

China shifts gears to combat strong rivals

THE Chinese military is shifting its focus to winning wars against stronger opponents amid mounting challenges. According to a South China Morning Post report, President Xi Jinping, who is also the Chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), China's highest defence body, has directed the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to enhance its strategic capabilities to defend the country's sovereignty and developmental interests. Xi unveiled the new directive while commemorating Deng Xiaoping's 120th birth anniversary on August 22. He highlighted Deng's vision for the PLA — which was instrumental in developing it into a strong, modernised and well-organised force — emphasising the importance of 'fewer but better troops'. General Miao Hua, a member of the CMC, stated while commenting on the strategic shift, "In the new journey, we should focus on strengthening capabilities to defeat strong enemies and opponents." A recent article in the PLA Daily, while referring to Deng's 1980 strategic judgement that "a world war can be postponed or avoided", noted that China now faces great changes unseen in a century. It asserted the need for the armed forces to remain vigilant and maintain strategic clarity on the possible risk of war, make full preparations for military struggle, effectively deter war and resolutely win it. The Chinese leadership has refined its warfighting doctrines of winning local wars since the 1990s through white papers and strategic guidelines. The first 'White Paper on National Defence' was published in 1998. Following the release of 'White Paper on National Defence (2006)', the PLA adopted the 'local wars under informationised conditions' doctrine to match technologically superior adversaries. Through the 'informationised war' doctrine, China sought to impose high costs on conventionally superior opponents by targeting command, control, communication, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance (C4ISR) networks. The recent directive to the military to prepare for wars against strong enemies marks another strategic shift, primarily as a response to the challenges China is facing, both in the maritime domain and on the land borders. Incidentally, Xi, on assuming power in 2012, had initiated a slew of deep-rooted military reforms as he had envisioned the PLA to play a key role in realising the 'China Dream' of a prosperous and powerful China by the middle of the century. Sovereignty was identified as one of the key national objectives. Besides fostering nationalism, it was to ensure the security of periphery and the integration of Taiwan and all claimed territories with the motherland. To provide strategic direction to implement Xi's vision, the 'White Paper on National Defence, 2015' (China's Military Strategy) was released. Its theme was 'active defence', and its focus was on winning 'local wars under conditions of modern technology'. It implied a major transition in the naval strategy from 'offshore waters defence' to a combined strategy of 'offshore waters defence and open sea protection' to secure China's maritime interests.

To operationalise the new doctrine, the CMC was restructured and military regions reorganised into theatre commands. A number of measures were instituted to enhance military capabilities across the spectrum. PLA navy (PLAN), numerically the biggest navy today with more than 350 ships, is expected to reach a strength of 450, including six aircraft carriers, in the next few years. The Chinese Coast Guard is the largest in the world, with over 100 vessels. The PLA air force is in the process of building an 'air space defence force' to enhance its power projection capabilities. It is expected to have a fleet of over 1,000 stealth and fifth-generation fighter aircraft by around 2035. Besides, the Rocket Force arsenal is anticipated to go up to 700 before the end of the decade, duly complemented by hypersonic glide vehicles and cruise missiles.

Crumbling statues, falling standards

TRYSTS AND TURNS: The fear that haste may lead to waste does not seem to worry the authorities

A 35-ft statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, the great Maratha warrior known for his guerrilla warfare skills — which he successfully used against the Mughals — was knocked down by strong winds blowing across the coastal town of Malwan in the Konkan region of Maharashtra. The statue had been erected in a hurry prior to the Lok Sabha elections this year to permit Prime Minister Narendra Modi to inaugurate it. Modi, always willing to perform such pre-election chores, obliged. Just six months later, he was forced to apologise for the mishap, though he himself could hardly be blamed for nature's vagaries. His sycophants were the real culprits.

Around Rs 83 crore were spent on the statue's construction, which was entrusted to the Navy in deference to the memory of Maratha admiral Kanhoji Angre, who commanded the Maratha navy in those glorious days. The original plan, it now appears, was to build a six-ft statue and the design for it was scrutinised and approved by the Directorate of Art as per the prescribed procedure. One wonders who raised its height and why. Those who would have claimed credit for the statue will now seek anonymity for valid security concerns.

Stories of incompetence and blatant corruption are doing the rounds, all leading to the doorstep of Mahayuti leaders Eknath Shinde, the Maharashtra Chief Minister who leads a faction of the Shiv Sena, and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis, one of the two deputy chief ministers. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Ajit Pawar, who abandoned his uncle Sharad Pawar for personal aggrandisement, is the other Deputy CM, but he has distanced himself from his partners because he had sensed the Maratha anger against the toppling of the statue.

The BJP realises that Ajit is proving to be a liability in the three-party alliance. Ajit's uncle still commands the loyalty of the Maratha community, as was proved in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Fadnavis, the BJP's loyal pointsman in the state, had erroneously calculated that the ambitious Ajit would be able to bring in the bulk of the NCP's vote bank, but that was not to be. Sharad continues to be the Maratha strongman, despite his advancing age and ill health. Ajit's tirade against his friends in the

Mahayuti is not going to help him advance his political career. At present, it has only succeeded in weakening the ruling alliance's chances of retaining power. The molestation of two four-year-old girls in a school at Badlapur in Thane district had already done harm to the fortunes of the Mahayuti. And now, nature has joined forces with the Opposition MVA (Maharashtra Vikas Aghadi), led by the Congress and consisting of a resurgent Shiv Sena-UBT



(Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) and the presently dominant Sharad-led faction of the NCP.

As of today, the dice is loaded against the parties in power. The BJP had made inroads in urban areas of the state. It will hold on to its voters, but the two parties on whose strength it relied will not be able to contribute to the extent Fadnavis expected them to do. In fact, there is the distinct possibility of the NCP's Ajit faction gradually fading into oblivion. When the foot soldiers find that their leader will not be able to provide the expected goodies, they will gravitate to those in a position to oblige.

Reverting to the matter of the statue, it is quite obvious to even the poorly informed that such construction needs expertise of a superior calibre. It also needs supervision of a higher order with officials for the purpose being chosen from among those with a reputation for integrity. Fortunately, there still remain many in the IAS with that qualification.

The pressure to complete works expeditiously, which is happening often when elections are round the corner, should be avoided. The PM inaugurated the

new Parliament building in a bit of a hurry and very soon it developed leakages and defects. Modi did not apologise for that fiasco like he did for the fall of Shivaji's statue! According to his statement, the Maratha warrior was a 'god'. Agreed that a building cannot be deified, but a Parliament building is a sacred place, because like the poet Byron wrote about the Castle of Chillon in Switzerland, "May none those marks efface! For they appeal from

tyranny to God." A massive project is underway in my city of Mumbai. It is the Coastal Road project that has reclaimed acres and acres of land from the sea to decongest the heavy traffic caused by the proliferation of cars. The work goes on relentlessly day and night since targets are set (as they should be) and important leaders are eager to inaugurate even minor sections of the project. The fear that haste may lead to waste does not seem to worry the authorities like it worries thinking citizens. I remember the car journey I took once from Kowloon to the mainland of Hong Kong through an undersea tunnel. It was a feat of engineering. A similar tunnel was a part of Mumbai's Coastal Road. Very

soon, it developed leaks. When the media carried the news, many senior citizens decided against travelling by car through that tunnel. I am told that the leaks have been patched. That is a consolation, but why are we so tolerant of shoddy work which is inevitable if it has to be completed in a hurry to accommodate leaders who want their names embossed on stone? Bihar has not yet received its annual quota of rainfall, but as soon as the first showers fell, as many as a dozen newly constructed bridges collapsed! In Rajkot (Gujarat), a bridge collapse resulted in the death of car passengers. Are our engineers and contractors incompetent or, as is more likely, have they dipped their hands into the till? Since no one is held responsible and punished, Modi's promise of remaining squeaky clean himself and ensuring that his administrators also remain above board is like his promise to show no mercy to those convicted of molesting women — only an empty promise meant for luring voters to keep double-engine governments in office.

A desperate step

Bengal Bill mandates death penalty for rapists



IN a dramatic response to the public outcry following the recent rape and murder of a young doctor in Kolkata, the West Bengal Assembly has passed the Aparajita Anti-Rape Bill, which mandates the death penalty for rapists if the victim dies or is left in a vegetative state. The swift passage of this Bill comes amid protests from the public, demanding justice and accountability from the Mamata Banerjee-led government. The Bill seeks to reassure citizens of the state's commitment to protecting women.

However, it has sparked a debate about whether such measures are merely a politically motivated reaction to silence the growing unrest. Party leaders continue to face a public backlash. Comments comparing protesting doctors to 'butchers' have only intensified public ire, further alienating the government from those it seeks to placate. Also, the fact that the new

Bill is in conflict with the Centre's Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which does not prescribe capital punishment for

rape, creates a legal conundrum. Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have struggled to secure the presidential assent on similar Bills. Plus, even as the death penalty has not proved effective as a deterrent, the irreversible nature of such a punishment raises human rights concerns.

