Srisailam Reservoir gates opened amid floods due to rains

In response to heavy rainfall and increasing flood flow from upper catchment areas, authorities at the Srisailam reservoir have activated flood management protocols by raising three gates this week. Currently, the water level at Srisailam stands at 878.40 feet, slight less than full capacity of 885 feet.

Kurnool Chief Engineer Kabir Basha confirmed the lifting of gates 6, 7, and 8 to facilitate the controlled release of water. Each gate has been raised by ten feet, allowing for an outflow of 27,000 cubic feet per second (cusecs) per gate, amounting to a total release of 81,000 cusecs directed downstream to Nagarjuna Sagar

Rainbow Hospitals launch adult vaccination initiative

Hyderabad: City-based Rainbow Children's Hospital has launched Adult Vaccination Outreach Network (AVON) aimed to cater to the immunization needs of adult population in Telangana State and elsewhere in the country. Through AVON initiative, the hospital will offer Influenza vaccine, HPV (Human papillomavirus) vaccine, Pneu-

mococcal vaccine, and Shingles that can prevent severe infections and cancer. The launch of AVON initiative was followed by a panel discussion on Protecting Adults from Preventable Diseases and Breaking Down Barriers to Adult Immunization

S C refuses to intervene against bail to Jharkhand **CM Hemant Soren**



GNS News Agency, July 29

The Supreme Court on July 28 declined an appeal filed by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) against bail granted to Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren in money laundering charges linked to a land 'scam'. A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and K.V. Viswanathan said the High Court judgment was "well-reasoned".

However, the Bench said the observations in the High Court judgment would not influence the trial judge during proceedings.Additional Solicitor General S.V. Raju, for the ED, argued the High Court did not consider crucial statements arraigned against Mr. Soren by prime witnesses. The agency argued the High Court decision was erroneous and challenged its finding that there was no primary facie evidence that Mr. Soren was guilty under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. The High Court had also concluded that there was no likelihood of Mr. Soren committing an offence while out on bail.Earlier, opposing interim bail sought by Mr. Soren in the apex court, the ED had claimed he was guilty of the offence of money laundering for which he had been arrested in January. The chargesheet filed against him in the case had listed cogent evidence against him and his close associates, the agency had claimed

It said Mr. Soren had resorted to filing false cases against the officials under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to thwart the investigation. Moreover, he had used the State machinery to topple the ED investigation and create false trails. He would tamper with the evidence and influence witnesses, the ED had argued. The ED had contended that while Mr. Soren claimed he had no connection with the 8.86 acres of land at Shanti Nagar in Ranchi, he had allegedly tried to tamper with the evidence.Mr. Soren had opposed his arrest in the case."Whatever material was in possession of the ED officer was not enough to arrest me under Article 19 (power to arrest) of the PMLA... The allegation against me at the time of the arrest was forcible or illegal possession of 8.86 acres of land in Ranchi. Forcible or illegal possession of land is not a scheduled offence under the PMLA," senior advocate Kapil Sibal had argued on his behalf in the top court.



Minister Chief Revanth Reddy criticized the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government, labeling their handling of power contracts as misleading. He pointed out that the BRS's had called for an inquiry into the Chhattisgarh, Yadadri, and Bhadradri agreements and highlighted that a commission was established based on those requests. The chief minister

also noted that the Supreme Court had ruled in favor of continuing the inquiry, requesting a new



Telangana CM Revanth Reddy flays BRS over

chairman for the commission, which is expected to be appointed by Monday evening. He further claimed that many of the advancements in Telangana's power supply

stemmed from decisions

made during the YS regime, particularly in securing uninterrupted power supply for Hyderabad.

KCR praised for negotiating a special exemption for Telangana, securing a

Telangana CM Revanth Reddy Meets Governor CP Radhakrishnan Ahead of Transfer



GNS News Agency, July 29

In a significant political development in Telangana, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met with the current Governor, CP Radhakrishnan, at the Raj Bhavan. The meeting took place following the recent announcement from the President regarding the appointment of CP Radhakrishnan as the new Governor of Maharashtra, a role he is set to assume shortly.As part of this transition, Jishnu Dev Varma has been appointed as the new Governor of Telangana, taking over the responsibilities from Radhakrishnan. Varma is scheduled to take the oath of office within the next two days.During their meeting, CM Revanth Reddy and Governor Radhakrishnan discussed various matters concerning the state before attending assembly meetings later in the day. This encounter marks the conclusion of Radhakrishnan's term in Telangana as he prepares for his new role in Maharashtra.

Telangana CM congratulates athletes on first-round wins at Paris Olympics



New Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma: Opposition not an 'enemy'

GNS News Agency, July 29

Agartala: Former Tripura Deputy Chief Minister Jishnu Dev Varma, who was appointed as Governor of Telangana by President Droupadi Murmu last week on Monday, said that the "opposition parties are not an enemy".Dev Varma has been appointed as the Governor of Telangana replacing C.P. Radhakrishnan, who held additional charge of Telangana along with Jharkhand, said that he would assume charge in the Gubernatorial post in Hyderabad on July 31 and would attend the Governors' conference in the Rashtrapati Bhavan in Delhi on August 1.

He said that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy called him on Sunday and congratulated him for being appointed as the Governor of the state. Asked about Congress-ruled Telangana, Dev Varma, a veteran BJP leader associated with the party since 1990, said that "any opposition party is not an enemy". "The Congress is democratically elected in the state (Telangana). As a Constitutional head of the state, I would discharge my constitutional responsibility in consultation with the Chief Minister," the 67-year-old BJP leader told IANS."It is not possible to run governments by BJP in every state. In a democracy, somewhere Congress will govern... Shiv Sena, Trinamool Congress, and other parties may run the governments. The Prime Minister also always advocates for healthy democratic activities."



power initiatives, claiming

that under the previous

governance, solar energy

production remained at

only one megawatt, pre-

dominantly handled by pri-

vate companies.

including Assam, Manipur, and Nagaland, were appointed Governors, Dev Varma added.Dev Varma served as Tripura's Deputy Chief Minister from 2018 till 2023 under Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb-led BJP govern-

Will resist division of Bengal at any cost: Mamata Banerjee



GNS News Agency, July 29

Kolkata: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday said on the floor of the state Assembly that Trinamool Congress will resist all attempts to divide West Bengal."Let them come to divide Bengal. We will show them how to resist that," the Chief Minister said while addressing the sixth day of the monsoon session of the Assembly.

Her comments come in the wake of a recent observation made by BJP's Lok Sabha member from Jharkhand NIshikant Dubey demanding the formation of a new Union Territory by bifurcating certain districts of Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.A BJP legislator from Murshidabad assembly constituency, Gouri Sankar Ghosh also supported NIshikant Dubey's demand.Speaking on the occasion, Banerjee said that in the recent NITI Aayog meeting, on Saturday, she had raised the demand for the formation of the India-Bhutan River Commission, in line with the India-Bangladesh River Commission."I have recorded this issue at the Niti Aayog meeting in the presence of the Prime Minister. I highlighted at the NITI Aayog meeting since the shape of West Bengal is like a boat, the problem of waterlogging in the state is immense," she further said."BJP is taking a one-sided decision about sharing Teesta Water with Bangladesh. We will never accept that," the Chief Minister said.Speaking on the occasion, she accused the Union government of providing money to neighbouring states for the purpose of flood prevention. '

Dev Varma, a member of the erstwhile Tripura royal family, said that he would work in the state (Telangana) in coordination with the state government. He added that his experience in Tripura would be utilised in Telangana and his understanding of that state (Telangana) can also be useful in Tripura as well.

Thanking President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for appointing him as the Governor of an important state, Dev Varma, an author of several books, said that for the first time since independence, a leader from Tripura has been appointed as the Governor.Earlier, leaders from other northeastern states,

ment in the state and continued in his post after Manik Saha became the Chief Minister following the resignation of Deb in May 2022. In the 2018 Assembly elections. when BJP wrested power in Tripura defeating the CPI(M) after 25 years, Dev Varma was elected to the Assembly from the Charilam constituency in Sepahijala district but he lost the seat to Tipra Motha Party in the 2023 Assembly polls.He said that earlier there was almost no organisational presence of the BJP in Tripura. However, after the party came to power in 2018 Assembly polls, it is now the main political force in the erstwhile princely state, which was ruled by the Left and Congress for several decades since it merged with India in October 1949."There are two Lok Sabha members from Tripura. Prime Minister Narendra Modi made BJP leader (Pratima Bhowmik) from Tripura as Union Minister and gave several Padma awards to many personalities in the state. People of Tripura would remain grateful to Prime Minister Modi for helping Tripura in all sectors of development," Dev Varma added.

Don't you need NTPC power: Kishan to State govt



GNS News Agency, July 29

Hyderabad: Union Minister for Coal and Mines, G Kishan Reddy, lashed at the State government for not cooperating with the Centre's measures to make more power available to Telangana. He said that the Centre is taking every possible measure to increase power production, given the growing energy demand across the country. As part of the same, the NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved setting up a 4,000 megawatt (MW) super thermal power plant in Ramagundam of Peddapalli district, Telangana, he said.Accordingly, two power plants by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), each with 800 MW, have been completed and commissioned. The two power plants taken up with Rs 10,598.98 crore were dedicated by the Prime Minister on October 2, 2003, and March 4, 2024, and 85 per cent of the total generating capacity of

1,600 MW of the two plants is being utilised to meet the power demands of Telangana. The Centre wants to commission the remaining 2,400 MW projects at the earliest to provide energy security to Telangana. As part of the same, the NTPC must enter into a power purchase agreement with the Transmission Corporation of Telangana (TSTRANSCO) to begin the project and procure the coal necessary to run the power plants. The Centre wants to complete the Lara Super Thermal Power Project-II (STPP-II) early since the energy demand in India is increasing daily. Following this, the NTPC has been writing to the State to extend its cooperation on the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) as soon as possible.

Kishan Reddy said that the NTPC wrote four letters to the TSTRANSCO, but there has been no response so far. He said that the NTPC informed TSTRANSCO that it is left with no other option in the wake of a lack of response to its repeated letters but to conclude that the State government is not interested in purchasing power from the STPP-II project in Ramagundam.NTPC further informed that, if allowed, it will sell the power to other States in South India if the Telangana government shows no interest. The Union Minister said that the total energy demand in the country stood at 250 GW on May 30, 2024. The peak power demand in Telangana stood at 15.6 gigawatts in March 2024. The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) estimated the peak power demand in Telangana would double by 2030.

This necessitates the early completion of the second phase of the NTPC power plant with a capacity of 2,400 MW to meet the demand in Telangana.

GNS News Agency, July 29

Hvderabad : Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday spoke over-phone to the athletes from the state participating in the Paris Olympics 2024 and congratulated them on their success in the first round of their respective events. The Chief Minister spoke to boxer Nikhat Zareen, table tennis player Sreeja Akula and badminton star P. V. Sindhu and congratulated them on their best performance. According to the Chief Minister's Office, he also spoke to shooter Esha Singh preparing for her event and wished her the best. The Chief Minister wished that all the athletes from the state continue the same performance in the next rounds and bring laurels to the country. Two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen entered the women's 50 kg category quarterfinals by defeating Germany's Maxi Carina Kloetzer on Sunday.India's top-ranked table tennis player Sreeja Akula entered the round of 32 with a 4-0 win over Sweden's Christina Kallberg.Star shuttler and two-time Olympic medallist began her Paris Olympics campaign with a win over Maldives' Fathimath Abdul Razzaq. Earlier, the Chief Minister congratulated shooter Manu Bhaker on winning a historic bronze for India in the women's 10m air pistol event at the Paris Olympics. She became the first Indian woman shooter to win a medal at the Olympics."We are proud of your achievement," the Chief Minister said.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SALEEMA BEE W/O MOHAMMED SARDAR (Old name) born on 01-01-1960 at Chillargi Earlier was holding Passport No. R5956824 DT: 08-02-2018 hereby changing my name and henceforth in future I would be known as SALMA **BEGUM W/O MOHAMMED SARDAR** (new name) R/o HNo. 2-2-233, Ambedkar nagar, Adilabad-504001 Telangana.

DECLARANT. SALMA BEGUM W/O MOHAMMED SARDAR Place: Adilabad Date: 31-07-2024

INDIAN CHRONICLE

Indian Chronicle English Daily

Agnipath row

scrutiny ever since it was launched two years ago. From ime to time, retired defence officers have voiced concerns over the scheme for short-term recruitment into he armed forces, flagging issues such as inadequate etention — only 25 per cent of the Agniveers will be absorbed in the permanent cadre — and manpower shortage. Recent incidents of Agniveers reportedly beng involved in criminal activities are worrisome, even as questions remain over the prospects of recruits after hey are released from service. Some veterans have even stated that the time-tested recruitment system should not have been tinkered with.

Apart from the disagreement within the military community, Agnipath has become a bone of contention n the political arena. In his address on Kargil Vijay Diwas last week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi not only stoutly defended the scheme but also accused the Opposition of playing politics over the recruitment process. Asserting that Agnipath was aimed at making the forces rounger and fitter, he trashed the claims that the scheme vas launched to save pension money. Led by the Congress, several Opposition parties have demanded that he scheme be scrapped. Notably, some allies of the uling BJP, especially the Janata Dal (United), have sought its comprehensive review.

The government cannot afford to let things drift as he lack of consensus will have a bearing on the combat preparedness of the armed forces. Several BJPuled states have announced reservation or preference or former Agniveers for jobs in uniformed services like he police. However, this may not be enough to silence he naysayers. The Centre must be receptive to the feedback and take pains to remove the scheme's shortcom-

Ghatkopar hoarding collapse: Bhinde tells HC 'illegal detention' after being apprehended from Udaipur, prosecution refutes claim



Bhavesh Bhinde, accused in May 13 Ghatkopar Hoarding collapse case told the Bombay High Court on Friday that while he was shown to be arrested on May 17, his apprehension by Police on May 16 from Udaipur in Rajasthan and subsequently bringing him to Mumbai via Ahmedabad amounted to illegal detention.

Mamata Banerjee can make statements about Governor conforming to law: Calcutta HC



GNS News Agency, July 29

THE CALCUTTA High Court on Friday said that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee can make statements regarding Governor CV Ananda Bose as long as they "conform to the laws." A division bench of the Calcutta High Court added that Banerjee had the "full right" to say what she wanted as long as her remarks are "not defamatory".

The order from a Division Bench comprising Justice I P Mukerji and Justice Biswaroop Chowdhury came after the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) challenged a July 15 single bench ordering an interim injunction on the CM.This came after the Governor had sued the CM for defamation over some remarks in connection with the impasse between the Raj Bhavan and the Assembly over the refusal of two TMC MLAs - Savantika Baneriee and Reyat Hossain Sarkar - to take oath before at Governor's office.Significantly, those remarks had come almost two months after the Kolkata Police launched an inquiry on May 2 into the sexual harassment allegations by a female staff of the Raj Bhavan against Governor Bose. The Governor had then said he would not be "cowed down by engineered narratives". The High Court, which first heard Bose's plea on July 3, said in its order on Tuesday: "Admittedly, the plaintiff (Bose) is a constitutional authority... the plaintiff will further suffer irreparable loss and injury of his reputation (if an interim order is not granted in his favour)".

