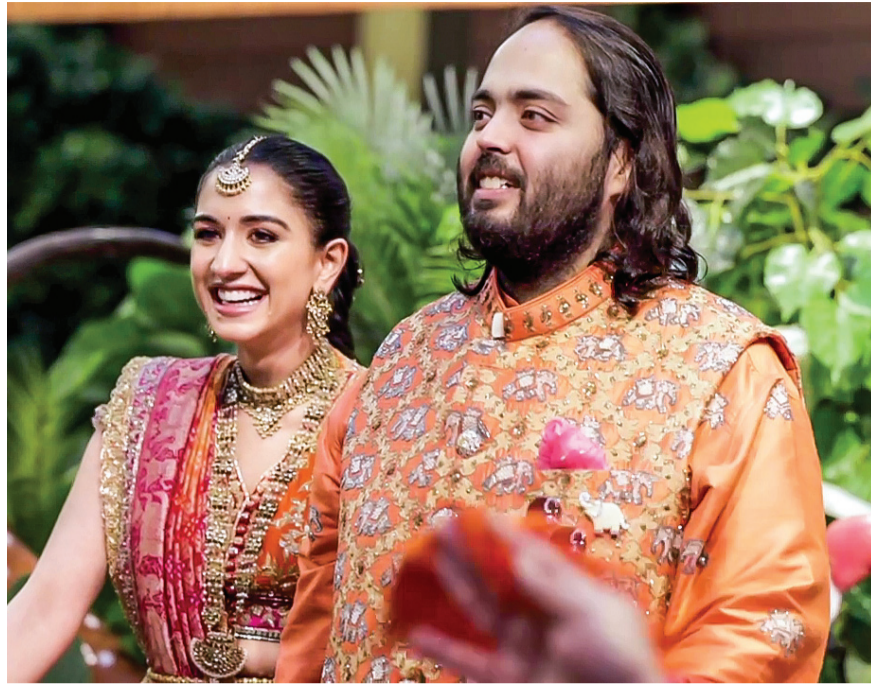
Pashmina Roshan made her Bollywood debut with 'Ishq Vishk Rebound,' starring Naila Grewal, Rohit Saraf, and Jibraan Khan. While the film did not break box office records, it performed decently and helped the newcomers make a mark in the industry and win hearts.

Helmed by Nipun Avinash Dharmadhikari, 'Ishq Vishk Rebound' is a sequel to the 2003 cult coming-of-age film 'Ishq Vishk,' which starred Shahid Kapoor in his debut along with Amrita Rao, Vishal Malhotra and Shenaz Treasurywala.

'Ishq Vishk Rebound' was released on June 21 this year.

PICTURE PERFECT

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani's son Anant Ambani and his fiancé Radhika Merchant during the 'Mameru ceremony' ahead of their wedding, at their residence Antilia in Mumbai on Wednesday. (ANI)



RAJINIKANTH, KAMAL HAASAN POSE TOGETHER FOR PHOTO; FANS THRILLED

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Megastars Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, who are busy gearing up for their respective films 'Vettaiyan' and 'Indian 2' posed together for a picture sent fans into a frenzy.

Amidst the buzz surrounding the two much-anticipated flicks of 2024, the photo of the two actors Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan was shared by celebrity photographer Arun Prasath.

In the picture, Rajinikanth seems to be in his 'Vettaiyan' look while Kamal sports his Indian 2 character Senapathy's look.

The duo were all smiles as they posed for the camera.

Sharing the picture, Prasath captioned his Instagram post, "Sharing the picture, Arun Prasath captioned his Instagram post, 'What more could I ask for? Truly blessed to have been in the same studio where 'Ulaganayagan' @ikamalhaasan sir & 'Superstar' @rajinikanth sir were shooting for their respective films! Thank



you Universe @shanmughamshankar sir & @lycaproductions for this once in a lifetime opportunity. Grateful to you #Indian2 #Vettaiyan #LycaProductions.'

Earlier, the production company unveiled the title teaser of the movie on Rajinikanth's 73rd birthday. The film features an ensemble cast including Amitabh Bachchan, Fahadh Faasil, Rana Daggubati, Ritika Singh, Manju Warrier, and Dushara Vijayan.

SATHYARAJ, PRATEIK BABBAR JOIN SALMAN KHAN-STARRER 'SIKANDAR'



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actors Sathyaraj and Prateik Babbar have been roped in to star in Salman Khan and Rashmika Mandanna starrer 'Sikandar'.

Building anticipation among the fans, the film's production house Nadiadwala Grandson treated fans with this exciting news along with the photos from the sets. Sathyaraj, famous for his role as Kattappa in the hit film 'Baahubali,' now is set to enthrall the audience in 'Sikandar'.

"We're elated to welcome you on board #Sathyaraj sir! Honoured to have you in team #Sikandar Happy to collaborate with our very own @prat once again! And we can't wait for everyone to experience this cinematic excellence on the big screens," the note read.

Directed by A.R. Murugadoss, the film is set to release next Eid. The film is backed by Sajid Nadiadwala.

Sajid's wife Warda Khan Nadiadwala also shared the picture from the sets and posted on X, "Garma Garam pictures from the sets of #SajidNadiadwala's #Sikandar!!! With my fave #Sathyaraj Sir What a delight to witness our director @ARMurugadoss creating cinematic excellence Cheers

to another one with @prateikbabbar."

In June, Salman shared a picture from the sets of the 'Sikandar'.

In the picture, Salman is wearing a light blue shirt and smiling at a screen nearby.

