



सत्यमेव जयते



घरती आबा भगवान बिरसा मुंडा की पावन घरती पर

श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मु

भारत की माननीय राष्ट्रपति

का हार्दिक अभिनंदन
और जोहार

20 सितम्बर, 2024



श्रीमती द्रौपदी मुर्मु
माननीय राष्ट्रपति



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When separation of powers takes a hit

THE separation of powers among the executive, judicial and legislative branches of the government is indispensable to ensuring checks and balances, which in turn are essential for democratic governance. This is based on a fundamental principle of democracy — the state is accountable to the people and not the other way around. The people are accountable to the law of the land, administered according to the provisions and processes laid out by the Constitution. In India, the Constitution is not a gift of the state to the people. It is “We the people”, as stated in the Preamble, who have given themselves a Constitution whose provisions bind the state. In addition to the separation of powers among the three branches, in a federal state like India, there are also checks and balances for the Centre and the states. The Constitution spells out the jurisdiction of the Centre and the states with respect to various domains. The states prevent overreach in the exercise of power by the Centre and vice versa. The objective is to achieve a diffusion of power of the state in a manner which safeguards the exercise of the fundamental and inalienable rights of citizens without impairing efficient governance. The role of independent and empowered institutions, including those that draw authority from the Constitution, such as the Election Commission, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India or the Union Public Service Commission, is another important safeguard against the arbitrary exercise of power by the state. The political history of India since the adoption of the Constitution on January 26, 1950, has been a saga of inspiring wins for democracy, but also several setbacks. The adoption of the principle of the Basic Structure of the Constitution is an important safeguard against the denial of fundamental rights of citizens by a predatory state. According to this principle, enshrined in the Kesavananda Bharati judgment (April 24, 1973) of the Supreme Court, there are certain fundamental features of the Constitution, such as its supremacy, the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, which cannot be amended or abrogated by Parliament through a constitutional amendment. This principle has been attacked in recent years, but it must be upheld. Without this principle, it is conceivable that relying on a brute majority, a government could eviscerate the very foundations of Indian democracy.

There are threats to independent institutions which must be resisted. In a brilliant address to the Asiatic Society of Mumbai in December last year, eminent jurist Rohinton Fali Nariman drew attention to the danger in the passage of a law, which laid down the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India. According to a Bill passed in December 2023, the CEC would be appointed by a committee comprising the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet minister nominated by the PM and the Leader of the Opposition (LoP). As Nariman pointed out, this provision means, in effect, that the CEC is appointed by the PM himself since the LoP will always be outvoted two to one. This would severely compromise the independence and neutrality of the CEC and undermine the credibility of the election process. The Bill has been challenged in court. The recent conduct of several Centrally appointed governors has also undermined Centre-state relations, weakened the federal structure and encouraged political horse trading and floor-crossing. Governors have sat on Bills passed by state legislatures, openly obstructed the normal functioning of state governments and indulged in blatantly partisan behaviour. This not only undermines democratically elected governments but erodes the very fabric of federalism, without which a highly diverse country cannot be managed. Justice Nariman also touched upon this unhealthy development in his address. While there is the letter of the law which must be followed, there are also the more intangible dictates of constitutional morality and propriety.

Time ripe for the govt to fulfil social security promises

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



Following the setback it received in the parliamentary elections, the BJP has set out to deliver in the social services sector to win back popular support. The ruling party is seeking to make good on some of the promises it had made during the election campaign.

What we have to see is if the government has the financial resources and skills to fulfil these promises. Also, perhaps more importantly, what is its record in actually delivering on similar promises it made earlier?

One promise is to make health insurance available to every citizen above 70, with few ifs and buts. This is vital, as the population is getting older. The other is to provide social security to gig workers, who currently have none. Their number is also likely to rise as online shopping increases with the spread of information technology.

The Union Cabinet has just expanded the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, touted as the world's largest public health insurance scheme, to make it applicable to all 70-plus people, irrespective of their income. It will have a cover of Rs 5 lakh per year and benefit around four crore citizens. This scheme will be available even to those who have private insurance cover. The social security plan for gig workers will cover 77 lakh people. The premium for the cover will be paid for by the aggregators who use the gig workers' services at 1-2 per cent of revenue. This will help create a social security fund, which will cover workers' health insurance and other benefits outlined in the Code on

Social Security that was passed by Parliament in 2020. It has not been implemented yet as the rules are still being finalised. Why does the government feel confident that it has the resources to go through with these large social programmes? The economy is doing well, remaining the fastest-growing among all the large economies. In the last financial year, it clocked a record 8 per cent growth and remains highly robust in the current year with prospects of over 6 per cent growth. Helping it along is the stock market that ended on a high this mid-month.

There is also no chance of overheating, with inflation remaining within the bounden lines, courtesy in part the monsoon having arrived on time. Hence, the official interest rate is set to remain steady. Under these circumstances, the government has enough financial resources to pay for the outgo of the new project.

The health premium for the elderly will cost the Centre Rs 3,437 crore for the latter half of the current financial year and the entire second year. State governments will chip in with 40 per cent of the cost. The social cover for gig workers will, of course, be paid for by the businesses running the show, interestingly called aggregators.

But much more relevant is how other such programmes have been delivering in the past. Let's make a test case of how the rural employment guarantee programme under MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) has been faring. An active monsoon and a robust kharif season have led to an

anaemic demand for these low-paid jobs as better-paid farm jobs have become available. Throughout the 2023-24 financial year, the demand for these low-paid jobs kept reducing. Hence, the agriculture sector would appear to be doing fine.

However, independent experts on the programme have a different understanding. They say that there is poor offtake for the low-paid jobs, not because better-paid jobs are available, but because the demand is kept low artificially because of the fund shortage for the programme. When wages are delayed or do not reach beneficiaries on time, they lose interest in the programme. Another allegation, which is quite serious, is that the actual demand is not being met at the panchayat level to keep budgetary outgo within limits.

Bureaucratic systems add to the problem. Technological interventions like Aadhaar card-based attendance systems and GPS tracking of work sites have discouraged workers from seeking employment under this scheme. So, how do we go from here? How can we ensure that the elderly who seek medical service and the young gig workers get benefits of some of these promises? Besides, what we have seen earlier is that financial resources are not the issue.

A good way to begin is to find out how and why health insurance services are denied and patients sometimes have to go from one hospital to another to find out which one would be willing to admit them. The common complaint on the part of hospitals is that it takes them months to get reimbursements for services delivered under the scheme.

Experts across the country also need to devise a new system that can deliver a modicum of social security to gig workers, for whom it

One way can be to look at how the UK is trying to address the ills of the National Health Service (NHS), considered the grandfather among such national services across the world. The UK Prime Minister has said that the NHS is in a critical condition and warned there will be no fresh funds without reform. Three actions that have been identified are: transition to digital functioning; moving more care from hospitals to communities; and focusing on prevention before people actually need hospitalisation. In India, too, a new health insurance system has been introduced by Narayana Health Hospitals that needs to be scrutinised by both the government and private entities. Its key features are: the insurance policy is provided by a particular hospital; the focus is on preventive care and treatment; and this works out to cheaper costs and premiums. The crux of the matter is that at the first sign of trouble, you go to the hospital and get treatment. It will benefit both the individual and the insurance firms.

Phasing out paddy

Crop diversification vital for Punjab

PUNJAB's draft Agriculture Policy has laudably recommended a ban on all long-duration paddy varieties and paddy cultivation in 15 dark blocks, where the groundwater extraction rate is well above the recharge rate. Water-guzzling paddy has become a millstone around the state's neck in recent decades. Its cultivation was imposed on Punjab at a time when the country was facing food insecurity in the 1960s. The state's gritty farmers rose to the occasion, ushering in the Green Revolution, and the food-deficient nation became food-surplus. However, this led to far-reaching repercussions — agricultural as well as environmental.

Though rice is not a staple food in Punjab, cultivators have stuck to paddy farming because of an assured procurement system. What's alarming is the enormous damage caused to the water table. According to doomsday predictions, Punjab — the fabled 'land of the five rivers' — may turn into a desert in two decades. Moreover, the rampant burning of paddy stubble aggravates air pollution in many parts of the northern



region in October-November every year. Successive governments in Punjab have tried measures such as encouraging short-duration paddy varieties and

prohibiting transplantation before the notified date, but these have only been partially successful. Unfortunately, crop diversification has been promoted in a half-hearted manner. Motivating farmers to shun paddy has to go hand in hand with encouraging them to go for alternatives that consume far less water.

In November last year, the Supreme Court had asked the Centre to seriously consider the Punjab Government's suggestion to phase out paddy cultivation and incentivise farmers to switch over to crops such as millets by offering them the minimum support price (MSP). However, the MSP regime remains confined largely to wheat and paddy. This glaring anomaly has to be removed in order to arrest Punjab's desertification. Considering the state's immense contribution to the Central foodgrain pool, the Union Government must help it turn the tide before it's too late.