The passing of the Aparajita Bill is a desperate move by the TMC government, aiming to restore public faith and regain control over the narrative. Whether this legislation will bring the desired change or simply add to the long list of unimplemented laws remains to be seen. As the Bill awaits approval by the Governor and President, the broader question of its efficacy and ethical implications looms large. The state would do well to focus on improving the investigative and judicial processes, ensuring a swift and fair trial and addressing the systemic issues that lead to such heinous crimes.

Food processing sector symbolises India's growth story

We are not merely advancing an industry but also embracing a shared vision of a future in which innovation, sustainability and prosperity uplift every corner of our nation.

THE food processing sector in India stands out as a beacon of our nation's ambition, symbolising the strides we are making toward Viksit Bharat. No longer just a contributor to the economy, this sector is rapidly transforming into a cornerstone of India's growth story. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a masterful blend of policies, initiatives and infrastructure development has catapulted the sector to new heights, turning it into a formidable force on the global stage. India currently boasts a thriving economy valued at \$3.7 trillion, with ambitious goals of reaching \$30-35-trillion economy by the nation's centenary of Independence in 2047. At the core of India's transformation lies its rich agro-climatic diversity, empowering our farmers to cultivate a remarkable variety of crops. As a global leader in producing pulses, millets, milk, wheat, rice and a vast range of fruits and vegetables, India possesses an unparalleled resource base for value addition. This agricultural abundance, meticulously nurtured by our hardworking farmers, has sparked a wave of innovation and entrepreneurship, giving rise to a thriving food processing sector. This sector has become a keystone of India's economic development, driving growth through employment generation, technological advancements and the creation of new market opportunities. India also boasts the largest and youngest working population among the top global economies, further fuelling this dynamic transformation. By harnessing advanced processing technologies, the industry has been instrumental in reducing post-harvest losses, extending the product shelf life and ensuring that farmers receive better returns for their efforts. As India's food processing sector continues to evolve, it not only meets international quality standards but

also diversifies its offerings to cater to the ever-changing tastes and preferences of global consumers. The close synergy between agriculture and food processing has thus become a powerful engine of economic progress. It underscores the vital role that our farmers and agriculture play in shaping the nation's future, ensuring that India's agricultural produce reaches every corner of the world with enhanced value and quality. Through this integration, supported by a vibrant and youthful workforce, we witness the emergence of a resilient, globally competitive sector that is poised to lead India toward a prosperous and sustainable future.

As an inflection point, the Covid-19 pandemic revealed the sector's impressive resilience, swiftly adapting to the rising demand for processed foods. The gradual shift towards ready-to-eat, ready-to-cook and value-added products emphasised the sector's crucial role in food security and nutrition. A strong food processing sector is essential for addressing food and nutritional security challenges in India, providing convenience, a longer shelf life and better access to remote areas. It also ensures improved price realisation for farmers and enhances market opportunities, making a significant impact on the GDP and supporting livelihoods.

At the forefront is the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), championing flagship programs like the PM Kisan SAMPADANA Yojana (PMKSY). This initiative is transforming the sector by developing cutting-edge infrastructure and optimising supply chain management from the

farmgate to retail. Complementing these efforts, the PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises Scheme propels the growth of micro food processing units through support for technology upgrades, capacity-building and marketing. The Production-Linked Incentive Scheme further energises domestic manufacturing and export growth by offering financial rewards tied to incremental



sales. Additionally, the Special Infrastructure Fund of Rs 2,000 crore under NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) plays a crucial role in reinforcing the sector's infrastructure. This coordinated approach underscores a comprehensive strategy to elevate the food processing industry and related sectors, ensuring a robust, integrated and forward-looking growth path.

India's rapidly growing economy and its demographic

dividend create a unique and unprecedented opportunity for the food processing sector to reach new heights. The government's pro-business reforms, including strategic tax incentives, streamlined ease of doing business initiatives and significant infrastructure development, have fostered an environment ripe for investment and growth. This supportive landscape not only attracts global attention but also positions India as a dynamic hub for innovation and expansion in the food processing industry. After the resounding success of the 2023 edition of World Food India, the ministry is organising the third edition of the global event from September 19 to 22. Stakeholders from every facet of the food industry will come together to exchange ideas, explore opportunities and contribute to the overall development of this crucial sector. It will be a one-of-a-kind gathering of manufacturers, producers, investors, policymakers and organisations from across the global food ecosystem. World Food India serves as a platform where stakeholders converge to explore innovations, forge partnerships and chart a course towards a sustainable food future. Let us seize the opportunities and embark on a journey towards a more prosperous and resilient food system that benefits all stakeholders across the value chain. In this moment of convergence, we are not merely advancing an industry but also embracing a shared vision of a future in which innovation, sustainability and prosperity uplift every corner of our nation.

Swiggy incognito mode feature for food delivery

BENGALURU. PO-bound food aggregator Swiggy has launched an Incognito Mode feature, which allows users to place orders privately across food and quick commerce platform Swiggy Instamart.

It said this is to ensure privacy as with shared accounts being common, not every order is meant to be seen by family, friends or partners. This feature is currently available to 10% of Swiggy users and will be rolled out to all users soon. "As social as our lives are becoming, there are still things we prefer to keep private, and Incognito Mode is designed to address that need," said Rohit Kapoor, CEO of Swiggy's Food Marketplace.

In recent weeks, Swiggy has been introducing a range of new features and products. As per its FY24 results, it posted Rs 2,350 crore net loss in FY24 as against Rs 4,179 crore in the last fiscal. In June 2024, asset management firm Baron Capital marked up valuation of the firm to USD 15.1 billion from USD 12.1 billion in December 2023.

Spicejet, Carlyle pact to restructure plane lease



NEW DELHI. A Spicejet on Friday said it entered into an agreement with Carlyle Aviation Management Limited (CAML) to restructure certain aircraft lease obligations of the airline aggregating USD 137.68 million (as of June 30, 2024), which upon settlement/waivers will be adjusted to USD 97.51 million, owed to various lessor entities managed by CAML or its affiliates.

Carlyle Aviation would raise its stake in SpiceJet via equity conversion at Rs 100 per share. "Part of the outstanding lease arrears due to aircraft lessors i.e. aggregating to USD 137.68 million (as of June 30, 2024), as adjusted to USD 97.51 million are proposed to be restructured through issuance/purchase of securities, subject to compliance with applicable Indian law, approval of shareholders and execution of definitive agreement between the Parties, as under:

Such a number of equity shares of the company for Rs 100 per share, subject to an aggregate amount of not more than USD 30 million. LesSararrears, compulsorily convertible debentures of SpiceXpress & Logistics in a principal amount of USD 20 million," said SpiceJet under a regulatory filing. AA

India beats China in MSCI EM market index

NEW DELHI. India has overtaken China in the MSCI EM Investable Market Index (IMI) on September 4 to become the largest weight, and is nearing the threshold to surpass China as the top weight in the broader MSCI Emerging Markets index as well.

The weight of India in MSCI EM IMI stood at 22.27% compared to 21.58% of China. MSCI IMI consists of 3,355 stocks and includes large, mid and small cap companies. It captures stocks across 24 Emerging Markets countries and targets coverage of nearly 85% of the free float-adjusted market capitalisation in each country. While main MSCI EM index covers large and midcap space, the IMI includes large, mid, and small-cap stocks. India's heavier weight vis-a-vis China in MSCI IMI stems from greater small-cap weighting in its basket. The rebalancing reflects broader market trends. While Chinese markets have struggled due to economic headwinds, Indian markets have benefited from favourable macroeconomic conditions. In recent past, India posted a much better market performance, driven by macroeconomic fundamentals as well as robust performance by corporates.

Indices fall over 1 per cent ahead of US jobs data release

NEW DELHI. Following three weeks of a bull run, domestic equity market corrected sharply on Friday with the benchmark indices - BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty - crashing more than 1% each.

BSE Sensex closed 1,017 points or 1.24% lower at 81,183 levels while the Nifty shut shop 293 points or 1.17% lower at 24,852 levels. Investors lost a whopping Rs 5.31 lakh crore as the market capitalisation came down to Rs 460.37 lakh crore on Friday against Rs 465.68 lakh crore in the previous session.

The fall is attributed to the nervousness ahead of the release of the US job data as this would give clarity on the state of the world's largest economy and its willingness to go for a rate cut in near future. Profit booking at record high levels took place due to the Sebi's deadline over foreign institutional investors (FIIs) disclosure norm. Vishnu Kant Upadhyay, AVP, research and advisory at Master Capital Services, said investors are opting to stay on the sidelines, holding cash in anticipation of the US jobs report's release. "This fall is attributed to concerns over a potential slowdown in the US labour market, following the ADP non-farm employment report, which revealed that private businesses added only 99,000 jobs in August, much below the forecasted 144,000. Market participants are awaiting official non-farm payrolls report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, expected later today," added Upadhyay. Additionally, nervousness in banking stocks has surfaced ahead of the release of loan and deposit growth data. Nifty50 has fallen below the critical 25,000 mark, prompting put writers to cover their short positions, exacerbating the market downturn, he said.

Council may cut GST on health insurance to 5 per cent

As per sources, among the proposals under consideration are options to allow mediclaim companies to charge a reduced GST rate of 5% without the benefit of input tax credit (ITC).