Film producer Sajid Nadiadwala and director Murugadoss can be seen sharing a laugh with him.

Looking forward to #Eid2025 with team #Sikandar #SajidNadiadwala's #SikandarDirected by @a.r.murugadoss Releasing in cinemas EID 2025," he captioned the post.

Salman's image from the sets of 'Sikandar' left fans extremely excited.

In the film, Salman will share screen space with actor Rashmika Mandanna.

In May, the production house officially announced the news on its social media handles that Rashmika Mandanna is part of the film. "Welcoming the fabulous @rashmika_mandanna to star opposite @beingsalmankhan in #Sikandar! Can't wait for their on-screen magic to unfold on EID 2025!" Rashmika also took to her Instagram Stories to post, "You guys for a long time have been asking me for the next update and here it is. Surprise!! I'm truly grateful and honoured to be a part of Sikandar."

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The makers of '35-Chinna Katha Kaadu' starring Nivetha Thomas, Priyadarshi, Vishwadev, Gautami, and Bhagyaraj unveiled the teaser for the film.

Rana Daggubati on Wednesday dropped the teaser on his X handle.

The teaser takes us inside the lives of a middle-class married couple (played by Vishwadev and Nivetha) and their two children. While their elder son Arun struggles with mathematics, his mother remains supportive and empathetic with his studies. Later, things worsen with the arrival of a new and strict mathematics teacher (portrayed by Priyadarshi), who dares Arun to pass the subject.

Sharing the teaser, he wrote, "Proudly bringing you all the teaser of #35Movie A story that lies in every



household :) Experience the magic of this tale, #35CKK on the big screens from AUGUST 15th, 2024."

Helmed by Nanda Kishore Emani, '35' explores the poignant tale of an eleven-year-old child who challenges the fundamentals of mathematics, finding profound life

lessons through the teachings of his school dropout mother.

Set to premiere on August 15, 2024, '35' is presented by Rana Daggubati and his team.

Last month, Rana presented the title and film's poster. Along with the poster, he

wrote, "From the sacred land of Tirupathi. Bringing you a lovely narrative that will touch everyone's hearts Presenting 35 - Chinna Katha Kaadu Starring @i_nivethathomas@PriyadarshiPN@imvishwadev@gautamitad-Sn cinemas from AUGUST 15th, 2024."

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Manoj Bajpayee walks down memory lane as he celebrates 26 years of crime-drama 'Satya'.

Taking to Instagram, Manoj shared memorable stills from the movie featuring cast and team and captioned the post, which read, "Mumbai Ka King Kaun? #26YearsOfSatya."

As soon as the post was shared, fans chimed in the comment section.

One of the users wrote, "The game changer of hindi cinema."

Another user commented, "The song, the script, audi-



BRAIN PICKING

“ Women are blessed with energy - a power which is unique. I have been very fortunate to have played strong women and explored their strengths through my films.

— VIDYA BALAN
(Indian actress)



INSIDE PICS OF ANANT, RADHIKA'S SPECTACULAR 'MOSALU' CEREMONY



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Ahead of their big fat wedding, stunning visuals from Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's 'Mosalu' ceremony have been released.

The family organised the spectacular event at their Mumbai residence, Antilia. Visuals from the event show stunning decorations and happy moments shared by the family.

Antilia was beautifully adorned with colourful lights, flowers, and golden decorations.

The bright colours and sparkling lights created a festive and joyful atmosphere, making the ceremony even more special.

Mosalu is a special ceremony in Gujarati culture that happens a few days before the wedding.

During this event, Nita Ambani's family, including her mother Purnima Dalal and her sister Mamta Dalal, came to bless the couple with gifts and good wishes. This tradition shows the love and support from the groom's mother's side of the family.

Anant's uncles and their families gave him and Rad-

hika 'Mameru,' which are traditional gifts like clothes, jewellery, and sweets. Radhika's uncle also gave her sweets and gifts, adding to the happy occasion.

Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani, and their children - Akash, Shloka, Isha, and Anand Piramal - were all there, sharing in the couple's happiness. Radhika looked

stunning as always in a beautifully embroidered lehenga. She accessorised her appearance with traditional jhumkas, maang-teeka, and necklace.

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. A highlight of the Ambani family's wedding plans includes a chaat stall from the famous Kashi Chaat Bhandaar in Varanasi.

As part of the wedding festivities, Reliance Foundation founder and chairman Nita Ambani visited Varanasi last month to seek blessings at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple where she personally invited the shop owner, Rakesh Keshari, after sampling various chaats at his establishment.

RICHA CHADHA CAN'T STOP GUSHING OVER SONAKSHI SINHA, ZAEHER IQBAL'S WEDDING



TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Mom-to-be Richa Chadha on Thursday shared a sneak peek into Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal's registered marriage and grand reception which took place on June 23, on her Instagram Stories.

In the clip, Sonakshi can be seen beaming with happiness as she places her thumbprint on the marriage registration paper. Zaheer hugs her, capturing the love and joy of the moment.

Richa captioned the clip, "I love this expression of pure joy on @aslisona! Won my heart and how!"

The wedding and reception were filled with love, laughter, and the presence of close friends and family, marking a memorable day for Sonakshi and Zaheer.

The wedding bash at Bastian saw numerous Bollywood celebrities in attendance.

The reception was attended by a constellation of Bollywood stars, including Salman Khan, Vidya Balan with Siddharth Roy Kapur, and veteran actress Saira Banu, among others, who came to congratulate the couple and celebrate their union. Sonakshi and Zaheer, who have been together for seven years, sealed their love in an intimate ceremony attended by close family and friends.

