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Health Minister confirms two Nipah virus deaths in Kerala

CONTD. FROM PG-1

George said out of the five samples, three have tested positive.

"The samples of the person who died yesterday and two others under treatment, including the nine-year-old boy, have tested positive," she said.

The death of the first person, on August 30, was initially considered a death due to the comorbidity of liver cirrhosis, she said.

"However, his son, the nine-year-old boy who is already in ICU, and his 24-year-old brother-in-law are the two positive cases that were detected today," the minister said.

The sample of the person who died yesterday also tested positive.

The minister added that two epicentres of the disease have been identified, which will soon be declared as containment zones by the district collector after following due procedure.

The man who died on August 30 was 44 years old, while the person who died yesterday as a 40-year-old man.

Retail inflation declines to 6.83% in August on falling food prices

CONTD. FROM PG-1

As per the data, inflation in the vegetable basket eased to 26.14 per cent in August as against 37.4 per cent in July.

The prices of 'oil and fats' products declined to 15.28 per cent in August while there was low inflation in 'meat and fish', 'eggs', 'sugar and confectionary', 'non-alcoholic beverages', 'fruits' and 'prepared meals and snacks' on an annual basis.

The data also showed that inflation in the 'housing' was at 4.38 per cent and 'fuel and light' at 4.31 per cent.

Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, Head Research & Outreach at rating agency ICRA said that within food items, inflation in vegetables fell to 26.1 per cent in August from 37.4 per cent in the previous month, contributing as much as 28 basis points of the 61 basis points decline in the headline CPI inflation print between these months.

**Advt**  
**Contact:**  
**9818799941**

# Don't need BJP certificate on nationalism, Sanatan Dharma, freedom struggle: Cong

New Delhi

The Congress on Tuesday said it does not require the BJP's certificate on nationalism, Sanatan Dharma or on the contribution to freedom struggle, alleging the ruling party's score on these yardsticks is zero.

Responding to the BJP attacks on the Congress and the INDIA bloc over the row after DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remark on the Sanatan Dharma, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said her party believes in Sarva Dharma Sambhava (equal respect for all religions).

"We do not want certificates from the BJP on nationalism, on Sanatan Dharma and on the contribution to our freedom movement. Because, on all these their score is zero," she said.

Asked about BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad's allegations that the country's culture and heritage are being insulted daily but senior Congress leaders like Sonia Gandhi are silent, Shrinete said, "We do not need any certificate

**Responding to the BJP attacks on the Congress and the INDIA bloc over the row after DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin's remark on the Sanatan Dharma, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said her party believes in Sarva Dharma Sambhava (equal respect for all religions).**

from anyone and especially from hypocrites who talk like this. We believe in equality of all religions. I will not say anything more than this." But she refused to BNP leader and union minister Gajendra Shekhar's remarks in a video circulating on social media that anyone who speaks against the Sanatan Dharma would have his tongue pulled out and his eyes gouged out.

He demanded answers from the BJP over unemployment and deaths allegedly due to hunger, and said the govern-



ment had to put up big curtains and build walls so that the poor of the country could not be seen during the G-20 Summit.

She claimed women were paraded naked in Manipur and four people were killed in the state just two days ago. Curfew has been imposed at six places in the Valley region of the state and news is coming that

there was a clash between some policemen and the army, she said. "Which woman do you respect?" "Equality of all religions is the foundation of our country and we are people who believe in it," she said.

DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin recently blamed the Sanatan Dharma for promoting division and discrimination among people and

called for its eradication. The BJP accused the INDIA bloc of having a hidden agenda to target the Sanatan Dharma for vote bank politics as party president J P Nadda led a fresh charge and claimed that attacking the ancient faith is part of a well thought-out strategy of the Congress and its leaders Sonia and Rahul Gandhi. "The Congress and the

BJP's central election committee likely to meet on Wednesday

New Delhi

The BJP central election committee is likely to meet on Wednesday to deliberate on the party's candidates for the upcoming state polls, sources said.

The CEC, whose members include Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh, and party president J P Nadda besides other senior leaders, may decide the names of candidates for the polls in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The CEC had met last month and named candidates for 39 seats for the polls in Madhya Pradesh and 21 for Chhattisgarh. These were for the seats where the BJP does not have incumbent MLAs.

**Advt**  
**Contact:**  
**9818799941**

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

जन साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है मेरे मुम्बईकालन दया सम वाहन पुत्र श्री राजकुलने वादव निवासी डी-204 / 1782, गली नंबर 17, पंजाबी बस्ती, बलजीत नगर, नियर गुणहारा, पटेल नगर, दिल्ली-08 अपने भेटे नागंद वादव निवासी डी-204 / 1782, गली नंबर 17, पंजाबी बस्ती, बलजीत नगर, नियर गुणहारा, पटेल नगर, दिल्ली-08, बद्द पुनम और इनके बच्चों को उसके असामयिक कुत्तो, मनुजुदाव, दुर्घ्यादार और इनपर मुकाममे दोने के कारणों की वजह से चल और अचल सम्पत्ति से बंदखल कर रहा हु।

**Kunwar A.P. Singh**  
**Advocate**  
**Ch No. 449, Western Wing,**  
**Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54**

**सार्वजनिक सूचना**

जन साधारण को सूचित किया जाता है मेरे मुम्बईकालन श्री मोहन लाल पुत्र किशन चन्द निवासी बकान न 220 गली नं 0 3 रोशन विहार कयावल नगर दिल्ली-110094 ने अपने पुत्र मुकुल कुमार पुत्र मोहन लाल निवासी 220 गली नं 0 3 रोशन विहार कयावल नगर दिल्ली-110094 को अपनी चल और अचल सम्पत्ति से उसके अनैतिक बर्साव और व्ययहार और गलत संगत में पड़ जाने कारण बंदखल करते है और यह घोषणा करते है कि जारोवत से कोई लेन देन न किया जाए और कोई व्यक्ति कोई लेन देन करता है तो वह स्वयं इसका स्वयं जिम्मेदार होगा। आज से मेरे मुम्बईकालन ने जारोवत से अपने सारे पारिवारिक संबन्ध खल कर दिये है।

**Kunwar A.P. Singh**  
**Advocate**  
**Ch No. 449, Western Wing,**  
**Tis Hazari Court, Delhi-54**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Be it known to public at large that my client namely Ms. Hemlata D/o Sh. Nakshe Lal, R/o H. No. E-116A, Mansa Ram Park, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, is the Absolute owner of her property bearing plot No. 32-33, Ground Floor, Without Roof/ Terrace Right, out of Khara No. 599 and 600, Land area measuring 35 Sq. Yds. With two wheeler parking, situated in the revenue estate of Village, Navada, Delhi, Abadi Colony known as A-Extn, Mohan Garden, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059.

But one person namely Mr. Alimudeen Saifi S/o Babu Khan, R/o H.No. A- 69, Phase-5, OM Vihar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059 fraudulently made all the Documents earlier G.P.A. will, Agreement to Sale, Possession Letter, Mortgage Deed, Friendly Loan Agreement against the said Property and all Affidavits in his favour and trying to disposed off this property without her consent.

Now she has revoked all of her aforesaid documents. Since she is the absolute owner. If anyone tries to grab the same property or sale or purchase or deal with Mr. Alimudeen Saifi for the same, he/she will be responsible for the same, dealt with strictly as per the law and punished under the provision of Criminal as well as Civil law and the law of the land.

**RITU MUNAL**  
**Advocate**  
**Ch. No. 413, Lawyer's Ch.,**  
**Block, Dwarka Court, Sec-10,**  
**SW, Dwarka, Delhi-75.**  
**Mob: 9818209001, 9212009001**

## Cauvery water to TN: Karnataka CM calls for special emergency meeting on Sept 13

Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has called for a "special emergency meeting" on September 13, following the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) on Tuesday recommending that Karnataka release 5,000 cusecs of water every day for the next 15 days to Tamil Nadu.

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, ministers of the Cauvery basin region, former chief ministers of all parties, senior ministers of the state cabinet, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members will participate in the emergency meeting.

"The special emergency meeting will be held on 13-9-2023 at 12:30 PM at Vidhana Soudha's conference hall," the Chief Minister's office said in a statement.

Earlier today, Siddaramaiah held an emergency meeting regarding the next steps to be taken in view of the CWRC's recommendation. Shivakumar, several senior ministers and officials including Chief Secretary, and Chief Minister's Legal Advisor Ponnanna participated in the meeting.



After CWRC recommendation came out, Shivakumar said that the state is in no position to release Cauvery river water to Tamil Nadu, as it doesn't have enough water storage, due to lack of adequate rainfall in the river basin region.

He said, the matter is next going to come before the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), most probably by tomorrow, and Karnataka will vehemently put forward its stand before it.

Work done by my govt causing stomach ache to many people; Shinde's dig at Uddhav

Jalgaon: In a dig at his predecessor Uddhav Thackeray, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Tuesday said many people are suffering from stomach pain due to the work being done by his government.

Speaking at the "Shasan Aaplya Dari" (Government at your Doorstep) programme, Shinde said the previous dispensation led by Thackeray had stopped working, but it became active after Shinde took over.

"Many people are having a stomachache due to the work we do, the 'Shasan Aaplya Dari' initiative is

benefitting people. But to treat stomach ache, we are starting a new programme 'Doctor at Your Doorstep,' Shinde said.

The Shiv Sena leader said he would respond to allegations of Thackeray, who has been very critical of the Shinde-led Shiv Sena-BJP government and the 'Shasan...' programme, with his work. "You (Thackeray) worked from home (during the COVID-19 pandemic), but we are reaching the doorsteps of people. Why didn't you do this when you had a chance (as the chief minister)?" Shinde questioned.

## New dress code for Parliament staff kicks off row

New Delhi

A new dress code with floral motif for Parliament staff kicked off a political row on Tuesday with the Congress dubbing it as "cheap" tactics to promote the ruling party's poll symbol.

According to an internal circular issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the marshals, security staff and officials, chamber attendants and drivers have been issued new uniforms which they have to don once the new parliament building starts functioning.

The 'bandhgala' suit of bureaucrats will be replaced with a magenta or deep pink Nehru jacket. The shirts for them will also have floral design.

The employees will wear khaki-coloured pants. The new attire for the marshals in both houses of Parliament will now include Manipuri turbans. The Parliament Security Staff will be seen in army camouflage pattern fatigues instead of the blue safari suits.

Women officers have been assigned bright coloured sarees with jackets to be worn during winters.

The Congress accused

the BJP of making the "Parliament a one-sided partisan thing" and wondered why the lotus motif was used in the dress designs.

"Why lotus only? Why can't a peacock or why can't a tiger? Oh, they're not BJP party election symbol. Why this fall sir Om Birla," Congress whip in Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore said on X. "How cheap they are. They did it in G20 also. Now also they are doing it and saying it is the national flower," he said.

"This kind of pettiness is not right. Hope the BJP grows up and not make the Parliament a one-sided partisan thing," he alleged. Tagore said the Parliament is becoming a part of a party's symbol. "It is unfortunate. The Parliament was above all parties. It shows that the BJP is interfering in every other institution," he said. The parliament session is set to begin on September 18 in the old building.

The parliament proceedings are expected to shift to the new building on September 19 on Ganesh Chaturthi, which is considered auspicious for making new beginnings.

## CISF seize gold paste worth Rs 1.3 crore at Mumbai airport, two held

Mumbai

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) successfully intercepted and apprehended two passengers attempting to smuggle approximately 2.5 kilograms of gold paste valued at around Rs 1.3 crore, officials said.

The incident occurred in the early hours of September 12, 2023, when CISF surveillance and intelligence staff at Terminal-2, CSMI Airport, Mumbai, noticed suspicious behavior from a passenger near the glass partition between domestic boarding gate No. 86 and 87 on Level 3. The passenger was placed under both electronic and physical surveillance, they said.

During the course of surveillance, a black pouch was observed being thrown from the



glass partition situated at International boarding gate No. 86 on Level 4. This prompted further investigation, an official said.

Subsequently, the CISF team detected suspicious activities from another passenger, identified as Shajitha Begum, who appeared to be associated with the first passenger. The individuals were later identified as Jalal Y Jalaludeen and Shajitha Begum, both Indian citizens, who were scheduled to travel on Air India Flight

**During the course of surveillance, a black pouch was observed being thrown from the glass partition situated at International boarding gate No. 86 on Level 4. This prompted further investigation, an official said.**

No. AI609 bound for Coimbatore, he added.

Both passengers were immediately intercepted, and their hand baggage was subjected to further scrutiny in the Customs office. A joint interrogation was conducted by CISF and Customs officials, leading to the discovery of six oval-shaped yellow metal (gold) parcels wrapped in black tape within the handbags of both passengers.

Jalal Y Jalaludeen and Shajitha Begum admitted ownership of the gold paste and revealed that it had been handed to them by an international passenger who had discreetly thrown it over the glass partition separating the Domestic and International boarding gates.

The seized gold paste, weighing approximately 2.5 kilograms and valued at around Rs 1.3 crore, was handed over to the Airport Intelligence Unit (AIU) and Customs officials for further legal action.

This operation highlights the vigilance and dedication of the CISF and Customs officials in preventing illegal activities at the airport, safeguarding national interests, and upholding the law. Investigations into the matter are ongoing.

## Langar Sewa for All Communities & All Religions by GMF & Arihant Hospital

Chandigarh

Global Middas Foundation (GMF), a charitable organization based out of Delhi, is doing Panth & Sangat Sewa for last 3 years based on Sikh values & ideology of "Sarbat Da Bhala" & "Chardi Kala". In this as part of Healthcare langar sewa they have organized multiple free health check-up camps, eye checkup camps across Delhi & Punjab in past 3 years of operations in association with Religious & Spiritual Organizations, Resident Welfare Associations, Market Welfare Associations, Educational Institutions & Delhi Police.

Sardar Inder Preet Singh, founder GMF said that they have now introduced free healthcare card jointly by GMF & Arihant hospital providing the healthcare langar sewa benefits for people belonging to all communities & all religions at PAN India & for NRI's.

Further they have tied up with various lab test facilities, diagnostic centers, nursing homes and hospitals to provide concessional at discounted rates and timely consultation, test, diagnosis, investigation, treatment and surgeries to those who were recommended by Global Middas Foundation (GMF).

Now, they have tied up and got support of Arihant Hospital, Dehradun which is a Multi-Specialty Hospital very well reputed with latest updated hospital facilities and best expert highly internationally experienced doctors and management team.

This is applicable for all communities all religions at pan India level and for Foreigners/NRI's coming as part of international medical tourism initiative to In-

dia. Upto 30% concessional discount & priority on tests, treatments, surgery etc. and other such critical healthcare facilities to sikh sangat & general public who are from economically weaker sections of society in healthcare services. Upto 50% concessional discount & priority on tests, treatments, surgery etc. and other such critical healthcare facilities to Gurudwara committee sewadars, katha vachaks, granthi sahibbans and the official on board sewa performing office bearers & staff across India. These all benefits will be provide in the existing healthcare facilities setup in Dehradun & Chamoli, Uttarakhand and other upcoming facilities in future and can be availed as on today by just making the totally free health card offered by Global Middas Foundation.





I was initially nervous, says KL Rahul on his comeback match

Libyan city buries 700 people killed in devastating floods as 10k reported missing

Bhumi starrer Thank You For Coming to have its world premiere at Toronto film fest



CRICKET

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**4 DELHI**

Delhi govt's pilgrimage scheme bonanza for elderly: Kejriwal



**9 BUSINESS**

Nitin Gadkari bats for 10 pc additional GST on diesel cars

**MARKET**

SENSEX	NIFTY
67221.13	19993.20
94.05	-3.10
GOLD	SILVER
58,621.00	71,869.00
-309.00	-73.00

**WEATHER**

Sunrise	6:05 AM
Sunset	6:30 PM
Moonrise	4:20 AM
Moonset	5:51 PM
Today's Prediction	
Maximum	34°C
Minimum	27°C
Tomorrow's Prediction	
Maximum	34°C
Minimum	27°C

## Health Minister confirms two Nipah virus deaths in Kerala

■ Mr. Mandaviya said a central team of experts has been sent to Kerala to take stock of the situation and assist the State government in the management of the Nipah virus infection

New Delhi  
The Nipah virus has killed two people and infected two others in Kerala's Kozhikode district, the state government said on Tuesday.

