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J&K SECURITY REVIEW

SHAH: REPLICATE KASHMIR SUCCESSES IN JAMMU

In the five-hour-long meeting, the Home Minister asks security agencies to ensure robust security for the forthcoming annual Amarnath Yatra.

AJAY JANDYAL
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday directed security forces to intensify efforts to eradicate the rising terrorism in the Jammu division of Jammu & Kashmir and to ensure robust security for the forthcoming annual Amarnath Yatra.

During a high-level security review meeting held in New Delhi, Shah emphasized the necessity of decisive action against terrorism. The meeting was attended by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Army Chief General Manoj Pande, incoming Army Chief Lt General Upendra Dwivedi, IB Director Tapan Deka, J&K Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, DG CRPF Anish Dayal Singh, J&K DGP R. R. Swain, ADGP (Law & Order) J&K Vijay Kumar, and senior Army and Intelligence officers.

In the five-hour-long meeting, which was separated into two rounds, including



Union Home and Co-operation Minister Amit Shah chairs a high-level meeting to review Jammu and Kashmir security situation, at North Block in New Delhi on Sunday. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and other dignitaries were also present. ANI

Shah wanted agencies to replicate Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan which were part of the successful strategies employed in the Kashmir Valley.

a short break, Shah also emphasised that the Modi administration is dedicated to setting a precedent by tackling terrorists with innovative strategies. The first round of the meet-

ing focused on review of security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, while the second round was dedicated to the preparedness for the Amarnath Yatra, which shall commence on June 29

and conclude on August 19. Shah specifically instructed the security forces to annihilate the resurgence of terrorism in the Jammu division and prevent its reemergence in J&K, particularly as the Amarnath Yatra, scheduled from June 29 to August 19, approaches.

During the meeting, Shah also reviewed a detailed report on the current law and order situation in J&K. He emphasised the need for strict measures against ter-

rorism supporters, advocating for constant vigilance and surveillance of highways, critical infrastructure, and vulnerable areas to ensure the safety of the Amarnath Yatra, Mata Vaishno Devi, and Shiv Khori temple pilgrimages. He directed the sealing of all infiltration routes used by foreign terrorists to enter the Union Territory.

Shah praised the security forces for providing a secure environment during the recent Lok Sabha elections, which saw significant voter participation. He assured the UT administration of comprehensive support, both in terms of resources and manpower, to combat terrorism and its backers effectively.

"Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah chaired a high-level review meeting on the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir in New Delhi today. The meeting was attended by National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval, the Lieutenant Governor of J&K Shri Manoj Sinha, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pandey, Union Home Sec-

Weeks after poll results, slugfest over EVMs

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

A fresh political slugfest erupted on Sunday over EVM tampering claims with Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders citing a media report that alleged that a relative of the Shiv Sena candidate in Mumbai North West Lok Sabha constituency was found using a mobile phone "connected" to an electronic voting machine during the counting of votes on June 4.

However, Vandana Suryavanshi, returning officer of the constituency, dismissed the report in "mid-day" newspaper as "false news" and said a defamation notice has been issued to the publication. She asserted that the EVM is a stand-alone system, not programmable and has no wireless communication capabilities. The BJP hit out at the opposition leaders over the



Vandana Suryavanshi, returning officer of the constituency, said a defamation notice has been issued to the Mid-Day daily.

issue and demanded that the Election Commission should prosecute all those who "amplified the lie" by sharing the news report.

Questioning the reliability of EVMs, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi and others on Sunday also quoted a post by Elon Musk, chairman of social media platform X and CEO of Tesla, in which he talked about eliminating EVMs and claimed the risk of hacking was "too high". "We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The

risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high," Musk said while responding to a post by US politician Robert F Kennedy Jr alleging Puerto Rico's primary elections experienced "hundreds of voting irregularities related to electronic voting machines". Congress ally and Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also questioned the credibility of EVMs and demanded that all future elections should be conducted through ballot papers. P4

No OTP needed to unlock EVMs: Official

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After a report by a Mumbai-based newspaper stated that Shiv Sena leader Ravindra Waikar's relative was carrying a mobile phone inside a counting centre in Maharashtra's Goregaon that was allegedly used for generating the OTP that unlocked the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), the Returning Officer dispelled such reports and clarified that no OTP (One Time Password) on mobile is needed for unlocking EVMs. DETAILS P3

EVMs in India are 'black box': Rahul

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said EVMs in India are a "black box" which nobody is allowed to scrutinise, and asserted that "serious concerns" are being raised about transparency in India's electoral process. "Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability," Gandhi said and tagged a media report. DETAILS P3

'No rift between BJP and RSS, ties smooth'

ABHINANDAN MISHRA
NEW DELHI

Functionaries of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have stated that things are operating smoothly between the organization and the BJP, and there is no reason why coordination should not function efficiently between the two bodies. Sources said that functionaries and leaders from the two organizations are likely to meet at the end of August in Kerala for a three days coordination meeting.

RSS sources told the Daily Guardian that baseless speculation were being discussed regarding a 'fictional' rift be-

tween the RSS and the BJP. This had started after articles and op eds in certain sections of media had appeared which are seen as pro-RSS voices.

RSS functionaries told the newspaper that these articles and op-eds were the personal opinion of the writers and did not represent the views of the body that predated the BJP. RSS sources further said that the recent speech of its chief Mohan Bhagwat too was being wrongly used and quoted to further the same false narrative.

According to them, Bhagwat, in all his speeches speaks about the 'right, ethi-



Amid the continuing acute water shortage in Delhi, the Jal Board office has been vandalised by unidentified people at Chhatrapur. REPORT P5

NCERT: No need to teach about riots in schools

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Rejecting accusations of saffronisation of school curriculum, NCERT's director has said that references to Gujarat riots and Babri masjid demolition were modified in school textbooks because teaching about riots "can create violent and depressed citizens." National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) director Dinesh Prasad Saklani told PTI the tweaks in textbooks are part of annual revision. DETAILS P4

NEET: Pradhan says officials won't be spared if found guilty

TDG NETWORK
SAMBALPUR (ODISHA)

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday assured action against National Testing Agency officials if they are found guilty of the "irregularities" in the conduct of 2024 National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (Undergraduate). The Minister added that the improvement in NTA, which conducts NEET exam, is needed. "On the recommendations of the Supreme Court, the order has been given for re-

test of 1,563 candidates. Some irregularities have come to light in two places. I assure students and parents that the government has taken this seriously," Pradhan told ANI.

"Even if the big officials of the NTA are found guilty, they will not be spared. A lot of improvement is required in NTA. The government is concerned about this, no culprit will be spared, they will get the harshest punishment," he added.

The NTA told the Supreme Court on Thursday that the scorecards of 1,563 candi-

INSIDE

LIFE AND LEGACY

The fact that titular Rajmata of Gwalior and mother of Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Rajmata Madhavi Rajee Scindia, who was keeping ill for awhile, has left for her heavenly abode has caused profound sadness to the entire Scindia family and their well-wishers. DETAILS P9

'We need to engage': Trudeau on warm welcome to PM Modi at G7

AGENCIES
APULIA (ITALY)

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it is important to engage with partners across the world, even as Ottawa continues to highlight "challenges" for the rule of law.

He was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the summit on Saturday (local time), where he was asked about PM Modi being received with 'open arms' and



being at the centre stage in the family photo, according to the Canada-based media channel, Cable Public Affairs Channel (CPAC).

Responding to this, Trudeau said, "I think there is a clear understanding that we need to continue to engage across and around the world with various partners even as we highlight challenges as we stand up for the rule of law and the principles that drive the G7." "We need to engage with a broad range of partners and that's exactly what we did during the Outreach session P4

India not part of any document on Ukraine Peace Summit: MEA

AGENCIES
BERNE (SWITZERLAND)

India on Sunday refrained from associating itself with any communication emerging from the Swiss summit on peace in Ukraine and reiterated its consistent approach to facilitate a lasting and peaceful resolution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy. "India did not associate itself with any communication/document emerging

from this Summit," read the Ministry of External Affairs press release.

Pavan Kapoor, Secretary (West), Ministry of External Affairs, represented India at the Summit on Peace in Ukraine, hosted by Switzerland at Burgenstock on 15-16 June 2024. The Indian delegation attended the Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions of the Summit.

"India's participation in the Summit, as well as in

the preceding NSA/Political Director-level meetings based on Ukraine's Peace Formula, was in line with our consistent approach to facilitate a lasting and peaceful resolution to the conflict through dialogue and diplomacy," added the release.

The release also said that India continues to "believe that such a resolution requires a sincere and practical engagement between P4

NOT MODI'S WIN, BUT DEFEAT: STALIN

TN CM asserted that the victory of the DMK in coalition with Congress was historic in the state.

TDG NETWORK
COIMBATORE (TAMIL NADU)

DMK chief and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin claimed that the Lok Sabha results were Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "defeat" and he became the PM because of the support of TDP's Chandrababu Naidu and JDU's Nitish Kumar.

While addressing a public meeting in Coimbatore on Saturday, the Tamil Nadu CM also targeted the BJP over its slogan of 'Abki Baar, 400 Paar', saying, "Despite a lot of efforts, the BJP got only 240 seats."

"This is not Modi's victory, but Modi's defeat. Modi is the Prime Minister because of Chandrababu Naidu and Nitish Kumar. If they had not supported it, where would Modi have gotten the



majority from? BJP can't do anything as per their wish," Stalin said.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a majority for the third time in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, winning 293 seats. The BJP won 240 seats on its own, in the 543-member lower house, where the majority mark stands at 272. Chandrababu Naidu's TDP and Nitish

Kumar's JDU, had won 16 and 12 seats respectively, in their respective states and extended their support to the NDA.

Stalin also asserted that the victory of the DMK in coalition with Congress was historic in the state.

"This is not an ordinary victory. This is a historic victory. This is the victory of all the workers and people who trusted our

government...," Stalin said.

Notably, in the Lok Sabha elections, the DMK and Congress fought together and the coalition secured 31 out of 39 seats. The DMK had won 22 seats, while Congress secured nine seats. On the other hand, CPI and CPI (M) secured two seats each.

Stepping up his attacks on the BJP, Stalin said, "In 2004, Kalaingar (M Karunanidhi, former Tamil Nadu CM) got us a 40/40 victory (39 seats of Tamil Nadu and one seat of Puducherry). That time, AIADMK was ruling the government... In 2004, the exit poll predicted (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee would form the government but Congress formed the government. A similar thing has happened. Many said BJP would cross 400 but it has broken and we made BJP not cross majority single-handedly."

Gopi clarifies calling Indira 'Mother of India'

TDG NETWORK
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (KERALA)

Union Minister Suresh Gopi on Sunday clarified his comments on former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, where he referred to her as "Mother of India", and said it was a "contextual reference."

The BJP MP said that it was a contextual reference, while he was elaborating on the role of late Congress leader and former Kerala Chief Minister K Karunakaran, who Gopi had earlier described as a "courageous administrator."

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Gopi said, "It was a contextual reference. I was talking about the true worth of leader Karunakaran. Like how to the Congress and non-Congress people of Kerala, even though there might be founders and co-founders, the administrative quality and efforts that result totally to the benefit of people, Karunakaran should be the



father of Congress in Kerala. In the context of that, I had referred to Indira Gandhi as the mother of Congress in India."

Earlier, Gopi, who was inducted as the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Tourism, referred to veteran leaders of the Communist Party of India-Marxists, EK Nayanar and K Karunakaran, as his "political gurus."

"Simply because my father's family was a Congress family, my mother's family worked up to the formation of Janasangh in Kerala...I was in the SFI.

But the reason behind my shift was not political. It was emotional. I will live my life emotionally as well, being acceptable to all classes of life, all segments of life, all levels of life," the BJP MP said on Sunday.

"My parentage, my traditions, the essence of Sanatana Dharma—I have to perform all those valuable traits. Simply because Indira Gandhi is Congress, and for that draconian act of hers, I cannot sway away from attributing. I call her the real architect of India post-independence until her death," he added.

Notably, Suresh Gopi



defeated K Karunakaran's son, K Muraleedharan, in the Thrissur constituency in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections.

The actor-turned-politician has become the first Lok Sabha BJP MP from Kerala after winning the Thrissur constituency. He defeated the ruling Left Democratic Front candidate, V.S. Sunilkumar, by a margin of 74,686 votes.

Gopi was sworn in as Minister of State in the Modi 3.0 cabinet. He assumed charge as Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas as well as the Ministry of Tourism on Tuesday morning, earlier this week.

BJP central team reaches Kolkata over 'post-poll violence'

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

A four-member central team of the BJP, including senior leaders Ravi Shankar Prasad and Biplab Kumar Deb, arrived here on Sunday evening to take stock of the situation after alleged violence against saffron party workers in West Bengal after the Lok Sabha elections.

Prasad claimed that the people of the state along with the BJP party workers were afraid and apprehensive over the alleged post-poll violence taking place in the state.

"Elections were held across the country, but violence has taken place only in West Bengal," he told reporters at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport upon their arrival to the city on a two-day visit.

"If Mamata ji believes in democracy, she has to reply to this," Prasad, a former Union minister, said.



Prasad claimed that the people of the state along with the BJP party workers were afraid and apprehensive over the alleged post-poll violence taking place in the state.

Deb, a former chief minister of Tripura, claimed that there has not been any political violence in the northeastern state since the BJP came to power there.

"We will speak to the victims and take stock of the situation during our two-day stay in West Bengal," he said. The BJP has alleged that its workers and supporters were being

subjected to violence and intimidation in different parts of West Bengal by ruling Trinamool Congress supporters after the conclusion of the Lok Sabha elections. The BJP has won 12 of the 42 Lok Sabha constituencies in West Bengal, while the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC emerged victorious in 29 seats and the Congress bagged one.

Meghwal hopeful about UCC implementation

TDG NETWORK
KOLKATA

Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on Sunday expressed hope about implementation of the Uniform Civil Code, contending that some states have started to bring it into force.

Meghwal made the remark while speaking at the sidelines of a conference on 'India's Progressive Path in the Administration of Criminal Justice System' here.

"In BJP manifesto, we have mentioned about the UCC. There are states like Goa and Uttarakhand that have started implementing them. The coalition which has been formed in the Centre is a very strong government and there is nothing to worry about," Meghwal said here on Sunday.

Last week, soon after Meghwal, an MP from the Bikaner constituency, said that the UCC is still on the BJP's agenda, the JDU, said that any such move must come through consensus.

JD(U) leader KC Tyagi said that while the party is not against UCC, it wants that such a move should come through a consensus.

The Union Law minister



The BJP on Saturday formed a four-member committee to look into the alleged political violence in West Bengal, as the party accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of remaining a mute spectator.

criticised the incidents of alleged post-poll violence in West Bengal and said that the central government is alert about them.

He said that such post-poll violence is not healthy for a democratic country like India.

"Election is a significant part of the democracy. There should not be any violence after the completion of any election. It (Post-poll violence in Bengal) is in our knowledge and the (central) government is also alert (about it). The rule of law is there in the country. This is not good for democracy," Meghwal said.

The BJP on Saturday formed a four-member committee to look into the alleged political violence in West Bengal, as the party accused Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of remaining a mute spectator.

A BJP statement said, "Mamata Banerjee remains a mute spectator, while criminals of her party, attack and intimidate opposition workers and voters with impunity."

Even the Calcutta High Court has taken note of these excesses and extended deployment of CAPF till June 21 and has listed the matter for hearing on June 18."

BJP to protest at Vidhana Soudha against fuel price hike today

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU (KARNATAKA)

Karnataka Leader of Opposition and Bharatiya Janata Party Leader R Ashoka said that the BJP will mobilise bullock carts and bikes and organise a stir in front of the Vidhana Soudha on Monday to protest against the fuel price hike by the state government.

R Ashoka said, "We are against the increase in petrol and diesel prices by the state Congress government. Tomorrow, we are going to protest at Freedom Park in Bangalore at 11:30 am. This protest will be led by BJP State President BY Vijayendra and myself. We are going to protest against the Congress government across the state. The Congress government has increased the price of petrol and diesel because people did not vote for the Congress party in this Lok Sabha election."

R Ashoka and BJP MLC Chalavadi Narayanaswamy released the poster, which displayed that Congress leaders had protested when petrol and diesel prices were increased under the previous state government. "Previously, Siddaramaiah protested during the price hike during our government," he said.

Siddaramaiah's video byte was also released by R Ashoka.

R Ashoka released the video of Siddaramaiah, in which he said that if he comes to power,



he will reduce the price of petrol.

R Ashoka further said, "Siddaramaiah is an outgoing CM. He will not hesitate to sell the Vidhan Sabha while leaving the post of CM. Congress has given misfortunes in the last one year after coming to power. The people of Karnataka are being oppressed. He increased the price of milk and stamp duty. Electricity tax and house tax have been increased. Petrol prices increased by Rs 3, diesel prices increased by Rs 3.50," he added.

The increase in the price of petrol and diesel comes following an official notification from the Government of Karnataka, which indicates a revision in the sales tax levied on petroleum products.

The price of petrol has surged by Rs 3, bringing the cost per litre in Bengaluru to Rs 102.84, up from the previous rate of Rs 99.84. Similarly, the price of diesel has increased by Rs 3.02, raising the cost per litre from Rs 85.93 to Rs 88.95. According to the

Petroleum Dealers Association, the price has increased because the state government has revised the sales tax in the state, which is levied on petroleum products in the state.

According to the notification, the sales tax on petrol has been increased from 25.92 per cent to 29.84 per cent, while the tax on diesel has risen from 14.3 per cent to 18.4 per cent by the state government.

This significant increase in the sales tax has directly impacted the retail prices of both petrol and diesel across the state. The move by the Finance Department of Karnataka aims to generate additional revenue for the state. However, it is likely to have a ripple effect on various sectors, including transportation and goods distribution, potentially leading to increased costs for consumers. The immediate implementation of these new prices has caught many residents and businesses by surprise, prompting concerns over the financial burden it may impose.

KARNATAKA FUEL PRICES LOWER THAN ANDHRA PRADESH AND MAHARASHTRA

New Delhi: The Congress-ruled Karnataka government's move to raise local tax on auto fuels pushed petrol prices above Rs 100 a litre and diesel to Rs 89, but rates are lower than neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Bihar, which has the costliest fuel in the country, oil industry data showed.

The Karnataka government on June 15 hiked local VAT (value added tax) from 25.92 per cent to 29.84 per cent on petrol and from 14.3 per cent to 18.4 per cent on diesel. This led to petrol price now costing Rs 102.86 per litre in Bengaluru and diesel coming for Rs 88.94 a litre. But the rates in Karnataka are still lower than neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra.

TDP-BJP combine ruled Andhra Pradesh has the costliest petrol at Rs 109.87 a litre, followed by Left Democratic Front (LDF)-ruled Kerala, where a litre of petrol comes for Rs 107.54. Congress-run Telangana is close behind with petrol costing Rs 107.39 a litre. BJP-ruled states are not far behind -- petrol costs Rs 106.45 a litre in Bhopal, Rs 105.16 in Patna (BJP in coalition with JD-U), Rs 104.86 in Jaipur and Rs 104.19 in Mumbai.

Mamata Banerjee's TMC-ruled West Bengal has petrol priced at Rs 103.93 a litre.

Other states with over Rs 100-a-litre petrol are Odisha (Rs 101.04 a litre in Bhubaneswar), Tamil Nadu (Rs 100.73 in Chennai), and Chhattisgarh (Rs 100.37 in Raipur), industry pricing data showed.

Diesel prices have almost a similar story with Amaravati in Andhra Pradesh selling the fuel at Rs 97.6 a litre, followed by Rs 96.41 a litre in Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram, Rs 95.63 in Hyderabad and Rs 93.31 in Raipur. The fuel is in the range of Rs 92-93 a litre in BJP-ruled states of Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Bihar. It is also in that range in Odisha and Jharkhand. On Sunday, Oil Minister Hardeep Singh Puri compared fuel prices in Karnataka with those in BJP-ruled UP and Gujarat to target the Congress.

"After not fulfilling the promises of transferring Rs 8500/month to a woman of each family, Congress ruled Karnataka government has saddled the people of Karnataka with the burden of paying Rs 3/litre more for petrol and diesel in the state," he said in a post on X.

Will relocate to Andhra: TN villagers protest over airport

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

Residents of Parandur and neighbouring villages in Kanchipuram district have announced their decision to relocate to Andhra Pradesh to draw the Tamil Nadu government's attention to their nearly 700-day-old protest against the greenfield airport proposed to be established near here.

The Tamil Nadu government issued the notification for acquisition of land for the Parandur airport soon after the results of the Lok Sabha polls were declared.

Chief Minister M K Stalin had in August 2022 announced that a second airport for Chennai would come up at Parandur at an estimated outlay of Rs 20,000 crore that can handle 10 crore passengers annually.

The government's decision did not go down well with the residents of 13 villages who



immediately commenced their strike stating that the project would affect their livelihood as majority of their farm lands would be acquired for construction of the airport.

However, the state government has assured that the villagers would be 'adequately compensated.'

Nearly 15 protesters have planned to call on Chittoor district Collector on June 24 and seek permission to move

to Andhra Pradesh.

"We have planned to meet him on June 24 as our protests will enter 700th day. The Tamil Nadu government is not showing any interest to address our demands. Initially, about 15 members are planning to relocate," G Subramanian, secretary, Villagers Against the Parandur Airport Movement, told PTI.

"We want the Tamil Nadu government to invite

us for talks. They should withdraw their proposal for the airport. We are firm in our decision," he added.

Residents of Ekanapuram, Nelvoy, Valathur, Ediyarpakkam, Madapuram, Akkammapuram villages surrounding Parandur have been on strike since August 2022 urging the government to withdraw its decision.

Their agitation will enter its 700th day on June 24.

According to sources, the government has issued a notification recently to initiate land acquisition, setting the ball rolling for the project.

As of now the government is proceeding with its plan to set up the airport. "It has issued notifications as well. We want our demands to be addressed," Subramanian said. Considering the growing passenger and cargo volumes, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (TIDCO) took up the work for identifying the land for another airport as the current facility in Meenambakkam in Chennai can only handle upto 3.50 crore passengers.

Whereas, the new airport will be able to handle 10 crore fliers annually.

Four sites were selected for the airport and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) recommended two of them and finally Parandur was zeroed in on.

NEET-UG ROW

BIHAR POLICE'S RECOVERS 6 POST-DATED CHEQUES FOR QUESTION PAPER FACILITATORS

TDG NETWORK
PATNA

The Economic Offences Unit (EOU) of Bihar Police has recovered six post-dated cheques which were suspected to have been issued in favour of mafia demanding over Rs 30 lakh from each candidate seeking alleged leaked question paper ahead of NEET held last month.

"During the course of investigation, EOU sleuths recovered six post-dated cheques that were issued in the favour of criminals who reportedly facilitated question papers to the aspirants ahead of the examination," Manavjit Singh Dhillon, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), EOU, told PTI on Sunday. Investigators are ascertaining details about account holders from the banks concerned, he added.

The EOU has so far arrested 13 people, including four examinees and their family members, in connection with the alleged NEET-UG 2024 paper leak case. All accused belong to Bihar, said the DIG. The EOU has also issued



notices to nine candidates (seven from Bihar and one each from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra) to join the probe, he added.

The National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET-UG) 2024 was conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA) at 4,750 centres in 571 cities for more than 24 lakh candidates.

The result of the NEET-UG 2024 was declared on June 4. As soon as the results were declared, there was an uproar, with many students alleging discrepancies.

A group of candidates has approached the Supreme Court demanding a fresh exam due to alleged paper leaks and concerns about the test's integrity.

According to sources, it is suspected that nine aspirants, along with four other examinees from Bihar who have already been arrested by the EOU, received the exam's question paper and answers in a 'safe house' near Patna a day before it was conducted on May 5.

During interrogation, the aspirants disclosed that their parents had paid more than Rs 30 lakh for every candidate to those who facilitated questions papers ahead of the exam.

"The evidence of the transaction has also been found and six post-dated cheques have also been recovered during the course of investigation.

