













## When the process is the punishment

THE Process is the Punishment is the title of a book published in the US in 1979. It is concerned with handling criminal cases in the 'lower' courts in America. In July 2022, the Chief Justice of India (CJI) said at a function in Jaipur, "In our criminal justice system, the process is the punishment." In this context, he specifically adverted to some aspects of our criminal justice administration, namely indiscriminate arrests (which are continuing), difficulty in getting bail (which is getting harder) and prolonged incarceration of undertrials (which has become worse). He did not mention the average number of years that a litigant has to wait for justice in any given case or the average number of adjournments in a civil or criminal case, and of course, he did not talk about witnesses being suborned. Yet, his one-sentence analysis of our justice system was correct. Consider two examples. Arundhati Roy gave a speech in 2010, perhaps objectionable, according to some. In June this year, that is 14 years after her speech, the Lt Governor of Delhi gave sanction for her prosecution under the draconian Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. All these years, the prosecutor's sword was hanging over her head. Consider this in the context of time. Life imprisonment is 20 years of prison in some states and 14 years in others. In a sense, Roy has undergone the equivalent of life imprisonment under the prosecutor's sword. This is nothing but the process being the punishment, as the CJI tells us. But the tragic reality is that her troubles are just beginning. Her trial hasn't begun; in fact, even the chargesheet does not appear to have been filed. Knowing how our justice system functions, if she is arrested now under the draconian law, it's curtains as far as her personal liberty is concerned.

Arrest apart, imagine the future of the case against Roy. It can take years, if not decades, before the trial and the appeal process are over. What is it that is sought to be achieved by this farcical process? Worse still is the case of Medha Patkar. She has recently been convicted of criminal defamation for something she said against some gentleman in 2001 — that is, 23 years ago (equivalent to more than one-and-a-half life sentences). Ironically, that gentleman is none other than the same Lt Governor of Delhi. After a protracted trial, Patkar has been sentenced to imprisonment for five months. The period of imprisonment could have been longer, but the judge said that a harsher punishment was not being given, considering her age and medical ailments. In addition to prison time, Patkar has been directed to compensate the gentleman with a payment of Rs 10 lakh. The compensation was for the "extensive harm and prolonged suffering that the complainant had endured over the 23-24 years of the legal battle". It appears that her medical ailments were known to the judge, but no information was available of the harm and prolonged suffering that Patkar had to endure over 23-24 years of the legal battle. By the way, does she have the financial muscle to pay Rs 10 lakh to the complainant? What if she doesn't pay the compensation? Will she spend more time in prison? Usually, in criminal cases, there is a default clause, so she may have to spend more time in prison. Let me give you two converse examples of persons who have got off scot-free, even though their offences are far more serious than those allegedly committed by Roy and Patkar. In May, a massive hoarding collapsed in Mumbai, resulting in the death of 17 persons and injuries to over 70. The hoarding was bigger than an Olympic-size swimming pool. Clearly, such an enormous hoarding was illegal to prevent the installation of the hoarding or later, to take it down? More than a month after the hoarding collapsed, one police officer has been suspended. That's all. No action has reportedly been taken against any other officer, whether from the MC or any other agency, even though 17 persons died due to criminal negligence. Are government officers not accountable? No legal process for them.

## Invest in research & development to revitalise Punjab's economy

The focus of the R&D budget should be investing in risky projects to invent short-cycle technologies.

PUNJAB is passing through a stage of slow growth. Retrogression in the state's ranking compared to other states has set in. Its rank has slumped from No. 1 to 12 in terms of per capita income among major states. This is a cause for concern. It should prompt informed citizens to reflect on why this has happened and what the way out is. Answering this is equivalent to envisioning the future engine of growth for Punjab's economy.

When one looks at the production structure, it is obvious that the lack of strong linkages among the production sectors, a dysfunctional fiscal policy, social and cultural factors, ruined institutional infrastructure and risk-averse political leadership and bureaucracy are the major constraining factors. These have formed a vicious cycle, breaking which requires a big investment push and a sound public policy. Apart from addressing the current and interlinked constraints that have slowed down the economic growth of Punjab over the last four decades, there is an urgent need to envision future sources of growth. Even as economic growth processes are turning increasingly knowledge-intensive, they continue to be input-sensitive in Punjab, marked by low productivity as well as wages. The agriculture sector has been a relatively high-productivity but low-value-added one. The scenario of manufacturing and services sectors is no different, thanks to low value addition. The innovation index developed by the NITI Aayog assigned Punjab as low a value as 15.35 in 2021 (the rank among the major states is sixth). The major stumbling block is an inadequate investment in science & technology and the environment. It is as low as 0.39 per cent of the gross state domestic product (GSDP). Another dimension of the problem is the low level of knowledge-intensive employment, skill development training and involvement of NGOs in such areas.

To transform Punjab's economy from being input-intensive to knowledge-intensive, the state government and economic players of production should consider investing in in-house research and development (R&D) and increase it to the desired level of engagement of science & technology workers. Nobel laureate economist Paul Romer has argued that the higher the engagement of science & technology workers, the



higher is the level of innovations and patents (knowledge output). The application of innovations and technologies developed to address local problems faced by the economic production structure will help make it operate at higher efficiency. This requires decisions to shift the gears of the economy, while envisioning and channelling investment in the desired direction. The state government, during the annual budget formulation, should consider including the budgetary head of investment in R&D. A new incentive framework for knowledge enterprises should be framed and incorporated in the core policy and budgetary formulations.

There is an urgent need to develop coordinated high-end knowledge generation organisations and institutions. The goal should be to raise R&D standards and outcomes. In the short term, the share of R&D investment in the GSDP should be raised to 1 per cent. It should be increased to 2 per cent in the medium term and finally to the level of the Asian Tigers at around 3 per cent. For this, higher educational/research institutions may be engaged to generate new knowledge for current and future needs of the economic agents of production while building strong business enterprise-institutional linkages. In this context, there is a need to learn from China's experience of establishing solo research-based

universities. The main task of a research university should be to conduct research on the current problems faced by the economy, besides innovations and technologies for future sources of economic development. These universities will change the culture of academic engagement and give an edge in publishing research output and registering patents for raising global quality standards. This implies that the research output generated by such a university can be used by knowledge enterprises that can be established by it or by private enterprises. Obviously, the knowledge developed and absorbed in knowledge-intensive enterprises will help convert higher productivity into higher value addition and thus accelerate the pace of economic development.

The focus of the R&D budget should be on investing in risky projects to invent short-cycle technologies. Capability-building for harnessing future opportunities and making skilled manpower ready for futuristic technologies are the need of the hour. The state government and business enterprises should develop a strong linkage with the Indian diaspora to transmit the spillover effect from the knowledge gained from experience while working in developed countries. The production structure may also be fine-tuned to fulfil the needs of the diaspora while raising the quality standards of production that are acceptable in their respective country of residence. Brand-building could enable entry into global value chains. This will further enhance the possibilities of learning and facilitate increasing returns to scale in the enterprises and farms. This is the process that will help Punjab's economy move from a 'low productivity, low wage' enterprise to a 'high productivity, high income-generating' one, along with agriculture. Another advantage of this kind of new investment in knowledge enterprises is that it can be directed to generate green energy innovations and technologies for the greater benefit of achieving high productivity and high-wage employment in green enterprises. The Punjab Government must give the right signal to economic agents of production for making the state's economy dynamic. The right kind of combination of institutions like the state and the market is needed to deliver long-awaited development.

## MSP promise unmet

Punjab undermines moong diversification

THE Punjab Government's failure to procure moong dal this year has left farmers in the lurch, compelling them to sell their produce to private players at rates below the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 8,555 per quintal. This disheartening pattern has been generally evident since 2022, when CM Bhagwant Mann promised MSP-backed government procurement of the green pulse. His announcement had led to a record 77 per cent jump in sowing acreage that year. It was touted as a significant step in conserving groundwater and improving soil health through crop diversification. The legume crop is also believed to benefit the soil by fixing its nitrogen level, which is conducive to better paddy yield. However, the scheme has not materialised, leaving private players to dominate the market and putting financial strain on farmers. Moong is crucial for Punjab as the state produces only 15 per cent of the



pulses it consumes. Its promotion through procurement under MSP and Price Support Scheme would also help the Central Government meet its target of making the country self-sufficient in pulses by 2027. But without government intervention, the cultivators

are unlikely to overcome the challenges. The situation calls for a more reliable procurement scheme to protect farmers' interests and ensure the success of crop diversification initiatives in Punjab. Establishing more purchase centres and accredited warehouses could reduce distress sales by peasants. Introducing a deficiency price payment system could bridge the gap between the market price and MSP. Notably, in July 2022, Mann had announced that the state would bear the gap of up to Rs 1,000 per quintal for the moong crop sold below MSP. Promoting FPOs (farmer producer organisations) could improve farmers' bargaining power and market access. Targeted interventions are necessary to give the citizens the much-needed nutritious food security.

## Well begun is half done for the Opposition

The Opposition must continue to focus on its poll campaign theme, which centred on the defence of the Constitution to ensure social and economic justice.

THE first session of the 18th Lok Sabha saw a charged-up Opposition using its numbers and momentum to take on the ruling BJP. The gap between the Opposition and the ruling benches in the Lok Sabha has narrowed down to 60 seats, making the House more representative of India's pluralistic society and diverse voices and interests. The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has 293 MPs, not far above the majority mark of 272 in the 543-member Lok Sabha, while the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) has 234.