"Nipah virus infection has been confirmed in Kozhikode district. Two people died due to infections. Of the four people whose saliva was sent for testing, two were Nipah positive and two were Nipah negative," Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in a Facebook post.

The chief minister urged people not to pan-

ic and to take precaution instead.

"Everyone should strictly follow the instructions of the health department and the police and fully cooperate with the restrictions," he said.

Talking to reporters in Kozhikode after receiving confirmation from the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, where the samples were sent for testing, state Health Minister Veena George said one of the people who was infected with the virus is a nine-year-old boy.

CONTD ON PG-2

**HIGHLIGHTS**

■ **What is the Nipah virus infection?**

Nipah is a zoonotic disease, which means it is transmitted to humans through infected animals or contaminated food. It can also be transmitted directly from person to person through close contact with an infected person, the WHO says. Its symptoms, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), fever, headache, cough, sore throat, difficulty in breathing, and vomiting.

■ **How is Nipah transmitted?**

The first outbreaks of the Nipah virus among humans was reported from Malaysia (1998) and Singapore (1999). The virus takes its name from the village in Malaysia where the person in whom the virus was first

isolated died of the disease.

■ **How fast does the Nipah virus spread?**

The Nipah virus is known to spread far more slowly than SARS-CoV-2. However, it is its ability to kill that is the biggest concern. During the first outbreak in Bengal's Siliguri in 2001, 45 of the 66 people confirmed to have been infected died. That is a mortality rate of 68%. In the next outbreak, in Nadia district of West Bengal, in 2007, all the five infected people died.



Retail inflation declines to 6.83% in August on falling food prices



**HIGHLIGHT**

■ Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was at 7 per cent in August 2022.

New Delhi  
Retail inflation declined to 6.83 per cent in August after touching a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July, mainly due to softening prices of vegetables, but still remains above the Reserve Bank's comfort zone. The overall inflation in the food basket stood at 9.94 per cent in August as against 11.51 per cent

in July, according to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) on Tuesday.

Retail inflation based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) was at 7 per cent in August 2022.

While the retail inflation declined to 6.83 per cent in August, it still remains above the comfort level of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which has the mandate to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side.

CONTD ON PG-2

## Supreme Court refers challenge to sedition law to Constitution Bench

New Delhi  
The Supreme Court on Tuesday referred to a Constitution bench of at least five judges a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the IPC provision on sedition, a month after the Centre introduced in Parliament bills to replace the colonial-era penal statutes IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act, proposing among other

things the repeal of the sedition law.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud declined the Centre's request to defer the issue of reference to a larger bench as Parliament is in the process of re-enacting the provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Bill has now been placed before a standing committee.

"We are not inclined



to accept the request for deferring the consideration of the constitutional challenge in these batch

**HIGHLIGHT**

■ The court noted the constitutional validity of section 124A of the IPC was tested by the apex court on the basis of a challenge that it was ultra vires Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution in the 1962 judgement of Kedar Nath Singh versus State of Bihar.

of matters for more than one reason," said the bench, also comprising

Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra.

The bench observed that section 124A (sedition) of the IPC continues to remain on the statute book, and even if the new Bill becomes a law, there is a presumption that any new law in the penal statute will have prospective and not retrospective effect.

"Consequently, the validity of the prosecution which would be

launched so long as section 124A continues to remain in the statute, will have to be assessed on that basis," it said.

The court noted the constitutional validity of section 124A of the IPC was tested by the apex court on the basis of a challenge that it was ultra vires Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution in the 1962 judgement of Kedar Nath Singh versus State of Bihar. Agencies

## Women Power Ensuring Haryana's Progress

जो ठाना वो कर दिखाया – सशक्त हरियाणा



- Strengthening rights of women by ensuring **50% participation in Panchayats**
- **33%** ration depot reserved for women
- **Free education and transportation** services for all girl students up to Post-graduation
- **Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao Programme** - Gender ratio at birth improved from **871 to 927**
- Out of a total of **74** newly opened **Government colleges**, **31** are **only for girl students**
- Financial assistance up to **₹6000** to around **8 lakh pregnant women** under the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**

“महिलाओं का जीवन बेहतर बनाना आज हमारी सरकार की प्राथमिकता है। हमारी माताओं-बहनों की मुश्किलें दूर हों, वे देश की विकास यात्रा की मजबूत भागीदार बनें, इसके लिए हम लगातार कदम उठा रहे हैं।”

नरेन्द्र मोदी



SAMWAD-10895/19/4211/2024/30921



NEWS IN BRIEF

Officials reprimanded over power woes

Noida People faced power cuts for four to six hours in many areas of the city and countryside as the electricity system in the district collapsed due to trains.

On Tuesday, Chaitra V. managing director (MD) of the Paschimanchal Vidut Vitran Nigam Limited (PVVNL) expressed her displeasure in the online meeting and instructed the chief engineer to seek answers from the JE and SDO.

She also gave instructions for pruning trees by running a campaign in October. The MD asked the chief engineer how badly even a little rainfall affected the electricity situation. Trees were not pruned around high tension lines. The supply could not be restored after several hours of complaints. If the system is not rectified soon, action will be taken against JE and SDO.

The MD asserted that she would soon inspect the sub-centres and take action against the negligent officers. At the same time, power cuts in the city continue. There is a problem of local fault due to moisture on power lines and sub-stations, due to which consumers are facing power cuts.

Yamuna Authority to develop 96 villages and five towns

Noida The face of not only the villages around Jewar Airport but also the Nagar Panchayat and towns is going to change.

Along with 96 villages of the authority area, five towns will also be developed. There is a plan to convert the places which have old heritage into tourism form.

The Yamuna Authority will put this proposal in its board. If approved, Dankaur, Bilaspur, Rabupura, Jewar and Jahangirpur Nagar Panchayat areas of the Yamuna Authority area will also be developed.

The Yamuna Authority is developing the villages here. In such a situation, the authority officials concerned want that the towns here should also be developed. There are many temples in Jewar, Rabpura and Dankaur areas and there is a bird sanctuary in Dankaur.

Farmers clash with cops during protest

Noida Farmers, who have been protesting against the Greater Noida Authority for the last 118 days, continued their agitation even on Tuesday and locked both the gates of the authority office.

During the protest they also had to clash with the police. Slogans were raised against the authority and the state government. During this period a large number of women also participated. Farmers say that they would not end their protest unless their demands are accepted. SP MLA Atul Pradhan also participated in the demonstration.

Many farmers got injured while removing barricades. Late Tuesday evening, Greno Authority CEO called a delegation of 31 farmers to meet him in the office where till the time of writing the news, talks were going on between the farmers and the CEO.

Delhi govt's pilgrimage scheme bonanza for elderly: Kejriwal

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal called Mukhya Mantri Teerth Yatra Yojna a bonanza for elderly people, saying such a scheme was made possible only because there was honest government in Delhi.

New Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday called Mukhya Mantri Teerth Yatra Yojna a "bonanza" for elderly people, saying such a scheme was made possible only because there was honest government in Delhi.

The Chief Minister also met 780 elderly pilgrims bound for Rameshwaram by train at Thyagraj stadium.

So far, over 75 train trips under the scheme have been flagged off and this is the 76th train of pilgrims. More than 74,000 elderly people from Delhi have availed the



benefit of the scheme by visiting various pilgrim sites in the country, he said. "It's a kind of bonanza for the elderly of Delhi because there is an honest government in the government. We send our elderly on pilgrimage by saving money," he said.

Delhi government bears all the expenses for their

travel and stay and provides them with the best facilities. "I met them, they are very happy." Kejriwal said no government in the country in the last 75 years since independence thought of any such scheme.

"People ask me from where so much money comes. There is money because Delhi has an honest government. We save money in everything and do not indulge in corruption. This saving is used to send the elderly on pilgrimage," Kejriwal said.

The Chief Minister addressing the Rameshwaram-bound pilgrims at Thyagraj stadium said if

there was any shortcoming in their travel arrangements, it would be rectified next time.

Delhi Revenue Minister Atishi said Kejriwal considered himself the son of all elderly people in Delhi and always thought about serving them.

The train trip to Rameshwaram will last eight days and will include a visit to Madurai.

Under the scheme launched in 2018, senior citizens above 60 years of age are sent for pilgrimages at various religious places and shrines across the country, without any charges.

Woman battling health issues jumps to death from 17th floor Noida flat

Noida A 42-year-old woman battling mental health issues died allegedly after she jumped off her 17th floor apartment in a group housing society here in a suspected case of suicide, police officials said on Tuesday.

The incident took place late at night on Monday in Sector 119, while the husband and child of the woman were inside the home, a senior official said.

"The woman was battling mental health issues and had been undergoing treatment for it for a long time. Prima facie it appears that last night, she



jumped off the flat in a similar mental health condition," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Noida) Harish Chander said. When alerted about the incident, a local Sector 113 police station team reached the spot and initiated legal proceedings in the matter, the officer added.

Father in debt, conspires to gun fire and rob money from his own home; 3 held

Staff Reporter New Delhi Three persons including father of the complainant have been arrested by North east district police in connection with a case of firing in Dayal Pur, said Delhi police on Tuesday.

Astonishingly the complainant's father was one of the main conspirators, said the police said.

The accused have been identified as Anas(23) who was a hired shooter, Aamir Ansari (42) and Aakil alias Shahid Ansari(38), all are residents of Delhi.

On the intervening night of 26-27 August, a firing incident in Gali No. 5, New

Mustafabad was reported by the complainant namely Haroon Ansari at Police Station Dayalpur. On reaching the spot, police team found, one empty case of cartridge. The team investigated the spot after which Haroon told the police that at about 11:30 PM, while he was inside the house, he heard the sound of gunshot, on checking through CCTV, one person wearing helmet was seen with a pistol. He further added that, in the afternoon he had a conflict with Haji Arshad, Mannan Jiyauddin, Sarfaraj & Sahmaad on repaying the loan amount he had borrowed

from them. He told the cops that he suspected them. DCP (North East), Dr. Joy Turkey said that a case was filed accordingly and for further investigation a police team led by Inspector Atul Tyagi, SHO/Dayalpur was formed and assigned to crack the case. During investigation, the dedicated police team diligently scanned and analyzed CCTV footages of various cameras installed in the vicinity. On detailed scanning of CCTV footages, hours before the firing incident, Aamir Ansari, brother of the complainant's father was seen

accompanying the suspected persons near the place of incident, said Dr. Joy Turkey.

On 08.09.23, Aamir Ansari was traced and examined. "During interrogation he initially tried to mislead the police team but later revealed a shocking truth that his brother Zarif (father of the complainant in the case) works as a property dealer in the area and was neck deep in debt. Finding no solutions to repay his debt, he along with Aamir and his friend hatched up a conspiracy of firing at his own house and name the money lenders in the FIR.

Boy held for firing at Aditya Mega Mall, Indirapuram

TSN/New Delhi Special Staff of Shahdara district police has arrested a boy in connection with a case of openly firing in a restaurant at Aditya Mega Mall in Uttar Pradesh's Indirapuram, said the police on Tuesday.



Two sophisticated pistol with 8 live cartridges and a stolen bike recovered from his instance.

The accused has been identified as Ramesh(22) resident of Jhuggi, Near Rashid Market, Parvana Road, Geeta colony, Delhi

Rohit Meena DCP of Shahdara district said On 9 September the team was on patrolling in the area of Anand Vihar in the view of G20 submit. "During checking, one boy was seen coming from Unity Mall Side in suspicious manner on Dominar Motorcycle. The boy was signaled to stop but instead of stopping his motorcycle, he

tried to run away. Immediately, the raiding team immediately shuttled towards the boy and brought him under control," DCP said.

"During interrogation, it has been revealed the accused Ramesh along with his associates fired openly in a restaurant at Aditya Mega Mall, P.S. Indirapuram, U.P. and tried to kill one Guard Rahul Mavi who sustained bullet injuries. The video of incident became viral on social media. He further disclosed the pistols were provided to him by his associate Imran," DCP added.

Bajrang Dal leader Monu Manesar arrested in Haryana

Gurugram Cow vigilante Monu Manesar, who was booked by Rajasthan Police for the murder of two Muslim men in February and is also accused of inciting communal hatred in home state Haryana, was arrested Tuesday, officials said.

He was handed over to Rajasthan Police after it obtained a transit remand for him from a court in Haryana's Nuh. The arrest was made by the Nuh police, reportedly in Gurugram's Manesar.

A pistol, three live bullets and a mobile phone were seized from Manesar, police said. They are checking if the pistol is licensed.

Nuh police said they informed neighbouring states and districts about the arrest, following standard procedure. Deeg district in Rajasthan adjoins Nuh.

Manesar, whose official name is Mohit Yadav, was accused by some of being a trigger for the July 31 episode, in which a Vishva Hindu Parishad procession was targeted by mobs in Nuh - leading to the deaths of six people in that district and neighbouring Gurugram.



However, the FIR registered by the Nuh police is related to a message he posted on social media amid plans by the VHP to take out another procession on August 28 to "resume" the disrupted yatra.

The Nuh police said the post attempted to create disharmony between groups on the basis of religion and wounded religious sentiments. It allegedly used objectionable language.

The local authorities had denied permission for this second yatra.

In Rajasthan's Deeg district, Manesar was accused of being part of a conspiracy to

abduct and kill two men after branding them cow smugglers.

In February, Nasir (25) and Junaid (35) were allegedly abducted from Rajasthan's Bharatpur district, from an area which is now part of Deeg after the state government recently created more districts.

Their bodies were found in a burnt car in Loharu in Haryana's Bhiwani the next morning.

Rajasthan Police last month said Manesar's role in hatching a conspiracy and abetting the crime was "under active investigation".

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had also told reporters that his government would provide any assistance Rajasthan Police required to nab Manesar. Bharatpur Inspector General of Police Rupinder Singh said a team from Deeg went to Nuh on Tuesday after learning about Manesar's arrest. "He was produced in the court by the Nuh police and Rajasthan Police also moved an application to seek his custody. The court granted his custody to Rajasthan Police and he is now being taken from Nuh to Deeg," he said in the evening. Earlier, Manesar was under the scanner over a video that surfaced online before the Nuh violence. Asked about the clip days later, Haryana Home Minister Anil Viji had said, "I have seen that video, nowhere is he instigating people to riot... he is asking people to join the yatra." Haryana Police, however, had said Manesar's role in the July 31 would be investigated. The Nuh case on the new social media post is being investigated by the district's cyber crime unit.

3 nabbed for Rs 4 lakh broad daylight robbery in Hauz Khas

New Delhi Three men were arrested for allegedly robbing a gas company manager of more than Rs 4 lakh in south Delhi's Hauz Khas area, police said on Tuesday.

The accused have been identified as Paras, 22, a resident of Jahangirpuri, and Karan, 23, and Arjun, 22, both residents of Mangolpuri, they said.

Paras was previously found involved in six criminal cases, Karan in one, and Arjun in several cases of armed robberies as a juvenile, police said.

The incident happened on September 4 around 2 PM in the posh south Delhi area.

The complainant in his complaint said he was going to deposit Rs 4,22,900 he had collected to a bank on his motorcycle. When he was taking a U-turn at Aurbindo Marg, he was accosted by three unknown people on a motorcycle, who snatched his bag at gunpoint and fled.

During the investigation, police visited the spot and analysed the CCTV footage of the area. It was revealed that five people were in-

accompanying the suspected persons near the place of incident, said Dr. Joy Turkey. On 08.09.23, Aamir Ansari was traced and examined. "During interrogation he initially tried to mislead the police team but later revealed a shocking truth that his brother Zarif (father of the complainant in the case) works as a property dealer in the area and was neck deep in debt. Finding no solutions to repay his debt, he along with Aamir and his friend hatched up a conspiracy of firing at his own house and name the money lenders in the FIR.

involved in the robbery, police said.