NEW DELHI. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is set to discuss crucial matters that could reshape tax implications for mediclaim policies during its meet on September 9.

The meeting will focus on proposals aimed at rationalising the current GST structure, which currently imposes an 18% tax on mediclaim premiums, which many stakeholders argue is unsustainable for consumers and insurers alike.

As per sources, among the proposals under consideration are options to allow mediclaim companies to charge a



reduced GST rate of 5% without the benefit of input tax credit (ITC) or to implement a uniform 5% rate specifically for business-to-consumer (B2C) supplies.

"In the interest of common people, the best way for the GST Council it seems would be that the GST rate on mediclaim be reduced to 5% or 12% with the benefit of ITC available to the suppliers of the

policy. This would mean a pure vanilla reduction of the GST rate for common people. Insurance companies are duty bound to pass on this benefit as they can't make profit from rate reduction due to anti-profiteering provisions under GST," suggested Vivek Jalan, Partner at Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP.

As per sources, the Council may also announce extending GST amnesty

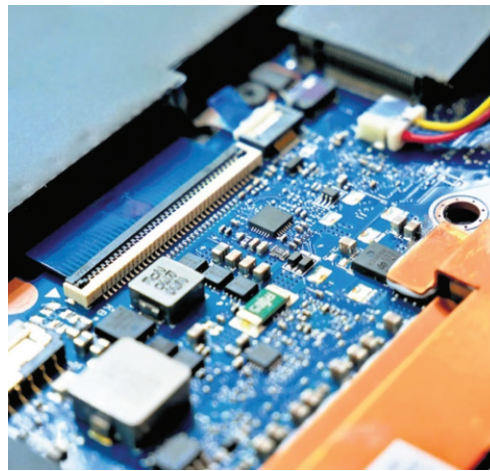
scheme for another year i.e., FY21. However, all the states need to be in consensus on providing amnesty scheme for another year, say sources. This paper had reported in August that the Ministry of Finance will issue a circular regarding the Amnesty scheme, recently proposed in Budget 2024. The scheme aims to provide relief to taxpayers by waiving interest and penalties under certain conditions for tax matters arising between July 1, 2017, and March 31, 2020. In addition to these topics, the agenda may also include a discussion on the refund of excess payments made by the Centre to states during the GST compensation period. The issue of compensation has become increasingly pertinent as states continue to raise concerns about financial challenges. Valuation of services for related-party payments Another important item on the agenda will be clarification regarding valuation of payments for services received from related parties, in light of recent cases involving Infosys. This clarification is expected to provide much-needed guidance to businesses that engage in inter-company transactions under the GST framework.

Maharashtra govt nod for USD 10 billion Adani-Tower Semicon proposal

NEW DELHI. The Maharashtra government approved a USD 10 billion semiconductor investment proposal from a joint venture between Tower Semiconductor and the Adani Group on Friday. As per Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, the unit will be established in Talaja, Panvel. While the government has approved the proposal, it has not yet received approval from the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, which has allocated USD 1 billion for semiconductor projects in the country.

As per the reports, the joint application by Tower Semiconductor and Adani Group is still under consideration by the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and the IT ministry.

According to the reports, the unit located in Navi Mumbai suburbs of Raigad district will have an initial overall



capacity of 40,000 wafer starts per month (WSPM) and a capacity of 80,000 WSPM. Of the total investment, Rs 58,763 crore will be allocated to the first phase and Rs 25,184 crore to the

second phase, deputy chief minister said. If approved, this project will be the country's second chip manufacturing facility and the sixth semiconductor plant for manufacturing or testing and packaging silicon chips. Earlier this week, the government had approved a Rs 3,307 crore outsourced assembly and testing (OSAT) unit proposal by Mysore-based Kaynes Semicon.

The OSAT unit will be set up in Sanand, Gujarat, with a capacity of 6.3 million chips a day. So far, the government has approved several semiconductor projects, including a chip fabrication unit in Dholera, Gujarat, and four chip packaging units: three in Sanand, Gujarat, and one in Morigaon, Assam. The cumulative investment in these projects is Rs 1.50 lakh crore.

'Multiple call recordings exist': Byju's cries foul after auditor BDO resigns

New Delhi Embattled edtech firm Byju's has hit back at its former auditor BDO (MSKA & Associates) after the latter resigned citing financial discrepancies and governance concerns.

In a strong response to BDO's resignation, Byju's has accused the audit firm of making unethical requests and manipulating the audit process, including suggesting the backdating of financial reports. "Multiple call recordings exist, where BDO representatives explicitly suggest backdating these documents, which BYJU'S refused to do," the Byju's statement noted. The company highlighted that its decision to stand firm on ethical grounds was the real reason for BDO's resignation, not the concerns the auditor raised publicly. BDO had earlier raised doubts about Byju's ability to recover Rs 1,400 crore from a Dubai-based reseller, More Ideas General



Trading LLC, and noted delays in financial reporting and insufficient management support.

The auditor also highlighted ongoing litigation and liquidation proceedings initiated by creditors as additional red flags. However, Byju's pointed out significant gaps in BDO's handling of the situation. The edtech company claimed that BDO had requested clarifications on transactions from the company's suspended board shortly after Byju's entered insolvency proceedings on July 16, 2024. However, Byju's claimed that BDO failed to communicate with the appointed Insolvency Resolution Professional (IRP), the entity in charge during this period. The edtech company further claimed that despite repeated efforts from the IRP to engage with BDO, the auditor did not respond, which led to misunderstandings and eventually their resignation. "BDO's lack of communication with the IRP is surprising and suspicious," Byju's added. The edtech giant stated that it had proactively initiated a forensic audit of its transactions with its Dubai-based partner before BDO raised the issue, but the audit was paused due to the insolvency proceedings. Byju's, which has seen its valuation fall from a peak of \$22 billion, is now facing mounting challenges on multiple fronts.

Bengaluru leads in manufacturing sector job openings

In its report on Talent Insights Manufacturing Sector, the firm said the sector is expected to lead in salary hikes as compared to other sectors.

BENGALURU. Bengaluru is not just a hub for tech innovation, the city is also emerging as a powerhouse for manufacturing factories. With 21%, it leads in the manufacturing sector job openings. The city is followed by Mumbai with 16% job openings, according to consulting firm Ishwa Consulting. In its report on Talent Insights Manufacturing Sector, the firm said the sector is expected to lead in salary hikes as compared to other sectors. The salary structures of manufacturing companies and new-

age IT companies differ significantly as in the manufacturing sector, a larger proportion of jobs fall within



the lower salary range of 0 - Rs 6 lakh. Whereas, new-age IT companies predominantly offer job openings in the mid-range salary bracket of Rs 6 - 25 lakh. For high salary packages of Rs 25 lakh and above, the number of job openings is similar in both sectors.

Ishwa's 2024 Appraisal Report which covers last financial year's appraisals reveals higher average increases were reported by manufacturing hubs in Western and Southern India, compared to their Eastern and Northern counterparts, with a lesser increase.

"The reason behind this could be industry concentration and the dynamics of the talent pool in different regions. In the manufacturing sector, certain subdivisions like automotive showed a better appraisal outlook. This also indicated the sector's focus on innovation and technological advancements," as per the report.

Western and Southern hubs see higher pay raises. Ishwa's 2024 Appraisal Report which covers last financial year appraisals reveals higher average increases were reported by manufacturing hubs in Western and Southern India, compared to their Eastern and Northern counterparts, with a lesser increase.

Maximising returns: How to select top mutual funds for your portfolio

New Delhi. Wouldn't it be nice if there was a simple way to grow your money while you sleep? In today's world, everyone is looking for ways to invest and grow their savings. Some are diving into stocks, while others are exploring cryptocurrencies. But for many, mutual funds have emerged as a popular investment option, offering a balanced approach to growing wealth without the complexity of managing individual stocks. If you're thinking about mutual funds, you might be wondering—how you choose the right one? With so many options available, making the right choice can feel a bit like picking a meal from a menu—one wrong move, and you could end up with something that doesn't suit your taste. Mutual funds can be a smart way to maximise returns, but knowing how to select the right one is key to building a strong portfolio. Whether you're a first-time investor or someone looking to diversify, here are some simple things to keep in mind before you decide. Key factors to consider when choosing

mutual funds Long-term performance - The first thing to check is the fund's performance over a long period. A fund might show impressive short-term gains, but how has it fared during different market cycles? Look at the returns over the past five to seven years, not just the most recent data. This will give you a clearer picture of the fund's consistency and help you avoid being misled by short-term spikes. "For prospective investors to decide which mutual fund is best to invest in, there are certain important aspects that should be focused on, while selecting the fund. Primary focus must be on the performance of the fund over a longer tenure. This helps them see the consistency of the fund in various market cycles and not just recent performances which can be misleading over a period of time," said Swati Saxena, Founder and CEO, 4Thoughts Finance.

Compare with peers - It's not just about how the fund is performing on its own; it's also important to compare it with others in the same category.



For example, if you're looking at large-cap funds, compare it with other large-cap funds to see how it stands over time. A good fund will show consistent results compared to its competitors. Stability of the fund management team - The people managing the fund can significantly impact its performance. If the team changes frequently, the fund's management style could change as well. So, look for a stable management team that has a proven track record of

delivering results. A fund's success often hinges on the people behind it.