The couple recently shared glimpses of their wedding on social media, marking June 23 as a day etched in their hearts forever.

Sonakshi expressed her joy in a heartfelt Instagram post, reflecting on their journey of love and togetherness.

ence." Helmed by Ram Gopal Varma the film was released in the year 1998 and received massive response from the audience.

Mumbai ka King Kaun? Bhiku Mhatre!" Manoj stormed the scene of the Hindi film industry with this punchline. The movie dealt with 90s Bombay, underworld and mafia-raj.

The movie also starred Urmila Matondkar, Shefali Shah, Govind Namdev and Saurabh Shukla and introduced JD Chakravarthy as a small-town boy who arrives in Mumbai and gradually gets trapped into the world of crime.

Best Indo-Western Fusion Outfits for a Summer Wedding



RAVI GUPTA

Those days are gone when men's wedding outfits were just only limited to traditional sherwanis. In recent times, they have come up with numerous options as their fashion sense has been continuously evolving. The fusion of Indo-Western styles has gained significant popularity, offering a perfect blend of tradition with contemporary flair. As summer weddings are approaching, we have curated some stylish and comfortable outfits that are ideal for making a statement while staying cool and comfortable.

JACKET ON TOP OF KURTA SET:

In Indian culture, Kurta Sets have long been a popular choice for weddings as they hold deep cultural significance. The addition of a jacket to a traditional kurta set transforms into an Indo-Western outfit that beautifully blends heritage with modernity and also enhances its aesthetic appeal. This fusion outfit combines the timeless elegance of the kurta with the sophisticated charm of a jacket, creating a look that is both traditional and modern.

WAISTCOAT WITH KURTA AND SLIM-FIT PANTS:

A waistcoat paired with a kurta and slim-fit pants is a perfect example of an Indo-Western combination that seamlessly blends tradition with contemporary elements. Wearing contrasting colors in this ensemble can highlight the fusion aspect, creating a visually striking and modern look. The vibrant hues of the waistcoat against the kurta and pants not only add a dynamic touch but also accentuate the cultural richness of the attire. This outfit is ideal for summer weddings, offer-

ing both comfort and style.

DHOTI PANTS WITH KURTA:

Consider pairing Dhوتي pants with a short kurta to create a stylish and comfortable indo-western look for a summer wedding. Select breathable fabrics such as cotton, linen, or light silk blends to ensure comfort in warm weather. Elevate the outfit with neutral tones adorned with subtle prints or delicate embroidery to maintain an elegant and refined look. This ensemble not only combines traditional elements with modern aesthetics but also allows you to stay

cool and relaxed while celebrating the special occasion.

BANDHGALA SUIT:

When it comes to indo western, the Bandhgala suit is perfect which comes in linen or in lightweight cotton that offers an ideal blend of regal charm and contemporary style. One can opt for lighter hues like beige, sky blue, or mint green to maintain a fresh and elegant appearance. The modern cut enhances the traditional Bandhgala design, making it suitable for weddings. This versatile outfit provides a sophisticated look while ensur-

ing comfort, ideal for warm weather. Pair it with sleek trousers and minimal accessories to complete the ensemble.

The author is the Creative Director of Gargee Designer's



The evolution of tummy tuck techniques: What's new?

DR. ANMOL CHUGH

Tummy tucks, or abdominoplasty, have evolved significantly, offering various techniques to suit individual needs and achieve a toned abdomen.

1. Extended Tummy Tuck: This procedure extends the incision towards the hips, removing more excess skin and fat, ideal for those with significant weight loss or loose skin around the sides and lower back.

2. Mini Tummy Tuck: A less invasive option, focusing on the lower abdomen with a smaller incision, resulting in less scarring and quicker recovery. It's best for individuals with minimal excess skin and fat below the belly button.

3. High Definition Tummy Tuck: This technique sculpts the abdominal muscles for a well-defined, athletic look, using liposuc-

tion and muscle tightening to enhance muscle appearance.

4. Endoscopic Tummy Tuck: Utilizing an endoscope, this minimally invasive procedure involves a small incision in the belly button, resulting in minimal scarring and is ideal for those with minimal excess skin and fat.

5. Combination Techniques: Tummy tucks can be combined with liposuction or breast augmentation to address multiple areas in one surgery, creating a more balanced and comprehensive result.

Consulting with a board-certified plastic surgeon is essential to determine the best technique based on individual needs and goals.

The author is the Consultant, Plastics & Aesthetics Centre, CK Birla Hospital and the Director, Imperio Clinics, Gurgaon.



The future of handmade fashion: Trends trends to watch out for

ANUJA GUPTA

Handloom is making a grand entrance on the digital runway, captivating a global audience with its blend of age-old magic and modern swagger. Fashion designers and influencers alike are embracing slow fashion, pairing traditional handloom pieces with contemporary styles, proving that these garments are not relics of the past but fashion staples for the modern woman. Artisans around the world use long-standing techniques to create beautiful garments and accessories, infusing each piece with a sense of history and culture.

HANDWOVEN FABRICS

Skilled artisans craft handwoven fabrics with intricate patterns and vibrant colours, showcasing the depth of handmade fashion. These unique textiles add a cultural heritage touch to wardrobes and are becoming highly sought after as consumers appreciate the stories behind their clothing.