Cong raises serious questions over integrity of NTA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday targeted the National Testing Agency (NTA) and NCERT over irregularities in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-Undergraduate), emphasizing potential issues with fairness and transparency. In a post on X, Jairam said, "I was a member of Parliament's Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare between 2014 and 2019 and recall broad support for NEET. But there were MPs, especially from Tamil Nadu, who had raised concerns that NEET would privilege CBSE students and would disadvantage youth coming from non-CBSE schools."

"I do think now that this CBSE issue needs proper analysis. Is NEET discriminatory? Are students from poorer backgrounds being denied opportunities? Other states, like Maharashtra, also expressed grave doubts about NEET."

There are also serious questions about the integrity of the National Testing Agency itself and the manner in which NEET is designed and administered. NCERT itself has lost all professionalism in the last decade," Jairam added.

NEET 'scam' goes against social justice: Stalin

TDG NETWORK
CHENNAI

NEET, 'masquerading' as a measure of merit, is a 'scam' and the Centre must stop defending the national test as it went against the interests of students and it is also against social justice and poor, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin said on Sunday.

Stalin, also the president of the ruling DMK said in a post on X: "The ongoing controversies around #NEET highlight its fundamentally inequitable nature. In a society where education has been denied for thousands of years, we should offer more opportunities for advancement of the oppressed. On the contrary, NEET hinders the oppor-



tunities of such students." He said: "Despite the Union Education Minister's defense of the National Testing Agency (NTA), recent events paint a different picture. The Gujarat Police have registered an FIR over allegations of invigilators tampering with OMR sheets in exchange for monetary benefits, involving cheques worth several crore rupees and eight blank cheques.

'Decision on 1,563 candidates taken as per students' conformity'

TDG NETWORK
BEGUSARAI

Expressing his views on the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) undergraduate exam issue, Union Minister Giriraj Singh said that the decision on 1,563 candidates who got "grace marks" has been taken as per the students' conformity.

Union Minister Giriraj Singh said, "Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan held cordial talks with representatives of students and parents. The decision on almost 1,563 candidates has been taken as per the students' conformity. I hope that Dharmendra Pradhan will work very seriously on this matter."



Earlier, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan assured students that a transparent process will be followed and they should not worry. "The government assures the students that full transparency will be adopted in the probe into alleged irregularities and re-conducting the NEET exams. The students do not need to worry," Pradhan said while speaking to ANI.

No OTP needed to unlock EVMs: Official

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After a report by a Mumbai-based newspaper stated that Shiv Sena leader Ravindra Waikar's relative was carrying a mobile phone inside a counting centre in Maharashtra's Goregaon that was allegedly used for generating the OTP that unlocked the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM), the Returning Officer dispelled such reports and clarified that no OTP (One Time Password) on mobile is needed for unlocking EVMs.

"There is no OTP (One Time Password) on mobile for unlocking EVM as it is non-programmable and it has no wireless communication capabilities. It is a complete lie being spread by a newspaper, which is being used by some leaders to create false narrative," Vandana Suryavanshi, the Returning Officer of 27 Mumbai North West Parliamentary Constituency said in a press conference on Sunday.

The Returning Officer further stated that the incident at Mumbai North West Constituency Counting Centre is regarding unauthorised use of mobile phone of an authorised person by a candidate's aide.

"Criminal case has already been filed by the Returning Officer," she added.

Musk ignites EVM row, says prone to hacking

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Tesla and SpaceX Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Elon Musk has said that electronic voting machines (EVMs) should be eliminated as they are prone to "getting hacked" by humans or AI (artificial intelligence).

"We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high," Musk said in a post on X.

The billionaire was reacting to irregularities reportedly discovered in EVMs during Puerto Rico's primary elections. It has reignited controversy around EVMs in India.

Leading politicians such as INDIA bloc leaders such as Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh



The Returning Officer further stated that proceedings are on against the newspaper for "spreading rumours maligning Indian voters and the electoral system."

Asserting the efficacy of EVMs in conducting polls, Suryavanshi said, "EVMs are stand alone devices without any wired or wireless connectivity with units outside EVM system. Advanced technical features and robust administrative safeguards are in place to rule out any possibility of manipulation. Safeguards include conducting everything in the presence of candidates or their agents."

Sharing details about counting of votes through postal ballot, the Returning Officer said, "Counting of ETPBS (Electronically Transmitted Postal Ballot System) happens in physical form (paper ballots) and not

electronics as being spread through false narratives.

"Every counting sheet at every table for ETPBS and EVM counting and postal ballot counting (including ETPBS) is signed by all counting agents after due diligence," she added.

The Returning Officer further stated that proceedings are against the newspaper for "spreading rumours maligning Indian voters and the electoral system."

Earlier in the day, an FIR was registered against Mangesh Pandilkar, a relative of Shiv Sena leader Ravindra Waikar for allegedly carrying a mobile phone inside a counting centre in Maharashtra's Goregaon.

EVMs in India are 'black box': Rahul Gandhi

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said EVMs in India are a "black box" which nobody is allowed to scrutinise, and asserted that "serious concerns" are being raised about transparency in India's electoral process.

"Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability," Gandhi said and tagged a media report which claimed that a relative of Shiv Sena's candidate, who won the polls from Mumbai's north west by 48 votes, had a phone that unlocks an EVM.

The former Congress president also tagged the post on X by Elon Musk in which he talked about eliminating EVMs.

"We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high," Musk had said in his post.

The opposition parties have been raising concerns over EVMs for some time now and had demanded a 100 per cent count of the VVPAT slips which was not allowed.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar counters Musk's take on EVMs, Tesla CEO replies

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Sunday strongly countered Elon Musk's criticism of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and termed it "a huge sweeping generalisation" even as the Tesla boss responded saying "anything can be hacked".

The back-and-forth of words on X (formerly Twitter) played out as Chandrasekhar disagreed with Musk's post where he had advocated eliminating electronic voting machines.

"We should eliminate electronic voting machines. The risk of being hacked by humans or AI, while small, is still too high," Musk wrote on Saturday, sharing



a post by Robert F Kennedy Jr that had cited media reports about hundreds of voting irregularities related to electronic voting machines in Puerto Rico's primary elections.

Chandrasekhar -- former minister of state for Electronics and IT -- disagreed with Musk's opinion about EVMs, and argued that the latter's statement was a "huge sweeping generalisation".

Many challenges loom on the horizon for Modi govt 3.0

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has successfully formed his government for the third time, securing support from various allies. The manner in which he has allocated the ministerial portfolios suggests that PM Modi is operating without significant pressure from his coalition partners. Currently, it is evident that there is no external pressure from these allies. However, several challenges loom on the horizon.

One major challenge is the election of both the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha. The opposition is expected to exert considerable pressure on this matter, which is likely to escalate political tensions. Additionally, selecting a new national president for the BJP has emerged as a significant challenge.

All the potential candidates who were previously considered for this role have now been appointed as ministers. Moreover, recent statements from Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat and senior RSS leader Indresh Kumar have conveyed multiple messages to the Modi



These statements indicate that the RSS intends to have substantial influence over the selection of the new BJP president this time around. It is now clear that the RSS will play a crucial role in this decision-making process.

government. These statements indicate that the RSS intends to have substantial influence over the selection of the new BJP president this time around. It is now clear that the RSS will play a crucial role in this decision-making process. BJP is still looking for a president who can recharge the organization again.

Because there have been reports of the organization being indifferent from some states like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan. If sources are to be believed, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has talked about the organization being indifferent in his report. In Rajasthan, BJP had to face defeat on 11 seats.

Which proved to be a big setback for the party. Similarly, the reason for the defeat on many seats in Uttar Pradesh has come to the fore due to factionalism and inactivity of the organization. Many names are being considered for the BJP president. But this time Prime Minister Modi will not take any decision in a hurry. It is understood that after returning from Italy tour, the Prime Minister will first talk to the allies and decide on the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. Then the decision on the BJP president will be taken after discussing with the Sangh, because this time BJP will not be able to decide the president according to its own wishes. Till then JP Nadda can look after the work of the president. As far as the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is concerned, this time the attitude of the opposition has become more important than the own people. This time the number of opposition members in the Lok Sabha is around the BJP members. There is a difference of only seven seats. In 2014 and 2019, BJP got majority on its own. The number of its allies was also good. Whereas the opposition was in a very weak position.

'Rahul unlikely to take LoP post'

AJIT MAINDOLA
NEW DELHI

The political decision making of the Gandhi family will now change its course. The positions and the responsibilities may be allocated and given to different leaders and party workers. As far as the face of the Congress party Rahul Gandhi is concerned, it is unlikely that he may take the responsibility of the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha. According to sources, Rahul Gandhi plans to engage in Congress politics similarly to his mother, Sonia Gandhi.

He will be the public face of the party but will avoid taking on formal responsibilities. Those familiar with the inner workings of Congress believe that Priyanka Gandhi will step forward and take on responsibilities whenever the opportunity arises. Currently, Priyanka is dedicated to strengthening the party, working alongside her brother Rahul and recognizing him as her leader. She has demonstrated her commitment on numerous occasions, showing that she is willing to work tirelessly without hesitation. Her dedication was evident when she took on the responsibility for Rae Bareilly and Amethi.

According to experts, the style of both brother and sis-



In 2013, at his mother's urging, he assumed responsibility for the party, which then suffered a significant defeat in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

ter in politics is quite varied. They both have their own way of working and decision making. If we talk about Rahul Gandhi, who has been in politics for over two decades. For a decade he enjoyed power but avoided responsibility. He entered politics in 2004 when the party regained power. Over the next ten years, he neither became a minister at the center nor did he take the opportunity to become Prime Minister in 2009.

In 2013, at his mother's

urging, he assumed responsibility for the party, which then suffered a significant defeat in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. Although he wasn't directly responsible for the defeat, numerous incidents during the UPA regime, such as Anna Hazare's movement, Arvind Kejriwal's anti-corruption campaign, and the Nirbhaya case, harmed the Congress party. These events benefited the BJP at the national level and Kejriwal in Delhi. Following the defeat, So-

nia Gandhi stepped down as president, passing the mantle to Rahul Gandhi. However, Rahul struggled to manage the organization. The party's decline continued due to his straightforward and simplistic political approach. Unlike his mother, he couldn't make timely decisions and maintained inflexible behavior, often avoiding meetings with experienced party leaders or discussing issues with them. This led to the disintegration of his mother's established team. Rahul or his strategists seemed to believe that the Congress would return to power without needing to engage with anyone, a formula that failed as the party continued to fragment.

In 2019, after another defeat under his leadership, Rahul resigned as president but continued to run the party on his terms, which did not yield significant benefits. The party lost in several key states. In 2024, the Congress formed the India Alliance by partnering with various groups nationwide, diverging from its usual policies and engaging in caste politics. Despite securing 99 seats, the party faced criticism for the mismatched alliances. Post-elections, the alliance with Kejriwal's AAP dissolved.

NCERT: NO NEED TO TEACH ABOUT RIOTS IN SCHOOLS

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Rejecting accusations of saffronisation of school curriculum, NCERT's director has said that references to Gujarat riots and Babri masjid demolition were modified in school textbooks because teaching about riots "can create violent and depressed citizens."

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) director Dinesh Prasad Saklani told PTI the tweaks in textbooks are part of annual revision and should not be a subject of hue and cry.

Asked about references to Gujarat riots or Babri masjid

demolition being tweaked in NCERT textbooks, Saklani said, "Why should we teach about riots in school textbooks? We want to create positive citizens not violent and depressed individuals".

"Should we teach our students in a manner that they become offensive, create hatred in society or become victim of hatred? Is that education's purpose? Should we teach about riots to such young children ... when they grow up, they can learn about it but why school textbooks. Let them understand what happened and why it happened when they grow up. The hue and cry about the changes is irrelevant," he said.

The comments by Saklani come at a time when new textbooks have hit the market with several deletions and changes. The revised Class 12 political science textbook does not mention the Babri masjid but refers to it as a "three-domed structure". It has pruned the Ayodhya section from four to two pages and deleted details from the earlier version.

It instead focuses on the Supreme Court judgement that paved the way for the construction of a Ram temple at the site where the disputed structure once stood before it was torn down by Hindu activists in December 1992. The Supreme Court verdict was widely accepted in the coun-



try. The consecration of the Ram idol in the temple was performed on January 22 this year by the prime minister.

"We want to create positive citizens and that's what is the purpose of our textbooks. We cannot have everything in them. The purpose of our education is not to create violent citizens ... depressed

citizens. Hatred and violence are not subjects of teaching, they should not be focus of our textbooks," added Saklani.

He hinted that the same hue and cry is not made about 1984 anti-Sikh riots not being in textbooks.

The latest deletions in the textbooks include: BJP's 'rath

yatra' from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya; the role of kar sevaks; communal violence in the wake of the demolition of the Babri masjid; President's rule in BJP-ruled states; and the BJP's expression of "regret over the happenings at Ayodhya".

"If Supreme Court has given a verdict in favour of Ram temple, Babri masjid or Ramjannabhoomi, should it not be included in our textbooks, what is the problem in that? We have included the new updates. If we have constructed new Parliament, should our students not know about it. It is our duty to include the ancient developments and recent developments," he said.

Asked about allegations of saffronisation of curriculum and ultimately textbooks, Saklani said, "If something has become irrelevant ... it will have to be changed. Why shouldn't it be changed. I don't see any saffronisation here. We teach history so students know about facts, not for making it a battleground".

"If we are telling about Indian Knowledge System, how can it be saffronisation? If we are telling about iron pillar in Mehrauli and saying Indians were way ahead of any metallurgical scientist, are we saying wrong? How can it be saffronisation?"

Saklani, 61, who was head of the ancient history de-

partment at the HNB Garhwal University before taking charge as NCERT director in 2022, has faced criticism over the changes in textbooks, especially pertaining to historical facts.

"What is wrong about changes in textbooks? Updating textbooks is a global practice, it is in interest of education. Revising textbooks is an annual exercise. Whatever is changed is decided by subject and pedagogy experts. I do not dictate or interfere in the process ... there is no imposition from top.

"There are no attempts to saffronise curriculum, everything is based on facts and evidence," he said.

Rijiju meets Kharge ahead of first session of the new Lok Sabha

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday, a week ahead of the first session of the new Lok Sabha.

Rijiju met Kharge at the Congress chief's 10, Rajaji Marg residence in what was said to be a courtesy call.

Assuming charge of the ministry last week, Rijiju had said there was no need for the government or the opposition to pull each other down on the basis of numerical strength and asserted that he would reach out to everyone for smooth functioning of Parliament.

The first session of the



18th Lok Sabha will begin on June 24 during which new members of the Lower House will take oath and the speaker elected.

President Droupadi Murmu will address a joint sitting of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on June 27 and is likely to outline the new government's roadmap for the next five years.

The session will conclude on July 3.

The first three days of the session will see the newly-elected MPs taking oath and electing the speaker of the Lower House.

Both Houses of Parliament are expected to reconvene in the third week of July for the presentation of the Union Budget.

Ram Mandir chief priest not happy with NCERT's omission of events in Ayodhya movement

AGENCIES
AYODHYA

The Chief Priest of Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple, Satyendra Das Maharaj, was dissatisfied with the omission of important events of the Ayodhya movement in the newly revised Class 12 Political Science textbook of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) saying that there are several "shortcomings" in its presentation and it is "incomplete" in its narration.

"There are some shortcomings in the NCERT textbook about the Babri Masjid issue. They do not mention how the three-domed structure was removed on December

6, 1992, they are only starting to narrate the issue from November 9, 2019, when the Ayodhya verdict was given," Satyendra Das Maharaj said.

Notably, NCERT left Babri Masjid out, referring to it only as a "three-dome structure" in its revised Class 12 Political Science textbook. The revision pertains to Chapter 8, 'Recent Developments in Indian Politics'.

The Chief Priest pointed out that the narration of the Ayodhya movement starts only from November 9, 2019 when the Supreme Court gave its landmark verdict on the historic case and does not give details about the events on December 6, 1992 (when the Babri Masjid was demolished) or December 22, 1949

when Lord Ram Lalla appeared at the mosque premises. The Chief Priest said that if such crucial events are not mentioned in the textbook then children cannot get a minimum understanding of the Ayodhya movement.

"If they (NCERT) do not mention how on December 22, 1949, Ram Lalla appeared there and His puja started, how can anyone get a minimum understanding of the entire history of the Ayodhya movement? I think it is incomplete. The thought with which the NCERT books are being rewritten is wrong," he said.

NCERT revised its Class XII political science textbook, saying the change reflects the Supreme Court's verdict in

the Ramjannabhoomi movement. The final judgement in the Supreme Court was declared on 9 November 2019. The Supreme Court ordered the land to be handed over to a trust to build the Hindu temple.

"They (NCERT) should highlight that we are repeatedly saying that after 500 years long struggle we have been successful. If they do not state all these and start from November 9, 2019, when the court gave its verdict then I think it is incomplete," Satyendra Das Maharaj added.

The Chief Priest pointed out that those interested in learning about the Ayodhya movement in detail will only receive half the information and will not get to know

about past events that were crucial to the movement.

"Those who are keen to know this history will have only half the information. They will not get to know what happened in the past. Neither will they get to know about how Ram Lalla appeared on December 22, 1949 nor how the structure fell off on December 6, 1992. I think it is incomplete. This is not acceptable," he said.

New NCERT textbooks have hit the market with several deletions and changes. The revised Class 12 political science textbook, does not mention the Babri Masjid, but refers to it as a "three-domed structure and has condensed the Ayodhya section from four pages to two.

'No rift between BJP and RSS'

CONTINUED FROM P1

cal and the righteous' way that an individual should follow in his life and his recent Nagpur speech too should be read in that context rather than associating it with the 2024 general election results.

The functionaries said that the political opponents of the BJP, while focusing on the fact that its seats were reduced in this election compared to 2019, are not talking about how despite all the 26 different political parties comprising the I.N.D.I.A coming together, the bloc could not cross BJP's own tally of 240 seats which they call it as testimony of the support that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP enjoys from the people. The vote

share of the BJP too did not decrease by even one point in this election despite the party facing off against an alliance of over two dozen parties.

The Modi government, despite facing two terms of anti-incumbency that is a natural phenomena which comes to be associated with the ruling party, the massive negative impact of the covid 19 across sectors and allegations of interference by foreign bodies, came back to power for the record third time, which the functionaries said was due to the personal popularity of Prime Minister Modi, result of the good governance and pro-poor policies that have been executed in the last ten years and 'nation-first' philosophy that the government has been following without

any fear.

According to the functionaries, the suggestions made by the RSS in the past or currently, aimed at enhancing governance and improving citizens' lives, are duly considered by the government. They also refute claims that RSS workers were inactive on the ground during this election, dismissing such reports as false and motivated.

RSS functionaries emphasized that the organization has significantly expanded its outreach, attracting unprecedented numbers of new members committed to enhancing societal welfare in these ten years which further shows how the work done by the Modi government is making a positive impact across the country and the world.

CONTINUED FROM P1

"EVMs in India are a 'black box', and nobody is allowed to scrutinise them. Serious concerns are being raised about transparency in our electoral process.

"Democracy ends up becoming a sham and prone to fraud when institutions lack accountability," Gandhi said in a post on X and tagged the media report which claimed that a relative of Shiv Sena's candidate Ravindra Waikar, who won the polls from Mumbai's North-West seat by 48 votes, had a phone that unlocks an EVM.

But former Union minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar of the BJP countered Musk's criticism of EVMs and said that the billionaire businessman's view may apply to the US and other places where they use regular compute platforms to build

"Internet-connected voting machines".

"But Indian EVMs are custom designed, secure and isolated from any network or media - No connectivity, no Bluetooth, wifi, Internet. ie there is no way in. Factory-programmed controllers that cannot be reprogrammed," Chandrasekhar said in a post on X.

"Electronic voting machines can be architected and built right as India has done. We would be happy to run a tutorial Elon," the BJP leader added.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Aditya Thackeray and Priyanka Chaturvedi also shared the news report and demanded that the CCTV footage of the counting day be released.

"This is a fraud at the high-level and yet the @ECISVEEP continues to sleep. The 'manipulated' winner's relative was carrying a mo-

sonal mobile phone of one Dinesh Gurav, the data entry operator of Jogeshwari assembly constituency, was found in the hands of an unauthorised person and action is being taken in this regard.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla cited the poll official's clarification to demand action against opposition leaders.

"All those who spread and amplified the lie that OTP is needed for EVMs must be prosecuted @ECISVEEP"

"Rahul Gandhi amplified this article (the media report). Phone which had ability to unlock EVM" says Priyanka Chaturvedi. This level of lies," he said on X.

BJP's IT department head Amit Malviya dismissed the news report as "unadulterated trash" and said the opposition parties "can always file an election petition and challenge it".

"BJP led NDA has won a third consecutive term. Learn to live with this fact. People have rejected I.N.D.I Alliance. No point whining endlessly," he said on X and later also posted the clarification by the election official.

Targeting the BJP over the issue, former UP chief minister Akhilesh Yadav said, "Today, when fears of EVM tampering are being expressed in many elections of the world and the world's renowned technology experts are openly writing about the danger of EVM tampering, then what is the reason behind the insistence on using EVM, BJP should clarify this."

The opposition parties have been raising concerns over EVMs for some time now and had demanded a 100 per cent count of the VVPAT slips which was not allowed.

Weeks after poll results, slugfest over EVMs

'We need to engage': Trudeau

CONTINUED FROM P1

yesterday," he added.

The Canadian PM further said there are some "important but sensitive" issues that the two countries need to work on together. He, however, refused to share many details of what the two leaders discussed.

"I think you can understand I'm not going to get into the details of this issue. There's important but sensitive issues that we need to follow up on. But, this was a commitment to work together in the coming times to deal with some very important issues," he said.

Being asked whether he received any assurance from PM Modi on the issue, the Canadian PM said, "Like I said I'm not going to get into it further but there are important issues that we need to work on and we will."

The G7 summit was held in Italy's Apulia

region from June 13-15, where India was invited as an 'Outreach Country' to the summit and had participation from the seven member countries, the US, UK, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, and France, as well as the European Union.

PM Modi met his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the G7 Summit here on Friday (local time).

After the meeting, PM Modi in a post on X wrote, "Met Canadian PM @JustinTrudeau at the G7 Summit." The meeting came amid strained diplomatic relations between India and Canada.

Ties between New Delhi and Ottawa had soured due to a row over Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegation that India was involved in the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia, Columbia in June last year.

ity and sovereignty" can and will serve as a basis for achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine."

The peace summit began on June 15 and concluded on June 16, bringing together representatives from 92 countries and organisations.

Meanwhile, eighty countries, including Ukraine, and four European institutions signed the final joint communique of the Switzerland peace summit on June 16.

The final document said the UN Charter and "respect for territorial integ-

Pradhan on NEET

CONTINUED FROM P1

dates who got "grace marks" in the NEET-UG exam will be cancelled and the candidates will have a chance to reappear for the exam on June 23 and the results will be declared before June 30.

The NTA told a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta that a committee has been constituted to review the results of over 1,563 candidates who were awarded "grace marks" to compensate for the loss of time suffered while appearing for NEET-UG.

"The Committee has decided to cancel the scorecards of 1563 NEET-UG 2024 candidates who were given grace marks and these students will be given the option to take a re-test," NTA said.

"The exam will be conducted on June 23 and the results will be declared before June



30," it added.

Many student organizations have protested over the 2024 NEET-UG exam issue.

Members of the NSUI (National Students' Union of India), students' wing of the Congress, held a protest over the issue in Delhi on Saturday. Members of the Kerala Students Union (KSU) staged a protest on Saturday in Kerala and urged authorities to investigate the alleged irregularities surrounding the NEET-UG exam.