Western pressure no deterrent to India-Russia ties

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

AUSTRIAN Chancellor Klemens von Metternich said two centuries ago: “When France sneezes, the rest of Europe catches a cold.” The prolonged Russia-Ukraine conflict has made the whole of Europe catch a cold. Does the West now expect even faraway neutral countries like India and other non-partisan, non-Western nations to follow suit? Else, why should the democracy-championing West betray an imperialistic impulse to forcibly draw sovereign nations into Europe's conflict? Why do these countries need to toe the line and pay obeisance to the West? The message was loud and clear in a recent Financial Times report claiming that Russia had built a covert trade channel with India. The report said: “Russia has been secretly acquiring sensitive goods in India and explored building facilities in the country to secure components for its war effort.” Elaborating on the modus operandi, the story obviously tried to show India's ‘wrongdoing’, thereby implying that it was damaging the ‘just cause’ of Western support to Ukraine against Russia. It was obvious that India was expected to mend its ways and do what the West wanted it to do.

The report, which implied that India and Russia had formed an ‘unholy nexus’, looked like an open threat with dire consequences for New Delhi. India is being painted as a villain for doing business with Moscow at a time when, in the eyes of the West, Russia is a pariah state. Hence, India is expected to choose between the US-led West and Russia. It is “my way or the highway”. And the West wants India to discard Moscow. This is a bizarre and childish mindset, especially if one recalls the statement made by US Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo in July,

when he wrote to three of India's top business organisations, warning them that “any foreign financial institution that does business with Russia's military industrial base risks being sanctioned itself.” Perhaps the White House fails to see the irreparable damage being inflicted on America's global interests and the implacable hatred and hostility being generated towards Washington. This reckless business of sanctions will not lead US very far. It is instantly turning even a traditional friend into a potential foe. It smacks of unacceptable duplicity, hateful hypocrisy and inherent insincerity of the US of yore; the post-World War II Washington of Bretton Woods and the Marshall Plan — the mastermind and financier for the reconstruction of Europe. How would US arms company General Dynamics (the original maker of F-16 fighter aircraft from the 1970s) and the supplier of Patton tanks have reacted if they had got an ‘open threat’ from India with regard to defence contractors doing business with military dictators of Pakistan? One wonders how the US or Europe could not be aware that over the past seven decades, the Moscow-Delhi defence partnership has flourished in the best and worst of times. Logically, therefore, if India keeps buying defence equipment from Russia, what stops Moscow from purchasing military hardware from Delhi? Is India party to the Russia-Ukraine conflict? Is Delhi instigating and playing one against another? Can India's bona fide bilateral economic, commercial and military transactions with a friendly Russia be scuttled by the US, which is also a friend of Delhi?

The Joe Biden administration must not forget the



catastrophic damage done by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger to the India-US ties in the 1970s and beyond. Let the sordid past remain buried in the annals of history. Do not reopen it. Mutual trust and respect are a must. It took several years to heal the wounds of humiliation — the American duo had used abusive language while referring to then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi — and revive robust relations between two great democracies.

True, the ongoing conflict in Europe is a matter of grave concern for the world. But the primary responsibility to stop the bloodshed lies with the nations that are members of NATO and/or EU, and not with distant neutral nations. It again boils down to the fundamental folly being repeated by the West. Sanctions are proving to be the prime cause for the decimation of a globalised economy and the interlinked chain of economics assiduously built

over five decades through the ‘free trade’ theory.

The US should remember that globalisation and sanctions are contradictory and mutually self-defeating. The former is a boon, the latter a bane. It will be most damaging for the globalised dollar and the universally accepted Belgium-based bank transaction system SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication). Yet, the US treasury “routinely orders banks to freeze wire transfers that look suspicious or in breach of sanctions,” resulting in Russian President Vladimir Putin's prescient 2018 statement: “We are not aiming to ditch the dollar. The dollar is ditching us.” Thus

arises the need to skirt the greenback. Either way, time will reveal the repercussions of the story that could be anything but positive for ‘the dollar that once was’. In the long term, the US is fairly and squarely creating a self-go scenario.

Today, SWIFT handles 40 per cent of its payments in USD. Yet, it has to follow the diktats of America, thereby disrupting its business. The “business of the US threat” to India is also a bad omen. New Delhi is a friend of Washington. And Russia does not object to India's bonhomie with the US. Did Moscow express displeasure when India opted for Boeing, Lockheed or the Raytheon weapon system? Why, then, does the US employ archaic gunboat diplomacy of threats, sanctions and boycott of allies? Is America going against its own interests? Is the arm-twisting era of Kissinger back to hunt and haunt India?

Cisco cuts thousands of jobs in second biggest layoff of 2024: Report

New Delhi US tech giant Cisco has laid off thousands of employees in what is reported to be the company's second major job cut this year. According to a TechCrunch report, Cisco is cutting around 5,600 jobs, or 7% of its workforce, as part of its ongoing effort to manage costs amid falling demand and to focus on its investments in artificial intelligence (AI). This latest round of layoffs follows a previous cut in February when Cisco let go of about 4,000 employees. The company's decision has left many employees uncertain, with reports indicating that Cisco did not disclose exactly which departments or teams would be impacted until mid-September. The layoffs are part of a wider trend in the technology sector, where companies are cutting jobs to deal with economic challenges and a decline in demand.

In total, over 136,000 tech employees have been laid off across 422 companies in 2024, according to industry data. Cisco's workforce was approximately 85,000 before these layoffs. Despite the layoffs, Cisco remains optimistic about the future of its business. CEO Chuck Robbins said the company expects a rebound in demand for its networking equipment in the coming months.

As part of its strategy, Cisco is restructuring its business to focus on high-growth areas, including artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. To strengthen its position in AI, Cisco has allocated \$1 billion to invest in AI startups. Additionally, the company made a major move into the cybersecurity sector with its \$28 billion acquisition of cybersecurity firm Splunk earlier this year. These investments are part of Cisco's broader effort to shift its focus from traditional networking equipment to emerging technologies and subscription-based services. Cisco is expecting to face significant costs as it undertakes its restructuring plan. The company estimates that it will incur expenses of up to \$1 billion before taxes, with between \$700 million and \$800 million of that amount expected to be recognised in the first quarter of its fiscal year.

EY India commits to providing 'healthy workplace' after mother says daughter died of overwork

NEW DELHI After a mother's anguished letter following the tragic death of her 26-year-old daughter and Ernst & Young (EY) employee Anna Sebastian Perayil, the company has issued a statement highlighting its "commitment to employee well-being." The letter that blamed the intense workload and pressures in the corporate sector for Anna's death has brought significant attention to issues surrounding workplace culture and the challenges faced by young professionals. Having joined the firm on March 19, 2024, Anna had passed away just four months later on July 20, 2024. In a poignant letter addressed to EY India Chairman Rajiv Memani, Anna's mother, Anita Augustine, condemned the firm for fostering an environment that glorifies overwork.

She described her daughter as a high achiever who had recently passed her Chartered Accountant (CA) exams with distinction. Despite her excitement about starting her career, Anna reportedly faced overwhelming stress and anxiety due to excessive workloads and relentless demands. Anita highlighted that Anna often worked late into the night and on weekends, taking on additional tasks beyond her official responsibilities.

"She confided in us about the overwhelming workload," Anita wrote. "I urged her not to take on such tasks, but the pressure from managers was relentless." In response, EY released a statement expressing deep sorrow and extending condolences to her family. They acknowledged her brief tenure in the Audit team at S R Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global, and described her passing as an "irreparable loss". The firm emphasized their commitment to supporting the family and assured that they are taking the concerns raised seriously. "We are deeply saddened by Anna Sebastian's tragic and untimely passing in July 2024, and our deepest condolences go to the bereaved family. Anna was a part of the Audit team at S R Batliboi, a member firm of EY Global, in Pune for a brief period of four months, joining the firm on March 18, 2024. That her promising career was cut short in this tragic manner is an irreparable loss for all of us," the statement read.

In the statement EY said that they are dedicated to the well-being of all employees, stating they will continue to seek improvements to foster a healthier workplace for their staff across India.

SpiceJet QIP gets huge response, overbooked

NEW DELHI SpiceJet's Rs 3,000 crore qualified institutions placement (QIP) has received an overwhelming response and attracted investment from family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangi, and Rohit Kothari.

Further, investors in the placement includes big names such as Tata Mutual Fund, Bandhan Bank, Discovery Fund, Plutus, and Jupiter Fund Management. According to sources, the QIP was oversubscribed on Day 1 itself. "The total offers received exceed Rs 3,000 crore, underscoring the strong confidence and interest in the company's growth prospects," said a source aware with the development. "Renowned



investors, including family offices and institutional funds, have participated in the QIP, further solidifying the positive sentiment towards SpiceJet. Notable investors include family offices of Madhu Kela, Akash Bhanshali, Sanjay Dangi, Rohit Kothari, as well as Discovery Fund, Plutus, Jupiter Fund Management, Think Investments, Tata Mutual Fund, and Bandhan Bank."

FM introduces pension scheme for children, parents can enrol in bank

To open a Vatsalya account, a minimum initial contribution of Rs 1,000 is required, followed by an annual contribution of Rs 1,000.