Bombay HC pulls up Satara cop for action against professor who referred to Pansare's book

GNS News Agency, July 29

The Bombay High Court Friday pulled up an Assistant Police Inspector (API) from Satara Police for his letter to a college principal seeking action against a professor, who referred to the book "Shivaji Kon Hota" by late activist Govind Pansare to pacify students when they allegedly attacked another professor over a speech. The court questioned the police as to what kind of democracy it was and whether an offence was made out despite the petitioner having claimed her right under Article 19(1)(a) for freedom of speech and expression. It said how the Police manual or Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) can go beyond the constitutional rights of the petitioner professor and said the same was "not tolerable".

The bench rapped the officer for claiming that his action of writing a letter to the principal was as per section 149 (pro-active role of the police in crime investigation) of the CrPC. It said there was no reason to invoke the said provision in a "haphazard" manner.

After the state lawyer informed the bench that the police would withdraw the impugned letter, the bench disposed of the plea.A division bench of Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Prithviraj K Chavan was hearing plea by Dr Mrunalini Aher who challenged a communication of August, 2023 by PSI RS Garje of Bhuinj Police station, Satara that "brazenly and in complete excess of its powers" asked the principal of Yashwantrao Chavan college in Pachwad to conduct a probe against Aher and submit a report to the police station. Aher, through advocate Yuvraj Narwankar, also challenged a report of February 12, 2024 by the principal and sought appropriate action against the erring police officer, for his high-handed and illegal actions taken in discharge of his duties. As per Aher's plea, on August Kranti Din (August 9), last year, professor Vinayakrao Jadhav gave a lecture on venerable personalities, during which a pandemonium erupted as a segment of students/audience felt that some disrespectful words were used about the said personalities. Aher, who was present during the lecture, claimed that she attempted to pacify the situation and



while doing so referred to Pansare's book.

She claimed that some "over enthusiastic and unscrupulous" audience then sought to attack her, alleging that the petitioner was supporting Jadhav instead of condemning his behaviour. Aher also submitted that her husband, a fellow professor, attempted to intervene in the situation, however, PSI Garje abused and humiliated her and her husband in front of the public. The petitioner alleged that Garje asked the principal to conduct a departmental enquiry against the petitioner. She added that while the principal had initially given her assurance that he would not take cognisance of such a request, however, he ordered an enquiry and then submitted its report to the police. The petitioner claimed that initiation of such an enquiry on a request by police officer, who was not an appointing authority was illegal.Justice Chavan sought to know from the officer concerned, who was present in the court, if he had read the book in question and questioned if the offence was made out despite the petitioner's right to freedom of speech. It said that the police officer could not have exceeded his powers and asked or issued directions to the college Principal to take action. After the judges warned the state lawyer of passing strictures against the officer, Public Prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar representing Police, on instructions from Superintendent of Police (SP) of Satara district, told the bench that the impugned communication will be unconditionally with-

BJP Darjeeling MP backs state party chief Sukanta

Ghaziabad schools shut from July 29 to August 2 in view of Kanwar Yatra



GNS News Agency, July 29

All schools in Ghaziabad will remain closed from July 29 to August 2 in view of the Kanwar Yatra. The order was issued by the district magistrate (DM) Friday.

Officials said that due to the start of Shravan month on July 22 and Shivratri on August 2, a large number of Shiv devotees will take 'holy water' from Haridwar to various states such as Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi through the Ghaziabad border. To ensure the safe completion of the Kanwar Yatra, the movement of even small and light vehicles has been completely banned, officials added. "Keeping in mind the movement and safety of children and buses in schools of Ghaziabad district, all primary/upper primary schools and all secondary schools (CBSE/ICSE etc.) will remain completely closed from July 29 to August 2," said DM Indra Vikram Singh.Officials further said that all schools have been directed to strictly comply with the order.

Pune man loses Rs 9.3L to cyber criminals over threat of arrest for illicit ventures

The complainant denied sending any such parcel. After a while, a man in uniform posing as a policeman made a video call to the complainant on WhatsApp as part of an "inquiry" about the seizure of drugs.The complainant denied sending any such parcel. After a while, a man in uniform posing as a policeman made a video call to the complainant on WhatsApp as part of an "inquiry" about the seizure of drugs.

"Fake bank accounts in your name are being used for money laundering, sextortion, and human trafficking. You will be arrested in the case," a 68-year-old Pune man was told. On this pretext, cyber criminals duped the man of Rs 9.35 lakh in a 'drugs in parcel' scam. The victim lodged an FIR in this case at Kothrud police station on Thursday.As per the FIR, the complainant is a retired man living with his wife in Kothrud, while his son lives abroad. On July 10, 2024, a man claiming to be a courier company staffer rang up the complainant saying a parcel in his name, going from Mumbai to Thailand, was found to be carrying "150 gm MDMA, illegal drugs, five passports, three credit cards, four kg clothes."

The complainant denied sending any such parcel After a while, a man in uniform posing as a policeman made a video call to the complainant on WhatsApp as part of an "inquiry" about the seizure of drugs. The complainant was told that a case has been registered against his Aadhaar card and fake bank accounts in his name are being used for "money laundering, sextortion, and human trafficking". The complainant was told he would be arrested in this case, and that a former minister too had been arrested in a similar case. The FIR further said that the conmen posing as policemen told the complainant he was under "home arrest" and two policemen in plain clothes were deployed outside his house to keep a watch on him. They told him he would be under surveillance through the WhatsApp video call.On July 11, the complainant received a video call from another criminal posing as a senior IPS officer from Mumbai, who made an inquiry about his bank balance and other financial details. Later, the complainant was asked to transfer Rs 9.35 lakh from his bank account to another bank account so as to "co-operate with the investigation". Police said the complainant transferred the money, but later realised he had been scammed, whereupon he filed a complaint with the police. The conmen have been booked under sections 319 (2), 318 (4), 3 (5), 204 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and sections of the Information Technology Act. Further investigation is underway.

GNS News Agency, July 29

Seventeen persons were killed and more than 80 injured after a massive hoarding near a petrol pump in Ghatkopar collapsed on May 13 amid gusty winds and a dust storm. Seventeen persons were killed and more than 80 injured after a massive hoarding near a petrol pump in Ghatkopar collapsed on May 13 amid gusty winds and a dust storm.

Bhavesh Bhinde, accused in May 13 Ghatkopar Hoarding collapse case told the Bombay High Court on Friday that while he was shown to be arrested on May 17, his apprehension by Police on May 16 from Udaipur in Rajasthan and subsequently bringing him to Mumbai via Ahmedabad amounted to illegal detention. However, Mumbai Police claimed that Bhinde's arrest was made after following due procedures of law and hence it was legal and denied his claims of 'unlawful arrest.' The Court asked Bhinde to amend his plea by Monday to raise his claims of 'illegal attention' in addition to those mentioned in the plea of non-communication of grounds of arrest to him.A division bench of Justices Bharati H Dangre and Manjusha A Deshpande was hearing a plea by Bhinde, the owner of Ego Media Pvt Ltd that constructed the hoarding in Ghatkopar which collapsed on May 13 and killed 17 people. The plea stated that his arrest was 'unlawful' and that the collapse was an 'act of God.'The petitioner, who is in judicial custody, sought to quash the FIR registered for offence of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Bhinde has also sought interim relief of release on bail, pending disposal of his plea. On Friday, advocate Rizwan Merchant for Bhinde submitted that his client was apprehended form a hotel in Udaipur on May 16 and he was brought to Ahmedabad by car and was further brought to Mumbai by flight on May 17.

He specifically contended that the Police had indicated to media at 7.20pm on May 16 and had arrested him, contrary to the claims by prosecution of him being arrested on May 17. Therefore, the same period between May 16 and May 17 amounted to illegal detention and deprivation of Bhinde's personal liberty. However, Public Prosecutor Hiten Venegaonkar denied Bhinde's claims and submitted that he was not arrested at Udaipur and after apprehending him, Bhinde had accompanied police till Mumbai, where he was formally arrested. The Police, in its affidavit in reply sought dismissal of the plea stating that there was no violation of provisions including section 50 (persons arrested to be informed about grounds of arrest) of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) . It said that the magistrate court, during remand hearing, had rejected petitioner's claim of 'illegal detention' and the petitioner was not wrongly implicated in the case. The bench directed Bhinde to amend his plea by Monday, July 29, followed by an affidavit by the Police to additional grounds in the plea and posted further hearing to August 5.

Majumdar's proposal to include north Bengal in Northeast



GNS News Agency, July 29

Union minister Sukanta Majumdar's proposal for incorporating north Bengal into the Northeast has been backed by the BJP's Darjeeling MP Raju Bista, and the party's Murshidabad MLA supported Jharkhand MP Nishikant Dubey's demand for a Union Territory that includes parts of Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand.This was on the same day that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, while leaving for the NITI Aayog meeting in New Delhi, rebuked the BJP for allegedly trying to "divide" Bengal.

Supporting the proposal of Sukanta Majumbar, who is also the BJP's state president, Bista said it was logical. "The government (West Bengal government) run from Kolkata treats North Bengal people like second class citizens," he said.Stating that the culturally rich north Bengal has vast resources, Bista said that the area gets "only 0.002% of West Bengal's annual budget and our tea gardens are closing, and Cinchona plantations have already closed". "The centre announces AIIMS for North Bengal and the Bengal government takes it near Kolkata," the Darjeeling MP said.On July 24, Majumdar had appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to incorporate north Bengal into the Northeast. He said that way, more central funds and development would come to the people of the region.

Meanwhile, BJP's Murshidabad MLA Gouri Shankar Ghosh supported Nishikant Dubey's demand for a Union Territory, including parts of Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand. Ghosh also stated that a similar appeal was made by him in a letter to the Union Home Ministry in 2022.On July 25, Dubey highlighted infiltration from Bangladesh and demanded in Parliament a separate Union Trritory. Ghosh has supported Dubey saying, "Infiltration is high in Murshidabad, which is a threat to national security," adding that the district should be part of a Union Territory. "On August 18 2022, I had written a letter to the Union Home Ministry and the Governor to make Murshidabad district a Union Territory," said Ghosh speaking to media persons.The letter said, "Bangladeshi intruders are mostly involved in criminal activities, like cattle smuggling and phensedyl (cough syrup) smuggling."The letter also said local police were not taking any steps and that the "Bangladeshi intruders" were increasing in number.The letter appealed to take Murshidabad under the Central government to form a Union Territory in order to avoid these activities.

Truth will come out in 15 to 20 days, says JD(S) MLC Suraj Revanna

GNS News Agency, July 29

JD(S) Member of the Legislative Council Suraj Revanna, who is facing charges of sexually assaulting some men and is out on bail, said on Friday that in 15 to 20 days all those who were part of the conspiracy against him and his family will be exposed.

He said he has not done anything wrong and that the truth will come out soon. "We have not done anything wrong. That's why we all are so confident. All the questions will be answered. Time alone will give the answer," Suraj Revanna, grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, told reporters after praying to Goddess Chamundeshwari here in Mysuru.

He said, "I would also like to tell you that the truth cannot be hidden for long. All those who have taken part in this conspiracy, they will come out (be exposed). Just wait for 15 to 20 days."

About his pilgrimage to Chamundi Hills, the JD(S) MLC said it is a family tradition that every year he along with his parents and other family members pay a visit to Chamundeshwari temple to worship the goddess.Suraj Revanna was released on bail just two days ago in the sexual assault case. He was arrested based on a complaint by a JD(S) worker who alleged that the MLC sexually assaulted him.

Suraj's younger brother Prajwal Revanna, who is also facing allegations of sexual assault on several women, is in jail.Their parents H D Revanna and Bhavani Revanna are also on bail.

They face the charge of allegedly abducting a woman who had figured in one of the huge cache of videos that came into the public domain ahead of the Lok Sabha election, and was seen being tied up and raped, allegedly by Prajwal Revanna.Prajwal was an NDA candidate from Hassan in the Lok Sabha election and lost his seat.

24-year-old stabbed to death in Bengaluru PG, accused is roommate's ex-boyfriend



GNS News Agency, July 29

The accused, Abhishek, hails from Bhopal and is currently unemployed, police said. The accused, Abhishek, hails from Bhopal and is currently unemployed, police said. Police officials investigating the murder of a 24-year-old woman from Bihar, who was working at a private firm and staying at a paying guest accommodation in Bengaluru, have identified the alleged killer as her roommate's ex-boyfriend. The accused, Abhishek, hails from Bhopal and is currently unemployed, police said. Kriti Kumari was stabbed to death a little after 11 pm o Tuesday night, at her PG accommodation in Koramangala. According to the police, she worked as a business development associate at a project-based learning platform.

The accused, police said, used to be in a relationship with her roommate. He had allegedly told his girlfriend that he had started working, which she discovered was a lie and prompted her to eventually end the relationship, police said.









Delhi HC dismisses PIL seeking quashing of notification declaring June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Divas'



GNS News Agency, July 29

The petition also notes that the notification was issued by a member of the executive and was in violation of Article 77 of the Constitution (all executive actions of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President). The petition also notes that the notification was issued by a member of the executive and was in violation of Article 77 of the Constitution (all executive actions of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President). (File Photo)A division bench of the Delhi High Court on Friday dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) by an East Delhi resident challenging the home ministry's notification of declaring June 25, the day Emergency was declared in 1975, as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Divas'.

The court of acting Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela refused to entertain the PIL moved by one Samir Malik, represented by advocate Ankit Borker, seeking that the July 12 notification, issued by the joint secretary in the home ministry, be quashed and set aside.

Malik, in his petition, termed that such a declaration is "offending" and violates Section 2 of the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act. It was also canvassed that the Emergency declared in 1975 was proclaimed as per Article 352 of the Constitution and the revocation was under the provisions of the Constitution of Article 352 (2). It was also submitted that the Constitution is a "living document which can never die nor anybody can be permitted to destroy it".

The petition also notes that the notification was issued by a member of the executive and was in violation of Article 77 of the Constitution (all executive actions of the Government of India shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President).Notably, in a PIL moved by an ex-IAS officer Amitabh Thakur similarly challenging the declaration of June 25 as 'Samvidhaan Hatya Divas', the Allahabad High Court sought the Centre's reply earlier this week.

Former Maharashtra DGP Sanjay Pandey to contest Assembly polls from Versova

GNS News Agency, July 29

Former Maharashtra DGP, Maharashtra Assembly pollsAppointed Mumbai police commissioner on February 18, 2022, Pandey retired from service on June 30 the same year.

