

साइबर ठगी का जामताड़ा कनेक्शन पुटकी से दो शातिर हुए गिरफ्तार

महाराष्ट्र और कर्नाटक में दर्ज हैं मामले, लंबे समय से पुलिस कर रही थी तलाश

PHOTON NEWS DHANBAD: झारखंड का जामताड़ा जिला साइबर ठगी के मामले में दुनियाभर में कुख्यात हो चुका है। इस तथ्य को पुलिस और प्रशासन भी जानता है। समय-समय पर कई साइबर ठगी गिरफ्तार भी किए गए हैं जो जामताड़ा में बैठकर पूरे देश के लोगों को अपने जाल में फंसाकर ठगी का शिकार बनाया करते रहे हैं। हालांकि पुलिस की तमाम कोशिशों के बावजूद जामताड़ा के माथे से ठगी के अपराध का कलंक मिटा नहीं है। आज भी यहां के साइबर ठग झारखंड ही नहीं बल्कि दूसरे राज्य के लोगों को अपनी ठगी का शिकार बना रहे हैं।

छह मोबाइल, आठ सिम बरामद: धनबाद जिले की साइबर थाना पुलिस ने छापेमारी कर जिस नीलेश यादव और दीपेश यादव

गिरिडीह पुलिस ने पांच साइबर ठगों को दबोचा

GIRIDIH: पुलिस ने मंगलवार को पांच साइबर ठगों को दबोचा है। इनके पास से पुलिस ने 9 मोबाइल, तीन एटीएम कार्ड, 2 पेन कार्ड, 13 फर्जी सिम कार्ड भी बरामद किया है। आरोपितों में युपी के मो. मुजाहिद के अलावा हुमरी के कुस्ती गांव निवासी विक्की मंडल, जिले के बेगाबाद थाना इलाके देवतांड गांव निवासी अमजद अंसारी, खुशींद अंसारी और मुफ्फसिल थाना इलाके के करिहारी निवासी मोहन मंडल शामिल हैं। पुलिस के अनुसार गिरफ्तार आरोपित अश्लील वीडियो काल कर युवाओं को फंसाते और स्क्रीन शॉट लेकर ठगी



करते थे। साथ ही प्रसूता महिलाओं को मातृत्व लाभ योजना की राशि दिलाने के नाम पर भी ठगी किया करते थे। गिरफ्तार अपराधियों को पुलिस ने मंगलवार को जेल भेज दिया है।

को पकड़ा है उनके पास से छह मोबाइल फोन और आठ सिम कार्ड भी बरामद किए गए हैं। ये दोनों शातिर जामताड़ा के करमाटांड के रहनेवाले हैं। दीपेश यादव के खिलाफ वर्ष 2017 में

करमाटांड थाने में प्राथमिकी भी दर्ज हुई थी। **मोबाइल लोकेशन के आधार पर पुलिस ने दबोचा:** इस धर-पकड़ के संबंध में साइबर डीएसपी संजीव कुमार ने बताया कि प्रतिबिम्ब एफ

खुद को बैंक अधिकारी बताकर करते थे ठगी

पुलिस ने धनबाद के पुटकी से जिन दो साइबर अपराधियों को गिरफ्तार किया है उनका भी जामताड़ा कनेक्शन निकला है। दरअसल, ये दोनों रहनेवाले जामताड़ा के ही हैं। खुद को बैंक का अधिकारी बताकर ये दोनों साइबर अपराध को अंजाम दिया करते थे। इनकी गिरफ्तारी पुटकी के शिव शंकर कालोनी से हुई है। पुलिस इन दोनों से पूछताछ कर रही है।

यादव के घर आना जाना करते थे और यहीं से आपराधिक घटनाओं को अंजाम देते थे। **गैस सप्लिडी बंद होने की बात कह लेते थे झांसे में:** साइबर अपराधी नीलेश यादव और दीपेश

यादव खुद को इंडियन आयल का अधिकारी बनकर लोगों को फोन करते थे। फोन पर लोगों से कहते थे कि उनकी गैस सप्लिडी बंद हो गई है। इसके बाद लोग इनके झांसे में आ जाते थे और ठगी का शिकार हो जाते थे। इस प्रकार इन लोगों ने कई लोगों को ठगी का शिकार बनाया है।

महाराष्ट्र और कर्नाटक में भी दर्ज हैं मामले: नीलेश यादव और दीपेश यादव के खिलाफ महाराष्ट्र और कर्नाटक राज्य में भी प्राथमिकी है। इनके पास से बरामद मोबाइल नंबर 7820891720 के विरूद्ध महाराष्ट्र, 9201310196 के विरूद्ध कर्नाटक एवं महाराष्ट्र, 7000628169 के विरूद्ध महाराष्ट्र, और 8369007358 के विरूद्ध महाराष्ट्र में एफआईआर दर्ज है। पुलिस को इनकी लंबे समय से तलाश थी।

गुमला में अपराधियों ने दिनदहाड़े की गोलीबारी, ज्वेलर्स हुआ जख्मी



घटनास्थल पर गुटी गौड़ • फोटोन न्यूज

PHOTON NEWS GUMLA: अपराधियों ने मंगलवार को गुमला मेन रोड स्थित शंभु चौरसिया के मार्केट कांपलेक्स में कनक ज्वेलर्स के संचालक प्रकाश कुमार को गोली मारकर घायल कर दिया। मेन रोड के दुकान में दिन-दहाड़े गोली बारी की घटना को अंजाम दिए जाने से वहां आसपास के दुकानदारों और लोगों में दहशात व्याप्त हो गया। घटना को अंजाम देने के बाद अपराधी तत्व बड़े आराम से सबके सामने से निकल गए। जानकारी के अनुसार गुमला मेन रोड स्थित कनक ज्वेलर्स के संचालक प्रकाश कुमार रांची के रहने वाले हैं। वह गुमला में रहकर अपने आभूषण के कारोबार का संचालन करते हैं। प्रतिदिन की तरह मंगलवार पूर्वाह्न करीब दस बजे उन्होंने दुकानी खोली थी। दुकान खोलने के बाद वहीं बैठकर चाय पी रहे थे। तभी एक बाइक में तीन अपराधी आए। इनमें दो दुकान में घुस गए। इन दोनों में एक ने आभूषण व्यवसायी प्रकाश कुमार पर पिस्टल सटा दी। **कारोबारी ने दिखाया साहस:** अपराधी पिस्टल ताने हुए थे कि दुकानदार प्रकाश ने साहस जुटाया और जो चाय वह पी रहे थे, उसे ही एक अपराधी के मुंह पर फेंक दिया। इतना ही नहीं, प्रकाश ने कप की भी उसके सिर पर फोड़ दिया। अपराधी ने एक गोली चलाई जो बिना नुकसान पहुंचाए उनके पेट और हाथ के बीच से निकल गई। प्रकाश ने एक अपराधी के हाथ को पकड़ लिया था। तभी अपराधी के पिस्टल से दूसरी गोली चली जो प्रकाश के बाएं हाथ की अंगुली को जख्मी कर गई। इसके बाद अपराधी पिस्टल लहराते हुए भागने लगे।

बैठकर चाय पी रहे थे। तभी एक बाइक में तीन अपराधी आए। इनमें दो दुकान में घुस गए। इन दोनों में एक ने आभूषण व्यवसायी प्रकाश कुमार पर पिस्टल सटा दी। **कारोबारी ने दिखाया साहस:** अपराधी पिस्टल ताने हुए थे कि दुकानदार प्रकाश ने साहस जुटाया और जो चाय वह पी रहे थे, उसे ही एक अपराधी के मुंह पर फेंक दिया। इतना ही नहीं, प्रकाश ने कप की भी उसके सिर पर फोड़ दिया। अपराधी ने एक गोली चलाई जो बिना नुकसान पहुंचाए उनके पेट और हाथ के बीच से निकल गई। प्रकाश ने एक अपराधी के हाथ को पकड़ लिया था। तभी अपराधी के पिस्टल से दूसरी गोली चली जो प्रकाश के बाएं हाथ की अंगुली को जख्मी कर गई। इसके बाद अपराधी पिस्टल लहराते हुए भागने लगे।

BRIEF NEWS

मनरेगा अंतर्गत पांच पदों पर बहाली के लिए मेधा सूची जारी

RAMGARH: रामगढ़ जिले में जिला ग्रामीण विकास अधिकरण के द्वारा मनरेगा अंतर्गत पांच पदों पर बहाली निकल गई थी। मनरेगा अंतर्गत सविदा आधारित प्रखंड कार्यक्रम पदाधिकारी, सहायक अभियंता के समकक्ष तकनीकी सहायक, कनीय अभियंता के समकक्ष तकनीकी सहायक, लेखा सहायक और कंप्यूटर सहायक पद के लिए आवेदन मंगाया गया था। दावा आपत्ति का निराकरण के लिए सूचना प्रशासन के बाद योग्य एवं आरोप आवेदकों की प्रारंभिक औपबन्धिक मेधा सूची का प्रकाशन जिले के वेबसाइट पर कर दिया गया है। उप विकास आयुक्त रॉबिन टोपो ने मंगलवार को इस संबंध में द्वितीय दावा आपत्ति हेतु सूचना जारी की है।

स्कूली छात्राओं को सर्वाइकल कैंसर के प्रति किया जागरूक

RAMGARH: सर्वाइकल कैंसर आज के समय में एक आम बीमारी का रूप लेती जा रही है। पहले यह बीमारी एक उम्र के बाद महिलाओं को होती थी। लेकिन अब स्कूली छात्राओं को भी इसके प्रति जागरूक किया जा रहा है। मंगलवार को रामगढ़ शहर के नेहरू रोड स्थित सीएम स्कूल ऑफ एक्सलेंस गल्स रामगढ़ विद्यालय में रोटी रामगढ़ सिटी में एक अवेयरनेस कार्यक्रम चलाया। इस दौरान डॉक्टर नीति बोरिया ने छात्राओं को सर्वाइकल कैंसर के कारण और लक्षणों के बारे में बताया। साथ ही इस बीमारी से कैसे बचाया जा सके इसके उपायों के बारे में भी उन्होंने विस्तार से जानकारी दी। सर्वाइकल कैंसर गर्भाशय (यूट्रस) के सबसे नीचे के भाग का घातक ट्यूमर होता है।

हजारीबाग के सांसद ने लोस में रखा किसानों का मुद्दा

HAZARIBAG: हजारीबाग लोकसभा क्षेत्र के सांसद मनीष जायसवाल ने मंगलवार को लोकसभा में किसानों से जुड़ी समस्याओं को रखा। उन्होंने कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री शिवराज सिंह चौहान से हजारीबाग लोकसभा क्षेत्र समेत झारखंड के लाखों किसानों के लिए कोल्ड स्टोरेज की उपलब्धता, उनका विस्तार और कुसुम योजना के अंतर्गत बोरिंग को भी जोड़े जाने की अति महत्वपूर्ण मांग सरकार के समक्ष रखा। जायसवाल ने कहा कि कृषि मंत्री और प्रधानमंत्री ने कृषि आधारभूत संरचना को लोस के तहत देश के किसानों को बढ़ी राहत दिया है लेकिन मेरा एक सुझाव है, जो कृषि मंत्री तक



पहुंचाना चाहता हूं। सांसद ने कहा कि कुछ सिलेक्टिव एरिया जैसे हमारे झारखंड में टमाटर की खेती बहुतायत होती है। विशेषकर हजारीबाग में टमाटर और धनिया की खेती बहुत होती है। टमाटर की सेल्फ लाइफ बहुत कम है। ऐसे में व्यक्तिगत किसान और किसानों के छोटे समूह को छोटे-छोटे कोल्ड स्टोरेज का इनकार्पोरेशन किया जाय तो किसानों को फायदा होगा।

पलामू उपायुक्त ने जिलास्तरीय समन्वय समिति को दिए निर्देश



PALAMU: उपायुक्त शशि रंजन की अध्यक्षता में मंगलवार को समाहरणालय सभाकक्ष में जिला स्तरीय समन्वय समिति की बैठक हुई। बैठक में मुख्य रूप से मनरेगा अंतर्गत कार्य करने वाले मजदूरों की संख्या, बकाया राशि, अबुआ आवास, डोभा, आधार एवं जांब कार्ड वैरिफिकेशन, बिरसा हरित ग्राम योजना, कुआं निर्माण की प्रगति, प्रधानमंत्री पशुधन विकास योजना, जल समृद्धि, किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड, सोख्ता गड्डा, रेन वाटर हार्वैस्टिंग, प्लेग्राउण्ड, 15वें वित्त संबंधी योजना, मुख्यमंत्री रोजगार सृजन की समीक्षा हुई।

लोहरदगा में झामुमो का धरना-प्रदर्शन

भाजपा सांसद निशिकांत दुबे के बयान का किया जा रहा विरोध



धरना प्रदर्शन करते झामुमो कार्यकर्ता

• फोटोन न्यूज

PHOTON NEWS LOHARDAGA: झारखंड मुक्ति मोर्चा लोहरदगा जिला समिति जिलाध्यक्ष मोजमिल अहमद के नेतृत्व में भारतीय जनता पार्टी के सांसद निशिकांत दुबे के बयानबाजी के विरूद्ध समाहरणालय के समक्ष एक दिवसीय आक्रोश धरना-प्रदर्शन किया गया। जिलाध्यक्ष मोजमिल अहमद ने भाजपा को चुनौती देते

हुए कहा कि भारतीय जनता पार्टी के नापाक इरादों को कभी भी सफल नहीं होने दिया जाएगा। झामुमो के खिलाफ अनर्गल बयानबाजी कर जनता को गुमराह कर रहे हैं। आने वाले विधानसभा चुनाव में झारखंड की जनता करारा जवाब देने का कार्य करेगी। भाजपा को झारखंड में एक सीट हासिल करने में पसिने छूट जाएंगे।

सांसद के बयान पर झामुमो का प्रदर्शन



दही निकालते झामुमो कार्यकर्ता

• फोटोन न्यूज

PALAMU: भाजपा सांसद निशिकांत दुबे द्वारा लोकसभा में झारखंड राज्य के अर्थन अंग सथांल-परनाम, बिहार एवं पश्चिम बंगाल के कुछ जिलों को मिलाकर केंद्रशासित प्रदेश बनाने

के संबंध में दिए गए बयान के विरोध में झामुमो पलामू में मंगलवार को मेदिनीनगर में विरोध प्रदर्शन किया। प्रदर्शन का नेतृत्व झामुमो पलामू के अध्यक्ष राजेंद्र प्रसाद सिन्हा ने किया।