"Of late, there have been many fund houses where the entire team gets changed and consequently, the style of the fund and the way it's being managed changes with the transformation in the team," said Saxena. Assess underperformance - Sometimes, funds underperform due to specific investment decisions or market conditions. Before dismissing a fund that has had a poor quarter or year, try to understand why it underperformed.

Was it a temporary setback, or does it signal deeper issues? Understanding the reason behind a fund's performance can help you make a more informed choice.

Swati Saxena said that depending on the call, which is basically what kind of stocks they are investing, one should at least have a look at these aspects before completely negating a fund or selecting a fund. Assets under management (AUM) - Another factor to consider is the size of the fund, measured by its Assets Under Management (AUM).

AAP leader Kuldeep Kumar downplays Rajendra Pal's exit from party

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Kuldeep Kumar dismissed Rajendra Pal Gautam's move to Congress, calling it a routine move before elections.

- ▶ Party-switching before elections is common, AAP leader Kuldeep Kumar said
- ▶ AAP stayed calm about Gautam's departure to Congress
- ▶ The party viewed Gautam's move as a routine election shift

New Delhi. Senior AAP leader and Delhi State Vice President Kuldeep Kumar downplayed the recent exit of ex-AAP MLA Rajendra Pal Gautam, who joined Congress on Friday. Kumar described the move as routine, noting that party-switching before elections is common. "When tickets are in doubt, some jump ship," Kumar said, emphasising the party's calm response. Addressing Gautam's departure, Kumar highlighted that leaders often come and go during election seasons. "The AAP gave all due respect to Rajendra Pal Gautam, entrusting him with significant responsibilities as a minister and overseeing multiple departments," Kumar explained that switching parties is typical when candidates sense their

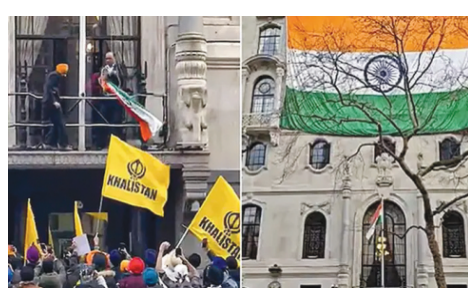
chances of securing a ticket are uncertain. He emphasised that this trend is not unusual in politics. Wishing Gautam well, he said, "I wish him all the best in his future political endeavors, and may he enjoy good health and happiness." Gautam, a prominent Dalit leader, joined the Congress in the presence of party leaders KC Venugopal, Devender Yadav, and Pawan Khera. Gautam joined AAP in 2014 and was elected as an MLA from the Seemapuri constituency in the 2020 Delhi Assembly polls. Gautam's departure from the AAP is the third high-profile exit from the party in recent times, following the exit of MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar and ex-Minister Raaj Kumar Anand.



Probe agency NIA charges UK national for 2023 attack on Indian Mission in UK

According to the NIA chargesheet, Inderpal Singh Gaba was one of the agitators who actively participated in the anti-India protest outside the Indian High Commission on March 22 last year.

New Delhi. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a chargesheet against a key accused, Inderpal Singh Gaba, in connection with the 2023 attack on the Indian High Commission in London. Gaba, a resident of Hounslow, UK, was arrested by the NIA in April this year in connection with the attack by pro-Khalistan supporters on March 19 and 22, 2023.



According to the NIA chargesheet, Inderpal Singh Gaba was one of the agitators who actively participated in the anti-India protest outside the Indian High Commission on March 22 last year. On that day, over 2,000 pro-Khalistan supporters vandalised

the High Commission buildings, throwing various objects, including ink, to deface them. Three days earlier, a mob had pulled down the Indian flag, injuring some embassy staffers in the process.

The attack was allegedly orchestrated by Avtar Singh Khanda, a UK-based leader of the Khalistan Liberation

Force (KLF), who later died in a UK hospital in June last year. Meanwhile, Inderpal Singh Gaba was detained by immigration authorities at the Attari border in December 2023 upon his arrival from London via Pakistan. The detention was based on a lookout circular issued against him.

According to the NIA, a probe was initiated and Gaba was instructed not to leave the country while the investigation was ongoing. The NIA stated that it seized his mobile phone and analysed the data, uncovering several incriminating videos and photos of the incident, which eventually established his involvement.

India's second nuclear-powered submarine enhances strike range to 3,500 km

New Delhi. India has officially unveiled the advanced capabilities of its second nuclear-powered submarine, INS Arighaat, which can hit targets at longer ranges than its predecessor, INS Arihant. While INS Arihant is equipped with ballistic missiles capable of striking targets up to 750 kilometres away, INS Arighaat has been fitted with missiles that can reach up to 3,500 kilometres, top sources told.



INS Arihant, commissioned in 2018, was the first boat of its class to join the Indian Navy. The second Arihant-class submarine, INS Arighaat, was commissioned on August 29, 2024, in Visakhapatnam in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. In his address, Singh expressed confidence that INS Arighaat would bolster India's nuclear triad, enhance deterrence, and play a critical role in national security,

strategic balance, and regional peace.

Singh praised the Indian Navy, DRDO, and the defence industry for their collaboration in developing this advanced capability, highlighting the project's positive impact on the country's industrial sector, especially MSMEs, and the creation of new employment opportunities.

Reflecting on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's role in establishing India as a nuclear power, the Defence

Minister said, "Today, India is surging ahead to become a developed country. It is essential for us to develop rapidly in every field, including defence, especially in today's geopolitical scenario. Along with economic prosperity, we need a strong military. Our government is working on mission mode to ensure that our soldiers possess top-quality weapons and platforms made on Indian soil."

INS Arighaat's construction involved advanced design and manufacturing technology, in-depth research and development, specialised materials, complex engineering, and skilled workmanship. It features indigenous systems and equipment conceptualised, designed, manufactured, and integrated by Indian scientists, industry experts, and naval personnel.

Gayatri Devi's days in Mrs Gandhi's Emergency: Marriage proposals and sewer rats in Bihar

The Princess of Cooch Behar and Maharani of Jaipur, Gayatri Devi, was jailed for five-and-a-half months during the Emergency. She spent those months in Bihar jail with political prisoners, pickpockets, prostitutes, and sewer rats for company.



New Delhi. "Once the news of my imprisonment got around, I was flooded with presents from my friends... People whom I did not know were sympathetic and astounded by my imprisonment. I even received letters from strangers proposing marriage from abroad, presumably calculated to get me out of India beyond the clutches of this dictatorial regime," recounted Gayatri Devi, the Princess of Cooch Behar and Rajmata of Jaipur, in her autobiography, A Princess Remembers: The Memoirs of the Maharani of Jaipur. It was end-July 1975. Gayatri Devi was 56. She, the Jaipur MP, was at her Delhi home to attend Parliament when she found police officers at her door. She was arrested under COFEPOSA (Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities) Act and thrown into Tihar, the place of incarceration of prisoners of the Emergency, political and otherwise. Nineteen British pounds in loose change, and a few gold coins did Gayatri Devi in. It was the Emergency and rules were flying out of the window faster than you can complete reading this sentence.

"She brought the worst out in Indira Gandhi" For Indira Gandhi, contempt for Gayatri Devi ran deeper than skin-deep but skin did have a role to play. "Indira could not stomach a woman more good-looking than herself and insulted her in Parliament, calling her a bitch and a glass doll. Devi brought the worst out in Indira Gandhi: her petty, vindictive side," wrote Khushwant Singh. Indira and Ayesha, as Gayatri Devi was known to her friends and family, go back to their early years in Shantiniketan.

Delhi govt to pay Rs 7.5 lakh relief for prisoners dying in jail

NEW DELHI. Delhi government has decided to pay a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh to the next of kin or legal heirs of prisoners who die due to unnatural reasons while confined in the jails of Delhi. The city government has submitted a proposal in this regard to the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) for his nod.

Unnatural custodial death could be caused due to quarrels among inmates, beatings by prison staff, torture, negligence by prison officers, or negligence by medical or paramedical officers. However, compensation will not be admissible in cases of unnatural death due to suicide, escape attempts from jail or lawful custody outside the jail, or in cases of natural death, disaster, or calamity. It will also not apply to deaths due to illness.

Commenting on this, Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot, stated, "The state government believes that this measure will act as a deterrent against misconduct and negligence in our jails." Once approved, the policy will take effect from the date of notification, he added.

The superintendent of the jail concerned will be required to submit a detailed report, including a copy of the magisterial enquiry report, postmortem report, final cause of death, medical history at the time of admission in jail, and details of any medical treatment provided before the custodial death. The report will be sent to the Director General (DG) of Prisons, Delhi, for onward submission to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Dengue cases dropped by 94 per cent this year, says NDMC

NEW DELHI. Over 94% drop in cases of dengue were recorded this year, the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) said on Friday. According to the data released by the civic body, seven cases of dengue were recorded till August 29, in comparison to 131 of the last year.

Moreover, no case of Chikungunya was recorded this time. Previous year, one case was reported. The data showed that the NDMC has issued 1,679 notices this year so far where mosquito breeding was found and 104 challans were issued till now.

