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Secunderabad Ujjaini Mahankali goddess promises of good rains in Bhavishyavani

The Secunderabad Ujjaini Mahankali Temple, recently held a grand program where the Matangi Swarnalata Bhavishyavani was heard by the devotees. The event took place on the day following the Bonalu festival, and devotees gathered eagerly to hear the prophecy. Standing atop a green pot in front of the goddess, Swarnalata conveyed the prophecy to the devotees, bringing joy to all who were present. She assured that there would be good rains this year and promised to ensure the happiness of all. The priests of the temple mentioned that many devotees had already offered prayers and bonalu to the goddess after being caught in the rain.

Godavari flood marked second warning level at Bhadrachalam

Bhadrachalam : The flood level of Godavari reached second warning level 48 feet at 2 pm on Monday informed the officers. In morning at 7 am the water level marked 46 feet after that it was reached slowly and marked second warning level at 2 pm. Observing the forecast the officers took the measures in set the 45 rehabilitation in the Bhadrachalam division and ten setups in the temple town. He informed the taking all precautions and maintain the buffer stocks and appointed the health staff in the all mandal for not spreading any seasonal diseases. He informed, closely monitoring with officers to minute to minute situation setup control room at Sub Collector Office.

SC asks IIT Delhi panel to give opinion on contentious Physics question in NEET-UG exam



GNS News Agency, July 22

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday asked IIT Delhi to form an expert panel to give its opinion on the decision of the National Testing Agency (NTA) to treat two options as the correct answers to a Physics question in the NEET-UG examination. A bench, headed by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud, said: "We request the Director of IIT Delhi to constitute a team of three experts of the subject concerned. The expert team is requested to formulate its opinion on the correct option and to remit its opinion to the registrar of this court by 12 noon on July 23."

The bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, directed that a copy of its order may be forwarded on Monday itself to the Director, IIT Delhi for expeditious action. In the batch of petitions alleging irregularities in the conduct of the NEET-UG exam, petitioners questioned the award of grace marks in respect of a contentious Physics question, adding that as many as 44 candidates were able to secure full marks on account of the ambiguous question. They contended that the NTA's decision to award compensatory marks contradicts its own instruction asking students to follow the latest NCERT textbook.

The matter will be taken up for further hearing on Tuesday. In the previous hearing, the apex court had sought a copy of the report of Bihar Police and its Economic Offences Unit (EOU) in relation to the NEET question paper leak case. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta undertook that he will place on record the copy of the report filed by Patna police as well as the report filed by EOU of Bihar Police. The NEET question paper leak case was cracked by Patna police on May 5, the day of the examination and an FIR was registered at the city's Shastri Nagar Police Station. The case was later transferred to the EOU of Bihar Police for investigation. On June 23, the Centre decided to transfer the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). The SC also asked the NTA to release on its website centre-wise results after redacting personal information, including the roll number of the candidates. During the hearing, the apex court had asked the petitioners to illustrate that the leak was so systematic that the exam must be cancelled in its entirety and conducted afresh. It reiterated that if tainted cases cannot be segregated from untainted ones, the entire examination has to go.

Supreme Court stays UP Government's order to eateries to display names of owners along Kanwar Yatra route

New Delhi, GNS News Agency, July 22

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered an interim stay on the Uttar Pradesh Government's directive to eateries on the Kanwar Yatra route to display the names of their owners. The ex-parte order came from a Bench of Justice Hrishikesh Roy and Justice SVN Bhatt on petitions filed by the Association for Protection of Civil Rights, TMC MP Mahua Moitra, Prof Apoorvanand Jha and others challenging the validity of the directive. Issuing notices to the governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand and some other states where Kanwar Yatra takes place, the Bench posted the matter for July 26. "We deem it appropriate to pass an interim order prohibiting the enforcement of the above directives. In other words, the food sellers, hawkers etc, may be required to display the kind of food they are serving to Kanwariyas but they must not be forced to disclose the names of owners and staff employed," the Bench said, staying the UP government's order till the next date of hearing. On behalf of the petitioners, senior counsel AM Singhvi, C Uday Singh and Huzefa Ahmadi submitted that the UP government's directive went against secularism and was aimed at exclusion by identity. "Impugned directives encourage discrimination on grounds of caste and religion and cannot be seen to serve any 'legitimate purpose'. These directives promote discrimination solely based on religious and caste identity, as they do not require the display of food items being served or a statement that no non-vegetarian or non-sativik food is being served, but only the display of religious or caste identity explicit in one's name. This directly breaches Article 15 of the Constitution," one of the petitions submitted. Maintaining that the decision was in the interest of law and order, the Uttar Pradesh government had on July 19 made it mandatory for food and beverage shops along the Kanwar Yatra routes to display the names/identity of the operator/owner of such establishments.

Prime Minister Modi Calls For Opposition Unity To Drive India's Development

GNS News Agency, July 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged opposition parties on Monday to set aside past grievances and collaborate with the government for India's progress. Speaking to the media before the Monsoon Session of Parliament began, PM Modi said, "I request all MPs that we've had our battles from January till now, but that phase is over. The public has given its mandate."

Encouraging the Opposition to overcome differences and work together for the nation's benefit, he



stated, "I ask all parties to rise above party lines, dedicate themselves to the country, and use Parliament's dignified platform for the next 4.5 years." As the NDA coalition

starts its third consecutive term, a milestone not achieved in 60 years, PM Modi reiterated his commitment to fulfilling the promises made to the electorate, highlighting Budget 2024's

significance in shaping the future. "I have been giving guarantees to the people of the country, and our mission is to bring this to the ground. This Budget is crucial for Amrit Kaal. Today's budget will set the direction for the next five years of our term. This budget will also lay a strong foundation for our vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047," he said. Noting India's current 8 percent growth rate, positioning the country at a peak of opportunities, PM Modi emphasized that it is the responsibility of all political parties and members of Parliament to work together for the next five years.

BRS MLC Kavitha's Default Bail Hearing Adjournd to August 5



GNS News Agency, July 22

The hearing of BRS MLC Kavitha's petition for default bail in the Delhi Liquor CBI case has once again been adjourned. The proceedings took place at Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court on Monday, with the court rescheduling the hearing to August 5.

On July 8, Kavitha's legal team submitted a petition arguing that the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had failed to file a complete charge sheet within the mandated 60-day timeframe. During the hearing, Kavitha's lawyers contended that her arrest on April 11, 2024, was unlawful, pointing out that the CBI submitted an incomplete charge sheet on June 7. The court noted discrepancies in the CBI's charge sheet, raising concerns about its accuracy. Under the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) 167(2), Kavitha is eligible for default bail as the charges faced carry a punishment of seven years, allowing for a maximum custody period of 60 days. Kavitha had completed 86 days in custody by July 6, thus prompting her legal team to file for default bail. Despite previous discussions on the matter, the court has now set the next hearing date for August 5, leaving the outcome of Kavitha's bail petition pending.

KTR Demands Telangana State Government to Clarify Stance on New National Criminal Laws

GNS News Agency, July 22

Hyderabad: BRS Working President KT Rama Rao has demanded the Telangana state government and the ruling Congress Party to publicly declare their positions on the implementation of new criminal laws. In his open letter, KTR highlighted that the draconian laws, which have elicited substantial opposition from diverse groups, are being condemned for encroaching upon fundamental civil rights and personal freedoms. He pointed out that critics fear these laws could potentially establish a police state within the nation. KTR points out that Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka have already opposed these laws and emphasizes that the Telangana state government must take a clear stance to uphold the State's historical reputation as a champion of civil rights. He insists that the Telangana government must clarify whether it will implement these new criminal laws as is or introduce amendments, following the examples set by other states.

KTR demands immediate action from Revanth Reddy's Congress government, asking them to send a letter to the central government demanding amendments to the autocratic sections of these new laws. He also calls for a resolution in the upcoming assembly session to be sent to the central government. Failure to do so, KTR warns, will risk the State government being perceived as authoritarian and anti-people. The new criminal laws, which have replaced the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and Indian Evidence Act (IEA) with the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA), have been in effect nationwide since July 1. Numerous provisions and sections of these laws are viewed as serious violations of basic civil rights and individual freedoms. Civil rights activists and legal experts argue that these laws disproportionately favor the police and the government, suppressing legitimate protests and agitations. The new laws have already led to confusion, as cases must be tried under different



laws depending on when they were filed.

The reintroduction of the sedition law as "treason" is particularly concerning, as it could be used to suppress criticism of government policies. The new laws have the potential to usher in a police state, KTR remarked. He noted that for the past seven months, the state government has been using the police extensively to suppress protests by students, youth, and social media activists. Under these new laws, such actions could lead to an even more oppressive environment in Telangana, he added. BRS Working President underscores the need for extensive discussion on these new laws, pressing the Telangana state government and the ruling Congress party to clarify their positions. The Congress party at the national level has already expressed its opposition to these dangerous laws, but the local Congress government and party has not yet spoken a word on this issue. He insists that CM Revanth Reddy should publicly declare his stance, similar to other state Chief Ministers, and take immediate action to address the autocratic sections of these new laws. KTR demands that the Congress party, which came to power promising democratic governance, must fulfill its promise by opposing these dangerous laws at the state level and taking necessary actions to protect civil rights.

JD(U) reminds Centre of basis of alliance after special status for Bihar ruled out



GNS News Agency, July 22

The Janata Dal (United) has reminded the BJP-led NDA government of their "promise" of fulfilling the special category status demand of Bihar after the Centre asserted in Lok Sabha that such a demand was not made out, sources said. This comes a day after the JD(U), a key member of the NDA, demanded the Centre to grant special category status to Bihar in the all-party meeting before the beginning of the Monsoon session of Parliament.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha on the first day of the Monsoon session, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary cited an inter-ministerial group report prepared in 2012 to assert that a case for granting special category status to Bihar is not made out. The minister further said that the special category status for plan assistance was granted in the past by the NDC to some states that were characterised by a number of features necessitating special consideration.

These features included hilly and difficult terrain, low population density or sizeable share of the tribal population, strategic location along borders with neighbouring countries, economic and infrastructural backwardness and non-viable nature of state finances. The decision was taken based on an integrated consideration of all the factors listed above and the peculiar situation of the state. "Earlier, the request of Bihar for special category status was considered by an inter-ministerial group which submitted its report on March 30, 2012. The group came to the finding that based on existing NDC criteria, the case for special category status for Bihar is not made out," the minister said.

Reacting to the government's reply in Lok Sabha, top JD(U) sources told India Today TV that the party is very much committed to the special category status for Bihar. "If there is some technical issue, the government must give us a special package for the development of Bihar. We want to make it very clear that we are part of this alliance only because we have been promised special status for Bihar," JD(U) sources said. Notably, in the all-party meeting on Sunday, July 21, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) and Rashtriya Janata Dal also raised the demand for special category status for Bihar. Similar demands were also raised for states like Odisha and Andhra Pradesh by parties like Biju Janata Dal and YSR Congress Party, respectively. The special category status demand involves a state receiving benefits like financial aid, tax concessions, and other forms of support from the central government. The primary reasons states demand special status include economic backwardness, geographical challenges, and socio-economic disadvantages.

6 from other Kerala districts on teen victim's contact list



GNS News Agency, July 22

Health officials in Kerala have prepared a contact list of 350 people following the death of a Nipah virus-infected boy. Of particular concern are six individuals from Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala reports Nipah virus case in 14-year-old from Malappuram. Six of those tested have shown symptoms of Nipah virus infection. Kerala health officials are scrambling to contain a Nipah virus outbreak after it emerged that six individuals from outside the initial affected district were in contact with a 14-year-old boy who died after testing positive for the virus. Test results are awaited from 13 close contacts of the victim, a resident of Malappuram, Health Minister Veena George said on Monday. The boy's death, confirmed on Sunday, marks the first Nipah fatality in Kerala since 2023. George said results for nine samples sent to the Kozhikode Medical College Virology Lab and four sent to the Thiruvananthapuram Advanced Virology Institute are expected today. Six of those tested have exhibited symptoms.

Short-term inflation outlook for India is benign, says Economic Survey

GNS News Agency, July 22

New Delhi: The short-term inflation outlook for India is benign, and the expectation of a normal monsoon and moderating global prices of key imported items give credence to the projections made by the RBI and IMF, the Economic Survey said on Monday. However, to ensure long-term policy stability, the Survey 2023-24 suggested making focused efforts to increase the production of major oilseeds, expanding the area under pulses, and assess the progress in developing modern storage facilities for specific crops. The Economic Survey 2023-24, tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, also suggested linking of price monitoring data for essential food items collected by different departments to help monitor and quantify the build-up of prices at each stage from the farm gate to the final consumer. "The ongoing efforts to construct the producer price index for goods and services may be expedited to have a greater grasp of episodes of cost-push inflation," said the Survey authored by a team of economists led by Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran.

Indian Chronicle

English Daily

Bangladesh in turmoil

THE violence that has claimed over 100 lives in Bangladesh has shown the Sheikh Hasina government in a poor light. The ruling dispensation should have anticipated disturbances after the High Court reinstated in June the quota that reserved 30 per cent of government jobs for relatives of veterans who fought in the 1971 war of independence; the Hasina regime had earlier halted the quota in 2018 following large-scale student protests. The new round of protests caught the powers that be off-guard, as clashes broke out between the police and protesting students across the country. Making a welcome intervention, Bangladesh's Supreme Court has slashed the contentious reservation. It has ordered that the veterans' quota be cut to 5 per cent, with 93 per cent of the jobs to be offered on merit; the remaining 2 per cent will be set aside for members of ethnic minorities and some other groups. The ruling is expected to help in pacifying the protesters and restoring peace and normalcy. However, the high death toll must make the government do ruthless introspection. The frustration among students over the shortage of good jobs should be addressed urgently. The quota provision has been under fire as it apparently benefits supporters of Prime Minister Hasina, whose Awami League party led the independence movement. She had defended it on the grounds that veterans deserved the highest respect for their contribution to the liberation, regardless of their political affiliation. However, the PM cannot afford to ignore the present realities. A merit-based system for jobs will help Bangladesh sustain its impressive economic march. Hopefully, the government will implement the apex court's order in letter and spirit. And there is also a lesson here for India, where unemployment is a major issue and several states have witnessed an uproar over quotas.

Fugitive in 1,740-crore crypto fraud that conned 1 lakh people in Himachal Pradesh arrested



A 35-year-old fugitive wanted in a ₹1,740-crore cryptocurrency scam unearthed in Himachal Pradesh last year, was arrested in Kolkata on Wednesday, two days after being detained by immigration officials at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, the police said.

GNS News Agency, July 22

Accused in multicore cryptocurrency scam arrested from Kolkata in a bid to escape Dubai. cryptoAccused in multicore cryptocurrency scam arrested from Kolkata in a bid to escape Dubai. A 35-year-old fugitive wanted in a ₹1,740-crore cryptocurrency scam unearthed in Himachal Pradesh last year, was arrested in Kolkata on Wednesday, two days after being detained by immigration officials at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, the police said. Accused Milan Garg, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Meerut in UP, was brought to Shimla later in the day and will be produced in court for police custody on Thursday. Police said that Milan Garg, an expert in creating digital content, had escaped to Dubai after the massive fraud was unearthed last October but returned in June either through Bangladesh or Nepal. According to the police, around one lakh people in Himachal Pradesh were swindled through various websites and crypto coins, by luring them with promises of double returns. "The masterminds of the crypto racket created around 2,50,000 fake IDs for the fraudulent activity. The maximum number of victims hailed from the districts of Mandi, Kangra, Hamirpur, and Una in Himachal Pradesh," said an officer.