भूमि विवाद में फायरिंग होने से पिता को लगी गोली, पुत्र जख्मी

पलामू जिले के हुसैनाबाद के दरुआ गांव की घटना

PHOTON NEWS PALAMU: जिले के हुसैनाबाद थाना के दरुआ गांव के नोनिया बिगहा टोला में भूमि विवाद को लेकर गोली चल गई, जिसमें पिता के हाथ में गोली लग गई। पुत्र भी जख्मी है। दोनों पर उनके रिश्तेदारों द्वारा हमला किया गया। शुरुआती मारपीट में गोली मारने की पुष्टि नहीं हुई थी, लेकिन बाद में इसकी जानकारी हुई। इसके बाद एफआईआर भी बदल गया। बताया जाता है कि दरुआ गांव निवासी संतोष कुमार सिंह अपने खेत में काम कर रहे थे, उसी क्रम उनके चाचा और चचेरे भाई वहां पहुंचे और उन पर लोहे के पाइप से हमला कर दिया। इस हमले में संतोष कुमार सिंह गंभीर



घटना में घायल का चल रहा इलाज

अन्य लोग मौके पर पहुंचे और झगड़ा शांत कराया। ग्रामीणों ने तत्परता दिखाते हुए संतोष कुमार सिंह और आयुष्मान सिंह को घायल अवस्था में अनुमंडलीय अस्पताल हुसैनाबाद में भर्ती कराया। सूचना मिलने पर हुसैनाबाद पुलिस अस्पताल पहुंची और दोनों घायलों का बयान दर्ज किया। आयुष्मान सिंह ने थाने में आवेदन देकर गांव के अंजनी सिंह, विजय सिंह, प्रिंस सिंह, और उपेंद्र सिंह पर सामूहिक रूप से पिटाई करने एवं गोली मार देने का आरोप लगाया है। पुलिस ने आवेदन के आधार पर चारों आरोपियों के खिलाफ मंगलवार को मामला दर्ज कर लिया है।

कीर्ति योजना के तहत खूटी में खेल प्रतिभा खोज कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत

खिलाड़ियों के पास बेहतर मौका, करें पूरी मेहनत : डीसी

PHOTON NEWS KHUNTI: खेले इंडिया राइजिंग टैलेंट आइडेंटिफिकेशन (कीर्ति) योजना के तहत हॉकी, एथलेटिक्स, फुटबॉल, खोखो और आर्चरी खेल प्रतिभा खोज कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ मंगलवार को बिरसा मुंडा एस्टेटफ हॉकी स्टेडियम और बिरसा मुंडा फुटबॉल स्टेडियम में हुआ। उपायुक्त लोकेश मिश्रा, भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण के सहायक निदेशक करण साधवानी, सहायक जिला कार्यक्रम पदाधिकारी नलिनी रंजन, जिला खेल पदाधिकारी प्रवीण कुमार और अन्य अतिथियों ने दीप पञ्चलित कर कार्यक्रम का उद्घाटन किया। मौके पर उपायुक्त ने कहा कि वही देश शीर्ष प्रदर्शन कर रहे हैं, जिनका बेंच स्ट्रेथ शानदार है। इसी दिशा में भारत को 2036



कार्यक्रम में प्रतिभागियों के साथ खूटी के उपायुक्त लोकेश मिश्रा व अन्य

• फोटोन न्यूज

तक ओलंपिक में शीर्ष 10 में लाने के लिए कीर्ति द्वारा विभिन्न खेलों में एक बेहतर निबं धन प्रतियोगिता तैयार किया जा रहा। डीसी ने कहा कि भारत सरकार के इस कार्यक्रम के तहत जिले के खिलाड़ी के पास अच्छा मौका है। आप सभी ओलंपिक में सिर्फ

भागीदारी ही नहीं, बल्कि पदक जीतने के लिए पूरी मेहनत से ट्रायल दें। खूटी जिला को मिले इस अवसर का लाभ एथलीट उठाएं। शारीरिक शिक्षा शिक्षक रियाज आलम ने मंच संचालन करते हुए कहा कि इस कार्यक्रम में आयु वर्ग 09 से 18 वर्ष उम्र के जिले के हॉकी, फुटबॉल, एथलेटिक्स, खोखो और आर्चरी के बालक एवं बालिका खिलाड़ी शामिल होकर इस अवसर का लाभ ले सकते हैं। इस ट्रायल में टीम की जरूरत नहीं है। खिलाड़ी अकेले आकर ट्रायल दे सकते हैं। हॉकी वालों को 30,

31 जुलाई और 01, 02 अगस्त इन चारों में से किसी एक ही दिन आना होगा। निबंधन प्रति दिन सुबह 07.00 बजे से होगी। चार दिवसीय कार्यक्रम के पहले दिन मंगलवार को खिलाड़ियों की काफी भीड़ देखी गई। इस दौरान 500 एथलीटों ने भाग लिया, जो कार्यकारी निदेशक सत्यजीत सांकृत भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण, पूर्वी क्षेत्र कोलकता के मार्गदर्शन में संचालित किया जा रहा है। इस कार्यक्रम में साईं के वरिष्ठ कोच सुरेंद्र प्रसाद, मणिकान्त कुमार, एएसएस 2 बालक आवासीय सेंटर कोच बिब्यानी, सेंटर ऑफ एक्सलेंस कोच लाल मिनाकिमी खिखनते, जिला खेल समन्वयक राहुल कुमार सहित खेल विभाग, शिक्षा विभाग एवं हॉकी सिमडेगा के पदाधिकारी उपस्थित थे।

पलामू में नाबालिग को भगा ले जाने के आरोपी को भेजा जेल

PALAMU: जिले के तरहसी थाना क्षेत्र के पाठक पगार पंचायत क्षेत्र की 14 वर्ष की नाबालिग लड़की को प्रेम प्रसंग में शादी की नितय से भगा ले जाने के आरोप में चैनपुर के झरिया का युवक महफूज अंसारी को गिरफ्तार कर मंगलवार को न्यायिक हिरासत में भेज दिया गया। गत 27 जुलाई की रात में महफूज पाठक पगार की 14 वर्षीया किशोरी को उसके घर से भगा ले गया था। परिजनों की खोजबीन के क्रम में पता चला कि महफूज अंसारी नाबालिग को भगा ले गया है और इस घटना की जानकारी आरोपित के पिता, मां, बहनोई को भी है। किशोरी का भाई गांव के कुछ लोगों के साथ खोजबीन के क्रम में चैनपुर से झरिया पहुंचा और आसपास खोजबीन की तो रानीताल डैम के समीप से किशोरी को महफूज के साथ एक ओटो में पकड़ा और उन्हें लेकर वापस लौट गया। थाने को सुर्पुंद कर दिया।

जन चौपाल के माध्यम से ग्रामीणों को दी जानकारी



कार्यक्रम में भाग लेती महिलाएं

• फोटोन न्यूज

HAZARIBAG: सदर विधानसभा के नगर निगम क्षेत्र के वार्ड नं 23 कदमा में भाजपा नेता शेफाली गुप्ता ने मंगलवार को सचन दौरा किया। लोगों से मिलकर जनसमस्याओं से रूबरू हुईं। इस दौरान कदमा पोस्ट ऑफिस के निक्ट देवी मंडप में जन चौपाल एवं संकलन कैप लगाकर प्रधानमंत्री विश्वकर्मा योजना, प्रधानमंत्री सृजन कार्यक्रम एवं प्रधानमंत्री सुक्ष्म खाद्य उद्योग उन्नयन योजनाओं की जानकारी दी। इस अवसर पर राशन कार्ड, वृद्धा पेंशन, दिव्यांग पेंशन एवं

विधवा पेंशन सहित कई जनसमस्याएं सुनीं। केंद्रीय योजनाओं से संबंधित समस्याओं पर जल्द समाधान करने का ग्रामीणों को भरोसा दिया। इस दौरान अन्य मूलभूत समस्याओं के निराकरण में हर संभव सहयोग करने का आश्वासन दिया। इस मौके पर कदमा वासियों ने शेफाली गुप्ता का आभार जताया। शेफाली गुप्ता ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री जनकल्याणकारी योजनाओं से जरूरतमंद परिवारों को जोड़ने का प्रयास लगातार जारी है।



हावड़ा-मुंबई रेलमार्ग बाधित, राहत कार्य युद्धस्तर पर जारी

9 ट्रेनें रद्द, आज-कल 6 ट्रेन नहीं चलेंगी, 6 शॉर्ट टर्मिनेट, 18 ट्रेन डायवर्ट होकर चल रहीं

PHOTON NEWS JSR:

दक्षिण पूर्व रेलवे के चक्रधरपुर रेल मंडल में बड़ा बमबो और राजखरसावां रेलवे स्टेशन के बीच हुई ट्रेन दुर्घटना के कारण मंगलवार सुबह 4 बजे से ही हावड़ा-मुंबई रूट पर ट्रेनों का परिचालन प्रभावित है। अप-डाउन दोनों लाइन के साथ ही थर्ड लाइन भी बाधित हो गई है। इसके कारण दक्षिण पूर्व रेलवे जोन ने लगभग एक दर्जन ट्रेनों का परिचालन रद्द कर दिया है, ट्रेन शॉर्ट टर्मिनेट कर दी गई है। वहीं 18 ट्रेनों को डायवर्ट रूट से चलाया जा रहा है। टाटानगर से चक्रधरपुर-राउरकेला की ओर जाने वाली ट्रेन और इस रास्ते आने वाली ट्रेनों को रेलवे ने रद्द कर दिया है, वहीं टाटानगर से पटना और हावड़ा की ओर जाने वाली ट्रेना सामान्य रूप से चल रही है। ट्रेनों के अचानक रद्द होने से

ये ट्रेनें रहीं रद्द

- 22861 हावड़ा-दिल्ली-काटाबाजी एक्स.
- 08015/18019 खड़गपुर-झारग्राम-धनबाद एक्सप्रेस
- 12021/12022 हावड़ा-बड़िल-हावड़ा जनशताब्दी एक्सप्रेस
- 18109 टाटानगर-इतवारि एक्सप्रेस
- 18030 शालीमार-एलटीटी एक्सप्रेस
- 12809 सीएसएमटी मुंबई-हावड़ा मेल
- 18113/18114 टाटानगर-बिलासपुर-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस

ये ट्रेनें आज-कल रद्द रहेंगी

- 02863 हावड़ा-यशवंतपुर स्पेशल 1 अगस्त को रद्द रहेगी
- 18189 टाटानगर-पनाकुलम एक्सप्रेस 31 जुलाई को रद्द रहेगी
- 18190 एनाकुलम-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस 1

टाटानगर स्टेशन पर सुबह से ही अफरातफरी का माहौल था। सैकड़ों यात्री, जो ट्रेनों से यात्रा करने निकले थे, निराश-हताश थे। 700 से अधिक लोगों ने यात्रा

अगस्त को रद्द रहेगी

- 18109/18110 टाटानगर-इतवारि-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस 31 जुलाई को रद्द रहेगी

ट्रेनों का शॉर्ट टर्मिनेशन

- 18114 बिलासपुर-टाटानगर एक्स. राउरकेला में
- 18190 एनाकुलम-टाटानगर एक्स. सीकेपी में
- 18011 हावड़ा-चक्रधरपुर एक्सप्रेस आद्रा में
- 18012 चक्रधरपुर-हावड़ा एक्सप्रेस आद्रा में
- 18012 चक्रधरपुर-हावड़ा एक्सप्रेस आद्रा से
- 18029 एलटीटी-शालीमार एक्स. बिलासपुर में

6 में अपनी इलेक्ट्रिकल टीम के साथ था। हमलोग सोए हुए थे। अचानक ट्रेन ने झटका लगा। तेज आवाज हुई। हम लोग बर्ष से नीचे गिर गए। दो लोगों को मामूली चोट भी लगी। सभी लोग डरे-सहमे थे।

—नीलकंठ मैती, इलेक्ट्रिकल रटाफ

ट्रेनों का डायवर्सन

- 12262 हावड़ा-सीएसएमटी मुंबई दुरंतो एक्सप्रेस खड़गपुर-भद्रक के रास्ते डायवर्ट रूट पर चलेगी
- 12130 हावड़ा-पुणे आजाद हिंद एक्सप्रेस सीनी-काड़ा-पुरुलिया-हटिया-नुआगांव-राउरकेला-मुुरी-हटिया-राउरकेला के रास्ते चलेगी
- 12834 हावड़ा-अहमदाबाद एक्सप्रेस चांडिल-पुरुलिया-हटिया-राउरकेला के रास्ते चलेगी
- 18477 पुरी-योग नगरी ऋषिकेश एक्सप्रेस टाटानगर-चांडिल-भोजुडीह-गोमो-गया-पंडित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय-आंसी के रास्ते चलेगी
- 18029 एलटीटी मुंबई-शालीमार एक्सप्रेस राउरकेला-हटिया-पुरुलिया-टाटानगर के रास्ते चलेगी

- 12859 सीएसएमटी मुंबई-हावड़ा गीतांजलि एक्सप्रेस राउरकेला-हटिया-पुरुलिया-टाटानगर के रास्ते चलेगी
- 12833 अहमदाबाद-हावड़ा एक्सप्रेस राउरकेला-हटिया-पुरुलिया-टाटानगर के रास्ते चलेगी
- 18112 यशवंतपुर-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस नुआगांव-हटिया-मुुरी-कोटशिला-पुरुलिया-टाटानगर के रास्ते चलेगी
- 20821 पुणे-संतरागाछी एक्सप्रेस नुआगांव-हटिया-मुुरी-कोटशिला-भोजुडीह-आद्रा-मिदनापुर-खड़गपुर के रास्ते चलेगी
- 12221 पुणे-हावड़ा दुरंतो एक्सप्रेस नुआगांव-हटिया-मुुरी-कोटशिला-पुरुलिया-टाटानगर के रास्ते चलेगी
- 12890 एसएमटीटी बंगलुरु-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस मुुरी-चांडिल-टाटानगर के रास्ते चलेगी

- 18478 योग नगरी ऋषिकेश-पुरी एक्सप्रेस-झारसुगुडा रोड-सबलपुर सिटी-कटक के रास्ते चलेगी
- 12101 एलटीटी मुंबई-शालीमार एक्सप्रेस बोकारो स्टील सिटी-भोजुडीह-आद्रा-मिदनापुर-खड़गपुर के रास्ते चलेगी
- 12860 हावड़ा-सीएसएमटी मुंबई गीतांजलि एक्सप्रेस टाटानगर-चांडिल-पुरुलिया-नुआगांव-राउरकेला के रास्ते चलेगी
- 12810 हावड़ा-सीएसएमटी मुंबई मेल खड़गपुर-मिदनापुर-आद्रा-भोजुडीह-बोकारो स्टील सिटी कोटशिला-नुआगांव-राउरकेला के रास्ते चलेगी
- 12767 नांदेड़-संतरागाछी एक्सप्रेस नुआगांव-कोटशिला-बोकारो स्टील के रास्ते चलेगी