After analysing over 350 CCTV mounted along the 35-kilometre route, police concluded their search with accused entering the Gulabi Bagh area.

Police raided the area and nabbed three people. They recovered Rs 1,61,000 of the looted cash and seized two motorcycles, a senior police officer said.

Interrogation revealed that Paras was wanted in an armed robbery case of Rs 8.80 lakh at Jahangirpuri Police Station. Efforts are being made to arrest his other accomplices, they added.

Gurugram A 35-year-old man here allegedly committed suicide, recording and broadcasting the act through Instagram Live from a hotel room, police said on Tuesday.

The wife of the deceased, Vikram, has accused a woman of blackmailing him and forcing her husband to commit suicide.

According to the complaint filed by Neeru, the wife, a native of Hisar, on Monday, her husband Vikram had gone to a hotel in Sector 38 at the call of a female friend of his to celebrate her birthday. "At the hotel, my husband was forced to commit suicide and even record it on Instagram Live. She was constantly blackmailing Vikram and demanding money from him.

She had some objectionable videos of both of them which she threatened to make upload online. "She tortured Vikram twice and forced him to kill himself," Neeru said in her complaint, according to police. The couple lives with its two children in the Rajendra Park area, she said.

Following her complaint, an FIR was registered against the female friend under section 306 (abetment to suicide) of the IPC at Sadar Police Station on Monday, said police. "An FIR has been registered against Anshi, a native of Himachal Pradesh, as per the complaint. We are verifying the facts and action will be taken as per the law," said Inspector Subhash Chand, SHO, Sadar Police Station.

Woman shot at as she tries to intervene in fight involving her son

New Delhi A woman was shot at allegedly when she tried to calm down two men after they had a quarrel with her son in northwest Delhi's Bhalswa Dairy area, police said on Tuesday.

Police got information about the incident on Sunday around 11.05 pm. They reached the spot in SSN Colony, Bhalswa. The injured -- identified as Sushila Devi -- was already shifted to BJRM hospital, they



said. A case under sections 307

(attempt to murder), 506 (criminal intimidation) and 34 (common intention) of the IPC and provisions of the Arms Act was registered based on the statement of Sushila's son, a senior police officer said.

He said on Sunday around 7 pm, he, along with his friend, was present near a wine shop in Swaroop Nagar when a man, known to him, came and started fighting

with his friend.

The complainant tried to sort out the issue, but the man started abusing both of them, police said.

Later, he also called one of his friends.

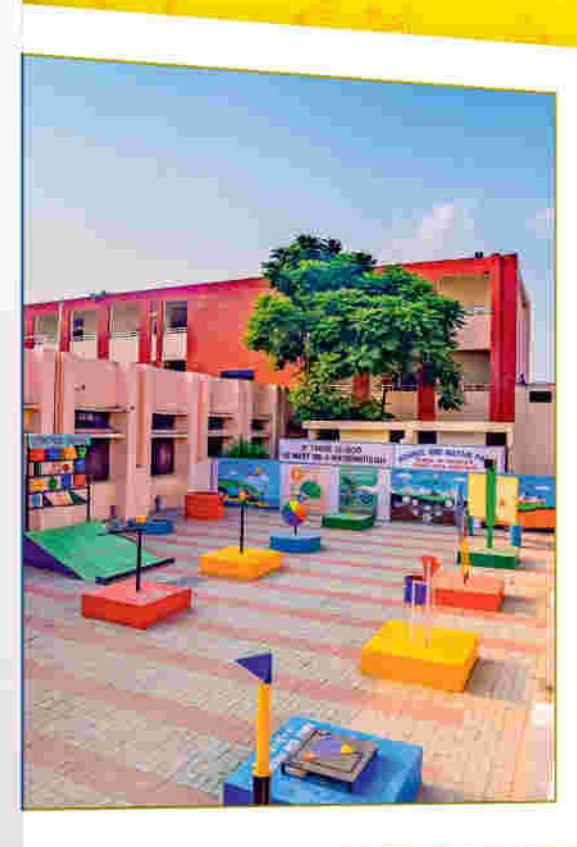
Around 9 pm, the two came in front of Sushila's house and started abusing and threatening her son. After getting to know that one of them was carrying a pistol, Sushila and her daughter

tried to calm them down, police said.

One of them fired at Sushila and fled the scene. She suffered injury on her left shoulder, following which she was rushed to BJRM hospital. Later, she was referred to LNJP Hospital, police said.

Both accused are known to the complainant. They are on the run. Efforts are being done to nab them at the earliest, police added.





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**Bhagwant Singh Mann**

Chief Minister, Punjab





# Undercurrents of a strategically vital Gulf at the G20

India's hosting of the G20 Summit this month culminated in the successful release of a consensus-led 'Delhi Declaration,' despite fears that disagreements over Ukraine could lead to a stalemate. With an Indian wish to carry as many voices from the Global South as it could, West Asian (Middle East) representation was in full force with leaders from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Türkiye, and Oman in attendance. Beyond the G20 obligations, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman (MbS), was also on a state visit. This coincided with the announcement of an India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC) along with the United States (US) as a major stakeholder.



Houthi militants that are known to have the backing of Tehran, and Western acceptance of the very idea of a nuclearised Iran, accelerated a shift in strategic thinking—one that was already underway. Amidst all this, the Gulf is increasingly seen as a beacon for global economics. While its prowess in hydrocarbons is well known, today, it is also home to 30 percent of overall container trade and 16 percent of all air cargo passage, with a geography that houses less than 6 percent of the global population.

The above trends feed into the Gulf's growing importance, making their voice and partnership invaluable for New Delhi. Both the announcement of the IMEEC and visit of MbS increase the reliance of economic security between these two geographies. The challenge, however, remains an unstable global polity and a movement towards a bi-polar world order instead of a multipolar one that countries like India, Saudi Arabia, and the

UAE seek. This challenge will be a defining one for all, with the very definition of globalisation as we have known being contested.

### The arrival of IMEEC

The announcement of the IMEEC connectivity project, currently at a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) stage, expectedly grabbed headlines as a pound-for-pound answer to China's BRI initiative. On paper, the economic and political might IMEEC wields is, indeed, impressive as it attempts to bring together countries that can or have a track record of successful collaboration. Perhaps, not surprisingly, despite being geographically distant, excitement from the administration of US President Joe Biden was the most palpable. In New Delhi, where China-led economic designs are today being openly challenged, this enthusiasm will be welcomed.

However, IMEEC will have two realities to it. A geopolitical one, and an

economic one. Connectivity projects joining India to West Asia and beyond make sense, nonetheless, successful connectivity projects in general, around the world, remain few and far between. However, much of the analysis on IMEEC since its announcement also misses some crucial points, both on the opportunities and challenges it faces. First, wisdom would be to look at IMEEC as a project that primarily feeds into the diversification of global supply chains and is not only about moving trade from one point to another. This means that it can use the political base set up by the Abraham Accords—which normalised relations between the UAE (along with others like Bahrain) and Israel—and the I2U2, a pre-existing economic initiative between India, Israel, US, and the UAE. This would round up the IMEEC more wholesomely as an umbrella institution truly building new factories for the wider Global South. Its design should also look into feeding manufacturing ca-

pacities in places such as Africa and Latin America.

The challenges for IMEEC are also palpable. To begin with, the idea for the moment is academic at best. History is littered with blueprints of connectivity projects that led nowhere. An intense political push would be needed for the IMEEC to move towards logical conclusions, considering the number of cooks in its kitchen. The two easy capitals to manoeuvre will be Washington, D.C. and New Delhi, both having bipartisan support on a requirement to break Beijing's hold on global manufacturing and, by association, supply chains. Others in the Gulf, such as Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, come from different thinking. Both are members of China's BRI initiative, and actively seek Chinese investments. The other factor when it comes to financing IMEEC is a consensus looking towards the US as a primary financial provider. However, the real wealth today lies in sovereign wealth funds in the Gulf itself, thanks to cash rich coffers due to an energy boom and maintenance of high oil prices by OPEC+, which includes Russia. These cash-rich funds look for good investments, and projects like the IMEEC, which can feed into infrastructure expertise and technologies of the West, can make itself available as a good option.

Finally, a lot of the infrastructure to kickstart this initiative is already in place. It is now up to the policy mavens and political powers to offer a consensus-led initiative to the free market as one that is attractive to global business.

From the IMEEC to Mohammed bin Salman's state visit, the week of the G20 Summit in New Delhi saw the assertion of West Asian nations as 'poles' of power in a move towards a multipolar order

The Gulf is arguably where the West versus China competition is most visible today. Events over the past decade, such as the conflict in Yemen, attack on Saudi energy facilities by

## Breaking Time Sudoku

What to do

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digit 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only correct solution.

			8					1
			7		9			3 4
1					5 2			7
9		5			8			7
		7		2			9	5
4		7	9					6
5	6		8		3			
8				7				

## Solution, Sudoku

1	9	4	6	2	3	5	7	8
5	8	2	7	1	9	3	6	4
7	6	3	5	8	4	2	9	1
9	4	6	1	3	8	7	5	2
8	1	5	2	6	7	4	3	9
3	2	7	4	9	5	8	1	6
4	3	9	8	7	6	1	2	5
6	5	1	3	4	2	9	8	7
2	7	8	9	5	1	6	4	3

## THE WISDOM TREE

BY SUVEEN KUMAR

### OBSERVE YOURSELF

If you observe yourself more often you will less often be confused. Observing yourself is not a spiritual activity, it is an individual activity. When you observe yourself you will find that people lie when they say you are unique, you will find that people butter up when they say you are wonderful, you will find that people fool you when they call you smart. When you observe yourself you will

People are not that bad as we know and we are not that good as we think, people are not that great as much you hear and we are not that weak as much we bear. Remember yourself what your strengths are and always remember what your weakness are. Knowing your strengths moves you fast and knowing your weaknesses keeps your attentive. Reverb yourself with the



find there is nothing special about you, but when you keep observing yourself you will find there is nothing ordinary about you. The water is found in the ground, not on the ground. The reason we don't observe ourselves because we find ourselves too ordinary to know or too scary to know. The people's opinion matter to you because you don't have a better opinion for yourself, the people put any label on you because you are not sure about your level, they define you because you see yourself only through their eyes.

**Moral: Observation will make you see things that you could never see by seeing.**

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# Seabed warfare, Australia, India & the Indian Ocean

Seabed warfare is now proliferating in Europe and has the potential to reach the Indian Ocean. A newly released ORF Issue Brief Indian Ocean Seabed Defence: Lessons from Europe looks at military operations in Europe that have targeted seabed cables (data and power), sensors and energy transmission and extraction infrastructure, and how Australia and India should be preparing for the seabed warfare threat.

### Seabed warfare

The Russia-Ukraine conflict and wider Russia-Europe tensions have, in part, played out on the seabed. The sabotage of the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines in September 2022 represented a return to the past, in which seabed infrastructure were targets for military operations. Three explosions were reported on 26 September 2022, which destroyed three of the four pipelines running from Russia to Germany. Nord Stream is no longer operational, exacerbating Europe's energy crisis.

Earlier, in January 2022, a communications cable servicing Norway's Svalbard Satellite Station was cut under mysterious circumstances. France also

experienced several instances of cable sabotage in 2022.

Russia is conducting surreptitious and unauthorised surveys of critical seabed infrastructure across Europe, potentially as a prelude to disruption operations. Russia's Yantar intelligence collection ship was tracked loitering off the Irish coast in August 2021 in the vicinity of the future Celtic Norse communications cable (which will connect Ireland and Norway), as well as AE-Connect—that links Ireland the United States (US). In November 2022, a Russian oceanographic ship was found loitering near offshore wind farms and an oil field in Denmark and the United Kingdom (UK). When approached by journalists at sea, masked men appeared on deck with Russian-style rifles and bullet-proof vests.

In addition to this publicly-reported Russian activity, it should be noted that all sides are playing offense in this new deep sea frontier.

Seabed infrastructure in the Indian Ocean

There is no reason to believe that the seabed warfare operations currently taking place in Europe

won't reach the Indian Ocean, should regional tensions heighten.

The Indian Ocean is a conduit for submarine cables that both connect Indian Ocean nations and send data further afield. But just as shipping is concentrated at oceanic choke points such as the Malacca Strait and Bab el-Mandeb Strait so too are submarine cables, making them vulnerable to attack at these locations.

Subsea pipelines will also be of increasing importance in the Indian Ocean, especially for India. India's Oil and Natural Gas Corporation already operates thousands of kilometres of subsea pipelines off India's west coast, connecting major fields including Mumbai High, Neelam and Heera, Bassein. Iran is currently considering extending its subsea natural gas pipeline from Oman to India, which would connect to Porbandar in Gujarat. Further, a US\$5 billion undersea United Arab Emirates-India gas pipeline was proposed in May 2023, which would also connect to Gujarat.

Australia already has extensive gas pipelines of its North West Shelf in the Indian Ocean, connecting offshore extraction facilities

to the mainland. But it will also become vulnerable to seabed warfare in new ways. Australia is prioritising establishing offshore renewable infrastructure, including offshore wind and solar farms, wave energy plants and undersea interconnectors at various sites around Australia's coast, including the Indian Ocean. Australia will soon begin exporting solar power to Singapore via the world's longest undersea high voltage direct current cable, the Sub Cable Australia-Asia PowerLink.

Seabed mining exploration is also being undertaken in the Indian Ocean, where polymetallic nodules are in abundance. Such mining will involve a whole new range of players and seabed activities.

### Indian Ocean solutions

It is clear that Australia and India share many interests in seabed security in the Indian Ocean.

This will require public discussion and debate on the implications of seabed warfare and how it should be integrated into respective Australian and Indian defence strategies. These should include governance arrangements for seabed warfare responses, capability requirements (e.g.,

vessels, unmanned and/or autonomous underwater vehicles, sensors, etc.), as well as articulating how human resources and partnerships in seabed warfare should be developed. France recently released its seabed warfare strategy in 2022, which may provide a useful model.

The Indian Ocean comprises various littoral and island nations, many of which do not possess sophisticated navies or coast guards, and there is no overarching grouping such as NATO to coordinate responses. As littoral Indian Ocean states with sophisticated navies and coast guards, Australia and India should take the lead in coordinating with less capable regional nations to monitor seabed infrastructure and develop plans for responses to disruptions. Australia and India can also assist these nations to consider seabed defence as part of regular defence reviews. Such cooperation could also include capability building in underwater domain awareness, capacity building programmes targeting seabed defence techniques, and adding seabed incident response scenarios to joint regional military exercises and drills.

As the Ukraine conflict has shown, critical seabed infrastructure is vulnerable to attack; India and Australia must make a coordinated effort to protect these assets in the Indian Ocean



# SC declines Centre's request, refers pleas against sedition law to bench of "at least" five judges

# SC extends Satyendar Jain's interim bail till September 25

**New Delhi**  
The Supreme Court on Tuesday referred to a constitution bench of at least five judges a batch of pleas challenging the constitutional validity of the IPC provision on sedition, a month after the Centre introduced in Parliament bills to replace the colonial-era penal statutes IPC, CrPC and the Evidence Act, proposing among other things the repeal of the sedition law.



The apex court declined to accept the Centre's fervent request that reference of the petitions to a larger bench be deferred as Parliament is in the process of "re-enacting" the provisions of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and a bill has been placed before a standing committee.

The court said assuming that the bill, which proposes among other things the repeal of the sedition law and introduction of a new provision with a wider definition of the offence, becomes a law, it cannot be applied with retrospective effect.

"We are not inclined to accept the request for deferring the consideration of the constitutional challenge in these batch of matters for more than one reason," said the bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud. The bench, also comprising Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra observed that

Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC continues to remain in the statute book, and even if the new bill becomes a law, there is a presumption that any new law in the penal statute will have prospective and not retrospective effect.