NEW DELHI Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday introduced NPS Vatsalya scheme, enabling parents to invest in a pension account for their children. Parents can enrol in the scheme either online or by visiting a bank or post office. To open a Vatsalya account, a minimum initial contribution of Rs 1,000 is required, followed by an annual contribution of Rs 1,000. "NPS has generated very competitive returns and offers option to people to save while ensuring future income," Sitharaman said. This saving-cum-pension scheme is



regulated and administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFDA) and is designed to allow parents to invest in a pension account for their minor children.

All Indian citizens below the age of 18 are eligible for the NPS Vatsalya scheme. An account can be opened in the name of the minor, but it must be operated by a guardian, ensuring that the minor is the

sole beneficiary of the funds. Parents can easily open the NPS Vatsalya account either online or through physical channels, including major banks and India Post, all of which are registered with PFDA. A list of Point of Presence (POPs) can be accessed on the PFDA website.

Account Opening Requirements

To open an NPS Vatsalya account, guardians must provide proof of the minor's date of birth, which can include documents like a birth certificate, school leaving certificate, or passport. Additionally, the guardian must submit their KYC documentation, including proof of identity and address such as Aadhaar or a driving licence. A Permanent Account Number (PAN) or a Form 60 declaration is also required. For guardians who are non-resident Indians (NRIs) or overseas citizens of India (OCIs), a NRE/NRO bank account for the minor is necessary.

US Fed cuts rates by 50 bps: How will it affect Indian stock market

NEW DELHI The US Federal Reserve has cut its key interest rate by 50 basis points, bringing it down to 4.75-5%. This is the first time the Fed has reduced rates since 2020, and it has been done to address slowing economic growth and easing inflation in the US. The move has raised concerns about the stability of the US economy, and the impact is expected to be felt in markets across the world, including India. While the markets opened on record highs with Nifty breaching the 25,500 mark for the first time, will the market rally continue?

Short-term volatility expected

Experts believe that in the short term, the Indian stock market might experience some ups and downs. This is because changes in US interest rates often lead to adjustments in global markets, and investors may react to the uncertainty.

However, India's strong economic position could still attract overseas investments, which may benefit the stock market in the long run.

Swapnil Aggarwal, Director of VSRK Capital, said, "In the short term, the Indian market may face some volatility, but in the medium to long term, India could still attract overseas



investment due to its economic prospects. This would be good for the stock markets."

The rate cut could also have an effect on Indian exports, particularly in sectors like IT services that are heavily dependent on the US market. If the US economy slows down further, it could reduce demand for Indian goods and services. This might hurt India's export earnings. Aggarwal also pointed out that a slowdown in the US economy would mean reduced demand for Indian exports, especially in IT services. This could weigh on India's overall export performance.

Indian Rupee and capital flows

On the positive side, a stronger Indian rupee and potential capital inflows could benefit India in the short term. A

stronger rupee makes imports cheaper and can improve the country's trade balance. However, these benefits might not last if the US economy continues to struggle. According to experts, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) might also consider cutting interest rates to keep pace with the global trend. Some analysts suggest the RBI could lower rates by 25 to 50 basis points before 2025, though this will depend on how the US economy evolves and how global investors adjust their portfolios.

Caution in banking and financial sectors

The performance of banking and financial stocks will be key in determining how the Indian market reacts to the US Fed's decision. While rate cuts generally help boost markets, a cut of this size can also signal concerns about the economy, which may dampen investor confidence. Palka Arora Chopra, Director of Master Capital Services Ltd, said, "A 50 basis points reduction signals major concerns about the economy. While rate cuts are usually good for markets, a large cut like this is seen as a sign of economic trouble, which can lower investor sentiment."

OTT communication apps excluded from authorisation regime

NEW DELHI: Despite demands from telecom service providers to bring them under licencing, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has excluded over-the-top (OTT) communication apps such as WhatsApp and Telegram from its new authorisation regime.

The regulatory body on Wednesday released the recommendations on the Framework for Service Authorisations to be granted under the Telecommunications Act, 2023. Telecom service providers such as Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel and Vodafone Idea demanded to bring OTT services like WhatsApp, Telegram and Skype under regulation, referencing the Act. They argued that the bill's broad definition of "message" could encompass OTT communication services. "These recommendations are aimed at a major revamp of existing telecommunication service licencing

regime and at fostering growth and enhancing ease of doing business in the sector. Through these recommendations, TRAI has



recommended a new service authorisation framework, apart from detailed terms and conditions of various service authorisations to be granted under the Telecommunications Act, 2023," reads the recommendation. TRAI merged commercial VSAT-CUG and GMPCS services into a single authorisation, dubbed 'Satellite-based

Telecommunication Service Authorization'. Additionally, TRAI suggested reducing the licence fee.

It has suggested reducing licence fee for various telecommunication services including a major reduction in entry fees for different service authorisations. This is expected to encourage new entrants and boost competition. To achieve the objective of 'One Nation - One Authorisation', TRAI has introduced the Unified Service Authorisation. Entities holding this authorisation can provide a wide range of telecommunication services including mobile, internet, broadband, landline, long-distance, satellite communication, and M2M services on pan-India basis. Merging of bank guarantees and replacing affidavit with a self-certificate is expected to simplify procedures and enhance the ease of doing business.

Explained: What US Fed's 50 bps rate cut means for Indian economy

New Delhi. The US Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate by an unexpected 50 basis points (bps) on Wednesday, a move that caught many by surprise. The Fed's decision signalled a shift towards easing monetary policy, with experts divided on its implications for the global economy, including India. Here's a detailed look at how the bigger-than-expected rate cut could impact the Indian economy and the broader market. The 50 bps rate cut was unexpected for most market participants who had anticipated a smaller 25 bps reduction. According to Apurva Sheth, Head of Market Perspectives at SAMCO Securities, the decision sparked mixed reactions in the market, with initial volatility calming down to modest gains by the end of the trading session.

Sheth added that the Fed's primary goal was to support the labour market, which has shown signs of stress. He suggested that investors focus on defensive sectors such as FMCG and pharmaceuticals, while also considering the potential of precious metals like gold and silver until there's more clarity on market direction.

Meanwhile, Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, described the Fed's move as one that could push equity markets into a consolidation phase. He pointed out that Fed Chair Jerome Powell's optimistic remarks on inflation reaching the 2% target were well-received, especially considering the solid US economic growth and robust labour market. For India, this could mean more accommodative policies in the near future. Vijayakumar expects that the US Federal Reserve's aggressive cuts will pave the way for the Reserve Bank of India to lower interest rates. With India's consumer price inflation (CPI) already easing below the RBI's 4% target, two potential rate cuts of 25 bps each by March 2025 seem likely. He noted that the banking sector, particularly rate-sensitive industries, could see favorable conditions as interest rates decline, benefiting sectors such as infrastructure. Vijay Bharadia, Founder of Wallfort Financial Services Ltd, also agreed that



the rate cut marks a bold move that may encourage other global central banks, including the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to adopt a softer monetary stance. He pointed out that rate cuts would benefit leveraged sectors such as metals and infrastructure. However, the rate cut might put pressure on India's banking sector, especially with a declining CASA (current account savings account) base. As interest rates fall, bank deposits may become less attractive to customers, affecting banking profitability in the medium term. Deepak Ramaraju, Senior Fund Manager at Shriram AMC, echoed

similar concerns. He believes that while the Fed's 50 bps rate cut may bring relief to equity markets, the domestic banking sector could face challenges due to outbound flows of foreign institutional investments (FII) in the short term.

Nevertheless, a weakening US dollar could draw capital back into India, stabilising markets by the end of the year.

Impact on bonds and rupee

Suman Chowdhury, Chief Economist at Acuité Ratings & Research, highlighted the potential impact on India's bond market. A cut in the US interest rate could increase foreign capital inflows into the Indian debt market, leading to lower domestic bond yields, Chowdhury said.

India's 10-year g-sec yield, which has already dropped below 6.8%, could fall further, benefiting both government borrowing and the corporate bond market, he noted, adding that lower borrowing costs could encourage Indian banks and infrastructure companies to issue long-term bonds, increasing fund mobilisation options.

Centre To Share Information With Supreme Court On Collegium Resolutions

The submissions to this effect were made by Attorney General R Venkataramani before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud.

New Delhi: The Centre on Thursday told the Supreme Court that it will be providing some details next week concerning the collegium's recommendations on the appointment of chief justices in several high courts in the country. The submissions to this effect were made by Attorney General R Venkataramani before a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud while seeking an adjournment of the hearing on a PIL which is listed for hearing on Friday. "I will be providing some details about the collegium's recommendations. Please list the plea (which is listed on Friday) after a week," the top law officer told the bench which also comprised justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. The bench said the submissions for the adjournment can be made on Friday itself as the matter is already on board. Meanwhile, the CJI told the top law

officer that the Jharkhand government has filed a contempt petition against the Centre for not appointing the Chief Justice in the high court in the state. The Hemant Soren-led JMM government has moved the top court against the Centre for not clearing the recommendation made by the Collegium to appoint Justice M S Ramachandra Rao as the Chief Justice of the Jharkhand High Court. "I am not aware," the top law officer said. Earlier, the attorney general on September 13 told the bench that the central government had received some "sensitive material" that had led to a delay in implementation of the apex court collegium's recommendations on appointments of chief justices to high courts. The top law officer said he received



certain inputs from the Union government which are sensitive in nature and revealing them in the public domain would neither be in the interest of the institution nor of the judges involved. "I would like to place the inputs and my suggestions in a sealed cover for perusal by the judges," Venkataramani had told the bench. The PIL filed by

advocate Harsh Vibhore Singhal was then posted for hearing on September 20. Singhal has sought a direction that a time limit be fixed for the Centre to notify the appointment of judges recommended by the apex court collegium. It has also sought a direction to plug the 'zone of twilight' of there being no time for notifying the collegium's recommendations for the appointment of judges to the higher judiciary.