मिश्रा मौके पर पहुंचे और घटना का निरीक्षण किया। जीएम मौके पर ही डटे हैं। पूरे रेलवे प्रशासन के 500 लोगों की टीम और प्रशासनिक अमला ट्रेन परिचालन शुरू करने के लिए लगा हुआ है। इस दुर्घटना की जांच जोनल स्तर के अधिकारी चीफ रेलवे सेफ्टी करेंगे। वहीं रेलवे बोर्ड के सदस्य भी पूरे मामले की जांच कर रिपोर्ट मंत्रालय को सौंपेंगे। आखिर दुर्घटना कैसे हुई और इस मामले में किसकी गलती है। एनाकुलम से टाटानगर आ रही एनाकुलम-टाटानगर एक्सप्रेस को चक्रधरपुर स्टेशन पर ही रोक दिया गया। मेमू ट्रेनों से घटनास्थल से चक्रधरपुर स्टेशन पहुंचे यात्रियों को टाटा-एनाकुलम एक्सप्रेस से मुंबई की ओर रवाना किया गया। हावड़ा-मुंबई मेल में कुल 1540 यात्री अलग-अलग श्रेणियों में यात्रा कर रहे थे।

एक्सएलआरआई में ऑनलाइन लर्निंग प्रोग्राम का नया सत्र शुरू

JAMSHEDPUR : एक्सएलआरआई-जेवियर स्कूल ऑफ मैनेजमेंट में ऑनलाइन लर्निंग प्रोग्राम के नए सत्र की शुरुआत हुई। कुल 97 विद्यार्थियों को एडमिशन मिला है। इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में एक्सएलआरआई एल्यूमनी एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष रणवीर सिन्हा तथा विशिष्ट अतिथि एक्सएलआरआई के निदेशक फादर एस. जॉर्ज, डीन एडमिन एंड फाइनेंस फादर डोनाल्ड डिसिल्वा व डीन एकेडमिक्स प्रो संजय पात्रो थे। समारोह में रणवीर सिन्हा ने



कहा कि एक्सएलआरआई का एडमिशन मिला है। इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में एक्सएलआरआई एल्यूमनी एसोसिएशन के अध्यक्ष रणवीर सिन्हा तथा विशिष्ट अतिथि एक्सएलआरआई के निदेशक फादर एस. जॉर्ज, डीन एडमिन एंड फाइनेंस फादर डोनाल्ड डिसिल्वा व डीन एकेडमिक्स प्रो संजय पात्रो थे। समारोह में रणवीर सिन्हा ने

को-ऑपरेटिव कॉलेज के लोकेशन छात्रों ने स्कूली बच्चों संग गुजारा समय

JAMSHEDPUR : जमशेदपुर को-ऑपरेटिव कॉलेज के बीबीए, बीसीए एवं आईटी पाठ्यक्रम 2021-23 सत्र के अंतिम वर्ष के विद्यार्थियों ने अपने जूनियर साथियों के साथ मिलकर विदाई के पलों को मानवीय मूल्यपरक बनाया। सीनियर्स ने जूनियर साथियों के लिए एमबीओ प्रणाली का जीवंत उदाहरण प्रस्तुत किया। जुगसलाई कन्या उच्च विद्यालय में अपने जूनियर साथियों के साथ मिलकर केजी से चौथी कक्षा तक के विद्यार्थियों के साथ खेल और अन्य कार्यक्रम किए। फल, जूस, चॉकलेट, स्टडी किट बांटा।

जिला परिषद की बैठक में 11 किसान किए गए सम्मानित

JAMSHEDPUR : साकची स्थित जिला परिषद सभागार में मंगलवार को जिला परिषद की कार्यकारिणी एवं सामान्य बैठक हुई, जिसकी अध्यक्षता जिला परिषद की अध्यक्ष बारी मुर्मू ने की। इस दौरान उपविभागाध्यक्ष मनोप कुमार व जिला परिषद के उपअध्यक्ष पंकज सिन्हा भी उपस्थित थे। इस दौरान जिले के ऐसे 11 प्रगतिशील किसानों को सम्मानित किया गया। जो खेती-किसानी के क्षेत्र में बेहतर कर रहे हैं। सम्मानित होने वाले किसानों में जेएसएलपीएस की योजना से



लाभान्वित 2, उद्यान विभाग के 3, मत्स्य के 2, पशुपालन के 2, तथा कृषि विभागीय योजनाओं का लाभ लेकर उत्कृष्ट कार्य करने वाले 2 किसान शामिल थे। सभी सदस्यों को झारखंड मुख्यमंत्री मंडया सम्मान योजना के विषय में जानकारी दी गई। बताया कि 2 अगस्त तक सभी आंगनबाड़ी केंद्र के माध्यम से फार्म वितरण होगा।

विधानसभा में जवाब मिला-केबुल कंपनी में चोरी का केस ही दर्ज नहीं हुआ

JAMSHEDPUR : झारखंड विधानसभा में जमशेदपुर पूर्वी के विधायक सरयू राय द्वारा पूछे गए अल्पसूचित प्रश्न पर सरकार ने कहा है कि स्थानीय गोलमुरी थाना में इकाई द्वारा चोरी की कोई घटना या प्राथमिकी दर्ज नहीं कराई गई है। सरयू ने कहा कि यह सरासर गलत जवाब है। उन्होंने दो वर्ष पूर्व गोलमुरी थाना में प्राथमिकी दर्ज कराई थी, जिस पर कोई कार्रवाई नहीं हुई। केबुल कंपनी इलाके का बच्चा-बच्चा जानता है कि वहां अब कोई मशीनरी नहीं है, सभी मशीनों की चोरी कर ली गई है।

हथियारों की खरीद-बिक्री करने वाले अखिलेश गैंग के दो हिस्ट्रीशीटर गिरफ्तार



जानकारी देते वरीय पुलिस अधीक्षक किशोर कौराल व अन्य

PHOTON NEWS JSR: शहर में हथियार की खरीद-बिक्री करने और अपराध की दुनिया में 15 साल से सक्रिय गैंगस्टर अखिलेश सिंह गैंग का अमरजीत सिंह उर्फ सेटी और हरप्रत सिंह उर्फ रितिक को सिदगोड़ा और गोलमुरी थाना की पुलिस ने गिरफ्तार किया है। दोनों के पास से पुलिस ने हथियार के अलावा गोली भी बरामद किया है। एसएफपी किशोर कौराल ने मंगलवार को पुलिस ऑफिस में आयोजित प्रेसवार्ता में बताया कि पुलिस टीम ने सजायाफ्ता अमरजीत को सिदगोड़ा के आदर्श पथ वर्द्धन कॉलोनी से गिरफ्तार किया है। वह यहां अमित मंडल के नाम पर किराए के मकान में तीसरी मंजिल पर रहा था। गुप्त सूचना पर पुलिस ने उसे दबांच लिया। गोलमुरी की नीतिबाग कॉलोनी में हुए गैंगवार में अमरजीत कन्हैया सिंह की तरफ से पहुंचा था। अमरजीत पर

हरप्रत पर है आर्म्स एक्ट का मामला

हरप्रत सिंह के खिलाफ गोलमुरी थाने में 2020 में आर्म्स एक्ट के तहत एक मामला दर्ज है। इसी तरह से भुरकुंडा थाने में भी उसके खिलाफ मामला दर्ज है।

ये सामान हुए बरामद

आरोपियों के पास से पुलिस ने 4 देसी कट्टा, 2 देशी पिस्टल, पिस्टल का एक मेनजीन, दो पीस .315 बोर की गोली, 7.65 बोर की 13 गोली व अन्य सामान बरामद किया है।

आदित्यपुर व जमशेदपुर समेत अन्य कई थानों में आपराधिक मामला दर्ज है। छापेमारी टीम में डीएसपी वन भोला प्रसाद यादव, सिटी डीएसपी सुधीर कुमार, सिदगोड़ा थानेदार गुलाम रब्बानी खान, गोलमुरी थानेदार वंश नारायण सिंह आदि शामिल थे।

लगातार तीसरे वर्ष हुए सहस्त्रघट जलाभिषेक में सैकड़ों श्रद्धालुओं ने दिखाई आस्था

साकची शिव मंदिर में गंगाजल से जलाभिषेक

PHOTON NEWS JSR: सावन पर लगातार तीसरे वर्ष मंगलवार को साकची बाजार स्थित श्री श्री साकची शिव मंदिर में सुल्तानगंज से लाए गए गंगाजल से भोले बाबा का सहस्त्रघट जलाभिषेक किया गया। इसका आयोजन शिव मंदिर कमेटी के लालचंद अग्रवाल एवं बबलू अग्रवाल परिवार द्वारा अपने पिता (स्व. विनोद कुमार अग्रवाल) की याद में किया गया। इस अवसर पर सैकड़ों शिवभक्त ने गंगाजल से भोले बाबा का सहस्त्रघट जलाभिषेक किया। मंगलवार सुबह 10 बजे से शिव पूजन तथा दोपहर एक बजे से सुल्तानगंज से टैंकर में लाए गए 12 हजार लीटर गंगाजल



जलाभिषेक करते शिव भक्त

से भोले बाबा का जलाभिषेक दोपहर बाद तक चलता रहा। संख्या 5 बजे से भोले बाबा का विशेष श्रृंगार एवं महाआरती की गई। फूलों की लड़ियों से सजे

भोले बाबा का विशेष श्रृंगार श्रद्धालुओं को काफी आकर्षित कर रही थी। इसके बाद श्रद्धालुओं ने प्रसाद ग्रहण किया। मंगलवार को दिन भर ओम नमः शिवाय, जय

जय भोलेनाथ, हर हर महादेव.. के जयघोष से मंदिर परिसर गुंजता रहा। मंदिर में दिन भर भक्तों का तांता लगा रहा। पं. बिपिन के नेतृत्व में शहर के 13 विद्वान पंडितों ने सामूहिक रूप से विधिवत पूजा संपन्न कराई। इस धार्मिक अनुष्ठान को सफल बनाने में अग्रवाल परिवार के अलावा साकची शिव मंदिर कमेटी, बाजार के दुकानदार, समाजसेवी उमेश शाह, अशोक चौधरी, सुरेश कुमार कांठिया, रघुनाथ पांडेय, मिरधारी खेमका, सांवरमल अग्रवाल, अशोक मोदी, निर्मल छावछरिया, अरुण बाकरेवाल, फेमल पटवारी, अभिषेक अग्रवाल गोल्डी आदि सक्रिय रहे।

कोल्हान विवि: नीड बेस्ट शिक्षकों के मामले में हाई कोर्ट ने लगाया स्टे

JAMSHEDPUR : कोल्हान विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से 37 आवश्यकता आधारित सहायक प्राध्यापकों को नोटिस जारी कर शैक्षणिक कार्य करने से मना कर दिया था। इस मामले में झारखंड हाई कोर्ट ने विश्वविद्यालय की नोटिस पर स्टे लगा दिया है। इसके साथ ही अगले आदेश तक पूर्व की स्थिति बनाए रखने का आदेश दिया है। बता दें कि पिछले 28 जून को कोल्हान विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से 37 आवश्यकता आधारित सहायक शिक्षकों को नोटिस जारी किया गया था। इसके माध्यम से इन शिक्षकों को शैक्षणिक कार्य करने से रोक दिया गया था। विश्वविद्यालय के इस आदेश पर झारखंड राज्य विश्वविद्यालय सचिवालय शिक्षक संघ

के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष राकेश कुमार पांडेय समेत कुछ अन्य शिक्षकों ने उच्च न्यायालय में रिट पिटीशन दायर किया था। इस पर विगत 26 जुलाई को विश्वविद्यालय उच्च न्यायालय ने विश्वविद्यालय के शैक्षणिक कार्य रोकने से संबंधी नोटिस को स्थगित कर दिया गया है। उच्च न्यायालय ने न्यायाधीश दीपक रौशन की अदालत ने नोटिस को स्थगित करते हुए अगले आदेश तक पूर्व की स्थिति बनाए रखने का आदेश दिया है। उच्च न्यायालय के इस स्थगन आदेश का स्वागत करते हुए संघ के प्रदेश अध्यक्ष राकेश पांडेय समेत अन्य सदस्यों ने कहा कि विश्वविद्यालय ने नियम के विपरीत जाकर शिक्षकों को शैक्षणिक कार्य से रोका था।

Shifting realities of India-US ties

EYEBROWS were raised in the Western world over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to Moscow at the invitation of Russian President Putin just when the NATO alliance was meeting in Washington to take decisions on the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Like his past visits to Russia, this one was successful in addressing a number of issues — most importantly, energy and defence cooperation. The trip came weeks after the US Department of State published a report on alleged human rights abuse in India. The report described India as a country where human rights were violated routinely. It asserted that Manipur had been shaken by instances of rape, armed conflict and assaults, accompanied by the destruction of homes, shops and places of worship. The US report noted that activists and journalists in India had reported violence in the northeastern state. This can happen in any democracy when sections of the people take to arms. Media coverage of such happenings is not new in India. The media is free to cover incidents across India. The Modi government predictably deployed security forces to enforce curfews in response to the growing violence in Manipur. The Supreme Court has also intervened over the developments in Manipur, calling for effective measures for restoration of peace. The violence in Manipur, which is located near the border with China, has largely ended. There has been criticism of the government's policies in Manipur by the Opposition. Such issues are resolved within the framework of the country's Constitution, with the active participation of the Opposition and often the involvement of the Supreme Court. The US report on the developments in India, however, appears one-sided, unrealistic and undiplomatic. It can only be described as an ill-advised effort, set to lead to a downward spiral in the India-US relationship. The main question for India now is whether Kamala Harris, if she wins the presidential race, will follow the confused and somewhat less-than friendly path of her mentor Joe Biden or focus on the strategic ties that have taken the US-India relationship to a new high. One can only hope for a new beginning in India-US ties. Interestingly, The Wall Street Journal has noted: "Democrats are newly energised as they rally behind Kamala Harris for President." One has to take note of the growing readiness and confidence of the Democratic Party to take on former President Donald Trump in the presidential elections.

The US Administration's major attention in the coming months will be on the Russia-Ukraine conflict; the Western world, led by Biden, continues to pour in money, arms and ammunition to the Ukrainian government. According to a German institute, the US and the European Union have pledged or provided "more than \$380 billion" in military, financial and humanitarian aid to Ukraine since 2022. The impact of the Ukraine conflict is being felt across Europe. Even Azerbaijan has supplied bombs to the conflict zone via Sudan. Not to be left behind, Pakistan has also reportedly provided Ukraine with Kamikaze drones, man-portable air-defence systems and surface-to-air missiles. One wonders how long this conflict will continue, with the loss of lives mounting. This is a war that will go on, unless Trump, who has opposed US involvement, is elected President. Trump has left no doubt that he is not interested in spending US taxpayers' money on the conflict in Ukraine. There are, however, serious challenges ahead if Harris chooses to continue the Biden policy of pouring in money and armaments into a seemingly unending conflict. While Russia may be willing to cede some territory it has taken over, it will never agree to a settlement without retaining a firm control of its access to the sea, which it has historically controlled. The Russian military intervention in Ukraine started only after it became evident that Ukrainian President Zelenskyy was joining the US in measures which would compromise Russia's territorial integrity and national security.