CONTINUED FROM P1

retary, Director, Intelligence Bureau, Senior Army Officers including Chief of Army Staff (Designate) Lt. General Upendra Dwivedi, Director General of CAPFs, Chief Secretary, DGP of J&K and other senior officers," said a press release by the Home Ministry

The release highlighted Shah's directive to replicate the successful strategies employed in the Kashmir Valley, such as the Area Domination Plan and Zero Terror Plan, in the Jammu division. He reiterated the government's commitment to eliminating terrorism through innovative means and emphasized the importance of seamless coordination among security agencies, identifying and addressing security concerns in vulner-



Shah noted the significant reduction in terror-related incidents in the Kashmir Valley, attributing the improvement to the government's efforts, which have also led to a record number of tourists visiting the region. He commended the security agencies and J&K administration for the successful conduct of the Lok Sabha elections, which witnessed a record voter turnout in Jammu and Kashmir.

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WATER WOES BOIL OVER

DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE VANDALISED



TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The ongoing water crisis in Delhi has sparked protests, vandalism, and heated political exchanges across the capital. On Sunday, unidentified individuals vandalised the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) office in Chhatarpur amid the severe water shortage, reported ANI. The footage shared by ANI showed shattered window pane and broken earthen pots at the DJB office. Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) shared another video of the incident alleging that the vandals were BJP leaders and workers. In the video, a man was seen wearing the

The Delhi Police confirmed that two PCR calls were made regarding the incident, and cross-cases have been registered based on statements from both parties.

BJP's scarf.

"See how BJP workers are breaking the office of Delhi Jal Board while shouting slogans of 'BJP Zindabad'," AAP wrote on X.

BJP leader Ramesh Bidhuri said, "It is nothing. The people can do anything when they are angry. I am grateful to BJP workers who controlled those people... It is the government's and people's property. There is no benefit in damaging this property."

Tensions also flared in the Dwarka district, where a dispute over access to water from a common tap resulted in three people being injured and hospitalised at Indira Gandhi Hospital. The Delhi Police confirmed that two PCR calls were made regarding the incident, and cross-cases have been registered based on statements from both parties. They clarified that there was no communal angle to the conflict and that an investigation

is underway.

BJP MP Harsh Malhotra accused the AAP government of corruption and mismanagement, claiming, "Delhi government is receiving enough water for the public of Delhi. The shortage that we are facing today is because of their corruption, non-planning, and non-action."

In response to the escalating crisis, Delhi water minister Atishi wrote to Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, requesting the deployment of personnel to protect major water pipelines from potential sabotage. She said a recent incident involved deliberate damage to a key pipeline in South Delhi, exacerbating the water shortage.

'BJP LEADERS VANDALISED DELHI JAL BOARD OFFICE': AAP

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Amid protests over the severe water crisis in the national capital, Delhi minister Saurabh Bhardwaj on Sunday accused BJP leaders and workers of vandalising an office of the Delhi Jal Board.

Termining it a "conspiracy" against the government, Bhardwaj shared a video showing some people breaking the windows of an office by hurling stones and earthen pots at it.

"See BJP leaders wearing party sashes and its workers raising slogans of BJP Zindabad vandalising government property at the Delhi Jal Board office. Who is getting pipelines broken at various places? Whose conspiracy is it?" he said in a post on X in Hindi.



Bansuri Swaraj with other leaders demonstrates against the Delhi Jal Board over the ongoing water crisis, in New Delhi. Photo Agencies

Bhardwaj suspects water leakage being done 'deliberately', asks people to be vigilant

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As the water crisis in the national capital deepens, Delhi Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj alleged that the water leakages are being deliberately carried out by some people to sabotage the pipelines.

Bhardwaj's remarks came after some nuts and bolts holding the pipes in South Delhi were found cut leading to water leakage.

The Aam Aadmi Party leader also asked locals to be vigilant and keep an eye on people trying to tamper with the water pipelines.

Speaking to ANI on the issue on Sunday Saurabh said, "A few days ago, some videos were made viral by certain people that there is a lot of leakage in Delhi. I don't think that the leakage is natural. I think some people are deliberately causing leakage. Yesterday, the nuts and bolts holding the pipes in South Delhi were found cut, who cut those six nuts? Because of that, there was no water in the entire South Delhi."

He also urged people to keep an eye on these incidents alleging that some "enemies of society" are



conspiring to sabotage these pipelines.

"I would request the public to keep an eye on this because some people are conspiring to break these pipelines... some people are enemies of society who are conspiring to sabotage these pipelines," he added.

Meanwhile, Delhi Water Minister Atishi on Sunday wrote a letter to Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora, urging the deployment of police personnel to protect major pipelines in the national capital.

She mentioned that the maintenance team worked for six hours to repair the leakage problem, exacerbating the water crisis in South Delhi.

"I am writing to request de-

ployment of police personnel to patrol and protect our major pipelines for the next 15 days to stop miscreants or people with ulterior motives from tampering with water pipelines which have now become Delhi's lifelines. At this juncture, any foul play and sabotage will worsen the already difficult water shortage being faced by the people of Delhi," the letter stated.

"Our maintenance team worked for six hours continuously and repaired the leakage, but this meant that we had to stop pumping water for 6 hours and 20 MGD of water was not pumped during this time. As a consequence, a further 25 per cent of water shortage will be experienced in South Delhi," it added.

'People can do anything when they're angry': Bidhuri

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

After the Delhi Jal Board office in Chhatarpur was vandalized on Sunday over the ongoing water crisis in the national capital, BJP's former South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri said that the people can do anything when they are angry and it's natural.

The water crisis in Delhi has sparked widespread protests, vandalism, and intense political confrontations across the city. The Delhi Jal Board office was vandalised by some BJP workers in the Chhatarpur area on Sunday. Referring to this, Bidhuri said, "It is natural. People can do anything when they are angry. I am grateful to the workers who controlled those people. It is the government's and the people's property. There is no benefit in damaging this property. I appeal to people to not vandalise public property." The BJP leader further accused the Aam Aadmi Party of corruption and said, "This is a corrupt government. They are trying to change the narrative to protect themselves from corruption charges. There has been no audit of the Delhi Jal Board. It is at a loss of Rs. 70,000 crore. This is a corrupt government. We put



Police personnel extinguish a fire during protest by the BJP against the Delhi Jal Board over the ongoing Delhi water crisis, in New Delhi. Photo: Agencies

forward our demand to be free from this government." Meanwhile, AAP leader Atishi alleged on Sunday that Bidhuri attacked the Delhi Jal Board office in Chhatarpur along with some goons as the ongoing water crisis in the national capital takes center stage.

While addressing a press conference in the national capital, Atishi said, "Delhi is currently facing severe heat. Even in this difficult time, the BJP has left no stone unturned, troubling the people of Delhi. The BJP is hatching a conspiracy against the people of Delhi. This conspiracy has three parts. The first part of this is to stop the water supply to Delhi from the BJP government of Haryana. Due to this not even a drop of

water is left at the Wazirabad Water Treatment Plant."

Atishi said that the BJP workers, along with Bidhuri, threw pots and vandalized the Delhi Jal Board office in Chhatarpur.

"So you all saw that the person who attacked the Delhi Jal Board office in Chhatarpur was none other than the BJP's former South Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who went inside the office with goons.

You saw that all the people with him were wearing BJP sashes, BJP flags were visible in the background, and BJP workers, or should I say BJP goons, were throwing pots in the Delhi Jal Board office, breaking glasses, breaking the office," the AAP leader said.

Tiwari accuses AAP for negligence amid water crisis

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Holding the Aam Aadmi Party responsible for the water crisis in Delhi, BJP MP Manoj Tiwari on Sunday lashed out at Delhi water minister Atishi and accused her and the AAP of cheating people of the national capital.

BJP MP Manoj Tiwari while speaking to ANI said, "Every year water crisis happens? Atishi should bring a white paper on which pipes

were changed in the past ten years. These are lazy people, they neither have any work policy nor any intention, they just want to loot the treasury".

"There is so much heat still people are coming out to protest. They are saying that the government which can't provide water to its people is a useless government. I want to tell Atishi that there is a limit to lying. This liar government is just sitting and their leader is inside the jail and denying to give resignation.



Traffic police books over 2.4L violators for improper parking

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police has booked over 2.4 lakh violators for improper parking this year so far which is an increase of nearly 35 per cent as compared to the last year, officials said on Sunday. The traffic police has reported a significant surge in prosecutions related to improper parking violations in the current year, they said.

The officials said this marked increase in enforce-

ment is part of a broader initiative to improve traffic flow and ensure the safety of all road users within the city.

Over the past several months, the Delhi Traffic Police has intensified its efforts to address the widespread issue of improper parking, which has been identified as a major contributor to traffic congestion and accidents. This crackdown has resulted in a noticeable increase in the number of challans issued for parking violations, they said.



The police have deployed additional personnel to monitor instances of illegal parking more effectively. This measure has been in-

strumental in identifying and prosecuting offenders, leading to a more disciplined parking culture among motorists in the city, the officials

said. "The statistics for the current year showed that police have booked 2,40,152 violators for improper parking, while the numbers were 1,77,800 in 2023. This marks an increase of nearly 35 per cent in prosecutions compared to the previous year," they stated. Furthermore, the Delhi Traffic Police have conducted a comprehensive analysis of the ten traffic circles, where the highest number of challans were issued in 2024 due to improper parking.

'If Centre does not intervene, situation will not improve': Atishi on water crisis

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Amid the water crisis in Delhi, Minister Atishi on Sunday said that if the Centre does not intervene in the situation, it will not improve and the BJP should talk to its government in Haryana and get more water for Delhi.

Atishi today wrote a letter to Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora urging the deployment of police personnel to protect major pipelines in the national capital. Speaking to ANI, Atishi said, "Yesterday, the main water pipeline of South Delhi, which comes from Sonia Vihar, provides water to the entire South Delhi, there was a leakage in that water pipeline. It seems that some conspiracy is going on and I have also written a letter to



the Police Commissioner today in this regard."

"I have also spoken to the Police Commissioner that the main water distribution lines should be provided security by the police. But this is not the time for allegations and counter-allegations, this is not the time for dirty politics. There is a whole life for allegations and counter-allegations. I would request

the BJP to talk to its government in Haryana and get more water for Delhi. If the central government does not intervene in this situation, it will not improve," Atishi added. Atishi, in her letter to the Commissioner, mentioned that the maintenance team worked for six hours to repair the leakage problem, exacerbating the water crisis in South Delhi.

Fire breaks out at LED factory in Mundka industrial area

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A massive fire broke out at an LED light manufacturing unit in Mundka industrial area of the national capital on Sunday morning, officials said.

No casualties have been reported so far, they said. According to the Delhi Fire Services Department officials, they received a call about the fire at 83/6, Company Mundka Industrial Area at 7:17 am.

Immediately after getting word about the incident, fire tenders reached the spot to carry out the fire

extinguishing procedure.

Around 35 fire tenders are present at the spot to extinguish the fire, they said.

The exact cause behind the fire was not clear. According to Delhi Police, following information, local staff immediately reached the spot and found that initially there was a fire on a vacant plot. Later it spread to a nearby factory (LED light).

"Fire tenders in action to extinguish the fire. No one is trapped in the fire. None injured. Local staff is present at the spot," they said.

Hashim Baba gang member held

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

A member of the Hashim Baba gang, who was allegedly conducting reconnaissance on two businessmen in east Delhi's Shahdara area, was arrested, police said on Sunday. A pistol with four live cartridges were also recovered from the possession of the accused, they said.

According to the police, Salim (30) was conducting this reconnaissance on the Trans Yamuna Area-based businessmen on the direction of Rashid Cablewala, a fugitive member of the gang currently based in Thailand.

Acting on the information, a police team laid a trap and apprehended Salim, DCP Kausbik said.

Salim was in regular contact with Hashim Baba and Rashid through messaging applications and travelled to Thailand in February to meet the latter, they said.

"Information was received Salim, a resident of Welcome area, would be at Babarpur bus terminal to meet someone and will be carrying a weapon," Deputy Commissioner of Police (special cell) Amit Kausbik said.

Acting on the information,

a police team laid a trap and apprehended Salim, DCP Kausbik said.

During a search, details including the location, address and photo of the two businessmen were recovered from Salim's possession, the police said.

"On interrogation, he disclosed that he was conducting the reconnaissance on these businessmen on the directions of Rashid Cablewala," the DCP said.

AFTER YEARS OF SHOCKS, GLOBAL ECONOMY IS STABILISING

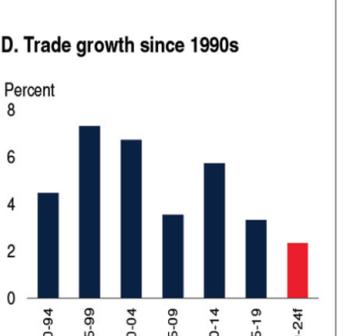
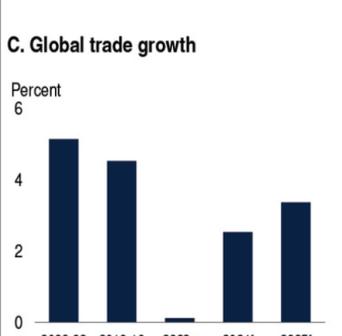
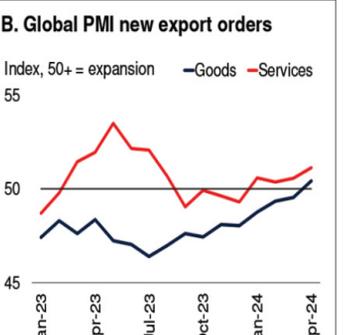
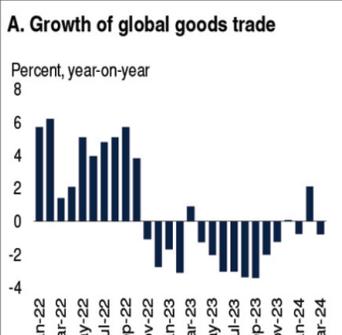
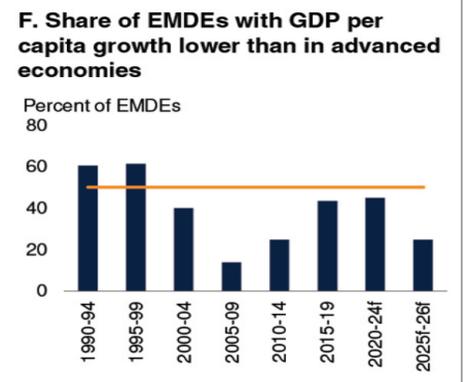
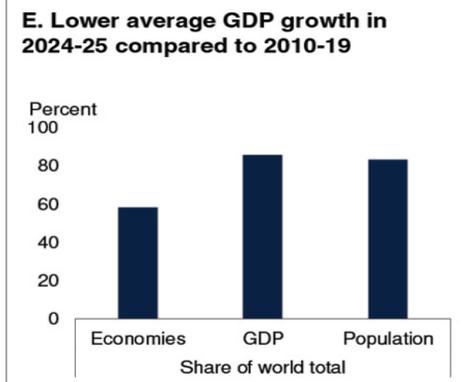
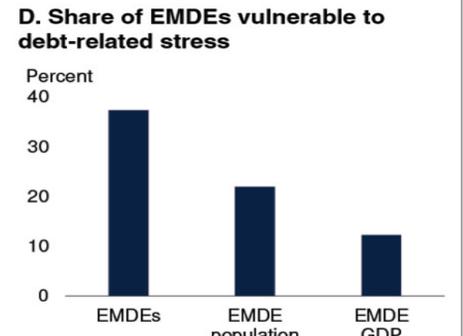
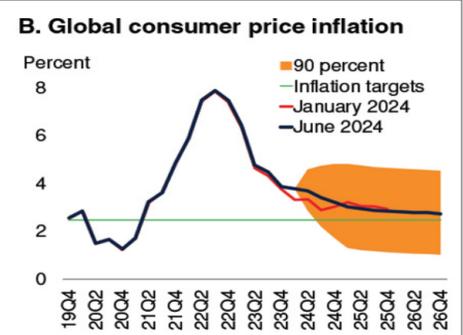
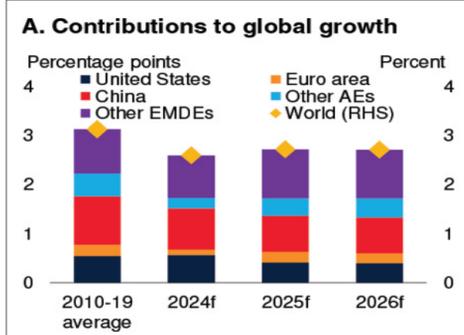
TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The global economy is stabilizing but the outlook remains subdued—both advanced economies and EMDEs are projected to grow at a slower pace over 2024-26 than in the pre-pandemic decade. Recent upward pressures on global core inflation are anticipated to gradually ease, such that headline inflation converges to levels broadly consistent with central bank targets by 2026. Market expectations for the path of U.S. policy rates have been repeatedly revised higher. Amid elevated borrowing costs, about two-fifths of EMDEs are acutely vulnerable to debt stress. In 2024-25, growth is expected to underperform its 2010-19 average in countries comprising more than 80 percent of global output and population. The multiple shocks of recent years have impeded per capita income catch-up, with almost half of EMDEs losing ground relative to advanced economies over 2020-24.

GLOBAL TRADE

Global trade in goods and services was nearly flat in 2023—the weakest performance outside of global recessions in the past 50 years. Amid a sharp slowdown in global industrial production, the volume of goods trade contracted for most of 2023 and fell by 1.9 percent for the year as a whole.

The evolution of goods trade diverged across regions, with volumes declining in advanced economies, especially in Europe, and stagnating in EMDEs as expansions in China and Europe and Central Asia (ECA) offset contractions in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), and Middle East and North Africa (MNA).



Source: World Bank.



The value of global services trade grew about 9 percent in 2023, driven primarily by a recovery in tourism flows—exports of travel services surged by about 38 percent (WTO 2024). However, the pace of expansion in tourism was substantially below

that in 2022, with recent data indicating tourism activity in line with pre-pandemic levels, suggesting a near-full recovery in most regions.

Stabilization in services trade is reflected in the steadying of the global services PMI for new export

orders, which has remained closer to neutral thresholds compared to last year.

The number of new trade-restricting measures is still well above pre-pandemic levels—although down from the historical high reached in 2023—exert-

ing a further drag on global trade. Recent attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea, coupled with climate-related shipping disruptions in the Panama Canal, have affected maritime transit and freight rates along these critical routes (Bogetic et al. 2024).

These disruptions, however, have not yet led to a substantial increase in global supply chain pressures or lengthened global supplier delivery times. Adverse effects have been limited to a few regions and specific industries so far. Global trade growth

is projected to pick up to 2.5 percent this year, a significant improvement from last year but well below the average rates observed in the two decades preceding the pandemic (figure 1.3.C). The forecast entails a pick-up in goods trade growth after a sluggish start to the

year, supported by a rebound in global goods demand as inventory restocking resumes in the United States and the euro area, and as demand from China stabilizes. Meanwhile, services trade growth is expected to stabilize near its pre-pandemic pace.

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY	
SURVEY ON NDA GOVERNMENT	DATE: 15 TH JUNE 2024
MALE: 92%	FEMALE: 8%
Q. Do you believe that the present government of Narendra Modi is a majority government?	
A - Yes	73%
B - No	27%
C - Can't Say	0%
Q2 - Will Prime Minister Narendra Modi be able to run the NDA coalition government for 5 years?	
A Yes	75%
B No	22%
C Can't Say	3%
Q-3 Will the Indi alliance be able to get the majority figure in the current Lok Sabha through manipulations?	
A - Yes	45%
B - No	53%
C - Can't say	2%
Q-4 If the situation of mid-term elections in the country is created by trying to destabilize the government, then who will be the assassin?	
A Congress	40%
B-BJP	26%
C-Regional Parties	26%
D- Can't Say	8%
Q-5 If there is a rift in the NDA, which party can be the first to give a blow?	
A- JDU	49%
B-TDU	7%
C- Some other party	25%
D- Can't say	19%

THE DAILY GUARDIAN SURVEY	
SURVEY ON RAM MANDIR SECURITY	DATE: 15 TH JUNE 2024
MALE: 94%	FEMALE: 6%
Q1: Is there a threat of a terror attack on the Ram temple in Ayodhya?	
A Yes	41.00%
B No	50.00%
C - Can't say	9%
Q-2 Which agency should be entrusted with the security of the Ram temple in Ayodhya?	
A - UP Police	33%
B - Paramilitary	9%
C - NSG	9%
D - Army	44%
E - Can't say	5%
Q - 3 Will the hub of NSG in Ayodhya benefit the devotees?	
A Yes	83%
B - No	10%
C - Can't say	7%
Q - 4 What is needed for Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and for the safety of devotees?	
A Intensive checking of every passenger	49%
B - Strict surveillance at railway-bus stand, airport	12%
C - Increase intelligence input	4%
D - Drones - CCTV surveillance	26%
E - Training of locals	4%
F - Cannot say Grand	5%



INDIA PRODUCED OVER 40 QUANTUM TECHNOLOGY STARTUPS IN 2 YEARS: JITENDRA SINGH

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh said India has produced over 40 quantum technology startups in 2 years, a few of them with global potential.

Chairing a review meeting of the Department of Science and Technology in New Delhi on Saturday, he directed the officials to focus on the flagship National Quantum Mission and work on the development of quantum technologies and quantum communication.

"India is currently on an equal pedestal with other nations in terms of quantum technologies," the minister said during the meeting, adding that our mission should be to establish India as a global leader in quantum technologies.

Quantum technology harnesses the principles of



Quantum technology harnesses the principles of quantum mechanics to perform complex calculations. It plays a vital role in the fields of cryptography, chemistry, healthcare, medicine, and logistics among others.

quantum mechanics to perform complex calculations. It plays a vital role in the fields of cryptography, chemistry, healthcare, medicine, and

logistics among others. Highlighting the role of startups and the private sector in the development of Science and Technology, the

minister shared the success story of 'QuNu Labs', a Bangalore-based startup incubated by 'IIT Madras' which has signed an MoU with the Technology Development Board 'TDB' for development of security products based on Quantum Technologies.

Women's Participation in extramural research and development (R&D) doubled in the last 10 years" on the increased participation of women after the special efforts by the government in the last decade and promote women scientists and researchers through fellowship STEM programme, he said.

He also recalled the 'ease of applying' by referring to 'Common Fellowship Portal' recently inaugurated by him. Going further he shared that around 300 women scientists are going to receive research grants for 3 years from government under ASPIRE scheme.

Foreign investors return to Indian markets with investment of Rs 2,743 crore

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) returned to the Indian equity markets, with a net investment of Rs 2,743 crore on Friday. Despite this positive development, the overall net investment by FPIs remains negative.

According to the latest data from the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), net investments for June are still in the red, standing at Rs 3,064 crore. This negative trend follows a period of significant sell-off by foreign investors, which occurred in the wake of the announcement of election results. However, confidence seems to be returning to the Indian market with the Modi 3.0 government now in charge.

The first week of June was marked by extreme volatility in FPI flows, largely influenced by the exit polls and the actual election results. On June 3rd, buoyed by the



According to the latest data from the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL), net investments for June are still in the red, standing at Rs 3,064 crore.

optimistic exit poll results, FPIs made substantial equity purchases of Rs 6,521 crore.

However, the actual election results did not meet the expectations set by the exit polls, leading to a sharp market downturn on June 4th. In response, FPIs reacted by offloading stocks worth Rs

12,259 crore.

"After the roller coaster ride in the market in the first week of June, stability has returned to the market as indicated by the sharp fall in India VIX from 27 on June 4th to 12.82 on 14th June. This fall in India VIX indicates the return of stability

and a likely consolidation phase in the market" said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.

He added, "If the market continues to rally from here, FPIs may again turn sellers in India and buyers in other markets like Hong Kong which are very cheap compared to India."

The resilience of the Indian market and the enthusiasm of retail investors to capitalize on market dips have put pressure on FPIs to slow down their selling, which was prevalent throughout May.

Indian markets are showing signs of recovery and stability, supported by retail investor activity and a favourable political climate under the new government. In May, FPIs sold equities worth Rs 25,586 crore as per NSDL data, indicating a pattern of sustained and excessive selling in the cash market.

TCS asked to pay \$194 million in penalty charges for misappropriation of trade secrets in US

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

A US court has levied a \$194 million fine on Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for misappropriation of trade secrets, the company said in a regulatory filing.

