



Canadian who drove over Fauja Singh arrested

Chandigarh: Police have arrested a Canada-based man who allegedly drove his SUV over Fauja Singh, killing the world's oldest marathoner. Officials said the accused had returned home in Punjab just three weeks ago.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Jalandhar Rural, Harvinder Singh, told a press conference that Amritpal Singh Dhillon (26) was arrested on Tuesday night and his vehicle has also been seized. Dhillon, a native of Kartarpur, had gone to Canada on a tourist visa but got a work permit there, which is valid till 2027, the officer said, adding that the accused came to India late last month.

He was nabbed from his Kartarpur home.

The SSP told reporters that Dhillon was driving his SUV fast as he was in a hurry for some work. "He got scared after hitting Fauja Singh, and that is why he did not stop his car at the spot," Singh said.

The accused also told police that he had got one of the tyres of the car changed on the day of the incident.

During questioning, the



accused revealed that his car was moving at a high speed when it hit Fauja Singh, who was crossing the road. The SSP said it was Dhillon's responsibility to stop the vehicle at the time of the accident and should have taken Fauja Singh to a hospital.

Dhillon had allegedly hit Fauja Singh (114) on the highway in the veteran runner's native village of Bias in Punjab's Jalandhar district. Fauja Singh was walking down the Jalandhar-Pathankot highway when the incident occurred, and he succumbed to injuries on Monday evening.

According to villagers, Singh was tossed five to seven feet in the air after being hit by the vehicle.

Following the incident, an FIR was registered against the driver under sections 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way) and 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder)

of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, police said.

SSP Singh had told PTI on Tuesday that police have identified the vehicle, a Punjab-registered Toyota Fortuner, from CCTV footage and with fragments of the vehicle's headlight recovered from the accident spot.

"The vehicle's owners have changed more than once (probably resale)," he had said over the phone.

Leaders cutting across party lines condoled the marathoner's death, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi saying he was extraordinary because of his unique persona and the manner in which he inspired the youth of India on fitness.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Tuesday said the veteran marathon runner made the Sikh community around the world proud with his long-distance running.

His Haryana counterpart, Nayab Singh Saini, said the news of Fauza Singh's demise was deeply saddening.

The Punjab Assembly on Tuesday paid tributes to Fauja Singh.



Veteran actors Kamal Haasan and Rajinikanth during a meeting. Haasan is set to take oath as a member of Rajya Sabha on July 25.

Maoist, CRPF jawan killed in gunfight

Bokaro: A Maoist, carrying a bounty of Rs 5 lakh on his head, and a CRPF jawan were killed in a gunfight in Jharkhand's Bokaro district on Wednesday morning, police said.

A civilian was also killed after being caught in the crossfire. Police had earlier identified him as another Maoist.

The gunfight broke out between the security forces and the Maoists in the Birhordera forest in the Gomia police station area around 5.30 am, they said.

DGP Anurag Gupta said that acting on specific in-

puts, CRPF and the district police conducted a raid in the forest.

"An exchange of fire took place between Maoists and security forces, in which a dreaded Maoist, identified as Kunwar Manjhi, was killed. He was carrying a bounty of Rs 5 lakh on his head," he said.

Gupta said the deceased CRPF jawan was identified as Parneswar Koch, a resident of Kokrajhar in Assam.

He said an AK-47 rifle was recovered from the spot, and the search operation is still going on.

"The mortal remains of the CRPF jawan are being brought to Ranchi, where a wreath-laying ceremony will be held. Thereafter, his body will be sent to his home," he added.

Gupta said 95 per cent of Jharkhand's Naxal problems have been eliminated.

"Since January, over 20 top Naxals have either been killed or arrested or have surrendered," he said.

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma condoled the death of the CRPF jawan.

Udaipur Files Case

SC asks filmmakers to await Centre's decision

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday deferred for July 21 hearing on the film 'Udaipur Files - Kanhaiya Lal Tailor Murder', and asked the filmmakers to await a decision of the panel appointed by the Centre to hear objections against the movie.

The panel is scheduled to meet at 2:30 pm on Wednesday.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi told the filmmakers that the accused in the Kanhaiya Lal tailor murder case can't be compensated for the loss of reputation if the film is released but the filmmakers can be in monetary terms. The filmmakers had challenged the Delhi High Court order staying the release of the movie.

The bench asked the Centre's committee to take a decision immediately without loss of time after hearing all the parties. It also directed the panel to accord hearing to the accused in the murder case.

The film was scheduled to be released on July 11.

On July 10, the Delhi High Court stayed the release till the Centre decides on pleas seeking a perma-

nent ban over the film's potential to "promote disharmony" in society.

The petitions, including one filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind president and Darul Uloom Deoband principal Maulana Arshad Madani before the high court, claims that a trailer of the movie released on June 26 was replete with dialogues and instances that had led to communal disharmony in 2022, and carries every potential to stoke the same sentiments again.

Udaipur-based tailor Kanhaiya Lal was murdered in June 2022 allegedly by Mohammad Riyaz and Mohammad Ghous. The assailants later released a video claiming that the murder was in reaction to the tailor allegedly sharing a social media post in support of former BJP leader Nupur Sharma following her controversial comments on Prophet Mohammed.

The case was probed by the NIA and the accused were booked under the stringent UAPA, besides provisions under the Indian Penal Code. The trial is pending before the special NIA court in Jaipur.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"What Uddhav and Raj Thackeray are doing is against Balasaheb Thackeray's vision. We also love Marathi. In Maharashtra, there is Devendra Fadnavis' government. Those who bully will be taught a lesson."

Ramdas Athawale,
Union MoS, Social Justice



'Self-reliance in UAVs imperative for India'

New Delhi: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Wednesday said recent conflicts globally have demonstrated how drones can "shift tactical balance disproportionately", and asserted that self-reliance in UAVs and Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) is a "strategic imperative" for India.

In his address at an event held at Manekshaw Centre here, Gen Chauhan also said Operation Sindoor has shown why indigenously developed Un-

manned Aerial Systems (UAS) and C-UAS "built for our terrain and our needs are crucial".

A day-long workshop on 'Indigenisation of Critical Components Currently Being Imported from Foreign OEMs in the Areas of UAV & C-UAS' is being hosted by Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff, in collaboration with the think-tank Centre for Joint Warfare Studies.

The event comes against the backdrop of recent India-Pakistan hostilities, including Operation Sin-



Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan during a workshop-cum-exhibition on 'Indigenisation of critical components currently being imported in New Delhi on Wednesday.

door, which highlighted

the strategic importance

and operational effectiveness of UAVs and C-UAS, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

The Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), in his keynote address at the inaugural session, said drones are proof of reality, and their widespread utility in recent conflicts demonstrates how drones can shift tactical balance disproportionately to their size or price.

The CDS also said that during Operation Sindoor, Pakistan used unarmed drones and loiter muni-

tions on May 10. But "none of them could actually inflict any damage to Indian military or civilian infrastructure", he said.

"Most of them were neutralised through a combination of kinetic and non-kinetic means. Some of them could be recovered in almost intact conditions," Gen Chauhan said.

The CDS emphasised that Operation Sindoor has "shown us as to why indigenously developed UAS and C-UAS built for our terrain and our needs are crucial".

Odisha Campus Horror

Protests turn ugly, Oppn demands probe

Bhubaneswar: Several BJD workers and leaders, including two former ministers, were injured in a scuffle with police personnel here on Wednesday during a party's protest over the death of a college student, who set herself on fire in Odisha's Balasore district.

The BJD's demonstration turned violent near the Lower PMG Square when its workers and leaders breached a barricade to march towards the state secretariat, Lok Seva Bhavan, and clashed with the police personnel, an officer said.

The police used water cannons and fired tear gas shells to disperse the agitating BJD workers, he said.

"BJD workers were later arrested and taken away from the agitation site," the officer said.

Among the injured persons were former ministers Pranab Prakash Das and Priti Ranjan Gharai.

Gharai was initially taken to Capital Hospital here and later shifted to the ICU of the Utkal Hospital, Bhubaneswar, a party functionary said.

Das was taken to a private hospital, he said.

The BJD held the protest, demanding a judicial inquiry into the death of the college student, who set herself on fire over alleged denial of justice in a sexual harassment incident.

Security was strengthened at the Lok Seva Bhavan in Bhubaneswar in



BJD workers take part in a demonstration during a bandh called by the party in protest against the death of a college student in Balasore district in Odisha on Wednesday.

view of the BJD's protest over the college student's death in Balasore district.

Security was also tightened in other government buildings in the city, including Rajiv Bhavan and Kharavela Bhavan, which are located in the vicinity of the state secretariat, police said.

Police Commissioner S Dev Datt Singh was present near the Lok Seva Bhavan to oversee the security arrangements.

Earlier, employees were allowed to enter the secretariat after thorough verification of their identities, officials said.

Entry of visitors has also been restricted, they said, adding that people

having prior appointments were, however, being issued entry passes on the recommendation of the departments concerned.

While Chief Minister Mohan Charan Mahji expressed grief over the student's death by self-immolation and announced that all culprits will face the strictest punishment, non-BJP leaders such as Rahul Gandhi of the Congress and BJD president Naveen Patnaik termed the incident an "organised murder by the system". The BJD and Congress demanded a judicial probe into the incident and also sought removal of the chief minister and Higher Education Minister Surbyabanshi

Suraj till completion of the investigation.

BJD said the judicial commission should be headed by a sitting high court judge. The INDIA bloc parties also called for a bandh in the state on July 17.

Normal life hit

Markets were shut, schools and colleges were closed, and vehicles largely remained off the roads as a bandh, called by the opposition BJD, was underway in Odisha's Balasore district over the death of a college student.

The second-year B.Ed student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College died at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar on

Monday night after fighting for her life for three days.

She had set herself on fire on the campus on Saturday over alleged inaction against a professor who allegedly sexually harassed her.

The bandh began at 6 am and would continue till 2 pm.

Armed with party flags, hundreds of BJD members blocked major roads of the district by burning tyres. The traffic on the national highway passing through the district is also being regulated in view of the protests, police said.

Apart from Balasore town, BJD workers were holding demonstrations in places like Jaleswar, Basta, Soro, Baliapal and Bhograi since morning.

"People are very angry over the denial of justice to the student who ultimately set herself on fire and died," said BJD leader Debi Prasad Mishra.

"The party will continue the agitation across the state till the BJP government announces a judicial probe into the incident," he said.

The protestors were also demanding the resignation of Higher Education Minister Suryabanshi Suraj and Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, accusing them of failing to provide justice to the 20-year-old student.

The principal of the college and the accused professor have been arrested by the police.



ABVP members stage a protest demanding restoration of student union elections at Rajasthan University in Jaipur on Wednesday.

Conversion Law

SC seeks UP govt response

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Wednesday sought Uttar Pradesh government's response on a plea against certain provisions of the 2024 amended UP law on unlawful religious conversion.

A bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta issued notice to the state asking for its response.

It tagged the plea for hearing with other pending petitions raising similar issues.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by academician Roop Rekha Verma, who hails from Lucknow, and others against the amended law.

The petitioners have called certain provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act amended in 2024 "vague and overly broad", arguing their ambiguity infringed upon free speech and religious propagation.

The state's counsel on Wednesday said similar

pleas challenging the law were pending before the bench headed by the Chief Justice of India.

The counsel for the petitioners pointed out the plea was only challenging the law's amendments in 2024.

The top court had agreed to examine the plea on May 2.

The plea, filed through advocate Purnima Krishna, argues the law infringes upon Articles 14 (equality before the law), 19 (freedom of speech and expression), 21 (right to life and personal liberty), and 25 (freedom of religion) of the Constitution.

Sections 2 and 3 of the Act, it claimed, were "vague, overly broad, and lack clear standards" which made it difficult to determine what constituted an offense.

"This ambiguity infringes upon free speech and religious propagation, enabling arbitrary enforcement and discriminatory application. Penal laws

must be precise; vague provisions violate constitutional principles by granting excessive discretion to authorities, failing to provide reasonable notice, and risking wrongful prosecution of innocent individuals," the plea said.

This ambiguity opens the door to arbitrary enforcement and discriminatory practices, especially against individuals seeking to practice or propagate their faith, it added.

The plea said penal laws must be defined with precision to prevent misuse by authorities and avoid the wrongful prosecution of innocent citizens.

The amendment's "key concern" was said to be the expansion of the category of persons authorised to file complaints without incorporating procedural safeguard.

The top court is seized of various petitions challenging the validity of various state laws on religious conversions.

Roads become shooting spots - 'stunts' take over the bullet!

PRAVEEN WALIA

Karnal: These days, some mischievous youths riding bullet motorcycles on the roads of the city have become synonymous with terror. These youths are not only violating traffic rules by putting firecrackers in their vehicles and making loud explosions, but are also becoming a hindrance to the peace and security of the common people. In Sector 6, 7, 8, 32, 33, these mischievous youths burst firecrackers while driving the bullet at high speed. Due to which everyone gets scared. Sector residents Raman Nagpal, Sunil Grover, Sanjeev Malhotra, Sandeep, Baljeet, Satinder Pal Singh said that especially at night, these youths drive bullets at high speed in residential areas and deliberately use silencers that make sounds like firecrackers, due to which elderly, small children and sick people are getting very upset. Many times, people have started avoiding going out due to fear. Troubled citizens have appealed to the police administration to put a check on such miscreants. People demand that these 'hooligan vehicles' be immediately seized, challans be issued and legal action be taken if needed. A local citizen said, "This is not a hobby, this is open hooliganism. The traffic police should take strict action against them, otherwise they will become the cause of accidents in the future. The police administration will have to be vigilant and take strict action against such mischievous elements in time so that peace is maintained in the city and citizens feel safe."

