THE PERFECT



Circle comes to full for Somaiya



India faces challenges in renewable energy, states study ... pg 6



India thrash Malaysia 8-1; enter ACT semis

... pg 10

Eye on Gen Y Centre pushes for eco-friendly measures

Cabinet on Wednesday took a couple of decisions pertaining to the ecology that may attract the Gen Y.

The has approved two major schemes with a total outlay of Rs 14,335 crore to promote use of electric vehicles, including buses, ambulances and trucks. The two schemes are: 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 PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism (PSM) scheme with a budget of Rs 3,435 crore.

Road connectivity

The Cabinet approved the proposal of the Department of Rural Development for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-IV. The financial assistance is to be provided for the construction of 62,500 km road for providing new connectivity to eligible 25,000 unconnected habitations and construction and upgradation of bridges.

Briefing media about the decisions taken at the Union Cabinet, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the PM E-DRIVE Scheme is a major decision towards bringing down pollution.

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, etrucks and other emerging

The scheme will support 24.79 lakh e-2Ws, 3.16 lakh e-3Ws, and 14.028 e-buses. An official release said

Hydropower projects

The Cabinet approved an outlay of Rs 12,461 crore to support the development of 31,350 MW hydropower projects to be implemented over the next eight years. The scheme will be applicable to all hydro power projects of more than 25 MW capacity, including the private sector projects which have been allotted on a transparent

dustries (MHI) is introducing e-vouchers for EV buyers to avail demand incentives under the scheme. At the time of purchase of the EV, the scheme portal will generate an Aadhaar-authenticated e-

Voucher for the buyer. Further, the PM E-DRIVE allocates Rs 500 crore for the deployment of e-ambulances.

Also, Rs 4,391 crore has been provided for the procurement of 14,028 e-buses by state transport undertakings and public transport agencies.

The scheme also address-

Health insurance for elders

The Cabinet approved health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana irrespective of their income, benefiting around six crore senior citizens. The Rs 5 lakh free health insurance cover would benefit senior citizens of around 4.5 crore families.

Nine cities in list

The demand aggregation will be done by CESL in nine cities with more than 40 lakh population, namely Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Surat, Bangalore, Pune and Hyderabad. Intercity and interstate e-buses will also be supported in consultation with states.

es range anxiety of EV buyers by promoting in a big way the installation of electric vehicle public charging stations (EVPCS).

Mission Mausam

The Cabinet approved "Mission Mausam" to enhance India's ability to predict and respond to extreme weather events and the impacts of climate change. The mission has a budget of Rs 2,000 crore for two years. The mission will focus on improving observations and understanding to deliver highly-accurate and timely weather and climate information.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends 'Ganesh Poojan' at the residence of Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Over 2,500 Ganesh idols immersed

Mumbai: More than 2.500 Ganesh idols were immersed in Mumbai by Wednesday evening, on the fifth day of the festival dedicated to the elephant-headed deity, civic officials said.

Of the 2,574 idols immersed in the sea and artificial ponds in the city till 6 pm, 2,533 were from households and 16 belonged to 'sarvajanik mandals' (community groups), said the officials from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corpo-



ration (BMC).

Of the Ganesh idols im-During the 10-day Ganmersed on the fifth day so far, 1,092, including 1,081 pati festival, devotees usually bid an emotional farehousehold idols, were put well to the idols of their in artificial ponds, set up to beloved deity after one-andavoid pollution of natural a-half days, five days, and water bodies, across the city. Eight sarvajanik

mersed in these artificial ponds. "No untoward incident was reported anywhere

during the immersion," said the BMC.

Ganesh idols were im-

Ganeshotsav, which started with Ganesh Chaturthi on September 7, is one of the biggest festivals in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra. The festivities will end with Anant Chaturdashi on September 17 this year.

Army officers attacked; female friend raped

attacked two young Army officers and their two women friends and also raped one of them when they were out on a picnic in Madhya Pradesh's Indore district in the wee hours of Wednesday, police said.

Badgonda police station in-charge Lokendra Singh Hirore said the officers, aged 23 and 24, undergoing Young Officers (YO) course at the Infantry School in Mhow cantonment town, had gone out for a picnic on Tuesday along with two female friends.

At about 2 am on Wednesday, seven unidentified men arrived near the picnic spot on Mhow-Mandleshwar road and started beating up one of the officers sitting in a car and also the women, he said

The second officer, who was away from the car, managed to inform his senter which police reached

the spot, Hirore said. Looking at the police, the miscreants fled the spot. All four victims were brought to Mhow Civil Hospital for medical examination at about 6.30 am and as per doctors, there were signs of injuries on the officers' bodies, he informed.

Hirore said in the medical examination, it was found that the miscreants had raped one of the women.

Talking to reporters, Indore Rural SP Hitika Vasal said, "A case under (BNS) sections pertaining to loot, dacoity, rape and under the Arms Act has been registered.

Personnel from four police stations have fanned out and launched a manhunt for the miscreants, Vasal added.

Swimmer set for historic sea crossing

an 18-year-old swimmer is poised to make waves with an ambitious attempt to set a new world record.

On September 20, Bharadia will undertake a monumental challenge: swimming non-stop from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka Dhanushkodi (Rameswaram) in India, a distance estimated between

The gruelling swim is expected to take between 12 to 14 hours. Bharadia is scheduled to leap into the sea at 2 am local time. The extraordinary attempt will take place in the waters where the Arabian and Indian Oceans converge, posing a significant challenge to her endeavour.

Solapur: Kirti Bharadia, from Solapur, Maharashtra

34 to 40 kilometers.

Rupali Repale, Bharadia's coach based in Mumhai confirmed that officials from the world record community will be on-site to oversee and authenticate the attempt.

Bengal govt dismisses conditions, standoff continues

government on Wednesday rejected junior doctors' demands for Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's presence and a live broadcast as pre-conditions for talks to resolve the month-long 'cease work' and standoff over the alleged rape-murder of a woman medic at RG Kar Medical College

and Hospital. Amid the 33rd day of protests and a sit-in outside Swasthya Bhawan for the second day, Minister of State for Health Chandrima Bhattacharya said the government remains open to discussions but suggested that "political forces' might be influencing the protests.

This led to a quick rebuttal from the medics, who dismissed the claims as baseless. The minister urged the doctors to reioin work by respecting the Supreme Court's direction to them, but refrained from giving a direct reply on whether the state government would take any punitive action for violating the

Kolkata: The West Bengal



Doctors display placards during a protest dharna over the RG Kar Hospital rape and murder incident in Kolkata on Wednesday.

apex court's order.

Meanwhile, TMC leaders and MLAs issued veiled threats to the agitating junior doctors by calling them "anti-nationals" and saying the party too might conduct counter-protests against the agitating medics.

The government had invited the doctors to a meet-

ing at state secretariat Nabanna at 6 pm on Wednesday but the invitation did not confirm whether Banerjee would attend

Chief Secretary Manoj Pant, in an email sent at 3.49 am on Wednesday, urged the doctors to send a delegation of 12 to 15 members and stressed the importance of resuming work, citing a Supreme Court order directing them to return to duty by 5 pm on Tuesday.

Despite the invitation, the junior doctors insisted on several preconditions before agreeing to the meeting.

TMC MLA Humayun Kabir, in a veiled threat, said they too would organise counterprotests as people are suffering due to doctor's agitation. Another TMC leader Chandan Mukhopadhyay criticised the agitating medics for defying the Supreme Court directive to rejoin work and branded them as "antinationals".

"We want the discussion to be held in the presence of the CM and be telecast live. We want at least 30 representatives as this movement is spread across various medical colleges and hospitals," a member of the junior doctors' forum said at a press conference. The government, however, stood firm on its stance, refusing to accept any pre-conditions for the meeting.

402 children rescued after sex abuse allegations at Islamic welfare homes



Kuala Lumpur: Malaysian authorities on Wednesday rescued 402 children and arrested 171 suspects after raiding 20 welfare homes linked to an Islamic business group, in which children were exploited and sexually abused, the national police chief said.

Inspector-General of Police Razarudin Husain said the raids were conducted after investigations into allegations of child abandonment, deviant teachings and sexual assault at the homes, run by the Global Ikhwan Services and Business Holdings.

Children were sexually abused not only by the caretakers but were also forced to do the same to each other at the facilities. Razarudin said in a televised news conference.

"Those who were sick were not allowed to seek medical attention until

Global Ikhwan's website

said it is involved in a wide range of businesses including food and beverage, media, medical, travel and property. It employs more than 5,000 people and has branches in 20 countries including a chain of restaurants in London, Paris, Australia and Dubai among others.

their condition became critical," he said. Some young children were also burnt with a hot spoon when they made mistakes, and caretakers had touched the children's bodies as if to conduct

medical checks, he said. Police believed that Global Ikhwan exploited the children and used religious sentiments to collect donations, he said.

Investigations showed that the children at the welfare homes belonged to members of the Global Ikhwan group, placed by their parents at the homes since they were infants, he said. The children would undergo medical assessment amid ongoing investigations, he added

According to its website, Global Ikhwan was founded by Ashaari Mohamad, who headed the Islamic sect Al Argam which was deemed heretical and banned by the government in 1994. It said the group had undergone a series of rebranding since Ashaari died in 2010.

The group recently also came under the radar of Islamic authorities amid claims that it was still involved with the deviant teachings of the Al-Arqam

Global Ikhwan, in a statement Wednesday, denied allegations that it exploited children and said that it would cooperate with authorities. But it made no mention of alleTotal 201 boys and 201 girls, aged between 1 to 17 years, were rescued from 18 homes in central Selangor state and two in southern Negeri Sembilan state. The 171 suspects — 66 men and 105 women — included religious teachers and caretakers.

gations of sexual abuse against them.

"The company will not compromise with any activity that goes against the law, particularly regarding the exploitation of children as workers," the statement said.

Bawankule's son did not consume beef, say cops

Nagpur: Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule's son Sanket, who is in eye of a storm after his luxury car hit several vehicles in Nagpur, did not consume beef at a citybased bar before the accident involving his vehicle, police said on Wednesday.

But he consumed liquor along with some mutton and chicken dishes there, the police said.

The police gave this information in the wake of Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut's allegation made earlier in the day that Sanket consumed beef at the bar.

The Audi car owned by Sanket hit several vehicles in Ramdaspeth area in Nagpur in the early hours of



Monday, leaving two persons injured. Although Sanket was present in the car, he was not at the wheel at the time of the crash, the police have earlier said.

The person driving the high-end car, Arjun Hawre, was arrested on Monday night and later released on bail (at the local police



Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone-II) Rahul Madne denied that beef was served to Bawankule and his friends at the bar. "We have recovered the bill, which clearly shows that no beef

was served to them," he said. Another police officer said, "Sanket and four of his friends dined at La Horee bar in Dharampeth area

sumed mutton roast, mutton curry, chicken tikka along with some vegetarian items like masala peanuts and fried cashews. They also ordered two liquor bottles worth over Rs 12.000."

After the accident, a case of rash driving and other offences were registered on a complaint of Jitendra Sonkamble, whose vehicle was hit by the Audi car.

The accident snowballed into a major controversy ahead of the assembly polls with the opposition accusing the Mahayuti government, in which the BJP is a constituent, of trying to save the senior politician's kin by blaming the driver for the accident.

Rahul's 'antireservation' face exposed: Shinde

Mumbai: Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Wednesday said Rahul Gandhi's "anti-reservation" face has now come to fore and the Congress leader's views reflect his "petty mentality".

Gandhi, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, spews venom against the country when he goes abroad and it has been the Congress's habit to do politics in the name of religion and caste. Shinde said.

The CM also said his Mahayuti government, comprising his party Shiv Sena. BJP and Ajit Pawar-led NCP, fully supports reservation.

Gandhi, who is on a visit to the US, told students of the Georgetown University that the Congress would think of scrapping reservations when "India is a fair place", which he said is not

Wasn't keen on return: Khadse; points fingers at Fadnavis senior leader Eknath Khadse's return to the BJP appear dim as he has said he was never keen to rejoin the party, and also claimed that Maharashtra Deputy

returning to the BJP fold. but senior leaders of the party insisted on it. When I met BJP president J P Nadda, he felicitated me with a scarf, and declared that I had become part of the BJP."

To a query on who could be coming in the way of his joining the BJP, Eknath Khadse said, "It could be Devendra Fadnavis and Girish Mahajan.'

Asked for his reaction, Mahajan, Khadse's local BJP rival in Jalgaon district who is considered to be close to Fadnavis, said, "He wants all the parties and posts shared with his famin-law is a Union minister, but he intends to field his daughter in the assembly election from NCP (SP). If the opposition MVA forms government, Khadse would want her to be made a minister.

"He has been a public representative for over 30 years and still wants more," Mahajan added, indicating the two had not buried their

Eknath Khadse joined the then undivided Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) in October 2023 after quitting the BJP. He had then accused Fadnavis of trying to destroy his political career.

A week ago, Raksha Khadse said that if Eknath Khadse and Girish Mahajan buried their hatchet, it would help in the development of Jalgaon.

Cong leader targets CM Shinde over land allotment to minister's trust; BJP hits back

Mumbai: Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar has alleged the Maharashtra government bypassed laws to allot land in Navi Mumbai to a trust of Shiv Sena minister Sanjay Rathod to set up a community centre for the Banjara people.

Reacting to the claim of the leader of opposition in the Maharashtra assembly, a BJP leader said instead of worrying about land parcels, Wadettiwar should focus on protecting his assembly seat Brahmapuri in Chandrapur district, where a local MP has urged Kunbis to vote for their community

Wadettiwar, one of the OBC (Other Backward Class) faces of Maharashtra Congress, is not a Kunbi.

Banjaras are recognised as an OBC community in the state. The Maharashtra assem-

bly polls are likely to be held in November. Wadettiwar on Tuesday told reporters, "Chief Min-

ister Eknath Shinde has bypassed laws and given a parcel of land in Navi Mumbai to a trust owned by cabinet minister Sanjay Rathod to set up a community centre for the Banjara people."



Asked about it, BJP MLC Pravin Darekar said instead of showing concerns for land parcels in Mumbai or Navi Mumbai, Wadettiwar should focus on his assembly constituency in Chandrapur district.

"Your own member of Parliament has sought a change of candidate in your constituency," he said.

Wadettiwar represents Brahmapuri assembly seat in Chandrapur district of the Vidarbha region.

In the Lok Sabha polls

held earlier this year, the Congress fielded Pratibha Dhanorkar from Chandrapur constituency. According to sources,

Wadettiwar wanted ticket for his daughter from the constituency, instead of Dhanorkar.

