

THE PERFECT VOICE



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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 sub-standard 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

allegations.

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.

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.

The TTD administers the popular hill shrine that attracts lakhs of devotees throughout the year.

CM Naidu had earlier expressed concern over the quality of ghee as well as Laddu and highlighted complaints of the presence of animal fat in the sweet, 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 politics. 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 order to divert the public attention, this concocted story,” Jagan Mohan Reddy lambasted.

“Is it fair to play with the sentiments of crores of devotees across the world”, Reddy asked CM Naidu.

All samples, tests and results mentioned in lab test reports as evidence occurred under the NDA government, he asserted.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu-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 quality-related deficiencies to the notice of the Executive Officer and TTD Board chairman but in vain

Israel strikes, Hezbollah hits 140 rockets

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



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar at the inauguration of Aviary in Jampore, Daman. Pic: PTI



President Droupadi Murmu at Shree Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain, MP. Pic: PTI

Congress run by ‘tukde-tukde’ gang, Urban Naxals

PM SAYS 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 Maharashtra organised on



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

completion of one year of the launch of Pradhan Mantri Vishwakarma Yojana.

“The ghost of hatred has entered the Congress. In today’s Congress the soul of patriotism has breathed its last,” the BJP stalwart asserted.

Modi also spoke of “anti-India agendas” of Congress leaders in their speeches abroad, without naming

that party’s MP Rahul Gandhi, who is facing flak from the ruling dispensation for his remarks in the US on scrapping the reservation system and on the Sikh community.

“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.

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

Big blow to govt’s fact check unit

Bombay HC says amended IT rules unconstitutional

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.

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 (Intermediary 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.

-PTI

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 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

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 of members of Gems and Jewellery Export Promotion Council

stones can be further developed. "Effective domestic co-ordination 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.

-PTI



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

India not 'abuser' 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 cent), Fish and fish products (35 per cent), Minerals and metals (187 per cent), and Chemicals (56 per cent).

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

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-

The Indian gaming industry is expected to grow to USD 8.92 billion 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 Delta's Gaming, 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



Mumbai: The rupee stayed 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

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 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 consecutive 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 index, 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

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 im-

portance 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

globally."

The minister announced that India has established a National Research Foundation with a budget of almost USD 5.9 million from 2024-28 to scale up research across various sectors, including food safety.

He also mentioned that India's AMR 2.0 (Antimicrobial resistance) is aligning maximum residue limits and pesticides with global body CODEX stand-

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

%	POINTS
+5.57	M&M 2952.25
+3.77	ICICI Bank 1340.25
+3.66	JSW Steel 981.85
+3.07	LT 3795.55
+2.84	Bharti Airtel 1712.30
+2.49	Nestle India 2699.60
+2.49	Adani Ports 1443.00
+2.09	Hindustan Unilever 2972.25
+1.99	HDFC Bank 1742.15
+1.97	Tech Mahindra 1626.70

BSE SENSEX

%	POINTS
-1.07	SBIN 781.90
-0.33	IndusInd Bank 1479.20
-0.27	TCS 4285.30
-0.07	Bajaj Finance 7582.65

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 (MSEDCL).

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



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.



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.

"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,

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-in-charge Dinakrushna Mishra, sub-inspectors Baisalini Panda, Sailamaye 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. Pic:PTI

SC notes Judge's 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 Vedavysachar Srishananda of the high court during judicial proceedings. The bench sought a report from the high court on the comments 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.

Ayodhya mosque trust disbands committees

By Manish Chandra Pandey

Lucknow : The Indo-Islamic Cultural Foundation (ICF), 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 ICF, its chief trustee and Sunni Central Waqf Board chairman Zulfar Faruqi, who chaired the meet in Lucknow on Thursday, told PTI.

community overseas, members of the trust said.

The ICF 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 mosque-construction project by securing the necessary clearances," ICF secretary Athar Husain told PTI.

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

AAP wants govt house for Kejriwal

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 42 cr seized

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 solitary 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.

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.

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.

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

from the country.

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

to just a few districts of Chhattisgarh.

"The central government is committed to completely 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 Pashupati (Nepal) to Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) but that was destroyed by the Narendra Modi government in last one decade.

-PTI

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 Administrator 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.

"There will be restrictions 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 'Kartika' month. -PTI

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 anti-corruption 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 Rashtira 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 Constitution." 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.