The role of the Opposition was reduced to mere tokenism in the last two Lok Sabhas because of the BJP's overwhelming electoral numbers and dominance. It used its majority to delegitimise and dismiss the Opposition from Parliament, short-circuiting debate and pushing through crucial legislation without adequate discussion or consultation. The BJP has lost its outright majority for the first time in a decade this year, while the Opposition has re-emerged as a legitimate political force, offering the opportunity to hold the ruling party accountable. A strong Opposition can act as an effective restraint on the government, preventing it from transgressing its functional limits. Data compiled by the PRS Legislative Research show that there was very little discussion in the 17th Lok Sabha; the Opposition was hardly ever heard and it was not given adequate time. It had fewer sittings compared to the previous full-term Lok Sabhas. Not only were there fewer sittings and debates, but fewer Bills were also sent to parliamentary committees for detailed scrutiny before they were passed. As many as 179 Bills were passed — 58 per cent of them within two weeks of introduction. Only 16 per cent of the Bills in the 17th Lok Sabha were referred to standing committees for greater scrutiny, compared to 7 per cent and 60 per cent in the 15th and 14th Lok Sabha (during the UPA rule).

Rahul Gandhi, in his debut as the Leader of the Opposition (LoP), mounted an aggressive critique of the NDA government and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The

INDIA bloc leaders entered the Lok Sabha holding copies of the Constitution. The LoP led the MPs in waving the copies when the PM was being sworn in. The scene was repeated when Home Minister Amit Shah took oath. PM Modi, in turn, called into question the track record of the Congress and the capability of Rahul — without ever taking his name. His more than two-hour-long speech signalled a continuity in his government's domineering approach towards the Opposition despite the electoral setback suffered by his party. The attack was concentrated on the Congress, which was called the biggest opponent of the Constitution and accused of running a 'fake narrative' to mislead the public. The PM challenged the Opposition's claim that the recent elections were fought on the issue of 'protecting the Constitution'.

To counter this assertion, Modi launched a sharp attack on the Emergency, listing its excesses, including arrests of political activists and suspension of civil liberties. According to him, the 2024 General Election was not about the protection of the Constitution; he said Indians voted on this plank only once when they threw out the Indira Gandhi government in 1977 after the Emergency.

The Emergency was undoubtedly a 'direct and frontal attack' on the Constitution. The Congress was punished for it in the 1977 election by a coalition of parties which had come together with the sole objective of defeating the authoritarian excesses of the Emergency and restoring democracy. The anti-authoritarian plank figured prominently in the recent Lok Sabha elections too. Saving the Constitution was an important electoral issue, no matter what the BJP might say today. It united 26 Opposition parties to form an alliance to counter the



attacks on democracy and the Constitution, witnessed during the second term of the NDA government. This was reflected in the enactment of the Citizenship Amendment Act, the change in status of Jammu & Kashmir and the massive rise in hate speech and persecution of Muslims — all this was in conflict with the fundamental values envisaged by the Constitution. This agenda was taken to its extreme when the new criminal laws were steamrolled through Parliament without consultation or debate and after the suspension of over 140 MPs. Against this background, voters actively and affirmatively responded to the Opposition's call to save the Constitution by voting against authoritarian manoeuvres. The saffron camp failed to counter the narrative that it wanted 400 seats in

Parliament in order to change the Constitution.

The Opposition made its voice heard during the debate on the motion of thanks on the President's address. This debate is noteworthy because it took place despite the combativeness of the government and its insistence to showcase continuity in terms of its power. The fact that there was a debate is encouraging. Running roughshod over Parliament and the Opposition is not that easy anymore. The speeches of Rahul Gandhi, Mahua Moitra, Akhilesh Yadav, Bimol Akiyama, Mallikarjun Kharge, Manoj Kumar Jha, Sagarika Ghose and John Brittas — to name some of the vocal Opposition leaders who spoke — testifies to the resurgence of the Opposition. There was a stormy debate on issues such as the NEET paper leak, Manipur, unemployment, inflation, Agnipath scheme, violence against minorities and the political role of Hinduism in public life. The argument on 'who is a Hindu' was significant; it is likely to go down as one of

the most consequential debates in India's parliamentary history. This debate underscores the ideological differences between the government and the Opposition — advocating two very different ideas of India and arguing sharply for or against equating democracy with majoritarianism. The failure of the BJP to reach majority on its own is expected to stall the majoritarian agenda and give space for constitutional politics. However, the Opposition must continue to focus on its poll campaign theme, which centred on the defence of the Constitution to ensure social and economic justice and material improvement in the lives of people through the promotion of equality, employment, free speech and other significant rights.

## Gold, silver price : Yellow metal trades higher, silver records dip on MCX

**New Delhi.** Precious metals showed mixed trends in the Indian markets today. Gold is trading on the higher side of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) while silver prices have recorded a dip on Wednesday, July 10.

Gold futures, maturing on August 5, 2024, stood at Rs 72,570 per 10 grams, after recording a marginal hike of Rs 172 or 0.24 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 72,398. Meanwhile, silver futures, due on September 5, 2024, witnessed a dip of Rs 129 or 0.14 per cent and were retailing at Rs 92,840 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 92,969. The price of gold varies for different regions in the country based on certain parameters such as the excise duty, making charges and the state taxes.

## Bansal Wire makes stellar debut with 39% premium over issue price

**NEW DELHI:** Bansal Wire made a healthy debut at the stock exchanges on Wednesday, listing at a premium of 39% over its issue price. The shares started trading at Rs 356 on the NSE, marking a 39% rise from the issue price of Rs 256. Similarly, on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the shares opened at Rs 352, reflecting a 37.5% premium over the issue price. The Bansal Wire IPO saw a subscription rate of 62.76 times by July 5 (Day 3). The public issue was subscribed 14.37 times by retail investors, 153.86 times by qualified institutional buyers (QIB), and 54.21 times by non-institutional investors (NII). Bansal Wire Industries, a leading manufacturer of steel wire products, surpassed pre-listing expectations with a stellar debut on the stock exchanges. The company is listed at Rs. 356 per share, translating to a significant 39.4% gain over its issue price of Rs. 256. This impressive performance outshines even the pre-listing buzz," said Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investmart Ltd.

"The company received a robust subscription, highlighting significant investor confidence in Bansal Wire's established position, diverse product portfolio, and consistent financial performance. However, it operates in a highly fragmented and competitive market," she added. "Bansal Wire listing was in line with our expectations looking at the demand received from all types of investors. Despite industry challenges and steady stable margin business model, management is confident in having multi-segmental growth coming in the company," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd. The bidding period for the Bansal Wire IPO began on July 3, 2024, and concluded on July 5, 2024, with a price range set between Rs 243 and 256 per share. SBI Capital Markets Limited and Dam Capital Advisors Ltd (formerly IDFC Securities Ltd) acted as the book-running lead managers for the IPO, while Kfin Technologies Limited served as the registrar. Bansal Wire is a prominent manufacturer of stainless steel wire, catering to diverse sectors including automotive, general engineering, infrastructure, hardware, consumer durables, power and transmission, agriculture, and auto replacement. The company's products are marketed under the brand name "BANSAL."

## Markets retreat from record high levels; trade lower on weak global trends



**The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 129.72 points to hit a new all-time high of 80,481.36 during the opening trade. It soon retreated and declined 207.47 points to 80,144.17.**

**MUMBAI.** Equity benchmark indices declined after hitting their fresh record high levels in early trade on Wednesday amid weak global market trends.

The 30-share BSE Sensex climbed 129.72 points to hit a new all-time high of 80,481.36 during the opening trade. But, soon the benchmark retreated and declined 207.47 points to 80,144.17. The NSE Nifty also hit its fresh lifetime high of 24,461.05 in opening deals but pared all the gains and dipped 49.6 points to 24,383.60. Among the Sensex pack, Mahindra & Mahindra, JSW Steel, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Axis Bank, State Bank of India and ICICI Bank were the biggest laggards.

Maruti, Adani Ports, NTPC and Bharti Airtel were among the winners. In Asian markets, Seoul, Tokyo and Shanghai were quoting lower while Hong Kong traded higher. US markets ended on a mixed note on Tuesday. Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.24 per cent to USD 84.46 a barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 314.46 crore on Tuesday, according to exchange data.

The BSE benchmark climbed 391.26 points or 0.49 per cent to settle at a new closing peak of 80,351.64 on Tuesday. The NSE Nifty went up by 112.65 points or 0.46 per cent to 24,433.20 -- its record closing high.