The IT giant, which is the second largest company in the country in terms of market capital, said it is taking necessary steps to protect its interest through review or appeal as it has strong arguments against the judgement.

"The company believes that the judgement has no major adverse impact on its financials and operations," the tech major said in the filing.

The court order, which was sent to the company on June 14, was in response to a case registered against TCS by Computer Sciences Corporation (CSC), alleging misappropriation of its trade secrets before the US District Court, Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division. CSC is now merged with DXC Technology Company (DXC).

"The court ordered that the company is liable to CSC for USD 56,151,583 in compen-



satory damages and USD 112,303,166 in exemplary damages. The court also assessed that the company is liable for USD 25,773,576.60 in pre-judgment interest through June 13, 2024," the TCS said in the filing.

TCS, which was the largest gainer among Top 10 Indian firms, saw its market valuation surging to Rs 14.08 lakh crore after a Rs 80,828.08 crore hike last week.

Tata Consultancy Services is an IT services, consulting and business solutions organization that has been partnering with many of the world's largest businesses for the past 50 years. We believe innovation and collective knowledge can transform all our futures with greater purpose.

Tata Consultancy Services Limited, initially started as Tata Computer Systems, was founded in 1968 by a division of Tata Sons Limited. Its early contracts included punched card services to sister company TISCO (now Tata Steel), working on an Inter-Branch Reconciliation System for the Central Bank of India, and providing bureau services to Unit Trust of India.

In 1975, TCS delivered an electronic depository and trading system called SEC-OM for Swiss company SIS SegalInterSettle; it also developed System X for the Canadian Depository System and automated the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. TCS associated with a Swiss partner, TKS Teknosoft, which it later acquired.

India to become 3rd largest economy within next few years: CII Prez Sanjiv Puri

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi takes charge for the third consecutive term, industry chambers believe that India is poised to become the world's third-largest economy in the next few years.

Newly elected President of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Managing Director of ITC, Sanjiv Puri, stated that within a few years, India will undoubtedly be among the world's top three economies.

In an exclusive interview with ANI, Sanjiv Puri said, "CII has projected the country's GDP growth at 8 per cent for this year. Several positive factors are contributing to this outlook. Firstly, a better-than-expected monsoon could lead to improved agricultural output, which would help moderate food inflation, currently a bit tricky. Additionally, global trade, which was in negative territory last year, is expected to grow by more than 2 per cent this year. These near-term positive factors could propel the economy to an 8 per cent growth rate instead of the anticipated 7 per cent."



There are numerous opportunities for integration into the global value chain. Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) will facilitate this integration. The manufacturing systems, especially in electronics, are progressing positively. A February report by global brokerage house Jefferies predicts that over the next four years, India's GDP will reach USD 5 trillion, making it the third-largest economy by 2027, overtaking Japan and Germany. This projection is based on India being the fastest-growing large economy, supported by favourable demographics (consistent labour supply), improving institutional strength, and enhanced governance.

Currently, India is the 5th largest economy with an estimated GDP of USD 3.7 trillion for FY24, despite the

pandemic and the macroeconomic imbalances and financial sector issues inherited in previous years, according to the Finance Ministry's January 2024 economic review. Discussing the capital market, Puri highlighted India's potential, noting that good policies, a progressing economy, and thriving businesses will attract both domestic and international funds to the Indian stock market.

The fundamentals of the Indian economy are strong, offering future potential and several global developments ahead. Key global trends include supply chain diversification, digital and energy transformation, and demographic changes, which are opening up opportunities for Global Capability Centers (GCCs) in India, where about 40 per cent of GCCs are already based.

Reserve Bank of India wins 'Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024'

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has won the "Risk Manager of the Year Award 2024" by Central Banking, a leading publication based in London, UK.

This accolade recognizes RBI's exemplary strides in enhancing its risk culture and awareness, affirming its pivotal role in safeguarding the stability of the Indian financial system.

The announcement was made via a post on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter) by the official RBI account.

The post read, "The Reserve Bank of India has been awarded the Risk Manager

of the Year Award 2024 by Central Banking, London, UK. RBI was awarded the best risk manager for improving its risk culture and awareness. Executive Director Shri Manoranjan Mishra received the award on behalf of the RBI. #rbi #centralbanking #centralbankingawards."

RBI's Executive Director Manoranjan Mishra received the award on behalf of the institution at the award ceremony held in London.

The recognition comes as a testament to the RBI's rigorous approach to risk management, which has been crucial in navigating the complex and often volatile financial landscape of India.



39 child workers rescued from liquor factory by NCPDR team missing

TDG NETWORK
BHOPAL

As many as 39 children who were rescued from a distillery in Madhya Pradesh's Raichur district disappeared, as confirmed by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) chief Priyank Kanoongo.

NCPCR chairman Priyank Kanoongo received information about children being employed at a liquor factory. Consequently, he and his team conducted a raid at the Som factory in Sehaganj, rescued the children, and



handed them over to the administration.

However, later that night, Kanoongo claimed that the 39 children disappeared from under the nose of the administration.

He said that, as per the law, rescued children are pre-

sented before the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) to record their statements. Following that, a three-member bench of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) will pass an order for their rehabilitation.

"The quorum of the CWC

was not completed till late night due to which statutory orders could not be passed and it took 5 hours for the SDM Sahib to cover a distance of 20 kilometers from the district headquarters on the wide highway and it took 7 hours for the ADM Sahiba to cover the same distance," he added.

Speaking to ANI, Kanoongo said, "At 1:30 pm, we were told that the concerned authorities were being sent there. SDM reached after 5 hours, while ADM (Additional District Magistrate) reached after 7 hours.

KTR writes open letter to NDA government on NEET exam fiasco

TDG NETWORK
HYDERABAD

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) has criticized the handling of the NEET exam, stating that the confusion surrounding the examination has dashed the hopes of students and parents who dream of seeing their children become doctors.

KTR condemned the central government for its inaction despite reports that NEET question papers were being sold in Bihar for up to Rs 30 lakhs each, with several arrests already made. He accused the central gov-



ernment of neglecting its responsibility and adopting a lackadaisical attitude towards the NEET entrance exam from the outset.

KTR pointed out that despite numerous allegations and suspicions surrounding the prestigious NEET exam, the Modi government has

not yet responded, which he found unacceptable. He questioned why the Prime Minister, who frequently holds discussions with students about exams, has remained silent on the critical issue of NEET.

In his open letter to the NDA government, KTR demanded a thorough investigation into the entire matter and strict action against those found responsible. He also called for reassurance to be given to students and their parents.

KTR highlighted the unprecedented scenario of 67 students achieving the first rank in NEET, which raised numerous suspicions. He

noted that eight students from the same center scored 720 marks each, suggesting a significant level of paper leakage. He reminded that even a single mark difference can change students' rankings and result in many losing opportunities. KTR questioned how so many students from one center could score such high marks and criticized the announcement of results ten days early, coinciding with the election results day, which added to the suspicions.

KTR demanded an explanation from the central government for not taking action despite the gravity of the situation coming to light.

Police arrest man from Rajasthan for planning to kill Salman Khan

TDG NETWORK
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Crime Branch on Sunday arrested Banwarilal Laturial Gujar from Borda village in Rajasthan who planned to kill Bollywood actor Salman Khan.

Police said that the accused, Banwarilal Laturial Gujar (25) in a video posted on YouTube channel "Are

Chhodo Yar," mentioned the Bishnoi Gang had planned to kill the actor.

The Mumbai Crime Branch arrested the accused from Borda village in Rajasthan. He is being brought to Mumbai for further investigation, they said.

The offence was registered at South Cyber Police Station in Mumbai vide under Sections 506(2), 504, 34 of the



Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 66(d) of the Information Technology (IT) Act.

Considering the seriousness of the case, a team was dispatched to Rajasthan for investigation following which the accused was apprehended.

Earlier on June 4, the Mumbai Crime Branch recorded the statement of actor Salman Khan and his

brother Arbaaz Khan in connection with the firing that took place outside their Bandra residence in April.

As per Mumbai Police's official, Salman's statement was recorded for nearly four hours, while Arbaaz's statement was recorded for more than two hours.

In his statement, Salman informed police about what actually happened on the

night of the incident. He told police that he was home on the day of the incident, having slept late at night as there was a party at his residence. Hours later, the sound of a bullet woke him up, as per the police.

Salman stated the incident was serious. He also thanked Mumbai Police for their efforts in investigating the case.

The firing incident took place on April 14 outside Salman's residence at Galaxy Apartments in the Bandra area of Mumbai. The subsequent arrests revealed connections to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, leading the Mumbai Police to invoke the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) against all involved in the shooting.

THE NAGARWALA CASE, MOTHER OF ALL SCANDALS

BOOK REVIEW

PANKAJ VOHRA



Without any doubt, the Nagarwala case, which took place in May, 1971 is easily one of the most sensational scandals that ever hit this country. Most youngsters may be unaware of this serious transgression of law by a senior official of the State Bank of India, who on a phone call, allegedly made by then then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and her chief aide, PN Haksar, took out a whopping sum of Rs 60 Lakhs in cash from the vault, and handed it over to an unknown man, later identified as Rustam Sohrab Nagarwala. The entire saga has been recreated by two senior journalists Prakash Patra and Rasheed Kidwai, in their book, "The Scam that Shook A Nation" published by Harper Collins. It is significant to point out here that even while the two writers were compil-

ing their data, Actor Mukul Dev, son of the late Pandit Hari Dev, an officer who probed the case along with some others, was preparing a script on the subject for a full-length movie.

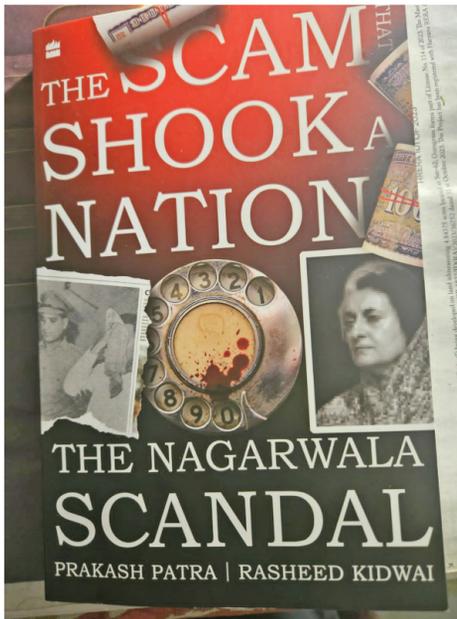
Some of the inputs which Mukul Dev received were from memory of his father, who had narrated the entire account one day while visiting me, almost a decade ago. Hari Dev, was one of the finest officers of the Delhi police, and perhaps the only survivor who investigated the case. Most others, had died over a period of time, and it was widely believed that they had been eliminated since they knew a lot more than what they should have. Hari Dev was the Station House Officer of the Chanakyapuri Police Station and was part of the team of detectives who eventually arrested Nagarwala, after some meticulous and speedy investigations that had put a huge question mark on the role of the Prime Minister and on the functioning of the Public Sector Bank situated on Parliament Street.

The issue would not have attracted so much attention and would have been hushed up if some junior functionaries of the Bank and the Police not regis-

tered a formal complaint at the Parliament Street police station regarding the missing money. The police swung into action and after tracking down the movements of Nagarwala from Parliament Street to Malcha Marg in Chankyapuri to Defence Colony, Rajinder Nagar and the Anjuman-e-Parsi on Delhi Gate, apprehended Nagarwala and recovered the money. At least this is how it was presented. Nagarwala was put on a speedy trial, unheard of those days and confined to the Tihar Jail.

The story was that this money was obtained for the Mukti Bahini finances during a R&AW operation, and Nagarwala was in all probability, an operative of the agency. Like it always happens, any Spy or undercover agent who is caught and arrested, is often disowned by those who control him, and this was probably the case this time also. Nagarwala was a non-descript person, who could imitate the voices of most people. He was also a ventriloquist, well versed with the art, at least this is what investigations revealed.

What added to the sordid drama was his death in custody, thereby raising doubts over whether the entire issue was suppressed by the authorities so as to prevent information regarding the covert and overt activities of our intelligence agencies. Patra and Rasheed have gone into many details of the case and have brought out the faultlines. The gripping book is a narration of events as obtained from of-



Patra and Rasheed have gone into many details of the case and have brought out the faultlines. The gripping book is a narration of events as obtained from official records and through personal interviews.

cial records and through personal interviews. In the end, many questions remain unanswered as many fresh questions get raised.

Those interested in following this particular scandal, must go through this book which offers many insights that were unknown till now. The Nagarwala case entailed the ease with which Rs 60 lakhs, a colossal amount in those days, was taken out for whatever pur-

pose. It also pointed out that if Ved Prakash Malhotra, an acquaintance of RK Dhawan, Indira Gandhi's man Friday agreed to give the cash on a phone call, he may have done so earlier as well following the same system. This money could have been part of the secret funds of an undercover organization and were operated in this manner. The entire truth of the Nagarwala case, may never come

to light as what happened in the Harshad Mehta affair during PV Narasimha Rao's time and many other such scandals that were pushed under the carpet by vested interests. Connecting the dots in this particular scam, one can conclude that there may have been a connection with the financing of the Mukti Bahini, though the government of the day, may have been acutely embarrassed to admit that. That could have been the reason for a string of deaths and a massive cover-up. Patra and Rasheed's book should be certainly read by those who follow such events and even by those who must know what goes on in the world of Cloak and Dagger. Mukul Dev's proposed biopic would also be looked forward to and how he presents the entire drama on the silver screen after processing information which was actually that of his father and some other sources. For those unaware of Hari Dev's credentials, it should be pointed out that he was amongst the most distinguished police officers of Delhi, having been recruited as an ASI way back in 1950, the number plate of his chocolate brown Maruti Omni.

He was also involved in working out multiple sensational cases include the Hostage Drama episode in South Avenue in the 1980s and the Braganza kidnapping case. He retired as an ACP. Coming back to the book, Patra and Rasheed deserve all the praise for unravelling many aspects of the mystery.

CAN WE ENSURE OUR COMMITMENT TO THE YOUNG CHILD?

OPINION

VENITA KAUL

CURRENT SCENARIO FOR ECCE IN INDIA

The National Education Policy (2020) has rightly designated this early childhood stage from 3 to 6 years in combination with grades 1 and 2 of primary school as the Foundational stage of education. However, the Right to Education Act, 2009 only declares the education of children between 6 to 14 years as a fundamental and justiciable right of every Indian child. Unfortunately, the early years' education through ECCE, wherein the brain potential is getting determined, was kept excluded!

BENEFITS OF ECCE

The National Education Policy (2020) has rightly identified the early childhood stage below six years as the critical stage of the human life span. As per neuroscience research, it is in this substage in a child's life that brain development occurs at its fastest pace, the brain architecture starts taking shape and the brain's potential gets primarily determined. This is largely through the nutritional, health, and educational opportunities and environmental experiences the child is exposed to in the first six years of life. As a result, investment in high-quality ECCE not only demonstrates a positive impact on learning levels in schools but also in the longer term on the child's overall personality development and social adjustment later in life.

Further, a report by Save the Children finds that while 1.5 to 2.2 per cent of GDP must be spent on ECCE ideally, the current spending is only 0.1 per cent. This translates to a major shortfall in the INR 32500/- per year per child that must be spent annually to achieve universal ECCE by 2030.

The social infrastructure is also largely lacking when it comes to implementing and ensuring access to early childhood care and education. Of the 99 million children between 3-6 years of age, one-third do not receive ECE care from the government, NGOs or private services. These omissions and lacunae ignore the critical importance of the early years' education and are conceptually and philosophically inexplicable and counterproductive.

Positive childhood experiences, fostered by quality ECCE programs, yield benefits such as enhanced social adjustment in work and family settings and increased prosperity in adulthood. Conversely, neuroscience reveals that frequent adverse childhood experiences induce toxic stress, leading to poor social and learning outcomes, higher rates of juvenile delinquency, and even increased risks of lifestyle diseases like cancer and diabetes later in life!

The cumulative benefits of ECCE also have a large-scale impact on the society. Good quality early childhood care and education has the potential to narrow and, in some cases, close the social equity gap in children's learning, particularly in underprivileged contexts. Further, with better educated and more skilled children, countries can attain higher economic growth, raising the living standards across the socio-economic strata. In fact, a World Bank study in India demonstrated a return of INR 25 for every rupee invested in ECCE. Similar trends are also reported from studies around the world.

Firstly, including ECCE as an enforceable right by including it under the RTE Act, 2009 is essential. This will not only ensure better accessibility for people from marginalised socio-economic classes but will also hold state governments and institutions accountable for non-compliance.

MAKING ECCE ACCESSIBLE AND AVAILABLE TO ALL CHILDREN

Given the huge gaps in the implementation of ECCE, there are several steps that can be taken by the government:

Secondly, public spending in ECCE needs to be ramped up. In the current investment scenario, we are far from achieving universal early care for children by 2030. Lastly, the lack of social infrastructure also adds to the exclusion of young children from accessing ECCE and continuing school education.

Universalising high quality ECCE is practically akin to laying the firm foundation for the future we want. Therefore, is this not the time for political parties to consider committing to correct this wrong and support inclusion of ECCE as a fundamental right of every Indian child? For let us again seriously consider—can we build our dream mansion of a Viksit Bharat without a strong foundation?

Venita Kaul, Professor Emerita Ambedkar University, Steering Committee Member, Alliance to Right to ECD

Virtual jail, fake officers and fraud in cyber world

OPINION

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR SAXENA & NITIKA SHARMA



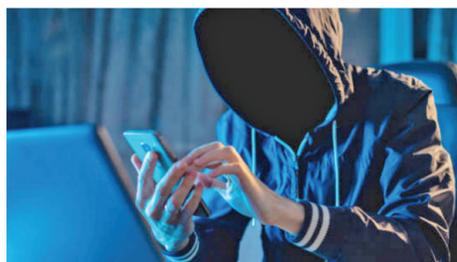
The increasing trend of digital technology has brought revolutionary changes in the society. Technology is becoming more integrated in everyday life. The society of any nation appears to be incapable in progressing without digitalization. Although society has benefitted with the advent of digital technology, along with it many challenges are increasing day by day in the field of cyber security. Cybercrime poses threat to mankind and institutions in the modern digital age. Cyber criminals always adopt new tricks to violate cyber security, whether it is identity theft, cyber bullying or phishing attacks etc. According to a recent report released by the Ministry of Home Affairs, more than

11 lakh cases were registered under online financial fraud with citizens. In view of this, a new type of cyber crime has emerged in recent days, which has been named as, "Digital Arrest". Digital arrest is a cyber crime in which a person's own residence becomes a battlefield for him and his or her privacy remains at risk. It is the matter of concern that most of the tech-savvy people are becoming victims of cyber crimes like digital arrest. The concern that arises in this situation is, "what is this digital arrest where people lose their money."

DIGITAL ARREST

In the rapidly evolving crime scenario in the cyber world, the concept of digital ar-

rest has emerged as a new threat. In this type of crime, fraudsters trick the victim by calling them and pretending to be a law enforcement officer in order to rob him or her. The victim is terrified by saying that his or her bank account, SIM card, Aadhaar card or ATM card etc. has been used illegally. The main component of digital arrest is fear; cyber criminal uses new tricks to frighten their target. There are numerous tricks like misuse of SIM in your name, drugs trafficking organization, mishandling of your Aadhaar card, money laundering, your mobile number was being used in terrorist conversion etc. Offenders may often create a full structure, like police station to commit this type of crime. Initially, the victim is intimidated and threatened through an audio call, by giving details of his or her Aadhaar card, SIM card and PAN card etc. For example, the victim is informed that his Aadhaar card has been used in drug smuggling. In this way, the criminals trap the victim by claiming that he or she is involved in some suspicious activity and then through a video call, the victim is asked to remain under their surveillance. In a tactical manner, the criminals try to obtain victim's personal information, profession, bank account details, investment details and other facts. Victims pay money to avoid legal action and penalties. In this entire scam criminals



utilize psychological manipulation to scared the victim, his or her involvement in illegal activities, threaten and take money. Recently, many cases of digital arrest have come to light.

CASE-1

In a case, a female IT engineer from Noida became a victim of digital arrest. A few days ago the woman received a call from an unknown number claiming to be from a courier service. The lady is informed that one of her courier going from Mumbai to Taiwan has been stopped by the customs officials at the airport because drugs and four passports along with incriminating material have been found in it. After this, to scare the woman, the cyber criminals said that the call is being transferred to the police officer. Fraudsters make video call to woman to assure her that he is a police officer. The alleged police officer threatened the woman to put in the jail by citing objectionable items in the courier of her name. The criminals asked for money as collateral to save the woman.

CASE-2

A Professor at a central university was spared from being a victim of fraud because he was aware of similar instances. A voice call alerts the university professor that one of his packages is headed for Indonesia. The parcel contains passport and some other items. Apart from this, some suspicious material has also been found in the parcel and your parcel has been caught by the Custom Officer at Delhi Airport. Subsequently, the cybercriminals attempted to deceive him by pretending that their call was being routed to Delhi Police, and a Delhi Police constable began speaking on the other end. The cyber criminal asks him to join a video call, on which the professor became alert. When the professor put pressure on that policeman

to talk with higher authorities, he became reluctant to talk. At that moment, he realized that an attempt was being made to cheat him through digital arrest. The hackers didn't make any contact after this. Because he was aware about online financial fraud, the professor in this case was spared from becoming a victim of cyber fraud.

In view of the increasing cases of digital arrest, we all need to be alert and adopt preventive measures. Remain vigilant against cybercrime and recognize emerging fraud techniques. In general, while calling someone, police officers or representatives of any other government agency do not threaten them. If someone calls you and makes false accusations against you, forward this information to your family members. Without holding back, report such calls to the authorities. And do not share your personal details. The national hotline for cybercrime is 1930; one can report instances of cyber fraud there. Education institutions and law enforcement agencies can work together to spread awareness of cyber security precautions.

Prof. Manoj Kumar Saxena Head and Dean, School of Education, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dbarambhala Nitika Sharma, ICSSR Doctoral Fellow, School of Education, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dbarambhala

LATE RAJMATA MADHAVI RAJE SCINDIA LIFE AND LEGACY

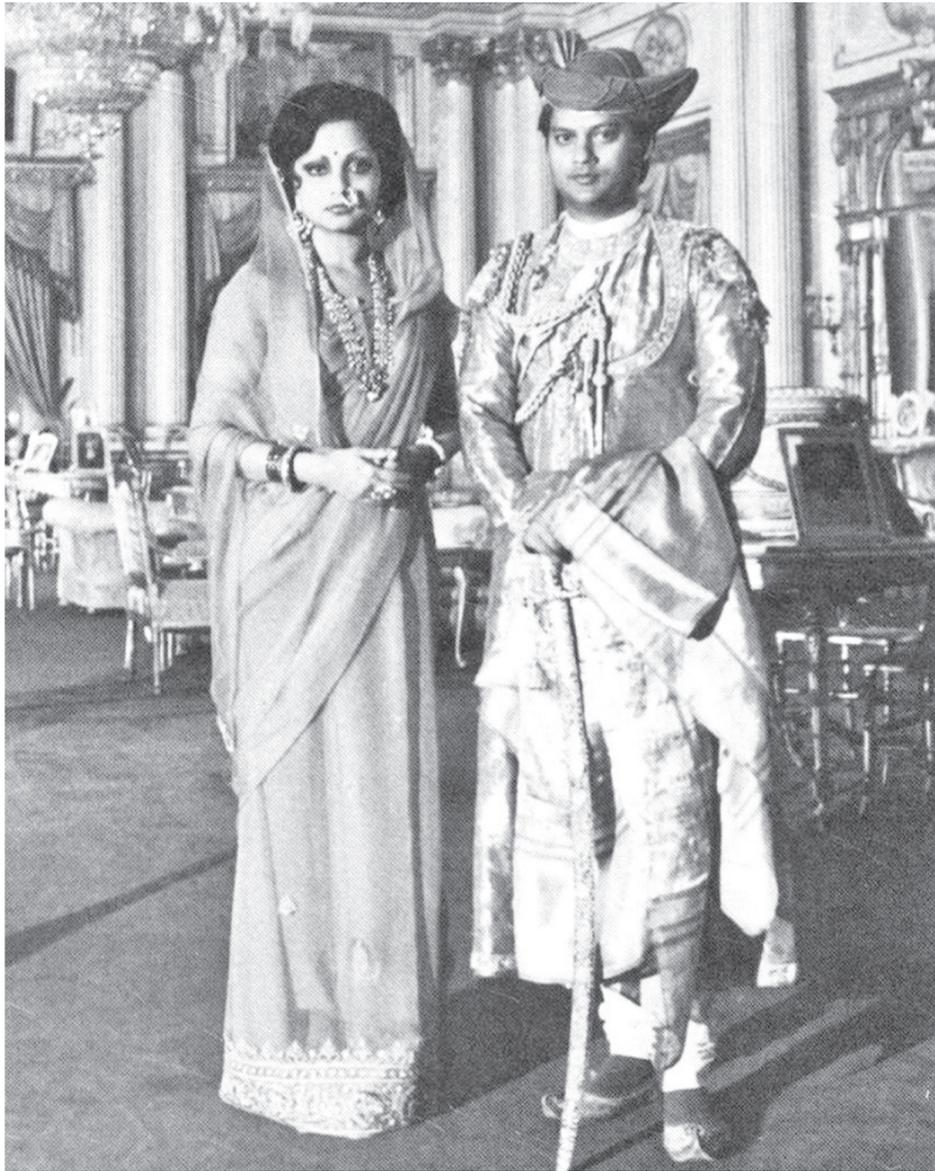
ARUNANSH B. GOSWAMI

The fact that titular Rajmata of Gwalior and mother of Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Rajmata Madhavi Raje Scindia, who was keeping ill for awhile, has left for her heavenly abode has caused profound sadness to the entire Scindia family and their well-wishers. This article is a tribute to her for successfully taking forward the legacy of the Scindia Rajmats of the past during her lifetime. She served as a living bridge between two South Asian nation-states, India and Nepal, and two different communities, Marathas and Rajputs.

