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THE PERFEC Pacers put India on top



BJP adamant on contesting on 155 seats, Sena, NCP oppose ... pg 2

Inter-state cheetah conservation in 25 years ... pg 6

Contractor was to be blacklisted for supplying adulterated ghee

TTD says lab tests revealed presence of animal fat, lard in chosen samples

By Press Trust of India

Amaravati: As the Tirupati Laddu row snowballed into a major national controversy, the temple body managing the super-rich shrine on Friday revealed it has come across substandard ghee and presence of lard in samples tested for quality, echoing claims first made by Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu two days ago.

With the fingers of accusation being pointed at his led previous regime over the issue, former CM and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy described the matter as "diversion politics," and slammed it as a "concocted story."

The Centre too weighed in, with Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda seeking a report on the matter from Andhra Pradesh government and promising suitable action after examining it.

Food Minister Pralhad Joshi called for an investigation into the

On Friday, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple, asserted there was presence of 'Lard' (pig fat) and other impurities in the ghee, citing a lab report.

allegations.

TTD Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao said lab tests had revealed the presence of animal fat and lard in chosen samples and the board was in the process of blacklisting the contractor who supplied 'adulterated' ghee

> A lab value indicated the sample was adulterated with lard also, Rao said while addressing a press conference in Tirupati.

throughout the year.

CM Naidu had earlier

Rao said. During an NDA legislative party meeting on

Wednesday, Naidu, chief of the ruling TDP, claimed that the previous YSRCP government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple and used substandard ingredients and animal fat for making the popular sweet, known for its unique taste.

"This is diversion poli-

"Is it fair to play with the

sentiments of crores of

devotees across the world",

All samples, tests and

results mentioned in lab

test reports as evidence oc-

curred under the NDA gov-

Meanwhile, Tamil Na-

ernment, he asserted.

Reddy asked CM Naidu.

tics. On the one hand, people are expressing their anger at Chandrababu Naidu's 100 days' rule. They are demanding what happened to their "Super six" (poll promises). Under these circumstances, in or-

der to divert the public attention, this concocted story," Jagan Mohan Reddy lambasted. The TTD administers

the popular hill shrine that attracts lakhs of devotees

expressed concern over the quality of ghee as well as Laddu and highlighted complaints of the presence of animal fat in the sweet,

> du-based AR Dairy, a company that supplied ghee to Tirupati Lord Balaji tem-

ple, said their product samples have been duly cleared by authorities certifying its quality.

The Dindigul based firm's spokespersons told reporters that only during the months of June and July did they supply ghee to the Tirumala temple.

Even when ghee was supplied to Tirupati temple, it was sent along with duly accredited lab reports.

Andhra Pradesh deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, in a social media post said he was deeply disturbed by the alleged findings of animal fat mixed in Tirupati temple 'prasadam' (consecrated food), and called for the creation of a national level body to look into the issues pertaining to temples.

The Congress said if claims of "desecration" of the Tirupati laddu are right, a full-fledged enquiry must identify the guilty, but if they are wrong or motivated, millions of Tirupati devotees will not forgive those playing with their faith.



All the four reports

of samples gave similar results. So we immediately stopped (receiving) the supplies. And the blacklisting of the contractor was initiated and the procedure to impose penalties would also

be initiated. Now, the legal process will start.

J Shyamala Rao, **Executive Officer, TTD**



The dirt and blame

- According to a Gujarat-based lab report, the ghee samples sent to it by the TTD has the presence of "beef tallow", 'lard' and 'Fish Oil'
- The suppliers took advantage of a lack of in-house testing facility
- Jagan Mohan Reddy said the adulteration issue was taken up to divert the public attention from the state government's 100 days of rule. He said CM Naidu is such a person who will use God also for political gains
- Former chief priest of Lord Venkateswara temple, Ramana Deekshitulu claimed he had taken the guality-related deficiencies to the notice of the Executive Officer and TTD Board chairman but in vain

Israel strikes, **Hezbollah hits** 140 rockets

... pg 10

Hosts stretch lead against

Bangladesh to 308

Beirut: Israel hit a Beirut suburb with an airstrike Friday, not long after Hezbollah pounded northern Israel with 140 rockets following a vow by the militant group's leader Hassan Nasrallah to retaliate against Israel for a mass bombing attack, the Israeli military and the militant group said. Labnon's Health Ministry said eight people were killed and 59 injured.

The Israeli military said it had carried out a "targeted strike" in Beirut. It offered no further immediate details, but explosions could be heard coming from the city's southern suburbs Beirut-based Al-Mayadeen TV reported that a drone fired several missiles on the heavily-populated area known as Dahiyeh.

A Hezbollah official, speaking on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to the media, confirmed to The Associated Press that an airstrike struck the area. without giving further details. The strike came after Hezbollah pounded Israel with 140 rockets, which the Israeli military said came in three waves targeting sites along the ravaged border with Lebanon.

Following the attacks, the Israeli military said that it had struck areas across southern Lebanon.

-PTI





Congress run by 'tukdetukde' gang, Urban Naxals

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar at the inauguration of Aviary in Jampore, Daman. Pic: PTI President Droupadi Murmu at Shree Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain, MP.

Indian Embassy official found dead

Washington: An Indian embassy official was found dead under mysterious circumstances inside the mission premises here, officials here said.

Local police and the Secret Service are currently investigating the inci-

dent that occurred two days ago, including the possibility of suicide.

"With deep regret, we wish to confirm that a member of the Embassy of India passed away in the evening of 18th September 2024. We are in

touch with all relevant agencies and members of the family to ensure the swift transfer of the mortal remains to India," the Indian Embassy said in a

> statement on Friday. "Additional details regarding the deceased are

not being released out of concern for the family's privacy. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this time of grief," it said, without giving any further details.

-PTI

THE PARTY HATES EVEN GANPATI PUJA

By Correspondent

Wardha: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the "ghost of hatred' has entered the Congress and dubbed it as the "most corrupt" party which he alleged was being run by the "tukde tukde" gang or divisive elements and urban Naxals.

Further targeting the main opposition party, Modi maintained the 138-year-old outfit has come to hate even Ganpati puja, remarks coming days after he offered prayers to Lord Ganesh's idol at Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud's New Delhi home, drawing criticism from political opponents.

"The Congress which you see today is not the party with which a great man like Mahatma Gandhi was associated," the PM noted, addressing a public meeting at Wardha in Ma-

harashtra organised on



PM Narendra Modi at an exhibition area of the Vishwakarma 2024 in Wardha, on Friday. Pic: PTI

completion of one year of that party's MP Rahul Ganthe launch of Pradhan dhi, who is facing flak from Mantri Vishwakarma the ruling dispensation for his remarks in the US on "The ghost of hatred has scrapping the reservation entered the Congress. In system and on the Sikh today's Congress the soul community. of patriotism has breathed "If there is a corrupt

party it is the Congress and the most corrupt family is its 'shahi parivar' (royal family)," Modi said, without naming the Gandhi family.

"The Congress hates Ganpati puja as well," Modi said. "I went to a Ganesh puja programme and Congress criticised it for appeasement politics. Ganpati Bappa was put behind bars in Karnataka (ruled by Congress). A Ganpati idol was put in a police van," he pointed out.

The PM noted Congress allies in Maharashtra, which include the Shiv Sena (UBT) and the NCP (SP), kept mum and did not take a stand on Ganpati Bappa's insult.

In an apparent reference to the ensuing state assembly elections, Modi said, "In Maharashtra, we have to be aware of their duplicity."

"Falsehood and betrayal are the hallmark of the Congress and the people of Maharashtra should beware of the party," he insisted.

The Congress used farmers only for politics and corruption, Modi alleged.

Big blow to govt's fact check unit Bombay HC says amended IT rules unconstitutional

Pic: PT

Mumbai: The Bombay High Court on Friday held as unconstitutional and struck down the amended Information Technology (IT) Rules which sought to identify fake and false content on social media against the government.

The matter was assigned to Justice A.S. Chandurkar as 'tie-breaker judge', after a division bench in January delivered a split verdict on the petitions challenging the amended

IT rules.

Justice Chandurkar on Friday held that the rules violated constitutional provisions.

"I have considered the matter extensively. The impugned rules are violative of Article 14 (right to equality), 19 (freedom of speech and expression) and 19(1)(g) (freedom and right to profession) of the Constitution of India," the judge said.

The expression "fake, false and misleading" in the Rules

was "vague and hence wrong" in the absence of any definition, he added.

With this ruling, the High Court allowed the petitions filed by stand-up comedian Kunal Kamra and others challenging the new rules, including the provision to set up a Fact Checking Unit (FCU) to identify fake or false content about the government.

The petitions against the IT Rules were referred to Justice



Chandurkar after a division bench of Justices Gautam Patel and Neela Gokhale delivered a split verdict in January.

Yojana.

asserted.

its last," the BJP stalwart

India agendas" of Congress

leaders in their speeches

abroad, without naming

Modi also spoke of "anti-

While Justice Patel struck down the Rules, Justice Gokhale upheld them.

Justice Patel had said the Rules amounted to censorship, but Justice Gokhale had opined they did not have any 'chilling effect' on free speech as argued.

Justice Chandurkar on Friday said he agreed with the opinion given by Justice Patel

(now retired).

On April 6, 2023, the Union government promulgated amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediarv Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, including a provision for an FCU to flag fake, false or misleading online content related to the government.

Under the IT Rules, if the FCU comes across any posts that are fake, false, and con-

tain misleading facts about the business of the government, it would flag the same to social media intermediaries.

Once such a post is flagged, the intermediary has the option of either taking down the post or putting a disclaimer on the same.

In taking the second option, the intermediary loses its safe harbour/immunity and stands liable for legal action.

MAHARASTHRA

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 **MUMBAI**

BJP eyes 155 seats; Sena, NCP oppose

Mahayuti seat sharing formula likely to be sealed in a couple of days



By Abhijit Mulye

Mumbai: Though Chief Minister Eknath Shinde had earlier indicated that that the assembly elections in the state are unlikely to be held before Mid-November, the three-party ruling alliance Mahayuti has almost finalised its seat sharing arrangements and the agreement is likely to be sealed early next week when Union Home Minister Amit Shah is scheduled to travel across several places in Maharashtra.

The state BJP core committee is scheduled to meet in Mumbai over the weekend, while Shah is scheduled to travel across Maharashtra on Monday and Tuesday. Shah is expected to visit Nagpur, Chhatra-

pati Sambhaji Nagar, Nashik and Kolhapur during his two-day visit to the state. After the state BJP core committee meeting, Shah is likely to meet the Cm and both the DCMs at Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar on Tuesday where it is expected that the seat sharing formula for the alliance will be sealed. If the seat sharing formula is finalised during the meeting, state BJP's first list of candidates for the forthcoming assembly elections will be released

state BJP leader has said. Currently the ruling trio have a total of 186 MLAs on its side including a few independents on its side. Though most of these MLAs are expected to get party tickets in the forth-

during Navaratra, a senior

coming assembly elections again, more than two of the alliance partners have staked claims on at least 8 seats. Moreover, there are at least 15 other seats where one of the Mahayuti partners had lost the seat during last elections by very thin margins.

The alliance parties have almost agreed upon which seats should go to whom on almost all of the rest of 167 seats. Hence, the political activists from these parties are hoping that the leaders would be able to seal the seat sharing deal on Tuesday in presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Shah is also expected to interact with party workers from Vidarbha, North

Maharashtra, Western Maharashtra and Marathwa-

da during his two-day tour of the state. Some of the other senior leaders from Shiv Sena and NCP too are likely to participate in the meeting of senior alliance leaders along with Shah, the sources said

While the BJP is expected to contest on 155 seats. the Shiv Sena and NCP would be asked to share the remaining 133 seats. sources have indicated. In such a scenario, the Shiv Sena under CM Shinde would push for a larger share of seats being an older party of the alliance. But, the NCP is not prepared to accept less than 60 seats. Hence, the BJP will have to intervene and bring the alliance partners to equal terms, the sources said.

Ajit Pawar concerned over EY employee's death By Correspondent

Mumbai: Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has raised the cases of "young people dying due to stress", referring to the death of a 26-year-old Ernst & Young employee in Pune, allegedly because of extreme work pressure.

Pawar, who is the guardian minister of Pune, said in a post on X on Thursday that he was saddened to learn about the death of the EY employee "due to stress". "The rising cases of

young people dying due to stress need our attention. I hope Ernst & Young India will take corrective steps," he said.

Anna Sebastian Perayil, who passed her CA exams in 2023 worked at the EY Pune office for four months before she succumbed. Her mother this month wrote to EY India chairman Rajiv Memani flagging the "glorification" of overwork at the multinational consulting firm.The Ministry of Labour & Employment on Thursday said it is investigating the alleged "unsafe and exploitative work

environment". The woman's father, Siby Joseph, spoke to the media on Thursday and said his daughter had to work through the night, till 12.30 am. "We advised her to quit, but she insisted that this stint would provide valuable professional exposure," he said. He said the issue of

extreme work pressure was mentioned before the senior officials of the company, but no action was taken.After the matter went viral on social media, EY on Wednesday issued a statement saying it was deeply saddened.

Wardha: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday insisted that his government wants to take the textile industry to the global market and restore its past glory.

Modi said the British rulers had conspired to finish off India's traditional skills. Mahatma Gandhi gave a boost to rural traditional skills, but governments after Independence did not give justice to the Vishwakarma community, leading to

decline in the sector. In the last one year, more than 20 lakh people from 18 professions were linked to the Vishwakarma scheme. and more than 8 lakh craftsmen and artisans got skill training, he told the gathering.

Modi, who released a commemorative postage stamp to mark one year of the scheme, also visited an exhibition at the National PM Vishwakarma programme and met some of the beneficiaries.

During the visit, he launched the "Acharya Chanakya Skill Development Centre" scheme of the Maharashtra government, and the state's Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Women Startup Scheme for support to women-led startups.

He laid the foundation stone of a 1,000-acre PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park at Amravati in Maharashtra.

The PM said Vishwakarma Yojana was not just another government programme, but a vision to make use of age-old traditional skills as a roadmap to propel India into the club of developed countries.



Want to restore glory of

Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole on Friday alleged that the foundation stone laying of PM MITRA Park in Amravati was done

for the second time by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as it was first done by a Union minister last year. He also claimed that the project will soon be shifted to Gujarat after the Maharashtra assembly elections.

PM Modi paid a visit to Wardha on Friday, during which he attended a programme marking completion of one vear of the launch of Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana. He also laid the foundation stone of a 1,000-acre PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Park at Amravati.