The plea said that in the absence of a fixed period, "the government arbitrarily delays notifying appointments thereby trampling upon judicial independence, imperilling the constitutional and democratic order and disparaging the majesty and sagacity of the court". The plea said if any name is not objected to or the appointments are not notified by the end of

such a fixed period, then appointments of such judges must be taken as notified. The three-member collegium headed by the CJI, on July 11, recommended to the Centre the names for the appointment of chief justices for seven high courts namely Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Madras and Meghalaya. The recommendations are pending approval with the Centre. The Supreme Court collegium, on July 17, tweaked its July 11 resolution relating to the appointment of the chief justices for the high courts of Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com There were speculations that tweaking of the collegium's July 11 resolution took place apparently after the Centre shared some crucial information with the collegium.

7 dead, 11 injured in truck-auto collision in Madhya Pradesh

New Delhi: Seven people, including a 3-year-old, were killed, and 11 others wounded when a truck collided with a three-wheeler autorickshaw in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district on Wednesday. According to the police, a heavy vehicle dragged a loading auto for approximately 100 meters before overturning and landing on a three-wheeler near Lunji village on the Sehore-Majhgawan road at around 3:30 pm, news agency PTI reported. Soon after the incident, the police arrived at the scene and sent the injured to the nearby



hospital in Sihora for treatment. The dead have been identified as Shobharam (35), son of Chotu; Usha Bai (50), wife of Kothari Adivasi; Shivakul (18),

son of Rajesh Kol; Kallu Bai (30), wife of Shobharam; Ranu Kol (19), wife of Karan; Karan (20), son of Pardeshi Kol; and little Bhura Kol (3), son of Shobharam Kol. Those injured included six men and four women. All those dead and wounded were residents of Pratappur village. Expressing grief over the incident, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav announced financial aid of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of the victims from his discretionary grant and Rs 50,000 to the injured. "I express condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief," he stated on X. Meanwhile, the police have arrested the truck driver and started their investigation. Bystanders immediately informed the police about the accident and rushed to rescue those trapped under the truck.

Rape case against Karnataka BJP MLA arrested for issuing death threats

New Delhi: A rape case has been registered against Karnataka BJP MLA Munirathna, who is already behind bars in connection to other cases for alleged harassment, death threats and casteist abuse. The alleged incident took place at a private resort near Bengaluru. The rape case against the MLA and six others was filed on Wednesday night based on a complaint made by the rape survivor. Police officer said "the case was registered under various sections for rape by public servant, sexual harassment, criminal intimidation, criminal conspiracy, voyeurism, intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace", reports news agency PTI. He said a probe into the incident is currently



underway. The latest development came days after Munirathna, an MLA from the Rajarajeshwari Nagar Assembly seat, was sent to police custody following his arrest for allegedly threatening a contractor and using casteist slurs against him.

The two previous cases against the MLA were filed in Bengaluru on September 13. He was arrested from Kolar. The first case involved issuing a death threat and four individuals, including Munirathna, were named in the FIR. The second case charged Munirathna with casteist abuse against the contractor. The contractor had released an audio clip during a press conference, claiming that Munirathna harassed him for a bribe.

Employee blames rats for hole in Delhi-Mumbai highway, company fires him

New Delhi: An employee who claimed to be a part of the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway project was fired after he stated that rats were responsible for the caving in the portion of road in Rajasthan's Dausa district. The employee, claiming to be the Maintenance Manager, was a junior staff member of KCC Buildcon. The firm clarified the situation in a letter to the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI). The firm stated that the comment was made by a junior employee who had no technical understanding regarding the project and confirmed that he had been terminated from the company. "The employee is not the maintenance manager; comments made were not based on

technical understanding," the company stated in the letter. "It's likely that a rat or some small animal

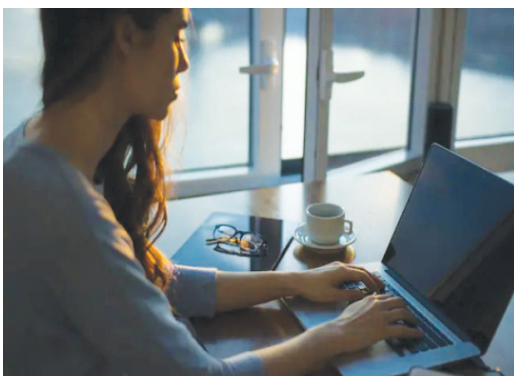


dug a hole, allowing water to seep through," the employee told India Today earlier. Meanwhile, as per the project director of the expressway in Dausa, Balveer Yadav, the road caved

in due to a water leak. As soon as the contractor got information about the matter, he immediately barricaded the area, and the pothole was repaired, Yadav said. The Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, spanning 1,386 kilometers, is the country's longest expressway, designed to cut travel time between the two cities from 24 hours to just 12-13 hours. The expressway traverses multiple states, including Haryana, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Maharashtra. As of July 31, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari informed the Rajya Sabha that 80 percent of the project is complete, with at least one more year required for its full completion.

Woman Says Daughter Died Of "Overwork" At EY India, Company Responds

New Delhi: Facing criticism over the viral letter of a woman who alleged that her 26-year-old daughter had died of "overwork" just four months after joining Ernst & Young, the consulting firm promised to make efforts to make the work environment healthier. "We are deeply saddened by Anna Sebastian's tragic and untimely passing in July 2024, and our deepest condolences go to the bereaved family," Ernst & Young, which is among the Big 4 consulting firms, said in a statement Wednesday. The company said they are providing all the assistance to the family and would find ways to improve and provide a healthy workplace to its employees. While no measure can compensate for the loss experienced by the family, we have provided all the assistance as we



always do in such times of distress and will continue to do so." "We are taking the family's correspondence with the utmost seriousness and humility. We place the highest importance on the well-being of all employees and will continue to find ways to improve and provide a healthy workplace for our 100,000

people across EY member firms in India", the firm added. A letter written by the woman's mother to EY India Chairman Rajiv Memani was in wide circulation on social media on Wednesday. In the letter, she claimed that her daughter died of "overwork" just four months after joining the company and no one from the organisation attended her funeral. She also described how her daughter was thrilled to be part of EY as it was her first job. "She was full of life, dreams, and excitement for the future. EY was her first job, and she was thrilled to be part of such a prestigious company. But four months later, on July 20th, 2024, my world collapsed when I received the devastating news that Anna had passed away. She was just 26 years old," she wrote.

Villages relocated for Jewar airport construction flooded after rain

After local MLA Dharendra Singh intervened and spoke with the authorities, the drainage of water and unclogging of drains started in the villages.

New Delhi: The villages that are being relocated for the construction of an international airport in Jewar near Delhi have been inundated for the last five days due to incessant rains. After local MLA Dharendra Singh intervened and spoke with the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority, Public Works



Department (PWD) and irrigation department officials over the phone, the administration constituted a five-member committee to get rid of the problem. "The response of officers concerned over the complaints of villages being inundated with storm water is being really lethargic. This is not the way to treat the farmers who have

given their land for the construction of an international airport in the area. If the area is facing waterlogging, all officers concerned should deal with it immediately. They cannot leave the villagers on their own fate", said Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh. After the intervention from the higher officials, the drainage of water and unclogging of

Coast Guard ship Sujay reaches Bali, to take part in various maritime activities

Additionally, 10 National Cadet Corps (NCC) members aboard ICGS Sujay will participate in an environmental protection walkathon towards sensitising the community on the ill-effects of 'marine pollution' in collaboration with local youth organisations.