EMBROIDERY AND EMBELLISHMENTS

Embroidery transforms plain garments into exquisite works of art. Delicate stitching and intricate patterns add elegance



and sophistication, with designs like floral motifs and chikankari work bringing timeless beauty to modern outfits.

HAND-PAINTED PIECES

Hand-painted fashion pieces offer individuality and creativity that mass-produced items can't replicate. From sarees to jackets, these unique garments often depict intricate designs and cultural motifs, allowing wearers to make bold statements about their appreciation for craftsmanship.

Sustainable Materials
The fashion industry is increasingly focusing on sustainability, and handmade fashion

leads the charge. Designers use eco-friendly materials like organic cotton, bamboo, and recycled fabrics to create stylish, environmentally conscious garments, promoting responsibility among consumers.

STATEMENT ACCESSORIES

Handmade accessories like chunky bracelets and bold earrings add individuality to any outfit. Reflecting the artisan's creativity, these unique pieces stand out in a sea of mass-produced items, becoming indispensable for those seeking to express their unique style.

CUSTOMISATION

Handmade fashion offers the ability to customise garments, allowing individuals to express their personality through tailored fits, personalised prints, and unique designs. This exclusivity and personal connection make customisation a significant trend as consumers seek to stand out.

As the industry evolves, these trends highlight a growing appreciation for craftsmanship, sustainability, and individuality, ensuring that handmade fashion thrives and redefines modern style.

The author is the Founder and CEO, Choukhat.

Hydrate your skin with the top 5 facemasks

TDG NETWORK

O3+, a homegrown skincare brand, offers facial kits suitable for all skin types, making radiant and hydrated skin achievable at home. Here are the top 5 O3+ facial kits:

1. Shine and Glow Mono Dose Kit: Targets dullness and uneven skin tone with Shea butter, tomatoes, and pea extracts. It provides a long-lasting glow and is easy to use at home.

2. Gold Infusion Facial Peel-Off Kit: Exfoliates, nourishes, and softens skin with gold and hyaluronic acid, reducing fine lines and wrinkles. Suitable for all skin types, it's dermatologically tested and vegan.

3. Caffeinated D-Tan Facial Kit: Lightens dark spots and removes tan using caffeine. Preferred by men, it provides

a refreshing glow in four steps.

4. Bridal Facial Kit: Enhances radiance and improves skin texture, giving a bridal glow with its 10-step process. Ideal for any special event.

5. Alpha Men Bright Groom Facial Kit: Offers deep cleansing, brightening, and hydration with Shea butter, charcoal, and niacinamide. Designed for men, it's a simple six-step process for a healthy glow.

O3+ products are available online and through various platforms, ensuring easy access. Director Vidur Kapur states, "Our professional skincare range provides derma-grade treatments for salons and home use."

Log on to <https://www.o3plus.com/collections/skin-care> to reach the site easily.



Lèvere Clinic: Delhi's luxurious destination for holistic beauty & wellness



TDG NETWORK

Lèvere Clinic, founded by visionary Dr. Tushar Vishnoi, is unveiling its newest state-of-the-art facility in Delhi this June, redefining luxury in beauty and wellness. Since its inception in 2022, Lèvere Clinic has been a beacon of aesthetic excellence, offering cutting-edge techniques and science-backed technology for comprehensive skin, body, hair, dental, and wellness services.

The Delhi clinic will feature world-class, FDA-approved machines like the Morpheus8, Gentle Yag Pro-U, and Hydrafacial Elite, ensuring superior results in treatments



ranging from laser hair removal to advanced skin rejuvenation. With services including hair transplants, anti-aging

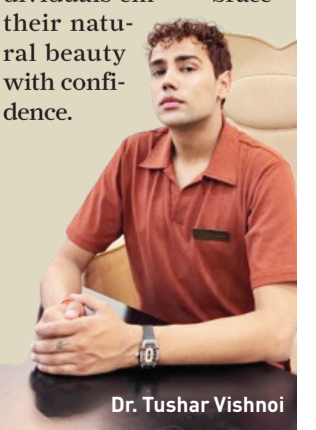
treatments, microblading, and dental care, Lèvere Clinic promises a luxurious, safe, and personalized experience for every

client. I had CM slim treatment at the clinic and after just two sessions the results are remarkable.

The advanced technology targets stubborn fat areas, enhancing muscle definition and tone. Each 30-minute session felt like an intense workout, yet it was comfortable and non-invasive. Visible improvements in muscle tightness and fat reduction were evident within a week. The professional staff ensured a personalized and supportive experience, explaining the process and expected outcomes in detail. Overall, CM Slim offers a convenient and effective solution for those seeking noticeable body contouring results without surgery.

Dr. Vishnoi expresses excitement about the Delhi

launch, emphasizing the clinic's commitment to transparency, innovation, and client confidence. As Lèvere Clinic continues to expand its footprint, with plans for future locations in Bangalore, Ludhiana, and Pune, it remains dedicated to helping individuals embrace their natural beauty with confidence.



Dr. Tushar Vishnoi

'WRITING HAS EMERGED AS MY SOLE COMPANION', SAYS AUTHOR MRIDUSMITA DAS



PROF SHIV SETHI

Mridusmita Das is one of the eminent Indian authors. She has been publishing her poems and write ups in newspapers and magazines since childhood. 'A WIDOW Rebirth From Her Ashes', which is my memoir, is her debut book brought her in

prominence and many a reader began to lavish their love and admiration on her. She is a prominent speaker. She has been part of Lekhak Manch in the World Book Fair, 2024. She also spoke on Akashvani- All India Radio Talk Show for North East on the eve of World's Women Day 2024. During her recent interview with Prof Shiv Sethi, the author shares her literary journey. Here are the excerpts.