"Consequently, the validity of the prosecution which would be launched so long as Section 124A continues to remain in the statute, will have to be assessed on that basis," it said.

The bench while noting the request by Attorney General R Venkataramani and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to defer referring the petitions to a larger bench, said, "There is no way we can avoid looking at the constitutionality of (Section) 124A on the ground of a new law..." The bench noted the constitutional validity of Section 124A was tested by the apex court on the basis of a

challenge that it was ultra vires to Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution in the 1962 judgement of Kedar Nath Singh versus State of Bihar. Article 19(1)(a) relates to the right to freedom of speech and expression.

The 1962 judgement had upheld the constitutionality of Section 124A and held it was in harmony with Article 19(1)(a).

The bench observed it needs to be noted that when the five-judge constitution bench had ruled on the validity of Section 124A in 1962, the challenge to it on the ground that it violated Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution was tested only with respect to that Article.

It said at that time there was no challenge on the ground that Section 124A of the IPC violated Article 14 (equality before law) of the Constitution.

The top court said the ap-

propriate course of action for the three-judge bench would be to direct that the papers be placed before the CJI so the pleas could be heard by a bench of at least five judges since the 1962 decision was by a constitution bench.

"We accordingly direct the registry to place the papers before the CJI so that appropriate decision can be taken on the administrative side for the constitution of a bench of a strength of at least five judges," the court said.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for the petitioners, said the matter needs to be considered as pending prosecutions are going on under Section 124A.

Referring to the 1962 verdict, the bench observed, "We have a binding judgement of a five-judge bench." The CJI said as far as pending prosecutions under Section 124A are concerned, those will continue unless the new law says all prosecutions under this provision will lapse.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, who also represented the petitioners' side, said even if a new law comes into effect, it can't be applied retrospectively.

The bench said there is an interim order of the apex court which stays prosecution for an offence under Section 124A but it will have to decide the constitutional

point.

"So long as Kedar Nath holds the field, 124A is valid," the bench said, adding the proposed bench of five judges have to take a call on whether the 1962 verdict warrants reconsideration.

Before the court decided to refer the petitions to a bench of five judges, the two top government law officers pleaded with it to have the decision deferred. "We were to seek time on the ground that Parliament is seized of the matter. Now there is a new bill... it will have to be discussed on the floor of the House," the solicitor general said, adding the court may not like to "pre-empt" a discussion.

"As the Attorney said, I am only supplementing him. Can it not wait? It has waited (for so long). Earlier governments had very good opportunity to say what Mr Sibal right now says that it is a draconian law. But they missed that opportunity. Now the government is in the midst of correcting," Mehta said.

Sibal responded saying, "What you have proposed is more draconian. That is the unfortunate part." Mehta told the court the government was of the view that all parties should be consulted on the issue before the bill becomes law and so it has been referred to the parliamentary standing committee. Sibal insisted the court should not wait for a law

to be passed by Parliament and instead decide on Section 124A as it stands today.

"In the colonial regime, it (Section 124A) was non-cognisable. We made it cognisable for the first time in 1973," the CJI observed.

On August 11, in a landmark move to overhaul colonial-era criminal laws, the Centre had introduced in the Lok Sabha three bills to replace the IPC, CrPC and the Indian Evidence Act, proposing among other things the repeal of sedition law and introducing a new provision with a wider definition of the offence.

The top court had on May 11 last year put on hold the penal law on sedition till an "appropriate" government forum re-examined it and directed the Centre and states to not register any fresh FIR invoking the provision.

Besides the lodging of FIRs, ongoing probes, pending trials and all proceedings under the sedition law across the country will also be in abeyance, the top court had said.

The law on sedition, which provides for a maximum jail term of life under section 124A of the IPC for creating "disaffection towards the government", was brought into the penal code in 1890, a full 57 years before Independence and almost 30 years after the IPC came into being.



**New Delhi**  
The Supreme Court on Tuesday extended till September 25 the interim bail of former Delhi minister Satyendar Jain in a money laundering case.

A bench of Justices AS Bopanna and Bela M Trivedi granted the relief to Jain after Additional Solicitor General SV Raju made a request for adjournment.

Senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for Jain, also agreed to defer the matter.

The top court then postponed the matter to September 25 after extending the interim bail of the senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader.

It also directed another accused Ankush Jain to be released on interim bail for four weeks on medical grounds noting that

his child has to undergo surgery.

The top court had on May 26 granted interim bail to Jain for six weeks for spinal surgery, saying a citizen has a right to receive treatment of his choice in a private hospital at his own expense. It had extended the interim bail by five weeks on July 24.

The ED had arrested the AAP leader on May 30 last year on the charge of laundering money through four companies allegedly linked to him.

The anti-money laundering agency had arrested Jain on the basis of a CBI FIR registered against him in 2017 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. He was granted regular bail by the trial court on September 6, 2019 in the case registered by the CBI.

## SC refuses to entertain Asaram's plea for suspension of sentence in rape case

**New Delhi**  
The Supreme Court Tuesday refused to entertain a plea by disgraced self-styled godman Asaram, serving life term in a rape case, for suspension of sentence. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and SVN Bhatti told senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for Asaram, that the court is not inclined to entertain the petition and asked him to prepare for arguing the appeal before the high court against the life sentence awarded to him on April 25, 2018 by the Jodhpur trial court.

Kamat, while pleading the preacher's case, submitted he has been in jail for around 10 years and the high court has erred in not considering the aspect of his ill health.

"You should prepare for a regular appeal which is to come up for hearing before the high court," the bench said, adding it is inclined to dismiss his appeal filed against the Rajasthan High Court order of July 7, 2022. Kamat requested the court to not dismiss the appeal and said he is willing to withdraw it.

The bench then allowed him to withdraw the plea and said if Asaram's regular appeal against the conviction and sentence is not taken up for hearing expeditiously, he will be at liberty to file a fresh application for suspension of sentence before the high court.

On July 7, 2022, the high court while noting that it is Asaram's third attempt to seek suspension of sentence, had dismissed his plea saying, "...looking to the nature and gravity of the allegations, and considering the fact that the appeal itself is ripe for hearing, we are of the opinion that the appellant (Asaram) does not deserve indulgence of bail. Hence, the instant application for suspension of sentences is rejected as being devoid of merit."

## Rajnath launched 90 BRO infrastructure projects worth over Rs 2,900 crore

**■ Nechipu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh, two airfields in West Bengal, two helipads, 22 roads & 63 bridges among the projects launched**

**Staff Reporter**  
**New Delhi**  
Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday dedicated to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), worth over Rs 2,900 crore, spread across 11 States/Union Territories.

The projects were inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri at an event in Jammu on Tuesday September 12.

These include Nechipu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh; two airfields in West Bengal; two helipads; 22 roads and 63 bridges. Of these 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh; 26 in Ladakh; 11 in Jammu & Kashmir; five in Mizoram; three in Himachal Pradesh; two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand & West Bengal and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time; most of them in a single

working season using state-of-the-art technology.

In his address, the Raksha Mantri described the BRO as 'bro (brother)' of the Armed Forces, asserting that, through its infrastructure projects, BRO is not only securing India's borders, but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of the far-flung areas.

Rajnath Singh credited the timely completion of these projects to the hard work and dedication of its personnel as well as the commitment of the government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Together with BRO, we are ensuring that the nation is secure and border areas are developed. Timely completion of infrastructure projects in far-flung areas has now become the new normal of New India," he said.

The project included Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road. The state-of-the-art 422.9 meter long Class 70 RCC

Devak bridge is of strategic importance as it will enhance the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and boost socio-economic development of the region.

500-metre long Nechipu Tunnel has been constructed on Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road in Arunachal Pradesh. This tunnel, along with the under construction Sela Tunnel, will provide all-weather connectivity to the strategic Tawang Region.

The revamped Bagdogra and Barakpore Airfields in West Bengal were also dedicated to the nation.

With today's inauguration of 90 projects worth Rs 2,900 crore, a record 295 infrastructure projects of the BRO, at an overall cost of approx. Rs 8,000 crore, have been dedicated to the nation since 2021. In 2022, 103 projects worth approx. Rs 2,900 crore were inaugurated; while in 2021, 102 projects at a cost of over Rs 2,200 crore were dedicated to the nation.

## Defence Minister Rajnath Singh calls domestic defencemanufacturers to invest more in R&D for India

**■ Rajnath was addressing the North Tech Symposium, jointly organised by the Northern Command of the Indian Army, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT, Jammu**

**Staff Reporter**  
**New Delhi**  
Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has called upon the domestic defence manufacturers to invest more in Research & Development (R&D) for India to keep up pace with the continuously-evolving world.

He was addressing the North Tech Symposium, jointly organised by the Northern Command of the Indian Army, Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and IIT, Jammu on September 12, 2023.

Rajnath Singh was of the view that although R&D is a risky venture as it requires out-of-the-box thinking and sometimes does not give desired results, it still remains one of the basic elements for the development of any country. Hence, capital investment in R&D becomes a necessity, he emphasised.

"India is passing through a transitional phase. There is nothing wrong in acquiring a technology through imitation or transfer, but we cannot become a developed nation on these grounds alone. We need to file our own



patents, for which a lot of investment in R&D is needed. Capital investment in R&D may reduce today's profits, but it will prove to be beneficial to the industry and the country in the long term," Raksha Mantri said.

Rajnath Singh urged the industry partners to focus on creating a culture that encourages R&D, based on skilled human resources.

He suggested linking the work of institutes such as IITs, IIMs and IISCs with the defence sector in order to create an R&D ecosystem in the field.

He added that efforts should be made to connect with the Indian R&D sector, the engineers and scientists

who work in top universities, companies, space agencies & scientific research organisations abroad and wish to be a part of India's growth story.

He also recommended hiring of top managers, legal experts and financial experts from within the country and abroad to create a culture conducive of R&D.

The Raksha Mantri underlined that fact that to obtain the services of top talents, there is a need to create a good work culture & positive environment and adopt new HR standards.

The Raksha Mantri also exhorted SIDM to create an independent body, comprising scientists and ex-

perts from the industry, which will work with transparency and evaluate the products made by the companies.

The North Tech symposium is an event conducted annually and this year it was organised at IIT, Jammu.

The event witnessed an enthusiastic participation of around 200 Industry partners and provided an opportunity for knowledge diffusion among various stakeholders to create awareness of contemporary technologies and hardware solutions available with the manufacturers under 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology and Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Dr Jitendra Singh, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Northern Command Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi and SIDM President SP Shukla were among those present on the occasion.

## Chandrababu Naidu moves two pleas in High Court -- for bail and quashing of case

**Vijayawada**  
After a local court in Vijayawada on Tuesday rejected a house custody petition filed by TDP chief N Chandrababu Naidu, his legal team moved two pleas in the High Court -- one seeking quashing of the case and another a bail petition. They are likely to come up for hearing on Wednesday.



The former chief minister was arrested for his alleged role in a multi-crore Skill Development Corporation scam and is currently lodged at Rajamahendravaram central prison after the court in Vijayawada remanded Naidu in judicial custody for 14 days on Sunday.

On Monday, a team of lawyers headed by senior

counsel Siddharth Luthra representing Naidu had filed a petition to grant house custody to the former CM, citing threat perception.

Naidu has been a Z-plus category security protectee for several years already, with a team of NSG commandos guarding him always. The court did not permit house arrest citing secu-

rity to Naidu. The court said jail is better for security reasons.

The court had no objection to according house custody, provided Z-plus security was also being extended inside Naidu's residence.

Meanwhile, the 73-year-old former chief minister's wife Nara Bhuvaneshwari visited Naidu in prison on Tuesday and noted that she fears for Naidu's security in confinement.

"I am apprehensive of his security. I have not seen any facilities. He had to bathe with cold water," she said, saying her husband's arrest has put their family into "tough times".

However, the CID's legal team argued in the court

that adhering to orders, several steps were taken such as creating a separate and exclusive ward, special security cover, round-the-clock monitoring, video surveillance, medical team on standby and others.

CID lawyers stressed that Naidu's ward has been separated from the main prison block to ensure a sanitised area, especially considering the special security requirements of the detainee.

They also said that additional precautions were taken in accordance with the need for a special security cover for Naidu -- who was the longest serving Andhra CM -- including deploying armed guards outside the special ward.

## Saying we will not discuss 'one nation one election' is undemocratic: VP Dhankhar

**Jairpur**  
Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday said there can be agreement or disagreement on the 'one nation one election' proposal but it should be discussed in the country.

The Centre has formed a committee under the chairmanship of former president Ram Nath Kovind to explore the feasibility of 'one nation one election'. Many opposition leaders have slammed the government's move, alleging it would pose a threat to the federal structure of the country.

"You can agree or disagree with the issue of 'one nation one election', but saying that we will not discuss it is undemocratic," the vice president said at a pro-



gramme organised by Bharatpur Bar Association in Bharatpur.

Dhankhar, who is the Rajya Sabha chairman, expressed concern over disruptions in parliament and state assemblies and said that these forums should be used for discussion and dialogue.



# New industrial city to come up in Bundelkhand on the lines of Noida

Shahzad Akhtar  
Lucknow

In a landmark move, the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, gave its nod to the establishment of a new industrial city in Bundelkhand on Tuesday, drawing inspiration from the successful model of Noida.

The decision not only paves the way for the integration of Bundelkhand's districts into the broader development framework but also promises to generate an abundance of employment opportunities through infrastructural enhancements.

It is noteworthy that in Uttar Pradesh, earlier in 1976, the decision to establish the industrial city Noida was taken, and now, after 47 years, the decision has been taken to establish a new city.

Following the Cabinet meeting at Lok Bhawan, Finance and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Khanna provided a comprehensive overview of the approved proposals.

He informed, "In the meeting, under the Chief Minister Industrial Area Expansion and New Industrial Area Promotion Scheme, the



proposal to develop a new industrial township on the lines of Noida by the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority (BIDA) in Jhansi has been approved. In the first phase of the project, an industrial city will be established by acquiring 35 thousand acres of land from 33 revenue villages in Jhansi. The price of this land is Rs 6312 crore."

Suresh Khanna stated that for the establishment of the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority, a provision of 5,000 crores was made by the government in the financial year 2022-23, and this year (2023-24), a provision of 5,000 crores in the form of a loan has been made under the Chief Minister Industrial Area Expansion and New Industrial Area

ing through the Jalaun district from National Highway 27.

He said that the Bundelkhand Industrial Development Authority will boast of all the necessary facilities required for industrial establishments, including townships. Its formation will lead to the overall development of the area and the generation of employment on a large scale.

The general public will get employment opportunities while the region will be developed benefiting the residents directly. This step will also make a huge contribution to the development of the state. The government's resolve to become a one trillion economy will be achieved through this.

Meanwhile, the Yogi Cabinet has also approved the proposal to implement the Aspirational City Scheme in the 100 most backward urban bodies with a population of 20,000 to 1 lakh. Under this, projects will be implemented through conversion by getting support from the government schemes currently running in these urban bodies as well as other institutions including the Central and State Government, MP, and MLA funds.

Promotion Scheme. Of the land that will be acquired, 8,000 acres belong to the village society.

The finance minister emphasized that this is a significant step of the Yogi government. This historic decision will give accelerate the multidimensional development of Bundelkhand. The area around Jhansi will be developed on a large scale. Through this, there is a plan to develop an industrial city on a total of 14,000 hectares of land.

This industrial city is proposed on the Jhansi-Gwalior route, which will also be connected to major cities in the country through the National Highway. Besides, it will be well connected to other cities in the state through the Bundelkhand Expressway, pass-

## Cabinet nod to Uttarakhand Service sector policy

Top Story News  
Dehradun

The Uttarakhand government on Tuesday approved the formulation of a policy offering land and subsidies to investors to give a push to sectors such as healthcare, traditional medicine, education, films and media in the state.

