

THE PERFECT VOICE



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Restrictions on 'dhol-tasha' groups stayed

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed a National Green Tribunal direction restricting the number of people to 30 in 'dhol-tasha' groups involved in the Ganapati festival, including idol immersion rituals, in Pune.

Having decided earlier in the day to take up a Pune-based 'dhol-tasha' group's plea against the NGT order for hearing at 2 pm, a bench comprising Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra also issued a notice to state authorities on it.

In a brief hearing, lawyer Amit Pai said that 'dhol-tasha' has had a very "deep cultural significance" in Pune for over a hundred years and it was started by Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak.

He added that the August 30 direction of the NGT will affect such groups.

"Issue notice... pending



next day of listing, there shall be a stay of operation of direction number 4 (on the number of persons in dhol-tasha groups). Let them do their 'dhol tasha'. It is the heart of Pune," the bench said.

The NGT had directed the Pune Police to ensure that the total number of 'dhol-tasha-zan' members in each group did not exceed 30.

Seeking an early hearing, the lawyer had told the top court that there was an

urgency as the Ganapati festival was going on.

In a bid to control noise pollution, the NGT had restricted the number of people in the 'dhol-tasha' groups for the Ganapati festival to 30.

The festival of 'Ganesh Chaturthi' began on September 7. It is celebrated for 10-11 days.

'Dhol-tasha' groups have been an integral part of traditional festivals in some parts of Maharashtra.

-PTI



The girders bridge connecting Mumbai Coastal Road Project with Bandra-Worli Sea Link, in Mumbai on Thursday. The bridge is set to open for public use from Friday.

Pic: PTI

Sitaram Yechury passes away

New Delhi: CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury died at AIIMS here on Thursday following a prolonged illness. He was 72.

Yechury had been in a critical condition for the last few days and was on respiratory support.

The CPI(M) had said earlier that the 72-year-old leader was being treated for an acute respiratory tract infection at the ICU in All

India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

Yechury's family has donated his body to AIIMS for teaching and research purposes, the hospital said in a statement.

Yechury was admitted to AIIMS on August 19 for treatment of a pneumonia-like chest infection.

He was critical and on oxygen support. Sources said he had a fungal infection in his lungs.

Yechury is survived by his wife Seema Chishti, an editor with news portal The Wire. He has three children – two sons and a daughter. One of his sons Ashish Yechury passed away due to Covid-19 in 2021.

His daughter Akhila Yechury teaches at the University of Edinburgh and University of St Andrews.

Yechury was earlier married to Indrani Mazumdar.

He served as a Rajya Sabha MP for 12 years, from 2005 to 2017. He became the fifth general secretary of the CPI(M) at the 21st party congress in Visakhapatnam on April 19, 2015, and took over from Prakash Karat.

He also played a significant role in the joint opposition's INDIA bloc. He was seen among the political mentors of Congress leader and Lok Sabha Leader of



Opposition Rahul Gandhi.

-PTI

Raconteur, convivial face of pragmatic Left politics – Page 5

Ready to resign, says Mamata

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday said she was "ready to resign" for the "sake of people" and expressed regret over the junior doctors' refusal to come for talks to resolve the impasse over the R G Kar rape-murder case.

Banerjee, who waited for nearly two hours for the agitating doctors to come for the meeting, said she also wanted the victim to get justice and apologised to the people of West Bengal for the continued deadlock.

"We have tolerated a lot of canards and insults for the last 33 days," she said at a press conference but assured the protesters that despite violating the Supreme Court directive by not resuming duties, she would not take action against them.

The talks were to be held at 5 pm in the presence of Banerjee as demanded by the protesters, who after reaching the secretariat around 5.25 pm, stayed put at the venue gate.

Banerjee said the meeting with the junior doctors



cannot be live-streamed as demanded by them because the issue is sub-judice and before the Supreme Court. She said her government had made arrangements to record it and hand over the recording to them with the permission of the apex court if needed.

"We have been waiting for over two hours, hoping that reason would guide the junior doctors... I apologise to the people who expected that the issue would be resolved today," she said and claimed that "external instructions" were influencing some junior doctors not

to engage in discussions.

Noting that around 27 patients have died and approximately 7 lakh people have suffered because of the ongoing 'cease work' by the junior doctors, Banerjee said, "I too want justice for the victim, but the doctors must rejoin work following the SC verdict."

Governor to socially boycott Mamata

West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Thursday said he will not share any public platform with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in view of people's outcry over the RG Kar hospital impasse.

In a video message, Bose also said he will also socially boycott the CM.

"I will not be sharing any public platform with the CM. I will take proactive steps against her for violating Constitutional provisions. My role as the Governor will be confined to the Constitutional obligations. I stand committed to the people of Bengal. I reiterated my commitment to the parents of the victim of RG Kar and also to those who are demonstrating for justice. In my assessment, the government has failed in its duties," he said.

In a dramatic turn of events, agitating junior doctors, who reached the gates of the state secretariat Nabanna, refused to hold talks with the state government unless their demand for live streaming of the meeting was met.

lowing the SC verdict."

"I am still saying that I will not take any action against them for not coming and making us wait for two hours. I will forgive them because as elders, it is our responsibility to forgive our younger ones," she asserted.

"I waited for three days for them to come, but they did not come... violated the SC directive. They have not rejoined work. But we have not taken any action as at times you need to deal with such situations with patience," she said.

-PTI

Imran set for street movement

Islamabad: Pakistan's jailed former premier Imran Khan on Thursday urged his party members to prepare for a nationwide street movement, saying that the fight is necessary to safeguard the country's freedom.

Khan was speaking to journalists at the Adiala Jail Rawalpindi on the occasion of the hearing of a case against him, The Express Tribune newspaper reported.

"Our movement is a jihad for democracy. I call on the entire nation to take to the streets to save our freedom," he was quoted as saying by the paper.

Khan accused Special Judge Humayun Dilawar of being behind his and his wife Bushra Bibi's imprisonment. "Humayun Dilawar was gifted land worth billions in return for his decisions against us," he said.

-PTI

For the sake of the people, I am ready to resign. I also want the victim to get justice, but this is not the way. We have tolerated a lot of canards and insults for the last 33 days. I thought the junior doctors would engage in talks for the sake of the patients and on humanitarian grounds.
-Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal

Verified badge for WA business accounts

Mumbai: With more businesses embracing messaging to engage with their customers, Meta on Thursday announced a slew of new features and programmes, including the full availability of a verified badge - a trust marker for small businesses to establish credibility and credentials with consumers.

At the WhatsApp Business Summit in Mumbai, Meta also spotlighted Artificial Intelligence tools for enhancing the messaging experience. To start with, Meta will make it easy to activate AI directly from the WhatsApp Business app to enable businesses to engage more efficiently

with their customers - it has recently started testing this in India, and says early results are exciting.

The US social media giant also announced customised messages on the WhatsApp Business app, as it pledged commitment to supporting the growth of small businesses in India.

Meta said the lineup of features and updates will help businesses across the country build a presence and create great in-chat experiences for customers while driving performance ahead of the upcoming festive season.

It also announced WhatsApp Bharat Yatra - an outreach to various tier 2 and 3 cities in India for offering



on-ground, in-person training to small businesses. Under the initiative, it will train small businesses in setting up their WhatsApp Business accounts, creating catalogues, and educating them on how to set up ads that click to WhatsApp, among others.

Meta India, Vice President Sandhya Devanathan

noted: "The way we WhatsApp a business has only continued to grow... The manner in which Indians are WhatsApping businesses is second to none."

According to the platform, the ease of WhatsApp has placed it at the centre of India's digital transformation, helping businesses with ideas and new models of growth.

WhatsApp presented various instances of how businesses are already using messaging to engage with their customers - from Max Life simplifying experiences for non-savvy digital users with vernacular chat support, to Maruti Suzuki tapping digital-savvy customers with What-

650 million – No of online users in India (social media and messaging)

200 million – No of people who have purchased a product online or transacted online

450 million – No of Indians have not shifted to online transactions just yet

65 million – No of plus small and medium businesses in India

5 million – No of small and medium businesses selling online

sApp Flows.

Meta said that the new features announced at WhatsApp Business Sum-

mit demonstrate its commitment to helping businesses maximise their value per dollar while providing ex-

With Meta Verified, businesses that choose to subscribe and demonstrate their authenticity will receive a verified badge, impersonation protection, account support, and premium features that help amplify their brand online and make it more efficient to chat with customers. The same badge will appear on their WhatsApp Channels and Business pages, making it easy to share on social media and websites.

Millions of small businesses use the WhatsApp Business app in India, and they frequently tell us that they want to stand out and build credibility with their customers. Now, Meta Verified is available to all eligible small businesses in India using the WhatsApp Business app.

ceptional customer experiences on WhatsApp. The verified badge would allow small businesses us-

ing the WhatsApp Business app to establish credibility with their customers.

-PTI

CCTV footage of bar visited by Sanket Bawankule missing

Nagpur: The CCTV footage of a bar from which Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule's son Sanket and friends had drinks and food before the latter's Audi car crashed into several vehicles in Nagpur on August 9 is missing and the DVR from the eatery has been confiscated as part of the probe, a police official said on Thursday.

Sanket Bawankule's Audi, which was allegedly driven by his friend Arjun Hawre, hit several vehicles in Ramdaspath in the early hours of Monday, leaving two persons on a moped injured.

Occupants of a Polo car that was hit chased down the Audi at T Point in Mankapur, apprehended



Hawre and one Ronit Chitwamwar and handed them over to police. Hawre was arrested on Monday night and later released on bail (at the local police station).

"The CCTV footage of

the time when they were at La Horee Bar (before the crash) is missing. We seized the digital video recorder (DVR) of the eatery on Wednesday and have sent it for forensic analysis," the Sitabuldi police station of-

ficial said.

The official said the manager of La Horee bar had, on Tuesday, refused to give the CCTV footage and other electronic equipment to a probe team.

"The bar management relented after it was threatened with legal action. However, we realised there is no footage since Sunday night. Further probe into the crash is underway," he added.

Although Sanket was present in the car, he was not at the wheel at the time of the crash, police had said earlier.

As per police, Sanket Bawankule had consumed liquor and some chicken and mutton dishes at the bar.

Three killed in chemical factory blast

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Three workers were killed and as many injured after a storage tank containing methanol exploded during welding work at a chemical factory in Maharashtra's Raigad district on Thursday, police said.

The incident took place at 11.15 am at Sadhana Nitro Chem Limited in Dhatav MIDC in Roha town, around 110 km from Mumbai, Raigad's Superintendent of Police Somnath Gharge said.

"The blast occurred in the storage tank of the chemical plant," he said.

Three persons, who had come from Uttar Pradesh for fabrication at the chemical plant, died in the blast, another official said.

They were doing welding work when the storage tank, containing highly flammable methanol, blew up due to a spark. Basuki Yadav (45), Dineshkumar Kharban (60) and Sanjeevkumar (20) died in the explosion, the official said.

Minister's daughter joins NCP (SP)

Mumbai: Minister and NCP leader Dharmarao Baba Atram's daughter Bhagyashri Atram joined the NCP (SP) on Thursday, despite attempts by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar to dissuade her from crossing over to the Sharad Pawar-led party.

State NCP (SP) president Jayant Patil and party leader Anil Deshmukh were present at the function held at Aheri in Gadchiroli district, where the minister's daughter joined the opposition party.

This development sparked speculation about a possible contest between Bhagyashri and her father, who is an MLA from Aheri, in the state assembly elections likely to be held in November.

Atram was kidnapped and held hostage by Maoists in 1991, who were demanding release of their supporters from jail. Sharad Pawar was the state chief minister at that time.

Patil said Bhagyashri didn't approve of her father's decision.

"We postponed her return to the party because we wanted to see if she is firm on her decision," he said.



Patil also said the opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA), comprising the NCP (SP), Congress and Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), will form the next government in the state and will fight to win all the seats it contests.

"We will work to provide employment to the locals here (in Gadchiroli)," he said, the 'adivasi' (tribal) youth will be given skills training to get jobs.

There is a shortage of Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) buses, Zilla Parishad schools, primary healthcare centres in the district, he lamented.

Targeting the govern-

ment, Deshmukh claimed that the "threat" to the Constitution still persists and that there is a need to stay alert.

- Bhagyashri Atram

12 booked for assaulting BDO's wife

Latur: A case has been registered against 12 persons, including the owner of a house, for allegedly assaulting and molesting the wife of a block development officer (BDO) staying as tenant in the property in Latur city.

Since June 2022, the BDO and his family were staying in the rented house at Chhatrapati Chowk on Ausa Road here owned by one of the accused.

The owner demanded a rent hike, but when the



family refused, he threatened to evict them, as per an FIR registered on Wednesday at Vivekanand Chowk police station here. On August 26, the ac-

cused along with his advocate visited the house and asked the BDO to vacate the premises or face consequences.

When the BDO's mother tried to convince the accused, he allegedly insulted her, the FIR said.

As the BDO's wife intervened, the accused allegedly grabbed her by the shoulder and pushed her back. Nine other persons also joined the accused and threatened her husband, according to the FIR.

Convict eligible for parole

Mumbai: The Bombay high court last week directed the Divisional Commissioner, Nashik to reconsider a plea for parole leave of 45 days filed by Mirza Himayat Baig, convict in the 2010 German Bakery bomb blast case, to take care of his ailing mother. The court struck down an earlier order that had declared him ineligible for parole leave.

HC asks Puja Khedkar to respond to UPSC plea

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought former probationary Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Puja Khedkar's response on a plea by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) seeking initiation of perjury proceedings against her for allegedly giving false statement and affidavit in the court.

Justice Jyoti Singh issued notice to Khedkar on the UPSC's application and granted her three weeks to file reply to it.



The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 26. The UPSC contended that the July 31 communication by which Khedkar's candidature was

cancelled was communicated to her on her registered email id the same day. It said it was the same email id, which was registered in her online application for the Civil Service Program (CSP) 2022.

However, she made a false statement in the court that she has not been served with the order and she came to know of it only through the press release issued by the UPSC, it claimed.

Senior advocate Naresh Kaushik, representing the UPSC, submitted that the

former officer even gave false information to her lawyers and she very well knew that she was making a false statement on oath yet she deliberately swore to the correctness of the false statement. "Making false averments on oath with the view to obtain favourable orders from the court, being a very serious offence, undermines the very foundation of the legal system," said the application filed by advocate Vardhman Kaushik. -PTI

CRIME WATCH

Nigerian held with Rs 1.65 lakh drugs

Thane: Police have arrested a 34-year-old Nigerian national for alleged drug trafficking after seizing mephedrone valued at Rs 1.65 lakh from his possession in Thane district, an officer said on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off from an informer, the police set up a trap near a hospital in Mumbra area and apprehended the accused when he arrived there on a motorcycle on September 8, senior police inspector Anil Shinde said.