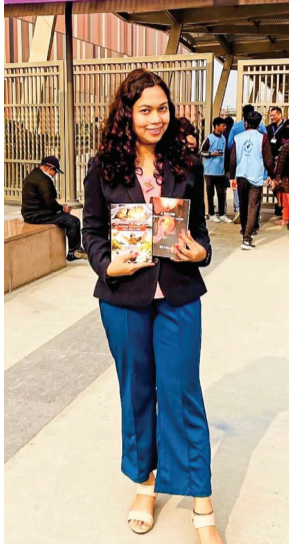
1. WHAT SETS YOU APART AS AN AUTHOR?

Words, for me, are not only a form of communication but are emotions felt from

the heart. My pen and notebook are my best friends. After my husband's death in Corona in the year 2021 when I was left all alone, my sole companion emerged to be my writing. The therapeutic writing helped me regain my composure. After a dark period of mental, emotional and physical breakdown of more than 2 years I finally came to terms with my reality and published my debut book.

2. TELL US ABOUT YOUR BOOKS.

'A WIDOW Rebirth From Her Ashes', which is my memoir, is my debut book. The book depicts my jour-



ney of Self-Discovery where even after being lost in despair, resilience helped me

to see light again.

The second venture is a series called 'Sparrows of Michigan' which is a fun adventurous read.

Both books in the series 'Amazing Adventures of Joey, Juju & Jubi' and 'Florida Adventures of Joey, Juju & Jubi' show the value of 'Life' God has bestowed upon us.

My books in collaboration with Super7 include two bestsellers A QUOTE A DAY MIRACLE EVERYDAY and LOVE CONNECTION.

3. WHY DO YOU BRING THE ESSENCE OF ASSAM IN YOUR WRITING?

Having been born in the

lush green valleys of Assam, I feel writing came naturally to me.

Assamese culture gives utmost importance to literature.

I was fortunate to have the ambience to enliven my dormant gene of being a writer ever since my childhood.

A short poem in my mother tongue Assamese "POKHILA" (translated BUTTERFLY) transformed me from a shy introvert kid to a poetess. The silent kid in me was mesmerized by the loud echo of recognition that the poem being published in the weekly newspaper 'Sadin' brought along. The lullaby of the rain

drops on the tin roofs of the Assam Type houses brings me many new ideas. The clear blue skies make me feel limitless. The mighty Brahmaputra gives me the immense strength to get up every time I fall.

KOHUA-KOPOU

flowers, fireflies in the dark forests and the virgin picnic spots which are still untouched bring out the best version in me.

4. WHY IS IT IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO KEEP THE INNER CHILD ALIVE IN YOU?

We may face the worst - broken-trust, failed-rela-

tionship, health or financial loss - the list is endless.

A child is unbiased, self-loving, says NO, enjoys the present moment, loves simple toys, hugs the stray dog,....

The innocence and ease with which a child approaches any life situation in an unadulterated and compassionate way gives LIFE its true meaning.

5. HOW DO YOU GIVE BACK TO SOCIETY AS AN AUTHOR?

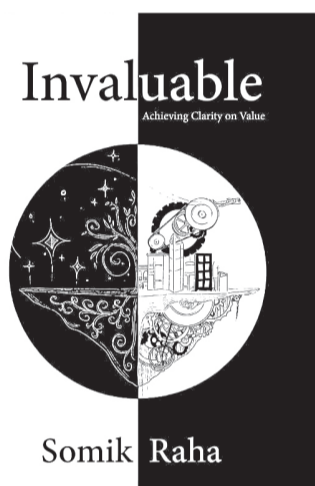
Through my writing, I instill hope, self-love, positivity and a strong urge in my readers to find one's true identity.

TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE AND BUSINESS WITH CORE VALUES: A MUST-READ BOOK

TDG NETWORK

"Invaluable: Achieving Clarity on Value" by Somik Raha is a profound exploration into the intricate process of aligning personal values with decision-making in our complex world. Raha skillfully addresses the challenge many face today—making decisions that resonate with our core values. This book stands out by offering a comprehensive framework for discovering, testing, and effectively communicating one's values across diverse contexts, whether personal, professional, or communal.

The book's strength lies in its holistic approach, drawing from a rich



tapestry of disciplines including stories, philosophy, poetry, citizen science, and embedded podcasts. These diverse elements not only enrich the reading experience but also illustrate how values can transcend traditional boundaries and inform every aspect of our lives.

Through engaging narratives and thought-provoking insights, Raha guides readers towards uncovering their unique values blueprint. By the end of the journey, readers gain not only a deeper understanding of their values but also practical tools to integrate them into their decision-making processes deliberately and consciously.

Raha's integration of business strategy and philosophy is particularly noteworthy. Rather than simply merging these fields, he challenges readers to explore the tension between them, offering a fresh perspective on the role of values in business and leadership. This approach prompts a reevaluation of traditional metrics and encourages leaders to consider the profound impact of core values on organizational purpose and success.

However, the book is not a light reading. It demands intellectual engagement and introspection as Raha navigates through complex case examples from business strategy, decision analysis, and Indian philosophy. This rigorous exploration pushes readers beyond conventional rational frameworks, encouraging them to reflect deeply on their values and their implications.