Police said Garg made digital coins such as DGT Coin, Fish Token, Hynpext Coin, Corvio Coin, etc., which were reportedly purchased by investors hoping high returns. So far, at least 70 suspects involved in the cryptocurrency scam have been arrested. Investigators, however, said that the mastermind of the multi-crore scam, Subhash Sharma, is still absconding. Earlier, a Special Investigation Team (SIT) discovered that Sharma was hiding in Dubai, but later learned that he had moved to another country. "On Monday, Garg tried to go to Dubai from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata, where immigration officials apprehended him as a lookout notice had already been issued against him. He was handed over to Kolkata police, who informed us about the development. We sent an investigation team to Kolkata, and they returned with Garg," said DIG Abhishek Dular, who is heading the SIT.

Meanwhile, investigation had revealed that Sharma had created five shell companies to adjust the money collected from investors, the police said. These companies - Soyman India Pvt Ltd, UBB Associates LLP, UBB Records LLP, Subro Technologies Pvt Ltd, and Him Jan Sewa Foundation - were registered with the Registrars of Companies (ROC) in Chandigarh, Delhi, and Himachal Pradesh. The SIT has filed four chargesheets against the suspects in the Special Court constituted for hearing matters related to the stringent Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes (BUDS) Act, 2019.

Bengaluru sees spike in Pocso cases even as disposal rate slumps in special courts



GNS News Agency, July 22

Even as Bengaluru sees a growing registration of cases of sexual offences against children under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012, the city's special courts for Pocso cases have witnessed a slowdown in the disposal of cases in 2024. This has resulted in long waits for justice for young victims of sexual offences despite courts mandating that the statement of the victim should be recorded within a month of a court taking cognisance of a Pocso case and that trials should be ideally completed in a year.

The analysis of data for pending cases in the five special fast-track courts in Bengaluru for Pocso cases until June 30 this year has revealed that only 15 (seven per cent) of the 216 cases charge-sheeted in 2024 have been disposed of so far, with 201 cases still pending trial. The low seven per cent disposal this year is in comparison to 43 per cent disposal in 2023 (117 of 274 cases that were charge-sheeted), 81 per cent in 2022 (307 of 377 charge-sheeted cases), 84 per cent in 2021 (195 of 231 charge-sheeted cases) and 82 per cent in 2020 (201 of 243 cases). Court officials have attributed the lag in case disposal in 2024 to the absence of a presiding officer/judge in one of the five fast-track Pocso courts for three months between March and May. Experts who help child victims of Pocso cases to cope with the police and trial procedures, however, suggest several reasons for the clogging of the judicial system, including a large number of cases of romantic and consensual relationships between teens falling under the category of cases when parental opposition is involved. Increase in cases registered in last five years.

While there is an apparent slowdown in the disposal of Pocso cases, the number of Pocso cases registered by the police in Bengaluru has also increased since the Pocso law came into existence in 2013. According to data from the Bengaluru police, as of June 30, 2024, there were 298 Pocso cases reported in Bengaluru. In 2023, there were 592 cases, in 2022, there were 482 cases, in 2021, there were 401 cases, and in 2020, there were 286 cases. According to data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), Bengaluru city registered 408, 393, and 350 Pocso cases in 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively. "The Pocso law came into effect around 2013 and there has been a steady increase in awareness and as result the law is invoked in cases of sexual offences against children. This has resulted in a regular increase every year in the number of registered cases. There is also some amount of misuse," a senior Karnataka police officer said. "I think at least in a place like Karnataka, the police do register cases. Previously the same police officer or police station which said that it is not a case of rape are now taking up cases as soon as they know it is a case of sexual abuse or violence," said Kushi Kushalappa, director of support and rehabilitation team at Enfold India, an NGO that offers support to child victims and their family at the instance of the state Child Welfare Committee. In one of the high-profile Pocso cases registered in Bengaluru in March this year, a former chief minister is accused of sexual assault and harassment of a minor girl. The CID police filed a chargesheet in the case on June 27 and a Pocso fast-track court took cognisance of the case on July 6 and issued summons to the accused. The Karnataka High Court exempted the former CM from appearing in court after the former CM and three other accused challenged the Pocso chargesheet. Though the Karnataka High Court in a 2021 judgment by Justice B V Nagarathna and Justice M G Uma directed judges of special courts for Pocso cases to comply with Section 35 of the Pocso Act in the matter of recording of evidence of the victim child and the conclusion of the trial within the stipulated time (one month after taking cognisance and one year respectively) Pocso cases tend to drag on due to various circumstances.

The high court stated in 2021 that the statement of the victim should be recorded within a month of a special court taking cognisance of a chargesheet and that the trial should be completed in a year "so that the justice delivery system does not in any way contribute to the trauma, mental disturbance and anxiety of the victim child, which could lead to severe impact on the behaviour and personality of the child". "I would not say that, in any case, the child's evidence is completed within the first month of the court taking cognisance. I would also say that trials are not completed within 12 months of when it begins," said Enfold India's Kushi Kushalappa. "Having said this, I would say that things are a little faster these days. From having one court to three courts, we now have five fast-track courts in Bangalore for Pocso cases. Things are a little bit better but other kinds of procedures are not being followed," she said. Long wait at courts for child victims "One of the consequences of long waiting periods for trials in Pocso cases is that victims and their families have to also wait for long periods in the court complexes which is quite inhuman but the presiding officers are also under a heavy burden," said a special public prosecutor at the sessions courts in Bengaluru.

Although a waiting room has been created in the court complex, the special fast-track courts for Pocso cases are spread over multiple floors, leaving victims and their families waiting outside court halls and very often in the proximity of the accused persons.

"Now, if the judge has to decide between a very young child or a girl who is pregnant or a person with disabilities or a person who has come from far, it becomes hard for the court to prioritise whose case should be taken up first. Then, the wait becomes quite long for the victim. If a system can be devised for when the child can come to court, it would really help," said Kushi Kushalappa. Romantic and consensual relationship cases among Pocso cases "One of the other factors contributing to the clogging of the judicial system with Pocso cases is the large number of cases of young people in romantic, consensual relationships or elopement cases that are categorised as Pocso cases, say officials dealing with such cases. "There are pregnancies in some of these cases, so we are waiting for DNA reports and so many other things, which are also causing delays. We cannot only say that there are judicial delays since there are also other factors in cases not being disposed within one year of registration or taking cognisance," said Kushi Kushalappa. The Enfold Proactive Health Trust conducted an 18-month study on the implications of the Pocso Act on adolescent sexuality two years ago. The study found that out of 7,064 Pocso cases registered in Assam, Maharashtra, and West Bengal between 2016 and 2020, 1,715 were identified as romantic cases.

The Enfold study did not say that romantic relationships should be removed from Pocso cases because romantic and elopement cases could also have coercion, threats and promises to marry and other aspects, according to Enfold India officials. "It is not that Enfold said that when there are elopement cases all of them should go away or anything but just to take a relook at the way the system is responding to these young people. On the one hand, a young man or a minor boy is being seen as an accused and criminalised while the girl is being institutionalised," said Kushi Kushalappa. "It is not as simplistic as we would like it to be but it is a complex situation. The state of Tamil Nadu has issued a circular where the police unit head has to assess whether there is a component of elopement/consensual romantic relationship and then decide whether to arrest the boy or the man," she said. "This is also something for us to consider or at least start talking about," she pointed out. In its April 2021 order on handling of Pocso cases by special courts, the Karnataka High Court division bench quoted Jyoti Mathur, director of the 'Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation', to say that "a victim of sexual abuse is not a victim of one abuse but multiple abuses - physical abuse, emotional abuse, mental abuse, stigma, neglect and overall deprivation of the right to live with dignity". "While a time-bound legal process and child-centric jurisprudence is non-negotiable, the role of experts in helping him walk this arduous journey is equally essential," the high court noted.

To fight crime using AI, Maharashtra Police create MARVEL

GNS News Agency, July 22

With it becoming clear that artificial intelligence (AI) is here to stay, the Maharashtra government has decided to efficiently leverage this powerful tool to solve crimes with the help of a new company - the Maharashtra Research and Vigilance for Enhanced Law Enforcement (MARVEL). MARVEL has been created to enhance intelligence capabilities and improve crime prediction, enabling the state police force to tackle law enforcement more effectively using AI. With this, Maharashtra has become the first state in the country to create an independent entity for AI in law enforcement.

What is MARVEL?

A special purpose vehicle (SPV) owned completely by the Maharashtra government, MARVEL has been created in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Nagpur. The Maharashtra government, IIM Nagpur and Chennai-based Pinaca Technologies entered a tripartite agreement on March 22 this year and the company was registered under The Companies Act, 2013. "We are trying to use AI positively in crime detection. MARVEL is a platform where we are creating different modules for crime detection assistance. Any unit can send their case to MARVEL for technological assistance. For instance, if a car involved in a crime needs to be traced using footage from standard CCTV cameras and the registration number is captured, this footage can be sent to MARVEL. The platform can analyse the data using AI to help identify and apprehend the suspect. This is a simple example. There can be multiple complex applications like data mining etc.," Deputy Chief Minister and state Home Minister Devendra Fadnis told The Indian Express. The company will come under the state home ministry, he added. Chief Secretary Sujata Saunik told The Indian Express that MARVEL can be used across all verticals within the Maharashtra home department. She also highlighted its potential in handling large data sets and its capability to narrow down police investigations by tracing the location of culprits or identifying crime scenes, thereby leading to concrete investigations. This initiative marks the first formal implementation of AI within a police

ED raids locations linked to Haryana Congress MLA Rao Dan Singh in Mahendragarh



GNS News Agency, July 22

rao dan singh, ed raids, chandigarh news, indian express Rao Dan Singh, the Mahendragarh MLA, contested the Lok Sabha elections 2024 from the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh seat as the Congress candidate. (FB)The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Thursday searched the house of Haryana Congress MLA Rao Dan Singh at Shankar Colony in Mahendragarh, his brother's nearby residence and his farmhouse on Rewari Road.

Security forces have been deployed at all these locations and nobody was allowed to enter or exit the premises. No official version was yet available from the ED's side and Rao Dan Singh was also not available to comment. Sources said the ED team was also searching the locations of a metal fabricating company, Allied Strips Limited (ASL), and its promoters Mohinder Agrawal, Gaurav Agrawal and a few others as part of a money laundering probe linked to an alleged Rs 1,392 crore worth bank loan fraud case. About 15 locations were being searched across Haryana's Bahadurgarh, Rewari, Mahendragarh and Gurgaon. The ED has reportedly found that certain companies owned by Rao Dan Singh's son took loans from this ASL which were later written off. Mahendragarh MLA Rao Dan Singh contested the Lok Sabha elections 2024 from the Bhiwani-Mahendragarh seat as a Congress nominee. He, however, lost to the BJP's Dharambir Singh, who won for a third consecutive time (2014, 2019 and 2024) from this seat. According to Rao Dan Singh's election affidavit, he faced no cases against him.

Incidentally, the searches occurred two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed a well-attended Samman Sammelan for backward classes organised by the Haryana government in Mahendragarh. According to preliminary information, Rao Dan Singh's family's name cropped up in the ED's investigation into the infamous Adarsh Cooperative Society scam. In 2019, the ED's Jaipur branch took over the investigation in this case. The investigations revealed the names of a company that had purchased land assets in Haryana's Rewari, Mahendragarh, and Narnaul areas. Over 100 people appeared on the ED's radar in the case, including Rao Dan Singh's son Akshat Rao. During his Lok Sabha election campaign, Rao Dan Singh said his family had no connection with this case, and the case against his son had also been closed. He also mentioned that his son's name figured in the ED's investigation due to a transaction with a company and he had no role in the alleged scam. Ahmedabad-based Mukesh Modi and Rahul Modi were named as prime accused in the Adarsh scam.

File suo-moto cases against hate speeches and fake news peddlers: Karnataka top cop to officers



Days after the annual review meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Director General and Inspector General of Police (DGP and IGP) Alok Mohan has directed the state police to initiate strict action against those making hate speeches and provocative statements.

GNS News Agency, July 22

Days after the annual review meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Director General and Inspector General of Police (DGP and IGP) Alok Mohan has directed the state police to initiate strict action against those making hate speeches and provocative statements. Days after the annual review meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Director General and Inspector General of Police (DGP and IGP) Alok Mohan has directed the state police to initiate strict action against those making hate speeches and provocative statements. Days after the annual review meeting with Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Karnataka Director General and Inspector General of Police (DGP and IGP) Alok Mohan has directed the state police to initiate strict action against those making hate speeches and provocative statements. In an order issued to all superintendents of police (SP) in districts, commissioners, and deputy commissioners of police (DCP) on July 16, Mohan said they must monitor fake news and hate speeches on social media through the monitoring system and should take suo-moto cases under relevant sections. He also said DCPs and SPs should immediately visit the spots of major crimes as soon as they receive the information. He said all personnel must be aware of the E-beat system and should end sexual harassment as well as keep an eye on educational institutions to ensure no drug peddling takes place. He also said all SPs or DCPs must visit at least one police station in their jurisdiction every day and interact with the public and staff to address the issues. He also directed the personnel to patrol public places in uniforms between 9 am and 11 am and between 6 pm and 9 pm. On Sunday, the Udipi district police booked a doctor working in a private hospital over his alleged communal post against Muslims on X. While the doctor deleted his post and claimed his account was hacked, several social media users demanded action against him.

HC stays proceedings against police officer for 'destroying' evidence



GNS News Agency, July 22

The Punjab and Haryana High Court has stayed the proceedings against the then ASP (Assistant Superintendent of Police) Guriqbal Singh Sidhu for allegedly destroying evidence in the murder case of Sukhmanpreet Singh, alias Sippy Sidhu. An Inspector of Chandigarh Police, Poonam Dilawari, has already been granted similar relief from the HC in April this year.

The then ASP had moved the HC seeking quashing of order dated February 26, 2024, passed by Special Judge, CBI Court, Chandigarh, which had set aside the order of Special Judicial Magistrate, CBI Court, Chandigarh, which had dismissed the protest petition filed by Sippy Sidhu's mother and brother, seeking action against Inspector Poonam Dilawari and the then ASP Guriqbal Singh Sidhu for allegedly destroying evidence in the case. Sippy Sidhu, a national-level shooter and corporate lawyer, 35, was shot dead on September 20, 2015. Initially, the Chandigarh Police investigated the case, but it was handed over to the CBI in 2016. After six

years, the CBI filed an untraced report in December 2020. The complainants filed a protest petition against it. Later when the CBI filed a chargesheet against accused Kalyani Singh, the complainants told the court that they would like to pursue the protest petition qua the role of Sidhu and Dilawari as well. The protest petition was, however, dismissed against the duo, Sidhu and Dilawari, by the court of Judicial Magistrate of CBI on February 4, 2023, stating that the protest petition filed by the complainant "was not maintainable, and infructuous in view of the report filed under Section 173 (8) of Criminal Procedure Code by the CBI".

The applicants, Deepender Kaur (mother of Sippy) and Jasmanpreet Singh Sidhu (brother of Sippy), challenged the Judicial Magistrate order before the appellate CBI court of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Jagjit Singh, by filing a revision application. The Special CBI court of Additional District and Sessions Judge in February this year had then remanded back the case for appreciating afresh the allegations as levelled in the protest petition against Guriqbal Singh Sidhu and Dilawari, and to pass afresh order therein. The special CBI court further directed the two police officials to appear before the court of Special Judicial Magistrate, CBI, Chandigarh.