Stagnation impeding Railways' efforts to address new challenges

Without a vision, the Railways cannot determine which of the past methods and rules it should retain and which it should jettison.

THE political justification for merging the railway budget with the Union Budget in 2017 was ostensibly to streamline the financial framework of the government. It was expected to improve financial planning and the allocation of resources across different sectors. It would potentially lead to the synchronisation of railway policies with other infrastructure sectors, resulting in the coordinated development of transport infrastructure, which is crucial for holistic economic development.

To what extent these objectives have been achieved is still an open question, but it has made the Railways a full partner in the infrastructure development initiative. This has led to the investment of ever larger sums in the Railways, with the objectives of enhancing freight growth, infrastructure upgrades and safety enhancements. As part of this infrastructure development initiative, this year's railway budget has a capital expenditure allocation of Rs 2.62 lakh crore, the highest ever. It is nearly 0.8 per cent of the GDP. A similar sum was provided in last year's budget. These allocations are significantly above the Rs 28,174 crore provided in the 2013-14 budget. Such large investments should have shown up in an increase in the market share of the Railways, but that has not happened. Nor has the situation improved in the passenger sector. Waiting lists still remain, and coaches continue to be overcrowded even though the passenger market share of the Indian Railways (IR) is falling. The railway budget makes no mention of how these issues, especially the steady erosion of market share, will be addressed. Why the huge investment has not shown up in a rise in the market share of the IR is a bit of a mystery. On the other hand, when it comes to roads, a similar level of investment is visible in a larger and improved road network. In the 1950s, the market share of the Railways stood at 85 per cent. It was, however, clear that this was nothing but the concomitant outcome of the undeveloped road network and would start shrinking as the economy grew and the road network expanded. Based on the experience of some developed countries, it was felt that the Railways should move to holding on to 40 to 50 per cent of the share by evolving appropriate marketing and network development strategies. To enable the Railways to maintain a market share of 40 to 50 per cent, the incremental loading growth rate had to be about 1.5

per cent above the economic growth rate. If the Railways had been able to achieve this, its market share would have stabilised around 40 to 50 per cent. This change should have taken place in the 1990s. But it did not, and the growth continued to be



1.5 per cent lower than the economic growth rate, resulting in a steady decline in the Railways' market share. In 2001, it was around 36 per cent. And today, it is hovering around 25 per cent. And it seems that the government, despite pumping in huge amounts, is unable to reverse the trend. This is quite a serious issue because, in order to reduce logistic costs and carbon emissions, the Railways needs to move at least 40 per cent of the in-land freight demand by 2030. This is a huge challenge for the reason that the consolidated in-land freight demand forecast for 2030 is 8,220 MMT (million metric tonnes). And if the Railways is targeted to move 45 per cent of it, the IR will have to ramp up its capacity to moving 3,700 MMT from the current 1,539 MMT by 2030. This requires the IR to grow by 15.7 per cent CAGR (compound annual growth rate). This is a tall order. The budget documents give no clue on how the IR proposes to achieve this or why the huge capital expenditure fails to increase the market share.

The problem of falling market share seems to be perennial. It has been declining since the 1960s, suggesting that the Railways has some broad structural problems that need to be fixed. In a way, these have been recognised. The IR is one of those organisations that has been the subject of study by numerous committees and commissions before and after Independence. The first one was the Robertson committee of 1902. And the last one in the series of panels was the 2014 Bibek Debroy committee on railway reforms. Where do we go from here? It is one of those difficult questions, especially when so

many expert committees have not been able to find an answer to get the IR out of the rut. This does not mean that all is lost. But it does bring home the need to re-look at what the IR has been doing right and what it is getting wrong. The IR, the main mode of transport after Independence, has helped build the economy. It is still capable of doing so, provided its structure is adapted to confront the novelty of the new technologies and the resultant complexities. It is clear that there has been a drift that has led to stagnation because of a lack of vision on how to address the novelties. Without a vision, the Railways cannot determine which of the past methods and rules it should retain and which ones it should jettison to become the premier mode of transport of the 21st century. This lack of vision is perhaps one of the reasons why the Railways has not been able to address the issues, restraining it from playing its due role in the economic development of this country and raising the market share. What should this vision centre on? It should focus on changing the rule structure of the organisation. After all, it is rules, formal and informal, as Nobel laureate Douglas North puts it, that constrain human behaviour. And these rules evolve in accordance with the intentionality of those who make them. Intentionality is the product of social learning and how it shapes the structural foundation of the organisation and its capacity to adapt to changing circumstances. The IR suffers from various instabilities. They come from the very short tenures of the board members and the constant change in ministers, which is inevitable in a democratic system. A new minister brings in his or her own intentionalities, which have an impact on how the rules are interpreted. It may explain why the market share has been eroding. The current Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnav, is confronted with the problem of addressing the endless novelty of issues arising from the increasing complexities of the IR's evolving technical and market environments. These problems will only mount as new technologies like AI (artificial intelligence) bring in fresh complexities. He is already facing that problem with new signalling systems, which have led to accidents. Besides, many decision-makers do not even understand the 'true' nature of these issues. A challenge for the minister, hence, is to bring in new decision-makers.

Agnipath row

Govt must thoroughly review the scheme

THE Agnipath scheme has been under intense scrutiny ever since it was launched two years ago. From time to time, retired defence officers have voiced concerns over the scheme for short-term recruitment into the armed forces, flagging issues such as inadequate retention — only 25 per cent of the Agniveers will be absorbed in the permanent cadre — and manpower shortage. Recent incidents of Agniveers reportedly being involved in criminal activities are worrisome, even as questions remain over the prospects of recruits after they 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 in 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 younger and fitter, he trashed the claims that the scheme was launched to save pension money. Led by the

Congress, several Opposition parties have demanded that the scheme be scrapped. Notably, some allies of the ruling BJP, especially the Janata Dal (United), have sought its comprehensive review.

The government cannot afford to let things drift as the lack of consensus will have a bearing on the combat preparedness of the armed forces. Several BJP-ruled states have announced reservation or preference for former Agniveers for jobs in uniformed services like the police. However, this may not be enough to silence the naysayers. The Centre must be receptive to the feedback and take pains to remove the scheme's shortcomings. An inflexible attitude can be counter-productive, as shown by the year-long protests that followed the enactment of the three Central farm laws (which were eventually repealed). At stake are national security and the morale of the troops. Political grandstanding must take a back seat.

IPKF did the job in Sri Lanka despite heavy odds

A grateful Sri Lanka has raised a war memorial honouring the gallant Indian soldiers who shed their blood for its security

IT was exactly 37 years ago (July 29, 1987) that the India-Sri Lanka Accord was signed; under its mandate, the Indian Peace-Keeping Force (IPKF) was formed and Operation Pawan was launched. It took the Sri Lankan security forces another two decades to end the civil war. Last week, the country celebrated 25 years of the Kargil 'skirmish', the official term used for the limited campaign that was launched to throw out Pakistani intruders — at an avoidably high cost. The war was fought during the BJP-led government's term; it exposed major deficiencies in intelligence and higher defence management that triggered off the biggest defence reforms through the Kargil Review Committee report. But India's first out-of-area force projection, masked as a pacifying force to subdue a deadly guerrilla force (LTTE), has been consigned to oblivion. IPKF veterans have been urging the government for the past few years that they be permitted to "officially commemorate" the sacrifice of 1,172 bravehearts (and 3,000-odd wounded) at the National War Memorial with the authorised panoply of ceremonial honours. Their pleas have fallen on deaf ears; as a former GOC, IPKF (South), I am adding my voice to theirs. On a visit to Colombo some years ago, I met the then Sri Lankan Army Commander, Gen Hamilton Wanasinghe, who told me: "Your boys did a splendid job. Our task was made easier as you had broken the back of the LTTE despite your mission getting mired in domestic politics of Colombo and New Delhi. Thanks to the IPKF, we managed to defeat LTTE in 2009, even then not without Indian assistance." On May 14, 2024, the Ministry of Home Affairs extended by five years the ban on "a disintegrated LTTE". It is instructive to recall the deeds and dilemma of the IPKF, which, despite a mission-creep mandate and the absence of



strategic guidance (armed with a British tourist map), achieved its military and political objectives. After initial setbacks in Jaffna following LTTE supremo Prabhakaran reneging on the Delhi agreement, the IPKF, which constituted the military component of coercive diplomacy, succeeded in creating a security environment conducive to holding the first-ever provincial as well as parliamentary and presidential elections in the merged northeastern region, enabled by the 13th amendment of the Sri Lankan Constitution. Restoring the democratic process in insurgency-rocked provinces entailed systematic marginalisation of the LTTE, including pushing its members into the jungles. Taking over security duties in the northeast, the IPKF freed the Sri Lankan security forces to eliminate Marxist JVP (Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna) rebels in the south. By degrading the LTTE's capability and motivation, the IPKF prevented the creation of the Eelam (separate

homeland for the Tamils), thereby protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Sri Lanka. All this was done despite the severe handicap of a regime change in Sri Lanka and India. Then President Jayewardene was replaced by Premadasa, who had engineered a secret deal with the LTTE to evict the IPKF. He served a notice on the IPKF to vacate Sri Lanka, a move that was endorsed by then Prime Minister VP Singh, who succeeded Rajiv Gandhi. This double jeopardy represented a clear failure of coercive diplomacy and political intelligence. But conveniently, the IPKF was made the scapegoat. The Sri Lankan imbroglio required a political antidote, and as PM Narendra Modi recently told Russian President Vladimir Putin: "The solution to any war does not lie on the battlefield". Op Pawan was the first triservice campaign with a joint command and overall force commander. In their new book on the IPKF, Valiant Deeds – Undying Memories, Col Atul

Kochhar and Col Ravi Nair recall the gallantry and bravery of the force. One Param Vir Chakra and Uttam Yudh Seva Medal each, six Maha Vir Chakras and 98 Vir Chakras, besides other medals, were won by the force consisting of four infantry divisions (70,000 personnel) supported by the artillery, a tank regiment, special forces, paramilitary forces, combat helicopters, the IAF and the Navy. A grateful Sri Lanka has raised a war memorial honouring the gallant Indian soldiers who shed their blood for its security. A group of committed veterans has been waging another battle in the corridors of South Block, calling for recognition of Op Pawan as an honourable and successful military campaign where Indian peacekeepers became peace enforcers. The performance of soldiers is measured by acts of valour and gallantry, which are commemorated regardless of victory or defeat. The British-led campaign in Gallipoli during World War I was an acclaimed fiasco. Yet, Australia and New Zealand (Indian units were also involved) commemorate it on April 25 annually. The US honours its brave soldiers who fought in Vietnam on March 29; Russia, Ukraine and Belarus commemorate the Afghanistan expedition on February 15. And the list goes on. Op Pawan was a military success, even though there was a political and diplomatic failure. In India, the wars of 1971 (liberation of Bangladesh) and 1999 (Kargil) are officially commemorated and celebrated. IPKF veterans recently wrote to the Service Chiefs and the Minister of State for Defence and have received the reply: "the matter is under consideration". They want 'official recognition' and declaration of July 29 as the date of commemoration, besides an enlisted bugler to play the Last Post in memory of their fallen comrades. Operation Pawan was definitely neither a minor operation nor just a skirmish.

Kishore Biyani's Future Retail for liquidation by law tribunal

NEW DELHI. The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) Mumbai bench has admitted Kishore Biyani-promoted Future Retail for liquidation, citing the lack of a viable revival plan, reported The Economic Times. Sanjay Gupta has been appointed as the liquidator for the company, added the report. The division bench granted the application by the company's resolution professional, Vijaykumar V Iyer, to admit Future Retail for liquidation. The tribunal noted that the maximum period for the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) had expired without an approved resolution plan from the committee of creditors (CoC). Future Retail carries liabilities exceeding Rs 28,452 crore, including Rs 14,422 crore owed to financial creditors. The tribunal's order said, "We are of the considered opinion that this is a fit case for liquidation. To maximize the value of the Corporate Debtor, the Liquidator shall endeavour the sale of the Corporate Debtor as a going concern under Regulation 32A clause (e) of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Liquidation Process) Regulation, 2016." The resolution professional had previously informed stock exchanges in November last year that the resolution plan for Future Retail had been rejected, necessitating liquidation. Future Group, heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, also failed to complete a Rs 24,713-crore deal with Reliance Industries in April 2022, with lenders voting against the scheme of arrangement.

ITR deadline: Can taxpayers avoid late penalty for filing after July 31 Only in some cases

New Delhi. The deadline for filing income tax returns (ITR) for the financial year 2023-24 (assessment year 2024-25) is tomorrow, July 31. Taxpayers must file their returns by this date to avoid late filing penalties. As of now, the Income Tax Department has not announced any extension beyond the July 31 deadline. While most taxpayers will incur a late filing fee for missing the deadline, certain categories can file their ITR afterward without penalties. Income below basic exemption limit: If your gross total income does not exceed the basic exemption limit, you will not face any penalties for filing your ITR late. However, this benefit does not apply if you have income from foreign sources. Agricultural income: Taxpayers whose sole source of income is from agriculture are exempt from penalties for late ITR filing. Exempt income: If your income is entirely exempt from taxation, and you have no other taxable income, you can file your ITR after the deadline without any penalties.

Penalties for late ITR filing
If you miss the July 31 deadline, you may be subject to penalties unless you fall into one of the above categories. For taxpayers with an annual income below Rs 5 lakh, the penalty for late filing is Rs 1,000. For those with an annual income above Rs 5 lakh, the penalty increases to Rs 5,000.

Glitches complicate ITR filing
Several taxpayers and chartered accountants have reported issues with the tax filing portal, including glitches in generating OTPs and problems with claiming rebates. Despite these issues, the tax department has not extended the deadline and is urging taxpayers to file their returns promptly. The department has provided support via toll-free helpdesk numbers (1800 103 0025 or 1800 419 0025) and email at Efilingwebmanager@incometax.gov.in for those facing technical difficulties.