Speaking at a function in Chandrapur on Sunday, Chandrapur Lok Sabha member Dhanorkar asked

people to ensure a Kunbi wins from the Brahmapuri

"Do not fall prey to false assurances. Some leaders are exploiting the Kunbi community. We must get together and support members of our community irrespective of political affiliations. The tradition of others (non-Kunbis) being elected from Brahmapuri and Gadchiroli must change," she said.

In his address, BJP MLC Parinay Fuke said he would take all efforts to ensure his party fields a Kunbi candidate from Brahmapuri.



Chief Minister Devendra

Fadnavis could be stalling

Speculation about the

former BJP leader, cur-

rently with the Sharad Pa-

war-led NCP (SP), return-

ing to the saffron party

intensified after it renomi-

nated his daughter-in-law

Raksha Khadse as the 2024

Lok Sabha poll candidate

and made her a Union Min-

ister of State after she won.

nouncement from the BJP

yet on his reinduction de-

spite Eknath Khadse ex-

pressing willingness earli-

Speaking to a regional

news channel on Tuesday,

he said, "I was not keen on

er this year.

But there has been no an-

his re-induction.

This is probably Modi's first ever picture with a Gandhi Cap on his head.

School teacher held for molestation a committee to investigate

Nagpur: Police have arrested a school teacher in Maharashtra's Nagpur city on charges of molesting two

minor girls and physically abusing nine boys, an officer said o n Wednesday. The two girl stu-

dents complained to the principal of the school located in Sadar area that the 47-year-old teacher indulged in obscene activities and

There were also complaints that the teacher physically abused nine boys, the officer said.

The principal constituted

The committee reported

that the teacher had molested and abused the

students, the Sadar police officer said. The principal subsequently lodged a police complaint.

The police on Tuesday arrested the teacher, who taught mathematics and

history at the school, and registered a case against him under various sections of the Bharativa Nyava Sanhita and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, the of-

CRIME WATCH

Painting worth Rs 2.5 cr stolen

Mumbai: A painting by Sayed Haider Raza, worth over Rs 2.5 crore, was stolen from a warehouse in south Mumbai, police said on Wednesday.

An official of the MRA Marg police station, where an FIR has been registered in this connection, said the painting, named Prakriti (Nature), made by the celebrated painter in 1992, was stolen from the Guru Auction House Private Limited's warehouse.

"We have formed a team to recover the painting," the official said. "We are trying to identify the culprit through CCTV footage," he added.Raza's acrylic artwork was kept in the warehouse during the coronavirus pandemic, the official said. Raza, who lived and worked in France for most of his career, died in 2016 at 94.

Three booked for molesting

Thane: Police have registered a case against three men for allegedly molesting and beating up a 21-year-old woman during Ganesh festival in Maharashtra's Thane district, an official said.

The incident took place on Sunday night near a hospital in Diva area, he said.

The accused misbehaved with the woman while participating in an idol immersion procession. When she confronted them, they abused her and went away, the official said. At around 1 am on Monday, the three accused approached the woman again near her relative's residence in Diva where they allegedly beat her up, he said.

The victim's gold 'mangalsutra' (sacred necklace worn by married women) went missing in the altercation.

Man held for killing three Mumbai: Police have arrested a man for killing his

40-year-old elder brother, the latter's pregnant wife and minor son due to a property dispute in Maharashtra's Raigad district, an official said.

The bodies of the three family members -- Madan Patil, his 35-year-old wife and son aged 11 -- were found behind their house along the banks of a river at Kalamb village in Karjat area on Sunday morning. The deceased woman was seven months pregnant, the police said.

Gauze left inside wife's abdomen

Latur: Health officials in Latur district have ordered a probe after a man alleged that a piece of gauze was left inside his wife's abdomen when she underwent a Csection at a government hospital. Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings of the probe, said an official on Wednesday.

In his complaint, Habiba Wasim Jevale said his wife had a caesarean section at the hospital in the Ausa area in April and was subsequently discharged. However, she returned to the hospital after nearly three weeks complaining of stomach pain.

The woman was referred to the Government Medical College and Hospital in Latur where she spent 20 days, said Jevale. She put up with abdominal discomfort for about four months. When she could not bear it any

Mumbai: A special POC-

SO Act court here has sen-

tenced a man to five years

imprisonment for molest-

ing a girl in his neighbor-

hood, observing that such

longer, she was recently taken to a private hospital at Omarga town in the Dharashiv district where a scan showed the presence of a piece of gauze in her body, claimed her husband.

Jevale then filed a complaint with Dr Sunita Patil, the in-charge of Ausa Civil Hospital, demanding suspension of the doctor and nurse who performed the C-section delivery.

Patil said the matter has been reported to senior health officials and a committee has been formed to probe Jevale's allegations.

"A notice has been issued to a doctor and a nurse concerning the incident," she told PTI. District Civil Surgeon Dr. Pradeep Dhele said the patient first received care at the Ausa hospital before going to the Latur facility and later a private hospiTwo held for raping 10-year-old

Palghar: Police in Palghar district have arrested two persons for allegedly raping a 10-year-old girl, an officer said on Wednesday.

The accused offered some allurement to the minor and took her to an isolated place in Nalla Sopara in the early hours of September 2 and raped her, the

official said. The girl's mother approached the police with a complaint on September 6 following which the accused, identified as Rahul Gende (41) and Shahu, alias Lambu (35), were booked for gang rape under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, said the official from Achole police station.

The child was sent for a medical examination, he

A) Name of the Borrower

Mayahuti eyes for new narrative on reservation

By Suyash Padate

Mumbai: In the light of tions, the Mahayuti leaders in the state are now in the action mode to set a new narrative that 'opposition to reservation is Rahul Gandhi's legacy'. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi is against reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, and his prejudice against the provision came out in the open during his interaction with students of Georgetown University in the US, the BJP has fired the

first salvo on Wednesday. The BJP's accusation came after Gandhi told the students at the prestigious university that the Congress would think of scrapping reservations when "India is a fair place", which he said is not the case right now. Im-



the elections. Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis criticized Congress MP Rahul Gandhi

Mahayuti's turn to set an-

other narrative for which

they have made swift moves.

This tirade will continue till

for his comments on reservations. Fadnavis accused Gandhi of revealing Congress's true intentions, while Shinde condemned Gandhi's 'petty mentality'. While reacting Fadnavis said, "these remarks have exposed the 'real face' of Gandhi and the Congress party. Gandhi's statements reveal a contradiction in his stance on the Constitution and reservations. Rahul Gandhi talks about saving the Constitution here and talks about ending reservations abroad. Congress has never given respect to Bharat Ratna Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar or the Constitution"



Regional Office Mumbai Vashi

3rd Floor, Rupa Sapphire, Sanpada Post : Vashi, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra-400 705

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and

Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 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 property mortgaged / charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive / Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Union Bank of India (Secured Creditor), will e sold on "As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on 27.09.2024 on the below mentioned time, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunde to Union Bank of India from the below mentioned Borrower(s) & Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder A) Reserve Price (In ₹) A) Encumbrance

	B) Name of the owner/s C) Name of Branch	Description of Property			D) C) D)	nehozir (EMIN) (III 4)	B) C)	Possession : Symbolic / Physical Amount Due
1	A) M/s. Radhika Impex B) Mr. Manjul Chandrakant Goradia AND	built up Premis that pie bearing situate Taluka District	Residential Flat bearing Flat No. 24 admeasuring about 572 Sq. Ft puilt up area, on the 2nd floor of the building known as "Kailas Jyot Premises Co-Operative Housing Society Ltd." constructed on all that piece and parcel of land admeasuring about 1915.84 Sq. Mtropearing Survey No. 256/8 Part, Plot No. 256-B-8 lying being and situated at Derasar Lane, Ghatkoper (E) Village: Ghatkopar-Kirol Taluka Kurla, Mumbai Sub-Urban District within the Registration District and sub-district Mumbai City and Mumbai Suburban.			₹ 13,36,000/- ₹ 1,00,000/- 12:00 p. m. to 5:00	1 ′	Not known Symbolic ₹ 1,22,62,482.69 as on 30.06.2024
			Building	Flat	p. m. with 10 minute auto extension		as 011 30.00.2024	
		North	By Open Ground	By Flat No. 23				
		South	By Road	By Staircase		l		
		East	By Jeerawala Residency	By Building Compound		l		
		West	By Building No.2 Kailsah Jyot	By Flat No. 22			l	
Please contact the related Branch or Mr. Dovaneshwar V. Kshirsagar (Cont. No. 9029007180) / Mr. Abhiliaet Drakash (Cont. No. 8340284586)								

For Registration and Login and Bidding Rules visit https://ebkray.in

12.09.2024 Authorised Officer, Union Bank of India

QUOTE OF THE DAY



Chandrashekhar Bawankule, Chief, Maharashtra **BJP**

"BJP will throw more weight behind the Mahayuti partners, NCP and Shiv Sena in the upcoming state polls. There is no 'friendly fight' proposal for seats where there is a tussle among allies. All those news in this regard are baseless."

inhuman mindset: court cases show an "inhuman

mindset".

Child sexual abuse cases

Priva Bankar, special judge for cases under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, held the accused guilty on September 3. "The child sexual abuse

cases demonstrate the inhuman mindset of the accused. There is a very adverse impact of the incident on victim girl, on her family members and even on society," the judge

"They will be under the impression that house and nearby vicinity is not safe for children, and it is going to cause an alarming situation in society," she added.

the mental health and future of the minor girl who will not be able to forget it,

The incident will affect

I am not greedy for

and Fadnavis are

any post. Bawankule

aware of how I have

been working for the

party...I have been

ordinary worker. I

have proven that

the weight of an

of Fadnavis and

party.

Bawankule in the

a humble party worker

since February 18, 2019,

when BJP leaders directed

me to leave the joint press

conference because of Ud-

dhav Thackeray's insist-

ence. I took the responsi-

bility of exposing various

corrupt practices of the

then Uddhav Thackeray

government and also sur-

vived three near-fatal at-

tacks, but I did my duty. I

am satisfied with the affec-

tion I have received from

you during these last five

and a half years. I will

continue to work for the

party in the upcoming as-

sembly elections," Somai-

ya said in his letter while

declining to work as par-

ty's communication chief

with the Election Commis-

sion of India for Maha-

rashtra assembly polls.

ordinary worker has

to be more than that

working as an

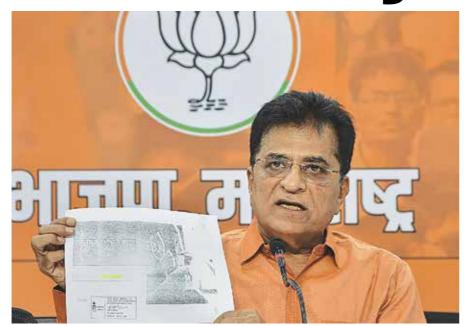
@my_perfectvoice WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

Circle come to full for Somaiya

By Abhijit Mulye

Mumbai: Former BJP MP from Mumbai North East Kirit Somaiya, is sulking because of being side lined in the party. On Tuesday he wrote a letter to the state party leadership, complaining about 'insult' mated to him in 2019 and declined to work as "communication chief with the Election Commission of India for Maharashtra assembly polls". However, this marks a full circle for him, as around 30 years ago the then veteran B.IP leader Wamanrao Parab was similarly sidelined before Assembly elections where the BJP and the Shiv Sena alliance first came to power in the state.

Somaiya, who was an active member of the ABVP during his college days, joined politics as a youth leader in early 1980s. While pursuing his career as a Chartered Accountant, he was also handling important responsibilities in the party's youth wing Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM). He also started raising voice for the middle-class investors in the stock markets and simultaneously began establishing himself as the voice of Gujarati community in the city. In 1985, he even contested state assembly election from South Mumbai. However, he was unsuccessful and could gather only about 24 per cent



votes. He then started looking for a safe constituency and the Gujaratidominated eastern Mumbai suburb of Mulund caught his attention.

Apart from the wide network of RSS Shakhas in the area, senior BJP leaders like Sardar Tara Singh and Wamanrao Parab had groomed the area very well. Apart from representing the party in state assembly, Parab was also the face of the Jhopadpatti Janata Parishad - a front of the BJP that fought for the rights of slum dwellers in the city. However, in 1995, Somaiva. who was then the national vice president of the BJYM, insisted that he be given a ticket from Mulund east constituency where Parab was a sitting MLA. State BJP leadership gave in to Somaiya's demand leaving aside sulking Parab to the mercy of senior RSS office bearers to calm him down and ensure that there is no

From 1995 to 2024 Somaiya has completed a full circle-from being a cause for sulking senior leader to being one.

Interestingly, though he sincerely fought for small investors for a long time saving people frpm Ponzi schemes and helping those duped in scams, Somaiys was always remembered more as an opportunist leaders who always tried to be in good books of his bosses, than being a crusader against corruption. When party needed it he steadfastly took on the mighty Thackerays and that quality finally caused him to be side lined from the party.

In 1999, Somaiya was fielded for Lok Sabha elections from the Mumbai north-east constituency. He became an MP by defeating heavyweight Congress MP Gurudas Kamat. Though he lost to Kamat in 2004 and to NCP's Sanjay Patil in 2009, in 2014 he bounced back to become an MP again. But was denied party ticket in 2019, as Shiv Sena opposed his candidature. In his latest letter to Raosaheb Danve-Patil, Somaiya has mentioned an incident during the same time citing it as an 'insult'.

"I have been working as

Doctor defrauded of **Rs 26.52 lakh**

Vashi: A medical doctor from Navi Mumbai has been defrauded of Rs 26.52 lakh by a cyber gang that threatened to implicate him in a fictitious crime involving money laundering and terrorism, police said on Wednesday.

On August 26, the doctor, a resident of Ghansoli, received a call from individuals posing as customs officers. They told him he had sent a parcel to Dubai which contained objectionable goods, including police uniforms and drugs, said senior inspector Gajanan Kadam of Navi Mumbai's cyber police station, where a complaint was lodged by the victim.

The fraudsters also informed him that they were referring his case to a police station in Mumbai's Andheri area. The scammers claimed his bank account was linked to terrorist activities and that it contained laundered money, said Kadam, citing the complaint.

They threatened he would be arrested for sedition. The victim was coerced into transferring Rs 26.52 lakh online to various bank accounts allegedly to settle the fabricated charges and clear the supposed money laundering issues, said the police officer.