Pointing out age-old traditional skills were the basis of many glorious chapters of India's prosperity, he said its art, engineering, science and metallurgy were unmatched in the entire world.

"We were the world's largest textile manufacturer. There was no match to pottery and buildings designed back in those days," the PM

emphasised. Carpenter, blacksmith, goldsmith, potter, sculptor, cobbler, carpenter-mason and many such professionalists used to be the foundation of India's prosperity and spread this knowledge and science to every home, Modi recalled. More than 700 districts. 2.5 lakh gram panchayats and 5,000 urban local units are giving momentum to

the Vishwakarma scheme.

Modi added. Skill training and upgradation have been provided to more than 8 lakh artisans and craftsmen with the introduction of modern machinery and digital tools. More than 60,000 people have received skill training in Maharashtra alone, the PM told the gathering.

He spoke about initiatives like One District One Product and Ekta Mall where traditional products are being marketed to make Vishwakarmas a part of the supply chain of big companies. The PM touched upon platforms like ONDC (open network for digital commerce) and GeM (government e-marketplace), which he pointed out, have become a medium for artisans and craftsmen to expand their businesses.

CRIME WATCH

Civic clerk held for briberv

Thane: A municipal clerk has been arrested for accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 in Thane district, an officer said on Friday.Accused Ajay Gaikwad (42), an employee of Bhiwandi Nizampur Municipal Corporation, had demanded Rs 20,000 from a man to facilitate some work concerning property tax, said inspector Santosh Ambike of the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in Thane. The man then approached the anti-graft agency, which laid a trap. Gaikwad was caught red-handed on Thursday as he accepted the first instalment of Rs 10.000, the officer said. An FIR has been registered against Gaikwad under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Saunik takes over as MahaRERA chairman Lions Club's poetry

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Manoj Saunik, a 1987 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, officially assumed charge as the new Chairman of the Maharashtra Real Estate **Regulatory** Authority (MahaRERA) on Friday, succeeding Ajoy Mehta. Saunik, who recently served as Maharashtra's Chief Secretary, is widely known for his expertise in finance, infrastructure, and water resources management. He also has experience as a director on the boards of major state organisations such as the Maharashtra Industrial **Development Corporation** (MIDC) and the Maharashtra State Road **Development Corporation** (MSRDC). Saunik's appointment remains topic of discussion in bureaucratic circles, with some attributing it to his close relationship with Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. His



Overall investment will boost-Hiranandani

Speaking to The Perfect Voice, prominent developer and chairman emeritus

developers at the end of competition every financial yearguaranteeing the construction quality of Mumbai: A poetry projects-will demand competition organised by Saunik's close attention. the Navi Mumbai unit of Lions Club in Vashi on the This initiative, introduced

Businessman cheated of Rs 1.27 cr

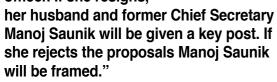
Thane: A businessman from Thane city was allegedly cheated of Rs 1.27 crore by a trader in a deal to supply gravel, police said on Friday. The Vartak Nagar police on Wednesday registered a first information report (FIR) against a businessman based in Vishakapattam in Andhra Pradesh, under sections 406 (criminal breach of trust), 420 (cheating) and other relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), an officer said. The complainant has alleged that the accused, Ajay Kumar Mangi, allegedly lured him into a deal to supply gravel to Bangladesh, promising returns in US dollars, he said. The complainant supplied gravel worth Rs 1.27 crore between September 2021 and November 2023, he said. However, instead of fulfilling the contract, Mangi allegedly sold the material to another party and did not pay the complainant, the officer said.

Old woman found dead in apartment

Thane: The body of a 65-year-old woman was found in an apartment in a housing complex in Thane city on Friday morning, an officer said.Neighbours alerted the police about a foul smell emanating from a flat in a housing complex in the Kasarwadavali locality on Ghodbunder Road, assistant police inspector Manish Pote of the Kasarwadavli police station said. The body was in a highly decomposed state, suggesting that the woman had been dead for two days, he said. The deceased, Savitribai Kanodia, lived alone in the flat.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The state government is pressuring Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik to resign for opposing its decisions. She is an upright officer. If she resigns,



-Ambadas Danve, Leader of Opposition in Legislative Council

wife, Sujata Saunik, is the current Chief Secretary of Maharashtra. While many view the role as a prestigious post-retirement opportunity, Saunik's new role as MahaRERA chairman will span the next five years or until he reaches the age of 65, whichever comes first.

Maintaining Momentum

Manoj Saunik steps into a role where his predecessor, Ajoy Mehta, made significant strides in bringing transparency, accountability, and credibility to the real estate sector in Maharashtra. Mehta, who took charge in February 2021, focused on empowering homebuyers and improving regulatory oversight in the industry. As the new Chairman,

NAREDCO Niranjan Hirannandani said, "As a regulatory body, authority will keep facing challenges, but the fact is that control is in good hands. Ultimately. investment will boost because confidence level among the buyers is going high as they have faith that since the inception of MahaRera. Most of the projects have been executed within the time. Buyers' safety and security are more protected."

Saunik will have to maintain this momentum while addressing several critical challenges. One of the foremost challenges for Saunik will be ensuring that developers consistently provide detailed, credible information about their projects to homebuyers. Under Mehta's tenure, it became mandatory for developers to disclose comprehensive details

about projects, including prior performance records and Director Identification Numbers (DIN). Ensuring strict compliance with these requirements will be a key test for Saunik as he seeks to preserve MahaRERA's role in protecting homebuyers. Additionally, the implementation of mandatory 'Quality Assurance Certificates' by

by Mehta, is vital in ensuring the long-term credibility of the real estate sector.

New Chairman, **Old Challenges**

According to real estate expert Vinod Sampat, while Saunik has the administrative skill set to handle demanding situations, MahaRERA is still in a nascent stage. "The authority faces ongoing challenges, particularly in enforcing transparency measures," said Sampat. Sampat also highlighted the growing problem of unregistered real estate agents, which undermines MahaRERA's regulatory efforts. "There are only 13,370 registered agents trained in compliance, but thousands of unregistered agents continue to exploit homebuyers.

occasion of Hindi Diwas. became memorable for all the audience as a result of the emotional expressions made by more than 25 creators through their various poetic compositions.

The coordinator of the competition, Lion Prince Grover, stated that since there was no age limit in this poetry competition, various teenagers, youth and elders, from a 10-yearold teenage participant to an 82-year-old poet, recited their self-created poems.

Senior lyricist and executive member of Maharashtra State Hindi Sahitya Academy Gajanan Mahatpurkar, senior litterateur Dr. Jaya Anand and senior writer Dr. Kanaklata Tiwari performed their duties as judges of this poetry competition.

Once bankrupt, MSCB announces monthly pension for employees

By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) has announced a windfall benefit of life-time monthly pension of Rs. 10,000 for its employees. The decision was announced at the bank's 113th Annual General Meeting on Thursday.

The MSCB is the largest State Co-operative Bank in the country. It said that it has already made provision for the pension and the staff will not be burdened in any way.

The AGM also enumerated the financial results for the Bank for the year ending March 31, 2024 and stated that it has a net worth of Rs. 4,618 crore. The net worth has increased by Rs. 809 crore

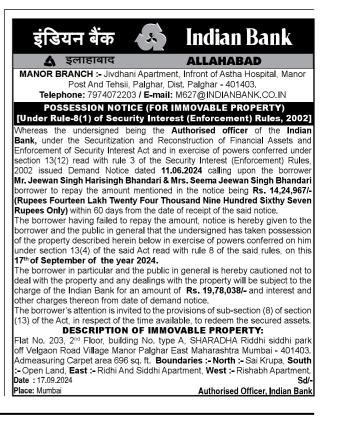
over the last year.

It was also stated that the MSCB's net profit has increased from Rs. 609 crore to Rs. 615 crore and that a 10 per cent dividend was also announced.

On the business front, the total business of the bank has reached Rs. 57,265 crore as on March 31, 2024. The business per employee has increased from Rs. 64 crore to Rs. 76 crores, whereas the net NPA of the bank is at 1.66 per cent. The MSCB has received a coveted ISO 27001-2013 certification as International Security Certification, preserving the legacy of 113 years of progress. Administrator Vidyadhar Anaskar addressed the gathering.

Trouble To Success

In 2010, the MSCB was in huge losses of Rs 800 crore. It had created headlines for alleged corruption and mishandling of funds by then Chairman Ajit **Pawar. Then Chief Minister** Prithviraj Chavan had dissolved the director board in 2012 and appointed two administrators, Sudhir Goyal and Sudhir Shrivastava. Both the senior IAS officials worked hard, removed the malpractices and fetched profit for the bank.



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THE PERFECT VOICE SATUARDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 MUMBAI

MUMBAI

In JJ, now every bed will have oxygen



SC has appointed you as one of the members of the National Task Force constituted for the safety of doctors. What measures or guidelines will be made, and has the National Task Force held any meetings?

I am glad to be one of the members of the National Task Force constituted by the Supreme Court after the Kolkata incident. A preliminary meeting was conducted with the Cabinet Secretary, and they have formed four sub-committees. I have been responsible for looking after security-related issues. The first meeting of the sub-committee has also been in which we decided that if any stakeholders want to give suggestions or input, they should upload it on the web portal. In the next meeting, we will discuss the inputs provided by stakeholders and the input will be submitted to the authorities. Moreover, we will submit a report in the next few days as the period given is three weeks, which has not been completed.

What are the government's plans to enhance safety measures on the J.J. Hospital campus and other state-run hospitals?

Coincidentally, two days before the Kolkata incident, a regular meeting was held with the security committee of J.J. Hospital, which looked after the hospital's safety measures, inputs, and CCTV. We

Ensuring adherence to medical ethics and standards in Maharashtra, Dr. Pallavi Saple, Dean of 180-year-old Sir Jamshedji Jejeebhoy Hospital, has been instrumental in shaping the hospital's vision and direction. In 2019, she made history by becoming the youngest dean of the state-run hospital since Independence. She oversees the J.J. campus, which spans over 48 acres. She has been appointed as one of the members of the National Taskforce constituted by the Supreme Court to look after safety measures at hospitals. In an exclusive conversation with 'The Perfect Voice's Special Correspondent Swapnil R. Mishra Dr. Saple discussed the government's plans to enhance safety measures on the J.J. Hospital campus, especially amid recent strikes by resident doctors. The hospital, which has not experienced major violent incidents in recent years, faces security challenges due to its large campus and multiple entry points. Excepts...

THE PERFECT **INTERVIEW**

also called a senior inspector from the local police station officer, who pointed out the vantage points or loopholes and gave his suggestions for improving the safety of the hospital. Moreover, police and Nirbhaya Pathak keep patrolling places that were pinpointed from our side. We are also revamping our panic alarm, which will be set up across the hospital. Currently, the hospital employs 179 security guards and operates 667 CCTV cameras. We plan to increase these numbers by adding 150 guards and 600 cameras.

What modern technology or equipment is likely to be introduced in J.J Hospital? How will the new cutting-edge virtual anatomy dissection table and modern technology that the hospital has introduced help in medical studies?

Sir J.J. Hospital is one of the country's premier and first medical colleges. We will also start robotic surgery in orthopaedic and general surgery, as the first laparoscopy in India was done in this hospital. Our students are getting laparoscopy exposure, but there is a need for robotic surgery exposure. We also offer hyperbaric oxygen treatment, which is particularly beneficial for

neurosurgery and gangrene patients. Moreover, our super speciality hospital building, which will be primarily ready by next year, will have more advanced facilities, including oncology, rheumatology, endocrinology, and gastroenterology departments will be started. The current batch of medical students couldn't get the experience of virtual anatomy dissection as it had come three weeks ago, and all had gone for exams. However, the new batch, which will start on October 14, will get the machines exposed.

How is J.J Hospital planning to revamp its infrastructure. especially after the strain caused by the COVID-19 pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for better infrastructure, but J.J. Hospital's redevelopment is long overdue. We are building a new super-speciality centre and upgrading the old building, including ICUs and operation theatres, to enhance patient care and reduce infection risks. Every bed will now be an oxygen bed, and some wards are being converted into highdependency units to provide better care for patients who need CPAP.

As J.J. Hospital is a 180-year-old state-run hospital, what changes have you seen?

The introduction of new

specialisations has significantly expanded our MD and MS programs.

In 2017, we had 127 annual admissions; now, we have 309. Courses in Geriatrics, Immunohematology, Interventional Cardiology, and Emergency Medicine reflect the evolving demands of healthcare. Our decades-old facility is being updated to support four new specialised courses: MD in Geriatrics, M D i n Immunohematology,DM in Interventional Cardiology, and MD in Emergency Medicine

How will the antimicrobial paint adopted by J.J. Hospital help to fight infection, and what protective layer will it provide to patients?

Already a success within Israel's healthcare system, the Israel embassy approached J.J. Hospital to introduce this technology. The QUACTIV technology integrated into the paint offers continuous protection against harmful microorganisms as long as the paint remains on the walls. This technology provides an additional layer of protection for our patients, which is essential for preventing infections and maintaining a safe environment.

Additionally, our microbiologists will inspect the efficacy of the paint both before and after its application to ensure its effectiveness.

Cong delegation meets top cop

devotees during Ganeshotsav on Friday.

By Correspondent

Mumbai: A Mumbai Congress delegation on Friday met city police chief Vivek Phansalkar and demanded the arrest of BJP MP Anil Bonde and Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad for their controversial remarks against Rahul Gandhi.

Bonde, a Rajya Sabha member, and Gaikwad, who represents the Buldhana assembly constituency, kicked up a row with their remarks against Gandhi earlier this week.While Gaikwad announced Rs 11 lakh reward for anyone who chops off Gandhi's tongue for his remarks over reservation, Bonde said the Congress leader's tongue should be singed.

During his recent visit to the USA, Gandhi told students at Georgetown University that the Congress would think of scrapping reservation when "India is a fair place".