Jathedar Daduwal e&pressed deep concern over the threat to blow up Sri Harmandir Sahib, demanded strict action from the central government

PRAVEEN WALIA

Karnal : There is an atmosphere of deep concern in the Sikh community over the threat received regarding Shri Sachkhand Sahib Harmandir Sahib, one of the biggest spiritual places in the country and the world. Dharm Prachar Chairman of Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee, Jathedar Baljit Singh Daduwal, has called it a serious threat to the peace of the country and has demanded strict action from the Central and Punjab governments. Jathedar Daduwal said that threats have been sent through e-mail five times in the last three days, which shows that some mischievous elements are deliberately conspiring to spoil the atmosphere of Punjab and the country. He said that Shri Harmandir Sahib is a place where crores of devotees from the country and abroad come to pay obeisance and get the message of brotherhood. He warned that these threats are not just an attack against a religious place, but against the entire humanity and brotherhood. It is the responsibility of the government and security agencies to e&pose such elements. Daduwal urged the Punjab Police, intelligence agencies and the central government to take this matter seriously and ensure impenetrable security at Harmandir Sahib. He appealed to the general public to maintain peace and restraint and said that society will never allow the conspirators to succeed.



Jasbir Singh Duggal

Kurukshetra: A special training session for teachers was organized today at Navyug Senior Secondary School, Mohan Nagar focusing on the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

On this occasion, resource person Mrs. Preeti Mishra provided an in-depth explanation of the NEP 2020 and highlighted its key features. She informed the attendees that the NEP 2020, announced by the Government of India on July 29, 2020, marks the first major revision in India's education policy since 1986. The policy is based on the recommendations of a committee headed by renowned space scientist Dr. K. Kasturirangan.



She stated that the National Education Policy is structured into 27 chapters across 4 parts and aims to achieve a 100% Gross Enrollment Ratio by 2030. It also sets a target of 6% of GDP as public expenditure

on education. Furthermore, the name of the Ministry of Human Resource Development has been changed to the Ministry of Education. The policy emphasizes the use of the mother tongue or

local/regional language as the medium of instruction up to Grade 5, with continued encouragement until Grade 8 and beyond. A unified regulatory body named the Indian Higher Education Council has been proposed for overseeing higher education institutions across the country. Key reforms discussed included the replacement of the traditional 10+2 structure with a new 5+3+3+4 format. This includes three years of pre-primary education followed by 12 years of schooling, beginning with foundational classes 1-2, preparatory classes 3-5, middle school classes 6-8, and secondary stage classes 9-12. Notably, vocational education with internships will begin from Class 6, and subject selec-

tion flexibility will now start from Class 9 rather than Class 11. Throughout the session, interactive activities were conducted to engage teachers and deepen their understanding of the policy. The training was graced by the presence of School Director Mr. B.D. Gaba, Principal Dr. Devender Arora, Manager Vikas Gaba, and Coordinators Ritu Chaudhary, Manjeet, Neetu, Meenakshi, Seema, Paramjyoti, Sonia, Rajni, Payal, Monika, Suman, Priyanka, Harinder, Kalpana, Asha, Anjali, Poonam, Rihana, Mamta, along with teachers Sunil, Jasmer, Ishant, Shakti Parkash and all other staff members.

Dr. Jitender Gill Meets Chief Minister Nayab Saini at CM Residence,

Dr. Jitender Gill Presents Two Books written on Ayurveda Chief minister Vikas kumar

Kaithal: Member of the Indian Medical Council, Dr. Jitender Gill, met Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini at the Chief Minister's residence in Chandigarh and presented him with two books authored by him on Ayurveda. During the meeting, Dr. Jitender Gill was accompanied by his wife, Ayurvedic Medical Officer Dr. Praveen Gill. Dr. Gill informed that the Chief Minister appreciated both books written on Ayurveda. Speaking here today, Dr. Jitender Gill e&pressed gratitude towards the Haryana Government and CM Nayab Singh Saini for promoting Ayurveda. He said that by appointing thousands of Ayurvedic doctors in recent times, the government has demonstrated its commitment to strengthening the Indian system of medicine. He added that the Ayurvedic medical system is proving to be a



boon for the people. Dr. Gill urged the public to take full advantage of the government's Ayurveda policy and incorporate yoga into their daily lives. "Yoga not only keeps our body healthy but also acts as a panacea for curing various ailments," he said. Praising the efforts of the Haryana Government in providing better healthcare facilities, Dr. Jitender Gill stated that CM Nayab Singh Saini understands the pain and concerns of the common people and is always working amongst them to resolve their issues. He further added that every citizen in Haryana is highly satisfied with the

Chief Minister's working style and is e&periencing peace and happiness from the public welfare initiatives undertaken by the government. He mentioned that the Nayab Saini-led government is providing free healthcare services to the masses, which is greatly benefiting the public. It is worth mentioning that Dr. Jitender Gill has dedicated himself to the service of humanity and is playing a vital role in raising awareness about health among the people through Ayurveda and Yoga. Ayurvedic Medical Officer Dr. Praveen Gill was also present on the occasion.

The Postal Department's initiative will further strengthen faith by helping in religious rituals: Sanjay Kumar

Indian Postal Department gave a gift to Shiva devotees in the month of Saavan

NITIN WALIA

Loharu: As soon as the holy month of Sawan begins, the faith of Shiva devotees surges across the country. To please Bholenath, devotees consider it auspicious to anoint him with Gangajal. But, many times it becomes difficult to get Gangajal for devotees living in remote areas or with limited resources. Understanding this problem, the Indian Postal Department has taken an innovative initiative, due to which now holy Gangajal will be available in post offices across the country for just Rs 30. Bhiwani Post Office Superintendent Sanjay Kumar requested all the citizens to take advantage of this holy service and contact their nearest post office in Bhiwani, Charkhi Dadri and Mahendragarh districts and get holy Gangajal.

This initiative is no less than a boon for Shiv bhakts. Now they will not need to travel long distances or spend a lot of money to get Gangajal. This facility of the post office will prove to be extremely beneficial especially for the people of rural and urban areas, where availability of Gangajal often remains a challenge.

In this regard, Bhiwani Post Office Superintendent Sanjay Kumar said that the Indian Postal Department has taken this decision in view of the devotion of Shiva devotees in the month of Sawan. Under which now holy Ganga water will be available at the nearest post office in a 250 ml bottle for just 30 rupees. He told that this Ganga water has been collected from a certified source, which is being delivered to the general public through the Indian Post. He told that its purpose is to ensure that every Shiva devotee living in every corner of the country can easily get holy Ganga water. This initiative will help them in religious rituals and will make their faith stronger.

Post Office Superintendent Sanjay Kumar said that Gangajal is considered very sacred in Indian culture, which is especially used in religious rituals, worship and works of faith. Respecting this faith and public sentiments, the Indian Postal Department is ensuring the availability of holy Gangajal under the Har Ghar Gangajal initiative on the occasion of the month of Sawan. Under this facility, customers can not only buy Gangajal from the post office, but can also get the facility of direct delivery as per their wish. This service is especially useful for Shiva devotees, senior citizens, and those who cannot go to Haridwar or Gangotri Dham for some reason.



KU Committed to Community Service & Cultural Enrichment: VC

KU Strengthens Role in Community Service & Cultural Development

Jasbir Singh Duggal

Kurukshetra: Kurukshetra University proudly celebrates the national recognition of two of its distinguished members, Dr. Ashish Aneja and Mr. Harikesh Paposa, who have brought honour to the institution through their unwavering commitment to public service, health awareness, and cultural contributions.

Dr. Ashish Aneja, Senior Medical Officer and Administrator at the KU Health Centre, was recently conferred with the "Best Doctor in Community Service and



Diabetes Awareness Award 2025" by the Indian Medical Association (IMA). The award was presented during a grand ceremony in Delhi by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, as part of the

Doctors' Day celebration. Dr. Aneja was the only medical professional from Haryana to receive this distinguished national honour. KU Vice-Chancellor Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva congratulated Dr. Aneja for this outstanding achievement, calling him "a

true symbol of compassionate healthcare and service." Prof. Sachdeva commended his tireless efforts in organizing free medical camps, spreading diabetes awareness, and improving access to preventive healthcare for underprivileged communities. Dr. Aneja's accomplishments go beyond clinical practice—he is an accomplished researcher and author with multiple national and international publications to his credit, including two books in microbiology. His contributions have been acknowledged globally through his participation in over 150 academic conferences, and he has recently been awarded a Fellowship in Diabetes along with being listed in the London Book of World Records. Adding to KU's pride, Harikesh Paposa, an employee

at the University Institute of Engineering and Technology (UIET), was honored with the Kala Ratna Award at the Constitution Club, New Delhi, on July 12. Harikesh Paposa received this recognition for his contributions to art, culture, and social service. The award was presented by dignitaries including a judge of the Allahabad High Court and former Union Minister Kaushal Kishore. Prof. Som Nath Sachdeva congratulated Harikesh Paposa for this achievement. Deputy Director, Public Relations, Dr. Jimmy Sharma, noted that these recognitions reflect Kurukshetra University's vibrant academic and social environment, where individuals committed to excellence in diverse fields continue to receive national and international acclaim.

Students Should Stay Away from the Illusions of the Virtual World and Focus on Their Goals: Acharya Devvrat

Governor Shares Life Lessons with Students at Gurukul Kurukshetra

Jasbir Singh Duggal

Kurukshetra: Success in life comes only to those who give up laziness and follow a disciplined routine with continuous effort. Students who remain focused on their goals while staying away from the illusions of the virtual world bring pride to their parents, teachers, and insti-



tutions. These inspiring words were shared by Acharya Devvrat, Governor of Gujarat and Patron of Gurukul Kurukshetra, while

addressing students at Gurukul Kurukshetra. He emphasized that every parent wishes for their child's progress in life, and it is with this goal in mind

that they send their children to Gurukuls. It is only through the traditional Gurukul education system that holistic development of students is possible. The pure and naturally nutritious diet provided in Gurukuls, the milk and ghee from cows considered nectar-like, and the clean and serene environment strengthen students both physically and intellectually. Regular sessions with scholars instill moral values and Indian cultural virtues like love, compassion, kindness, and patri-

tism. Citing the Sanskrit proverb "Sukharthinah Kuto Vidya, Vidyarthinah Kuto Sukham", he explained that those who seek comfort should give up the pursuit of knowledge, and those who seek knowledge must renounce comfort. He encouraged students to be ever-ready for hard work, to maintain discipline in life, and to obey their teachers while moving towards their goals. During the event, the Governor also felicitated students who had per-

formed exceptionally well in CBSE exams by presenting them with certificates. Director Brigadier Dr. Praveen Kumar highlighted the achievements of Gurukul, noting that 11 students were recommended for NDA SSB and 6 students were selected for IIT. In the CBSE board exams, students of classes 10 and 12 delivered outstanding results, with Adarsh Kumar topping Class 10 with 98.8% marks. He informed that the teachers at Gurukul are undergoing

CBSE-mandated training. Sessions by experts for NDA, IIT, NEET, and other competitive exams are regularly conducted to provide students with proper guidance. A special visit to the NDA campus in Pune was also organized for NDA aspirants, which proved to be highly motivational. Dr. Praveen Kumar shared that along with all outdoor sports, chess and table tennis have also been introduced in Gurukul, generating great excitement among the students.

Order win: Over 500% returns in 5 years! Construction company secures LoA for Mumbai Metro project



New Delhi (Agency): NCC Share Price: Shares of NCC Limited closed in red on Friday (July 11). The construction stock settled at Rs 220.85 apiece, down 1.19 per cent. According to the NSE, the total market cap of NCC Limited is Rs 13865.99 crore. The stock registered a 52-week-high of Rs 364.50 on July 31, 2024. It recorded 52-week-low of Rs 170.05 on March 3, 2025. In a regulatory filing on July 11, NCC Limited said that it has received a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) from MMRDA for Mumbai Metro Line 6 – Package 1-CA-232. The contract value is Rs 2269 crore approx (excluding GST). NCC Limited will be responsible for “Design, Manufacture, Supply, Installation, Integration, Testing, and Commissioning of Rolling Stock, Communication-Based Signaling & Train Control, Telecommunication Systems, Platform Screen Doors and Depot Machinery & Plant for Line 6 [Swami Samarth Nagar to Vikhroli – (EEH)] of the Mumbai Metro Rail Project,” it said in an exchange filing. NCC Limited is a component of BSE 500. According to the BSE analytics (as of July 12), shares of NCC Limited gave negative returns of 1.42 per cent and 3.48 per cent in the last 1 week and 2 weeks, respectively. Shares of the company also fell in the last 1 year by 33.33 per cent. However, in the past 2 years, 3 years, 5 years and 10 years, shares of the civil construction company gained 74.13 per cent, 279.06 per cent, 561.94 per cent, and 177.53 per cent, respectively. In 2023 and 2024, NCC Ltd paid dividends of Rs 2.20 each. In 2022, the company paid a dividend of Rs 2. In 2020 and 2021, the company announced dividends of Re 0.20 and 0.80, respectively.