-PTI



Inter-state cheetah conservation in 25 years

New Delhi: India aims to build an inter-state cheetah conservation complex in the Kuno-Gandhi Sagar landscapes across Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan within the next 25 years, according to the 2023-24 annual progress report of Project Cheetah. The report, released by the National Tiger

Conservation Authority on the completion of two years of Project Cheetah on September 17, said while a new batch of cheetahs was likely to be brought to the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary by the end of the year, they would be released into free-ranging conditions over the next five years.

According to the "Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in Gandhi Sagar", five to eight cheetahs would be released into a 64-square kilometre predator-proof 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 inter-state 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 quarantine bomas due to health reasons and subsequently shifted to soft-release 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 year.

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 Ghebreyesus 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

Worldwide protest demanding action on climate change

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

1 billion tons	Increase in the carbon dioxide emissions from coal since 2019. That growth has been driven by China, India and developing nations
2.15 per cent	Increase in global carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels in last six years
43 per cent	Required reduction to keep temperature increases to an agreed-upon limit

followed by a rally that organizers hoped would attract at least 1,000 people. More protests were planned Saturday and Sunday.

New York is hosting Climate Week NYC, an annual event that promotes

climate action, at the same time the U.N. General Assembly takes up the issue on several fronts, including raising trillions of dollars to aid poorer countries suffering the most from climate change.

The New York protest was to take aim at "the pillars of fossil fuels" — companies that pollute, banks that fund them, and leaders who are failing on climate, said Helen Mancini, an organiser and a senior at the city's Stuyvesant High School. Youth climate protests started in August 2018 when Greta Thunberg, then an unknown 15-year-old, left school to stage a sit-down strike outside of the Swedish parliament to demand climate action and end fossil fuel use.



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.

Pic: PTI

JJM reduced dependency on groundwater

New Delhi: Drawing attention to a shift in water source reliance, experts noted that the Jal Jeevan Mission has significantly 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.

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-

term progress.

She emphasized the role of citizen activism, encouraging the rural communities to actively engage in securing their water needs and driving local solutions for sustainable water management.

National Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Additional Secretary and Mission Director Dr. Chandra

Bhushan Kumar in his presentation traced the evolution of water management both globally and in India before discussing the 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 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. -PTI

Success Story

Sources of generation and types of waste

WASTE TO BEST



By
Dr. Sanjay Joshi

Today, let us understand different types of wastes and how to get rid over of it.

Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment (WEEE) or E-Waste

This kind of waste comprises end-of-life electrical and electronics equipment and gadgets which have lost their 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

watches, blood pressure monitors, diabetic testing equipment etc. These also include communications and information technology devices like cell phones, smartphones, desktop computers, computer monitors, laptops, circuit boards, hard drives etc. Then there are copiers/printers, it servers and server racks, cords and cables, wifi dongles, power strips, power supplies, uninterrupted power supplies (ups systems), 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 body fluids, discarded

wound bandages and dressing materials, needles and syringes, plastic tubing, catheters, blades, scalpels, human organs and tissues removed during surgery, placenta and other tissue removed during delivery of a baby, aborted fetuses.

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 replaced by very tall,

multistoried buildings as a part of redevelopment plan! During all such 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/PTI

year, and exports surged, but the ongoing drought is already complicating the start of the 2025/2026 season, according to a report Monday by the Center for Advanced

Studies on Applied Economics at the University of Sao Paulo's agribusiness school.

At the same time, Vietnam, the world's second-biggest coffee

producer, is experiencing heat and drought, affecting its crops. Potential supply shortages in both countries have started driving up global coffee prices, according to the

report.

The market is closely monitoring how Brazilian coffee plants endure these adverse climate conditions, which can cause flowers to stop blooming, fail to turn

into cherries or produce lower-quality beans, said Felipe 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 Europe trading at higher levels."

In part, prices are rising because of higher demand, 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 Colorado-based 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.

-AP

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 paggers 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.

to be the culmination of a monthslong operation by Israel to target as many Hezbollah members as possible all at once — but civilians were also hit. Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh on Thursday acknowledged the four calls but did not provide timelines of when they happened. She said the US has not made any changes in its force posture in the region as a result of the recent surge in attacks.

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.

During a call Wednesday with Gallant, Austin spoke about regional security developments and reiterated America's unwavering support for Israel in the face of threats from Iran, Hezbollah and other Iranian proxies in the region, Singh said. Austin "emphasised the US commitment to deterring regional adversaries, deescalating tensions across the region, and reaffirmed the priority of reaching a cease-fire deal

The officials stressed that the US played no role in the attacks and said they were surprised by the specifics of the operations.