The state cabinet in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami approved the promulgation of Uttarakhand Service Sector Policy-2023 offering land and capital subsidy to investors. Chief Secretary SS Sandhu said the promulgation of the policy will give a boost to the service sectors such as healthcare, wellness, traditional medicine, education, film, media, sports and skill education facilities like never before and its economy (barring tourism) will grow by USD 27 billion by 2030.

After the promulgation of the policy, the service sector will make a contribution of at least 40 per cent to the state GDP, he said. With this policy Uttarakhand will attract investments worth Rs 60,000 crore in the service sector by 2030.

The state has set a target of getting investments worth Rs 45,000 crore before 2027, Sandhu said. 20 lakh people will get employment in the service sector and the skills of 10 lakh workers will be developed. Land and capital subsidy will be given un-

The state cabinet in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami approved the promulgation of Uttarakhand Service Sector Policy-2023 offering land and capital subsidy to investors.

der the policy to investors who invest in the service sector, he said.

The cabinet also decided to set up an Auli Development Authority to prepare a plan for developing the picturesque town in Chamoli district as a major skiing destination and implementing it, Sandhu said.

It also decided to take consultancy services from INI Design Studio Pvt Ltd for preparing the conceptual design, detailed design DPR etc of special type of statues and artworks to be installed in Kedarnath and Badrinath.

### EASTERN RAILWAY

Open e-Tender Notice for E-Tender No. EL-MLDT-E-Tender-262, dated 11.09.2023. Open e-tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway, Malda Town Office Building, P.O. Jhajhala, Dist. Malda, Pin-732102 (W.B.) from firms/Agencies/Contractors of repute having experienced and financial solvency for the following works : Tender No. : EL-MLDT-e-Tender-262. Name of Work : Electrical work in c/w 'Improvement of road, development of garden with park, tree plantation work at Malda Town Railway Colony'. Tender Value : ₹ 70,87,000.95. Earnest Money : ₹ 1,41,800/-. Cost of tender document : Nil. Date & time for submission of e-tender: From 16.09.2023 to 13.00 hrs. of 30.09.2023. Website particulars & Notice Board : Website www.irops.gov.in Notice board : Sr. DEE (G), Eastern Railway, Malda Town's office. Tenderers are requested to go through the detailed Tender Notice & document on the website www.irops.gov.in. No manual offer will be accepted in any circumstances. (MLD-57/2023-24) Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.e-indianrailways.gov.in / www.irops.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-26-T-2023-24-E3 ELECTRICAL WORK IN CONNECTION WITH INSTALLATION OF RENEWABLE PLANTS OVER DELHI DIVISION WITH GCMC OF 03 YEARS.
Approx cost of the works in	Rs. 231.87 Lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Bid Security	Rs. 265900.00
Date & time of submission of tender	05.10.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	05.10.2023, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & Notice board	www.irops.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2816/23	

## Provided 36,097 govt jobs to youth in first 18 months: Punjab CM



Chandigarh

Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann on Tuesday said the AAP government has given 36,097 jobs to the youth of Punjab in the first 18 months of its tenure.

Mann said merit and transparency are the twin pillars based on which jobs have been given to the youth across the state.

He was speaking at a function where he handed over recruitment letters to 249 youths for various posts, including 191 in Local Government Department, 25 in Animal Husbandry, 24 in Cooperation and nine in Technical Education.

On youths moving abroad in search of jobs, the chief minister said the trend started in the state due to the poor performance of the previous governments.

He said these leaders never bothered to give jobs to the youth of the state and due to this, youngsters preferred to migrate to foreign lands.

However, the AAP government reversed the brain

drain and created numerous job opportunities for the youth, he added.

A former finance minister kept saying repeatedly for nine years that the state coffers were empty, Mann said without naming anyone.

"When a finance minister says that the coffers are empty, then it demoralises the youth who feel they will not get opportunities," he said.

"Did I ever say for the past 18 months that the coffers are empty? Yes, there are leakages that we have plugged. We never say that coffers are empty," said Mann. He said the newly recruited youths should ensure maximum welfare of the public so that every section of society is benefited.

The chief minister further said the state government will launch 'Schools of Eminence' on Wednesday.

The first such school set up in the state will be dedicated to people. These state-of-the-art schools will act as a catalyst in providing quality education to the students, he said.

## Priyanka, Sukhu share agony of the disaster victims in Deori

■ My family being Himachali, will raise the voice at the Centre



Rajan Punchhi  
MANDI

AICC leader Priyanka Gandhi and HP Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday took stock of the damage caused by the disaster in Deori village of Drang assembly constituency in Mandi district. During this, the MP and State Congress President Pratibha Singh, State Congress in-charge Rajeev Shukla and former ministers Kaul Singh Thakur and Prakash Chaudhary remained with him.

They met the victims there and shared their grief and pain and gave them courage and assured them of all possible help.

They also inspected the damage caused to the building of Senior Secondary School Deori.

Priyanka Gandhi said that she has come to Himachal considering it as her duty as a family member to share the pain and suffering of her relatives and effort is that the

problems faced by the people due to the disaster should be solved soon.

Mrs. Gandhi said that we will all overcome this disaster by working together, united, helping each other, moving forward holding hands. He expressed happiness over the fact that while coming here, some women met him on the way and told that they have been helping in the road restoration work by volunteering for the last 10 days. Mrs. Gandhi said that this spirit of uniting and facing the disaster is the great strength of the people here. She said that the people of Himachal are her family and she will raise the voice of the state before the Central Government and try to solve the problems of the people.

He demanded the Central Government to declare Himachal as a national disaster state. He said that instead of doing politics over the huge loss caused in Himachal, the Central Gov-

ernment should help Himachal generously so that relief can be provided to as many affected people as possible.

He said that during this disaster, the Chief Minister of Himachal and his cabinet members worked day and night among the people, understood their pain and suffering and provided them all possible help.

Sukhu said that the Hi-

## Priyanka urges centre to declare HP's calamity as National Disaster

Loveleen/ Sushil  
Kullu/ Shimla

Indian National Congress General Secretary, Priyanka Gandhi along with Chief Minister, Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Tuesday visited the calamity hit areas of the Kullu district and interacted with the disaster affected people. Both the leaders visited Sangam Bridge on the confluence of River Parvati and Beas at Bhuntar and at Potato ground at Manali, the areas badly devastated by the fury of floods triggered by torrential rains.

The people narrated their woes with the INC General Secretary and lauded the efforts of the State Government in providing timely

relief to the affected, besides the personal efforts of the Chief Minister and his cabinet colleagues, who monitored the relief and rescue operations on the spot day and night.

Priyanka Gandhi, while interacting with the media at Manali, lauded the efforts of the people of the State who had come forward in this hour of distress by voluntarily contributing towards the Aapda Rahat Kosh to help the affected population. She said that the people of Himachal have set an example for the Nation by uniting and coming to the forefront to help the affected families. She also lauded the efforts of the Chief Minister and his Cabinet col-

leagues who were on the spot for more than three days monitoring the relief and rescue operations.

She said that though the State Government was doing far beyond from its limited resources to provide succour to the affected families, however, without the assistance of the Union Government it was rather difficult to bring normalcy and renovation works besides providing aid to the people.

She said that during such difficult times, the Central Government should not discriminate between the States on party lines. It becomes the duty of the Union Government to provide aid in such circumstances, analyzing the impact of the dis-

aster. She said that the Centre should declare such a massive catastrophe as a 'National Disaster' and should immediately come forward for the help of the affected.

Even the farmers and horticulturalists of the State have suffered enormous losses and the Centre should pay heed towards their plight as well. Some big industrial houses, dealing in fruit marketing, have reduced the price of the apple crop thereby causing losses to the horticulturalists. The centre has also reduced the import duty on the Washington apple, which will also directly affect the horticulturalists of the State, thereby causing losses to them.

**SHIRAM Finance Limited**

Head Office: Level-3, Wockhardt Towers, East Wing C-2 Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai 400 051, Tel: 022 4241 0400, 022 4060 3100 | Website: http://www.shiramfinance.in | Registered Off.: Sri Towers, Plot No.14A, South Phase Industrial Estate, Guindy, Chennai 600 032. Branch Off: L1 & L2 Above SBI Bank, Gurudwara Road, Green Park Extension, New Delhi - 110016

**APPENDIX-IV-A [SEE PROVISION TO RULE 8 (5) & 9 (1)] AUCTION NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES**

NOTE: It is informed that "SHIRAM CITY UNION FINANCE LIMITED" has been amalgamated with "SHIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" as per order of NCLT, Chennai. Subsequently the name of "SHIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE LIMITED" was changed as "SHIRAM FINANCE LIMITED" with effect from 30.11.2022 vide Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to change of name dated 30-11-2022.

E-Auction Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 9(1) of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s that the below described immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Shriram Finance Limited. The physical possession of which have been taken by the Authorized Officer of Shriram Finance Limited (Earlier known as Shriram City Union Finance Limited) will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" basis in e-auction on 30-09-2023 between 11 AM to 1 PM for recovery of the balance due to the Shriram Finance Limited from the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, as mentioned in the table. Details of the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s, amount due, short description of the immovable property and encumbrances known thereon, possession type, reserve price and earnest money deposit and increment are also given as:

Name of Borrowers/Co-Borrowers/Guarantors/Mortgagors	Date & Amount of 13(2) Demand Notice	Description of Property	Reserve Price (Rs.) & Bid Increment	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Details	Date & Time of Auction	Contact Person and Inspection date
1) M/S ASHOKA METAL WORK & CO. (Borrower) Rep by its Proprietor, Khasra No. 86/3/2/4, Industrial Area, Street No. 7, Mundka, New Delhi - 110041.	2nd August 2022 Rs. 1.86, 67,315/- (Rupees One Crore Eighty Six Lakhs Sixty Seven Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen Only) as on 29.07.2022	Entire Lower Ground Floor, without roof rights of property bearing No. 9, measuring 279.55 Sq. Yds. Road No. 32, Punjabi Bagh (East) New Delhi which is bounded as: East: Road West: Service Lane North: Plot No. 11 South: Plot No. 7	Rs. 1,75,95,000/- (Rupees One Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Ninety Five Thousand Only) Bid Increment: Rs.25,000/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand Only) and in such multiples	EMD amount to be deposited by way of RTGS/ NEFT to the account details mentioned herein below in favour of Shriram Finance Limited	30th Sept. 2023 Time: 11.00 a.m. to 01.00 PM.	Ved Prakash Mishra +91 9910144252 Mr. Deb Jyothi 91 9874702021
2) Late Raj Kumar Gupta (Co-Borrower/Guarantor) Rep by Legal Heirs, (a) Mr. Rachit Gupta (b) Mrs. Sushma Gupta All resident of 9, Ground Floor, 32, East -Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi -110041.	Rs. 62,70,401/- (Rupees Sixty Two Lakhs Seventy Thousand Four Hundred One Only) as on 29.07.2022			BANK NAME- AXIS BANK LIMITED BRANCH - DR. RADHAKRISHNAN SALAI, MYLAPORE, CHENNAI		Mr. Hardeep Sabharwal +91 9654965496
3) Mrs. Sushma Gupta (Co-Borrower/Guarantor) 9, Ground Floor, 32, East -Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi - 110041.				BANK ACCOUNT NO- Current Account No. 006010200067449 IFSC CODE - UTIB0000006		Property Inspection Date: 27th September 2023 Time 11.00 a.m. to 04.00 p.m.
4) Mr. Rachit Gupta (Co-Borrower/Guarantor) 9, Ground Floor, 32, East -Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi -110041	Loan Account No. RSSDLTF1807060 009 RSSDLTF1807300 001			Last Date for Submission of EMD: 29th September, 2023 Time 10.00 a.m. to 05.00 p.m		

Date of Possession & Possession Type  
21st March, 2023  
Physical Possession  
Encumbrances known  
Not Known

STATUTORY 15 DAYS NOTICE UNDER RULE 9 (1) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002  
The borrower/mortgagors/guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with up to dated interest and ancillary expenses before the date of e-auction i.e. 30-09-2023, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold and balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest and cost.  
The Authorized Officer reserves the right to reject any or all bids without furnishing any further reasons. The online auction will be conducted on website (https://www.disposalhub.com) of our auction agency NEXSEN SOLUTION PVT. LTD. and for the place of Tender Submission/for obtaining the bid form / Tender open & Auction, please visit the website https://www.disposalhub.com and for detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer to the link http://www.shriramfinance.in/auction provided in the Shriram Finance Limited website.  
Note - Borrowers are requested to kindly remove their movable assets on 11/09/2023 from the property which is in Shriram Finance Ltd Possession  
Place : DELHI  
Date : 13-09-2023  
Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Shriram Finance Limited



# Libyan city buries 700 people killed in devastating floods as 10k reported missing

**Cairo**  
Libya's eastern city of Derna has buried 700 people killed in devastating flooding and 10,000 were reported missing as rescuer teams struggled to retrieve many more bodies from the horrific deluge, officials said Tuesday. Mediterranean storm Daniel on Sunday night caused havoc and flash flooding in many towns in eastern Libya but the worst destruction was in Derna, where heavy rainfall and floods broke dams and washed away entire neighbourhoods, authorities said.

"The situation is catastrophic," said Othman Abduljaleel, the health minister in Libya's eastern government. "The bodies are still lying on the ground in many parts (of the city). Hospitals



are filled with bodies. And there are areas we have yet to reach." Authorities estimated earlier that as many as 2,000 people may have perished in Derna alone. The Ambulance and Emergency Authority, which coordinates search and rescue efforts, said about 2,300 people died in Derna but did not clarify

what that figure was based on. Tamer Ramadan, Libya envoy for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said 10,000 people were missing after the unprecedented flooding. Speaking to reporters at a UN briefing in Geneva via videoconference

from Tunisia, he said the death toll was "huge" and expected to reach into the thousands in the coming days. Referring to Friday's devastating earthquake in Morocco, on the other side of North Africa, Ramadan said the situation in Libya was "as devastating as the situation in Morocco".

Ossama Hamad, prime minister of the government in eastern Libya, said that many of the missing were believed to have been carried away after two upstream dams burst. He said the devastation in Derna is far beyond the capabilities of his country.

After more than a decade of chaos, Libya remains divided between two rival administrations: one in the east and one in the west, each

backed by different militias and foreign governments. The conflict has left the oil rich North African country with crumbling and inadequate infrastructure.

Derna was declared a disaster zone and more bodies were still under the rubble in the city's neighbourhoods, or washed away to the sea, according to Abduljaleel, the health minister.

Residents posted videos online showing major devastation. Entire residential blocks were erased along Wadi Derna, a river that runs down from the mountains through the city centre. Multi-story apartment buildings that once stood well back from the river were partially collapsed into mud.

Abduljaleel said the city was inaccessible and bodies were scattered all over, ac-

ording to Libya's state-run news agency. "The situation was more significant and worse than we expected...An international intervention is needed," he was quoted as saying.

Emergency responders, including troops, government workers, volunteers and residents were digging through rubble to recover the dead. They also used inflatable boats to retrieve bodies from the water. Excavators and other equipment have yet to arrive in Derna.

Many residents described scenes of chaos when floods hit the centre. They heard loud explosions at night and realised that dams outside the city collapsed, sending a wall of water that "erased everything in its way," said Ahmed Abdalla, a Derna resident.

## Putin says prosecution of Trump shows US political system is 'rotten'



**Vladivostok**  
Russian President Vladimir Putin asserted Tuesday that the criminal cases against former US President Donald Trump are political revenge that show the fundamental corruption of the United States.

"As for the prosecution of Trump, for us what is happening in today's conditions, in my opinion, is good because it shows the rottenness of the American political system, which cannot pretend to teach others democracy," Putin said at an Eastern Economic Forum gathering in Russia's Pacific Coast city of Vladivostok.

sive to the Russian leader. Trump has claimed he could resolve the conflict in Ukraine in a matter of days, if he regains the presidency. He has not provided details of his potential approach.

"We hear that Mr. Trump says that he will solve pressing problems in a few days, including the Ukrainian crisis. Well, this cannot but bring happiness. This is good," Putin said.