Overall, "Invaluable: Achieving Clarity on Value" is a transformative book that encourages readers to rethink their values and make intentional decisions. It offers a new perspective on how values can lead to a meaningful life. It's a must-read for business and community leaders aiming to align their actions with their personal values.

AHBAAB: A triglot masterpiece of love and devotion by Aman Deep S. Chatha

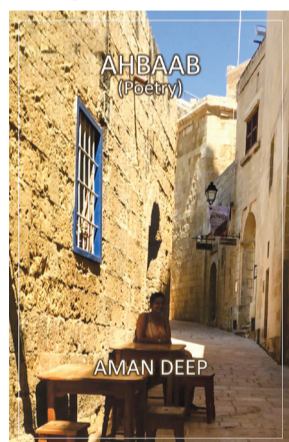
TDG NETWORK

Aman Deep S. Chatha's seventh book, "AHBAAB," is a poetic gem that delves into the essence of human connections and the intricacies of emotions. This collection of couplets, presented in Urdu, Hindi, and English, offers a rich tapestry of feelings and reflections, capturing the depth and beauty of Urdu shayari.

The title "AHBAAB," which means friends, lovers, and loved ones, sets the tone for the book, emphasizing the importance of relationships in shaping our lives. Chatha's couplets

are a heartfelt exploration of various facets of human experience, meticulously organized under thematic headings such as Shayari aur Hum, Kainaat, Shokhi aur Nazaakat, Ishq, Bandagi, Fareb, Sawaal Jawaab, and Neeyat. Each heading serves as a gateway to a specific emotional landscape, inviting readers to immerse themselves in the profound wisdom and delicate sentiments expressed through her verses.

Chatha's unique storytelling technique involves pairing couplets on facing pages, creating a dialogue between them. This innovative approach enhances the reading experience, allowing the couplets to resonate more deeply with the reader. The headings act as a thread, weaving a cohe-



sive narrative that binds the couplets together, making the book not just a collection of poems but a journey through the poetess's soul.

A significant aspect of "AHBAAB" is its dedication to Sh HK Lall, an Urdu educator who played a pivotal role in teaching the language to many in Chandigarh and beyond. This dedication underscores the poetess's gratitude and recognition of the impact of mentors in preserving and propagating the rich tradition of Urdu literature. Additionally, Chatha acknowledges her father, Sardar Surinder Singh

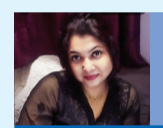
Sidhu, whose influence pervades her writings. This personal touch adds a layer of authenticity and warmth to the collection, highlighting the deep familial bonds that have shaped her poetic voice.

An overarching theme in "AHBAAB" is Bandagi or devotion to God, which, while grouped under various headings, remains a dominant thread throughout the book. This spiritual dimension infuses the couplets with a sense of reverence and introspection, inviting readers to reflect on their own spiritual journeys.

In summary, "AHBAAB" is a masterpiece compilation that transcends linguistic boundaries, offering a poignant and eloquent exploration of love, friendship, and devotion. Aman Deep S. Chatha's ability to convey complex emotions through her couplets, coupled with the exquisite English translations, makes this book a valuable addition to any poetry lover's collection. Through "AHBAAB," Chatha not only honors her mentors and loved ones but also invites readers to embark on a journey of self-discovery and emotional resonance.

POEM

MY EMPTY NEST...



DR HASEENA KABEER

In quiet corners of my heart, I cherish memories untold, Of days when laughter filled our home, and time seemed not to fold. I watched you grow from tiny hands to dreams that soared so high, And in those fleeting years, my love could only multiply.

Now as the seasons gently turn, and you have found your way, I stand amidst the quiet calm, where once the chaos lay. No more do I mend broken toys or chase you 'round the bend, Yet every echo of your voice still lingers like a friend.

The nest that once held all your dreams now holds a silent grace, A testament to all those years, a journey we did trace. For in the freedom I now hold, I find a bittersweet delight, As I recall the days gone by, bathed in love's pure light.

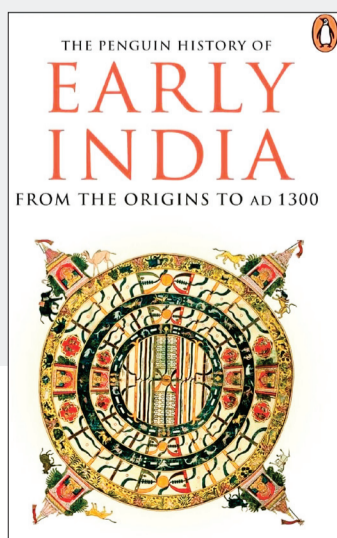
But though you've flown to distant lands, my heart will ever be, A shelter in life's stormy seas, a haven wild and free. For you, my child, are part of me, no matter where you roam, My love will wrap around your soul, and guide you safely home.



BOOKS TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS WEEK

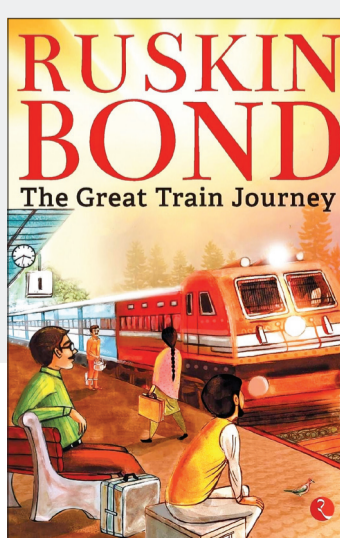
Author- Khalil Gibran
Publisher- Penguin
Price- Rs.96/

The Prophet is a work of spiritual fiction, penned by the famous Lebanese-American poet Kahlil Gibran. Through twenty-eight poetic essays, the book delves into the very depths of human condition-offering timeless wisdom about life and its many ups and downs. A true mirror to the human soul, this book reveals the deepest truths of human life. Within the pages of this book is everything you need to know about life, death, and everything in between. Philosophical, spiritual, and above all inspirational, The Prophet is a modern classic that has sold millions of copies since its English publication in 1923, inspiring generations of thinkers and readers. It is truly a life-changing book-honest, soul-touching, and absolutely awe-inspiring.