By Correspondent

Project BHOG for prasad in state's temples

By Suyash Padate

Volunteers at Lalbaugcha Raja counting donations that were presented by

Mumbai: Amidst the controversy over using animal fat in temple prasad given at Tirumala temple in Tirupati, the Maharashtra government is seriously considering to test prasad served to devotees at all major temples in the state. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has swung into action to carry out the proper testing of the prasad served to devotees. According to a senior FDA official, under the project 'BHOG' the department has started checking the hygin and the quality of prasad as well as food served by the temples. The project Bhog will first be implemented in Sai Baba Mandir in Shirdi, Siddhivinayak Temple in Prabhadevi and some of the prominent Gurudwaras in the state. In the second stage we will undertake this project at other

Narvekar keeps mum

Pic: Bhushan Koyande

'The Perfect Voice' tried to contact Milind Narvekar, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) board member and trusted aid of Shiv Sena (UBT) chief **Uddhav Thackeray** multiple times. He was unreachable for a long time. After repeated attempts he said, "I don't know anything about this issue". Sapana Mungantiwar, wife of Cultural **Affairs Minister Sudhir** Mungantiwar, was also a member of TTD board. The minister

said, "Sapana's term in TTD is over. Now she is no more a board member. So, she has no comments to offer and I too will prefer to keep mum on this controversy".

In Assembly election, 10,111 polling stations **By Correspondent**

Mumbai: The city will woman from Thane was

Thane: A 37-year-old unidentified man posing as an officer asked the agency, claiming a parcel she sent to Iran was rejected. The caller said the parcel contained two expired passports, three credit cards, 5 kgs of medicines, and 450 gm of mephedrone. and the courier company had informed the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), police said.

Woman under digital

arrest, loses Rs 2.45 cr

complainant allegedly crime branch, where received a call from an another fraudster posing as the staffer of a courier complainant to download Skype. During the Skype call, the accused, who claimed to be a Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), showed the victim a police complaint, police ID, a letter purported to be from the RBI and other documents, the officer said. The fraudster then took bank details of the woman and her mother and

Man held for raping neighbour's wife Thane: Police have arrested

a man for allegedly raping his neighbour's wife, aged around 30 years, by tying her after forcibly entering her house at Bhayandar.

Thane: The Ghodbunder spread across Thane, Mum- medical facilities like am-Cyclist Thane (GCT), a bai and Navi Mumbai. This group of enthusiastic cywill be the third season of GRM. It comprises of multi also provided to the cyclists clists, has announced an initiative 'Ghodbunder Riding stage cycling rides from 25 across all formats of GRM Master' for cyclists from km to 300 km. rides. Sabe-Patil and his "The first ride will start across Mumbai Metropolicolleagues Shailendra Bentan Region. The GRM will be on Sunday at 6 from Majidale, Dr. Suneet Kopra and wada, Thane," said Gopal Shubham Joshi are managlaunched on Sunday at 6 am Sabe-Patil, President of ing the GRM. The GRM is a multi stage GCT. Around 600 cyclists had completed the GRM in the second season. This

religious places.

Long distance endurance

The GCT is a large group of more than 800 cyclists

cycling starts tomorrow are managed and monitored with moral support, bulance and medical kit. Cycle technician support is

have 10,111 polling stations for the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections, a rise of 218 from the recent Lok Sabha polls, a civic official said on Friday.In a release, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation said the average number of voters per polling station in the metropolis has come down from 1,500 to 1,200.

"In 2024 (Lok Sabha polls), there were 2,509 polling stations in Mumbai City and 7,384 in Mumbai Suburban. Following rationalisation. these numbers have increased to 2,537 and 7,574, respectively," it added.

"The increase in the number of polling stations will help enhance the efficiency and pace of the voting process. Polling stations in Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban Districts have been rationalised to facilitate smooth voting," the release said. The BMC said it had started an awareness campaign called 'Know Your Polling Station'.

allegedly put under digital arrest by cyber fraudsters, who posed as policemen and duped her of Rs 2 45 crore

By Correspondent

Based on a complaint lodged by the woman, a resident of Ambernath, the police on Thursday registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS), an officer said.

On September 14, the

The call was then transferred to an alleged

front of the victim's toddler daughter late Saturday night. "Around 11 pm on Saturday, the accused forced his way into the house of the victim. The woman and her three-yearold daughter were present there. After that, he tied the woman's hands and legs with a 'dupatta' and siphoned off Rs 2.45 crore. sexually assaulted her,".

The crime took place in at Majiwada in Thane.

endurance cycling rides which is open for every cyclist who wish to experience long distance endurance cycling.

The registrations for GRM-3 are now open for 50 km to 300 km endurance year, around 800 cyclists rides. The participants can are expected to join the register on www.ghodbundrercyclists.com.

Raiway Police ties up with social media app for women's safety

By Correspondent

women personnels as their

'Sakhi' (friends). The

Railway Police has joined

app, to launch this much

Dr. Ravindra Shisve,

Railway Police

hyped campaign.

Mumbai: The Railway Police is going to launch 'Khakitil Sakhi', an initiative which aims to bring the women in Mumbai and its vicinity to consider railway police

Commissioner. said. "Through our collaborative effort we aim to build a strong connection with the hands with Coto, a 'women women of the city and only' social community instill the confidence that they can seek our support when faced with an adverse situation while travelling". As a part of this

What is the Coto app?

A social community app built exclusively for women. The team members of app

categorically said that platform is a safe space where users, creators, brands and agencies build, grow and earn together with other like-minded women through purpose-driven conversations.

The guidelines by Government Railway Police

Carry valuables, money or jewelry in the bags and purses, and should ensure that it remains close to them. As far as possible they should avoid hanging the bags containing valuables on their shoulders.

- Avoid standing in the doorway and talk on the phone with a bag or purse in your hand during the train journey.
- Railway police are appointed in the reserved compartment for women from 08:45 pm to 6 am. Travel at night time preferably in coach with maximum number of passengers. In case of any problem during the journey, contact Railway Police Helpline No. 1512.

campaign, Thane Railway Police station recently organised a program at nearby Ganesh Mandal. This campaign also urged women to consider women railway officers their friend for sharing safety concerns experienced while travelling. If any suspicious object is seen during the journey, it should be reported on Railway Police Helpline Number, Archana Dusane Senior Police Inspector, Thane Railway Police Station said.

ride. He said the GRM rides

gets pace Mumbai: In a significant move, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed the Maharashtra Housing and Area **Development Authority** (MHADA) to expedite the tendering process for the redevelopment of 43 MHADA buildings in Abhyudaya Nagar, Parel. This will relieve approximately 15,000 residents. Fadnavis chaired a meeting in this regard recently.

Abhyudaya Nagar

redevelopment

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Congress needs to study the contribution of the Shiv Sena (UBT) in increasing its tally. Their three seats increased because of us. It



is not appropriate if they have forgotten this or want to forget it.

Sanjay Raut, MP, Shiv Sena (UBT)

'Widowmaker' patient tests doctor's skills

By Swapnil R Mishra

Mumbai: In a stunning display of medical expertise and swift emergency response, a team of doctors at Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road, successfully saved the life of a 41-year-old man who suffered a rare and potentially fatal 'Widowmaker' heart attack. According to family, three

months ago in May this year, Patient Sanjeev Tripathi, a Mira Road resident working at Goregaon Film City, having a history of smoking, was at home when he experienced severe chest

pain. Following which he was

immediately taken to the emergency department of

Wockhardt Hospitals, Mira Road. "He had suffered severe chest pain, profuse sweating, pain radiating to the left arm, and persistent vomiting for 30 minutes when brought to emergency. His blood pressure readings were 60 mmHg which is less than half the normal individual due to which patient's life was in danger and needed life-saving treatment,' said a doctor.

Dr. Anand Ram, a Consultant Interventional Cardiologist, at Wockhardt Hospitals said that the patient was presented in critical



condition and his ECG revealed extensive Anterior wall Myocardial Infarction which has the highest mortality. The patient's condition was diagnosed as LMCA Cardiogenic Shock Syndrome due to 100 per cent In-Stent Restenosis (ISR) of the Left Main Coronary Artery (LMCA) with TIMI 0 flow.

"The patient was taken to the Cath Lab within 30 minutes of arrival for Angiography to be performed immediately. During Angiography, it was revealed that he had a previous Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty (PTCA) with stenting to the Left Anterior Descending Artery (LAD) 10 years prior. However, he had stopped taking his medicine four months ago due to which he required immediate Angioplasty to save his life."

The patient was discharged after three days of Angioplasty in stable condition and does not have any symptoms. However, patients shouldn't discontinue blood thinners or any medication without the doctor's permission as doing so can cause blockages, heart attack, and even death. Continuing with the medication is essential for preventing any further emergencies."

BUSINESS

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 MUMBAI

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Gems, jewellery sector vulnerable to terror financing, says FATF

New Delhi: The ease with which the trade of precious metals and stones can be used to move "large amounts" of funds without leaving an ownership trail shows this sector in India is vulnerable to be used as a tool for money laundering and terrorist financing, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has said

The Paris-headquartered global body said in its mutual evaluation report for India released on Thursday that the money laundering (ML) risks associated with the "smuggling and dealing" in precious metals and stones should be "further developed" given the size of this sector in the country.

Certificate of being a GJEPC member along with tax registration is mandatory for undertaking import or export of gems trade in India.

Currently, there are "shortcomings" in risk understanding, particularly relating to money laundering threats arising from smuggling and dealing in precious metals and stones and also human trafficking, it said in its 368-page report.

when undertaking future It recommended that risk assessments on India should include DPMS and gold and dia-"deeper" qualitative and mond smuggling and the quantitative data and tyassociated money launpologies from domestic dering risks.



The ease with which PMS (precious metals and stones) can be used to move large amounts of funds without leaving an ownership trail combined with the size of the market in India means there are vulnerabilities associated with their use as a tool for terror financing.

The FATF report

The FATF said similar action was required to deal with human trafficking cases

"Understanding of money laundering threats arising from trafficking in human beings and migrant smuggling and ML/CFT risks from smuggling and dealing in precious metals and

India is currently the world's second largest consumer of gold, the largest importer, and the largest exporter of gold jewellery. It also has one of the largest industries for polishing of diamonds and gems, and jewellery manufacture with the sector constituting about 7 per cent of the GDP.

NUMBERS 1,75,000 - No of dealers of precious metals and stones in India

9,500 - No pf members of Gems and Jewellery Export **Promotion Council**

stones can be further developed.

"Effective domestic coordination and cooperation on AML/CFT issues occurs at both the policy

and operational levels," as per the report.

A more detailed action plan that provides more "granular" mitigation measures, which lays out clear priorities and benchmarks for implementation, would strengthen responses, it said.

It added that there could be a possibility that this sector (PMS) may have "higher risks" with criminal networks operating cross-border not being investigated and captured by law enforcement reporting.

"Given India's position as a leading consumer of gold and gems and producer of refined diamonds, India's authorities should continue to monitor fraud and smuggling evasion techniques and associated ML as well as consider collecting further data and typologies so that investigating authorities can continue to dedicate resources to address ML threats in a targeted manner," the FATF recommended.

The report said it found that precious metals and stones play an important role in Indian tradition and culture and continue to be used as a store of value for large proportion of the population.

cent), Fish and fish products (35 per cent), Minerals and metals (187 per cent), and Chemicals (56 per cent).

-PTI

strate that the US also protects specific products of its economy with high tariffs, GTRI said in a report. -PTI



Visitors outside an Apple store as iPhone 16 and 16 Pro series sale starts in Mumbai on Friday. Pic:PTI

of tariffs: GTRI

New Delhi: Former US President Donald Trump's recent claim that India is an "abuser" of import tariffs is unfair as many nations including America protect their domestic industries by imposing high customs duties on certain products, think tank GTRI said.

It said that according to WTO's World Tariff Profiles 2023, the US also imposes high duties on items like dairy products (188 per cent), Fruits and vegetables (132 per cent), Coffee, tea, cocoa and spices (53 per cent), Cereals and food preparations (193 per cent), Oilseeds, fats and oils (164 per cent), beverages and tobacco (150 per

These numbers demon-

India not 'abuser' Nazara Tech buys more stake in Sportskeeda

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Nazara Technologies has acquired an additional 19.35 per cent stake in Absolute Sports Pvt. Ltd., the parent company of Sportskeeda, for Rs 145.5 crores, with 50 per cent of the consideration paid in cash and the remaining amount in stock.

With this, Nazara now holds a 91 per cent ownership stake in Absolute Sports, solidifying its leadership position in the sports media domain.

Sportskeeda, Absolute Sports' flagship brand, reaches millions of sports fans globally each month, with significant traction in India and the U.S., where it ranks among the top sports platforms.

In addition, Absolute Sports has recently expanded by acquiring Pro Football Network (PFN), SoapCen-

in next five years and is currently valued at over USD 3 billion, according to industry estimates. After China, India is the second largest gaming market globally with 442 million gamers and in the last five years the sector has raised a total of USD 2.8 billion from domestic and global investors, according to a joint report by Grant Thornton Bharat and E-Gaming Federation. tral, and Deltia's Gaming,

The Indian gaming

industry is expected to

grow to USD 8.92 billion

further diversifying its sports and entertainment portfolio.

In 2019, Nazara Technologies purchased a 67 per cent stake in Sportskeeda for Rs 44 crore and later in October 2022, acquired a further 6.05 per cent stake in the company for Rs 19.99 crore.

Rupee settles at 83.52 against US dollar



at 83.52 against the dollar, registering a gain of 13 paise from its previous close. The local unit gained 11 paise to settle at 83.65

and international sourc-

es on the money launder-

ing risks associated with

precious metals and

stones smuggled into and

circulating in India,



Tata Steel commissions largest blast furnace

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Tata Steel has successfully commissioned

the growing demands of at Kalinganagar is a movarious industries, including automotive, infrastructure, power, shipbuilding, and defence. It will also provide advantages in specific areas like oil & gas, lifting & excavation, a n d construction. With this expansion, Odisha has emerged as the largest investment destination in India for Tata Steel with a total accumulated investment of over Rs 100,000 crore in the last 10 years. "The commissioning of Steel.

The minister announced

that India has established a

National Research Founda-

tion with a budget of al-

most USD 5.9 million from

2024-28 to scale up research

across various sectors, in-

He also mentioned that

India's AMR 2.0 (Antimi-

crobial resistance) is align-

ing maximum residue lim-

its and pesticides with

global body CODEX' stand-

cluding food safety.

globally."

will allow Tata Steel to meet India's largest blast furnace mentous occasion for the steel industry, setting new benchmarks in capacity, technology, and sustainability. A key enabler of socioeconomic development in the region, the expansion not only strengthens Tata Steel's position as a leader in high-end, value-added steel segments but also showcases our advanced engineering prowess," said T. V. Narendran, CEO and Managing Director, Tata



Mumbai: The rupee staved on the upward track for the record seventh straight session and settled 13 paise higher at 83.52 against the US dollar on Friday, as robust domestic equity markets and retreating crude oil prices boosted investors sentiment.