However, the Russian leader said his country's poor relations with the United States were unlikely to change significantly regardless of who becomes president.

"What to expect from the future, no matter who the president is, it's hard for us to say, but it's unlikely that anything will change radically," Putin said.

He claimed the Biden administration has instilled a strong bias against Russia and "it will be very difficult for them to somehow turn this whole ship" in the other direction.

Russia also is due to have a presidential election in 2024. Putin hedged Tuesday when asked if he would seek another term after being in power, as president or prime minister, since 2000.

## Israeli SC hears first challenge to Netanyahu's contentious judicial overhaul

**Jerusalem**  
Israel's Supreme Court on Tuesday opened the first case to look at the legality of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's contentious judicial overhaul deepening a showdown with the far-right government that has bitterly divided the nation and put the country on the brink of a constitutional crisis.

In a sign of the case's significance, all 15 of Israel's Supreme Court justices are hearing appeals to the law together for the first time in Israel's history. A regular panel is made up of three

justices, though they sometimes sit on expanded panels. The proceedings were also being live-streamed.

The law, which the Israeli parliament passed in July, cancels the court's ability to strike down government decisions it deems to be unreasonable. It is the first piece of the wider plan by Netanyahu's government to weaken the Supreme Court and give more power to the governing coalition.

The protesters have come largely from the country's secular middle class. Leading high-tech business figures have threatened to relocate.

## 2 Indo-Canadian Sikhs sentenced for role in murder of man over drug debt

**London**  
Two 24-year-old Indo-Canadian Sikhs have been sentenced for their roles in the 2019 targeted killing of a man in British Columbia over a drug debt, according to a media report.

Andrew Baldwin, 30, was stabbed to death on November 11, 2019, while he watched a movie with a friend in a basement apartment.

Jagpal Singh Hothi, now 24, was charged with first-degree murder but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter and was sentenced to three years in prison, with about 3 1/2 months' credit for pretrial



time served, Justice Martha M. Devlin wrote in the British Columbia Supreme Court judgments, the Vancouver Sun reported on Monday.

Jasman Singh Basran, also 24, who tried to get rid of evidence, was charged with be-

ing an accessory after the fact but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of obstruction of justice. He was sentenced to 18 months to be served as a conditional sentence, meaning under curfew in his own home, the report added.

Earlier this summer, Devlin sentenced a third man, Jordan Bottomley, who was found to have stabbed Baldwin six times, once fatally in the heart, in a bloody attack that was over in less than 90 seconds.

He also pleaded guilty to manslaughter after being charged with first-degree murder. His sentence of eight years was reduced to three years and 38 days after sub-

tracting the pre-trial custody credit.

A fourth person, Munroop Hayer, who was not present at the killing, has been charged with first-degree murder and has yet to face trial.

Devlin wrote in the three separate judgments how Bottomley, Hothi and Baldwin worked for a fourth man in the local drug trade. Hothi was asked by that fourth man to pick up Bottomley and drive him to collect on a drug debt that Baldwin owed.

Hothi called his friend, Basran, who had a truck, to do the driving, without telling Basran where they were going.

## BUSINESS

### Apple TV+ is now available on Tata Play Binge

**Chandigarh**  
Starting today, your OTT entertainment gets a major upgrade with Apple TV+ coming to Tata Play Binge. Tata Play Binge subscribers will get access to Apple TV+'s award-winning original series and films, in addition to 26+ other apps that are already a part of the aggregated platform.

Commenting on the partnership, Tata Play's Chief Commercial and Content Officer, Pallavi Puri said, "This collaboration with Apple TV+ is a testament to our commitment to bring to our viewers the very best of content in the world. Apple TV+ features premium, high-quality series and films that are available across devices for all kinds of viewers."

### Hair Raiserz Luxe Salon launched in Sector-40C, Chandigarh

**Chandigarh**  
In this age of social media, looks are very important. To enhance the look, a new salon outlet accessible to everyone - Hair Raiserz Luxe Salon, was launched today at SCO 77, Sector 40C, Chandigarh. The salon was inaugurated by Hindi-Punjabi songwriter and music composer, Jaani (Rajeev Kumar).

Hair Raiserz Luxe Salon is the brainchild of Mr. Munish Bajaj. Owing to his determination, hard work and excellent entrepreneurial skills, this venture came into existence in 2004 with its first exquisite salon, known as Hair Raiserz Luxe Salon. However, Tress Lounge was launched a year before. Both the salon chains are owned by Mr. Bajaj. Tress Lounge is a luxury salon, while Hair Raiserz Luxe is a budget salon with a luxurious ambience.

Mr. Munish Bajaj, Founder, Hair Raiserz Luxe & Tress Lounge said, "Both the salons are pioneers in the personal care segment and have changed the face



of the North Indian hair-dressing industry. We use Kerastase, Loreal and Matrix products and offer skin, beauty, hair, makeup, and nail art services, just to name a few. We have a well-trained staff of 700 people across all the salons.

Currently, Mr. Bajaj runs more than 40 salon outlets in North India which are generating employment as well. His hair care academy ensures placement for the trainees. Even, financial assistance is provided to the trainees if any of them wants to open a private salon. He said that his plan is to open more salons pan India.

# Nitin Gadkari bats for 10 pc additional GST on diesel cars

**New Delhi**  
Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari on Tuesday spoke of the need to levy an additional 10 per cent tax on diesel vehicles to help cut emissions, but later clarified that there was no proposal under government consideration to impose such a tax.

Speaking at the annual convention of automobile manufacturers body SIAM, Gadkari said rising pollution level is a serious health concern and there is a case for increasing taxes to dissuade sale of diesel vehicles.

"I am requesting the Finance Minister to impose an additional 10 per cent GST on diesel engines/vehicles. This is the only way to phase out diesel vehicles," he said, indicating a meeting was scheduled with the Finance Minister for handing over a letter he had drafted on the issue.

But soon after he took to X, formerly known as Twitter, to clarify the government's position.



"It is essential to clarify that there is no such proposal currently under active consideration by the government," he said in a post on X, referring to media reports quoting him as suggesting an additional 10 per cent GST on diesel vehicles.

He emphasised that there was a need to embrace cleaner fuels to cut emissions.

"In line with our commitments to achieve Carbon Net Zero by 2070 and to reduce air pollution levels caused by hazardous fuels like diesel,

as well as the rapid growth in automobile sales, it is imperative to actively embrace cleaner and greener alternative fuels. These fuels should be import substitutes, cost-effective, indigenous, and pollution-free," he said on X.

At the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) convention, he had warned that the government would increase taxes so much that it would become difficult to sell diesel vehicles.

Most of the commercial vehicles in the country cur-

rently run on diesel.

In the passenger vehicle segment, various carmakers including Maruti Suzuki India and Honda have already stopped manufacturing diesel cars.

Gadkari said the contribution of diesel cars has already come down drastically in the country and the manufacturers need to stop selling them in the market.

The minister also highlighted that India is utilising a major portion of fossil fuels in the transport sector which is posing a big economic as well as pollution challenge.

He suggested alternatives such as biofuels, ethanol and green hydrogen in addition to electric vehicles.

At the SIAM annual convention, the minister said the country is making good roads across the country, which is leading to the growth of the automobile industry.

"The auto industry is growing at 15-18 per cent and it is also leading to enhanced usage of fossil fuels. If this goes on like this, you (companies)

will be happy, but pollution will make the people of this country sad. So quickly leave petrol, diesel. Please focus on alternatives, this is my request to you," Gadkari said.

He further said, "I will request the finance minister for 10 per cent pollution tax as additional GST on all such engines utilising diesel, from generator sets to vehicle engines." Seeking cooperation from the auto industry, Gadkari said, "I think you will not force me to push this proposal... this is the appropriate time, it is not rocket science, this is already everywhere in the world... so I will request you all to take suo moto initiative and cooperate with us in moving away from diesel/petrol, this is my humble request." Terming diesel as a hazardous fuel, he noted that the country has to import the fuel to meet the demand.

"Say goodbye to diesel... Please stop making them, otherwise, we will just increase the tax so much that it would become difficult to sell diesel cars" Gadkari said.

### Volvo showcases its Born-Electric Car C40 Recharge in Chandigarh

**Chandigarh**  
Volvo Car India showcased its born Electric Car-C40 Recharge in Chandigarh at Krishna Volvo Chandigarh. Volvo Car's core offerings of safety and luxury form an integral part of C40 Recharge.

The much-awaited C40 Recharge is available at an introductory ex-showroom price of INR 61,25,000. Bookings for the C40 Recharge are exclusively online and can be done on the Volvo Car India Website.

This is the second EV from Volvo in India and will be assembled at the Company's plant at Hosakote in Bengaluru, Karnataka and it comes with an 11 kW charger. "Our discerning customers have been keenly waiting for the C40 Recharge and it is indeed a pleasure to introduce this car to them today.

# Time is the Currency to be spent wisely: Naresh Arora

**Chandigarh**  
The Punjab and Himachal chapters of Business Network International (BNI) celebrated its Members Day in Amritsar. Ace political strategist and DesignBoxed co-founder Naresh Arora was invited as Guest of Honour and Key Note speaker at the event.

Delivering his key-note address, Arora emphasized on the value of time and discipline in life. Arora also shared his life-story and the

success-tale of his company DesignBoxed. He said, "The concept of time has taken on new dimensions in this competitive world as time is no longer just a chronological marker but also a valuable currency that can be invested wisely to yield remarkable returns. Concept of time being money has never been more relevant than today. Just as we spend money judiciously to buy comforts and luxuries in life, we must invest our time carefully to



reap substantial rewards. Unlike money, however, time

is not a renewable asset. Once spent, it cannot be regained. This scarcity makes it crucial to allocate time thoughtfully to activities that align with our goals, values, and aspirations."

A short film about Journey of Naresh Arora and DesignBoxed was also shown on the big screen which left the audience awestruck as people were glued to seats while watching the inspiring journey of the eminent political strategist.

Arora in his speech also emphasized that true worth of time becomes evident when it is combined with discipline, perseverance, and consistency. He asserted that these virtues are not only essential for personal growth but also for achieving professional success.

Citing his own example, Arora said that discipline and perseverance turned DesignBoxed from a 20 people enterprise to a 1000 people company.

He asserted that athletes provide a compelling example of the power of consistency. A dedicated athlete follows a rigorous training routine day in and day out, gradually building strength, endurance, and skill. This consistency ultimately leads to improved performance and, in some cases, record-breaking achievements.

Meanwhile BNI is amongst the biggest collaboration of the Business Networking Individuals with

more than 56,000 members country-wide working across business spheres. Prominent personalities including DesignBoxed Co-Founder and Director Gunjeet Kaur, Amit Dilawari attended the event organized by senior BNI leadership including Akhilesh Hora, Anant Chawla, Sachin Mehra, Vriti Seth Dua and CEO for Member's Day Event, Amit Sharma. All of them also shared their experience with the audience.





# Wellalage, Asalanka run through star-studded India on turning track

Colombo

Sri Lankan duo of Dunith Wellalage and part-timer Charith Asalanka spun a web around the Indian batters on a turning track, restricting them to a sub-par 213 in their Asia Cup Super 4 match here on Tuesday.

Left-arm spinner Wellalage (5/40), all of 20, and offie Asalanka (4/18) knifed through the star-studded line-up after India opted to bat.

But before spinners exploited the generous turn and grip on the Premadasa pitch, India started their innings in a blazing fashion.

Rohit Sharma, who made 53 off 48 balls, added 80 runs for the opening wicket with Shubman Gill (19), and that remained the brightest phase of Indian innings.

Watching Rohit and Gill adding those runs in just 12 overs rekindled the memories of India's blitz against Pakistan on Monday, when they posted a massive 356 for two.

During his innings, the Indian captain also went past a significant personal milestone, becoming the sixth Indian batsman to score 10,000 runs in ODIs.

The landmark came in a befitting fashion too, as Rohit lifted pacer Kasun Rajitha over his head for a majestic six. Other Indian batsmen to reach the



mark are: Sachin Tendulkar, Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid, Virat Kohli and MS Dhoni. Indeed, a magnificent company to be in! However, the introduction of Wellalage changed the whole complexion of the game as the spinner halted Indian batsmen's charge.

Gill was the first to go. The opener played a forward defence without entirely covering the line and once the ball beat his bat, Gill's fate was sealed.

Wellalage, a former under-19 captain of his country, then went on to show why he has been spoken so highly in Lankan cricketing circles.

He bowled a straight, quick delivery and Rohit could not bring his bat down on time, as the ball rearranged his timber.

But Wellalage wasn't finished yet. He added the wickets of Virat Kohli (3), KL Rahul (39), who added 63 runs

with Ishan Kishan (33) for the fourth wicket, and Hardik Pandya (5) to his kitty for his maiden five-wicket haul in ODI cricket.

None of the following batsmen also could effectively negate the uneven bounce and turn on the pitch, as Asalanka wreaked havoc.

His delivery to dismiss Ravindra Jadeja would carry a lot of repeat value. The ball reared from the length, turned and bounced viciously to take an edge of Jadeja's bat before nestling in stumper Kusal Mendis' gloves.

Now, the Indian spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Jadeja will have to replicate the performance of their Lankan counterparts.

For India, a win against Lanka will assure them a place in the final with four points.

A defeat will not harm India, but they will need a victory against Bangladesh on Friday.

Their current NRR of +4.56, which will dip a bit if they lose this match, too might come handy in the event of an equation tussle with Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

If India will have to split points on Tuesday after a washout, then they will enter the final with three points, awaiting either Lanka or Pakistan in the summit clash.

## Chahal bags 3/63 County Championship debut for Kent



Kent

India leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal has made an impressive start to his County Championship stint with Kent, claiming three wickets against Nottinghamshire in a Division One fixture here on Tuesday. Snubbed by the national selectors for the ongoing Asia Cup and the upcoming World Cup, the 33-year-old returned 29-10-63-3. Chahal dismissed Nottinghamshire batters Matthew Montgomery, Lyndon James and Calvin Harrison to help his side bowl out their opponents for 265 as Kent took a first innings lead of 181 on the penultimate day of the four-day contest.

For his first wicket, Chahal cleaned up James with a superb leg break delivery which knocked down the batter's off-stump. Earlier this season, Kent had signed up India pacer Arshdeep Singh who played five matches and took 13 wickets.

Chahal has been a regular member of the Indian T20 side but has not played ODI cricket since January this year. His last assignment with the Indian team was in their five-match T20I series against the West Indies. The leg-spinner signed up with Kent for three County matches, at home against Nottinghamshire and Lancashire and for an away fixture against Somerset.

## Babar Azam bags third ICC Men's Player of the Month award

Karachi

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam claimed the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for the third time, bagging the award for August 2023. Babar who currently sits comfortably at the summit of the ODI rankings continued to impress with bat in the month of August.

His richness of form was reflected in his performances as he struck two fifties and a century. In Pakistan's ODI series against Afghanistan, Babar struck two fifties in the final two matches. He brought up a 118-run stand with Imam-ul-Haq in the second ODI that laid the foundation for a thrilling last-over finale. Babar contributed 53 runs with the bat and was backed by Imam (91 runs) and the lower order.

Babar didn't stop there, he replicated his performance in the 3rd ODI with his exquisite knock of 60. His sublime batting skills were on display in the Asia Cup opener against Nepal. Babar's knock of 151 made him the first captain in the Asia Cup to score 150 or more than that. "I am delighted to be named ICC Player of the Month for August 2023. The past month has been extraordinary for my team and I have put some terrific performances. With the Asia Cup coming to Pakistan after such a long time, it was great to play in front of the passionate and cricket-loving crowds of Multan and Lahore. That I scored my second ODI score of 150-plus in front of my own people in Multan doubled the joy," Babar said as

quoted from ICC.