# Delhi power companies hike electricity tariff

**The hike is applicable in areas served by two BSES companies - BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL).**

**New Delhi.** Electricity bills in Delhi have gone up since May 1, as power companies have hiked electricity tariffs affecting many households and businesses. The increase in tariffs is evident in the bills that residents are receiving in July. The hike is applicable in areas served by two BSES companies - BSES Rajdhani Power Limited (BRPL) and BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL). While Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited has not increased its rates, BRPL and BYPL have introduced noticeable hikes. The areas covered by BSES Yamuna Power Limited (BYPL) have seen a tariff hike of 6.15%. This includes parts of East and Central Delhi. BSES Rajdhani Power Limited



(BRPL) has implemented a higher increase of 8.75%. This affects residents in South and West Delhi. The increase in electricity rates has been made under Power Purchase Adjustment Cost (PPAC). This adjustment is made to cover the costs that power distribution companies incur while purchasing electricity from power generation companies. The higher costs are then passed on to consumers through their

electricity bills. The total Power Purchase Adjustment Cost (PPAC) for Delhi's power distribution companies from May to July 2024 varies. NDMC has the highest total PPAC at 38.75%, followed by TPDDL at 37.88%, BYPL at 37.75%, and BRPL at 35.83%. This includes existing PPAC on past dues and additional current PPAC, with NDMC and TPDDL each adding 8.75% to their existing rates, BYPL adding 6.15%, and

BRPL adding 8.75%. This increase in tariffs will be in effect for three months starting from May 1. After this period, the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) will review the situation and issue further orders based on petitions from the power companies. Residents in the affected areas are now facing higher electricity bills. For many, this increase comes as a burden, especially during the summer months when electricity consumption is typically higher due to the use of air conditioning and cooling devices. It is worth noting that Tata Power Delhi Distribution Limited, which serves other parts of Delhi, has not raised its electricity tariffs. Customers in these areas will not see any change in their electricity bills for now.

The recent hike in electricity tariffs by BRPL and BYPL has resulted in higher bills for many residents in Delhi amid an increase in demand for power supply. While this increase is currently set for three months, future decisions by DERC will determine the long-term impact on electricity costs in the city.

## Sensex nosedives 900 points, investor wealth declines by Rs 7 lakh crore

**NEW DELHI:** The stock market saw a significant drop today despite opening at all-time high, with the Sensex plummeting by 900 points to settle at 79,446 in early trading. This decline was due to a broad sell-off in various sectors including auto, consumer durables, capital goods, metals, and oil and gas. Similarly, the Nifty index fell by 259 points to 24,173, reflecting a weak investor sentiment on Dalal Street. The sharp decline in the market led to a substantial loss in investor wealth, which decreased by Rs 7.38 lakh crore. The market valuation now stands at Rs 443.89 lakh crore, down from Rs 451.27 lakh crore recorded in the previous session. Major stocks like M&M, HCL Tech, Tata Steel, and Tata Motors contributed to the losses on the Sensex. However, Maruti Suzuki emerged as the sole gainer, rising by 2%.



significant number of stocks hit their lowest levels in a year today, with 208 stocks reaching 52-week lows. In contrast, only 21 shares managed to hit their 52-week highs on the Bombay

Stock Exchange (BSE). The market breadth was largely negative, with 3,802 stocks being traded. Out of these, only 759 were in the green, while 2,905 stocks were in the red. Additionally, 138 shares remained unchanged. All 19 sectoral indices on the BSE were trading in the red today. The auto, consumer durables, capital goods, metals, and oil and gas sectors were the top losers. The BSE auto index dropped by 1,254 points, metals by 705 points, consumer durables by 427 points, capital goods by 1,153 points, and oil and gas by 473 points.

The market downturn saw around 258 stocks hitting their lower circuit limits, indicating a significant drop in their

prices. On the other hand, 174 shares managed to hit their upper circuit limits, defying the overall negative sentiment on the BSE.

The midcap and smallcap indices also took a hit, reflecting broader market weakness. The BSE midcap index fell by 678 points to 46,861, while the smallcap index declined by 909 points to 53,245. Despite the market downturn, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought Rs 314 crore worth of equities on a net basis on Tuesday. Domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were more active, purchasing Rs 1,416 crore worth of shares, according to provisional data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE). In the previous session on Tuesday, both Sensex and Nifty had ended at fresh record highs. The Sensex had gained 391 points to close at 80,351, while the Nifty had rallied by 112 points to close at 24,433. During the session, the Sensex had hit a record high of 80,397 and the Nifty had scaled a high of 24,443.

## ONGC to invest Rs 2L crore to achieve net-zero carbon emission by 2038

**NEW DELHI.** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has outlined ambitious plans to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2038 through substantial investments totaling about Rs 2 lakh crore. In a detailed 200-page document, the company delineated its road map, which includes significant investments in renewable energy sites, green hydrogen plants, and measures to eliminate gas flaring. By 2030, ONGC plans to invest Rs 97,000 crore to establish 5 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy capacity, encompassing solar parks, wind turbines, biogas projects, pump storage plants, and offshore wind

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installations. Another Rs 65,500 crore will be allocated by 2035, primarily for green hydrogen and green ammonia facilities.

By 2038, an additional Rs 38,000 crore will be directed towards setting up 1 GW of offshore wind projects. To mitigate environmental

impact, ONGC aims to eliminate gas flaring entirely by 2030, investing Rs 5,000 crore in technological advancements. In the base year of 2021-22, the company released 554 million cubic meters of methane into the atmosphere, largely due to incidental oil production or uneconomical quantities for consumer distribution. The renewable energy initiatives include Rs 30,000 crore for 5 GW of solar parks and onshore wind farms, with additional capacities of 1 GW each slated for installation by 2035 and 2038, respectively, costing Rs 5,000 crore each.

# Emcure Pharma lists at 32% premium over issue price

**Emcure Pharma listing: The shares opened at Rs 1,325.05 on both NSE and BSE, at a 32% premium from the issue price of Rs 1,008.**

**New Delhi.** Emcure Pharma made a strong debut on the stock exchanges on Wednesday, with shares listing at a premium of 32% over the issue price. The shares started trading at Rs 1,325.05 on the NSE, marking a 31.5% rise from the issue price of Rs 1,008. Shares of Bain-Capital backed Emcure Pharmaceuticals opened at a similar price on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Emcure Pharma IPO, which is backed by Namita Thapar, was oversubscribed 67.87 times. As of July 5, 2024, the public issue has received subscriptions of 7.36 times in the retail category, 191.24 times in the Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) category, and 49.32 times in the Non-Institutional



Investors (NII) category. Emcure Pharma IPO offered 13,703,538 shares but 92,99,96,438 received bidding for 92,99,96,438 shares. "Emcure Pharmaceuticals, a leading player in the Indian pharma market, witnessed a strong debut on the stock exchanges, listing at Rs. 1325 per share. This translates to a significant 31.45% gain over its issue price of Rs. 1008. The

listing aligns with pre-listing expectations, fueled by the robust investor response," said Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth, Swastika Investmart Ltd. She added that the oversubscription and listing gain highlight investor confidence in Emcure's established brand, diversified product portfolio, and international market reach. However, the pharmaceutical industry's regulatory

stringency and potential disruptions in the raw material supply chain still require ongoing monitoring.

"Emcure Pharma's listing performance is positive, which aligns with pre-listing anticipation. The strong investor response and listing gain demonstrate confidence in the company's future potential. However, the identified risks within the pharmaceutical industry necessitate ongoing monitoring by investors. Investors may hold their positions by keeping a stop loss at 1200," said Nyati.

"Emcure Pharma debuted the markets with strong listing gains in line with our expectations along with robust demand received from all types of investors. We believe the investor demand has come considering reasonable valuations and an opportunity to invest in the leading pharmaceutical company in India in the pharmacology and HIV antiviral therapeutic areas," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd.



Dalal's settlement payment to Wipro as well as reimbursement of his legal fees." Wipro sought to obtain damages and injunctive relief arising out of Dalal's purported breach of non-compete and confidentiality obligations under certain of Dalal's compensation agreements with Wipro by joining Cognizant. In December last year, Wipro filed a suit against its former CFO Jatinder Dalal who joined rival Cognizant. The company had initiated legal proceedings in the civil court in Bengaluru, but Dalal requested the court to move the matter to arbitration.

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# 'Not Charity, Right': Supreme Court's Big Alimony Order For Muslim Women

**A bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih dismissed a Muslim man's petition challenging a direction to pay maintenance**

**New Delhi:** A divorced Muslim woman can seek alimony from her husband under Section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure - the law related to maintenance for wives - the Supreme Court ruled today. The big judgment came as a bench of Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Augustine George Masih dismissed a Muslim man's petition challenging a direction to pay his wife maintenance after divorce. "We are hereby dismissing the criminal appeal with the major conclusion that Section 125 would be applicable to all women and not just married women," Justice Nagarathna said. Justice Nagarathna and Justice Masih delivered separate, but concurrent, judgments. The bench made it clear that the law for seeking maintenance applies to all married women, irrespective of their religion.

Section 125 broadly says a person with sufficient means cannot deny maintenance to their wife, children or parents.



Maintenance is not a matter of charity but a fundamental right of married women, the court said. "This right transcends religious boundaries, reinforcing the principle of gender equality and financial security for all

married women," it added. "Some husbands are not conscious of the fact that the wife, who is a homemaker, is dependent on them emotionally and in other ways. Time has come for Indian men to recognise the indispensable role and sacrifices made by housewives for the family."