Former Mumbai Police commissioner and ex-Maharashtra director general of police Sanjay Pandey on Friday announced that he will be contesting the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly polls from Mumbai.Pandey, a retired IPS officer, said he has decided to contest the polls from Versova. He has been interested in joining politics for a long time now."I will be contesting the upcoming Assembly polls. I have been interested in joining politics for a long time now but didn't get the opportunity earlier. In Lok Sabha too I tried but it did not materialise," Pandey said.Pandey was looking to contest the Lok Sabha polls from the Mumbai-North West seat as an Independent caidate as many citizens from this area have been insisting that he contest the polls from this seat. Pandey was earlier known for his "citizens first approach" in various decisions he took during his short stint as Mumbai police commissioner.

Considered close to Uddhav Thackeray, Pandey was arrested in June 2022 by central agencies in connection with the National Stock Exchange (NSE) phone-tapping case. When he was the Mumbai police commissioner, Thackeray was the chief minister of Maharashtra in the MVA government.Appointed as the Mumbai Police Commissioner on February 18, 2022, Pandey retired from



service on June 30 of the same year. An IIT-Kanpur alumnus and 1986 batch IPS officer, Pandey was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in July and September 2022, respectively, in connection with the NSE phone tapping case. He spent nearly five months behind bars following his arrest. The Delhi High Court on December 8, 2022, granted him bail in the money-laundering case of ED. While granting bail to the retired IPS officer, the High Court said though the CBI had booked Pandey for cheating, criminal breach of trust, and also on bribery charges, none of the ingredients of these offences were found in the case. The bribery charges did not apply to the case as there was no allegation of anyone demanding or accepting a bribe.

Pune NGO workers brave flooded streets, save stranded animals

GNS News Agency, July 29



Rs 40 cr lost in cybercrime, Maharashtra Cyber recovers Rs 32 cr after quick action



GNS News Agency, July 29

Maharashtra cyber police Friday said that they managed to recover Rs 32 crore in a cyber fraud case in which the complainant lost Rs 40 crore — one of the biggest cases of cybercrime in the state in terms of the amount lost. The action was possible due to quick reporting of the crime on national cyber-crime helpline (1930) and follow up action by Maharashtra Cyber which got in touch with the banks through which the money was transferred, and asked them to freeze the accounts. An officer from cyber police said, "On July 19, our team observed a complaint registered involving significant fraudulent transactions amounting to Rs 40 crore. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, our team immediately initiated follow-up procedures."

He added, "Our team promptly began coordinating with all relevant financial intermediaries involved in the transaction. By 6 pm, we successfully placed a hold on approximately Rs 31 crore of the fraudulent amount. As of the latest update, our team's efforts have resulted in recovering Rs 32.89 crore. The process of registering an FIR for the said complaint is underway."Maharashtra Cyber oversees cyber crime complaints registered on National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCCRP) for the state of Maharashtra in addition to the national cybercrime helpline 1930."With 20 fully operational lines, the service has expanded its workforce to over 110 dedicated professionals working in shifts to ensure 24*7 availability. From 2021 to July 26, 2024, a total of 2,81,019 complaints have been registered, totalling Rs 3,324.90 crore in fraudulent transactions, with Rs. 358.77 crore put on hold," the officer added.

Case registered against X user for defamatory tweet against Om Birla's daughter

GNS News Agency, July 29

A case has been registered against unknown individuals for creating and sharing false tweets on social media platform X, defaming Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla's daughter Anjali Birla, an Indian Railway Personnel Service (IRPS) officer. The cyber police have summoned the X user who posted the tweet and those that retweeted it.As per police, the accused, using Twitter handle 'parody Dhruv Rathee', shared false and disrespectful comments about Anjali, claiming she was a professional model and became an IAS officer in one attempt. It was shared by several others. They also shared her private photos without permission, violating her privacy and damaging her reputation, the officer added. The tweets aimed to create confusion about the UPSC Commission and question the authenticity of government examination procedures, the official said. Anjali's father, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, was also targeted in the



tweets.The police have registered a case under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Information Technology Act. The investigation is ongoing, and no arrests have been made yet.

NH-3 reopened after flash floods, Met predicts heavy rains till Jul 30

GNS News Agency, July 29

The Manali-Leh National Highway 3 has been opened for vehicular traffic, officials said on Friday, two days after a section of the road was blocked between Dhundi and Palchan Bridge following a flash flood.The deluge was caused by a cloudburst at the Anjani Mahadev nullah in Manali around Wednesday midnight. The road was thrown open on Thursday evening by the Border Road Organisation (BRO), the officials added. The traffic was earlier being routed via Rohtang Pass.Flash floods triggered by the cloudburst swept away three houses and critically damaged another one, leaving four families homeless. The affected families are putting up at a school for the time being. The Shimla meteorological office on Friday issued a 'yellow' alert of heavy rainfall at isolated places in eight out of 12 districts of the state for the next four days till July 30.It cautioned about damage to planta-



Sundernagar 45 mm, Gohar 40 mm, Slapper 32.3 mm, Baggi 31.4 mm, Dhaulakuan 31 mm, Jubberhatti 21.2 mm, Kasauli 12 mm, Dalhousie 11 mm and Manali 10 mm

over 30 animals were rescued by the RESQ Charitable Trust team in collaboration with the Pune Fire Department and the PCMC.Over 30 animals were rescued by the RESQ Charitable Trust team in collaboration with the Pune Fire Department and the PCMC. As the recent heavy rain pelted Pune, turning streets into streams and homes into islands, the RESQ Charitable Trust team emerged as a beacon of hope for the animals in distress.

Armed with boats and rescue personnel, the RESQ Charitable Trust team embarked on a mission to ensure the safety and well-being of every animal in need and made a significant impact in low-lying areas like Karve, Deccan, Koregaon Park, and Pimpri Chinchwad."We are primarily a wildlife rescue organisation but yesterday (Thursday) our helpline numbers were flooded with calls since 6:30 am... because of which our trained team of 12 stepped in and started the rescue mission with the help of the PCMC (Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation) and the fire department for effective evacuation," said Neha Panchamiya, Founder-President, RESQ Charitable Trust.Through Thursday, over 30 animals were rescued

by the RESQ Charitable Trust team in collaboration with the Pune Fire Department and the PCMC."One particularly noteworthy rescue took place in an area near Pimpri Market, where a lady was trapped in her house with 14 dogs and one cat. Navigating through the narrow hutments where barely two people could walk side by side was extremely challenging with chest-high water adding to the complexity of the situation. However, we managed to ensure the safety of all," said Tuhin Satarkar, Head of Rescues, RESQ Charitable Trust.

CBI busts cyber crime network operating from Gurugram; 43 arrested



The CBI has arrested 43 people during a crackdown on a Gurugram-based call centre, nabbing the suspected cyber criminals live in the act of defrauding foreign nationals by promising to address issues with their computers, officials said Friday.

GNS News Agency, July 29

The CBI has arrested 43 people during a crackdown on a Gurugram-based call centre, nabbing the suspected cyber criminals live in the act of defrauding foreign nationals by promising to address issues with their computers, officials said Friday. The CBI has booked a company, Innocent Technology (OPC) Pvt Ltd which runs from Gurgram's DLF Cyber City, and raided its premises as part of the agency's ongoing Operation CHAKRA-III aimed at dismantling sophisticated cyber-enabled financial crime network operating across multiple countries since 2022.A total of seven locations in Delhi and its posh suburbs of Noida and Gurugram were searched.During the operation, a task force comprising cybercrime domain experts swiftly descended on the call centre, capturing several employees engaged in live cyber crime activities, resulting in the interception of substantial incriminating evidence."The CBI is actively coordinating with the FBI and law enforcement agencies across various nations via Interpol to pursue leads for further action," a CBI spokesperson said in a statement on Friday.

The central agency seized 130 computer hard disks, 65 mobile phones, five laptops, incriminating documents, financial transaction details, call recordings, victim particulars, and transcripts used in victim targeting. The modus operandi involved call centre employees masquerading as cybersecurity specialists to target victims abroad. The prospective victims were induced to click on pop-ups, downloading malicious software that compromised their systems."The victims were subsequently induced to make payments for restoration of their system. It is revealed that proceeds of crime were channelized from multiple countries to Hong Kong," the CBI spokesperson said. The action was initiated after the CBI found that transnational cyber-enabled financial crimes in this network were being coordinated across distributed centers mainly directed from a Call Centre Operating from DLF Cyber City, Gurugram, he said.

tions and standing crops, vulnerable structures and 'kutcha' houses due to strong winds, and waterlogging in low-lying areas.Intermittent rains continued to lash parts of the state, with Dharamshala recording 53.6 mm of down-pour, followed by Shimla 50 mm, Brahmani 40.6 mm,

Fifty-one people have died in rain-related incidents in the state since the onset of the monsoon on June 27 and losses suffered so far are worth around Rs 390 crore, according to the emergency operation centre.

Ajit Pawar walks a tightrope in Mahayuti ahead of Maharashtra Assembly elections



GNS News Agency, July 29

Exactly a year ago, in July 2023, the BJP and Shinde's Shiv Sena gave a red carpet welcome to Ajit Pawar and his team of 41 legislators that created a massive fissure in the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and joined the ruling Mahayuti coalition in Maharashtra. Ajit Pawar was lavishly rewarded for his change in political leanings and was made the deputy Chief Minister and bestowed with the all-important finance portfolio which was then with deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis. However, today, both the BJP and the NCP under Ajit Pawar find themselves in a catch-22 situation with the relationship between the two fraught with problems, especially in the wake of the upcoming Assembly polls in Maharashtra. A few days after the BJP's conclave in Pune, Ajit Pawar flew to Delhi and met Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday, which according to the BJP and NCP, was part of seat-sharing talks for Assembly polls which is likely in October. The next day he also called on Fadnavis in Mumbai

A senior NCP leader requesting anonymity said, "With Assembly polls in October, we believe all the discussions related to division of seats should be formalised soon. It would help in fielding candidates and planning."However, insiders say there is pressure on Ajit Pawar from his party to not settle for less than 80 to 90 seats.With just 288 seats in the Assembly, the BJP, the largest party in the Assembly, feels the NCP's demand is pretty high and unlikely to be met as the saffron party cannot contest in less than 150 seats.

Meanwhile, the Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde though has pitched for 100 plus is likely to get 75 to 80 seats. So, practically, NCP may end up getting 55 to 60 seats. A source in BJP said that while it may settle with few numbers here and there, accommodating concerns of Shiv Sena and NCP is getting difficult for BJP.State BJP president Chandrashekhar Bawankule maintained that the Mahayuti – Shiv Sena, BJP and NCP – will contest together in the Assembly polls. "The top leadership will amicably resolve the seat sharing as the process begins," he said.

At the BJP conclave, Amit Shah during his address to 5,300 party delegates made two important points. "Under BJPs leadership, the Mahayuti will contest the 2024 polls successfully in Maharashtra," he had said. While attacking the opposition, Shah said, "The biggest mastermind of corruption in Indian politics is Sharad Pawar. If anybody has institutionalized corruption it is Sharad Pawar."The blustering attack on Sharad Pawar was a political direction set by the central BJP leader for the Assembly elections. It also indicated that BJP was not going to soft-peddle against Sharad Pawar, the architect of INDIA bloc in Delhi and Maha Vikas Aghadi in Maharashtra.Much to their shock and surprise, Ajit Pawar's NCP has remained silent on Shah's attack on Sharad Pawar. None of the NCP leaders from Ajit Pawar faction made any comment against Shah's anti-Pawar remark. In some ways it has also left BJP embarrassed as its alliance partner preferred to take a neutral stand on Shah calling Sharad Pawar " brashtachar ke sardar" (master of corruption).

When the media sought Ajit Pawar's response shortly after Shah's statement against Sharad Pawar he quipped, "I have not heard." Several senior leaders also refused to join Amit Shah's criticism of Sharad Pawar.Explaining the dilemma, a senior NCP minister once loyal to Sharad Pawar said, "When Amit Shah calls Sharad Pawar master of corruption we understand his political compulsion. In politics each party has to take its own line."

The leader said that personal attacks on Sharad Pawar can boomerang, evoking sympathy in his favour. "That might prove dangerous for the Ajit Pawar-led faction," the NCP leader explained.While Ajit Pawar seems more determined than ever before to prove his mettle in Assembly polls, he has greater responsibility on his shoulders. The biggest challenge is to retain his party intact. He cannot afford to compromise on seat-sharing, especially because any NCP aspirant who is disappointed may switch over to Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP).









ED court allows former Punjab cop Jagdish Bhola to perform last rites of his father



Ranga Reddy

GNS News Agency, July 29

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in its reply submitted that Bhola was facing trial under Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in its reply submitted that Bhola was facing trial under Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. A special ED court in Mohali Thursday allowed former Punjab Police DSP Jagdish Bhola to perform his father's last rites. Bhola's father Balshinder Singh died on Wednesday and he was set to be cremated on Friday.

The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge (ADSJ) Manjot Kaur while disposing of an application filed by Bhola's counsels ordered, "It is noteworthy that two connected complaints titled as 'ED Vs. Jagdish Singh @ Bholla and others' and 'ED Vs. Anoop Singh Kahlon and others' (having arisen out of complaint no. ECIR/02/ 2013) are pending trial before this court and have been fixed for July 26 for final orders. Keeping in view the gravity of the allegations having been levelled against the bail applicant in the said complaint, he definitely does not deserve the relief of interim bail as prayed for."However, in the interest of justice and fair play, the applicant is granted the alternative relief where under the Superintendent, Central Jail, Bathinda is directed to make necessary arrangements and to send applicant/ accused Jagdish Singh @ Bholla in tight security to village Rai-Ke-Kallan, District Bathinda on July 26 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M, for the purpose of cremation of his father (strictly as per the Punjab Jail Manual Rules)."

The order further reads, "The applicant/accused will bear the expenses of police guard and conveyance to be provided for taking him to village Rai-Ke-Kallan, District Bathinda. The... police officials are directed to ensure that immediately after attending the cremation of his father on July 26 (from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.), the applicant/accused be taken back to Central Jail, Bathinda... without any delay."Bhola had submitted an application for interim bail for one month after his father passed away. He had also requested that alternatively directions be issued to the superintendent of the Bathinda Central Jail to send him to his village to perform the final rites of his father. The applicant stated that he was the only son of deceased Balshinder Singh and because of this the last rites of his father had to be performed by him. The Enforcement Directorate (ED) in its reply submitted that Bhola was facing trial under Sections 3 and 4 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. It, therefore, opposed the interim bail plea of one month but said the petitioner could be allowed to perform the final rites of his father if the court deemed it fit.Bhola is undergoing 24 years of imprisonment in drug smuggling cases and is an accused in a money laundering case.