Nature, Not Medicines, Is the Solution for Mental and Hormonal Balance: Dr. Ruchi Jain

Health Camp Organized by Hindu Shiksha Samiti and D.R. Jain Neurocare Multispeciality Hospital
Jasbir Singh Duggal

Kurukshetra: A free health awareness and medical check-up camp was organized at Geeta Kanya Senior Secondary School, supported by Hindu Shiksha Samiti and D.R. Jain Neurocare Multispeciality Hospital. In the camp, Dr. Ruchi Jain, Obstetrician and Gynecologist, and Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Ayurvedic expert from D.R. Jain Neurocare and Multispeciality Hospital, educated the students on mental and physical well-being. Dr. Ruchi Jain explained to the



students that hormonal imbalance can lead to issues such as mood swings, memory loss, headaches, indigestion, gas, constipation, fatigue, insomnia, stress, irritability, excessive sweating, hair loss, premature greying, excessive thirst, and sensitivity to cold or heat. She emphasized that natural methods are the most effective way to maintain hormonal balance. This includes consuming a balanced and nutrient-rich diet consisting of protein, iron, vitamins, essential fats, and carbohydrates. She also highlighted that regular yoga, pranayama, and physical exercise contribute significantly to hormonal regulation. Dr. Ruchi further stated that

excessive stress increases the level of cortisol hormone, which can lead to complications like obesity, insomnia, fatigue, and high blood pressure. She also discussed Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), noting that it can cause difficulties in conception, especially due to hormonal changes during puberty, pregnancy, breastfeeding, and menopause. In this 2019th camp organized under the leadership of Dr. Sanjay Sharma, students underwent hemoglobin and other blood tests. Dr. Sharma encouraged students to build mental resilience, emphasizing that mental health should be taken as seriously as physical health. Ignoring it can lead to mental illnesses such as depression, psychosis, and schizophrenia. He also shared insights on diseases caused by unhealthy eating habits, Ayurvedic methods to boost immunity, and preventive measures against mental illnesses. The school principal, Suman Bala, school manager Balbir Prakash, and Dr. Anjali Sharma honored the doctors by presenting them with tokens of appreciation. The principal said that the information shared during the camp will prove helpful in bringing positive changes in the lives of the students. All teachers and students of the school were present on this occasion.

Adani group to enter healthcare, plans 1,000-bed hospitals in Mumbai, Ahmedabad

Mumbai (Agency): Billionaire Gautam Adani is set to expand his business empire into the healthcare sector, with plans to establish 1,000-bed hospitals in both Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The initiative will be financed through the Adani family's earlier commitment of Rs 60,000 crore dedicated to healthcare, education, and skill development. The Adani Group's healthcare push will be anchored by the creation of “Adani Healthcare Temples” — AI-first, 1,000-bed integrated hospitals beginning with Mumbai and Ahmedabad, Adani said while addressing the annual conference of the Society for Minimally Invasive Spine

Surgery-Asia Pacific in Mumbai. “We are investing in applied learning under one roof,” Adani said “Human-centric insurance



modular, scalable infrastructure, of the kind that can expand rapidly in the face of pandemics or emergencies. We are championing the creation of large, world-class healthcare institutes that bring together innovation, patient care, and products that support and empower families will be a cornerstone of the new healthcare architecture we will do our best to build,” he said. “India is facing a spinal epidemic,” Adani said, citing back pain as the country's

leading cause of disability. “We cannot rise if our people cannot stand.” The campuses, designed in partnership with the Mayo Clinic, will merge clinical care, academic training, and research into one ecosystem. They aim to set global benchmarks in affordability, innovation, and scale, he said. Adani urged medical professionals to join this transformation — whether by building AI-based spinal diagnostics, mobile rural operating theatres or next-gen surgical centres. “We entered healthcare not because it lacked momentum, but because the momentum was not enough,” he said. “This is not evolution. It's a revolution.”

Wockhardt to exit US generic pharma segment, shut down 2 subsidiaries



Mumbai (Agency): Amid the ongoing trade tariff related concerns, Indian pharmaceutical firm Wockhardt Ltd on Friday said it has decided to exit the US generic pharmaceutical segment, paving the way for deeper focus and investment in its advanced product portfolio. Over the past several years, Wockhardt's US generics business has been incurring losses, it said. In FY 2025 alone, the generics business incurred a loss of nearly US \$ 8 million, it said. “Following a comprehensive strategic review, the company has concluded that continuing in this segment would detract from its broader innovation agenda,” the company said in an exchange filing. Accordingly, Wockhardt has filed for voluntary liquidation under Chapter 7 of the US Bankruptcy Code for its US step-down subsidiaries, Morton Grove Pharmaceuticals Inc and Wockhardt USA LLC, both incorporated in Delaware which are wholly owned subsidiaries of Wockhardt Bio AG. This decision, effective July 11, 2025, enables a clean and structured exit from a legacy segment and unlocks management bandwidth and capital for high-impact areas, the company said. Wockhardt is undertaking significant strategic realignment of its US business in line with its long-term vision to build a differentiated, innovation-driven pharmaceutical enterprise, it said. This strategic reset aligns with Wockhardt's sharpened focus on building a future-ready business anchored in two key pillars: New antibiotic drug discovery – where Wockhardt has established a leadership position globally, with a strong pipeline of differentiated assets; Biologicals portfolio in insulin – leveraging advanced technologies to address critical unmet needs in diabetes care. “By stepping away from the commoditized generics space, Wockhardt is positioning itself to create long-term value through innovation, scientific excellence, and sustainable profitability,” it said. “The company remains committed to its pharmaceutical operations in India, the UK, Ireland, and other geographies where its businesses continue to deliver strong performance,” it said. This strategic evolution marks a decisive move toward a more focused, resilient, and innovation-led Wockhardt, better equipped to deliver value to patients, partners, and shareholders in the years ahead, it said.

IPO boom: 162 companies eye Rs 2.4 lakh crore in record fundraising drive

Mumbai (Agency): Driven by strong economic fundamentals and rising interest from retail investors, India's IPO market is heading for a busy second half of 2025. Nearly 162 companies—including big names like LG Electronics and Tata Capital Ltd—are preparing to hit the markets, collectively aiming to raise a record Rs 2.4 lakh crore through public offerings. Experts say this fundraising spree is unlike anything the capital market has seen before and comes at a time when stock markets have stabilised and geopolitical tensions in the Middle East have eased. As of the end of June 2025, 71 companies had secured approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to launch their IPOs, with plans to collectively raise around Rs 1.14 lakh crore, according to data from Prime Database. Among them, LG

Electronics India — a fully owned subsidiary of South Korea's LG Electronics and a key player in home appliances and consumer electronics—is eyeing a Rs 15,000 crore offering. Several companies are lining up for IPOs as India's primary market continues its strong momentum. Among them, Dorf Ketal Chemicals India and Credila Financial Services Ltd are each planning to raise Rs 5,000 crore. Other major IPOs in the pipeline include JSW Cement and SMPP Ltd, targeting Rs 4,000 crore each. Hero Fincorp is looking to raise Rs 3,668 crore, while National Securities Depository Ltd (NSDL) and Continuum Green Energy Ltd aim to raise Rs 3,400 crore and Rs 3,650 crore, respectively. Anthem Biosciences Ltd is set to open its Rs 3,395 crore IPO for public subscription on Monday, July 14. The IPO

market remains active with 90 companies having filed their Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with SEBI in the current calendar year, up to



July 2, 2025. These companies are awaiting regulatory approval to go public. Together, they aim to raise a total of Rs 1.17 lakh crore, according to data from Prime Database. Tata Capital Ltd has the largest proposed issue, seeking to raise Rs 17,200 crore through a primary

market share sale. Other significant IPOs include Meecho Ltd at Rs 4,250 crore, PhysicsWallah Ltd and Orkla India Pvt Ltd with Rs 4,000

massive Rs 10,000 crore IPO. “The IPO pipeline is the largest it has ever been in the Indian market. Unless there is major negative news flow, I expect a very strong second half of the year,” said Pranav Haldea, Managing Director at Prime Database Group. Out of the 71 companies that have already received SEBI's approval to launch their IPOs, 18 were cleared in 2024 but have still not gone public, leading to questions about their plans. According to a market source, these companies may have received lukewarm feedback about the potential success of their IPOs. “It's also possible they explored the grey market response and decided it wasn't strong enough to move forward,” the source said. Haldea attributes this delay to potential valuation mismatches, investor feedback, or strategic shifts

within the companies. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments, pointed out that after markets hit an all-time high in September 2024, a correction of nearly 20 per cent followed. “When there's a 20 per cent correction from peak levels, companies with IPO approvals become cautious and prefer to wait for more favourable conditions. That's why, despite approvals, many are holding back,” he said. Despite geopolitical uncertainties, India's IPO market remained resilient in the first half of 2025. Up to July 2, a total of 25 companies raised over Rs 46,000 crore. Among the major issuances was HDB Financial Services, which raised Rs 12,500 crore in June, marking the largest IPO by a non-banking finance company and the biggest since Hyundai Motor India's Rs 27,870 crore IPO in 2024.

Karnal became the third super clean city of the country, got national honor from the President

DILPREET WALIA
Karnal: Karnal has achieved a historic feat in the results of the country's largest urban cleanliness survey Swachh Survekshan 2024. Karnal has got third place in the country in the category of super clean cities with a population of 50 thousand to 3 lakh. This achievement makes Karnal the first city of Haryana to have received national level honor in this category. In the felicitation ceremony organized at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi on Thursday, President Smt. Draupadi Murmu honored Haryana's Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goyal, Karnal Mayor Renu Bala Gupta and Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Vaishali Sharma by presenting a citation and a statue of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi. On this occasion, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, Minister of State and Secretary were also present on the stage. In the super clean city category, Dewas of Madhya Pradesh stood first with 11692 marks



and Karhad of Maharashtra stood second with 11088 marks, while Karnal got 11067 marks. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Vaishali Sharma said that a total of 12500 marks were set under Swachh Survekshan 2024, out of which Karnal scored 11067 marks. Out of these marks, 9057 marks were received for Swachh Survekshan, 800 marks for



garbage free city, and 1200 marks for open defecation free (ODF). Karnal

has also received 3-star garbage free city rating and ODF-Water Plus status. According to the commissioner, Karnal scored 98% in door-to-door garbage collection, 77% in garbage separation at source, and 76% in garbage processing. At the same time, Karnal got 100% marks on many parameters like dumpsite improvement, cleaning of residential and commercial areas, cleaning of water sources and cleaning of public toilets. To promote cleanliness in the city, the Municipal Corporation continuously made citizens aware through recycling centers, inspirational paintings on walls at various places, student competitions, and information, education and mass communication activities. These initiatives strengthened Karnal's ranking in the Swachhta Survey. Mayor Renu Bala Gupta congratulated the people of Karnal and said that this achievement is the result of the hard work of the people of the city, the Municipal Corporation team and especially the Safai Mitras. She also thanked Union Minister Manohar Lal and Chief

Minister Naib Singh Saini and said that under their guidance, Karnal has reached new heights of cleanliness and development. Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. Vaishali Sharma, describing this success as the result of teamwork, citizen cooperation and innovations, said that Safai Mitras worked steadfastly in every season and this pride is a proof of that dedication. She informed that in March 2024, the Government of India team had conducted a cleanliness survey in Karnal, in which a thorough evaluation was done on topics like cleanliness status, waste management, used water disposal, citizen feedback and grievance redressal. He informed that a dedicated team was formed by the Municipal Corporation for the survey, which worked on all parameters and brought Karnal to this prestigious rank. This success was possible due to the systematic efforts made by the Municipal Corporation of Karnal, excellent management and public cooperation.

EDITORIAL

Cockpit Confusion

The tragedy of Air India flight 171 has, in its aftermath, thrown up far more questions than answers. In an era of rigorous aviation standards, redundant systems, and near-flawless fail-safes, how a modern aircraft like the Boeing 787-8 could crash within seconds of take-off ~ in clear weather and with no warning from the crew ~ demands urgent clarity. What makes this disaster chilling is the apparent cause unearthed in the preliminary probe: both fuel control switches were in the “cut-off” position, a setting meant to shut down engines after landing. Their simultaneous de-activation shortly after lift-off led to an immediate loss of thrust and triggered the aircraft’s descent into an Ahmedabad medical students’ canteen. While the switches were returned to the “run” position and engine relight procedures automatically initiated, the aircraft had neither the time nor the altitude to recover. These switches are not vulnerable to casual or accidental engagement. They are protected by physical locks and guard brackets. It would require deliberate ~ and most likely coordinated ~ movement to deactivate both. The cockpit voice recorder captures one pilot asking the other why the cut-off was initiated. The response: a denial. But in the absence of speaker identification, the statement only deepens the ambiguity. Was it human error? Sabotage? Systemic failure? None of these possibilities can yet be ruled out. Investigators are not suggesting foul play, but they are clearly unnerved by the implication that someone in the cockpit may have, however improbable that may seem in light of the time available, manually initiated the cut-off. That possibility alone ~ if confirmed ~ would shift the investigati ~ on from mechanical to psychological territory. In this case, silence is not just an absence of data ~ it is the loudest clue we have. But this finding should not become the red herring that diverts attention from the possibility of equipment malfunction.

The fact that the cockpit voice recorder still lacks voice attribution points to a deeper gap in post-crash protocols. In high-stakes scenarios, swift and confident identification of speakers should be standard. Without it, critical seconds of decision-making remain anonymous, stalling accountability and hindering systemic reforms that could prevent future tragedies. To complicate matters, an advisory issued some years ago by a major aviation regulator had flagged potential inconsistencies in similar fuel switch installations. The aircraft model involved in this crash shares that switch design. Yet, because the advisory was not classified as a mandatory directive, the recommended inspections were never carried out. Mechanical failure has not been confirmed, but it also hasn’t been ruled out. Neither fuel contamination nor engine design flaws have been substantiated. The Ram Air Turbine deployment confirms total engine loss, but not its cause. Without cockpit video footage ~ a long-standing demand from some investigators ~ determining who did what remains speculative. This tragedy demands two immediate responses: the global standardisation of cockpit video recordings and a thorough re-examination of safety-critical components, however minor they may seem. Families deserve answers, not ambiguities. And in aviation, silence ~ even in a few unaccounted-for seconds ~ can be fatal.