New Delhi: Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel Sujay, with an integral helicopter, made a port call at Bali, Indonesia on September 18, 2024, for a three-day visit, as part of its ongoing overseas deployment to East Asia. During its stay in Bali, the crew of ICGS Sujay will engage in professional interactions with Badan Keamanan Laut Republik Indonesia (the Indonesian Maritime



Security Agency), focusing on operational turn around, marine pollution response, maritime search and rescue and maritime law enforcement. The coast guards of both countries will also engage in activities like cross-deck training, joint yoga sessions and friendly sports events. Additionally, 10 National Cadet Corps (NCC) members aboard ICGS Sujay will participate in an environmental protection walkathon towards sensitising the community on the ill-effects of 'marine pollution' in collaboration with local youth organisations. ICG, on July 06, 2020, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BAKAMLA to enhance maritime cooperation and institutionalised its cooperative engagements. Prior to the visit, ICGS Sujay had made port calls to Jakarta, Indonesia and Incheon, South Korea, demonstrating a seamless continuation of diplomatic maritime engagements in the region. The ship's deployment to East Asia reflects India's commitment to fostering warm relations with Indo-Pacific countries, promoting friendly relations through maritime cooperation.

drains started in the villages." We received information about continuous waterlogging due to heavy rains in some villages in Jewar. We found that the drainage system was blocked at many points. We have started rectifying the problems and the water has started receding from the area. In a couple of days, all the water will be drained out of the villages", Gautam Budh Nagar District Magistrate Manish Verma said. This came a week after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath conducted a site inspection of the airport and sought to address issues related to land acquisition for the mega project. He also directed officials to ensure that "no outsiders mislead the villagers" about the land acquisition process. Once all four phases are completed, the Jewar airport will have a capacity to handle 70 million passengers per year. The concession period for the airport, which commenced on October 1, 2021, will run for 40 years.

News box

Pak minister on Article 370 restoration: On same page with Congress alliance

World. Pakistani defence minister Khawaja Asif has said that the Shehbaz Sharif government and the Congress-National Conference alliance were on the same page on the issue of restoration of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. The remark comes in the midst of Assembly elections in J&K, the first since the erstwhile state's special status was scrapped in 2019. In an interview with Geo News, Khawaja Asif said there was a "high chance" that the Congress-National Conference alliance would win the Assembly polls and come to power in the Union Territory. "They (the alliance) have made it an election issue. Pakistan and the National Conference-Congress alliance are on the same page in Jammu and Kashmir to restore Article 370 and 35A," Asif said. While the National Conference has vowed to restore Article 370, the Congress has been completely silent about it and has not even mentioned it in its manifesto. The Congress has, however, promised its commitment towards restoring full statehood status to Jammu and Kashmir.

The revocation of Article 370 and bifurcation of the erstwhile state into two union territories has remained an emotive issue for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly those in the Valley. The restoration of Article 370 has prominently featured in the manifestos of the National Conference and Mehbooba Mufti's PDP.

India abstains from UN resolution to end Israel's occupation of Palestine

World India abstained from voting in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on Wednesday, as the 193-member body passed a resolution demanding that Israel end its unlawful presence in the occupied Palestinian territories within 12 months. The resolution received 124 votes in favour, 14 against, and 43 abstentions, news agency PTI reported. Among the nations abstaining were key players like Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Nepal, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom. Those opposing the resolution included Israel and the United States, who have consistently defended Israel's policies in the region. The resolution, officially titled "Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences Arising from Israel's Policies and Practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem", calls for Israel to "bring to an end without delay its unlawful presence" and notes that Israel's continued actions constitute a "wrongful act of a continuing character" that must be addressed under international law. The international community cannot look away while international law is repeatedly violated, said the Palestinian representative to the UN in a moving speech, calling for immediate action. The resolution also disapproved what it described as Israel's "continued and total disregard" of its obligations under international law, adding that such breaches threaten regional and global peace. Israel's ambassador to the UN, Gilad Erdan, rejected the resolution, calling it "another politically motivated move designed to undermine Israel's legitimacy." The US also expressed concerns, stating that the resolution "will not contribute to peace but instead exacerbate tensions in the region."

Social media posts falsely claim explosives found near Trump's New York rally

New York. Law enforcement officials on Long Island worked quickly on Wednesday to publicly knock down social media posts falsely reporting that explosives had been found in a car near former President Donald Trump's planned rally in New York. The false reports of an explosive began circulating hours before the Republican presidential nominee's campaign event at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, just days after he was apparently the target of a second possible assassination attempt. Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder said police questioned and detained a person who "may have been training a bomb detection dog," near the site of the rally and "falsely reported explosives being found." Lt. Scott Skrynecki, a spokesperson for the county police, said in follow-up messages that the person, who police have not yet identified, was a civilian and not a member of a law enforcement agency. He also said the person was not working at or affiliated with the event, which is expected to draw thousands of Trump supporters to the arena that was formerly the home of the NHL's New York Islanders.

The rally is Trump's first on Long Island, a suburban area just east of New York City, since 2017. In 2020, President Joe Biden defeated Trump by a roughly 4 per cent margin on Long Island, besting him in Nassau County by about 60,000 votes, though Trump carried neighbouring Suffolk County by more than 200 votes. Earlier on Wednesday, Skrynecki and other county officials responded swiftly to knock down the online claims, which appear to have started with a post from a reporter citing unnamed sources in the local police department. The claims were then shared widely on X, formerly Twitter, by a number of prominent accounts.

Iranian hackers sent stolen Trump campaign information to Biden's team: Report

Washington Iranian hackers sought to interest President Joe Biden's campaign in information stolen from rival Donald Trump's campaign, sending unsolicited emails to people associated with the then-Democratic candidate in an effort to interfere in the 2024 election, the FBI and other federal agencies said Wednesday. There's no indication that any of the recipients responded, officials said, and several media organizations who have said they also were approached with stolen material did not publish it. Kamala Harris' presidential campaign called the emails from Iran "unwelcome and unacceptable malicious activity" that were received by only a few people who regarded them as spam or phishing attempts. The emails were received before the hack of the Trump campaign was publicly acknowledged, and there's no evidence the recipients of the emails knew their origin. The announcement is the latest US government effort to call out what officials say is Iran's brazen, ongoing work to interfere in the election, including a

hack-and-lead campaign that the FBI and other federal agencies linked last month to Tehran. US officials in recent months have used criminal charges, sanctions and public advisories to detail actions taken by foreign adversaries to influence the election, including an indictment targeting a covert Russian effort to spread pro-Russia content to US audiences. It's a stark turnaround from the government's response in 2016, when Obama administration officials were criticised for not being forthcoming about the Russian interference they were seeing on Trump's behalf as he ran against Democrat Hillary Clinton. In this case, the hackers sent emails in late June and early July to people who were associated with Biden's campaign before he dropped out. The emails "contained an excerpt taken from stolen, non-public material from former President Trump's campaign as text in the emails," according to a statement released by the FBI, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.



The agencies have said the Trump campaign hack and an attempted breach of the Biden-Harris campaign are part of an effort to undermine voters' faith in the election and to stoke discord. The FBI informed Trump aides within the last 48 hours that information hacked by Iran had been sent to the Biden campaign, according to a senior campaign official granted anonymity to speak because of the sensitive nature of the investigation. The Trump campaign disclosed on August 10 that it had been hacked and said Iranian actors had stolen and distributed sensitive internal documents. At least three news outlets — Politico, The

New York Times and The Washington Post — were leaked confidential material from inside the Trump campaign. So far, each has refused to reveal any details about what it received. Politico reported that it began receiving emails on July 22 from an anonymous account. The source — an AOL email account identified only as "Robert" — passed along what appeared to be a research dossier that the campaign had apparently done on the Republican vice presidential nominee, Ohio Senator JD Vance. The document was dated February 23, almost five months before Trump selected Vance as his running mate. In a statement, Harris campaign spokesperson Morgan Finkelstein said the campaign has cooperated with law enforcement since learning that people associated with Biden's team were among the recipients of the emails. "We're not aware of any material being sent directly to the campaign; a few individuals were targeted on their personal emails with what looked like a spam or phishing attempt," Finkelstein said.

Trump says God saved him, promises to bring back religion in US

World Donald Trump, former US President and Republican candidate for the 2024 presidential race, rejoiced in the adulation of thousands of supporters on Long Island in New York, stating that the recent attempts to kill him were foiled by God.

Addressing the gathering, Trump said, "We're going to bring back religion into our country." Forecasting that he would be the first Republican candidate to win New York State in 40 years, the 78-year-old leader stated that the recent attempts to assassinate him had "hardened my resolve." The Republican presidential nominee told a crowd of 16,000 at Nassau Coliseum that "these encounters with death have not broken my will," just three days after a gunman was discovered hiding in the bushes at Trump's Florida golf course as he was about to putt. "They've given me a much greater and stronger mission, only hardening my resolve to use my time on Earth to make America great again for all Americans, to put America first," Trump stated while referring to an earlier assassination attempt at a July 13 rally in western Pennsylvania, where a bullet grazed his ear. "The reason I'm here," Trump told the roaring crowd, was because "we are going to win New York." "That's the first time in many years that a Republican can honestly say it, and we're going to do it," Trump added. Trump, standing before an enthusiastic crowd of thousands in New York, made his case for a 2024 return to the White House with bold promises and an electric atmosphere. "We have to do it. We do it, and the election nationwide is over. We will take over the White House, and we fix up our country," Trump declared, eliciting cheers from the throngs of supporters who had come from all over



the state and even nearby regions to see the Republican candidate in person. The rally, held at a stadium packed to capacity, had all the hallmarks of a Trump event: the red "Make America Great

Again" hats, blaring music, and a palpable sense of spectacle, the New York Post reported. For Trump, the stakes couldn't be higher, and he made sure to emphasise that as he spoke, often pausing to soak in the roaring approval of the crowd. "We're going to have the greatest win in history when we pull this one-off. It will be legendary," Trump contemplated, with a trademark grin that signalled confidence. Yet, the former president's tone also carried an undercurrent of urgency. Crime, inflation, and immigration — Trump's usual talking points — were front and centre in his speech.