Guriqbal Singh Sidhu, however, challenged the order of special CBI judge before the HC through counsel, Senior Advocate Bipin Ghai and advocate Nikhil Ghai, contending that the order passed by the CBI court is inherently illegal and flawed. Additionally, it was asserted that the CBI conducted further investigation leading to the presentation of a supplementary challan against accused Kalyani Singh, thus rendering the alternative prayer for cognisance qua the petitioner — accused unmaintainable, following the partial allowing of the main prayer. The counsel for Sippy Sidhu argued that the CBI court also committed a serious error by instructing the learned Special Judicial Magistrate, CBI, to consider the protest petition and subsequently proceed with the case, despite the record indicating that the main case was already committed to the CBI court. Hearing the matter, the bench of Justice Manjari Nehru Kaul issued notice to the CBI and adjourned the matter for July 29. Meanwhile, further proceedings qua the petitioner before the trial court shall remain stayed till the next date of hearing," ordered the HC.

After release from jail, farm activist says will march to Delhi once barricades are removed

GNS News Agency, July 22

After spending 111 days in jail, farmer activist Navdeep Singh Jalbera walked out of Ambala Central Jail on Tuesday evening after he was granted bail by the Punjab and Haryana High Court in a case registered in connection with farmers' February 13 'Dilli Chalo' march. On Wednesday farmer leaders went to Ambala to bring Navdeep Singh to the Shambhu border to honour him. Farmers took out a "victory march" celebrating his release from the jail. A stage was set up at Shambhu border where he was felicitated. While talking to The Indian Express, Navdeep Singh said, "I will never bow down to pressure. I have never yielded to it in the past either. I fully endorse the call of our leaders to march towards Delhi once the barricades are removed from Shambhu border. No matter, even if they lodge another case against me."

Navdeep Singh, a native of Jalbera village near Ambala, became famous as the "water cannon man" after he climbed atop a police water cannon in November 2020 during the farmers' agitation against the now-repealed farm laws. He was arrested by Haryana Police from Mohali on March 28 on various charges, including rioting and attempt to murder. The case lodged against him related to the February 13 commotion between farmers and police at Shambhu border when farmers were trying to march ahead and they were stopped by cops. Although Navdeep Singh was released from jail on Tuesday evening, the farm outfits decided to go ahead with their call for a gathering in Ambala (grain market) even though they postponed the call for a protest in front of the SP office. For the past few days, the farm outfits in Ambala were preparing for a protest in front of Ambala SP office to press for the release of Navdeep Singh. Sources say the farmer unions wanted to felicitate Navdeep Singh at a gathering in Ambala. However, the police started detaining the farmers when they reached the town on Wednesday morning. Farmers were not allowed to reach the grain market and over 25 farmer union leaders, including Navdeep Singh, were detained by cops and released in the evening.

The day-long tussle between the police and the farm protesters in Ambala ended on Wednesday evening after the cops released the detained farmers. Bharatiya Kisan Union (Shaheed Bhagat Singh) president Amarjeet Singh Mohri was one among the detained farmer leaders, said union spokesperson Tejveer Singh. Getting information, the farmers from Shambhu border started moving towards Ambala after holding march in the neighbouring villages to mobilise more farmers for the



protest. However, the Ambala police did not allow them to enter the town. Then, the farmers started protesting near Ambala. Meanwhile, they received information that the detained farmers and their leaders have been released. After that the protesters again moved towards Shambhu border via neighbouring villages. Tejveer Singh said: "A 'fateh' march (victory march) was held in the villages as the struggle of farmers had resulted in the release of Navdeep Singh. He was felicitated at an event at Shambhu border. Navdeep Singh came out of jail on Tuesday evening and in the morning, cops detained him along with others so that they couldn't reach the grain market (Ambala)."

Navdeep Singh said, "It was only the guru's prayers which saved me in the jail, though I was subjected to physical torture. Prayers helped me remain in high spirits. I am thankful for all the efforts put in by farmers for my release including rail roko for about a month. Police cases can't deter us from achieving our goal." On February 13, farmers from Punjab led by the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (non-political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha began a march to Delhi to press their demands, including a legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for crops. They were stopped by Haryana Police, who had set up barricades, including cemented blocks, on the Ambala-New Delhi national highway. The farmers clashed with police personnel and have been camping at Shambhu and Khanauri points along the Punjab and Haryana border ever since. On July 10, the Punjab and Haryana High Court ordered the Haryana government to open the barricades at the Shambhu border within a week on an "experimental basis". The court also directed the Punjab government to ensure that the protesters gathered in its territory are "duly controlled as and when the situation so requires". The Haryana government has moved the Supreme Court challenging the high court order. The top court will hear the plea on July 22.

Family remains intact but my colleagues will decide if Ajit Pawar has a place in party: Sharad Pawar

GNS News Agency, July 22

NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar said on Wednesday that those who stood beside him during difficult times would decide if his nephew and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has a place in the party, even though his place in the family is intact. "Elections come and go. Family remains intact. Every member has a place in the family, but whether there is a place for him in the party will not be my personal decision. All my colleagues who stood firmly with me during the tough time will be asked about it," Pawar said. Pawar said there was a tough contest in the Baramati Lok Sabha election but that the voters stood by Supriya Sule despite her facing a challenge from within the family.

"Voters of Baramati ensured her victory," he said, adding that what made the difference was the personal connection he had developed with voters over the years. The NCP (SP) chief also said the fact that the Organiser and Vivek, publications linked to the RSS, blamed the BJP's poor Lok Sabha poll performance in the state on the party's alliance with the Ajit Pawar-led NCP was proof that the cadres were not happy with the



alliance. Pawar also attributed the Mahayuti government's new schemes such as Ladki Bahin, Ladka Bhau to the Lok Sabha debacle. "The government has declared some schemes in the budget. In Maharashtra, Ajit Pawar and state NCP (SP) chief Jayant Patil were fortunate to have tabled the state budget six-seven times, but this kind of 'brother-sister' schemes never featured in their budgets. I am happy that brothers and sisters are being thought of by the state government."

PGIMER to set up India's first medical institutional museum



GNS News Agency, July 22

It promises to be a walk down memory lane and a testament to the times gone by. PGIMER, Chandigarh, Wednesday announced the creation of India's first museum within a medical institution, dedicated to chronicling its illustrious history and contributions to medical science. The ambitious project honours the vision of the late Sardar Partap Singh Kairon, the then chief minister of Punjab, and the distinguished medical educationist of the combined state of Punjab, supported by the first Prime Minister of India, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru. Prof Vivek Lal, director of PGIMER, expressing enthusiasm for the project, said, "The creation of this museum is not just a preservation of our rich heritage, but a beacon of inspiration for future generations. It stands as a testament to the visionary leaders who established PGI as a temple of learning and a symbol of excellence in medical education and research. This ambitious initiative, in fact, honours the vision of its founding fathers."

In sync, Pankaj Rai, deputy director (administration), PGI, who has conceptualised the initiative, highlighted the significance of the museum, stating, "This pioneering museum will be a landmark in the history of medical institutions in India. It will provide a unique opportunity for alumni, current students, and visitors to immerse themselves in the legacy and achievements of PGI, reinforcing our commitment to medical excellence."

Established in 1962 and granted autonomy under an Act of Parliament in 1967, PGIMER operates under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Its mission is to deliver high-quality patient care, achieve self-sufficiency in postgraduate medical educa-

tion, fulfil the nation's need for highly qualified medical educators, provide comprehensive educational facilities across health-related disciplines, and conduct groundbreaking community-based research. As PGIMER recently celebrated its 61st Foundation Day, it boasts a collection of historical medical equipment, visitor books signed by legendary figures, old photographs, and prestigious awards received by its esteemed faculty over six decades. These artefacts will form the core of the museum's collection, offering a tangible link to the institute's storied past. From the beam and open staircase design in Research Block A to the heritage furniture in the main library, the sun shades, and brick work, the spaces of the institute boast the vision of the architects.

In conjunction with the museum, PGIMER will also introduce a coffee table book, published periodically, to highlight the institute's milestones and achievements. This publication will serve as a valuable source of information and inspiration for aspiring medical professionals. The architectural marvel of PGIMER, Chandigarh, was designed by renowned architect Pierre Jeanneret in collaboration with Le Corbusier. The sprawling campus, marked by modernist architecture, has evolved over the years into a hub of medical excellence. Designed by Pierre Jeanneret with architect Jeet Malhotra, the institute is considered an architectural marvel and is spread over an area of 277 acres, with the campus boasting modernist architecture. The main building of the institute is the Nehru Hospital, dedicated to Pt Nehru. The research blocks and auditorium were designed by Jeet Malhotra. According to Rai, the museum will start on a temporary basis in the research block and then later move to a bigger area. "We have written to all heads of departments to send us an inventory of all old things, heritage furniture, old machines, equipment instruments, photographs of its construction, founders, special moments, visitors' books and these will be assessed by experts, and become a part of the museum. This effort is for the future generations to know the journey of this institute, and also understand how medical systems evolved. We have a wonderful archive and library, and the effort is to preserve its history. Decades down the line, what we are using now will be part of the museum, and visitors will know the countless efforts that went into making this dream possible," said Rai.

After bypoll debacle, 'unhappy' BJP MLAs meeting party leadership in Delhi: HP Cong V-P

GNS News Agency, July 22

Naresh Chauhan, who is also principal media adviser to CM Sukhvir Singh Sukhu, said that after the by poll debacle, there is a leadership crisis erupting in the state unit of the BJP. Naresh Chauhan, who is also principal media adviser to CM Sukhvir Singh Sukhu, said that after the bypoll debacle, there is a leadership crisis erupting in the state unit of the BJP. (X/@Naresh_HPCC) Days after winning two Assembly seats of three in the recently concluded bypolls, Congress vice-president Naresh Chauhan on Wednesday claimed that a leadership crisis has erupted within the Himachal Pradesh BJP. Chauhan, who is also principal media adviser to CM Sukhvir Singh Sukhu, said that after the bypoll debacle, there is a leadership crisis erupting in the state unit of the BJP. Speaking to mediapersons in Shimla, Chauhan said that BJP MLA from Dharamshala Sudhir Sharma is meeting senior party leaders in Delhi without informing the BJP's state leadership.

"Sudhir Sharma, who was a Congress rebel, is now meeting BJP leaders in Delhi without informing the state BJP leadership. Leader of Opposition Jai Ram Thakur and party in-charge Rajeev Bindal should think about it in time," he said. However, Thakur declined to make a direct comment on the matter. He said, "I don't want to aggregate the assertions of Congress leaders by making a comment. But yes if a BJP leader wants to meet central leaders and central leadership gives him time then what is wrong in that. It shows that there is transparency in the party." Recently, reports emerged that BJP MLAs — Sudhir Sharma and Inder Dutt Lakhnupal — had gone to Delhi. Reports suggest that the two also met certain officials of the Enforcement Directorate. Meanwhile, Bindal attacked the Sukhu government in Una on Wednesday and said that the anti-people decisions are the government's achievements in Himachal Pradesh. Talking to the mediapersons here, he said that if the Con-



gress government has become so powerful, it should show it by serving the people and not by snatching away their rights.

Referring to the 125-unit electricity subsidy being abolished for the income taxpayers in the state, Bindal alleged that all the "anti-people" decisions taken by the government since its formation are the "achievements" of the Congress party. Rather than giving 300 free units of power as mentioned in its election manifesto, the Congress government has snatched 125 units of free power given to the people of Himachal Pradesh, Bindal said. He alleged that the development has come to a standstill in the past 18 months and that the Congress government is synonymous with "bandh" (closure) as more than 1500 institutions including educational, health and other institutions, have been closed by the government. Taking a dig at the Congress government, Bindal said that by making diesel and petrol expensive, the government has put an additional burden on the commoners.

In Malerkotla, 20 armed men attack Muslim activist, chop ear; victim blames land mafia

GNS News Agency, July 22

A social activist from Muslim community, Adnan Ali Khan, was allegedly attacked by a group of men in broad daylight in Malerkotla town on Wednesday. One of his ears was also chopped using a sharp-edged weapon. Khan said that the attackers were carrying revolvers, swords and other sharp-edged weapons and they were at least 20 in number. Fearing threat to his life, he has urged the AAP government and Punjab Police to give him security cover. Khan, who had recently formed an organisation — "Muslim Tiger Force" — while blaming "Muslim land mafia" for the attack, said that he was targeted as he has been speaking out against the mafia that have encroached on Waqf Board property in Punjab including mosques, burial grounds and others.

"Recently I got a chunk of land vacated from encroachers in Raikot. That's why I have been targeted. I have been requesting for long to Punjab CM and DGP to provide me security but no one bothered. I fear serious threat to my life," he alleged. Khan said that on Wednesday he was present at a typist's shop in the market of Malerkotla when a group of at least 20 men, armed with swords and weapons, opened attack on him. "My one ear has been chopped and I have received 15 stitches. They wanted to kill me," said Khan, alleging that the local police was not registering the FIR under attempt to murder sections.

"I request CM and DGP to take strict action against this Muslim land mafia who almost killed me and left me blood-soaked on road. Thanks to the crowd which took me to hospital. Malerkotla police is not putting serious charges like attempt to murder on them because of local MLA's pressure. There are 15 stitches on my head and ear. I can't hear properly as they pierced a sharp weapon in my ear," said Khan. In the recently concluded Lok Sabha



A social activist from Muslim community, Adnan Ali Khan, was allegedly attacked by a group of men in broad daylight in Malerkotla town on Wednesday. One of his ears was also chopped using a sharp-edged weapon.

polls, Khan had campaigned for Congress's Sukhpal Singh Khaira who unsuccessfully contested from Sangrur seat. Malerkotla DSP Gurdev Singh said that an FIR has been registered against six identified persons named by Khan and their unidentified accomplices. "FIR sections have been put as per the initial medical report which says injuries were caused with blunt weapons. We will add attempt to murder later during further course of probe," said the DSP.

Trump supporter Sikh woman lawyer faces right-wingers' online onslaught for reciting 'ardas' at RNC



GNS News Agency, July 22

Republican Party member and Sikh woman lawyer Harmeet Kaur Dhillon has been facing criticism from right-wingers online for reciting 'ardas' (Sikh prayer) on the stage on the closing of the first night of the four-day Republican National Convention (RNC) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the US, Monday. An elected member of the Republican Party and a staunch supporter of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Dhillon posted a video of a content creator, Melonie Mac, who has more than 2 lakh followers on X, in which Mac could be heard making hateful speech against her for reciting 'ardas'. "Austere religious scholar," Harmeet termed Mac. "This woman I cursed our nation by hosting a prayer to a demon and a bunch of RINOs are supporting it," Mac

posted on X. "Yesterday, Harmeet Kaur recited a beautiful Ardas (Sikh prayer) at the RNC praying for the protection and safety of All Americans and Trump. It has been watched by millions globally. Ignorance breeds division and hate. Today there are several ignorant posts on X amplified by American influencers. Some basic facts to inform in the spirit of love and unity," said Kulwinder Kaur, a known US physician with 2.5 lakh followers on X.

Harmeet Kaur also uploaded the translation of the 'ardas' on X. She had earlier said that she decided to block accounts of 'quite a few people...' on X. "Sikhism is a monotheistic faith — we believe in one God, the same God other monotheistic faiths worship. I am deeply touched & grateful for the thousands of positive messages I have received," Harmeet said on X. She also got the support of a big section as she was under fire from the right-wing. "I finally broke 900,000 followers today on this incredible platform. Thank you to all, even the haters and the losers! And thank you @elonmusk I," posted Harmeet Kaur hinting she gained followers in this hate wave against her. Rod Dreher, who writes on religion and culture, with more than 1 lakh followers on X, said, "I am an Orthodox Christian, and I stand by Harmeet Kaur Dhillon." "I'm very confused by all the rancor over Harmeet's prayer at RNC. I'm an evangelical Christian, not a Sikh. But I applaud her loving care for everyone in our movement. And sharing a kindness with us last night," posted Jim Pfaff, president of The Conservative Caucus.