NDMC Member Kuljeet Singh Chahal said that the NDMC is making all efforts to identify and eliminate existing mosquito-borne breeding conditions to prevent the outbreak of malaria and dengue in the area. "Due to surveillance and awareness, cases of mosquito-borne diseases, especially dengue, have come down by 94 per cent. This year only seven patients of dengue have been detected as compared to the last year of 131. "There was one patient of malaria, not a single patient of chikungunya has been registered this year. As compared to the MCD, it has reported 237 cases of malaria, 578 cases of dengue, and 30 cases of chikungunya," Chahal said.

The NDMC area divided into 14 circles wherein 15, anti-malaria mate 15 surveillance worker, 83 anti-malaria gangman, and 29 seasonal anti-malaria workers with 30 additional workforce from civil department during monsoon seasons developed to prevent and checked the area by providing the machines like knap sack, battery spray machine, puls fog, vehicles mounted fogging machines, he said.

Delhi government approves compensation for unnatural custodial deaths

The Kejriwal government has approved a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh for the families of those who die under unnatural circumstances in Delhi's prisons.

New Delhi. The Delhi government has approved a compensation of Rs 7.5 lakh for the families or legal heirs of prisoners who die under unnatural circumstances while in custody in Delhi's prisons. The proposal has been submitted to Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena for final approval.

Unnatural custodial deaths may include incidents caused by inmate fights, beatings by prison staff, torture, or negligence by prison officers, medical, or paramedical staff. However, compensation will not be provided in cases of death due to suicide, escape attempts, lawful custody outside the jail, natural causes, dusts, or illness.

Delhi Home Minister Kailash Gahlot said the measure aims to deter misconduct and negligence in prisons. The policy, once



approved, will take effect from the date of notification.

The jail superintendent must submit a detailed report, including a magisterial inquiry report, postmortem results, the final cause of death, medical history upon

admission, and any medical treatment provided before the death. This report will be sent to the Director General of Prisons for submission to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

A committee led by the Director General of Prisons, including the Additional Inspector General, Resident Medical Officer, DCA, and Law Officer, will review the reports and decide on compensation according to the rules. The committee is required to meet quarterly or as needed to review cases of custodial deaths and must inform the NHRC when compensation is awarded.

The policy also includes provisions for recovering compensation from the salaries of prison officials found responsible. If staff involvement is proven, the committee may order the

- ▶ Delhi government approves Rs 7.5 lakh compensation for unnatural custodial deaths
- ▶ Compensation covers deaths due to negligence, torture, or inmate fights
- ▶ Compensation can also be recovered from responsible prison staff's salaries

recovery of the compensation amount from the salaries of the erring officials as deemed appropriate.

News box

Israel strikes school, residential building in Gaza, 13 Palestinians killed

World At least 13 Palestinians were killed and 15 wounded in Israeli strikes on a school sheltering refugees and a residential building in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority's official news agency Wafa reported early on Saturday. At least eight of the dead were in refugee tents at Halima al-Sa'diyya School in Jabalia in northern Gaza, Wafa said. The Israeli army said in a statement it had "conducted a precise strike on terrorists who were operating inside a Hamas command and control center embedded inside a compound that previously served as the 'Halima al-Sa'diyya' School in the northern Gaza Strip." In a separate incident, five Palestinians were killed in an Israeli strike on a residential building in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza. The latest bloodshed in the decades-old Israeli-Palestinian conflict was triggered on October 7 last year when Hamas-led militants stormed into Israel, killing 1,200 and taking about 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Israel's subsequent assault on the Hamas-governed enclave has since killed over 40,800 Palestinians, according to the local health ministry, while displacing nearly the entire population of 2.3 million, causing a hunger crisis and leading to genocide allegations at the World Court that Israel denies. According to the United Nations, at least 1.9 million people in the Gaza Strip are internally displaced, including some uprooted more than 10 times.

Panama departs 130 Indian 'irregular' migrants under US-backed repatriation deal

World Panama on Friday departed 130 Indian irregular migrants who had entered the country via the inhospitable Darien jungle, under a deal on repatriations signed with the United States in July. This was the first such expulsion outside the Americas under the deal, and the fourth in total.

Washington pledged \$6 million for migrant repatriations from the Central American nation in the hopes of reducing irregular crossings at its own southern border. Panama's director of migration, Roger Mojica, told reporters the Indians were deported on a charter flight to New Delhi for "irregular migration." At the same press conference, US Security Attache for Central America Marlen Pineiro said Washington was "very grateful to the government of Panama for all this support," adding that: "Irregular migration cannot continue."

The Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama has become a key corridor for migrants traveling overland from South America through Central America and Mexico to the United States. Despite the dangers, including attacks by criminal gangs, more than half a million undocumented migrants—mostly Venezuelans—crossed the Darien last year.

Transit countries such as Panama and Mexico have come under increased pressure from Washington to tackle the highly contentious migration issue in a US election year.

Joe Biden to host UK PM Keir Starmer in White House on September 13

Washington US President Joe Biden will host British Prime Minister Keir Starmer on September 13, the White House said on Friday. "The leaders will have an in-depth discussion on a range of global issues of mutual interest, including continuing robust support to Ukraine in its defense against Russian aggression, securing a hostage release and ceasefire deal to end the war in Gaza, protecting international shipping in the Red Sea from Iranian-backed Houthi threats, and advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific," it said in a statement.

UN investigator accuses Israel of a 'starvation campaign' in Gaza that Netanyahu denies

UNITED NATIONS. The UN independent investigator on the right to food accused Israel of carrying out a "starvation campaign" against Palestinians during the war in Gaza, an allegation that Israel vehemently denies. In a report this week, investigator Michael Fakhrī claimed it began two days after Hamas' surprise attack in southern Israel that killed some 1,200 people, when Israel's military offensive in response blocked all food, water, fuel and other supplies into Gaza. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said accusations of Israel limiting humanitarian aid were "outrageously false." "A deliberate starvation policy? You can say anything — it doesn't make it true," he said in a press conference Wednesday. Following intense international pressure — especially from close ally the United States — Netanyahu's government gradually has opened several border crossings for tightly controlled deliveries. Fakhrī said limited aid initially went mostly to southern and central Gaza, not to the north where Israel had ordered Palestinians to go.

Pak man arrested for plotting attack in US on anniversary of Hamas attack

According to the prosecution authorities in the US, the Pakistani man was arrested in Canada for allegedly plotting a mass shooting at a Jewish centre in Brooklyn on the first anniversary of the October 7 attack by Hamas that sparked the latest conflict in the Middle East.

New York A Pakistani man was arrested in Canada this week and accused of plotting a mass shooting at a Jewish centre in Brooklyn on the one-year anniversary of the October 7 attack by Hamas that sparked the latest conflict in the Middle East, federal authorities announced Friday. US Attorney General Merrick Garland said Muhammad Shahzeb Khan had attempted to travel from Canada, where he lives, to New York City with the "stated goal of slaughtering, in the name of ISIS, as many Jewish people as possible." The 20-year-old, who is also known as Shahzeb Jadoon, was apprehended on September 4 and charged with attempting to provide material support and resources to the terror group, which stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham. Jewish communities — like all communities in this country — should not have to fear that they will be targeted by a hate-fueled terrorist attack," Garland said in a statement. It was unclear if



Khan has a lawyer, where in Canada he was being held and when he may be brought to the US to face the charges. The Manhattan federal prosecutor's office, which is handling the case, deferred to Canadian national police, which didn't respond to an email seeking comment but said in a statement posted online that Khan will appear in the Superior Court of Justice in Montreal on September 13. "This planned antisemitic attack against Jewish people in the US is deplorable and there is no place for such

ideological and hate-motivated crime in Canada," Michael Duheme, commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, said in the statement. US authorities said Khan began sharing ISIS propaganda videos and expressing his support for the terror group in social media posts and communications with others on an encrypted messaging app last November. In conversations with two undercover law enforcement officers, he said he was trying start a "real offline cell" of ISIS in order to carry out attacks

against "Israeli Jewish chabads" in America. Khan said he and another ISIS supporter based in the US needed to obtain AR-style assault rifles, ammunition, hunting knives and other materials, according to the Justice Department. Khan also provided details about how he would cross the border from Canada and said he was considering conducting the attacks on either the October 7 anniversary or on October 11, which is the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur, authorities said. On August 20, he told the undercover officers that he had settled on targeting New York because of its sizeable Jewish population and sent a photograph of the specific area inside a Jewish center where he planned to carry out the attack, according to the Justice Department. His online messages described the Brooklyn site, which is not named in court documents, as "the ultra orthodox hasidic jews world headquarters."

US teen shot dead by another during altercation in school bathroom

World A student at a Maryland high school died after being shot by another student during an altercation on Friday in a school bathroom, Harford County Sheriff Jeff Gahler said. Warren Curtis Grant, 15, died after the shooting at Joppatowne High School, the sheriff said at a media briefing.

A 16-year-old student whom police identified as the shooter fled shortly afterward but was caught minutes later nearby. "He has yet to be charged, but will be charged, and at the time those charges are preferred as an adult, we will release the name of the suspect," Gahler said.