Shadows of Suspicion

The attempted assassination of Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania’s Butler County on 13 July 2024 was one of the most jarring events in modern American politics. At the time, Mr Trump was a former president seeking a return to office. Today, he is President again ~ a fact that gives last year’s events an even more unsettling weight. Twelve months later, Americans are being asked to accept a conclusion that many find unsatisfying: that the shooter, a young man named Thomas Crooks, acted entirely alone and without political or ideological motive. The FBI, after exhaustive investigations, found no credible links to any domestic or foreign conspiracy, including early suspicions that Iran may have been involved. According to the official narrative, this was not an act of terrorism, nor even a partisan hit ~ just a personal act of violence by a troubled individual. But the public’s reaction tells a different story. Scepticism has bloomed across the ideological spectrum. In online comment sections and private conversations alike, questions swirl ~ not only about the assailant’s motives but about the integrity of the investigation itself. Was Crooks a pawn? Were there warnings missed or downplayed? Could there have been political considerations in shaping the story? It would be naive to expect a crime of this magnitude to be free of conspiracy theories.

They follow political violence as reliably as candlelight follows a vigil. But the official narrative ~ suggesting that an isolated, ideology-free individual targeted one of the most polarising figures in modern American history ~ strains credulity. Not because it’s impossible, but because it’s unanchored from any plausible human context. Who was Thomas Crooks, really? Why Mr Trump, and why then? The longer such suspicions are left unanswered, the easier it becomes for lies to harden into “alternate truths.” And in an election season, that erosion of trust could prove more damaging than bullets ever could. What’s worse is that the vacuum of credible answers is being filled not just by extremists but by average citizens. Comment sections and social media are flooded with speculation: Was it a false flag? A botched warning? A story half-told for reasons of national security? In democracies, such speculation grows when people feel that truth is being rationed. This is not just about Mr Trump. It is ab ~ out how fragile democratic cohesion has become. For decades, Americans trusted that even in moments of crisis, a baseline of transparency and professionalism would prevail. That is no longer the case. When facts emerge slowly or feel incomplete, people rush to fill in the blanks themselves ~ and often, destructively. If the lone-wolf theory is true, then it must be reinforced by greater clarity, not mere assertion. If there are classified angles, the public must be told why those secrets exist. In either case, democracy demands more than reassurance. It demands proof without which the assassination bid remains an unsolved riddle.

India should focus on UAVs, satellites — not fighters and tanks

Ramvilas Sharma

“Future wars will be satellite/UAV-driven conflicts. India must invest in these”

I am not a defence expert, even though I was a keen member of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Defence. But, can anyone call themselves a defence expert after Operation Spider’s Web? Carried out by Ukraine, it saw 117 drones, each reportedly costing less than Rs 50,000, apparently destroying or damaging 41 Russian aircraft ~ most of them strategic cruise missile carriers ~ including at a location 4,000 km from the Ukrainian border. In another instance, several US B-2 stealth bombers flew thousands of kilometres, passed over enemy territory, bombed Iranian nuclear facilities and returned safely, all undetected. Experts will propose dramatic changes in defence strategy, just as the art of war changed with the invention of gunpowder, machine guns, fighter planes, rockets, nuclear bombs, missiles etc. In light of recent developments, I have the following observations on future planning. First, fighter planes are flying ducks, and horribly expensive, too. Earlier, fighters were lost in dogfights; now, they can be shot down in one’s own air space from enemy territory. It is foolish to use them when a Rs 50,000 drone can do the job much better at a fraction of the cost. It could be argued that a fighter plane can carry much bigger payloads, but with precision munitions, this is no longer so critical. In any case, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) can be designed to carry payloads of any size. Besides, for precision delivery of large payloads, missiles are the best. Our Agni missiles can hit almost anywhere in the world accurately. They are our pride and the best demonstration of atmanirbharta; we owe a lot to former president A P J Abdul Kalam and Tessy Thomas ~ the DRDO’s former director general of aeronautical systems and project director for Agni-IV ~ for them. Even stealth fighters have no place in future warfare ~ sooner rather than later, better radar technology or satellite-based observation techniques will be developed to detect them. The DRDO and HAL should stop wasting resources on fighters. Only transport planes and transport choppers will be relevant in the future. Even reconnaissance planes will be obsolete, with satellites doing a much better job. Second, aircraft carriers are sitting ducks for UAVs. A torpedo can also sink even the most protected carrier. And protecting one requires a lot of paraphernalia ~ it’s like an emperor who needs to be closely guarded. They are also enormously expensive: The USS Gerald R Ford cost \$13.3 billion to build. India has two aircraft carriers: INS Vikramaditya and INS Vikrant. Vikramaditya has a displacement of 44,500 tonnes and Vikrant around 43,000. Both cost a fortune. China has three and is building one more. Their only purpose is to carry fighter planes and helicopters. They are good for national pride and not much else ~ don’t build more. The money can be used to develop equipment that is far more critical. Third, tanks are expensive. They can be immobilised with drones, and there are a variety of shells that can destroy any battle tank. They can easily be replaced with more effective and less expensive equipment ~ don’t waste money on them. Fourth, future wars will be satellite/UAV-driven conflicts. Not only will these track everything, they will deliver the munitions as well, including nuclear warheads. Spend lots of money on these. All over the world, the best defence equipment is manufactured by the private sector. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has focused on the development and production of defence equipment locally. He knows what he wants. It has produced some good results like the Akashteer air defence control and reporting system, designed and produced by BEL, which was very effective during Operation Sindoor. The DRDO’s wings should be clipped drastically and it should stick to its areas of core competence, such as missile technology. Let the private sector do the rest, without any supervision by the DRDO. They will produce world-class products. Give them a free hand and have a large PLI for the sector.

More muscle needed to tackle multiple threats

Ramvilas Sharma

Western Theatre Command should have multiple offensive options ready and rehearsed to be implemented with minimum time delay, post political-military approval. There is also a need to enhance civil-military fusion at state levels to counter any actions planned by Pakistan on similar lines as Operation Spider Web launched by Ukraine against Russia, targeting strategic assets deep within the country, alongside operations on the borders.

There are Pakistani sleeper cells within India which could be activated alongside military operations. The armed forces may not be available to assist the civil administration when the border scenario is tense. States must possess resources and intelligence to counter such actions. India needs to revisit its neighbourhood first policy. It cannot let its neighbours shift gears towards China. With Bangladesh slowly drifting away, others cannot be permitted to follow suit. China, lacking the will to act militarily, will exploit Indian neighbours to enhance tensions within the country.

India is amongst the few nations facing threats from multiple directions. National security needs to be given priority. The China-Pak axis is a reality and will be an increasing threat in the future. Only military power alongside national and political will keep adversaries at bay. Enhancing defence capabilities is now more essential than ever.

Security personnel manhandling Chief Minister, house arrest, riding a scooter

What was witnessed in Srinagar on Monday is very surprising. Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah was first put under house arrest for celebrating Martyrs’ Day. Even after this, when he forcibly left his house to celebrate Martyrs’ Day, the security personnel tried to stop him. He did not listen and wanted to go to the graveyard with the ministers and read the Fateha in the name of the martyrs who died in 1931. He was stopped on the way. The security personnel manhandled the Chief Minister. Even after this, he did not stop, he left for the graveyard on a scooter. He was again stopped on the way. Walking about 1 km, he reached the Naqshband Sahib graveyard. The door of the graveyard was closed, security personnel were standing there. He jumped over the wall and entered the graveyard. There he read the Fateha in the memory of the martyrs. After that he came out. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted photos and videos of the treatment meted out to him on social media. The Chief Minister has alleged that it was completely wrong for the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to stop the celebration of Shaheedi Diwas. For the last several decades, people used to go to read Fateha on Shaheed Diwas. It is our right to read Fateha in the memory of the deceased elders and martyrs. I am an elected Chief Minister. The way the Chief Minister and ministers were manhandled by the security personnel in my own state on the orders of the Lieutenant Governor, it seems that we are not independent. I am the elected Chief Minister of a slave state. The power of Jammu and Kashmir is in the hands of the Central Government and the Lieutenant Governor. The kind of situation that was seen in the Union Territory of Delhi during the time of former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the same situation is now being seen in Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir was an independent state. The Center has abolished the status of a full state and converted it into a Union Territory. Elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly have been held. The Central Government has given assurance in the Supreme Court and the Lok Sabha to return the status of a full state. Going to the cemetery and reading Fateha on Shaheed Diwas is his religious and personal matter. The program of celebrating Shaheed Diwas can be banned, but how could reading of Fateha according to religious beliefs be stopped. That too when it is the responsibility of Omar Abdullah as the constitutional Chief Minister of this state. If people sitting on constitutional posts are treated in this manner by their own security personnel and the police of their own state, then many questions like the constitution, fundamental rights, freedom, rights between the centre and the states arise. Regarding which Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has started fighting his battle through social media. He is moving forward in a new direction. A few days ago, 26 tourists were killed in Pahalgam, there were no security arrangements there. Till now the terrorists responsible for the attack have not been caught. Recently the Lieutenant Governor has accepted responsibility for the said incident. This matter had not even cooled down, a new controversy has started in Jammu and Kashmir. There were already swords drawn between the ruling party and the opposition regarding the NDA and India alliance. After becoming the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah was working to improve his relations with the Central Government, especially with the Prime Minister, due to which he was also facing criticism from the India Alliance. Even after that, this incident has started a new controversy regarding the relations and rights of the Center and the states. It is difficult to say how this controversy will end, but the way an elected Chief Minister was manhandled, he had to go on a two-wheeler and on foot without any security arrangements, had to jump over the wall and enter the graveyard, it can only be considered a sign of political immaturity and arrogance. The Lieutenant Governor should have taken a decision after talking to the Chief Minister in this regard. Looking at the current incident, it seems that Manoj Sinha, as the Lieutenant Governor, considers himself as a super CM.

Jaideep Ahlawat recalls living with 6 people in 1BHK during struggle; Jitendra Kumar says he quit acting 3 months after coming to Mumbai: ‘We all would just lay together in the hall’



The latest episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show featured Jaideep Ahlawat, Vijay Varma, Jitendra Kumar, and Pratik Gandhi. Kapil Sharma has now shared a behind-the-scenes glimpse of the episode, where the actors are seen opening up about their early struggles in the film industry. During the conversation, Jaideep Ahlawat spoke about sharing a small apartment in Mumbai with five other people at the beginning of his career. He recalled, “We were only two people in the beginning, but then we became six people in one BHK because someone or the other would ask for a place to stay, and we would allow them to stay with us. So the bedroom of my house was filled with clothes, and we all would just lay together in the open kitchen and hall. But we had fun, there was no sadness about it.” Pratik Gandhi also opened up about his tough days. He remembered how his role was chopped off from Ajay Devgn’s film Dil Toh Baccha Hai Ji. “I was playing a small role in the film. I even auditioned for the role but when the film released, I realised that my role has been cut.” Pratik, however, admitted that he avoided any embarrassment as he hadn’t told anyone about being in the film. “But the good part was that I didn’t tell anyone that I was a part of the film.” Panchayat star Jitendra Kumar, who is an IIT graduate, shared that he had actually quit acting and left Mumbai just three months after moving to the city. He even applied to the National School of Drama (NSD), but was rejected. “When I was leaving in the train after three months of coming to Bombay, I told myself that I’m going to come back and I came back, and thankfully, people liked my work,” he said. Jitendra also shared a memory of meeting veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah on the IIT Kharagpur campus. At the time, he and a senior were making a short film.

Lokesh Kanagaraj says he deserves Rs 50 cr salary for Coolie, responds to question about Rajinikanth’s pay cheque: ‘It’s a Rs 400 crore film’

One of the most anticipated projects of the year, Coolie, is going to be released on August 14. Starring Rajinikanth, Nagarjuna, Shruti Haasan, Aamir Khan and Upendra Rao, the film has generated immense buzz in the audience, and director Lokesh Kanagaraj is looking forward to the release. Although it seems like Lokesh handles big releases in a rather unique way, as he revealed in a recent interview that numbers don’t really interest him and he prefers to distance himself from the outside world once a movie comes out. While talking to THR India, Lokesh shared how he has never given box office numbers and reviews much importance, and even though he has given his heart and soul



to the film, he chooses to detach himself from it and what the rest of the world thinks. “After the release day, I think I am going to Bali. I am not going to sit here and listen to the numbers. I will watch the three shows of the film on the day of the release; we’ll all have a party that night, and the next day I will disappear somewhere with my school friends without telling my

team. I will be gone for a minimum of three to four days, and once everything is over and the critics have said their piece, I’ll come back then.” He revealed how, despite his unique routine after the release of the film, he always feels responsible for how the project does in the market and how certain people can never sleep peacefully until their film is a success.