Author- Sugandha Pallan
Publisher- Ukiyoto Publishing
Price-Rs.310/

"Where the Dead Come Alive" is the story of Nidhi, an orphan, who is shocked to see Dharampal again. The man died a year ago. Nidhi, a journalist, decides to dive deep and unravel the mystery behind this occurrence. She decides to involve Rachna and Rachna's boyfriend Raunak in the investigation. They are taken to a place where Dharampal makes them meet many like him. They call it their cult. She is shaken after she realises that somehow, she is also related to the cult. A book filled with thrill.



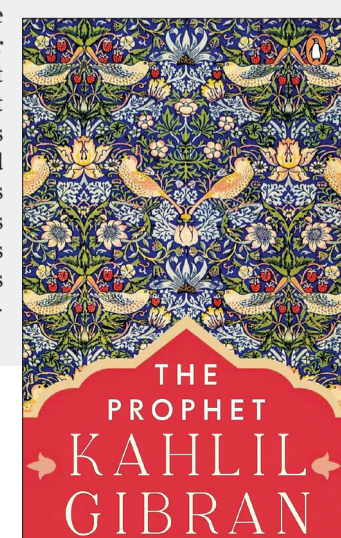
Author- Ruskin Bond
Publisher- Rupa Publications India
Price- Rs. 150/

Ruskin Bond has been writing tales about the hinterland for decades, but this is the first time his stories revolving around trains and railway stations of small-town India have been brought together in a single collection. Classics such as "The Eyes Have It" and "The Night Train at Deol" rub shoulders with tales of big cats taking refuge in railway tunnels and strangers who strike up a friendship while waiting at a platform. So, hop on and allow one of India's greatest storytellers to steer you through the Great Train Journey.



Author- Romila Thapar
Publisher- Penguin
Price- Rs.256/

The historical book starts right from the prehistoric era and enumerates the good and the bad of every era that followed. It compares the religious customs, living habits, economical prosperity, traditions and rituals of each era, giving readers a clear idea of how India formulated to be what it is today. Emergence of all the great dynasties have been discussed in detail and it is made clear what the emergence of a particular dynasty meant for India. It also documents names of revered scholars, rulers and visionaries through the ages and discusses their contributions.



TEAM INDIA CELEBRATES WORLD CUP VICTORY WITH FANS AT WANKHEDE

TG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Indian team crossed the ocean of fans who came in to celebrate their T20 World Cup success, and arrived at the Wankhede Stadium to continue the night of celebration. After their arrival at the Wankhede Stadium, the Indian cricket players danced to the tunes of dhol at the event, which is being held here after their victory parade. The Rohit Sharma-led team kicked off the open-top bus parade from Marine Drive. Fans turned up in numbers, danced to the tune of India's success, and celebrated the arrival of the T20 World Cup-winning team. Throughout the parade, players were seen lifting the coveted trophy high in the air and appreciating the support of their fans. The love of the fans was clearly visible when some of them climbed on the tree and cheered

for the team as the bus went past them. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Secretary Jay Shah, and Vice-President Rajiv Shukla joined the celebrations and were also seen with the players on the bus. Virat Kohli, Kuldeep Yadav, and Yuzvendra Chahal bore the Indian flag on their shoulders as they

celebrated their 13-year-long ICC World Cup trophy drought-ending triumph. Rohit was seen holding the

hands of Rahul Dravid and batter Suryakumar Yadav high in the air during the celebration. Even before Team India's arrival, the cricket fever had gripped Mumbai, as fans

had already turned up in numbers to witness Team India's victory parade. The anticipation was in their eyes of catching a glimpse of their favourite stars, and the entire world continues to see a spectacle on the streets of Mumbai. Before reaching Mumbai, the Indian team arrived the air-

port in New Delhi in the early morning hours. After their arrival, the Indian players and team management met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence for breakfast. During their meeting with the Prime Minister, the Men in Blue wore a special jersey sporting two stars over the BCCI's emblem. The stars represented the two T20 World Cup wins. The word 'CHAMPIONS' was written on the jersey in bold letters.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Ekanth Shinde has given directions to the Mumbai Police Commissioner to ensure that there is no mismanagement of traffic or inconvenience to the fans at Marine Drive and Wankhede Stadium.



Team India stars cut special Trophy cake

TG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Skipper Rohit Sharma, star India batter Virat Kohli, who bid adieu to T20I cricket in style with a T20 World Cup title win and head coach Rahul Dravid cut a special cake at ITC Maurya in Delhi on Thursday to celebrate their team's triumph and end of 11-year-long trophy drought. The ICC T20 World Cup-winning Indian team touched down in Delhi on Thursday to a warm welcome from the fans awaiting the sight of their favourite heroes and sight of the silverware.



The flight was organised by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah and departed on July 2 before arriving in Delhi at around 6:00 AM on Thursday morning. Board officials and members of the media contingent from the tournament were also on the flight.

