



Priya Prakash Varrier's Golden...

SHARE	
सेंसेक्स	: 82,948.23
निफ्टी	: 25,377.55

SARAFI	
सोना	: 6,795
चांदी	: 98.05
(नोट : सोना 22 कैरेट प्रति ग्राम)	

BRIEF NEWS

आज रांची आएंगी राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू, कल कार्यक्रम

RANCHI : गुरुवार को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू झारखंड के दो दिवसीय दौरे पर रांची आ रही हैं। उनके दौरे की तैयारियां पुलिस प्रशासन की ओर से पूरी कर ली गई हैं। राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू 19 सितंबर की शाम 7.00 बजे रांची एयरपोर्ट पहुंचेंगी और सीधे राजभवन चली जाएंगी। 19 सितंबर की रात राजधानी में ही राष्ट्रपति विश्राम करेंगी। 20 सितंबर की सुबह 10.00 बजे के करीब राष्ट्रपति नामकुम स्थित इंडियन काउंसिल ऑफ एपीकेल्वर रिसर्व के कार्यक्रम में शिरकत करेंगी। करीब 12.30 बजे राष्ट्रपति नामकुम स्थित कार्यक्रम स्थल से निकलकर रांची एयरपोर्ट पहुंचेंगी और फिर वहां से वापस लौट जाएंगी। रांची पुलिस के द्वारा राष्ट्रपति की सुरक्षा के पुख्ता इंतजाम किए गए हैं। वहीं, सुरक्षा के तौर पर 6 आईपीएस सहित दो हजार जवानों की तैनाती की गई है।

दो दिवसीय दौरे पर आज रांची आएंगे अमित शाह

RANCHI : गुरुवार को केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री अमित शाह रांची आएंगे। परिवर्तन यात्रा को सफल बनाने के लिए भारतीय जनता पार्टी के सभी बड़े चेहरे झारखंड के दौरे पर रहेंगे। भाजपा प्रवक्ता प्रदीप सिन्हा ने इसकी जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि अमित शाह रांची के रेडिसन ब्लू होटल में विश्राम करेंगे और अगले दिन 20 सितंबर को सुबह 11.30 बजे भाजपा में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भाग लेंगे। अमित शाह के झारखंड दौरे के बारे में जानकारी देते हुए भाजपा के प्रदेश प्रवक्ता प्रदीप सिन्हा ने बताया कि भोगनाडीह के बाद केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री साहिबगंज के पुलिस लाइन मैदान में आयोजित विशाल जनसभा को संबोधित करने वाले हैं, जिसके बाद अमित शाह गिरिडीह के जमुआ में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भाग लेंगे। उन्होंने कहा कि परिवर्तन यात्रा को सफल बनाने के लिए राज्य के सभी जगहों पर व्यापक तैयारी की जा रही है। स्वाभाविक रूप से संथाल की धरती केंद्रीय गृह मंत्री के आगमन और उनके संबोधन को सुनने का इंतजार कर रही हैं।

झारखंड कैबिनेट की बैठक कल, होंगे कई निर्णय

RANCHI : झारखंड कैबिनेट की बैठक 20 सितंबर को बुलाई गई है। सीएम हेमंत सोरेन की अध्यक्षता में कैबिनेट की बैठक शाम चार बजे से होगी। प्रोजेक्ट भवन में होने वाली बैठक में हेमंत सोरेन सरकार जनहित में कई अहम फैसले लेगी। मंत्रिमंडल सचिवालय एवं निगरानी विभाग (समन्वय) द्वारा सूचित किया गया है कि झारखंड कैबिनेट (मंत्रिपरिषद्) की बैठक 20 सितंबर की शाम 4 बजे से होगी। झारखंड मंत्रालय (प्रोजेक्ट भवन) स्थित मंत्रिपरिषद् कक्ष में बैठक आयोजित की जाएगी। झारखंड कैबिनेट की पिछली बैठक छह सितंबर को बुलाई गई थी। प्रोजेक्ट भवन में सीएम हेमंत सोरेन की अध्यक्षता में मुख्यमंत्री ट्रांसजेंडर पेंशन योजना समेत 63 प्रस्तावों पर कैबिनेट ने मुहर लगाई थी।

'वन नेशन, वन इलेक्शन' को केन्द्रीय कैबिनेट की मिली हरी झंडी

AGENCY NEW DELHI : बुधवार को प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की अध्यक्षता में हुई केंद्रीय कैबिनेट की मीटिंग में देश में लोकसभा के साथ विधानसभा चुनाव (वन नेशन, वन इलेक्शन) करवाने के प्रस्ताव को हरी झंडी दे दी गई। बिल शीतकालीन सत्र यानी नवंबर-दिसंबर में संसद में पेश किया जाएगा। कैबिनेट मीटिंग के बाद केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने कहा कि 'पहले फेज में विधानसभा और लोकसभा चुनाव साथ होंगे। इसके बाद 100 दिन के भीतर दूसरे फेज में निकाय चुनाव साथ कराए जाएंगे। याद कीजिए, 17 सितंबर को गृह मंत्री अमित शाह ने कहा था कि सरकार इसी कार्यक्रम में 'वन नेशन वन इलेक्शन' लागू करेगी। 15 अगस्त को प्रधानमंत्री ने कहा था कि बार-बार चुनाव देश की प्रगति में बाधा पैदा कर रहे हैं। वन नेशन, वन इलेक्शन पर विचार के लिए बनाई गई पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविंद की अध्यक्षता वाली कमिटी ने 14 मार्च को राष्ट्रपति द्रौपदी मुर्मू को अपनी रिपोर्ट सौंप दी थी। रिपोर्ट 18 हजार 626 पन्नों की है।

मोदी सरकार का बड़ा फैसला नवंबर-दिसंबर में संसद में आएगा बिल, अगले 100 दिनों में होंगे निकाय चुनाव



साझा मतदाता सूची व मतदाता पहचान पत्र बनाने की सिफारिश

पैनल 2 सितंबर 2023 को बनाया गया था। यह रिपोर्ट स्टैटोलेक्स्-एक्सपर्ट्स से चर्चा के बाद 19 दिन की रिसर्च का नतीजा है। कमेटी ने सभी विधानसभाओं का कार्यक्रम 2029 तक करने का सुझाव दिया है। समिति ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में भारत के निर्वाचन आयोग की ओर से राज्य निर्वाचन प्राधिकारियों से विचार-विमर्श कर एक साझा मतदाता सूची और मतदाता पहचान पत्र बनाने की भी सिफारिश की है। फिलहाल लोकसभा और

कोविंद समिति के महत्वपूर्ण सुझाव

- सभी राज्य विस का कार्यकाल अगले लोकस चुनाव यानी 2029 तक बढ़ाया जाए।
- हंग असेंबली, जो कॉन्फिडेंस मोशन होने पर बाकी 5 साल के कार्यकाल के लिए नए सिरे से चुनाव कराया जा सकता है।
- पहले फेज में लोकसभा-विस चुनाव एकसाथ कराए जा सकते हैं, उसके बाद दूसरे फेज में 100 दिनों के भीतर लोकल बांडी के इलेक्शन कराए जा सकते हैं।
- चुनाव आयोग लोकस, विस व स्थानीय निकाय चुनावों के लिए राज्य चुनाव अधिकारियों के परामर्श से सिंगल वोटर लिस्ट और वोटर आई कार्ड तैयार करेगा।
- कोविंद पैनल ने एक साथ चुनाव कराने के लिए उपकरणों, जनशक्ति और सुरक्षा बलों की एडवांस प्लानिंग की सिफारिश की है।

अन्य प्रस्तावों पर मुहर

केंद्रीय मंत्री अश्विनी वैष्णव ने कहा कि चंद्रयान 4 मिशन का विस्तार किया गया है। इसका अगला कदम चंद्रमा पर मानव मिशन भेजना है। कैबिनेट की बैठक में इस दिशा में सभी प्रारंभिक चरणों को मंजूरी दे दी गई है। केंद्रीय मंत्रिमंडल ने वैज्ञानिक अन्वेषण और शुक्र के वायुमंडल, भूविज्ञान की बेहतर समझ और इसके घने वातावरण की बड़ी मात्रा में वैज्ञानिक डेटा हासिल करने के लिए वीनस ऑर्बिटल मिशन को भी मंजूरी दे दी है। कैबिनेट ने भारी वजन ले जाने में सक्षम अगली पीढ़ी के प्रक्षेपण यान को मंजूरी दी है। इसके तहत पृथ्वी की निचली कक्षा में 30 टन का पेलोड स्थापित किया जाएगा।

जामताड़ा में 'सरकार आपके द्वार' कार्यक्रम में शामिल हुए सीएम भाजपा वाले हिंदू-मुस्लिम के नाम पर बांटेंगे, रहिएगा सतर्क : हेमंत

भाजपा वाले हिंदू-मुस्लिम के नाम पर बांटेंगे, रहिएगा सतर्क : हेमंत

PHOTON NEWS RANCHI : बुधवार को मुख्यमंत्री हेमंत सोरेन ने जामताड़ा जिले के कुंडहित प्रखंड के धेनुकडीह मैदान में आयोजित हबआपकी योजना, आपकी सरकार, आपके द्वार कार्यक्रम में लोगों को संबोधित करते हुए कहा कि झारखंड में विधानसभा चुनाव का समय करीब आ रहा है। भाजपा वाले लोग व पंचायतों में पहुंचेंगे। हिंदू-मुस्लिम, आदिवासी-गैरआदिवासी के नाम पर लोगों को बांटने का प्रयास करेंगे। संथाल में बंगाल, बिहार की बात करेंगे। इसमें फंसने की जरूरत नहीं है। इनके झांसे में आने की जरूरत नहीं है। इन लोगों से सतर्क रहिएगा। झारखंड में गरीब-गुरबा की सरकार है और बनेगी। मुख्यमंत्री ने कार्यक्रम में जामताड़ा जिले के लिए 101 योजनाओं का शिलान्यास किया। इन योजनाओं की लागत 9025.64 लाख रुपये है। 30403.64 लाख की 174 योजनाओं का उद्घाटन भी मुख्यमंत्री ने किया।

झारखंड के खिलाफ साजिश करने वालों को चुनाव में देना होगा मुंहतोड़ जवाब

9025.64 लाख रुपये की 101 योजनाओं का किया शिलान्यास **30403.64 लाख रुपये की 174 योजनाओं का उद्घाटन भी किया**



लाखों लोगों को अबुआ आवास से जोड़ा

हेमंत ने कहा कि भाजपा के ये राजनीतिक गिद्ध अब संथाल परगना और बिहार को मिलाकर अलग राज्य बनाना चाहते हैं। ऐसे लोगों को बारे में बंद कर गुजरात के समदर में फेंकने की जरूरत है। एक तरफ पूजापतिवों की जमात है और दूसरी तरफ गरीब। लोकसभा में जिस तरह इन्हें झारखंड में सीख मिली है, ऐसी ही सीख विधानसभा में भी देने की जरूरत है। जहां लोग झगड़ा करते हैं वहीं इनकी राजनीतिक रोटी पकती है, जहां लोग शांति से रहते हैं, वहां इनकी राजनीतिक रोटी नहीं पकती। इन्हें पड़वत का मुंह तोड़ जवाब देना है। हेमंत ने कहा कि हमने लाखों लोगों को अबुआ आवास से जोड़ने का काम किया है। आने वाले 5 वर्ष के अंदर सभी 20 लाख गरीबों को अबुआ आवास देने का लक्ष्य है। सभी चुनाव आता देख केंद्र सरकार, झारखंड में एक-डेढ़ लाख आवास का झुनझुन दिखा रही है। यहां 20 लाख लोगों को आवास मिलना है, लेकिन इसका जवाब भाजपा के पास नहीं है। यह व्यापारियों की जमात है। ये गरीबों को पैसा नहीं देंगे, बल्कि महंगाई बढ़ाकर आपकी जेब से पैसा काट कर अपना जेब भरने का काम करेंगे।