However, the gang continued to demand more money. Realizing he had been scammed, the victim reported the fraud to the cyber police station.

The police have registered an FIR against unidentified fraudsters under various sections of the Information Technology Act, and launched a probe to track down the perpetrators and recover the stolen funds, the inspector added.

Sacked IIT professor challenges action

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Dr. Arun Iyer, the professor whom the IITB management had sacked earlier this year after found guilty of sexual harassment of a girl student, has filed a petition against the premier institute allegedly for not following the procedures in conducting inquiry against him and even in taking action against him.

Iyer, who is known for his political activism as part of the Ambedkar Phule Periyar Study Circle (APPSC) and IITB for Justice, was a faculty from the Humanities and Social Sciences department. He was sacked after complaints of sexual harassment filed by a female staffer, which were probed and confirmed by an Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) constituted under the POSH Act. Iyer, however, has challenged his dismissal through a writ petition filed in Bombay high court.

The victim had accused Iyer of repeated improper conduct. In one incident, while he was hospitalised for a minor surgery, he asked the student to come over to meet him at his room. He allegedly posed completely nude before her when she was there to see him. In another incident he allegedly insisted her to come over for a dinner, made her consume alcohol and in suggestive conversation made sexually explicit advances.

Several of such incidents, including use of improper language in conversations over phone, made her to raise request for change her guide and then raise the issue with the gender cell. Eventually the



Dr. Arun Iyer

case reached the ICC.

The complaints considered by the ICC included "traumatising total nude exposure, request for sexual favours and implied academic favours in return, sexually coloured remarks, attempt to intoxicate in order to breach consent, giving details about his sexual organs and performance and seeking similar details in return." It found that the allegations were true and after ICC report the professor was send on a forced retirement.

He, however, has challenged the action taken against him through a petition filed in the Bombay High Court, where he has raised technical issues like the woman didn't file her complaint within six months, which is mandatory under POCSO. Also. the ICC has no powers to condone the delay or extend the time period for filing a complaint. He also contended that termination can be done only under service rules and the ICC has no power to recommend sacking.

The ICC considered Iyer's contention about the time limit for filing the complaint and said under the circumstance of the case, it was justified in considering the complaint.

Malaika's step father dies by suicide

Mumbai: Actor-model Malaika Arora's stenfather Anil Mehta allegedly committed suicide by jumping from a building in Mumbai on Wednesday morning, a police official said.

Mehta allegedly jumped off the sixth floor of a building in Bandra area at around 9 am, he said.

A team of Bandra police rushed to the spot and shifted him to a hospital, where he was declared dead before arrival, he said.

The exact reason behind the incident was not yet known, the official said, adding an investigation was underway.

conducted Police 'panchnama' (inspection) of the spot and have started collecting evidence, he said.

They also video recorded the building premises, where the body was recovered, as part of the procedure, the official said.

The police also examined CCTV footage of the building premises to ascertain details of the incident, he

The postmortem process was underway at a hospital, the police said.

Meanwhile, a source told PTI, "It's true that Malaika's stepfather passed away this morning. He has not committed suicide, it's an accident. They all are shocked



Actress Malaika Arora father attempt to suicide from his 9th floor jumping at his residence building Bandra West today in Mumbai.

because he had no ailment or anything as such."

"We will be sending you the police panchnama when we receive it. That will be the accurate information for this unfortunate incident," the source said.

Malaika Arora and her sister Amrita Arora Ladak did not respond to queries on the incident.

After getting information about the incident, Malaika Arora's former husband Arbaaz Khan, who is also an actor and producer, visited the building.

Arbaaz Khan's parents Salim Khan and Salma Khan, brother Sohail Khan, Malaika Arora's son Arhaan Khan, her former boyfriend actor Arjun Kapoor and producer Ritesh Sidhwani arrived at the residence of Malaika's mother.

Arbaaz Khan's stepmother Helen, his sister Alvira Agnihotri, Sohail Khan's former wife Seema Sajdeh, and actors Kim Sharma and Shibani Dandekar were also present there.

IIT to oversee road quality

Mumbai: The Mumbai civic body on Wednesday appointed the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay as a third party quality control agency to ensure that the quality of cement concrete roads in being developed in the city city remains high.

In a statement, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said it signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the IIT Bombay for checking the quality of cement concrete road works.

The BMC has initiated cement concretisation of the 701-km-long roads in the city in two phases - 392 km long roads in the first phase and 309 km in the second. The premier engineering institute located in Powai will conduct quality control checks of the cement concrete road works, including cube tests, core tests, slump cone tests, durability tests and field density tests. The IIT will conduct surprise visits, site inspections and hold feedback sessions to ensure high-quality work, the release said.

The MoU was signed in the presence of BMC Commissioner and Administrator Bhushan Gagrani and Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects) Abhijit Bangar.



Maharashtra traditional Women offering prayer to take blessings Gauri today at the Shelar family resident at curry Road,in south Mumbai. during the ongoing Ganesh-Gauri Festival in Mumbai on Wednesday.

SpiceJet asked to pay full refund to elderly couple

Mumbai: A consumer commision here has directed private carrier SpiceJet Limited to refund a senior citizen couple the amount they had paid for a flight cancelled during the COV-ID-19 pandemic.

The commission held that the airline was guilty of deficiency in service by not refunding the ticket cost after the flight cancellation and despite clear guidelines from the Supreme Court and aviation regulator DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation).

The district consumer disputes redressal commission (Mumbai suburban) passed the order last month and its details were available recently.

As per the order, the complainants, residents of Chembur, had booked two tickets on June 24, 2020, from Mumbai to Pondicherry via Bangalore for a scheduled flight on July 1 and paid Rs 13,696 through a credit card for both tickets. As per their complaint, the couple later received an email from the airline informing them that their flight had been cancelled.

In another email, Spice-Jet told the couple that the tickets will be maintained in a credit shell which can be used to make a fresh booking for travel till March 31, 2021, for the same passengers. But the couple requested a full refund of the ticket cost, saying they had no plans for travel.

They sent many emails to SpiceJet between September 2021 and February 2022 seeking a full refund of their money with interest.

QUOTE OF THE DAY



Aaditya Thackeray, MLA, Shiv Sena

"Interesting facets of the anti-Maharashtra bjp/ mindhe regime's industry policy in our state. They haven't held 'Magnetic Maharashtra' (investor summit) since they formed their illegal regime. Why push away industries only because the ego of the MPCB chairman hasn't been fulfilled? Is there a precedent for the same?"

Locals come in support of Dharavi redevelopment Vikas Sangh organised a get

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Loud cheers and claps rang out on Wednesday in support of the Dharavi Redevelopment Project in Dharavi itself when scores of Dharavi residents gathered on 90-feet road near Shakti Vinavak Mandir to support the project.

These local Dharavi residents came out in oppose of outsiders who are creating roadblocks for Dharavi's redevelopment. These local Dharavi residents also raised slogans to support

the Dharavi Redevelopment Project and also distributed sweets to pray for speeding up of the project. They appealed to the state government to speed up the project.

The residents said they

गणेशाचा समर्थन करत आहे. are firmly behind the project implemented by the Mahayuti Government in the state. Local Dharavikars said they stand solidly behind the government led survey that has

started in Dharavi and which

will help speed up the

redevelopment.

Local residents said that no Dharavikar has participated in the outsiders held protest as this protest was held by vested interests.

To ensure Dharavi gets its redevelopment, the Dharavi

together on Wednesday and raised slogans in support of redevelopment and demanded the government should implement this proiect as soon as possible so that all Dharavikars should get their dream homes fast. Local resident Vikas Rok-

de said, "We have waited for Dharavi's redevelopment for generations. It is our appeal that we all get better homes and top-class amenities. We say that we fully support the Dharavi redevelopment project."

WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

Modi pitches India to chip makers

Greater Noida (UP): The Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said resilience of supply chains is critical for the economy as he made a pitch to boost investments in domestic manufacturing of semiconductors -- the foundation of everything from smartphone to EV and AI.

Speaking at the SEMI-CON 2024 conference on the outskirts of the national capital, the Prime Minister said the Covid pandemic showed the importance of the supply chain and underscored the need to act to ward off any disruption.

"Resilience of the supply chain is very important, he said. "India is working to create the same in different sectors of the economy."

The world witnessed supply shocks during Covid-19, as stringent measures to control the spread of pandemic in China affected the industries and sectors dependent on imports from that country. One of the sectors impacted was chips that form a critical part of every electronic



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at an exhibition during the inauguration of SEMICON India 2024 in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday.

The PM showcased India's reformist regime, stable policies and a market that has tasted technology to make a strong pitch for investments in semiconductor manufacturing.

"It is our dream to have an Indian-made chip in every device in the world," he said and added that "We will do everything that is needed to make India semiconductor

Talking of steps taken by his government to boost semiconductor manufacturing, he said a reformist

powerhouse.'

government, a growing manufacturing base and an aspirational market that has tasted technology provide a 'Three-D Power' for chip making in the country.

"Today's India inspires confidence in the world. When the chips are down,

Chairman of Bharat Bio-

tech, said, "We are proud to

collaborate with Alopexx to

bring AV0328 to the regions

where it is most needed. Our

goal is to develop solutions

to reduce anti-microbial re-

sistance through vaccina-

tion. This collaboration

aligns with our mission to

provide safe, affordable, and

high-quality vaccines to

Today India's electronics sector is over USD 150 billion. By the end of this decade we want to take our electronics sector beyond USD 500 billion. It can create 60 lakh jobs.

-Narendra Modi, **Prime Minister**

lakh crore - Investment already been committed

in semiconductor

manufacturing vou can bet on India." he said. On the electronics sector, Modi said that India aims that entire work of electronics manufacturing

should happen in India.

Bharat Biotech pact with Alopexx

Hyderabad: Bharat Biotech on Wednesday announced a collaboration with Alopexx, Inc. for the co-development and commercialisation of the latter's proprietary broad-spectrum anti-microbial vaccine, AV0328, in India and other low income and lower

middle-income countries. A press release from the



city-based vaccine maker said as part of the collaboration, the companies will codevelop and commercialise AV0328, a synthetic vaccine targeting poly N-acetyl glucosamine (PNAG), in India and other licensed territories

Alopexx would be entitled to a one-time upfront payment and milestone payments, as well as royalties on future sales of AV0328 in the licensed territories, it

Krishna Ella, Executive

combat infectious diseases globally.'

"This collaboration brings us one step closer to addressing the critical need for affordable, broad-spectrum antimicrobial solutions, especially in low-and middle-income countries." Daniel Vlock, CEO of

ED attaches fresh assets of Nirav Modi

ment Directorate on Wednesday said it has attached fresh assets worth Rs 29.75 crore of fugitive diamond trader Nirav Modi under the anti-money laundering law.

A provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to attach these assets that are in the form of bank deposits, land, and buildings, it said in a statement.

The agency, which has been probing Modi in the alleged USD 2 billion fraud against the Punjab National Bank for over five years now, has attached assets worth Rs 2,596 crore in India and abroad in the past.

Modi, 53, is presently lodged in a UK jail and has lost his extradition plea to India in connection with this alleged bank loan fraud case, which is also being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. Modi and his uncle Mehul Choksi, both prime accused in the case, along with others are being probed by the ED on money laundering charges for allegedly perpetrating fraud in connivance with bank officials and by issuance of fraudulent Letters of Undertaking (LoUs) at the Brady House Punjab National Bank (PNB) branch in Mumbai

Modi was declared a fugitive economic offender by a Mumbai PMLA court in December 2019. He was arrested the same year in London. The ED said movable and immovable assets of Modi and his associates amounting to Rs 692.90 crore have "confiscated"

Congress levels another attack over FPIs

New Delhi: Noting that September 9 was the deadline for Foreign Portfolio Investors to disclose the beneficial owners of their holdings, the Congress on Wednesday asked SEBI if those implicated in the Adani matter have done so and why has it taken the capital markets regulator 18 months to enforce the new norm.

Congress General Secretary In-Charge Communications Jairam Ramesh said it is September 11 today, two days after the SEBI's September 9 deadline for Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) - those who stand accused of holding concentrated portions of their equity portfolio in a single corporate group - to disclose the beneficial owners of their holdings.

"We had raised this issue a few days ago, in light of information that two Mauritius-based FPIs that were part of the revelations in the still-unfolding Modani mega scam, have petitioned the Securities Appellate Tribunal to seek urgent relief from complying with these new foreign investor norms," he said in a post on

"Some questions to the SEBI on the current status of these disclosures - have all FPIs required to comply with these norms disclosed the details of their ultimate beneficial owners to SEBI? Which FPIs have complied, and which ones have failed to do so?" the Congress lead-

In particular, have the FPIs implicated in the "Modani mega-scam" revealed the details of their owners to SEBI, he asked.

"As part of its initial rulings on the Modani mega



scam, the Supreme Court had mandated that SEBI investigate the violations by these FPIs within a timespan of two months - why has it taken SEBI 18 months to enforce this new norm?' Ramesh said.

Did this extended timespan of 18 months between the Supreme Court ruling and the compliance date for the FPIs allow these funds and their owners to divest from stocks and frustrate the transparency-seeking intent of these norms, he asked. "If so, what is SEBI's plan to ensure that norms of integrity are met, especially in the investigation into the Modani mega-scam?' Ramesh said.

His remarks come days after the Congress said the SEBI investigation into "the Adani Group's brazen attempt" to bypass regulations is still languishing and the capital markets regulator has a lot to explain.

Ramesh had attacked the SEBI on Sunday after a media report claimed that two Mauritius-based foreign portfolio investors (FPIs), who were mentioned in the January 2023 report on the Adani Group by short-seller Hindenburg Research, have petitioned the Securities Appellate Tribunal, seeking urgent relief from complying with SEBI's new foreign



Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav addresses the 6th Auto Retail Conclave 2024 in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Panvel to transform safety, security infra

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Panvel Municipal Corporation has allotted an order to Aurionpro to install advanced surveillance and smart city technologies to transform the city's safety and security infrastructure.

The scope of the project includes the establishment of Data Centers, a state-ofthe-art Control Command Center, and Video Analytics capabilities to enable realtime monitoring and faster response times.

The contract is a five-year deal valued at over INR 200 crores and the initial phase such as Facial Recognition

of project implementation will be executed over the next 12 months, followed by a long-term maintenance and support phase, Aurionpro said in its corporate filing with the stock exchanges.

Additionally, cutting-edge AI-powered technologies systems, an IP-based Public Announcement system, Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR), and an e-Challan mechanism will be integrated, providing a robust framework for crime prevention, with a special focus on enhancing security measures for women.