The police seized 55 gm of mephedrone from his possession, he said, adding the accused was booked under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The accused, identified as Ifuni Genika Mike, was a resident of Kharghar area of neighbouring Navi Mumbai township.

Class 12 student leaves home

Thane: A Class 12 student from Sanpada in Navi Mumbai has gone untraceable ever since he ran away from home last week saying he did not want to study further and instead want to do a job, police said on Thursday.

The boy studies in a college located in Chembur area of Mumbai, they said.

"On September 6, he told his parents that he did not want to study any further and wished to do a job. He packed his bag and left for Pune before them. Half an hour later, when his family members contacted him, he told them that he was already on board a Pune-bound train," an official of Sanpada police station said. The next day, his father called him up again, but he did not pick up the call. His father then called him from another number. The boy spoke to him, but did not tell him about his location, he said.

Duo tampers with ATM, steals Rs 1.7 lakh

Vashi: Police have registered a case against two unidentified persons for tampering with an ATM in Navi Mumbai and stealing nearly Rs 1.7 lakh, an official said on Thursday. The two individuals attached some "label" to the ATM of a nationalised bank in the Old Panvel area and stole Rs 1.69,800 from 27 customers between August 27 and September 8, he said. Police, however, did not clearly explain how they stole the money.

Tigress released into NNTR ventures out

Gondia: A tigress released in the core of Navegaon Nagzira Tiger Reserve on April 11 has ventured out and has been spotted near residential areas on the outskirts of Gondia, a forest department official said on Thursday.

The tigress is among the three big cats that were released in NNTR on May 20 last year and April 11 this year after being radio collared, he said. "These three big cats were given identity tags as NT-1, NT-2 and NT-3. Of them, NT-1 moved out of NNTR and entered neighbouring Madhya Pradesh. NT-2 has settled in the reserve itself.

Sub-Jails can be used to reduce overcrowding

By Correspondent

Mumbai: In a landmark development related to the precarious conditions of the inmates languishing in the jails across the state, the Human Right Commission of Maharashtra has suggested to the state government that sub-jails can be used to reduce the overcrowding in mail jails across the state. Human rights panel has asked suggestions from the chief secretary, additional chief secretary as well as topmost officers of the prison department of the state and has sought their opinion on the same matter. Notably, the commission has taken a suo-moto case with regards to the overcrowding in

Thane Central Prison on September 2, 2024 this month and noticed that not only that particular prison, but all prisons of the state were similar. Registrar submitted a report that several places in Maharashtra, sub-jails were not in working condition. It also said that if sub-jails are used to house inmates, then some relief can be provided to the inmates.

Commission refers to study

Referring to a study with regards to the 'Sub-Jails in Maharashtra', Commission noted that the sub-jails that are manned by the prison department are in little better condition while those manned by the

revenue department, are being closed one-by-one. Referring to another study conducted by the Common Health Human Rights Initiative (CHRI), the commission said, "Study further suggests that suo moto action can be taken to protect the human rights of the prisoners in sub-jail."

Holding fact finding enquiry

Hearing the suo-moto case, commission issued summons the topmost bureaucrats of the state calling upon them to hold fact finding enquiry and submit their affidavits in reply before 14th October 2024. It asked them to study to find how many sub-jails are functioning.

Palghar siblings save two lives

Palghar: Quick thinking and a science lesson on conduction helped two school-children save lives after a high-tension wire fell on the gate of a neighbouring residential building in Palghar district, an official has said.

The show of bravery by Smit Bhandare (12) and his 9-year-old sister Sanskruti earned the siblings high praise. They were also felicitated by District Collector Govind Bodke and a police officer.

Smit was busy doing homework and Sanskruti was playing outside their home in Palghar town, over 100 km from Mumbai, when they heard a loud thud around lunchtime on August 25.

Smit rushed to the balcony of their second-floor home at Rushab Apartments only to discover that a high-voltage cable had snapped and crashed onto the gate of their neighbouring Vasant Vihar building, said a district official narrating the incident.

Smit later told officials that it was raining heavily

and he feared the live wire could result in fatalities as he had learnt about good conductors and bad conductors in his science classes.

The boy started screaming from his balcony, warning people against venturing close to the gate. His quick thinking and timely alert prevented 10-year-old Mohammad Ansari, their neighbour, from touching the electrified gate, the official said.

While Smit's father reported the hazard to the Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (MSEDCL), Smit and Sanskruti kept warning people asking them to stay away from the gate, the official said.

Their efforts also saved a delivery agent, who had arrived at the Vasant Vihar building, from getting electrocuted. After learning about the incident, the staff from the electricity distribution company disconnected the supply, the official said.

Besides being applauded

by neighbours and other locals, the siblings were also honoured by the col-

lector and a senior police official at a function on Wednesday, he added.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Such an incident (PM visiting CJJ's house) was unheard of. I was also surprised, but I have full faith in courts and the respected CJJ might have given it a thought before (inviting the PM)."



-Supriya Sule, MP, NCP (SP)

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank

इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

MAROL BRANCH: CTS/31B, Premier Emperor, Opp. to Awesome Heights, Ashok Nagar, Off. Military Road, Marol, Mumbai-400 072. • Ph. No. 91-022-8576500, 91-022-8576400. • E-mail: marol@indianbank.co.in

Appendix IV POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule-8 (1)]
(For Immovable Property)

WHEREAS, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Indian Bank, Marol Branch under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand notice dated 14th June 2024 calling upon Borrower / Mortgagee / Guarantor Munnidevi Amritlal Yadav (Co-borrower), Munnidevi Amritlal Yadav (Mother & Guardian for minor Karishna Amritlal Yadav), Munnidevi Amritlal Yadav (Mother and guardian for minor Rahul Amritlal Yadav), to repay the aggregate amount mentioned in the said Notice being ₹ 17,63,625/- (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Only) together with interest from 14.06.2024 together with, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. within 60 days from the date of the said notice.

The Borrower / Mortgagee / Guarantor having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and public in general that the undersigned has taken Possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with the Rule 9 of the said Rules on this 05th September 2024.

The Borrower / Mortgagee / Guarantor mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of Indian Bank, Marol Branch for an amount of ₹ 17,63,625/- (Rs. Seventeen Lakh Sixty Three Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Five Only) and interest thereon. The borrowers attention is invited to the provision of Sub-Section (8) of Section (13) of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Description of Secured Asset
All that the piece and parcel of Flat No. 404, 4th floor, Wing F, Building No. 01, Reliable Garden Phase I, Naigaon East, Village Juchandra, Taluka : Vasai, Dist. Palghar-401 208. •Boundaries - North : Access Road; •South : Open Land; •East : Reliable Garden; •West : Open Land

Date : 05.09.2024
Place : Mumbai

sd/-
Authorized Officer
Indian Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Govt. of India Undertaking

ARM BRANCH-I MUMBAI

37, Khsamalaya, Opp Patkar Hall, New Marine Lines, Thackersay Marg, Mumbai-400 020
•Email : cb2360@canarabank.com •Tel. (022) 22065 425 / 30 •WEB : www.canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

NOTICE is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below Described immovable properties mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the Symbolic Possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" basis on below Mentioned in Table for recovery of dues as described here below. The Earnest Money Deposit shall be deposited on or before below Mentioned in Table. by way of RTGS / NEFT / Fund Transfer to the Credit of Canara Bank ARM I Branch A/C. No. 209272434. Details of EMD and other documents to be submitted to service provider on or before below Mentioned in Table. Date of inspection of properties is below Mentioned in Table with prior appointment with Authorized Officer.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrowers	Outstanding Amount	Description of the Properties	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit
1	Borrower :- M/s. Maa Om Shiv Shaktee Agency (Proprietor Mr. Vinay Ghanashyam Lal Desai) AND Guarantors :- Mr. Kirti M. Kanakia, Mr. Nikunj K. Kanakia, Mr. Vinay Ghanashyam Lal Desai	₹ 2,89,04,09,341.86 (Rs. Two Hundred Eighty Nine Crore Four Lacs Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty One & Paise Eighty Six Only) as on 31.08.2024 plus further Interest & Cost from 01.09.2024.	Flat No. 102 on 1 st Floor, A wing in Jayant Apartment CHS. Ltd. situated on Sahar Road, Sutar Pakhadi, Opp. Sahar Air Cargo Complex in Andheri (E), Mumbai-400 099. in the name of Mr. Kirti Manmohandas Kanakia AND Mr. Ramesh M. Kanakia	₹ 40,50,000/ ₹ 4,05,000/-

E-auction Date is 15.10.2024 & Last date of submission of Bid / EMD / Request letter for participation is 14.10.2024 before 5.00 p. m.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Dr. Seema Somkuwar, Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, ARM I Branch, Mumbai (Ph. No.: (022) 2206 5425 / 30 / Mob. No. 8655963489) or Mrs. Rinkita Sodani Officer (Mob. No. 9413641701) E-mail id: cb2360@canarabank.com during office hours on any working day or the service provide M/s. PSB Alliance (Ebkray), Unit 1, 3rd Floor, VIOS Commercial Tower, Near Wadala Truck Terminal, Wadala East, Mumbai - 400 037, Contact Person Mr. Dharmesh Asher Mob. 9892219848, (avp.projectmanager2@psballiance.com), Help desk No. 8291220220, (support.ebkray@psballiance.com), Website : https://ebkray.in

Date : 09.10.2024
Place : Mumbai

sd/-
Authorized Officer
Canara Bank, ARM-I BRANCH

BJP trying to build collective leadership

By Abhijit Mulye

Mumbai: Churning within Maharashtra state unit of the BJP ahead of the assembly elections shows that the party is trying to build a collective leadership by recognizing contribution of old hands entrusting senior party members with key tasks ahead of the elections.

Former state BJP president Raosaheb Danve, who faced a challenge by Maratha quota activists in his home constituency, was chosen by the Party to lead the state's election management team. He was empowered by entrusting several other senior leaders like Sudhir Mungantiwar, Girish Mahajan, Chandrakant Patil, Vijaya Rahatkar, Ashok Chavan, Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, Ravindra Chavan, Praveen Darekar, Bhai Girkar and Vijaykumar Gavit to assist him in various tasks as part of this election management committee. Though this kind of exercise is not new to the party, the scale and involvement of



senior leadership in it has given it an entirely new dimension this time, said a senior state party office bearer.

Mungantiwar, who first contested Lok Sabha polls on party ticket in 1989 and was a member of the state cabinet between 1995 and 1999 and also headed the state party unit after Nitin Gadkari, is entrusted by the party to head the manifesto committee this time. He faced a disheartening defeat in the recent Lok

Sabha polls in Chandrapur. He was made to contest the election despite he wished not to do so. Hence, after his defeat people had started putting question mark on his political career. However, now with the new responsibility, his services towards party are being recognized, and signals are being sent out that he hasn't lost his place within the party.

Similar is the case with Pankaja Munde who is entrusted with

reaching out to various social organizations ahead of state elections.

Former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan has been entrusted with reaching out to farmers, while Vikhe-Patil is made in charge of committee to reach out to beneficiaries of various government schemes. Pravin Darekar is entrusted with reaching out to Co-operative sector while former minister Vijaykumar Gavit has been entrusted with reaching out to the Scheduled Tribe communities. Generally, senior leaders are set free for campaigning and looking after their constituencies. But, this time they have been entrusted with added responsibilities.

Involvement of Niranjan Dawkhare to head social media committee, Atul Bhatkalkar to head media committee and Vishwas Pathak to head committee for communications with the election commission too is expected to strengthen the party's activities on this front.

Milk vendor arrested for tampering

By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) along with the crime branch unit 12 Dahisar have seized 285 litres of milk and arrested a vendor for tampering with the packaging of famous dairy brands. These raids were conducted in Malad on September 7 where FDA has seized 10 samples of tampered milk and it has been further sent to laboratory for testing.

According to FDA officials, they had received a tip off of tampered milk is being circulated in Malad during Ganesh Festival following which raids were conducted.

"Around 285 litres of tampered milk worth Rs 17,028 has been destroyed after samples drawn for testing. Moreover, the machinery and tools used for tampering and resealing milk bags have also been seized. The pasteurised and homogenised milks of big brands such as Amul Taaza, Mahananda Cow Milk, Gokul, Amul Gold were being tampered," said an official.

NITI Aayog proposes 2X growth in MMR

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday released a NITI Aayog report aiming to more than double the economic activity in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) to USD 300 billion by 2030 from the present USD 140 billion.

Opposition Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray, however, wondered if the study by the Central think tank, coming ahead of Maharashtra elections, was a precursor to turning the city into a Union Territory.

The report, released at 'Sahyadri', the state guest house, in the presence of Shinde's deputy Devendra Fadnavis and World Economic Forum founder-chairman Klaus Schwab, said it is possible to increase the economic activity in the Mumbai region significantly in less than five years and create up to 28 lakh new jobs in the state.

It calls for investments across the megapolis, including by the private sector,

to make it possible.

The region needs to establish itself as a global services hub for industries like financial services, fintech, artificial intelligence, health and media, the report says.

The doubling of economic activity will lead to a rise in the per-capita income to up to USD 12,000 by 2030 from the present USD 5,248, it adds. Speaking at a press conference elsewhere, Aaditya Thackeray claimed that the BJP-led government at the Centre could be planning to turn Mumbai into a Union Territory, and hence this study. Our demand is that Mumbai must have its GIFT city which was stolen and taken to Gujarat. When we have our government at the Centre, Mumbai will have its own GIFT city," the former state minister said.

He also demanded an apology from Union Commerce Minister and Mumbai North MP Piyush Goyal for "promoting" Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) near Ahmedabad.

Coastal road-BWSL connector inaugurated

Mumbai: Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday said the coastal road is a game-changer and it will be extended in the future to Bhayander, Virar and Palghar, which would benefit the mega Vadhran port, the foundation stone of which was recently laid by PM Narendra Modi.

Shinde, along with Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis and other cabinet colleagues, inaugurated the coastal road connector after inspecting the stretch that connects the Marine Line-Worli coastal road and the Bandra Worli Sea Link (BWSL). During the inspection, Fadnavis drove the car

with Shinde seated beside him.

Shinde hailed Fadnavis for getting all permissions required for the arterial road's speedy construction, but pointed out the latter was not invited to the groundbreaking ceremony held under the MVA government, when Uddhav Thackeray was CM.

Fadnavis said the coastal road plan was under discussion for about 25 years, with chief ministers returning empty handed from Delhi (Centre).