Power Grid shares hit record high. What's behind the rally

New Delhi. Shares of Power Grid Corporation rose over 4% to hit a record high in early trading on Tuesday. The surge followed the power transmission firm's announcement of a planned undersea interconnection project worth up to Rs 40,000 crore with countries in the Middle East. Power Grid shares climbed 4.24% to a record high of Rs 356.95, up from the previous close of Rs 342.40 on the BSE. The company's market capitalization reached Rs 3.29 lakh crore. It may be noted that the stock had fallen to a 52-week low of Rs 179.81 on August 9, 2023. From a technical perspective, Power Grid's relative strength index (RSI) stands at 57.8, indicating it is neither overbought nor oversold. The shares are trading above their 5-day, 10-day, 20-day, 30-day, 50-day, 100-day, 150-day, and 00-day moving averages. Chairman and Managing Director RK Tyagi stated that the company is exploring interconnected projects with countries beyond its immediate neighborhood, specifically in the Middle East. Discussions are ongoing with Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE for the interconnection.

Tyagi explained that the company has a 'pulling station' near the Arabian Sea in Gujarat's Bhuj, which will be connected to a similar station on the shores of a Middle Eastern country. A high voltage direct current cable will run along the seabed, with a capacity of up to 2,500 MW. The project is estimated to cost between Rs 35,000 and 40,000 crore and will take up to six years to complete.

Sensex, Nifty end higher in volatile trade; Tata Motors rises over 3%

New Delhi. Benchmark stock market indices ended the trading session on a positive note despite experiencing high fluctuation due to profit booking pressure. The S&P BSE Sensex ended 99.56 points higher at 81,455.40 at the closing bell, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 21.20 points to settle at 24,857.30. Most of the other broader market indices also ended the trading session on a positive note, especially smallcap and midcap stocks. Auto and energy stocks were among the top gainers, while FMCG stocks suffered significant losses. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Tata Motors, NTPC, BPCL, Power Grid and Titan. On the other hand, the top drags were LTIM, SBI Life, Cipla, Grasim and Sun Pharma. Aditya Gaggar, Director of Progressive Shares, said, "After a muted opening, the Index surged higher under the leadership of the Energy and Auto counters but then towards the end of the session, pared off a majority of its gains to settle the day at 24,857.30 with gains of 21.20 points."

RVNL, IRFC, RITES, Juiper Wagons, IRCON: Will these railway stocks gain

Railway stocks trading below pre-Budget 2024 levels

RITES, Texmaco, BEML, RVNL saw up to 5% gains

Analysts expect continued rally for some railway stocks

New Delhi Railway stocks, including Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd (IRFC), Ircon International, Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC), and Jupiter Wagons Ltd, are trading below their levels from July 22, a day before the Union Budget 2024. However, RITES, Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd, BEML, and Rail Vikas Nigam (RVNL) saw gains of up to 5%, though a significant rally was absent as investors shifted their focus to

quarterly earnings. According to market data, Ircon International Ltd was the worst affected, with its stock at Rs 294.50, down 7.7% from its July 22 closing price of Rs 319. The stock had dropped 8.06% on Budget day. IRFC shares at Rs 194.45 are down 5% from the July 22 closing of Rs 204.55, having closed higher only once in the past 11 sessions.

RVNL gained 1.33% to Rs 614.70 on Tuesday but remains below its July 22 closing of Rs 623.95.

Will these railway stocks gain further? The FY25 Budget allocated Rs 2.55 lakh crore to railways, up from the revised estimate of Rs 2.4 lakh crore for FY24. Targets were increased for electric locomotives, coaches, and wagons.

Antique Stock Broking noted that the budgetary support was lower than expected for Ircon International Ltd, RITES Ltd, and RVNL, while the Rs 21,000 crore high-speed rail capital outlay is positive for L&T and Ircon



International. Jupiter Wagons at Rs 621.85 is 3.13% below its July 22 closing of Rs 642. The company reported its highest-ever Q1 revenue and profit after tax and is confident about delivering over 10,000 wagons in FY25, a 25% increase from FY24 levels. The company is also optimistic about its braking business, with a healthy order book of over 10,000 brake discs and a 1,000 million brake systems order. Despite this, Dalal & Broacha Stock Broking has set a target of Rs 500 for the stock. BEML shares, thanks to a

2.3% rise, are trading slightly above the July 22 level of Rs 4,716.30. IRCTC shares are down 1%. RITES Ltd shares are up 4%, while Kernex Microsystems (India) Ltd shares gained 7% since July 22. Texmaco Rail & Engineering Ltd edged 0.74% higher from the Budget day level. Texmaco Rail recently entered into definitive agreements to acquire wagon manufacturer Jindal Rail (JRIL) for Rs 615 crore. Nuvama believes this acquisition will allow Texmaco to capture a larger share of the growing rail capex in the country, maintaining a 'BUY' rating on the stock with an unchanged target price of Rs 331 based on 50x Q1 FY27E EPS.

It may be noted that most of these stocks, especially RVNL, RITES, Texmaco and BEML have witnessed strong gains over the past few sessions and analysts expect the rally to continue, in line with the broader market trend.

AI will not cause job losses, says Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya

New Delhi. Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told the Parliament that artificial intelligence (AI) will not lead to job losses in India. Instead, he believes that AI will create new job opportunities. Mandaviya addressed concerns raised by Kalyan Banerjee of the All India Trinamool Congress in the Lok Sabha. Banerjee had questioned the potential impact of AI on employment in West Bengal. In his response, Mandaviya compared the current situation with past technological advancements. He said, "When the internet was first introduced, people worried about job losses. The same concerns were raised when computers came into use. However, these advancements ultimately created more job opportunities. AI will have a similar effect." Mandaviya also mentioned the



employment situation in West Bengal, suggesting that ongoing protests in the state could be a barrier to job creation. He said that, given its large population, West Bengal should be drawing more investment and industries to boost job prospects.

The Labour Minister highlighted the Modi government's efforts to reduce unemployment. He stated that the labour force participation rate in India had increased from 38% in 2017-18 to 44% currently. This improvement, according to Mandaviya, is a result of

government initiatives aimed at boosting employment.

According to the Reserve Bank of India's KLEMS database, India created 4.7 crore new jobs in the 2023-24 fiscal year, marking the highest annual job creation in over 40 years. However, this data is provisional and lacks a detailed sector-wise breakdown. This has led to questions about the accuracy of the data and whether it can be directly linked to AI's impact on the job market. While Mandaviya is optimistic that AI will generate new job opportunities, the provisional nature of the KLEMS database data means it is difficult to attribute this record job creation solely to AI. Without more detailed data, it is not clear whether AI is a major factor in this job growth or if other elements are influencing these numbers. Until more specific information is available, the precise effect of AI on employment remains uncertain.

Future retail ordered into liquidation by NCLT Mumbai bench

NEW DELHI: The Mumbai bench of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has ordered liquidation of Future Retail as all the resolution bids have failed with the lenders after the committee of creditors led by Bank of India, opted for liquidation of the company that was once the poster boy of modern restock in the country.

This will be a big blow to lenders as the company has negligible assets to be sold off and recover the dues. Most of the yielding stores were taken over by Reliance after its aborted bid to buy the company out. Even through resolution banks were on average



getting only about under a third of their dues so far and liquidation means at least 90% loss or hair cut as in the banking parlance.

The lenders took Kishore Biyani who sold himself as the pioneer of modern retail in this part of the world and labelled himself as the Indian version of Sam Walton of the Walmart fame in the US, to the insolvency court in April 2022 after it failed to repay the lenders following Reliance Retail's refusal to honour its Rs 23400 crore takeover offer. The retail firm owes more than Rs 17,000 crore to both its financial and operational creditors.

The NCLT order on Monday comes after the resolution professional failed to get any resolution applicants to turn around the insolvent company. It's the end of the road for Kishore Biyani-led Future Retail, which once led domestic organized retail revolution. Liquidation means setting in motion a process that will see its assets being sold to pay off its dues. The bench appointed Sanjay Gupta as the liquidator.

The Trade and Commerce Wing of the Indian Embassy in China has issued an updated trade advisory in the interest of Indian companies doing business with Chinese entities in the country.

New Delhi. An updated trade advisory has been issued by the Embassy of India in Beijing, China in the interest of Indian small and medium enterprises that are doing business with local entities in China. The Trade and Commerce Wing of the embassy said that it has "regularly come across several problems" faced by Indian companies doing business

with Chinese entities in the country. It has requested Indian companies to "take note of this advisory and its annexure documents and adopt precaution while dealing with Chinese entities". "It is highly recommended that before doing business with any



Chinese entity, Indian companies write to the Indian Embassy or Indian Consulates in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Hong Kong to verify the credentials of the entity," the embassy said.

"The respective Mission will respond in 4-5 days," it added. It also issued an

advisory in case of large transactions.

"In case of large transactions, it is highly recommended that Indian companies may consult a business service company, which can provide a report on the business transparency, financial health, reputation, reliability and credentials of the Chinese entity," it said. "Furthermore, it has been recommended that before doing business with any Chinese entity, Indian companies should "collect and retain" copies of both the resident identity card, passport of the proprietor and other responsible interlocutor(s) of the Chinese entity. In addition, the embassy stated that it has observed that a majority of the trade dispute cases involve companies registered in Shandong, Hebei, Guangdong, Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces.

"Indian companies are advised to take extra precaution before trading with companies from these provinces," it added.

India's digital economy set to double by 2026, RBI report reveals

India's domestic digital economy, currently at 10% of GDP, is on track to reach 20% by 2026, driven by the world's lowest data costs and rapid growth in internet users.

NEW DELHI. The sweeping digitisation of the financial markets and payments system will drive the country's digital economy, which currently accounts for a tenth of the GDP, and constitute a fifth or 20% of the GDP by 2026," says a report prepared by the Reserve Bank.

Several enabling forces have come together to enervise this revolution. Though Internet penetration was at 55% in 2023, the Internet user base has grown by 199



million in the recent three years. In India, cost per gigabyte of data consumed is the lowest globally at an average of Rs 13.32 (\$0.16) per GB and the country also has one of the highest mobile data consumption in the world, with an average per-user per-month consumption of 24.1 GB in 2023, RBI said in its 'Report on Currency and Finance for 2023-24, released on Monday.

"It is estimated that the domestic digital economy currently accounts for a tenth of

our GDP and going by the growth rate observed over the past decade, it is poised to constitute a fifth of the GDP by 2026," the report said.

Governor Shaktikanta Das said, "Digitalisation in finance is paving the way for next-generation banking; improving access to financial services at affordable costs; and enhancing the impact of direct benefit transfers by effective targeting of beneficiaries in a cost-efficient manner." The country is at

the forefront of the digital revolution, he noted. The country has embraced not just financial technology by speeding up digital payments but has also celebrated India Stack comprising biometric identification, the unified payments interface (UPI), mobile connectivity, digital lockers and consent-based data sharing, the Governor noted and pointed out that the ongoing digital revolution is galvanising banking infrastructure and public finance management systems covering both direct benefit transfers and tax collections, while the vibrant e-markets are springing up and expanding their reach.

Cost per gigabyte data in India lowest globally

Though Internet penetration was at 55% in 2023, Internet user base has grown by 199 million in recent three years. In India, cost per gigabyte of data consumed is the lowest globally at an average of Rs 13.32 (\$0.16) per GB and also has one of the highest mobile data consumption in the world, with average per-user per-month consumption of 24.1 GB in 2023.

Vistara Offers Voluntary Retirement To Staff Ahead Of Air India Merger

A joint venture between the Tatas and Singapore Airlines, Vistara has around more than 6,500 employees, including permanent and contract staff.

New Delhi: Vistara has offered voluntary retirement as well as voluntary separation schemes for its non-flying staff, ahead of the full service carrier's merger with Air India, according to officials. A joint venture between the Tatas and Singapore Airlines, Vistara has around more than 6,500 employees, including permanent and contract staff. The Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) have been offered for the non-flying permanent employees. Eligible staff can apply for the schemes till August 23, they said.

While VRS is for those who have completed five years of service, VSS is for the staff who are yet to complete five-year service at the airline.

The schemes are similar to those offered by the Tata Group-owned Air India earlier this month. The schemes are not applicable for pilots, cabin crew and those holding licences for carrying out their duties.

There was no official comment from Vistara on



the schemes. The airline started flying in 2015. Earlier this month, sources had said about 600 non-flying staff of Air India and Vistara are likely to be impacted by the two airlines' mega-merger, and efforts will be made to provide job opportunities to the affected employees within Air India group

and Tata companies. Tata Group-owned loss-making full-service carriers -- Air India and Vistara -- together have more than 23,000 employees.

Meanwhile, the fitment exercise -- which involves the evaluation of the roles and responsibilities of staff of both airlines -- in

the run-up to the merger has been going on for the past few months. The exercise takes into account an individual's prior experience, performance and other factors. On May 12, Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson, along with Vistara CEO Vinod Kannan, held a one-and-a-half-hour town hall meeting with employees of both carriers about the proposed merger. At that time, Wilson and Kannan also assured that the fitment, or assignment, of existing employees into the new structure was being done based on merit and competency.

The merger, which will create one of the biggest airline groups, was announced in November 2022. Once the deal is complete, Singapore Airlines will have a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India. Vistara is a joint venture between Singapore Airlines and the Tata Group. In June, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) cleared the merger, and in March, Singapore's competition regulator CCCS gave a conditional nod for the proposed deal.

UP Proposes Life Term In 'Love Jihad' Law. How BJP, Samajwadi Party Reacted

New Delhi: The Yogi Adityanath-led government has introduced the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in the Assembly, which proposes harsher punishment, leading up to life imprisonment in 'love jihad' cases. The proposed amendments have been welcomed by the BJP as a step in the right direction while the Samajwadi Party has termed it a 'divisive' move, aimed at creating 'animosity' in society. UP Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya who reached the Assembly, this morning told reporters that the legislation should be welcomed as this would act as a 'deterrent' against such practices.

BJP leader Mohsin Raza said that the law, when amended, will help greatly in tackling illegal religious conversions as many 'love jihad' cases have emerged where impersonators marry a girl by hiding their identity and then force her to convert. "If any impersonator plays with the life of your daughter, why shouldn't the culprit be held accountable? If an imposter marries any girl by hiding his identity and with malicious intent, why can't such people be brought to book," asked the BJP leader. Samajwadi Party, on the other hand, slammed the Yogi Adityanath government for brining amendments in the existing laws regarding 'love jihad' and said that it nothing but negative politics and motivated by the BJP's 'aversion' towards a particular community.

Samajwadi Party leader Fakhru Hasan Chand in a video message said, "UP has already a law on love jihad. If someone traps someone in his/her love trap with some motive, then there is a law for it but the BJP only wants to do negative politics. It does not want to do anything about unemployment and paper leak."