Sean 'Diddy' Combs to stay behind bars pending trial in sex trafficking case

New York. Rap mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs will remain imprisoned pending trial on racketeering and sex trafficking charges, after a judge denied his appeal on Wednesday. Judge Andrew Carter upheld the previous day's ruling that the bail package proposed by his defence team — which included a \$50 million bond secured by his Miami home — was insufficient given his history of violence and substance abuse, and the possibility of witness tampering. "It did not go our way," Combs's lawyer Marc Agnifilo told journalists outside the federal courthouse in Manhattan following the ruling. He vowed to keep pushing for Combs's release on bail and also said he would urge the trial to move forward "as quickly as possible."

"Wherever he is, his resolve is the same. He believes he's innocent," Agnifilo said, adding that the prison conditions Combs is being held in are "inhumane."

On Tuesday, the 54-year-old Combs was indicted on three criminal counts that allege he sexually abused women and coerced them into drug-fueled sex parties using threats and violence.

Along with racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking, Combs is charged with one count of transporting victims across state lines to engage in prostitution. Prosecutors say Combs was the don of a criminal enterprise that ensnared women and forced them to commit sex acts under the threat of violence, financial insecurity and reputational ruin.

Japan firm says production of devices used in Lebanon blasts discontinued in 2014

World. Japanese radio equipment maker Icom Inc stated that it cannot confirm whether the walkie-talkies reportedly involved in explosions in Lebanon were shipped by the company. The device, which requires batteries that were discontinued nearly a decade ago, has been out of production since 2014, according to Icom. The company is currently investigating the reports. "Earlier today in worldwide media, there have been reports that two-way radio devices bearing the Icom logo have exploded in Lebanon," the company said in a statement. "We are currently investigating the facts surrounding this matter. We will release updated information as it becomes available on our website," the Tokyo



Stock Exchange-listed firm added. Images of the exploded walkie-talkies showed labels marked with "ICOM" and "Made in Japan," raising concerns over the origin of the devices involved. In the second wave of explosions on Wednesday, 20 people were killed and more than 450 wounded in Hezbollah-controlled areas of Lebanon, according to local officials. A source close to Hezbollah indicated that the devices used by its members detonated in their stronghold in Beirut, while state media reported similar blasts in the southern and eastern regions of the country, news agency Reuters reported. This came a day after hundreds of pager devices used by Hezbollah detonated.

Trudeau uses 'bad actors' grounds to further cut international study permits

In its announcement on Wednesday, the Canadian government also said that it would also tighten rules for foreign worker rules in an effort to reduce the number of temporary residents in the country.

World The Canadian government announced a further cut in the number of study permits for international students, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau saying the nation will crack down on "bad actors" if they "abuse the immigration system and take advantage of students." In its announcement on Wednesday, the government also said that it would also tighten rules for foreign workers in an effort to reduce the number of temporary residents in Canada.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his government would grant 35 per cent fewer international student permits this year, and the number would be reduced by an additional 10 per cent in 2025. "Immigration is an advantage for our economy — but when bad actors abuse the system and take advantage of students, we crack

down," he added. As per the government, Canada plans to issue 437,000 study permits in 2025, which is down 10 per cent from the 485,000 permits issued in 2024. This number will remain the same in 2026. In 2023, the nation approved 509,390, and 175,920 in the first seven months of 2024. Earlier in January, the government had announced a cap on the increase of international student numbers for the next two years, leading to a predicted 35 per cent reduction in student intake in 2024 compared to 2023.

Addressing the media, Foreign Minister Marc Miller said that "coming to Canada was a privilege, not a right." "The reality is that not everyone who wants to come to Canada will be able to, just like not everyone who wants to stay in Canada will be able to," he



added. Regarding work permits for foreign workers, the Foreign Minister said, "We are taking action to strengthen our temporary residence programs and roll out a more comprehensive immigration plan to meet the demands of today's changing landscape." The government also plans to implement additional restrictions on work permits for spouses of some international students and foreign workers, as well as heighten checks before issuing travel visas in a bid to

curb an increase in fraudulent or rejected asylum claims.

The nation had already said earlier that it would reduce the number of temporary residents to 5 percent of the population, down from 6.8 per cent in April. Wednesday's announcement came two days after the Trudeau-led Liberal Party lost a key seat in a bypoll

in Quebec province and a week before Trudeau is set to face a confidence vote after the opposition Conservatives said it would not back an attempt to defeat his minority government. In recent months, the party has witnessed a drop in public opinion polls as Trudeau is under immense pressure over unchecked immigration, which is straining the nation's housing and social services. Reduction in the number of temporary residents.

Harvey Weinstein pleads not guilty to fresh sex crime charge

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said the new indictment of Weinstein is for the sexual assault of a woman in a Manhattan hotel between April 29, 2006 and May 6, 2006.

New York. Disgraced US movie producer Harvey Weinstein pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to a new sex crime charge in New York. Weinstein, 72, who had emergency heart surgery just over a week ago, appeared in a Manhattan courtroom in a wheelchair to enter his plea to a single charge of committing a criminal sexual act. The once-powerful movie mogul was unshaven and appeared pale and visibly

frail during his brief court appearance. Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg said the new indictment of Weinstein is for the sexual assault of a woman in a Manhattan hotel between April 29, 2006 and May 6, 2006. "Thanks to this survivor who bravely came forward, Harvey Weinstein now stands indicted for an additional alleged violent sexual assault," Bragg said in a statement. Weinstein is serving a 16-year prison sentence after being convicted on rape charges in California. He was also convicted in New York in 2020 of the rape and sexual assault of an actress and of forcibly performing oral sex on a production assistant. He was sentenced to 23 years in prison in that case. A New York appeals



court, however, overturned that conviction in April and Weinstein is now awaiting a retrial on those charges. Judge Curtis Farber scheduled a next court hearing for Weinstein for October 2. The one-time Hollywood heavyweight has suffered from a raft of health issues while in prison and has

spent time in a secure hospital unit. On September 9, Weinstein was rushed to Bellevue Hospital from New York's Rikers Island prison for emergency heart surgery. Allegations against Weinstein helped launch the #MeToo movement in 2017, a watershed moment for women fighting sexual misconduct. More than 80 women accused him of harassment, sexual assault or rape, including prominent actors Angelina Jolie, Gwyneth Paltrow and Ashley Judd. Weinstein claimed any sexual relations in question were consensual. Weinstein and his brother Bob co-founded Miramax Films. Their hits included 1998's "Shakespeare in Love," for which Weinstein shared a best picture Oscar.

NEWS BOX

IND vs BAN: Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill fail in testing conditions in Chennai

New Delhi India captain Rohit Sharma failed to notch up a big score on Day 1 of the first Test against Bangladesh at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. The Indian skipper was dismissed for just 6 runs off 19 balls as he edged a delivery from Hasan Mahmud towards second slip where Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto took a comfortable catch. As a result, India lost their first wicket with just 14 runs on the board. Rohit looked precarious at the crease as he played and missed at a few deliveries. The opening batter got off the mark on his 11th ball stealing a single against Taskin Ahmed. Rohit also survived a close lbw call against Mahmud in the fourth over as he was trapped in front of the stumps but umpire Rod Tucker didn't seem interested in the appeal. The ball tracking showed stumps hitting on umpire's call which saved Rohit. However, Mahmud finally managed to get rid of his man in his very next over. Shubman Gill walked in at number three and also looked uneasy at the crease in seaming conditions.

India pick three seamers

The youngster was strangled down the leg side for a duck off eight balls as Mahmud got his second dismissal of the day leaving India on 28/2. Earlier, India were asked to bat first by



Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto who became just the second captain to choose to bowl first at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

India went in with three seamers in their playing XI as Akash Deep joined Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammad Siraj. It was the first instance since November 2019 when India went ahead with three seamers in a home Test. The last instance was also against Bangladesh during the historic day/night Test in Kolkata. Bangladesh also went in with three seamers namely Taskin Ahmed, Nahid Rana and Hasan Mahmud.

Back your potential: Rohit Sharma's message to India as 10-Test run starts

New Delhi. India captain Rohit Sharma has told his side to back their potential as the 10-Test run starts with the match against Bangladesh in Chennai on September 19, Thursday. India will be facing Bangladesh and New Zealand in 5 Tests at home before heading to Australia for the 5-match Border Gavaskar Trophy, starting from November. In the Chennai Test, Bangladesh had won the toss and opted to field first. Rohit, at the toss, said that India would have opted to bowl first as well given the challenging conditions on offer in Chennai. The India captain said that the team has prepared well and they would look to play the way they know. Rohit said that each match would be important in the upcoming 10 Tests and they want to focus on what lies ahead of them.

The India captain said that the team felt



confident heading into the match. "I would have done that as well (bowl first). Little soft, the pitch. It's going to be challenging conditions. We have prepared well, so we should back our potential and play the way we know. Looking at the 10 Test matches, every match is important. But we want to focus on what lies in front of us. We came here a week back, we had a good prep leading up to this one. We feel confident. Three seamers and two spinners - Bumrah, Akash Deep, Siraj, Ashwin and Jadeja," said Rohit.