The landmark judgment has come on a petition by Mohd Abdul Samad, who was directed by a family court to pay a monthly allowance of ₹ 20,000 to his divorced wife. Mr Samad challenged the direction in Telangana High Court, which modified the amount to ₹ 10,000. He then moved the Supreme Court. His counsel argued that divorced Muslim women can seek recourse to the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986 Act and stressed that it provides much more than what Section 125 CrPC does. He also argued that a special law -- referring to the Act -- shall prevail over a general law. Amicus Curiae Gaurav Agarwal

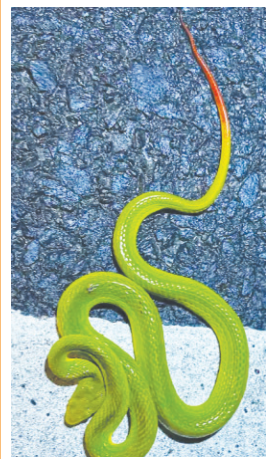
countered that the personal law does not take away a woman's entitlement to relief under the gender-neutral CrPC.

**The History, The Significance**  
To understand the significance of this judgment, there is a need to go back to the Shah Bano case in 1985. In this landmark verdict, the Supreme Court had ruled that Section 125 of CrPC applies to everyone, irrespective of their religion. This was, however, diluted by the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, that stated that the Muslim woman can seek maintenance only during iddat -- 90 days after the divorce.

In 2001, the Supreme Court upheld the Constitutional validity of the 1986 Act, but ruled that the obligation of a man to provide maintenance to his divorced wife extends till she remarries or is able to support herself. Today's order further consolidates a divorced woman's order to seek alimony under CrPC, irrespective of her religion.

## "Real-life Harry Potter Snake" Found In Assam, Himanta Sarma Shares Pics

**New Delhi:** In a good news for Harry Potter fans in India, a snake named after a character in the famous novel-turned-movie series has been found in Assam. Salazar pit viper, named after Salazar Slytherin, was found in Assam's Kaziranga National Park, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced this week. In the Harry Potter universe, Slytherin was one of the founders of the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, along with his friends Godric Gryffindor, Rowena Ravenclaw, and Helga Hufflepuff. He was partly known for his ability to talk to snakes. The snake is also the symbol of the Slytherin Hogwarts house in the Harry Potter series of seven fantasy novels written by British author JK Rowling.



"Kaziranga just found a real-life Harry Potter snake! Meet the super cool Salazar Pit Viper: it's green like magic and has a funky red-orange stripe on its head," Mr Sarma said in a post on his official X account. He

also shared three pictures of the green snake.

### "Harry Potter Snake" In Arunachal

A team of researchers had earlier discovered a new species of venomous snake in Arunachal Pradesh and named it Trimeresurus Salazar. They had suggested the snake commonly be known as Salazar's pit viper. It was found in the forests of the Pakke Tiger Reserve during a field expedition by researchers in 2019.

## In Mumbai BMW Case, Sena Leader's Son Mihir Shah Admits Was Driving Car: Sources

**Mumbai/New Delhi:** Mihir Shah, the main accused in the Mumbai BMW hit-and-run case, has admitted that he was driving the luxury car when it hit a couple on their bike on Sunday, killing the woman, say police sources. However, he has claimed he wasn't drunk, they add. Mihir Shah, arrested yesterday, told the police during his interrogation that he had exchanged seats with his driver Rajrishi Bidawat and took over the wheel before it rammed into a two-wheeler at 5.30 am on Sunday. The 24-year-old is the son of politician Rajesh Shah, a member of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena faction. A dozen people are in custody, including Mr Shah's parents and two sisters. The woman killed in the crash was Kaveri Nakhwa, a 45-



year-old mother of two. She was with her husband Pradip Nakhwa, who suffered injuries. The two were out shopping for fish. Mihir Shah evaded the police for three days until he was tracked down to an apartment in Virar, which is around 65 km from Mumbai. The police traced him when one of his friends turned on his phone for 15 minutes.

Mihir Shah allegedly drove the BMW after partying with four friends for hours at a Juhu bar. CCTV footage indicates Ms Nakhwa was dragged for 1.5 km after the collision before the BMW was stopped. The police said the footage also showed that Mr Shah then again switched seats with Mr Bidawat, pulled the woman's body out from under the car, and left it on the road before driving away. The Mumbai accident has parallels to the Pune Porsche hit-and-run case when two software engineers riding a two-wheeler were killed by an underage driver.

## Lashkar likely behind J&K bus attack that killed 9, says anti-terror agency

**New Delhi:** Handlers of Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) could have had a role to play in the attack on a bus carrying pilgrims in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district last month, interrogation of an arrested accused by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has revealed. Nine people were killed and 41 injured on June 9 when terrorists opened fire at the bus, which was en route to the Vaishno Devi shrine in Katra from the Shiv Khori temple. The incessant firing caused the vehicle to veer off the road and fall into a gorge. Officials from the anti-terror agency told news agency PTI that at least three terrorists could have been involved in the attack. The likely involvement of Lashkar handlers came to the fore after NIA

officials quizzed Hakam Khan alias Hakin Din, who was arrested last month for providing shelter, food and logistics to the terrorists. His interrogation pointed towards the role of Saifullah alias Sajid Jutt and Abu Qatal alias Qatal Sindhi - Lashkar commanders who might have acted as the attackers' handlers, an NIA official told PTI. The aspect is being verified, the official added. Hakam's interrogation also revealed that he helped terrorists conduct a reconnaissance of the area where the attack happened and even accompanied them. The NIA officials said that on one occasion, the terrorists even stayed with him.

Based on the details provided by Hakam, the anti-terror agency on June 30 searched five locations linked with

hybrid terrorists and their overground workers. The NIA took over the Reasi bus terror attack investigation following June 15 orders from the Union Home Ministry. Lashkar commanders Jutt and Qatal have also been named in a charge sheet filed this year by the anti-terror agency pertaining to its probe into the attack on civilians in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district in 2023. Earlier, Pakistan-backed The Resistance Front (TRF) claimed responsibility for the Reasi bus attack, warning of more such attacks on "tourists and non-locals". An offshoot of Lashkar, the TRF was founded in 2019 following the abrogation of Article 370. It was designated as a terrorist organisation in 2023 by the Indian government.

## Soon, Food Packets Will Have Bigger, Bolder Info On Sugar, Salt, Fat

**New Delhi:** In a historic move, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has approved a proposal to make a bolder and bigger display of nutritional information regarding total sugar, salt and saturated fat on packaged food items, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) said on Saturday. The proposal calls for packaged food items to carry the amount of total sugar, salt and saturated fat "in bold letters and relatively increased font size." The Ministry noted that "the information regarding per serve percentage contribution to Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDAs) would be given in bold letters for total sugar, total saturated fat and sodium content." The decision that will amend the Food

Safety and Standards (Labelling and Display) Regulations, 2020 was taken in the 44th meeting of the Food Authority.

Regulation 2 (v) and 5(3) specify requirements to mention serving size and nutritional information on the food product label, respectively.

"The amendment aims to empower consumers to better understand the nutritional value of the product they are consuming and make healthier decisions," the MoHFW said. Healthcare and nutritional experts have been calling out the need to curb the intake of packaged food items, rich in sugar, salt and saturated fats -- a major reason for the rising incidences of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The proposal will enable

"people to make healthier choices as well as contribute towards efforts to combat NCDs and promote public health and well-being."

The FSSAI is also expected to share the draft notification for the said amendment in the public domain for inviting suggestions and objections. Further, FSSAI has been issuing advisories from time to time to prevent false and misleading claims such as 'Health Drink', '100% fruit juices', the use of the term wheat flour/ refined wheat flour, the advertisement and marketing of ORS along with prefix or suffix, nutrient function claim for multi-source edible vegetable oils etc. These advisories and directives are issued to prevent misleading claims by FBOs, MoHFW said.

## Delhi Man, Who Wanted A Son, Kills New-born Twin Daughters, Buries Them

**Neeraj Solanki had been on the run since the alleged murder on June 3. He was arrested from Haryana.**

**New Delhi:** A Delhi man has been arrested for allegedly killing his two new-born daughters and burying them, the police said on Wednesday. Neeraj Solanki allegedly wanted a son and was upset about the birth of twin daughters. He had been on the run since the alleged murder on June 3. He was arrested from Haryana. Pooja Solanki, who lives in Delhi's Sultanpuri with her husband Neeraj Solanki, gave birth to twin girls at a hospital in Haryana's Rohtak on May 30.



"The accused was evading arrest in Delhi and Haryana by changing his locations regularly," the police said in an official statement. Neeraj Solanki, 32, has been charged with murder after his wife complained to the police.

### How Police Probe Began

The police said they began investigating after receiving a call at the Sultanpuri police station on June 3 about the "murder" of the two babies. The caller said his brother-in-law had killed

his 3-day-old twin girls and buried them at a crematorium, the police said. "After that, police staff was deployed at the cremation ground where the children were buried and permission was taken from the concerned SDM (Sub Divisional Magistrate) to exhume the corpses. On June 5, the corpses were exhumed and preserved at a mortuary in Mangolpuri. On June 6, we conducted a post-mortem. The bodies were handed over to their maternal uncle," they said.

### How Neeraj Solanki Was Caught

A team of the crime branch was tasked with tracing Neeraj Solanki, a Delhi University graduate who survived on rent from his properties. The police launched surveillance and also drew inputs from local sources.

The police analysed call data and noticed that Neeraj Solanki was changing his mobile handset, SIMs and hideouts frequently to dodge the police.

After raids at various places in Delhi and Haryana, Neeraj Solanki was eventually arrested from Sampla in Rohtak.

## 13 Assembly Seats Voting In Key Polls, First Since Lok Sabha Elections

**New Delhi:** Of the 13 constituencies, four are in West Bengal and three in Himachal, where the Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government has survived removal attempts.