Indian Navy, NDRF search for missing Kerala native underway after Karnataka landslide

New Delhi: A severe landslide triggered by incessant monsoon rains on July 16, 2024, in Shirur, located 40 kilometers south of Karwar in Uttara Kannada district, Karnataka, has caused significant disruptions, including the closure of National Highway 66 between Kumta and Karwar. The landslide led to several vehicles, including a Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) tanker, being washed away into the nearby Gangaveli River. The Uttara Kannada district administration quickly requested assistance from the Indian Navy to



locate and recover the missing HPCL tanker. In a swift response, the Indian Navy dispatched two diving teams, comprising twelve divers and six hydrographers equipped with inflatable craft and necessary equipment, from the Naval Base at Karwar in Shirur. In a joint operation with the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the Naval personnel recovered the HPCL LPG tanker on July 17, 2024. The tanker was subsequently drained of gas by HPCL representatives, ensuring safety and averting any potential danger.

Since July 19, 2024, the Indian Navy teams, equipped with high-resolution sonar, have been tirelessly searching for another missing truck driven by Kerala native Arjun Mooladikuzhiyil. "The strong currents in the river, dislocated debris from the hill, and adverse weather conditions have made searching the riverbed difficult," the Indian Navy stated in an official statement.

A coordinated response involving the Indian Navy, the NDRF, and the district administration is ongoing to locate the missing personnel and truck in the landslide-affected area.

Days after US woman found tied to tree in Maharashtra, case against ex-husband

New Delhi: An attempt to murder case has been registered against the former husband of an American woman, who was found tied to a tree with an iron chain in Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district. The case was registered based on the statement given by the woman when she was in hospital, police officials said. In her statement, the woman claimed that her former husband had tied her with an iron chain in a forest in Sonurli in Sindhudurg.

The woman, identified as Lalita Kayi Kumar S, was from the US and lived in Tamil Nadu. A shepherd found the woman with her leg chained

to a tree on July 27, following which he informed the police. She was initially rushed to a nearby hospital, before



being shifted to one in Goa. The police also found her Aadhaar card and a photocopy of her American passport. Her visa had expired, and she had been

in India for the past 10 years, the police said. Several medical prescriptions were found in her possession, which suggest that she had psychiatric issues, PTI reported.

Based on the note written by the woman at the hospital, a case has been registered against her former husband on charges of attempted murder, act endangering life or personal safety of others and wrongful confinement under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), police was quoted as saying by PTI. The woman's statement is yet to be officially recorded. An investigation has been launched and search is on for her husband, police said.

Kerala Landslides That Killed 54 Triggered By Record 372mm Rain In 24 Hours

New Delhi: At least 54 people have died after massive landslides hit the hilly areas in the Wayanad district in Kerala this morning. Officials said landslides were triggered by incessant rain in the region. The state recorded 372 mm rainfall in the last 24 hours. Multiple agencies, including NDRF, have joined the rescue ops in the hilly areas near Meppadi.

Officials said that 250 people have been rescued so far and were shifted to temporary shelters. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and assured all help to the LDF government. He has also asked BJP chief JP Nadda to ensure that party workers assist in rescue work. The Prime Minister's Office has

announced compensation of ₹ 2 lakh for the families of those killed in the calamity. Those injured would be given



₹ 50,000.

BJP chief JP Nadda said the priority of the government is to rescue the trapped people and pull out the dead bodies. "PM Modi spoke with the Kerala Chief Minister and gave him assurance.

Support from central agencies for relief has reached there. Work is being done in coordination with the state government. Right now, the primary thing is to recover the bodies and save those who can be saved," Mr Nadda said. The Kerala Chief Minister's office said that a control room has been set up to provide immediate relief and rescue assistance following the landslides.

Among the affected areas are Mundakkai, Chooralmala, Attamala and Noolpuzha, authorities have said. Many roads have collapsed and a bridge has been swept away and several areas have become unreachable, Health Minister Veena George told news agency ANI. "We have to re-establish the connectivity. Helicopters will also be brought in, but the weather is bad."

"For How Many Years...": Court Raps Centre Over One Rank One Pension Dues

New Delhi: The Supreme Court came down heavily on the Centre on Tuesday for failing to take any decision for years on the pension payable to retired regular captains of the Army in accordance with the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme and imposed a fine of ₹ 2 lakh on it. A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and R Mahadevan gave one last opportunity to the Centre till November 14 for resolving the anomalies with regard to the pension of such retired officers under the scheme. It said the cost of ₹ 2 lakh shall be deposited in the welfare funds of the Army and warned the government that if the decision is not taken by November 14, it will direct for enhanced pension by 10 per cent to the retired regular captains. Appearing in the court on behalf of the Centre, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhatti said six anomalies have been pointed out by the Kochi bench of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT), which need to be rectified, but the government is yet to

take a stand in the matter. The bench said, "For how many years will this go on? Either you pay an enhanced pension by 10 per cent or we are imposing a cost on you. We wanted a decision to be taken, but you have not taken it. This matter came up in 2021 but still no decision has been taken." Bhatti said the government cannot take a piecemeal decision, it has to look at the issue holistically and consider all the six anomalies as the decision may affect others. "All I can do is tender my apology. Please give us one more chance, we will take a decision in this regard. We will file an affidavit in this regard. Give us three months' time, we will take a decision," the additional solicitor general said. The bench initially refused to give any further time to the Centre and accept any affidavit and said it will direct an enhanced pension to these retired officers. Justice Khanna said, "What is this? If the government is not taking a

decision, I cannot do anything. This does not give solace to these officers. They are retired captains. They have no say. They have no access to you people. Either you



start paying 10 per cent more or pay the cost. The choice is yours." As soon as the bench started dictating the order for enhanced pension for the retired captains, Bhatti asked it to kindly impose a cost because that will serve equity better than enhanced pension. The bench then gave time till November 14 to the government as a last opportunity but imposed a cost of

₹ 2 lakh on it, saying the amount has to be deposited in the welfare fund of the armed forces in four weeks. On July 23, the top court had noted that the regional bench of the AFT had passed an order on December 7, 2021 according to which the government was to take a decision on the pension payable to the retired regular captains, noticing that there was an anomaly that required to be resolved for the implementation of OROP. The Centre has challenged the AFT order and arrayed 13 retired regular captains as a party to the dispute.

The bench noted that this court has repeatedly adjourned the matter to enable the appellant government to take a decision on the pension of the retired regular captains. "In these circumstances, we are inclined to impose exemplary costs and also direct that the regular captains will get pension enhanced by 20 per cent from the date the OROP scheme is applicable.

These rules were violated by Delhi coaching centre where 3 students died

New Delhi: Classrooms and libraries in basements, no proper drainage facilities are some of the rampant safety violations found in several coaching centres across Delhi. These violations were also found at Rau's IAS Study Circle coaching institute in Rajinder Nagar, where three civil service aspirants lost their lives on Saturday evening due to flooding in the basement.

The victims, Shreya Yadav from Uttar Pradesh, Tanya Soni from Telangana, and Navin Dalwin from Kerala, were caught in the deluge after heavy rains inundated the basement of the centre. The incident has ignited widespread student protests, with protesters accusing local authorities of severe negligence in ensuring the safety standards of educational institutions. Meanwhile, the total goods and services tax collected (GST) from coaching centres across the country has more than doubled in the last five years, according to the government data shared with the Rajya Sabha. From 2019-20, the total GST collected from coaching was Rs 2,240.73 crore. It grew to Rs 5,517.45 crore in 2023-24.

How many coaching institutes are there in Delhi? After the Delhi High Court took note of the Mukherjee Nagar fire incident in June last year, the Delhi Police submitted a status report in which they mentioned that as many as 583 coaching institutes were running in Delhi. According to the report, out of 583 coaching institutes, only 67 have fire safety certificates, while 516 institutes do not have a fire safety certificate.

Can a coaching institute run classes in the basement? The use of the basement shall be subject to clearance from the fire authorities and other statutory bodies as per the relevant provisions of the Master Plan of Delhi (MPD) 2021 and the Unified Building Bye-Laws, as amended from time to time. As per Unified Building Bye-Laws 2016, for educational buildings (schools or colleges), a basement or cellar room may be designed, constructed, altered, converted, or used for the purpose of study or instruction, provided it meets fire safety requirements.

What are the basement construction rules? As per rules laid down in the Unified Building Bye-Laws for Delhi, 2016, the construction of the basement shall be allowed by the Sanctioning Authority in accordance with the land use and other provisions specified under the Master Plan for Delhi/Zonal Development Plan.

News box

South Africa's Zuma expelled from ruling party for backing rival group in polls

South Africa's ruling ANC on Monday expelled its former leader ex-president Jacob Zuma for leading a rival party into elections following disciplinary proceedings. The African National Congress, which lost its absolute parliamentary majority for the first time in May largely due to Zuma's defection, said the veteran politician's conduct was "irreconcilable" with its constitution. "Former President Jacob Zuma has actively impugned the integrity of the ANC and campaigned to dislodge the ANC from power while claiming that he had not yet severed his membership," ANC Secretary General Fikile Mbalula told a press conference. He was thus "expelled" from the party, Mbalula said. The ANC first suspended the scandal-tainted ex-leader in January, after he endorsed the newly formed uMkhonto weSizwe (MK). MK cut into the ANC's share of votes in the May 29 elections, taking third place with 14.5 percent.

The ANC managed 40 percent in the May vote -- its weakest score since it came to power three decades ago to replace the apartheid government. The result forced it to form a coalition government with nine other parties. MK was left out and is leading the opposition, with 58 lawmakers in the 400-seat National Assembly. MK, a populist, radical leftist party, initially disputed the election result. "His platform is dangerous, appeals to extremist instincts in our body politic and riles up a political base that may foment social unrest," Mbalula said of Zuma's MK. Zuma has been barred from serving as an MP because of a 2021 conviction for contempt of court. After news of his upcoming expulsion was leaked, the party lashed out at the "grave injustices against its leader."

Maduro's disputed poll victory leads to protests in Venezuela, cops use tear gas

Caracas. Venezuelan security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets Monday at protesters challenging the reelection victory claimed by President Nicolás Maduro but disputed by the opposition and questioned abroad.

Thousands of people flooded the streets of several neighborhoods of the capital, chanting "Freedom, freedom!" and "This government is going to fall!" Some ripped Maduro campaign posters from street posts and burned them. Two statues of Hugo Chavez, the late socialist icon who led the country for more than a decade and handpicked Maduro as his successor, were knocked down by protesters. Venezuelan security forces fired tear gas and rubber bullets Monday at protesters challenging the reelection victory claimed by President Nicolás Maduro but disputed by the opposition and questioned abroad. Thousands of people flooded the streets of several neighborhoods of the capital, chanting "Freedom, freedom!" and "This government is going to fall!" Some ripped Maduro campaign posters from street posts and burned them. Two statues of Hugo Chavez, the late socialist icon who led the country for more than a decade and handpicked Maduro as his successor, were knocked down by protesters. AFP observed members of the national guard firing tear gas and rubber bullets at protesters, some wearing motorbike helmets and bandannas tied over their faces for protection.

Venezuelan opposition says it has proof its candidate defeated President Maduro in disputed election

CARACAS. As thousands of people demonstrated across Venezuela, opposition candidate Edmundo González on Monday announced that his campaign has the proof it needs to show he won the country's disputed election whose victory electoral authorities handed to President Nicolás Maduro.

González and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado told reporters they have obtained more than 70 per cent of tally sheets from Sunday's election, and they show González with more than double Maduro's votes. Both called on people, some of whom protested in the hours after Maduro was declared winner, to remain calm and invited them to gather peacefully at 11 a.m. Tuesday to celebrate the results.

"I speak to you with the calmness of the truth," González said as dozens of supporters cheered outside campaign headquarters in the capital, Caracas. "We have in our hands the tally sheets that demonstrate our categorical and mathematically irreversible victory." Their announcement came after the National Electoral Council, which is loyal to Maduro's ruling United Socialist Party of Venezuela, officially declared him the winner, handing him his third six-year term. In the capital, the protests were mostly peaceful, but when dozens of riot gear-clad national police officers blocked the caravan, a brawl broke out.

Trump calls Kamala Harris 'worse candidate' than Biden for presidential polls

Washington Former president and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has called his likely Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, a "worse candidate" than President Joe Biden, who she replaced more than a week ago. "I think she (Harris) is the worst candidate than him (Biden). She is far more radical left," Trump told Fox News host Laura Ingraham in an interview on Monday, his first after Harris, 59, became the presumptive nominee of the Democratic Party. Harris officially declared her candidacy after incumbent President Biden withdrew from the race for a second term on July 20. She is expected to be officially declared as the presidential candidate by the Democrats next month. I thought she was a little younger. I mean, she's 60 years old. I didn't realise she was 60. She's talking a big game. But her game is pretty bad. She was the border czar. She's trying to pretend that she wasn't," Trump said. "She was for defunding the police. She was for open borders. She was for having anybody come in. Now I notice that they're actually saying they want to have immunity for everybody that came into the country,



and they want to have citizenship," Trump alleged, asserting that giving citizenship to everybody would destroy the country. "It's in such bad shape. Our country has never been in a position like this. In addition to which we could end up in a third world war. We have 20 million people that have come into the country. I would say by now 20 (million) is probably going over that number," he said. Trump reiterated his allegations that the

Democratic establishment staged a coup against Biden. "They staged a coup against the president of the United States. They went to him and told him 'You are leaving. You are way down in the poll'. Seventeen points, I think," he said. "It's like you're in a fight with somebody, and you're really winning, and they take him out and they put somebody else in. Nobody ever heard of this before," he added. "This is a coup. They took him. They

said even though you got 14 million votes, you're out. And he said 'I am not going out' -- They took him out. He was losing badly, so they took him out. He wants something to say. He's sitting there with nothing to do, nobody to talk to. They threw him out. This was a coup, the first one of the president of the United States," Trump said. rump also said that while he "probably" will debate Harris, he "could also make a case" to avoid a face-to-face confrontation with her, CNBC News reported.

After the interview's broadcast, the Harris for President campaign said Ingraham practically begged Trump on Fox News to commit to debating Harris.

"Why won't Donald Trump give a straight answer on debating Vice President Harris? It's clear from tonight's question-dodging: he's scared he'll have to defend his running mate's weird attacks on women or his own calls to end elections in America in a debate against the vice president," said Harris for President spokesperson Ammar Moussa.

"Vice President Harris will be on the debate stage (on) September 10th. Donald Trump can show up, or not," Moussa said.

Spain PM to testify in graft probe into wife's business dealings

Madrid, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez is set to testify on Tuesday in a preliminary graft probe into his wife's business dealings, a case that has piled pressure on his fragile minority government. He has denied any wrongdoing by his wife, Begona Gomez, and dismissed the allegations as part of a right-wing smear campaign against his leftist government.