India ended a 11-year ICC trophy drought with victory in the final, defeating South Africa by seven runs on Saturday. Virat Kohli's 76 helped India reach 176/7 while Hardik Pandya (3/20) and Jasprit Bumrah (2/18) helped India restrict Proteas to 169/8 despite Heinrich Klaasen's 52 in just 27 balls. Bumrah, who got 15 scalps throughout the tournament at a stunning economy rate of 4.17, got the 'Player of the Tournament' honours.

The squad members, support staff, their families and media were stuck in Barbados, which was hit by Hurricane Beryl, at that stage a category four hurricane that passed through Barbados, with Grantley Adams International Airport in Bridgetown shut for three days.

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From the airport, Team India reached the ITC Maurya hotel, where they stayed before their meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Notably, Virat, Rohit, Hardik, head coach Rahul Dravid and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) president Roger Binny were spotted at the hotel.

Sinner, Medvedev march into 3rd round

TG NETWORK
LONDON

Italian star and Australian Open champion Jannik Sinner secured a third-round spot with a fine win over former finalist and compatriot Matteo Berrettini in the second round on Wednesday. Sinner defeated Berrettini 7-6(3), 7-6(4), 2-6, 7-6(4) in an absorbing three-hour, 45-minute clash, as per ATP.



Meeting just for the second time, both players ripped the ball from baseline and aimed to gain the first strike in exchanges. There was very little to separate both players but Sinner managed to get backhand errors from Berrettini at key junctures of the game. Following the win, Sinner said as quoted by ATP, "First of all we are very good friends. We played Davis Cup together and we practise together, so it is very very tough we had to face in the second round in such an important tournament. Today was a very high-level match. In three tie-breaks I got a little bit lucky and I take it for today."

Sinner will next play in the third round against Miomir Kecmanovic, who beat 27th seed Tallon Griekspoor 4-6, 7-6(7), 1-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Russian Daniil Medvedev defeated Alexandre Muller by 6-7(3), 7-6(4), 6-4, 7-5 in his second round game on Wednesday.

The fifth seed rallied after being a set and a break down to secure a win. He managed to save two set points and avoided falling to a two-set deficit. Speaking after the match, Medvedev said, "It was a



very tough, physical match. Alex played well and some moments in the match were very tough to stay in touch with him. I was losing by one set and a break. On grass that is never easy, but I managed to stay solid, always stay in the match and try to fight. Definitely happy with the win. I should have played much better, but it is okay. When you win, there is a next round to try to do better."

Athletics: Neeraj Chopra to lead 28-member squad in Paris Olympics

TG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Defending champion Neeraj Chopra will headline a 28-member Indian athletics contingent at the Paris Olympics starting July 26. The 26-year-old Tokyo Games gold medalist and reigning world champion in javelin throw has decided to skip the last Diamond League this weekend in Paris in order to prepare for the quadrennial extravaganza as almost all the selected names are on expected lines. The squad comprises 17 men and 11 women athletes with some of the other prominent

names being Asian Games champions Avinash Sable, Tejinderpal Singh Toor along with sprint hurdler Jyothi Yarraji, to name a few. The 4x400m men's relay team, featuring Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Amoj Jacob and Rajesh Ramesh, which had created quite a stir by leaving behind the USA team in one of the heats at the last World Championships, will also be followed with keen interest. The track and field competition will be conducted at the Stade de France between August 1 to August 11.

World Athletics has introduced marathon race walk mixed-relay event, while men's 50km race walk has been excluded from the Olympics programme.

TEAM Men: Avinash Sable (3,000m steeplechase), Neeraj Chopra, Kishore Kumar Jena (javelin throw), Tajinderpal Singh Toor (shot put), Praveen Chithravel, Abulla Aboobacker (triple jump), Akshdeep Singh, Vikash Singh, Paramjeet Singh Bisht (20km race walk), Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Amoj Ja-

cob, Santhosh Tamilarasan, Rajesh Ramesh (4x400m relay), Mijo Chacko Kurian (4x400m relay), Suraj Panwar (race walk mixed marathon), Sarvesh Anil Kushare (High Jump).

Women: Kiran Pahal (400m), Parul Chaudhary (3,000m steeplechase and 5,000m), Jyothi Yarraji (100m hurdles), Annu Rani (javelin throw), Abha Khatua (shot put), Jyothika Sri Dandi, Subha Venkatesan, Vithya Ramraj, Pooamma MR (4x400m relay), Prachi (4x400m), Priyanka Goswami (20km race walk/race walk mixed marathon).

Naomi Osaka dumped out by Emma Navarro

TG NETWORK
LONDON

Naomi Osaka was sent crashing out of Wimbledon in the second round on Wednesday by America's Emma Navarro, who allowed the Japanese superstar just five games in a one-sided contest. Osaka, playing her first Wimbledon since 2019, went down 6-4, 6-1 on Centre Court in less than an hour. The two players were level-pegging at 3-3 in the first set before 17th-ranked Navarro broke to love and went on to take



the first set. Navarro pounced at the start of the second set, breaking twice to race into a 4-0 lead and broke again to seal the match.

Osaka's win over Diane Parry in the first round was her first at Wimbledon since 2018.

Navarro pounced at the start of the second set, breaking twice to race into a 4-0 lead and broke again to seal the match.

Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com. Five years on, the four-time Grand Slam champion, 26, is ranked at 113 having only returned to the tour in January after giving birth to daughter Shai last year.