NEPALESE ANCESTRY

Born as the daughter of General Yuvraj Shamsher Jang Bahadur Rana and Sri Rani Indira Rajya Lakshmi Kumari, she was named Kiran Rajya Lakshmi Kumari Devi by her parents. Ranas claim descent from the Rajput rulers of Mewar. Madhavi Raje Scindia's ancestor H.H. Maharaja Sir Jang Bahadur Kunwar Rana, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of Nepal (1817-1877), got the Lal Mohar of May 15, 1848, given by then King Surendra Bikram Shah of Nepal, officially authorising Jang's family to style themselves 'Kunwar Ranaji' and asserting their descent from the Rajput rulers of Mewar, whom the Shah dynasty also claimed as their ancestors.

According to Satish Kumar, in his book "Rana Polity in Nepal: Origin and Growth," published by Asia Publishing House "The maharaja prime minister was a peculiar institution of the Rana political system. It combined the functions of a prime minister and those of a king, having full sovereignty over a part of Nepal and, in a sense, sharing with the king the sovereignty over the rest of Nepal. The person who became the prime minister inherited the maharajaship too. This con-



Late Rajmata Madhavi Raje Scindia with late Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia. Photo Credits: Scindia family of Gwalior.

She was deeply involved in philanthropy and social work as the chairperson of more than 20 charitable trusts that provide assistance in education and medical care. She was also the President of the Board of Governors of the Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, a prominent Indian residential school for girls.

vention continued throughout the Rana period."

SCINDIA LEGACY

The Maratha Scindia dynasty has given several brave hearts, like Dattajirao and Jankojirao, who made supreme sacrifices for their motherland when need arose. The battlefield of Panipat in Haryana stands witness to the unalloyed nationalism and adamant will of the Scindias to resist



Late Rajmata Madhavi Raje Scindia with Jyotiraditya Scindia.

foreign aggression on Indian soil. Several ruthless Afghan invaders were dazzled by the lustre of the Scindias' swords and unnerved by their valour.

The cenotaphs of Scindia warriors in Kanherkhed in Maharashtra extol the valour of those brave hearts who instilled fear in the hearts of invading Afghans. There have been several Scindia Maharanis of Rajput and some of Nepalese ancestries; in fact, Mahadji Scindia, also known as 'The Great Maratha', who went on to conquer Delhi, was the son of a Maratha father, Ranojirao Scindia, and a Rajput mother, Chimabai.

Rajmata of Gwalior, Vijaya Raje Scindia, was trying to find a suitable bride for her son, young Maratha Maharaja of Gwalior, Madhavrao Scindia, and got to know from Prabhat Shamsher Rana about Kiran, a Rajput girl from the Rana family. In August 1965, Indira Devi Rana and her daughter Kiran came to Delhi in order to find out if Kiran could be married to Madhavrao. They met him at the Ashoka Hotel in Delhi. He liked her and told her mother, "Amma, I like her, and I'm going to marry her." On May 9, 1966, Kiran Rajya Lakshmi Kumari Devi was mar-

ried to Scindia at 37 Rajpur Road in the Civil Lines area of old Delhi.

MARRIAGE

It was in March 1966 that Kiran's family arrived in Delhi, where they stayed at the Claridges hotel. Later, a week before the wedding, they moved into a guesthouse very close to the Scindias on Rajpur Road. The celebrations were to last for nineteen days. Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan were present to bless the newlywed couple, and upon marriage, the bride was given a new name according to Maratha custom, Madhavi Raje Scindia. Sardar Mahadik, who was part of the wedding party, remembers how 'Maharaj went around asking each one of us if we needed anything and if we were being properly looked after'. After the marriage, the couple went to the Gorkhi Devghar in Gwalior astride an elephant to do Pooja. Later, the couple also lived together in Oxford. They had two children, a girl and a boy, Chitraganda Raje Scindia (she married Shri Vikramaditya Singh, son of Maharaja Karan Singh of Jammu and Kashmir) and Jyotiraditya M. Scindia (he married Shrimant Pri-

yadarshini Raje Gaekwad daughter of Maharajkumar Sangramsinh Pratapsinhrao Gaekwad of Baroda).

LIFE

After marriage, thanks to Madhavi Raje Scindia, Maratha and Nepalese culture and food found patronage in Gwalior, strengthening the cultural bond between India and Nepal. She was deeply involved in philanthropy and social work as the chairperson of more than 20 charitable trusts that provide assistance in education and medical care. She was also the President of the Board of Governors of the Scindia Kanya Vidyalaya, a prominent Indian residential school for girls. She organised the building of two Chhatris, one for Maharani Vijaya Raje Scindia and one for her husband, Madhavrao Scindia II. She was also the guiding light for the Maharaja Madhavrao Scindia II Gallery at the Jai Vilas Museum, in memory of her late husband. Her demise is indeed a big loss to the Scindia family. May God give enough strength to the bereaved family to bear the irreparable loss. May the departed soul rest in peace. The author is Head, Scindia Research Centre, Gwalior



H.H. Maharaja Sir Jang Bahadur Kunwar Rana, Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of Nepal (1817-1877). Image Credits: Wikimedia Commons.

Protector of Punjab

SHRIMANT SARDAR DATTAJIRAO SCINDIA (REGENT) 1755-1760

Born in 1723, as the son of Shrimant Sardar Ranojirao Scindia and Mainabai Raje Scindia, Dattajirao was educated privately. He was considered to be an experienced and wise commander with the requisite capabilities to protect, Maratha acquisitions in North India in general and Punjab in particular.

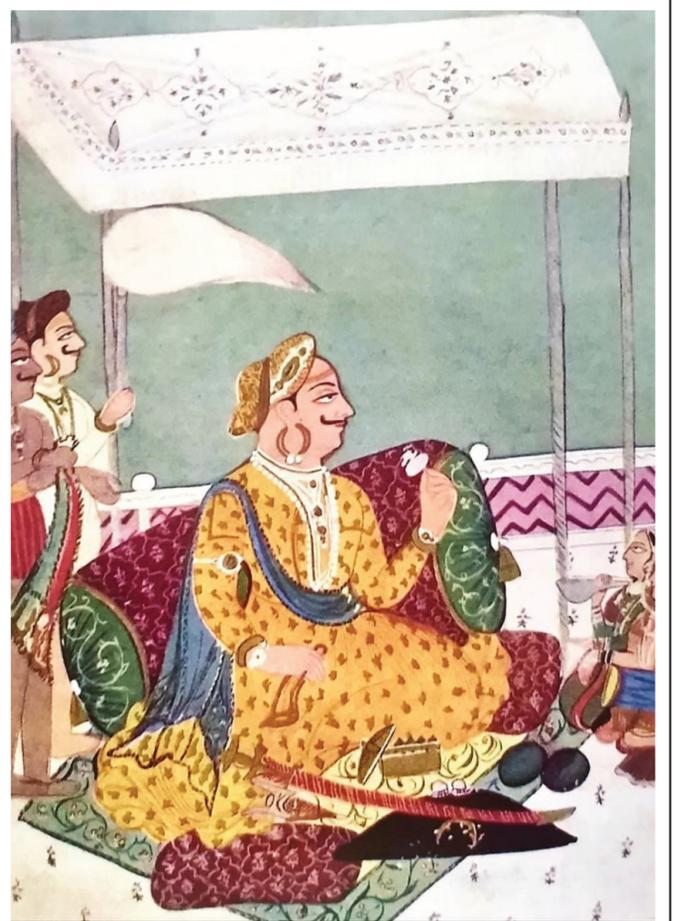
Dattajirao fulfilled his duties with utmost dedication and sincerity, but the Peshwa hadn't provided him enough soldiers to protect India's North-Western borders. Scindia still did not leave the theatre of action, and was ever ready to fight for Hindavi Swarajya.

In 1758, Dattajirao married Bhagirathibai Raje Scindia Sahiba in Shrigonde, near Ahmadnagar in Maharashtra. Najib-ud-Daulah the Nawab of Rohilkhand was a staunch Abdali ally, and had dreams of becoming emperor of India by his support, but for this he had to kill the commander of Marathas in the North Dattajirao Scindia.

Once in a surprise attack Najib found that opportunity, when Dattajirao was fighting using his sword sitting on his horse Lalmani, Najib shot him, Dattajirao was badly hurt and fell from the horse. Najib asked Dattajirao if he would fight more? Dattajirao said if he lives then definitely yes! Najib asked Qutub Khan to behead Dattajirao, at Buradi Ghat, at the plain of Rudhir on 10 January 1760.

His head was sent to Abdali, also Jawahargaj the elephant of Scindia family. Later Mahadji Scindia slew Qutub Khan and took the Scindia family elephant, from Kunjapura in Haryana after he defeated the Afghan commander there and conquered it. Shrimant Dattajirao Scindia died as a martyr for the cause of Hindavi Swarajya.

SOURCE: WWW.JAIVILASPALACE.IN



DELHI HIGH COURT DIRECTED SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO REMOVE VIDEO RECORDING OF COURT PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING ARVIND KEJRIWAL

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court in the case Vaibhav Singh Sunita Kejriwal & Ors observed and has directed various social media platforms to take remove audio or video recording of court proceedings initiated when Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addressed the court personally after his arrest by the Enforcement Directorate, ED in the alleged liquor policy scam. The Division bench comprising of Justice Neena Bansal Krishna and Justice Amit Sharma in the case observed and has issued notice on the Public Interest Litigation against Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita

Kejriwal and various others for allegedly violating the Video Conferencing Rules.

In the present case, the Public Interest Litigation, PIL has been moved by a Delhi based lawyer, Vaibhav Singh.

It has been alleged by him before the court that Chief Minister's wife, and others namely Akshay Malhotra, X user Nagrik-India, Jeetga, Promila Gupta, Vineeta Jain and Dr. Arunesh Kumar Yadav, willfully and deliberately disobeyed the Video Conferencing Rules notified by the Delhi High Court.

The court in the case observed that prima facie the court proceeding recording is violative of Rule 3(vi) of Delhi High Court



Video Conferencing Rules, 2021 and the same cannot be permitted to remain in public domain.

The court stated that the social media platforms namely X formerly „Twitter, Meta formerly „Facebook, Instagram and YouTube are hereby directed

to remove forthwith the audio or video recording from their respective platforms.

The court directed the platforms to also ensure that the audio or videos are not reuploaded on their platform till further orders. The petition filed also

seeks formation of an SIT to investigate and register First Information Report, FIR against those who conspired to record and share the audio and video of the court proceedings and putting the life of the trial court judge at high risk. The petition filed states

The petition filed states that several members of the Aam Aadmi Party, AAP which includes the members of various other opposition parties have intentionally and deliberately and with willful intention to malign and manipulate the court proceedings done the audio and video recording of the court proceedings and circulated on social media platforms.

that several members of the Aam Aadmi Party, AAP which includes the members of various other opposition parties have intentionally and deliberately and with willful intention to malign and manipulate the court proceedings done the audio and video recording of

the court proceedings and circulated on social media platforms.

Arvind Kejriwal was arrested in the money laundering case connected to the alleged liquor policy scam on March 21.

The petition filed alleged that there was a pre-planned conspiracy to

record the audio or video recording of the court proceedings hatched by Arvind Kejriwal and his party members.

The plea also seeks a thorough investigation to identify the individuals who are responsible for allegedly recording and sharing audio and video recordings of the court proceedings. The petition seeks issuance of directions to social media platforms to prevent the recurrence of such unauthorized recordings and their subsequent dissemination and impose penalties for non-compliance of directions on any individual or entity.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on July 09, 2024.

Madras High Court: Marital Status Of Woman Cannot Be Determining Factor For Giving Up Her Child In Adoption

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Madras High Court in the case Ashok Kumar v The Inspector General of Registration and Others observed that a woman's marital status should not be a determining factor while considering her child's adoption.

The bench headed by Justice GR Swaminathan in the case observed the proviso to Section 9(2) of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act 1956 which mandates consent of the other parent would not apply when the mother or father of the child to be given in adoption is absent.

The court observed that the underlying assumption is that an unmarried woman above the age of 18 years cannot give her biological child in adoption



and the marital status of the woman cannot be the determining factor... It is possible that a child may be born through live-in relationship or on account of illicit intimacy. Thus, the mother may like to give the child in adoption in order to ensure proper future for the child. The father may abandoned his child and he may not be around to assume responsibility.

In the present case, the court was hearing the journalist's petition challenging the Registering Authority's refusal to register the deed of adoption.

Therefore, the petitioner, Ashok Kumar, wished the adopt a three-year-old boy 'A', born to 'K' who was a minor when she conceived and wished to give the child in adoption.

However, the authority objected to the plea and submitted that the registration was rightly rejected as the biological father's consent was absent.

The court in the case noted that the parties were bound by the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act with 'K' being a Hindu and bringing up the child 'A' as a Hindu.

The noted that as per the Act, a father or mother could not exercise their right to give their child in adoption without the consent of other parents unless one of the parents had completely and finally renounced the world or ceased to be Hindu.

The court in the case noted that as per Section 6(b) of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act, the mother was the natural guardian of an illegitimate minor boy or illegitimate unmarried girl. Thus, the court noted that 'K' was competent to give her biological child in adoption.

The Apex Court in the case Githa Hariharan v. RBI, wherein the court noted that the word 'after' occurring in Section 6(a) of the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act did not necessarily mean 'after the lifetime' but would mean

an 'absence' from the care of the minor's property or person.

Adding to it, the court stated that when the father was wholly indifferent to the minor's matter and the mother was exclusively in charge the father could be considered to be absent as was the present case.

Further, the court noted that it would not be appropriate to ask 'K' to obtain the consent of the biological father.

Accordingly, the court set aside the authority's order and directed it to register the deed of adoption on the re-presentation subject to the fulfillment of other formalities.

The counsel, Advocate Mr. T. Muhilan appeared for the Petitioner.

The counsel, Advocate Mr. R. Raghavendran Government represented the Respondent.

Jharkhand High Court: GST Officers Should Not Coerce Individuals Summoned To Give Statements After Office Hours

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Jharkhand High Court in the case Shiva Kumar Deora vs Union of India And Ors observed and has held that GST officers should not require or coerce individuals summoned under GST to give statements after office hours.

The Division bench comprising of Acting Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice Navneet Kumar in the case observed and has emphasized that in our opinion, the proper officer under the GST should not be requiring or forcing or coercing a person so summoned to give statement after the office hours.

The counsel, Saloma Mittal appearing for the petitioner stated that Section 50 of the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act, 2002, which is comparable to Section 70 of the GST.

However, Mittal referenced the Supreme Court's judgement in the case Vijay Madanlal Choudhary v. Union of India, wherein the court held that officers under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, PMLA are not police officers and do not exercise powers under the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The Supreme Court in the case observed and has stated that a person summoned as stated under Section 50 is not considered an accused, and their statements do not equate to confessions, thus falling outside the protection of Article 20(3) of the Constitution of India.

Therefore, it has also been pointed out by Mittal that



The court noted that the Commissioner, GST-Investigation has interpreted the term 'exception' in clause (iv) to allow for after-hours statements in cases where there is a risk of individuals absconding or where arrests may occur.

the FAQs on Goods and Services Tax available on the CBIC website, which outline the guidelines for issuing summons and the precautions to be observed.

Further, the GST Intelligence and Investigation Manual, 2023, provides detailed procedures for interrogation and recording statements, emphasizing that statements should be recorded during office hours.

The court in the present case acknowledged the GST Intelligence and Investigation Manual, 2023, which outlines procedures for interrogation, recording statements, preparation, questioning techniques, dealing with hostile individuals, retraction, judicial

interpretations, and precautions. Thus, the manual states under clause (iv) to paragraph 5.142 that statements should be recorded during office hours.

The court noted that the Commissioner, GST-Investigation has interpreted the term 'exception' in clause (iv) to allow for after-hours statements in cases where there is a risk of individuals absconding or where arrests may occur. The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has directed GST officers to adhere to the guidelines and instructions issued by the Commissioner, GST-Investigation and the CBIC when summoning individuals as stated under Section 70 of the GST Act.

Kerala High Court: Offence Committed Abroad Cannot Be Tried In India Without Centre's Sanction Under Section 188 CrPC [S.498A IPC]

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Kerala High Court in the case Darvin Dominic v State of Kerala observed and held that the Trial Court should not proceed with criminal prosecution as stated under section 498A of the Indian Penal Code, IPC without previous sanction from the Central Government when an offence of marital cruelty was entirely committed outside India by an Indian National.

The bench headed by Justice A. Badharudeen in the case observed and has quashed the criminal

proceedings initiated against the husband under Section 498A Indian Penal Code, IPC for want of previous sanction from the Central Government under Section 188 CrPC. The court observed that it is perceivable that the entire allegations, which would attract offences as stated under Section 498A of IPC alleged to be committed by the 1st accused is outside India, and the matter definitely would come with the ambit of Section 188 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, CrPC. Therefore, the present proceedings without obtaining prior sanction as

contemplated under Section 188 Cr.P.C. is vitiated. In the present case, the husband approached the High Court seeking to quash the final report lodged against him stating that sanction was not obtained from the Central Government under Section 188 CrPC for initiating criminal prosecution. It has also been submitted by him that all allegations of marital cruelty had been committed while the defacto complainant was residing with him in Australia.

The court referred to the Apex Court judgment in the case Sartaj Khan

v. State of Uttarakhand, wherein the court held that there was no necessity of any sanction if a part of the offence was committed in India and at the same time, if part of the overt acts or at least one instance among the overt acts alleged to be committed in India, sanction under Section 188 of Cr.P.C. is not necessary in such cases.

The court in the case found that the entirety of the allegations against the husband was committed while they were residing in Australia.

The court held that the offence against the husband

cannot be inquired into or tried without previous sanction from the Central Government.

The court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case observed and has quashed the criminal proceedings initiated against the husband.

The counsel, Advocates Thomas J. Anakkallunkal, Anupa Anna Jose Kandath, Jayaraman S., Litty Peter appeared for the Petitioner.

The counsel, Senior Public Prosecutor Renjith George, Advocate Luke J Chirayil represented the Respondents.

Sikkim High Court: Mere Lack Of Injuries Of rape Victim Who Was Examined Days After Incident Not A Reason To Doubt Her Credibility

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The Sikkim High Court in the case Tshering Thendup Bhutia vs. State of Sikkim observed and has held that lack of injuries on a victim of rape would not disprove the case of prosecution if the victim's testimony is found to be credible and trustworthy.

The Division bench comprising of Justice Meenakshi Madan Rai and Justice Bhaskar Raj Pradhan in the case observed that mere lack of injuries on the victim's body who was being examined af-

ter five days of the incident, would not be fatal to the prosecution case when the victim's testimony is found reliable.

In the present case, the petition was filed by the accused or appellant against his conviction by the Trial Court for offence of rape under Section 376(1) of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, IPC, the victim was medically examined after the lodging of FIR, which was after five days of the incident. It has been argued by the accused or appellant that the victim gave a false accusation

to avenge him for rejecting the proposal to marry the victim's sister and that there were no struggle marks or injuries on the body of the victim.

The Trial Court in the case had found the victim's testimony to be reliable and that the delay in lodging the FIR was adequately and reasonably explained.

The High Court remarked that, it is therefore important for us to examine the testimony of the victim. If the victim's testimony is found credible, lack of injury on her body when she was medically

examined only after five days would not materially affect the prosecution case.

The High Court in the case noted that during the trial, the victim had described the incident in good detail and gave the answers honestly during cross-examination. The Court held that the sole testimony of the victim was reliable and the lack of injuries cannot be a reason to doubt the credibility of the victim. The court stated that this court is of the opinion that the sole testimony of the victim inspires confidence

and does not suffer from any basic infirmity. Thus, the probability factor also does not render it unworthy of credence. This court is alive to the fact that in a case of rape, no self-respecting woman would come forward in a Court just to make a humiliating statement against her honour to avenge, as was alleged by the defence, the rejection of the match of one of her sisters with the appellant.

The court upheld the Trial Court's conviction of accused for the offence of rape.

the demise of former Odisha Governor Muralidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, the former Governor of Odisha and veteran politician. His humble and innocent nature along with his dedication to the progress of the state and the welfare of the people will always be a source of inspiration. May his soul rest in peace and my condolences to the bereaved family. The cremation is on June 16 at 5 pm at the Lodhi Road Crematorium, Delhi.

ISRAEL TO CONDUCT 'TACTICAL PAUSE' IN GAZA TO DELIVER HUMANITARIAN AID

AGENCIES
TEL AVIV

The Israeli military has announced it will conduct a daily "tactical pause of military activity" in regions of the southern Gaza Strip to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to Palestinians, The Times of Israel reported.

The IDF said that the halt will take place between 8 am to 7 pm each day along a road from the Kerem Shalom Crossing to the Salah a-Din road, and then northward toward the Khan Younis area.

The Israeli military said, "This is an additional step in the humanitarian aid efforts that have been conducted by the IDF and COGAT since the beginning of the war." The IDF stated that the move started on Saturday, The Times of Israel reported.

Earlier on June 11, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced USD 404 million in additional humanitarian assistance for Palestinians in Gaza, the



West Bank and the region during a humanitarian conference in Jordan.

The new funding announced by Blinken includes USD 64 million through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to support partners on the ground to provide urgently required food assistance to Palestinians in need and critical logistics support to coordinate the delivery of humanitarian goods to and across Gaza, according to the statement released by USAID.

In addition, this announcement includes USD 340 million in funding through the US State Department to provide essential immediate and medium-term support to vulnerable Palestinians in Gaza, the West Bank and the region, including through the provision of safe drinking water, health care, protection, education, shelter, and psychosocial support, according to USAID statement.

Amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, eight Israeli soldiers lost their lives in a devastating

blast on Saturday, marking the deadliest incident for the IDF in the Strip since January, The Times of Israel reported.

Among the fallen, Cpt Wassem Mahmoud, aged 23, a deputy company commander in the Combat Engineering Corps' 601st Battalion from Beit Jann, has been identified. The names of the remaining seven soldiers will be released following notification of their families.