Digging rainwater pit, MGNREGA workers stumble upon coins dating back to 1826, gold ornaments

GNS News Agency, July 22

NREGA, MGNREGA workers, MNREGA, NREGA workers find coins dating back to 1826, NREGA workers find gold ornaments, Indian express news, current affairs, Thiruvananthapuram They threw it in fear and it broke, but instead of an explosive, what remained scattered across the ground were coins and objects that looked like gold and silver ornaments. The women workers last week handed over the collection to local panchayat authorities, who in turn informed the archaeology department. On July 13, MGNREGA workers in Kerala's Chengalayi village in Kannur were digging pits for rainwater harvesting when they found a pot. At first, they thought it contained a crude bomb as Kannur had seen incidents of abandoned articles exploding on being opened.



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On Wednesday, the state archeology department examined the items and said they were of archeological value. State Archeology Department Director E Dineshan said the most recent coin in the collection was minted in 1826, indicating that they might have been buried around

200 years back. The pot contained 13 golden locketts, 17 studs, five locketts, five rings and a bunch of coins, all of them either gold or silver. Another section of coins belong to the category of Venetian ducat, believed to be minted in Venice, he said. The recovered Venetian ducats were minted between 1670 and 1700. These ducats were formed into a chain and worn as jewellery, he said. The director said the recovered collection comprised coins from French India and those used by the Ali Raja of Arakkal dynasty (a Muslim King of present day Kannur region which ruled from 16th century to 19th century). He said the Archeology department had so far not conducted any study or excavation in this part of Kannur where these objects were found in a pot. But since the village is near a river, the region might have been a place of trade.

Alarm bells ring, most students who failed twice in Class 9 at risk of dropping out

GNS News Agency, July 22

Delhi government, Delhi government schools, Delhi government school students, Class 9 at risk of dropping out, delhi news, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express India "Statistics on drop-outs should be responded to with urgency. These students must be traced. We need to apply a two-fold strategy. They need to be brought back and made to benefit from skilling and vocational training." Nearly two out of three students who failed class IX twice in Delhi government schools this year face the possibility of dropping out of school as they have not enrolled themselves to the National Institute of Open School in Delhi.



As per data accessed by The Indian Express, this year out of 17,308 students across 903 Delhi government schools, who could not clear the Class IX final for the second time during 2023-24, only 6,200 students are under process for enrolment through NIOS portal of Directorate of Education, as of July 16. As per Delhi government's policy, students who fail twice in Class IX are asked to pursue further education through open schooling. "As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce the dropout rate among students, it has been observed that the students who have failed twice are at the risk of discontinuing their education. These students need immediate attention and support so they do not drop out," said a directive issued by the Directorate of Education to the Heads of Government schools guiding them to counsel students and parents to not discontinue school. "This initiative aims to give them an opportunity to continue their education at their own pace and in the subjects of their own choice so that they can be mainstreamed into their parent school once they pass class X" it added. The Delhi government did not respond to questions despite repeated attempts. While the Delhi government has been celebrating improvements in pass percentage in classes 10 and 12 in CBSE board examinations, class 9 results have been a persistent issue.

In the academic year 2023-24, in class 9, around 36% students had to be held back after failing to clear their exams even after a remedial or compartment exam. The pass percentage of Class IX and Class XI students in Delhi government schools has dipped below pre-pandemic levels. For Class IX students, the pass percentage for the years 2019, 2020 and 2021 stood at 84.72%, 87.13% and 88.49%.

In 2022, the pass percentage of students saw a sharp dip from 84.72% in 2019-20 to 65.52% in 2022-23. In 2018-19, around 42% failed. At the time, the Delhi government had said that 40% percent of those who did not pass dropped out of school. Around 2.5 lakh students from government schools appear for the Class IX exam each year. Delhi government came up with a two-fold strategy, then Education Minister Manish Sisodia had said, "Statistics on dropouts should be responded to with urgency. These students must be traced. We need to apply a two-fold strategy. They need to be brought back and made to benefit from skilling and vocational training."

NIOS, meanwhile, has the option to enrol students online or in person. "The NIOS has 100% online admis-

sion at the Secondary and the Senior Secondary Education levels in order to facilitate learners to register," states its official website. Facilitation centres and regional centres have also been set up to help students register online. A Delhi government school teacher said, "There are two ways to enrol a student in NIOS. Either a student privately enrolls himself/herself or they enrol themselves in the NIOS centres which have been established in different schools. In the second case, the school will carry out the process of admitting the students who failed class IX twice into the NIOS centres. "Students' kin, however, alleged that help is not readily available. Ifrar, 45, a daily wage worker in Khajoori Khas, whose niece has failed to clear Class IX twice, said, "My niece couldn't pass class IX and failed twice due to family issues the first time around and the second time she was admitted in the hospital as she got typhoid. My sister and I went to speak to the principal of the school yesterday but they directed us to different places and offices to get rid of us. They did not offer to help us out in applying for admission, even in the open school," he added. He said his niece passed in mathematics but got a compartment in science and couldn't clear her compartment examination.

Sanofi Healthcare to invest Rs 3,600 cr in Hyderabad GCC over next six years

GNS News Agency, July 22

New Delhi: French drug major Sanofi Healthcare India has announced plans to make an investment of about Rs 3,600 crore (400 million euros) in its Global Capacity Centre (GCC) in Hyderabad over the next six years. About 900 crore (100 million euros) will be invested by 2025. The company also plans to create 1,600 more jobs by 2026. "The Hyderabad GCC will expand to host approximately 2,600 employees over the next two years, making it the largest of Sanofi's four global hubs," said Madeleine Roach, Executive Vice President of Business Operations at Sanofi, at a press conference. Set up in 2019, the GCC in Hyderabad is Sanofi's largest among four GCCs globally — Budapest, Malaysia, and Colombia. It also consists of a workforce of 1,000 employees.

Sharp surge in fees of most courses at skills university triggers criticism and concerns



GNS News Agency, July 22

A fourfold increase in the fee for Diploma in Architecture, and a nearly twofold surge for a Bachelor in Computer Applications — the fresh academic session has seen a significant hike in fees for most of the 80 courses, barring master programmes, at the Delhi Skills and Entrepreneurship University (DSEU). Even as the surge has drawn criticism from students and teachers, the administration has cited a fund crunch and said that the increase was long due. Last month, the fee surge prompted a protest from students. A group of 20 students from 19 different campuses of DSEU on June 11 protested in front of the office of the Directorate of Technical Education. They also put forward their requests in a letter but received no response. The protest was held by Aawaz, a students' union. Earlier, in a letter to Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena on June 12, a delegation of students raised concern over a "dramatic increase in tuition fees". The L-G later sent a letter to the varsity to "consider fee relaxation", according to V-C Dr Ashok K Nagawat. Every year, the course fees are increased by 10%, and the changes are adjusted in the semester fees. This academic session, however, the surge has been much higher.

For example, till last year, the Diploma in Architecture, and Diploma in Pharmacy had Rs 15,750 as the first-year course fee; the fee for Bachelor in Optometry and Bachelor in Library Sciences was Rs 42,700. It was Rs 52,700 for Bachelor in Computer Applications and Rs 60,250 for Bachelor in Data Analytics. While the first-year fee for Diploma in Architecture and a Diploma in Pharmacy has now been surged to Rs 63,000, it has been

doubled for B S Optometry and B Library Sciences (Rs 1,13,000). For BCA and BS Data Analytics and Digital Marketing (course name changed), students have to pay Rs 1,13,000 — almost double the last year's fee.

The surge was long due, said V-C Nagawat. "The Diploma in Architecture course earlier was a slab-1 course — its tuition fee was Rs 10,000. Now, it has been shifted to slab-2 with a tuition fee of Rs 25,000. Minimal fees were being charged for many years but this year, considering the demand of the course and the resources required, we have increased the fees." The DSEU is also facing a fund crunch, Nagawat further said, adding that he is hoping for more funds so that the faculty strength can be expanded to 1,200 from 500 at present. The annual budget allocated by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi to DSEU has been halved from Rs 290 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 165 crore in 2024-25, it was further highlighted. On the surge in fees for Diploma in Pharmacy course, the V-C said that limited funds would have impacted the quality of the laboratory, studio, or workshop training. A Bachelor in Technology student said, "I cannot submit my college fees... my father is a rickshaw driver. I have applied for a loan but my father's credit score is not enough to get the loan. I have tried as hard as possible to get a scholarship but to no avail." Nagawat said, "We are observing financial discipline because till last year we were very lenient and many students still failed to pay fees." A teacher said, pleading anonymity, "Such a hike in fees is unjustified... It will deprive the financially weaker sections from pursuing technical education." When asked about the implication of the jump in fees, the teacher said that students would prefer other institutes. "The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) offers courses for much less." A sister of an 18-year-old student who was considering applying to the DSEU said the sudden hike in the fees has "forced them to look for other options like IGNOU". Fearing that her sister might have to drop a year and prepare for CUET (Common University Entrance Test)-UG, she said, "But I want her to study. If she drops one year, she may be forced into marriage. We are dealing with a lot of financial struggles. I want her to become independent." On DSEU's website I read that the diploma courses 'skills poor', but after the fee hike, it does not seem like it anymore," she added.

Cargo pants, T-shirts: Delhi Police uniform may undergo a makeover

GNS News Agency, July 22

Delhi Police, Delhi Police uniform, Delhi Police uniform makeover, delhi news, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express India The Khaki colour T-shirt and cargo pants have already been given to constables in some parts of Delhi as part of a trial, said another officer. The Delhi Police may replace the uniform of its personnel — from the rank of an Inspector to Constable — with cargo pants and T-shirts, said senior police officers.

Sources at the police headquarters said that the Delhi Police is planning this move in view of the weather conditions in the city. Said an officer, "The change is in the planning stage and nothing has been finalised so far... it will, in all probability, get changed but the Khaki colour will remain." Cargo pants and T-shirts will be provided to its staff during summers and woolen shirts and pants with high quality warmers will be provided to them during win-



ters. "The cargo pants are being considered as they can carry multiple articles such as diaries, mobile phone and ammunition, etc," said another officer. The Khaki colour T-shirt and cargo pants have already been given to constables in some parts of Delhi as part of a trial, said another officer.

Enhance patrolling near exam centres, deploy adequate force: Commissioner issues SOP to Delhi Police personnel

GNS News Agency, July 22

Central Police Control Room, CPCR, Delhi Police, Delhi Police officers, examination centres, PCR vans, delhi news, India news, Indian express, Indian express India news, Indian express India Protesters raise slogans during a demonstration against the alleged NEET-UG paper leak. Recent controversies over a few centrally conducted entrance tests have necessitated a review of systems around all such entrance tests. Image: Abhinav Saha Deputy an officer at Central Police Control Room (CPCR) to monitor the conduct of examinations, enhance patrolling by PCR vans near examination centres, and deploy adequate force to maintain peace and public tranquility. These are among the instructions Delhi Police Commissioner Sanjay Arora has issued to police personnel in the district with regard to the conduct of various examinations to be held in the Capital. This comes days after the Union Home Ministry asked all state Chief Secretaries and DGPs to provide assistance to the National Testing Agency (NTA), National Board of Examination (NBE), and other Central Testing Agencies (CTAs).



Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla held a meeting earlier this month with all state Chief Secretaries and DGPs where he is learnt to have asked them to issue standard operating procedures (SOPs) for proper and safe conduct of national-level examinations. While issuing SOP on July 12, Arora said that the DCP (headquarters-II) should circulate the schedule of an upcoming examination to be conducted by NTA, NBE and CTAs among the districts concerned in order to work out necessary arrangements. Officers should be categorically deployed to visit the centre on the previous day and ensure that it is sanitised and sealed properly in the presence of the officials of the testing body concerned, he added.

Currently, only one beat constable along with another police official visits the exam centre and takes action in case of a call related to impersonation. However, recent controversies over several centrally conducted entrance tests, including the NEET-UG paper, have necessitated a review of systems around all such entrance tests. "The DCP (headquarters-II) should also share the schedule with DCP (PCR), who will, upon receipt of the same, brief and alert the PCR vans located near the examination centres to enhance patrolling and to respond to any call that may concern the conduct of the examination in a professional manner. The DCP (PCR) should also depute an officer in PCR to monitor the conduct of examinations from the perspective of law and order situation," Arora said.

Arora further said that an advanced and adequate police force will be deployed at the centres commensurate to the strength of candidates appearing for the examination to maintain peace and public tranquility in and around the premises. "Detailed staff will remain present

at the centres till the examination teams depart from there after conclusion of the examination," he said. "...There should be a standing committee at the headquarter level, chaired by Joint/Additional CP (headquarter), having DCP (headquarters-II) and ACP/Coordination-I as its members," he stated. "On behalf of Delhi Police, DCP (headquarters-II) should be the nodal officer for all communications between Delhi Police, the NTA, NBE and CTAs. Headquarter-level committee should have all district Additional DCP-1 as co-opted members. There should also be a standing committee in each district, chaired by district DCP and comprising Additional DCP-1 and ACP (headquarter)," he further added. According to the SOP, the DCP (headquarters-II), being the nodal officer for Delhi Police, should share the official mobile/landline numbers of Additional DCPs-1 of all districts with the NTA, NBE and CTAs for information and localised coordination. "In case of restriction on movement in certain areas, admit cards issued to the candidates by the NTA, NBE and CTAs should be treated as a 'Movement Pass'," Arora said.

Wife dies soon after demise of husband in Karimnagar

GNS News Agency, July 22

Karimnagar: In a tragic incident, a 70-year-old woman died soon after the death of her husband in Banjerpalli village of Kondapaikala of Manakondur mandal According to local people, Thota Malliah (75) died of ill-health on Tuesday. While preparations were being made for his final rites on Wednesday, Malliah's wife Rajalalamma collapsed all of a sudden and died.

Family members, relatives and villagers were shocked by the death of the couple. The couple was survived by two sons and a daughter.

Bangladesh quota protesters announce nationwide shutdown



GNS News Agency, July 22

Student protesters demanding reforms in the quota system in government jobs on Wednesday announced plans to enforce a complete nationwide shutdown on Thursday in response to the actions of the security forces that left at least six people, including four students, dead across the country. A key coordinator of the movement, Asif Mahmud, in a Facebook post said all establishments, barring hospitals and emergency services, will remain closed, and only ambulance services will be permitted to operate.

The movement urges students from all educational institutions to participate and calls on guardians to support their cause, the newspaper reported. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in an address to the nation on Wednesday, "deeply regretted" the casualties in the violence over student protests and said that a judicial inquiry committee will be formed. Hasina asked demonstrators to keep faith in the country's apex court as the issue is pending with it. "I believe our students will get justice (in the apex court). They will not be disappointed," she said in an unscheduled nationwide address a day after six people were killed as the protest spread in major cities across the country on Tuesday and continued on Wednesday. Donning a black saree, she appeared on a live TV broadcast coinciding with the Muslim mourning day of "Ashura", which is a public holiday in Bangladesh, and said the casualties over the student protests were "very saddening and unfortunate" adding "for no justified reason some valuable lives were lost". She declared a judicial investigation into the killings and said, "I will do whatever support is necessary for the families of those who have been killed in the violence."

