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MODI'S TUMULTUOUS  
NEW INNINGS

WORLD 8

GROWING CLAMOUR FOR  
BIDEN TO STEP DOWN

MONEY 10

INDIAN ECONOMY SET FOR  
STABLE HIGH GROWTHPublished From  
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11 SPORTS

# New Criminal Laws kick in



STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Ending colonial era laws from Monday, three new criminal laws—Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA)—will come into effect across the country, replacing the British era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act, respectively. The new laws will bring in a modern justice system, incorporating provisions such as Zero FIR, online registration of police complaints, summonses through electronic modes such as SMS and mandatory videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes. The new laws in India marks a significant shift in priorities,

placing crimes against women, children, and the nation at the forefront. This is in stark contrast to colonial era laws, where concerns like treason and treasury offenses outweighed the needs of ordinary citizens. The Government has held regular meetings with States and Union Territories and they are fully geared up in terms of technology, capacity building and awareness generation to implement the new criminal laws. BNS has 358 sections (instead of 511 sections in the IPC). A total of 20 new crimes have been added and the imprisonment sentence has been increased for 33 of them. The amount of the fine has been increased in 83 crimes and mandatory minimum punishment has been introduced in 23 crimes.

The penalty of community service has been introduced for six crimes and 19 sections have been repealed or removed from the bill. BNSS has 531 sections (in place of 484 sections of CrPC). A total of 177 provisions have been changed in the bill, and nine new sections as well as 39 new sub-sections have been added to it. The new act has added 44 new provisions and clarifications. Timelines have been added to 35 sections and audio-video provision has been added at 35 places. A total of 14 sections have been repealed and removed. BSA has 170 provisions (instead of the original 167 provisions), and a total of 24 provisions have been changed. The new laws have also prioritised the investigations for offences against women and children, ensuring timely completion within two months of recording information. In the new criminal laws, it has become mandatory for forensic experts to visit crime scenes for serious offences and collect evidence. Summons can now be served electronically, expediting legal processes, reducing paperwork, and ensuring efficient communication between all parties involved.



## PM Modi ki Mann Se Baat

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi resumed his monthly radio programme "Mann ki Baat" on Sunday thanking the countrymen for their unwavering faith in the Constitution and the democratic system and participating in the Lok Sabha election 2024 in which over 65 crore of them voted. The radio programme of Modi had been paused since the last broadcast on February 25 due to the elections. Addressing the nation in his first Mann Ki Baat programme after assuming office for a third term, PM Modi expressed that he missed the conversation with the public since the February broadcast. He thanked people and congratulated the Election Commission and every

person associated with the process as he touched on a host of issues in his 30-minute radio address. The Prime Minister also cheered Indian athletes who will be competing in the Paris Olympics starting next month, and urged people to use "cheer4Bharat" hashtag to motivate them. He said the performance of Indian players in the previous Olympics in Tokyo had won the hearts of every citizen, and the participating athletes have been since whole-heartedly engaged in the preparations for the Paris Olympics. "If we take all the players together, then all of them have participated in nearly 900 international competitions. This is a very big number," he said, adding that Indians will get to witness certain things for the first time.

## Virat and Rohit Sharma ride off into the sunset

RISHABH MALIK ■ NEW DELHI

The confetti shimmered like a thousand dreams realized, raining down on Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma as they held aloft the T20 World Cup trophy gleaming under the floodlights of Kensington Oval in Barbados. Virat and Rohit walked up to the microphone to give their victory speeches and a different kind of farewell on a night where billions of emotions were high after the triumph final. While receiving the Man of the Match award for his crucial innings of 76 of 39 balls, Virat said, "This was my last T20 World Cup, this is exactly what we (Indian Cricket Team) wanted to achieve, now it's time for the next generation to take over." After receiving the medals and awards, Rohit Sharma also announced his retirement officially. While addressing the post match conference Sharma said, "That was my last game as well. Honestly I have enjoyed it since the time I started playing this format. There's no better time to say good bye to this format, winning the World Cup is what I wanted." India's star all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja also hung up his boots from T20 Internationals. Kohli has always been the star performer for India from his debut 2012 World Cup.



Rohit Sharma embraces Virat Kohli after India's T20 World Cup win (X/@ICC)

Over the years his statistics speaks for himself and whenever the team needed him he performed. The 35-year-old batsman has the record for the most number of 1292 runs in T20 World Cup in 35 matches with overall average 58.72 followed by Rohit Sharma who has second most number of runs in World Cup, 1220 in 47 matches with the average of 34.85. The former Indian Captain known for his match winning knocks in T20 World Cup campaigns, his feat came in

big matches like 2014 semi final and final, 2016 Semi Final, and the clash against Pakistan in Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG 2022), to which Virat rated his biggest T20 innings of his career. Rohit whose debut for India was in the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 under the leadership of MS Dhoni, from being the middle order batsman to being the opening batsman his journey has been remarkable. He appeared in nine World Cup Campaigns (2007-2024).