But the case has stoked acrimony in Spanish politics, with the conservative opposition calling on him to resign. Gomez is being investigated for alleged influence peddling and corruption following a complaint filed by an anti-graft NGO with links to the far right called "Manos Limpias" -- Spanish for "Clean Hands". Judge Juan Carlos Peinado, who is heading the inquiry, is scheduled to question the Socialist premier as a witness at his official residence at 11:00 am (0900 GMT). The only other time a sitting Spanish prime minister had to testify in a judicial case was in 2017, when Mariano Rajoy was summoned in a graft case that led to the conviction of several members



of his conservative Popular Party (PP). Sanchez asked to testify in writing as is allowed under Spanish law for top government officials, but Peinado rejected the request, arguing he would quiz him as Gomez's spouse. The premier can now choose to remain silent but "politically this could look bad," said University of Alicante criminal law professor Bernardo del Rosal. "Not answering the judge, or answering in writing, could create the image that he is arrogant," Del Rosal told AFP. Gomez, who has worked in fundraising for years, invoked her right to remain silent under

questioning by the judge earlier this month. She is alleged to have used her husband's position as leverage within her professional circles, notably with businessman Juan Carlos Barrabes, who was seeking public funding. In his testimony, Barrabes -- who teaches part of a master's course at Madrid's Complutense University that is run by Gomez -- acknowledged meeting her five or six times at Moncloa, the premier's official residence. Sanchez was also present at two of those meetings, he said. Barrabes -- who got two letters of recommendation from Gomez before pitching for a public tender worth several million euros -- said they only talked about matters of innovation, judicial sources said. Manos Limpias has said its allegations against Gomez were entirely based on media reports, which could turn out to be false. Spanish prosecutors have failed to get the case dismissed. Even if a court eventually decides to shelve the case without a trial, "all this noise" will damage the PM's image, Del Rosal said.

2 children dead in 'ferocious' knife attack at UK dance workshop, teen arrested

London. At least two children were killed, and nine people injured during a "ferocious" knife attack at a dance workshop in northwest England on Monday, police said. A 17-year-old boy has been arrested, and a knife seized after the bloody attack. A witness described seeing bloodied children running from a community center where a Taylor Swift-themed dance and yoga event for children aged about 6 to 11 was taking place in Southport, a seaside town near Liverpool. An advertisement for the event promised "a morning of Taylor Swift-themed yoga, dance and bracelet

making." Merseyside Police said officers were called at about noon to an address in Southport, a seaside town of about 1,00,000 people near Liverpool. It called it a "major incident" but said there was no wider threat to the public.

Detectives were not treating the attack as terror-related, the force said.

The suspect, who has not been identified, lived in a village about 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the site of the attack, police said. The North West Ambulance Service said medics treated eight people with stab injuries. The injured were taken to local hospitals, including a

children's hospital. Bare Varathan, who owns a shop down the street, said he saw between seven and 10 bleeding children running from the Hart Space, a community hub that offers classes for expectant mothers, babies and children. "They had been stabbed here, here, here, everywhere," he said, indicating the neck, back and chest. "They were all aged about 10. One of them was really seriously injured." Ryan Carney, who lives with his mother in the street, said his mother saw emergency workers carrying children "covered in red, covered in blood."

Protests resume in Bangladesh after PM ignores ultimatum to free student leaders

Bangladeshi students have called for new protests after the government ignored their ultimatum to release detained leaders and apologise for deadly violence. The unrest, sparked by civil service job quotas, has led to widespread arrests and internet shutdowns.

Dhaka Bangladeshi students called new street protests for Monday after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government ignored an ultimatum to release their leaders and apologise for those killed in deadly unrest. Student rallies against civil service job quotas this month sparked days of violence that killed at least 205 people including several police officers, according to an AFP count of police and hospital data. The clashes were some of the worst of Hasina's 15-year tenure but her government has since largely restored order by deploying troops, imposing a curfew and shutting down the internet nationwide. At least half a dozen leaders of Students Against Discrimination, the group that organised the initial protests, are among thousands since taken into police custody. "The government is continuing to show complete and utter insensitivity to our movement," Abdul Kader, one of the group's coordinators, said in a statement. "We are calling for a protest rally across the country," he added. "We are requesting all citizens of Bangladesh to show solidarity with our demands and join in our



movement." Students Against Discrimination leaders had vowed to end a week-long moratorium on new demonstrations if police failed to release their leaders by Sunday evening. The group's demands also include a public apology from Hasina for the violence, the dismissal of several of her ministers, and the reopening of schools and universities around the country that were shuttered at the height of the unrest. At least 9,000 people have been arrested nationwide since the unrest began, according to Prothom Alo, Bangladesh's largest daily newspaper. Troops are still patrolling urban areas and a nationwide

curfew remains in force but it has been progressively eased since the start of last week. Bangladesh's mobile internet network was restored on Sunday, 11 days after a nationwide blackout imposed at the height of the unrest, in another sign of the government's confidence that it was in control of the situation. Protests began this month over the reintroduction of a quota scheme reserving more than half of all government jobs for certain groups. With around 18 million young Bangladeshis out of work, according to government figures, the move deeply upset graduates facing an acute jobs crisis. Critics say the quota is used to stack public jobs with loyalists to the ruling Awami League. The Supreme Court cut the number of reserved jobs last week but fell short of protesters' demands to scrap the quotas entirely. Hasina, 76, has ruled Bangladesh since 2009 and won her fourth consecutive election in January after a vote without genuine opposition. Her government is accused by rights groups of misusing state institutions to entrench its hold on power and stamp out dissent.

26,000 people under evacuation orders as massive wildfire rages in California

UPDATED Throngs of firefighters were mobilized in California Monday to battle the state's largest blaze of the year, which has prompted thousands of evacuations and already burned an area larger than the city of Los Angeles.

The Park Fire outside of Chico in the state's north has been raging since Wednesday in a rural region about three hours' drive northeast of San Francisco. It has now ravaged more than 370,000 acres (149,700 hectares) according to the Cal Fire agency, making it one of the largest fires in state history. No casualties have been reported so far, and firefighters benefitted from a slight drop in temperatures over the weekend that allowed them to make some progress, with the fire now 12 percent contained. Nearly 4,900 firefighters have been mobilized, with 33 helicopters, 400 fire trucks and numerous planes battling the conflagration. More than 26,000 residents were under evacuation orders Monday afternoon, with authorities calling for extreme caution due to a high risk of fire escalation. "This fire is

extremely unstable and unpredictable," Tehama County Sheriff Dave Kain told a press conference Monday.

"We've seen many places that we thought were going to be safe to move back into erupt in flames again," he added. The fire progressed during the first 48 hours at the speed of a person walking and has spawned fire tornadoes and generated smoke shaped like mushroom clouds. The fire was able to spread quickly following multiple heat waves that have struck California and the western United States since the beginning of June. Vegetation "is still super, super dry," said Daniel Swain, an extreme weather specialist at the University of California, Los Angeles, adding that this was caused by "a month of record-breaking heat and evaporative demand." While the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains burn regularly, the particular canyons where the Park Fire is located have not seen fires in decades, meaning there is plenty of fuel for the flames. Despite the massive resources deployed by California, which has special

expertise in firefighting, "it's still beyond technology to address a fire at that scope," Swain said. The enormous Park Fire brings back bad memories: the town of Paradise, where 85 people died in 2018 in the deadliest fire in state history, is only about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from the flames. Its residents have already been put on alert. Some inhabitants of evacuated towns have chosen to stay until the last minute, such as Justin Freese, who is waiting with a fire hose and 10,000 gallons of water at the ready. "I'm prepared, but I'm not stupid," he told the New York Times. "If there's a 100-foot wall of flames coming, I'm not going to stay put and melt my skin." The Park Fire was caused by arson, according to authorities. A 42-year-old man was taken into custody Thursday morning after being spotted pushing a burning car into a ravine, according to the local prosecutor's office. The United States is presently battling about 100 large fires according to the National Interagency Fire Center, mainly in the west of the country and in particular Oregon

NEWS BOX

Olympics 2024: Carlos Alcaraz reveals groin injury struggle during 2nd round win

New Delhi Carlos Alcaraz admitted that he was struggling with a groin injury during his second round singles match against Dutchman Tallon Griekspoor in the Paris Olympics 2024 and is hoping he will be injury-free for the doubles tie alongside Rafael Nadal on July 30, Tuesday. Nadal and Alcaraz will be in second round action on Tuesday. However, during the match against Griekspoor, the World No.3 did have pain in the groin region.

Speaking to the reporters, as quoted by Reuters, Alcaraz said that he knows how to deal with the pain and try to be at 100 percent for the match on Tuesday alongside Nadal. The World No.3 said that he was feeling pain in the adductors and will see how he recovers on Monday night. "I know the way that I have to deal with this pain, it is normal for a tennis player, the schedule is so tight, so demanding, so I will try to recover as soon and as well as I can tonight to be ready at 100% tomorrow in the doubles," the 21-year-old told reporters. "It is in the adductors, so it is a muscle that requires a lot in the movement, but I will see tonight."

Alcaraz and Nadal will be facing Griekspoor and Wesley Koolhof on Tuesday. How did Alcaraz vs Griekspoor unfold? Alcaraz demonstrated his resilience and skill at Roland Garros, even while experiencing some discomfort, proving that he will be a formidable contender. The world number three, fresh off winning the French Open and Wimbledon titles this year, made an impressive return to Court Philippe Chatrier. He set the tone early with an ace and two strong forehand winners. With the crowd still buzzing from Rafael Nadal's defeat by Novak Djokovic, Alcaraz seemed eager to assert himself as the next big name in tennis. He quickly broke his opponent, Tallon Griekspoor, and dominated the first set, taking it in just 32 minutes.

Hardik Pandya's special wish for son Agastya: Happy Birthday my partner in crime

NEW DELHI. Hardik Pandya shared an emotional birthday wish for his son Agastya on his 4th birthday. Hardik and Natasa Stankovic's son was born on July 30, 2020 and, ever since, has been the light of their lives. Hardik posted a special video in which Agastya could be seen copying his father's actions. The father-son duo were also playing a game named 'jenga' together and Hardik looked all smiles while being surrounded by Agastya. In the caption, Hardik even called Agastya his "partner in crime". "You keep me going every single day! Happy birthday to my partner in crime, my whole heart, my Agu. Love you beyond words," Hardik captioned the post. The star all-rounder shares a great bond with his son and often posts with him on social media. However, Hardik no longer lives with his son after his divorce with model and actress Natasa Stankovic. Hardik-Natasa divorce

Hardik Pandya had announced his separation with wife Natasa Stankovic after a relationship of four years. Hardik announced his decision on Thursday, 18 July via an Instagram post after months of speculation. Natasa Stankovic had decided to fly out of the country and went back to her home in Serbia with son Agastya. She had recently shared pictures of her day out with son Agastya and Hardik was quick to react to the post with a comment. He commented with a red heart and evil eye emoji on the post.

Smiles, handshakes and selfies: Virat Kohli greets fans at Colombo airport

New Delhi. India's star batter Virat Kohli shared a heartwarming interaction with the fans at the Colombo airport in Sri Lanka. Kohli landed in the island nation for India's upcoming ODI series against Sri Lanka on July 29, Monday. He looked all smiles as he greeted the Indian fans and clicked pictures with them. He was patiently waiting for his turn at the check-in counter and the star-struck fans tried to capture him. Indian captain Rohit Sharma, alongside KL Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Kuldeep Yadav and Harshit Rana arrived the day before yesterday. Kohli and Rohit will also kickstart their practice session in Colombo before the ODI series. There were speculations about if the star duo would take part in the series or not. However, Rohit was named as the captain of the team and Kohli was also included in the 15-member squad. Kohli and Rohit will make a return to the ODIs after November 2023 and will aim to get in the groove. They both boast of a great record against Sri Lanka in the ODI format and will look to only better it in the series. They will both return to the cricket field a month after India's victory at the T20 World Cup 2024. That day itself, Rohit and Kohli announced their retirement from the shortest format for India and said that they will continue to serve the country in the rest of the two formats of the game.

Kohli's dominance against Sri Lanka

After Sachin Tendulkar, Kohli has the most number of runs against Sri Lanka in the ODI format. He has played 53 ODI matches and scored 2594 runs at an average of 63.26 at a strike-rate of 93.91 with 10 centuries and 12 fifties. The ODI side has started training under the assistant coach Abhishek Nayar in Colombo. Meanwhile, the other players from the T20Is will also join the team after completion of the series. India lead the series 2-0 against Sri Lanka in the shortest format and will aim for a clean-sweep as they play the 3rd T20I on July 30, Tuesday.

16-year-old Jiya Rai becomes youngest para swimmer to cross an English Channel

Jiya Rai, at just the age of 16, became the youngest para swimmer to cross an English Channel. The teenager is not just the youngest, but also the fastest para swimmer in the world to achieve this feat on July 28-29.

NEW DELHI At just the age of 16, Jiya Rai became the youngest para swimmer to cross an English Channel. The teenager is not just the youngest, but also the fastest para swimmer in the world to achieve this feat on July 28-29. Jiya swam through the English Channel from the Abbot's Cliff in England to Pointe de la Courte-Dune in France in a time of 17 hours and 25 minutes from July 28 to 29. She covered a distance of 34 kilometres



en route to her feat. Jiya, who hails from Mumbai with Autism Spectrum Disorder, is the daughter of Madan Rai, the MC-at-Arms serving in Mumbai. The Western Naval Command (WNC) congratulated the young para swimmer on her momentous achievement. "All personnel of WNC convey their heartiest congratulations to Jiya Rai for becoming the world's youngest and

fastest female para swimmer to successfully swim solo across the English Channel," the Western Naval Command (WNC) wrote on X.

Jiya achieves huge feat

"Jiya, a 16-year-old girl with Autism Spectrum disorder, is the daughter of Madan Rai, MC-at-Arms, serving at Mumbai. She has many inspiring achievements to her credit,

including swimming across the Palk Bay earlier," the WNC added. Despite all her disabilities, Jiya is on a mission to become the world's first and youngest para swimmer to swim seven oceans. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological and developmental condition which has an impact on how people interact with others, communicate, learn and behave.

Many more achievements for Jiya

However, she has achieved much more at such a young age, like in December 2022, she swam 1,100 kilometres. This was done as a part of a six-member relay team from Mumbai to Goa and back to Vasai Fort in 11 days, 22 hours and 13 minutes. She was the youngest and only female participant of the team. As per the Western Naval Command, Jiya has swum across the Palk Strait from Talaimannar, which is in Sri Lanka, to Dhanuskodi, which is in India. She managed to cover a distance of 29 kilometres within 13 hours and 10 minutes and created a world record on March 20, 2022. Hence, she became the world's youngest and fastest female to swim across the Palk Strait. Jiya has also won medals in the national and

Virat Kohli-Gautam Gambhir relationship: Case of wait and see, says Scott Styris



NEW DELHI Scott Styris feels that the equation between Virat Kohli and India coach Gautam Gambhir will be a case of 'wait and see' as they gear up to be reunited during the ODI series against Sri Lanka. Gambhir and Kohli have had spats in the past during the IPL but seemingly mended fences during IPL 2024. Gambhir would then go on to replace Rahul Dravid as the coach of the Indian team.