Ankita Lokhande ‘talks’ to her glass of water and ‘charges’ it for her beauty, calls it ‘magic water’: ‘I give energy to that water’

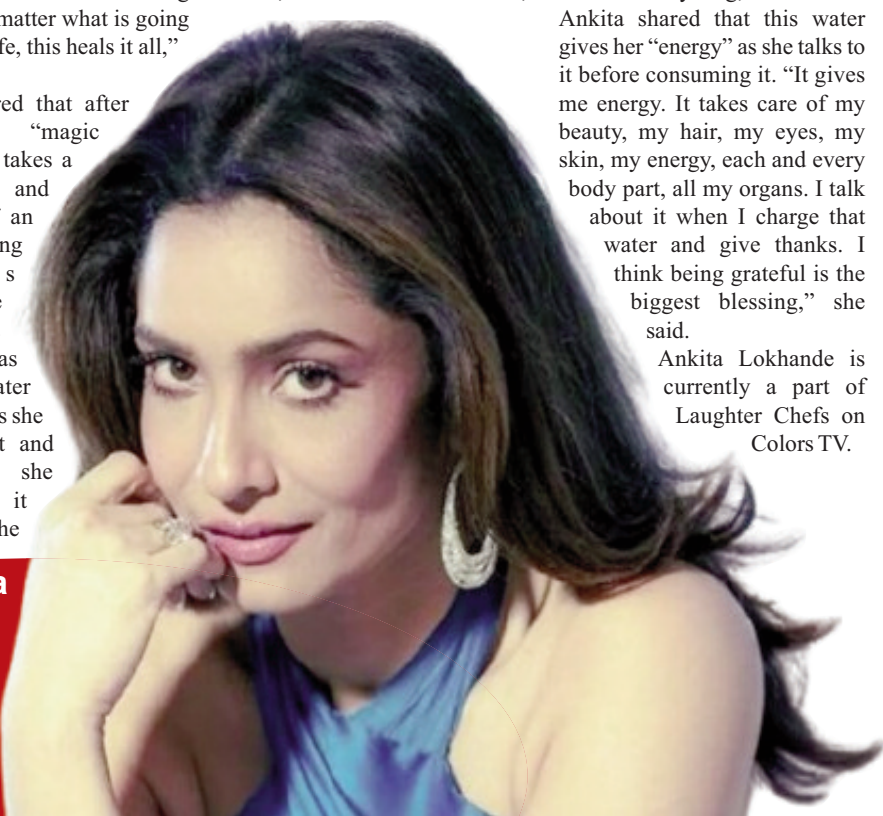
Ankita Lokhande, who is best known for appearing in the television show Pavitra Rishta, recently shared that she starts her day with “magic water” where she “charges” her drinking water with verbal positive affirmations. Ankita shared that while she otherwise consumes things like saffron, turmeric in the morning, she ends her morning routine with a glass of “magic water.” While narrating her routine to Rubina Dilaik on her YouTube channel, Ankita shared that this “magic water” has healing properties as she consumes it after talking to it. “I do magic water, that’s what I believe in. I have a silver glass in which I have kesar water. I go out in the sun, on my balcony, I put my hand on top of that glass and I give energy to that water. I talk about positive things

and then I drink it. That’s how I start my day. It’s amazing. You have to do nothing, just talk to that water, give thanks to the universe. It’s such an amazing feeling. No matter what is going on in your life, this heals it all,” she shared. Ankita shared that after consuming “magic water”, she takes a shower and spends half an hour reading religious texts. While she reads those, she has some water around her as she “charges” it and later, she consumes it through the

day. “After I take a shower, for half an hour, it’s just me and my god. It’s like a daily routine where I read Rama Raksha Stotra, Hanuman Chalisa,

Sankatmochan and Bajarang Baan. I keep water around here as well. I charge that water too. I pour that water in my bottle and drink it all day long,” she shared. Ankita shared that this water gives her “energy” as she talks to it before consuming it. “It gives me energy. It takes care of my beauty, my hair, my eyes, my skin, my energy, each and every body part, all my organs. I talk about it when I charge that water and give thanks. I think being grateful is the biggest blessing,” she said.

Ankita Lokhande is currently a part of Laughter Chefs on Colors TV.



Ankita Lokhande shared that she has a glass of ‘magic water’ where she puts in her good energy into the water by talking to it.

Veteran actor and producer Dheeraj Kumar passes away at the age of 80 in Mumbai



Veteran actor, director, and producer Dheeraj Kumar, widely known for his contributions to Indian television and cinema, passed away today in Mumbai at the age of 80. He had been admitted to Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital on Monday after being diagnosed with acute pneumonia. According to a statement from his family, his condition was critical and he had been on ventilator support in the intensive care unit. The family had earlier requested prayers for his recovery and asked for privacy during this difficult time. Dheeraj Kumar’s career spanned decades and left an indelible mark on the entertainment industry. In 1965, he emerged as one of the finalists in a talent competition organized by United Producers and Filmfare, alongside notable names like Subhash Ghai and eventual winner Rajesh Khanna. This recognition opened doors for him in films and modelling, where he appeared in several prominent advertisements, including one for Vicks Action 500.

Harry Potter series: Nick Frost’s first look as Hagrid revealed; fans say, ‘Looking horrible’

In the still, Nick Frost is seen wearing Hagrid’s iconic shaggy coat, along with his wild beard and unkempt hair. However, Frost’s first look received a mixed response.

HBO has unveiled the first look of Nick Frost as Rubeus Hagrid in the highly anticipated Harry Potter series. The reveal follows the network’s recent announcement that production is officially underway. Before Hagrid, HBO had shared the first look of newcomer Dominic McLaughlin as Harry Potter. The character of Hagrid, originally portrayed by the late Robbie Coltrane in the film franchise, will now be played by Frost, best known for his roles in Shaun of the Dead and Hot Fuzz. In the still, Nick Frost is seen wearing Hagrid’s iconic shaggy coat, along with his wild beard and unkempt hair. However, Frost’s first look received a mixed response. Many fans expressed disappointment, saying they couldn’t see the actor as a fitting choice for Hogwarts’ loyal gamekeeper. Additionally, several

users voiced dissatisfaction with the casting choice for Snape in the upcoming series. A fan wrote, “I love Nick Frost and he’s a great choice for this role. But... the wig and beard look very unnatural. Makeup artists needs a bit more work on this. It’s a bit cosplaylike.” “I don’t know why but what ever pics they are sharing of casts looks like AI. is it just me or you all also felt like that??” another person questioned. A comment read, “Every photo that comes out just looks like the actor doing a Halloween costume of a movie character we already have seen and love.” “Such a good casting! Except for Snape... it’s going to be soooo distracting,” a disappointed fan wrote. The gentle giant of the wizarding world, Hagrid, has long been a fan-favourite character in J.K. Rowling’s magical universe. The shooting for season one of the web series started on Monday at Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden in the U.K. and is expected to go on until spring next year.



Anusree recalls her father breaking down in public after hearing what people were saying about her: ‘I even asked if we should shift houses’

Although she entered the film industry with a happy heart and tall dreams, it didn’t take long for the smile on Malayalam actor Anusree’s face to start fading. With no prior connections to the industry, Anusree broke into the world of cinema by catching the attention of veteran filmmaker Lal Jose, who was judging an acting reality show in which she was a contestant. Soon after, she landed the opportunity to debut in his directorial Diamond

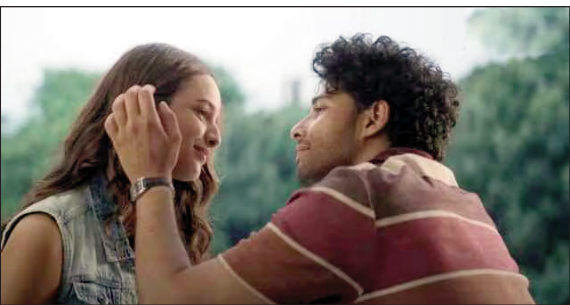
Necklace (2012), playing one of the three central female characters opposite Fahadh Faasil. Since then, she has gone on to play notable roles in many Malayalam films. Nonetheless, she recently revealed that her hometown wasn’t very welcoming when she first entered the industry. Anusree shared that even some of her so-called friends began speaking behind her back. “When I first entered the film industry, people weren’t as encouraging to a girl trying to make her mark as they are today. Back then, it was painful to hear certain things and I didn’t know whom to talk to about it. My

friends were all from my hometown. I didn’t know how to explain things to them. Maybe some of them were among those criticising me too,” she said during a chat with Ginger Media Entertainments, adding that it was Lal Jose who helped her navigate those difficult times. Anusree further revealed that such unfair remarks eventually reached her parents, causing them considerable distress. However, in an effort to protect her, they often kept these things to themselves. Sharing how the negativity took a toll on her father, the actor said: “He would never say anything to me directly. He’d share it with my mother instead. When she told me what people were saying, I used to wonder how they could be so cruel. At one point, I even asked if we should shift houses. But my father never wanted to leave our hometown.”

Despite his efforts to stay strong, Anusree recalled a moment when her father could no longer hold back his emotions and broke down in public. “Once during an interview shoot, my father broke down because of what people said about me. That’s when I realised how much he had been silently bearing. But today, he’s proud of me.” Anusree’s most recent film appearances include director Jis Joy’s Asif Ali-starrer Thalavan, and Vishnu Mohan’s Biju Menon-led Kadha Innuvare. Opening up about what she hopes for in a life partner, the 34-year-old actor said: “What I love most is acting. As long as I’m healthy, I want someone who won’t place restrictions on me and will allow me to continue acting. When someone gets married at 23, they naturally begin imagining a life in a new household. I stayed back here for ten more years, and now I’m 34. After living here till 34, I don’t feel like going somewhere else.

Siddhant Chaturvedi says he wants to ‘disrupt the market’ with diverse roles; Triptii Dimri credits their friendship for chemistry in Dhadak 2

The much-awaited romantic drama Dhadak 2 is all set to hit the screens, and fans can’t stop talking about the intense chemistry between Triptii Dimri and Siddhant Chaturvedi. Their performances in the trailer have already created a buzz, with many praising their on-screen connection. Speaking about her experience working with Siddhant, Triptii said that they got along well from the very beginning. She credited their director, Shazia Iqbal, for helping the actors form a strong bond before the cameras even rolled. “We had become quite good friends right from the very first day, and all the credit for that goes to our director, Shazia Iqbal,” Triptii told ANI. “She organised a workshop for us in a format



where all the actors interacted, played games for about 5-6 days, and tried to understand each other. I think when that happens, you don’t need to try and force

chemistry. You actually become friends, and that’s what happened in our case,” she added. In the same interaction, Siddhant opened up about the choices he makes as an actor and how he doesn’t want to limit himself to just one kind of role. He said, “I always work on playing a different character every time. We enjoy it as actors. It’s not like if people like you

in a certain character, you just stick to doing that. Because if that were the case, I would have kept doing similar roles even after my first film.” “But I always think that I want to do different kinds of roles. As a person, as an actor, I want to grow. So, the effort is always to find a new character, because doing the same thing again doesn’t bring joy,” he added.

A young woman was bitten by a snake for the seventh time, her condition is critical

Staff Reporter
Rath. A strange case of a girl resident of Itaal village of the area, condition worsened due to snake bite for the seventh time, relatives said that the snake bites even if they go to visit relatives. A strange case has come to light in Itaal village of Rath Kotwali area in Hamirpur district. A case of a girl resident of Itaal village being bitten by a snake for the seventh time has come to light. When the condition of the girl deteriorated, the family members present on the spot hurriedly admitted her to the Community Health Center of Rath for treatment. A woman resident of Itaal village of Rath Kotwali

area, while getting her daughter Dolly Saini, daughter of Bhavanidin, affected by snake bite, treated at Rath CHC, told that her daughter Dolly Saini has been bitten by a snake more than half a dozen times. Told that even if she sends her daughter to visit relatives, the snake bites her there too. He told that some time ago he had sent his daughter to his relatives in Chili village of Rath Kotwali area. But there also a snake bit his daughter .At present, the case of a person being bitten by a snake for the seventh time has become a topic of discussion among people.

Monthly meeting of SP concluded

Staff Reporter
Bareru. The monthly meeting of Bareru Assembly constituency Samajwadi Party was held in the SP office. The chief guests at the meeting were regional MLA Vishambar Singh Yadav and District President Dr. M a d h u s u d a n Kushwaha. The meeting was presided over by Assembly Speaker Lakhan Nishad and conducted by KK Mahant. In the meeting, for the promotion of PDA, zone in-charge sector presidents and booth presidents were inspired to work towards taking the thoughts and decisions of PDA leader National President Akhilesh Yadav to the masses. Also, be cautious about adding names to the voter list. The MLA appealed to connect everyone by running PDA

programs in zones and sectors. Along with this, people should also be made aware of the welfare schemes being run by the



Samajwadi government. The district president said that along with the promotion of PDA, work should be done to form the SP government in 2027 by increasing the names in the voter list. Along with this, the Constitution Mann Stambh Sthapana Diwas (Reservation Day) program to be held on 26th July will be celebrated at Nizami Palace in Banda city.

The chief guest of which will be Sant Kabir Nagar MP Laxmikant alias Pappu Nishad, all the people were requested to come to the program. During this, former block chief Varun Yadav, Gyan Singh Yadav, Chhedilal Gupta, Akhilesh Pal, Puttan Singh, Indrapal Yadav, Vijaypal Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Ramesh Burma, Dayaram Burma, Rajendra Tiwari, Kuldeep Mishra, K P Gautam, Narendra Yadav, Shriram Yadav, Mahendra Yadav, Rajesh Shivhare, Vijay Karan Shrivass, Samar Jeet Yadav, Ramkhelavan Nishad, Pushpendra Singh, Hanif Khan, Adawat Khan, Suresh Yadav, Udayveer, Ganesh Nishad, Manoj Yadav, Pappu Rajput, Shivam, Saurabh Mishra etc. were present.

A mason murdered a shoemaker suspecting him of having an illicit relationship

Staff Reporter
Sumerpur. On the fifth day, the police revealed the murder of a shoemaker by hitting him with a brick on July 11. The police arrested the accused and produced him in the court. The accused had disappeared after killing the deceased suspecting that the deceased was having an affair with his girlfriend. The police examined the call details of the girlfriend's phone to solve the murder, only then the truth was revealed. The police released him when no cooperation from the girlfriend could be proved. The body of Ram Bihari, a resident of Imilia Bada Mohalla of the town, was found lying in the platform of the neighbor Puranlal in front of the house on July 11. On the complaint of the son, the police registered a murder report

against unknown persons and formed three police teams to solve the case. The police interrogated several suspects. SHO Anoop Singh said that during the interrogation it was found that a woman living near the house of the deceased had an illicit relationship with Hafiz Ahmed, resident of Imilia Bada, permanent address Kumnhariya, Post Amgaon, Police Station Rath. He used to work as a mason living with his brother-in-law in the town. During work, he met a female laborer of the same mohalla and they had an illicit relationship. After this, the mason started visiting the woman's house. Ram Bihari opposed this. In the month of May, there was a dispute between Ram Bihari and his sons when Hafiz came to the woman's house. But it was somehow resolved. Since then Hafiz was angry with

Ram Bihari and was making plans to eliminate him. On the night of 10th July at around 11:30 pm, when the woman did not pick up his phone after calling her several times, he reached the woman's house in a drunken state. He lost his temper on finding Ram Bihari sitting on the platform outside the woman's house and he picked up a brick lying nearby and hit him repeatedly on the face, killing him and then fled. On the basis of suspicion, the police took out the call details of the woman and came close to solving the case. After Hafiz was arrested, the police exposed the incident, recovered the brick used in the murder and sent the accused to the court, from where he was sent to jail. The SHO said that since the girlfriend had no role in the murder, she has been released.