30628 लाख रुपये की परिसंपत्तियों का वितरण

कार्यक्रम के दौरान 263734 लाभुकों में 30628 लाख की परिसंपत्तियों का वितरण किया गया। दुमका जिले के लिए 12 योजनाओं का शिलान्यास किया गया, जिसकी लागत 95.24 करोड़ रुपये है। कार्यक्रम में बड़ी संख्या में लाभुक शामिल हुए थे। जिला प्रशासन की ओर से कार्यक्रम को लेकर पुख्ता प्रबंध किए गए थे। मुख्यमंत्री के यहां पहुंचने पर उनका जोरदार स्वागत किया गया। मंच पर झामुमो के कई नेता व स्थानीय कार्यकर्ता भी मौजूद रहे।

किश्तवाड़ में सबसे ज्यादा 77.23% व पुलवामा में सबसे कम 46.03% मतदान जम्मू कश्मीर : फर्स्ट फेज में 58.85 प्रतिशत वोटिंग

AGENCY SRINAGAR बुधवार को जम्मू-कश्मीर विधानसभा चुनाव के पहले फेज में 7 जिलों की 24 विधानसभा सीटों पर वोटिंग हुई। इस दौरान मतदान का प्रतिशत 58.85 रहा। चुनाव आयोग के मुताबिक, किश्तवाड़ में सबसे ज्यादा 77.23% और पुलवामा में सबसे कम 46.03% वोटिंग हुई। दूसरे नंबर पर डोडा 69.33%, तीसरे नंबर पर रामबन 67.71% रहा। बिजबहरा विधानसभा सीट से पीडीपी की प्रत्याशी श्लितजा मुफ्ती ने वोट डाला, वे पार्टी प्रमुख

64 उम्मीदवारों की किस्मत ईवीएम में कैद, हाल में बढ़ी हैं आतंकी गतिविधियां

चुनाव के बाद राज्य का दर्जा बहाल होने की उम्मीद

भद्रवाह के बाद गांव निवासी पंडित शांति प्रकाश (96) ने कहा, हमें खुशी है कि 10 साल के लंबे अंतराल के बाद आखिरकार विधानसभा चुनाव हो रहे हैं, जिससे हमें अपनी सरकार चुनने का मौका मिला है। हमें उम्मीद है कि चुनाव के बाद राज्य का दर्जा बहाल हो जाएगा। चौबिधा लिक रोड के पास रहने वाले नवीन कोतवाल (64) ने कहा कि वह पिछले 10 वर्षों में जम्मू कश्मीर के लोगों पर हुए अन्याय के खिलाफ और राज्य को दर्जा बहाल करने के लिए मतदान कर रहे हैं। चिनोडे गांव के पूर्व सचिव खालिद बशीर मुगल (52) ने कहा कि मतदान की शुरुआत से ही मतदाताओं की भारी भीड़ लोगों की सरकार चुनने की इच्छा को दर्शाती है।

महबूबा मुफ्ती की बेटी हैं। किश्तवाड़ से बीजेपी की कैडिडेट शगुन परिहार ने भी वोट डाला। विधानसभा चुनाव के पहले चरण में 64 उम्मीदवारों के भाग्य का फैसला होना है। डोडा और किश्तवाड़ समेत क्षेत्र के कुछ हिस्सों में जून से आतंकी गतिविधियों में वृद्धि हुई है, जिसमें दो अधिकारियों सहित छह सैन्यकर्मियों की जान चली गई और चार आतंकीवादी मारे गए।

कोलकाता रेप-मर्डर केस



डॉक्टरों का हड़ताल खत्म करने से इनकार, ममता से फिर मीटिंग की मांग

KOLKATA : कोलकाता के जूनियर डॉक्टरों ने हड़ताल खत्म करने से इनकार कर दिया है। उन्होंने ममता से एक और मीटिंग की मांग करते हुए वीथ संक्रेटरों को हटाने से इनकार कर दिया है। उन्होंने ममता से एक और मीटिंग की मांग करते हुए वीथ संक्रेटरों को हटाने से इनकार कर दिया है। उन्होंने ममता से एक और मीटिंग की मांग करते हुए वीथ संक्रेटरों को हटाने से इनकार कर दिया है। उन्होंने ममता से एक और मीटिंग की मांग करते हुए वीथ संक्रेटरों को हटाने से इनकार कर दिया है।

एक घंटे तक लगातार होते रहे विस्फोट, 2700 से अधिक लोग जख्मी, 200 की हालत गंभीर

लेबनान में पेजर ब्लास्ट, 19 लोगों की गई जान

AGENCY NEW DELHI : लेबनान सीरियल पेजर विस्फोट से दहल गया। धमाकों में अब तक 19 लोगों की जान चली गई। आतंकी समूह हिजबुल्लाह के गुर्गों के हजारों पेजर एक साथ फट गए। लेबनान के पंजर मंत्री ने राज्य मीडिया को बताया कि इन धमाकों में कम से कम 19 लोग मारे गए और 2700 से अधिक घायल हुए। लेबनान के समाचार पत्र 'ऑरिएंट टूडे' के अनुसार, अधिकतर पेजर विस्फोट बेरुत के दहिर, दक्षिणी लेबनान के टायर, नबातिह और मरजायून और बेका में हुए। लेबनान के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री के अनुसार, घायलों में हिजबुल्लाह के लड़ाके और चिकित्सक शामिल हैं। बताया गया है कि यह धमाके दोपहर 3:45 बजे के बाद से एक घंटे तक लगातार होते रहे।

एक साथ फट गए आतंकी समूह हिजबुल्लाह के गुर्गों के हजारों पेजर, इजरायल को ढहराया जा रहा दोषी



अब वॉकी-टॉकी में भी विस्फोट, तीन की मौत

लेबनान में पेजर में हुए धमाकों के बाद अब वॉकी-टॉकी में विस्फोट हुए। अलजजीरा के मुताबिक, इस हमले में अब तक 3 लोगों की मौत हुई है, वहीं सैकड़ों घायल हुए हैं। राजधानी बेरुत के कई इलाकों में धमाकों की जानकारी सामने आई है। इनमें से एक धमाका हिजबुल्लाह सांसद अली अम्मर के बेटे के अंतिम संस्कार के समय हुआ। वह पेजर में हुए धमाके में मारा गया था। लेबनान में हिजबुल्लाह के लड़ाके एक-दूसरे से बातचीत के लिए इन वॉकी-टॉकी का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। मिडिल ईस्ट में तनाव के बीच लेबनान में यह दूसरा बड़ा तकनीकी हमला है।

गिरफ्तारी की मांग को लेकर रोका गया विसर्जन

गणेश विसर्जन के दौरान मिवंडी में अचानक पथराव

AGENCY MUMBAI : महाराष्ट्र के भिवंडी में मंगलवार की देर रात में गणेश विसर्जन के दौरान रैली पर पथराव किया गया। इससे भगवान गणेश की मूर्ति विखंडित हो गई। इसके बाद लोगों ने पथरबाजों की गिरफ्तारी की मांग को लेकर विसर्जन रोक दिया है। उधर, राजस्थान के भीलवाड़ा में बुधवार को गणेश मूर्ति विसर्जित किए जाने के बाद पंडाल में जानवरों के अंग मिलने से सनसनी फैल गई। इसके बाद लोगों ने प्रदर्शन किया। भीलवाड़ा के शाहपुर इलाके में स्कूल आदि बाजार बंद कर दिए गए हैं। ठाणे के एडिशनल कमिश्नर ज्ञानेश्वर चव्हाण ने बताया- मंगलवार रात करीब 12 बजे एक धर्मस्थल के पास कुछ लोगों ने पथराव कर दिया, इससे विसर्जन के लिए जा रही मूर्ति खंडित हो गई।



राजस्थान के भीलवाड़ा में मूर्ति विसर्जित करने के बाद पंडाल में मिले जानवरों के अंग

Our China policy needs diplomacy & deterrence

of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh continues, India's stance on the border issue has remained steadfast. National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, while interacting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recently on the sidelines of a meeting of the BRICS NSAs, emphasised that peace and respect for the LAC were precursors to the normalisation of India-China relations. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has also been reiterating this stand during his interactions with his Chinese counterpart, in Kazakhstan and Laos in July this year during the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit and ASEAN Plus meeting, respectively. A few days ago, speaking at the Global Centre for Security Policy in Geneva, Jaishankar said while negotiations were underway, about 75 per cent of the disengagement issues at the LAC had been resolved. He again highlighted that while there was violence between the militaries of the two countries, the rest of the bilateral relationship could not be insulated from it. There cannot be a clearer statement from the political executive about the state of affairs, future expectations and prerequisites for peace. Like Jaishankar, Wang Yi has also been a career diplomat, adept at handling sensitive situations. Beijing's stance has always been ambiguous, emphasising on niceties and engagement, with the Chinese media, controlled by the Communist Party, often misquoting contents of bilateral exchanges to gain a perceived moral high ground. Though there are indications of some progress in resolving dispute points in Ladakh, but caution should always remain the buzzword in dealing with China.

The Chinese are used to picking quarrels, flexing military muscle and browbeating their neighbours. This is particularly so with countries having legitimate claims in the South China Sea (SCS). While bullying is the hallmark of its diplomacy, whether it is Taiwan, Vietnam, Philippines or the WHO, it may not have bargained for such a firm resolve from India. In fact, China's inability to ride roughshod in the border dispute with India seems to have become a major irritant that it finds problematic to handle. It would surely wish to resolve the disputes along the LAC, entirely on its terms. Despite having been stymied at Doklam in southwest Bhutan or in east Ladakh, China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has circumvented any disadvantage by encroaching upon Bhutan on the eastern flank of the Chumbi valley and by optimum use of the terrain that favours it along the LAC in Ladakh. Among China's pressing security concerns, like the Taiwan issue, sovereignty disputes with Philippines, Vietnam and other ASEAN nations in the SCS, the Himalayan borders appear to be the most vexing as the opponent can match up to it. Often enough, the difference between India and China in terms of comprehensive national power, which includes not only military muscle but also technology and economy, gets highlighted as a major concern for India. That may well be, but an armed conflict across the LAC will not be a viable option for China, and what Prime Minister Modi told Russia about "this not being an era of war," is equally applicable to Communist China. Instead, it will continuously endeavour to gain advantages through skirmishes on the northern border, while talking about peace and engagement. This would keep its manufactured claims alive and help in tying down India to an extent. The clear answer for India lies in considering the LAC in a holistic manner and not have a compartmentalised approach. Theatre commands have been on the anvil for quite some time and finally seem to be taking shape.

However, before a joint tri-services structure fructifies, it is imperative that the Army should look at a comprehensive application of its formations, from eastern Arunachal until Ladakh. Along the vast and hostile terrain in Kameng, Subansiri and beyond until the Lohit valley, the topography offers advantages to our forces. The watershed in Sikkim, especially in the east, which overlooks the Chumbi valley, is probably the most dominant stretch from the Indian perspective.

Sanjauli mosque row rooted in anti-minority sentiment

Rising Islamophobia, legal prohibitions and a deepening sense of insecurity have led many Muslims to seek refuge in ghettos.

AS I walked through Shimla one morning, a sanitation worker, Vinod (name changed), remarked, "Inn Mullon ne Shimla mein gandh daal rakha hai," (Muslims are causing a nuisance in Shimla). His comment reflected the widespread hatred fuelled by the controversy over the Sanjauli mosque in the town. He claimed that the mosque was illegally built. Ironically, Vinod's house is on government forest land, a fact I was well aware of from my time as deputy mayor when policies were introduced to provide basic utilities to residents like him. When I asked him about the legality of his house compared to the mosque, he fell silent. This highlights that the issue is not just about legality but also has a strong religious undercurrent, and thus a different narrative is being built. Across Indian cities, the distinction between 'legal' and 'illegal' is often blurred. Legality isn't just about land ownership but also about compliance with sanctioned building plans. Any settlement on government land is illegal unless legalised by special laws passed by the government. Even if a structure is built on privately owned land, it may still be illegal if it exceeds building plan limits. Government authorities, however, possess vast powers to convert illegal sites or structures into legal ones. Examples include the new Parliament building in New Delhi, where a designated district land use was changed and the building was constructed on it, and the entire Central Vista project. In Shimla, similar transformations include the state secretariat, the HP High Court and the lawyers' chambers there, Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital's 14-storey building and a building of a Hindu right-wing organisation at Nabha. Shimla's relationship with legality is complex. Built by the British, the town has one of the oldest municipalities in India, dating back to 1851. Over time, numerous land-use changes have occurred. While several areas merged into the municipal corporation are governed by the Town and Country Planning Act of 1979, other areas in old Shimla still operated under the Interim Development Plan till the Shimla Development Plan was finalised recently. Despite regularisation drives, an estimated 15,000 houses in Shimla remain classified as illegal.