"The Congress was in power for so many years but no chief minister could get the required permissions for the coastal road.



Rs 14,000 crore	Cost of coastal road
15 minutes	Time to reach Worli from Marine Drive
10.58 km	Length of coastal road

However, once the Modi government came to power, all permissions were given after five meetings were held in connection with the project in one-and-half years."

With the inauguration of the connector, which links the coastal road to the BWSL, motorists can reach Marine Drive from Bandra in 10 minutes from the current 45 minutes. The stretch will open to the public on Friday. It can be used from 7am to 11 pm. The distance between Marine Drive and Versova will be covered in just 40-50 minutes, down from the present 2-3 hours once the extension is complete.

It will save time and fuel as well as reduce pollution. The coastal road is a gamechanger. It is being extended to Versova and in the future it will be extended to Bhayander, Virar and Palghar. Vadhran Port, which will be among the top 10 ports in the world, will also be benefitted due to the coastal road when it is extended till Palghar. Eknath Shinde

Transportation hub in Dahisar

Mumbai: The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation on Thursday invited a Rs 1,481 crore tender to construct a state-of-the-art transportation and commercial hub at Dahisar in the R/North ward of the civic body.

This proposed commercial hub will be set up on an 18,000 square metre land parcel, which earlier used to be a Check Naka. Mumbai has parcels of land measuring up to thousands of square metres.

Stolen ornaments recovered; 4 held

Thane: Police have recovered a passenger's ornaments of Rs 7.37 lakh stolen from a local train in Maharashtra's Thane district and arrested two persons and detained as many juveniles in this connection, an official said.

The theft took place on August 31 when the 54-year-old passenger was travelling from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) in south Mumbai to Kalyan in Thane on a suburban train, senior police inspector, Crime Branch Government Railway Police, Arshuddin Sheikh said on Wednesday.

The passenger noted that his black bag, which he had kept on the overhead rack, was missing.

The bag contained nearly 7 kg of silver and 19.96 gm of gold ornaments, with a total value of Rs. 7.37 lakh, he said.

The passenger noticed a group of individuals hastily alighting the train at Thakurli station, located before Kalyan station, in Thane district and subsequently filed a complaint at the Dombiv-

li railway police station.

The police registered a case under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita section 305(C) (theft of any article or goods from any means of transport used for the transport of goods or passengers), the official said.

A joint team of the Special Task Force and Kalyan Crime Branch unit launched an extensive investigation.

The team analysed CCTV footage from multiple railway stations along the route from CSMT to Thakurli and employed technical resources and informant tips to track down the suspects.

The operation culminated on September 5 with the arrest of Altmas Razzak Khan (25) and Shubham Sandeep Thasale (20) along with the detention of two juveniles from Thane city, the official said.

Following interrogation, the entire booty was recovered from their possession, he said.

The juveniles were later handed over to their parents, the police added.



Repair work being carried out by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) after a road caved in at Prabhadevi in Mumbai on Thursday. Pic: PTI

Road caves in at Dadar; no injuries

Mumbai: A road caved in at an intersection in the Dadar area of central Mumbai on Thursday, trapping a car's tyre in the crater, civic officials said.

No one was injured in the incident that occurred around 11.30 am at the busy Kismat junction on Veer Savarkar Marg in Dadar West, they said. It cre-

ated a 3 feet X 5 feet crater.

Traffic police with the help of locals pulled out the car from the crater after the cave-in, which briefly disrupted vehicular movement in Dadar. A video purportedly showing the incident surfaced on social media.

The visuals show a steel

grey car's front left tyre stuck in a few feet deep crater. Locals are seen swarming the spot, taking videos and photos on their mobile phones. A civic official said that the local ward staff and employees from their roads department have been sent to the scene and the damaged portion of the road is being repaired.

CBI books RoC Deputy Director

New Delhi: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered a case against Deputy Director, Registrar of Companies Mumbai for allegedly seeking Rs 2 crore bribe for preparing a favourable report for a company under investigation, officials said on Thursday.

Following the registration of the FIR against Deputy Director Sai Shankar Landa on Tuesday, the central agency had conducted a search operation at his premises in Mumbai and his native place in Vishakhapatnam on



Wednesday, they said. The CBI action had come on a complaint from a businessman whose company was under investigation by RoC Mumbai. It was alleged that bribe of Rs 2 crore was made for preparing a favourable report in the ongoing investigation his company at ROC Mumbai, the FIR said.

"The allegations mentioned in the complaint has been discretely verified in presence of Panch Witnesses on April 23, 2024, which reveals that Sai Shankar Landa, Deputy Director, Registrar of Companies, Mumbai has after negotiation, agreed to accept bribe of Rs. 30-35 lakhs from the complainant," the CBI FIR alleged. After verification, the CBI obtained sanction for proceeding against Landa under section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 and registered a case. -PTI

IITians stand for Israel collaboration

Mumbai: A number of students of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay, have countered the objection raised by the Ambedkar-Periyar-Phule Study Circle to the collaboration of the institutions with Israeli universities.

The group IITB for Bharat said, "Over the years, IITB has partnered with institutions worldwide, including Israeli universities, in fields such as defence, agriculture and AI. These collaborations have led to significant breakthroughs."

Boy dies as bike falls on him

Thane: A three-year-old boy playing near his house died after a motorcycle hit him before falling on him when his rider lost control over it in Bhiwandi.

The incident occurred on Wednesday afternoon, they said.

"The toddler, identified as Faian Abdul Mannan, was playing with his brother near a Shiva temple close to his house at Kopar when a speeding motorcycle hit him and fell on him around 3.30 pm. The two-wheeler was being ridden in a reckless

manner and the accident took place as its rider lost control over it," an official of Narpoli police station said.

The boy died on the spot and his body was later sent to a government hospital for a post-mortem examination, the official said. After the accident, the motorcyclist did not stop to provide help to the victim and fled from the spot, he said, adding that the accused is yet to be identified.

The victim's mother later lodged a complaint.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I strongly condemn the opposition leaders for their shameful attack on Hindu sentiments and our festivals. People will never forgive the opposition for attacking Hon'ble PM and Hon'ble CJI for performing Ganesh puja."

- Piyush Goyal, Union Minister



Traffic hassle in Kandivali, residents fumed

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Less than 24 hours after Union Minister Piyush Goyal opened the shut portion of Western Express Highway (WEH) above Akurli underpass, Kandivali East residents on Thursday woke up to another traffic hassle with the abrupt closure of the subway.

Chaos ensued for commuters, as the unexpected development caused traffic congestion on the routes accessing WEH and the railway station.

There was no prior information about the closure. "Looking at the long queues, I took a sharing rickshaw till the highway. It took me half an hour to reach, after which I crossed the underpass and got another rickshaw till the station," said a resident.

Many travellers walked through the underpass to reach the station. Local Whatsapp groups were flooded with confusion as the widening work had only been taking place from midnight to 6 am. Police Inspector Jagdish



Bhopale said the day-time closure was temporary. "Early in the morning, while the widening work

shut mainly to clear the debris," he said.

Bhopale stated that the widening will be completed by October 2. He said, "Last phase of the work is underway. Only the felling of wall and concreting part is left. Monsoon won't affect the progress. But it also depends on the MMRDA contractor if they finish it on time."

The widening of the underpass had begun in September 2019. The project faced delay after a CNG pipeline was found at the site.

Manager booked for siphoning money

Mumbai: The Santacruz police on Wednesday booked the 32-year-old manager of a popular South Indian restaurant, Banana Leaf, for allegedly siphoning off 1.23 crore from the company's account.

The accused, Dinanath Shetty, was booked after his employer, who owns four chains of the restaurant, lodged a complaint against him. The complaint told the police that Shetty, a resident of Mira Road,

Scheme to aid in faster adoption of EVs

New Delhi: Home-grown auto majors Mahindra & Mahindra and Tata Motors on Thursday hailed the PM e-drive scheme, saying it would help in higher adoption of electric vehicles in the country.

On September 11, the Union Cabinet approved two major schemes with a total outlay of Rs 14,335 crore to promote the use of electric vehicles, including buses, ambulances and trucks.

The two schemes are the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme with an outlay of Rs 10,900 crore over a period of two years, and the PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism

"The PM E-Drive scheme is a welcome move and a great step to accelerate EV adoption in India. The scheme will provide the required impetus to the EV industry to scale and mature rapidly, ensuring a swift transition from ICE to EVs."

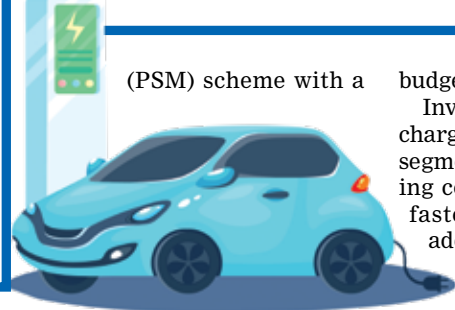
-Bhavish Aggarwal, Founder, Ola

"With continued focused support on 2Ws, 3Ws, e-buses and the thoughtful addition of e-ambulances, the scheme will drive higher EV penetration in the country. With PM e-drive, we foresee India becoming the first country to achieve 100 per cent electrification in this segment by 2030."

-Anish Shah, MD, Mahindra & Mahindra

"The scheme will accelerate India's journey towards zero-emission mobility with greater speed and rigour, especially in trucks, buses and the ambulance segment. We continue to collaborate with the Government and other stakeholders in this nation-building endeavour towards sustainable transportation."

-Girish Wagh, Director, Tata Motors Executive



(PSM) scheme with a

budget of Rs 3,435 crore. Investments laid out for fast charging infrastructure for all segments will help in increasing consumer confidence for faster adoption of EVs, he added.

FAME and EMPS have helped in 20 per

cent of electric three-wheeler penetration in the country, Shah said.

Wardwizard Innovations & Mobility Chairman and MD Yatini Gupta said the progressive step will drive India towards self-reliance and a greener future.

Switch Mobility CEO Mahesh Babu said the scheme would benefit 24 lakh vehicles, including 28,000 electric buses.

"With about 2,000 orders in hand for SWITCH, we foresee a 45-70 per cent CAGR growth over the next 10 years, depend-

ing on government schemes like the PM E-Drive," he added.

Under the scheme, subsidies/demand incentives worth Rs 3,679 crore have been provided for e-2Ws (electric two-wheelers), e-3Ws (electric three-wheelers), e-ambulances, e-trucks and other emerging EVs.

The scheme will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14,028 e-buses.

Earlier, the government had implemented the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid and) Electric Vehicle (FAME) scheme in two phases. About 16 lakh electric vehicles were supported under FAME 1 and FAME 2 schemes. -PTI

Google's AI model faces EU scrutiny by private watchdog

London: European Union regulators said Thursday they're looking into one of Google's artificial intelligence models over concerns about its compliance with the bloc's strict data privacy rules.

Ireland's Data Protection Commission said it has opened an inquiry into Google's Pathways Language Model 2, also known as PaLM2. It's part of wider efforts, including by other national watchdogs across the 27-nation bloc, to scrutinize how AI systems handle personal data.

Google's European headquarters are based in Dublin, so the Irish watchdog acts as the company's lead regulator for the bloc's privacy rulebook, known as the General Data Protection Regula-



tion, or GDPR.

The commission said its inquiry is examining whether Google has assessed whether PaLM2's data processing would likely result in a "high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals" in the EU. Large language models like PaLM2 are vast troves of data that act as building blocks for artificial intelligence systems.

Google uses PaLM2 to power a range of generative AI services including email summarising. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

The Irish watchdog said earlier this month that Elon Musk's social media platform X has agreed to permanently stop processing user data for its AI chatbot Grok. The platform did so only after the

watchdog took it to court the month before, filing an urgent High Court application to get X to "suspend, restrict or prohibit" processing of personal data contained in public posts by its users.

Meta Platforms paused its plans to use content posted by European users to train the latest version of its large language model after apparent pressure from the Irish regulators. The decision "followed intensive engagement" between the two, the watchdog said in June.

Italy's data privacy regulator last year temporarily banned ChatGPT because of data privacy breaches and demanded the chatbot's maker OpenAI meet a set of demands to resolve its concerns. -AP

Birla Estates buys 24.5 acre land

Mumbai: Birla Estates, the real estate venture of the Aditya Birla Group, has bought around 24.5 acre land in Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) for Rs 537.42 crore, according to real estate consultant Square Yards.

The plot is located at Kalwa, along the Thane-Belapur Road. "The registration document, reviewed by Square Yards, indicates that Ekamaya Property Pvt Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Birla Estates Private Limited, acquired the 99,021.47 square meter (~24.5 acres) land parcel," the company said in a statement.

The transaction, finalized in September 2024, involved the purchase from Hindalco Industries Limited.

The deal included a stamp duty of Rs 37.61 crore and a registration fee of Rs 30,000, it added.

India to drive 20 pc of global economic growth

New Delhi: India will be driving 20 per cent of the world's economic growth in the next decade as it continues its march to become the third largest economy globally, according to G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant.

Speaking at the AIMA convention here, he noted that India continues to be the fastest-growing large economy in the world and is the fifth-largest economy.

"In the next three years, we will overtake Japan and Germany to be the third largest economy in the world. In a world which is starved for growth, India is an outlier and has emerged as a very resilient powerhouse driving growth," he stated.

The country will be driving 20 per cent of the world's economic growth in the next decade, he added.

He noted that the country needs to transform the lives of people living in rural areas, improve health outcomes and enhance nutritional standards to become a developed nation by 2047.

India needs several champion states to drive future growth, Kant said.

"If India is to grow at 9-10 per cent over the next three decades and become a developed economy by 2047, we need to improve our learning outcomes, our health outcomes and nutritional standards in a very big way," he added.

"It is very critical that we transform them. It is important that they become the key driver of improvement on the human development index," Kant said.

Elaborating further, he said that the top 50 per cent of India's population actu-

ally creates growth and drives prosperity. And the bottom 50 per cent lives mainly in rural areas, relying on agriculture wage labour or government welfare schemes to achieve basic living standards, he added.

● Many states like Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, which account for almost 50 per cent of the country's population, need to be transformed.

● What we are witnessing today is a once-in-a-generation shift in our economic position. Just a few years back, we were in the fragile five, and from the fragile five, we moved to the top five in a decade.

-Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa

Nippon India MF launches open ended scheme

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Nippon India Mutual fund has launched an open-ended scheme that will track Nifty 500 Momentum 50 Index, the fund said in its filing with the exchanges.

This innovative fund aims to capture the potential of India's growth story by investing in a basket of top 50 momentum-driven stocks from the Nifty 500 index universe. It will be a passively managed index fund which will employ an investment approach designed to track the performance of Nifty 500 Momentum 50 TRI.