Here Are 10 Points In This Developing Story:  
Bypolls to 13 Assembly constituencies in seven states are being held today, the first since the Lok Sabha elections, which saw the BJP falling short of a majority and the opposition gaining strength. The BJP won 240 seats and the INDIA alliance clinched 232, with the Congress emerging as its biggest constituent, with wins in 99 constituencies.

The Assembly seats going to polls are Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin, Bagda and Maniktala in West Bengal; Dehra, Hamirpur and Nalagarh in Himachal Pradesh; Badrinath and Manglaur in Uttarakhand; Jalandhar West in Punjab; Rupauli in Bihar; Vikravandi in Tamil Nadu and Amarwara in Madhya Pradesh. Four of these states are ruled by INDIA constituents while the rest have a BJP or NDA government.

The electoral exercise will decide the fate of many veterans and some debutants, including Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu's wife Kamlesh Thakur from the Dehra constituency. The Sukhu government in Himachal Pradesh has survived removal attempts and won bypolls in four out of six Assembly seats which were held with the Lok Sabha elections. Six Congress MLAs and three Independents had cross-voted in favour of the BJP nominee in the Rajya Sabha elections.

The Congress MLAs were disqualified and bypolls were held on those six seats earlier. The Independents resigned and joined the BJP and elections for their seats are being held on Wednesday. "Vote for the Chief Minister and not the MLA. Now, Dehra will also become the constituency of the Chief Minister... I will not need to go to the Secretariat to get your work done, I will get it done from the chief minister at home," Kamlesh Thakur told people while seeking votes.

In West Bengal, the stakes are high for both the ruling Trinamool Congress - which beat all expectations and improved its tally in the Lok Sabha polls to 29 of the state's 42 seats, up from 21 in 2019 - and the BJP, whose figure went down from 18 to 12. The Trinamool won the Maniktala seat in the 2021 West Bengal Assembly elections while the BJP won Raiganj, Ranaghat Dakshin and Bagda. Later, the BJP MLAs switched to the Trinamool. The Maniktala bypoll has been necessitated by the death of sitting.

## NEWS BOX

## Russia issues warrant for Alexei Navalny's widow, she calls Putin 'war criminal'

Moscow Russia on Tuesday (local time) issued an arrest warrant for Yulia Navalnaya, accusing the exiled opposition figure of participating in an "extremist organisation".

court said it had "approved the request of the investigators and decided a preventive measure in the form of detention for two months". Navalnaya has vowed to continue the work of her husband Alexei Navalny, Russian leader Vladimir Putin's main opponent who died in an Arctic prison in February. Navalnaya slammed the warrant in a statement, saying, "Vladimir Putin is a killer and a war criminal. He belongs in prison."

The activist's team also dismissed the allegations.

Navalnaya "was arrested (in absentia) for 'being a member of an extremist community' by the infamous Basmany court of Moscow", wrote Leonid Volkov, Navalny's former chief of staff, on X.

"Quite a recognition of Yulia's determination to continue Alexei's fight!" he added. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Tuesday also criticised Russia's move, calling the arrest order a "warrant against the desire for freedom and democracy" in a post on X. Navalny's organisations have been outlawed in Russia, labelled an "extremist" group and put on an official "terrorist" list. Navalnaya, an economist, stood by her husband as he galvanised mass protests in Russia, flying him out of the country when he was poisoned before defiantly returning to Moscow with him in 2021, knowing he would be jailed.

Following his death, Navalnaya vowed to take up her late husband's work and has lobbied against Putin's government from abroad.

## Zelenskyy to US: Act now, don't wait for November election for Ukraine aid

Washington DC. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged US political leaders in Washington on Tuesday not to wait for the outcome of America's November presidential election to move forcefully to aid his country against Russia's invasion.

Everyone is waiting for November. Americans are waiting for November, in Europe, Middle East, in the Pacific, the whole world is looking towards November and, truly speaking, (Russian President Vladimir) Putin awaits November too," Zelenskyy said, speaking at the Ronald Reagan Institute on the eve of the NATO summit. "It is time to step out of the shadows, to make strong decisions to act and not to wait for November or any other month," he added.

## Search intensifies for dozens buried in an Indonesian landslide that killed at least 23 people

PALU. Search efforts for those trapped in a deadly landslide intensified Wednesday, with more rescuers deployed to search an unauthorized gold mine on Indonesia's Sulawesi island that saw 23 deaths over the weekend. More than 100 villagers were digging for grains of gold Sunday in the remote and hilly village of Bone Bolango in Gorontalo province when tons of mud plunged down the surrounding hills and buried their makeshift camps. Provincial Search and Rescue Office said Wednesday that 81 villagers managed to escape from the landslide, several of them pulled out by rescuers, including 18 with injuries. It said 23 bodies were recovered, including a 4-year-old boy, while 33 others were missing. More than 1,000 personnel, including army troops, were deployed to increase the strength of search efforts, said Edy Prakoso, the National Search and Rescue Agency's operation director. He said the Indonesian Air Force would send a



helicopter as it was the only way to speed up the rescue operation that has been hampered by heavy rains, unstable soil, and rugged terrain.

Informal mining operations are common in Indonesia, providing a tenuous livelihood to thousands labouring in conditions that pose a high risk of serious injury or death. Landslides, flooding and collapses of tunnels are just some of the hazards facing miners. Much of gold ore processing involves highly toxic mercury and cyanide with workers frequently using little or no protection. The country's last major mining-related accident occurred in April 2022, when a landslide crashed into an illegal gold mine in North Sumatra's Mandailing Natal district, killing 12 women who were looking for gold. Environmental activists have campaigned for years to shut down such operations across the country, especially in Sulawesi, where the practice has grown in recent years. Sunday's landslide reignited their outcries. The local government which has allowed illegal gold mining activities in this area to continue has contributed to the deadly disaster," said Muhammad Jamil, who heads the legal division of the Mining Advocacy Network, an environment watchdog known as JATAM. He said that gold mining involves many people who share the blame, from those working on the ground all the way up to officials in the local council and even the police.

## Trump takes 'Democratic panic' dig at Biden, Harris, teases vice president pick

Miami Former President Donald Trump on Tuesday (local time) revelled in the mounting turmoil surrounding President Joe Biden's campaign in the wake of their debate and teased the expected announcement of his Republican running mate with one of the top contenders, Florida Senator Marco Rubio, in attendance. After days spent lying low, golfing and letting Democratic infighting play out in public, Trump used his return to the campaign trail in Florida to ratchet up his attacks on both Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, indulging speculation that she could replace the president as the Democratic nominee this year and alleging, without evidence, that his son Hunter Biden is "running our government" and first lady Jill Biden "is helping". Biden has repeatedly insisted he won't withdraw from the race. Trump rallied his supporters at one of his Miami-area golf courses as the presumptive Republican nominee nears a deadline to announce his running mate. But he appears in no rush, as much of the political world's attention is still centred on

questions about Biden's ability to govern for another four-year term. Some Democrats have started calling for Biden to step down as their presumptive nominee following his dismal debate performance last month. Trump, speaking from the 10th hole of his course, challenged Biden to another debate or even a "golf-off", reviving an offbeat argument from their debate. But mostly, he rubbed in how their meetup left Biden's campaign facing a grim prognosis. "Our victory was so absolute that Joe's own party now wants him to throw in the towel and surrender the presidency after a single 90-minute performance," Trump said Tuesday night. "They want 'Crooked Joe' out of the race. It's a shame the way they're treating him. But don't feel sorry for him. He's a very bad guy." James Singer, a spokesperson for Biden's campaign, responded to Trump with a series of challenges, saying in a statement: "We'd challenge Donald Trump to create jobs, but he lost 3 million. We'd challenge Donald Trump to stand up



to Putin, but he bent the knee to him. We'd challenge Donald Trump to follow the law, but he breaks it." Singer also said, "Joe Biden doesn't have time for Donald Trump's weird antics — he's busy leading America and defending the free world."

Trump laced into Harris with more specifics than usual. She has become a focus of the former president and his allies as speculation has mounted that she would replace Biden as the Democratic nominee. Trump called her "Laughing Kamala", and referred to the "Biden-Harris administration", rather than just pinning

actions on Biden as he had for months, and blamed Harris for the White House's immigration policies. "Despite all the Democrat panic this week, the truth is, it doesn't matter who they nominate because we are going to beat any one of them in thundering landslides and this November's going to be amazing," he said. Trump, ever the showman, repeatedly played into the speculation that he might elevate Rubio to his ticket. Rubio, a Miami native and one of the contenders for the vice presidential post, was among the Florida politicians who spoke at the event. One point, Trump marvelled at the number of reporters in attendance and said, "I think they probably think I'm going to be announcing that Marco is going to be vice president." Later, when he talked about his pledge to make tips tax-free, he remarked that Rubio.