'To divide Bengal is to divide the country': Mamata Banerjee to participate in NITI Aayog meet to register her protest

GNS News Agency, July 29

West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee NITI Aayog meetBanerjee said that Bengal is facing "economic, geographical, and political blockade" while ministers and BJP leaders are conspiring to divide the state.West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that she would participate in the NITI Aayog meet on July 27 in Delhi, but only to register her protest. The West Bengal CM said that a minister had made statements to divide Bengal, while adding that to do so would be the same as dividing India.

"When Parliament is in process, a minister is making statements to divide Bengal. And now from different sources, different party members are giving different types of statements - to divide Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, and Bengal. We strongly condemn this attitude. To divide Bengal means to divide our country India. We don't support this" Banerjee said. This comes after Jharkhand BJP MP Nishikant Dubey proposed in the Parliament that certain parts of Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand be made into a Union Territory.West Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar and the Minister of State for Education also recently said that he had submitted a proposal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking to incorporate North Bengal in the North East states. Speaking to the media before leaving for Delhi, Banerjee said that the NITI Aayog asked to submit the written speech seven days before



the meeting, following which the Budget was placed."Bengal and other opposition-ruled states were totally deprived in the Budget and were given step-motherly treatment," the CM said, adding that "this discrimination and political bias" will not be tolerated.

Banerjee said that Bengal is facing "economic, geographical, and political blockade" while ministers and BJP leaders are conspiring to divide the state. Stating that she will stay in the NITI Aayog meet and try to represent the state, Banerjee said, "If they allow me to record our voice, I will do so. Else, I will leave in protest.""As far as I know, Hemant (Soren) is also going to speak for his state," the TMC chief said

Repair work at Ravet Pumping House delays water supply in Pimpri-Chinchwad

Chandigarh mayor Kuldeep Kumar's phone being tapped, alleges BJP councillor Kanwarjeet Singh Rana



GNS News Agency, July 29

Kanwarjeet Singh Rana, a senior BJP councillor in Chandigarh, on Friday alleged that Mayor Kuldeep Kumar's phone was being tapped by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab. Kumar denied the allegation, calling it "absolutely baseless". The remarks were made at a General House meeting of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation when BJP councillor Saurabh Joshi alleged that the AAP government was misusing its machinery to track the movements of BJP councillors and tapping their phones.

"Our movement is being tracked... Unknown people move around us to note what we are doing. Our phones are being tapped," Joshi alleged."We can see unknown people around us doing recce...outside our house even... Saurabh Joshi and I are being targeted... If the AAP government thinks that they can track us and suppress our voice, this will not happen," Rana added.When the mayor asked why he had not complained through the proper channels, Joshi said complaints had been lodged. "We have dropped a complaint at the adviser's office...It is a very serious thing," he added.

Both Rana and Joshi have been in the firing line following arguments with the mayor. Even in the last House meeting, marshals had intervened to move the BJP councillors out. During the war of words with the mayor on Friday, Rana said, "I also want to mention that your phone is being tapped as well. Your own party suspects that you may not move from here to there."AAP councillor Yogesh Dhingra reacted to this, saying, "How ironic that your (BJP) government is in power in the country and you are living in a state of constant fear."Reacting to the allegations, Punjab's AAP spokesperson Neel Garg told The Indian Express, "What will we do by tracking someone? This is an absolutely baseless and false allegation. Moreover, who other than the BJP knows better about encroaching on someone's privacy.""How ironic that your (BJP) government is in power in the country and you are living in a state of constant fear," AAP councillor Yogesh Dhingra said. Row over sports event invite skipping mention of MP, mayorThe General House meeting also saw AAP councillor Prem Lata and Congress's Taruna Mehta hit out at BJP councillors over an invite to a sports event of the Union Territory Cricket Association not mentioning the names of MP Manish Tewari or Mayor Kuldeep Kumar."It is a government programme of the UT Cricket Association," Rana said."Then why is the MP and mayor's name missing? In what capacity is BJP chief J P Malhotra's name mentioned if it is a government event," Lata asked.

Injustice, Centre oppressing people of Delhi like the British: Atishi over budget allocation

GNS News Agency, July 29

Continuing with her attack on the Centre over budget allocation for Delhi, AAP senior leader and Finance Minister Atishi Thursday accused the BJP-led Central government of doing "injustice" to the residents of the city, stating that it was "oppressing the people of Delhi like the British".

Addressing a press conference, Atishi said, "In 2023-24, Delhiites paid Rs 2.07 lakh crore as income tax to the central government. In return, the central government allocated only Rs 1,168 crore to Delhi which is not even 0.4% of the tax paid by the people of Delhi."The minister said that in the last decade, ever since the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has come to power at the Centre, Delhiites have paid Rs 15,59,933 crore as income tax but in return, they got only Rs 7,534 crore. "That is, Delhiites received only 0.48% of the income tax that they paid to the BJP-ruled central government in the last 10 years," she added.Atishi accused the BJP-ruled Centre of oppressing the people of Delhi like the British."I want to ask the BJP-ruled central government on behalf of Delhiites, why is this injustice happening to the people



of Delhi? If the central government can give money to the rest of the states of the country, then the people of Delhi should also get the money they are entitled to. This is the demand of the people of Delhi," she said.Delhi BJP has termed the allegations false and a lie. State unit president Virendra Sachdeva said that the central government has done several works in Delhi and spent Rs 5.5 lakh crore for the development of the Capital.

Bombay HC directs CWC to hand over 'illegal' custody of three infants to their 'adoptive' parents despite no valid adoption deeds



GNS News Agency, July 29

The civic body further said that due to the repair work, the water supply is delayed in some areas. The water pressure is also low, the PCMC said, adding that the timing of water supply has also been affected and different areas are receiving water at different timings. Pimpri-ChinchwadThe civic body further said that due to the repair work, the water supply is delayed in some areas. The water pressure is also low, the PCMC said, adding that the timing of water supply has also been affected and different areas are receiving water at different timings.The Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) on Friday said due to heavy rain, the turbidity of the Pawana river water has increased, leading to a technical failure at the Ravet Pumping House. The PCMC added that repair work is on.

The civic body further said that due to the repair work, the water supply is delayed in some areas. The water pressure is also low, the PCMC said, adding that the timing of water supply has also been affected and different areas are receiving water at different timings.Shrikant Savane, PCMC Chief Engineer of the Water Supply Department, urged citizens to use water judiciously. Savane added, "Due to heavy rains in the dam and river areas, the turbidity of the river water has increased significantly. This has caused a technical failure in the pumping system at the Ravet Pumping House. Repair work is underway and the water supply will be delayed and will come at a reduced pressure and quantity.""Amid the monsoon season, there is also a heightened risk of waterborne diseases. To ensure the health and safety of our citizens, the Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation is taking necessary precautions to provide clean and safe water. However, as a precaution, citizens are advised to filter and boil their drinking water." he said

Mahua Moitra provided FIR copy after approaching Delhi HC; court to hear maintainability of quashing next

GNS News Agency, July 29

The Delhi High Court on Friday heard a petition by Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Mahua Moitra relating to an FIR filed against her by the Delhi Police based on a complaint by the National Commission for Women (NCW). Mahua Moitra had filed the petition seeking a copy of the FIR and also the quashing of the complaint.Moitra was booked after she allegedly posted a video on social media, wherein NCW Chairperson Rekha Sharma was seen arriving at the site of a stampede in Hathras. The post was later deleted.

Following the NCW complaint, Moitra was booked under Section 79 (intending to insult the modesty of any woman) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) by the Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit of the Delhi Police.Appearing for Moitra before the court of Justice Neena Bansal, senior advocate Indira Jaising submitted that while the FIR was lodged on July 7, and the TMC lawmaker through her legal representatives sought a copy of the FIR by way of a communication dated July 9, the same was not provided till date.



During the hearing, the counsel for the Delhi Police agreed to provide a copy of the FIR but objected to the plea for amending the petition as well as quashing, adding that the same would require a fresh petition. The counsel argued, "Their grievance stands satisfied if I give a copy (of the FIR), then their petition becomes infructuous and they'll have to file a fresh petition (for quashing). This is an abuse of the process of law."



GNS News Agency, July 29

The Bombay High Court recently allowed pleas filed by three couples who claimed to be guardian or adopted parents of infants seeking direction to the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) to handover custody of the infants, who, as per police, were unauthorisedly sold to petitioners. The court held that the children concerned did not fall under the category of 'children in need of care and protection' and therefore custody handed over to the CWC cannot be justified and the orders passed by CWC were' illegal.'

It said the CWC itself does not get any power to deal with these children who are neither 'abandoned' nor 'orphans'.The court further observed that the petitioners (who were not named accused), though without adhering to procedures under law, were handed over custody of the minor children by their biological mothers and the said biological parents had not sought custody of their children.A division bench of Justices Bharati H Dangre and Manjusha A Deshpande was hearing habeas corpus pleas by three couples, in connection with FIR registered in April this year by city police, invoking Section nile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015.

As per advocates Heena Mistry and Saurabh Mehta for petitioners, the minor children were placed in their custody by their biological parents or by the person projecting as a biological parent and they continued to be in their care and protection from the date of alleged adoption deeds and formed part and parcel of their families. However, due to registration of FIR, the children were separated from them despite them showing all their love and affection upon them and being emotionally attached to them. The infants were produced before CWC, which housed them in specialised care centre on the pretext that the manner in which the custody was handed over to the petitioners was not legitimate as it was suspected that there was a child trafficking racket involved and the same was under investigation. The bench noted that 'unfortunately, by executing an Adoption Deed, which is either not registered or merely being notarized, definitely does not amount to a valid adoption. It added that the protocols for adoption prescribed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA), constituted under the Union Ministry of Woman and Child Development had not been adhered to at all. The bench noted that as the petitioner couples were not arraigned as accused, it was needed to go into the legality of the adoption deeds. "Prima facie, at this stage, we do not find that the prosecution alleges that the children are either transferred or received by any of the modes specified under Section 370 and it is for the purpose of exploitation, as understood in the said section," the bench noted. It also observed that invocation of provisions of the 2015 Act was also not justified. Allowing the pleas, the court said it was open to petitioners to adopt the prescribed procedure for continuing the custody of the child with them by validly executing adoption deeds

Karnataka Bitcoin scam: SIT uses C-DAC forensic report, witness statement of Rs 850 crore fraud to counter cops' bail pleas

GNS News Agency, July 29

A new forensic report for laptops seized from serial hacker Srikrishna Ramesh alias Sriki after his arrest in November 2020 and a confession statement given to a court by a private cyber expert linked to the probe against the hacker have lent new twists to the Karnataka Bitcoin scam, with the Special Investigation Team (SIT) now suggesting a scam to the tune of Rs 850 crore. The computer forensics report dated May 21, 2024, provided by the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), on electronic gadgets used by the hacker has revealed that police officials conducting investigations against the hacker illegally accessed his laptop, including cryptocurrency documents, after seizing the devices in 2020.Private cyber forensic expert B S Gagan Jain, who assisted the Bengaluru Crime Branch in its probe against hacker Sriki, has also revealed in a statement to

a magistrate that there was evidence of the presence of as many as 4,000 Bitcoins - valued at Rs 850 crore in 2020 - on Sriki's devices after his arrest. The CID SIT in Karnataka is probing a Bitcoin scam from the BJP government's tenure (2019-2023) where cryptocurrency and funds worth crores allegedly stolen by Sriki from international exchanges and gaming websites were allegedly siphoned away by policemen, politicians and others after his arrest. Over the past week, in the course of two separate anticipatory bail hearings for two former Bengaluru Crime Branch police officers - Police Inspector Prashanth Babu and Deputy Superintendent of Police Shridhar Pujar - who investigated the original cases of hacking against Sriki, the SIT has informed the high court and a special court of the C-DAC report and Jain's statement recorded under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) in February this year.









Ranga Reddy

Sri Lanka will hold presidential election on September 21, its first since declaring bankruptcy in 2022



GNS News Agency, July 29

Sri Lanka's presidential polls will be held on September 21, the Election Commission said on Friday. Some 17 million voters will have their first chance of electing the country's leader, after a mass people's uprising ousted former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa two years ago.President Ranil Wickremesinghe was among the first to formally get into the fray. His office announced making a cash deposit at the Commission for his candidacy as an independent, although he has relied on the Rajapaksas' Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP or People's Front) since his rise to Presidency through an urgent parliamentary vote, after Mr. Gotabaya's resignation amid the 2022 economic downturn.During his two years in office, Mr. Wickremesinghe has vowed to rebuild the country's economy with an International Monetary Fund-led austerity and reform programme. While no official announcement in regard to his candidacy was made until Friday, the senior politician has sought to highlight his efforts towards economic stability in recent public speeches, signalling a desire to contest. However, his government faces fierce criticism over high living costs, with several sectors demanding salary hikes to cope.

Mr. Wickremesinghe, 75, has served as Prime Minister six times, and as President for two years now, but has never won a presidential election through a popular vote. In the election scheduled to be held this September, he faces two prominent challengers in Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa, and Leader of the National People's Power [NPP] alliance Anura Kumara Dissanayake in Sri Lanka's first three-cornered presidential race. All past presidential polls in Sri Lanka have had two main contenders and, in most cases, one obvious winner. Both, Mr. Premadasa and Mr. Dissanayake have been campaigning with a pledge to end corruption and alleviate people's economic distress through a renegotiated IMF package.

The Rajapaksas' SLPP is yet to name its candidate, likely to be a non-Rajapaksa. Some other aspirants, including former army chief Sarath Fonseka and Justice Minister Wijeyadasa Rajapakshe, have thrown their hats into the ring. Meanwhile, a group of northern Tamil parties have agreed to field a "common Tamil candidate", a proposal that some others in Tamil polity have deemed a non-starter.While seeking votes from the majority Sinhalese electorate that is fragmented following the 2022 crisis, all presidential aspirants will also target the country's ethnic minorities — Tamils of the north and east, Hill country or Malaiyaha Tamils and Muslims — for their support.

Sri Lanka will hold presidential election on September 21, its first since declaring bankruptcy in 2022

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Why thousands of children of Indian-Americans face deportation risk

2 trains carrying athletes stopped en route to Paris as saboteurs target Olympics 2024



GNS News Agency, July 29

France's high-speed train network experienced significant disruption early Friday due to a series of coordinated sabotage attacks across the country.People wait at Gare de Lille-Flandres train station after a series of coordinated actions on France's high-speed train network.Two trains carrying Olympic athletes to Paris on the western Atlantique line were stopped on Friday, France's rail company SNCF said. The development comes just hours before the opening ceremony of Olympics 2024.