Initial findings from an IDF investigation indicate that the soldiers were inside a Namer armoured combat engineering vehicle (CEV) when the explosion occurred. The incident took place around 5 am as the convoy, following an overnight offensive against Hamas in Rafah's Tel Sultan neighbourhood, was en route to secure buildings for rest, as reported by The Times of Israel.

The Namer CEV, positioned as the fifth or sixth vehicle in the convoy, was struck by a powerful explosion. It remains unclear

whether the blast resulted from a pre-planted bomb or if Hamas operatives directly placed an explosive device on the vehicle. Investigators are also considering whether explosives stored outside the CEV contributed to the intensity of the explosion.

According to the IDF, there was no exchange of gunfire during the incident, and the vehicle was in motion at the time of the explosion. The deaths of these soldiers bring the total toll of IDF casualties during its war against Hamas and operations along the Gaza border to 307. This figure includes a police officer killed in a recent hostage rescue operation and a civilian Defense Ministry contractor also lost in the conflict, according to The Times of Israel.

The deadliest incident before the blast that took place on Saturday occurred in January when 21 soldiers were killed in a blast triggered by Hamas RPG fire that resulted in the collapse of two buildings.

Amnesty International urges Taliban to reopen schools for girls

AGENCIES
KABUL

Amnesty International has urged the Taliban to reopen secondary schools for girls. It said that Afghan girls have lost their right to education due to the Taliban's "discriminatory and unjust policies," Afghanistan-based Khaama Press reported.

Amnesty International stressed that the Taliban's policies violate international laws. A month after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, the group reopened schools that were shut due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, they banned the girls from pursuing studies in schools above sixth class.

In a post on X, Amnesty International on June 14 stated, "For 1000 days, Afghan girls have been deprived of their right to education, locked out of their schools due to the discriminatory and unjust Taliban policies violating international law. The Taliban must immediately re-open all secondary schools to girls."

More than two and a half years have passed, however, the Taliban has yet to make

Amnesty International stressed that the Taliban's policies violate international laws. A month after the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan, the group reopened schools that were shut due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

any new statements regarding the reopening of schools for girls above sixth grade.

Amnesty International's statement comes amid a dire humanitarian crisis and severe human rights issues in Afghanistan. Taliban's policies have suppressed women's rights, including education and employment. In 2022, the Taliban issued a decree banning women from working in aid agencies and domestic organizations. In addition, the Taliban has also imposed restrictions on their free movement, further limiting their opportunities.

Media restrictions have deteriorated the situation, making it difficult for people to stay informed regarding the developments and for the international community to understand the full extent of the crisis, as reported by Khaama Press.

Earlier in May, United

Nations officials have once again raised concerns about the situation of women in Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

During a meeting titled "Women, Youth Must Have Greater Participation in Peacebuilding Efforts" that took place in New York, the UN officials the rights of Afghan women, especially the prohibition of girls from attending universities and secondary schools, TOLO News reported.

UN's Undersecretary-general for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo characterised the state of women in Afghanistan as a lost cause.

"Ultimately, it comes down to a simple vision -- of overcoming obstacles that deny the full contribution of women," DiCarlo said at the meeting, TOLO News reported.

Terrorist activities likely before China invasion: retired Japanese officer

AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Retired Japanese Lieutenant General Hirota Yamashita, speculated that ahead of a potential Chinese military invasion of Taiwan, terrorist activities including attempts to assassinate Taiwan's president could occur, Focus Taiwan reported citing CNA.

Speaking at a press event in Taipei on Saturday for the launch of the Chinese-language version of his book on potential Chinese invasion strategies.

Yamashita outlined that such terrorist activities might involve planting bombs on presidential vehicles and at major metro stations in Taipei. Yamashita, who previ-

ously served as the vice chief of staff of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, based his predictions on various tabletop wargames detailed in his book, as per Focus Taiwan.

Drawing on Japan-North Korea relations, Yamashita said three types of people could carry out attacks in Taiwan: people politically aligned with China, mercenaries, and Chinese who seem to have assimilated with Taiwanese but who secretly engage in spying.

Although precautions should be taken to prepare for these potential scenarios, neither Taiwan, Japan nor the United States would be able to entirely eliminate the possibility, Yamashita said.

According to Focus Taiwan,

Yamashita stated that these terrorist activities would aim to undermine the Taiwanese public's faith in their government and influence public opinion.

He advised the government to provide factual and up-to-date information and urged the public to trust the government during such crises, despite political differences.

In his book, Yamashita projected that a possible Chinese invasion of Taiwan could occur between 2035 and 2050.

By then, Yamashita argued, China's nuclear arsenal would likely rival that of the US, and the gap in nuclear deterrence between the two countries would likely have been eliminated.

Taiwan detects 6 Chinese military aircraft, 7 naval vessels near its territory

AGENCIES
TAIPEI

Taiwan Ministry of National Defence (MND) said on Sunday that six Chinese military aircraft and seven naval vessels were tracked operating around Taiwan between 6 am (local time) on Saturday and the same time on Sunday.

According to Taiwan's MND, four of the PLA aircraft crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait and entered Taiwan's northern and southwest Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ). After China's action, the Taiwanese armed forces monitored the situation and

responded accordingly.

In a post on X, Taiwan's MND stated, "6 *PLA aircraft and 7 PLAN vessels operating around *Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 4 of the aircraft crossed the median line of *Taiwan Strait and entered Taiwan's northern and SW ADIZ. *ROCArmed Forces have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

Since September 2020, China has intensified its use of gray zone tactics by increasing the number of military aircraft and naval ships that operate near Taiwan's territory.

UAE exchanges Eid Al-Adha greetings with leaders of sisterly countries

AGENCIES
ABU DHABI

President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan exchanged greetings on the occasion of Eid Al-Adha with a number of leaders of sisterly countries through phone calls.

During the phone conversations, the UAE President exchanged Eid best wishes with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

Their Highnesses and Majesties expressed their best wishes for good health

During the phone conversations, the UAE President exchanged Eid best wishes with His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman, Sheikh Mishal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, and His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain.

and happiness to all on this blessed occasion, praying to God Almighty to perpetuate goodness and well-being in their countries and their peoples. They also expressed their shared wish that stability and prosperity will prevail in the Arab and Muslim nations and the whole world.

Eid al-Adha commonly translated as the Feast of

Sacrifice and also known as Yawm an-Nahr is the second of the two main Islamic holidays alongside Eid al-Fitr. In the Islamic calendar, Eid al-Adha falls on the 10th day of the twelfth and final month of Dhu al-Hijja, and celebrations and observances are generally carried forward to the three following days, known as the Tashreeq days.

PTI leaders, activists in Islamabad sent to jail on judicial remand

AGENCIES
ISLAMABAD

The Anti-Terrorism Special Court-1 Judge Abdul Hasnat Mohammad Zulqarnain has ruled against granting 10-day physical custody of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leaders and activists, instead sending them to jail on judicial remand. The decision comes after the Kohsar police's request for custody was rejected due to insufficient justification, Dawn reported.

The Kohsar police brought forward PTI leaders and activists before Judge Abdul Hasnat Mohammad Zulqarnain, seeking 10 days of physical custody. They were accused of snatching an anti-riot shield kit and tear gas



gun, with their colleagues and other accomplices managing to escape. The police argued that the custody of the arrested individuals was necessary for recovery efforts and to identify their accomplices.

However, Judge Abdul Hasnat Mohammad Zulqarnain deemed the request for physical custody unjustified

under the law. In his ruling, he stated, "The request for physical custody appears to be unjustified and law discourages unjustified custody of the accused," as reported by Dawn.

Consequently, the accused have been remanded to judicial custody for a period of 14 days, with a directive to appear in court again on June

29, 2024. The investigating officer has been instructed to submit the challan within the stipulated timeframe.

The arrests stem from a case registered under various sections of the Anti-Terrorism Act and the Pakistan Penal Code, including 395 (punishment for dacoity), 324 (attempt to commit murder), 148 (rioting), 149 (unlawful assembly), 188 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant), 186 (obstructing public servant in discharge of public functions), 341 (wrongful restraint), 353 (assault or criminal force to deter public servant from discharge of his duty), and 506(ii) (punishment for criminal intimidation), according to Dawn.

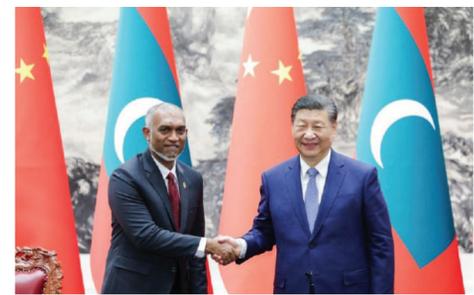
Xi emphasises importance of strategic ties between China & Maldives

AGENCIES
MALE

President Xi Jinping has emphasised the importance of China-Maldives relations and reiterated his strong support for strengthening the bilateral strategic partnership, as Beijing steps up its influence in the Indian Ocean archipelagic nation.

President Xi conveyed this message to his Maldivian counterpart Mohamed Muizzu on his 46th birthday, the president's office said here in a statement on Saturday. Interestingly, Xi also celebrated his 71st birthday on Saturday.

China's Ambassador to the Maldives, Wang Lixin, paid a courtesy call on President Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings,



at his official residence and presented a congratulatory letter from President Xi to his Maldivian counterpart on the occasion of his birthday, the statement said.

President Muizzu expressed gratitude to Ambassador Wang for personally delivering Xi's letter and

stated that it was a tremendous pleasure to re-

ceive it. The President had also written a congratulatory message to President Xi Jinping, who celebrates his birthday on the same day, the statement said.

The discussions between Muizzu and Wang further focused on enhancing collaboration and improving bilateral relations between the Maldives

and China, it said. They also discussed future agreements and forthcoming collaborative initiatives for development.

Additionally, the Chinese Ambassador stated that China is determined to assist with the Maldives' economic development and inquired about areas where the Maldivian Government requires additional assistance.

Since he assumed office in November last year, President Muizzu has taken several steps to bolster

After the Maldives and China signed a defence agreement on March 4, Muizzu announced that

Beijing would supply military equipment and train soldiers under the agreement.

Baloch youth disappeared for second time by Pakistani forces

AGENCIES
KECH

An eighteen-year-old Baloch youth has been reportedly 'forcibly disappeared' for the second time from the Kech district of Balochistan on Friday, The Balochistan Post reported.

The Pakistani forces have been alleged to have forcibly detained the youth after his arrest in the Daazin area of Kech district. The individual has been identified as Brahm-dagh (18).



a raid on their home on Friday, during which they allegedly assaulted the occupants, confiscated mobile phones, and forcibly took Brahm-dagh with them, The Balochistan

Post reported.

Notably, Brahm-dagh was previously detained by the security forces on October 14, 2023. He was released after four months of deten-

tion on February 6, 2024, according to The Balochistan Post report. The family has expressed worry over Brahm-dagh's repeated disappearances and called for his safe return.

Expressing solidarity over the matter and calling it a gross violation of human rights PAANK the human rights wing of the Baloch National Movement (BNM) in a post on X stated, "Brahm-dagh Nawaz, a minor student, has been forcibly disappeared by Pakistani forces for the second time last night."

"Previously abducted on October 14, 2023, he endured 4 months of brutal torture before being released on February 6, 2024. We call for his immediate release and an end to enforced disappearances in #Balochistan. This cycle of abductions and torture is a gross violation of human rights and international law," it added.

On June 13, human rights activist Mahrang Baloch of the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) highlighted the failure of all commissions and committees formed by the Pakistan government to look into

the cases of missing persons and enforced disappearances and called such efforts 'eyewash', Pakistan-based Dawn reported.

While addressing a press conference at the Karachi Press Club, Mahrang Baloch noted that there is a huge difference in the number of missing persons given by the government and what they are reporting and termed it a complete collapse of law and order.

In response to a question during the press conference, Baloch said, "They are all eyewash. There is a huge

difference in the numbers of missing persons given by the government and what we are reporting. There is a complete collapse of law and order when it comes to missing persons and enforced disappearances here."

Mahrang Baloch said that the Baloch community has been living in a dire state for a long time and added that things have been getting from bad to worse for the people. The press conference was called to highlight the struggles of the Baloch community, according to Dawn report.

She said, "Things have been getting from bad to worse for the Baloch community. Last year, the Baloch Yakjehti Committee started a big campaign, where we marched from Turbat to Islamabad. In Islamabad we organised an extended sit-in and returning from there we also held a huge rally in Quetta."

She stated that BYC, since its formation, has been working for the human rights and interests of the Baloch and stressed that they have remained peaceful throughout, according to Dawn report.

THE FREEDOM



A marching band performs during the 45th annual Juneteenth National Independence Day celebrations in Galveston. Juneteenth marks the end of slavery in the US. Source: Getty Images

Biden raises \$28m at LA fund raiser featuring Obama, Clooney and Roberts

AGENCIES
LOS ANGELES

Some of Hollywood's brightest stars headlined a glitzy fundraiser for President Joe Biden, helping raise what his re-election campaign said was \$28m and hoping to energize would-be supporters for a November election that they argued was among the most important in the nation's history.

George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Barbra Streisand were among those who took the stage at the 7,100-seat Peacock Theater in Los Angeles on Saturday night. Late-night host Jimmy Kimmel interviewed Biden and former president Barack Obama, who both stressed the need to defeat former president Donald Trump in a race that's expected to be



“Late-night host Jimmy Kimmel interviewed Biden and former president Barack Obama, who both stressed the need to defeat former president Donald Trump in a race that's expected to be

exceedingly close.

During more than half an hour of discussion, Kimmel asked if the country was suf-

fering from amnesia about the presumptive Republican nominee, to which Biden responded, “all we gotta do is

remember what it was like” when Trump was in the White House. Luminaries from the entertainment world have increasingly lined up to help Biden's campaign, and just how important the event was to his re-election bid could be seen in the Democratic president's decision to fly through the night across nine time zones, from the G7 summit in southern Italy to Southern California, to attend.

He also missed a summit in Switzerland about ways to end Russia's war in Ukraine, instead dispatching Vice-President Kamala Harris who made a whirlwind trip of her own to represent the United States there, a stark reminder of the delicate balance between geopolitics and Biden's bid to win a second term.

Further laying bare the political implications were police in riot gear outside the theater, ready for protests from pro-Palestinian activists angry about his administration's handling of Israel's war against Hamas in Gaza.

The event featured singing by Jack Black and Sheryl Lee Ralph, and actors Kathryn Hahn and Jason Bateman introduced Kimmel, who introduced Biden and Obama. The comedian deadpanned, “I was told I was getting introduced by Batman, not Bateman.” But he quickly pivoted to far more serious topics, saying that “so much is at stake in this election” and listing women's rights, healthcare and noting that “even the ballot is on the Biden administration's calls to expand voting rights.

PEACE SUMMIT STANDS BEHIND UKRAINE, CALLS FOR DIALOGUE TO END WAR

TDG NETWORK
NEW YORK

Dozens of countries at the Summit on Peace in Ukraine have declared that Kyiv's “territorial integrity” should be respected, as they urged “dialogue between all parties” to find a lasting settlement in the ongoing conflict with Russia. In a final communique issued at the end of a major two-day diplomatic summit in Switzerland on Sunday, the vast majority of countries represented also backed a call for the full exchange of captured soldiers and the return of deported Ukrainian children.

“We believe that reaching peace requires the involvement of and dialogue between all parties,” the document stated.

In his closing speech on Sunday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he hopes the “results” will be achieved “as soon as possible”.

“We'll prove to everyone in the world that the UN Charter can be restored to full effectiveness,” he said.

But not all attendees backed the document, with Saudi Arabia, India, South Africa, Thailand, Indonesia, Mexico and the United Arab Emirates among those not included in a list of supporting states displayed on screens at the summit.

Brazil, which was listed as an “observer” on the list of attendees, also did not feature as a signatory.

The final document also reaffirmed “the principles of sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of all



states, including Ukraine, within their internationally recognised borders.”

More than 90 countries had gathered in the Swiss resort of Burgenstock for the summit, dedicated to discussing Kyiv's proposals for a route out of the conflict.

Moscow was not invited and has rejected the summit as “absurd” and pointless.

Kyiv had worked hard to secure attendance from coun-

tries that maintain warm relations with Russia.

Prisoner exchange, return of Ukrainian children

The final document also called for all prisoners of war to be released in a “complete exchange” and for all Ukrainian children who had been “deported and unlawfully displaced” to be returned to Ukraine. Kyiv accuses Russia of abducting almost 20,000 children from parts of the east and south of the country that its forces took control of.

Working groups at the summit also addressed the issues of global food security and nuclear safety.

“Food security must not be weaponised in any way,” the declaration stated, adding that access to ports in the Black and Azov Seas was “critical” for global food supply.

Candidates race to register for French elections

AGENCIES
PARIS

Candidates were racing to register before a Sunday evening deadline in snap parliamentary elections that are redrawing France's political landscape, with a left-wing alliance newly formed to counter the surge of the far right losing, in the final hours, a prospective lawmaker previously convicted for spousal assault.

Adrien Quatennens announced the withdrawal of his candidacy that had opened cracks in the fledgling New Popular Front. The uneasy coalition of parties from the far-left to the centre-left is campaigning together against the prospect that the two-round June 30 and July 7 election could produce France's first far-right government since the Nazi occupation.

President Emmanuel Macron dissolved the National



Assembly, parliament's lower house, in a shock response to a humbling defeat by the far right in European elections on June 9. Quatennens had previously been a lawmaker with the hard-left France Unbowed party. Despite being handed a suspended four-month jail term in 2022 for spousal assault, Quatennens was included among 230 people that France Unbowed first put forward as election candidates with the New Popular Front, immediately

testing the alliance's unity.

François Ruffin, another outgoing left-wing lawmaker who is standing again, alleged that Quatennens was selected over other prospective candidates because of his loyalty to France Unbowed leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon.

In a tweet, Ruffin fumed: “You prefer a man who hits his wife, perpetrator of domestic violence, to comrades who have the impudence to have a disagreement with the great leader.”

Over 700 attend Indian High Commission's yoga event

AGENCIES
LONDON

Ahead of International Yoga Day, the High Commission of India in the United Kingdom organised a yoga event at Trafalgar Square which witnessed the significant participation of more than 700 enthusiastic people.

Since 2015, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated across the world annually on June 21, following its adoption by the United Nations in 2014.

While speaking to ANI, the Indian High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami said, “It was a great pleasure to be able to have well over 700 people here in this central spot in London. With the iconic statues all around it. And of course, to have multiple yoga schools come here and lead us in the practice of yoga.”



Further, he also emphasized that in London, diverse communities participated, “exemplifying the point that our Prime Minister has said, that yoga unites everybody and that yoga is for everybody.”

In response to a question, about what's different this year, the Indian envoy Doraiswami highlighted that this year, there were more participants, additional yoga schools involved, and a

greater diversity of communities present.

However, the main focus remains on continuing yoga's role in healing and personal growth, rather than aiming for differences in participation.

“Different in the sense that we had even more people up here, we've had more yoga schools join us and we've had in a sense a bigger diversity of communities here,” Doraiswami said on Saturday.

Tories could win just 72 seats in next Parliament

TDG NETWORK
LONDON

A new poll suggests disaster ahead for Rishi Sunak, with the Tories on track to win just 72 seats in the next election.

A Survation poll for Best for Britain, published by The Sunday Times, predicted that Labour would win as many as 456 seats, which would far surpass Tony Blair's landslide victory in 1997.

Meanwhile, Labour and Nigel Farage have accused the Tories of a ‘con’ over plans to send more migrants to Rwanda during the election campaign.

The Independent understands plans are in place to fly a person from Nigeria and another from Pakistan, who are in the UK illegally, to the East African country before the



election on 4 July. But much like the first person who was sent in April, it is a voluntary move and so not an enforced deportation.

Mr Farage this week claimed Reform UK is the “new opposition” following a YouGov poll that put his party ahead of the Conservatives for the first time.

Eight injured in Michigan shooting; suspect found dead

TDG NETWORK
MICHIGAN

At least eight people including two children sustained bullet injuries in an attack at a recreation area in Michigan, US on Saturday (local time).

The suspect behind the attack was later found dead at a nearby home, CNN reported citing officials.

The incident happened at Brooklands Plaza Splash Pad in Rochester Hills.

Earlier, the police said the victim was contained at a house near the site of the incident.

Oakland County Sheriff



Michael Bouchard said that the suspect was found dead at a nearby home.

The victims who sustained injuries in the attack were transported to multiple hospitals with “varying kinds of injuries,” Bouchard said during a Saturday evening news conference.

Anti-abortion groups say Supreme Court's mifepristone ruling won't deter them

TDG NETWORK
WASHINGTON

In the aftermath of last week's U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous ruling to maintain current access to the abortion medication mifepristone, abortion-rights advocates and opponents vowed to continue their respective battles over the drug. Mifepristone is one of two drugs used to treat miscarriages and terminate a pregnancy during the first trimester, and is the most common method of abortion in the U.S. Anti-abortion groups, in conjunction with conservative religious law firm Alliance Defending Freedom, sought to revert the FDA guidelines



to 2016, when the prescribed gestational time frame was three weeks shorter and there were more requirements around who could prescribe it and where and when provider visits had to take place.

The case made its way to the nation's highest court af-

ter outspoken anti-abortion U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk in Texas ruled that mifepristone's approval should be revoked, followed by a Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals opinion that agreed in part, saying the restrictions should revert to pre-2016 rules.

China to gift new giant pandas to Australia in sign of diplomatic thaw

AGENCIES
ADELAIDE

China has announced plans to gift Australia with a new pair of giant pandas, a gesture seen as bolstering the warming relations between the two nations. Premier Li Qiang revealed this during his visit to Adelaide Zoo, marking the start of a four-day trip to Australia, CNN reported, citing reports from Australian public broadcaster ABC.

The pandas will be sent



to Southern Australia's zoo once the current pair, Wang Wang and Fu Ni, return to China later this year, as reported by Chinese state media.

Li's visit, the first by a Chinese premier in seven years, signifies a significant thaw in relations, following recent diplomatic manoeuvres including the lifting of high tariffs on Australian wines and the removal of barriers on barley, timber, and coal. These measures were initially imposed after former Prime Minister Scott Morrison called for an international inquiry into the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic in China in 2020.

ANANYA PANDAY, DAD CHUNKY MEET 'REAL CHANDU CHAMPION' MURALIKANT PETKAR

TGG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Just a day after the release of Kartik Aaryan's film 'Chandu Champion,' actress Ananya Panday and her father, Chunky Panday, had the unique opportunity to meet the real-life inspiration behind the movie.

Taking to his Instagram account on Saturday, Chunky shared his excitement about the encounter, describing it as "absolutely thrilling." He posted a picture that captured the memorable moment. The picture featured Chunky Panday, Ananya Panday, and Muralikant Petkar, the real 'Chandu Champion.'



In the image, Ananya is seen standing next to Muralikant Petkar, wearing a grey gown and holding a small shoulder bag. Chunky, seated beside them, is sporting a blue shirt with tiger patterns. The trio is all smiles, clearly enjoying the special meeting.

Sharing the picture, Chunky added a caption that read, "Was Absolutely Thrilled to meet the Real Chandu Champion Shri Murlikant Petkar."

BADSHAH APOLOGISES TO FANS AFTER DALLAS CONCERT STOPPED MIDWAY

TGG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Rapper Badshah on Saturday apologised to his fans after he had to cut short his concert in Dallas, US, due to a "discrepancy" between local promoters and the production company.

The rapper is currently on a tour to the US and Canada in support of his third studio album, "Ek Tha Raja". Titled The Paagal Tour 2024, the tour started in May and will conclude in August.

Badshah posted a statement on his Instagram page and said he is "heartbroken" after he had to stop his performance midway at Curtis Culwell Center in Dallas.

"Dallas, I'm literally so heartbroken and bummed about what happened today. You guys are incredible and deserve better."

"I was really looking forward to performing in your city but due to a discrepancy



between the local promoters and the production company I was forced to cut short the set and stop the show midway," he said.

The 38-year-old musician said promoters need to be better equipped, especially for large-format shows, as it takes a considerable amount of energy and effort to put together a tour.