Forex traders said broad weakness in the greenback against Asian peers supported the Indian currency. They attributed the weakness in the dollar index to investors' shifting focus towards emerging market currencies after the US Federal Reserve reduced benchmark interest rate by 0.50 per cent.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the Indian currency opened at 83.63 and hit the intra-day high of 83.48 against the greenback. The unit touched the day's low of 83.63 before settling

against the US dollar on Thursday. On Tuesday, it had appreciated 10 paise. The Forex market was

closed on Wednesday due to a holiday declared by the Maharashtra government.

The Indian currency has been on a recovery path since September 11 when it had settled at 83.99 against the American currency, a tad higher than the lowest level of 84.09 recorded on August 5.

The rupee has gained 47 paise in the past seven con-

secutive sessions since September 12. Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Sharekhan by BNP Paribas, said the rupee traded at the highest levels in more than two months on Friday, as domestic equities touched fresh all-time high for the second straight session and the US dollar showed weakness Meanwhile, the dollar in-

dex, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was up marginally by 0.29 per cent to 100.90. -PTI Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw after a partnership agreement between Analog Devices Inc. and India Semiconductor Mission. Pic:PTI

the country's largest blast furnace at Kalinganagar in Odisha, the company said in its filing with the stock exchange.

This will take the crude steel capacity production to 8 million tons per annum from 3 million tons per annum at the Kalinganagar site, which underwent this expansion at an investment of Rs 27.000 crore.

The new blast furnace

Nadda calls for regulatory norms for lab-grown meat

New Delhi: Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Friday stressed the need for rigorous food safety standards and an adaptable regulatory framework to address innovative food trends such as plant-based

proteins, insect proteins, and lab-grown meat. Speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day global food regulators summit in the national capital, Nadda emphasised the importance of widespread adoption of organic farming globally to mitigate the risks posed by pesticide residues in food.

The minister expressed concern over recent reports revealing an "alarming presence of microplastics in humans" and highlighted India's efforts in developing eco-friendly packaging to reduce environmental impact.

"The rapid globalisation,

technological advancements and evolving consumer preferences are reshaping our food systems at an unprecedented pace. We face a complex area of challenge from persistent foodborne illness and emerging concerns such as nutraceutical safety, novel foods and microplastics in our food chain while striving for sustainability," Nadda said. He added that the role of

food regulators has never

been more crucial. demanding continuous collaboration, relentless innovation, and a commitment to constant improvement in food safety systems.

Nadda called for greater adoption of organic farming globally, stating, "India's efforts in promoting organic farming, an alternative pest control method, are steps in the right direction. But more widespread adoption is needed ards, enhancing its global position in trade.

Food Minister Prahlad Joshi emphasised the importance of quality food, quoting the Bhagavad Gita, and highlighted government efforts to distribute free grains to 80 crore poor people, promote rice fortification to address malnutrition and strengthen food quality testing labs across the country.

-PTI

BSE SENSEX	TOP GAINER September 20, 202	100 8 12	BSE SENSEX	TOP LOSER: September 20, 202	- 10 M G
%		POINTS	%		POINTS
10177 ICICI Bank		1340.25	-0.33 IndusInd Bank		1479.20
+3.66 35	SW Steel	981.85	-0.27	TCS	4285.30
+3.07 L	T	3795.55	-0.07	Bajaj Finance	7582.65
here	harti Airtel	1712.30		Doublet by	BISE
10-	lestle India	2699.60	TOPUT	5,8996 15	8 704
	industan Unilever	2972.25	3500		-E
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	ech Mahindra 🔇	1626.70	Harrow .	and the second s	FA

Tata to develop wind-solar project

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) will develop a 400MW wind-solar hybrid project in Maharashtra as per the letter awarded by Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd (MESDCL).

The letter of award (LoA) to Tata Power's wholly owned subsidiary includes an original contracted capacity of 200 MW, along with a greenshoe option for an additional contracted capacity of 200 MW.

The project is part of MSED-

CL's broader initiative to meet the state's Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) and address future power demands at competitive tariff.

The LoA was issued through a competitive bidding process conducted via an electronically based reverse auction portal.

The project is expected to be completed within 24 months from signing of the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) between TPREL and MSEDCL and will play a crucial role in cutting carbon emissions, with an estimated reduction of 895 million kilograms of CO2 annually.

The electricity generated by the hybrid project, which combines solar and wind energy, will be supplied to MSEDCL, aiding the utility company in meeting its energy needs sustainably and enhancing Maharashtra's renewable energy portfolio.

With this achievement. TPREL's total renewable energy capacity now stands at 10.5 GW with 5.7 GW of projects in various stages of implementation.

Its operational capacity has reached 4.8 GW. comprising 3.8 GW of solar and 1 GW of wind energy projects.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I truly regret the fact that we missed being present at Anna's funeral. This is completely alien to our culture. It has never happened before; it will never happen



again. I am absolutely committed to nurturing a harmonious workplace, and I will not rest until that objective is accomplished."

- Rajiv Memani, Chairman, EY India

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THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 **MUMBAI**

NATIONAL

Police officer lowered down my pants, his as well

Woman recounts the horror she faced in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: A woman friend of an Army officer, who was arrested in Bhubaneswar for allegedly misbehaving with the police, claimed that she was sexually harassed after being taken into custody.

The woman, arrested by personnel of the Bharatpur Police Station on September 15, was on Thursday released on bail granted by the high court.

Speaking to reporters, the woman said she was returning home with her friend, the Army officer, after closing her restaurant late at night when some men allegedly misbehaved with them

Following that, they went to the Bharatpur Police Station to seek help, she said.

"When we reached the police station to lodge a complaint, a woman constable was there in civil dress. We approached her to lodge our complaint and send a patrol vehicle to arrest the miscreants. Instead of helping us, she abused me," the woman alleged.

The woman, who is at present undergoing treatment at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar, said some more personnel arrived at the police station and asked her friend to write a complaint.

"I don't know what happened, they put him in the lockup. When I raised the voice that they cannot put an Army officer in custody as it is unlawful, two female officers started physically assaulting me," she alleged.

The woman said she tried to fight back and bit on the hand of female police personnel when she tried to get hold of her neck.

The police personnel then put her in a room after tying her hands and legs,



Former Odisha Chief Minister and BJD president Naveen Patnaik on Friday demanded a judicial inquiry into the alleged sexual harassment of a woman in police custody.

Patnaik, the leader of opposition in the assembly, condemned the incident and termed it as "very shocking". He said that the incident indicates "incompetence" of the BJP government in the state.

she alleged.

"After some time, a male officer opened the doors and kicked on my breasts several times. He lowered down my pants and his as well. Showing his private part, he asked me how much time you want to remain silent," she alleged.

Taking suo motu cognisance of the incident, the National Commission for Women sought an action taken report from the DGP. "A formal letter has been

sent to the DGP, requesting an action taken report

Crime branch registers case

The Crime Branch of the Odisha Police on Friday registered a case against former **Bharatpur Police** Station inspector-incharge Dinakrushna Mishra, sub-inspectors Baisalini Panda, Salilamayee Sahoo, Sagarika Rath and constable Balaram Hansda. Notably, the Odisha Police had on Wednesday suspended the five personnel in connection with the alleged assault of an army officer and "molestation" of his fiancé at Bharatpur **Police Station in** Bhubaneswar.

within 3 days. Urgent disciplinary action is expected,' the NCW posted on X.

Meanwhile, a case was registered at the Chandaka Police Station against unidentified persons who allegedly misbehaved with the Army officer and the woman. -PTI



BJP workers protest against Congress MP and LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Friday.

objectionable comments

New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Friday took suo motu cognisance of alleged controversial and objectionable comments made by a Karnataka High Court judge against a woman lawyer during court proceedings.

A five-judge bench comprising senior judges, including Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, assembled in the morning to take cognisance of the comments made by Justice Vedavyasachar Srishananda of the high court during judicial proceedings. The bench sought a report from the high court on the com-

ments of the judge. "We may lay down some basic guidelines," the bench, which also comprised Justices Sanjiv Khanna, BR Gavai, Surya Kant and Hrishikesh Roy.

SC notes Judge's **Ayodhya mosque trust** disbands committees

By Manish Chandra Pandey

Lucknow : The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (IICF), set up by the Sunni Central Waqf Board to oversee the construction of the Dhannipur mosque in Ayodhya, has dissolved four committees, including one meant for the shrine's development, as it looks to speed up resource mobilisation for the project that has been hit by a severe fund crunch.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the IICF, its chief trustee and Sunni Central Waqf Board chairman Zufar Faruqi, who chaired the meet in Lucknow on Thursday, told PTI.

The IICF is now focused on "better coordination" and speeding up the process of securing the mandatory clearances under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), after which it would be able to seek donations from the

community overseas, members of the trust said.

The IICF members admitted that it is "rather embarrassing" that only about "Rs 1 crore have been raised in the last four years", since a five-acre plot was allotted in Dhannipur village of Ayodhya district in Uttar Pradesh as the new site for a mosque that was pulled down by a mob on December 6, 1992. "The trust furnished all necessary details in this regard to the Centre in March and

now, the entire focus is on speeding up the mosqueconstruction project by securing the necessary clearances," IICF secretary Athar Husain told PTI.

No reason was assigned for the move but the IICF members said the decision is aimed at ensuring "better focus" on securing the clearances so that the mosqueconstruction project that has virtually been in limbo takes off.

AAP wants govt house for Kejriwa

New Delhi: A day after it announced that Arvind Kejriwal will move out of the government bungalow the Aam Aadmi Party on Friday demanded a government accommodation for the outgoing Delhi Chief Minister. The party said he is entitled to it on account of being the convener of a national party.

Kejriwal, who resigned as the chief minister of Delhi earlier this week, will move out of the official residence within 15 days, the party said earlier.

AAP Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha said every national party was entitled to two resources. an office and an accommodation for its head, to function from Delhi.

AAP became a national party following the Gujarat assembly polls in 2022 in which it got some seats and a good vote percentage, he said.

-PTI

ED raids ex Noida CEO Cash, jewellery, gold worth of Rs **-Z Cr Seizeo**



Lay down arms or face strong action : Amit Shah

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday appealed to Naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender, saying an all-out operation will otherwise be carried out against them. Addressing 55 victims of Naxal violence from Chhattisgarh at his residence here, Shah also asserted that Maoists will take their last breath by March 31, 2026, and will be eliminated by then.

from the country. "I appeal to Naxals to give up violence, lay down arms and surrender as the

to just a few districts of Chhattisgarh.

"The central government is committed to com-

New Delhi: The ED has seized cash, gold and diamond jewellery worth more than Rs 42 crore after it raided multiple locations linked to retired NOIDA Authority CEO Mohinder Singh and builders in a money laundering case linked to the alleged duping of home buyers' funds.

The federal probe agency searched premises in Delhi. Noida and Meerut in Uttar Pradesh as well as Chandigarh and Goa on September 17-18 as part of an investigation into alleged fraud by Hacienda Projects Private Limited, its promoters and directors and related entities

The fraud, to the tune of Rs 426 crore, was against home buyers of the Lotus 300 Projects in Noida, the **Enforcement Directorate** said in a statement.

Office and residential premises of the company, its promoters and related entities such as HPPL, Cloud 9 Projects Pvt. Ltd.,

Surpreet Singh Suri, Vidur Bhardwaj, Nirmal Singh, Aditya Gupta, Ashish Gupta and that of retired IAS officer Singh were searched, it said.

The money laundering case was filed by the ED on the directions of the Allahabad High Court against Hacienda Projects Pvt Ltd and its promoters for "diversion and siphoning off the hard-earned money of investors and home buyers and ultimately not providing them the promised flats". The Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police had initially filed FIRs in this case

The ED said cash and jewellery worth Rs 42.56 crore was seized during the searches. This included "unexplained" cash of Rs 85 lakh, gold and diamond jewellery worth Rs 29.35 crore.a solitaire diamond worth Rs

5.26 crore, diamond jewellery of Rs 7.1 crore and documents of property worth crores of rupees.

A damaged SUV after it crashed into a guardrail in New Delhi on Thursday. At least two people suffered injuries in the accident.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided that Naxal violence and ideology will be wiped out

militants in the northeast have done. If you do not listen, then an all-out operation will be carried out soon to end the menace," Shah said.

He said Naxalism is a threat to both humanity and the internal security of the country.

The home minister said security forces have achieved significant success in their operations against Maoists as the problem is now confined

pletely eliminate Naxalism by March 2026. Due to the policies of the Modi government, Left Wing Extremism has now been restricted to a few districts in Chhattisgarh," he said.

Shah said Maoists once had planned to establish a corridor from Pashupatinath (Nepal) to Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) but that was destroyed by the Narendra Modi government in

last one decade.

-PTI

Protesters to pay for damaging public property

Dehradun: Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen (Retd) Gurmit Singh has given his assent to a legislation that would enable full recovery

of damages caused to public property during riots or protests as well as the imposition of a fine of up to Rs 8 lakh on rioters.

The Uttarakhand Public and Private Property Damage Recovery Bill was passed by the state assembly last month and sent to the governor for his nod, which was received on Thursday.

Welcoming the governor's assent. CM Pushkar Singh Dhami on Friday said the law's strict provisions would serve as a strong deterrent for potential offenders who damaged public property during strikes, protest demonstrations or riots.

"The recovery of every paisa of a damaged public property will now be made

from the person responsible for it," Dhami said.

The purpose of the law is to stop people from damaging public property during riots, he added. Apart from full recovery of damage caused to private and government property from rioters, a fine of up to Rs 8 lakh will also be imposed upon them and they will also be made to pay for the expenses of the government staff on riot control measures.

SC's YouTube channel hacked

New Delhi: The Supreme Court's YouTube channel was hacked on Friday and showing videos promoting a cryptocurrency developed by US-based company Ripple Labs. A blank video with the title "Brad Garlinghouse: Ripple Responds To The SEC's \$2 Billion Fine! XRP PRICE PREDICTION" was live on the hacked channel.

ASI to resume technical survey

Bhubaneswar: Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will undertake a technical survey of the 'Ratna Bhandar' (treasury) of the 12th century shrine in Puri from Saturday. SJTA Chief Administra-

tor Arabinda Padhee in a statement on Friday said that the survey will be carried out on September 21, 22, and 23, from 1 pm to 6 pm. 'Kartika' month.

tions on devotees visiting the temple. The temple gates will remain closed for devotees during the survey work between 1 pm to 6 pm," he said. Earlier on September 18, the SJTA had written to ASI Director General requesting for completion of Ratna Bhandar's technical survey by September 24 in view of special rituals of the deities during Dussehra and

"There will be restric-

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The tradition and culture of democracy is to ask questions and have a dialogue. Even in religion, no one is above values such



as dignity and etiquette. The PM should have set

a different example, keeping the dignity of his post in mind." -Priyanka Gandhi, Leader, Congress

2015 Cash-For-Vote Case SC asks Telangana CM not to interfere

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday refused to transfer the trial in the 2015 cash-for-vote case, involving Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and others, from Telangana to Bhopal.