Religious buildings, particularly Hindu temples (mandirs), gurdwaras and mosques, are often found violating the law of the land. The Sanjauli mosque stands on land owned by the Waqf Board, but additional floors



were constructed without authorisation. The famous Ram Temple in Shimla stands over 140 ft tall, with no regularisation certificate and an encroachment on municipal land. Other religious buildings face similar issues. The Summer Hill temple, where 20 people were killed in a landslide in 2023, is built on forest land without permission. The bus stand gurdwara and the temple next to Dhalli police station also lack the necessary approvals; in fact, the temple is on government land. The temple between Tutikandi bus stand and crossing is likewise on forest land, violating numerous laws. This pattern underscores how even religious spaces fall in the ambiguous zone of legality. In her seminal work *The Origins of Totalitarianism*, political philosopher Hannah Arendt noted, "Only the mob and the elite can be attracted by the momentum of totalitarianism. The masses have to be won by propaganda." This is relevant to India today, where both elites and mobs have justified attacks on minorities. The controversy over the Sanjauli mosque is just one of the many recent incidents rooted in anti-minority sentiment, and part of the totalitarian design. A Netflix series, *Leila*, shows a dystopian future where Hindutva extremism merges with technology to segregate society. The definition of what is legal or illegal is relative. Anything constructed by minorities is often labelled illegal. A study by students from the School of Planning

and Architecture in Delhi, which I guided, examined how the State forced Muslims into ghettos over the last century. It found that Muslims were pushed into shanty towns and slums, occupying whatever land was available. This isn't unique to Muslims — large sections of the urban working class have also been relegated to slums due to exclusive city planning. However, under BJP rule since 2014, the situation has worsened, particularly for Muslims.

A striking example comes from a 1977 Delhi Development Authority (DDA) pamphlet on the Delhi Squatters Resettlement Project: "The urban poor live in dilapidated settlements that cling precariously to hillsides, line smelly canals, block roadsides, or crowd inner-city alleys. In their tattered misery, they mock the aspiration of all those who yearn to make their cities sophisticated and modern." The pamphlet clearly dehumanised the urban poor, especially migrants.

Archives of the Delhi Municipal Corporation's Slum Development Department mention the Turkman Gate massacre during the Emergency, when Muslims were targeted under the guise of a slum clearance drive and a sterilisation campaign. Jagmohan, then Vice-Chairman of the DDA, was allegedly asked whether displaced Muslims could be resettled in a new colony. His chilling response was "Do you think we are mad to destroy one Pakistan to create another?" This mindset persists today, particularly against the Muslim community.

In her book *Accumulation by Segregation: Muslim Localities in Delhi*, Ghazala Jamil argues that Muslim ghettoisation is driven by neoliberal development policies and targeted persecution. Anything a Muslim builds is labelled illegal, and this justifies its demolition by the State. It's not just the physical structures that are being targeted — the goal is to attack the very idea of Muslim asset creation.

Rising Islamophobia, encounters with legal prohibitions, and a deepening sense of insecurity have led many Muslims to seek refuge in ghettos. This self-segregation further alienates them from urban development processes, exactly what the Hindutva forces desire. A few days ago, the Muslim community in Shimla offered to raze unauthorised portions of the Sanjauli mosque. Will such a proposal ever be made by the committees of temples, some of which are built on government land?

One nation, one poll

Govt not doing enough to build consensus

THE first 100 days of Modi 3.0 have been marked by policy flip-flops prompted by coalition pressures. Dependent on allies for the first time in a decade to come to terms with the changed reality. In a desperate effort to assert itself and appear unfazed by its weakened position in the Lok Sabha, the party has gone back to its 'one nation, one election' (ONOE) plank. In his Independence Day address last month, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to various political parties to unite in backing this initiative. He reiterated that frequent elections were impeding India's progress. Now, it has been reported that the NDA government is optimistic about implementing this all-important poll reform during its current term.

This optimism, bordering on overconfidence, conveniently overlooks the fact that several Opposition parties have opposed the idea of holding simultaneous polls. The BJP's renewed push for ONOE is



understandable: it continues to be the predominant political party in the country despite the significant gains

made by the Congress in this year's Lok Sabha elections. The saffron party stands to benefit the most if voters exercise their franchise once in five years rather than every two years or so. However, regional parties not aligned with the NDA may be at a disadvantage if the Assembly and parliamentary polls — which are often contested on dissimilar issues — are held together.

A level playing field is a must in a democracy. The BJP would do well to try harder to build consensus on ONOE and dispel doubts raised by stakeholders regarding its feasibility. This will be an uphill task as the Opposition is no longer a pushover. The point that 'one election' will ensure continuity in governance and reduce the burden in terms of manpower and finances is well taken, but the threat it can pose to India's federal structure should not be dismissed lightly.

Go all out to combat toxic masculinity

Need to move towards a sane society reasonably free from the virus of sexual violence

IT's been over a month since a trainee doctor was raped and murdered in Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. An incident of this kind — and that too inside a government medical college — shocked the city or, for that matter, the entire West Bengal. Not surprisingly, a spontaneous social movement initiated by a spectrum of people — ranging from young doctors, students and ordinary men and women to the cultural elite — has shaken an otherwise 'popular' Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The tales of massive corruption and political networking in government medical colleges; the danger to the safety and dignity of trainee doctors; and the lack of trust in the state government as far as an impartial inquiry is concerned — yes, it is not easy for the Chief Minister to overcome this 'legitimation crisis'.

I notice positive things in this movement: the determination of trainee doctors to fight for their cause and the carnival of protest — the way ordinary citizens are coming to the street, occupying the public space even late at night and singing the songs of 'justice'. Moreover, an attempt to rescue this people's movement from the direct influence of mainstream political parties possibly indicates how 'politics' — particularly, the kind of politics professional politicians engage in — has acquired a bad connotation in our times.

However, the fact is that a movement of this kind will not last forever. The CBI will reveal its findings; the Supreme Court will give its judgment; the state government will try to negotiate with the doctors; the guilty will be punished; and some — including the CM — will continue to plea for capital punishment.

And then, everything will be 'normal'! Possibly, some of these young doctors who are protesting now will begin to prioritise more 'earthly' things, and eventually join corporate private hospitals, and sell 'good health' to their upper class clients as a commodity. And the cultural elite singing the songs of emancipation in the streets of Kolkata will come back to their own exclusivist spheres of work. And meanwhile, we will hear about yet another story of rape... Don't forget that we have almost normalised sexual violence in our society. As per the annual National Crime Records Bureau report, between 2017 and 2022, a total of 1.89 lakh rape cases were reported in India. And in a class-divided, caste-centric society, who bothers about the victim if she is a Dalit woman, a domestic help, or even a schoolgirl in an unknown village? No social movement will take place; nobody will sing the songs of gender justice in the streets of Kolkata and Delhi.

In fact, if we wish to resist this rot, and try to move towards a sane society reasonably free from the virus of sexual violence, we need to take part in yet another movement — psychic, educational and cultural — to combat the pathology called toxic masculinity. Well, in our families, boys grow up with a belief that they have to be bold, hard and courageous. However, toxic masculinity has got nothing to do with life-affirming courage, confidence and inner strength. Instead, it is a form of sadistic pleasure in causing harm to others. It is devoid of empathy and care. It glorifies violence and promotes sexual aggression.



As social psychologists would argue, it is "the constellation of socially regressive (masculine) traits that serve to foster domination, the devaluation of women, homophobia and wanton violence". It is difficult to imagine rape — the ultimate form of objectification of a woman, or her reduction into a soulless toy of sexual pleasure — without the poison of toxic masculinity. It is important to realise that the psychology of toxic masculinity is often promoted and encouraged through the celebration of war, militarism, hyper-nationalism, vulgarly competitive 'masculine' sports and divisive communalism. Yes, it is a fact that sexual violence has often been used as a weapon in conflicts to humiliate, subjugate and

terrorise people throughout history. To take an illustration, as many research findings indicate, between 200,000 and 400,000 women were sexually assaulted by Pakistani soldiers during the Bangladesh Liberation Movement. And a penetrating look at the Partition and the resultant communal hatred would reveal that women were sexually assaulted on both sides of the border.

Likewise, the prevalent culture industry is not altogether free from misogynic traits. The widespread dissemination of porn literature, the objectification of women, and the celebration of brute masculinity intoxicated with the desire for instantaneous sexual pleasure — yes, there are multiple reasons for the continuous degradation and humiliation of women. It is, therefore, not surprising that a film like *Animal* was one of the highest-grossing Hindi movies of 2023, even though it was heavily criticised for its misogyny and portrayal of toxic masculinity and extreme violence. Or, for that matter, it is not impossible to see noisy youngsters — even in our colleges and universities — dancing to the repulsive song *Main hoon balatkari*.

Sensex, Nifty hit all-time high after early dip; Ola Electric shares up 4%

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices erased early losses on Wednesday to hit fresh all-time high on positive expectations of the US Fed rate cut to be announced later in the day. The S&P BSE Sensex added 188.33 points to 83,267.99, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 46.90 points to 25,465.45 as of 12 PM. Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The significance of the Fed rate decision expected tonight is evident from the wait and watch market mood across the globe yesterday. Perhaps more important than the Fed action would be the Fed commentary and the message." "An ideal and possible outcome would be a 25 bps rate cut with a dovish message indicating a series of rate cuts. Good retail sales data along with a weakening labor market point to such a possibility," he said.

Among the top gainers on Nifty50, Bajaj Finance led the pack with a 3.81% increase, followed by Shriram Finance at 3.10%. Bajaj Finserv also performed well, rising by 1.99%, while Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) and Hero MotoCorp saw gains of 1.78% and 1.77% respectively. However, some stocks experienced losses. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) dropped by 3.23%, while Tech Mahindra fell 2.68%. Infosys declined by 2.73%, Wipro decreased by 2.47%, and HCL Technologies saw a 2.21% dip.

18 of the 30 stocks on BSE were in green.

Several sectors posted gains, with Nifty Financial Services leading the way, up by 1.70%. Nifty Bank followed closely with a 1.41% increase, while Nifty Private Bank rose by 1.35%. Nifty Financial Services PE 50 also performed well, gaining 1.69%. Other sectors in the green included Nifty Auto (0.51%), Nifty FMCG (0.09%), and Nifty PSU Bank (0.64%).

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

New Delhi Precious metals showed mixed trends in the Indian markets today. Gold is trading on the higher side of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) while silver prices have recorded a dip on Wednesday, September 18.

Gold futures, maturing on October 4, 2024, stood at Rs 73,175 per 10 grams, after recording a hike of Rs 81 or 0.11 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 73,094. Meanwhile, silver futures, due on December 5, 2024, witnessed a dip of Rs 370 or 0.42 per cent and were retailing at Rs 88,770 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 89,140. The price of gold varies for different regions in the country based on certain parameters such as the excise duty, making charges and the state taxes.

Samir Kumar named Amazon India's new head after Manish Tiwary's exit

New Delhi Amazon's 25-year-veteran Samir Kumar will take over the reins of its India consumer business as the company undergoes a leadership transition following the resignation of Manish Tiwary, the retail giant said in a release on Wednesday. Amit Agarwal, Amazon's SVP for Emerging Markets, announced in an internal email that Samir Kumar will take on the responsibility to lead India as its Country Manager, in addition to his current charter of leading Amazon's consumer businesses in the Middle East, South Africa and Turkey.

Samir, who joined Amazon in 1999, was a part of the original team that planned and launched Amazon.in in 2013, the release said. With this change, the current Amazon.in leadership team of Saurabh Srivastava (Categories), Harsh Goyal (Everyday Essentials), Amit Nanda (Marketplace), and Aastha Jain (Growth Initiatives) will now report to Samir. Kishore Thota (Emerging Markets Shopping Experience) will report to Amit directly. Samir is working closely with Manish Tiwary on the transition, and will assume operational responsibilities for India starting October 1.