Corporation (PMC), which governs 29 revenue villages and key CIDCO colonies, now oversees an expanded jurisdiction of 110 square kilometers following the transfer of civic infrastructure by CIDCO. In a significant move to

The Panvel Municipal

enhance public safety, PMC has initiated the "Safe Panvel Project," aimed at modernizing the city's security infrastructure.

"We are pleased to partner with the Municipality of Panyel in this landmark project and are grateful for the trust they have placed in

our largest orders wins in this space, reinforcing our position as a preferred partner for the governments, with the technology portfolio and the expertise to handle complex and transformtechnology implementations," said Sanjay Bali - President and Global Head of Tech Innovation Group at Aurionpro Solutions. Aurionpro Solutions is a global leader in providing advanced technology solutions with a focus on Banking, Mobility, Payments, Insurance, and Government sectors.

Aurionpro. This is one of

Efforts on to make India global aviation hub

New Delhi: Highlighting the aviation sector's growth potential, Union minister K Rammohan Naidu on Wednesday said efforts are on to make India a global aviation hub as well as to start manufacturing aircraft in the country.

With Asia-Pacific region poised to lead global aviation growth, Naidu said strategic investments in infrastructure and collaboration amongst the regional stakeholders is critical to achieving sustainable growth across the sector.



Speaking at the second Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation in the national capital. Naidu emphasised on three elements -- infrastructure, integration and innovation -- for the sector's growth. "My ministry is working

TOP GAINERS DY

with the vision of establishing a seamless aviation landscape in the country, integrating helicopters and seaplane operations alongside wide-body aircraft un-

has grown from 74 in 2014 to 157. "We have an ambitious plan of scaling this up to 350-400 airports by 2047," the civil aviation minister said. der the regional connectiv-

India is one of the world's fastest growing civil

aviation markets and the fleet size of domestic

carriers has increased to around 800 from 400 in

2014 while the number of domestic passengers

climbed from 67 million to 152 million during the

same period. The number of operational airports

ity scheme UDAN," he

The country is also wellpositioned to offer cost-effective and high-quality

MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul) services to domestic and international airlines, he noted.

According to him, the government is looking at ways to boost indigenous production capabilities and also start manufacturing aircraft in the country.

While noting that the aviation industry has long been recognised as a significant contributor to global carbon emissions, the minister said India is promoting adoption of Sustainable Aviation Fuel

India's first AeroSpike rocket engine

Mumbai: A major breakthrough for Indian space technology has been accomplished with the successful hot-fire demonstration of the country's first Aero-Spike Rocket Engine by the startup SpaceFields, which was incubated by the Indian Institute of Science. This crucial demonstration took place at the renowned Propulsion Test Facility on the IISc's Challakere campus, about 200 kilometers from Bangalore. This event signifies a new chapter in the field of rocket propulsion.

Gravita to buy a Waste Tyre Recycling plant

By Correspondent

Mumbai: Gravita India's subsidiary has successfully executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to purchase a Waste Tyre Recycling facility in Romania. In its regulatory filing, the firm disclosed that its subsidiary Gravita Netherlands BV has entered into an agreement to acquire a waste tyre recycling plant in Romania, boasting an estimated annual capacity of 17,000 million tonnes. The firm has acquired this plant from a Romanian entity, marking its first recycling operation in Europe. The acquisition will be facilitated through the establishment of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) in Romania, where Gravita Netherlands BV will secure 80% ownership with the authority to manage the SPV, while the remaining 20% will be owned by other Romanian partners.

TOP LOSERS POINTS ONGC Adani Enterprise Hindalco Adani Ports

POINTS Bajaj-Auto Bajaj Finance Britannia Baiai Finsery Divi's Lab

Committed to climate-friendly growth

New Delhi: NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam on Wednesday said India is committed to climatefriendly growth, but fossil fuels are still going to drive the country's economic growth.

Addressing an event here, Subrahmanyam said markets alone cannot solve the problem of climate change. "India is committed to climate-friendly growth...(but) fossil fuels are still going to drive the country's economic growth," he said.

Subrahmanyam further said that NITI Aayog is working with states in developing a roadmap for green energy transition and a pathway to achieve a net zero carbon emissions target. "NITI Aayog is working with states in developing a roadmap for energy transition...we will come out with a document in November." he said.

Subrahmanyam opined that markets alone cannot solve the problem of climate change. "India is one of the countries on the

track to meet its climate targets under the 2015 Paris Agreement...We are committed to achieving net zero emissions target by 2070, even though less than 4 per cent carbon emission is from India," he said. As part of its national

climate plan, or Nationally **Determined Contributions** (NDCs), to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, India has committed to achieving 500 GW of nonfossil fuel-based electricity installed capacity by 2030.

QUOTE OF THE DAY



Jyotiraditya Scindia, Union Minister for Communications

"India, for the first time in her existence, has developed her own 4G technology stack that will be rolled out by the middle of next year. The first target is to ensure saturation. **Every corner of our country** must be connected digitally. Every single person must be able to avail of every single opportunity through the digital revolution."

Rahul's statement exposed Cong's anti-quota face

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah said Wednesday Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's quota remark has once again exposed the Congress' "antireservation face" and that making "anti-national statements" has become a habit for the opposition leader and his party.

Sending a stern message to Gandhi, Shah also said that as long as the BJP is there, no one can abolish reservation or mess with the nation's security.

The senior BJP leader's comments came after Gandhi told students of Georgetown University in the US that the Congress would think of scrapping reservations when "India is a fair place", which he said is not the case right now.

In a post on X, Shah said, "Standing with forces that conspire to divide the country and making anti-national statements have become a habit for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress

He added that whether it was supporting the National Conference's "anti-national and anti-reservation agenda" in Jammu and Kashmir or making "anti-India statements" on foreign platforms, Rahul Gandhi has "always threatened' the nation's security and hurt sentiments

"Rahul Gandhi's state-

ment lays bare the Congress's politics of causing rifts on the lines of regionalism, religion, and linguistic differences. By speaking about abolishing reservations in the country, Rahul Gandhi has once again brought the Congress's anti-reservation face to the forefront," Shah wrote.

The Union home minister said the thoughts that were in the Lok Sabha leader of the opposition's mind have now found their way out as words

"I want to tell Rahul Gandhi that as long as the BJP is there, neither can anyone abolish reservations nor can anyone mess with the nation's security," he said.



I want to tell Rahul Gandhi that as long as BJP is there, neither can anyone abolish quota nor can anyone mess with nation's security.

> -Amit Shah Minister of Home Affairs of India

BJP has problem whenever we talk about Constitution

the BJP for accusing Rahul Gandhi of making "antinational statements", the Congress on Wednesday said the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha has only talked about upholding the Constitution and asked why the ruling party has a "problem" whenever there is such talk.

The opposition party also dismissed the criticism over Gandhi meeting Democrat Ilhan Omar, known for her controversial positions regarding India, and said the BJP is in government and summon the US ambassador and take action if they believe so.

Responding to Shah's re-



marks. Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "Ask him to take action, then we will expose the PM and the Home Minister both. The PM goes abroad and makes horrible comments against India and anti-national?"

'We are talking about upholding the Constitution of India and that is antinational? Why is it that BJP has a problem whenever we talk about upholding the Constitution? Why are they against the Constitution so much?" he asked.

The BJP also slammed Gandhi over his meeting with US lawmaker Ilhan Omar and others during his visit to the country, alleging that the Congress leader is indulging in "dangerous and mischievous" activities by reaching out to people abroad who are known for their anti-India

Aparna likens PM to Parashuram, self to Eklavya

Lucknow: BJP leader Aparna Yadav, who is step sisterin-law of Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, on Wednesday took charge as the vice chairperson of the Uttar Pradesh state women commission.She also likened Prime Minister Narendra Modi to warrior-sage Parashuram, the 10th avatar of Lord Vishnu who finds mention in both Ramayana and Mahabharata. Yadav said she initially felt like Eklavya in the BJP family but now she hopes to work like Arjuna. Eklavya, an archer of supreme skills, found mention in the Mahabharata for sacrificing his thumb in Guru Dakshina to Guru Dronacharya, who was also the teacher of Arjuna.

HC says daughter-in-law not family

Bengaluru: The Karnataka High Court has dismissed a petition filed by a woman, who sought a job on compassionate grounds in the state's rural drinking water and sanitation department following her father-in-law's death.

A division bench comprising Justice Krishna S Dixit and Justice Vijaykumar A Patil upheld the decision of the Karnataka State Administrative Tribunal, which had previously rejected Priyanka Halamani's application.

The court ruled that the statutory definition of "family" under the relevant laws does not include a daughter-in-law, and it is not within the court's authority to modify this defi-



Protestors, who had gathered on the call of Hindu groups, clash with security personnel during a protest demanding the demolition of an illegal structure in a mosque at Sanjauli locality in Shimla on Wednesday.

Mamata offered Rs 10 lakh, says victim's father

Kolkata: With West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee dismissing allegations that she had offered money to the RG Kar doctor's family after the rapemurder incident, the victim's father on Wednesday said he would leave it to the common people to judge whether the CM was speaking the truth.

The father of the woman medic claimed that Banerjee had offered compensation when she visited their house after the incident and later publicly announced that her government was ready to pay Rs 10 lakh to them to build something in their daughter's memory.

Speaking to PTI, he said, "The day the CM came to our residence after we lost our daughter, she offered us compensation. Later, at a party programme, she publicly announced that her government could pay us Rs 10 lakh to build something in the memory of our daughter. Now, I will leave it to the people to judge whether she is now telling the truth." Banerjee had on Monday

dismissed allegations that she offered money to the parents of the deceased doctor and said that it was a forum of doctors that had demanded that the state government compensate the family.

"I had never offered money to (the) deceased doctor's family, this is nothing but slander. I had told the parents that if they want to do something in their daughter's memory, our government is with them. I know when to say what," Banerjee had said.

On whether they support the junior doctors 'cease work' for the last 33 days, which had crippled healthcare services in the state, the victim's father said, "We can understand the pain and trouble of the patients, but you also have to understand that the doctors are fighting for a bigger cause."

"A doctor's job is to treat patients, operate on them, but they have now taken to the streets and their movement is supported by all irrespective of their social status. We wholeheartedly support them," he added.

Survey In Gyanvapi Case

Hindu side requests court to allow ASI to dig premises

in the Gyanvapi templerequested a court here to allow the ASI to dig in the premises for a survey, a lawver said.

The judge fixed the next date of hearing as September 18 on the petition demanding ASI survey of the remaining parts of the Gyanvapi complex, the lawyer said.

The representatives of the Muslim side were present in the court and are expected to put forth their views on the matter during the next hearing.

Civil Judge Senior Division Fast Track Court Jugal Shambhu fixed the fresh date after hearing the Hindu side, said advocate Madan Mohan Yadav, representing the Hindu side in the case.

"The Hindu side completed its argument in the matter. We have also requested to allow the ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) to dig in the premises for the survey," said Yadav.

Yaday said the Hindu side has argued that the original place of Jyotirlinga is in the middle under



Civil Judge Senior Division Fast Track Court Jugal Shambhu fixed the fresh date after hearing the Hindu side, said advocate Madan Mohan Yadav, representing the Hindu side in the case

Yadav explained that geographical water used to flow continuously from an 'Argha' into the Gyanvapi Kund. This water was believed to impart knowledge when consumed, making this site known as 'Gyanoday Tirth'.

the dome of the alleged mosque located in the Gyanvapi complex. Geographical water used

to flow continuously from

the 'Argha' which used to collect in the Gyanvapi Kund. It was believed that drinking this water gives knowledge. Therefore, this pilgrimage is also considered as 'Gyanoday Tirth', he said.

The lawyers of the Hindu side in the previous hearings have demanded that this water be explored by water engineering, geologists and archeologists.

Also, the 'Shivling' found from Gyanoday Tirth, which the Muslim side is calling a 'wuzukhana', should also be examined to see whether it is a 'Shivling' or a fountain, Yadav added.

Held for cocaine **German national** dies in hospital

New Delhi: A 77-year-old German national of Indian origin, who was arrested in connection with the alleged recovery of illegal contraband from the IGI airport, died during treatment at west Delhi's Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, police sources told PTI on Wednesday.

Ashok Kumar was arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigations (CBI) from the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, based on an input by the Interpol, on July 26. The CBI officials alleged that Kumar had concealed six kilograms of cocaine in 270 capsules hidden inside two soft toys. According to a police source, after five days of police custody, Kumar was sent to Tihar Jail.

On August 14, he complained of uneasiness and was taken to the DDU Hospital, where he died during treatment on August 27, the source said. Delhi Police said they have approached the German embassy to know about the details of his family members to conduct the autopsy and further legal proceedings. Kumar's advocate Rohit Pratap Singh told PTI that he tried to approach his family members but they were reluctant to come to India.



Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk after reaching Himachal border during the tenth day of his 'Delhi Chalo

Sena factions get adjacent rooms

New Delhi: The Shiv Sena led by Eknath Sinde and the Shiy Sena (UBT) headed by Uddhav Thackeray will be neighbours in the Samvidhan Sadan as the two parties have been allocated rooms adjacent to each other.

Key BJP ally in ruling NDA, the TDP, has been allocated a room in Parliament House or the new Parliament building, according to an order issued by Lok Sabha secretariat's Estate and Heritage Management Branch on Wednesday.

The UBT faction will now occupy the room which

once belonged to the BSP. The Aam Aadmi Party, which holds the tag of a national party, has also been allocated a room in Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament building.

The rooms have been allocated for the tenure of the 18th Lok Sabha which was constituted in June following parliamentary polls.

Another NDA ally Janata Dal (U) has been provided a room in Samvidhan

Seven detained for damaging Ganesh idol

Bhuj: Seven persons, including three minors, have been detained for allegedly damaging a Ganesh idol at a pandal and putting their religious flag atop a nearby temple in Gujarat's Kutch district, a police official said on Wednesday.

These incidents took place on Tuesday at Kotda-Jadodar village in Nakhatrana taluka and an FIR was registered at Nakhatrana police station late in the night, said Superintendent of Police (Kutch-West) Sagar Bagmar.

"Local police launched an investigation on Tuesday evening after learning about the damage to the Ganesh idol at a pandal due to stone pelting. Locals also informed police that some persons had put their religious flag atop a nearby temple," said Bagmar.

Following the probe, police have detained three minors who were involved in damaging the Ganesh idol, the SP said.