The apex court directed Reddy not to interfere in any way with the functioning of prosecution in the case.

A bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan directed that the Di-

rector General of the anticorruption bureau (ACB) would not report to the Telangana CM with regard to the prosecution of the case.

The counsel appearing for Reddy told the court that the plea seeking transfer of trial in the case was filed with a "political motive".

The apex court, which had earlier voiced strong displeasure over Reddy's comments on the top court



granting bail to rival Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader K Kavitha in cases linked to the alleged Delhi excise policy scam, said it was expected that all

the three wings of the Constitution showed mutual respect for functioning of each other.

The bench took note of an affidavit filed by Reddy, who tendered apology to the court, and said it did not wish to proceed further on the issue.

"Though we do not wish to proceed further in the matter, we may only put on caution all the constitutional functionaries --- the leg-

islature, the executive and the judiciary -- to discharge their constitutional duties in the spheres earmarked for them by the Constitu-

tion." It said no doubt that a right to fair criticism of the verdict was always welcomed but one should not transgress the limits.

The apex court passed the order while hearing a plea filed by BRS MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy and three others who had

sought transfer of the trial in the case from Telangana to Bhopal.

On May 31, 2015, Revanth Reddy, then with the Telugu Desam Party, was apprehended by the ACB while allegedly paying a Rs 50 lakh bribe to Elvis Stephenson, a nominated MLA. for supporting TDP nominee Vem Narendar Reddy in the legislative council elections.

ECOLOGY

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 **MUMBAI**

myperfectvoice@gmail.com 🔰 @my_perfectvoice WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

Inter-state cheetah conservation in 25 years

New Delhi: India aims to Conservation Authority on the build an inter-state completion of two years of Project cheetah conservation Cheetah on September 17, said while a new batch of cheetahs was complex in the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar likely to be brought to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary by the landscapes across Madhya Pradesh end of the year, they would be released into free-ranging and Rajasthan within the conditions over the next five next 25 years, vears According to the "Action Plan according to the 2023-24 annual

for Introduction of Cheetah in Gandhi Sagar", five to eight cheetahs would be released into a 64-square kilometre predatorproof fenced area in the first phase. with a focus on breeding.

"Both these landscapes, along the interstate border of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, are adjacent to each other, and the combined landscapes together can constitute the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar cheetah landscape for metapopulation management of 60-70 cheetahs after restorative measures, prey availability, and scientific management are effectively in place, as an interstate cheetah conservation complex within the next 25 years under the umbrella of Project Cheetah," the report read.

While authorities have been busy preparing the 368-square kilometre Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary for the next batch of cheetahs, the ones in Kuno remain inside enclosures that are only 0.5 to 1.5 square kilometres in size.

For context, cheetahs need much larger areas in the wild, usually over 50 square kilometres, depending on prey availability. "During July-August 2023, all the free-ranging cheetahs were

captured for treatment and housed in guarantine bomas due to health reasons and subsequently shifted to softrelease enclosures. Currently, all the cheetahs are in soft-release enclosures and will be released in a phased manner post-monsoon,' the report said.

According to officials, the animals were brought back to their enclosures after the deaths of three cheetahs -- a female named Tbilisi (from Namibia) and two South African males, Tejas and Sooraj -- from septicemia, an infection that occurs when bacteria enter the bloodstream and spread.

This condition arose from wounds under the cheetahs' thick winter coats on their backs and necks, which became infested

with maggots and led to blood infections.

Officials earlier told PTI that the unexpected growth of winter coats in some cheetahs during the Indian summer and monsoon, in anticipation of the African winter (June to September), was a major challenge in managing the animals in India during the first vear.

Records obtained by PTI under the Right to Information Act showed that India considered sourcing new cheetahs from Somalia, Tanzania, Sudan, and other range countries closer to the Equator or in the Northern Hemisphere to avoid biorhythm complications observed in big cats brought from Southern Hemisphere countries such as South Africa and Namibia. -PTI

Unsafe food causes 4,20,000 deaths annually

New Delhi: WHO **Director-General Tedros** Adhanom Ghebrevesus on Friday highlighted the critical role of food regulators in combating unsafe food, which causes 600 million cases of foodborne diseases and 4,20,000 deaths annually.

In a video message to the second Global Food **Regulators Summit in** Delhi, Ghebreyesus said, "Our food systems are facing increasing challenges due to climate change, population growth, new technologies, globalisation and industrialisation.'

He revealed that 70 per cent of fatalities from unsafe food occur among children under five years of age. -PTI

Pic: PTI

Worldwide protest demanding action on climate change

progress

report of Project

Cheetah.

The

report,

released by the

National

Tiger

New Delhi among cities to witness the protest which is part of Fridays for Future

New York: Activists geared up Friday for protests around the world to demand action on climate change just as a pair of major weeklong climate events were getting underway in New York City.

The planned actions in Berlin, Brussels, Rio de Janeiro, New Delhi and many other cities were being organised by the youth-led group Fridays for Future, and included the group's New York chapter, which planned a march across the Brooklyn Bridge

Increase in the carbon dioxide emissions from coal since 2019. That growth has been driven by China, billion India and developing nations tons

2.15 Increase in global carbon dioxide emissions from per cent the burning of fossil fuels in last six years

43 Required reduction to keep temperature increases per cent to an agreed-upon limit

climate action, at the same followed by a rally that organizers hoped would time the U.N. General attract at least 1,000 people. Assembly takes up the issue on several fronts, including More protests were planned Saturday and Sunday. raising trillions of dollars to New York is hosting aid poorer countries

Climate Week NYC, an suffering the most from annual event that promotes climate change.





A village woman walks through a flooded area to collect drinking water following heavy rains, at Udaynarayanpur in Howrah district of West Bengal on Thursday.

JJM reduced dependency on groundwater

New Delhi: Drawing attention to a shift in water source reliance, experts noted that the Jal Jeevan encouraging the rural Mission has significantly communities to actively reduced dependency on groundwater, moving from an 85 per cent reliance on groundwater and 15 per cent on surface water to a more sustainable balance of 52 per cent groundwater and 48 per cent surface water.

term progress.

She emphasized the role of citizen activism, engage in securing their

watches, blood pressure monitors, diabetic testing equipment etc. These also include communications

cords and cables, wifi

dongles, power strips,

power supplies,

uninterrupted power

supplies (ups systems),

Sources of generation and types of waste

WASTE TO BEST

wound bandages and multistoried buildings as a dressing materials, needles part of redevelopment and syringes, plastic plan! During all such tubing, catheters, blades, scalpels, human organs and tissues removed during surgery, placenta and other tissue removed during delivery of a baby, aborted fetuses.

A panel discussion focused on

achieving universal access to rural drinking water highlighting the need for innovative approaches and community-driven solutions.

During a session titled "Achieving Universal Access to Drinking Water in Rural Areas" at the India Water Week 2024, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Additional Secretary D. Thara underscored the importance of a unified approach to rural and urban water governance, warning against working in silos that could hinder long-

water needs and driving local solutions for sustainable water management

National Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Additional Secretary and Mission

Director Dr. Chandra Success Story Bhushan

> Kumar in his presentation traced the evolution of water discussing

management both globally and in India before t h e achievements of the Jal Jeevan Mission. Drawing

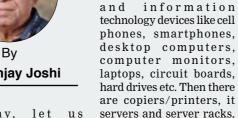
attention to a shift in water source reliance, the expert noted that the mission has significantly reduced dependency o n groundwater, moving from an 85 per cent reliance on groundwater and 15 per cent on surface water to a more sustainable balance of 52 per cent groundwater and 48 per cent surface water. -PTI



Dr. Sanjay Joshi

oday, let us types of wastes and how to get rid over of it. Waste Electronic and

This kind of waste comprises end-of-life electrical and electronics equipment and and gadgets which have lost there usefulness. These include a variety of home appliances such as toasters, mixers, refrigerators, electrical fixtures, bulbs and tube lights, heaters, fans, remote controls, television remotes, electrical cords, lamps, smart lights, night lights, Fitbit, smart



understand different **Electrical Equipment** (WEEE) or E-Waste

power distribution systems (PDU's). The list is unending! The medical facilities also generate the e-waste in the form of dialysis machines, imaging equipment,

autoclave, defibrillator etc. **Chemical Waste** Chemical waste comprises all the waste consisting of a chemical substance. Sources include industry, farms,

commercial enterprises,



and even housing. Cleaners, insecticide sprays, and coolants are examples of household chemical waste. If the waste is not recycled properly, both industrial and household batteries can be harmful. TV tubes, computers, and electrical appliance components contain chemicals that can cause chemical contamination. Lead and mercury from electronic components can seep into the soil and increase its toxicity in the soil and water.

Bio-Medical Waste

This is a kind of waste

generated in pathology labs, diagnostic centers, small and large hospitals, clinics, dental clinics, blood donation camps, veterinary colleges and hospitals, research laboratories in the pharmaceutical industries etc. Schools and colleges are also potential sources of generation of bio medical waste. This kind of waste is also generated in the houses where the patient is bed ridden and is getting treatment at home. Hospital waste includes cotton swabs soaked in patient's blood or other Construction; **Demolition waste**

In India, there is a frenzy of construction activities for variety of 'developmental projects'. Hundreds and thousands of kilometers of roads are constructed, huge tunnels and underpasses are created, taller and taller buildings are being constructed for commercial and residential purposes and so on and so forth.

For all such activities, lot of excavation is done which generates this type of waste in huge volumes. Old, dilapidated buildings are demolished , to be body fluids, discarded replaced by very tall,

activities, lot of cement and concrete debris, bricks, stones, sand, glass, wood, large packaging cabinets, and plastic building materials comprise construction and demolition waste.

This waste, if not managed properly and systematically, ends up along the highways and even into the waterbodies causing severe damage to the environment.

Radioactive waste

This is a byproduct of nuclear reactors, fuel processing plants, hospitals and research facilities. Radioactive waste is also generated while decommissioning and dismantling nuclear reactors and other nuclear facilities.

(The writer is an environment expert. Views personal.)

Brazil drought likely to push coffee prices higher

Caconde (Brazil): Silvio Almeida's coffee plantation sits at an ideal altitude on a Brazilian hillside, whose clay-rich soil does well at retaining moisture from rainfall and a nearby reservoir.

Lately, though, water is scarce on Almeida's modest farm in Caconde, a town in one of Sao Paulo state's key growing regions. He can't get his coffee to grow the way it should.

In Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer, Almeida and other farmers have started grappling with the nation's worst drought in more than seven decades and above-average temperatures. Almeida expected to harvest 120 sacks of coffee beans this harvest season, but instead managed just 100.

"Given the conditions here, the 2025 crop is already affected," he told The Associated Press. pointing to a part of his plantation where flower buds died before blooming. "I won't say it's doomed, because with God anything is possible. But based on

the situation, it's already compromised." Brazil's harvest season

that ends this month was virtually flat from last



Smoke rises from fire in the environmentally protected area of Brasilia National Park during the dry season in Brasilia, Brazil. Pic:AP/PT

year, and exports surged, Studies on Applied Economics at the but the ongoing drought is already complicating the University of Sao Paulo's start of the 2025/2026 agribusiness school.

At the same time, season, according to a report Monday by the Vietnam, the world's Center for Advanced second-biggest coffee

Coffee prices haven't reached the record highs the world saw in the late 1970s, after a severe frost wiped out 70 per cent of Brazil's coffee plants. But they have been soaring in recent years. In August, the International Coffee Organization's Composite Indicator Price – which combines the price of several types of green coffee beans – averaged \$2.38 per pound, up nearly 55 per cent from the same month a year ago.

producer, is experiencing report.

heat and drought, affecting its crops. Potential supply monitoring how Brazilian shortages in both coffee plants endure these countries have started adverse climate conditions. driving up global coffee prices, according to the stop blooming, fail to turn

into cherries or produce lower-quality beans, said Felippe Serigati, who coordinates the master's program in agribusiness at the Getulio Vargas Foundation, a university in Sao Paulo.

"It could result in a smaller coffee harvest," Serigati said. "Since the market tends to anticipate these movements, we've already seen the price of arabica coffee in New York and robusta (coffee) in The market is closely Europe trading at higher levels.

In part, prices are rising because of higher demand, which can cause flowers to particularly in Asia. But weather is also driving

increases. Drought, frost and fire have damaged as much as one-fifth of arabica coffee producers' growing areas in Brazil, said Billy Roberts, a senior economist for food and beverage at Coloradobased CoBank.

"It's not looking like it will get that much better in the near term. They will need consistent rainfall to recover." he said.

Uncontrolled, manmade wildfires across Brazil have lately been ravaging protected areas and farms. One of them ripped through Caconde last week.

GLOBAL

Device Attacks In Lebanon

Israel had warned US but gave no details on strikes

Washington: Israel warned US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin in a call Tuesday that a military operation was going to take place in Lebanon but gave no details, US officials said Thursday. The same day of the call, in an attack widely blamed on Israel, thousands of pagers belonging to Hezbollah militants exploded.

The call was one of four between Austin and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant this week as attacks have spiked between Israel and Hezbollah, fuelling worries that they could escalate into a wider regional war. The two spoke again later Tuesday, and the US has acknowledged being briefed following the attack. There was another call Wednesday, and they also spoke Sunday, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private talks.

The officials said the US did not get advance warning of the second wave of attacks, with walkie-talkie radios targeted Wednesday. At least 37 people were killed, including two children, and some 3,000 wounded in the two days of explosions.

ies in the region, Singh The officials stressed said. Austin "emphasised that the US played no role the US commitment to dein the attacks and said they terring regional adversarwere surprised by the speies, deescalating tensions cifics of the operations. across the region, and reaffirmed the priority of

The attacks on electronic devices this week appeared



to be the culmination of a that would bring home hosmonthslong operation by tages held by Hamas," she Israel to target as many said

Hezbollah members as pos-He also pushed for a dipsible all at once — but civillomatic solution that would ians were also hit.Pentagon allow civilians on both sides of Israel's northern spokeswoman Sabrina Singh on Thursday acborder with Lebanon to reknowledged the four calls turn to their homes, Singh but did not provide timesaid. lines of when they hap-Asked about the potenpened. She said the US has

tial for a US military evacuation of American citizens in Lebanon, Singh said the Pentagon has not gotten a request from the State Department to do that. State did urge US citizens in Lebanon to maintain a low profile and review their security awareness in alerts this week. State Department and White House officials say there are longstanding contingency plans for the potential evacuation of Americans in Lebanon but they have no information to suggest that those will become operational anytime soon -AP

Nine killed in **B'desh communal** violence in Aug

Dhaka: At least nine people have been killed and 69 places of worship attacked and vandalised in more than 2.000 incidents of communal violence between August 4 and 20 in Bangladesh, a minority organisation in the violence-hit nation said on Thursday.