Neem tree falls due to continuous rains, 400 KVA transformer damaged due to lightning



Staff Reporter
Mirzapur. The rains in the district for the last four-five days and thunderstorms are damaging life and property due to lightning. Traffic on many routes of Lalganj and Madihan tehsil areas is blocked. In this sequence, there is a neem tree on the roadside located in Narghat of the municipality area, which is rainy. The trimihani of 11 KV has fallen on the wire and pole of the 11 KV. The power supply of the Trimuhani feeder has been disrupted due to the falling of the said Neem tree and the

transformer has also been damaged due to lightning, which has disrupted the power supply of the concerned area. When asked about this regard But the changer was damaged due to lightning. As soon as the information is received, the interrupted supply is being restored by installing trolley transformers. He informed that power supply is being restored by cutting the neem tree in Narghat. Junior Engineer Er. Ram Singh said that in view of the interests of consumers, work is being done on a war footing.

Meeting of Jila Udyog Bandhu held under CDO

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur. A meeting of the district level industry brothers was convened in the Collectorate Auditorium under the chairmanship of Chief Development Officer Vishal Kumar. During the meeting, 03 km ahead of Chunar, Udit Nagar Bada Village Bada Village, was discussed by the Deputy Commissioner Industry that public work was told in the meeting that Public Works in the pastA assessment of 49 crores was presented by the department, on which a revised proposal was sought by the District Magistrate in the last meeting. Its revised assessment by the PWD department has been sent to its headquarters by making 30 crores. The Chief Development Officer expressed a lot of anger at the meeting by any representative of the Public Works Department. Also one of Executive Engineer and Assistant Engineer Construction Block-02 Instructed to stop day salary. During the discussion on the ODOPFCF under construction in Lalganj, it was directed by the Chief Development Officer to receive its weekly and fortnightly report from the

executive body and submit it to the Deputy Commissioner Industry and the construction work should be completed according to its time line. The process of tendering of



Chief Development Officer Vishal Kumar(IAS) giving instructions to the concerned by meeting district level industry

machines should be started so that as soon as the construction work is completed, the machine is installed and installed. Lets do it. The pit which has been dug by Jananigam for the arrangement of water in the urban area. The Executive Engineer of Jal Nigam was also instructed not to dig any new pits, keeping them in view of the pipeline and keeping them in view of rain. At the same time, it was instructed to straighten the

polos that have become crooked of the Electricity Department, and it was also suggested to uplift the hanging wires through a device. WhomStart as a pilot

jammed Instructions were given regarding the problem. Instructions were given to the Project Manager Setu Nigam present in the meeting to clean water and do not cause water logging problems. Also, the street lights which were removed by them were given instructions to re-establish them. During the discussion on the area which has been identified for industrial in 2021 by the Development Authority in Hanuman Padra, the city employerIt was informed that it is proposed to develop it under the zonal development plant GDP scheme, so that employed development there is possible. Apart from this, the problems of other industries which were related to the investment friend, were also given by instructions to dispose of time-bound disposal on the land related and fire fighting department. Deputy Commissioner Industry Virendra Kumar, Executive Officer Municipality Goa in the meetingLal, Manager Lead Bank, Executive Engineer Electricity and other concerned officers and entrepreneurs should be present.

Re-failure of use of privatization in Orissa, appeal not to impose privatization in UP, protest against privatization continues

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur. Electricity Employees Joint Conflict Committee, Uttar Pradesh has appealed to the Chief Minister of the state Yogi Adityanath that after the re-failure of the use of privatization in Orissa, this failed use of power privatization in Uttar PradeshDo not impose on the poor people. In protest against privatization, the order of protest meetings on all the districts and projects of the state continued on the 231st consecutive day. Electricity Employees Joint Conflict Committee, UP Central Officers have appealed to the Chief Minister of the state Yogi Adityanathji not to allow the failed use of privatization in the power sector to impose on the poor people of Uttar Pradesh and the process of privatization immediatelyDirect the cancellation. The officials of the Conflict Committee said that the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission had issued a notice to the four

companies of Tata Power on June 21 in view of their failure towards consumer services. The Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission issued notice to the Chief Executive Officers of the four companies of Tata Power on July 15 in the case of consumer servicesCalled to give clarification. On July 15, the Chief Executive Officer of the four companies of Tata Power could not give any satisfactory answer to the Electricity Regulatory Commission. Ultimately, the Orissa Electricity Corporation Commission decided on 15 July that within the next one month, the four companies of Tata Power will now be involved in the matter of consumer services and disability. Area area of four power distribution companies of OrissaThe Electricity Regulatory Commission will consult the general public about the performance of the four companies of Tata. Earlier, the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission

gave notice to the four companies of Tata Power. It was said in the notice that in Section 43 of the Electricity Act 2003, it is written that after making a complete



Engineers and employees of electricity department protesting against electricity privatization

correct application, the consumer should get electricity connection within a month. Such complaints commonIt is that one kilo of watt is being given a Tata power connection to the poor consumers. The Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission wrote in its notice that under the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (Conditions of Supply) Code 2019, Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission (Standard and

Performance) Regulation 2004, it is provided that the power distribution company upgraded to the infrastructure of electricity in terms of increasing

demand for electricity distribution company. Will and will expand it, but nothing like this is being done by Tata Power. New connections and temporary connections have become dependent on the mercy of Tata Power. Even the voltage is raising a lot of voltage on the HT feeder. The Sangharsh Samiti said that the geographical area of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam is much larger than the entire Orissa. The experiment which was

privatization failed in Orissa. America's AES The company ran away in a year. This company refused to build a structure of electricity after the cyclone. Reliance had a distribution of three other companies. In February 2015, the Electricity Regulatory Commission of Orissa had canceled the license for distribution of these three companies due to being completely disabled and unsuccessful. In 2020 during Corona, the license of four power distribution companies of Orissa gave the license to Tata Power Went. Now the Orissa Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued a notice to these four companies for being completely disabled and issued an order for public hearing in the next one month on their performance. The Sangharsh Samiti said that the geographical area of Purvanchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam and Dakshinchal Vidyut Vitran Nigam is much larger than the entire Orissa. The experiment which was

completely failed in Orissa where the agricultural sector What is only 04% to impose that successful use on the poor people of 42 districts of Uttar Pradesh where agriculture and rural areas are more than 35%. The Sangharsh Samiti said that the power corporation management and the high officials sitting in the government want to throw the poor people of Purvanchal and Dakshinchal in the dark. Varanasi, Agra, Meerut, Kanpur, Gorakhpur, Mirzapur, Azamgarh, Basti, Aligarh, Mathura, Etah, Protests were held in Jhansi, Banda, Bareilly, Devipatan, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Saharanpur, Muzaffarnagar, Bulandshahr, Noida, Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Harduaganj, Jawaharpur, Examination, Panki, Obra, Pipri and Anpara. Engineer Deepak Singh, Shekhar Singh, Ramesh Kumar, Dharmendra Babu, Vinay Kumar, Pramod Kumar, Shambhu Kumar etc. were present in the protest meeting in the protest meeting.

BRIEFS Musical mother Ganga Aarti performed



Archakan performing divine and grand aarti at the Pakkaghat of Maa Ganga in Vindhya

Staff Reporter
Mirzapur. Vindhya Dham, which is the abode of Adishakti Maharani Maa Vinduasini, this is the presiding deity of Maa Vindu, just as a line cannot be created without the vengeance. Similarly Adishakti Maharani Vinduasini who is also called Vindhya Parvat Niwasini Vindhya vasini, without that, this creation cannot be envisaged that mother is the mother of Tridev. In this Vindhya Dham of the mother, three vindu makes a rare triangle with the power of Mahalakshmi, Mahakali and Mahasaraswati at a similar distance. Who travels here with triangle philosophy to balance the imbalance of their life, while Bhagirathi Ganga flowed here as the fourth power. This dham makes a lifestyle strength made rare. If you throw light on the Mahatma of Vindhya Ganga, Mother Ganga is the only one which makes Vindhya Dham a rare tirth on this earth. Because if you look at the entire journey of Ganga Sagar from Ganga of Ganga, then Ganga has rested. The narrative of which Vindhya Dham's story is also in the medicine sub-Maha Purana. Where Mother Ganga has said the king of Pandu country to death Vindhya Dham is our abode, here I especially mitigate sin, here I just take me with my naked eyes, then I destroy the sins of his seven births. Because in this dham, the confluence of the Ganges is from the Vindhya mountain. Here, the book from the top of the Maa Vindhya mountain range, which Vindhya Parvat gave the opportunity to the Bhagwati Ganga to rest a little in his entire journey. Whose proofHere is the Ramshila of Shivpur where Lord Rama himself came in the Treta Yuga and donated the body of his ancestors at the confluence of Vindhya Ganga, after which he came to be known as Ram Gaya. The confluence of Vindhya Dham's Vindhya Dham makes it Manidweep. Vindhya Dham is the only Shaktipeeth among the entire Shakti Peethas of the year of India, which Bhagwati would touch the impure Pavan Ganga and make this dham a proven from EC touch. The two rivers originating from the Vindhya Parvat series also confluence a rare pilgrimage with the Ganges in this dham, a river is a river, whose confluence has happened from the Ganges, bathing on the confluence of the Ganges is going to destroy a great sin like Brahmas. In the Treta Yuga here, Lord Lord Shri Ram himself also bathed on the Karnavati Ganga Sangam coast to get rid of the great sin attached to Ravana's slaughter. Another river called Oughjala RiverHe too has a confluence with the Ganges, there is a temple of Vamana Lord on the same confluence coast. Bathing on this confluence coast destroys all sins and the fruit of an Ashwamedha Yajna is attained, such is our mythological belief. Here Maa Ganga Moon is in Akar. The Ganges Ghat on which the daily aarti of Mother Ganga is known as Maa Vindhya vasini Pakka Ghat in Vindhya Dham, is here that the Lakshmi Kund of Maa is present. Where Mother Rajarajeshwari Tripura Sundari Maa Vindhya vasini comes to bathe every day. The water of the mother's bathing in the four Aarti daily, bathing the idols of Tridev, falls from the Ganges on the place where Lakshmi Kund is called Lakshmi Kund, she is located at Vindhya vasini Pakka Ghat, the mother of Vindhya Dham. Where Maa Ganga's daily aarti has been in order for about fifteen yearsThe devotees receive the blessings of the entire power of Mother Vindhya vasini with the grand Aarti darshan to be held.

'Incredible' Stokes put body on line for England: Root

LONDON (Agency): England captain Ben Stokes put his body on the line to inspire his side's dramatic victory over India at Lord's, according to team-mate Joe Root. Stokes took five wickets, scored 77 runs and delivered a crucial run-out of Rishabh Pant in two innings of relentless effort from the all-rounder. Driven on by Stokes, England won the third Test by 22 runs on a pulsating final day to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series. Most remarkable of all was the workload that the injury-

prone Stokes put his body through as he bowled 44 overs in total, including gruelling spells of 9.2 and 10



overs on the decisive final day. It was the most the 34-year-old has bowled in over six years and came after two

severe hamstring injuries in the past 12 months. Root watched on in awe, remembering his own



attempts to stop Stokes pushing himself past the limit during his own captaincy.

"You can try, but it doesn't make any difference. I tried for five years," Root said. "I mentioned it but he doesn't always listen to me. He didn't listen to me when I was captain! "That's his call now. It was an incredible effort to be able to do that, but that's just how he's built, I guess. He's just desperate to be the man and make things happen. "It's a great sign for us moving forward, it really is, because that's back to his best. He's got that mentality and that desire to win games and we're lucky to have him as our leader."

Pant, Karun Nair dismissals opened the door for England at Lord's: Shastri



LONDON (Agency): Former India head coach Ravi Shastri has picked Rishabh Pant's dismissal in the first innings and Karun Nair's wicket in the second essay as the key moments that tilted the third Test at Lord's in England's favour. England registered a narrow 22-run win to go 2-1 up in the five-match series, bowling India out for 170 in the chase of 193. "The turning point for me in this Test match was, first of all, Rishabh Pant's dismissal (in the first innings)," Shastri said on "The ICC Review". Shastri lauded England captain Ben Stokes' "presence of mind" to effect Pant's run out on 74 at the stroke of lunch on Day 3, which gave his side a foothold. "Ben Stokes simply outstanding presence of mind to hit at the right end and pull it off on the stroke of lunch. Because India would have got a lead and they were in the driver's seat," he added. Karun and

KL Rahul had taken India to 41 for one in the second innings on the fourth day, but the former offered no shot to a delivery from pacer Brydon Carse to be adjudged leg before. It gave England an opening and India slumped to 82 for seven from 42 for two to hand the advantage to the hosts. Shastri said Karun suffered from "huge lapse of concentration." "Having said that, again at 40/1 (in the second innings), I thought that was a huge lapse in concentration from Karun Nair to leave a straight ball, a nothing ball, to leave it and open the door for England. I thought that the timing of that dismissal turned things around," he explained. The former India skipper also opined that the Indian top-order should have shown a little more prudence in the second innings. "Because you saw when Siraj batted, when Bumrah batted, when Jadeja was

batting, once the ball was 40 overs old, they hardly put a foot wrong. They were solid in defence and to bring that target down at lunch, 82 to get, you thought in the next 10 minutes it would be done and dusted. But to bring that 82 or 83 to 22 was a massive achievement," he said. "So, it just goes to show that (if) the top order had just been a little tougher and mentally stronger on Day 4, towards the end, this game would have been India's," he added. Shastri said India has the wherewithal to bounce back into the series, but rued the fact that the visitors would have been up 3-0 had the rub of green gone their way. "It (the Lord's Test) reminded me so much of the Test match in 2021 (at the Lord's when Shastri was the head coach). Only on that occasion, it was India who batted first. Scores were very similar, 300, 300 and then a collapse in the second innings. At that time, India won." This time it was England. "But a fascinating series and two more to go. Anything can happen. India can bounce back straight away and if that happens, The Oval (final Test) will be a thriller," he noted. "Fifteen days in the series, it's been riveting stuff. And at times, I think India could have been 3-0 up. A little bit of luck, India could have been 3-0 up."