Commenting on the transition, Amit Agarwal, SVP for Emerging Markets, said: "I am deeply appreciative of Manish's leadership in steering Amazon.in to become the de facto starting point for Indians to buy and sell anything online. I wish him the best for his next chapter."

Wipro implements strict work-from-office policy; Employees face leave deductions

New Delhi. Wipro, a leading IT company in India, has introduced a stringent work-from-office policy mandating employees to be present at least three days a week. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in deductions from their leave balance.

In an email sent to employees on September 2, Wipro's management instructed the human resources team to revoke any existing work-from-home approvals, emphasizing that any absence from the office would directly affect leave entitlements. According to an employee quoted in reports, missing a day in the office will lead to the deduction of one day of leave for each day not attended. This new directive applies only to certain projects within the company, rather than being a blanket policy for all employees.

Wipro's decision reflects a broader trend among Indian IT firms aiming to return to in-office work. LTIMindtree has implemented a similar policy requiring employees to work on-site four days a week, while Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has linked variable pay to attendance, necessitating a full five-day office presence. Infosys has also adopted a three-day attendance rule akin to Wipro's. These changes highlight a growing emphasis on reinforcing office culture as hybrid work arrangements continue to evolve within the industry.

SpiceJet yet to pay Rs 350 crore in TDS, PF of employees

SpiceJet has not paid Rs 220 crore in TDS deductions from employees' salaries between April 2020 and August 2023 to tax authorities.

New Delhi The turbulence for SpiceJet seems far from over as the airline has revealed it has yet to pay Rs 355 crore in Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and provident fund (PF) contributions owed to employees.

SpiceJet has not paid Rs 220 crore in TDS deductions from employees' salaries between April 2020 and August 2023 to tax authorities. Additionally, the airline owes Rs 135.3 crore in PF contributions for the same period. In a preliminary placement document (PPD) filed with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), SpiceJet mentioned that Rs 72 crore of TDS for the assessment years 2009-10 to 2013-14 is disputed. The company also mentioned disputes over customs, service

tax, and goods and services tax (GST). In an attempt to stabilise, SpiceJet plans to raise Rs 3,000 crore through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP), selling shares to institutional investors. While Yes Bank has approved the QIP, the airline awaits approval from ICICI and Indian Bank.

The funds will primarily be used to pay off Rs 601.5 crore in overdue taxes and contributions, including TDS, PF, and GST. An additional Rs 750 crore will be used to clear debts with creditors, including aircraft lessors, engine suppliers, and financiers.

Pending lawsuits

The airline is also facing over 25 pending lawsuits, excluding those involving its promoter. Significant defaults under aircraft lease agreements have grounded more than half its fleet, and legal actions by lessors and other vendors are ongoing. "We have been in alleged default under several of our aircraft lease agreements, leading to the grounding of a large part of our fleet. This has triggered



legal or enforcement proceedings, including actions under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, from aircraft lessors and other vendors," said the filing. The airline aims to use a large part of the money raised from the QIP to get its grounded planes back in service. SpiceJet believes that to become profitable in the future, it needs to expand its fleet, increase passenger traffic, and improve earnings. Grounded planes and falling market share as of June 30, 2024,

36 of SpiceJet's 64 aircraft were grounded due to financial difficulties and maintenance issues. SpiceJet has also faced multiple fines from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for non-compliance, with at least 20 instances reported in the past three years. The airline had been aggressively expanding before the pandemic, particularly after the collapse of Jet Airways, which initially gave SpiceJet growth opportunities. However, the global halt in travel during 2020, extended restrictions into 2022, rising aviation fuel prices, and the global grounding of

Boeing 737 Max aircraft in 2019 all created significant challenges for the airline. While competitors like IndiGo, with a stronger financial base, managed to recover from the disruptions caused by COVID-19, SpiceJet has struggled. Its market share has dropped below 4%, with fewer than 20 planes currently in operation. Most of its fleet remains grounded due to financial stress and a shortage of spare parts and engines.

Centre asks edible oil industry to maintain prices amid duty hike on imports

NEW DELHI The government has advised edible oil associations to maintain the minimum retail price (MRP) of oil until the availability of edible oil stocks imported at 0% and 12.5% Basic Customs Duty (BCD).

The Secretary of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (DFPD) chaired a meeting with representatives from the Solvent Extraction Association of India (SEAI), the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA), and the Soybean Oil Producers Association (SOPA) today to discuss pricing strategies. The leading edible oil associations were advised to ensure that the MRP of each type of oil is maintained until stocks imported at 0% and 12.5% BCD are exhausted. They were also asked to address this matter with their members immediately. Previously, following meetings held by the department with leading edible oil associations, the



MRP of oils such as sunflower oil, soybean oil, and mustard oil had been reduced by the industry. These price reductions were a result of falling international prices and reduced import duties on edible oils, making them cheaper. The industry has been periodically advised to align domestic prices with international prices to lessen the burden on consumers. The

Government of India has increased the basic customs duty on various edible oils to support domestic oilseed prices. Effective from September 14, 2024, the basic customs duty on crude soybean oil, crude palm oil, and crude sunflower oil has been raised from 0% to 20%, bringing the total effective duty on crude oils to 27.5%. Additionally, the basic customs duty on refined palm oil, refined sunflower oil, and refined soybean oil has increased from 12.5% to 32.5%, making the total effective duty on refined oils 35.75%.

The central government is also aware that there is close to 30 lakh metric tonnes (LMT) of edible oil stock imported at lower duties, which is sufficient for 45 to 50 days of domestic consumption.

Government scrapes windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil

NEW DELHI: The government on Tuesday scrapped the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil, set to take effect from September 18. The tax, imposed as a Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED), was reduced from Rs. 1850 per tonne to nil.

This is the second time since the tax was introduced in July 2022 that it has been reduced to nil. The last time the SAED was reduced to zero was on April 4, 2023. The SAED on the export of diesel, petrol, and jet fuel or ATF remains at nil. The windfall tax is levied fortnightly based on average oil prices in the preceding two weeks. The last revision took place on August 31, when the tax on crude petroleum was set at Rs.1850 per tonne.

India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022, joining other countries that tax the excessive profits of energy companies. The levy on exports of petrol, diesel, and aviation fuel was introduced to encourage private refiners to sell fuel domestically instead of exporting it to benefit from higher refining margins.

The decision to scrap the windfall tax comes as global benchmark Brent crude prices have fallen below USD 75 a barrel from over USD 92 a

Tupperware files for bankruptcy amid long-term sales struggles



Tupperware Brands Corp has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, reflecting years of declining sales and rising competition. The iconic kitchenware company reported assets between \$500 million and \$1 billion, with liabilities estimated between \$1 billion and \$10 billion. Since 2020, Tupperware has struggled to maintain its market presence, repeatedly warning of doubts regarding its long-term viability. In June, the company announced the closure of its sole U.S.



factory, resulting in the layoff of nearly 150 employees. This move highlights the severe challenges Tupperware faces as it attempts to pivot in a rapidly evolving retail landscape. The bankruptcy filing in Delaware follows months of negotiations with lenders over more than \$700 million in outstanding loans. While creditors provided temporary relief, the company's financial situation continued to deteriorate, underscoring the need for more drastic measures.

Since 2020, Tupperware has struggled to maintain its market presence, repeatedly warning of doubts regarding its long-term viability

Founded in 1946 by Earl Tupper, the company became a household name through its innovative plastic products and the introduction of its flexible airtight seals. Tupperware gained popularity through independent sales parties held in suburban homes, creating a unique direct sales model.

Despite its rich history and initial success, Tupperware's recent struggles serve as a reminder of the challenges faced by legacy brands in adapting to modern consumer preferences and competition. The company now seeks to restructure and explore potential pathways for recovery in the wake of its bankruptcy filing.



barrel in April. A windfall tax is a levy imposed by governments when an industry unexpectedly earns large profits, mainly due to an unprecedented event. This move may lead to expectations of price cuts for petrol and diesel, as the government reviews the decline in international crude oil prices. Recently, Pankaj Jain, Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, also mentioned that he is discussing the possibility of withdrawing the windfall tax on crude oil exports with the Finance Ministry. He also mentioned that Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) may consider reducing petrol and diesel prices domestically if international crude prices remain low for an extended period.

India's richest and poorest states: South leads GDP race, West Bengal stumbles

New Delhi. A working paper from the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), released on Tuesday, has revealed significant disparities in the economic performance of Indian states.

While the southern states — Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu — have emerged as major contributors to India's GDP, states like West Bengal, once economically strong, have witnessed a puzzling decline.

Southern states make up 30% of India's GDP

In 1991, the per capita income of the five large southern states was below the national average. However, the liberalisation of India's economy brought rapid growth, allowing these states to surge ahead. By March 2024, these states accounted for 30% of India's GDP. Karnataka, with its booming tech sector, and Tamil Nadu, with its industrial hubs, have been pivotal in this growth.

Telangana, India's youngest state formed in 2014, has also shown impressive economic performance, becoming a major player in India's economy.

West Bengal's sharp economic decline

In stark contrast, West Bengal, once a top contributor to India's GDP with a share of 10.5% in 1960-61, now accounts for only 5.6%. The state's per capita income, which was once 127.5% of the national average, has dropped to 83.7%. This decline places it below states like Rajasthan and Odisha, which have traditionally lagged behind. "West Bengal has experienced a continuous decline in its relative economic performance over several decades," the report said. Despite its strategic maritime location and historical advantages, West Bengal's economic trajectory has been one of steady decline. Experts are puzzled by the state's inability to maintain its early economic strength. The report highlights West Bengal as an anomaly among maritime states, most of which have prospered. The question of what went wrong in West Bengal, particularly with its industrial policies, has been a subject of debate. The state's political climate, which shifted drastically after liberalisation, may have played a role in its economic stagnation.

Punjab's and Haryana's contrasting paths

Punjab, once a beneficiary of the Green



Revolution, has also experienced a flattening of economic growth since 1991. The state's per capita income, which had risen to 169% of the national average by 1971, has now declined to 106%. In contrast, Haryana has seen a sharp rise in per capita income to 176.8%, with much of this growth occurring after 2000. The divergence between Punjab and Haryana is striking, as Haryana, once economically behind Punjab, has now overtaken it in key economic metrics.

Maharashtra still tops GDP but faces challenges

Maharashtra remains India's largest contributor to GDP, though its share has declined from over 15% to 13.3% in recent years. Home to the financial

capital, Mumbai, the state's per capita income grew to 150.7% of the national average by 2024. However, the state no longer ranks among the top five in terms of per capita income.

Poorest states struggle to keep pace

The report also highlights the challenges faced by the poorest states. Uttar Pradesh, once contributing 14% of India's GDP in 1960-61, now accounts for 9.5%. Bihar, despite being the third-most populous state, contributes only 4.3% to the national economy. While Odisha has shown marked improvement, shedding its image as a laggard, Bihar remains far behind other states in terms of economic growth. The report suggests that states have taken dramatically different economic paths since liberalisation. The southern states have capitalised on the reforms, driving national growth. However, the case of West Bengal stands out as an unresolved economic puzzle, as the state continues to fall behind despite its early promise. With these regional disparities widening, the report calls for deeper investigation into the policies and factors influencing state-level economic growth.

How politics, like Bollywood, restricts entry of outsiders

If there's any profession that can match Bollywood in restricting smooth entry of outsiders, it is politics. Even as Iltija Mufti, daughter of former J&K Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti, makes her electoral debut, here's a study that reveals how 32% of MPs in the current Lok Sabha are political dynasts. Shah Rukh Khans are rare.

New Delhi: In a nation of over a billion people, the most recognisable faces are from the world of films and politics. While millions of Indians dream of attaining the celebrity status of a filmstar or a politician, it is very difficult to be one without being a nepo kid. Not just Bollywood, politics is notoriously restrictive when it comes to allowing the entry of newcomers without family connections. Though Bollywood's gatekeeping tendencies often spark debate and scrutiny, a report by Prajatantra Foundation, a non-profit organisation, highlights how politics mirrors the entertainment industry in erecting barriers for those outside the inner circles. The report reveals that just 20% (around 108) of the candidates winning the 2024 Lok Sabha poll were self-made individuals, while around 32% (more than 173) of the MPs belong to political dynasties.