"I am looking forward to making the most of the form as we head into an exciting phase of cricket with the backend of the Asia Cup nearing and the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup around the corner. My team and I are eager to bring joy and happiness to the millions of Pakistan fans," Babar added. The versatile Pakistan skipper will be back in action in the Asia Cup Super Four against Sri Lanka on Thursday.



death overs, supported by Divyansh Rajput (10) to place the Meerut Mavericks at 176/6 in 20 overs. In response, the Noida Super Kings accumulated 48 runs for the loss of an aggressive Manish Solanki (21) to Yuvraj Yadav and Saubhagya (10) to Yash Garg by the end of six overs. While Noida fell behind the required run rate, stand-in captain, Samarth Singh (45) looked intent on taking the Noida Super Kings home, he put on a 33-run partnership with Manu Kashyap (5) scoring 28 runs before Manu Kashyap was dismissed by Yuvraj Yadav as well. Following this, the dangerous Aditya Sharma (1) departed for just one run to Yogendra Doyla, leaving them at 75/4 in 10.1 overs. Noida's prospects further dwindled as the 14th over from Vishal Chaudhary saw the demise of Prashant Veer (13) and the run-out of Osho Mohan (2). The very next over proved fatal as Samarth Singh perished to become Doyla's second scalp of the night. With three wickets in hand Noida faced an insurmountable challenge ahead of them, falling inevitably short at 134/10 in 17.5 overs. Tarun Pawadia's unbeaten knock of 22 runs in 12 balls proved to be solely consolatory.

his first half-century of the tournament in just 31 balls comprising four fours and four sixes before he fell to Shiven Malhotra, leaving Meerut at 125/3 in 12.4 overs. Coming in at number five, Rajeev Chaturvedi (3) didn't have much of an impact, scalped by R Divedi to bring Yash Garg to the crease. Just as Madhav Kaushik completed his 35-ball half-century, he was brilliantly caught and bowled by Prashant Veer in the 18th over. However, Yash Garg ignited a fiery contribution of 25 runs in 13 deliveries in the



into consideration performances in the first match of the IWC series between England and Sri Lanka.

England opener Emma Lamb has gained seven positions to reach 42nd position among batters and Sarah Glenn is up eight places to 64th after finishing with three wickets in the match at Chester-le-Street that their team won by seven wickets. Left-arm seamer Mahika Gaur has entered the rankings in 141st position after being named 'player of the match' for her haul of three for 26 while other debutant Lauren Filer takes 143rd position, also finishing with a three-wicket haul.

## I was initially nervous, says KL Rahul on his comeback match

Colombo

Returning to action after a long injury layoff, India wicketkeeper batter KL Rahul says he was a bundle of nerves and it took him some time to settle down before going for his shots against a quality Pakistan attack in the Asia Cup in Colombo.

The 31-year-old, who had suffered a debilitating thigh injury during the IPL which later necessitated a surgery, smashed an unconquered 106-ball 111 to play a vital role in India's massive 228-run win over Pakistan on Monday.

"Obviously, this is my first international match after a long time. I played a couple of practice games, but we all know the intensity is not the same. So when I walked in, I had that initial nervousness," Rahul told Star Sports after his sixth ODI hundred.

"It took me 10-15 balls to just calm myself down and get my feet moving, get my mind thinking of the right things. Then, when I hit one or two boundaries, all those things, the foggy-ness in your clarity, went away, and it became like before." Rain interruptions made things further difficult as Rahul and Virat Kohli (122 not out) had to restart the India innings, which was suspended on Sunday because of rain, at 147 for two in 24.1 overs.

"I was looking at the ball, looking at the situation, and you see what you have to do. But just when I got my rhythm,



it started raining...and I had to wait for a whole day," Rahul said.

"Today we came back and had to wait for the innings to start. So I had to restart the innings again. So, again, the first 10-15 balls were sort of nervy, and after that, once you start to hit a few balls in the middle, you forget about those things, and then you start thinking about where you can score runs and what I have to do." Rahul, who underwent rehabilitation at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru to get fit for the Asia Cup but missed the first two group matches due to a niggle, forged a 233-run stand with Kohli for the unconquered third wicket to pow-

er India to 356-2.

Talking about his partnership with Kohli, Rahul said: "He has hit 13,000 runs. I can't say anything about that man; he is just phenomenal. Words are short to describe what a great cricketer he is, and I've always felt comfortable playing with him in the middle."

"Initially, he gave me some time; I had said that I need some time to get those quick singles because I need to feel comfortable and confident in my body, and he understood that. After that, it was just a flow."

India will face Sri Lanka in another Asia Cup Super Fours match on Tuesday.

## Meerut Mavericks win by 42 runs to register sixth victory, against Noida Super Kings

Noida

Meerut Mavericks handed Noida Super Kings a rare 42-run defeat to complete their sixth victory of the ongoing UPT20 at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur. Batting first, the Meerut Mavericks set Noida Super Kings a challenging total of 176/10, orchestrated by marvellous knocks from Rinku Singh (53) and Madhav Kaushik (50). With the ball, a team effort from Meerut's bowling department including wickets from Yash Garg (3/21), Vishal Chaudhary (2/23), Yogendra Doyla (2/25) and Yuvraj Yadav (2/26). While both teams have now secured a berth in the semi-finals, the result means Meerut Mavericks are tied on points with Noida Super Kings at 13 points in nine games.

Asked to set a target by the Noida Super Kings, the Meerut Mavericks had a tepid powerplay. With the inform Swastik Chikara rested, Meerut were quick to lose both openers as Shoaib Siddiqui (2) and Parth Jain (17) were sent back by a crafty Satyam Chauhan. Rinku Singh (53) and Madhav Kaushik (50) proceeded to illuminate the innings with a boundary-laden partnership of 98 runs. Rinku Singh reached



South Africa's Marizanne Kapp, Nadine de Klerk reach career-best ranking in women's ODIs

Johannesburg

South Africa players Marizanne Kapp and Nadine de Klerk attained career-best positions in the ICC Women's ODI Player Rankings after helping their team clinch a 2-0 lead over Pakistan in a three-match ODI series in Karachi. Star all-rounder Kapp moved up to 11th position among batters while De Klerk is up to 38th among bowlers in the weekly women's rankings update that is carried out on Tuesdays.

Kapp, who was named 'player of the match' for her 100 off 105 balls in the first match and followed it with 29 not out in the second, has moved up three slots. De Klerk's three for 23 in the first match and a 'player of the match' effort of four for 23 in the second lifted her 10 slots. Former captain Sune Luus (up four places to 24th in the batting list), Lara Goodall (up five places to 37th in the batting list) and Masabata Klaas (re-entered at 28th in the bowling list) are other South Africa players to gain while Aliya Riaz (up three places to 30th in the batting list) and Sadia Iqbal (up six places to 63rd in bowling) are the Pakistan players to gain in the latest update that also takes



into consideration performances in the first match of the IWC series between England and Sri Lanka.

England opener Emma Lamb has gained seven positions to reach 42nd position among batters and Sarah Glenn is up eight places to 64th after finishing with three wickets in the match at Chester-le-Street that their team won by seven wickets. Left-arm seamer Mahika Gaur has entered the rankings in 141st position after being named 'player of the match' for her haul of three for 26 while other debutant Lauren Filer takes 143rd position, also finishing with a three-wicket haul.



## Rohit Sharma sixth Indian to amass 10,000 ODI runs

Colombo

India captain Rohit Sharma on Tuesday became the sixth batter from his country and 15th overall to complete 10,000 ODI runs. Rohit achieved the feat during India's Asia Cup Super 4 contest against Sri Lanka here. The India skipper hit a six off Sri Lanka's Kasun Rajitha to complete the milestone in the seventh over of the innings, a day after Virat Kohli became the quickest ever batter to cross 13,000-run landmark in a record 267 ODI innings. In fact, Rohit completed his 10,000 runs in 241 innings, which is second fastest ever after Kohli did so in 205 innings.

The other Indians in the 10,000-run club are Sachin Tendulkar (18,426 runs), Virat Kohli (13,026), Sourav Ganguly (11,363), Rahul Dravid (10,889) and MS Dhoni (10,773).

As the only player in the history to have hit three double centuries in 50-overs cricket, Rohit also holds the record of most runs in an innings — or the highest individual score — 264 against Sri Lanka at Eden Gardens in November 2014. Rohit recorded his first ODI double ton against Australia in November 2013 when he scored 209. Four years later, he smashed another double ton against Sri Lanka — 208 not out at Mohali in December 2017. With 30 centuries so far, Rohit is at joint-third with former Australia captain Ricky Ponting for hitting most ODI hundreds. He is also third in the list of batters with most sixes in the format.





## Kuruniyan ACL tear sparks row, Mohun Bagan 'refuse' to release players for Asian Games

**Kolkata**  
Mohun Bagan Super Giant are "furious" with the way Ashique Kuruniyan's injury was handled by the Indian physio during their King's Cup match against Iraq and have decided not to release their players for the upcoming Asian Games.

The reigning Indian Super League champions, who are slated to begin their AFC Cup group stage campaign on September 19, have two players -- Liston Colaco and Ashish Rai -- in the 22-member squad for the Hangzhou showpiece whose football matches will begin on September 19.

The 26-year-old India midfielder sustained an injury around the hour mark and had to be replaced by Rahim Ali in their King's Cup semifinal match against Iraq on September 7.

An MRI on Kuruniyan revealed an ACL (Anterior Cruciate Ligament) tear and Mohun Bagan will form a medical board to address the issue, a Mohun Bagan official said on Tuesday.

"For five days, they neglected his injury and didn't even conduct an MRI.



This is not something we'd expect from a Team India physio," he asserted.

"If they had performed an MRI, we could have started physiotherapy earlier and minimised the extent of the injury." "In light of this episode, there is absolutely no consideration of releasing our players for the Asian Games," he said.

If it's a long-term injury then Mohun Bagan may also seek compensation, the team official further said.

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) had earlier urged the 10 Indian Super League franchises to release players selected for the upcoming Asian Games keeping the "national interest in mind".

"We all have the responsibility towards the country to make India proud... As Indians we are obliged to make sacrifices for the country and, in this process, you have to take a decision by releasing the players considering the National interest in mind," AIFF secretary general Shaji Prabhakaran had written to the clubs whose players figure in the 22-member Indian squad.

The Igor Stimac-coached side will begin its campaign against hosts China on September 19, followed by matches against Bangladesh (September 21) and Myanmar (September 24).

The dates are clashing with Mohun Bagan's AFC Cup and Indian Super League fixtures. Two-time Inter-zonal semifinalists Mohun Bagan begin their AFC Cup group campaign against Odisha FC in Bhubaneswar on September 19 and they are slated to leave a day before.

In the ISL, which starts on September 21, the reigning champions have their first three matches on September 23 (Punjab FC), September 27 (Bengaluru FC) and October 7 (Chennaiyin FC).

## Indian team has balance going into Morocco tie: Rohit Rajpal

**Lucknow**  
The Indian team has a right mix of experience and youth, going into the World Group II Davis Cup tie against Morocco, non-playing captain Rohit Rajpal said on Tuesday. The tie will be the last for 43-year-old Bopanna, who finished runner-up in the US Open men's doubles along with Australian partner Mathew Ebden.

Bopanna will pair up with Yuki Bhambri, who now plays only the doubles format.

The Indian squad features Sumit Nagal, Sasi Mukund and Digvijay Pratap Singh.

"Rohan Bopanna will join the team on Wednesday. His presence brings invaluable experience to the squad. We have a well-balanced team that combines experience and youth, and we are confident in our team's ability to perform at its best," Rajpal said.

All India Tennis Association (AITA) President Anil Jain said Bopanna will be given a memorable send-off in his farewell tie.

Bopanna had made his debut in 2002 and has competed in 32 ties.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was handed the first ticket



of the tie on Tuesday.

AITA Secretary General Anil Dhupar acknowledged the contribution made by Bopanna to Indian tennis.

"On behalf of AITA and all tennis enthusiasts in the country, we congratulate Rohan Bopanna and we all are eagerly waiting to witness him serving one last time for India at the Davis Cup. We applaud his dedication and the way he played at the US (Open) final and honoured the spirit of the game," Dhupar said.

The two singles matches will be played on Saturday while the remaining doubles and reverse singles will be played on Sunday.

## FIH withdraws hockey Olympic Qualifiers from Pakistan: PHF source

**Karachi**  
In a significant blow for Pakistan hockey, the world body (FIH) has taken away the hosting rights of the Olympic Qualifying tournament from the country because of infighting between the national federation and the nation's Sports Board. The Olympic Qualification tournament is scheduled to be held in January next year. The International Hockey Federation's decision came as a result of the ongoing tussle between the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and the state-owned Pakistan Sports Board (PSB).

"The FIH while taking away our hosting rights made it clear it was convinced that the sports board and government were not willing to cooperate with the PHF in the successful hosting of the event," a PHF source said.

The FIH's decision came as a big jolt to Pakistan hockey which had got the rights to host an international event after over a decade. The PHF had already announced that the Olympic Qualifier would be held in Lahore in January.



But recent attempts by the PSB to interfere in PHF affairs in a bid to plant its own people in the federation has led to the chaos. Several Olympians encouraged by the government's ministry of inter provincial coordination and PSB have been trying to stage a coup in the PHF and get a vote of no confidence passed against the sitting president, Brigadier (ret'd) Khalid Sajjad Khokar and secretary Haider Hussain.

The Olympians include Asif Bajwa, Shahbaz Ahmed and Rana Mujahid, who served as secretaries in recent times, two of them under Khokar.

## AIFF hoping clubs would release any 22 players from list of 50 for Asian Games

**New Delhi**  
The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is hoping that the ISL clubs would release any 22 players from the registered 50 for the upcoming Asian Games, allowing the senior men's team to participate in the continental showpiece.

Most of the clubs had shown unwillingness to release the 22 players named in the Indian squad that was released by the sports ministry, as the Asian Games' football competition schedule clashes with the ISL, which starts on September 21.

The federation has also not ruled out the possibility of star players Sunil Chhetri, Sandesh Jhingan and Gurpreet Singh Sandhu travelling to Hangzhou, China with the team for the quadrennial extravaganza. While the Games are scheduled from September 23 to October 8, the football event will kick off on September 19 and continue till October 7. "AIFF is putting every effort to convince the clubs to cooperate to send the strongest national team to the Games," a top official of the federation told PTI on Tuesday. A federation source added, "AIFF is still negotiating but there is no clarity yet. Chhetri, Jhingan and Gurpreet are still not ruled out. It's up to the clubs to release



players they wish to. Any 22 from the long list of 50 will do." Bengaluru FC, FC Goa and Mohun Bagan Super Giants are among clubs who are not willing to release their players for the Games.

The Indian Super League schedule was announced earlier this month amid doubts over the release of a few India players by clubs for the Asian Games.

The league clashes with the Asian Games where the football competition begins on September 19 and continues till October 7.

The 22-member Indian men's squad

for the Asian Games has players from 10 ISL clubs and some of them are reluctant to release their players.

Out of the 22 players named in the squad, six are from Bengaluru FC, three from Mumbai City FC, while FC Goa, Mohun Bagan, East Bengal, Odisha FC, Kerala Blasters have two each. Newly-promoted Punjab FC, Chennaiyin FC and Hyderabad FC have one each.

The AIFF had also written to the 10 ISL clubs to release their players selected for the Asian Games, keeping the "national interest in mind".

## Davis Cup: Bopanna will join squad on Wednesday, says India captain Rajpal

**New Delhi**  
India's Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal said that the tennis stalwart Rohan Bopanna, who recently finished runner-up in the US Open men's doubles, will be joining the Indian squad on Wednesday. The team is preparing to take on Morocco in the World Group II play-offs fixture schedule to take place at the Vijayant Khand Mini Stadium in Gomti Nagar, Lucknow on Saturday and Sunday.