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad's leader Nirmal Rozario called for an independent and impartial investigation of communal violence under the supervision of the United Nations, the Daily Star newspaper reported. A total of 2,010 incidents of communal violence took place in 68 out of 76 districts and metropolitan areas across the country between August 4 and 20, resulting in the deaths of nine people, Nirmal Rozario, one of the vice-presidents of the organisation, was quoted as saying by the paper.

Giving details of the communal violence during the political turmoil that ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Nirmal said that 1,705 families were directly affected by the violence. Among them, 157 families had their homes attacked, looted, vandalised, and set on fire. Some of their businesses were also looted, vandalised, and torched, he said at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity. Nirmal said that these families are now living in dire conditions.

He said that Khulna division saw the most violence. where four women were raped. Out of the 1,705 affected families, 34 belonged to indigenous communities and the lands of some of the families were occupied. he said.



President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen (center) onboard a train in Poland on her way to Kyiv, Ukraine, late Thursday. Pic: AP/PTI

Quad Summit Significant announcements in maritime security likely

By Lalit K Jha

Washington: The Quad summit in Delaware will feature ambitious announcements in multiple areas such as maritime security, high-quality infrastructure and critical and emerging technologies to demonstrate the group's endurance, a top White House official has said.

US President Joe Biden will host Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese of Australia and Prime Minister Kishida Fumio of Japan for the fourth in-person Quad Leaders' Summit on

Saturday, September 21.

"This year's Quad Summit will feature ambitious announcements in the areas in which the Quad has grown and is used to working and where Indo-Pacific partners prioritise the Quad's delivery. These include health security, humanitarian and disaster response, maritime security, high-quality infrastructure, critical and emerging technologies, climate and clean energy, and cyber security,' Mira Rapp-Hooper, White House National Security Council Senior Director for East Asia and Oceania. told reporters at a news confer-

ence here This is the first time President Biden will host foreign leaders in Wilmington, Delaware, reflecting his strong relationship with the leaders, and their strategic importance, she said on Thursday. This year's Quad summit was originally scheduled to be held in India, but the venue was shifted to the US after looking at the schedule of the four leaders, she said.

Responding to a question, Rapp-Hooper said President Biden is very proud of the fact that the Quad has become a leading regional grouping, and he alongside of Quad partners agreed that the priority for the next several years at least should be focused on institutionalising the Quad and making sure it is strongly rooted in the Indo-Pacific.

At a separate news conference, White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters that there will be three individual leader greetings at Archmere Academy where the president attended school. There will be a Quad family photo. There will be two major events, including a leaders level meeting of the Quad and a newsy cancer moonshot event. -PTI

Iconic Churchill photo stolen in Canada, found in Italy

ian dignitaries on Thursday

Rome: Canadian and Ital- frame was not hung properly and looked different

not made any changes in its

force posture in the region

as a result of the recent

During a call Wednesday

with Gallant, Austin spoke

about regional security de-

velopments and reiterated

America's unwavering sup-

port for Israel in the face of

threats from Iran, Hezbol-

lah and other Iranian prox-

reaching a cease-fire deal

surge in attacks.



Six security personnel killed in Pakistan attack

Peshawar: Six security forces personnel were killed and 11 others injured in a terror attack on a security check post in the intervening night of Thursday and Friday in

death of six security forces personnel and injury to 11 others. An official source said a

clearance operation is un-

derway to neutralise the

tick in the incidents of terrorism in Pakistan since the Taliban took over the government in Kabul in 2021, dashing hopes in Islamabad that a friendly government in Afghani-

stan would help to tackle

militancy. Relations be-

tween the two countries

have lately become

marked the successful recovery of a photo portrait of Winston Churchill known as "The Roaring Lion," stolen in Canada and recovered in Italy after a two-year search by police.

At a ceremony at the Canadian Embassy in Rome, Italian carabinieri police handed over the portrait to the Canadian ambassador to Italy. Elissa Goldberg, who praised the cooperation between Italian and Canadian investigators that led to the recovery.

The 1941 portrait of the British leader taken by Ottawa photographer Yousuf Karsh is now ready for the last step of its journey home to the Fairmont Château Laurier, the hotel in Ottawa where it was stolen and will once again be displayed as a notable historic portrait. Canadian police said the portrait was stolen from the hotel sometime between Christmas 2021 and Jan 6, 2022, and replaced with a forgery. The swap was only uncovered months later, in August, when a hotel worker noticed the

than the others.

Nicola Cassinelli, a lawyer in Genoa, Italy, purchased the portrait in May 2022 at an online Sotheby's auction for 5,292 British pounds. He says he got a phone call from the auction house that October advising him not to sell or otherwise transfer the portrait due to an investigation into the Ottawa theft.

Cassinelli, who attended Thursday's ceremony, said he thought he was buying a regular print and quickly

agreed to send the iconic Churchill photograph home when he learned its true story. "I immediately decided to return it to the Chateau Laurier, because I think that if Karsh donated it to the hotel, it means he really wanted it to stay there, for the particular significance this hotel had for him, and for his wife too," Cassinelli told The Associated Press.

The famous image was taken by Karsh during Churchill's wartime visit to the Canadian Parliament in December 1941 -AP

Election officials leave a distribution center after collecting polling material for the upcoming presidential election, in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Friday. PIC: AP/PTI

Pakistan's restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province bordering Afghanistan, officials said.

Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to officials, a group of militants attacked the security check post in Mishta village at Ladha tehsil in South Waziristan district resulting in the

threat. The attack comes amidst rising tensions in the region. The TTP has been active in the area, with several similar attacks targeting security forces

from sanctuaries in Af-

ghanistan, a claim denied

by the Afghan Taliban.

strained, largely because of the TTP but also due to The Pakistani governfrequent border ment has repeatedly acskirmishes. cused the TTP of operating

The TTP was set up as an umbrella group of several militant outfits in 2007.-PTI

in Netherlands

The Hague: The Dutch po-

lice have begun search for

witnesses as they investigat-

ed a stabbing in which one

man was killed and another

seriously wounded in the port

There has been an up-

Stabbing kills one In-person voting begins for US presidential contest Mob burns body of blasphemy accused

In a fist, Kirtan recognised as 'Sikh Sacred Music'

Minneapolis (USA): Inperson voting for this year's presidential election began Friday, a milestone that kicked off a six-week sprint to Election Day after a summer of political turmoil.

Voters lined up to cast their ballots in Minnesota, South Dakota and Virginia, the states with the first early in-person voting opportunities. About a dozen more states will follow by mid-October.

The beginning of in-person balloting follows a tumultuous summer in Amer-

President Joe Biden dropping out of the race and being replaced by Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic nominee, and an assassination attempt against Republican nominee Donald Trump followed by another apparent attempt on his life just nine weeks later.

Across the country, local election directors are beefing up their security to keep their workers and polling places safe while also ensuring that ballots and voting

ican politics that included procedures won't be tampered with. Officials and ordinary

poll workers have been targets of harassment and even death threats since the 2020 presidential election.

Federal authorities are investigating the origin of suspicious packages that have been sent to or received by elections officials in more than 15 states in recent days, including Virginia.

As the start of early voting approached, Trump's rhetoric turned more ominous with a pledge to pros-

ecute anyone who "cheats' in the election in the same way he falsely claimed they did in 2020, when he lied about widespread fraud and attacked officials who stood by their accurate vote tallies. Trump has previously

city of Rotterdam. sought to sow doubts about A suspect was arrested afmail voting and encouraged ter being overpowered Thursvoters to cast ballots in perday night by members of the son on Election Day. But this public and police. There was year, Trump and the Repubno immediate word on the lican National Committee, motive for the attack, but powhich he now controls, have lice said Thursday that witbegun to embrace early. nesses reported the attacker

-AP shouting "Allahu akbar."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

I would be asking PM (Narendra) Modi to cease and desist from that kind of spying on Australian soil. Well, what I do is act diplomatically and have those



discussions, and that will, no doubt, be something that is raised.

Anthony Albanese, PM, Australia

By Aditi Khanna

London: For the first time in the UK, Kirtan is recognised as part of the graded music examination system, with students able to access a formal curriculum and texts for "Sikh Sacred Music" starting Friday.

Karachi: A mob has burnt

the corpse of a doctor who

was accused of blasphemy

and later killed by a police-

man in Pakistan's Sindh

province, preventing the

family from carrying out his

burial. Dr. Shahnawaz Kan-

bar was killed in a shootout

with police in Sindh prov-

ince amidst allegations of

blasphemy that prompted

him to flee near Mirpur-

khas, approximately 250 km

northeast of Karachi on

Wednesday.

Birmingham-based musician and academic Hariinder Lallie has devoted years towards kirtan taking its rightful place alongside Western classical music and ensuring the traditional musical skills

are preserved for generations to come.

Kirtan, the singing of shabads or scriptures from the holy 'Guru Granth Sahib', is a fundamental method of devotion and praise in the Sikh faith.

London-based Music Teachers' Board (MTB) will now offer Sikh Sacred Music as part of its globally recognised eight-grade music exams, providing students the opportunity to earn Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) points for the high-



er Grades 6-8 which are then recognised for university admissions.

'Our goal throughout all

this is to ensure that we preserve our heritage for generations to come," said Dr Lallie, a teacher at the Gurmat Sangeet Academy in the UK.

"It's taken 10 hard years of work to get the curriculum accepted and launched. It is deeply humbling but still fills me with pride that all that hard work has now paid off. That a Western audience is paying a lot of attention to what we have done and, most importantly, can appreciate that Sikh kirtan is no less than say

the violin, piano or any other Western contemporary music genre," he said. The Sikh Sacred Music curriculum comes alongside recognition of five Indian string instruments - dilruba, taus, esraj, sarangi and saranda.

As Lallie explains, almost 550 years ago kirtan was performed on tanti saaz or with stringed instruments. Over time, particularly in the last 150 vears, stringed instruments became replaced by the harmonium. -PTI

We lost a lot of our heritage during this time. In the last 25 years, there has been a huge drive pioneered by groups such as the Gurmat Sangeet Academy in the UK to bring back traditional instruments. Dr. Lallie, teacher at the

Gurmat Sangeet Academy

8 OPINION

Aditi Pai

n the middle of a particularly busy

workday, earlier this week, a friend

sent me a WhatsApp forward which I

grudgingly opened. It was a news report

announcing that a 26-year-old chartered

accountant working with a leading con-

sultancy firm in India had died. Her moth-

er accused the organisation of "stress"

over the past six months that could have

led to her daughter's death. Can mental

stress cause death? I am not sure. But

then, I do not have the medical credentials

to attest or dispute that claim. What I am

convinced about is that prolonged stress

can-and does-lead to various ailments

and as we know by now, most diseases

I have seen the impact of 'toxic work-

places' on my colleagues in a different

organization: a young lifestyle writer de-

veloped stomach ulcers after suffering

'intense mental stress' for three years at

the hands of a very difficult, demanding

and nasty boss. A young photographer

had a mental breakdown after having a

raise pulse rate each morning as she

walked in through the office door and into

India's toxic work culture,

which glorifies long hours

and cutthroat competition,

is fuelling a mental health

crisis, yet meaningful

reforms remain elusive.

originate in the mind!

EDITORIAL Sacred Scandal

controversy of monumental proportions has erupted in Andhra Pradesh, following a revelation that strikes at the core of Hindu religious sentiment. Lab reports from the National Dairy Development Board's Centre of Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF) have confirmed the presence of animal fats - beef tallow, fish oil, and lard - in the iconic Tirupati laddu, distributed as 'prasad' at one of the country's most-visited sites, the Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirumala. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, while making the explosive disclosure, has placed the blame squarely on the previous administration led by Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy of the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP). The outrage has been both swift and intense, compounded by long-simmering frustrations over religious appointments to temple boards.

This revelation has deeply wounded Hindu sentiments, as beef and pork are considered not only inappropriate but sacrilegious in Hindu rituals. Despite the YSRCP's denial of the allegations, calling them politically motivated, the lab findings have left little room for debate, forcing the party onto the defensive.

Chandrababu Naidu has accused the previous government of deliberate negligence in the sanctity of the Tirupati Prasadam, a matter of both religious faith and cultural identity. At a National Democratic Alliance meeting, Naidu claimed that his government had rectified the situation by reinstating the use of pure ghee.

Yet, this scandal goes beyond adulterated laddus. It brings into focus the appointment of non-Hindus to positions of authority within Hindu religious institutions in the previous YSRCP-led government. When Jagan Mohan Reddy was in power, the appointment of Karunakar Reddy, a Christian, as chairman of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) board (which oversees one of the wealthiest and most significant temples in the world) had raised eyebrows. While India prides itself on its secular constitution, the decision to place a non-Hindu in charge of an organisation managing Hindu affairs had stirred controversy.

When the TDP came to power after a landslide win in the Andhra Pradesh election, it appointed Jay Shamala Rao as the new TTD chairman. Yet, the larger question remains: why was a Christian appointed to lead the TTD in the first place, especially when Hindus view the management of their temples as both a religious and cultural duty? Critics accuse the erstwhile Jagan government of religious insensitivity, or worse, a calculated attempt to undermine Hinduism. This controversy also raises the broader issue of the role of the state in managing religious institutions.

For Naidu, this controversy provides a potent narrative to weaken his political rival. To the Hindu majority, this scandal feels like a gross violation, prompting questions on how such contamination of their most revered offerings could occur in a nation that prides itself on respecting religious traditions.

FRANKLY SPEAKING India's Toxic Work Culture: A Silent Mental Health Crisis

the newsroom. What did they do? Complaints to the management were brushed aside because the question was "how could long stressful hours lead to hospital visits?"

Work pressures have, indeed, increased over the years with greater competition to keep the top job, or rather, the job you have in hand. It is only in recent years that people have started recognising the impact of workplace stress on mental health.