The rail company said that one train was cancelled while the authorities are hoping that the other would become operational.France's high-speed train network experienced significant disruption early Friday due to a series of coordinated sabotage attacks across the country These incidents have caused widespread travel chaos and highlighted potential security vulnerabilities. The sabotage occurred amidst an extensive security operation mobilising tens of thousands of police and military personnel to safeguard Paris for the major sporting event, drawing security forces from across the nation.SNCF reported that vandals targeted signal substations and cables on key routes connecting Paris with cities like Lille, Bordeaux, and Strasbourg. An additional attempt to damage the Paris-Marseille line was prevented. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks. However, security sources suggest the methods used point towards possible involvement by leftist militants or environmental activists, though no concrete evidence has surfaced yet.French Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said, "What we know, what we see, is that this operation was prepared, coordinated, that nerve centres were targeted, which shows a certain knowledge of the network to know where to strike."Meanwhile, the SNCF has urged all travellers to postpone their journeys.

Bihar man charged in US with selling fake cancer drugs, faces 100-year jail

GNS News Agency, July 29

A 43-year-old Bihar man, Sanjay Kumar, has been charged with selling counterfeit oncology drugs, including cancer-immunotherapy medicine Keytruda, in the US. Kumar, who was arrested in Houston, Texas, has been charged on five counts, with the maximum penalty of 20 years on each count.Indian national charged in US for selling and shipping counterfeit cancer drugs

A federal grand jury in Houston, Texas, has charged a 43-year-old Indian national from Bihar with selling and shipping counterfeit oncology medicines worth tens of thousands of dollars into the US. The man from Bihar has been charged on five counts and faces up to 100 years in prison.Hailing from Bihar, Sanjay Kumar, and other coconspirators allegedly arranged for the shipment and sale of counterfeit versions of oncology pharmaceuticals, including Keytruda -- a cancer immunotherapy, to people in the United States, according to court documents.

Sanjay Kumar is charged with one count of conspiracy to traffic counterfeit drugs and four counts of trafficking in counterfeit drugs. If convicted, the Bihar man faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison on each



count, according to the US Department of Justice.Kumar was arrested on June 26 in Houston after he landed in the United States with the intention of negotiating and expanding his business of selling fake Keytruda in the American market, according to a US attorney."Keytruda is a cancer immunotherapy that is approved in the United States for 19 different indications, including the treatment of certain types of melanoma, lung cancer, head and neck cancer, Hodgkin lymphoma, gastric cancer, cervical cancer, and breast cancer," authorities revealed.

BTS ARMY rhymes with Bangladesh protesters' blood, sweat & tears

GNS News Agency, July 29

Popular K-pop band BTS' massive online fan base has found a sudden interest in student-led anti-quota protests raging in BangladeshBangladeshi students protesting government quotas found support from an unexpected quarter earlier this month when the country was reeling under widespread violence and an internet shutdown: the online fanbase of the South Korean pop band BTS.India Today has identified at least 50 self-declared BTS fan pages that posted and amplified posts carrying



GNS News Agency, July 29

Over 250,000 children of legal immigrants, many of them Indian-Americans, face risk of being deported due to "aging out" as they turn 21 and lose dependent status. The White House is blaming the Republicans for the legislative impasse, while lawmakers and advocacy groups urge action to protect these individuals.Over 2,50,000 children of legal immigrants, many of whom are Indian-Americans, are at risk of being deported from the United States due to the "aging out" issue. These children, known as 'Documented Dreamers', came to the US with their parents on temporary work visas but now face deportation as they turn 21 and lose their dependent status.

The National Foundation for American Policy (NFAP) conducted a study of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) data as of November 2, and found that over 1.2 million Indians, including dependents, are currently waiting for green cards in EB-1, EB-2 and EB-3 categories. This number is from a Forbes report.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) defines a child as someone who is both unmarried and under 21 vears old. If a person applies for lawful permanent resident (LPR) status as a child but turns 21 before getting approved for a Green Card, they are no longer considered a child for immigration purposes. This is called "aging out", and it means the person might have to file a new application, wait longer for a Green Card, or may not be eligible for one anymore. The White House has blamed Republicans for the legislative impasse, citing that they voted down a bipartisan agreement twice, reported news agency "I talked about the bipartisan agreement that came together from the Senate where we negotiated a process to help the so-called documented Dreamers. And sadly, Republicans, and I've said this many times already at this podium today, which is that they voted it down twice. They voted it down twice," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters at her daily news conference.

US LAWMAKERS APPEAL FOR ACTIONON June 13, a group of 43 lawmakers, led by Senator Alex Padilla, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety, and Representative Deborah Ross, urged the Biden Administration to take urgent action to protect these individuals."These young people grow up in the United States, complete their education in the American school system, and graduate with degrees from American institutions. However, due to the long green-card backlog, families with approved immigrant petitions are often stuck waiting decades for permanent resident status," the lawmakers wrote, reported PTI.STORIES OF STRUGGLE OF DOCUMENTED DREAMERS

Improve The Dream, an organisation representing



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these children, met with over 100 congressional offices and senior administration officials to advocate for a solution."It is disappointing to see the lack of action and associated proposed regulations deprioritised and delayed. I hope President Biden and the administration see the support from this bipartisan letter and show they care about one of the most bipartisan issues in Congress," Dip Patel, founder of Improve The Dream was quoted as saying by PTI.Individuals like Jefrina, who came to the US at the age of 7, and Praneetha, who arrived at 8, have had to navigate temporary visa solutions to avoid selfdeportation.

Jefrina, now a graduate student in Minnesota, shared, "My young adult life has been a series of temporary fixes to avoid self-deportation. I graduate from my Master's program in December and I'm yet again at the crossroads of leaving my family, pets, and friends."Praneetha, a cloud engineer in Texas, has lived in the US for over 15 years but faces uncertainty about her permanent residency status.Similarly, Roshan, who came to the US at age 10, was forced to leave the country last month after aging out in 2019 despite spending almost 16 years in the US, Dwarkesh Patel, who is a podcaster, often features faces like Jeff Bezos, Tony Blair, and more in his show, Dwarkesh Podcast, has also shared his story on X stated, "My family moved to the US when I was 8, but by the time I turned 20, my dad was still on an H1B (waiting to get processed for a green card). Once I turned 21, I would age out as his dependent, despite the fact that I basically grew up in the US. I thought I'd have to become a code monkey after college, and even that only if I was lucky enough to win the H-1B lottery. Otherwise, back to India."

hashtags such #StepDownHasina, as #StudentsUnderAttack and #QuotaReformProtest.At least 140 people were killed in clashes in Dhaka and other cities during protests calling for an end to reservation in government jobs and education for the kin of those who fought for the country's independence from Pakistan over 50 years ago.During the unrest, the internet was completely inaccessible for at least five days and partially accessible for about a week, leaving crores unable to access social media. During this period, Bangladeshi citizens living in foreign countries arguably were the only ones to raise their compatriots' voice - calling for putting pressure on the Hasina government with social media trends. Even domestic news channels were off-air for days

In their effort to gain wider attention, many of them turned to the BTS 'ARMY' (Adorable Representative M.C. for Youth), as the band's fans call themselves – calling on them to amplify the protesters voice. Many of them obliged.Many of these accounts shared similar content, often using the phrase "We stand with Bangladeshi students," which appeared in nearly 9,000 tweets and retweets within a week ending on July 23.Many of the participants, like @btslinesiconic, which has over 84,000 followers, never posted anything about Bangladesh before this campaign. "All eyes on Bangladesh. We stand with Bangladeshi students," its post reads.

Some even went so far as to change their display names or profile pictures. For instance, @lunovjae

a, st

changed its name to "xo, saaf guota reform BD students" and began sharing posts supporting the protest. This user tagged Spanish authorities and international organisations in tweets, with one tweet reading, "We need international media coverage from you."Other users, like @makkeishitero and @bboohaoshi, also changed their display names and added "quota reform BD students" and "save our students, quota reform BD". The historical tweets of several of these accounts show strong participation in campaigns supporting the free Palestine movement. In 2021, several BTS fan pages were targeted for copyright claims on X by a Dhaka-based group called "Team Copyright." The group stated that it intended to "destroy the toxic fanbase" and criticised BTS for "promoting atheism and homosexuality", reported The Verge.Internet shutdownInternet observatory NetBlocks reported restrictions on Facebook and WhatsApp on July 16 and July 17, followed by a total internet shutdown in Bangladesh from the next day which continued for another four days. Fixed-line internet connectivity was partially restored on July 23."Internet connectivity in Bangladesh remains widely disrupted despite some restoration of fixed-line services," Netblocks Director Alp Toker said in a statement sent to India Today. He said the shutdown adversely affected families and left rights activists struggling to keep an eye on any potential human rights violations during the protest.

Barack Obama, Michelle endorse Kamala Harris as Democratic presidential pick

GNS News Agency, July 29

Former US President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama have endorsed Kamala Harris as the Democratic presidential nominee. After days of speculation, former US President Barack Obama and his wife Michelle Obama have endorsed US Vice President Kamala Harris as the Democratic presidential nominee. In a tweet, Barack Obama said that he and his wife think that their "friend" Harris would make a "fantastic President of the United States". "Earlier this week. Michelle and I called our friend Kamala Harris. We told her we think she'll make a fantastic President of the United States, and that she has our full support. At this critical moment for our country, we're going to do everything we can to make sure she wins in November. We hope you'll join us," Barack Obama tweeted with a clip capturing a phone call between the US Vice President and the Obamas. The 55-second clip shows Kamala Harris, 59, heading towards her motorcade while backstage of an event, and answering a phone call - on speaker. She smiles from ear to ear, realising that both Barack and Michelle Obama are on the call."Oh, it's good to hear you both," the US Vice President is heard in the clip."I can't have this phone call without saying to

my girl Kamala: I am proud of you," Michelle Obama says, adding that the campaign is going to be "historic". Then, Barack Obama is heard saying that he and his wife couldn't be prouder to endorse Kamala Harris, and "do everything we can to get you through this election and into the Oval Office". The 59-year-old Vice President shared the same clip on her X account as well. "It means so much to have your endorsements, Michelle Obama and Barack Obama. Let's get to work," she tweeted. The endorsements come after days of speculation that Harris, who was pitched for the White House top after US President Joe Biden dropped out of the race last week, may not have the full support of the Obamas. The delay in endorsement, which was in stark contrast with other Democratic leaders, including former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, backing Harris - led to the speculation. Furthermore, a Biden family source told The New York Post that Barack Obama is "very upset" because he knows "incompetent" Kamala Harris cannot win. According to the source, Barack Obama had hoped to get Joe Biden out of the way, and an article written by Hollywood actor George Clooney in the New York Times asking him to drop out of the White House race was part of that plan



Govt hikes long-term capital gains tax to 12.5% from 10%; clamps down on F&O trading, raises STT



In the Union Budget 2024-25, Sitharaman announced an increase in the long-term capital gains (LTCG) on all financial and non-financial assets to 12.5 per cent, from 10 per cent. However, the exemption limit of Rs 1 lakh for LTCG on these assets has also increased to Rs 1.25 lakh.The rate on short-term capital gains (STCG) has been hiked to 20 per cent from 15 per cent. The new rates on LTCG and STCG are applicable from July 23.

In a bid to check the exponential rise in volume in the derivative segment, Sitharaman proposed to double the Securities Transaction Tax (STT) on futures & options (F&O) of securities, effective October 1, 2024. The rise in taxation on capital gains and STT resulted in a sharp fall in the domestic stock market. The 30-share BSE Sensex plunged 1,277 points, or 1.6 per cent, to touch an intraday low of 79,224.32 after the announcement. The broader Nifty 50 tanked 435 points, or 1.77 per cent, to a day's low of 24,074.2. Both the indices, however, recovered later, with the Sensex ending at 80,429.04 and Nifty at 24,279.05

This increase in STT, which is levied on transactions in specified securities, comes at a time when the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have raised concerns over the rise in volumes in futures and options segment, which can pose a risk to macroeconomic stability. Sources close to regulatory decision making said the F&O frenzy is threatening to hurt capital formation, investment and growth and pose a systemic risk. "Security Transactions Tax (STT) on futures and options of securities is proposed to be increased to 0.02 per cent and 0.1 per cent respectively," Sitharaman announced in the Union Budget 2024-25.

Presently, the rate of levy of STT on the sale of an option in securities is 0.0625 per cent of the option premium, while the rate of levy of STT on the sale of a future in securities is 0.0125 per cent of the price at which such futures are traded. However, a section of the market said the hike in STT may not serve its purpose as investors are likely to absorb the higher tax rates and continue the business as usual. The rate of levy of STT on delivery trades in equity shares is 0.1 per cent on both purchase and sale transactions, while in the case of sale of an option in securities where the option is exercised, the rate of levy is 0.125 per cent of the intrinsic price (i.e the difference between the settlement price and the strike price) and is payable by the purchaser. Commenting on the announcement, Nikhil Kamath, Founder and CEO, Zerodha, said, "We collected about Rs 1,500 crore of STT last year, @zerodhaonline. If the volumes don't drop, this will increase to about Rs 2,500 crore at the new rates."

"The long-term capital gains tax has been increased from 10 per cent to 12.5 per cent, and the short-term capital gains tax has been increased from 15 per cent to 20 per cent. Both will be applicable from today (July 23). If the idea was to cool down the activity in the markets, this might just do the trick," Kamath wrote on X (formerly Twitter). According to Kotak Securities' President and Head Digital Business, Ashish Nanda, since STT is charged only to the seller, on a round trip premium turnover of Rs 10,000 in options STT will increase from Rs 6.25 to Rs 10. Similarly, in futures, STT will lead to an increase from Rs 1.25 to Rs 2 for every Rs 10,000 of turnover, he said.Futures and options are derivative contracts that derive their value from underlying assets that include stocks, commodities, currencies etc.

Capex outlay to remain at Rs 11.11 lakh crore, viability gap funding for private sector in the works

The Union government's proposed capital expenditure outlay for 2024-25 remains unchanged at Rs 11,11,111 crore, which was also the amount proposed in the interim budget earlier this year. In her budget speech, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced a corpus of Rs 1.5 lakh crore for long-term, interest free loans to support states with investment in infrastructure. Additionally, she said the government would support private sector participation in infrastructure development, which has fallen short of expectations over the last few years, through viability gap funding.

The finance minister also announced that the next phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) will focus on expanding rural connectivity. "Phase IV of PMGSY will be launched to provide allweather connectivity to 25,000 rural habitations which have become eligible in view of their population increase," she said in her speech. Notably, budgetary allocations to PMGSY stand at Rs 19,000 crore, nearly 12 per cent higher than Rs 17,000 crore in the revised estimate for 2023-24. "Significant investment the Central Government has made over the years in building and improving infrastructure has had a strong multiplier effect on the economy... This year, I have provided Rs 11,11,111 crore for capital expenditure. This would be 3.4 per cent of our GDP," Sitharaman said.