The fund, which opened on Sep 11 will close on Sep 25 and is designed to provide investors with a diversified and efficient way to participate in the Indian equity market by investing in the underlying securities of the Nifty 500 Momentum 50 Index in the same proportion.

It seeks to capitalize on the performance of stocks that have exhibited relatively strong momentum in the recent past. The minimum in-

vestment amount required is Rs 1000 and in multiples of Re 1 thereafter.

Speaking at the launch, Sundeep Sikka, ED and CEO, Nippon India Mutual Fund, "This Fund offers investors a diversified exposure to India's growth story, while focusing on companies exhibiting strong upward momentum.

Building on our distinguished track record in passive investments, we remain committed to deliver innovative and robust solutions that align with our customers' evolving financial goals."

Nippon India Mutual Fund offers 43 passive schemes including varied offerings under exchange traded fund (ETF), Index Funds and Fund of Fund. Nippon India ETF is one of the largest ETF players with assets under management of Rs 1.52 trillion (USD 18.1 billion) and a market share of 18.3 per cent as on August 31, 2024.

Nippon India ETF commands 58 per cent share of ETF folios in the industry as on August 2024 and 52 per cent volume share on NSE and BSE.



Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Founder and Executive Chairman of World Economic Forum (WEF) Klaus Schwab (2L), Maharashtra Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik and others during

Pic: PTI

Yes Bank stake buy may jeopardise

Mumbai: Bidders' insistence on having a 51 per cent stake in Yes Bank may end up jeopardising the stake buy, an informed source said on Thursday.

When asked on whether the deal will go through by the end of this fiscal, the source, who is not authorised to speak to the media, said the deal itself is in a quandary.

As per the source, the talks on any deal "are not going anywhere" because of all the bidders' push on the 51 per cent stake.

The source explained

that the RBI is uncomfortable with a foreign entity owning a 51 per cent stake in a big entity like Yes Bank.

There are reports of two bidders being in the fray including Japan's SMBC and Emirates NBD.

The suitors are directly speaking with RBI, but the central bank is not amenable on giving the ownership control.

As per the source, there has been no progress on the "fit and proper" aspects.

The SMBC leadership was in the country last

month reportedly with regard to the proposed acquisition and was scheduled to hold meetings with RBI and also SBI.

It can be noted that Yes Bank had to be bailed out in 2020 in a special deal under which an SBI-led consortium of lenders picked up stakes in Yes Bank and successfully avoided any damage to the system.

There was a three-year lock-in period on the investment for the backers of the bank, and the end of the period has led to conversations on a stake buy.

Retail inflation inches up

New Delhi: Retail inflation in August inched up to 3.65 per cent, though vegetables and pulses witnessed price rise in double digits, according to official data released on Thursday. The retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), however, remained below the Reserve Bank's median target of 4 per cent for the second month in a row. It was at a five-year low of 3.6 per cent in July. The headline inflation was 6.83 per cent in August 2023.

SEBI orders attachment of Karvy accounts

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi on Thursday ordered the attachment of bank accounts as well as shares and mutual fund holdings of Karvy Stock Broking and its CMD C Parthasarathy to recover dues of around Rs 25 crore.

Before this, the regulator on August 7 sent a notice to Karvy and Parthasarathy asking them to pay dues within 15 days in a case pertaining to misappropriation of clients' funds by misusing

the Power of Attorney (PoA).

The notice came after the entities failed to pay the fine imposed on them by Sebi. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) in April 2023 barred KSBL and Parthasarathy from the securities market for seven years and also imposed a penalty of Rs 21 crore on them for misappropriating clients' funds by misusing the Power of Attorney given to the broking firm.

BSE SENSEX TOP GAINERS September 12, 2024			NSE NIFTY TOP GAINERS September 12, 2024		
%	POINTS		%	POINTS	
+4.36	1646.50	Bharti Airtel	+4.15	674.60	Hindalco
+3.87	404.80	NTPC	+3.56	1,634.00	Bharti Airtel
+3.36	2742.25	M&M	+3.36	402.75	NTPC
+3.06	955.25	JSW Steel	+3.36	3,390.00	Shriram Finance
+2.94	1472.25	Adani Ports	+2.94	2,760.10	Grasim
+2.57	788.05	SBIN	+2.94	955.00	JSW Steel
+2.44	1641.90	Tech Mahindra	+2.83	2,729.35	M&M
+2.43	151.75	Tata Steel	+2.78	4,857.90	Eicher Motors
+2.43	3622.80	LT	+2.75	538.50	Wipro
+2.08	1826.90	Kotak Bank	+2.70	293.00	ONGC

Sensex closes at all time high

By Correspondent

Mumbai: The Sensex reached a new all-time high of 83,000 for the first time on Thursday, while the Nifty also achieved a record high during a late surge in top-tier stocks, a rise in international markets, and an increase in foreign investments.

A significant late-day surge propelled the 30-stock BSE Sensex to its new record of 83,000. The index rose 1,593.03 points or 1.95 per cent to its peak of 83,116.19 in the final trading session. It ended the day at a new record high of 82,962.71, increasing by 1,439.55 points or 1.77 per cent.



The NSE Nifty jumped 470.45 points or 1.89 per cent to a new record high of 25,388.90. The index reached its latest record high of 25,433.35, increasing by 514.9 points or 2 per cent.

Both the Nifty and Sensex opened strong and traded within a range until the late afternoon session.

Among the 30 stocks in the Sensex, Bharti Airtel, NTPC, JSW Steel, Mahindra & Mahindra, Adani Ports, Tech Mahindra, Larsen & Toubro, Tata Steel, State Bank of India, and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the biggest gainers.

Nestle was the only stock to underperform among the top companies. A total of 2,335 stocks saw an increase, 1,612 saw a decrease, and 122 remained unchanged on the BSE.

Additionally, 278 stocks reached their 52-week highs.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"India is rapidly becoming a global research powerhouse. This is really encouraging and a very pleasing aspect. The recent approval of India's first biotechnology policy marks a significant initiative."



- Ajay Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India

OBITUARY

Raconteur, convivial face of pragmatic Left politics

New Delhi: Polyglot, amiable and an eclectic conversationalist who could hold forth on film songs as much as politics, CPI-M's fifth general secretary Sitaram Yechury was the pragmatic leader with friends across the political spectrum. The three-time party chief, who passed away on Thursday after prolonged illness at Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), took over the reins of the party when Left fortunes were on the decline. He was 72.

Quite unlike his predecessor Prakash Karat, from whom he took over in April 2015 and who was known for headline positions, Yechury thrived on the challenges of coalition politics. In this way, he was more akin to his mentor, the late party leader Harkishan Singh Surjeet.

While Surjeet was a key player in the coalition era during the National Front government of VP Singh - formed in 1989 - and the United Front government of 1996-97, both supported from outside by the CPI-M, Yechury was the go-to man in the UPA years from 2004-2014. Yechury, who was born in Chennai and studied at Delhi's St Stephen's College and Jawaharlal Nehru University, was a trusted ally of United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi in Manmohan Singh's 10 years as prime minister.

He was the first non-Congress leader Gandhi called after she met then president APJ Abdul Kalam in 2004 when she turned down the post of Prime Minister and rallied for Singh. Earlier, Yechury, one of the Left's most recognised faces, worked with Congress leader P Chidambaram to draft the common minimum programme for the



United Front government.

It was an equation that survived the shock withdrawal of support by the Left to the UPA in 2008 over the Indo-US nuclear deal. Yechury played an important role in the discussions with the UPA government on the issue.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh described him as an "unrepentant Marxist with a pragmatic streak, a pillar of the CPI(M), and a superb Parliamentarian". While his political colleagues remembered Yechury the politician, old friends went down memory lane to remember their walks from Rafi Marg to Chanakya to watch films.

Yechury, who famously loved old Hindi film songs, books and endless conversations on politics, was a Rajya Sabha MP for 12 years till 2017, remaining a powerful voice of the Opposition.

At the end of his tenure, he refused to take another term and said in his farewell speech in the Upper House that he came to Parliament "reluctantly". As Left activists, they used to say it was better to stay far away from the "gol

building" (the round building), he remarked. The Surjeet protégé's negotiation skills were crucial as he joined his predecessor, Prakash Karat in the UPA-Left Coordination Committee. In an interview with PTI in 2015, after taking over as party general secretary, Yechury said they should have withdrawn support on issues like price rise as the people could not be mobilised on the nuclear deal issue in the 2009 general elections.

The CPI-M leader was fluent in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Bangla, and also Malayalam. He was also well-versed in Hindu mythology, and often used those references in his speeches especially to attack the BJP. Yechury remained one of the most vocal critics of the Narendra Modi government and its liberal economic policies.

His alliance-building skills came to use again for the Left in the run-up to the 2024 general elections. In 2018, ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the Central Committee of the CPI-M had rejected the proposal of having any under-

standing or alliance with Congress. Yechury had then offered to resign as the general secretary.

However, in the run-up to the 2024 elections, as talks for a united opposition grouping started and opposition parties got together to form the INDIA bloc, CPI-M was part of it. Yechury remained among the key faces of the alliance.

Though CPI-M was part of the INDIA bloc in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the Congress and communist parties fought separately in Kerala, the last remaining Left bastion where CPI-M won only one seat. However, being a part of the bloc helped the CPI-M and it won a seat in Rajasthan and two seats in Tamil Nadu, taking its total tally up to four, from three in the 17th Lok Sabha.

His journey in politics started with the Students' Federation of India (SFI), which he joined in 1974 and became a member of the party the very next year. He was arrested a few months later during the Emergency.

After his release, Yechury was elected president of the JNU Students' Union thrice. In the SFI, he became the all-India joint secretary in 1978 and its president soon thereafter. When he became SFI president in 1978, he was the first person who did not belong to either West Bengal or Kerala to occupy the post.

He grew up in Hyderabad and his family moved to Delhi in 1969. A bright student, Yechury achieved the all-India first rank in the Central Board of Secondary Education examinations and subsequently did his graduation in economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi.

ASI team to inspect Ratna Bhandar on Sep 18

Puri: The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will inspect the inner and outer chambers of Ratna Bhandar (treasury) of Shree Jagannath temple in Puri on September 18, SJTA said on Thursday.

The Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) said, in a statement, that the surveyor has informed the authorities concerned that a team led by the additional DG (Conservation) and experts from CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute will conduct a preliminary inspection and technical survey of the Ratna Bhandar coming week.

Taking to X, SJTA chief administrator Arabinda Padhee said, "After discussion with officials and concerned seavats, it's decided to have the exercise on 18th September, as per the Govt approved SOP."

Earlier, the SJTA had requested the ASI to start inspection and repair work of the treasury of Lord Jagannath.

The temple authorities had also requested the ASI to initiate scanning and geophysical investigation of the 'Ratna Bhandar' before undertaking the repair and renovation work.

The inner chamber of Lord Jagannath's treasury was opened after a gap of 46 years in July and ornaments and valuable items were shifted to a temporary strong room inside the temple.

-PTI

Madrassas 'unsuitable' place for proper education



New Delhi: Madrassas are "unsuitable" places for children to receive "proper education" and the education imparted there is "not comprehensive" and is against the provisions of the Right to Education Act, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCP-CR) has told the Supreme Court.

The child rights body told the top court that children, who are not in formal schooling system, are deprived of their fundamental right to elementary education, including entitlements such as mid-day meal, uniform etc.

The NCP-CR said madrassas merely teaching from a few NCERT books in the curriculum is a "mere guise" in the name of imparting education and does not ensure that the children are receiving formal and quality education. "A madrassa is not only an unsuitable/unfit place to receive 'proper' education but also in absence of entitlements as provided under Sections 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 29 of the RTE Act," it said.

"Further, madrassas do not only render an unsatisfactory and insufficient model for education but also have an arbitrary mode of working which is

wholly in absence of a standardised curriculum and functioning," the NCP-CR said in its written submissions filed before the top court.

The child rights body stated that due to the absence of provisions of the RTE Act, 2009, the madrassas are also deprived of entitlement as in Section 21 of the Act of 2009. "A school is defined under Section 2(n) of the RTE Act, 2009, which means any recognised school imparting elementary education. A madrassa being out of this definition has no right to compel children or their families to receive madrassa education," the NCP-CR said.

In a breather to about 17 lakh madrassa students, the apex court on April 5 had stayed an order of the Allahabad High Court that scrapped the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasah Education Act, 2004 calling it "unconstitutional" and violative of the principle of secularism.

Observing that the issues raised in the petitions merit closer reflection, a three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had issued notices to the Centre, the Uttar Pradesh government and others on the pleas against the High Court order. -PTI

Mosque row: Muslim panel offers to demolish illegal portion

Shimla: Amid escalating tensions over the Sinjauli mosque in Shimla, a Muslim welfare committee on Thursday urged the municipal commissioner to seal the unauthorised portion and also offered to demolish it in accordance with a court order.

The panel comprises the Imam of the mosque and members of the Waqf board and the mosque management committee.

A delegation of the committee made the request in a representation to Municipal Commissioner Bhupendra Attri and said Muslims living in the locality are permanent residents of Himachal Pradesh and it was taking the step to preserve harmony and brotherhood. The Imam of the Sinjauli mosque said, "There is no pressure on us, we have been living here for decades and this decision has been taken as a Himachali. We want to stay in peace and brotherhood should prevail."

Attri confirmed receipt of the representation.

Members of the Dev Bhoomi Sangarh Committee who had given the pro-

We have sought permission from the Shimla municipal commissioner to demolish the unauthorised part of the mosque situated in Sanjauli.
-Mufti Mohammad Shafi Kasmi, Member, Welfare Committee

test call against the unauthorised construction in the mosque welcomed the move. "We welcome the move of the Muslim community and would be the first to hug them for taking this initiative in the larger interest," member of the samiti Vijay Sharma said. Hindu organisations demanding the demolition of the disputed structure in the mosque and the registration of outsiders coming to the state had given the call for the Sanjauli bandh on Wednesday. -PTI



Shops closed in a market area in view of the 'bandh' called by traders to protest the police action during an agitation demanding the demolition of an illegal structure in a mosque on Wednesday at Sanjauli locality in Shimla

Pic: PTI

Jan Suraaj to contest all 243 seats: Prashant Kishor

Purnea (Bihar): Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor on Thursday said Jan Suraaj, which is set to become a political party in less than a month from now, will contest "all 243 seats" in the Bihar assembly polls due next year.

Addressing a press conference in Purnea district, Kishor said the party will be formed on October 2 "with active support of at least one crore people of the state, which would leave no need for any

alliance".