"This isn't fair to the fans who spend their hard-earned money to purchase that ticket, and it definitely isn't fair to the whole crew who pours their hearts into putting on these tours."

ARBAAZ KHAN INAUGURATES FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE-ZOREKO



TGG NETWORK
GURUGRAM

Original Gamers, the newly opened family entertainment center (FEC) located at the flagship spot in Elan Town Centre on Sohna Road, Sector 67 Gurugram, is reinventing the gaming experience with its latest outlet. Adding to the excitement, the inauguration ceremony was graced by the esteemed Bollywood actor Arbaaz Khan, making the event truly memorable.

The new hub is poised to totally transform Gurugram's gaming landscape with its vast layout and unbeatable selection of games. Additionally, it promises to be the best gaming area for gamers of all ages, catering to their various interests and needs. The outlet which offers cutting-edge amenities and a wide selection of games, seeks to reinvent the gaming experience by giving guests an exciting and engaging journey, unlike anything they have experienced before.

Elan Town Centre features high-street retail, a state-of-the-art multiplex by PVR, a delectable food court, multi-level basement parking, and much more. Situated on Sohna Road it boasts excellent connectivity via the

Delhi-Gurugram Expressway and NH-248A. It is also surrounded by numerous residential and commercial developments, making it a prime destination for shopping, dining, and entertainment. Other major brands housed at Elan Town Centre includes Castle Barbeque, Dominos, Khadim, Gianis among others. The opening of Zoreko has further solidified Elan Town Centre as the go-to family entertainment destination.

Commenting on the launch, Bollywood actor, Arbaaz Khan, said, "Being a part of the inauguration of Zoreko - Original Gamers has been an absolute pleasure. This new hub is set to redefine the gaming experience in Gurugram, offering a diverse range of games and cutting-edge amenities. It's exciting to see how Zoreko is catering to gamers of all ages and interests, truly making it the ultimate destination for entertainment. I am confident that Zoreko - Original Gamers will leave a lasting impression on everyone who visits."

Neeraj Raheja, CEO, Zoreko said, "In order to meet the constantly changing needs of today's enthusiastic gamers, Zoreko - Original Gamers represents a brave new phase.

PICTURE PERFECT

Bollywood actor Aamir Khan with his mother Zeenat Hussain during her 90th birthday celebrations, on Friday. (ANI)



DIRECTOR RS PRASANNA ANNOUNCES WRAP ON AAMIR KHAN-STARRER 'SITAARE ZAMEEN PAR'

TGG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

The shoot wrap of Aamir Khan-starrer Sitaare Zameen Par was announced by the makers on Saturday.

The film's director RS Prasanna, who has previously helmed the Ayushmann Khurrana-starrer Shubh Mangal Saavdhan (2017), shared the update on his Instagram Story. He posted a picture of a cake on which it is iced, "It's A Wrap!"

In a separate Instagram story, the filmmaker praised Aamir and called him "generous" and a "creative culture builder."

"From watching 'Lagaan' on screen and picking up my jaw from the floor. To standing next to, learning from, admiring and working with the Aamir Sir. God has been



extremely kind and generous. So so much to learn from sir on so many fronts," he wrote.

"But above all... How to be an amazing human being... Full of love, passion, absolute humility... Unending curiosity and learning zeal... A terrific leader, an

extraordinary creative culture builder... Constantly empowering those around him... Extremely trusting... And a protector," Prasanna added.

The film also stars Genelia Deshmukh.

"What an absolute delight of a human. You are a trea-

sure my friend," the director wrote alongside his photo with Genelia on his Instagram Story.

Earlier, while announcing the film Aamir had said, "The title of the film is Sitaare Zameen Par. You must have remembered my film Taare Zameen Par."

Salman Khan poses with Sajid Khan in new pic before 'Sikandar' shoot

TGG NETWORK
MUMBAI

As Salman Khan gears up to begin filming his upcoming movie 'Sikandar', a new picture of the superstar alongside music director Sajid Khan has surfaced on social media ahead of the shoot.

Taking to his Instagram on Sunday, Sajid shared a picture with 'Bhaijaan'. In the picture, Salman is seen wearing a beige t-shirt and a silver chain, with a beard and a slight smile.

He captioned the post that read, "Time spent with my brother is the best time @salmankhan enjoyed after a long time at Panvel farmhouse. god bless u bhai #friendship #star."

Soon after the picture was



shared, fans chimed into the comment section.

One user wrote, "Lovely Picc Bhaijaan." Another user commented, "Sajid sir n Salman sir lots of respect n love." "Thanks for sharing the pic! We are missing him badly.. still a year to see him on the big screen," penned a third user.

'Sikandar' which also stars Rashmika Mandanna, marks the reunion of Salman Khan and Sajid Nadiadwala after their previous successful collaborations 'Kick', 'Judwaa', and 'Mujhse Shadi Karogi'. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss, the film is set to release next Eid. The film is backed by Sajid Nadiadwala. Apart from this, Salman will be seen in Aditya Chopra's 'Tiger Vs Pathaan.'

VARUN DHAWAN SHARES FIRST PIC OF DAUGHTER AS HE CELEBRATES FATHER'S DAY

TGG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Actor Varun Dhawan, who recently became a father with wife Natasha Dalal, shared a special glimpse of his daughter on Father's Day.

Celebrating his first Father's Day on Sunday, Varun took to his Instagram account to post a touching picture of his newborn on Instagram.

The picture showed his daughter holding tightly onto his finger, with her face partially hidden. The post also included another picture of Varun holding his pet dog Joey's paw.

In the caption, Varun expressed his joy on Father's Day and shared his emotions about embracing fatherhood



with a daughter.

He wrote, "Happy Father's Day. My father taught me that the best way to celebrate this day is by going out there and working for your family so I'll be doing just that. Couldn't be happier to be a

girl dad."

Soon after the actor dropped the picture, fans couldn't stop gushing over the father-daughter duo in the comments section

One fan wrote, "you already are the best dog dad

and now you'll be the best girl dad.

Another fan wrote, "The pair of father and daughter look so cute together!"

"Happy Father's Day to you, VeeDee!" wrote a third user

BRAIN PICKING



I think every actor worth his or her salt wants to do good, meaningful cinema.



-TABU

(Indian actress)

RICHA CHADHA PENS EMOTIONAL NOTE AS 'FUKREY' TURNS 11



TGG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Richa Chadha, enjoying the success of her recent series 'Heeramandi: The Diamond Harbour,' wrote a heartfelt message as 'Fukrey' celebrates its 11th anniversary. She also mentioned how the film introduced her to her 'future baby-daddy' Ali Fazal.

Taking to Instagram on Saturday, Richa shared a nostalgic video on Instagram from the 'Fukrey' shoot. She wrote a long note about how the film helped her break the stereotype of 'Gangs of Wasseypur' and how it led her to meet Ali Fazal.

The post read, "Fukrey (2013) is a film that'll always remain close to my (heart) in an absolute sense. Not just because of what it did for me personally, i.e put me on the map commercially, broke

the stereotype that 'Gangs of Wasseypur' had created to some extent, and got me to be with my future baby-daddy, (who would have thought), but also the joy this film brings to all of North India, especially saddi Dilli!"

Expressing her gratitude for the team of Fukrey, she penned, "Forever grateful to @honeytrehan for casting me here, and to @mrigrilamba for picking me, @vipulhappy for writing such an iconic part, along with Mrig, unheard of for any woman, and most importantly grateful to @exclmvmovies for taking a chance on rank newcomers like us, at that point! Met and made so many friends like @rupalivaidya @vishalr @rheaavaghajuaa @nidhidexter and of course my homies @pulkitsamrat @fukravarun @oyemanjot @alifazal9!"

AMY JACKSON GIVES A SNEAK PEEK INTO HER BACHELORETTE PARTY



TGG NETWORK
MUMBAI

Bride-to-be Amy Jackson celebrated her bachelorette party with her friends on a private jet in France.

Amy Jackson took to her Instagram account on Saturday to drop a series of pictures.

In the first photo, Amy looks confident as she boards a private jet. The next photos show her in a chic white suit, sun hat, netted white gloves, and large pearl earrings. She is also wearing a 'bride-to-be' sash and holding a drink.

Amy also took pictures with her friends on the private jet, all of them smiling

and having fun. In the last photo, her friends are seen wearing masks with Amy's face on them, posing near the jet.

The 'Ekk Deewana Tha' actress recently announced her engagement to actor Ed Westwick, popular for his roles in shows like 'Gossip Girl' and 'White Gold.'

Back in 2022, Amy made her relationship with Ed Westwick Instagram official. Ed is also an actor. He is best known for his role in 'Gossip Girl'.

Amy earlier dated George Panayiotou for quite some time. The two got engaged in 2019 and welcomed their son in September of the same year.



FATHER'S DAY



H.H SANT RAJINDER SINGH JI



Father's day is a celebration of fatherhood. It's a day to celebrate the paternal bonds and love that we receive from our fathers, father figures and grand fathers. It is also a day to remember the Universal Father, God. Even though God is the Creator of all the things around us, we enjoy a special relationship with Him that is unique from all of His other creations. We are all His special children, literally the sons and daughters of God because He has created us in His image.

Traditionally a father has always played the role

of a protector to children. To understand it, there is a beautiful analogy regarding the planet Jupiter. People often wonder what would happen to Earth if it were hit with a giant asteroid. Scientists surmise that one such asteroid struck the Earth millions of years ago and wiped out dinosaurs. People fear that one day such an asteroid might crash into Earth again. Scientists report that there is a protection offered to earth by the planet Jupiter. Astrophysicists have determined that Jupiter has 99.9 percent efficiency in throw-

ing dangerous asteroids, meteorites, and space junk that comes into our galaxy back into space beyond our galaxy. The reason it can do this is that Jupiter is 318 times heavier than Earth. Due to this large mass, Jupiter puts out a large gravitational field that acts like

supersize vacuum cleaner. It pulls in toward it the space junk or meteors that float into its gravitational field, drawing it away from the other planets. That may be why the ancient Romans gave Jupiter its name. Jupiter means in Latin, the language of ancient Romans, "Sky-Father". Just as Jupiter is a protective father to Earth so is every father to his children.

Whereas in Hindu mythology the planet 'Jupiter' is referred to as 'Guru'. God, our Divine Father provides us protection by sending Saints and Masters (Gurus) on Earth to protect and take us back. Like Jupiter the grace of the Master protects us from worldly vices of Kaam (lust), Krodh (anger), Lobh (greed), Mohh (attachment) and Ahankar (ego). A Guru or a Master bestows his safety shield for his disciples. He constantly guides us and exhorts the importance of being good & noble to

all the mankind, hence protecting us from committing bad Karmas. It is the Guru, or Master, who not only guides us but also takes away the burden of difficulties that we may have to face in our lives. As a protector, he deflects the problems of our life to keep us safe just the way Jupiter does for the planet Earth.

So on Father's day, let us also honor and thank God, honor and thank our Masters and begin to lead our lives as true sons and daughters by loving God, all humanity, and all living creatures. The best way to celebrate this day is by remembering and being thankful for the gifts we have received from our physical fathers and the Divine Father. We should celebrate it by living up to the noble purpose for which we were created. In this way, we can return to our true abode, the home of God. God will embrace us as true sons and daughters.

Father's Day Special: Balancing Fatherhood and Startups Together

TDG NETWORK

As startup founders, the demands of the professional world often require a level of dedication and time that can create an inevitable conflict with the equally important role of being a parent. Balancing the rigorous demands of work and the desire to be present for one's family is a challenge that many fathers face, often leading to feelings of guilt and inadequacy when they cannot give 100 percent in parenting.

Vikas Kakkar, CEO and Founder of Amara.ai, emphasizes the importance of prioritizing time, focusing on goals, and spending quality moments with his son. He says, "Fatherhood is the greatest journey I've embarked upon, my roles as a father and entrepreneur. It's a challenging yet rewarding path, where every moment is a lesson in love, resilience, and growth."

Swayam Agrawal, Founder and CEO of Aarika Innovations, shares his perspective on balancing work and family life. He believes that the happiness of being a father isn't about how much time you spend, but about the special moments you share. He emphasizes the importance of planning family vacations and making the most of the time spent together.

Upendran Nandakumar, Founder of Ayatiworks Technologies, faced the challenge of balancing being a dad and having a startup. Despite tight schedules, he's reserved Sundays for his family, cherishing their time together while building a safer future for his kids.

Ravi Kaklasaria, CEO and Co-Founder of edForce, learned to set clear boundaries, prioritize tasks, and make dedicated family time without compromising his work. He realized the importance of self-care and personal financial planning, as his family depends on him. The joy of being a father is indescribable, and finding the right balance is crucial to cherishing every moment with his family while pursuing his professional goals.

Rajan Gupta, Founder of 10x Make it happen, emphasizes effective time management, delegating tasks, and scheduling business commitments around family events. He maintains a structured approach, reserving weekends and evenings for family while dedicating work hours to clients. This allows him to maintain a fulfilling personal life while excelling professionally, proving that with the right strategies, one can thrive in both areas.

Abhinav Kalia, CEO and co-founder of ARC Electric, says that both roles demand unwavering commitment, resilience in the face of challenges, and the ability to nurture growth. The responsibility of balancing family and business is immense, but it is this very challenge that fortifies our resolve and sharpens our vision. Today, let's celebrate not just fatherhood, but the entrepreneurial spirit that drives us to create a better future for our children.

Sahil Bansal, Co Founder & Director of DC-Gpac, highlights the value of resilience and the power of thinking big, which he learned from his father. He believes that achieving harmony in life requires not only dedication and hard work but also the wisdom to prioritize and the strength to stay true to one's values.



Father's Day Gifting: 5 Home-grown Spirits that Would Add Colour to Your Father's Collection

TDG NETWORK

He is always on the job making sure the whole family can live a carefree life, he deserves a break from time to time to have fun and relaxation. While going about his busy life and responsibilities, there might be just a few indulgences that he enjoys. If your father enjoys savouring good quality and variety of liquor, this Father's Day add something to his collection that he would enjoy and relish.

If your Father is a spirits enthusiasts, here are some home-grown spirits that have out shown others and can become the star addition to your Father's collection. These Indian spirits come in small batches and offer a unique taste profile. Not only Indian single malts but a variety of Artisanal flavoured spirits are a vogue in India and abroad due to their distinctive body and personality.

Here are 5 such spirits which would be a great pick:

=Ochre Spirits Nutty Berry Rum: If your father appreciates the robust Rum, he would like this artisanal flavoured smooth Rum that draws its flavour from Strawberry, Blueberry, Raspberry and Hazelnut. This Rum has been curated by Ochre Spirits retains all the goodness



and robustness of a good Rum with the twist of vibrant berry flavours. This definitely has the potential to reserve a permanent position in your father's bar. Ochre Spirits is a young brand, from our very own Goa, that has carved a niche for itself within a very short span of time with its fantastic flavoured spirits. These artisanal flavoured spirits are becoming a favourite with people who enjoy trying something new and embrace a good cocktail.

=Rampur Single Malt Select: Single Malts are one of the top picks for spirits enthusiasts. From the old city for Rampur which is known for its rich royal heritage comes Rampur Single



Malt Select which is aged in the foothills of Himalayas. Originating in Rampur Distillery, the whisky has fruity and spicy notes with hints of caramel and vanilla. Its aromas reflect of the long Indian summer. It has a warm and long finish.

=Ochre Spirits Peach and Cherry Vodka: The classic flavours of Peach and Cherry are sure to catch attention of your father. A perfect pick if your father is the one who loves to entertain with interesting cocktails. This artisanal flavoured Vodka with its unique and classic flavour is sure to get him excited about making his own Signature cocktail.

=Amrut Single Malt: Since single malts are loved so much, more than one is bound to make the list. Amrut is known for its good quality products. This single malt can easily fit into his cosy evenings. It is distilled in the North West India and grown from barley. Aged in new American oak and ex-bourbon. Its grainy taste leads to a nutty, citrus flavour with notes of apricot. It has hints of honey and finishes with apples, greengages and malt.

=Udaipur Jamun Gin: Gins are a preference over vodka for fashioning up a smooth and mature drink. This small batches gin is very smooth and will add a very interesting colour to his collection. It provides a base for making a wide variety of cocktails or just the simple classic Gin and Tonic. This gin is produced by Mohan Meakins, the makers of Old Monk Rum and Solan Gold single malt, is bottled at the Solan Brewery using Himalayan spring water, giving it a unique and unparalleled taste.

It is recommended to keep an eye out for the artisanal flavoured spirits being made by Indian brands as there is some excellent stuff hitting the shelves. These could easily become the stars of a home bar and house parties.

LAST-MINUTE FATHER'S DAY GIFT IDEAS: TREAT DAD TO SOMETHING SPECIAL!

TDG NETWORK

Father's Day is the perfect occasion to show your appreciation for the man who has always been there for you. This year, why not surprise him with a gift that truly stands out? Whether he's into grooming, fashion, or technology, we've curated a list of top-notch products that will make his day extra special. From skincare essentials to stylish accessories and cutting-edge smartwatches, these gifts are sure to put a smile on his face. Check out our selection below and make this Father's Day one to remember!

Wow Up: The Ultimate Father's Day Gift for Radiant Skin by WOW Skin Science

Surprise your dad with the gift of glowing, radiant skin this Father's Day with the WOW Skin Science's Ubtan Glowing Skin Essentials kit. This comprehensive skincare routine harnesses the power of traditional Ubtan recipes, blending time-honored ingredients like turmeric, chickpea flour, almond, sandalwood oil, saffron, and rosewater. The kit includes an Ubtan Face Wash, Ubtan Face Serum, and Ubtan Face & Body Scrub, working together to cleanse, nourish, and exfoliate for a refreshed, rejuvenated complexion.

Dual-Plated Lion Face Pendant Necklace by Kicky & Perky

Make a royal statement with this dual-plated lion face pendant, skillfully crafted from 925



sterling silver and adorned with 24K gold and black rhodium. Representing strength and majesty, this pendant is a luxurious addition to our Men's Collection, perfect for the modern man who values power and elegance. This piece not only adds a touch of sophistication to any outfit but also symbolizes the inner strength and regal presence of the father in your life.

Wild Stone CODE Body Perfume Travel Pack

This Father's Day, gift your dad the luxurious sophistication of Wild Stone Code's no gas body perfumes. Choose from four distinct scents: Iridium, Titanium, Steel, and Copper. Each variant captures an irresistible blend of elegance and style. Whether it's the energetic citrusy amber of Iridium, the fresh zesty notes



complements his unique aura. **DreamFolks Elite Membership: Elevate Dad's Travel Experience!**

This Father's Day, consider gifting your dad the DreamFolks Elite Membership, offering an

array of exclusive travel and lifestyle benefits tailored for discerning travelers. With unlimited complimentary airport lounge access both in India and worldwide, your dad can relax and unwind before his flights. Additionally, he'll enjoy unlimited access to golf courses and lessons at selected golf courses in India, perfect for indulging his passion for the sport. The membership also includes complimentary access to airport spas, railway lounges, and international travel SIM cards, ensuring seamless and luxurious travel experiences. With additional perks like airport transfers, meet-and-assist services, and complimentary grooming services, such as haircuts, pedicures, and facials, your dad will feel pampered and appreciated this Father's Day. Give him the gift of unparalleled travel and luxury with the DreamFolks Elite Membership.

Capture Memories with iTel S24

Capture unforgettable moments with the all-new iTel S24 Smartphone, a perfect Father's Day gift. Featuring a remarkable 108MP AI Camera, this phone brings your photos to life with stunning clarity. With 16GB² RAM

and 128GB ROM, experience blazing-fast performance and ample storage for all your needs. The 5000mAh battery with 18W fast charging ensures you stay powered up and on top of your game. Enjoy a super smooth and responsive experience with the 90Hz refresh rate on a 6.6" HD+ punch-hole display. Gift your dad the iTel S24 Smartphone and let him capture and cherish every moment in exceptional detail.

GV31 1080P LED Portable Smart Projector with Rotating Angle Projection



Elevate your dad's movie nights with the GV31 1080P LED Portable Smart Projector. Its rotating lens offers an incredible range of projection angles, allowing for a laid-back experience with full 1080p HD without the need for a makeshift stand. The integrated 2.1-channel sound system with dual 4W mid-range tweeters and an accurate 8W woofer offers cinematic sonic immersion. The GV31's expressive audio performance enhances



movie nights, and he can play music straight from the projector via built-in streaming apps and the dedicated wireless speaker mode. The dual-sided diffuser features a base for better audio from any angle! Stream and watch on your ceiling without sacrificing sound quality.ww

WELHAM OLD BOYS SOCIETY PRESENTS CONFLUENCE 24: CELEBRATING ART,

NEHA SOLANKI

The Welham Old Boys Society (WOBS) is set to launch the second edition of CONFLUENCE, a vibrant week-long art exhibition and community engagement initiative taking place from June 15th to 22nd, 2024, at The Stainless Gallery in New Delhi. This eagerly anticipated event kicks off with an exclusive preview on June 15th, followed by public viewing starting June 16th.

Artistic Diversity and Engagement

CONFLUENCE 24 promises a rich tapestry of artistic expression, showcasing established and emerging artists, architects, designers, and photographers from diverse backgrounds. Among the distinguished participants are renowned Indian artists Anupam Sud and Ananda Moy Banerji, recognized for their

significant contributions to art education. They will be joined by a lineup including Akshay Raj Singh Rathore, Viveek Sharma, and Partho Sen Gupta, among others, each bringing their unique perspectives and creativity to the exhibition.

Community and Education Initiatives

Central to WOBS' mission is supporting art education. During CONFLUENCE 24, WOBS will announce the recipient of the Leela Mukherjee Artist Educator Grant Programme 2024, in collaboration with the Mrinalini Mukherjee Foundation. This initiative aims to foster art education amidst challenges faced in various regions, underscoring WOBS' commitment to nurturing artistic talent and community development.

Cultural Enrichment Beyond Art

In addition to the art exhibition, CONFLUENCE



24 will feature a series of enriching events. Attendees can look forward to engaging conversations, insightful talks, and film screenings, including the documentary

'Wall Stories' by acclaimed filmmaker Shashwati Talukdar, exploring mural paintings in the Garhwal Himalayas. For those interested in dance, 'Merry Feet' will host

a lively line dance workshop, adding a dynamic element to the event.

Promoting Literature and Creativity
Recognizing the synergy

between art and literature, WOBS has partnered with Delhi-based publisher Tulika Books to curate a selection of books focused on art, design, photography, music, dance, and non-commercial cinema. This initiative not only promotes reading but also complements the themes explored within the exhibition.

A Platform for Emerging Talent

CONFLUENCE 24 shines a spotlight on emerging talents such as Aryan Arora, Nanki Singh, Divyam Raghunath, and Upam Lahkar, showcasing their innovative approaches across various artistic disciplines. Their contributions alongside established artists promise a dynamic blend of tradition and contemporary artistry.

Celebrating Photography and Sculpture

Photography enthusiasts



will delight in works by Nirupama

Building on the success of its inaugural edition, CONFLUENCE 24 embodies WOBS' dedication to fostering cultural exchange, promoting art education, and nurturing community ties. President Rohit Jaiswal and the WOBS team are committed to delivering another exceptional event that celebrates creativity and encourages dialogue on important social issues.

Conclusion
CONFLUENCE 24 is more than an art exhibition; it is a testament to the power of art in fostering education, enriching communities, and transcending boundaries. With its diverse program and inclusive approach, WOBS invites art enthusiasts, educators, and the general public to come together in celebration of creativity and cultural heritage.

Sekhri, Dr. Abhishek Gaurav, and others, capturing diverse subjects from wildlife to urban landscapes. Sculptor Pratima Narang and collaborative efforts like Amrai Dua with architects Saakshar Makhija and Vrinda Wadhavan will showcase inventive approaches in sculpture and hand-painted furniture design.