BOLLYWOOD AND POLITICS, ENTRY ABOTTLENECK
The latest high-profile political entry is that

of Iltija Mufti, daughter of Mehbooba Mufti, the PDP chief and former Jammu and Kashmir CM. Iltija is also the granddaughter of PDP founder and former Union Home Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed. She is contesting the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly election from Bijbehara, a family bastion of the Muftis. How often have you heard that a 37-year-old with near-zero electoral experience has been given a ticket by a prominent party, that too from a safe seat? Although Iltija has asserted her intentions to forge her own identity in politics, she acknowledges having derived a lot from her mother and her grandfather, who are known faces in the politics of Kashmir and beyond.

It's not just about Iltija Mufti. From Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav, KT Rama Rao to MK Stalin, there is no dearth of politicians heading political parties because they were born in their first families. The Yadavs and



Gandhis of the political world will find their nepo matches in the Kapoors, Chopras, Deols and Bachchans of Bollywood.

This is not to say that we do not have an occasional Narendra Modi or a Shah Rukh Khan, who rose from humble beginnings to reach the top. But such examples are rather rare.

Indian politics is deeply rooted in family legacies, with 32% (more than 173) of MPs

in the 18th Lok Sabha (2024-2029) hailing from political dynasties. Among these, 21% are first-generation dynasts, 72.1% belong to the second generation, and 6.4% are multi-generational politicians. This trend spans across parties, making it difficult for non-dynastic candidates to gain entry and support.

DYNASTIC DOMINANCE AND PRIVILEGE IN INDIAN POLITICS

The study of the 18th Lok Sabha winners by Prajatantra Foundation provides compelling evidence of how politics, like Bollywood, remains a bastion for the privileged.

The report used the recently concluded Lok Sabha election, that saw 543 representatives take office, to make its point. Beyond familial ties that sent 32% of MPs to the Lok Sabha, wealth plays a significant role in securing political power.

A staggering 98.3% of MPs possess some form of privilege, translating to more than 530 MPs, whether it be dynastic

connections, declared criminal cases, or assets worth Rs 1 crore or more. More alarmingly, 79.6% of MPs belong to the 'strong privilege' category, characterised by dynastic backgrounds, serious criminal records, or assets exceeding Rs 5 crore. Money, therefore, acts as a predominant gatekeeper, preventing those without substantial financial backing from accessing political offices.

HOW MPs MADE IT TO LOK SABHA

While dynastic politicians clearly dominate the scene, non-privileged entry is far from a level playing field. Party organisational politics (16.2%) remains the most prominent non-privileged pathway, followed by local politics (14.4%) and student politics (9.2%). In particular, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sees many non-dynastic entrants coming from local politics, while the Indian National Congress (INC) relies more on party organisational pathways, according to the Prajatantra report.

Top Army officer JP Mathew to represent India at Hawaii Defence Conference

New Delhi: Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CIS) Lieutenant General JP Mathew will attend the Indo-Pacific Chiefs of Defence (IP-CHOD) conference in Hawaii, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday. The conference, scheduled from September 18 to 20, will bring together top military leaders from the Indo-Pacific region to discuss shared security challenges, enhance mutual understanding, and foster military-to-military cooperation. According to the ministry, discussions will focus on regional security, counter-terrorism, maritime domain awareness and cooperation, and commitment to



joint training and exercises. "The representation of the Indian Armed Forces at the event demonstrates our nation's commitment to regional stability and security," a statement from the Defence Ministry said. The IP-CHOD meetings, hosted quarterly by the United States Indo-Pacific Command, provide a forum for open dialogue between military leaders to discuss the regional security environment. The in-person meeting is held annually, according to the ministry.

Jagan Reddy government grabbed lands, misused it in Andhra: Chandrababu Naidu

Amravati. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday attacked former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and said that the previous state government had completely grabbed the lands near the Budameru River and misused it. "The negligence and irregularities of the previous government became a curse to the state," Naidu said, in a veiled dig at Jagan Mohan Reddy. He stated that if the Budameru river works had been completed, the state would not have faced a calamity. Naidu's remarks came in light of the recent floods in Andhra Pradesh, which heavily impacted areas like Vijayawada, and claimed around 40 lives.

Naidu said that the boats were released when the Krishna River received 11.43 cusecs of water due to the floods, and it took almost 10 days to get back to normalcy. "Had the previous rulers been in power it would have taken six months or more to restore normalcy," he added. The Chief Minister earlier this month criticised the previous government, attributing the severity of the flood damage to their "blunders." He emphasised that plans are in motion to prevent such calamities in the future. "The sins committed by the previous government have turned into a curse to the State," Naidu remarked.

Maintaining that the funds released for Polavaram and Rs 990 crore from the Panchayat Raj department been diverted, Chandrababu Naidu said that the expenditure was not shown in the accounts. "Now we need to clear the dues amounting to Rs 1,650 crore for the grain farmers and a Rs 10.5 lakh crore worth of loan to be cleared," the Chief Minister said. Chandrababu earlier referred to the Polavaram project as a "boon to the State," saying that he had secured Rs 12,000 crore from the Centre to support the project, which he promised would be relaunched soon. He also announced several benefits for Eluru, including the construction of a bridge near the Sanivarapupeta causeway with a budget of Rs 15 crore.

Chandrababu Naidu stated that the relief provided to flood victims has been met with a tremendous response. Every household is receiving financial assistance of Rs 25,000, while those residing on the first floors are being provided Rs 10,000 each. The Chief Minister also outlined the details of the various sections and the amounts being allocated to each flood victim, including insurance claims for owners of two-wheelers, three-wheelers, and four-wheelers.

In Big Step Towards One Nation, One Election, Cabinet Clears Plan

New Delhi: The Union Cabinet has approved the government's 'one nation, one election' push - which proposes simultaneous Lok Sabha and Assembly elections, with urban body and panchayat polls to be held within 100 days - accepting the report of a panel led by ex-President Ram Nath Kovind.

The proposal will now be tabled in Parliament and must clear both Houses - the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha - en route to becoming the law. More significantly, as it will require an amendment to the Constitution and that amendment has to be ratified by all states and union territories. Holding simultaneous poll will "transform the electoral process (and) governance" and "optimise scarce resources", the high-profile panel said, noting 32 parties and prominent judicial figures, including former Supreme Court Chief

Justices and High Court judges, had backed this measure. Among the panel's listed advantages for the 'one nation, one election' measure are that it makes the electoral process easier for

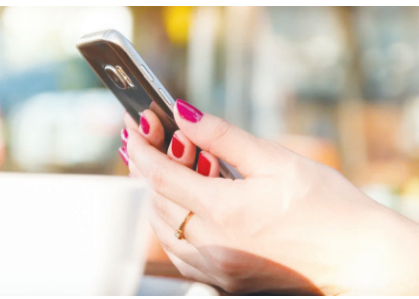


voters. Synchronising polls will also result in higher and faster economic growth, and therefore a more stable economy, the panel argued, claiming a single round of elections will allow

businesses and corporate firms to take decisions without fear of adverse policy changes. The panel has also reasoned that (eventually) holding elections at all three levels - for the Lok Sabha, for state Assemblies, and for panchayats - will "avoid disruption of supply chains and production cycles due to migrant workers seeking leave of absence to cast their votes". The 'one nation, one election' push will also "prevent policy paralysis", and do away with the "atmosphere of uncertainty" the government argues is brought on by frequent elections. The panel, which submitted its report in March, also said it had studied "best practices from other countries", and consulted economists and the Election Commission, before delivering its verdict, but also called for a legally sustainable mechanism.

India's Mobile Phone Manufacturing Rises To 4.1 Lakh Crore In Value: Report

New Delhi: India's mobile phone manufacturing in value has risen to 4.1 lakh crore in India in the last 10 years due to strategic government policy measures like product-linked initiative (PLI) and phased-manufacturing programme (PMP) schemes, a report showed on Wednesday. The electronics sector experienced rapid growth and local production nearly doubled from \$48 billion in FY17 to \$101 billion in FY23 and is around \$115 billion in the current fiscal to date -- driven primarily by mobile phones which now constitute more than 43 per cent of total electronics production. As the country becomes the second largest mobile manufacturer in the world, global manufacturing companies like Samsung, Apple and Google are making their latest generation



smartphones in India. The report by Broadband India Forum (BIF), prepared by BIF's Koan Advisory, analysed the journey through an empirical study that investigates issues such as the impact of tariff and customs rates, India's global value chains (GVC) insertion, challenges related to the ease of doing business (EoDB), women workforce participation opportunities and ways of

reducing the gender gap and increasing the gender diversity. TV Ramachandran, President, BIF said that the 'Make in India' initiative has been instrumental in transforming the country into a global hub for mobile device manufacturing. "Through strategic policies and production linked incentives, the government has attracted major global players and encouraged domestic manufacturers to set up and enhance production facilities within India," he added. As a result, the country has witnessed a significant surge in mobile phone production, reducing gradual dependence on imports and creating thousands of jobs in the manufacturing sector. According to S Krishnan, Secretary, MeitY, the country has emerged as the world's second-largest manufacturer of mobile phones.

Kolkata doctors to continue cease-work protest, seek fresh talks with government

Seeking a new round of talks, the protesting doctors said that the West Bengal government should provide them with a "democratic environment" and also listed fresh demands.

New Delhi: The protesting doctors at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, where a trainee doctor was raped and killed, announced that they will continue their strike until all their demands are met, including the removal of the Health Secretary. They also sought fresh talks with the government, a day after holding meetings with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The doctors

made the announcement after a five-hour long governing body meeting, which ended at around 1 am on Wednesday. "Till all our demands are met with, the agitation and cease work will continue. We want fresh talks with the state government," the doctors said at a press conference.

The protesting doctors met Mamata Banerjee on Monday, after which the Chief Minister announced that the state had accepted the majority of their demands, including the transfer of Kolkata City Police Commissioner Vineet Goyal. Banerjee also announced the setting up of a high-level panel under the Chief Secretary to address the doctors' demands. The doctors had pushed for the Chief Secretary NS Nigam's removal during the meeting; however, the government did

not decide in their favour. Though the outcome of Monday's meeting was hailed by the doctors as a 'moral victory', they refrained from calling off the protest and stated that a decision



would be announced after further discussions. On Tuesday, seeking a new round of talks, the doctors said that the government should provide them with a "democratic environment" and also listed fresh demands.

The demands include measures to ensure adequate toilet arrangements for doctors, installation of the required number of CCTV cameras in government-run hospitals, proper accommodation for doctors, increased security, and the conduct of student body elections. The doctors also called for the withdrawal of the government directive barring female doctors from working night shifts. The protesters asserted that their agitation would continue until all their demands were met.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal government appointed senior IPS officer Manoj Kumar Verma as the new Kolkata Police chief. Director of Health Services (DHS) Debashis Halder, Director of Medical Education (DME) Kaustav Nayak, and Deputy Commissioner of Kolkata Police's North Division Abhishek Gupta were also removed as promised by Banerjee during Monday's meeting.

India recorded second warmest June-August this year since 1970: Study

New Delhi: Climate Central's seasonal analysis from June to August 2024 offers a striking look into the influence of human-induced climate change on global temperatures, with a detailed focus on India. The report leverages temperature anomalies and the Climate Shift Index (CSI) to illustrate the magnitude of climate change's role in raising temperatures across the region. India recorded its second-hottest season since satellite data tracking began in 1970. Over this three-month period, temperatures were at least three times more likely to spike due to climate change for 29 days. Approximately 20.5 million Indians faced temperatures influenced by climate change for at least 60 days (CSI 5), underscoring India's vulnerability to extreme heat compared to other



Southern Asian nations. Of India's 1.38 billion population, around 426 million people — almost a third — were exposed to potentially scorching temperatures for at least seven days, exceeding 90 per cent of the local temperature records from the 1991-2020 baseline period. More than 112 million people faced over a month of dangerous heatwaves, raising significant public health concerns. Several Indian cities bore the brunt of climate change-fuelled heatwaves. Thiruvananthapuram, Vasai-Virar, Kavaratti, Thane, Mumbai, and Port Blair each endured over 70 days when temperatures were at least three times more likely due to climate change. Mumbai alone experienced 54 extreme heat days, while cities like Kanpur and Delhi saw temperatures soar above 39°C for prolonged periods, with climate change making these extremes four times more likely.