Hans Niemann explains why Magnus Carlsen will be under more pressure while facing him over board

New Delhi (Agency): Hans Niemann has said that stars like Magnus Carlsen and Hikaru Nakamura will experience more pressure than he will when they face off across the board in a chess game. Niemann is one of the 16 players at the Las Vegas leg of the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour, where Carlsen and Nakamura are also in the fray. Niemann and Nakamura are in eight-player Group Black while Carlsen headlines Group White. Niemann's group will also have players like Fabiano Caruana, Arjun Erigaisi and Vidit Gujrathi while Praggnanandhaa is in Carlsen's half. The Las Vegas event could see a rare, over-the-board clash between the outspoken American and Carlsen, who had accused him of cheating after losing to Niemann in a Sinquefeld Cup game in 2022. That incident led to a \$100 million lawsuit which was eventually settled. None of the cheating allegations were ever substantiated. Carlsen and Niemann have played against each other a couple of times over the board since then, most notably at the FIDE World Blitz Championship in New York in December last year.

Sindhu bows out of Japan Open; Satwik-Chirag, Lakshya move to second round

TOKYO (Agency): Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu endured yet another first-round exit but Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty moved into the second round with comfortable victories at the Japan Open here on Wednesday. The 30-year-old Sindhu, who is a former world champion, went down 15-21, 14-21 to Korea's Sim Yu Jin in the Super 750 tournament, marking her fifth first-round exit this year.

Satwik-Chirag and Lakshya, on the other hand, registered dominant straight-game wins. After a slow start, Sindhu, who appeared rusty and error-prone and struggled with judgment of length, showed some fight in the first game but Sim

regained control to claim her first career win over the Indian star. In the second,

doubles, Satwik and Chirag, currently ranked 15th in the world, defeated the Korean



Sindhu quickly fell behind 1-6. Though she managed to level the score at 11-11, the Korean pulled away with ease to seal the match in straight games. In men's

duo of Kang Min Hyuk and Kim Dong Ju 21-18, 21-10 in just 42 minutes. The former world No.1 pair took some time to settle in, with the Koreans matching

them early in the first game. But once the Indians found their rhythm, they were unstoppable, dominating the second game with clinical precision. Meanwhile, Lakshya who has struggled for form this season, making a string of first-round exits, looked sharp as he dispatched China's Wang Zheng Xing 21-11, 21-18. The world No.18 Lakshya was in complete control in the opening game, racing to an 11-2 lead before sealing it with minimal fuss. While Xing mounted a better challenge in the second game, Lakshya capitalised on his early momentum to stay ahead and close out the match in straight games. He will next face seventh seed and local favourite Kodai Naraoka in the round of 16.

England docked WTC points for slow over-rate in Lord's Test, slip to third in standings



LONDON (Agency): The England cricket team slipped a rung to third position in the World Test Championship table on Wednesday after being docked two points for maintaining a slow over rate in the third Test against India at Lord's. Ben Stokes and Co. were also fined 10 per cent of their match fee after the Test, which they won by 22 runs on Monday. Match referee Richie Richardson imposed the sanction after England were ruled to be two overs short of

the target when time allowances were taken into consideration. India are fourth in the WTC points table right now. "In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time," the ICC said in statement. "In addition, as per Article 16.11.2 of the ICC World

Test Championship playing conditions, a side is penalised one point for each over short. Consequently, two World Test Championship points have been deducted from England's points total," it added. England's tally in the World Test Championship standings dropped from 24 to 22 out of 36 points, consequently reducing their point percentage (PCT) from 66.67 per cent to 61.11 per cent. As a result, Sri Lanka, who have a 66.67 PCT, have taken over England to be second. Australia leads the WTC table with a 100 percentage point having won all three of their games so far, while India have 33.33 PCT. England captain Ben Stokes pleaded guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction, so there was no need for a formal hearing. On-field umpires Paul Reiffel and Sharfuddoula Ibne Shahid, third umpire Ahsan Raza and fourth umpire Graham Lloyd levelled the charge.

Root back as No.1 in Test rankings; Australians dominate bowling charts

DUBAI (Agency): Star England batter Joe Root reclaimed the top position in the ICC men's Test rankings within a week of losing it, while India's all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja climbed to the 34th spot in the latest list released here on Wednesday. Root's scores of 104 and 40 in the third Test of the five-match series against India at Lord's that England won by 22 runs helped him start his eighth stint at the top. At 34, he is the oldest No.1 Test batter since Kumar Sangakkara in December 2014, when the Sri Lankan was 37. Root had lost his top spot to compatriot Harry Brook, who has slipped behind Kane Williamson to third position. Among Indian batters, opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and vice-captain Rishabh Pant have dropped down a rung each and are currently placed fifth and eighth, respectively, while skipper Shubman Gill has also fallen three places to ninth. However, Jadeja has risen five places to 34th after scores of 72 and a fighting 61 not out at Lord's. KL Rahul, who made 100 and 39 in the same match, has also climbed five places and now sits one spot behind Jadeja on 35th. England captain Ben Stokes' play of the match effort of 77 runs

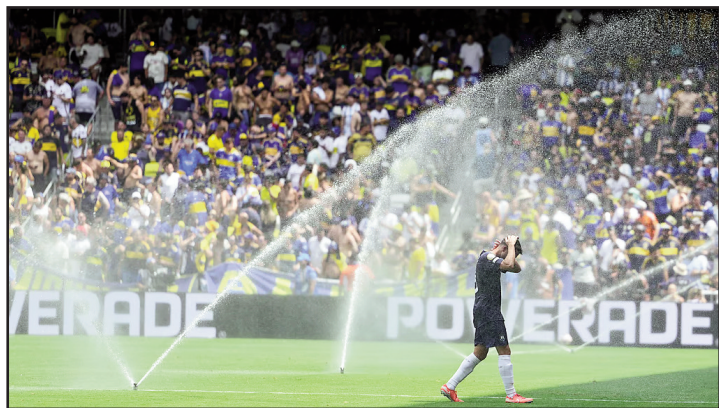


and five wickets at the Lord's have lifted him two places to 42nd among batters and one spot to 45th among bowlers. Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah continues to dominate the Test bowling rankings, retaining the top spot with a commanding 50-point lead over South Africa's Kagiso Rabada. Australian quick Scott Bolland has made a significant jump, rising six spots to a career-best sixth place. Bolland, whose 62 wickets in Test cricket have come at just 16.53 apiece with only ICC Hall of Famers George Lohmann and Sydney Barnes having taken wickets at a better average, joins his four compatriots already in the top 10 -- Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Nathan Lyon and Mitchell Starc. This kind of domination has not been seen since England had six bowlers in the top 12 in 1958.

How climate change could force FIFA to rethink the World Cup calendar

GENEVA (Agency): Soccer had a fierce reckoning with heat at the recently concluded FIFA Club World Cup in the United States — a sweltering preview of what players and fans may face when the U.S. co-hosts the World Cup with Mexico and Canada next summer. With temperatures rising worldwide, scientists warn that staging the World Cup and other soccer tournaments in the Northern Hemisphere summer is getting increasingly dangerous for both players and spectators. Some suggest that FIFA may have to consider adjusting the soccer calendar to reduce the risk of heat-related illnesses. "The deeper we go in the decade, the greater the risk without considering more dramatic measures, such as playing in the winter months and/or cooler latitudes," said Prof. Piers Forster, director of the Priestley Centre for Climate Futures in Leeds, England. "I'm getting increasingly worried that we are only one heatwave away from a sporting tragedy and I would like to see governing bodies lean into the climate and health science." Tournament soccer in June and July is a tradition going back to the first World Cup in 1930. Since then, the three-month period of June, July and August globally has warmed by 1.05 degrees Celsius (1.89 degrees Fahrenheit), according to the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Meanwhile, European summer temperatures have increased by 1.81 degrees C. The rate of warming has accelerated since the 1990's.

Climate scientists say that's a factor that needs to be considered when playing high-intensity outdoor sports like soccer. "If you want to play football for 10 hours a day, they'll have to be the hours of the early morning and late evening," climatologist Friederike Otto from Imperial College, London,



told The Associated Press in an email, "if you don't want to have players and fans die from heatstroke or get severely ill with heat exhaustion." Extreme heat and thunderstorms made an impact on FIFA's newly expanded tournament for club teams. The Club World Cup was held in 11 American cities from June 14 to July 13. FIFA adapted by tweaking its extreme heat protocol to include extra breaks in play, more field-side water, and cooling the team benches with air fans and more shade. Still, Chelsea midfielder Enzo Fernández said the heat made him dizzy and urged FIFA to avoid afternoon kickoffs at the World Cup next year.

The global soccer players' union, FIFPRO, has warned that six of the 16 World Cup cities next year are at "extremely high risk" for heat stress. FIFA president Gianni Infantino addressed the heat concerns on Saturday, saying the handful of World Cup stadiums that are covered would be used for day-time games



next year. Extreme heat could become an even bigger challenge at the following World Cup in 2030, which will be co-hosted by Spain, Portugal and Morocco. Games are scheduled to be played in afternoons and early evenings from mid-June to mid-July. All three countries have already seen temperatures rise above 40 degrees C (well above 100 Fahrenheit) this summer. FIFA downplayed the heat risk in its in-house evaluation of the 2030 World Cup bid, saying "weather conditions are difficult to predict with the current development in global and local climate, but are unlikely to affect the health of players or other participants."

The physical effects of playing 90 minutes of soccer in direct sunshine during the hottest part of the day can be severe and potentially result in hyperthermia — abnormally high body temperatures. "When players experience hyperthermia, they also experience an increase in cardiovascular strain," said Julien Périard of the University of Canberra. "If core temperature increases excessively, exertional heat illness can occur," leading to muscle cramping, heat exhaustion, and even life-threatening heat stroke, he said. Many sports events held in the summer adjust their start times to early morning or late night to minimize the risk heat-related illness, including marathons at the Olympics or track world championships. Morning kickoffs, however, are rare in soccer, where World Cup match schedules are often set with European TV audiences in mind. It would be hard for FIFA to avoid day-time World Cup kickoffs given the packed match schedule as the number of participating teams increases from 32 to 48 in 2026. Heat mainly becomes an issue when the World Cup is held in the Northern Hemisphere, because June and July are winter months in the Southern Hemisphere. FIFA has stuck to its traditional June-July schedule for the men's World Cup except in 2022 when it moved the tournament to November-December to avoid the summer heat in Qatar. Something similar is expected when neighboring Saudi Arabia hosts the tournament in 2034.

Uncertainty in Indian football 'scares' players, clubs caught in limbo

New Delhi (Agency): When the news first broke that the pre-season training was delayed by a fortnight, Sunil Chhetri 'smiled'. It meant he got more time 'to get in shape' after a lengthy vacation. "That 'fortnight' has now changed to 'indefinitely' and that smile's been wiped out," the Bengaluru FC talisman shared. And now, he is 'very concerned' about the 'current situation in Indian football'. The 'situation' Chhetri referred to in his lengthy social media post was about the Indian Super League (ISL). The future top flight of the men's game — and the centrepiece of the Indian football season — is up in the air after the upcoming season was put 'on hold' due to a dispute over an agreement between the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Football Sport Development Limited, the joint venture that runs the ISL. Chhetri admitted that 'everybody is scared'. "I've received a flurry of notes from players, staff members, physios, masseurs — not just from my club, but from other clubs as well. Everybody in the Indian football ecosystem is worried, hurt, scared about the uncertainty we are faced with," he wrote. Indeed, at a time when clubs would have been finalising their player signings and coach appointments and the fans would wait in anticipation for the league schedule, the common phrases whistling about in the pre-season debates are courtroom jargon like "verdict" and "order". All eyes are on the Supreme Court's final order on the AIFF's constitution, which is expected on Friday, July 18. The governing body has the ongoing case as one of the reasons why an agreement with the FSDL is still pending. At the same time, the clubs are aware that the apex court's verdict is not a magic pill that will solve all issues. "Neither the AIFF nor the FSDL can act, and so the clubs are left in a limbo. The Supreme Court removing that block obviously allows the two parties to talk." Goa are one of two sides slated to compete in continental competitions this season, the other being Mohun Bagan Super Giant, who have qualified for the group stage proper of the AFC Champions League 2 (ACL 2) as ISL champions.