There are studies that corroborate this. And conversations revolving around mental health are more open and prevalent. A survey done by Deloitte this year revealed that a staggering 80 per cent of the Indian workforce reported experienced mental health issues in the past year. Another study by the National Sample Survey Office found that over 60 percent of Indian employees grapple with stress at work. The World Health Organization's data shows how pervasive the concern is - it says that nearly one in four employees in India suffer from work-related stress.

The notorious 'burnout' is happening much sooner. High achieving professionals in their early 30s grapple with exhaustion and fatigue. The nature of the stress differs across geographic and demographic variations. If corporate offices exert pressure to meet deadlines, job insecurity is a factor in low paying, less skilled jobs. No matter what you do, you cannot escape stress if you work in India.

On a visit to Vienna a few years ago, I was fascinated by their 35-hours-perweek work rules. At 6 p.m., it was common to see people sauntering into cafes with their dogs to have coffee with friends; the parks were bustling at 5 p.m. And these were not retired seniors, they were all working professionals who knew when to cut off from work. India does not appreciate a work-life balance. Long hours at the desk have been glorified and hailed as 'professionalism.' Working weekends add to the scores during appraisals and going incommunicado post work for a family dinner or movie is a mark of 'not being



serious enough.

This cultural shift began two decades ago, as multinationals brought with them an American work culture of rushed breakfasts, heart-pounding deadlines and the belief that longer hours equal greater achievement and therefore, fatter paychecks. What has been overlooked is that a burnt-out workforce cannot deliver results.

India's burgeoning population means there are several contenders for the same skilled jobs leading to cut throat competition at various levels of the workforce. People in 'private companies'—or nongovernment organisations—are dispensable. A hospitalised employee can very well find his job changing hands; a new mother raises her infant while worrying about keeping her job.

Round-the-clock connectivity comes at a huge personal and mental health price. Late night discussions on WhatsApp chats and dreaded emails at 4 A.M. disrupt sleep and peace. The pandemic and the work from home culture it started also has its share of blame. A senior manager at an OTT major complained that there is no cut off time when he works from home. Mornings and nights are the same as midday. Mental health experts tell you that disconnecting and focussing on other activities helps the mind de-stress.

Rising stress, often silent and unspo-

ken, is a looming crisis. Few seek help, assuming it is temporary, but the toll on health, families, relationships, and productivity is severe.

Organisations lose work hours to absence caused by mental ill-health; productivity suffers even if the employee is physically at-work. Family and social relationships are taking a downturn and personal mental health is the biggest sufferer.

The change lies in new policies. In 2019, Member of Parliament Supriya Sule introduced a Private Members' Bill called the 'Right to Disconnect' under which employees can refuse work outside of reasonable work hours. Australia offers employees protection from professional exploitation through a similar law where people can refuse to work outside their stipulated hours.

India Inc. is gradually waking up to the new demands for mental healthcare with counselling sessions, wellness care leave, childcare facilities and flexible work arrangements. But the implementation should be in spirit and not only on paper. Government policies such as the right to disconnect will further boost people's ability to refuse after-hours work. Mental healthcare should not remain just lip service or a one-off human care initiative. Workplaces should be turned into safe havens, both, physically and mentally.

SATTIRE WITH SWAG



STATES WATCH Promises and Progress: BJP's First 100 Days in Odisha

Cash-strapped Pakistan faces USD 100 billion loan repayment in four years

ash-strapped Pakistan is facing a daunting task of repaying a staggering USD 100 billion external debt over the next four years, the government has said, an amount which is nearly 10 times its current USD 9.4 billion foreign exchange reserves.

The USD 100 billion external debt repayments from 2024 to 2027 are exclusive of any payments on account of the liabilities booked at the balance sheet of the central bank and the requirements for financing the current account deficit, according to a report published in The Express Tribune newspaper on Friday.

"Pakistan's external debt repayments for four years are USD 100 billion," Minister of State for Finance Ali Pervaiz Malik said at a meeting of the National Assembly Standing Committee on Thursday.

However, "the debt stock can easily be financed through rollovers or replacement of the existing debt with new one," Malik was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Malik's statement underscores that the government does not have a viable plan of paying back these loans except requesting the lenders every year to defer the payments for one more year, it said. The USD 100 billion external debt repayments by the federal government are 10 times more than the current USD 9.4 billion gross official foreign exchange reserves, the paper said. Director General Debt, Mohsin Chandna, told the Committee that the rollovers are mainly from Saudi Arabia (USD 5 billion), China (USD 4 billion), UAE (USD 3 billion) and Kuwait (USD 700) million.

The government's strategy to remain afloat by securing the rollovers has already started backfiring and also led to a significant delay in securing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) board meeting date, according to the paper. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) board is now scheduled to approve a 37-month Extended Fund Facility programme worth USD 7 billion to Pakistan on September 25 after these creditors finally assured to rollover the debt but only for one year. -**PTI** In a historic electoral shift, Odisha, a state long under the sway of the Biju Janata Dal (BJD), has entered a new political era with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the helm. The BJP, led by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, a tribal leader from Keonjhar, has now completed its first 100 days in power - a period that has been marked by ambitious reforms, symbolic gestures and the inevitable criticism from the opposition.

Majhi, a four-time MLA, became CM in June this year after the BJP secured 78 of the 147 seats in the state Assembly and ended the BJD's long rule of 24 years. The BJP's victory reflected the electorate's desire for change, with Majhi's admin-

istration pledg-

ing to fulfil its manifesto and accelerate development across the state.

Perhaps the most headline-grabbing move of Majhi's early tenure has been the opening of all four gates of the revered Jagannath Temple in Puri, a sacred site for millions of Hindus. On his very first day in office, Majhi's government made this symbolic gesture, which was followed by the unlocking of the temple's Ratna

Whether or not the BJP can deliver on its bold vision of a Viksit Odisha by 2036, the first days of the saffron party taking charge have seen a mix of reform, symbolism, and political jousting announced that Ayushman Bharat and Gopabandhu Jan Arogya Yojana will now be accessible at 27,000 hospitals - a dramatic increase from the 900 hospitals where these schemes were available under the previous administration.

The agricultural sector, too, has seen notable reforms. Under the Chief Minister Kisan Yojana, the government has increased the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy to ₹3,100 per quintal, a significant hike intended to support farmers who had long been marginalized. A new online portal has been established to streamline the process of distributing these funds, a move that aims to reduce bureaucratic delays and ensure transparency.

Despite the achievements claimed by the BJP, the opposition BJD and the Congress have been quick to criticize the government's performance. The BJP accused the Majhi administration of focusing more on symbolic gestures, like renaming schemes, rather than tackling the real issues facing the state.

The opposition has also pointed to the government's failure to control inflation and address unemployment while criticizing the lack of job creation in a state where unemployment remains a pressing issue. Law and order concerns have also surfaced, with opposition leaders citing high-profile incidents such as the alleged assault by the Governor's son and attacks on army personnel, which they argue are emblematic of a broader deterioration in governance.

For all the early achievements touted by the BJP, the true test of the Majhi administration's capacity to govern effectively lies ahead.

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Odisha

Bhandar - a treasure trove that had remained closed for four decades. These actions, aimed at showcasing reverence to Odisha's cultural and spiritual heritage, have been framed as part of a broader strategy to protect and promote "Odia Asmita" (Odia identity). To this end, a corpus fund of ₹500 crore was created for the temple's upkeep, with an additional ₹200 crore allocated for cultural preservation.

Beyond the symbolic, the BJP government has sought to reshape Odisha's governance structure. Majhi's administration reopened the Chief Minister's Grievance Cell, which had been closed for 16 years, signalling a renewed focus on public accountability.

On the economic front, the BJP has prioritized welfare, health, and agricultural reforms. Under the newly launched 'Subhadra Yojana, a women-centric welfare scheme, over 25 lakh women have received the first ₹5,000 instalment of what is promised to be ₹50,000 in financial assistance over five years. Health Minister Mukesh Mahaling

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THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 MUMBAI

on Thursday.

on Friday.

and Vishwa Shankhnaad Party, who

against the atrocities on Hindus in

Martial artists under the banner of Kalaripayattu Samrakshana Samithy

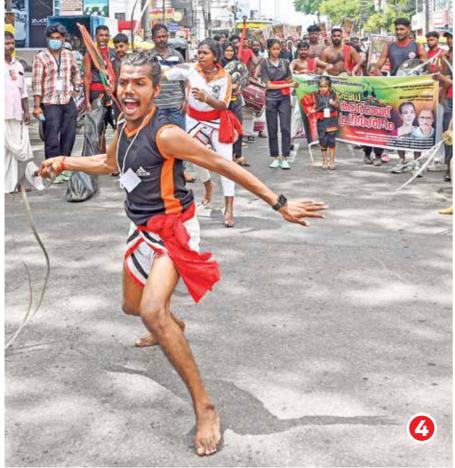
against the Kerala Sports Council in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday. 5 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath feeds calves inside the

India and Bangladesh.

3

REFLECTIONS











POLITICS AND PROSE The Fall of the House of Timur

Why new teen accounts on Instagram are a welcome step

EXPLAINER



he siege of great cities in modern history has made for some harrowing though memorable non-fiction narratives: Cornelius Rvan's 'The Last Battle' on the battle for Berlin and the death throes of Hitler's Reich; Alistair Horne's 'Fall of Paris' on the 1870-71 Franco-Prussian War and the Paris Commune; Harrison Salisbury 900-day siege of Leningrad and Antony Beevor's 'Stalingrad' come immediately to mind.

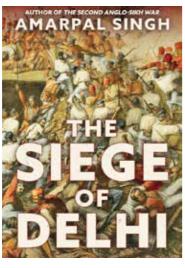
Today marks the 167th anniversary of Delhi's capture by the British and the end of the harrowing three-month siege of Delhi during the Great Rebellion of 1857. The siege, and the savagery of the British reprisal, found its passionate chronicler in William Dalrymple's extraordinary and polyphonic The Last Mughal (2006).

Dalrymple's opus used to splendid effect nearly 20,000 Persian and Urdu documents (in the National Archives) known as the 'Mutiny Papers' to provide a fully-rounded perspective of the Indian side. Whereas

Amarpal Singh's gripping 'The Siege of Delhi' is a meticulously researched account of the 1857 revolt, vividly depicting the British retaking of Delhi and the climax of the Mughal Empire.

that book was an elegy to a lost Indo-Islamic civilization, Amarpal Singh's book is a different beast.

A UK-based military historian whose previous books include definitive studies of the two Anglo-Sikh Wars, Singh's account of the siege, based on a careful reading of primary sources, is a model of focused, detached history. While the events of 1857 - with the violence of the rebels exceeded by the horrific British reprisals - make it hard not fall prey to passions, Singh marshals his narrative with admirable control and tells his tale with marmoreal calm



The relative peace between the capture of Delhi by the East India Company in 1803 to the revolt in 1857, and the EIC's efforts to pursue a policy of strict neutrality in social and religious matters was ended by the advance of aggressive evangelical Christianity into the country.

The Enfield Pattern 1853 Musket and the introduction of a cartridge greased with cow and pig fat united Hindus and Muslims and led to almost the entire Bengal Army rising against the EIC. When the revolt erupted, the odds were heavily stacked against the British government with only three European regiments stationed between Calcutta and Delhi 1.000 miles apart.

While Singh's narrative treads over well-worn ground, it is his interweaving of military strategy and high politics with gut-wrenching personal details of grandees, generals, soldiers and civilians which makes his book stand out. The twilight calm of Bahadur Shah Zafar's court - the last of the Timurid line - was shattered by the arriving sepoys from Meerut, and their indiscriminate plundering of Delhi. In Delhi, the rebels seemed to have an inexhaustible supply of ammunition guns thanks to the Delhi magazine. They had "more guns than gunners," as Singh wryly observes.

In stark contrast, the EIC's hastily assembled Delhi Field Force, dogged by a paucity of ammunition had to be hauled 300 miles from the magazines in Ferozepore and Phillaur in the Punjab and depended on the goodwill of the maharajas of the Cis-Sutlei states of Patiala. Nabha and Jhind which allowed the British passage of supplies, ammunition and siege guns. The 'Siege of Delhi' was never a siege in the conventional sense as for large periods the small British force on the Ridge found itself more besieged.

Throughout June to September 1857, the issue of whether the EIC could retain its Indian empire largely hinged on the ownership of the Delhi ridge - a strategic position cheaply thrown away by the revolting sepoys

The sepoys also benefited from scant local goodwill as they looted Delhi's populace while the lack of support of revolt in the Punjab was critical in tilting the scales for the British. Singh shows how the population of the Punjab had developed a special hatred for the sepoys of the Bengal Army, pejoratively called purbiahs ('easterners') after the end of the Second-Anglo Sikh war in 1849. Singh's rousing set-pieces like the Battles of the Hindun River, Badli-ki-Serai, Najafgarh and the sack of Delhi recall the excitement and striking clarity of the best works of Antony Beevor and Max Hastings. A compulsively readable account, 'The Siege of Delhi' belongs to the small shelf of truly accessible books on 1857.

\boldsymbol{O}

s the world debate the merits of banning kids under 14 from social media, Meta has announced a significant "reimagining" of teenagers' experience of Instagram.

These new "Teen Accounts" will be set to private by default, have the maximum content and messaging restrictions possible, pause notifications at night, and add new ways for teens to indicate their content preferences.

Importantly, for kids under the age of 16, changing these default settings will now require parental permission.

The move, touted as giving "peace of mind" for parents, is a welcome step – but parents and guardians should use it to talk to their kids about online spaces.

What's different about Teen Accounts?

Teen Accounts are a combination of new features and a repackaging of a number of tools that have already been in place, but haven't had the visibility or uptake Meta would have preferred.

Bringing these incremental changes together under the umbrella of Teen Accounts should make these changes more visible to teens and caregivers.

Among the main features:

1. under-18s will have accounts set to private by default, and under-16s will only be able to change that setting with parental permission 2. teens will only be able to receive messages from people they are already following or are connected to 3. content restrictions and the blocking of offensive words in comments and messages will be set to the maximum setting possible 4. notifications from Instagram will

be turned off between 10pm and 7am 5. teens will be reminded to leave Instagram after 60 minutes of use on any given day.

Some of these tools are more useful than others. A reminder to leave Instagram after 60 minutes that teens can just click past sets a fairly low bar



in terms of time management.

But default account settings matter. They can really shape a user's experience of a platform. Teens having private accounts by default, with protections around content and messaging set to their strongest settings, will significantly shape their time on Instagram.