The 43-year-old Bopanna, who is currently ranked seventh in the doubles world rankings, etched his name in history last week by becoming the oldest player to compete in a Grand Slam doubles final at the US Open. This achievement underscores Bopanna's enduring commitment to tennis. All India Tennis Association (AITA) President Anil Jain expressed his admiration for the tennis veteran and said: "The Davis Cup is a prestigious tournament and has witnessed many legendary moments. This tie in Lucknow is a momentous occasion for all of us. On behalf of AITA and all tennis enthusiasts in the country, we congratulate Rohan Bopanna and we all are eagerly waiting to witness him serving one last time for India at the Davis Cup. We applaud his dedication and the way he played at the US Final and honoured the spirit of the game."

Besides Bopanna, the six-member Indian Davis Cup squad also features a formidable line-up that includes country's top-ranked singles player Sumit Nagal along with Sasikum Mukund, Digvijay Pratap Singh, Yuki Bhambri and Rankumar Ramanathan.



"Rohan Bopanna will join the team's training on Wednesday. He has been part of the Indian Davis Cup since 2002 and his presence brings invaluable experience to the squad. We have a well-balanced team that combines experience and youth, and we are confident in our team's ability to perform at its best," Rajpal, the non-playing captain of the Indian Davis Cup team and also the Executive Committee Member of Indian Olympic Association, commented as he offered insight into the squad's preparation.

Rajpal along with other AITA officials also met the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath and honoured him with the first ticket of the tie, inviting him to witness the exciting action live. The draw ceremony will be conducted on Friday. "We are grateful to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar

Pradesh Shri Yogi Adityanath Ji who has consented to conduct the draw ceremony himself at his official residence on Friday. It's going to be an action-packed weekend for Indian tennis enthusiasts and especially fans here in Lucknow to witness Indian stars live in action. This central location will attract tennis lovers from all over Uttar Pradesh. We thank the government for their support in hosting this Davis Cup tie, celebrating the game of tennis and also putting up a memorable send-off for Rohan Bopanna," said Anil Dhupar, AITA Secretary General.

The Davis Cup, the oldest and the most premier international men's tennis team competition in the world with a rich history of more than 120 years, witnesses the participation of more than 135 countries.

## India lose 0-3 to UAE in AFC U-23 Asian Cup Qualifiers

**Dulian**  
India lost to the UAE 0-3 as their campaign in the AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2024 Qualification ended with a second consecutive defeat, here at the Dalian Suoyuwan Stadium on Tuesday.

India finished at the bottom of Group G, having earlier lost to China 1-2.

UAE topped the group with four points and a better goal difference. China, who also have four points, now have an outside chance of making the next round as one of the four best second-placed teams.

Both India and the UAE sensed the urgency and began the match at great intensity with tackles flying in both halves of the pitch. Jiteshwar Singh picked up a booking around the quarter hour mark for a tackle in the middle of the pitch.

The UAE managed to take the lead in the 26th minute as the Indian defenders were left rather confused after a melee inside the box. Mohammed Abbas Alblooshi was awarded the goal after a lengthy discussion between the referee and his assistant. The lead was doubled just three minutes after the half-hour mark, when Sultan Adil Alameeri's low drive from inside the box found the back of the net.

Sensing the game slipping away, India began to rotate the ball around the park in search of openings. However, the UAE back-line managed to keep the Indians at bay.

After the change of ends, India



looked to put some pressure on the UAE defence. Parthib Gogoi made a foray down the right into the attacking third early in the second half, but his cross evaded all the forwards.

India head coach Clifford Miranda made a couple of changes, bringing on Rabeeh Anjukandan and Sourav in place of Sanjeev Stalin and Parthib Gogoi a little after the hour mark, as they looked to pull one back.

However, UAE waited for the perfect opportunity to spring a counter-attack. Goalkeeper Hamad Abdulla Almeqbaali launched a long ball forward, as Eisa Khalfan finished off the move to make it 3-0.

The UAE managed to take the lead in the 26th minute as the Indian defenders were left rather confused after a melee inside the box. Mohammed Abbas Alblooshi was finally awarded the goal after a lengthy discussion between the referee and his assistant. The side from the Persian Gulf doubled their lead just three minutes after the half-hour mark, when Sultan Adil Alameeri's low drive from inside the box found the back of the net.

Sensing the game slipping away from under their feet, India began to rotate the ball around the park, looking for openings. However, for all their intent, the UAE back-line managed to keep them at bay. After the change of ends, India looked to put some pressure on the UAE defence. Parthib Gogoi made a foray down the right into the attacking third early in the second half, but his cross evaded all the forwards.

India head coach Clifford Miranda made a couple of changes, bringing on Rabeeh Anjukandan and Sourav in place of Sanjeev Stalin and Parthib Gogoi a little after the hour mark, as they looked to pull one back. However, UAE sat back and waited for the perfect opportunity to spring a counter-attack. Goalkeeper Hamad Abdulla Almeqbaali launched a long ball forward, as Eisa Khalfan finished off the move, to make it 3-0.

More changes were in store for India as Rohit Danu and Ayush Chhetri replaced Suhail Bhat and Jiteshwar Singh, followed by the final substitution of the day for India, as Amarjit Singh Kiyam replaced Vibin Mohanan. Three substitutes combined with 18 minutes of regulation time left, as Danu cut it back to Rabeeh, who passed it on to Sourav, whose shot was blocked.



# Dream Girl 2 enters 100-crore club globally; Ayushmann Khurrana celebrates with fans, Ananya Panday pens gratitude note

Shilpa Shetty opens up about not getting her dues, says, 'I am surviving because of my songs'

**Mumbai**  
Ayushmann Khurrana and Ananya Panday's *Dream Girl 2* has been declared a box office hit by trade pundits. Despite competition from major films like Sunny Deol's *Gadar 2* and Shah Rukh Khan's *Jawan*, the rom-com held its ground and made it to the 100 crore club globally. The film is Ayushmann's fifth 100-crore hit.

As *Dream Girl 2* achieved an important milestone, Ayushmann celebrated the victory with a special party. The actor hosted a bash for his fans and thanked them for supporting him and the film wholeheartedly. He made an entry dancing to the beats of *Dil Ka Telephone 2*. Ayushmann's fans welcomed him with chants of his name. He was visibly moved by the gesture and expressed gratitude. The celebration didn't end with



out pictures and selfies. Ananya penned a note expressing gratitude on her 'first century'. Sharing a BTS video from the sets of *Dream Girl 2*, she wrote,

"My first century!! It's not just about the number (which I do admit feels great) but it's also proof of the love #DreamGirl2 has gotten from the audiences

which I'm forever grateful for. Thank you to EVERYONE who made it possible (sic)." *Dream Girl 2* is directed by Raaj Shaandilyaa. The

rom-com includes a stellar ensemble of Paresh Rawal, Annu Kapoor, Rajpal Yadav, Vijay Raaz, Abhishek Banerjee, Manjot Singh, Seema Pahwa, and Manoj

Joshi. It is the sequel to Raaj's 2019 film. The prequel starred Ayushmann with Nushratt Bharuccha.

The film revolves around Karam (Ayushmann) who is in love with Pari (Ananya), a lawyer. When her father (Manoj Joshi) gets to know about their relationship and marriage plans, he puts forth a condition before the unemployed Karam. To fulfill the condition, he has to become Pooja, a bar dancer and then a psychiatrist. Chaos ensues Karam's friend informs Abu Salem (Paresh Rawal) of Pooja. The rich and influential man decides to get Pooja married to his son Shah Rukh (Abhishek Banerjee) to pull him out of depression.

*Dream Girl 2* is produced by Ektaa R Kapoor's home banner, Balaji Motion Pictures. It released in theatres on August 25, 2023.



Mumbai

Shilpa Shetty's upcoming film, *Sukhee*, will see her play a Punjabi housewife who has lost her sense of self in taking up the family's responsibilities. She is reminded of her old, fun-loving personality when she reconnects with her friends during a college reunion.

Directed by Sonal Joshi, the film has a bunch of women at the fore, most prominently Shilpa, who plays the main character, and her bestie, played by Kusha Kapila.

In an interview with Siddharth Kannan, Shilpa, who is all set for the release of her upcoming film, opened up about how she felt typecast. The actress said, "I never got the tag of an actor. I always got relegated, or rather typecast, into being just a glamorous actor, which is also a great niche to have because today I can proudly say that I can do this (pointing at the poster of her film *Sukhee*), but can you become glamorous? I can say proudly that I picked from whatever was offered to me, and I survived."

Speaking about surviv-

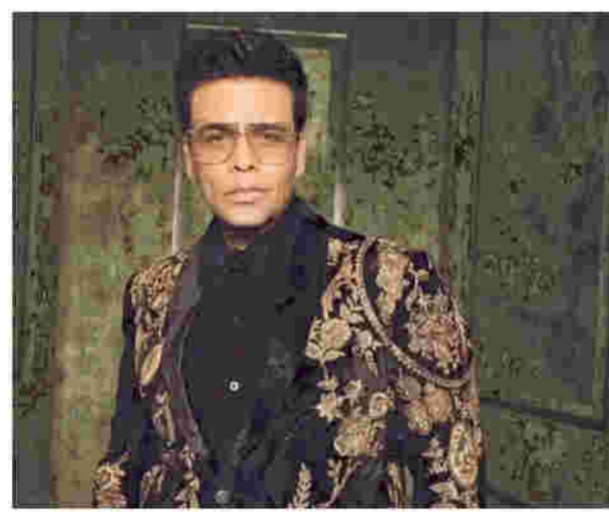
ing due to the popularity of her songs, Shilpa continued, "I have had a long career with so many lows that I used to wonder, 'Why didn't I get offered this role or why was I never offered a film with big banners?' Whatever I have achieved is by working in small films with big actors. I did small characters, and no matter whether my films worked or not, all my songs were hits. I am surviving because of my songs."

"There are films of the 90s which I worked in, and the producers would say, 'Oh, we incurred losses.' So, I didn't get the remaining fees also. That time was very different," Shilpa shared. In a recent interaction with *midday.com* Shilpa opened up about her family's reaction to the film. The actress shared that her mother cried after watching the film.

Apart from Shilpa Shetty and Kusha Kapila, the film also stars Amit Sath, Chaitannya Choudhury, Dilnaz Irani, Pavleen Gular, Kiran Kumar, and Vinod Nagpal. The film will be released in theatres on September 22.

## Karan Johar praises Priyanka Chopra's 'fantastic' Hollywood journey and mourns the loss of Irrfan Khan

**Mumbai**  
Priyanka Chopra's remarkable journey from Bollywood to Hollywood has garnered attention and admiration from fans and industry peers alike. Recently, at the world premiere of his co-produced film, "Kill," during the Toronto International Film Festival 2023, celebrated filmmaker Karan Johar shared his heartfelt thoughts on Priyanka Chopra's bold career move.



Chopra's career trajectory has been nothing short of extraordinary. Starting with her Miss World 2000 victory at the age of 20, she made her Bollywood debut in 2003 with "The Hero: Love Story of a Spy." Over the course of more than a decade, she became a prominent figure in Bollywood, starring in a string of path-breaking and successful films and collabor-

ating with some of the biggest names in the industry.

However, it was her transition to Hollywood in 2015, with her role in "Quantico," that truly elevated her career to international stardom. This move marked a significant milestone, and Priyanka Chopra has continued to impress audiences with her performances in Hollywood

projects such as "Baywatch," "The Matrix Resurrections," and the Prime Video series "Citadel."

When asked about Priyanka Chopra's journey during the interview with ET Canada, Karan Johar expressed genuine admiration. He commended her for her remarkable success, achieved on her own terms and in her unique style.



The Vaccine War trailer: Nana Patekar-Pallavi Joshi spearhead a war to make Bharat's own vaccine

**Mumbai**  
After the success of his previous directorial, *The Kashmir Files*, Vivek Agnihotri is back with yet another reality-inspired film, *The Vaccine War*. The trailer of the upcoming film released today on YouTube. The *Vaccine War* stars Anupam Kher, Nana Patekar, Sapthami Gowda, and Pallavi Joshi among others. The trailer of *The Vaccine War* highlighted the struggle faced by Indian scientists as they work towards creating the first-ever vaccine against a virus. Facing opposition and increasing doubts around the development, the group of scientists geared up to clear obstacles in order to save the country. *The Vaccine War* is being touted as India's first bio-science film.

A special screening of *The Vaccine War* was held in the United States of America in August. R Madhavan watched the film and heaped praise. He wrote on Instagram, "Just saw 'THE VACCINE WAR' and totally blown out of my mind by the spectacular sacrifices and achievements of the Indian scientific community, which made India's very first vaccine and kept the nation safe during the most challenging period, told by a Master Storyteller @vivekagnihotri who makes you cheer, applaud, weep, and euphoric, all at the same time."

He added, "Stellar performances by the entire cast, @pallavijoshiofficial @anupampkher @Nanapatekar @raimasen (and every single one of them) so beautifully depict the sacrifices and the sheer grit of our Indian scientists (ladies) aptly and impactfully.

## Bhumi Pednekar starrer Thank You For Coming to have its world premiere at Toronto film fest

**Mumbai**  
Ektaa R Kapoor and Rhea Kapoor's *Thank You For Coming* has garnered prestigious recognition as it has become the sole Indian feature film to be honoured with a World Gala Premiere at the highly esteemed Toronto International Film Festival.

The powerhouse producer duo Rhea Kapoor and Ektaa R Kapoor have added one more feather to their cap. Their much-awaited chick-flick *Thank You For Coming* has been chosen as an exclusive Indian feature film to have a Gala Premiere at the renowned Roy Thompson Hall for the 48th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). This remarkable



achievement will bring light to this content and intent-driven film, helmed by Karan Boolani, that will resonate with the audience worldwide.

Producers Anil Kapoor and Ektaa R Kapoor will be gracing the red carpet on September 15, 2023, at TIFF along with the dynamic cast including Bhumi Pednekar, Shehnaaz Gill, Dolly Singh, Kusha Kapila and Shibani

Bedi and director Karan Boolani.

Rhea Kapoor, expressing her excitement, says, "I am ecstatic for *Thank You For Coming* to be the only Indian Feature Film having its gala world premiere in TIFF and making a mark globally. I am proud that the jury at TIFF has identified this as an important subject to be screened at their prestigious festival. It's a women-led

mainstream film that presents Indian cinema in its most joyful avatar, echoing with women at a global stage from all age groups!"

Ektaa R Kapoor, added saying, "Thank You For Coming celebrates women's sexuality, freedom and delivers an important message. In today's world, this message is more relevant than ever. It's a film that is high on content and intent! I am elated to have this film as the exclusive Indian representation for the Gala Premiere in TIFF 2023. We couldn't have asked for a better platform to elevate this film and its bold subject."

The subject of the film has received love and appreciation from women across the globe, making it a comeback of the chick flick in India.

## Kareena Kapoor shares her retirement plans: 'Hopefully at 83 or 93'

**Mumbai**  
Kareena Kapoor Khan, a name synonymous with Bollywood royalty, has graced the silver screen for over two decades, enchanting audiences with her charisma and talent. Now, she's gearing up for her highly anticipated online streaming debut in the upcoming film "Jaane Jaan," creating waves of excitement among her fans.

In this OIT venture, Kareena shares the screen with the talented Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma, promising a captivating experience. During one of her interviews, Kareena shared her retirement plans.

While talking to Indian



Express the 'Jab We Met' actress said that she is still excited about acting. She said, "If I lose that, then I feel I should hang up my boots. Because the excitement of wanting to be on set, the excitement of wanting to face the camera still, it's still there at 43. But I know that the day that's not there, then I know that I'm not going to work be-

cause I'm that kind of person." She further talked about how passionate she is for everything, including her meals, outings with friends, and travel. "That's the person I am. So if a day comes that I realise that I'm somehow losing that, then it's time for retirement", she added. When asked about her retirement plans, she said: "Hopefully at 83 or 93, I don't know! I want to keep working, I want to keep doing that."

In the same interview, she revealed how Karisma had to break through stereotypes and doubts within the industry. "She kind of sowed the seeds, and I reaped a lot from it," Kareena explained. "A lot of exposure happened being with her on sets.