## Trump's 'Project 2025' could turn US into dictatorship, says Kamala Harris

New York. Former US president and the presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump would turn the American democracy into a dictatorship, Vice President Kamala Harris said on Tuesday. "Donald Trump wants to turn our democracy into a dictatorship. And the Supreme Court basically just declared he can get away with it," Harris said in Las Vegas, as she launched AANHPIs for Biden-Harris, a national organising and engagement programme that will mobilise Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) voters, communities and leaders across the country. Harris alleged that Trump's advisers have created a 900-page blueprint that they are calling "Project 2025", detailing everything else they plan to do in a second term, including a plan to cut Social Security, repeal the USD-35 cap on insulin, eliminate the Department of Education and end programmes like Head Start. "Project 2025 outlines a plan to limit access to contraception and for a nationwide abortion ban with or without an act of Congress. If implemented, this plan would be the latest attack in Donald Trump's full-on assault on reproductive freedom," she said. "Make no mistake, if Trump gets



the chance, he will sign a national abortion ban to outlaw abortion in every single state. But we are not going to let that happen. No, we are not. We are not going to let that happen because we trust women. We know women know what is in their own best interest and do not need their government telling them what to do with their body," she said amid applause from the audience. Harris told the audience that her mother arrived in the United States from India when she was just 19 years old. "And she and my father met while they were active in the Civil Rights Movement. In fact, when I was young, my parents would take me to the marches in a stroller. I was in the stroller, of course," she said. "My mother had two goals in her life: to raise her two daughters -- my sister, Maya, and me -- and to end breast

cancer. She was a breast cancer researcher. And I will tell you, my mother never asked anyone's permission to pursue her dreams. Never asked," she said.

Harris said her mother was all of five feet tall. "But if you met her, you would have thought she was 10 feet tall. And it is because of her character and strength and determination that within one generation, I stand before you as vice president of the United States," she said. Harris said this is the most important election of "our lifetime". "Today, we are 118 days out from the election. And while many of us have been involved with these elections every four years, and nearly every time we say, 'This is the one'. Well, this here is the one. This is the one, the most existential, consequential and important election of our lifetime," she said. "Now, we always knew that this election would be tough. The past few days have been a reminder that running for president of the United States is never easy. But the one thing we know about our president, Joe Biden, is that he is a fighter. And he is the first to say: when you get knocked down, you get back up," the vice president said.

## Las Vegas eyes record of 5th consecutive day over 115 degrees as heat wave continues to scorch US

LAS VEGAS. Used to shrugging off the heat, Las Vegas residents are now eyeing the thermometer as the desert city is on track Wednesday to set a record for the most consecutive days over 115 degrees Fahrenheit (46.1 Celsius) amid a lingering hot spell that will continue scorching much of the U.S. into the weekend. On Tuesday, Las Vegas flirted again with the all-time temperature record of 120 F (48.8 C) reached on Sunday, but settled for a new daily mark of 119 F (48.3 C) that smashed the old one of 116 F (46.6 C) set for the date in 2021. Forecasters say the city will likely hit a record fifth straight day above 115 F (46.1 C) on Wednesday. Even by desert standards,

the prolonged baking that Nevada's largest city is experiencing is nearly unprecedented. This is the most extreme heat wave in the history of record-keeping in Las Vegas since 1937," said meteorologist John Adair, a veteran of three decades at the National Weather Service office in southern Nevada. Tuesday's high temperature tied the mark of four straight days above 115 F (46.1 C) set in July 2005. And Adair said the record could be extended through Friday. Alyse Sobosan said this July has been the hottest in the 15 years she has lived in Las Vegas. A counselor at a charter school that's on summer break, Sobosan said she doesn't step outside

during the day if she can help it and waits until 9 p.m. or later to walk her dogs. "It's oppressively hot," she said. "It's like you can't really live your life." It's also dangerously hot, health officials have emphasized. "Even people of average age who are seemingly healthy can suffer heat illness when it's so hot it's hard for your body to cool down," said Alexis Brignola, an epidemiologist at the Southern Nevada Health District. The searing heat wave gripping large parts of the U.S. also led to record daily high temperatures in Oregon, where it is suspected to have caused six deaths, the state medical examiner's office said Tuesday.

"We don't see how he can come back after the debate," said one European diplomat, who dismissed Tuesday's speech as evidence of Biden's endurance because it was scripted. "I can't imagine him being at the helm of the US and NATO for four more years." Trump has suggested that, given a second term, he would not defend NATO members if they came under military attack and did not meet the alliance's defence spending target of 2 per cent of their annual GDP. He has also questioned the amount of aid given to Ukraine in its battle against Russia's invasion. Biden closed his remarks by surprising NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, clapping the highest US civilian award around the Norwegian politician's neck and crediting him with reviving the 32-member alliance.

## UK PM Keir Starmer to visit US, first foreign trip since taking office

## UK PM Keir Starmer to visit US, first foreign trip since taking office

UPDATED UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer jets off to Washington this week for his first steps on the world stage, just days after taking office following a landslide election victory. Starmer, 61, will attend NATO's 75th anniversary summit in the US capital on his debut foreign trip since becoming British leader last Friday. He will reaffirm Britain's enduring support for the Western military alliance and Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression. The visit kicks off a whirlwind of international diplomacy in Starmer's first two weeks in power, with the UK also hosting a European leaders' conference next week. "It will be an opportunity for him to learn and get to know other leaders as much as to communicate any particular messages," foreign policy expert James Strong told AFP. Britain's previous Conservative government was one of Ukraine's staunchest allies, providing money,

weapons and troop training to help it repel Russia's invasion. Starmer has pledged continued support for Kyiv under Labour, and is expected to reaffirm that message in person to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the NATO meeting. Starmer's Defence Secretary John Healey has already visited Ukraine since last Thursday's election, and Foreign Secretary David Lammy has been visiting European NATO members. Labour is committed to the alliance and wants to match the Conservatives' promise to raise defence spending to 2.5 per cent of GDP, above the NATO target of two per cent. "We can expect lots of talk about 'business as usual'," added Strong, a lecturer at Queen Mary University of London. While Starmer will stress continuity on the main foreign policy issues, he will also be keen to signal a reset in relations with allies that were soured by Brexit. Labour has pledged closer cooperation with European neighbours, including on bilateral deals with France and Germany but also on agreements with the EU bloc as a whole. "Special relationship" - "We can expect to hear a lot of talk about improving



relations, about being a more reliable partner, and above all about being more stable and predictable," said Strong. The trip also presents an early opportunity for Starmer to build a rapport with US President Joe Biden and cement the so-called UK-US special relationship. Starmer's centre-left Labour party is more closely aligned with Biden's Democratic Party than the Conservatives, which could help, but the trip comes at a sensitive time for the US president. Biden, 81, is under pressure to make way and allow another Democrat to take on Republican rival Donald Trump in November's presidential election. Starmer will be mindful that he may have to deal with the isolationist Trump from January next year. (He) will want to demonstrate his rock-solid

commitment to the UK's alliance with America, and to send a strong signal about the resilience of the 'special relationship', whatever lies ahead," Sophia Gaston, head of foreign policy at the right-wing Policy Exchange think-tank, told AFP. point of contention between Starmer and Biden could be the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, with Labour viewed as more pro-Palestinian than Washington. The leaders are also likely to discuss policy towards China, including on trade, commerce and technology. Starmer will then host the European Political Community summit at Blenheim Palace, near Oxford, in central England, on July 18, with France's president Emmanuel Macron and Germany's leader Olaf Scholz expected to attend. Labour wants "an ambitious" security pact with the European Union. Olivia O'Sullivan, director of the UK in the world programme at the Chatham House international affairs think-tank, told AFP the two summits "provide an opportunity to put more meat on the bones of this proposal". Starmer may also want to flesh out the shape of a post-Brexit trading deal, after his intro global stage in Washington.

## NEWS BOX

## Happy Birthday Sunil Gavaskar: 'Little Master' turns 75

Former India captain and legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar turned 75 on July 10th 2024. On the occasion of Sunil Gavaskar's 75th birthday, we reflect on the remarkable journey of a cricketer whose legacy has left an indelible mark on the sport. Gavaskar's career not only defined an era but also laid the foundation for future generations of Indian cricketers, including icons like Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli. He was a pioneer, inspiring a generation of Indian youngsters to dream of wielding the willow with such elegance and grace. Sunil Gavaskar, known for his fearless approach and immaculate technique, revolutionised Indian cricket with his audacious batting against the most formidable bowling attacks of his time. His debut series against the West Indies in 1971, where he amassed an unprecedented 774 runs, showcased his ability to dominate even the fiercest pace bowlers without protective gear. He went on to defy their fearsome pace



battery led by the likes of Andy Roberts and Michael Holding.

## Wishes pour in for Gavaskar 'Little Master' Gavaskar

Gavaskar's monumental achievements include 34 Test centuries, with the highest score of 236\* against the West Indies, highlighting his ability to perform consistently across diverse conditions. Gavaskar's career is studded with numerous records as he was the first batsman in history to surpass 10,000 runs in Test cricket, achieving this milestone with his trademark precision and dedication.

## IND vs ZIM, 3rd T20I Prediction: Team news, Harare pitch conditions and predicted playing 11

**New Delhi** The T20 World Cup-winning Indian team will finally have an actual World Cup winner in their ranks as Shivam Dube joins their side for the third T20I match on Wednesday, 10 July. India levelled their 5-match series on Sunday, 7 July with a thumping 100-run victory against Sikandar Raza's side in the second match of the series. Abhishek Sharma and Rituraj Gaikwad starred in the game with a 137-run partnership which blew the hosts away in the first innings of the game itself. India have brought in some heavy-weight replacements in Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal as well, who were part of the Indian T20 World Cup-winning team, but did not play a single game in the tournament.