"I declare unequivocally that action will be taken to ensure that those who have committed murder, looting and terrorist activities, whoever they may be, receive appropriate punishment," the premier said. Hasina, however, held responsible "some vested quarters" for instigating the violence saying the protesting students were not involved in the "terrorist acts" and urged them not to give chance to miscreants to take advantage of the situation. The violence prompted the government to close all public and private universities alongside schools and colleges across Bangladesh for an indefinite period on late Tuesday asking residential students to leave dormitories. According to media reports, four of the deceased were students and the remaining two were small traders. Two people were killed in the capital Dhaka, three in the southeastern port city of Chattogram and one in northwestern Rangpur.

A second-year student of northwestern Rangpur University was the first casualty on Tuesday when he was shot dead by police during a protest on the university campus. "He stood, arms spread wide, alone, challenging the police crackdown against protesters. He was

suddenly shot by a police officer. He tried to get back to protesting (students), but collapsed to the ground mere minutes later," a newspaper reported. But media reports and witnesses said violence continued on Wednesday when scores of protesters were wounded in clashes with alleged ruling Awami League's student activists and police. They said police used rubber bullets, tear gas and sound grenades on the campuses of premier Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University on the outskirts of the capital and northwestern Rajshahi University.

Despite the premier's call, the protestors vowed to carry on their protests with their coordinator Asif Mahmud saying the country will be under complete shutdown on Thursday. He said they decided to protest against "the killings, beatings of protesters and others" by police, paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), elite anti-crime Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and police's SWAT unit. "Other than hospitals and emergency no institution's doors will open. Other than ambulances, no cars will ply the street. I am calling on students of every school, college, university, private university, and Madrasah to help make tomorrow's programme a success," he announced in a Facebook post. Fifty-six per cent of government jobs are reserved under the current quota system with 30 being for the decedents of the 1971 Liberation War freedom fighters, 10 per cent for backward administrative districts, 10 per cent for women, five per cent for ethnic minority groups and one per cent for the handicapped people. Every year some 3,000 government jobs open up to nearly 400,000 graduates. The protestors waged the campaign for the reform of the system saying it was debaring meritorious students' recruitment in first-class and second-class government jobs. UN Human Rights chief Volker Turk on Wednesday urged Bangladesh authorities to engage with protesting students adding "all acts of violence and use of force, especially resulting in loss of life, must be investigated and perpetrators held to account". In a message on X handle, he said freedom of expression and peaceful assembly are fundamental human rights.

His comment came a day after Amnesty International urged Bangladesh authorities to "immediately guarantee the safety of all peaceful protesters" while the US State Department also denounced the "violence against peaceful protesters", prompting a rebuke from Bangladesh's foreign ministry. The protesters in 2018 waged a nearly identical street protest demanding quota system "reforms" when after an initial reservation the government "abolished" the quota system, which was overturned recently by a High Court division bench, dragging the issue to the apex Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. The Appellate Division of the unitary Bangladesh's Supreme Court last week, however, halted the High Court's order for four weeks while Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan asked protesting students to return to classes, saying the apex court would issue a decision in four weeks. Authorities at the premier Dhaka University on Wednesday announced an indefinite closure of the institution. The students have been asked to vacate their dormitories by Wednesday evening. This decision was taken at an emergency syndicate meeting at the office of Vice Chancellor ASM Maksud Kamal, Pro-VC (Academic) Prof Sitesh C Bachar was quoted as saying by the Dhaka Tribune. "Considering the security of the students, we have decided to close the university indefinitely and evacuate the halls," Bachar told The Daily Star. However, students of the university are protesting the decision, and they have thronged the VC's residence, the report added.

Usha Vance on US Veep-pick husband: Learnt to cook Indian food from my mother



GNS News Agency, July 22

Sharing their personal story, Usha sheds light on their first meeting and the journey that led them to this occasion, when JP Vance was standing as Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate. Usha Chilukuri Vance took the stage at the Republican National Convention on Thursday to introduce her husband, Ohio Republican Senator JD Vance, following his selection as Donald Trump's running mate for the US presidential polls. As she introduces her husband, Usha's smile widens, radiating a sense of genuine happiness.

Sharing their personal story, Usha sheds light on their first meeting and the journey that led them to this occasion, when JP Vance was standing as Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate. She also praised JD for adapting to a vegetarian diet. "When I was asked to introduce my husband, JD Vance, to all of you, I was at a loss. It occurred to me that there was only one thing to do:

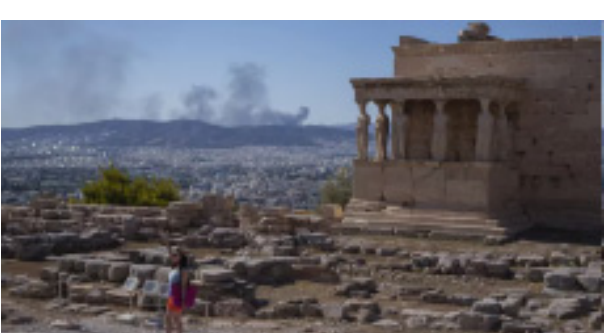
to explain, from the heart, why I love and admire JD, why I stand here beside him today, and why he will make a great Vice President of the United States," Usha said.

She added, "I met JD in law school when he was fresh out of Ohio State, which he attended with the support of the G.I. Bill. He was then, as now, the most interesting person I knew. A working-class guy who had overcome childhood traumas that I could barely fathom to end up at Yale Law School. A tough Marine who had served in Iraq but whose idea of a good time was playing with puppies. When JD met me, he approached our differences with curiosity and enthusiasm. Although he is a meat and potato kind of guy, he adapted to my vegetarian diet and learnt to cook Indian food from my mother." Future Second Lady Usha Vance: "Neither J.D. nor I expected to find ourselves in this position — but it's hard to imagine a more powerful example of the American Dream." FULL REMARKS: pic.twitter.com/JJgdJbemOH — Team Trump (Text TRUMP to 88022) (@TeamTrump) July 18, 2024. My background is very different from JD's. I grew up in San Diego, in a middle-class community with two loving parents. Both immigrants from India. "The couple, who met at Yale Law School, married in 2014 and have three children together: sons, Ewan, 6, and Vivek, 4, and a daughter, Mirabel, 2. Incidentally, the two are friends with Indian-American entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, who challenged Donald Trump for the Republican presidential ticket. Donald Trump named Ohio Senator JD Vance as his running mate, elevating a staunch ally and young GOP star who, less than a decade ago, rose to prominence as a Trump critic."

Heatwave forces Acropolis in Greece to shut, 2 firefighters killed in Italy

GNS News Agency, July 22

Italy added Palermo, Sicily, to the list of 13 cities in the country with a severe heat warning. Elderly people in the city of Verona were urged to stay indoors, while sprinklers were set up to cool passersby. A woman poses for a photo in front of Caryatid statues that prop up the porch of the 5th Century BC Erechtheion temple. A heat wave across southern Europe forced authorities in Greece to close the Acropolis Wednesday for several hours and two firefighters died while putting out a fire in the Basilicata region in southern Italy, Italian authorities said.



Italy added Palermo, Sicily, to the list of 13 cities in the country with a severe heat warning. Elderly people in the city of Verona were urged to stay indoors, while sprinklers were set up to cool passersby. Greece's Culture Ministry ordered the closure of the Acropolis — the country's biggest cultural attraction — from midday for five hours. Tourists hoping to visit the Parthenon temple atop the Acropolis queued early in the morning to beat the worst of the heat, while the Red Cross handed chilled bottled water and information fliers to those waiting in line.

"We got it done and got out quick, and now we're going to some air conditions and some more libation and enjoy the day," said Toby Dunlap, who was visiting from Pennsylvania and had just toured the Acropolis. "But it's hot up there, it really is. If you don't come prepared, you're going to sweat." Meteorologists said the hot air from Africa was forecast to continue through Sunday, with heat wave temperatures expected to peak at 43 degrees C (109 F).

In Albania, the heat led the government to resched-

ule working hours for civil servants, making it easier for some to work from home. Neighboring North Macedonia struggled with dozens of wildfires that had broken out in the previous 24 hours. One major blaze stretched across nearly 30 kilometers (21 miles). Firefighting aircraft from Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia, Romania and Turkey responded to the country's call for assistance. In western Turkey, firefighters — aided by more than a dozen water-dropping aircraft — managed to bring a wildfire near the town of Bergama under control several hours after it ignited. The cause of the blaze, which was fanned by strong winds, was not immediately known. The municipality of Turkey's largest city Istanbul issued a heat warning on Tuesday, saying temperatures would rise between 3-6 degrees C (37-43 F) above seasonal norms until July 28. Several Spanish cities, including Granada and Toledo, are bracing for temperatures as high as 44 degrees C (111 F) forecast for later in the week in the country's hottest spots in the south.

Jaahnavi Kandula death case: Seattle cop who made 'limited value' remark, fired

GNS News Agency, July 22

Seattle Police Officer Daniel Auderer was terminated months after he made insensitive comments about the death of Jaahnavi Kandula, a 23-year-old student killed by a speeding police vehicle in Seattle. A Seattle Police Department officer who joked and made insensitive comments after 23-year-old Jaahnavi Kandula's death last year, was terminated. The officer was identified as Daniel Auderer. According to an internal email sent to the department by SPD Chief Sue Rahr, Auderer's behaviour was termed "unusual", Komo News reported.



Rahr also acknowledged the case has been covered extensively by the media. "I recognise that it is unusual for a chief to explain a disciplinary decision to an entire organisation," Rahr wrote. "This is, however, an unusual enough circumstance that I believe I owe it to all of you to do so. This case has been covered extensively in the public, has garnered international media and diplomatic attention, and I am confident that everyone in this organisation has had the opportunity to learn about the case and hear for themselves the officer's words."

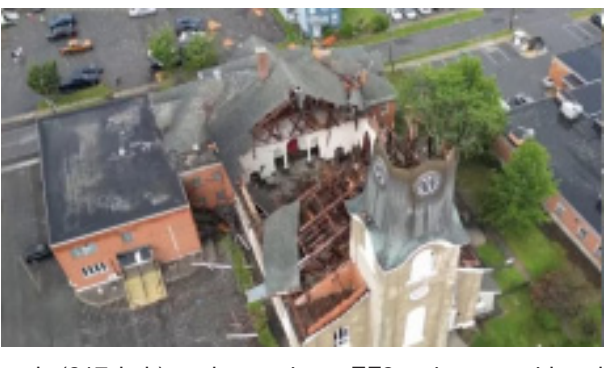
23-year-old Indian student, Kandula, died after she was struck by a police vehicle driven by another cop, Kevin Dave, when she was crossing a street in Seattle on January 23, 2024. The officer was driving at more than 119 kmph speed as he was responding to a drug overdose call. Kandula was thrown 100 feet when she was struck by the speeding police patrol vehicle. The officer Auderer, who was not involved in the January collision, was captured in a video saying, "But she is dead" and laughing while on the phone. He continued, "She was 26 anyway. She had limited value."

"I am choosing to share the outcome of this case with all of you because the far-reaching impact of the officer's actions reflect on all of us, not just as members of the Seattle Police Department but on the profession of law enforcement," Rahr's email stated. Internal police sources told KIGN 5 that Rahr was strongly considering a 30-day suspension for Auderer. However, in the end, the chief went with termination to not appear too lenient. The

Severe storm causes flooding in Toronto, tornado hits New York

GNS News Agency, July 22

The relentless series of storms has caused deaths or damage from the Plains to New England this week. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost power and air conditioning during days of sweltering heat. Cities across upstate New York declared states of emergency after a storm swept through Tuesday with high winds and spectacular lightning. Cities across upstate New York declared states of emergency after a storm swept through Tuesday with high winds and spectacular lightning. Another wave of severe storms pummeled a wide swath of the United States and Canada, leading to flash floods and water rescues Wednesday in the Ozark Mountains, dropping a tornado that ravaged a community in upstate New York and stranding drivers in high water around Toronto. The relentless series of storms has caused deaths or damage from the Plains to New England this week. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost power and air conditioning during days of sweltering heat. As much as 11 inches (nearly 28 centimeters) of rain fell overnight into Wednesday on parts of the Ozarks in Arkansas and Missouri, the National Weather Service said. Buses and ambulances evacuated 86 people from a nursing home in Yellville, Arkansas, where water rose to about 4 feet (1.2 meters) during flash flooding, Marion County Sheriff Gregg Alexander said. A section of a bridge washed out and a historic courthouse flooded.



Cities across upstate New York were cleaning up after a storm swept through Tuesday with high winds and spectacular lightning and flying debris that killed one person. In the small city of Rome, New York, a tornado ripped off roofs, tipped over vehicles and turned several buildings into piles of rubble. Steeples crumbled and roofs were torn apart at First Presbyterian Church and the St. Mary's Church, both built in the 1800s. Copper sheets from the roof of First Presbyterian were found wrapped around utility poles a quarter mile away. The winds were fierce enough to move a multi-ton tourist attraction, a B-52 bomber displayed at Griffiss Business and Technology Park. A mural of a Revolutionary War figure on horseback — a Rome landmark — was destroyed, along with the building on which it was painted. All that remained was an image of a horse hoof.

mph (217 kph) and gave it an EF2 rating, considered "significant," on the Enhanced Fujita scale. Chiropractor Kingsley Kabari was with a patient in his second-floor office in Rome when his cellphone blared with a tornado alert Tuesday afternoon. By the time he could pick it up to mute it, the storm had arrived, he said, blowing out windows, tearing at the roof of the two-story brick building and sending debris flying. "It was like a bomb dropped on the building with very high-power wind. Things were just flying everywhere — and this was inside," he said Wednesday. The tornado cut a path between two nursing homes operated by Grand Healthcare, sparing them of the most severe damage but pelting the buildings with powerful winds and heavy rains that knocked out their power, regional vice president Bruce Gendron said. He said he was at one of the nursing homes when the storm hit, and staffers moved residents away from the windows in case trees came toppling into the building. The facilities' backup generators kicked in, keeping most systems intact until normal power was restored Wednesday afternoon, he said. "To our residents of Rome: Do not be discouraged. This community is resilient and we will build back," Mayor Jeff Lanigan said.

Speaking outside St. Mary's, Gov. Kathy Hochul said it was "miraculous" no one was killed in the city of 31,000. She toured the downtown Wednesday and said 22 buildings were damaged or destroyed. She described seeing trees "collapsed like toothpicks" and told of mobile homes tipped over with people inside. The governor marveled at narrow escapes, including two children in a medical waiting room who emerged unscathed even though the building was partially "obliterated." A National Weather Service preliminary damage survey released Wednesday night estimated the Rome tornado's top winds at 135

A weaker tornado given an initial EF1 rating, with a top estimated wind speed of 110 mph (177 kph), also touched down about 230 miles (370 kilometers) away in Lyme, New Hampshire on Tuesday night, the weather service said. It remained on the ground for about 1.8 miles (2.9 kilometers) and knocked down at least 100 trees, said Jon Palmer, a weather service meteorologist in Gray, Maine. About 30 miles (48 kilometers) away in Canastota, storm debris hit and killed an 82-year-old man, village administrator Jeremy Ryan said. Hochul said three homes collapsed and 30 other structures were damaged in the community. A thousand miles (1,600 kilometers) away in Flippin, Arkansas, people went door to door to get as many as 40 residents to flee dangerous conditions before floodwaters began to recede. At least 30 residents were evacuated from an apartment complex in Greenbrier, 34 miles (55 kilometers) north of Little Rock, state emergency managers said.