"Four adults were also detained for installing the flag on the temple. The situation is under control and extra police force has been deployed in the village," the official said.

He urged people to refrain from spreading rumours and warned against sharing video messages that disturb law and order. A similar incident had

taken place on Sunday in Surat city, where a violent clash broke out after some persons pelted stones at a Ganesh pandal. Police subsequently arrested 27 persons and detained six

Communal clash in Bharuch

Bharuch: Members of two communities indulged in a violent clash over the issue of installation of religious flags in a locality in Gujarat's Bharuch city, leaving two persons injured, police

said on Wednesday. Seventeen persons have been detained in connection with the incident which took place on Tuesday night in Gokul Nagar area, they said.

The police rushed to spot and dispersed the rioters. The situation is currently under control, an official

People from the two sides gathered in large numbers and then hurled stones at each other, which left two persons injured and caused damage to some vehicles parked there, said Bharuch Superintendent of Police Mayur Chayda, who rushed to the spot with security personnel after learning about the clash.

QUOTE OF THE DAY



V.D. Satheesan, Leader of Opposition, **Kerala**

"Pinarayi Vijayan and the CPI(M)'s connection with the RSS is an open secret. It is the Congress that opposes the BJP and the RSS in the country. What kind of anti-fascist struggle is the Kerala CM talking about without the Congress? Vijayan's study class is not needed for the Congress to fight the Sangh Parivar."

Catholic Diocese fined for wrongful land possession that the action of the state as well as appellant did not

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court has imposed a cost of Rs 10 lakh on the Catholic Diocese of Gorakhpur and Uttar Pradesh government jointly for wrongfully taking over possession of a land belonging to a villager, depriving the land owner and his legal heirs from usage of the land for more than 32 years.

The villager Bhola Singh died during the pendency of case. "The second appeal, accordingly, stands dismissed with cost of Rs 10,00,000 (Rs 10 lakh) to be



jointly borne by the appellant and the State Government and its functionaries in equal share," the court said, dismissing the second appeal filed by the Catholic

Diocese of Gorakhpur. Justice Kshitii Shailendra said, "Once this court

has arrived at a conclusion

have any sanction of law, rather it amounted to grabbing land of a rustic villager and committing trespass over it, the instant appeal deserves to be dismissed with heavy cost. Singh and his heirs land

in Gorakhpur was wrongly given to the diocese by the state government on a lease. The diocese plea was that the land was handed over by Singh to the state government during the ceiling process and later on the

same land was given to the diocese for construction of a hospital. The court observed that

as per state government record, only the share of another co-owner and not of Singh, was handed over to the state government but documents in this regard were not brought on record to avoid any adverse inference and therefore, the state government had no right to give land of Singh on lease to the diocese. Singh had filed a suit stating that he was in possession of plot No. 26 situated at Mauza Jangal Salikram in Gorakhpur.

As the Catholic Diocese started raising a boundary wall on the land and the plaintiff objected to it, the defendants threatened him to start construction of a hospital over the land. It was alleged through amendment that a lease deed was said to have been executed by defendant No. 2, (State of UP) in favour of defendant No. 1, though the State had no right to execute a lease.

India faces challenges in renewable energy, states study

install around 7,000 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 but deployment beyond 1,500 GW could face critical challenges, including climate risks, high land prices, land conflicts, and population density, according to a new study.

The study by independent think tank Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) is the first of its kind to map India's renewable energy and green hydrogen potential by analysing the entire country's landmass and applying real-world constraints.

Arunabha Ghosh, the CEO of CEEW, said, "While our RE potential is vast, the road to net zero is fraught with challenges. From land conflicts and population density to the unpredictable but undeniable impact of climate change, every step forward will demand resilience and innovation.

"The CEEW study, for the first time, goes into granular details of the county's landmass to map out where we can build out renewable energy and green hydrogen projects while addressing the challenges of land, people, and compounding, non-linear climate risks," Ghosh said.

Beyond 750–1,500 GW, RE will need to be deployed in

Wind potential Karnataka: 293 GW Gujarat: 212 GW Maharashtra: 184 GW



24,000 GW

India's renewable energy potential

7.000 GW

India needs to install renewable energy capacity to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070

150 GW

India's installed RE capacity

1,500 GW

India's manageable RE capacity

areas characterised as earthquake-prone zone 4 or in areas with higher seasonality, where generation is lower than one standard deviation from the median generation for three months, the study said.

"For the 1,500–3,000 GW range, we need to access high population density areas with 400-750 people per square kilometre. Unlocking the 3,000 GW RE potential will also require exploring land resources in high-conflict zones," it said.

Beyond 3,000 GW, there is an increase in challenges associated with all constraints, from land price to population density and conThe CEEW study identifies states and Union territories with high unconstrained RE potential. They are Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Ladakh. Odisha and Madhya Pradesh with high RE potential backed by land banks and infrastructure to evacuate renewable power and manage seasonality, could emerge as key players in meeting India's renewable energy ambitions in the coming decades.

tial located in areas with a population density lower than 250 people per km square.

Further, a considerable portion of India's RE potential is in high-climaterisk and high-land-price areas -- only 18 per cent of onshore wind potential and 22 per cent of solar potential are located in areas with low climate risks and lowland prices when looked at in isolation.

Land conflicts further restrict deployment, with only about 35 per cent of onshore wind potential and 41 per cent of solar potential located in areas free from historical land

However, earthquakes are less of a concern, as 83 per cent of onshore wind and 77 per cent of solar potential are located in low to moderate seismic zones.

Pradesh Assembly on Tuesday passed an amendment bill to pave way for the levy of a milk cess and an environment cess on consumption electricity. The Himachal Pradesh Electricity (Duty) Amendment Bill 2024, which seeks to amend the Himachal Pradesh Electricity (Duty) Act, 2009, with insertion of

Sections 3-A for levy of milk cess and 3-B for environment cess, was passed by voice vote. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had introduced the bill on Monday.

The milk cess is aimed at strengthening milk produc-

ers and upliftment of farmers while the environment cess will be levied for a clean environment to boost the tourism industry. The milk cess would be

Environment

cess on

power bills

10 paise per unit for all consumers barring the zero billing consumers.

The environment cess would be 2 paise per unit for small industrial power consumption, 4 paise for medium industrial power consumption, 10 paise per unit for large industrial power consumption and commercial consumers, Rs 2 per unit for temporary connections and stone crushers and Rs 6 per unit on charging station.

Further, the bill empowers the government to enhance both the cess through notification subject to a maximum of 50 per cent at one time

The CM said the government had earned revenue of Rs 130 crore by levying milk cess on liquor (Rs 10 per bottle)

Mithun spotted in Assam for first time, says CM



Guwahati: Bovine animal Mithun has been spotted in Assam for the first time, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday.

Mithun, which has the scientific name Bos Frontalis, is the state animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland and is also found in the hills of Manipur and Mizoram.

"Assam adds another faunal friend to its biodiversity In another beautiful addition to our animal kingdom diversity, we have recorded the presence of Mithun (Bos Frontalis) in the hilly areas of Dima Hasao," Sarma posted on

The bovid species, native to the Himalayan foothills in Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland and finds mention in the Mahabharata, has now a new home in Assam, Sarma said.

"Kudos to our @assamforest Dept for its excellent work in protection, preservation and management of our treasured forests," he

Recently, veterinary ex-

perts spotted Mithun in three remote areas -- Laisong, Langting, and Thaiiuwari – in central Assam's Dima Hasao district.

These areas are inhabited by the Zeme Nagas and more than 200 Mithuns were recorded in the three remote pockets, a district Animal Husbandry and Veterinary official said.

Farmers rearing the bovine animals for generations need support as the animal is vulnerable to foot-and-mouth and other diseases domesticated bovines suffer from, the official added.

The presence of Mithun in Assam marks a new chapter in the state's agricultural diversity and offers opportunities for local farmers, who can now have access to interventions specific to the Mithun, he added.

Mithuns are prized for their meat, milk, load carrying capacity and play a crucial role in the socioeconomic and cultural lives of many tribal communities in the Northeast.

EXPLAINER

Why cleaning Fukushima may take a century?

long robot entered a damaged reac- Nuclear Regulatory Commission and is **L** power plant on Tuesday, beginning a two-week, high-stakes mission to retrieve for the first time a tiny amount of melted fuel debris from the bottom.

Specialists hope the robot will help them learn more about the status of the cores and the fuel debris.

What is the fuel debris?

Nuclear fuel in the reactor cores melted after the magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami in March 2011 caused the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant's cooling systems to fail. The melted fuel dripped down from the cores and mixed with internal reactor materials such as zirconium, stainless steel, electrical cables, broken grates and concrete around the supporting structure and at the bottom of the primary containment vessels.

The reactor meltdowns caused the highly radioactive, lavalike material to spatter in all directions, greatly complicating the cleanup. The condition of the debris also differs in each reactor.

Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, or TEPCO, which manages the plant, says an estimated 880 tons of molten fuel debris remains in the three reactors, but some experts say the amount could be larger.

What is the robot's mission?

Workers will use five 1.5-metre-long pipes connected in sequence to maneuver the robot through an entry point in the Unit 2 reactor's primary containment vessel. The robot itself can extend about 6 metres inside the vessel. Once inside, it will be maneuvered remotely by operators at another building at the plant because of the fatally high radiation emitted by the melted debris. The front of the robot, equipped with tongs, a light and a camera, will be lowered by a cable to a mound of melted fuel debris. It will then snip off and collect a bit of the debris — less than 3 grams (0.1 ounce). The small amount is meant to minimize radiation dangers. The robot will then back out to the place it entered the reactor, a roundtrip journey that will take about two weeks.

What do officials hope to learn?

Sampling the melted fuel debris is "an important first step," said Lake Barrett, who led the cleanup after the 1979 disaster at the US. Three Mile Island nuclear plant for the

ma decommissioning.

While the melted fuel debris has been kept cool and has stabilised, the aging of the reactors poses potential safety risks. and the melted fuel needs to be removed and relocated to a safer place for long-term storage as soon as possible, experts say.

An understanding of the melted fuel debris is essential to determine how best to remove it, store it and dispose of it, according to the Japan Atomic Energy Agency.

Experts expect the sample will also provide more clues about how exactly the meltdown 13 years ago played out, some of which is still a mystery.

What's next?

TEPCO will have to "probe down into the debris pile, which is over a metre thick, so you have to go down and see what's inside," Barrett said, noting that at Three Mile Island, the debris on the surface was very different from the material deeper inside. He said multiple samples from different locations must be collected and analysed to better understand the melted debris and develop necessary equipment, such as stronger robots for future larger-scale

Compared to collecting a tiny sample for analysis, it will be a more difficult challenge to develop and operate robots that can cut larger chunks of melted debris into pieces and put that material into canisters for safe storage. There are also two other damaged reactors, Unit 1 and Unit 3, which are in worse condition and will take even longer to deal with. TEPCO plans to deploy a set of small drones in Unit 1 for a probe later this year and is developing even smaller "micro" drones for Unit 3, which is filled with a larger amount of water.

removal

When will the work be finished?

Removal of the melted fuel was initially planned to start in late 2021 but has been delayed by technical issues, underscoring the difficulty of the process. The government says decommissioning is expected to take 30-40 years, while some experts say it could take as long as 100 years.

Others are pushing for an entombment of the plant, as at Chernobyl after its 1986 explosion, to reduce radiation levels and risks for plant workers. That won't work at the seaside Fukushima plant, Barrett says.

Ganesh pandal promotes tree conservation

Solar Potential

Rajasthan

6,464 GW

Madhya Pradesh

2.978 GW

Maharashtra

12,409 GW

Ladakh

625 GW

flicts, the report revealed.

than 5,000 GW, India will

need to deploy RE in highly

earthquake-prone zones.

At the extremity of more

Additionally, climate

risks are quite high in some

areas as we reach higher

capacity requirements, it

The CEEW study finds

that population density sig-

nificantly limits the reali-

sation of India's RE poten-

tial, with only 29 per cent of

onshore wind potential and

27 per cent of solar poten-

Latur: In a bid to create awareness about tree plantation and conservation, an organisation has installed an idol of Lord Ganesh planting a tree at a pandal in the heart of Maharashtra's Latur city, drawing huge crowds dur-

tion and conservation.

the vital role of oxygen, with statues in the pandal sporting oxygen masks, reminding people about the dire consequences they may face in the future.

"The jungle-themed pandal has an elevated bridge with an artificial pond with fish underneath. There are mountains and human figures sporting oxygen masks sending out a message for conservation," said Yogesh Sharma, founder president of

Apart from this, visitors



ing the ten-day festival. In a pandal at Rajiv Gandhi Chowk, Vasundhara Pratishthan, a local NGO, installed an idol of Lord Ganesh planting a peepal tree, sending a powerful message about tree planta-

The theme emphasises

Vasundhara Pratishthan.

to the pandal are handed saplings, which they are encouraged to plant in honour of Lord Ganesh, he



Firefighters establish a defense perimeter around a house threatened by the Bridge Fire in Wrightwood Calif on

Wildfires burn out of control in Southern California

Trabuco Canyon (US): Apocalyptic-looking plumes of smoke filled skies east of Los Angeles on Tuesday as firefighters battled three major wildfires that erupted amid a blistering heat wave and threatened tens of thousands of homes and other structures

Evacuation orders were expanded Tuesday night as the fires grew and included parts of the popular ski town of Big Bear and the entire community of Wrightwood, with about 4,500 residents. Authorities implored people to leave their homes.

"There is no property that is worth risking your life for," Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna In recent years wildfires

have regularly burned in

and around Wrightwood, a picturesque mountain town 60 miles (97 kilometers) east of Los Angeles known for its 1930s cabins. Authorities expressed frustration in 2016 when only half the residents heeded orders to leave.

Janice Quick, the president of the Wrightwood Chamber of Commerce, said a friend texted to tell her that the friend's home had been consumed by fire while another friend was watching through her ring camera as embers rained down on her home.

Quick said in the late afternoon she was eating lunch outside with friends and they were rained on by embers the size of her thumbnail that hit the table and made a clinking sound.

No-disposal of garbage leads to dogs menace

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Tuesday expressed concern over the growing menace of stray dogs and monkeys in the national capital and said it stemmed from non-disposal of garbage by the municipal authorities.