The Indian team have a problem of plenty at their hands as they try to provide game-time to as many players as possible. Considering Sanju Samson and Yashasvi Jaiswal did not play a single game at the T20 World Cup 2024, they might want some overs under their belt. Shivam Dube will possibly remain rested for the third game. To include Samson and Jaiswal in the same XI, it will be a little tricky as ideally for that to happen Dhruv Jurel, who has batted only in one innings will have to be dropped. Apart from Jurel, one player among the top order will have to be removed as well.

## Novak Djokovic walks out of BBC interview after Wimbledon controversy

**New Delhi** Novak Djokovic, 24-time Grand Slam champion, stormed out of a television interview on Tuesday after snapping at the reporter who kept pressing the Serb about the Wimbledon crowd controversy. Within a minute into the interview, Djokovic looked upset over repeated questions about his outburst at the Centre Court crowd after his fourth-round men's singles match against Holger Rune. Djokovic kept his calm and answered three questions on the trot about his accusations against the London crowd 'disrespecting' him during his straight-set win over Rune. Djokovic asked the reporter if he had anything else to discuss before storming out of the interview with his representative. Popular broadcaster BBC took to social media to confirm that Novak Djokovic left its post-match interview on Tuesday midway. "Novak Djokovic walked away from our post-match interview last night after we asked him about his reaction to some of the Centre Court crowd," BBC Sport said in a post on X. Djokovic, in an extraordinary tirade during his on-court interview, accused the Centre Court crowd of being 'disrespectful' and booing him during his game against Holger Rune. Djokovic refused to believe the presenter's perspective that the fans were not booing him, but cheering for Rune. DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTION?"

It all began when Novak Djokovic sat down for a BBC interview after his dominant win in the fourth round. When initially asked about his reaction to the crowd behaviour on Centre Court on Monday, the 24-time Grand Slam champion said: 'Same'.

## Lionel Messi fires Argentina into Copa America final after 2-0 win over Canada

## Copa America, Argentina vs Canada: Goals from milestone man Lionel Messi and Julian Alvarez helped Argentina beat a spirited Canada 2-0 in New Jersey and book a place in the final of the prestigious tournament.

**New Jersey.** Lionel Messi broke a series of records as he inspired Argentina into their seventh Copa America final. Messi's side defeated a spirited Canada 2-0 in the semi-final in front of a packed house in New Jersey on Tuesday. Messi scored his 14th goal in Copa America to go level with Peru's Paolo Guerrero and Chile's Eduardo Vargas and be three shy of the all-time record in the tournament. Lionel Messi also moved to second in the all-time list of international goalscorers. With his 109th

strike, the former Barcelona star surpassed Iran's Ali Daei. The 37-year-old is now only behind Cristiano Ronaldo, who leads the charts with 130 goals in international football.

Messi has scored 28 goals in his last 25 matches for Argentina as he extended his good run with the Albiceleste. Messi continues to keep pushing barriers as the defending champions gave themselves another shot at the title. On the other hand, Cristiano Ronaldo's hopes of winning another silverware with Portugal ended when they were knocked out by France on penalties in the Euro 2024 quarter-final. Messi and Julian Alvarez's goals sealed the deal for Argentina in their semi-final against Canada. It was the 7th time Argentina, 15-time champions, reached the final of the Copa America.

"It is insane what this team has done, what the Argentina national team is doing. For those who remain from the old guard, it's beyond impressive that the national team is in another final," Messi said after



Argentina reached the final, in which they will face either Uruguay or Colombia in Florida. Argentina are looking to emulate Spain by winning two continental tournament titles on either side of World Cup triumph. Messi's men won the Copa America in 2021 before going to lift the FIFA World Cup in Qatar in 2022. Spain won the Euros in 2008 and 2012 while winning the FIFA World Cup in 2010.

## HOW ARGENTINA BETTERED CANADA

After enduring early pressure, Argentina

took the lead in the 22nd minute when Rodrigo De Paul threaded a pass to Alvarez, who slipped between two defenders to score with a neat finish. Argentina gradually gained control. Messi had a chance to extend their lead in the 44th minute, creating space with deft footwork in the box before his shot went wide. Canada nearly equalised just before

halftime when Jonathan David outpaced his marker to connect with a long throw, but his close-range shot was directed straight at goalkeeper Emiliano Martinez. Although Messi had previously struggled with a muscle injury during the tournament, he seemed rejuvenated in the hot, humid conditions at MetLife Stadium, which will host the final of the FIFA World Cup in 2026. Messi netted Argentina's second goal in the 51st minute, redirecting Enzo Fernandez's shot from the edge of the area past Canadian goalkeeper Maxime Crepeau.

## Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razzaq sacked from PCB selection committee

**New Delhi** Wahab Riaz and Abdul Razzaq have been sacked from the Pakistan Cricket Board selection committee. The fallout from Pakistan's dismal show in T20 World Cup 2024 saw Riaz and Razzaq losing their place as national selectors. Both Riaz and Razzaq were part of the seven-member selection committee that picked the squad for the marquee tournament. An internal PCB enquiry is believed to have found discrepancies in many of the committee's decisions. It is also being informed that the decision is also connected with the feedback that has been received from the many members of the touring committee, including the manager, coach and possibly even the captain, Babar Azam.

Former Pakistan captain and ex-head of the PCB, Ramiz Raja, had criticised the



selection of the team. Especially the inclusion of Imad Wasim and Mohammad Amir, who returned to the team after coming out of retirement. Furthermore, Riaz and Razzaq taking part in the ongoing World Championship of Legends, which is being played in Birmingham has not gone down well with the PCB authorities. Their decision to take part in charity games during a time when PCB is under immense pressure is not

being well-supported.

## Fallout in Pakistan team begins

The PCB had announced a selection committee, without a chairman three months ago. Alongside Riaz and Razzaq, the committee included Mohammad Yousuf and Asad Shafiq, the national team's captain and head coach Gary Kirsten. Wahab was removed as the chief selector earlier this year and had travelled with the Pakistan side as senior team manager. This could be another duty from which he could be stripped off.

## Riaz and Razzaq sacked

The musical chairs within the PCB continued with yet another sacking. The board had six chief selectors in the last four years, including Riaz. The other five are Haroon Rashid, Shahid Afridi, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Wasim and Misbah-ul-Haq. None of them were given a long stint to improve and restructure the team.

## New head coach Gautam Gambhir seeks Abhishek Nayar as his deputy: Report

**New Delhi** Gautam Gambhir has sought the services of former all-rounder Abhishek Nayar for the assistant coach role for Team India. Gambhir, who was formally announced as the new head coach of the senior national men's team, worked with Nayar at Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2024. Gambhir has requested the Indian cricket board (BCCI) to rope in Abhishek Nayar into his support staff team, according to news agency PTI. Nayar has been a prolific mentor, overseeing the KKR academy as its head. Several young and veteran cricketers have lauded Nayar's role in helping shape their careers. Dinesh Karthik has often spoken about the impact Nayar has had in his late revival as a finisher at the highest level. Spinner Varun Chakravarthy made a special mention of Nayar after KKR lifted their third IPL crown earlier in May. Gambhir left

his job as the mentor of the Knight Riders after just one season to take up the role of India's head coach. The former opener was hugely credited for KKR's success in IPL 2024. Gambhir and Nayar have a close working relationship and the ex-Mumbai cricketer also has a good rapport with Test and ODI captain Rohit Sharma. The BCCI on Tuesday confirmed that the support staff team of Vikram Rathour (batting coach), Paras Mhambrey (bowling coach) and T Dilip (fielding coach) would also make their way out along with Rahul Dravid, who stepped down from the head coach role after India's T20 World Cup triumph. "The Board also congratulates Mr Paras Mhambrey (Bowling Coach), Mr T. Dilip (Fielding Coach) and Mr Vikram Rathour (Batting Coach) on a highly successful tenure. The BCCI values their contribution and wishes them the best going forward" the BCCI said

in a statement. Gambhir applied for the head coach role after the BCCI invited applications before the T20 World Cup. Rahul Dravid, who was contemplating quitting the job after the ODI World Cup heartbreak in November last year, carried on and finished his coaching stint on a high. Dravid revealed that Rohit Sharma had called him after the ODI World Cup final and insisted him to stay on until the T20 World Cup.

## BCCI BACKS GAMBHIR TO SHINE

Gambhir has no previous experience coaching a senior national team. The World Cup-winning former opener has not even coached an IPL side, but his stints as mentor at Lucknow Super Giants and the Knight Riders have been noteworthy. BCCI secretary Jay Shah said he is hopeful that 'fierce competitor' Gautam Gambhir would lead the team to new heights.