Dinosaur skeleton sells for record \$44.6 million at New York auction

GNS News Agency, July 22

Estimated to be 150 million years old, Apex is said to be "among the most complete skeletons ever found," according to the auction house. Sotheby's had expected Apex to fetch between \$4 million and \$6 million, but the price quickly skyrocketed as telephone bidders deluged the sale. Sotheby's had expected Apex to fetch between \$4 million and \$6 million, but the price quickly skyrocketed as telephone bidders deluged the sale. The largest stegosaurus skeleton ever found, nicknamed Apex, sold for a record breaking \$44.6 million at auction in New York on Wednesday, Sotheby's said. Estimated to be 150 million years old, Apex is said to be "among the most complete skeletons ever found," according to the auction house. It measures 11 feet (3.3 meters) tall and 27 feet long and counts 254 fossil bone elements of an approximate total of 319. The previous auction record of \$31.8 million for a dinosaur skeleton was set in 2020 for a Tyrannosaurus Rex nicknamed "Stan." Sotheby's had expected Apex to fetch between \$4 million and \$6 million,

but the price quickly skyrocketed as telephone bidders deluged the sale, prompting gasps and clapping in the auction room. After the record-breaking sale, the auctioneer asked her colleague Cassandra Hatton, Sotheby's global head of science, "do you need a cigarette?" Apex was discovered in May 2022 on the private land of paleontologist Jason Cooper. The auction house says it has collaborated with Cooper to "document the entire process, from discovery and excavation to restoration, preparation and mounting," in order to guarantee the "highest standards and transparency." In 2022, Christie's auction house had to withdraw a T-rex skeleton a few days before auction in Hong Kong, due to doubts about its authenticity. Wednesday's auction follows an increasing trend for the sale of dinosaur remains. Stegosaurus skeletons are already on display around the world, but according to Sotheby's, Apex is 30 percent larger than Sophie, the most complete stegosaurus on public display to date, which is housed in the Natural History Museum in London.

Elevating our education ecosystem



The Indian education sector is at a crucial crossroads today, reflecting a landscape of opportunities and challenges. The National Education Policy (NEP) is nearing the completion of its fourth year and will continue to act as a guiding blueprint, broadly laying down the strategic direction and shared objectives for all stakeholders in the sector.

While budgetary allocations for improving infrastructure, quality, and access to education have increased over the last three years (Rs 1.12 lakh crore in FY 2024 as against Rs 99,300 crore in FY 2021), the allocation for Research and Development (R&D) continues to stand at an abysmal level of 0.7 per cent of the GDP, much below the global average of 1.8 per cent. Additionally, the industry-academia collaborations, skilling and research ecosystem continue to remain at a nascent stage, with more work to be done to strengthen it further. Government's educational endeavours since the NEP was implemented in 2020, the sector has witnessed a regulatory overdrive. In line with the outlined vision, the government has introduced policy initiatives to foster internationalisation through academic collaborations, such as dual/joint degrees, twinning programmes, and enabling foreign institutions to set up campuses in India.

To bring more strategic focus and transparency to the Indian education ecosystem, formalising the Institutional Development Plan (IDP), mandating public self-disclosure of information by higher education institutions (HEIs) on their websites, and formulating a student grievance redressal mechanism have bolstered efforts towards this cause. Enacting the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023, aims to improve the country's research ecosystem. Expectations from the impending budget. The lack of private capital for investment has often been a barrier for those wishing to establish educational institutions in India. Additionally, the regulatory and legal framework restricts foreign investments in trusts or societies (which is a regulatory pre-requisite), and this also makes foreign borrowings (External Commercial Borrowings or ECBs) an unattainable funding source for educational institutions in the country. Therefore, it is crucial to liberalise foreign investment and loan funding for educational institutions established as not-

for-profit entities. The Honourable Finance Minister announced in February 2020 that foreign investment and the ECB would be enabled for this sector, but four years later, it has yet to see the light of day.

Furthermore, the process and timelines for attracting donations from foreign sources continue to be long drawn and need to be urgently streamlined. To facilitate new institutions, the government may consider establishing dedicated education zones with built-up infrastructure, either independently, through the private sector, or via public-private partnerships (PPP). These zones could act as plug-and-play lease-based models for institutions, thereby reducing their capex requirements. Also, common infrastructure facilities like student/faculty housing, sports amenities, entertainment centres, research centres, etc., could be made available to multiple universities in such zones on a shared basis.

While reducing capital costs for institutions and students, these zones would offer opportunities for multicultural exchanges and cross-learning. To encourage private sector participation, the government could provide support and incentives in the form of subsidised land, tax rebates, or GST exemptions. Although the NEP mentions Special Education Zones, these are intended for disadvantaged areas. To benefit from industry-academia collaboration and improve accessibility for students, these zones should be established near metropolitan cities.

With respect to strengthening the research ecosystem, while the ANRF Act mentions a broad fund to be utilised, detailing out-of-fund allocation mechanisms, monitoring outcomes and eligibility for the participation of all needs to be defined clearly. GST adds to the cost base of educational institutions. While inward supplies are taxable, outward educational services are exempt from GST, increasing the cost of education and making it more expensive for students. Therefore, either exemption for inward supplies should be granted or the supply of educational services by universities and educational institutions should be zero-rated, allowing them to receive refunds on GST paid for input procurement.

Government-to-government (G2G) dialogue. With geo-political headwinds, we see many countries impose caps on international student mobility and visa grants, probably due to their internal pressures due to lack of student housing, employment for their own citizens, etc. For internationalisation and student mobility to happen in the true spirit, mutual recognition of qualifications between countries is essential. While India has taken steps towards this with Australia and the UK, G2G dialogue with other countries should also be initiated along with dialogue to ensure wider student mobility, skilling opportunities and research collaborations. I guess the sector still has miles to go before it realises its true potential, but all hands are on deck for the next few years as we consider preparing our youth for tomorrow!

Nirmala Sitharaman to present Budget on July 23, jobs in focus

I am expecting the budget to be in sync with the people aspirations from the Government's unprecedented third term win. The focus, I believe, will be on strengthening the existing policy framework, focus on ease of business and put in the building blocks for a "Vikas Bharat" by 2047.

Liquidity is a challenge faced by the NBFC segment since public deposits and ECBs have been restricted and there is an appeal to the Government to ensure that systems are put in place for creating a refinancing body for the segment, so that the goal of financial inclusion of all can be met. The Government should also incentivise the NBFC segment for investment in tech, focus on serving the underserved communities and meet the final goal of easier access to credit by all. In the eMobility space, we hope that Government enlarges the scope of Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME 2), to include smaller players too in the segment. eRickshaws and eLoaders have transformed the Informal Public Transportation Systems in the rural and urban spaces.

Today, we are witnessing a massive growth in the number of e-rickshaws, but not all of these are regis-



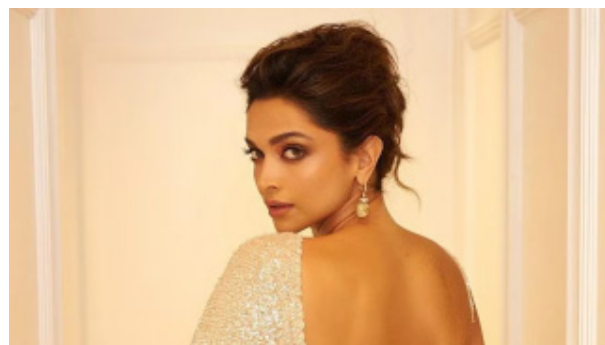
tered, especially those used for intra-business purposes. The Government should make EV registration and insurance a mandatory requirement. Lowering the registration cost as a policy will promote more people opting for registration. The Govt needs to focus on creating policies that are the same across the country and promote a strong regulatory framework that ensures that the E-Mobility sector continues to grow and contribute significantly to the sustainability goals as well.

Uncertain over tech, MeitY reaches out to industry

Unable to narrow down on a conclusive technological intervention to allow tech companies gathering parental consent before processing children's personal data, the IT Ministry has reached out to the industry for inputs on how the requirement can be implemented under the upcoming data protection rules. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 requires tech companies to develop a consent framework to verify a child's age (people below the age of 18) and gather their parents' consent before they can use an online service. This has been a major sticking point for the industry since the Act itself does not suggest ways in which platforms can perform age-gating. In an internal meeting involving senior IT Ministry officials on Tuesday, it was discussed that though the ministry has explored a number of options for implementing the provision, it has become a significant challenge as to how the relationship between a child and her parents can be reliably established, a senior government official said, requesting anonymity. "There will be a meeting now between the ministry and the tech industry sometime this week, likely today (July 18) to come up with a workable solution and figure out what is technically feasible," a second official said on condition of anonymity. While the data protection Act has largely been welcomed by the industry for its relatively easy compliance structure, the provision on gathering verifiable parental consent has been the final thorn in the bush which has divided the industry and the government. Previous solutions not found feasible. Last year, as part of its internal deliberations on the data protection rules, the ministry was considering two ways to establish the relationship between children and their parents - one was to use parents' DigiLocker app, which is based on their Aadhaar details, and the other is for the industry to create an electronic token system which will be allowed only if the government authorises it. However, the ministry no longer thinks these solutions could be implemented at scale and is understood to have dropped the idea. The inability to arrive at a conclusive decision on how to proceed with the verifiable parental consent provision is the biggest reason behind the delay in releasing the data protection rules. Without the rules, the data protection Act can not

be operationalised as it depends on at least 25 such provisions to implement the modalities of the Act. As per the data protection Act, some entities can be exempted from obtaining verifiable parental consent and age gating requirements including healthcare and educational institutions. It is also understood some entities can be exempted from the norms on a restricted basis, that is, depending on the specific purpose for which they need to process a child's data. Global laws don't prescribe tech measure globally, privacy legislations have not prescribed a technology to gather verifiable parental consent, and have left it to data collectors to use relevant technology through which such consent can be gathered. For instance, the United States' Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) does not mandate the method a company must use to get parental consent. Instead, it says that an operator must choose a method "reasonably designed" in light of available technology to ensure that the person giving the consent is the child's parent. The COPPA, however, has prescribed some basic standards that any technological measure to gather a child's parent's consent should adhere to. These include signing a consent form and sending it back to them via fax, mail, or electronic scan; using a credit card, debit card, or other online payment system that provides notification of each separate transaction to the account holder; calling a toll-free number staffed by trained personnel; connecting to trained personnel via a video conference; or verifying a picture of a driver's licence or other photo ID submitted by the parent and then comparing that photo to a second photo submitted by the parent, using facial recognition technology, among others. The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) - considered to be among the strictest privacy laws globally - on the other hand, requires data collectors to make "reasonable efforts" using available technology to verify that consent provided on behalf of a child under the age of 13 has, in fact, been provided by the holder of parental responsibility for that child. In the event of a complaint, the law will consider whether a data collector has made reasonable efforts to verify that the data subject is old enough to provide their own consent.

For Deepika Padukone, following a balanced diet is a 'way of life': 'Don't believe anything else you might hear or read'



Deepika Padukone, currently pregnant with her first child, supposedly follows a sustainable diet - as revealed by her former nutritionist Shweta Shah. And now, the Kalki 2898 AD actor has revealed what 'diet' really means for her. "Surprised to see this on my feed? Well, I eat! And I eat well! Ask anyone who knows me. So don't believe anything else you might hear or read. The trick? Balance, consistency, and listening to your body," Deepika Padukone wrote on Instagram.

Additionally, she wrote that there seems to be a lot of misunderstanding around the word 'diet'. "We often believe that 'diet' means to starve, to eat less, and to eat all the things we detest. What 'diet' really means is the total of all the food and drink consumed by an individual. The word comes from the Greek word 'diaita,' which means 'way of life,'" Padukone continued. "I've always

followed a 'balanced diet' for as long as I can remember. And it is for me 'a way of life'. I've never followed a diet that I cannot be consistent with or one that is a fad. Now, do I indulge? Of course, I do, as demonstrated above! But it most certainly isn't my way of life," she captioned a montage of dessert pictures. "Ever heard the phrase 'you are what you eat?' If there's one thing I've learnt (the hard-ish way) is that those words couldn't be truer," she added, leaving us to wonder what the "hard-ish" way would have been.

Meanwhile, taking a leaf from her diet diary, we decode the importance of a balanced diet. Highlighting the importance of consuming macronutrients, Shruti K Bhardwaj, chief dietician at Zyus Hospital, Ahmedabad said that eating the right amount of carbohydrates, fat, and protein ensures a well-rounded diet. "Each macronutrient plays a crucial role in supporting various bodily functions. Protein is essential for muscle repair and growth, fat is important for hormone regulation and cell structure, and carbohydrates provide energy for daily activities and exercise," said Bhardwaj. Stressing that instead of following restrictive diets, individuals can enjoy a variety of foods while still meeting their nutritional needs, she continued: "This flexibility can make dieting more sustainable and enjoyable." Having said that, everyone's nutritional needs are different based on factors like age, weight, activity level, and goals. "Personalised nutrition plans tailored to individual requirements ensures optimal results," shared Bhardwaj.

Pooping frequency is linked with overall health, finds study

A new study conducted by scientists in Seattle suggests that the bowel movement frequency is linked to the long-term health of humans. The research, which was conducted by Institute for Systems Biology (ISB), revealed that the popping routine of individuals can have an effect on their long-term health.

The scientists found that an optimal pooping frequency appeared to be one to two times a day. The study suggested that for a better pooping frequency, certain factors are associated with it like consuming more vegetables and fruits. The ISB research was conducted on 1,400 healthy adults whose clinical, lifestyle, and multi-omic data was examined. The study suggested that the frequency of an individual's poop can have an influence on one's health physiology. The study by ISB was published in a journal Cell Reports Medicine.

Johannes Johnson-Martinez, the lead author of the research, said "Prior research has shown how bowel movement frequency can have a big impact on gut ecosystem function," as quoted by the ISB Science. "Specifically, if stool sticks around too long in the gut, microbes use up all of the available dietary fiber, which they ferment into beneficial short-chain fatty ac-



ids," Martinez further added. The research team had categorized the bowel movement into four different categories. Constipation (one or two bowel movements per week), low-normal (between three and six bowel movements per week), high-normal (between one and three bowel movements per day), and diarrhea. The researchers also found that even in people who were completely healthy, timing for poop appeared to be significant.

Culture paired with style: With Paris Olympics yet to kick off, Mongolia makes a mark with their uniforms

Designed by Ulaanbaatar-based fashion label Michel & Amazonka, the outfits feature intricate embroidery, traditional Mongolian motifs, including the "Soyombo" symbol from the country's flag, and and the country's national colours of blue, red, and gold. Additionally, motifs associated with Paris and the Games, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Olympic flame, are featured.

The uniforms include embroidered vests and pleated robes showing a blend of modern aesthetics and traditional Mongolian elements, which has captivated audiences worldwide. Representations of the sun, moon, and mythical creatures like the "Gua-Mara" (beautiful doe) are embroidered in gold thread, showcasing the country's rich cultural identity. The label unveiled its designs through a series of glossy photos and a video shoot reminiscent of a luxury fashion campaign. Female athletes' outfits are complemented by ceremonial earrings and embroidered bags, while male flag-bearers will don archery hats, belts, and traditional Mongolian boots. Each outfit takes an average of 20 hours to complete, with measurements tailored for each athlete. One of the female models showcased Team Mongolia's female flag bearer's uniform, which includes a robe dress known as a deel, traditionally worn by Mongolians. This ensemble is complemented by an embroidered vest, a handbag resembling India's potli bags, heels, and earrings. Another female model displayed the female athletes' uniform, which consists of a similar embroidered vest, a pleated skirt, a blouse, a handbag, and earrings.