Notably, allocations for the Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways also remain unchanged from the interim budget at Rs 2.55 lakh crore and Rs 2.78 lakh crore each. The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) will receive Rs 1,501 crore compared to Rs 2,600 crore in the revised estimate for 2023-24. While she did not mention any new projects under the Ministry of Railways during her budget speech, Sitharaman announced two new expressways and a bridge over the river Ganga for Bihar, with a total cost of Rs 26,000 crore.In her speech, Sitharaman also encouraged states to provide support of similar scale for infrastructure, subject to their development priorities. "A pro-



vision of Rs 1.5 lakh crore for long-term interest free loans has been made this year also to support the states in their resource allocation," she said.

For the private sector, Sitharaman announced the formulation of a market-based financing framework to promote investment in infrastructure through viability gap funding and enabling policies and regulations."The addition to the stock of infrastructure in the last five years owed predominantly to public sector financing. Private sector participation is not forthcoming to the extent desired," the Economic Survey 2023-24, which was released on Monday, said. To address the private sector's reluctance in mobilising large equity and debt at affordable costs for infra projects, the government had brought in public-private partnership (PPP) models. "Many novel PPP financing models, like hybrid annuity model, have been introduced to mitigate this constraint. But private sector participation through these modes has so far been limited to only certain sectors like roads and water," the survey noted.In the interim budget for 2024-25 presented in February earlier this year, Sitharaman had said that 40,000 normal rail bogies would be upgraded to the Vande Bharat standards for improved speed and safety. Moreover, she had also announced the implementation of three major economic railway corridor programmes to improve logistics efficiency and connectivity.

How India added a little (starter) culture to the world of dairy and created curd



It's difficult to avoid yoghurt or as we call it in India, curd, in this country. It's one of the primary staples across regions. Either we eat it plain or we cook with it or we add a sweetener to it and eat it as a dessert – but you're bound to find it in some form or the other across regional cuisines in India.In Bengal, plain curd is rarely eaten as a dish in itself. We either cook with it, or we thicken milk, add caramelised jaggery or cane jaggery or sugar, before adding curd to it to make mishti doi.

I had never encountered curd being served as a separate meal component till my early teens when I was a bit of a vagabond and used to spend endless hours in various school friends' houses. In my Punjabi friend's house, a normal meal comprised a dry vegetable, a vegetable with gravy, chapatis and as much curd as you wanted to eat. I never developed a taste for plain unflavoured curd but noticed that it was always served in my Tamil friends' homes, or with the thali at Andhra Pradesh Bhavan, and of course, in every North Indian home I have eaten at. It's definitely a healthier alternative to dousing your curd with jaggery. In fact, North India loves curd so much that when I got my beagle pups in Delhi, after having close to 30 pet dogs, I was told by every vet I met to feed them curd with bread and not milk! All species deserve good bacteria and some 'culture' after all. The West might have just discovered 'hung curd' but in India, we have been draining curd of liquid by hanging it in a muslin bag as far back as 500 BC - according to a recipe for shikarini, a blend of hung curd and sugar and spices. This is one step up from how curd is made across millions of homes across millennia, by boiling cow or buffalo milk, cooling it down, adding a small quantity of curd from an earlier batch as a starter culture, and leav-

ing the covered bowl in a warm place overnight to miraculously form curd. The tartness of the curd depends on how long you culture the milk.Very early Vedic references, though, mention using the ber fruit, the bark of the palash and the puthika creeper instead of curd as a starter culture. Tamil literature interestingly refers to starter curd as "a white mushroom". Earlier, before refrigerators made an entry into our lives, curd was stored in leather bags for short periods, although extra curd was usually immediately made into butter.Curd with different levels of acidity was considered to have different effects on the body and there are numerous historical references stating so. In fact, a precursor to what sounds like 'kadhi' to me, is a dish termed 'kadha' in medical literature which was made by adding sour woodapple and the Indian sorrel leaf to curd and then seasoning the dish with pepper and cumin.

The eating, preparation and medicinal attributes of curd go so far back in Indian history and tradition that curd is one of the five components of panchagavya, the mixture used in traditional Hindu rituals according to Vedic rituals. But along with its inclusion in rituals and cuisines for millennia, curd comes with its own set of taboos. Curd which is more than 24 hours old cannot be consumed by Jains. And medical literature states that curd should not be eaten at night and should be eaten in only three of the six seasons of the year - namely autumn, spring and summer.Despite the Arthashastra mentioning the marination of meat in curd before cooking, many newage dieticians will tell you not to mix curd with meat or fish. If this were the case, Bengal and Kashmir where curd is used generously in meat, chicken, and fish dishes around the year would be uninhabited. But what would culinary history be without a few superstitions or taboos thrown in for good measure?

A version of Thayir Sadam or curd rice is mentioned as a blended curd rice dish called karambha in the Rig Veda. In early Tamil literature, thayiru (curd) is flavoured with pepper, cinnamon and ginger. In a meal recorded in 1000 AD, a dish of spiced vegetables cooked in curd and topped with a baghar or tadka similar to the palidhiya of Karnataka is mentioned.So every time you see a recipe for hung curd in muslin or how to make curd at home by some celebrity chef or social media influencer, remember that it was India that added culture to the world (of dairy).

What happens to the body when you take contraceptive pills every day?

The contraceptive pill, a widely used form of birth control, has become an integral part of many women's daily routines. While its primary function is to prevent pregnancy, taking this hormone-based medication can trigger a series of complex changes within the body. From altering hormone levels to affecting various organ systems, the contraceptive pill's impact extends far beyond its contraceptive effects. Dr Gaana Sreenivas, senior consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Bone and Birth Clinic, Bengaluru, tells indianexpress.com about the effects of consuming it every day. She says, "Contraceptive pills (often called 'the pill') are a widely used and effective form of birth control. Most birth control pills are classified as combined oral contraceptives (COCs), containing synthetic forms of oestrogen and progestin. These hormones orchestrate a symphony of changes to prevent pregnancy.'

Ovulation Suppression: The primary mechanism of action is the suppression of ovulation. Oestrogen and progestin inhibit the release of follicle-stimulating hormone (FSH) and luteinizing hormone (LH) from the pituitary gland. These hormones are crucial for the development and release of an egg from the ovaries. COCs consistently suppress ovulation in over 99% of cycles, according to research



a type of blood clot, says Dr Sreenivas. "A meta-analysis published in The BMJ medical journal found that the risk of VTE is approximately two to four times higher in COC users compared to non-users. However, this risk remains relatively low."However, there are some potential benefits as well. "The pill isn't just about preventing pregnancy. It also offers numerous non-contraceptive benefits, including lighter and more regular periods, reduced menstrual cramps, and decreased risk of ovarian and endometrial cancers. A large prospective study published

Centre's subsidy bill to fall to five-year-low in 2024-25

Centre's subsidy bill to fall to five-year-low in 2024-25The fertiliser supply situation is comfortable for now with planting of kharif crops in full swing. The Centre's outgo on subsidies is budgeted to decline to a five-yearlow in 2024-25, both in absolute terms and as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP). This is despite no increases in the prices of fertilisers for farmers or that of foodgrains sold through the public distribution system (PDS). The subsidy bill peaked at Rs 758, 165 crore (3.8 per cent of GDP) in 2020-21, which is expected to fall to Rs 428,423 crore (1.3 per cent) in the current year. The lower spend is on account of two factors. The first is the discontinuation of the free, additional 5-kg grain allocation to the 80 acre-plus PDS beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana. The extra rice or wheat - over and above the regular 5 kg/person/ month PDS quota - was given during the post-Covid period from April 2020 to December 2022. That ended from January 2023. With the annual grain offtake through the PDS and other schemes falling - from 93.7 million tonnes (mt) in 2020-21, 105.8 mt in 2021-22 and 93.1 mt in 2022-23, to 67.7 mt in 2023-24 and a projected 61.1 mt in 2024-25 - and the government's procurement as well as stocks in godowns declining (translating into reduced carrying cost of buffer beyond operational requirements), the food subsidy is budgeted at just Rs 205,250 crore this fiscal. The subsidy hit an all-time-high of Rs 541,330 crore in 2020-21, when the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also made a one-time provision to enable the Food Corporation of India (FCI) repay some Rs 339,236 crore of outstanding loans taken from the National Small Savings Fund. Previously, the Centre wasn't wholly funding the subsidy, arising from the difference between the FCI's economic cost (what it incurs in procuring, distributing and storing grain) and its average issue price. This gap had to, then, be bridged through borrowings. FCI's economic cost is Rs 39.75/kg for rice and Rs 27.74/kg for wheat, while the same grains are being issued entirely free to PDS beneficiaries. The second



major driver for the Centre's lower overall subsidy provision is fertiliser. At Rs 164,000 crore, the budgeted fertiliser subsidy for 2024-25 is down from the record Rs 251,339 crore of 2022-23, which resulted from high global prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.Landed prices of imported urea, di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) and muriate of potash (MOP) are currently at around \$350, \$560 and \$280 per tonne, as against their corresponding recent highs of \$900-1,000 (in November-January 2021-22), \$950-960 (July 2022) and \$590 (till March 2023). Even prices of key inputs, phosphoric acid and ammonia, have eased to \$950 and \$380 per tonne, from their peaks of \$1,715 (July-September 2022) and \$1,575 (April 2022). "The budget has provided Rs 118,999.80 crore towards urea subsidy and Rs 45,000 crore for other fertilisers. But with global prices of DAP hardening (towards \$600/tonne), the latter figure could rise. The overall subsidy requirement may, however, not increase if urea and natural gas prices hover at current levels," said N Suresh Krishnan, chairman of the Fertiliser Association of India. The fertiliser supply situation is comfortable for now with planting of kharif crops in full swing. There could be an availability problem in respect of DAP for the coming rabi (winter-spring) season. "I expect some shift happening from DAP to NPK complex fertilisers due to that," added Krishnan

Thickened Cervical Mucus: Progestin alters the consistency of cervical mucus, making it thick and impenetrable to sperm. This creates a physical barrier that prevents sperm from reaching the egg.Altered Uterine Lining: Progestin also thins the lining of the uterus (endometrium), making it less favourable for the implantation of a fertilised egg.

Short-term and long-term side effects of taking contraceptive pills dailyContraceptive pills, like any medication, can have side effects when taken daily. The experience varies widely among individuals, and not everyone will experience all potential effects, shares Dr Sreenivas.

Dr Sreenivas elaborates, "Common short-term side effects include nausea, breast tenderness, breakthrough bleeding, headaches, mood changes, and decreased libido. These typically subside within the first few months as the body adjusts to the hormones."contraceptive pills Smoking significantly increases the risk of cardiovascular complications

Long-term use of COCs has been associated with a slightly increased risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE), in The Lancet found that COC use was associated with a 50% reduction in the risk of ovarian cancer," explains Dr Sreenivas. Specific health conditions or lifestyle factors that could make contraceptive pills less effective or unsafe

Smoking: Smoking significantly increases the risk of cardiovascular complications, particularly in women over 35 who use COCs. The World Health Organization recommends alternative forms of contraception for women who smoke.Medical Conditions: Women with a history of VTE, high blood pressure, liver disease, or certain types of cancers should not use COCs.Drug Interactions: Some medications, such as certain antibiotics and anti-seizure drugs, can interact with COCs and reduce their effectiveness.

Can taking contraceptive pills daily affect fertility?

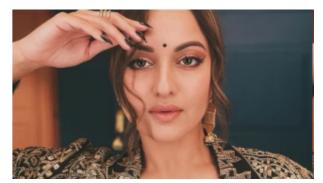
Dr Sreenivas agrees that one common concern is whether taking the pill will affect future fertility. She says, "Rest assured, the pill does not typically have long-term effects on fertility when taken daily. Once you stop taking it, ovulation and menstruation usually return to normal within a few months." She cites a study published in the journal Human Reproduction that found that time to pregnancy was similar between former COC users and women who had never used hormonal contraception.

Sonakshi Sinha swears by this morning habit: 'First thing I do...'

Drinking water is one of the most underrated yet essential things for good health. And it is also something Sonakshi Sinha swears by."The first thing I do after waking up is to have a litre of water. Then there is a conscious effort to keep sipping on water throughout the day. That is my clean start," the Heeramandi actor told Shilpa Shetty Kundra in an interview in 2022.Drinking enough water is vital for numerous bodily functions, including metabolism and appetite regulation. But do experts advise drinking 1 litre of water first thing in the morning?Soumita Biswas, chief nutritionist, Aster RV Hospital, Bengaluru said that drinking half or one litre of water in the morning can positively and negatively effect on health, depending on individual circumstances.According to Biswas, positive effects include:

- Boosts metabolism and aids weight loss
- Flushes out toxins and cleanses the body
- Hydrates the body after a night of sleep

– Improves digestion and reduces bloatingHowever, people are advised to avoid consuming too much water in one go, especially before a meal like breakfast. Negative effects of having too much water in the morning can range from overload on the kidneys, to increased urination, stated Biswas. Some other effects include:– Frequent



urination, potentially disruptive– Water intoxication (hyponatremia) in extreme cases– Stomach discomfort or nausea in some individualsThings to note"It is essential to consult a healthcare professional before starting any new regimen, especially if you have underlying health conditions," stressed Biswas.A balanced approach to hydration, combined with a healthy diet and regular exercise, is recommended for sustainable weight loss and overall well-being.Remember to listen to your body and adjust your water intake based on your individual needs, activity levels, and climate conditions.



TUESDAY 30 JULY 2024

Ranga Reddy

Deadpool and Wolverine box office collection day 1 early report: Marvel film eyes over Rs 20 crore opening



Deadpool and Wolverine box office collection day 1 early report: The signs are all clear that the latest Ryan Reynolds-Hugh Jackman starrer Deadpool and Wolverine is off to a flying start at the Indian box office, recording the best figures for a Hollywood film released this year. According to early estimates by trade tracker Sacnilk, the Marvel superhero film is expected to take an opening of over Rs 20 crore all-India nett.

The figures in the north of Rs 20 crore will make Deadpool and Wolverine the biggest Hollywood opener of the year after Godzilla x Kong, which netted Rs 12.60 crore earlier this year. According to industry tracker Sacnilk, the superhero film has already clocked over Rs 12 crore. The film opened to be glowing reviews across the world and is expected to be the movie which will make Marvel bounce back after the Avengers slump. Armed with terrific word of mouth, Deadpool and Wolverine is likely to break some recent Hollywood records in India.

When it comes to the top advance booking for Hollywood films in national chains, Deadpool and Wolverine was already in the top 10 with a sale of 2.13 lakh tickets, ahead of films like Christopher Nolan's Oppenheimer, Captain Marvel, Black Panther 2 and Mission Impossible 7.In terms of the opening, the film will place itself in top six of all time in the country, if it manages to nett over Rs 20 crore. The top opening day for Hollywood films in India is led by Avengers Endgame (Rs 53.10 crore), Avatar The Way of Water (Rs 40 crore), Spiderman No Way Home (Rs 32.67 crore), Avengers Infinity War (Rs 31.30 crore) and Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness (Rs 28.35 crore). The solid opening of Deadpool and Wolverine has set the film for a bigger weekend, with virtually no competition at sight. The Indian spectacle Kalki 2898 AD, led by Prabhas and Deepika Padukone, is in its last leg, while the Vicky Kaushal-Triptii Dimri starrer Bad Newz is the one that will be impacted severely by the Hollywood biggie, as both are multiplex-friendly films.