With Epstein conspiracy theories, Trump faces a crisis of his own making

NEW YORK (Agency): As his supporters erupt over the Justice Department's failure to release much-hyped records in Jeffrey Epstein's sex trafficking investigation, US President Donald Trump's strategy has been to downplay the issue. "I don't understand what the interest or what the fascination is," he told reporters Tuesday. His problem? That nothing-to-see-here approach doesn't work for those who've learned from him they must not give up until the government's deepest, darkest secrets are exposed. Last week, the Justice Department and the FBI abruptly walked back the notion there's an Epstein client list of elites who participated in the wealthy New York financier's trafficking of underage girls. Trump quickly defended Attorney General Pam Bondi and chided a reporter for daring to ask about the documents. The online reaction

was swift, with followers calling the Republican president "out of touch" and demanding transparency. Trump's comments to reporters Tuesday while returning to Washington from a brief Pittsburgh trip were just the latest in a days-long campaign to quell the uproar. He called the Epstein case "pretty boring" and said "the credible information has been given." "I don't understand why the Jeffrey Epstein case would be of interest to anybody," he said. Over the weekend, Trump used his Truth Social platform to attempt to call supporters off the Epstein trail amid reports of infighting between Bondi and FBI Deputy Director Dan Bongino over the issue. He suggested the turmoil was undermining his administration — "all over a guy who never dies, Jeffrey Epstein." That did little to mollify Trump's supporters, who

urged him to release the files or risk losing his base. The political crisis is especially challenging for Trump because it's one of his own making. The president has spent years stoking dark theories and embracing QAnon-tinged propaganda that casts him as the only savior who can demolish the "deep state." Now that he's running the federal government, the community he helped build is coming back to haunt him. It's demanding answers he either isn't able to or doesn't want to provide. Asked Tuesday whether Bondi had told him his name was in the Epstein files, Trump said no. He praised her handling of the case and said she should release "whatever she thinks is credible." But he also claimed there were credibility issues with the documents, suggesting without citing evidence they were "made up" by former FBI Director

James Comey and former Presidents Barack Obama and Joe Biden, both Democrats. Bondi declined to discuss the Epstein files Tuesday during a press briefing about drug

to put the genie back in the bottle." Last week's two-page statement from the Justice Department and the FBI saying they had concluded Epstein didn't possess a client list roiled



trafficking. "The faulty assumption Trump and others make is they can peddle conspiracy theories without any blowback," said Matt Dallek, a political scientist at George Washington University. "The Epstein case is a neat encapsulation that it is hard

Trump's supporters, who pointed to past statements from several administration officials that the list ought to be revealed. Bondi had suggested in February such a document was sitting on her desk waiting for review, though last week she said she'd been referring generally to the

Epstein case file, not a client list. Conservative influencers have since demanded to see all the files related to Epstein's crimes, even as Trump has tried to put the issue to bed. Far-right commentator Jack Posobiec said at Turning Point USA's Student Action Summit on Saturday he wouldn't rest "until we go full Jan. 6 committee on the Jeffrey Epstein files." Trump's weekend post called on supporters to focus on investigating Democrats and arresting criminals rather than "spending month after month looking at nothing but the same old, Radical Left inspired Documents on Jeffrey Epstein." His first-term national security adviser, retired Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, pleaded with him to reconsider. "@realdonaldtrump please understand the EPSTEIN AFFAIR is not going away," Flynn wrote. Other Trump allies continue to

push for answers, among them far-right activist Laura Loomer, who has called for Bondi to resign. She told Politico's Playbook newsletter on Sunday a special counsel should be appointed to investigate the handling of the files on Epstein, who was found dead in his federal jail cell in 2019 weeks after he was arrested. House Speaker Mike Johnson told right-wing influencer Benny Johnson in an interview released Tuesday that he is "for transparency," and wants Bondi to "put everything out there and let the people decide." He said the Justice Department needs to focus on crime and other priorities, including elections and investigating ActBlue, the Democrats' top fundraising platform. Experts who study conspiracy theories warned more sunlight doesn't necessarily make far-fetched narratives disappear.

Pentagon ends deployment of 2,000 National Guard troops in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (Agency): The Pentagon said on Tuesday it is ending the deployment of 2,000 National Guard troops in Los Angeles, accounting for nearly half of the soldiers sent to the city to deal with protests over the Trump administration's immigration crackdown. Roughly 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 Marines have been in the city since early June. It wasn't immediately clear what prompted the 60-day deployment to end suddenly, nor was it immediately clear how long the rest of the troops would stay in the region. In late June, the top military commander in charge of

troops deployed to LA had asked Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth for 200 of them to be returned to wildfire fighting duty amid warnings from California Gov. Gavin Newsom that the Guard was understaffed as California entered peak wildfire season. The end of the deployment comes a week after federal authorities and National Guard troops arrived at MacArthur Park with guns and horses in an operation that ended abruptly. Although the US Department of Homeland Security wouldn't explain the purpose of the operation or whether anyone had been arrested, local officials said it seemed designed to sow fear. "Thanks to our troops who

stepped up to answer the call, the lawlessness in Los Angeles is subsiding," Chief Pentagon spokesman Sean



Parnell said in a statement in announcing the decision. On June 8, thousands of protesters took to the streets in response to Trump's deployment of the Guard, blocking off a major freeway as law enforcement used tear

gas, rubber bullets and flash bangs to control the crowd. Photos captured several Waymo robotaxis set on fire.

A day later, police officers used flash bangs and shot projectiles as they pushed protesters through Little Tokyo, where bystanders and restaurant workers rushed to get out of their way. Los Angeles Mayor Karen

Bass set a curfew in place for about a week that she said had successfully protected businesses and helped restore order. Demonstrations in the city and the region in recent weeks have been largely small impromptu protests around arrests. Bass applauded the troops' departure. "This happened because the people of Los Angeles stood united and stood strong. We organized peaceful protests, we came together at rallies, we took the Trump administration to court—all of this led to today's retreat," she said in a statement, adding that "We will not stop making our voices heard until this ends, not just here

in LA, but throughout our country." Bass said in a press conference that the National Guard's primary mission has been to guard two buildings that "frankly didn't need to be guarded." "I am hoping that this experiment with the lives of people ends here," she said. On Tuesday afternoon, there was no visible military presence outside the federal complex downtown that had been the center of early protests and where National Guard troops first stood guard before the Marines were assigned to protect federal buildings. Hundreds of the soldiers have been accompanying agents on immigration operations.

Alberta calls upon Canadian federal government to designate Lawrence Bishnoi gang as 'terrorist group'



CHANDIGARH (Agency): After British Columbia (BC), now Alberta is the second province in Canada that has called upon the Canadian federal government to designate the Lawrence Bishnoi gang as a terrorist group, as it is being accused of carrying out 'targeted killings' in the country. In a joint statement issued on July 14, Alberta Premier Danielle Smith and Minister for Public Safety and Emergency Services Mike Ellis stated, "The Lawrence Bishnoi Gang is a transnational criminal network responsible for violence, extortion, drug trafficking and targeted killings, including here in Canada. Its reach is global, and its intent is criminal and violent." "We stand with B.C. Premier David Eby and other officials across Canada in calling for immediate federal action. The federal government must use every tool available to dismantle this network and keep Canadians safe," they added. "We know that gang activity knows no boundaries and respects no borders, and Alberta wants to send a clear message: you are not welcome here. Formally designating the Bishnoi Gang as a terrorist entity will unlock critical powers, allowing provincial and municipal-level law enforcement agencies to access the necessary tools and resources needed to effectively disrupt operations and protect our people," the statement said. "We are committed to taking action to keep terrorist organisations, gangs and violent criminals from targeting and exploiting the people of Alberta. South Asian communities in Alberta and across Canada have been disproportionately targeted and affected by this threat," they said. The statement concluded, "The time for action is now. Alberta's government is asking the federal government and Prime Minister Mark Carney to join them in taking a stand and acting to protect Albertans and all Canadians." The Bishnoi gang has been linked to extortion attempts in BC, Alberta and Ontario. In June, British Columbia Premier David Eby had made a similar request to Ottawa. Also, Brampton Mayor Patrick Brown had asked the federal government to declare the Lawrence Bishnoi gang a terrorist organisation, saying that this gang has been linked to crime and violence in the Peel region. He along with regional councillors Gurpartap Singh Toor and Navjit Kaur Brar, had formally submitted a request to Prime Minister Mark Carney and Minister of Public Safety Gary Anandasangaree.

Israel threatens to escalate involvement in Syria as ceasefire collapses

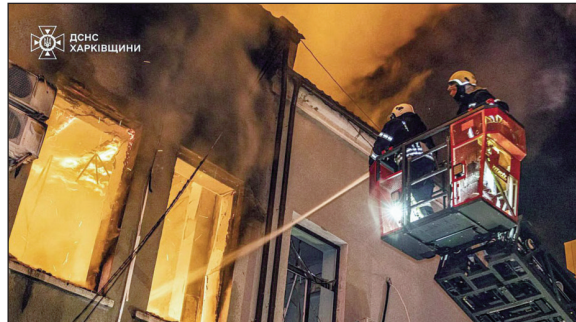


DAMASCUS (Agency): Clashes raged in the southern Syrian city of Sweida on Wednesday after a ceasefire between government forces and Druze armed groups collapsed and Israel threatened to escalate its involvement in support of the Druze religious minority. Syria's Defense Ministry blamed militias in Sweida for violating a ceasefire agreement that had been reached Tuesday, causing Syrian army soldiers to return fire and continue military operations in the Druze-majority province. "Military forces continue to respond to the source of fire inside the city of Sweida, while adhering to rules of engagement to protect residents, prevent harm, and ensure the safe return of those who left the city back to their homes," the statement said. A rebel offensive led by Islamist insurgent groups ousted Syria's longtime despotic leader, Bashar Assad, in December, bringing an end to a nearly 14-year civil war. Since then, the country's new rulers have struggled to consolidate control over the territory. The primarily Sunni Muslim leaders have faced suspicion from religious and ethnic minorities. The fears of minorities increased after clashes between government forces and pro-Assad armed groups in March spiraled into sectarian revenge attacks in which hundreds of civilians from the Alawite religious minority, to which Assad belongs, were killed. The latest escalation in Syria began with tit-for-tat kidnappings and attacks between local Sunni Bedouin tribes and Druze armed factions in the southern province, a center of the Druze community. Government forces that intervened to

restore order have also clashed with the Druze, while reports have surfaced of members of the security forces carrying out extrajudicial killings, looting and burning civilian homes. No official casualty figures have been released since Monday, when the Syrian Interior Ministry said 30 people had been killed. The UK-based war monitor Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said more than 250 people had been killed as of Wednesday morning, including four children, five women and 138 soldiers and security forces. The observatory said at least 21 people were killed in "field executions." Israel has launched a series of airstrikes on convoys of government forces since the clashes erupted, saying that it is acting to protect the Druze. The Druze religious sect began as a 10th-century offshoot of Ismailism, a branch of Shiite Islam. More than half the roughly 1 million Druze worldwide live in Syria. Most of the other Druze live in Lebanon and Israel, including in the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 Mideast War and annexed in 1981. In Israel, the Druze are seen as a loyal minority and often serve in the military. In Syria, the Druze have been divided over how to deal with the country's new leaders, with some advocating for integrating into the new system while others have remained suspicious of the authorities in Damascus and pushed for an autonomous Druze region. On Wednesday, Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said in a statement that the Israeli army "will continue to attack regime forces until they withdraw from the area — and will also soon raise the bar of responses against the regime if the message is not understood."

Russia fires hundreds of drones and a ballistic missile at Ukraine, defying Trump's warning

KYIV (Agency): Russia fired hundreds of drones, artillery and a ballistic missile at Ukraine between late Tuesday and early Wednesday, Ukraine said, defying calls by Donald Trump to reach a peace deal. The attacks left one woman dead and wounded more than two dozen people across multiple regions, while a missile attack cut power and water in Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's home city of Kyiv. Rig, according to authorities. The bombardment came two days after US President Trump threatened to impose severe sanctions against the country unless it reached a peace settlement within 50 days to end its three-year war on Ukraine. Ukrainian and Russian officials last met for direct peace talks more than a month ago, and no further meetings have been scheduled despite the Kremlin saying it is open for more talks. Russia fired at least 400 drones at Ukraine between



late Tuesday and early Wednesday, as well as an Iskander ballistic missile launched from the annexed Crimean peninsula, the Ukrainian air force said. Overnight drone attacks on the central Ukrainian city of Vinnytsia left eight wounded, while three were wounded in an attack on the northeastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv, local authorities said. Russian attacks on the city of Kryvyi Rig wounded at least 15 people, destroyed an industrial building and disrupted power and water supplies, according to local officials. A 17-year-old boy was among those injured, the city's mayor Oleksandr Vilkul said on Telegram. "He

was wounded in the abdominal cavity. He was immediately taken to the hospital, in serious condition. Now doctors are fighting for his life," Vilkul wrote. "This has never happened before. A ballistic missile and 28 Shaheds simultaneously," he added, referring to Iranian-designed drones. Russia has stepped up its summer campaign against Ukraine in recent weeks as Washington-mediated ceasefire talks stall. Its army has pushed ahead on the battlefield, while pounding Ukraine with combined drone, artillery and missile strikes.

Drone attacks on oil fields in Iraq's Kurdish region shut down another facility

BAGHDAD (Agency): Drones targeted oil fields in Iraq's semi-autonomous northern Kurdish region on Wednesday, the latest in a series of attacks in recent days that have put several oil facilities out of commission. No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks, which have exacerbated tensions between the central government in Baghdad and Kurdish authorities. The Kurdish region's anti-terrorism department said two drones attacked an oil field in the district of Zakho,

causing damage but no injuries. DNO ASA, the

"temporarily suspended following three explosions



Norwegian oil and gas company operating the field, said its operations were

early this morning, one involving a small storage tank at Tawke and the other

involving surface processing equipment at Peshkibir." It said there were no injuries and a damage assessment was underway. The attack came a day after another oil field in Iraq's Dohuk province operated by a US company was set ablaze, also after being struck by a drone. The Kurdish region's Ministry of Natural Resources said the attacks were meant "to disrupt the economy of the Kurdistan Region and threaten the safety of civilian employees

of the energy sector," and called for federal authorities to intervene to stop them. Earlier this month, the Kurdish regional government accused the Popular Mobilization Forces — a coalition of Iran-allied militias that are officially under the control of the Iraqi military — of carrying out drone attacks. The Iraqi army said the accusation was "issued in the absence of evidence" and said it could "provide hostile parties with justifications to undermine Iraq's stability."