## Parliament resumes on RajNEETi



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

Parliament is set to witness heated debates on a range of issues like the NEET paper leak row, the Agnipath initiative and inflation when both the Houses reconvene on Monday. Besides the paper leak matter, the Opposition parties under the INDIA Bloc are also likely to raise the issue of unemployment and the alleged misuse of probing agencies by the NDA Government when Parliament is scheduled to take the debate on the Motion of Thanks of President's Address. The Lok Sabha has allocated 16 hours for the debate on the Motion of Thanks, which will conclude with the reply by Prime

Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday. In the Rajya Sabha, 21 hours have been set aside for the debate and the Prime Minister is likely to reply on Wednesday. Opposition INDIA Bloc members forced adjournment in Lok Sabha when the House was to take up the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, demanding a dedicated discussion on the NEET issue. AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Sunday announced that leaders of the INDIA bloc will protest in the Parliament complex on Monday morning against the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's alleged misuse of the CBI and the ED to target Opposition leaders. "The BJP-led Central Government

and its prime investigating agencies are misusing power. Modi is targeting Opposition parties and filing fake cases. The CBI and the ED have filed false cases and investigations against every Opposition leader, from senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi to Mamata Banerjee to DMK leaders. They have arrested Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Singh. The ED and the CBI will go against whoever speaks against and does not join the BJP," Singh said at a press conference on Sunday. Union Minister Chirag Paswan on Sunday asserted that the Government was in touch with "all stakeholders" in the NEET

paper leak case and a decision "in the best interests of students" will be taken at an "appropriate" time. He also slammed the Opposition for stalling Parliament's proceedings over the issue, alleging that it reflected a "flawed mindset" (galat soch). Taking a jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi after he addressed the first episode of Mann Ki Baat in his third term, Congress' media and publicity head Pawan Khera questioned why he did not mention NEET, the railway accident or the "infrastructure collapses". He said the Opposition Parliamentarians will keep on protesting until the Government debates on the issue for a resolution that no young minds are affected due to such paper leaks.

NEET-UG was conducted by the NTA on May 5 with around 24 lakh candidates appearing. The results were announced on June 4, but they were followed by allegations of question paper leaks in States such as Bihar, besides other irregularities. BJP member and former Union Minister Anurag Thakur is set to initiate the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which is to be seconded by first term Lok Sabha member Bansuri Swaraj, the daughter of BJP stalwart late Sushma Swaraj. The debate has already been initiated in the Rajya Sabha by member Sudhanshu Trivedi on Friday but could not proceed due to protests by the Opposition.

## MONSOON BECKONS



Dark clouds hover in the sky above Royal Cenotaphs at Devi Kund Sagar, in Bikaner PTI

## Drivers, Mind your Lanes

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Wrong side driving, a big safety menace leading to fatal road accidents, has become more prevalent in the national Capital. The Delhi Traffic Police has booked more than 2,500 violators for driving in the incorrect lane till June 15 this year, 250 per cent higher than the last year. "The statistics reveal that in 2024, the Delhi Traffic Police booked 2,577 violators for driving in the incorrect lane, a significant increase from the 732 challans issued in 2023. This represents an almost 252 per cent rise in

prosecutions over the previous year," a statement by the traffic police stated. The maximum number of challans reported was 572 at the IGI Airport circle. According to the officials, the Delhi Traffic Police has observed a significant increase in the number of prosecutions for lane discipline violations during the current year. "In an effort to enhance road safety and reduce traffic congestion, stricter measures have been implemented to ensure that motorists adhere to proper lane driving," an official stated.

## A colourful way this monsoon

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Much to the delight of tribal women of Kerala's Attappadi, their Karthumbi, the colourful handmade umbrellas, are the toast of the country liked by fashion lovers and many others. An initiative launched in 2015 in Kerala's Attappadi, an exclusive region for the tribals, Karthumbi umbrellas have now become a cynosure of all eyes. Karthumbi was launched by Thampu, a non-governmental organization functioning in Attappadi to help the tribals get over the challenges of life. In fact, Attappadi had reported more than 200 infant deaths during 2013, 2014 and 2015 as a fall out of



malnutrition and hunger. Though the Kerala Government tried to cover up the issue, the tribals numbering 32,000 stand witness to these deaths. The area had no roads, hospitals or schools to speak about. Moreover the encroachers of forest land from other parts of the State painted the region

red with their nocturnal "adventures". Rajendra Prasad, a tribal activist based in Kochi who is the founder of Thampu had an answer. Empower the tribal women by offering them an avenue with which they can supplement their income. That's how they chose umbrella manufacturing as a