The high court directed Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to place before it the statistics for the last three months on how many people have approached the facility every day for taking injections on account of be-



ing bitten by monkeys or

"It is a serious matter

and it is a serious menace. It is all stemming from nondisposal of garbage by the

city. Due to non-collection of garbage, all the food and waste are littered around. They are not realising it. Feeding of animals has to be done in a scientific manner. "The MCD is not doing

municipal bodies in the

its job properly. If the MCD allows the whole city to be filled with garbage, what to do? If you stop feeding the animals, they will stop coming. The whole city is full of garbage," a bench of Acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela observed.

The bench said the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was not taking care of the garbage strewn all over and even the high court was not free from the monkey menace.

The high court's observation came while hearing two PILs by NGO Nyaya Bhoomi and The Society for Public Cause raising the issue of growing number of attacks by stray dogs.

@my_perfectvoice

The debate that set tone for the **US elections**

Washington: Donald Trump and Kamala Harris faced each other on the debate stage Tuesday night for the first — and possibly the last — time.

The Democratic Vice President opened the faceoff with a power move, marching across the stage to Trump's lectern to shake his hand.

"Kamala Harris," she said, introducing herself as the pair met for the first time ever. "Let's have a good

"Nice to see you. Have fun," the former Republican president responded.

The exchange set the tone for the 90-minute debate to come: Harris controlled the conversation at times, baiting Trump with jabs at his economic policy, his refusal to concede his 2020 election loss and even his performance at his rallies.

Trump, while measured early on, grew more annoyed as the night went on. And one significant moment played out after the two candidates left the stage, when megastar Taylor Swift said she'll vote for Harris. -AP





Harris' way to fight with Trump

In her first answer, the former prosecutor said Trump's tariffs would effectively create a sales tax on the middle class. She soon accused Trump of presiding over the worst attack on American democracy since the Civil War — the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021. She charged him with telling women what they could do with their bodies. And she mocked Trump's praise of dictators "who would eat you for lunch.'

Harris effectively controlled much of the conversation with such attacks and baited Trump into responses that were at times vents, and at others, reminders of his wild rhetoric and fixation on the past.

"You did in fact lose that election," Harris said of the 2020 race that Trump lost to Democrat Joe Biden but still insists he won. "Donald Trump was fired by 81 million people," she said, referring to Biden's winning vote total.

But Harris may have got under her opponent's skin the most when she went after his performance at his rallies, noting that people

often leave early. Growing visibly irritated, Trump insisted that his rallies were larger than

A smiling Harris frequently shifted her message from Trump back to the American people.

"You will not hear him talk about your needs, your dreams and your needs and your desires," Harris said. "And I'll tell you, I believe you deserve a president who actually puts you

Trump had a label for Harris: She is Biden

Trump was often on defense, but he did drive the core message of his campaign: inflation and immigration are hammering Americans

Immigrants, Trump said, have "destroyed the fabric of our country." He repeatedly tied Har-

ris to Biden. "She is Biden," he said. "The worst inflation we've ever had," Trump added. "A horrible economy because inflation has made it so bad. And she can't get away with that."

Harris responded: "Clearly, I am not Joe Biden and I am certainly not Donald Trump. And what I do offer is a new generation of leadership for our country.'

Trump also went after Harris for moving away from some of the progressive positions she took in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary, urging voters not to believe the more moderate tone she's striking in this campaign.

"She's going to my philosophy now. In fact, I was going to send her a MAGA hat," he said, referring to the red "Make America Great Again" baseball caps that many of his supporters wear. "But if she ever got elected, she'd change it.'

Trump on race and Harris on the attack

ABC moderator David Muir asked Trump point blank about his allegation last month that Harris had belatedly "turned Black." Harris is Black and South Asian and a graduate of Howard University a historically Black school in

Washington Trump tried to play down the matter. "I don't care what she is, you make a big deal out of something, I couldn't care less," Trump

Harris, however, had her opening and she rattled off a long list of Trump's racial controversies: his legal settlement for discrimination against prospective Black tenants at his New York apartment buildings in the 1970s; his ad calling for the execution of Black and Latino teenagers — who were wrongly arrested — in the Central Park jogger case in the 1980s; and his false claims that former President Barack Obama was not born in the United States.

"I think the American people want something better than that, want better than this," Harris said.

Trump accused Harris of trying to "divide" people and dismissed her claims as dated and irrelevant.

"This is a person that has to stretch back 40, 50 years ago because there's nothing now," he said.

Dug in on abortion positions

Harris came out swinging in defense of abortion rights, perhaps the strongest issue for Democrats since Trump's nominees created a Supreme Court majority to overturn the constitutional right to an abortion. Her sharp arguments provided a vivid contrast to President Joe Biden's rambling comments on the issue during his June debate with Trump.

"The government, and Donald Trump, certainly

should not be telling a woman what to do with her body," Harris said. She painted a vivid picture of women facing medical complications, gut-wrenching decisions and having travel out of state for an abortion.

Trump was just as fierce in defense, saying he returned the issue to the states, an outcome he said many Americans wanted. He struggled with accuracy, however, repeating the false claim that Democrats support abortion even after babies are born. He stuck to that even after he was corrected by modera-

tor Lynsey Davis. "I did a great service in doing that. It took courage to do it," Trump said of the overturning of Roe v. Wade and its constitutional protections for abortion. "And the Supreme Court had great courage in doing it. And I give tremendous credit to those six iustices."

Polls has shown signifi-

cant opposition to overturning Roe and voters have punished Republicans in recent elections for

Gender an afterthought

Harris would be the nation's first female president. But her gender was an afterthought during the debate.

She made no references to the historic nature of her candidacy. Neither did

And there were no performative moments in which gender was an issue. Who could forget Trump's decision to stand behind his last female opponent, Hillary Clinton, during a 2016 debate? He also called Clinton a "nasty woman." Afterward, Clinton said she was creeped out.

But on Tuesday night, both candidates stayed behind their podiums as instructed and there were no explicit jabs regarding

I have got 20-plus cases in me. I'm the only person

defamation. We have a Chief Minister who's in jail

the Indian voter is very resilient, and he stands like

right now. So, mean, one way of saying it is, yes,

a rock. Absolutely, he does. But the Indian voter

requires an architecture to work on, which is not

And then the beautiful thing was the first thing he

sworn in. He took the Constitution of India. and he

structure. And then the Indian people have forced

did when he walked into the Lok Sabha, he was

placed it on his head. So, it was an interesting

Constitution. He's attacking the democratic

paradox. On one hand, he's destroying the

in Indian history to get a prison sentence for

Vietnam's storm toll rises to 155

Hanoi: A flash flood swept away an entire hamlet in northern Vietnam, killing 30 people and leaving dozens missing as deaths from a typhoon and its aftermath climbed to 155 on Wednesday.

Vietnamese state broadcaster VTV said the torrent of water gushing down from a mountain in Lao Cai province Tuesday buried Lang Nu hamlet with 35 families in mud and debris.

Only about a dozen are known so far to have survived. Rescuers have recovered 30 bodies and are continuing the search for about 65 others.

The death toll from Typhoon Yagi and its aftermath has climbed to 155. Another 141 people are missing and hundreds were injured, VTV said. The toll is likely to go up, officials feared while giving details.

Floods and landslides have caused most of the deaths, many of which have come in the northwestern Lao Cai province, bordering China, where Lang Nu is located.

Lao Cai province is also home to the popular trekking destination of Sapa.

Many roads in the province were blocked by landslides and unrelenting rainfall, said Sapa tour guide Van A Po. The weather has forced them to limit travel with all trekking suspended.



Blindfolded and bounded protesters take part in a protest against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and call for the release of hostages held in the Gaza Strip in Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

Ground workers protest against Adani

Nairobi: Hundreds of workers at Kenya's main international airport demonstrated on Wednesday against a planned deal between the government and India's Adani Group.

Planes have remained grounded, with hundreds of passengers stranded at the airport.

The government has said that the build-and-operate agreement with Adani Group would see the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport renovated, and an additional runway and terminal constructed, in exchange for the group running the airport for 30

Kenya Airport Workers Union, in announcing the strike, said that the deal would lead to job losses and "inferior terms and conditions of service" for those who will remain.

Kenya Airways on Wednesday announced there would be flight delays and possible cancellations because of the ongoing

QUOTE OF THE DAY

strike at the airport, which serves Nairobi.

Last week, airport workers had threatened to go on strike, but the plans were called off pending discussions with the government.

The spotting of unknown people moving around with airport officials taking notes and photographs raised concerns that the Indian firm officials were readving for the deal, local media outlets reported last

I am the only person to get a prison sentence for defamation, says Rahul

Washington: Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi has indicated that the Congress party is in alignment with the ruling BJP led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on major foreign policy issues like the relationship with the US, no talks with Pakistan unless the flow of terrorism is stopped, concerns over extremist elements in Bangladesh and Israel.

However Gandhi 54 was not in sync with Modi's policies on China, as he alleged that Chinese troops had taken control over Indian territory in Ladakh the size of Delhi.

At a press conference held on Tuesday at the prestigious National Press

Indian democracy is

more than just any normal democracy because of its size. If you're talking about a democratic vision of the world, then Indian democracy has a large space in that vision. I think it's important that the world sees Indian democracy as an asset, not just for India, but for the rest of the world. **Advising the United** States on how they should deal with Modi is not my preserve, it's not my space," Gandhi said.



Club here, Gandhi supported Modi's policies on Pakistan.

Gandhi was on an unofficial four-day trip to the US that concluded Tuesday.

Responding to a question on the India-US relationship, Gandhi noted that it has bipartisan support in both countries. "I don't see a big diver-

sion. I don't see Modi is diverting very much from our approach with the US. I don't see ourselves changing direction very much from what he's doing. So, I see continuity there," he "Look, I think what hap-

pened on the 7th of October was absolutely wrong. But, I also think what Israel did and is doing, bombing innocent civilians, and killing women and children, is absolutely wrong and should not be allowed to continue. I am against violence of any kind. And certainly, the Pakistan's instigation of

terrorism in our country is holding the two countries back. We are not going to accept **Pakistan carrying** out terror acts in our country. We're just not going to accept it. And until they keep doing that, there's going to be problems between us.

scale of violence, I actually

think, is harming Israel. It's harming Israel more than it's helping them," Gandhi

The Leader of the Opposition was critical of Modi's handling of China. "Do you think under Modi that India has managed the US-China competition well?" he was asked.

"Well, if you call having Chinese troops in 4,000 square kilometres of our territory handling something well, then maybe. We've got Chinese troops occupying land the size of Delhi in Ladakh. I think that's a disaster. Media doesn't like to write about it," he said.

him to put it on his head.

"How would America react if a neighbour occupied 4,000 square kilometres of your territory? Would any president be able to get away with saying that he's handled that well? So, I don't think Modi's handled China well. I think there's no reason Chinese troops should be sitting in our territory," Gandhi said.

I have seen the

government of Maharashtra just being taken away from us. I've seen it with my own eyes. I've watched it, as our legislators have been bought in and hooked off and suddenly became BJP legislators. So **Indian democracy** has been under attack, has been very badly weakened, and now it's fighting back. And I'm confident that it'll fight back.

Jonathan Reynolds, and Trade, UK

"We know that a cleaner, greener future for UK steelmaking is vital to the industry's longterm economic stability. The road ahead is not without its challenges, but our steel strategy will set forth a positive vision for the future of the industry, backed by our manifesto commitment Secretary, Business to GBP 3 billion of government investment."

WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

EDITORIAL

Clamping Down

In what could be the most consequential antitrust trial in decades, the United States government has set its sights on Google, accusing the tech giant of monopolistic practices that have allegedly stifled competition and innovation in the online advertising market. Federal prosecutors argue that Google's dominance has not only squeezed out rivals but has also harmed advertisers and publishers by inflating costs and limiting choice. The centrepiece of the case is a demand for a divestment of Google's multibillion-dollar online advertising business which aims to break the behemoth's stranglehold on the digital ad ecosystem.

Google, which commands nearly 90% of the search engine market, has long maintained that its success is a product of superior technology and consumer preference. Yet, the trial has brought to light practices that suggest otherwise: exclusive agreements with device manufacturers, self-preferencing of its own products, and the bundling of services that effectively lock in users and advertisers. Such strategies have turned Google into the gatekeeper of the internet. For advertisers, this power translates into higher costs. For publishers, the market's tilt towards Google squeezes margins, threatening the sustainability of independent media outlets.

Federal prosecutors allege that Google has built and maintained a monopoly over the technology that connects online publishers with advertisers, a dominance so pervasive that Google keeps as much as 36 cents on every dollar spent on ads. A ruling against the company could usher in a new era of regulatory assertiveness in Big Tech. For years, critics have lamented the government's hands-off approach to Silicon Valley, where antitrust enforcement lagged behind the rapid pace of innovation. A victory for the government would not only signal a shift in antitrust doctrine but also provide a blueprint for addressing other giants like Amazon, Apple, and Meta.

However, the divestiture remedy proposed by the prosecutors is fraught with problems. Breaking up Google's ad business could be a regulatory quagmire, raising questions about how to disentangle its operations and what entities should emerge from the split. More importantly, there is no guarantee that such a move would restore competition; fragmented markets can still be dominated by a few powerful players.

Google, for its part, will likely argue that its integrated model drives efficiencies that benefit consumers through better-targeted advertising and lower costs for businesses. The company claims that its services are simply the best, and that advertisers and publishers choose Google voluntarily. By controlling the tools for buying, selling, and serving online ads, Google stands on all sides of the market. The case underscores broader concerns about the concentration of power in a few tech companies and their influence over digital markets, data privacy, and the spread of misinformation. A ruling in favour of the government would not just chip away at Google's empire but redefine the boundaries of corporate power in the digital age.

CONSCIENCE CALLING

History repeating in West Bengal after 17 years



Romita Datta

ot very long ago on a scorching mid-October afternoon in 2007 the city was witness to a massive protest rally which had thrown normalcy out of gear. People sweated it out for hours in their vehicles at the seven-point crossing of an important thoroufare without any grudge. Some even got down to join the protestors and lend their voices to the slogan demanding justice for a bright young man, Rizwanur Rahaman, who was found dead on railway tracks under mysterious circumstances. His fault: aspiring to love and marry an industrialist's daughter.

Rahaman, a computer graphic designer, had sensed what his interfaith and interclass mar-

History is known to repeat itself. No one knows how often or in what frequency. But it surely does when the ever too short public memory needs to be recharged or jogged.

riage would bring. He sought police help after registering their marriage under Special Marriage Act. But instead of assistance what he got was threats to come out of this marriage and forget the love of his life. The then Police Commissioner of Kolkata, Prasun Mukherjee, known to be close to the industrialist, took matters into hand. Rahaman was under tremendous torment. And what followed was suicide. Mukherjee not only derided Rahaman's audacity to marry a rich man's daughter, he justified the industrialist father-in-law's opposition as natural because of the huge gap between the financial and social status of the two families. Besides, he let his subordinate officers, a trio, to drive the young techie to a breaking point. And all this happened in the Buddhadev Bhattacharjee regime, with the chief minister choosing to lower the blinds.