Stopping under-16s from changing these settings without parental or guardian consent is the biggest change, and really does differentiate the teen experience of Instagram from the adult one.

Most of these changes focus on safety and age-appropriate experiences. But it is a positive step for Meta to also include new ways for teens to indicate the content they actually prefer, instead of just relying on algorithms to infer these preferences.

Do parents and guardians have to do anything?

Parents or guardians will need to use their own accounts for "supervision" if they want to know what teens are doing on Instagram, or have access to more granular controls. These include setting personalised time limits, seeing an overview of a teen's activity, or allowing any of the default settings to change.

The real opportunity for parents here is to take these changes as a chance to discuss with their children how they're using Instagram and other social media platforms.

No matter what safety measures are in place, it's vital for parents to build and maintain a sense of openness and trust so young people can turn to them with questions, and

share difficulties and challenges they encounter online.

Meta has said the shift to Teen Accounts will reduce the level of inappropriate content teens might encounter, but that can never be absolute.

These changes minimise the risks, but don't remove them. Ensuring young people have someone to turn to if they see, hear, or experience something that's inappropriate or makes them uncomfortable will always be incredibly important. That's real peace of mind.

Can't teens still lie about their age?

Initially, Teen Accounts will apply to new teens who sign up. The changes will also roll out for existing teen users whose birth date Instagram already has on file.

Over time, Mosseri and Antigone Davis, Meta's global head of safety, have both said Instagram is rolling out new tools that will identify teenagers using Instagram even if they didn't enter an accurate birth date. These tools are not active yet, but are supposed to be coming next year.

This is a welcome change if it proves accurate. However, the effectiveness of inferring or estimating age is yet to be proven.

The bigger picture

Teen Accounts are launching in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States this week, taking up to 60 days to reach all users in those countries. Users in the rest of the world are scheduled to get Teen Accounts in January 2025.

For a long time, Instagram hasn't done enough to look after the interests of younger users. Child rights advocates have mostly endorsed Teen Accounts as a significant positive change in young people's experiences and safety on Instagram.

Yet it remains to be seen whether Meta has done enough to address the push in Australia and elsewhere to ban young people (whether under-14s or under-16s, depending on the proposal) from all social media.

-The Conversation

10 | **SPORTS**

THE PERFECT VOICE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 MUMBAI

PACERS PUT INDIA ON TOP Hosts stretch lead against Bangladesh to 308 on Day 2

By G Unnikrishnan

Chennai: Jasprit Bumrah's artistry seemed incomprehensible for an out of sorts Bangladesh batting line-up as India took complete control of the opening Test with an overall lead of 308 runs at end of second day's play.

Bumrah (4/50) once again worked his magic in company of Mohammed Siraj, Akash Deep (2/19) and Ravindra Jadeja as Bangladesh were all-out for a paltry 149 in their first innings in reply to India's 376.

With a lead of 227 runs, India ended second at 81 for 3 with Shubman Gill (33 batting) and Rishabh Pant (12 batting) at the crease.

The rest of the six Bangladesh wickets were equally shared by rookie Akash Deep (2/19), seasoned Ravindra Jadeja (2/19) and Mohammed Siraj (2/30).

However, the beginning of India's second innings was not really bright as they lost skipper Rohit Sharma (5) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (10) with 28 on board.

Rohit was forced to play a slightly short of the length delivery from Taskin Ahmed, and the resultant edge ended with Zakir Hasan at gully.

Jaiswal was guilty of succumbing to the temptation of going for an expansive drive after pacer Nahid Rana pitched one full following up on a few shortpitched deliveries.

But the 28 for two was not really alarming consider-

ing the substantial first innings lead India had amassed by then. However, they needed immediate consolidation to further tighten the grip.

Gill provided that in the company of Virat Kohli (17, 37 balls) for the third wicket while adding 39 runs.

Gill played some delectable shots either side of the pitch, generating immense power and timing from his typical minimum-follow through of the bat method.

A short-arm jab throughIndia hadA short-arm jab throughIndia hadcovers off Rana for bound-ary was the standout shotary was the standout shotimmediatefrom the right-hander onto furtherthe day. But the Kohli's dis-missal, leg before to spin-ner Mehidy Hasan Miraz,tat to hil (17,late on the day slightly

soured the proceedings for India. However, on a day when a total of 17 wickets fell,

Bumrah, as usual, was the lead performer. The quick slipped into his elements straightway

and fetched India the first breakthrough dismissing in-form Shadman Islam, who shouldered arms to an in-cutter with disastrous consequences.

It was a dismissal where Bumrah set up Shadman with a few deliveries round the wicket (for the southpaw) and then came over the wicket to keep the length intact but subtly changing the line of attack.

That indecisiveness was

the hallmark of the rest of the Bangladesh innings, as Bumrah added the wickets of Mushfiqur Rahim,

Taskin and Hasan Mahmud to his collection. Centurion Ravichandran

Ashwin endured a rare wicketless innings but others stepped in for him, and Bangladesh too contributed with their timorous approach.

It was reflected in the dismissals of Litton Das (22, 42 balls) and the vastly experienced Shakib Al-Hasan (32, 64 balls). They were looking com-

They were looking comfortable in the middle during the course of their 51run (94 balls) alliance for the sixth wicket. Stan at Rawalpindi earlier this month. Brief Scores: India: 376 and 81/3 in 23

But Litton chose to play a rather needless uppish slog sweep off Jadeja that was grabbed by substitute fielder Dhruv Jurel, who came in for pacer Mohammed Siraj. Siraj had left the field for a few overs to tend to cramps. RR appoints Rathour as batting coach



Shakib's dismissal was even more bizarre. The left-

hander went for a reverse

sweep off a Jadeja full de-

livery and the ball took a

deflection off his boots en route to the big gloves of

Pacer Akash chipped in

with two wickets in as many balls to oust Zakir

and Mominul Haq which

hastened Bangladesh's

Before they collapsed in a

heap, Bangladesh had a few

moments of delight as they

managed to price out the

last four Indian wickets, in-

cluding Ashwin (113) and

Jadeja (86), to put a quick

Ashwin and Jadeja de-

parted after adding 199 runs,

which came off 240 balls and

189 minutes, across three

sessions. Taskin (3/55)

bowled better lines and re-

turned with the wickets of

Ashwin, Jadeja and Akash.

Fellow pacer Hasan

Mahmud added a fifth

wicket to his kitty in the

form of Bumrah to bring

curtains to the Indian in-

nings. It was Mahmud's sec-

ond successive fifer after

bagging one against Paki-

overs (Shubman Gill bat-

ting 33, Rishabh Pant bat-

ting 12) vs Bangladesh 149

in 47.1 overs overs (Shakib

Al Hasan 32; Jasprit Bum-

rah 4/50. Akash Deep 2/19.

Ravindra Jadeja 2/19, Mo-

hammed Siraj 2/30).

end to the hosts' first dig.

Rishabh Pant.

downfall.

Jaipur: Rajasthan Royals on Friday announced the appointment of former India opener Vikram Rathour as their batting coach ahead of the IPL 2025.

Rathour, 55, is the second high-profile appointment by the franchise for the upcoming season after they roped in Rahul Dravid as their chief coach.

Rathour served as India's batting coach in the set-up under Dravid as they guided Rohit Sharma and Co to victory in the T20 World Cup earlier this year.

"Rathour, a seasoned cricket professional, joins the Royals' coaching setup shortly after the franchise welcomed Rahul Dravid back as head coach," Rajasthan Royals said in a statement.

"It will reignite a successful partnership that elevated India to the top of the rankings in all three formats during their stint together, and led the country to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 title earlier this year."

Rathour has played six Tests and seven ODIs and has 33 first-class centuries to his name.

Malvika Bansod loses in China Open quarters

Changzhou (China): Talented Indian shuttler Malvika Bansod could not stand up to the challenge of two-time world champion Akane Yamaguchi, going



Ashok, competing in her first event since the Women's Open at St. Andrews, had a disappointing start at

Harwood Champions League revived

Mumbai: The Harwood



down to the fourth-seeded Japanese in straight games in the quarterfinals of the China Open on Friday.

Malvika, ranked 43rd, found the going tough against the world No.5 losing 10-21, 16-21 in just 35 minutes as India's challenge in the Super 1000 tournament came to an end. The loss comes just a day after the 22-year-old Malvika had defeated two-time Commonwealth Games medallist and world No. 25 from Scotland Kristy Gilmour in a roundof-16 clash.

This was the third successive loss for Malvika against Yamaguchi, the former world No. 1. The Nagpur shuttler was no match for Yamaguchi in the opening game as the Japanese took a massive eight-point lead at 12-4 before closing out the game at 21-10.

als of the with a two-over 74 to be tied riday. 103rd. With the projected cut set at one under the world No

With the projected cut set at one-under, the world No 66 Indian will need a strong second round to remain in contention.

In her opening round, Aditi carded two birdies and four bogeys, finding many fairways but struggling with her greens in regulation.

South African Ashleigh Buhai shot an opening 65 to take the first-ever firstround lead at TPC River's Bend.

Despite missing the cut in her last two appearances, Buhai's lowest round of the season gives her an early one-stroke advantage.

t A two-time winner and major champion on the LPGA Tour, Buhai won the

the Kroger Queen City Championship, finishing with a two-over 74 to be tied

> at set 2022 AIG Women's Open d No and 2023 ShopRite LPGA rong Classic presented by Acer. in in This year, the 35-year-old

is without a top-10 finish and is battling lingering back injuries and a broken toe throughout the 2024 season.

n Thai sensation Jeeno Thitikul and People's Republic of China native Yan Liu are tied at 6-under after t- rounds of 66.

Thitikul has had a successful season in 2024, with
a win at the Dow Championship alongside partner
Ruoning Yin and five additional top-10 finishes.

dvantage.Liu, on the other hand,
has struggled, missing the
cut in her last seven startsBuhai won theon Tour.

Champions League, one of the oldest football championship tournament in the country, will be revived on Saturday. The opening encounter to be played at his-

counter to be played at historic Cooprage ground between Kalina Rangers and Sponsors India Culture League (ICL)

The eight team tournament will be played till October 5. The prestigious Trophy was unveiled by former Air India player and coach Bimal Ghosh and former Mahindra and Mahindra player and coach Harish Rao both former Harwood League Champions in the 1980's.

Veteran Sports Administrator Nadim Memon has taken the initiative to revive Harwood League organising it in collaboration with Mumbai Football Association.



Formula One double World Champion Mika Hakkinen with India's Formula One drivers Narain Karthikeyan (right) and Karun Chandhok (left) during the inauguration of Madras International Karting Arena (MIKA) in Chennai on Thursday.



Leon (Spain): Indian lifter Loganathan Dhanush on Friday claimed the bronze medal in the 55 kg weight category at the IWF Junior World Weightlifting Championships here.

This achievement marks the first-ever medal for an Indian male athlete in the Junior weightlifting World Championships.

The 17-year-old lifted a wir total of 231 kg, also secur-

ing a bronze in the snatch event with 107 kg. in the clean and jerk section with a best effort of

event with 107 kg.thoInterestingly, Dhanush124competed in Group B, and124sat through the group Atotsession. The lifters withTothe highest entry weightseanare placed in Group A, fol-Inlowed by B and so on.Par"I got more and moreIn

"I got more and more nervous as it went on, but I never thought I would win a medal," Dhanush told IWF. He finished 13th tion with a best effort of 124kg. K. Duong of Vietnam took the gold with a total of 253 kg, while Tomari Kotaro of Japan earned silver with 247 kg. In women's competition, Payal finished 6th in the 45 kg weight category with a total lift of 150 kg.

A total of nine Indian athletes are participating in the event. **-PTI**

Indian men beat Iran to inch closer to gold

Women shocked by Poland

Budapest: The Indian men's team scored yet another thumping 3.5-0.5 points victory over Iran to stake claim for the gold medal in the Open section but the women suffered a shock 1.5-2.5 points defeat at the hands of Poland in the eighth round of the 45th Chess Olympiad currently underway here.

With their eighth victory in as many matches, the Indian men took their tally to 16 points and stretched their lead to a massive two points over nearest rivals Hungary and Uzbekistan with just three rounds left in the biggest chess event on the planet. World number four Arjun Erigaisi started the rampage with black pieces and crashed through the defences of Bardiya Daneshvar who proved no match for the Indian. World Championship challenger D Gukesh then put it across Parham Maghsoodloo with black pieces, swindling the Iranian towards the end of the first time-control.

R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with Amin Tabatabaei to make sure of an Indian victory and Vidit Gujrathi added to the team's tally as he outclassed Idani Pouya in all departments of the game to give another huge victory to the team. For Arjun, this was another step towards the 2800-rating mark as he took his personal tally to a remarkable 7.5 points from eight games. In live ratings, Arjun is now at 2793 points,



other step towards the 2800-rating mark as he took

and if he does cross the 2800 mark, he will be the 16th player in history -- and only the second Indian after

Viswanathan Anand -- to do so.

Taking a cue from Arjun, Gukesh made sure he kept closing in, and his victory took him to 2785 rating points. This is the first time ever that there are two Indians in top-five of the world rankings.

Arjun created early complications again, going for the reverse Benoni with his black pieces. Daneshvar fell for some tactical tricks in the middle game and could not recover.

Gukesh also won with black and it was another Queen pawn game wherein the Indian chose to play the Dubov variation in the Tarrasch defense. Maghsoodloo went for some unwarranted complications and was caught off-guard as the clock ticked away in the middle game. Soon, the Iranian parted with a piece for a handful of pawns but fell prey to an easy tactical stroke that ended the game.

Vidit Gujrathi went for
the Sozin variation against
the Sicilian defense by
Pouya and his attack was
simply overwhelming,
while Praggnanandhaa
took things easy to ward off
any serious counter play by
Tabatabaei.
In the women's section,

In the Women's section, the Indian team faltered for once as Grandmaster D Harika continued to struggle with her form on the top board, going down to Alina Kashlinskaya. This was Harika's third loss in the event.

Polish Monika Socko defeated R Vaishali on the second board in a technical endgame where the latter made some unforced errors while Divya Deshmukh fought very hard to beat

Aleksandra Maltsevskaya on the third board.

It was left to Vantika Agrawal to equalise and it looked like she had a complete winning position on hand. However, in to the sixth hour of play, Vantika made an optical blunder under time pressure and had to be content with a draw in the end with Alicja Sliwicka.

The Indian women's team was joined by Poland and Kazakhstan on 14 points apiece at the top of the table, while USA, Armenia and Ukraine are a point behind.

In the next round, Indian men will take on Uzbekistan while the women are pitted against USA.