"Let me make it clear that Jan Suraaj will contest all 243 seats, not one less", said Kishor, who has in his earlier avatar handled poll campaigns of leaders such as Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Aam Aadmi Party founder Arvind Kejriwal.

A known critic of the much touted prohibition law in Bihar, the IPAC founder said the new party would "scrap the ban on

liquor within an hour of forming its government".

"The prohibition law is nothing but a sham (dhakosla) on part of Nitish Kumar," he said.

He criticised the current prohibition as ineffective, claiming that it has led to illegal home deliveries of alcohol and deprived the state of Rs 20,000 crore in potential excise revenue.

Kishor accused politicians and bureaucrats of benefiting from the illegal liquor trade.

BRS MLA offers saris to defectors

Hyderabad: BRS MLA P Kaushik Reddy's offer to send saris and bangles to 10 party legislators who defected to the Congress, has evoked strong response from the women leaders of the ruling party who demanded an immediate apology from him.

Congress leader and Chairperson of the Telangana State Women's Cooperative Development Corporation B Shobha Rani hit out at Reddy over his comments saying he insulted women with his disrespect-

ful comments. At a press conference, Shobha Rani took out her shoe and warned the BRS MLA over his remarks.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Reddy, the BRS MLA from the Huzurabad constituency said he wants to send gifts--saris and bangles to the 10 BRS MLAs who joined Congress and asked them to wear it.

Kaushik Reddy also said he would send the saris and bangles to the residences of the defected BRS MLAs by

courier.

Enraged Congress women leaders asked Reddy to first send the items to BRS president and former Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao and the party's Working President K T Rama Rao saying they had started the defections. They also urged the Telangana State Women's Commission to take cognisance of Kaushik Reddy's comments. As many as 10 BRS MLAs have crossed over to the Congress. -PTI

Lalu Yadav undergoes angioplasty

Mumbai: Rashtriya Janata Dal president Lalu Prasad Yadav underwent angioplasty at a hospital here, sources said on Thursday.

Yadav, who was admitted in Asian Heart Institute here on September 10, underwent angioplasty on Wednesday, they said.

The 76-year-old former Bihar Chief Minister is expected to be discharged in a day or two, the sources added. In 2014, the former Union minister, 66 had undergone valve replacement surgery.

Comedian Vir Das to host Emmy Awards

New Delhi: Actor-comedian Vir Das has been announced as the host for the 52nd edition of the International Emmy Awards, to be held in New York City on November 25.

It marks Das' return to the International Emmy stage after he won the best comedy for his Netflix stand-up special "Vir Das: Landing" in 2023.

The actor-comedian, also known for films such as "Go Goa Gone" and "Delhi

Belly", said he looks forward to celebrating the remarkable achievements of "peers and bringing a touch of humour and joy to this prestigious night".

Organised by the New York-based International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (IATAS), the International Emmys are presented in recognition of the best television programs produced and aired outside the United States. -PTI

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The people of Kashmir will win as the people of Jammu and Kashmir are on the path of truth. The decisions taken by Narendra Modi on August 5, 2019, are totally unacceptable to us. Nobody on earth, be it Narendra Modi, be it Amit Shah, can suppress our voice."
- Engineer Rashid, Chief, Awami Ittehad Party



Political row over PM's visit to CJJ's house

By Correspondent

Mumbai: A massive political row has erupted over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud's home for Ganesh Puja. Some lawyers said that there must be an arm's-length separation between the executive and the judiciary. Now the eyebrows are being raised with a query that does the thick line separating the judiciary and the executive get blurred if the CJJ meets the PM at a religious event.

Senior Supreme Court Lawyer Prashant Bhushan was prompt to react on this visit of the Prime Min-

Supreme Court judges who took post-retirement jobs

- **Justice Ranjan Gogoi** On 20 March, 2020, Former Chief Justice of India took oath as a nominated member of Rajya Sabha. One of the most debated post-retirement appointments in the history of the Supreme Court. He was nominated as a Rajya Sabha member within six months of demitting office.
- **Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel** Justice Goel was appointed as

chairperson of the National Green Tribunal on July 6, 2018, the same day he retired from the apex court.

- **Justice Arun Mishra** Justice Mishra, who held the post of an apex court judge for over six years, was appointed as the chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission.

- **Justice Ashok Bhushan** After demitting office on July 4, 2021, Justice Bhushan was appointed as

Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal on November 8, 2021.

- **Justice Hemant Gupta** On December 22, 2022, the Central government appointed Justice Gupta as Chairperson of New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC), a body established for independent regime for institutionalized arbitration

ister. On Thursday, he stated that the CJJ's decision to host the Prime Minister sends a 'bad signal' regarding the judiciary's responsibility to safeguard citizens' fundamental rights and ensure the government adheres to the Constitution. Bhushan categorically em-

phasised the need for a clear separation between the two branches. While quoting Code of Conduct for Judges, Bhushan said, "A judge

should practice a degree of aloofness consistent with the dignity of his office. There should be no act or omission by him which is unbecoming of the high office he occupies and the public esteem in which that office is held".

Not only the lawyers but even political leaders have raised concerns over the visit. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said such interactions between constitutional authorities and political leaders could undermine trust in the judiciary, especially in a case involving the Maharashtra government that is being heard by the CJJ. -PTI

Brain-inspired analog computing platform

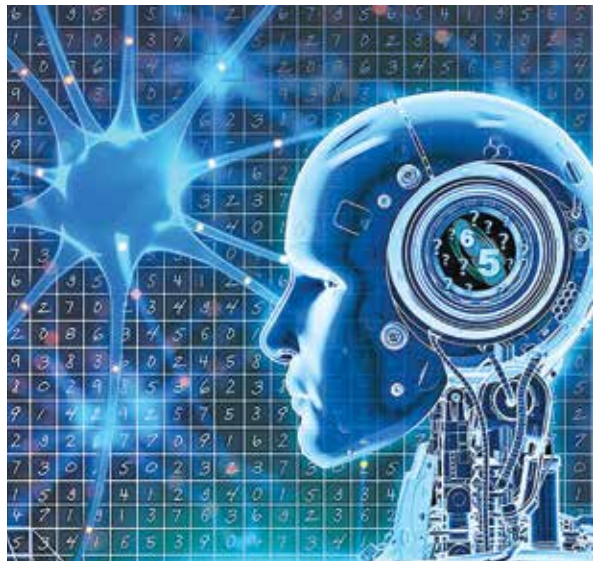
Bengaluru: Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a brain-inspired analog computing platform capable of storing and processing data in an astonishing 16,500 conductance states within a molecular film.

Such a platform could potentially bring complex AI tasks, like training Large Language Models (LLMs) to personal devices like laptops and smartphones.

These developments are currently restricted to resource-heavy data centres, due to a lack of energy-efficient hardware. With silicon electronics nearing saturation, designing brain-inspired accelerators that can work alongside silicon chips to deliver faster, more efficient AI is also becoming crucial.

The molecular system at the heart of the platform was designed by Sreebrata Goswami, Visiting Professor at CeNSE. In a material film, molecules and ions create countless unique memory states, many of which have been inaccessible so far. Most digital devices can access only two states—high and low conductance, without being able to tap into the infinite number of intermediate states possible.

By using precisely timed voltage pulses, the IISc team found a way to effectively trace a much larger number of molecular movements, and map each of these to a distinct electrical signal, thus forming an extensive “molecular diary” of differ-



The scientists believe it could be a game-changer, revolutionising industrial, consumer and strategic applications. Published on September 11 in the journal Nature, this breakthrough represents a huge step forward over traditional digital computers in which data storage and processing are limited to just two states.

ent states.

According to IISc, the fundamental operation underlying most AI algorithms is quite basic—matrix multiplication, a concept taught in high school maths. But in digital computers, these calculations hog a lot of energy. The platform developed by the IISc team drastically cuts down both the time and energy involved, making

these calculations a lot faster and easier.

“This project brought together the precision of electrical engineering with the creativity of chemistry, letting us control molecular kinetics very precisely inside an electronic circuit powered by nanosecond voltage pulses,” explained Goswami.

“Tapping into these tiny molecular changes allowed the team to create a highly precise and efficient neuromorphic accelerator, which can store and process data within the same location, similar to the human brain. Such accelerators can be seamlessly integrated with silicon circuits to boost their performance and energy efficiency,” the IISc said.

Researchers said the key challenge was characterising the various conductance states, which proved impossible using existing equip-

“Neuromorphic computing has had its fair share of unsolved challenges for over a decade. With this discovery, we have almost nailed the perfect system—a rare feat.”

-Sreetosh Goswami,
Assistant Professor,
Centre for Nano Science
and Engineering
(CeNSE), IISc

ment. The team designed a custom circuit board that could measure voltages as tiny as a millionth of a volt, to pinpoint these individual states with unprecedented accuracy.

It also turned this scientific discovery into a technological feat.

The team includes several students and research fellows at IISc. They also collaborated with Stanley Williams, Professor at Texas A&M University and Damien Thompson, Professor at the University of Limerick, it added.

The researchers believe that this breakthrough could be one of India’s biggest leaps in AI hardware, putting the country on the map of global technology innovation. Navakanta Bhat, Professor at CeNSE and an expert in silicon electronics led the circuit and system design in this project.

Call for reuse of treated waste water

New Delhi: Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Paatil called for the widespread adoption of reuse of treated waste water during a meeting of the Empowered Task Force (ETF) on Ganga rejuvenation on Wednesday.

The meeting, which was chaired by Paatil, saw the participation of senior officials from the Ministry of Jal Shakti and key ministries, along with state representatives from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, according to an official statement.

Director General of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Rajeev Kumar Mital, delivered a detailed presentation on the progress since the last ETF meeting, focusing on several critical areas such as the reuse of treated water, biodiversity conservation, and the remediation of polluted river stretches.

The session also addressed the River Action Plan and natural farming initiatives to rejuvenate the river.

Paatil underscored the need for close coordination among stakeholders to ensure timely completion of projects under the Namami Gange programme.

“Preserving the sanctity of the sacred river requires dedicated conservation efforts, and the role of rural and urban sanitation cannot be overlooked,” he said.

He urged the state governments to expedite the submission of detailed project reports for polluted stretches and ensure that the villages along the river achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus status.



Idol of Lord Ganesha made with a mixture of used garland, flowers offered in temples and tissue papers at Vile Parle during Ganesh Utsav celebrations in Mumbai. Pic: PTI

NASA spacecraft cleared for October launch

Capew Canaveral (US): NASA has approved next month’s launch to Jupiter’s moon Europa after reviewing the spacecraft’s ability to withstand the intense radiation there.

Questions about the reliability of the transistors on the Europa Clipper space-

craft arose earlier this year after similar problems cropped up elsewhere. With the tight launch window looming, NASA rushed to conduct tests to verify that the electronic parts could survive the \$5 billion mission to determine whether the suspect-

ed ocean beneath Europa’s icy crust might be suitable for life.

Liftoff remains scheduled for Oct. 10 aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket. NASA has three weeks to launch the spacecraft before standing down for more than a year to await.

Need balance for renewable energy

New Delhi: While India urgently needs renewable energy for economic growth and to combat climate change, development must not come at the cost of excessive use of natural resources, said SP Yadav, the director general of the International Big Cat Alliance.

In an interaction with PTI editors, Yadav, who spearheaded key conservation efforts in India such as Project Tiger and Project Lion, stressed the need to explore models that balance energy needs with wildlife protection.

citing the example of the UAE, he said the Gulf country successfully breeds

To conserve the species, a collaborative breeding programme has been initiated by the Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra forest departments, supported by the Wildlife Institute of India. The programme aims to establish a captive population for future rewilding efforts while promoting in-situ conservation.

549,816
No of houbara bustards UAE has bred and released since 1998

houbara bustards through artificial insemination and releases them in the wild without employing bird diverters or laying power lines underground.

“Energy security is crucial and climate change must be addressed. We need solar energy, development, employment, and growth. But it is important to have a balance between development and the use of natural resources,” Yadav said when asked about the conflict between renewable energy deployment and wildlife conservation.

Hearing a case which stemmed from concerns over the impact of overhead power lines from renewable energy projects on the Great Indian Bustard, the Supreme Court in April this year recognized the right against adverse effects of climate change as a distinct fundamental right.



A temple submerged in the swollen Narmada river water after heavy rains in the region, at Gwarighat in Jabalpur on Wednesday. Pic: PTI

Vietnam storm toll climbs to 199

Hanoi: Nearly 200 people have died in Vietnam in the aftermath of Typhoon Yagi and more than 125 are missing as flash floods and landslides take their toll, state media reported Thursday.

Vietnam’s VNEexpress newspaper reported that 197 people have died and 128 are still missing, while more than 800 have been injured. The death toll spiked earlier in the week as a flash

flood swept away the entire hamlet of Lang Nu in northern Vietnam’s Lao Cai province Tuesday. Hundreds of rescue personnel worked tirelessly Wednesday to search for survivors, but as

of Thursday morning 53 villagers remained missing, VNEexpress reported, while seven more bodies were found, bringing the death toll there to 42.

-AP

La Nina conditions may develop by year-end: WMO

New Delhi: There is a 60 percent chance of La Nina conditions emerging towards the end of this year, which is associated with colder-than-usual winters in northern parts of the country.

The latest update from the World Meteorological Organisation Global Producing Centres of Long-Range Forecasts on Wednesday indicate a 55 per cent likelihood of a transition from the current neutral conditions (neither El Nino nor La Nina) to La Nina conditions during September-November 2024.

“This likelihood increases to 60 per cent from October 2024 to February 2025, with the chance of El Nino redeveloping during this time being negligible,” the WMO said.

La Nina refers to the large-scale cooling of the ocean surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, coupled with changes in the tropical atmospheric circulation, such as winds, pressure and rainfall.

It is generally associated with intense and prolonged rains during the monsoon season in India and colder-than-usual winters, particularly in northern regions.

However, the India Meteorological Department is yet to confirm if La Nina conditions will lead to colder-than-usual winters.

The effects of each La Nina event vary depending on its intensity, duration, time of year it develops, and the interaction with other climate drivers. Generally, La Nina produces the opposite climate impacts to El Nino, especially in tropical regions.

However, naturally occurring climate events such as La Nina and El Nino events are taking place in the broader context of human-induced climate change, which is increasing global temperatures, exacerbating extreme weather and climate, and impacting seasonal rainfall and temperature patterns, the WMO said.

-AP

Odisha reports 55 tiger deaths in last decade

Bhubaneswar: Odisha Forest Minister Ganesh Ram Singkhuntia on Tuesday told the Assembly that as many as 55 tigers died in the state during the last 10 years.

The deaths were reported between 2014-15 and 2023-24 fiscals, he said.