## Rahul Dravid refuses Rs 2.5 crore extra bonus for T20 World Cup 2024 triumph

**Wimbledon 2024: Novak Djokovic was ruthless on and off the court on Monday in London. The 24-time Grand Slam champion accused a section of fans of disrespecting him and lashed out at them after his fourth-round win over Holger Rune.**

**New Delhi.** Rahul Dravid's humility shone through once again as the outgoing head coach refused Rs 2.5 crore extra bonus awarded by the Indian cricket board (BCOI) after their T20 World Cup triumph in Barbados. Dravid took the call to ensure all the members of the support staff of the senior men's team were rewarded with equal bonus prizes. he BCCI announced Rs 125 crore prize money for Team India members, including the players and the support staff. While the players and Rahul Dravid were awarded Rs 5 crore, the other members of the support staff, including batting coach Vikram Rathour, bowling coach Paras

Mhambrey, and fielding coach T Dilip were slated to receive Rs 2.5 crore as bonus. However, a source told India Today that Rahul Dravid told the board that he would only take Rs 2.5 crore as a bonus. The 15 players who were part of the squad were rewarded with Rs 5 crore each. The support staff members got Rs 2.5 crore while the selectors and the traveling reserves were rewarded with Rs 1 crore each. BCCI Secretary Jay Shah and President Roger Binny handed over the prize money to the team after their victory parade in Mumbai on Thursday, July 4. It's not the first time Rahul Dravid has come up with such a heartwarming gesture. In 2018, after India won the U19 Men's World Cup trophy, BCCI announced Rs 50 lakh prize reward for then coach Dravid, Rs 20 lakh for other members of his team, and Rs 30 lakh for the players. Dravid had asked the Indian cricket board to divide the prize money equally among the coaching staff and the board agreed to his request. Rahul Dravid had spoken highly of the members of his support staff when he



recalled the T20 World Cup triumph during the felicitation ceremony at the Wankhede Stadium on Thursday. Along with Dravid, the tenures of Rathour, Mhambrey and Dilip also ended.

## DRAVID SIGNS OFF ON A HIGH

Dravid signed off on a high, overseeing India's title triumph that ended their 11-year-long wait for an International Cricket Council crown. Dravid had contemplated quitting

after the heartbreak of the ODI World Cup final in November last year. However, he decided to stay on and give another shot at winning a silverware when captain Rohit Sharma called him and pursued him to continue. Dravid ended his tenure with two major trophies, including the Asia Cup in 2023, and a runners-up medal in the ODI World Cup and the World Test Championship 2021-23.

"We thank Mr Rahul Dravid and his team of support staff for their service and stellar effort in their tenure with Team India. The team enjoyed remarkable success across formats and being crowned champions at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, 2024 is a moment that the nation will cherish for a long time," board secretary Jay Shah said. The BCCI appointed Gautam Gambhir as the new head coach of the senior men's team on Tuesday, July 09. The former India opener has been handed a 3-and-a-half-year contract. Gambhir is expected to have Abhishek Nayar as his assistant coach.



# Sharvari Wagh

## Offer Prayers At Siddhivinayak Temple As Munjya Hits The Rs 100 Crore-Mark

Sharvari Wagh is currently basking in the success of her film *Munjya*. The critically acclaimed movie, starring Abhay Verma, recently entered the Rs 100 crore club. Celebrating the milestone, the actress stepped out for a spiritual visit, seeking blessings from Lord Ganesha at Siddhivinayak temple in Mumbai. A video surfaced on the Internet showcases Sharvari offering prayers at the temple as a gesture of gratitude for the success bestowed upon her. Dressed elegantly in a yellow Anarkali suit, Sharvari Wagh was accompanied by her parents as she arrived at the temple premises. After seeking blessings at the temple, the Maharaja actress even took a moment to acknowledge the paparazzi and graciously posed for them with her parents. The spiritual moment comes as a reflection of the support Sharvari has been showered on by her friends and fans. Sharvari Wagh is on cloud nine as she registered the first Rs 100 crore blockbuster of her career. However, this is not the only reason for her to celebrate.

The *Bunty Aur Babli 2* actress recently secured the top spot on IMDb's Popular Indian Celebrities list. Expressing her gratitude for the respo



nse to her film, the actress told Moneycontrol, "I have been awed by the big stars who have huge Rs 100 crore and above hits to their credit. To think that so many people have come to the theatres to see you, to shower their love and appreciation on your film and your work is quite an overwhelming moment for me." "Being known as the '100 crore girl' definitely has a nice ring to it, and this will get me to work harder every single time I face the camera. I have huge ambitions as an actor. I needed the right stepping stone to dash towards my goal, and 'Munjya' has done that for me," she added. Next up for Sharvari Wagh is *Vedaa* alongside John Abraham. The film is directed by Nikhil Advani. Besides, she is busy filming for a big YRF Spy Universe film titled *Alpha* alongside Alia Bhatt.



# Anasuya Bharadwaj

## Serves Fiery Look In Red Saree

Anasuya Bharadwaj's name is synonymous with not just acting and anchoring, but with impeccable styling game as well. The actress keeps redefining fashion and leaves her fans in awe of her ethereal beauty. Be it in casual and chic clothes, a glitzy lehenga, or a saree, the actress can do it all. This time, the actress looks radiant in a bright red saree that has left everyone floored as she oozes with sensuality. The *Jabardasth* show's host is a prominent figure in the Telugu entertainment industry and continues to win the hearts of fans with her various talents. While the actress has earned immense recognition and fame for her acting prowess and hosting skills, she often grabs the headlines for her OOTD. This time, the actress has left everyone in a frenzy with her breathtaking looks. The *Vimanam* actress draped a simple bright red saree with a golden border and paired it with a matching red sleeveless blouse with a v-neckline. But that's not all. She decided to elevate her look by adding complementary accessories. She chose a golden-toned stone-studded necklace with a green pendant for a contrast. She also added a couple of rings, a bracelet and a watch to go with her outfit. For makeup, she kept it minimal. She opted for light smokey eyes, brows on fleek, white kohl to highlight her eyes and dark brownish lipstick to seal the look. She left her hair down and posed for the camera.

The caption read, "Code Red." As per her hashtags, she wore it for a program on Star Maa called *Kiraack Boys Khiladi Girls*. A fan wrote, "Very well balanced both sensuality and class. That's how a woman wears a costume." One more wrote, "If saree dressing is an art then she is an artist. She knows well about her body." Another chimed in, "OMG! Red Alert!"

Speaking of her professional endeavours, Anasuya Bharadwaj has starred in films like *Pushpa: The Rise—Part 1*, *Rangasthalam*, *Kshanam* and *Bheeshma Parvam*. She has *Pushpa: The Rule- Part 2*, *The Chase*, *Flashback* and *Wolf* in her pipeline.



## Anushka Sharma Shares First Post Amid Rumours of Moving To London With Virat Kohli and Kids



Anushka Sharma returned to Instagram after a short break to share a new picture. The Bollywood actress, who is rumoured to be moving to London with Virat Kohli and their children, made a comeback on Instagram to share a picture of a serving of fruits. The actress, who is said to be in the UK right now, revealed that she and her family are enjoying a serving of berries and grapes. The *Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi* star shared the photo with a heart emoji in the middle. Anushka's post comes just hours after a fan shared pictures of Virat from the airport in London. Virat landed in the city after he and his team won the T20 World Cup series and the celebrations that followed in India.

For the unversed, fans suspect Virat and Anushka might permanently shift to London to live a 'normal' life. This speculation comes especially because Anushka and Virat have often been spotted in London. In 2023, Virat even took a break from his hectic schedule and spent some time with Anushka in London. A viral photo featured Anushka and Virat outside a restaurant in London. Virat was also seen with Vamika at a restaurant in London, days after Akaay's birth was announced.

Anushka Sharma reportedly spent several months of her pregnancy in London, away from the limelight. This led to the belief that Akaay was born in London. These turn of events have fans guessing that Anushka and Virat are setting up a new nest in London and might move there permanently after Virat retires from all formats. The former Indian captain recently announced his retirement from the International T20 format.

## Sonakshi Sinha Reveals SRK Sent a Voice Note to Wish Her, Zaheer Iqbal On Wedding: 'It Was The Highlight'



Sonakshi Sinha has shared 10 photos from her wedding with Zaheer Iqbal, each accompanied by a caption and a backstory and fans cannot have enough of it! In the first photo, Zaheer and Sonakshi pose in a filmi way, and she mentions that it is now her phone wallpaper. The next few photos capture Zaheer looking at Sonakshi with a lot of love as she prepares for her 'dream role': being his wife. For the photo, she wrote, "Hero watching his heroine get ready for her dream role. And since theres too much peace in the process... of course he HAS to disrupt it by saying something silly to make her laugh." "ut the photo that has caught everyone's attention is a picture that shows Sonakshi holding up a phone to Zaheer in an elevator, both smiling and listening intently to a voice note from none other than megastar Shah Rukh Khan, recorded on their wedding day! About the photo, she wrote in the caption, "Listening to a voice note from his all time favorite SRK (see pic 1 for reference), sending us both so much love and good wishes for the big day... i think this was the highlight of @jamzahero's day." In the fourth photo, a shirtless Zaheer kisses Sonakshi on the cheek. Another photo shows Sonakshi tearing up as she looks at herself in the mirror, adorned in sindoor, for the first time. In another photo, the couple is seen walking around a house that is now being built for them.

After dating for several years, Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal got married on July 26. The lovebirds tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in the presence of their close friends and family. The first photos from their wedding, have instantly became viral on the internet. But Sonakshi was quick to disable comments on the special post, in all likelihood, to avoid negativity and unnecessary trolling. Days after tying the knot, Sonakshi and Zaheer soaked up the romance on their honeymoon. Last week, Sonakshi shared a couple of dreamy photos on her Instagram stories. One photo showed the newlyweds taking a sweet selfie in a pool, basking in the sunset. In another photo, Sonakshi was sitting on the pool's edge with Zaheer holding her.