Gambhir has said that his relationship with Kohli is not public, and it is one between two

mature individuals. Speaking about the equation between both men in an exclusive interaction with Indiatoday.in, Styris said that both Kohli and Gambhir will 'tap to bite their tongue' a bit tongue and watch each other working in the side. The former New Zealand all-rounder feels that Kohli will be looking at how Gambhir will be looking to run the team and the coach will look towards the star batter to help the youngsters in the side. "Yeah, it's a really

good question. I think it's wait and see. I don't think anyone can sit here and say it's gonna work that well or it's not gonna work. I think both players will just tap to bite their tongue a little bit and observe and watch the way that, in Virat's case, watch the way Gautham's looking to run the team and Gautham will be looking for Virat's leadership to help all the younger players," said Styris. They will work out a way Styris also feels that both men have smart cricket brains and will work out a way to make their equation work and help the Indian team.

"So there's so much that we don't know about that relationship and how it's going to operate in a team with two different players having two different levels of power in that group as well. So I think they're both. Firstly, they're both terrific cricketers. They both have very good cricket brains. I think they'd both be smart enough to work out a way where it can be beneficial to the team and their performances," said Styris.

Kohli is now in Sri Lanka and will be playing in the ODI series, which begins from August 2.

When is 'Nadalcaraz' next in action at Paris Olympics 2024: All you need to know

New Delhi. Rafael Nadal and Carlos Alcaraz partnership has certainly caught the attention of the fans at the Paris Olympics 2024. While one is a record French Open champion, the other just won at Roland Garros earlier in the year and appears to be the heir apparent to Nadal. The duo had certainly got going in the perfect way and the energy coming off both men during the first round match was a treat to watch. They have now been dubbed as 'Nadalcaraz' and considered as favourites for the gold medal at the Olympics.

When it comes to the singles competition, both men had contrasting fortunes on July 29, Monday. Nadal tried his best to upstage long-time rival Novak Djokovic, but it was the Serbian who came out on top in the end. Alcaraz, on the other hand, was able to fend off a groin niggle to see off the Netherlands' Tallon Griekspoor 6-1, 7-6 to make himself a strong contender for the gold medal. Both men are now set to turn their attention towards their second round

doubles match. Nadal had brushed off his loss to Djokovic and said he will now focus completely on the doubles match. "I came here to play two competitions, and



knowing from the beginning that I surely had more options in doubles. "Today I'm sad, but tomorrow I'm going to get up with all the enthusiasm in the world to play doubles to the fullest," said Nadal.

Alcaraz had talked about his groin niggle and said he is confident he would be able to shake it off and be ready for the match alongside Nadal.

"I know the way that I have to deal with this pain, it is normal for a tennis player, the schedule is so tight, so demanding, so I will try to recover as soon and as well as I can tonight to be ready at 100% tomorrow in the doubles," the 21-year-old told reporters.

When and where will Nadalcaraz be in action next? Nadal and Alcaraz will be in action on July 30, Tuesday against Tallon Griekspoor and Wesley Koolhof. The match is scheduled to be the third on Court Suzanne-Lenglen, following a men's singles match between Taylor Fritz and Jack Draper and a women's singles match between Jasmine Paolini and Anna Karolina Schmiedlova. The action will begin after 12 pm local time. This means that the match is set to happen after 3:30 pm IST.

Where can we watch Nadalcaraz live?

The coverage of the tennis action at the Olympics 2024 will be available on the Sports 18 1 and Sports 18 2 channels. The match can be livestreamed on the JioCinema app and website.

Men's triathlon postponed due to high levels of pollution in river Seine in Paris

NEW DELHI The Men's Triathlon event, which was initially planned to take place on July 30, Tuesday was postponed due to high levels of pollution in the river Seine in Paris. The race has now been moved to July 31, Wednesday at 10:45 pm, after the women's event scheduled for the same day at 8:00 am. The World Triathlon informed in a statement, dealing a blow to the organisers and leaving the athletes with more uncertainty. Earlier, the Olympic Games organisers had said that they were confident of the water quality improving in time for the race. They assured after the river was dirtied by the heavy rains last Friday and Saturday.

"Despite the improvement of water quality levels over the last hours, the readings at some points of the swim course are still above the acceptable limits," they said early on Tuesday. "Paris 2024 and World Triathlon reiterate that their priority is the health of the athletes." If the levels of bacteria remain too



high on Wednesday as well, then both the men's and women's races could likely be postponed to Friday, the contingency day reserved for the events. If, by Friday as well, the water quality does not improve and is still not good enough, then the swimming leg will be scrapped, and the athletes will compete in duathlon instead. For the mixed triathlon relay event on August 5, the contingency day is August 6. The Paris authorities have promised to make the river Seine swimmable as a key legacy of the Olympic Games. They had spent 1.51 billion dollars on wastewater infrastructure to contain sewage and minimise spillage into the waterway.

Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo herself took a dip in the river earlier this month, in order to convince doubters. The gamble that the river would be clean enough on the day of the triathlon was not guaranteed, as the water quality varied widely day-to-day.

Seine river's pollution

Seth Rider, one of 55 triathletes who entered the men's race, has told reporters he took unconventional measures to prepare for exposure to bacteria. "We know that there's going to be some E. coli exposure, so I just try to increase my E. coli threshold by exposing myself to a bit of E. coli in your day-to-day life," the U.S. athlete said in a press conference on Saturday.

Arjun Babuta under went bad phase, legs went numb: Coach Deepali tells struggles

Paris Olympics 2024: Arjun Babuta's coach Deepali Deshpande revealed the shooter's struggles in the past after he finished fourth in the final of the 10m air rifle event. She mentioned that he went through a bad phase and suffered a back injury.

NEW DELHI. Arjun Babuta's coach and a former athlete herself, Deepali Deshpande, was left shocked after her student narrowly missed out on a medal at the Paris Olympics 2024. It was a heart-breaking moment as

Arjun finished fourth in the 10m air rifle final event. Deepali revealed about Arjun's struggles in the past and how he fought injury setbacks to make his debut appearance in the Olympics. Deepali has been Arjun's coach, ever since he joined the national squad at the age of 16. She has showcased confidence in Arjun and backed him to do well in the Los Angeles Olympics 2028. "He passed through a very bad phase when he suffered a back injury that put paid to his hopes of making it to the Tokyo Olympics three years back. He fell twice at the range while shooting as his legs used to go numb," coach Deepali Deshpande revealed how Arjun could not make a cut to the Tokyo Olympics 2020. Deepali revealed that despite being asked to rest, Arjun was always eager to begin practice. "The Covid pandemic gave him time to rest and recover,



but every now and then he would call and request if I (Babuta) could start training, and every time I had to tell him, he needed to get fit first." Arjun was on the verge of bringing India their second medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics after Manu Bhaker's bronze. Despite a strong start, Babuta faltered by the end as his 13th shot of 9.9 and last or 20th

shot of 9.5 cost him, and he ended up slumping from second to fourth position.

A heartbreak for Arjun

Deepali was upset about Arjun's narrow miss from an Olympic glory. However, she was confident that Arjun would come back stronger and mentioned that his era would start from next year. "Today was a tough day for me as well, and I threw my phone on seeing him slip from second to fourth in the finals. I know how hard I have worked with him during his junior days and helped him through the injury phase. He is one of those who can shoot 10.8s in the finals, and I am sure his era will start in 2025."

The 25-year-old Arjun hails from a small town of Jalalabad in Punjab and drew inspiration from Olympic gold medalist Abhinav Bindra to take up the sport.



Pragya Jaiswal

Shines In Stylish Sky-blue Dress For Khel Khel Mein Song Launch

Actress Pragya Jaiswal is known for her works in the Telugu cinema, appearing in superhit projects with the biggest of the names. Apart from her screen presence, the actress is a popular name on social media, where she updates her fans on her new ventures and breathtaking looks. Her latest Instagram entry is proof of her glam and how gracefully she can pull off any fashion. Pragya Jaiswal took to her official Instagram handle to share the new photoshoot, which captures her in a Western outfit, which shows off her fit body. The actress has donned a spectacular sky-

blue, off-shoulder dress, tailored with a V-shaped deep neck. The thigh-high dress hugs her body elegantly, as she poses for the camera embodying confidence. She has paired the fit with silver-hued, fan-shaped earrings, finger rings on each hand and transparent, strung heels. As for her hair, Pragya has chosen to leave it free in the air, styled in waves of bronze and dark brown. She has captioned the post, "Game time," completing it with a wink and a blue-heart emoticon.

Fans share their appreciation and support for the shoot in the replies below. The first user wrote, "Sooo beautiful soo elegant just looking like a wow." A second fan shared, "Heyy so pretty." While a third fan stated, "Just stunning, as always." Most of the fans have left the comment section with heart and heart-eye emoticons. It has gained over 66,000 likes on the platform so far.

According to another post, the look was for the song launch event of her upcoming film, Khel Khel Mein. The behind-the-scenes clip shows the actress enjoying the whole process, as she expresses her excitement for the event. The post is captioned, "A special day, a special moment." Her upcoming project is made under the direction of Mudassar Aziz, also credited as the writer. The cast includes names like Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Fardeen Khan, Pragya Jaiswal, Vaani Kapoor, Ammy Virk and Aditya Seal. The film is set for an August 15 release.



Big Boss OTT 3's Ranvir Shorey Wants To Send His Son To College With Rs 25 Lakh Prize Money: 'I'm Clear...'



[hstep]Big Boss OTT 3 stirred up a big controversy last week during an episode where the top 7 contestants faced a media press conference. During the episode, actor Ranvir Shorey, a participant on the show, was asked if he participated in the show to revive his career. Ranbir denied this, explaining that he was offered two reality shows and chose Big Boss OTT 3 because he had no other work at the time. Ranvir said, "My son was out of the country, so I wanted to come here. He is 13 years old and now I want him to start living his life with a man around him." Ranvir Shorey married actress Konkona Sen Sharma in 2010. They separated in 2015 and got a divorce in 2020. They have a son named Haroon.

In the same episode, Ranvir clarified his joke about only wanting the Rs 25 lakh prize, saying he meant he wants to win and use the money for his son Haroon's college. "It is not like that. The statement was made in jest. Obviously the combination of the trophy and prize money cannot be broken. At least I am clear when I say that I want myself to win first," he said.

Ranvir is often seen wearing simple, worn-out clothes on the show, even during the weekend episodes with Anil Kapoor. However, last to last weekend brought a surprise for Ranvir when he received a designer suit. He wore a striking blue suit, and when Anil Kapoor asked about its, Ranvir revealed that while his shoes were inexpensive and his own, the suit was sent to him by someone named Shehnaaz. Initially, he assumed Shehnaaz was the name of the fashion designer.

Big Boss OTT 3 featured Sana Makbul Khan, Sai Ketan Rao, Lovekesh Kataria, Sana Sultan, Shivani Kumari, Vishal Pandey, Deepak Chaurasia, Armaan Malik with his second wife Kritika, and Naved Shaikh AKA Naezy.

New Mom Richa Chadha And Her Baby Girl Pose With Shabana Azmi, Dia Mirza And Others, Photo Goes Viral



Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal are enjoying their new phase of life. They have welcomed a baby girl recently and are currently busy with their new duties. Well, today looks like the little munchkin has guests in the house to meet her. Shabana Azmi, Tanvi Azmi, Urmila Matondkar, and Dia Mirza came to meet new parents. Shabana Azmi shared the photo on her social media and wrote, "With the khala / Masis of the new mum and baby." In the photo, Richa Chadha is seen sitting on a couch with her baby on her lap. She has not revealed her face while others are standing behind her and posing. As soon as the photo was shared, fans reacted. One of the fans wrote, "Kya baat hai khoob Jamaica rang Jamil baithenge itne year aapke piche pyari bahana khadi hai Tanvi madam and meri pyari gudriya Shabana madam." Another wrote, "Congratulations... so happy for you."

The couple welcomed a baby girl on July 16, and since then, they have been having a fun time keeping up with their baby girl's schedule. Having said that, Richa recently dropped a fun video with Ali, as their new born kept them awake all night. In the video, they were seen, vibing to SRK's hit song from Kuch Kuch Hota Hai - Yeh Ladka Hai Deewana. While Richa lip synced, Ali did a funny dance in the background. Earlier this year, while announcing the arrival of their baby girl, Ali Fazal and Richa Chadha shared the picture of the little feet of their newborn daughter. Along with the photo, the couple also penned a note, expressing their gratitude towards fans and followers alike. The note read, "Doing a collab post to announce the biggest collab of our lives!! We've been blessed indeed. Our baby girl continues to keep us very very busy. So Thank you all for your love and blessings.."

Richa Chadha and Ali Fazal got married in 2022 and announced their pregnancy earlier this year. In an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, Richa recently revisited her wedding day and also got candid about her interfaith marriage with the Fukrey co-star. "No one cares about people and what they think. And I come from a very liberal, lovely family. Ali comes from a very liberal, progressive family. We are both middle-class people. And we had a fantastic time. No one puts pressure on us. And if they did, we didn't take any pressure," she shared.

Nikki Tamboli

To Vaibhav Chavan, All The Contestants To Look Out For At Bigg Boss Marathi Season 5

Bigg Boss has been a famous reality show that is loved by audiences. The show has gained huge popularity in recent years. The Marathi version of Bigg Boss has also gained significant fame in the Marathi television industry. The show stars many well-known actors, social media influencers and internet personalities. Bigg Boss Season 5 started its journey yesterday July 28, 2024. Curious to know who are the popular influencers in the Bigg Boss Marathi show? Read this article to know more about this:

Nikki Tamboli

Nikki Tamboli is a well-known television personality and actress who became widely known after participating in Bigg Boss Hindi. Her strong and bold personality made her a standout contestant and she showed her daring side in Khatron Ke Khiladi as well. Nikki has also acted in Hindi and Telugu films and has earned a loyal fan following in the process.



Paddy Kamble

Paddy Kamble is a prominent figure in the Marathi entertainment industry, known for his exceptional skills as a comedian and actor. His unique sense of humour and impeccable comedic timing have made him an audience favourite. In his career spanning various successful projects, Paddy captivates his fans with his charismatic presence and talent.

Shubhankar Tawde

Shubhankar Tawde is an upcoming talent in the Marathi industry who has quickly made a name for himself with some notable roles. Known for his charming personality and charismatic screen presence, Shubhankar has already earned a loyal fan following.

Manasi Naik

Manasi Naik is a versatile actress and dancer who has made a name for herself in both Marathi films and television. Known for her trendy and catchy dance numbers, she has garnered a huge fan following through her energetic performances and vivacious personality.