In a written reply to a query by BJP legislator Tankadhar Tripathy, the minister said 48 leopards and seven tigers died due to various reasons, including poaching, accidents and natural deaths in the last 10 years.

During the period, two

Royal Bengal Tigers died of poaching, while three were killed in various accidents like drowning, slipping from mountains and infighting. One tiger died of natural causes. The reason behind the death of another tiger is unknown, he said.

During the last 10 financial years, 21 leopards died due to poaching, four due to electrocution, two in train accidents, three in road accidents, five due to diseases and four naturally, the minister said in his statement.

Similarly, three leopards were killed in various types of accidents like drowning,

slipping from mountains and infighting among the wild animals, while six leopards died of unknown reasons, he said.

The state government brought two Royal Bengal Tigers (a male and a female) from Madhya Pradesh to Odisha in the past decade. No tiger has been translocated to any other forests outside the state during the period, he said.

Ram Singkhuntia said that a total of two Royal Bengal Tigers (RBTs) died in the Similipal Tiger Reserve (south) during the years 2023-24, while one



died in 2017-18.

Two other RBTs, one in Bargharh and the other in Satkosia, died during the

2018-19 fiscal.

Similarly, a Royal Bengal Tiger died in the Bolangir forest division during the

760 No of elephants died during 2013-14 and 2023-24
41 No of elephants killed by poachers
1,145 No of people killed in elephant attacks in the last 11 years

financial year 2016-17 and another such death was reported in 2022-23 in the Keonjhar Wildlife Division, he said.

The forest minister also said there were 173 RBTs in Odisha, as per estimation

done through the pugmark method in 2002.

For the first time, the all-India tiger estimation using camera traps technique was done in 2006, in which 45 tigers were found in Odisha. As the camera trap

technique is far different from the pugmark method, no comparison can be drawn between the estimations, he noted.

As per the state-level tiger estimation conducted in 2024, 27 tigers were found in Odisha, of which 24 tigers were found in the Similipal Tiger Reserve, while Keonjhar territorial and Keonjhar wildlife, Paralkhemundi, and Hirakud Wildlife have one tiger each. Besides, eight tiger cubs in the Similipal Tiger Reserve were also counted during the census, he said.

-PTI

US, EU oppose China's bid to destabilise Taiwan

By Lalit K Jha

Washington: The US and the European Union have urged China to act with restraint in the Taiwan Strait and around Taiwan. The appeal was a part of the two-day 'US-EU Dialogue on China' and the sixth meeting of the 'US-EU High-Level Consultations on the Indo-Pacific', here on September 9 and 10.

The dialogue was led by Deputy Secretary of State Kurt Campbell from the US and European External Ac-

tion Service (EEAS) Secretary General Stefano Sannino from the EU side.

The two delegations also discussed the human rights situation in China, including recent respective engagement with China on this subject.

Both recognised the need for increased global awareness and decisive action to address continued human rights abuses by China, including in Tibet and Xinjiang.

"They underscored that China should effectively



cooperate with the OHCHR, including towards the implementation of the recommendations of its assessment report on the human rights situation in Xinjiang, as well as with international human rights mechanisms," a joint statement issued on Wednesday

said.

Both the US and the EU underscored the importance of maintaining peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, which is indispensable to international security and stability. They called for the peaceful resolution of cross-Strait issues through dialogue.

"They urged China to act with restraint in the Taiwan Strait and around Taiwan. They expressed opposition to any unilateral attempt to change the status quo, in particular by

force or coercion. They expressed support for Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations," said the joint statement.

Campbell and Sannino reiterated deep and increasing concern about China's exports of significant amounts of dual-use goods and items used by Russia on the battlefield against Ukraine and China-based companies' continued involvement in sanctions evasion and circumvention. -PTI



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar visits the replica of the East Gate of the Sanchi Stupa outside the Humboldt Forum in Berlin on Wednesday. Pic: PTI

Discussion on direct flights to China

New Delhi: India and China on Thursday discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the civil aviation sector, including resumption of direct flights between the two countries.

Civil Aviation Minister K Ramamohan Naidu, Civil Aviation Secretary Vumlungmang Vualnam and other senior officials met with representatives from China on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in the national capital.

In a post on X, Naidu said he along with senior officials had a courtesy meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Song Zhiyong.

The meeting focused on exchange of views regarding "further strengthening civil aviation cooperation

between the two countries, especially promoting early resumption of scheduled passenger flights between us," the minister said in the post.

Later, Naidu told reporters that the Chinese side mentioned about resumption of direct flights but no decision has been taken. A decision will be taken after discussions with the external affairs ministry and other stakeholders.

Currently, there are no direct flights between India and China. The services stopped at the time of coronavirus pandemic.

IndiGo and Air India had flight services to China.

India has trained its guns on China since a couple of days for its aggression over several issues. -PTI

Khaleda Zia in hospital

Dhaka: Former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia was admitted to a private hospital in the early hours of Thursday, according to a media report.

The 79-year-old Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson arrived at the Evercare Hospital from her Gulshan residence around 1:40 am, BNP media cell member Sayrul Kabir Khan was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune newspaper.

Her physician, Professor AZM Zahid Hossain, said the medical board has recommended several tests and she has been placed in a private cabin following her admission to the hospital.

"The next course of her treatment will be determined after reviewing the test results," he said.

Share of foreign-born in US at highest

Miami: The percent of US residents who were foreign-born last year grew to its highest level in more than a century, according to figures released Thursday from the most comprehensive survey of American life.

The share of people born outside the United States increased in 2023 to 14.3 per cent from 13.9 per cent in 2022, according to estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey, which tracks commuting times, internet access, family life, income, education levels, disabilities, military service, and employment, among other topics.

International migrants have become a primary driver of population growth this decade, increasing their share of the overall population as fewer children are being born in

The Census Bureau figures don't distinguish whether people are in the United States legally or illegally. Illegal immigration has become a contentious topic in the 2024 presidential race, even as illegal border crossings from Mexico plunged this summer after reaching a record last December.



the U.S. compared to years past. The rate of the foreign-born population in the United States hasn't been this high since 1910 when it was 14.7 per cent, driven by waves of people emigrating in search of a better life around the end of the 19th century and the

start of the 20th century. In 2023, international migrants accounted for more than two-thirds of the population growth in the United States, and so far this decade they have made up almost three-quarters of U.S. growth. -AP

Indian-origin Israeli soldier killed

Jerusalem: A 24-year-old Indian-origin Israeli soldier from the Bnei Menashe community was killed in a vehicle-ramming attack close to the West Bank's Beit El settlement, community members said on Thursday.

Staff Sergeant Geri Gideon Hanghal was a resident of Nof HaGalil and a soldier in the Kfir Brigade's Nahshon Battalion, the Israeli Army said.

Community members told PTI that they were "in shock at the news of the loss of a young life" on Wednesday near Asaf Junction. His funeral will be held on Thursday, they said. The Bnei Menashe, hailing from India's north-eastern states of Manipur and Mizoram, are believed to have descended from the Israelite tribe of Menasseh, one of the "lost tribes" of ancient times. -PTI

S Korea says N Korea fired ballistic missile toward sea

Seoul: North Korea fired a ballistic missile toward the sea on Thursday, South Korea's military said, days after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed to put his nuclear force fully ready for battle with its rivals.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a brief statement that the launch took place off North Korea's eastern coast on Thursday morning but gave no further details like how far the weapon traveled.

Japan's Prime Minister's Office also alerted on its X account that North Korea had launched a suspected ballistic missile, but did not provide further details.

The launch is North Korea's first public weapons firing in more than two months. On July 1, North Korea claimed to have tested a new tactical weapon capable of delivering a "super-large" 4.5 ton-class warhead. In a speech Monday, Kim said he would redouble efforts to make his nuclear force fully ready for combat with the United States and its allies. Kim made such a pledge saying North Korea faces "a grave threat" because of

what he called "the reckless expansion" of a U.S.-led regional military bloc that is now developing into a nuclear-based one.

Kim has made similar vows numerous times, but his latest threat comes as outside experts believe Kim will perform a nuclear test explosion or long-range missile test-launches ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November.

Last week, North Korea also resumed launches of trash-carrying balloons toward South Korea. Since 2022, North Korea has significantly accelerated its weapons testing activities in a bid to perfect its capabilities to launch strikes on the U.S. and South Korea. The U.S. and South Korea have responded by expanding military drills that North Korea calls invasion rehearsals. Last month, Kim had still held off from missile tests or other provocative military demonstrations as the United States and South Korea conducted large-scale summertime military exercises. North Korea issued statements berating the allies for raising tensions. -AP



NSA Ajit Doval with Secretary of Security Council of the Russian Federation Sergei Shoigu during a bilateral meeting, on the sidelines of the BRICS NSAs meeting in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Pic: PTI

US to sell anti-submarine warfare to India

Washington: The US has decided to sell High Altitude Anti-Submarine Warfare (HAASW) sonobuoys worth USD 52.8 million to India, a move that would enhance New Delhi's capacity to conduct anti-submarine warfare operations.

Sonobuoys are air-launched, expendable, electro-mechanical sensors designed to relay underwater sounds to remote processors. These are effective and affordable antisubmarine warfare (ASW) that are capable of being used by air-

borne ASW warfighters. "The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by enhancing its capacity to conduct anti-submarine warfare operations from its MH-60R helicopters. India will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces," the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in a notification to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee this week. As per the Arms Export Control Act, Congress has

30 calendar days to review the sale.

"This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to strengthen the United States-India strategic relationship and improving the security of a major defence partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions," the notification said. -AP

Key Ukrainian city loses water supply

Kyiv: The key eastern Ukraine city of Pokrovsk is without a drinking water supply or natural gas for cooking and heating, authorities said Thursday, as the Russian army's attritional slog across the Donetsk region lays waste to public infrastructure and forces civilians to flee their homes.

A water filtration station in Pokrovsk was damaged in recent fighting, and more than 300 hastily drilled water wells are the city's last source of drinking water, Donetsk regional Gov. Vadym Filashkin said. The previous day, Rus-

sians destroyed a natural gas distribution station near Pokrovsk, Filashkin said. Some 18,000 people remain in the city, including 522 children, he said. More than 20,000 people have left in the past six weeks as Russian forces creep closer to residential areas, Filashkin said. "Evacuation is the only choice for civilians," he added.

Pokrovsk is one of Ukraine's main defensive strongholds and a key logistics hub in the Donetsk region, which lies on part of the 1,000-kilometre (600-mile) front line. Its capture would compromise

Ukraine's defensive abilities and supply routes and would bring Russia closer to its stated goal of capturing the entire Donetsk region, which it partially occupies.

Russian troops backed by artillery and powerful glide bombs have turned Donetsk cities and towns such as Bakhmut and Avdiivka into bombed-out shells, though the push has cost Russia heavily in troops and armour. Ukrainian forces have held out as long as possible, even when strongholds such as Chasiv Yar appeared to be in danger of imminent collapse. -AP

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What happened in 2020 (in Galwan) was in violation of multiple agreements for some reasons which are still entirely not clear to us; we can speculate on it."



- S. Jaishankar, Minister, External Affairs

Ancient jar smashed by 4-year-old fixed

Tel Aviv: A rare Bronze-Era jar accidentally smashed by a 4-year-old visiting a museum was back on display Wednesday after restoration experts were able to carefully piece the artifact back together.

Last month, a family from northern Israel was visiting the museum when their youngest son tipped over the jar, which smashed into pieces. A 4-year-old boy's father, said his son — the youngest of three — is exceptionally curious, and that the moment

he heard the crash, "please let that not be my child" was the first thought that raced through his head. The jar has been on display at the Hecht Museum in Haifa for 35 years. It was one of the only containers of its size and from that period still complete when it was discovered. The Bronze Age jar is one of many artifacts exhibited in the open, part of the Hecht Museum's vision of letting visitors explore history without glass barriers, said Inbal Rivlin, the direc-

tor of the museum, which is associated with Haifa University in northern Israel. It was likely used to hold wine or oil, and dates back to between 2200 and 1500 B.C. Rivlin and the museum decided to turn the moment, which captured international attention, into a teaching moment, inviting the Geller family back for a special visit and hands-on activity to illustrate the restoration process. Rivlin added that the incident provided a welcome distraction from the ongoing war in

Gaza. "Well, he's just a kid. So I think that somehow it touches the heart of the people in Israel and around the world," said Rivlin. Roe Shafir, a restoration expert at the museum, said the repairs would be fairly simple, as the pieces were from a single, complete jar. Archaeologists often face the more daunting task of sifting through piles of shards from multiple objects and trying to piece them together. Experts used 3D technology, hi-resolution videos,



and special glue to painstakingly reconstruct the large jar. Less than two weeks after it broke, the jar went back on display at the museum. The gluing process left small hairline

cracks, and a few pieces are missing, but the jar's impressive size remains. The only noticeable difference in the exhibit was a new sign reading "please don't touch." -AP

EDITORIAL

Selective Justice

As Maharashtra gears up for the Assembly polls, the political landscape has been rattled by a familiar and troubling saga. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) state unit president Chandrashekar Bawankule finds himself in the eye of a raging storm after his son, Sanket Bawankule was involved in a car accident in Nagpur. The incident, in which Sanket's luxury Audi lost control and crashed into several vehicles has snowballed into a major controversy, entangling Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, the State's Home Minister while inviting fierce censure from the opposition Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

The MVA, comprising the Congress, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT), and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP), has seized upon the incident, has questioning why Sanket has not been arrested by the Nagpur police despite the severity of the accident. The accident has immediately drawn parallels with other high-profile hit-and-run cases in Maharashtra, notably the recent Pune Porsche crash, where two young IT professionals were killed, and the infamous 2014 Aston Martin incident in Mumbai involving a vehicle owned by a company linked to Mukesh Ambani, India's richest man. These cases reveal a troubling pattern: the children of the powerful receive preferential treatment, evading the consequences that ordinary citizens would face.

The facts of the latest case troubling. On the night of the incident, blood samples from both Sanket Bawankule and the driver — who was arrested but quickly released on bail — were collected for analysis. While Bawankule has publicly stated that the law should be applied equally and that the police should conduct a fair and thorough investigation, scepticism abounds. The Opposition has alleged that the car's number plates were removed and placed inside the vehicle in an apparent attempt to conceal evidence. Adding to the intrigue, a person injured has reportedly refused to speak out, adding the suspicion of 'political pressure' to the narrative.