One sees reflection of the then Police Commissioner Mukherjee in the way the current Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal and the way he handled the case of rape and murder of the junior doctor from the word go.

The victim was discovered raped and murdered at one corner of the seminar room. Not only did the hospital authorities try to pass it off as suicide, the police allowed a lot of discrepancies like registering a case of unnatural death and then lodging an FIR 15 hours after the body was discovered, allowing the scene of crime to be compromised and evidences being tampered. Many of these had come under severe indictment of the Supreme Court. So with time, the cry for justice for the victim also



became a cry for removal of the Police Commissioner, who allegedly botched up the case and possibility of a proper investigation to nail down the culprits.

Echoes of similar demand were also heard 17 years ago against the Police Commissioner in the Rizwanur Rahaman case. But realizing public pressure building up against the government and Mamata as the Opposition leader likely to extract political mileage, the CPIM patriarch Jyoti Basu intervened and within a fortnight Bhattacharjee removed the top cop and four other IPS officers. The tension calmed down but by then the invincible Left got a taste of public outrage.

The arrogance that one saw in Buddhadev Bhattacharjee in trying to shield his Commissioner initially has returned amplified manifold. Bhattacharjee was ultimately accountable to his party. All said and done at the end of the day it was the party and its ideology that pulled the strings and not individual leaders, no matter how powerful they were. In the Trinamool Congress regime, Mamata being the be all and end all of her party and government

has no one to show her the light. Rather she prefers being her own light. And therein lies the problem.

There's no one to oversee or overwrite her decisions either in the party or at the bureaucratic level. In fact no one dares to question her judgment.

If she feels in this festive season with Bengalis biggest festival, Durga puja, just a month away, police commissioner Vineet Goyal cannot be relieved from his duties, so be it. If she feels there's no one to replace Goyal and his intelligence and understanding of law and order, so be it. Rather she thinks Goyal with his vast experience of tackling law and order during festivals is the need of the time. To the growing public demand of the police commissioner's ouster, she has asked people to be

But patience is running out as more and more skeletons are tumbling out of the cupboard. Every day more and more state Medical Colleges and Hospitals are throwing up horrifying tales of high-handedness and excesses being exercised by a section of medical fraternity, owing to their proximity to the ruling

party. Besides, allegations of examination paper leaks, mass cheating, passing exam by bribing appropriate authorities and sexual offences are coming to the fore. More and more women are gathering courage to speak up how pursuing a career in medical science in Bengal is becoming traumatic and in some ways gender offensive.

Even as chief minister prefers patience, the Indian Medical Association and National Medical Council are watching and taking prompt action against doctors involved in corrupt practices, rackets and threat tactics. Sometimes it's wise to act on time.

Interestingly, justice can take its own sweet time to act but providential justice or poetic justice is sure to strike. And what can validate this better than the way Left's youth icon Meenakshi Mukherjee lunged forward to stop the hearse of the rape and murder victim being rushed out of RGKar for a quick and quiet burial of the case. Had not Meenakshi and her comrades created the ruckus and raised questions over a secretive post mortem and a hush-hush cremation, delivering justice would have been impossible. Many are seeing a reflection of the young, fearless gutsy Mamata Banerjee of the yore in Meenakshi. Many are seeing future hope and deliverance.

History is repeating itself. The writing on the wall is all too clear but, as Nemesis would have it, the vision of the power that be is getting blurred, the brain fogged.

(The writer is a senior journalist based in Kolkata. Views personal.)

GLOBAL WATCH

Trump vs Harris: A Contentious Showdown

In a debate marked by sharp exchanges and familiar grievances, former President Donald Trump and Vice-President Kamala Harris sparred over some of the most polarizing issues facing the United States today. The debate, held in a tense atmosphere reminiscent of past closed-mic showdowns, brought out the stark contrasts between Trump's confrontational style and Harris's defensive stance, as both sought to sway an electorate on matters ranging from the economy to foreign policy.

Trump emphasized that the debate did not focus enough on the struggles of ordinary Americans who are unable to afford basic necessities like groceries, laying the blame squarely on the Biden-Harris administration, accusing it of having a "bad vision" that sacrifices the country's welfare. His populist messaging aimed to resonate with voters feeling the pinch of inflation and economic uncertainty.

The former president's approach to the debate was also marked by a continuation of his fiery rhetoric against migrants. Trump reiterated the claim that Haitian migrants were stealing and eating pets in Springfield, Ohio - a claim which his detractors alleged is utterly

As the U.S. election campaign heats up, the closed mic debate between the candidates reflected the challenge of addressing complex issues in an increasingly polarized environment, where soundbites often overshadow substance.



false and designed to stoke fears among his base. His stance on immigration remained a potent though divisive issue: he traded barbs with Harris over border security, with the latter criticizing Trump's alleged use of race and 'misinformation' to divide the nation. When asked about Harris's racial identity, Trump dismissed the relevance, stating he "couldn't care less" about her background.

Foreign policy was another contentious point. Trump promised to end the Russia-Ukraine war with a sweeping declaration that he could bring both leaders to the negotiating table and resolve the conflict swiftly—a grandiose claim with little detail. Harris, who has come in for hard knocks for her alleged cluelessness on foreign policy, addressed the Israel-Hamas conflict with a typically fence-sitting

Not wishing to alienate either Israel or her support base and their strident pro-Palestinian backing, she expressed support for Israel's right to defend itself while underscoring the importance of how it conducts its defence amid ceasefire negotiations and hostage

situations.

The issue of gun control was a flashpoint, with Trump accusing Harris of intending to confiscate guns from Americans — a claim she

denied. Harris, herself a gun owner, sought to reassure voters that the administration does not intend to revoke gun ownership rights, calling out Trump's persistent misrepresentations on the matter.

The contentious nature of this debate echoes past instances of closed-mic formats that have proven fertile ground for candidates to launch unfiltered attacks. The 1960 Nixon-Kennedy debate and the 1988 Bush-Dukakis debates are notable for how they shaped public perception through style and demeanour rather than policy specifics.

Closed-mic debates have historically allowed candidates to bypass direct confrontation, focusing on their messages without the interruptions that often characterize live debates. However, the lack of immediate rebuttal opportunities can also amplify the spread of false or misleading statements, as seen with Trump's repeated claims on immigration and Harris's alleged stance on gun control. With the election looming, both candidates will continue to fine-tune their narratives, hoping to tip the scales in a contest that remains fiercely competitive and unpredictable. The Trump-Harris face-off may not have delivered a decisive blow for either side, but it laid bare the enduring fault lines that define the current political landscape.

STATES WATCH

Fierce Battle for Bihar as Tejashwi squares-off Nitish

head of the 2025 Bihar Assembly election, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav has set out on a 'Karyakarta Samvad Yatra' from Samastipur aimed at reinvigorating his party's grassroots and assessing the performance of his party's sitting MLAs. This direct engagement with the party rank and file as he interacts with party workers in districts like Samastipur, Darbhanga, Madhubani and Muzaffarpur marks a strategic attempt to realign the RJD's base and recover ground lost in the Lok Sabha election in

June this year.

Tejashwi launched a broadside on Chief Minister and Janata Dal (United) leader Nitish Kumar, with the Yadav dynasty scion targeting Kumar over a recent string of highprofile crimes in Bihar, including the tragic rape and murder of a Dalit minor in Muzaffarpur which Tejashwi has highlighted as emblematic of the state's law and order breakdown.

As Bihar enters a critical poll year, the stakes are both personal and political for Tejashwi Yadav, with aspirations of reshaping Bihar's destiny, and Nitish Kumar, who is struggling to preserve a legacy marred by inconsistency.

Tejashwi's criticisms have not been limited to governance or policy failures; they have extended to Nitish Kumar's increasingly diminished stature within the government. Describing Kumar as a mere "mask," Tejashwi dubbed the Chief Minister of being a 'puppet' to BJP leaders who allegedly pulled the strings from behind the scenes.

Nitish's tenure as Chief Minister has been marked by a series of political flip-flops that have cast him as an unreliable partner and a fickle leader. In 2015, Kumar formed an alliance with the RJD, bringing Tejashwi into the government as his deputy. The partnership was shortlived; by 2017, Kumar had switched sides to join forces with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), abandoning Tejashwi and his party. That switch was only one in a long history of alliances made and broken. In 2022, Kumar again severed ties with the BJP, reuniting with the RJD and rekindling hopes of a united front against the BJP juggernaut in

Ahead of the Lok Sabha election this year, Kumar again changed

sides to exit the opposition INDIA bloc and return to the NDA fold. For Tejashwi, the political battlefield extends beyond Nitish. In recent weeks,

he has also

found him-

self sparring with

Prashant

Kishor, the

former elec-

tion strategist

turned politician, who has not hesitated to deride Tejashwi's credentials. Kishor's jibes about Tejashwi's educational background—
"a 9th fail"— and his supposed ignorance of economic metrics like GDP have been met with scorn from the RJD leader's camp, who dismiss such critiques as the tantrums of a newcomer seeking relevance.

Nitish Kumar's legacy in Bihar is undeniably complex. When he first came to power in 2005, it was on the promise of sushasan or good governance, a direct challenge to the so-called 'jungle raj' associated with Lalu Prasad Yadav, Tejashwi's father. For a time, Kumar was hailed as a 'Renaissance Man' delivered on his promises: roads were built, crime reduced, and Bihar's moribund education system saw renewed investment. However, as the years wore on, the gloss began to fade. Critics argue that his frequent political re-alignments have eroded public trust and undermined his effectiveness as a leader.

Both Tejashwi and his father, Lalu have made it clear they will not forge any alliance with Nitish in the event the latter does another pirouette. Tejashwi has publicly claimed that Kumar came to him with "folded hands" twice, asking for support, while stating that RJD would not make the mistake of reviving him again.











- A group of migrant labourers leave a forward village after Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing on Indian posts at Akhnoor sector in Jammu on Wednesday.
- **President Droupadi Murmu confers the National Florence Nightingale Award 2024** to a nursing professional at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday.
- Indian Navy's P8I aircraft led by **Commanding Officer Captain Ajay Kanwar** reaches Darwin, Australia to participate in the 16th edition of the multinational
- **Employees of special schools shout** slogans during a protest over state government's alleged negligence of their institutes, in Thiruvananthapuram on
- NASA astronaut Don Pettit, Roscosmos cosmonauts Alexey Ovchinin, centre, and Ivan Vagner, crew members to the International Space Station, ISS on Tuesday.





GUEST VOICE

Violence Against Healthcare Professionals: Deepening Crisis



Pravin Dixit

n addition to deploying armed teams with communication tools and installing cameras, we implemented further measures to address violence in the healthcare sector.

Telemedicine for Prison

Medical professionals and health workers in public hospitals and medical colleges remain under threat from dangerous prisoners who threaten the medicos to permit their long stay in hospitals. Instances of verbal abuse and even stabbings have occurred. To counter this while an advisor in medical education (2016–17), I implemented video links for prisons to connect with district courts and provide telemedicine services. This initiative, which ran from 2017 to 2020, allowed prison doctors to communicate prisoner grievances to specialists for coun-

In Part 1 of this series, we explored the prevalence of violence in healthcare institutions. Part 2 explores additional measures, including telemedicine, enhanced security, and comprehensive training to ensure the safety of healthcare professionals.

Digital Post-Mortems

To address demands from relatives to avoid post-mortems, digital or virtual post-mortems—like those used by AIIMS, New Delhi—can provide accurate findings and prevent fraud complaints.

Private hospitals

In private hospitals, relatives of deceased patients may pressure healthcare workers with threats or demands, sometimes involving local politicians. This has led some doctors to seek weapon licenses for protection.

Addressing violence requires more than legal measures or armed protection. It involves regular training for all staff, improved infrastructure, and strict security measures, including access control and CCTV. Limiting visitors, documenting incidents, and reporting to law enforcement are also crucial. Testimonies can be given via video conferencing to ease court-related burdens.

Dr. Sancheti, a prominent Pune orthopaedist, attributes violence against healthcare workers to mistrust between patients and doctors. He has avoided violence by thoroughly explaining procedures to patients and their families. Dr. Sanjay Gupte emphasises that recovery should be a collaborative effort between patient and doctor. Dr. Shrikant Kelkar has pioneered training modules for health workers, implementing them across various hospitals. Psychiatrist Dr. Mohan Agashe adds that lack of understanding fuels legal issues and stresses that healthcare workers need intelligence and empathy.

The US Department of Labor's Organizational Safety and Healthcare Facilities' Roadmap provides guidelines for preventing violence in healthcare, available online. These guidelines cover management commitment, employee participation, worksite analysis, hazard identification, prevention and control, safety and health training, record keeping and program evaluation. The Indian

selling without incurring extra Medical Association (IMA) should implement standard operating procedures (SOPs) for public and private healthcare facilities and conduct semiannual reviews and rehearsals to address issues and implement international best

Currently, the IMA recommends forming crisis management committees at the taluka or district level, including doctors, social workers. legal professionals, politicians, and press reporters. These committees would work with police to ensure thorough investigations and prevent premature prosecution of healthcare workers. They would also advise press reporters against sensationalising such incidents.

The Supreme Court's "Martin D'Souza vs. Mohammed Isfaq" ruling warns police against harassing doctors unless Jacob Mathew's case parameters are met. The Ministry of Transport has mandated that health workers prioritise treating Good Samaritans who report injuries, and police must not suspect informants but prioritise saving lives.

Strict adherence to these directives and guidelines by all concerned, as well as introspection by healthcare workers and improvement of their practices and monitoring of these periodically alone, can create a visible impact against such

To address violence, the Core India Institute of Legal Medicine (CI-ILM) in Maharashtra, with retired police officers, has formed quick response teams. These teams, skilled in crowd control and mob psychology, train healthcare workers and defuse critical situations. Private hospitals should participate to ensure safety and peace of mind.

In conclusion, enacting laws alone won't eliminate violence. Healthcare institutes must involve all stakeholders, be prepared for emergencies, establish clear policies and standard operation procedures (SOPs), and coordinate with law enforcement regularly.