Earlier this year, Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire entered the Rs 100 crore club in India, finding a place in the top 15 biggest Hollywood earners of all time in the country. Deadpool and Wolverine is likely to cross Rs 70 crore mark in the first weekend itself and maintain a good run till big films arrive on the Independence Day weekend.Directed by Shawn Levy (Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb, Free Guy fame), the film features Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman as Deadpool and Wolverine, respectively, alongside Emma Corrin, and Matthew Macfadyen.

Riddhima Kapoor answers how Kapoor family dealt with Rishi Kapoor, Rajiv Kapoor's deaths: 'We became closer, more united'

Riddhima Kapoor Sahani reflected on the tough phase the Kapoor family faced a few years ago as they dealt with the losses of family members - while her father Rishi Kapoor died in April 2020, uncle Rajiv Kapoor passed away in February 2021. Earlier, Riddhima's aunt Ritu Nanda died of cancer in January 2021.Riddhima, who will be seen making her debut in Netflix's Fabulous Lives Of Bollywood Wives season 3, accepted that the years have been challenging but at the same time, the family united to face the harrowing circumstances. "We've got closer since then. A little bit more," she said in an terview with Anushka Arora, Riddhima is the e ter of actor Ranbir Kapoor and daughter of Rishi and Neetu Kapoor. She added, "We just look out for each other, so it's just brought the family very very close because a lot of people, a lot of family members have passed on. I am not talking about my immediate family, I am talking about even the extended family. You know, all of us have become closer and more united. We call each other up every other day, we are on FaceTime, we don't have to meet every other day, or every single day, but at least we know what is happening with each other, so definitely it has brought us very very close."



Rajeev Khandelwal recalls casting couch experience during which he was serenaded with a song, sent away with icy warning

Actor Rajeev Khandelwal opened up about a casting couch experience that he had, and recalled the details of the interaction. He said that the film producer in question bragged about having recently delivered a Rs 100 crore hit, and proceeded to serenade him with a song. When Rajeev walked out of the meeting having turned down his advances, he was given an icy warning.

In an interview with Siddharth Kannan, when the topic of his casting couch experience was raised, Rajeev said, "I didn't create a scene or anything, but I as good as gave him a middle-finger and left." Asked if the person in question was a popular figure, Rajeev said, "Yes. He'd just given a Rs 100 crore film recently. He said this to me. He said, 'I've just delivered a 100-crore hit, you're saying no to me?"

Recalling the harrowing experience, Rajeev continued, "He wouldn't show me a script, but insisted on singing a song for me. Imagine the situation. You're sitting across somebody who is telling you, 'I was told you're a drop-dead gorgeous man, but I don't see it. But there's something very masculine about you'. I got the hint. He asked if I wanted to do his film, but I told him I needed to see a script first. He said, 'I don't give my scripts to anybody, but I like you, so I'll sing a song for you'."Rajeev said that he patiently listened while the person sang. "He said, 'Look into my eyes while I sing', and I wondered if I'm on MTV Bakra," Rajeev said, and mentioned that the



person actually sang well. "When he was done, he asked me again if I was doing the film, and I repeated that I would need to see a script. He got up, showed me the door, and walked me to my car, and said, 'I was going to sign you for a two-film deal, let me see where you reach in life'.'

Rajeev said that shortly afterwards, he starred in his breakout movie Aamir, and even invited this person to the premiere with a message that read, "It's not a 100crore film, it's a small film, would love to have you there." The person didn't show up, Rajeev said, adding that he was recently attempting to 'revive' an old project, but isn't 'very active' these days.

Mahesh Bhatt says he walked out of Ghulam after Aamir Khan asked if he can dedicate his life to movie: 'I said no'



Filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt is always full of stories. One such is about the phase in his career where he felt he was done with directing and was convinced movies were not that big for him to dedicate his entire life to it. This was the time he chose to walk out of Ghulam. headlined by superstar Aamir Khan. The Vikram Bhatt-helmed blockbuster was initially supposed to be directed by Mahesh Bhatt. In a conversation with indianexpress.com. Bhatt recalls Aamir asking him if he could channel all his passion and dedicate his life to the making of Ghulam. Bhatt turned this down."I choose to walk away from it. I told Aamir, I didn't think movies meant so much to me that I would dedicate my entire life to it. It doesn't mean so much to me and I'd be lying if I say otherwise," Bhatt says, adding that Aamir was "quite stunned" by his integrity."I told him if there is one person who can give his life to it, it is Vikram Bhatt. When I saw Ghulam, I announced on stage that he made a better film than I could!" He adds: "That is the victory of a master... That he may give an unlit candle his flame, but when the flame becomes a radiant sun, you bask in that, it is wonderful."

When Indianexpress.com met the ace filmmaker, he

a device that has an amusing connection with his career, at least some part of it."In the mid-90s, the desire to make movies started withering in me," Bhatt remembers. The veteran filmmaker, who dabbled in every genre throughout the late 80s and 90s, excelling at the box office and raking in critical acclaim, says he reached a stage in his career where he started to feel he was done with filmmaking. Bhatt had by then directed some landmark films of the era, including Arth, Saaransh, Daddy, Aashiqui, Dil Hai Ke Manta Nahin, Zakhm, and Sadak."I thought this is the same... is this what I want? I had seen back-to-back hits, received critical acclaim, had box office acclaim, and then it was the same nonsense of, 'First half is good, the second half is slow'. You listen to mediocre people sitting down and passing judgment. Then you think, how much more do you want it and why? So the desire started withering in me... that was the wasteland phase of my life,' he tells indianexpress.com.

This was when Bhatt started trusting his aides, especially filmmaker Vikram Bhatt, to execute his "phone direction". Vikram's father Pravin Bhatt was the DOP on almost all of Bhatt's films since his 1974 debut Manzilein Aur Bhi Hain. Others have revealed how durng this phase, Bhatt would call in with instructions on how to frame shots and get the job done."Now, when I look back and wonder why I would leave everything and go, I think it is because I didn't feel the need to perform as a director. There was a younger, sharper mind, who could do far better and do justice to it. I trusted him (Vikram Bhatt) more with it. That's how he became a director when I started playing hooky and giving 'phone direction'," Bhatt reminisces about the phase where we almost went into auto-pilot mode.Mahesh Bhatt and Vikram Bhatt have reunited for the new Disney Plus Hotstar film Bloody Ishq. Starring

last few years and I think everyone who loses a parent, they always feel they never spent enough time with them. While I was growing up, my father was very busy. He was shooting most of the time, that too, double shifts-triple shifts. He was travelling everywhere so there was not a really friendly relationship between us. We couldn't just sit and chat, and I really have that one regret in my life. I wish I could be friends with my father. I wish I could share more with him, which is one regret I always live with. I respected him but we were never friendly. But I'm glad I have a daughter to love. When God takes away something, he also gives something back," Ranbir said.

Earlier, Ranbir had also spoken about Rishi's death ahead of his film, Animal's release. "I lost my father in the

Soundarya Rajinikanth wins hearts by sharing pictures of Rajinikanth turning 'Superhero Thatha'



Imagine going to school on a regular Friday, opening up your books, finishing your homework at the last minute before the teacher walks in, and bam! One of the biggest superstars of Indian cinema unassumingly walks in wearing a black t-shirt and a white pyjama. It was this sight that greeted kids of a private school in Chennai when Rajinikanth walked into the class to drop his reluctant grandson.

Filmmaker Soundarya Rajinikanth shared photos of her father Rajinikanth and her son, and wrote, "My son didn't want to go to school this morning ... and SUPER-HERO THATHA dearest took him to school himself. You are the best in EVERY ROLE you play on and off screen my darling appa. #BestGrandfather #BestFather #JustTheBest." While the first picture featured Rajinikanth smiling at his grandson who had no interest in going to school, the second photo had him walking into the classroom among extremely excited students.

Social media was abuzz with many netizens enquir-

ing about the school to enroll their own kids, and a few others sharing how the students would have been equal parts surprised and blessed to have seen Rajinikanth in their classroom. Many highlighted the reaction of one young girl in the background, and said it reflected the response many would have if they meet Rajinikanth out of the blue.

Sonam Kapoor dines with Sunil Mittal's daughter Eiesha in London

Mumbai: Actress Sonam Kapoor shared pictures of her dinner date with Eiesha Bharti Pasricha, daughter of business tycoon Sunil Bharti Mittal, in London.Sonam reshared Eiesha Bharti Pasricha's Instagram story, showcasing a glimpse of a sophisticated evening.

The dining location's lush interiors and intimate setting added to the evening's allure. The actress also shared pictures of exquisite delicacies laid out on the table. Sonam has been in London for the past few days with her son Vayu and sister Rhea Kapoor, who has been sharing lovely pictures from their vacation. The actress's husband, businessman Anand Ahuja, owns a big house in London, and she divides her time between Mumbai, Delhi, and London.Sonam's friend in London, Eiesha Bharti Pasricha, is a well-known lifestyle investor. Eiesha has invested in several brands and she is married to Shyam Pasricha, an Indian-born entrepreneur in London.

was taking a quick break between camera setups. Alone Avika Gor and Vardhan Puri, the film is written by Mahesh in the room, Bhatt was keeping himself busy on the phone, Bhatt and directed by Vikram Bhatt.

Khel Khel Mein song Hauli Hauli: 'Pure Nostalgia', say netizens as Akshay Kumar and Fardeen Khan recreate 'Heyy Babyy' hook step



Khel Khel Mein song? No! An ode to Heyy Babyy, say netizens. Almost two decades later, Akshay Kumar and Fardeen Khan will finally share the screen in the multi-starrer film Khel Khel Mein, directed by Mudassar Aziz. While the film revolves around three couples Akshay Kumar-Vaani Kapoor, Ammy Virk-Taapsee Pannu, and Aditya Seal-Pragya Jaiswal, actor Fardeen Khan, who recently made his acting comeback after 14 years in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Heeramandi, has an important role to play.

On Friday, the makers of Khel Khel Mein released their first track, much before the film's trailer, titled Hauli Hauli. The Punjabi song, penned and composed by Guru Randhawa, is also crooned by the singer-composer along with Yo Yo Honey Singh and Neha Kakkar.While the peppy song seemed like a part of a wedding celebration, more than the co-stars' chemistry what caught people's

attention is Fardeen Khan's entry mid-song and recreating the iconic step from Heyy Baby with Akshay Kumar. Soon after the song was uploaded on T-Series' YouTube channel, fans flooded the comments section by expressing their love for singer-rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh. Meanwhile, others noticed the Heyy Babyy touch to the song and expressed happiness. A user wrote, "Heyy babyy step nostalgia hits after watching Akshay and Fardeen." Another user commented, "Akshay and Fardeen vibing to iconic Heyy Babyy hook step."Fardeen Khan, who marked his debut in films in 1998, went MIA after his 2010 film Dulha Mil Gaya. After making his OTT debut with the web series Heeramandi, Khel Kheli Mein will be Fardeen's first film after 14 years. The comedy-drama is all set to hit the theatres on Independence Day. The movie will clash with Rajkummar Rao and Shraddha Kapoorstarrer Stree 2.





Indian archers secure direct QF berths for men's and women's events



GNS News Agency, July 29

Paris: Led by the in-form Dhiraj Bommadevara and Ankita Bhakat, India's campaign at the Paris Olympics began on a positive note as the country's archers secured a direct entry into the quarterfinals of both the men's and women's team events after finishing third and fourth respectively in the ranking round here on Thursday.

Debutants Dhiraj and Ankita's spectacular show in the qualifications helped India finish in the top four, giving them favourable draws to clinch an elusive Olympic medal in archery. The top four in the team standings directly advance to the quarterfinals, while those ending between 5th to 12th play the Round of 16 fixtures. The Indian men's team is seeded third, which means they will not feature in the same pool as the invincible Koreans in the next round. Now, both the Indian teams need just two wins for securing Olympics medals. Dhiraj, the world cup bronze-medallist, who defeated Tokyo Olympics silver winner Mauro Nespoli in Antalya, lived up to the expectations by finishing fourth in the individual round.

The duo of Ankita and Dhiraj, who was the star of the day with an excellent performance in the second half of his competition, will be seeded fifth in the mixed team round of 16 event. India's mixed team finished at the fifth position with 1347 points. Dhiraj got 681 while Ankita scored 666 earlier in the day. The mixed team score is determined by summing the best individual score from the women's and men's individual event. The Indian men's team made it to the quarter-finals by finishing third

in the ranking round with 2013 points. Dhiraj shone with a fourth-spot finish in individual section with 681 points. Appearing in his fourth Olympics, Tarundeep Rai ended 14th with 674 points while Pravin Jadhav finished 39th with 658 points.

Korea's Woojin Kim and Je Deok Kim bagged the top two positions with scores of 688 and 682 respectively. Germany's Florian Unruh was third with 681. Earlier in the day, Games debutant Ankita left behind seasoned campaigners like Deepika Kumari to emerge as the best-placed Indian archer at 11th in the women's individual qualifications as the country secured a quarterfinal spot by finishing fourth. The 26-year-old Ankita was the top-ranked Indian woman, followed by Bhajan Kaur (22nd with 559 points) and Deepika (23rd with 658 points). India grabbed the fourth spot by scoring 1983 points. South Korea topped the standings with 2046 points. China finished runners-up while Mexico grabbed the third spot.

India will face the winner of the contest between France and Netherlands in the quarterfinals. If they clear the quarters, India could be headed for a semifinal showdown with heavyweights Korea. The Korean women's team has been invincible in the Olympics, winning a ninth straight medal in Tokyo three years ago. In the individual section, Korea's Lim Sihyeon smashed a world record score of 694 to top the standings, while her compatriot Suhyeon Nam scored 688 points to finish second. China's Yang Xiaolei was third with 673. Ankita, who hails from Bengal and represents Tata Academy, was the surprise package on the day from the Indian perspective, even as four-time Olympian Deepika faltered to return her worst ever qualification result at the Games.

Halfway through the men's qualification round, India were placed sixth in the team event, with Rai on 14th, Dhiraj on 24th and Jadhav on 37th place respectively. After that, India made a remarkable recovery and jumped to the third spot after set seven. The team then improved its position further by moving to second place after set nine.However, India dropped back to third after set 10 as South Korea maintained their hold of the top spot. India will face either Turkey or Colombia in the men's quarterfinals.