For the male flag bearers, the uniform features a thin cotton Mongolian robe adorned with auspicious embroidery, paired with an embroidered vest, traditional Mongolian boots, and an embellished belt. The male athletes' uniform includes pants, a Mandarin collar shirt, an embroidered vest, and sneakers. The designs incorporate the national colours of blue, red, and white, as well as various traditional patterns and motifs, including the "Soyombo" symbol from the country's flag. Additionally,



motifs associated with Paris and the Games, such as the Eiffel Tower and the Olympic flame, are featured.

Social media influencers and Olympians alike have hailed the designs as the most beautiful and stylish of the 2024 Games. As per a report by CNN, style writer and TikTok Ryan Yip went as far as saying "They just won the Olympics before it even started," while former athlete Michael Johnson praised the uniforms on social media.

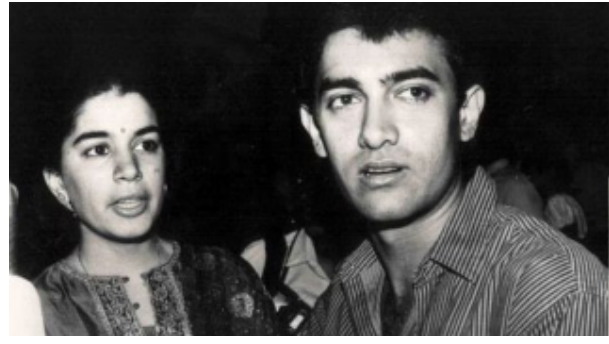
Nationals have compared Mongolia's outfits favorably to the offerings of major fashion brands, with one user stating "This is what they need at Versace, LV (Louis Vuitton) or other big brands." Others have suggested Mongolia should be awarded the gold medal for best uniform "right now." While some have criticised the outfits as potentially impractical in the summer heat of Paris, the overwhelming sentiment is one of admiration and excitement. With the opening ceremony set for July 26, Mongolia's uniform designs have undoubtedly set a new standard for Olympic fashion, leaving other nations with a high bar to clear.

Dr Ravishankar Polisetty hints at non-invasive fingerprint gadget to track metabolism in humans

Hyderabad: A cardiovascular surgeon, translational researcher and poly-scientific Ayurveda pioneer, Dr. Ravishankar Polisetty hinted at a significant breakthrough in the metabolic fingerprint gadget, a non-invasive wearable device for tracking metabolism in the body. According to Dr. Polisetty, his new invention, a metabolic tracker, could change the scope and impact of medical gadgets on human health via VPK (Vata, Pitta, and Kapha) fingerprinting. Sharing his research work during an event recently organized at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Warangal, Dr. Polisetty said in Ayurveda, the key to health is maintaining the balance of VPK in individual tissues and organs. This requires detecting imbalances of VPK in specific areas. "The device I am referring to will prove invaluable as metabolic fingerprinting has never been done to personalise patient treat-

ment. This innovative digital technology has the potential to revolutionize traditional medicine practice and potentially advance Indian healthcare by 15 years," he said. He said just as modern medicine, Ayurvedic practitioners were also prescribing specific herbs or formulations for particular symptoms. "The issue with this approach overlooks the fundamental tenets of Ayurveda, which emphasize the importance of balancing the three doshas: Vata, Pitta, and Kapha," he added. Dr. Polisetty was on the panel of keynote speakers among Dr. Venkatesh Balasubramanian, Professor, Department of Engineering Design, IIT Madras, Dr. M. Manivannan, Professor, Department of Applied Mechanics & Biomedical Engineering, IIT Madras, Dr. Bala Pesala, CEO, Ayur.AI, Adjunct Professor, IIT Jodhpur, CTO, Aduvodiagnosics and Dr. Rishi Manivannan, B.A.M.S among others.

When Aamir Khan wrote a letter in blood for first wife Reena Dutta: 'I was young, she was quite upset with me'



Aamir Khan was yet to make his debut in the movies when he met his first wife Reena Dutta and fell in love with her. Aamir was head over heels in love when he was trying to woo her and in trying to impress her, he did something quite dangerous. In an earlier interview, Aamir confessed that he wrote a love letter in blood to Reena. She was quite upset with him and in hindsight, even Aamir could see why Reena reacted this way.

In a 1999 interview with Simi Grewal, Aamir was asked about writing letters in blood and to this, he said, "Well once [I wrote a letter in blood], after which I was appropriately put in my place by her. She didn't like it at all. She was quite upset with me." When asked what made Aamir do that, he shared that it was his immature way of

interpreting love. "You know I was young and I thought that... I thought it's a way to express the deep love that I have for her but today I feel that... I mean I hear of lot of kids doing that and I receive a lot of letters in blood and I think that it's not a nice thing to do. You don't need to do that to express your love for a person so I wouldn't advice youngsters to do that," he said.

In the same chat, Aamir recalled that he and Reena eloped when he was 21 and she was 19. He said that their parents didn't know about their love, and Reena's parents were "quite upset that she was seeing somebody." Aamir and Reena were both scared of losing each other and found themselves making the "tough decision" of eloping as they knew that this would "hurt" their parents. "It wasn't out of disrespect or rebellion, it was more out of insecurity," he said. Aamir said that he wasn't even 21 when they decided to get married so they had to wait a couple of months before they could legally marry each other. In another interview, Aamir had said that his wedding to Reena cost him only Rs 10. He shared with Rediff, "I got married to Reena secretly through court marriage, with three witnesses. My wedding with Reena was most economical. I took Bus 211 and bought a ticket of 50 paise. I got down at Bandra station West, crossed the bridge, landed in the east and walked towards the highway. I crossed that highway and entered Griha Nirman Bhavan, where there is a marriage registrar office. So my wedding cost me less than Rs 10."

Kalki contributes 15% of total revenue, Malayalam shows threefold increase, no Tamil films in top 10



The year 2024 is pacing ahead of 2023 in terms of box office revenue, with the recent Kalki 2898 AD having revived the Indian film industry with its strong performance across languages. Hindi movies have shown a minor decline in box office revenue in the first six months of the year, while Malayalam films have shown a threefold increase in numbers, thanks to a trio of hits.

According to an Ormax Media half-yearly report, films from the first half of 2024 generated just over Rs 5000 crore at the box office, across languages. This is 3% higher than the same period in 2023. Kalki 2898 AD leads with over Rs 772 crore in India. This contributes to 15% of total box office revenue this year. Malayalam cinema has already generated more money in six months than it did in all of 2023, with its revenue share rising from 5% in 2023 to 15% in 2024. This is mainly due to the performance of three films – Aavesham (Rs 101 crore in India), Aadujeetham: The Goat Life (Rs 104 crore in India), and Manjummel Boys (Rs 170 crore).

June was the top-grossing month, thanks to Kalki 2898 AD, which contributed to 60% of total revenue this month. Other films that made an impact in June were Munjya, Maharaja, Jatt & Juliet 3 and Chandu Champion. Interestingly, no Tamil films found spots in the top 10 list in the first half of 2024. There were three films in the top 10 for the same period last year. As a result, Tamil cinema's contribution to overall revenue dropped by 5% this year, while Hindi movies dropped by 2%, and the Telugu industry remained stable, thanks to Kalki and Hanu-Man. Two of the top-grossing Indian films of the year, Kalki and Fighter, star Deepika Padukone. Only one Hollywood movie found a spot in the top 10; Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire grossed Rs 136 crore in India, which is higher than the lifetime business of films such as Crew, Mr & Mrs Mahi, and Chandu Champion. The second half of the year is expected to deliver bigger grosses, with highly anticipated movies such as The Greatest of All Time, Pushpa 2: The Rule, Singham Again, Stree 2, and Devara lined up for release.

Junaid Khan addresses dad

Aamir Khan's statement that his kids don't listen to him: 'He never dictates, only...'

Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan made his acting debut with Netflix's Maharaj. Aamir Khan's son, Junaid Khan, made his acting debut with Netflix's Maharaj. Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan's foray into the world of entertainment may have been low-key, but his recent release Maharaj has turned the spotlight on the young talent, earning him well-deserved recognition for his acting chops. Despite the weight of expectations that come with being a star kid, Junaid has carved his own path.

The young actor shares a unique bond with his father. While Aamir humorously claimed on Kapil Sharma's show that his children don't listen to him, Junaid playfully corrected this, revealing that they do, most of the time. He credits his father for fostering an environment of freedom and support, saying, "Dad actually always gives us freedom to be who we are. He appreciates us for that. He'll never dictate, always suggesting, 'Look, I feel this, but you should do what you want.'" Aamir has often praised Junaid's independence, recounting a story



of his son taking a state bus from Pondicherry to Bengaluru instead of flying. However, in a recent interview with Etimes, Junaid clarified that the tale was slightly "exaggerated". Opting for a bus was simply the most efficient way to travel, considering the overall journey time. He added that taking up a flight would have been complicated and he would have had to spend two and a half hours going to Chennai and then spend two hours at the airport. He also highlighted that "Bengaluru's notorious traffic" would have further increased his travel time.

Aamir Khan has been vocal about his son Junaid's penchant for simplicity, particularly his aversion to owning a car. The superstar has often shared anecdotes about his attempts to gift Junaid a car, only to be met with resistance.

Now, Junaid has offered his perspective. In a recent interview with Connect Cine, Junaid clarified that his transportation choices boil down to practicality rather than any philosophical stance. "Papa makes a big deal out of small things," he said. "I simply opt for the most effi-

cient mode of transport. Rickshaws often prove to be the quickest way to navigate Mumbai's traffic and parking woes." Aamir has previously painted a picture of Junaid as a quiet, introspective individual with a sharp intellect. He described his son as a "know-it-all" who preferred solitude to socialising. While acknowledging Junaid's simple lifestyle, Aamir has expressed concern over his son's reserved nature. "He is 30 now, and since his childhood, I wanted to buy a car for him. But to this day, he hasn't allowed me to buy the car."

Nawazuddin Siddiqui admits he did Rajinikanth's Petta only for the money, says he feels 'guilty' for 'cheating' in his performance: 'Itna saara paisa...'



Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui said that he doesn't care about money, but admitted that the only reason he works in the South Indian industries is because they pay handsomely. In an interview, the actor admitted that he is 'cheating' in his performances in these South films, because he doesn't have full control over his characters, and requires somebody to explain his lines to him before filming. But because the money is so good, he chooses to participate.

Chatting with Filmfare, Nawaz was asked about his foray into the South, where he has worked in films starring Rajinikanth and Venkatesh. Admitting that he expe-

periences a 'lack of control' over these performances, he said, "When I'm doing something like Raman Raghav, I am in command of my emotions, my thoughts, my soul. When I do South films, I'm not so sure. But because I'm being paid so well, I go ahead with it. I have guilt. Itna saara paisa de diya lekin samajh nahi aa raha kya kar rahe hain (They're paying me so well, but I have no idea what's happening)."

Nawaz said that 'cheating is the right word' to describe what he does in those films. "The audience wouldn't get to know, but I know. It's like doing an advertisement. I don't have any emotion for that product, all I can see is the money I'm being paid for it," he said. But in the same interview, Nawaz claimed that he didn't become an actor for the money, but for the love of the craft. "We have a sugar factory in our village Budhana. I could've made just as much money if I'd stuck around there," he said, explaining why he doesn't do theatre anymore. He said that he lost the desire to perform on the stage because he'd struggled for so long trying to crack it in the movies, and that working in theatre would remove the possibility of him taking on any other jobs at the same time. Nawaz was most recently seen in the ZEE5 film Rautu Ka Raaz. In the South, he has done films such as Saindhav and Petta.

Marvel in talks with Russo Brothers to direct next two Avengers movies; studio eyes 2026 release: Reports



It is a new dawn for the Avengers movies, as well as for filmmaker duo Russo brothers. Joe Russo and Anthony Russo, who have together helmed four of the biggest Marvel films of all times, including the last two Avenger outings, have been tapped to direct once again. Russo brothers are in early stages of discussion with Marvel Studios to direct Avengers 5 and 6, The Hollywood Reporter said.

According to a source quoted by the publication, the Russo brothers will return to the franchise to oversee the next two Avengers outings, a position which earlier also saw Deadpool & Wolverine director Shawn Levy being in contention for. If it materialises, it will mark the return of Russo brothers to Marvel studios after delivering global blockbusters like Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014), Captain America: Civil War (2016), Avengers: Infinity War (2018) and Avengers: Endgame (2019).

The publication revealed that the fifth Avengers movie was previously titled Avengers: The Kang Dynasty and was to star Jonathan Majors as time-traveling villain Kang. But the project will now get a new name and direction after the actor was convicted of assault and harassment in December. The sixth Avengers film is Secret Wars,

While Avengers 5 is set for May 1, 2026 release, Secret Wars is locked to open on May 7, 2027.

After their blockbuster run last decade, the Russo brothers ventured into the streaming space with their directorial titles like Cherry, The Gray Man and their upcoming Netflix title The Electric State. On the production front, they backed projects such as the globe-trotting soy thriller Citadel starring Priyanka Chopra, Academy Award-winning Everything Everywhere All at Once and Chris Hemsworth starrer Extraction franchise.

The unmatched Malayalam actor who gave even legends a run for their money, but was eclipsed by sister Urvashi's fame



There was no one like Kalpana; there still isn't. Will there ever be? I don't know; I doubt it. She was unparalleled. When her life was cut short by a fateful heart attack in January 2016, Kalpana was just 51, yet she had proved her prowess multiple times over the years.

Ask any legendary director about the greatest strength of Malayalam cinema and they will likely mention, besides deep-rooted stories, its vast pool of outstanding actors who can excel in supporting and character roles. The industry has always had such talents who could easily outshine the lead actors in any movie, no matter what their character arcs are. From Kottarakkara Sreedharan Nair, Adoor Bhavani, Philomina, Bahadur and KPAC Lalitha to Thilakan, Nedumudi Venu, Sukumari, Oduvil Unnikrishnan, Bindu Panicker, Sai Kumar, Jagathy Sreekumar, Innocent and many others. Even when lead performances falter or the overall movie is subpar, filmmakers and audiences can trust these thespians to deliver, making such movies at least worth watching.

Among such talents, Kalpana was one of the brightest stars. With a spectacular ability to handle any type of character with any life journey, while always meeting the makers' expectations, Kalpana left a lasting impact on the industry and her absence is keenly felt today; or especially today as her peers like Jagadish, Indrans and Bindu Panicker are finally receiving remarkable roles, thus breaking free from the stereotypes they were stuck in. Had she been with us today...