Cricket Australia bans Victorian women's coach Dulip Samaraweera for 20 years

Cricket Australia has banned Dulip Samaraweera, former head coach of the Victorian women's cricket team, for 20 years following an investigation into a coercive relationship with a female player. The decision underscores CA's commitment to player welfare and integrity.

New Delhi Cricket Australia (CA) has imposed a 20-year ban on Dulip Samaraweera, the former head coach of the Victorian women's cricket team, after an investigation revealed a "coercive" relationship between him and a female player. The decision marks a significant moment in Australian cricket as the sport's governing body continues to prioritize player welfare and integrity. Samaraweera, a former Sri Lankan Test cricketer, had resigned from his role in May 2024, only two weeks into a two-year contract. His resignation followed a dispute over a staff



appointment that was blocked due to Cricket Victoria's internal policies. Before his appointment, Samaraweera had been serving as interim head coach since November 2023 after the departure of Jarrad Loughman. The findings of the investigation

were released by CA's integrity department, which confirmed that Samaraweera's behavior violated section 2.23 of the organization's code of conduct. While specific details of the misconduct have not been fully disclosed, it was revealed that his

actions were deemed inappropriate and coercive in nature. Cricket Australia emphasized the importance of safeguarding the wellbeing of players, with CEO Nick Cummins of Cricket Victoria commending the victim's resilience. "The victim in this case has demonstrated incredible strength of character and courage in speaking up. She will continue to receive our ongoing support to allow her to achieve her goals on and off the field," Cummins said in a statement.

Cricket Australia has reiterated its commitment to fostering a safe and respectful environment for players and staff. "The CA integrity department investigates complaints brought to it under integrity codes and policies, which also apply to state and territory associations," read CA's statement. "We strongly encourage the reporting of inappropriate behaviors, which can be made directly to the CA integrity unit or via the core integrity hotline."

Samaraweera, who played seven Tests and five ODIs for Sri Lanka between 1993 and 1994, will not be eligible to hold any position within Australian cricket for the next two decades. This ban represents one of the harshest penalties handed down in Australian cricket in recent times, as the sport moves to confront misconduct and reinforce a culture of respect.

IND vs BAN: Virat Kohli fails on India Test return, out for 6 in Chennai

India vs Bangladesh, Chennai Test: Virat Kohli's return to the India Test side is off to the worst possible start as he was dismissed for just 6 runs in the first innings of the Chennai Test.

New Delhi Virat Kohli's return to the Indian Test team hasn't had the best of starts as the star batter was dismissed for just 6 runs against Bangladesh during the first innings of the Chennai Test. Kohli was dismissed by the impressive Hasan Mahmud, who had wreaked havoc during the first session on day one of the first Test on Thursday, September 19. Kohli, who had missed the England Test series due to the birth of his son, was expected to be one of the key



players for India during the upcoming 10 Tests against Bangladesh, New Zealand and Australia. He had joined the Indian camp before the first Test a week ago and looked to be in fine touch during the nets sessions. However, Bangladesh were truly on top on

day one after they had won the toss.

The Indian team was on the ropes early with Mahmud and Taskin Ahmed swinging the ball and having the openers on the ropes. The star batter was called into action early on as India lost both Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill early. Kohli started off well with some good shots, but once again fell to the ball outside off-stump. He would get a nick while attempting a cover drive that went straight to the hands of wicketkeeper Litton Das. This was the first time in 42 years that a team had opted to field first after winning the toss in Chennai and the decision seems to have worked out well for the visitors till now. India currently have Yashasvi Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant at the crease.

IND vs BAN: Bangladesh end 42-year toss run in Chennai by fielding first

New Delhi Bangladesh ended a 42-year run in Chennai when they decided to field first at the Chepauk after winning the toss in the first Test against India on Thursday, September 19. The visitors only became the second team in the history of Tests in Chennai to have opted field first after winning the toss. Chepauk is always known to be a ground where a team usually wins the toss and opts to bat first. The last time this happened was in 1982 when England and India locked horns at the Chepauk. The visitors had won the toss on the day and they opted to field first. India had scored 481 runs in their first innings on the back of Gundappa Viswanath's 222 and Yashpal Sharma's 140. In response, England were bundled out for 328 runs as Dilip Doshi picked up 4 wickets. India would declare after scoring 160 runs in the second innings as the match ended in a draw. Bangladesh captain Najmul Shanto explained why he wanted to bowl first as there was moisture on the wicket and they wanted to make use of it. Shanto feels that the first session would be one that will be very good for the seamers.

"I'll like to bowl first. There's moisture on the wicket and we want to make use of it. Pitch looks hard and there's moisture. The first



session will be very good for the seamers," said Shanto. Rohit Sharma would also admit that he would have opted to bowl first had he won the toss.

"I would have done that as well (bowl first). Little soft, the pitch. It's going to be challenging conditions," said Rohit.

India vs Bangladesh: Playing XI

Both teams have decided to go with 3 pacers for the match, something that is usually not seen at the Chepauk. The ground is known to be a spinners' paradise. India have Akash Deep as the extra pacer while Bangladesh have Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud and Nahid Rana in their ranks. Bangladesh (Playing XI): Shadman Islam, Zakir Hasan, Najmul Hossain Shanto(c), Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Das(w), Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, Nahid Rana

Bangladesh not underdogs: R Ashwin reckons Chennai pitch perfect for Test cricket

India vs Bangladesh: Ace spinner R Ashwin reckons that Bangladesh cannot be considered underdogs after their historic series win in Pakistan. Ashwin also shared his memories of playing Test cricket in his hometown, Chennai.

New Delhi Star Indian spinner Ravichandran Ashwin shared his fond memories and excitement of playing in his hometown, Chennai, ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. With four Tests already under his belt at his home ground, Ashwin expressed his emotional connection with the venue, particularly recalling the unforgettable encounter against England post the Covid-19 break.

"That game against England was special," Ashwin told the official broadcasters, Sports18. "It was the first time the crowd was back, and the reception I received was beyond my expectations. To have the match

turn out the way it did for me was truly special. Chennai has always been a significant ground for me, filled with incredible memories, both old and new."

Ashwin, who has established himself as a crucial player for India in Test cricket, emphasized the hard work and dedication it takes to maintain peak performance, particularly with age. "Cricket is a game I adore, and I've enjoyed every moment on



the field. Age is just a number, but the work you put in over the years takes its toll. You need to work harder to find that edge," he said. Reflecting on past matches at the MA Chidambaram Stadium, Ashwin noted the balance the pitch offers to both batters and bowlers. "It's always been a good Test match pitch. Most games here, barring one against England, have seen huge scores.

The game against Australia felt like 500 versus 500. We're playing on a red soil pitch again, so there'll be bounce and value for the bowlers." As India take on resurgent Bangladesh in the Chennai Test, Ashwin praised their opponents for their recent form, including a historic 2-0 series win against Pakistan. "Bangladesh have proven they are a team on the rise. They challenged us when we played them in Bangladesh, and their recent win over Pakistan was exceptional. I've always loved seeing underdogs perform, but you can't call Bangladesh underdogs anymore," Ashwin said. On Thursday, Bangladesh skipper Najmul Shanto won the toss and opted to bowl first, looking to exploit India's vulnerability against spin. India's stalwarts, including Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma, and KL Rahul, have seen their averages against spin dip since 2021, giving Bangladesh's spin trio of Shakib Al Hasan, Tajjul Islam, and Mehidy Hasan Miraz a potential edge.

Despite India's formidable home record of 40-4 in the last decade, Ashwin acknowledged that Bangladesh are a dangerous side. Bangladesh recently trounced Pakistan in a 2-0 Test series, while India come into the series after a 0-2 defeat to Sri Lanka in the ODI format.

Coco Gauff parts ways with coach Brad Gilbert after early US Open exit

Coco Gauff has parted ways with her coach Brad Gilbert following her early exit from the US Open 2024 following a loss against Emma Navarro.

New Delhi Coco Gauff has parted ways with her coach Brad Gilbert following her early exit from the US Open 2024. Notably, the 20-year-old failed to defend her title at the Flushing Meadows as she got knocked out of

the tournament in the Round of 16 following a loss against compatriot Emma Navarro.

Gilbert became a part of Gauff's team 14 months prior and became her coach 10 months ago. The former American player has worked with several big names in the Tennis world in his illustrious coaching career namely Andy Murray, Andre Agassi and Andy Roddick. Gauff took to her X account to thank Gilbert for his contribution and wished him well for his future endeavours. "Thank you @bgtennisnation! We had an incredible run and I wish you all the best in the future!" Gauff posted on X.

Gilbert also thanked the world number six player and her entire team for their collective effort and prophesied a bright future for



young star. "Thanks to @CocoGauff and the entire team for an absolutely amazing summer run in 2023 and for 14 months of incredible team effort. Coco, at just 20 years

young, your future is incredibly bright, and I wish you nothing but continued success ahead. I'm excited for the next chapter in my Coaching career," wrote Gilbert on his X account.