Gahler also said that the sheriff's office has had more than 10 incidents since 2022



"where the suspect was either the victim, witness or the suspect in an incident handled by the Harford County Sheriff's Office," adding that the investigation was

in its early stages.

Shortly after the shooting, the sheriff's office asked people to avoid the area, but emphasized that the confrontation was an "isolated incident, not an active shooter." A parent-student reunification centre was established at a nearby church. More than 100 personnel responded to the high school about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northeast of Baltimore, Gahler said.

The fight happened two days after a shooter whom authorities identified as a 14-year-old student killed four people at a high school outside Atlanta. Wednesday's attack renewed debate about safe storage laws for guns and had parents wondering how to talk to their children about school shootings and trauma.

Turkish-American Woman "Shot In The Head" After Israeli Forces Open Fire

Nabulus. A Turkish-American woman was shot dead Friday while demonstrating against Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank town of Beita, where the army acknowledged opening fire. Turkey identified the woman as Aysenur Ezgi Eygi, condemning her death, while the United States called it a "tragic" event and called on its ally Israel to carry out an investigation. While Washington stopped short from blaming anyone, the UN rights office directly accused Israeli forces of killing Eygi, saying Israeli security forces "shot in the head and killed" her. The incident occurred as Israeli forces withdrew from a deadly 10-day raid in the West Bank city of Jenin, another flashpoint in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, amid the ongoing Gaza war. The raid, part of broader Israeli military

operations, has drawn international criticism, with Israeli ally Germany warning against escalating military actions in the West Bank. The UN said Eygi, 26, was participating in a "peaceful anti-settlement protest" in Beita, scene of weekly demonstrations. Israeli settlements in the West Bank -- where some 490,000 people live -- are illegal under international law. She arrived at the Rafidia hospital in Nabulus "with a gunshot in the head" and was later pronounced dead, said hospital director Fouad Nafaa. Turkey said she was killed by "Israeli occupation soldiers". President Recep Tayyip Erdogan condemned the Israeli action as "barbaric." "We are deeply disturbed by the tragic death of an American citizen," said White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

aboard Air Force One travelling with President Joe Biden. "We have reached out to the government of Israel to ask for more information and request an investigation into the incident," she added. The Israeli army said it was looking into her death. Eygi was a member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM), a pro-Palestinian organisation, and was in Beita for a weekly demonstration against Israeli settlements, said Neta Golan, the group's co-founder. Beita mayor Mahmud Barham said he was told an Israeli soldier "fired two shots" at protesters demonstrating against an Israeli settlement outpost, with one bullet hitting Eygi "in the head". An ISM activist, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the shot that killed Eygi was "a shot to kill" and

Goats, rabbits, horses: US man kills 81 animals in 3-hour shooting spree

The accused went on a shooting spree in Northern California and killed 81 animals, including miniature horses, goats and chickens.

San Francisco. A man suspected of going on a three-hour shooting rampage in Northern California and killing 81 animals, including miniature horses, goats and chickens, pleaded not guilty to animal cruelty and other charges.

Vicente Arroyo, 39, made his first court appearance Thursday after Monterey County Sheriff deputies arrested him earlier in the week for allegedly using several weapons to shoot the animals being housed in pens and cages on a lot in the small community of Prunedale. The animal owners do not want to be identified or speak with the media, Monterey County Sheriff Commander Andres Rosas told The Associated Press Friday.

"I went out there, and it was a pretty traumatic scene. These were people's pets," he said. One of the miniature horses belonged to the owner of the lot where the animals were housed, and the other 80 belonged to someone who rented the

land to house their pets, Rosas said. According to court records, Arroyo was charged with killing 14 goats, nine chickens, seven ducks, five rabbits, a guinea pig and 33 parakeets and cockatiels. Arroyo is also charged with killing a pony named Lucky and two miniature horses named Estrella and Princessa. KSBW-TV reported. Some animals survived the shooting that lasted several hours but had to be euthanized because of the severity of their injuries, Rosas said. Rosas said Arroyo lived in a camper in a vineyard next to the lot where the animals were kept and that a motive is not yet known. His attorney, William Pernik, said that after talking to Arroyo and his family he became concerned about his client's mental competency and asked the judge for a mental health evaluation. "We're dealing with an individual who has very serious charges and who does not appear to be in the



right state of mind to understand the proceedings against him," Pernik said. Pernik said that Arroyo's family had reached out to various country agencies to get help for him but that "unfortunately, he did not receive that mental health help in time before this tragic incident."

The judge ordered Arroyo, who is being held on a \$1 million bail, to undergo a mental evaluation. The court will get an update on Arroyo's mental status in two weeks, Pernik said. Authorities received multiple 911 calls around 3.25 am Tuesday reporting shots being fired in

Prunedale, an incorporated community about 8 miles (13 kilometres) from the city of Salinas, he said. Deputies who arrived on the scene could hear shots being fired, and a shelter-in-place was ordered for a five-mile radius. Monterey County SWAT members were sent in, and the sheriff's office also requested drone assistance from the nearby Seaside Fire Department and Gonzales Police Department, Rosas said. Officers in an armored vehicle arrested Arroyo without incident, he said. Deputies found a crashed pickup truck and recovered eight firearms, including long rifles, shotguns and handguns, at the scene. After executing a search warrant on Arroyo's camper, they found another seven firearms, including an illegal AK-47 assault rifle, two ghost guns, and about 2,000 rounds of various calibers of ammunition, Rosas said.

He Is "Very Pro-India": Hindu Group Endorses Trump Over Kamala Harris

Announcing the decision on Thursday, Hindus for America First chairman and founder Utsav Sanduja claimed that Harris would be "very destabilising for Indo-US relations".

Washington. Hindus for America First, a newly created grassroots organisation, has announced it will endorse Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and launch a campaign against Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris in the key battleground states of Pennsylvania, Georgia and North Carolina. Announcing the decision on Thursday, Hindus for America First chairman and founder Utsav Sanduja

claimed that Harris would be "very destabilising for Indo-US relations". "The concern is that if Kamala becomes the president of the United States, then she might put in some liberal wolves on the bench who may actually reverse the Supreme Court on this (and) that impacting the Asian-American voters," he said. The Biden-Harris administration has not kept the border secure, Harris is the second in command after President Joe Biden and did nothing to stem the flow of illegal immigrants into the US, he said. "As a consequence of all these illegal immigrants, we've seen record crime, record drug smuggling... and it ends up affecting minority communities, in particular many of the Asian-American business owners," he said. On the other hand, Sanduja praised Trump's efforts to make the immigration system more merit-based. He also lauded the



former president's efforts to bolster defence and technology cooperation with India. Trump is "very pro-India". He was able to cultivate an excellent relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and collaborate on many defence projects that would enable India to take on China, he said. Unlike Harris, who made a lot of "disparaging remarks" about the government and people of India, Trump did not interfere in the

country's internal affairs, Sanduja said. "Kamala Harris would be very destabilising for Indo-US relations," he claimed. He said Hindus for America First is organising efforts among Hindus in battleground states like Georgia, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Nevada against Harris. Sanduja said the global Hindu community is concerned about the attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh. "We would request all political entities concerned to raise this issue," he said, adding that the Hindus of Bangladesh are suffering. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com "I give President Trump a lot of credit. Under his leadership, the State Department acknowledged the persecution of Hindus in various parts of the subcontinent, like in Afghanistan... Pakistan, it was President Trump that took the leadership in acknowledging Hindu genocide," he said.

NEWS BOX

UTT: Diya helps Delhi set up summit clash with Goa

CHENNAI. Young Diya Chitale turned out to be the game-changer for Dabang Delhi TTC, as she kept her cool in the dying moments of the second semi-final to help the 2018 Ultimate Table Tennis (UTT) champions edge out debutants Ahmedabad SG Pipers 8-6 and charge into the final of the IndianOil UTT 2024 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai on Friday.

The G Sathiyani-led team from Delhi will now take on defending champions Athlead Goa Challengers in the clash for the title on Saturday. Ahmedabad SG Pipers were off to a promising start with Lilian Bardet defeating Sathiyani 2-1 (11-4, 5-11, 11-5) in the first men's singles. Orawan Paranang, who was later adjudged the Foreign Player of the Tie, outclassed the in-form World No.13 Bernadette Szocs by a 3-0 (11-7, 11-9, 11-9) margin to hand a 4-2 lead to Dabang Delhi TTC. Today's defeat was only the second for Bernadette in the entire season and ended a winning streak of four matches for the Romanian star.



Ahmedabad SG Pipers wrestled the lead right back as Bernadette and Indian Player of the Tie, Manush Shah continued their undefeated run this season by blanking the Dabang Delhi TTC pair of Orawan and Sathiyani 3-0 (11-9, 11-7, 11-9) in the mixed doubles match. Andreas Levenko kept Dabang Delhi TTC in the hunt by registering his first win of the season by defeating dangerous Manush 2-1 (11-8, 10-11, 11-8) in the second men's singles.

With the tie squared at 6-6, it all boiled down to the second women's singles and Diya ensured the ticket to the final for Dabang Delhi TTC with an effortless 2-0 (11-8, 11-4) over Reeth Rishya of Ahmedabad SG Pipers.