This incident exemplifies a disturbing double standard in Maharashtra's justice system. The powerful seem to operate in a separate reality, shielded by their connections and status. When public figures or their relatives find themselves in legal trouble, the response from authorities often appears muted. Such incidents erode public trust in law enforcement and judiciary systems, breeding cynicism and a sense of injustice among the populace. For Maharashtra, this is not just a matter of optics; it is a critical test of its democratic and judicial integrity. As long as the children of the elite can sidestep accountability with ease, the rule of law remains an abstract ideal. The stakes are high. If the state's leaders fail to act decisively and impartially, they risk deepening the public's disillusionment with political and judicial systems. Maharashtra's leaders must rise to this challenge, ensuring that justice is not a privilege reserved for the powerful but a right accessible to all. Only then can the brakes be applied to the runaway vehicle of preferential treatment that has long plagued the state, steering it back onto the path of fairness and accountability.



By
Shoumojit Banerjee

In describing the potential dangers of the rivalry between the US and China, American political scientist Graham Allison, in his book 'The Thucydides Trap,' uses the title term to describe the inevitable conflict between a rising power and an established one. The term alludes to the destructive conflict in the ancient world that raged for 27 years between Athens and Sparta (431 B.C. - 404 B.C.) which was chronicled by the Athenian historian Thucydides in his classic 'History of the Peloponnesian War' — a book considered the first 'objective' work of history.

Iranian president Masoud Pezeshkian's visit to Iraq suggests the erstwhile foes are trying to secure a future marked by strategic cooperation while being mindful of their turbulent past.

Like Athens and Sparta of yore, Iran and Iraq — two Middle Eastern powers who were bitter foes — seem to have undergone a remarkable transformation in their relationship as exemplified by the recent visit of Iran's president, Masoud Pezeshkian to Iraq.

Pezeshkian's discussions with Prime Minister Muhammad Shia' Al-Sudani revolved around bolstering economic cooperation and deepening political ties — a stark contrast to the adversarial relations that have defined the two nations for much of the past. Talks focused on expanding trade, with ambitions to increase bilateral trade to \$20 billion in the coming years. Energy cooperation was also on the agenda, reflecting Iraq's ongoing need for Iranian electricity supplies amid its own chronic shortages. This partnership is emblematic of Iraq's broader strategy to diversify its international alliances and reduce dependence on the United States.

The Iran-Iraq War (1980-88) remains one of the longest and bloodiest conflicts (and least documented) of the 20th century, casting a shadow over both nations that lingered well into the 21st century. The war, sparked by territorial disputes and ideological differences left scars so deep that any thought of reconciliation seemed impossible.

Yet, in light of their altered relations today, it appears that Iran and Iraq are navigating a path that defies Allison's 'Thucydidean Trap.'

Strategically, both nations are keen to stabilize their borders and counter shared threats, particularly from extremist groups. The rise of the Islamic

AGE OF EXTREMES

Iran and Iraq: From Battlefield to Backroom



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian met with his Iraqi counterpart Abdul Latif Rashid in Baghdad on Wednesday.

State in 2014 galvanized a tacit military partnership, as Iranian-backed militias played a crucial role in the fight against the jihadists in Iraq.

Iran's influence in Iraq has grown significantly since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Yet, the path to rapprochement since 1980 has been rocky and chaotic, chequered by violent sectarian conflict and buffeted by the headwinds of the Iraqi civil war that followed the fall of Saddam Hussein.

Describing the pervasive hatred between Ayatollah Khomeini's Iran and Saddam Hussein's Iraq, Williamson Murray and Kevin M. Woods, in their authoritative history of the conflict, observe how Iraq made the battlefield even more gruesome by introducing poison gas — not used extensively in a major war since Mussolini's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935.

Both emerged from the war weakened and wary, their economies shattered and their militaries exhausted. The conflict was a pyrrhic victory for Iraq and a grievous loss for Iran, leaving both nations "more vulnerable than they had been before the first shot was fired," say Williamson and Woods in their book.

Both Hussein and Khomeini, the war's chief architects, were gone by the mid-2000s, but the animosity and distrust remained.

The toppling of Hussein's regime in 2003 dismantled the fragile power structure of a deeply sectarian country, setting off a brutal cycle of insurgency and sectarian violence. Amidst this geopolitical chaos, Iran seized the opportunity to expand its influence in Iraq, sponsoring militant groups.

One of the most notable figures to emerge was Muqtada al-

Sadr, a fiery cleric who galvanized Shiite resentment and nationalist sentiment against the U.S. occupation. Sadr's Mahdi Army, a militia formed in 2003, became a formidable force, clashing with American troops and other rival factions.

As the U.S. struggled to establish order, Iran played a calculated game of fostering Shiite militias and political factions to create a network of influence in a rapidly fragmenting Iraq. Tehran's backing of groups like the Badr Organization and the Mahdi Army was part of a broader strategy to counter American presence and ensure that post-Saddam Iraq would be an ally rather than a rival. Iran's Quds Force, led by the now-deceased General Qassem Soleimani, became instrumental in this effort, coordinating with Iraqi militias and providing funding, weapons, and training.

The rise of ISIS in 2014 marked another turning point in the relations between the two countries. As the extremist group seized large swathes of Iraqi territory, including Mosul, Iran quickly mobilized to support the Iraqi government and Shiite militias in the fight against ISIS. This intervention was not merely a defensive manoeuvre; it solidified Iran's role as a critical security partner, further entrenching its influence in Iraq's military and political spheres.

Pezeshkian called his visit "a new starting point for cooperation" with Iraq. The shift from outright hostility to strategic partnership, albeit with its complexities and contradictions, illustrates a nuanced escape from the destructive cycles of the past.

If indeed there was a 'devious' PM or a 'pliable' CJI, they would not have been stupid enough to visit each other so openly

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the residence of Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud for Ganesh Puja sparked a furore, with some noted lawyers and Opposition leaders quick to criticize it remarking that it raised concerns over the impartiality of the judiciary while the BJP terming the aspersions as reckless and that casting aspersions set a dangerous precedent.

In an exclusive interview to **The Perfect Voice's Executive Editor Shoumojit Banerjee**, former Maharashtra Advocate General and noted lawyer **Shrihari Aney** gives his thoughts on the hullabaloo over the PM visiting the CJI's home for a social function.

One prominent Supreme Court lawyer said that the PM's visit to CJI residence for the function had reportedly compromised the separation of powers between the Executive and Judiciary. Is that really the case?

It is a misplaced emphasis on a legal doctrine which has nothing to do

with personal behaviour and I think such reactions are based on our own insecurities. How does visiting anyone's home amount to an encroachment on the separation of powers? This doctrine [of separation of powers], is really a very old one which traces itself to the Magna Carta of 1215 A.D. when the Crown's sovereign powers were separated into three components - Legislative, Executive and Judicial, and vested in three distinct branches of government - the Executive government, the Legislature and the Courts. Their separation is intended to facilitate the smooth functioning of the state so as to prevent one power from trespassing into the area of the other. This doctrine is not a code of behaviour nor does it lay down a code of conduct. It concerns precise areas of action for each of the three powers as defined in our constitution. That said, as they all concern governance of the nation, the demarcation for the areas of action allotted to each authority does not always remain watertight. Hence

a legislator today may also don the garb of executive authority if he is appointed a Minister. In a given case the Supreme Court may frame rules or lay down law, which is really in legislative domain. There is certain fluidity despite separation. It follows that to confine or restrict the three to their exclusive spheres is neither realistic nor practical.

Would you say, as the Opposition has been alleging, that the independence of the judiciary has been compromised by this visit?

The PM is almost at the apex of the Executive pyramid. To what extent would you say the executive is compromised if he visited, let us say, the Leader of Opposition's family, for a social function or a courtesy visit? Would you say that the Executive has encroached on the Legislative area? Shouldn't MP, say from the Opposition party, invite a minister of the government or a Judge of a High Court or Supreme Court for his daughter's wedding? The problem

THE PERFECT INTERVIEW



Ex Maharashtra Advocate General and noted lawyer Shrihari Aney

seems to lie in our distrust of people who occupy these places and not of the doctrine of separation of powers. My political views are completely different than those held by the Prime Minister or his party [the BJP]. I know the CJI for the better part of the last 35-odd years. However much I may criticise the CJI for certain judicial decisions, or the PM, for some government action, I believe they are honourable men who would never allow their personal lives affect their constitutional functions. I believe that that is what Rahul Gandhi meant when he said in a speech in the US that he doesn't dislike the PM personally, but disagrees with his actions & decisions. He made it clear this was not a case of personal hatred. We seem to lose sight of the difference between public and private actions. Our own feelings colour and distort our vision. But this is more in the realm of our imagination than reality.

How do you view the attack on this meeting by Opposition leaders and certain other members of the intelligentsia?

My short answer to this if indeed there was a 'devious' Prime Minister or a 'pliable' CJI, they would not have been stupid enough to visit each other so openly. The very fact that the social

visit was so above board makes it abundantly clear that neither thought anything of it except what it was - a purely personal, courtesy visit. It is ridiculous to conceive that the official and personal roles are so watertight that they cannot risk regular social intercourse. Such criticisms are products of scared minds who see a skeleton in every cupboard.

Those casting aspersions on the meeting have suggested it enforces a negative perception about integrity of those in positions of power?

The vitriolic attack on the PM-CJI meet speaks more about their own sensibilities, and our deficient faith in the goodness of human beings rather than any legal issue. It is in our regrettable belief that everything in our life is touched by vice and corruption. Even natural social relations are viewed with suspicion. There is nothing in doctrine of separation of powers that prohibits people in positions of authority from paying personal, courtesy visits to each other. There are reactions like does the PM know the CJI well enough to visit his home even on personal, celebratory occasions. There may perhaps be good reasons to think in this way, but we should not lose our perspective. It is not as if the

PM accompanies the CJI on an evening walk. It is a fact that the government is the biggest litigant of the highest court. That said, far-fetched inferences that are being drawn from this visit. Take an illustration concerning my legal profession. In what way would it be different if one of my juniors at court or my friends or colleagues who now occupy the Bench in the High Court or the Supreme Court come to visit me? Will people begin alleging there is some nexus or corruption involved in a gathering where judges and lawyers are present?

As some detractors remarked, does the meeting reflect that the judiciary is in 'service' of the PM and that the judiciary ought to remain aloof?

This practice of aloofness lies squarely in the realm of convention and historic practice. I am affectionate to my junior who worked in my chambers, and cannot stop being affectionate towards them simply because they are now judges, or government ministers. I do not subscribe to the belief that lawyers should not appear in courts where their juniors or friends preside as judges. When I appear in their courts, I do not expect any special treatment or favours, nor do they get pressured by my appearing before them.

More than half the judges in the Bombay High Court and at least five-judges in the Supreme Court are my close friends or acquaintances. That does not mean I must not appear in their court. Their hearings and judgements do not contain any 'fear or favour.' Given my personal relationship with the current CJI or the previous two CJIs, they will be quite happy to offer me a cup of tea if I happen to visit them. How does this constitute a breach of professional ethics?

Regrettably, we have somehow turned into a nation of people who distrust one another and reduce everything to a cold, business-like, transactional attitude. This is an unhealthy and unhappy form of behaviour. We search for corruption and favouritism in places or situations where it does not exist.





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KALEIDOSCOPE

- 1 Russian warships sail in the Sea of Japan during the Ocean-2024 strategic command and staff exercises in Russia.
- 2 Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama during a teaching session at the Main Tibetan Temple in Dharamshala on Thursday.
- 3 Bollywood actor and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty participates in a procession to mark the 131st anniversary of Swami Vivekananda's historic Chicago speech, in Kolkata on Wednesday.
- 4 ESouth Korean actor Ha Ji-won (centre) in India.
- 5 Taylor Swift, center, and Post Malone, far right, accept the award for best collaboration for Fortnight during the MTV Video Music Awards at UBS Arena in Elmont, NY on Wednesday.



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All Pictures PTI, AP

READERS' CHOICE

China-Pakistan-Bangladesh Pact: New Challenge for India



By
Shreyas Pannase

The proposed joint trade and security agreement between China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh poses significant challenges to India's regional dominance. Driven by China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), with Pakistan as a key partner through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Bangladesh has increased its economic ties with China, particularly in infrastructure and energy. This trilateral cooperation could counterbalance India's influence, leading to strategic, economic, and security concerns. India faces potential military threats, disrupted trade routes, and strained diplomatic relations, especially in regional forums like SAARC and BIMSTEC.

The potential agreement also has significant political and diplomatic repercussions for India, particularly in its relations with Bangladesh and regional organizations. India's relationship with Bangladesh has been a cornerstone of its regional policy, marked by cooperation on issues like border management, water sharing, and counter-terrorism. However, the

proposed agreement could strain these ties, particularly if Bangladesh becomes more aligned with China and Pakistan. The potential for increased Chinese influence in Bangladesh's domestic politics could lead to a shift in Dhaka's foreign policy, making it less receptive to India's concerns and more aligned with China's strategic interests. This could complicate India's efforts to resolve longstanding issues like the sharing of Teesta river waters and the management of the India-Bangladesh border.

In response to the potential joint trade and security agreement, India has several strategic, economic, and diplomatic options to consider. On the strategic front, India may need to reassess its military alliances and defence posture. Strengthening ties with the United States, Japan, and Australia, particularly within the Quad framework, could provide India with the necessary support to counterbalance the growing China-Pakistan-Bangladesh axis. India could also invest in advanced military technologies, such as missile defence systems, cyber capabilities, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), to enhance its deterrence capabilities. The expansion of India's naval presence in the Indian Ocean, particularly through enhanced cooperation with countries like Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and the Seychelles, could help secure critical sea lanes and counter the Chinese presence in the region.

Economically, India could focus on diversifying its trade partners and strengthening its domestic markets. By expanding its trade ties with countries in Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia, India can reduce its dependence on traditional markets and mitigate the impact of any economic isolation in South Asia. India could also focus on boosting its manufacturing sector through initiatives like "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-Reliant India) to reduce its reliance on imports and enhance its global competitiveness. Building strategic economic partnerships, such as free trade agreements with key partners, could

help India secure its position in global supply chains.

On the diplomatic front, India could seek to build stronger alliances with countries that share its concerns about China's growing influence. By enhancing its engagement with countries like Vietnam, Indonesia, and the Philippines, India can build a coalition that supports a free and open Indo-Pacific. India could also leverage its soft power, including its cultural diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and development assistance, to strengthen its ties with countries in South Asia and beyond. By presenting itself as a reliable partner that respects the sovereignty and independence of its neighbours, India can build goodwill and counter the narrative of Chinese dominance.

To counter the potential security threats posed by the agreement, India could enhance its intelligence capabilities and strengthen its counter-terrorism measures. This could involve increased surveillance along its borders, enhanced cooperation with international intelligence agencies, and greater investments in cybersecurity to protect critical infrastructure.