Gauff's results under Gilbert's tenure

After having Gilbert onboard along with her primary coach Pere Riba, Gauff enjoyed great success as she won the Citi Open, Cincinnati Open and the US Open. However, Riba and Gauff split shortly after, which left Gilbert alone in charge of Gauff.

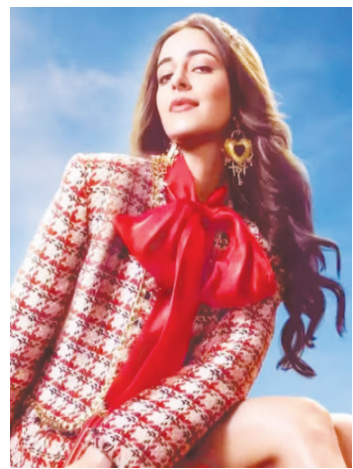
Under Gilbert's tenure, the former US Open Champion failed to continue her successful run facing early exits in Paris Olympics, National Bank Open in Toronto, Cincinnati Open and the US Open.

Ananya Panday's

Call Me Bae Gets Renewed For Season 2, Actress Says 'Here We Come'

Ananya Panday recently made her OTT debut with Prime Video's Call Me Bae. The actress received immense love for playing Bella, who loses her fortune and has to build a new life for herself. The series also features Gurfateh Pirzada, Varun Sood, Niharika Lyra Dutt, Vihaan Samat, Muskan Jaaferi, Lisa Mishra and Vir Das in key roles. Call Me Bae has now been renewed for a second season. Ananya Panday dropped the announcement video on Instagram recently. The caption read, "Our day couldn't get any bae-ter Bella is coming to swoon us over again with a new season #CallMeBaeOnPrime, S2 in development." Check out the video here:

Call Me Bae caught everyone's attention for its Bollywood references. Ahead of Ananya Panday's Call Me Bae, Karan Johar called her character 'Poo's daughter' and called her a Gen Z version of the character. However,



Ananya claims that she did not try to touch Poo due to her legacy. Ananya Panday told Instant Bollywood, 'I don't think we are trying at all to touch or even come close to what Bebo (Kareena Kapoor) did because she is the literal icon and the queen. What she did was just a legacy. What she did was extraordinary. This is our homage to her. If Bae can be even one per cent as lovable as Poo, then I think we all will be happy.' For the unversed, Karan Johar called Bae a "glorious Gen Z 2.0 derivative" of Poo. He said, "If Rohan and Pooja now would have had to have had a baby girl, she would be Bae. I'm just talking because she really is a glorious Gen Z 2.0 derivative of Poo. It's like where Poo ends, Bae takes off."

That's the best way that I can describe her because even when you saw the character of Poo, it started with all the fun and games and then, she contributes to the emotional gravitas of the ongoings in Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham," Karan Johar had said at the show's trailer launch. Call Me Bae follows Ananya as a South Delhi girl who, after losing everything, relocates to Mumbai and starts anew as a journalist. The series chronicles her journey through the journalism world while maintaining her distinct style. The cast includes Vihaan Samat, Varun Sood, Gurfateh Pirzada, Muskan Jaaferi, and Niharika Dutt. Produced by Karan Johar's Dharmatic Entertainment, the show offers a fresh narrative while paying respect to past cinematic icons.



Kareena Kapoor

Reveals She Controls Screen Time for Taimur, Jeh: 'They Ask Us Why We're On Phone...'

Kareena Kapoor has reached a milestone of 25 years in Bollywood. Her latest film, The Buckingham Murders, is out now. To celebrate, PVR Cinemas is holding a film festival in her honour. At the Special Event and Announcement for the same, Kareena Kapoor spoke at length about her films. I always wanted to play a detective and now I have done that. I have to think of what else I have to do. So, I've never really thought of this is a particular genre. I look at characters as something that I would enjoy playing. Because, you have to spend, you know, 50, 60, 70 days with that character in you. So, you have to really enjoy doing it. That's the most important thing, I think, for an actor. To enjoy playing that part. Otherwise, how will you be able to spend so much time being that particular person?

When reminded that Kareena Kapoor had once spoken to News18 about how her older son Taimur had really enjoyed watching Bhool Bhulaiya with his dad Saif Ali Khan, Kareena put up a big smile. On being asked if there is any film of hers that Taimur has watched, she said, "I guess maybe I should get them to watch something at the festival, I think. Because it's playing."

On being asked if she regulates screen timings for Taimur and

Jeh, Kareena said she has to do it – there's no option. "Monday to Friday, screen time is, like, no! But then he's always like, 'But then why are you watching TV?' 'Why are you on your phone?' These days, the parents also have to do what they want their kids to do. So, when we are wanting to put them to bed, then we are also reading and not watching TV till they go to sleep. Because I guess they learn from example – there's no other way. They're going to see us on the phone or on the screen. They'll want to do that." Meanwhile, Kareena is currently seen in The Buckingham Murders. With a lot of love and appreciation from both the audience and critics alike, the film continues to prove its strong presence, and raked in ₹8.82 Cr. NBOC, which is indeed a good number for a genre like mystery thriller.



Rakhi Sawant Recalls Selling Her House For Pardesiya Music Video And Receiving Praise From SRK



From her humble beginnings to being one of the leading entertainers, Rakhi Sawant overcame a number of difficulties and established herself in the industry. While she started with a couple of music videos, Rakhi eventually made her way into Bollywood, working in films like Agnichakra, Kurukshetra, Joru Ka Ghulam, Jis Desh Mein Ganga Rehta Hain, Main Hoon Na, Shootout at Lokhandwala, Dil Bole Hadippa, and many others. Talking about her music videos, the actress' Pardesiya song remains a top choice among fans. However, not many know that Rakhi Sawant had to sell her house to fund the video. Rakhi's former director and longtime friend, Farah Khan, recently visited the actor's Dubai home, where the duo made several interesting revelations. During their conversation, Farah also recalled when Rakhi sold her house for the music video.

As the duo got themselves into cooking a daal recipe, Farah said, "Rakhi, do you remember when you told me about making a music video by selling your own house?" further stating that she had advised against it. "Maine bola tha, tu pagal hai kya, tu apne paise kyu laga rahi hai? (I called you mad for investing your own money in the project.) But look at the conviction of this girl, she sold her home and made Pardesiya, the music video that became a super hit."

Rakhi also spoke about receiving praise from Shah Rukh Khan for her video and said, "Shah Rukh Ji also said that I released a very good music video," to which Farah quipped, "And after that, Rakhi Sawant became Rakhi Sawant." For those unaware, the song Pardesiya came out in 2004, marking the actress's debut music video. It became a big hit, turning into an overnight sensation and a party favourite. Besides working in music videos and films, Rakhi Sawant also became a prominent figure on television and took part in several shows like Bigg Boss and Nach Baliye.

Diljit Dosanjh, Neeru Bajwa's Jatt & Juliet 3 Releases On OTT: Here's When And Where To Watch Film



Diljit Dosanjh and Neeru Bajwa reunited for yet another Jatt & Juliet film, Jatt & Juliet 3. The new Jatt & Juliet film came out earlier this year, 12 years after Jatt & Juliet 2 was released. The film brought back Diljit and Neeru as Punjab's beloved police officers, and this time around, Jasmin Bajwa was in the mix. A few months after its theatrical release, the film will not be out on OTT. Jatt & Juliet 3 is about a police officer named Fateh Singh from Punjab who lands in Canada and falls in love with Pooja, who is also a police officer there. The film revolves around a series of hilarious unfortunate events which eventually result in Fateh and Pooja falling in love. The film will be available to stream on Chaupal from tomorrow, September 19.

Jatt & Juliet 3 was written and directed by Jagdeep Sidhu. At the press conference for the film's trailer launch in Mumbai earlier this year, Diljit revealed he almost rejected the film. "When Jatt & Juliet 1 was being made, Darshan Singh Grewal — the producer of Jatt & Juliet. We had problems with each other. So when the movie offer came to me, I wanted to go and reject the film in person. I had gone to his office to refuse the offer because of our history. When I reached his office, he signed a blank cheque in filmy style and told me, 'Paaji, fill the amount, I want to do a film with you.' I didn't foresee this," Diljit Dosanjh confessed. Meanwhile, Diljit Dosanjh has received a legal notice from a fan, who was left disheartened after she failed to get a ticket for the singer's upcoming India tour. As reported by Free Press Journal, the fan identifies herself as Riddhima Kapoor and is a law student based in Delhi. Reportedly, in her legal notice, she alleged malpractices in the ticket sales process and accused the organisers of the Dil-Luminati Tour of violating consumer rights. Besides Diljit, the legal notice has also been sent to Zomato, HDFC Bank and Saregama Pvt Ltd. However, they are yet to respond to the notice. Diljit Dosanjh's Dil-Luminati Tour will be an epic 10-city celebration. It will kick off at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi on October 26, 2024. Following Delhi, the tour will make its way to Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Pune, Kolkata, Bangalore, Indore, Chandigarh, and Guwahati.