Kalpana, born Kalpana Priyadasini, hailed from a family of artistes. While her parents, Chavara VP Nair and Vijayalakshmi, were theatre artistes, her sisters, Kala Ranjini and Kavitha Manoranjini, also displayed similar talents. Kalpana entered the film industry as a child artiste in Vidarunna Mottukal (1977) and appeared in a few more movies in small roles before landing her first significant opportunity. In 1982, Kalpana played a key role in ace filmmaker G Aravindan's Pokkuvayil. Unlike the roles she later became known for, her character here, Nisha, was more serious. Kalpana continued tackling such roles for some more time, aiming to slowly establish herself and eventually become a leading lady. Kalpana, kalpana actress, kalpana and Urvashi, Urvashi, kalpana malayalam actress, kalpana actress family, kalpana actress movies, kalpana actress photos, kalpana actress comedy, kalpana actress malayalam actress comedy, udc Kalpana, udc kumari, udc kumari Kalpana, malayalam movies, malayalam actress, malayalam film, malayalam movies 2024, malayalam films 2024, malayalam cinema, mollywood Sisters Kala Ranjini, Kalpana and Urvashi. (Image: Urvashi via RK Film Views/Facebook) Kalpana, kalpana actress, kalpana and Urvashi, Urvashi, kalpana malayalam actress, kalpana movies, kalpana actress family, kalpana actress movies, kalpana actress photos, kalpana malayalam actress comedy, udc Kalpana, udc kumari, udc kumari Kalpana, malayalam movies, malayalam actress, malayalam film, malayalam movies 2024, malayalam films 2024, malayalam cinema, mollywood While Kala Ranjini received only side roles, as Kalpana did, Kavitha, who adopted the stage name Urvashi, shot to fame quickly. (Image: Urvashi via RK Film Views)

UDC Kumari

Kamaf's Peruvannapurathe Visheshangal (1989) was the first film to truly showcase her comedic talent. Despite the movie featuring many actors known for their handling of comedic roles, Kalpana's performance as the innocent and warm-hearted Mohini, who was desperately seeking love, stood out. Her portrayal established that she didn't need to go to great lengths to tickle people's funny bones. Director Shaji Kailas' Dr Pasupathy (1990) further solidified Kalpana's status as a gem of an actor with unparalleled talents, particularly as a comedienne. Her performance as UDC Kumari was outstanding, especially given that Dr Pasupathy too included a stellar cast of comedic actors like Innocent, Jagathy, is often

Hardik's demotion: Vice-captaincy a fancy designation with no perks, power or immunity



GNS News Agency, July 22

Perceptions in Indian cricket change in a matter of weeks. And at times it can have nothing to do with the performance of the players. Hardik Pandya went from being T20 World Cup final's game-changer, designated vice-captain, captain-in-waiting to a powerless foot-soldier in new commander Suryakumar Yadav's unit. Shubman Gill, on the other hand, leap-frogged from being a reserve player to being the vice-captain. So should this be seen as Gill's promotion and Hardik's demotion? Not really, would say those familiar with the power equations of the Indian dressing room. On paper, a captain's deputy is the team's designated No.2 and also the heir apparent. But that's a misconception. Vice-captaincy, as the name suggests, doesn't come with a time-bound captaincy guarantee. Actually, it's far from that.

Like in the simplest popular board games, the snake that waits for the ladder climbers to reach the late 90s to time their bite, many captaincy contenders have got their final throw of the dice wrong. Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, KL Rahul, Rishabh Pant, Ajinkya Rahane, Jasprit Bumrah and even Hardik have over the past decade come close to sealing their spot at the top, but failed. They have led Team India in some games or a few odd sessions but they couldn't win the trust of selectors to be long-term leaders. Will Gill buck the trend and become a true blue leader like Dhoni, Virat or Rohit remains to be seen. If he doesn't, the curse will continue. Cricket needs to be sensitive to the intriguingly amorphous character of the dressing room – the vice-captain. He has the position but no real privilege. He gets to wear the captain's armband occasionally but doesn't have the aura to automatically command respect. Being slightly ahead in the captaincy race by virtue of the official position, he can also be the target of others with leadership ambitions. Many a time he isn't even the captain's sounding board since there are former skipper or other seniors in the team. Being a deputy can get lonely. Vice-captaincy in cricket is just a fancy designation. It has the limited usefulness of a spare car tyre that spends most of its life in the darkness of the bonnet. And even when he takes the place of the captain on the field, he often merely implements the orders given by the captain and the coach from the dressing room. The deputy plays the waiting game, and for most, the wait is endless.

Selectors have a different rationale when they sit to

decide the team's vice-captain. As is the case with Gill, the most popular reason, of course, is the one about grooming a youngster with leadership potential. But there are other reasons too. Sometimes the national selectors have picked the likes of Rahane and Pujara as vice-captains as they didn't have options or they were not sure about the hierarchy among the youngsters.

At this T20 World Cup, Pakistan selectors had faced a similar dilemma. From the team full of super seniors, they had to pick Babur Azam's deputy. In contention were Babur's contemporaries Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shadab Khan and Mohammad Rizwan. There were also the two seniors making a comeback – Mohammad Amir and Imad Wasim. Naming one would mean undermining the leadership acumen of others. So what did they do? They came up with a novel solution, a typical Pakistan jugaad – they did away with the vice-captaincy position. For years, the profile or the purpose of a vice-captain to the team wasn't clear. It was arbitrary and ambiguous. In his book Sunny Days, India great Sunil Gavaskar mentions what he calls the "most embarrassing incident of my cricketing career". It was from a Deodhar Trophy game and it was about the confusion over the vice-captain in the middle of the game.

It all started with West Zone skipper Ajit Wadekar getting injured. Since Gavaskar was Wadekar's deputy when they played for Bombay, he took charge. And then it happened. "... I led the side for three overs before the 12th man came in and told me that the senior most player in the side, Ashok Mankad, was to act as captain. Kaka, as we called Ashok, was most apologetic about it but took command." Gavaskar says to this day he shudders to recall the moment. "For me, however, it was most embarrassing to be told to hand over the charge to another player in full view of more than twenty thousand people who must have seen the change".

The team selection processes have evolved over the years but still the vice-captains don't have the perks of an important member of the leadership. They don't have immunity – one match they could be the stand-in captain, the next they could be carrying drinks. Rahane in his long career had seen it all. Even the game's greats have suffered the same fate. Shane Warne's biography No Spin gives a detailed account of the time when he was Steve Waugh's deputy and terribly out of form. Waugh wanted to drop Warne but coach Geoff Marsh was not sure.

They decided to ask the long-retired Aussie veteran Allan Border, who was in the West Indies with a tour group. AB couldn't believe what he was being asked. "Jesus Christ, I back Warne every time ... we owe him. Think of what he's done for Australian cricket," he said. This pitch would have convinced every captain in the world but Waugh. "No, I appreciate your thoughts, AB, but Warne's not playing." Warne wouldn't be the last vice-captain who would have been shown his place. Hardik can take heart from the Warne story but the national selectors need to answer a question. How did Hardik, after gaining his batting and bowling form, suddenly become a lesser leader? Maybe, the unshielded, powerless vice-captains don't deserve that courtesy.

Mohammed Shami on missing out on India's 2024 T20 WC win: 'I also dream to win the World Cup'



GNS News Agency, July 22

World Cup 2023 1st Semi-Final Highlights: Rohit Sharma and Mohammed Shami celebrate. The pacer, who took 24 wickets in the 2023 World Cup, missed the T20 World Cup, the five-match Test series against England and also sat out of the IPL after having undergone surgery for Achilles tendon in February.

India pacer Mohammed Shami – a notable absentee in India's squad for the recently concluded 2024 T20 World Cup – has conceded that missing out on the team owing to an injury is another adversity that is bound to make him stronger and that his big dream is still to win a World Championship for India. When asked if he felt that he deserved a winner's medal around his neck for his contributions to Indian cricket – including a stellar 24 wicket haul from seven games at last year's World Cup – Shami told Shubhankar Mishra on his YouTube channel, "I believe that whoever took part in that competition, whoever was part of the team, deserved to win it. "If I'm unfit today and sitting at home, I can only watch the sport as a fan. Those players are my friends and colleagues, I can only let them know what I feel from the outside to help them play better. There isn't much in our hands. As far as the winners medal is concerned, I also dream to win the World Cup," he added.

Missing out on the recent triumph, Shami believes, will only make him stronger. "I've never run away from situations, nor have I taken an easy way out of things. The more adversities I face, the stronger I become. I have more clarity. You look at 2015, I had most wickets. In 2019, I was the best performer. Same in 2023. Whenever I will get the opportunity, I will give my 100 percent. "Shami was the leading wicket taker of last year's ODI World Cup that saw India being bested by Australia in the final, after an 11-game unbeaten run to the summit clash.

Festive offer IND vs NZ India's Mohammed Shami celebrates the wicket of New Zealand's Tom Latham during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup first semifinal match between India and New Zealand in Mumbai, India, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023. The 33-year-old admitted that as he was watching the recent T20 World Cup final – with South Africa needing 30 runs to win from as many deliveries – he felt the same eerie feeling that he did in Ahmedabad as the game slipped away from India's hands. I'd felt the same watching this World Cup. I was feeling the same watching it from the outside, as I was on the ground that day. In 2023, when we won 10 games in

a row, all the teams were thinking how to beat India. When that happens, we should pray. When you make a mountain out of a molehill that sows doubts and overconfidence. I think the boys showed great patience this time around," Shami said.

Casting his mind back to the final against Australia last year, Shami believes that despite a sub-par total on the board, not many saw India losing the final until the Travis Head-Marnus Labuschagne partnership started taking roots. "Even in 2023, you wouldn't have heard anyone say that India will lose. When we had 80 runs in the first 10 overs, the feeling (of invincibility) was the same as it was when we had nabbed three wickets in the beginning. There were no doubts on if India are winning the World Cup or not. But then luck... jo naseeb mai hai uske aage aap jaa hi nahi sakte (you can't go against what's been written)." The pacer, who has been out of action since the ODI World Cup last year, also updated on his fitness. "I'm feeling better now. I'm able to train better now. The pain has started to subside. But when you start giving your body load, the stiffness begins to take over. But one gets used to it over time. I'm starting to get back on the track. I hope (the comeback) is soon."

Medals on mind as India eye best-ever performance at Paris Olympics

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Mumbai: Indian sports underwent a renaissance in 1996 in Atlanta when Leander Paes won a bronze medal in men's singles tennis, ending a 44-year-old drought for the country's second individual medal at the Olympics. As the clock ticks down for the upcoming Olympic Games in Paris, the question is whether India will undergo another transformation in the French capital.

That medal bagged by Leander Paes kind of triggered the growth points in Indian sport and since then the country has claimed at least one medal from the subsequent editions of the Olympic Games with at least one medal and 12 years after Atlanta, Abhinav Bindra added gold to glory by bagging India's first individual gold medal in shooting. It was from the same Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 that India, after a gap of more than half a century, returned with multiple medals as Vijender Singh clinched a bronze medal in middleweight boxing and wrestler Sushil Kumar came through the repechage rounds to bag bronze in men's 66kg freestyle. India hit another peak four years later when an 83-member contingent returned with six medals — two silver and four bronze. And in the last edition of the games in Tokyo, which were held in 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic, India set another record by achieving their best-ever medal haul of seven including a historic maiden gold in Athletics by javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and a bronze in men's hockey that ended a 41-year wait for glory in the sport that India has dominated for decades, winning eight gold medals.

Paris Olympics, hockey: With Hardik as heartbeat, India will aim for the sky with aerial passes as a key tactic



GNS News Agency, July 22

For starters, the stars must align if India are to repeat or better their famous bronze from Tokyo, in what is going to be a tough campaign from the word go. But more relevantly, going aerial with their passing has been a rather common sight in India's gameplay in the months leading up to the Games. And in their quest to return to the podium, it is an art India's skilled technicians have been trying to perfect.

India have a few who can throw a mean aerial, but the bulk of those will be shared between current captain Harmanpreet Singh, former captain Manpreet Singh and star midfielder Hardik Singh — three of the best practitioners of passing the ball on and above a hockey field. Think of the FIH Pro League match in Rourkela on February 21. India trailed the Netherlands 0-1 after conceding an early goal. In the third quarter, with around 8 minutes to go, the hosts were pinned to the right flank, looking for an opening as the Dutch stayed tight on defence. Harmanpreet went forward with a ground pass, but it came back to him because there was no space to be found.

Hardik Singh in action at the FIH Pro League against Great Britain as India lost 1-3 (Photo: Hockey India) Hardik Singh in action at the FIH Pro League against Great Britain as India lost 1-3 As this was unfolding, Hardik was slowly meandering from the center of the pitch to the right touchline — scanning the other side of the pitch ever so subtly — offering Harmanpreet another passing option. The moment he received the ball, Hardik faked making a short pass back into the midfield, quickly changed his body position and sent a stunning aerial ball into the Netherlands circle. Because, as he was weighing up his options, Hardik had spotted Lalit Upadhyay willing to make a run and the midfielder trusted his gut to open up the play. Lalit came up with a gorgeous piece of skill to leap in the air, control the ball and force an infringement from the Dutch defender to win a penalty corner. That it was Hardik who eventually converted the play from close range to make it 1-1 was a fitting full circle. The new trend

India might not be the only team to use this tactic frequently in Paris. It's an increasingly frequent sighting in the men's game especially. "I think Belgium was the first to tactically use it from 2018, and now a lot more teams have practiced and seen the benefits of it," India head coach Craig Fulton told The Indian Express in Bengaluru. "There are a lot more aerial passes being played now, I'd say at least a third of the passes in the final third. The skill level has improved, so teams can do it on the move. It's not just a dead ball. And it's very high-risk-high-reward." FIH Hockey Pro League: Hardik Singh profile Hardik's importance to the team hit home not during one of his many tireless performances. (Hockey India)

Hardik, of course, is one of the best exponents of it in the world. "For me, almost every training session I prac-

Neeraj Chopra at Paris Olympics: Who are javelin thrower's biggest rivals at Paris 2024?

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Neeraj Chopra fed Cup 2024 Neeraj Chopra makes a throw during the men's Javelin Throw event at the 27th National Federation Senior Athletics Competition, in Bhubaneswar, Wednesday, May 15, 2024. Neeraj won gold in the event. 87.58. Those numbers will forever be etched in Indian sporting history. After Neeraj Chopra threw the javelin into the night sky in Tokyo, turned around and celebrated with gusto even before the spear landed, a nation rejoiced. And three years later, Neeraj Chopra enters the Paris Olympics as not just the reigning Olympic champion but the reigning World Champion as well. Neeraj Chopra's preparations have perhaps not been the most ideal as he has participated in just three events this year. In the 2024 season's top list, Neeraj Chopra is placed fourth. But very few Indian athletes have risen to the big occasion as frequently as him. Will Neeraj Chopra add another Olympic gold medal to his already glittering collection? Here's a look at the challengers for his crown: The Czech athlete has been a near ever-present alongside Neeraj Chopra on the men's javelin podiums around the world in recent times. The Olympic silver medallist when Neeraj Chopra won



gold in Tokyo. The Worlds bronze medallist when Neeraj won gold in Budapest. And he started the 2024 season by pipping Neeraj Chopra to the top spot at Qatar Diamond League, albeit by just 2 cms. He won a thrilling European gold in June with 88.65m, the second best mark of the 2024 season. Make no mistake, he will be a favourite in Paris 2024 as well. India's Neeraj Chopra javelin throw event. India's Neeraj Chopra (right) with Jakub Vadlejch and Julian Weber (centre) after the Indian beat the duo to claim the Lausanne Diamond League meet. (Screengrab) The German is a powerfully-built athlete and will be itching to make up for the lost opportunity in Tokyo where he agonisingly finished fourth. Weber has had a good

season so far, with a best of 88.37m and a silver medal at the European championships behind Vadlejch. The young German turned heads in the athletics community with a stunning throw of 90.20m at the start of 2024 and that is the only 90m mark achieved in men's javelin so far this year. But he is further down this list because Dehning hasn't quite managed to get close to that mark again in his subsequent events, hovering around the high 70s and early 80s since. But just the fact he has been able to pull off a 90m throw once, keeps his name in the mix. The former world champion has made a solid start to 2024 after a tough time on the international circuit. Peters has gone past the 90m mark in four events over his career, and

all of those were in 2022. After his world championships gold in 2022, Perers was involved in a nasty accident that made his 2023 season largely below par. But with a 88.62m throw in Qatar, he has put himself firmly in the mix for a podium finish in Paris 2024. It is perhaps not entirely logical to add an athlete who is placed 16th on the season's top list to the mix of medal contenders in Paris. But the Pakistan athlete has always been something of an enigma. Be it his almost nonchalant throwing style, or his ability to come up with a massive throw when he turns up on a big stage. Even in his season's only appearance at Paris DL, Arshad started with a lukewarm sub-75m throw before going up to 84.21m in a matter of minutes.