The attacks on electronic devices this week appeared

that would bring home hostages held by Hamas," she said. He also pushed for a diplomatic solution that would allow civilians on both sides of Israel's northern border with Lebanon to return to their homes, Singh said.

Asked about the potential 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 conference 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

Rome: Canadian and Italian dignitaries on Thursday 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

frame was not hung properly and looked different 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

Mob burns body of blasphemy accused

Karachi: A mob has burnt the corpse of a doctor who was accused of blasphemy and later killed by a policeman in Pakistan's Sindh province, preventing the family from carrying out his burial. Dr. Shahmawaz Kanbar was killed in a shootout with police in Sindh province amidst allegations of blasphemy that prompted him to flee near Mirpurkhas, approximately 250 km northeast of Karachi on Wednesday.

In-person voting begins for US presidential contest

Minneapolis (USA): In-person 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-

ican politics that included 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

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 sought to sow doubts about mail voting and encouraged voters to cast ballots in person on Election Day. But this year, Trump and the Republican National Committee, which he now controls, have begun to embrace early.

-AP

Stabbing kills one in Netherlands

The Hague: The Dutch police have begun search for witnesses as they investigated a stabbing in which one man was killed and another seriously wounded in the port city of Rotterdam.

A suspect was arrested after being overpowered Thursday night by members of the public and police. There was no immediate word on the motive for the attack, but police said Thursday that witnesses reported the attacker shouting "Allahu akbar." -PTI

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



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

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.

Birmingham-based musician and academic Harjinder 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 years, 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

EDITORIAL

Sacred Scandal

A 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 Yuva Jana 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



By Aditi Pai

In 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 consultancy firm in India had died. Her mother 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 originate in the mind!

I have seen the impact of 'toxic workplaces' on my colleagues in a different organization: a young lifestyle writer developed 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.

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 per cent 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-per-week 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 and going 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 non-government 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

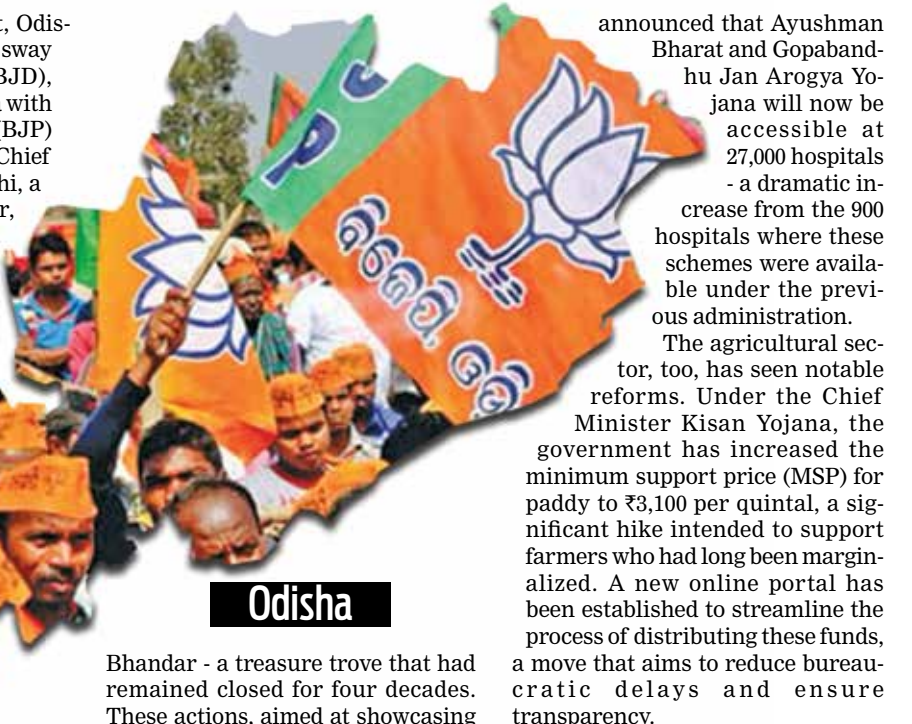
Promises and Progress: BJP's First 100 Days in Odisha

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 administration pledging 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



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

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.

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

Cash-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.