Why those who called Biles a 'whiny quitter,' Vinesh a 'khota sikka' are nervous



GNS News Agency, July 29

Simone Biles and Vinesh Phogat don't play the same sport; nor are they Olympians of equal stature. Though, they share an eerily similar story. Success for the GOAT American gymnast and the World Championship medalist Indian wrestler has come at an unfairly high price. Their tales do have feel-good chapters of sweat and sacrifices but also turn grim and dark.Sports got them wings, fulfilled their dreams but was also responsible for their worst nightmare. It first liberated them and then betraved them. Who they thought was the gamekeeper turned out to be a poacher. The sporting institutions basked in their glory but failed to protect them from in-house sexual ofone found guilty, other fighting charges in court. Vinesh made sexual harassment allegations against the then Indian wrestling body's chief and BJP leader Brij Bhushan Singh. The case continues. Simone, meanwhile, gave evidence to the Senate Judiciary Committee on FBI over sexual abuse she suffered at the hands of Larry Nassar, the one-time US Gymnastics team doctor, a proven serial offender whose victims are in hundreds. The self-made champions, both in their late 20s, while dealing with their respective traumas didn't give up. They will be at the Paris Games to complete an unfinished job. They will 'the story' across the world. The beat reporters are likely to be in the minority at wrestling and gymnastics halls in Paris. There will be pressure and expectations. It was the same last time, at the 2021 Tokyo Games. Back then the two had cracked. Vinesh lost the guarterfinal bout that she should have won. Simone, after a brain fade, had to withdraw. It's curtains for her, they said. It was curtains for none. Vinesh Phogat File Photo of security personnel detaining wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Sangeeta Phogat during a protest march towards the new Parliament building, in New Delhi. "Kuchh bhi karna pade (Whatever I have to do), I am not going to let this Olympic medal go," Vinesh had confided to her team while preparing for the Paris Games. Simone, 27, is confident of walking the tightrope again. Her's is a sport where a misjudgment of millimetres or a hint of a stumble on landing can push one off the podium. Even her well-wishers are wondering why she is risking her legacy. Neutral voices are wondering: Why put the mind through the ordeal again? It's a question that even Vinesh gets asked. Simone, in a way, answers for both when she says: "I get to write my own ending." It's a line from Netflix's pre-Olympics release 'Simone Biles Rising'.So, what exactly happened in Tokyo? How come these bloody-minded athletes with steely nerves fluffed the lines they have been repeating for years. For Simone it was a case of, what the West calls, Twisties. It is a medical condition where the mind disconnects from the body. Like gymnasts, even the best of divers get these sudden bouts of disorientation. Years back as a six-year-old on a school's field trip to a local gymnasium, a tiny Simone had taken to the wooden flooring like fish to water. As if directed by some unseen pull, she had run on the mat and delivered a perfect flip. Coaches were astonished, they hadn't seen such "air awareness" in someone so young. The intrinsic power of knowing how high the body is from the floor when in mid-air is a blessing - that's what separates a good gymnast from a great one. At Tokyo, to the utter shock of the sporting world Simone lost "air awareness". She was no longer Miss Perfect. Disbelief had hit the stands and the dugout after Simone's shaky landing on the vault. The star gulped in embarrassment and left the arena. On the way out, she would tell her teary-eyed teammates - "I can't do this, I am done.". Social media never

misses a chance to kick those fallen to the ground. They would call the greatest gymnast born 'a whiny quitter.'Twisties is an alien world for Indian sports. Mental frailty is still seen as an excuse for being lazy or those without a drive. Vinesh was a bundle of confusion after her shock loss. She couldn't process her defeat. She wondered if it was because of the physio that was forced on her or was it a bout of concussion she would often suffer.

There was no debriefing, counselling or any kind of institutional hand holding. No one put an arm around her shoulder and said 'koi nahi (Doesn't matter)' - the two every defeated athlete wishes to hear. Days after the Tokyo loss, Vinesh wrote a piece for The Indian Express to give an idea about her mind space. "Everyone is treating me like I am a dead thing ... They did not even let me regret my loss. Everyone was ready with their knives," she wrote. Later, she would allege that Brij Bhushan had called her a "khota sikka (counterfeit coin)" in the presence of others. Simone was dealing with faceless social media trolls, but Vinesh had it far worse.Simone Biles of the United States practices during a gymnastics training session at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics Simone Biles of the United States practices during a gymnastics training session at Bercy Arena at the 2024 Summer Olympics. (AP) Between Tokyo and Paris, Simone was forced to revisit hell while recounting to the Congress her horrible encounters with the devil who called himself a doctor. The sports' biggest name was lending her voice to the hundreds of other victims that Nassar had abused.Miles away from the US, in India, around the same time, Vinesh was the face of Indian sport's first-ever 'me too' protest. Unrelenting in her attack on Brij Bhushan, she would get dragged on the streets, talking to the media and squat by the gushing Ganga at Haridwar threatening to throw her medals. When she should have been preparing for faceoffs at the Olympics, she was involved in 'who blinks first' with the government. During the Jantar Mantar protest days, it was tough to imagine that Vinesh had a chance to gualify for Paris. But she did. Going to impossible lengths to lose weight, she rolled past her opponents at trials with ease. Simone too would rediscover her air-awareness and perfectness. They are women of substance who have come up the hard way. Simone's parents had a drug habit. The father was never around and her mother's priorities too were mixed up. The once-in-a-generation gymnast, in an interview, said how her mother would feed the cat, not worried about the kids going hungry to bed. Eventually, it was her grandparents who nurtured her, got her admitted to a good school that undertook field trips to help young minds pursue non-academics options. Vinesh lost her father early, but her mother filled the void. She was her Bapu, her friend and also her role model.

What do Olympic skateboarders do when bus breaks down on way to competition? They skate to venue of course



GNS News Agency, July 29

The skateboarders has had it really difficult in the ongoing Paris Olympics. First the event was postponed due to rain and then the a bus carrying the skateboarders from the US and Canada to the venue broke down. However it failed to break the confidence of the skateboarder who decided to skate to the venue.Canada's skateboarder Matt Berger filmed himself and fellow countryman Cordano Russell skating down the streets of Paris.The bus full of Olympic Athletes crashed on the way to the street course, and the skaters on board got off the bus and skated their way through the streets of Paris to the course. The place were the bus crashed was 2 kms away from the course.As quoted by the People.Com, Berger said: "the incident occurred when their driver attempted to make a right turn onto a road that was too narrow, resulting in the vehicle becoming stuck. After waiting for 10 minutes without assistance, the athletes decided to take initiative and proceeded on foot, walking over a mile to reach their practice destination."

Skateboarding is played at the outdoor venue of La Concorde Urban Park in Paris. Men's street skateboarding scheduled for Saturday was postponed to Monday due to constant showers and occasional downpours.On Sunday, Japanese 14-year-old Coco Yoshizawa has won women's street skateboard gold at the Paris Olympics in an all-teenage final. Fellow Japanese contender Liz Akama took silver with Brazilian Rayssa Leal collecting bronze at Place de La Concorde.

Tom Daleys' 5th: How a museum visit made gay icon, father of two to dive and win again

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Tom Daley wouldn't be in Paris, biting into his 5th Olympic medal, a silver in the synchronised 10m diving, if not for a visit to a museum in Colorado. And a recurring dream. In 2023, two years into his semi-retirement after the Tokyo gold, Daley was at a US Olympic and Paralympic museum with his partner Dustin Lance Black and two kids when a video played about what it means to be an Olympian. Daley broke down."I remember the video finishing and I was there crying. It was Robbie (his first son) who turned and said, 'Papa, what's the matter?' Lance looked at me, saw me crying and thought, 'oh no. I know what this means…' I said, 'I just really miss diving in the Olympics', and Robbie said, 'but Papa, I want to see you dive in the Olympics' – and that was that."

That and a dream. For a while now, a vivid dream would flash: "where I imagine myself standing for my last dive and just like looking to the side and just thinking, 'oh my gosh, this is it'. This was why I came back this year."Dreams have played a vital role in Daley's life. Before he took to the air and plunged down in a whirr of somersaults to fish out gold with silver with Noah Williams in Paris and Matty Lee in Tokyo, before tears of loss dampened his cheeks in the London 2012, before he had a spat with his diving partner just ahead of their disastrous dive in Beijing 2008, before a dive fashioned out of a Russian circus move swerved out of control in Rio 2016, before cancer took his father in 2011, before he was bullied at school, and before he came out as gay, Daley had a recurrent dream.He's 15 in the dream and needs a simple dive to win gold in the Olympics. He throws himself off the board but panics as a shark stares at him. He dives right into it. Darkness. "Of course I die and see on the news that an Olympic diver has been eaten by a shark. I don't know what was happening with my imagination then," Daley says in a 2010 BBC documentary.

The shark would shapeshift into cancer, bullies, spats, homophobic slurs before it would give up and sink. Daley would come out as gay, get married to the man who wrote the biopic of gay rights campaigner Harvey Milk, have a son. Now, finally after hazy years of troubled fame, the shark is vanquished. Before the light at the end of the tunnel, he would stumble through the darkness.At 7, Daley didn't want to dive but fly. He stood on the board and cried. The academy coach, who had just heard about a precocious diver and stood there trying to coax the boy to dive for 20 minutes would say, "you are never going to be a diver". But, a way out would be found. Let the kid do what he wants, try to get him into "happy thoughts" and then tell him to fly, "Just like the Peter Pan kid". Daley began to fly. When he was 9, he drew a picture of a boy doing a handstand with a text on London 2012 topped by Olympic rings and titled the page: Ambition. "That's me." He would carry a monkey soft toy to all competitions, his lucky charm.At 13, hundreds of medals began to hang from the roof in his room. Lined one after another, they'd clang when a strong breeze lilted in. "It sounds like a wind chime, and it can be annoying when you are trying to sleep," his father Rob smiles.At 15, he is the British and European champion and is addressing a press conference when his father gate-crashes. Rob puts up his hand, gets the mic, and says, "C'mon, please come here!" And Daley, draped in the British flag, rushes to hug his teary



dad.In the interim, his father felt like he was hallucinating. A cat scan exposed a tumour in his brain, a size of a fist. "2012, Olympics, would I be going there?" was Rob's fear. With a year to go for the event, his father goes for another scan. Even as Daley waits out, the nurse asks Rob what music he wants to listen to during it, and he chooses Beach boys. Daley wants to ask if he can see how the tumour looks but quietens when he sees his pensive grandmother.

The sixteenth birthday comes up, and he shrieks in joy along with his two younger brothers to find a new goldfish in his tank. He has also shot up in height and is learning a new dive ahead of the European championship: the front four-and-half- somersaults, the same manoeuvre that eventually win him the gold in Tokyo. Eleven years ago, harness rope belts hold him as he repeatedly flings himself off the board to perfect the technique.As Daley sits for his GSCE exams, Rob finds that his tumour is not only growing again but rapidly at that. He needs chemotherapy and is told that he shouldn't take flights anymore but Rob disregards and flies with his son to Budapest for the European Championship. Along with the red floppy monkey. Not long after, Daley sets to India for the commonwealth games and for the first time, isn't accompanied by his father. A year later Rob succumbs.

At 18, Daley would tumble through the London Olympics, face hate, and would think of giving it all up, that he never wanted to dive again. He would hang on but more hate came his way, this time homophobic slurs.In September 2013, still only 19, he would say, "I think it's funny when people say I am gay. I am not. Even if I was, I wouldn't be ashamed." Three months later, after he had met his future husband, 20 years older than him, he would say, "My life changed massively when I met someone and it made me feel so happy, so safe. Well, that someone is a guy. At 23, in 2017, he announced the birth of his son Robert Ray - Rob, after his dad. Their second son Phoenix was born in 2023. Daley began to crochet jumpers, cardigans, and a colourful unicorn for his sons.At 27, in Tokyo, he would choke up about his father after winning the gold. "It was extremely difficult for me because he never saw me win an Olympic medal, get married, have a child. He never got to teach me to drive, have a pint down the pub ... after Rio, my husband said to me that my story doesn't end here and that our child was meant to watch me become an Olympic champion."At 30, now in Paris, he would do it for his sons as a champion who has repeatedly speared that nightmarish shark.

At Paris Olympics, young Arjun Babuta joins 4th place club with members like Abhinav Bindra, PT Usha and Milkha Singh

GNS News Agency, July 29It's a club that counts as its members the the likes of Olympics champion Abhinav Bindra, Olympics medallist Leander Paes and certified legends of Indian sport like PT Usha and Milkha Singh as members.

Yet, it's also one club that no Indian athlete would want to be a part of: the club of fourth-place finishers at an Olympics.It's this club that rifle shooter Arjun Babuta joined on Monday after ending just outside the medal places in the men's 10m air rifle event at the Châteauroux shooting range in France.Babuta was consistently in the medals spots but with medal within sight, his final shot was a 9.5, that saw his campaign end empty-handed.

Arjun Babuta misses medal in 10m air rifle men's final, finishes fourth

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Arjun Babuta missed out on the medal after he finished fourth in a closely-contested 10m air rifle event at the Paris Olympics on Monday.In qualification, Arjun Babuta had shot a total of 630.1 in the series of 60 shots to end seventh. Meanwhile, the other Indian in the 10m air rifle event, Sandeep Singh, had crashed out after ending in 12th place in qualification, with a score of 629.3 points.Arjun Babuta had already endured heartbreak in the 10m air rifle mixed team event earlier in what is his debut Olympics, after he and his partner Ramita Jindal had finished sixth.Arjun and Ramita had come within touching distance of giving the Indian contingent a flying start on the first day of Paris 2024 Olympics at the Chateauroux shooting range on Saturday, after they finished sixth among 28 shooting teams. Abhinav Bindra connection in Arjun Babuta's shooting careerJust like many other shooters from India, there is an Abhinav Bindra link to Arjun Babuta's career. But unlike others who were merely inspired by Bindra becoming India's first ever individual gold medallist, Arjun Babuta's career owes an assist from the legendary rifle shooter.

The story goes that Arjun Babuta's father Neeraj had once approached Bindra in Chandigarh to get his suggestions about how his son should pursue the sport. It was then that Bindra introduced the Babutas to his coach Colonel J S Dhillon in 2013. It was Dhillon who suggested that the young Arjun Babuta take up rifle shooting. As per Dhillon's recommendations, Arjun Babuta



started training for the 10 meter air rifle category in shooting. Dhillon's recommendations bore fruit! That same year Arjun took his first steps as a professional shooter, by winning his first medal at the Chandigarh State Shooting Championship.Two years later, Arjun Babuta broke into the national shooting team where he started to train under national coach Deepali Deshpande. The story goes that he would train for as many as 10 hours everyday to improve his skills in the sport.

Who is Arjun Babuta?

Hailing from a middle-class family from Jalalabad region of Punjab, Arjun Babuta completed his primary education in his hometown which is near the India-Pakistan border. He later moved to Chandigarh along with his family as his father worked with Indian Railways.He has studied BA Honors at DAV College in Chandigarh.

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