What Is The Climate Shift Index (CSI)?

The Climate Shift Index (CSI) measures the influence of climate change on daily temperatures. A CSI score between 1 and 5 reflects the probability that a day's temperatures have increased due to human-driven climate change.

News box

Taiwan firm denies making pagers that detonated in Lebanon

World Gold Apollo, a Taiwan-based manufacturer that produces pagers, denied making the explosives-laden wireless devices which were detonated across Lebanon, killing at least nine people and injuring nearly 3,000 others. The company said the devices used in Tuesday's blasts were made by a European company called BAC which has a licence to use the Taiwan firm's brand name.

Addressing reporters at the Gold Apollo's office in the city of New Taipei, Hsu Ching-Kuang, founder and president of the company, said that the "product is not ours. It only had our brand on it". He, however, did not elaborate on the location of the European firm. "We may not be a large company, but we are a responsible one. This is very embarrassing," news agency Reuters quoted Hsu as saying. The company chief stressed that he did not have any knowledge as to how the pagers were rigged with explosives.

According to a Reuters report, the police arrived at the New Taipei offices while Hsu was meeting reporters. The development comes after a Lebanese security source told the news agency that the Iran-backed Hezbollah had ordered 5,000 pagers from Gold Apollo. The source identified the model of one exploded pager as the AP924 variant. Images of the damaged pagers also revealed a design and stickers on the back consistent with those produced by Gold Apollo.

Pagers: Lebanon blasts targeting Hezbollah bring vintage devices into focus

World Hundreds of pagers, a communication device used by Hezbollah members, exploded across Lebanon on Tuesday, killing at least nine people and injuring nearly 3,000 in a major security incident in the region. The Iran-backed militant group has blamed Israel for the mysterious blasts.

The incident has brought pagers back into the spotlight, decades after they fell out of popular use. Here's what pagers are and how they operate:

WHAT ARE PAGERS

Pagers, once a staple of communication in the late 20th century, are simple, wireless telecommunications devices that receive and display messages. The rise of mobile phones, with their ability to make calls, send texts, and later even access the internet, rendered these devices obsolete. Traditionally, pagers are one-way communication devices, meaning they can only receive alerts but cannot respond. More sophisticated versions, known as two-way pagers, offer the ability to send and receive text messages.

HOW PAGERS OPERATE

The operation of a pager relies on a dedicated network of radio transmitters. When a message is sent, it first passes through a central terminal, which then broadcasts the message over a specific frequency. Radio antennas, part of the paging network, send out the signal to all pagers tuned to that frequency. Once the message is received, the pager alerts the user with a beep, vibration, or flashing light. Pagers operate on very high frequency (VHF) or ultra-high frequency (UHF) radio waves, differentiating them from mobile phones, which rely on cellular networks. The device typically has four key components: an antenna that receives the radio signals, a receiver that decodes the incoming messages, a display to show the message, and a battery. Each pager is assigned a unique identifier.

Image of Titan submersible, chilling 3-word message before implosion revealed

World The first picture of the Titan submersible that imploded in June last year during its descent to the Titanic wreckage site was revealed by the US Coast Guard on Monday at a public hearing into the deaths of five people onboard the vessel. A text conversation between the Titan's crew and the Polar Prince, a nearby support ship, was also revealed during the hearing. When asked if it was visible on Polar Prince's informational display, a chilling three-word text from the Titan's crew came, saying, "All good here," even as the sub descended further, The Guardian reported. The image of the ill-fated Titan, captured during the frantic search for the vessel last year, showed the sub's broken tail cone resting on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean at a depth of 12,500 feet, giving a chilling reminder to the viewers about the aftermath of the implosion. Fragments of the sub were also visible on the ocean floor -- the debris that was found by the search teams that confirmed the sub's implosion. According to the Marine Board of Investigation, the Titan's detached tail cone and other debris gave "conclusive evidence" that the sub suffered a "catastrophic implosion". CNN reported. OceanGate, the company that developed the Titan, had come under intense scrutiny as former employees and whistleblowers expressed concerns over the design of the vessel. Tony Nissen, the former engineering director, spoke about the pressure to expedite the Titan's launch despite his reservations. Another contractor, Tym Catterson, expressed his doubts about the suitability of the materials -- carbon fibre and titanium -- used in the submersible's construction, according to The Guardian.

Republicans block US Senate IVF bill despite Trump's support, Biden slams move

The IVF bill failed 51-44, falling short of the required 60-vote threshold in the US Senate after most Republicans voted against it for the second time. Following the bill's failure, US President Joe Biden slammed Republican Senators, calling their move "outrageous and unacceptable".

Washington A US Senate bill aimed at enshrining federal protections and expanding insurance coverage for fertility treatments failed on Tuesday, as Republicans voted against it days after Donald Trump surprised supporters by voicing support for such a policy. The bill failed 51-44, falling short of the required 60-vote threshold after most Republicans voted against it for the second time. Democrats control the chamber by a slim 51-49 margin. US President Joe Biden slammed the blockade of the bill, calling it "outrageous and unacceptable". "Yet again, Senate Republicans refused to safeguard access to



fertility treatments for women trying to get pregnant. Republican officials have had every opportunity to protect reproductive freedom -- from IVF to contraception -- but they refuse to do so. The disregard for a woman's right to make these decisions for

herself and her family is outrageous and unacceptable," the US President said. The bill's sponsor, Democratic Senator Tammy Duckworth, first attempted to get a vote on the same bill in late February, after the Alabama Supreme Court ruled the embryos

used in vitro fertilization, or IVF, should be considered children, jeopardizing access to the treatment used by millions of Americans every year. "The freedom to get reproductive care is at risk for millions of other women whose most desperate hope in the world is to have a little one of their own," Duckworth, who had her two daughters via fertility treatments, said in a Senate floor speech after Tuesday's vote. "Republicans only seem to care about protecting life when it supposedly consists of some cells in a medical lab freezer." Republican presidential candidate Trump said in August he would require the government or insurance companies to pay for IVF if he is elected, surprising some hardline Republicans for whom the treatment is controversial. "We want to produce babies in this country, right?" Trump said during a town hall-style campaign event in La Crosse, Wisconsin. Trump's campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Tuesday.

Israel's Mossad planted explosives in Hezbollah's Taiwan-made pagers: Reports

World. Israel's Mossad spy agency planted a small amount of explosives inside 5000 Taiwan-made pagers ordered by Lebanese militant group Hezbollah five months before Tuesday's detonations, multiple reports claimed, citing senior Lebanese security sources. Pagers, wireless communication devices used by thousands of members of the Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, exploded simultaneously across Lebanon and parts of Syria on Tuesday, killing at least nine people and wounding scores. Nearly 100 cases of blasts were reported in Syria. A senior Lebanese security source who spoke to news agency Reuters alleged that the pagers exploded when a coded message was sent to them, simultaneously activating the explosives. Mossad injected a board inside the device that has explosive material that receives a code. It's very hard to detect it through any means. Even with any device or scanner," the source told Reuters. The Iran-backed militant group had ordered 5,000 pagers from Taiwan-based manufacturer Gold Apollo, which were smuggled into the country between April and May. A security source identified the model of one exploded pager as the AP924 variant. Images of the damaged pagers also revealed a design and stickers on the back consistent with those produced by Gold Apollo. The plot appears to have been many months in the making, according to the sources. Sources who spoke to Sky News Arabia alleged that the Israeli spy agency placed a quantity of PETN, a highly explosive material, on the batteries of the devices, and detonated them by raising the temperature of the batteries from afar. Qatar funded Al Jazeera channel, which also spoke to security sources, reported that the weight of the explosive placed in each device was below 20 grams, and that the pagers that were blown up



were imported five months ago. An investigation is being conducted into how the explosive charge was activated, the source added. Meanwhile, Hezbollah vowed to retaliate against Israel after accusing it of detonating pagers across Lebanon on Tuesday. The Iran-backed militant group stated that Israel would receive "its fair punishment" for the blasts. Condemning the attack, Lebanese

Information Minister Ziad Makary called it an "Israeli aggression." However, Israeli authorities or the army have not commented on the blasts and subsequent allegations. Hezbollah militants have been using pagers as a low-tech means of communication in an attempt to evade Israeli location tracking. The group has been in armed conflict with Israel since Hamas's October 7 attack. Israel has allegedly used similar tactics in the past as well. According to a former US National Security Agency intelligence analyst, David Kennedy, Israel had allegedly planted 15 grams of RDX explosive in a mobile phone to kill Hamas leader Yahya Ayyash in 1996. The device detonated when he made a call to his father.

Harvey Weinstein set to be arraigned on additional sex crimes charges in New York

NEW YORK. Harvey Weinstein is expected to be arraigned Wednesday in Manhattan on a new indictment charging him with up to three additional sex offenses, his lawyer said. Weinstein's lawyer Arthur Aidala said the jailed ex-movie mogul will appear in court in person to face his latest legal hurdle after he was excused from a hearing last week while recovering from emergency heart surgery. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office disclosed at the Sept. 12 hearing last week that a grand jury had returned a new indictment charging Weinstein with previously uncharged offenses. The indictment will remain under seal

until Weinstein is arraigned. Prosecutors have said that the grand jury heard evidence of up to three alleged assaults: in the mid-2000s at the Tribeca Grand Hotel, now known as the Roxy Hotel, and a Lower Manhattan residential building, and, in May 2016, at a Tribeca hotel. At the same time, Weinstein is awaiting retrial in his landmark #MeToo case after New York's highest court overturned his 2020 conviction earlier this year. Weinstein's retrial is scheduled to begin Nov. 12. Prosecutors have said they'll seek to fold the new charges into the retrial, but Weinstein's lawyers oppose that, saying it should be a separate case.

Kamala Harris opposes Israeli reoccupation of Gaza, calls for end to war

Kamala Harris called for a ceasefire and a two-state solution to end the Israel-Gaza war, emphasising the importance of preventing Israel from reoccupying Gaza.

Washington US Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris called on Tuesday for an end to the Israel-Gaza war and said that Israel must not reoccupy the Palestinian enclave once the nearly year-old conflict comes to an end.

Speaking in Philadelphia to the National Association of Black Journalists, she called for a ceasefire between Israel and Palestinian Hamas militants, a two-state solution and Middle East stability in a way that does not empower Iran. "We've made ourselves very clear this deal needs to get done in the best interest of everyone in the region," Harris, the US vice president, said in response to questions asked by three journalists. At least 41,252 people have been killed and 95,497 wounded in the Israeli offensive in the Hamas-ruled strip since October 7, the Gaza health ministry said. The

war began that day when Hamas attacked Israel, killing 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking about 250 hostages, according to Israeli tallies. Harris was asked about Springfield, Ohio, a city that for days has found itself at the centre of a social media maelstrom after right-wing agitators latched onto false claims that Haitian arrivals were eating household pets. Former President Donald Trump, Harris' Republican rival in the Nov. 5 presidential election, has pledged to conduct mass deportations of Haitian immigrants from Springfield if elected, even though the majority are in the United States legally. "This is exhausting and it's harmful and it's hateful and grounded in some age-old stuff that we should not have the tolerance for," Harris said. The 45-minute interview began with economic issues. Harris said that if elected president she will work with



private investors to boost housing supply, acknowledging that more work was needed to lower prices for Americans. "One of the big issues that affects people right now in terms of the economy and their economic wellbeing is we have a shortage of housing supply," Harris said. "It's too expensive." Harris reiterated a plan to expand the child tax credit to \$6,000. She repeated a pledge that Americans not pay more than 7% of their income on childcare. The interview was scheduled after Harris did not attend the group's convention in Chicago in

July when Trump, in an interview, questioned her Black identity.