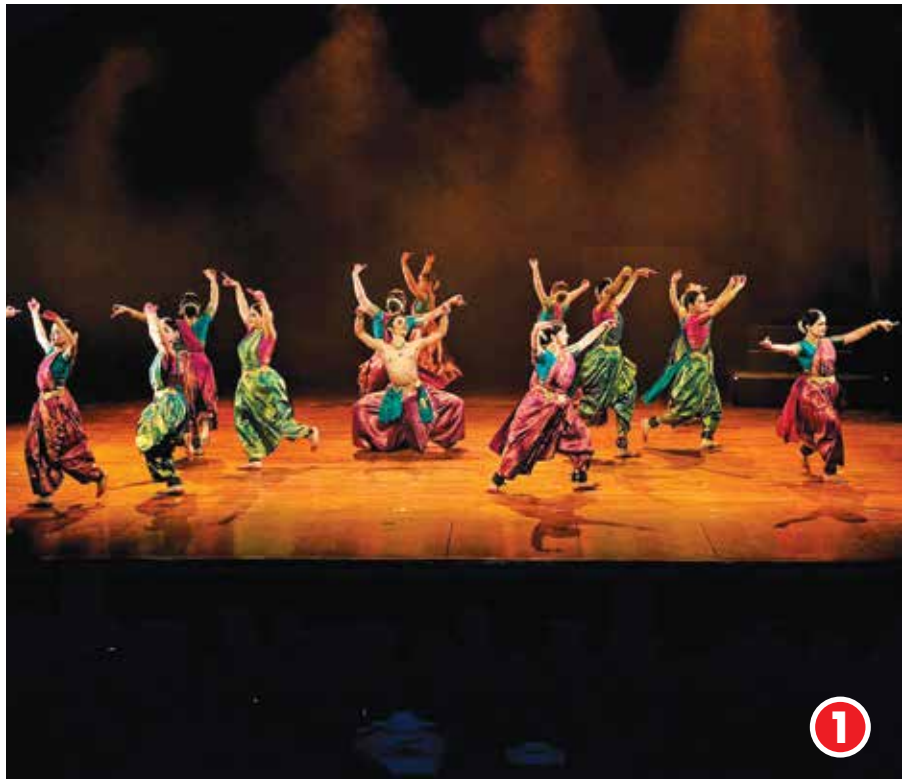
However, "the debt stock can easily be financed through rollovers or replacement of the existing debt with new one," Malik was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

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



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KALEIDOSCOPE

- 1 Artists perform during celebrations of 50 years of Ganesh Natyalaya, founded by late Padma Bhushan Guru Saroja Vaidyanathan.
- 2 Former Tennis Player Boris Becker (right) and his wife Lilian de Carvalho Monteiro (left) attend the Opening Night of the Laver Cup tennis tournament in Berlin, Germany on Thursday.
- 3 Members of Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha and Vishwa Shankhnaad Party, who reached Green Park Stadium to protest against the atrocities on Hindus in Bangladesh, perform Sabbuddhi Yagya during the first Test cricket match between India and Bangladesh.
- 4 Martial artists under the banner of Kalaripayattu Samrakshana Samithy display their skills during a protest rally against the Kerala Sports Council in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday.
- 5 Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath feeds calves inside the Gorakhnath Temple premises in Gorakhpur on Friday.

All Pictures PTI, AP



5

POLITICS AND PROSE

The Fall of the House of Timur



By Shoumojit Banerjee

The siege of great cities in modern history has made for some harrowing though memorable non-fiction narratives: Cornelius Ryan'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.

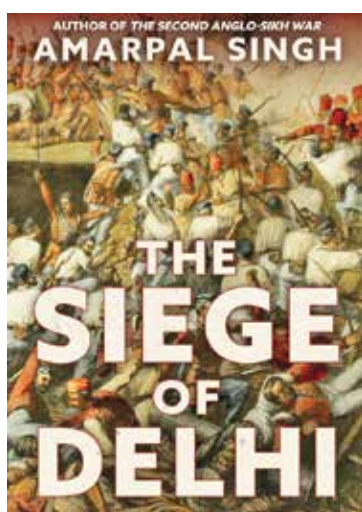
Today marks the 167th anniversary of Delhi's capture by the British and the end of the harrowing three-month siege of Delhi during the Great Rebellion of 1857. The siege, and the savagery of the British reprisal, found its passionate chronicler in William Dalrymple's extraordinary and polyphonic The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

terweaving 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-Sutlej 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-Sera, 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.

EXPLAINER

Why new teen accounts on Instagram are a welcome step

As 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