Fritz and Pegula: First time an American man and woman in US Open final since 2002

New Delhi. USA natives Taylor Fritz and Jessica Pegula reached the respective final in the men's and women's singles at the US Open 2024. This is the first time since 2002 that an American man and woman will compete in the singles event of US Open final. Defending champion from the USA Coco Gauff might have suffered an early exit in the quarter-final, but others ensured American representation at the event. It was an all-American semi-final between Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe, which happened for the first time since US Open 2005. It was Fritz who emerged victorious with a 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 win over Tiafoe at the Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York on September 7, Saturday (India time). In the women's singles semi-final, USA's Jessica Pegula reached her maiden Grand Slam final by beating Karolina Muchova 4-6, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4, 6-1. She set up a final clash against women's world No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka and Fritz will face men's world No. 1 Jannik Sinner. Going into the final, Fritz and Pegula might not be



ranked favourites against Sinner and Sabalenka who have been tough to beat at hard courts and won the Australian Open 2024 this year in the men's and women's draw categories.

2 Americans in US Open final

Seedings wise, Fritz and Pegula might not be favourites, but they would be having full support of the New York crowd who would be expected to be really noisy on the day of the finals. Sabalenka knew how to win not just the matches, but the crowds as well. A day after promising "drinks" to the New York crowd if they support her in the US Open 2024 semi-final against home favourite Emma Navarro, the World No.2, following her win against the 13th-seeded American, teased packed Arthur Ashe Stadium by saying their cheers came "a bit too late". As she would face Pegula, she already promised Margaritas to the crowd if they would cheer for her in the final.

This Italian town bans cricket as mayor targets Bangladeshi immigrants

Monfalcone has officially banned cricket, with fines up to €100 for those playing the sport within town limits. The ban is part of a broader anti-immigrant crackdown by the town's far-right mayor.

New Delhi. A town in northern Italy has banned cricket, a decision made by its mayor, who views the sport and the Bangladeshi immigrants who play it as foreign and "incompatible" with local culture. According to a report by the BBC, the town of Monfalcone officially banned the sport and has imposed fines of up to €100 on those found playing cricket within its limits. The ban has become a symbol of the broader ethnic tensions in Monfalcone, which is situated near Italy's Adriatic coast. The town—with a population of about 30,000—has nearly a third of its residents as

foreigners, mainly Bangladeshi Muslims who came in the late 1990s to work at a major shipyard. Monfalcone's cultural landscape has been reshaped with Bangladeshi restaurants, halal shops, and a network of cycle paths frequented by the South Asian community.

Mayor Anna Maria Cisint, representing former Prime Minister Matteo Salvini's far-right Lega party, campaigned on an anti-immigration platform and has made efforts to "protect local culture" and "Christian values." "Our history is being erased," she told the BBC, lamenting the changes she believes are negatively impacting the town.

Miah Bappy, a Bangladeshi migrant worker at Italy's largest shipyard, Fincantieri, told the BBC that he and his fellow countrymen are forced to play cricket on the outskirts of the city. Bappy explained that playing within Monfalcone attracted immediate police intervention. He cited a recent incident where Bengali teens were fined after being caught on security cameras while playing in a local park. But the cricket ban is merely the tip of the iceberg, reflecting a wider anti-



immigrant crackdown spearheaded by the mayor. During her two terms, Cisint has removed benches from the town square and criticised the attire of Muslim women at the beach. Tensions escalated when Cisint reportedly banned collective prayer at the town's two Islamic centres, citing urban planning issues. She also accused the Bangladeshi community of fostering "Islamic fundamentalism." On the cricket ban, Cisint told the BBC that the Bangladeshi community has contributed nothing to the city and should play elsewhere. She argued that there is neither space nor funds to build a cricket pitch and cites safety concerns over cricket balls. "They've given nothing to this city, to

our community. Zero." "They are free to go and play cricket anywhere else...outside of Monfalcone," she told the BBC. The mayor is also facing death threats due to her views on Muslims and has been under 24-hour police protection. Meanwhile, Cisint has accused Fincantieri of wage dumping, paying below market rates, but Cristiano Bazzara, the shipyard director, asserts that wages comply with Italian law. "We are not able to find trained workers. In Europe, it's very difficult to find young people who want to work in a shipyard," Bazzara told the BBC. Notably, Italy faces significant labour shortages and has one of Europe's lowest birth rates, necessitating a continued influx of foreign workers. The country is projected to need 280,000 foreign workers annually until 2050 to address the shrinking workforce. This has prompted Prime Minister Meloni to increase work permits for non-EU nationals despite running on an anti-immigration platform. Bangladeshi residents, such as 19-year-old Meheli, feel targeted by the mayor's actions and report harassment due to their heritage.

Jürgen Klopp returns to Borussia Dortmund for special testimonial match

Jürgen Klopp's return to Borussia Dortmund, seen in the club's official training kit, has fans buzzing with nostalgia. Back for a special testimonial match, his presence fuels speculation about his next managerial chapter.

New Delhi. Jürgen Klopp was spotted back at Borussia Dortmund's training ground, donning the Bundesliga side's official training kit, sending fans into a frenzy of excitement. The beloved manager has returned to Dortmund for a special testimonial match honouring club legends Lukas Piszczek and Jakub Błaszczykowski.



This marks Klopp's first time managing a match since his departure from Liverpool earlier this year. He will be taking charge of Błaszczykowski's special eleven, which is set to face off against Piszczek's team, comprising a mix of current and former Dortmund players. The event is highly

anticipated, with fans eager to see Klopp back on the sidelines at a club where he made a significant impact. Before making his mark in the Premier League with Liverpool, where he led the team to both Premier League and UEFA Champions League glory, Klopp's managerial career truly began to shine during his time at Borussia Dortmund. As head coach from 2008 to 2015, he led Dortmund to back-to-back Bundesliga titles in the 2010-11 and 2011-12 seasons, solidifying his reputation as one of the top managers in football. Klopp's return to Dortmund has reignited speculation about his future, as he has yet to decide on his long-term plans with any club. During his final days at Liverpool, Klopp mentioned that he would take time before choosing his next chapter, leaving fans and pundits alike wondering where his next destination might be. For now, though, his return to Dortmund is a nostalgic moment for fans who remember the glory days under his leadership.

ENG vs SL: England's Ollie Pope scripts Test cricket history with unique feat

England vice-captain Ollie Pope registered a unique feat as he scored his seventh Test century on Day 1 of the third Test against Sri Lanka. Pope scored an unbeaten 103 (103) on Day 1 at

New Delhi. England vice-captain Ollie Pope etched his name in history books as he registered his seventh century on Day 1 of the third Test against Sri Lanka on Friday, September 6 at Kennington Oval, London. Pope reached the landmark late on the opening day as he found a boundary through the off side and brought up his ton off just 102 balls. Following his landmark achievement, he scripted history to become the first player in the history of the game to score his first seven centuries in the longest format against seven different oppositions. Notably, Pope scored his maiden hundred (135*) against South Africa in Qqberha in

January 2020. He further scored 145 in June 2022 against New Zealand in Nottingham to register his second ton. Pope brought up his next four centuries against Pakistan (108), Ireland (205), India

class of reverse sweeps on a spinning surface to help England come back in the Test after conceding a 190-run lead in the first innings.

England finish Day 1 on 221/3



(196) and West Indies (121). The best innings of his career so far came against India earlier this year in the opening Test of the five-match series at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. He scored a phenomenal 196 (278) in a master

Courtesy of his effort, the Ben Stokes-led side set a target of 231 runs to chase down for India in the fourth innings and managed to win by 28 runs. Meanwhile, coming back to the third Test against Sri Lanka, England were asked to bat first by the Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva on a cloudy morning. Daniel Lawrence departed early scoring just 5 in the tenth over but Pope and Ben Duckett continued to keep the scoreboard moving with their 95-run stand. Duckett was dismissed for 86 by Milan Rathnayake while in-form Joe Root had a rare failure and departed for just 13 to leave England on 191/3. Following his dismissal, Pope (103*) and Harry Brook (8*) took England to stumps with the score on 221/3.

Dybala opens up on donning Messi's Argentina number 10 kit: I know it's not mine

Paulo Dybala embraced the honor of wearing Lionel Messi's iconic number 10 jersey during Argentina's World Cup Qualifier against Chile. Despite Messi's absence, Dybala expressed his determination to live up to the legendary number's values, contributing to Argentina's 2-0 victory.

New Delhi. Paulo Dybala had a heartwarming response when asked about the honor of wearing Lionel Messi's iconic number 10 jersey during Argentina's FIFA World Cup Qualifier against Chile on September 6. Messi was absent from the match due to an ankle injury sustained during the Copa America 2024 Final, which has also sidelined him from Inter Miami CF's ongoing Major League Soccer season. Dybala, who stepped into Messi's shoes, acknowledged the immense privilege and responsibility that comes with donning the legendary number 10 jersey. He expressed his deep respect for Messi and emphasized that he did his best to live up to the values associated with the iconic



number. The 30-year-old added that it was a decision made by the Argentinian coaching staff and supported by his teammates. "I know it's not my shirt, we all know it's Leo's shirt but well, I tried to represent it in the best way, to give my best and I think I was able to do it," Dybala said. "It

was a decision made by the coaching staff, some of the boys said that it had to be me. I didn't know whether to accept it or not because, well, it is a responsibility," Dybala added. Initially, Dybala wasn't part of the first 23 players called up for the qualifier but was eventually

included in the squad. He began the match on the bench and was brought on as a substitute in the 79th minute, replacing Liverpool's Alexis Mac Allister. At that point, Argentina was leading 1-0, thanks to a goal by Julián Alvarez.