HARRIS, TRUMP COURT BLACK VOTERS

In the 2020 presidential election, Black voters supported then-candidate Joe Biden 92% to 8% over the then-incumbent Trump, according to the Pew Research Centre. Most Black voters, 63%, plan to support Harris, compared with 13% for Trump, according to an NAACP survey released this month. However, some Black voters are losing faith in the Democratic Party. Over one quarter of younger Black men say they would support Trump this election, the NAACP poll showed. "Black men are like any other voting group," Harris said. "You gotta earn their vote." The interview was conducted by NABJ members from TheGrio and Politico as well as an anchor for WHYY-FM, a public radio station.

What caused Hezbollah pagers to explode, and how Israel could be involved

Since the beginning of the Gaza war last year, Hezbollah members have been using some low-tech devices to evade Israel's sophisticated surveillance technology. However, reports suggest that Tuesday's pager explosions in Lebanon could be more than just a remote hack.

World. At least nine people were killed and 2,750 were injured in Lebanon on Tuesday after wireless communication devices used by militant group Hezbollah exploded in what appears to be a targeted attack. Multiple reports have now claimed that Israel's spy agency, Mossad, planted a small amount of explosives inside the Taiwan-made pagers five months before. Hezbollah and Lebanon blamed Israel for the wave of explosions, which lasted for about an hour,

even as Tel Aviv did not immediately respond to the charges. Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran, has been engaged in cross-border warfare with Israel since the Gaza war erupted in October last year. The group had instructed its members to avoid mobile phones and to rely on its own telecommunications system instead to prevent Israeli breaches.

WHY WAS HEZBOLLAH USING PAGERS?

Reports suggested that following the killing of senior commanders in targeted Israeli airstrikes, Hezbollah has been using some low-tech devices, including landline phones and pagers, to try to evade Israel's sophisticated surveillance technology. Hezbollah has also been using its own drones to study and attack Israel's intelligence gathering capabilities in what the group's leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, described as a strategy of "blinding" Israel. These tactics have become crucial to facing a



formidable adversary like Israel, which uses hi-tech security cameras and remote sensing systems to identify and strike down its targets in enemy territory. Israel's electronic eavesdropping - including hacking into cell phones and computers - is also widely regarded as among the world's most sophisticated.

CAN PAGERS BE HACKED?

According to a Reuters report, some Lebanese sources told the agency that the pagers that

exploded were a modern model recently purchased by Hezbollah. Another report by Press TV suggested that the devices heated up before exploding. Since pager messages are typically transmitted over radio frequencies without encryption, hackers can use specialised radio equipment and software-defined radios (SDRs) to intercept large volumes of pager communications simultaneously. This allows them to capture and decode pager messages over a wide area, potentially affecting thousands of users in hospitals, industries, or government sectors that still rely on pager systems.

While encryption makes it harder for attackers to intercept and read pager messages, vulnerabilities may still exist. Hackers can exploit weaknesses in the encryption protocol, find flaws in the pager's implementation, or use brute-force attacks if the encryption is weak.

NEWS BOX

Indian players will enjoy coach Gautam Gambhir's aggression: Dinesh Karthik

New Delhi Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik believes that under head coach Gautam Gambhir, Indian players will thrive, as his well-known aggression often comes from a desire to protect his team. Karthik shared these thoughts while speaking to reporters at a Legends League Cricket event on Tuesday, highlighting Gambhir's passionate style and how it will benefit the current Indian squad. "His aggression has generally come out in protection of his players and that is something the current lot of players will enjoy. Knowing him, he is not someone who gets angry for the heck of it," Karthik told reporters on the sidelines of a Legends League Cricket event. "I'm sure he will have his turn with strong words for whoever it is required, and it is in his best interest to get the best out of the players," he added. While Gambhir's intensity has been a hallmark of his playing and coaching career, Karthik noted that his fiery demeanor is calculated and intended to serve the team's interests.



Gambhir is set to embark on his first Test series as head coach, with India facing Bangladesh in a series starting on Thursday. Though he has considerable experience coaching in T20 tournaments, this will be his first challenge in the longer format. Karthik acknowledged that this lack of experience might be on Gambhir's mind, but expressed faith in his ability to navigate the challenges. "He has been a part of numerous T20 tournaments. But this Test series will be completely new for him as a coach and it must be playing at the back of his mind," Karthik said. "He is someone who has navigated through tough waters. He's got the acumen to understand the pulse of the game, which is extremely important as a coach." "He is at a very early stage as a coach, so it will be interesting how it pans out. However, I have confidence that he will deliver on all aspects. So far, it has worked well for him," Karthik added.

BANGLADESH CHALLENGE

India's first Test in the Gambhir era will come against Bangladesh, brimming with confidence after their historic 2-0 series win against Pakistan. Karthik, however, warned that Bangladesh would face a different challenge when playing in India. "It will start with a lot of confidence from Bangladesh.

ENG vs AUS: Adam Zampa accepts slim Ashes hopes as milestone 100th ODI nears

New Delhi Australia's leg-spinner Adam Zampa is gearing up for a major personal milestone as he approaches his 100th one-day international (ODI) appearance. Despite his significant contributions to Australia's white-ball success, Zampa has come to terms with the reality that his chances of playing in the prestigious Ashes series are slim.

Zampa, who played a crucial role in Australia's title win in the 2023 World Cup, is set to reach his 100th ODI cap during the first match of a five-game series against England at Trent Bridge. While his achievements in the shorter formats of the game have been impressive, the 32-year-old has yet to make his Test debut and admits it's unlikely he ever will. "Realistically, I'm probably not going to play in an Ashes in my career," Zampa said at Trent Bridge ahead of Thursday's clash. "I'm OK with that. We have lots of Test cricket, and there's still a bit of drive to play, but playing in an Ashes, especially against England or Australia, doesn't seem to be on the cards." Australia's Test side has long relied on Nathan Lyon as their go-to spinner in red-ball cricket. With emerging talents like Todd Murphy and Mitchell Swepson also in the mix, Zampa's opportunities in Test cricket have remained limited. Yet, he remains content with his white-ball career and the rivalry he enjoys with England in limited-overs formats. "I think rivalry in any sport gives depth to the games," Zampa noted. "The Ashes has its own charm, but playing against England in any format is special. It's a great rivalry, and it's always a battle we look forward to." As he nears his ODI century, Zampa reflects on his journey with gratitude. "I never thought I'd play this many matches for Australia," he said. "It's an incredible honor to represent your country, and to be doing it for the 100th time is special. Having my family here with me — my wife, son, and parents — will make it an even more memorable occasion." Though Australia will look to defend their 50-over crown at the 2027 World Cup in southern Africa, Zampa is not setting any retirement deadlines. "I'm still enjoying playing for Australia, and as long as I feel like I'm bowling well and contributing, I'll keep going. I love being part of this group, and while I'm still motivated, there's no need to think about the end."



emerging talents like Todd Murphy and Mitchell Swepson also in the mix, Zampa's opportunities in Test cricket have remained limited. Yet, he remains content with his white-ball career and the rivalry he enjoys with England in limited-overs formats. "I think rivalry in any sport gives depth to the games," Zampa noted. "The Ashes has its own charm, but playing against England in any format is special. It's a great rivalry, and it's always a battle we look forward to." As he nears his ODI century, Zampa reflects on his journey with gratitude. "I never thought I'd play this many matches for Australia," he said. "It's an incredible honor to represent your country, and to be doing it for the 100th time is special. Having my family here with me — my wife, son, and parents — will make it an even more memorable occasion." Though Australia will look to defend their 50-over crown at the 2027 World Cup in southern Africa, Zampa is not setting any retirement deadlines. "I'm still enjoying playing for Australia, and as long as I feel like I'm bowling well and contributing, I'll keep going. I love being part of this group, and while I'm still motivated, there's no need to think about the end."

Formula One races take an unpredictable turn as McLaren boss Zak Brown revels in 'best season'

There have been six different winners in the last eight races, representing four different teams. Verstappen, whose dominance in 2022 and 2023 broke records, still leads the standings but his last win was in June.



LEBANON. After a thrilling Azerbaijan Grand Prix, it seems like nearly half the field is capable of winning races in Formula 1. McLaren chief executive Zak Brown, whose driver Lando Norris is Max Verstappen's closest title challenger, says he's enjoying the best show he's seen in his eight years in F1. There have been six different winners in the last eight races, representing four different teams. Verstappen, whose dominance in 2022 and 2023 broke records, still leads the standings but his last win was in June. "I think this is the

best season I can think of ever in Formula 1 since I've been here," Brown told The Associated Press from the IndyCar season finale at Nashville Superspeedway in Tennessee. Could it even be better than the 2021 fight between Verstappen and Lewis Hamilton, which was decided on the final lap of the year and helped fuel F1's Netflix boom? Brown thinks it might be. "That was mega exciting, but it's just two guys, two good guys. Now you've got four good teams in today's race," he said. "To have four teams that can win any weekend, and (Sergio) Perez was obviously back on form today,

eight drivers going into Singapore and we're going 'I don't know which of these four teams might win. I don't know which of these eight drivers might win.' I can't recall Formula 1 having that level of competitiveness."

There was non-stop action Sunday.

McLaren's Oscar Piastri took the win in Baku, but only after a daring overtake on Ferrari's Charles Leclerc. Perez was in the mix for Red Bull until he and Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. collided, handing third to Mercedes driver George Russell. Further back, Norris surged through the field from 15th on the grid to

finish fourth ahead of Verstappen and take another bite out of the champion's standings lead. Teams' performances fluctuate week by week, depending on upgrades from the factories, track conditions and setup changes, like the one which Verstappen blamed for ruining his weekend in Azerbaijan. Even a change of tires can turn an also-ran into a contender, Russell said Sunday. "Just in this one race, we had a car that could have won if you took the pace from half of the race and a car that should have been outside the top 10 from the other half," he said, adding: "So I hope we've got the faster version" for next week's race in Singapore. The Singapore street track hosted one of the most competitive races of an otherwise Red Bull-dominated 2023 season. On worn tires, Sainz held off Norris' McLaren and the two Mercedes of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton and Russell, who crashed from third on the last lap. Piastri is F1's on-form driver with the most points of anyone in the last seven races. He knows just how many moving parts are involved in success this year, and how quickly it can all change. "We've been in with a chance everywhere, and I think today was definitely one of those days where we weren't necessarily the quickest.

'Golden girl' Manu Bhaker eyes hitting bullseye at Los Angeles Olympics

Manu Bhaker has claimed that her aim at the Los Angeles Olympics would be to ensure that she would change the colour of her medal from bronze to gold. Manu was one of the stars for India in the Paris Olympics.



New Delhi. Manu Bhaker has claimed that her aim is to hit the 'bullseye' at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028 and change the colour of her medal from bronze to gold at the games next time. Manu was one of the stars of India in their 2024 Paris Olympics campaign as she won 2 bronze medals in the 10m air pistol individual and mixed team events. She came close to adding another medal in the 25 m pistol round but ended up finishing fourth.

Speaking to Times Of India in an exclusive interview, the 22-year-old said being referred to as the 'golden girl' of shooting

was both humbling and motivating for her. Manu said that each stage of her training is now aimed at refining her precision and focus with the goal of winning the gold medal at the next Olympics. "Being referred to as the 'golden girl' of shooting is both humbling and motivating. My sights are set on hitting the bullseye at the Los Angeles Olympics. Each stage of my training is aimed at refining my precision and focus, all with the goal of securing that gold medal. While I focus on the journey and

the hard work, the dream of standing on the podium and representing India keeps me inspired and driven," said Manu.

Journey to Olympics was a team effort

Manu said that her journey to the Olympics was a team effort and she wouldn't have succeeded without her coach Jaspal Rana. The Indian shooter said Rana's constant encouragement coupled with her family's support kept her motivated and grounded.

Manu also paid tribute to her teammates for providing crucial support and making her journey feel less solitary. "The journey to the Olympics was a team effort, and I couldn't have succeeded without my coach, Jaspal Rana, my family, and my teammates. Jaspal's constant encouragement guided me through challenging moments, while my family's unwavering belief kept me motivated and grounded. My teammates provided crucial support, making the journey feel less solitary. Their collective presence and support were essential, reminding me that every achievement is the result of many hands working together," said Manu.