Forward Momentum

NANKI SINGH'S 'AAINA TAK KA SAFAR': A TRIBUTE TO RESILIENCE AND HOPE

TDG NETWORK

Nanki Singh, a dedicated photographer based in New York, brings her poignant series "Aaina Tak Ka Safar" to CONFLUENCE 24 at Stainless Gallery, New Delhi, from June 15th to 22nd, 2024. This exhibition sheds light on the profound journeys of acid attack survivors in India, aiming not only to raise awareness but also to support their rehabilitation through the Chhanv Foundation.

Capturing Resilience through Photography

"Aaina Tak Ka Safar" translates to "The Journey to the Mirror," symbolizing the survivors' struggle to face their reflections after enduring life-altering attacks. Nanki's journey with these courageous women began as a college project, driven by her cu-



iosity about gender-based violence. Over the years, it evolved into a heartfelt commitment to showcase their strength and resilience. Through her lens, Nanki portrays these women not as victims, but as individuals full of optimism, dreams, and the determination to live their lives to the fullest.

A Vision for Social Change

Nanki Singh's photography is more than visual art; it serves as a powerful tool for social change. Her



work bridges cultural divides, connecting viewers with the untold stories and emotional landscapes of her subjects. Her recent exhibition at Chelsea Art Gallery in New York garnered attention and support, raising \$13,000 for the Chhanv Foundation. This funding contributed to upgrading a café run by the survivors, emphasizing their empowerment and integration into society.

Educational Background

and Awards

A graduate of the School of Visual Arts in New York, Nanki Singh has received prestigious accolades, including the Silas Rhodes Scholarship and the Brian Weil Memorial Award for her exemplary integrity in photography. Her commitment to her craft and advocacy is evident in her continuous support for causes close to her heart, such as the rehabilitation and empowerment of acid attack survivors.

Exhibition Details at CONFLUENCE 24

At CONFLUENCE 24, Nanki Singh's exhibition will be open to the public daily from June 16th to 22nd, 2024, between 11 am and 7 pm. Visitors can immerse themselves in her powerful visual narrative, witnessing the strength and resilience of the women de-

picted in "Aaina Tak Ka Safar." The exhibition not only aims to raise awareness about the challenges faced by survivors but also serves as a fundraiser to support their ongoing medical, financial, and psychological needs.

Conclusion

Nanki Singh's "Aaina Tak Ka Safar" exemplifies the transformative potential of art to ignite empathy, inspire change, and empower marginalized communities. Through her lens, she invites viewers to confront the harsh realities faced by acid attack survivors while celebrating their indomitable spirit and courage. CONFLUENCE 24 provides a platform for Nanki's impactful work to reach a diverse audience, fostering dialogue and action towards a more inclusive and compassionate society.

'FROM WASTE TO WONDER' EXHIBITION UNVEILED BY NETHERLANDS EMBASSY TOGETHER WITH THE DESIGN VILLAGE

TDG NETWORK



TDG NETWORK

The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in collaboration with The Design Village, proudly launched their latest exhibition, "From Waste to Wonder." This innovative exhibition, focused on circularity in art, innovation, and design, promises to inspire and challenge our understanding of sustainability.

Present on the occasion were Snijders, Dhoya, Counsellor, Innovation, Sourabh Gupta, Founder of The Design Village, Amit Gupta, Founder of STIR World, Muskan Sainik, Founder of Golden Feathers and Daniel Franklin, a leading Fashion Consultant. These visionary leaders joined forces with aspiring designers to present a curated journey through sustainability and creative reinvention. Students from The Design Village were tasked with reimagining Dutch souvenirs. They infused modern, sustainable perspectives into collectibles, memorabilia, and Polaroids, while celebrating cultural elements like windmills, cheese, tulips, and cows. Each product, from resin

tulip paperweights to re-branded tote bags, was meticulously crafted to honor Dutch heritage and embrace innovative design techniques.

A Vision for a Sustainable Future

Ambassador Marisa Gerards, welcomed guests and stressed the significance of reevaluating our social and environmental footprints, demonstrating the Embassy's dedication to environmental stewardship. She said, "Regenerative ecosystems pave the way for a sustained tomorrow." highlighting the need for policymakers, thinkers, learners, and tinkerers to work together to lessen their collective influence on the world.

Exhibition Highlights

Attendees had the unique opportunity to explore a diverse range of exhibits that showcase the potential of upcycling and innovative design. Each piece tells a story of transformation, from waste materials to objects of wonder. The collection invites viewers to revel in the creativity and ingenuity behind each item, while also reflecting on the deeper narrative of sustainability and responsible consumption.

A Celebration of Dutch-

Indian Partnership

The event also celebrated the strong cultural and environmental partnership between the Netherlands and India. The Embassy's venue, adorned with the vibrant hues of orange and deep blue, symbolized the maturing relationship between the two nations. The exhibition served as a platform for dialogue, learning, and inspiration, encouraging attendees to leave their mark and carry forward the message of sustainability. The Design Village has long championed social accountability and sustainable living. TDV has strong links with the Netherlands Universities especially TU Delft and KABK Den Haag. It has student exchange programs and faculty exchange.

Join the Movement "From Waste to Wonder" is not just an exhibition but a call to action. It invites us all to reconsider how we interact with our environment and to embrace a more sustainable way of living. As the exhibition runs its course, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and The Design Village hope to inspire many more to join this movement towards a greener, more sustainable future.

MELODIC PERFORMANCES CAPTIVATE AUDIENCE IN 24TH QUARTERLY BAITHAK OF PRACHEEN KALA KENDRA

TDG NETWORK

Pracheen Kala Kendra, foremost cultural organization extensively dedicated to Art and Culture organized its 24th Quarterly baithak under the series "Legends of Tomorrow" at Triveni Kala Sangam recently. Eminent and noted artists like Anooratan Raai and Amitava Chatterjee received applause for their soothing and melodic performances. Secretary of the Kendra Sajal Koser along with Chief Guest Pradeep Mishra Sarkar, Honble Chairman, MsMe, PCI and other dignitaries lit up the traditional lamp.

Artist Anooratan Raai is a



Hindustani classical vocalist from Mumbai. He is blessed son and disciple of Legendary artist Anupam Rai. He is young and prominent artist of Senia mahiyar and Ram Sahaswan schools of music. His perfection over depth of ragas is his strength. He is MA Bhas-

kar from Pracheen Kala Kendra. He performed in many prestigious festivals of India and abroad.

Anooratan commenced with Raag Shree with a traditional Aalaap followed by Bade khayal composition "reman ka guru ko dhayan" was

presented. After this, another beautiful Bandish of Chota khayal "kanha sang mohe lag-an lagi" was presented which was highly appreciated by the audience. After this, Anooratan presented captivated fast tempo composition set to teen taal. He concluded his recital with a Thumri based on raga Mishra pahadi. He was ably accompanied by Babar latif on tabla, Lalit Sisodia on harmonium, and Ghanshayam Sisodia on sarangi.

Then Amitava Chatterjee took the stage. Born in highly enriched musical family, disciple of Pt. Manilal Nag is a prominent artist of these times. He chose Raga raga

Malkauns and begin with after aalap Jod and Jhala. Then he moved on to present a beautiful Gat set to Abhogi. After this, the audience were mesmerized by another resonating composition in drut teen taal. The audience were mesmerized by the magical fingers playing the strings of Sitar. They provided befitted finale, a melodic dhun which was greatly appreciated by the audience. Young Ujjith Uday accompanied them brilliantly on the tabla and added charm to the programme.

Secretary Sajal Koser along with other dignitaries present honored the artists with mementoes and scroll of honor.

Rhythms of Reverence: A Celebration of Dance Honouring the Maestro

TDG NETWORK

On a serene evening, Aayam's, "Rhythms of Reverence," unfolded as a breathtaking celebration of dance. Dedicated to the esteemed KN Dakshinamoorthy, the guru of Sindhu Mishra, this evening was also a heartfelt tribute to the unwavering support and encouragement from the parents of Aayam's students. The entire program was conceptualized and choreographed by Guru Sindhu Mishra.

The event commenced with "Pushpanjali," a tra-

ditional offering of flowers to the divine, the guru, and the audience. As the dancers reverently moved to the rhythm set to Raagam Bowli and Talam Adi, the atmosphere was filled with the shlok revering Lord Ganesha. The dancers, including Usha Chauhan, Nandini Nag, Nidhi Joshi, Charvi Joshi, Sonal, Trisrota Dutta, Hanisha Dua, Roopa Kumari, Riddhima Saini, Vaishali, Archita Roy, and Anannya Biswas, embodied the divine invocation with grace and precision. Following this, Arundhati



Chakravarty took the stage with "Guru Stuti," a poignant piece set to Raagam Tilang. This performance depicted Meera's yearning for a guru who would guide her path to Lord Krishna.

Chakravarty's evocative portrayal resonated deeply with the audience.

The rhythmic invocation "Alarippu," performed by Tanusha Tyagi, Arundhati Chakravarty, and Aishaane



Bharagava, was a visual delight. Set to Raagam Nat-tai and Talam Chatusra Jaati, this piece illustrated the dancer's gradual blossoming, akin to a blooming flower, through synchro-

nized movements.

The children of Aayam enchanted the audience with a Bharatanatyam rendition of "Shri Ram Chandra," a bhanga composed by Goswami Tulsidas. Set to Raag Sindhu Bhairavi and Adi Taal, the young dancers brought the divine narrative to life with their innocent yet skillful performance.

"Padam - Yaro ivar Yaro" followed, with an exquisite portrayal of Sita's first sighting of Ram in the palace of Mithila. This abhinaya piece, set to Raag Bhairavi and Taal Adi, beautifully

expressed the inexplicable connection Sita felt upon seeing Ram, performed by Swati Mittal. "Natanam Adinaar" depicted the cosmic dance of Shiva, the Ananda Tandava.

Shruti Verma and Ria Gupta, set to Raag Vasanta and Talam Khanda Chappu, celebrated Shiva's blissful dance that balances creation and destruction, enthralling the audience with their dynamic performance.

The program concluded with "Thillana," a vibrant and rhythmic piece in Carnatic music. Dancers Ria

Gupta, Isha Aggarwal, Tanusha Tyagi, Shruti Verma, and Shatakshi Gupta performed this piece set to Raagam Madhuvanti and Taalam Aadi, encapsulating the love and longing of Krishna in their lively movements. "Rhythms of Reverence" was not just a showcase of exceptional talent but a heartfelt homage to the lineage of gurus and the supportive parents. The evening left the audience in awe, celebrating the profound impact of dance in expressing devotion and connecting with the divine.

PAKISTAN REGISTER 3-WICKET CONSOLATION WIN OVER IRELAND

AGENCIES
LAUDERHILL (USA)

Pakistan and Ireland have already been eliminated from the tournament with India and debutants USA progressing to the Super Eight from Group A. Left-arm pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Mohammad Amir wreaked havoc with the new ball, helping Pakistan restrict Ireland to 106 for nine. Earlier, Left-arm pacers Shaheen Shah Afridi and Mohammad Amir



wreaked havoc with the new ball, helping Pakistan restrict Ireland to 106 for nine in an inconsequential T20 World Cup match here on Sunday. Both Pakistan and Ireland are out of the tournament with India and USA progressing to the Super Eight from Group A. Shaheen came to the party, albeit in a lost cause, returning with impressive figures of 3/22, scalped two bowlers for 11 runs as the go on a

India-Canada game in Florida was abandoned

TDG NETWORK
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

The outfield in Broward County Stadium was too wet for play, and the match was called off only an hour after its scheduled morning start. While there was light rain on Saturday morning, the outfield was damp from Friday showers which led to a second straight abandoned game at the venue. The United States-Ireland game on Friday never started. Pakistan and Ireland are scheduled to play at the ground on Sunday. While the teams waited for a decision, India's Rishabh Pant and coach Rahul Dravid went to the boundary to sign autographs, and Virat Kohli posed with some of the Canada players.

England wins rain-affected T20 World Cup match against Namibia

TDG NETWORK
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

England's defense of the Twenty20 World Cup title lived on for a few more hours after a must-win over Namibia in a rain-affected match on Saturday. To reach the Super Eight, England first had to beat Namibia in their maiden T20 match. Persistent showers almost ruined the chance, but the match started three hours late and was reduced to 11 overs, then 10 overs after another heavy shower. England was made to bat first and rallied to 122-5. Namibia, given a rain-adjusted target of 126, managed only 84-3 and lost by 41 runs. England did what it had to, then had to wait a few more hours and hope Scotland lost



to Australia in Saint Lucia possible at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium to get play underway. England lost the plot early. Only one run was taken from the opening over bowled by 39-year-old David Wiese, captain Jos Buttler was bowled for a duck by fast bowler Ruben Truempelmann, and Wiese returned to nick out the other opener, Phil Salt.

Harbhajan lauds Suryakumar as 'biggest match-winner' vs. USA

TDG NETWORK
NEW DELHI

Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh hailed Suryakumar Yadav's unbeaten innings against the hosts in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, the United States at the Nassau International Cricket Stadium in New York. Singh asserted that Suryakumar is the biggest match-winner because the day he performs not only does India win the match but also takes the match far away from the opposition's clutch. "It's extremely important. We always talk about match-winners. I feel Suryakumar Yadav is the biggest match-winner in this team because the day he plays, he not only wins the match but takes the match far away from the

opposition. The opposition can't even think that they can win the game," Harbhajan said on Star Sports. Notably, Suryakumar didn't have the start that the world no 1 T20I batter wanted as he failed to make a mark in the first two matches in the ongoing competition. However, the right-hand batter played an unbeaten innings of 50 runs from 49 balls which was laced with two fours and sixes each in his innings at a strike rate of 102.04 against the hosts, United States. Harbhajan further said that Suryakumar's presence in the middle order eases tension in the dressing room while lauding the unconventional batter. "He is a special player. He is a different-level player. It's

good that runs came from his bat that day because if those runs hadn't come, it could have been a cause for worry. Runs coming from his bat are an auspicious sign for India. It's a great sign for the dressing room as well because when he bats, the dressing room is absolutely calm. They know that until he is there, he will win the match and come out," the former India cricketer added. India concluded the first round with seven points and at the top of Group A. The Rohit Sharma-led side had already qualified for Super 8 following their victory over the co-hosts USA. India will play their first match of the Super 8 on Thursday against Afghanistan at Kensington Oval Barbados.

NEW ZEALAND TO FACE PAPUA NEW GUINEA IN FAREWELL MATCH

SUNIL YASH KALRA
NEW DELHI

Today in the T20 World Cup 2024, the New Zealand team will face each other against Papua New Guinea in their last match at the Brian Lara Stadium. Both the teams are out of the race for Super-8. New Zealand had won against Uganda by 9 wickets in the last match. Whereas Papua New Guinea had to face defeat by 7 wickets against Afghanistan in the last match. This World Cup has been no less than a nightmare for New Zealand, which was out of the semi-final race for the first time in the last 10 years. Batting has been tough in this World Cup on the pitch of Brian Lara Stadium. The New Zealand team could not even achieve the target of 150 runs against the West Indies. Apart from this, in two other matches the team playing first could not even reach 100 runs. PNG bats in this match. So it is going to be a challenge for them to score big. In the last match on this ground, New Zealand had all-out Uganda for 40. On the special program of India News presented by 1xbat, former Indian cricketer Noel David said "This match has become important for the New Zealand team." Because its fast bowler Trent Boult has confirmed that this will be his last match in the T20 World Cup. In such a situation, the team led by Kane Williamson would like to bid farewell to its fast bowler with victory. The Papua New Guinea team has lost all three of its matches so far and if its team presents even a little challenge to New Zealand, it will mean a lot for it. Sunil Yash Kalra is a women's cricket historian and founder of Indian Sports Fans.

'IT'S BEEN A PRETTY WEIRD WORLD CUP': HEINRICH MALAN AHEAD OF T20 WC CLASH AGAINST PAKISTAN

Florida [US]: Ahead of their clash against Pakistan in the ICC T20 World Cup 2024, Ireland coach Heinrich Malan expressed his feelings about the ongoing mega event saying that this tournament has gone pretty weird so far. Ireland is currently placed last in Group A, with just one point out of three matches they have played in the ongoing tournament so far. They have already failed to qualify for the Super Eights of the ongoing marquee event. In their last group stage match of the competition, the Irish team will lock horns with Men in Green at the Central Broward Regional Park Stadium Turf Ground in Lauderdale, Florida on Sunday. The Ireland coach asserted that the team has not trained at all since they have been down in Florida last week. "We've been quite lucky. We played them a couple of weeks ago back home in Ireland. It's been a challenge from a preparation point of view. We haven't trained at all since we've been down in Florida the last week, so I mean, that is what it is. We've been having our unit meetings and our preparation meetings and just going over some of those plans that we've managed to execute pretty well back home and won the first game. We can pig-

gyback on, that for a little longer period and hopefully, we can go well again tomorrow," Malan said in the pre-match press conference. The Irish coach further stated that the management has tried to keep the team busy. "It's been a pretty weird World Cup, as you say. Yeah, look, we've tried to keep the lads busy as much as we can, obviously doing our preparation and our analytics work in the background, and just keep them active physically. The boys are at the minute playing a bit of soccer and trying to just get the competitive juices flowing as well leading into tomorrow," Malan added. Squads: Pakistan Squad: Mohammad Rizwan (wk), Babar Azam (c), Usman Khan, Fakhar Zaman, Imad Wasim, Shadab Khan, Iftikhar Ahmed, Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Amir, Abrar Ahmed, Saim Ayub, Azam Khan, Abbas Afridi. Ireland Squad: Paul Stirling (c), Mark Adair, Ross Adair, Andrew Balbirnie, Curtis Campher, Gareth Delany, George Dockrell, Graham Hume, Josh Little, Barry McCarthy, Neil Rock, Harry Tector, Lorcan Tucker, Ben White, Craig Young.

Mandhana becomes second-highest international run-scorer for India



TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

India opener Smriti Mandhana etched her name into the history book by becoming the second-highest run-scorer for the nation on Sunday. With her fighting hundred against South Africa, she went past the 7000-run mark and joined former India star Mithali Raj in the elite list. Mandhana played a fighting knock of 117 off 127 deliveries, which took her overall international tally to 7059 runs. Her tally at the global stage is only bettered by former captain Mithali's 10,868. While India captain Harmanpreet Kaur isn't far behind from achieving the feat. She has 6,870 runs in the international circuit across all formats and could achieve the feat in the ongoing series against South Africa. The Indian vice-captain stuck her sixth ODI ton and her first on the home soil. She surpassed skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's tally of five, and her record is only bettered by Mithali's seven. Mithali took 211 innings to hit seven

centuries, and Harmanpreet racked up five centuries in 112 innings. Mandhana took just 83 innings to hit six hundreds. After opting to bat, India struggled to get the scoreboard moving, but Mandhana kept things in their favour by pouncing on every available opportunity. South Africa reduced India to 99/5, and Mandhana lifted the hosts from a peculiar situation with her counter-attacking knock. Mandhana and Deepti Sharma stitched up a stand of 50-run, keeping the momentum going for India. Khaka then got her second wicket of the match as she provided her team with a big breakthrough, removing Deepti for 37. In the 43rd over of the game, Mandhana slammed her 6th ODI century and her first ODI hundred at home. An outstanding knock of 117 runs by Mandhana came to an end as she tried to pull her to the backward square leg fence but handed an easy catch to Sune Luus. In the last over, India managed to gather 12 runs to take India's score to 265/8.

Ton-up Smriti, spinners hand India massive 143-run win over South Africa in 1st ODI

TDG NETWORK
BENGALURU

Smriti Mandhana's resolute hundred and a disciplined bowling effort, led by spinners Deepti Sharma and Asha Shobana, piloted India to a huge 143-run win over South Africa in the first women's ODI here on Sunday. India now lead the three-match series 1-0, and the second game will be played here on June 19. Mandhana's sixth ODI century (117, 127 balls, 12x4s, 1x6) formed the fulcrum of India's competitive 265 for eight on a sluggish Chinnaswamy pitch. Then the Indian bowlers worked their magic around the South African batters to bowl out the visitors for 122 as debutante leg-spinner Asha (4/21) led the show with a frugal spell and was well-supported by offie Deepti (2/10).



Pacer Renuka Singh (1/30) gave India the perfect start, dismissing the in-form South Africa skipper Laura Wolvaardt in the first over itself. Wolvaardt had no answer for an excellent nip-backer from Renuka that clipped the top of her off-stump. The Indians soon fetched the wickets of Tazmine Brits and Anneke Bosch as the tourists slumped to 33 for

three. The experienced Marizane Kapp (24, 39 balls), who hammered Renuka for successive four and six, tried to revive the innings with Sune Luus who fought well with a 33. But their fourth wicket alliance of 39 runs consumed 68 balls as the asking rate climbed over seven which never really came down thereafter. Asha ended that struggle

when the leg-spinner had Kapp caught at covers by Harmanpreet Kaur. At five down for 74, South Africa were always facing the climb up the hill. Earlier, India's script for victory was written by Mandhana, who thrilled the home crowd with a well-paced hundred. Mandhana stitched two significant partnerships with the feisty Deepti (37, 48 balls, 3x4s) and Pooja Vastrakar (31 not out) to take India out of trouble after the hosts found themselves at 99 for five at one stage. Mandhana and Deepti added 81 runs (92 balls) for the sixth wicket and Pooja, who had to leave the field later with a knee niggle while fielding, assisted the Indian vice-captain to make 58 runs (54 balls) for the seventh wicket.

Euro 2024: Spain thump three goals past Croatia to begin campaign on winning note

TDG NETWORK
BERLIN (GERMANY)

Spain established their superiority and out-classed Croatia with a convincing 3-0 win in their Euro 2024 campaign opener on Saturday at Berlin's Olympiastadion. It was a one-sided affair which was sealed in the first half. Three different goal-scorers featured on the scoresheet in the first 45 minutes for Spain. Alvaro Morata broke the stalemate in the 29th minute to put Spain ahead in the game. He found himself one-on-one with the keeper following a defence-piercing through ball from Fabian Ruiz.



Three minutes later, Spain doubled their lead with Ruiz this time featuring on the scoresheet. With quick feet work he got past Croatia's defenders, made them dance to his tune and slotted the ball into the back of the net. On the cusp of the first half, Lamine Yamal with

Supersub Wout Weghorst scores late again in Netherlands' 2-1 win over Poland

TDG NETWORK
HAMBURG, GERMANY

Netherlands forward Wout Weghorst loves to make a big impression off the bench and he did it again Sunday late in a 2-1 win over Poland at the European Championship. The giant striker struck with a low left-foot shot in the 83rd minute with his first touch after coming on to replace Memphis Depay who had wasted several shooting chances. The late win puts some pressure on Group D favorite France, which already beat the Dutch twice in qualifying last year and plays Austria

on Monday. Poland was forced to cope without its injured star Robert Lewandowski but soon found a goal from his replacement who matured in Major League Soccer. Adam Buksa used all his 6-foot-3 (1.91 meter) height when circled by four Dutch defenders at a 16th-minute corner to guide a header into the net. Buksa had 2½ prolific years with New England Revolution until 2022. Cody Gakpo leveled in the 29th with a shot that was deflected and deceived goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny. It was fair reward for a vibrant first half for the Dutch.

Italy beats Albania 2-1 after conceding early goal at Euro 2024

TDG NETWORK
DORTMUND, GERMANY

By conceding a goal after just 23 seconds, Italy made the worst possible start to its European Championship title defense. Thankfully for the Azzurri, it soon got much better. Italy recovered from letting in the quickest goal in the tournament's 64-year history to beat Albania 2-1 in Dortmund on Saturday in an atmospheric Adriatic derby that immediately threatened an upset. Nedom Bajrami thrilled a heavily pro-Albanian crowd at Westfalenstadion by pouncing on a throw-in by Italy left back Federico Dimarco that failed to reach



teammate Alessandro Bastoni, before taking a touch and smashing a rising shot inside the near post. Within 16 minutes, the Italians were ahead as Bastoni headed in Lorenzo Pellegrini's cross to the back post in the 11th then Nicolo Barella struck home a swerving first-time shot from the edge of the area. Barella was one of five survivors from the team that started for Italy in the penalty-shootout win over England in the 2021 European Championship final.