> (The writer is a former DGP, Maharashtra. Views personal)

EXPLAINER

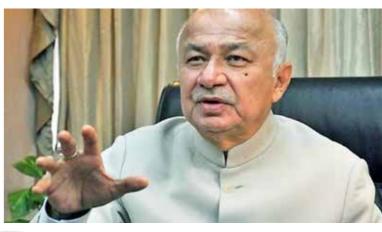
What is importance of Shinde's Lal Chowk 'Confession'?

n an eyebrow-raising revelation at the launch of his memoir "Five Decades of Politics," senior Congress leader Sushilkumar Shinde admitted that his visits to Lal Chowk in Srinagar during his tenure as Home Minister were fraught with fear. Shinde, a seasoned politician and former Union Home Minister under the UPA government, recounted how educationist Vijay Dhar had advised him to venture into the heart of Srinagar, mingle with the local populace, and visit Dal Lake. Shinde acknowledged that this public presence was seen as a bold move by a Home Minister unafraid to tread where separa-

tist sentiments ran high However, his candid 'confession' -- "but who do I tell that I was so scared?" has opened a Pandora's box for the Congress just ahead of the Assembly election in Jammu Kashmir.

The admission comes at a politically sensitive time for the Congress. The BJP, quick to seize on Shinde's remarks, has painted the Congress-led UPA as weak and indecisive in handling Kashmir's security challenges. Union Minister Piyush Goyal, for instance, contrasted

The veteran Congressman and former Union Home Minister's candid revelation could become a potential political pitfall for his party ahead of the Assembly crucial election in Jammu and Kashmir.



Shinde's fear with the current security environment under Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's lead-

ership, sug-

gesting that 'even opposition leaders play with snow in Kashmir, without any fear." Goyal's comments underscore a broader

BJP narrative that while the Congress hesitated to act decisively in Kashmir, the Modi government has bolstered national security, creating a sense of safety even for political opponents like Rahul Gandhi who could complete the Bharat Jodo Yatra in the region.

The timing of Shinde's remarks could not be more inconvenient for the Congress. The party faces accusations of having dealt with the Islamist threat in Jammu and Kashmir from a position of fear and weakness, raising questions about whether it lacked the resolve to take tough decisions such as the abrogation of Article 370. Shinde's tenure as Home Minister included significant national security events such as the trials and executions of Ajmal Kasab and Afzal Guru, as well as the fallout from the 2012 Delhi gangrape case. However, his admission of fear in Lal Chowk plays into the BJP's narrative that under the UPA, even

top officials were uneasy about engaging with the region's complexities.

The portrayal of Shinde's Lal Chowk visits as hesitant and fearful contrasts sharply with the current government's narrative of strength and control over the region, where Lal Chowk - a site once associated with separatist dominance and Pakistani flags - has become a venue for open displays of nationalist sentiments, including the waving of the Indian flag.

The Clock Tower at Lal Chowk, a prominent symbol in the region's troubled history, stands as a stark reminder of the shifting dynamics in Srinagar, Built in 1978 at the behest of former Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah, it has witnessed moments of both defiance and reconciliation. During the protests of 2008 and 2010, it became a flashpoint for separatist expression. Yet, under the Modi administration, it has symbolized a reclaiming of public space by pro-India voices - a transformation the BJP attributes to its hardline approach to security and governance in Kashmir.

For the Congress, Shinde's comments pose a risk of reinforcing the perception that the UPA era was marked by a lack of confidence in India's security apparatus. Critics argue that this perceived indecision prevented the UPA from taking more assertive actions in Kashmir as a demonstration of its commitment to fully integrating the region with the

WWW.THEPERFECTVOICE.IN

India thrash Malaysia 8-1; enter ACT semis



Hulunbuir (China): Young striker Raj Kumar Pal struck a hat-trick as titleholders India sealed a semifinal spot after thrashing Malaysia 8-1 for their third consecutive win in the Hero Asian Champions Trophy, here on Wednesday.

Apart from Raj Kumar (3rd, 25th and 33rd minute), Araijeet Singh Hundal (6th and 39th minute), Jugraj Singh (7th minute), skipper Harmanpreet Singh (22nd minute), and Uttam Singh (40th minute) sounded the board for India.

For Malaysia, Akhimullah Anuar (34th minute) managed the solitary

India are currently on top of the standings with nine points from three wins.

The six-team tournament is being played in a round-robin format and the top four will advance to the semifinals on September 16 followed by the final on September 17.

India had earlier defeated hosts China 3-0 in their tournament-opener before getting the better of Japan

Paris Olympics bronzemedallists India will next take on Korea on Thursday before finishing their league engagements against arch-rivals Pakistan on Saturday.

Against Malaysia, the odds were against India going by recent results. The last match between these two sides was the final of the 2023 Asian Champions Trophy where India were trailing 1-3 at half-time.

In that game, the Indians came roaring back to eventually register a 4-3 win to claim the title.

The Indian strikers continued their fine form in the tournament and scored five field goals and three penalty corners, converted by Jugraj, Harmanpreet and

Against Malaysia, the In-

dians started on the front foot with relentless attacks in the first quarter.

And Raj Kumar didn't take long to hand India the lead, scoring a solo goal displaying incredible stickwork, thereby making a mockery of the Malaysian back-line.

Three minutes later, Araijeet doubled India's lead by finding the corner of the Malaysian post.

A minute later, Jugraj extended the lead with a perfect penalty corner conversion with a powerful drag-flick. The team headed into the first quarter with a dominant 3-0 lead.

Down by three goals, Malaysia started on an aggressive note in the second quarter and soon earned a penalty corner but the Indian defence stood tall.

India secured back-toback penalty corners in the 22nd minute and Harmanpreet, one of world's the best drag-flickers, buried

the ball into the Malaysian

goal with a vintage flick to

extend the lead. Minutes later, Raj Kumar scored his second goal after being set up by Araijeet and Uttam as India went into half-time with a commanding 5-0 lead.

Three minutes after the change of ends, Raj Kumar scored his first hat-trick at the senior level from a rebound after vice-captain Vivek Sagar Prasad's initial strike was saved by the Malaysian goalkeeper.

Malaysia managed to pull a goal back soon through Anaur.

But there was no stopping India as Araijeet scored a field goal, tapping in Nilkanta Sharma's pass and then a minute later, Uttam scored from a rebound from a penalty corner.

In the first match of the day, Pakistan beat Japan 2-1 to improve their chances of reaching the semifinals.

Indian teams eye chess medals

Budapest: The top-seeded Indian women's team, spearheaded by D Harika and R Vaishali, would be a strong podium contender thanks partly to a depleted field, while the D Gukeshled men's outfit will also fancy its chances in the 45th Chess Olympiad starts here on Wednesday.

Koneru Humpy's nonparticipation in the event has not hampered the team's chances much as Vaishali has jumped significantly in rankings and is a force to reckon with in the women's circle.

Without Humpy, it will be Grandmaster D Harika on the top board, followed by Vaishali, Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agarwal who will serve as the mainstay. Tania Sachdev is in the side as the reserved player and is likely to have her share of games.

China has fielded a hugely depleted team. A look at the September rating list issued by FIDE, the World Chess Federation, confirms that the top four women players on the list are all from China and yet not one of them is part of the contingent here.

With Russia unable to participate for the second consecutive time in the biennial event due to sporting sanctions and Ukraine also not able to gather their best team together, all eyes will be on the Indian women's team that has a good mix of youth and experience.

Georgia is seeded a close second behind the Indian ladies. Poland is the third seed of the event ahead of **-PTI** China and Ukraine.



FCI, SSCB win big in hockey

Pune: Food Corporation of India (FCI), Services Sports Control Board, Comptroller & Auditor General Of India and Punjab National Bank (PnB) completed the quarterfinal line up in the 4th Senior Men's Inter-Department National Hockey Champihere onship Wednesday.

FCI thrashed Sashastra Seema Bal 7-0 with three goals being scored by Laishram Dipu Singh (1st, 40th, 35th, 55th), two by Kerobin Lakra (12th - p.c, 33rd - p.c) and a goal each by Deepak (19th) and Boby

Singh Dhami (52nd). On the other hand, Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) downed Tamil Nadu Police 6-0. A goal each by Pratap Shinde (4th p.c), Sunil Xaxa (13th), Harman Singh (23rd - p.c), Waribam Nirajkumar Singh (29th), Sushil Dhanwar (37th - p.s) and Cyril Lugun (54th - p.c) completed a collective scoring effort.

Both FCI and SSCB ended with seven points each but a better goal difference (17-14) pushed the latter into top position.

Comptroller & Auditor General of India pipped Punjab and Sindh Bank 2-1 to gain top spot in Pool D.

During the match Comptroller & Auditor General of India staged a comeback after PnB had Satender Kumar (19th) net early. Changing ends, Abharan Sudev B (35th - p.c) and Chandan Singh (77th - p.c) settled the issue in favour of Comptroller & Auditor General of India.

Comptroller & Auditor General of India (7 points) and PnB (4 points) made up the 1-2 in this group.

In the other Pool D match, Central Reserve Police Force downed Central **Industrial Security Force** 4-3 in a closely contested game.

Kuldeep Ekka (19th p.c), Mohd Wasiullah Khan (27th), Jashandeep Singh (41st) and Sharnjeet Singh 52nd) netted for CRPF and Central Industrial Security Force reduced the margin through Yograj Singh (25th), Vishaljit Singh (32nd) and Dheeraj Vats (51st - p.c).

ICC to discuss tentative schedule

tion, which is due to visit Pakistan this month to ascertain the preparations for pating boards in the Chamthe Champions Trophy, will also discuss the tentative schedule of the event with the Pakistan Cricket Board.

A source aware **CHAMPIONS** of developments said the PCB had still not been in-

formed how many ICC officials were coming and which departments they would be representing but indications were the schedule would be discussed in detail

The PCB had sent a tentative schedule to the ICC sometime back in which they had suggested making an team. "The schedule has now been seen by the participions Trophy and there is still some work to be done

before it is finalised and an-

nounced," the source said. "Obviously a final decision on whether the Indian team would be permitted

by its government to play in Pakistan is one major reason for the schedule still being under consideration," he added. The ICC delegation will inspect the ongoing development work at the Champions Trophy venues Karachi, Lahore and Rawal-

pindi.

Place badminton under PCI

New Delhi: Frustrated with the lack of recognition and administrative wrangling within the Badminton Association of India (BAI), Paralympic champion Kumar Nitesh has called for para badminton to be transferred under the aegis of Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) for the sport's betterment and progress.

The 29-year-old from Haryana, who secured a historic gold medal at the Paris Paralympics, said para shuttlers needed to be treated on par with their able-bodied counterparts.

"We have won 21 medals at the Asian Para Games, around 14-15 medals at the World Championships, and 5 -PTI : medals at the Paralympics."



Chief Election Commssioner Rajiv Kumar felicitates bronze meldallist para-archer Sheetal Devi at Election Commission of India office in New Delhi on Wednesday.

Australian suspended for cocaine purchase

Sydney: Field hockey play- night in custody. er Tom Craig has been suspurchase cocaine at the Paris Olympics.

Craig was arrested but released without charge after trying to purchase the drug in Paris on Aug. 7 during a night out after his

Olympic campaign ended. He faced Australian media in Paris after French prosecutors issued a statement confirming the now 29-year-old Olympian — a silver medalist at Tokyo three years ago - was given a criminal warning and released after spending a

Thank you Sreejesh: Modi

"Following an investigapended for 12 months by the tion into the arrest involvsport's Australian govern- ing national men's hockey ing body for attempting to team athlete Tom Craig at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, Hockey Australia's Integrity Unit has imposed a 12-month suspension," the Hockey Australia statement said Wednesday.

"Six months of this suspension will be served fully, with the remaining six months fully suspended, contingent upon meeting conduct and behavioral requirements.'

Hockey Australia said Craig would remain eligible for selection to the 2025 national men's squad

Argentina's Nicolas Gonzalez (15) celebrates scoring his side's first goal against Colombia with teammates during a qualifying soccer match for the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Colombia on Tuesday.

Vidhatri searching for a hat-trick

New Delhi: Vidhatri Urs began her quest for a hattrick of wins on the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour with a flourish, firing a sizzling five-under 67 at the Delhi Golf Club here on Wednesday.

Vidhatri, who won the last two legs, the ninth and the 10th in July, showed that her form had not slipped in the six-week gap.

She was six-under and then dropped a bogey on the 18th for 67, leading Hitaashee Bakshi (70) by three shots.

Tvesa Malik, who landed the only eagle of the day, carded 1-under 71 for the third under-par score of the day.

With a field of 46, the strength of women's golf was in full display at the Hero WPGT Leg-11 as four players shot par or better and another three were one-over at the challenging course.

writes to hockey goalie New Delhi: Retired Indian hockey star PR Sreejesh has shared a letter that he received from Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently in which the leader has lauded the former goalkeeper for his service to the game and expressed confidence in his ability to be "impactful" as

coach. Sreejesh called time on his illustrious 15-year career after India's bronze-winning Paris Olympic campaign, which was the his and the team's second successive Games medal after the bronze in Tokyo.

the new national junior

Known as 'The Wall' for $his\,impeccable\,skills\,in\,front$ of the goalpost, Sreejesh was instrumental in guiding the team through remarkable successes, including two Asian Games gold medals, and two Champions Trophy silver medals.

Following his retirement, Hockey India appointed Sreejesh as the head coach of the junior men's team and he vowed to make India a



Confident of Sreejesh's impact as junior team coach, PM Modi wrote: "I am sure your work in the new role will be as impactful and

"As you call it a day on

Sreejesh thanked Modi for

"Received this heartwarming letter from @narendramodi Sir on my retirement. Hockey is my life and I'll continue to serve the



"powerhouse in hockey".

inspirational.'

your playing career, I wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation for your monumental contributions to Indian hockey," Modi wrote in the letter dated August 16.

his support.

game and work towards making India a power in hockey, the start of which has been made with the 2020, 2024 Olympic medals. Thank You PM Sir for your faith in me," Sreejesh wrote in X sharing PM Modi's letter. On Sreejesh's illustrious career, Modi recalled the

goalkeeper's heroics in the triumphant Asian Games campaign in 2014. Modi also talked about Sreejesh playing an instrumental role in India's quarterfinal finish in Rio Olympics and the bronze wins in Tokyo and Paris. "There are countless such memories that one can recall

and one letter would never be sufficient! The Prime Minister also

hailed Sreejesh's humility. "Various awards, national and international medals that came your way reflect the heights you have achieved. But what has always stood out about you, Sreejesh, is your humility and grace, both on and off the field," Modi wrote.