You've had more altercations, Gambhir tells Virat Kohli in special interview

New Delhi. In a special interview set to be released by the BCCI on Wednesday, September 18, India coach Gautam Gambhir was seen engaging in some fun banter along with Virat Kohli ahead of the start of the Test series against Bangladesh. Gambhir and Kohli have been known for their aggression on the field, with the duo even having run-ins with each other during the IPL. However, since Gambhir became the coach of the Indian team, both men have solved their differences for the side. Gambhir and Kohli were seen sharing a few jokes during the training camp ahead of the Bangladesh series and in the



video released on Wednesday, the Indian star batter would even say that they were there to put an 'end to all the masala and all the spice.' In the video snippet shared by the BCCI, the duo showed their funny side with Kohli asking Gambhir how did he feel while having a chat with the opposition. Kohli asked Gambhir if he did ever feel he would go out of the zone or feel if he would get out.

"But when you're batting and you have a bit of a chat with the opposition, did you ever feel like this might carry on to you going out of the zone and you potentially getting out or it put you in a more motivated space?" said Kohli. To this, Gambhir had a cheeky response, saying that Kohli had more altercations than him and he could answer that question better than him.

"You had more altercations than I have. You can answer that question better than I can," said Gambhir.

Gambhir and Kohli begin mission WTC Final

Gambhir and Kohli will begin their journey to the World Test Championship Final as coach and player with the Bangladesh series. The two Tests against Bangladesh will kickstart a 10-match run in the longest format of the game, which will see India also face New Zealand at home and Australia down under.

Champions Trophy: ICC delegation to review security arrangements in Pakistan

A five-member ICC delegation visited Pakistan to inspect venues for the 2024 Champions Trophy. Discussions included the tentative schedule and the possibility of the Indian team playing in Lahore.



Islamabad A five-member delegation of the International Cricket Council (ICC) landed in Karachi on Tuesday for an inspection visit for next year's Champions Trophy in Pakistan. Top officials of ICC's Events and Security Departments and the General

Manager of Cricket and Production Manager are part of the delegation.

Andy Atkinson, the ICC Pitch Consultant, has also visited Pakistan on three different occasions since April. According to details, the ICC delegation would discuss the tentative schedule of the tournament which

was prepared and sent by the Pakistan Cricket Board to them some months back. "The tentative schedule is important because it involves the Indian team being based in Lahore and playing all their matches in the city," a well-informed source said. The source said a scenario where the Indian government does not allow the Indians to travel to Pakistan will also be discussed. The delegation would inspect the ongoing construction work in Karachi and the team hotel arrangements before flying to Islamabad and Lahore for the same purpose.

"The delegation which includes their ICC Security Manager would also get briefings from security officials in Pakistan." The source said it is entirely up to the ICC when they decide to finalise and announce the tournament schedule.

Endrick has the gift that strikers dreams of: Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti

Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti was in awe of Endrick after the Brazilian forward's incredible goal against Stuttgart in the Champions League on September 17, Tuesday. Endrick's goal helped Los Blancos seal a win on Tuesday.

Stuttgart in the UEFA Champions League on September 17, Tuesday. Endrick scored the final goal in a 3-1 win for Los Blancos against the German side at the Santiago Bernabeu, in what was a tough test for Ancelotti's men. Endrick's goal was one of the highlights of the night as he made a darting run from close to the Madrid box all the way to the other side, before unleashing a fierce shot in the final minute of the game. Speaking to the reporters, as quoted by Reuters, Ancelotti claimed that the youngster is able to do things no one can think of. The Italian tactician also praised Endrick's courage for scoring such a goal in the final moments of the game.

"He is able to do things that no-one can think of." "He has the gift that strikers dream of, the gift of being very effective, decisive," Ancelotti said. "You can see that he has



something special, something I have never seen. And he has such a strong and very fast shooting." "Endrick had courage because it was the last ball of the game. The best solution was to take advantage of the three against one, with Vinicius and Rodrygo open in the wings, but he did it very well, even though it was perhaps the most complicated solution."

We are still trying to find our best version

Ancelotti expressed satisfaction with his team's opening performance in their Champions League title defence, despite a challenging start where Stuttgart controlled the early stages.

The German side created numerous opportunities, but Real Madrid's goalkeeper, Thibaut Courtois, delivered a series of outstanding saves to keep them at bay. Ancelotti also said that Real Madrid is still trying to find their best version. "If anyone thinks that winning games is easy, they are wrong. I have coached more than 200 games in the Champions League and I can't remember a game without suffering," Ancelotti said. "Nobody knows better than Real Madrid what it's like to win a Champions League with suffering. We are still trying to find our best version. It's a work in progress.



Priya Prakash Varrier's

Golden Ethnic Ensemble Is The Perfect Festive Pick

South actress Priya Prakash Varrier has taken the internet by storm with her famous wink, which made her an internet sensation overnight. The actress' clip, which was a scene from her debut film Oru Aadar Love, went viral on social media. Ever since she has steadily progressed in her career in the Malayalam industry and has never looked back. Apart from her outstanding acting prowess, the diva is also known for her active social media presence, and she never misses a chance to keep her fans updated. Recently, Priya Prakash Varrier did a photoshoot session on the occasion of Onam; the photos are currently going viral. In the photos, Priya is seen slaying in an off-white and golden silk ethnic ensemble. She teamed it with a golden corset blouse. She chose for subtle makeup, including perfectly drawn eyebrows, back winged eyeliner, contoured cheeks, a nude brown lip shade, and added small bindis on her forehead. She tied her hair in a high-rise long braid and added flowers and golden hair accessories to it. She completed her look with a beautiful golden necklace set, nath, and bunch of matching golden bangles, which absolutely suited her look.

The photos went viral in no time. Fans showered hearts and fire emotions in the comment box. A few days ago,

Priya Prakash Varrier shared another couple of pictures from her photoshoot diaries. In the photos, Priya was dressed in an emerald green floral lehenga set.

She chose a soft base, including brown eyeshadow, Kohl-rimmed eyes, and a brown lip shade. She tied her hair in a mid-parted bun and added a red rose to it. She summed up her look with a matching green bind, a golden sleek checker set, a matching bracelet, and a ring. She looked adorable.

Priya Prakash Varrier was recently seen in the Malayalam-language film Mandakini. The film is directed by Vinod Leela and produced by Sanju Unnithan under Spire Productions. It stars Althaf Salim, Anarkali Marikar, and Ganapathi S Poduval in the lead roles.



Munawar Faruqi Leaves Delhi and Rushes To Mumbai Over DEATH Threat, Delhi Police Probe Underway



Stand-up comedian and Bigg Boss 17 winner Munawar Faruqi left Delhi on Monday over a potential threat to life. As reported by ETimes, Munawar, who was in the national capital for the Entertainers Cricket League, left for Mumbai after Delhi Police received intelligence about a potential threat to the comedian's life. Reportedly, police officials got a hint about the potential threat on Saturday night when they were interrogating the suspects of another shooting case in New Delhi. During questioning, the suspects disclosed that they had recently been instructed to conduct reconnaissance of the hotel, where Munawar was staying, for a targeted murder.

Following the intelligence input, a search operation was conducted at the IGI indoor stadium and the hotel. Reportedly, Munawar was staying on the first floor of the hotel and his room was also examined by cops. "We were merely instructed to enhance security at the stadium where a match between two teams named Haryanvi Hunters and Mumbai Disruptors was scheduled to take place," a police officer from the south district said. Police officials are still stationed outside the hotel and further investigation is underway. However, it should also be noted that neither the management of ECL nor Munawar has issued any official statement as of now.

Meanwhile, on Monday, Elvish Yadav also allegedly received death threats. The Bigg Boss OTT 2 winner was attending the Entertainers Cricket League 2024 when he was supposed to play against Munawar Faruqi. As reported by Free Press Journal, the two engaged in fun banter ahead of the match. However, a little later, Elvish Yadav allegedly received death threats for playing against Munawar. Reportedly, the officials were also left shocked following which they decided to vacate the stadium. To ensure the safety of Elvish, all the fans were asked to leave and the entrance gates were also sealed. The players played the match without the audience.

When Amitabh Bachchan 'Couldn't Sleep For Two Nights' After Aishwarya Rai's Accident: 'She Suffered..'



In 2003, during the filming of Rajkumar Santoshi's Khakee starring Aishwarya Rai, Amitabh Bachchan and Akshay Kumar near Nashik, a terrifying accident involving Aishwarya occurred, leaving the entire cast and crew shaken. A stuntman lost control, driving too fast and skidding, resulting in the car ramming into Aishwarya's chair. Unable to move quickly enough, Aishwarya and her co-star, Tushar Kapoor, were caught off guard by the speeding vehicle. The situation was so critical that Akshay Kumar had to step in, pulling the car away and extricating Aishwarya, who was then rushed to the hospital. Amitabh Bachchan, who would later become Aishwarya's father-in-law after she married his son Abhishek, was deeply upset with the media's portrayal of her accident. The press downplayed her injury, calling it trivial, which struck a nerve with Bachchan. During a chat with Rediff, Amitabh spoke out about the incident, talking about the gravity of the situation and expressing his concern for Aishwarya's well-being during that traumatic event.

"I asked Aishwarya's mother if she wanted to take her daughter back to Mumbai. We organised Anil Ambani's private plane. Since there is no night landing facility in Nashik, we had to take permission from Delhi to land the plane at the military base which is 45 minutes away from the hospital. The seats had to be removed from the aircraft. And everyone is brushing it off as a small incident blown out of proportion," an upset Amitabh Bachchan had raved. He had also opened up on how the accident and Aishwarya's wounds had left a deep impact on his mind. "For two nights I couldn't sleep. To see this happen in front of my eyes! Her back was lacerated with cactus thorns. The bone in the rear portion of her feet is broken. She suffered severe cuts. And her injury was reported as trivial," Amitabh Bachchan had said. Aishwarya Rai married Abhishek Bachchan on April 20, 2007, in a grand ceremony, and became the "Bachchan Bahu." Aishwarya and Abhishek have a daughter named Aaradhya Bachchan. For a while now, Aishwarya Rai has been spotted solo or with her daughter. This has led to rumours that a Aishwarya Rai Abhishek Bachchan divorce might be on the horizon.

Kavitha Gowda

To Welcome Baby In October, Shares Baby Shower Photos

Actors Kavitha Gowda and Chandan Kumar are looking eagerly to welcoming their first child in October. Recently Chandan shared some adorable pictures of Kavitha's pregnancy photoshoot on Instagram. He tagged her in the photos as well. She was draped in a saree with heavy embellishments including a maang tika, necklace, earrings and bangles. In the other pictures, the Lakshmi Baramma actress is draped in a green saree paired with a magenta-coloured blouse. Kavitha looks pretty as she smiles for the cameras while Chandan puts a garland around her and showers flowers on her in the baby shower. In the subsequent photographs, the Pyate Mandi Kadige Bandru actor adorably kisses her baby bump and holds hands. Chandan wore a white shirt and colour-coordinated dhoti for the photographs. He attached the song Singara Siriye from the film Kantara to the photographs. He wrote some portion of the caption in Kannada which when loosely translated means, "Frontier moments!!". In the remaining caption, he wrote, "See scattered toys, tons of diapers, and sleepless nights in our future. Waiting for the fun to begin. Chandan had talked about Kavitha's pregnancy in an earlier interaction with the Times of India. He replied, "We are all ecstatic to welcome a little one into our world which will further brighten our life. I am looking forward to enjoying every bit of parenthood which will be the new phase of our lives." He said that they don't have any specific gender in their minds and just



want the baby to be healthy. The Pyate Mandi Kadige Bandru actor called it their topmost priority. Kannada television couple Chandan and Kavitha tied the nuptial knot during the lockdown in Karnataka on May 14, 2021. Their wedding took place traditionally in the presence of close friends and family members. The couple, who first met each other eight years back on the sets of the Television show Lakshmi Baramma, got engaged in a private ceremony on April 1. In Lakshmi Baramma, Chandan enacted the male lead; while Kavitha played the titular role of Lakshmi. The former made his acting debut with the 2011 Kannada serial Pyate Mandi Kadige Bandru. On the other hand, Kavitha made her debut with the Tamil serial Mahabharatham.