The proposed joint trade and security agreement between China, Pakistan, and Bangladesh presents a complex challenge for India, with far-reaching implications for its strategic, economic, and diplomatic interests. While the agreement could potentially undermine India's influence in South Asia, it also presents an opportunity for India to recalibrate its strategies and build stronger partnerships with like-minded countries. As the geopolitical landscape in South Asia continues to evolve, India must remain vigilant and proactive in safeguarding its interests. By adopting a multifaceted approach that combines strategic, economic, and diplomatic initiatives, India can navigate the challenges posed by the potential agreement and continue to assert its role as a leading power in the region.

(The writer is a Senior Research Associate, Vishwa Samvad Kendra, Mumbai. Views personal.)

TALK OF THE TOWN

Aandhi to Emergency via Sarkar : Tangled Relationship



By
Abhijit Joshi

Indian politics and the entertainment industry have always had a deep, tangled relationship. However, when films touch upon sensitive political figures or ideologies, they often spark controversy, especially if they don't align with public or political expectations. A recent example is Kangana Ranaut's film Emergency. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) suggested a few cuts, a decision that has reportedly upset the filmmaker. What's interesting is that Kangana herself is a Member of Parliament for the ruling party, and the CBFC is perceived to be controlled by the party's sympathizers. This raises an important question: Why isn't the ruling party backing its own MP in this instance? Could the upcoming assembly elections and concerns about distancing key voter groups be a factor?

One of the primary objections to the film has come from a section of the Sikh community, who have expressed concerns about how historical Sikh figures and their community are portrayed. With significant Sikh populations in crucial states like Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, the BJP may be hesitant to endorse the film fully, especially after the backlash they received during the farmers' protests—a movement that Kangana publicly criticized. This situation presents a delicate balancing act for the party, as openly supporting the film might risk further damage to their standing among key voter groups.

Historically, films in India have faced censorship, not just from official bodies like the CBFC, but also from political leaders who have the power to either promote or block a



film's release. For instance, Amitabh Bachchan's Sarkar was heavily promoted as being inspired by The Godfather, but it was widely believed to be a portrayal of a powerful political family in Maharashtra. The film only received the green light after the families patriarch approved it. This isn't a new phenomenon. Political censorship in Indian cinema has long been a reflection of the nation's socio-political climate. Gulzar's Aandhi (1975) faced a ban because the lead character was seen as resembling then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, leading to accusations of character assassination. The film was only re-released after Gandhi's government lost power. Similarly, Kissa Kursi Ka (1978), a satirical film critical of the Emergency era, faced intense suppression, with prints allegedly destroyed on the orders of Sanjay Gandhi.

The 2016 film Uda Punjab stimulated major controversy in Punjab due to its depiction of drug addiction and political issues. The CBFC demanded 89 cuts, sparking a legal battle that ended with the Bombay High Court ruling in favor of the filmmakers, allowing the film to release with minimal changes. Despite being leaked before its release, Uda Punjab performed well, earning nearly

100 crore, with Alia Bhatt winning the Filmfare Award for Best Actress.

Interestingly, while Mahatma Gandhi frequently appears in films, it's Indira Gandhi who has become a prominent figure in politically charged cinema. Films like Aandhi, Nasbandi, Kissa Kursi Ka, Indu Sarkar, and Kranti Ke Tiranga centered on her often faced censorship or agitation. However, while many films critique Mahatma Gandhi's ideology of non-violence, they rarely face censorship, showing the enduring legacy and respect for India's tallest leader.

The case of Emergency seems to be following a similar path, although with a twist. While the ruling party appears cautious about fully supporting the film due to electoral concerns, the opposition is keen to see it released, perhaps hoping it will spark a debate about the ruling party's stance on free speech and artistic expression. This unusual dynamic shows how political affiliations can sometimes dictate the fate of films in India, often depending on who stands to gain or lose from their release.

(The writer is a communication professional. Views personal.)

Chess Championship

Prag, Vaishali star
in strong start

Budapest (Hungary): R Praggnanandhaa set the tone on the top board as the Indian men's team blanked Morocco 4-0, while the women romped home against Jamaica, conceding just a draw in the process, in the first round of the 45th Chess Olympiad here.

With world championship challenger D Gukesh taking a break in the opening round, Praggnanandhaa delivered the goods against Tissir Mohamed out of a Sicilian defense game while Vidit Gujrathi, Arjun Erigaisi and P Harikrishna also pulled off comfortable wins to start off confidently on Wednesday.

In the women's section, R Vaishali and Tania Sachdev scored fine victories in the first time control itself. However, on the other two boards there was stiff resistance as Divya Deshmukh had to sweat hard for a much-needed victory while Vantika Agarwal was forced to concede a draw in the endgame against her rival.

It was business as usual for the top guns despite the occasional hiccups. Top seeded United States also won 3.5-0.5 against Panama. Wesley So was the lone American who was unable to force matters and had to be content with a draw.

Armenian-American Levon Aronian came out of an early mishap to turn the tables and ensure smooth sailing for the American



Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, of India, left, focuses during his game with Tissir Mohamed, of Morocco at the 45th Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary on Wednesday.

Pic: PTI

team into round two. As many as 99 teams in the open section started off with wins giving them all two points each. A total of 182 teams were paired while 15 teams were still grappling to reach Budapest.

Praggnanandhaa was up against a Sicilian by top Moroccan Mohamed who had only himself to blame after the opening got over.

The Indian teen had a stronghold on the king side that he utilised to the fullest to take the first point home for the team.

Not very far behind was Gujrathi who was clearly in his elements. He also got an opening advantage out of a King pawn game against

Jacques Elbilias as he knocked down a pawn and never looked back.

Erigaisi may have had to work harder but the Indian youngster, who is currently ranked number four in the world, was never far from winning his game.

Harikrishna faced some initial resistance from Anas Mosyad in a closed Sicilian but his superior understanding of the structure gave him the vital point. The second round will see the Indian men clash with a spirited Iceland.

In the women's competition, Vaishali had no trouble in converting her position with black pieces as D Harika was rested on the top board.

Tania Sachdev was in command right through and despite a little mess-up, she did not let the advantage slip through her hands playing on board four.

On the second board, there were some serious issues for Divya Deshmukh but the recently-crowned world junior girls' champion proved her mettle out of an equal position.

The same, however, was not the case with Vantika as she was forced in a drawn queen and pawns endgame.

The women's event features 178 teams as of now with 19 still awaited to join the extravaganza from round two onward.

-PTI

Rhythm
only Indian
in ISSF

New Delhi: Rhythm Sangwan will be the only Indian shooter to compete in two events in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Final here after double Olympic-medallist Manu Bhaker opted for a three-month rest following her exploits in the Paris Games.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) on Thursday announced a 23-member Indian squad for the tournament that will be held across rifle, pistol and shotgun categories from October 13 to 18 at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.

The squad features nine members from the Paris Olympics team which returned with three bronze medals.

A total of 11 Indian Olympians will gun for the title of the best shooter of the year along with the world's best in 12 individual Olympic events.

The 22-year-old Bhaker scripted history for India in Paris as she won a bronze each in the women's 10m air pistol and 10m air pistol mixed team event (paired with Sarabjot Singh in the latter), and the Indian shooters participating in the prestigious tournament in the national capital will look to carry on the momentum at the familiar range.

"We have a strong squad of proven performers for the ISSF year-ender and look forward to a strong performance. Expectations from the sport have reached sky-high after the Paris performance..." said Sultan Singh, secretary general, NRAI.

-PTI



Matteo Berrettini, of Italy, celebrates defeating Joao Fonseca, of Brazil, in a Davis Cup tennis match at Unipol Arena in Casalecchio di Reno, near Bologna, Italy on Wednesday.

Pic: AP/PTI

Hong Kong Open

Jolly, Gayatri go down in pre-quarters

Hong Kong: Commonwealth Games bronze medal-winning duo of Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand fought hard before going down to Liu Sheng and Tan Ning in the women's doubles pre-quarterfinals of the Hong Kong Open badminton here on Thursday.

Liu and Ning won 21-11, 22-20.

The first game was a one-sided affair as the second-seeded Chinese pair broke away from 3-2 to win it 21-11.

But the unseeded Indian duo returned strongly in the second game where they fought hard and were level till 15 and then 20-all before the Chinese wrapped it up 22-20. The match last-



ed 41 minutes.

For the Indians, who are ranked 26th in the world, this was their second loss in a row to the Chinese, ranked third in the world, who now lead 2-1 on head-to-head.

Jolly and Gayatri earlier got past Ukraine's Polina Buhrova and Yevheniia Kantemyr 21-14, 21-13 in

their opening round clash.

Sumeeth Reddy and Sikki Reddy are the only other Indians in fray in the BWF World Tour Super 500 event. They will face eighth-seeded Goh Soon Huat and Lai Shevon Jemie of Malaysia in the mixed doubles pre-quarters later in the day.

-PTI

Diamond League Season Finale

Chopra, Sable spearhead Indian challenge

It is for the first time that a DL finale features two Indians

Brussels: Javelin throw star Neeraj Chopra will have lofty expectations to live up to, while for steeplechaser Avinash Sable, it would be an opportunity to make up for a disappointing Olympics, when the star-studded Diamond League season finale begins here on Friday, featuring the best of world athletics.

The showpiece is spread over two days for the first time and the field features top athletes from all continents, including an unprecedented number of Olympic medal winners, who will be vying for the top honours in 32 disciplines.

Pole vault world record holder Armand Duplantis, American sprint queen Sha'Carri Richardson, and superstar hurdler Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone are



among the big names who will light up the King Baudouin Stadium here.

National record-holding 3000m steeplechaser Sable, after finishing 11th in the Olympic Games, will be in action on Friday in his maiden appearance in the DL season finale.

Chopra, who added a silver to his Olympic medal

tally in Paris following a historic gold in the Tokyo Games, will be aiming to end his season on a high on Saturday.

Sable finished 14th in the overall Diamond League standings with three points from two meetings. But four athletes ranked higher than him -- Lamecha Girma (injured) of Ethiopia, Geor-

die Beamish of New Zealand, Ryuji Mura of Japan and Hillary Bor of the USA -- pulled out, allowing him to sneak inside the top 12 cut-off. Five meetings out of the 14 in the DL series across the world this season had men's 3000m steeplechase event.

The 29-year-old Sable had finished sixth with a national record time of 8:09.91 -- bettering his own earlier mark -- in the Paris leg of the Diamond League on July 7. He was 14th at the Silesia leg with a time of 8:29.96 on August 25.

Chopra, on the other hand, made the DL final cut after finishing fourth in the overall standings with 14 points from his two second-place finishes in the one-day meets held in Doha and Lausanne.

Each Diamond League season finale champion is awarded a 'Diamond Trophy', USD 30,000 prize money and a wild card for the World Athletics Championships. The runner-up gets USD 12,000.

Chopra skipped the last series meet in Zurich last week. The 26-year-old finished two points behind Czechia's Jakub Vadlech. Grenada's Anderson Peters and German star Julian Weber took the top two spots with 29 and 21 points respectively.

Chopra has been struggling with his fitness this season and is expected to meet a doctor to rectify a groin injury that has affected him all season and came in the way of his quest to hit the 90m mark.

-PTI

IOA treasurer
Yadav issued
notice for violation

New Delhi: Indian Olympic Association President PT Usha has issued a show cause notice to the body's Treasurer Sahdev Yadav following a complaint that his election violates the country's National Sports Code. In a letter dated September 10, Usha asked Yadav to give his reply by September 24.

"I am writing to you to bring to your attention a formal complaint that the Indian Olympic Association has recently received concerning your eligibility to contest the position of Treasurer in the last elections.

"The complainant cites a ruling from Hon'ble High Court, which, according to the complainant, raises concerns about your eligibility to stand for election," Usha wrote in her letter to Yadav.

India beat Korea 3-1 in ACT



Hulunbuir (China): Defending champions India defeated Korea 3-1 to register their fourth consecutive win at the Hero Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Thursday.

Paris Olympics bronze medallist India had already defeated China 3-0, Japan 5-0 before thrashing last year's runner-up Malaysia 8-1.

Arajeet Singh Hundal (8th minute) and skipper Harmanpreet Singh (9th, 43th) were the goal getters

for India against the Koreans.

Korea's lone goal came from the stick of Jihun Yang in the 30th minute from a penalty corner.

Already assured of a semifinal place, India will next play arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday in their last league match in the six-team competition.

The top four teams from the league stages will qualify for the semifinals scheduled on Saturday, while the final will be played on Sunday.

-PTI

India's best chance of maiden
win over Sweden in Davis Cup

Stockholm: India's top players might be missing from the line-up but the country's Davis Cup team would still fancy its chances for a maiden victory against Sweden when it clashes with the host in the World Group I contest, starting September 14.

India has not beaten Sweden in Davis Cup history and has landed in Stockholm without its best singles and doubles players -- Sumit Nagal and Yuki Bhambri -- for contrasting reasons.

Yet, the side would back itself to buck the trend in the sixth attempt, considering that the Swedish line-up is not intimidating.

The home conditions with the medium-speed court on offer, though, would certainly help Sweden more in the

indoor tie at the Royal Tennis Hall as India would have preferred a faster court, given the fact that it has big servers. The indoor courts are usually fast, the ball travels quick since the outside factors like wind do not interfere much in the play.

Ramkumar Ramanathan holds the key on the opening day even as the side is still weighing options for the second singles. The choice has to be between Niki Poonacha and N Sriram Balaji.

Former national champion Siddharth Vishwakarma is an exciting option but he may not get the nod to play a live rubber in a high-stakes tie as he is still raw and needs to be polished for this level.

It will not be a surprise if captain Rohit Rajpal asks

“I think we have a very fair chance. But it is the Davis Cup, anything can happen. Rankings are immaterial. But just seeing overall, the kind of form our players are in, I mean coming out of the US Open, being at the Grand Slam level, we have a fair chance.”

-Ashutosh, Coach

doubles specialist Balaji to do the singles duty, just like in the previous tie against

Pakistan on the grass court. Balaji had delivered then, beating veteran Aqeel Khan in Islamabad early this year and he is in good rhythm in Stockholm also.

Poonacha is a good talent but it remains to be seen how fit he is after spraining his ankle during practice soon after arrival. He is also more focussed on playing doubles on the Tour.

He did beat Nagal early this year in Pune but has not played and won much in singles. Elias Ymer, ranked 238, is Sweden's best singles player and Ramkumar has not lost to him in two meetings on the ATP Tour. It has never been about talent and skills when it comes to Ramkumar, he just needs to stay calm in pressure situations and back himself to deliver.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an interaction with India's Paris Paralympics contingent in New Delhi on Thursday.

Pic: PTI