"Paulo deserves it. He has the experience and talent to carry the number, and we shouldn't put too much weight on it. It's an honour," Argentina coach Lionel Scaloni said. Shortly after Dybala entered the field, Alvarez extended Argentina's lead, making it 2-0 and then it was the additional time which saw the AS Roma attacking midfielder score the third goal for his side and extending the special occasion for him up by another notch.



C and India D. India D captain Shreyas Iyer and Devdutt Padikkal played counter-attacking innings, both scoring fifties. However, the team lost five wickets in the final session, with Suthar claiming all five of them in the last 15 overs of the day.

Manav Suthar's 7-star performance

Manav Suthar impresses
The Anantapur pitch offered a sharp turn and bounce, and Suthar made full use of the conditions. The 22-year-old orchestrated a remarkable collapse, reducing India D from 186/4 to 203/8. His key scalps included Padikkal and the well-set Ricky Bhui. Suthar also cleaned up the tail, finishing with magical figures of 7/49 in 19.1 overs. Suthar made his Ranji Trophy debut for Rajasthan in 2022, boasting 65 wickets in 14 First-Class matches. His breakthrough season came in 2022-2023, when he emerged as Rajasthan's leading wicket-taker with 39 scalps. This year, he was part of India A, which hosted three unofficial Tests against the England Lions. He played one game and picked up five wickets across two innings.



Sonalee Kulkarni

Makes Ganesha Idol At Home With Brother

Ganesh Chaturthi is a major Hindu festival that marks the birth of Lord Ganesha, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. The festival is celebrated with great devotion for ten days, culminating in the immersion of Lord Ganesha's idol. In 2024, Ganesh Chaturthi celebrations will begin on Saturday, September 7, with the ten-day Ganesh Utsav concluding on Tuesday, September 17. Everyone is getting ready and are busy decorating their Ganesha idols. As Bappa is coming, there is a happy and festive atmosphere everywhere. Marathi actress Sonalee Kulkarni is also preparing for the Ganapati celebration. She has shared a video showing how hard she is working for the arrival of Lord Ganesha. Her video has caught everyone's

attention. Sonalee Kulkarni is ready to welcome Bappa. This year's Ganapathi Bappa has also been made by the actress at home. She has made a special Ganesha idol from Shadu soil. She shared a video of making a Ganesha idol. This video is



going viral on social media.

In the video shared by Sonalee, she along with her brother Atul Kulkarni are making a special idol of Ganapati Bappa together. From Shadu clay, they have made an idol in which Ganapati is sitting beside Lord Shiva's idol, and his mount mouse is also seen in front of him. This special concept of Sony is getting liked by netizens. People are seen pouring likes and comments on the video.

The 10-day Ganapati festival starts on the fourth day (Chaturthi) of the Hindu month of Bhadrapada, typically occurring between August and September in the Gregorian calendar. Hindus observe Ganesh Chaturthi, which is also known as Lord Ganesha's birthday, with great fervour and devotion in order to honour the Hindu deity and ask for his blessings on living a prosperous and trouble-free life. Sonalee Kulkarni was recently seen in the epic action drama film Malaikottai Vaaliban. This film is directed by Lijo Jose Pellissery and written by PS Rafeeqe from a story by Pellissery. The film stars Mohanlal in a dual role, alongside Sonalee Kulkarni, Hareesh Peradi, Danish Sait, Manoj Moses, Katha Nandi, and Manikandan R Achari in supporting roles.



Rakul Preet Singh

Jackky Bhagnani Step Out Of Gym After Intense Workout

Couples who workout together, stay together. It seems Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani are by this principle. A video showing the couple stepping out of a gym after what appears to be an intense workout is going viral. Carrying their water bottles in one hand and mobile phones in another, their post-workout glow was on-point. Twinning in all-black, the actress wore a black sports bra with matching tights and a sheer top and Jackky's wore a T-shirt and shorts.

Rakul and Jackky got married in an intimate wedding ceremony in Goa on February 21 this year. Earlier in May, Rakul Preet Singh decided to treat fans to a cute story of how her beau Jackky Bhagnani proposed to her before her wedding. Or, we should say how she "forced" him to propose to her. In an interview with Zoom, she shared, "No one knows the proposal story. I forced him to make a proper proposal for me. I said, 'I am not walking down that aisle till you propose.' Because the shaadi date was fixed, the parents have met and wedding prep is going on. So why hasn't he proposed? I was like I need a story. I know we are getting married but I need a story for life."

Rakul, then, went on to add that Jackky Bhagnani proposed to her on their combined bachelor's trip in December 2023. In an interesting revelation, the actress divulged, "Bhumi (Pednekar) played a big role. Because she orchestrated it, I couldn't guess." The actress was last seen in Indian 2 which had Kamal Haasan playing the lead role. Next, she will be seen in Meri Patni Ka Remake, co-starring Arjun Kapoor and Bhumi Pednekar. It is directed by Mudassar Aziz. The actress also has De De Pyaar De 2 in her kitty. It is expected to arrive in cinemas in May 2025.



Shilpa Shinde Alleges Sexual Assault by Bollywood Filmmaker: 'He Tried to Force Himself on Me'



Ever since the findings of the Justice Hema Committee Report were made public, several actors have come forward with shocking stories of sexual assault and harassment in the Malayalam, Tamil and Telugu film industries. Now, actress Shilpa Shinde has alleged that she was sexually assaulted by a Hindi filmmaker during the early days of her career. In an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, Shilpa Shinde claimed that she was once asked to seduce a filmmaker under the guise of an audition. She explained that she was "very innocent" at the time and, as a result, agreed to do the scene. However, when the situation escalated, she realised the producer was crossing boundaries and managed to push him away before running out. "It was during my struggling days, around 1998-99. I cannot take names, but they told me, 'Aap yeh kapde pehno aur yeh scene karo' (wear these clothes and do this scene). I didn't wear those clothes. In the scene, he told me he was my boss, and I had to seduce him. I was very innocent then, so I did the scene. That person tried to force himself on me, and I got so scared. I pushed him away and ran out. The security staff realised what had happened and asked me to leave immediately. They thought I would make a scene and call for help," she shared. However, the former Bigg Boss winner chose not to reveal the producer's name. "He was from the Hindi film industry. I agreed to do the scene because he was also an actor," she said, adding, "I'm not lying, but I cannot take his name. His children are probably a little younger than me, and if I name him, they will suffer too." Shilpa also recounted an encounter with the same producer years later. "After a few years, I met him again, and he spoke to me kindly. He didn't recognize me and even offered me a film role. I refused. He still doesn't remember me." The actress, who rose to fame with Bhabhi Ji Ghar Par Hai!, went on to say that similar experiences have happened to many others in the industry. "These things happen to everyone."

Ravi Dubey's Birthday Wish For Wife Sargun Mehta Is All Things Love



Ravi Dubey never shies away from PDA for his wife Sargun Mehta on social media. On Sargun's 36th birthday on Friday, the actor dropped an Instagram post featuring photos of the duo looking at their ravishing best. The post was accompanied by a heartwarming birthday note for Sargun, "Happy birthday to my life, my wife, my deity, my everything... I love you my darling," Ravi wrote in the captions.

In the images shared with the post, both Ravi and Sargun are dressed in traditional attire. While the actor is wearing a black sherwani with a contrasting golden and silver waistcoat, Sargun looks straight out of a dream in a golden lehenga set. Ravi Dubey is completely smitten by his wife Sargun Mehta and his social media timeline is proof of it. The actor's birthday post for Sargun from last year screamed just love. Dropping an album that featured their pictures from various occasions, Ravi wrote, "Humesha lagta tha mujhe ki Sargun meri kismet hai...magar Sargun sirf meri kismet nahi, woh sakshaat kismet hi hai...Jis cheez ko haath laga de woh sona ho jaye...jise dekh bhar le uspe rehmat bars jaye, meri hasrat, neymat, shohrat, Barkat sab tumse hai...janamdin mubarak kismet. P.S. This is your world Sargun Mehta, we just live in it. happy birthday."

Talking about her relationship with Ravi, Sargun powered her heart out. "I felt that he was like those men you read about in books. If I had typed it out on the computer with all the things that I liked, I would have printed it out! He checked every checkbox that I ever had, the actress said. "But when he proposed to me for marriage, I was a bit taken aback. It was out of the blue, but after some point, there was no second thought about it. It just felt perfect right from the beginning," added Sargun Mehta. Ravi Dubey proposed to Sargun Mehta in a dramatic manner in December 2012 during their appearance on Nach Baliye Season 5. Right after their performance, he knelt and popped the question with a solitaire ring. On December 7, 2013, the couple exchanged vows in a traditional Hindu ceremony.