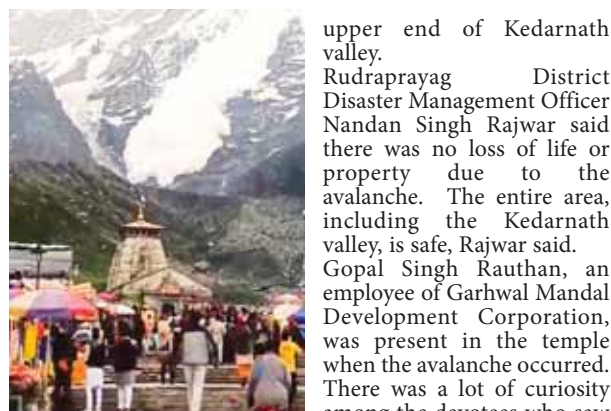
source of income and that too by working from home. The Thampu initiative resulted in Karthumbi, handmade umbrellas which are without doubt a step ahead of umbrellas manufactured by major companies. "More than 700 women from the tribal community were trained in umbrella making during 2014 to 2017. Right now around 60 women are in the job of umbrella manufacturing and all of them work from their home, convener said K A Ramu. He said the response from the customers was overwhelming and the women make Rs 30 for every umbrella crafted by them. The Karthumbi brand of umbrella has become a status symbol for the fashion

conscious women of the State and many parts of the country. "I make 10 to 20 umbrellas per day and the work is done after completing my other works like the employment guarantee programme. It has helped me to buy a scooty too," said Lakshmi Unnikrishnan, a homemaker belonging to Mudugar tribals. Prasad said at the time of launching Karthumbi umbrellas, they used to pay each woman Rs 50 per umbrella. "The Covid 19 pandemic, and the deluge literally put an end to our business. But the determination of the women workers from the tribal communities helped us to sustain the venture.

## Avalanche hits Gandhi Sarovar near Kedarnath

PNS ■ RUDRAPRAYAG

A massive avalanche hit the Gandhi Sarovar located four kilometre above the Kedarnath Dham in Uttarakhand early Sunday morning. This avalanche that occurred near the Chorabari glacier fell into the valley in the same area but there was no loss of life or property. Devotees who went to visit the Kedarnath temple this morning captured the natural phenomenon, which occurred around 5 am, on their mobile phones. A huge cloud of snow was seen sliding down with speed and stopped after falling into a deep ravine. The avalanche



occurred in the upper region of the Gandhi Sarovar in Chorabari glacier, below the snow-covered Meru-Sumeru mountain range located at the

upper end of Kedarnath valley. Rudraprayag District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said there was no loss of life or property due to the avalanche. The entire area, including the Kedarnath valley, is safe, Rajwar said. Gopal Singh Rauthan, an employee of Garhwal Mandal Development Corporation, was present in the temple when the avalanche occurred. There was a lot of curiosity among the devotees who saw this natural phenomenon for about five minutes. Another avalanche occurred in the Chorabari glacier on June 8, Rauthan said.

# Vehicular movement hit at Okhla underpass due to waterlogging

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Traffic Police restricted vehicular movement in the Okhla underpass due to waterlogging and asked commuters to accordingly plan their journeys while Pragati Maidan tunnel opened on Sunday evening as monsoon fury wreaked havoc in the national capital on Friday. The move to keep the Okhla underpass closed comes after a 60-year-old man drowned in the underpass on Saturday. The national capital experienced heavy rainfall on Friday and Saturday, leading to waterlogging and massive traffic jams in several parts of the city. In a post on X, the traffic police said, "Movement of traffic is restricted at Okhla



underpass due to waterlogging. Kindly plan your journey accordingly." The closure of the underpass has caused problems for regular commuters, increasing their travel times.

Sushil Gupta, a commuter who travels through the same route to reach his office, stated, "I travel via that route to reach my office. It has increased my timing and has caused major inconvenience. They have not yet been able to clear the water till now. The route above the underpass is also closed. I have to take another route now." Another commuter Rajesh Kumar said he had been looking for an alternative route to the office from Noida. Plan accordingly means I will have to take a longer route passing through the entire South Delhi," he said.

# Delhi Govt will provide ₹10 lakh compensation to those who drowned due to heavy rain in City: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Water Minister Atishi announced that the Delhi government will provide a compensation of Rs 10 lakh to the families of those who drowned due to heavy rain in the city on Friday. In an official communication to the revenue department, minister Atishi said it has been reported that there were "several deaths" due to drowning on Friday, after the extreme rainfall. "It is hereby directed that the families of all those who lost their lives shall be provided a compensation of Rs 10 lakh," Atishi said in the order. "ACS Revenue is hereby



directed to identify those who lost their lives with the support of area hospitals and Delhi Police - and immediately provide them aforementioned compensation on behalf of GNCTD," she added.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Atishi said, "Several deaths have been reported on 28th June, after extreme rainfall of 228mm in 24 hours. The families of all those who lost their lives will be given a compensation of Rs 10 lakhs," adding that directions have been given that this compensation reaches the grieving families speedily. A total of 11 deaths were reported in Delhi within the first two days of the monsoon's arrival including the death of a 60-year-old man by drowning in Okhla underpass and two boys who drowned in a waterlogged section of an underpass in outer north Delhi's Samaypur Badli area.

# Political desparation of AAP leaders increasing, says BJP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi BJP President Virendra Sachdeva on Sunday said that the political desperation of AAP leaders, including Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh, is increasing day by day while denying claims by the AAP who called the arrest of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) a 'conspiracy'. He said that the AAP is embroiled in controversies and not concerned with public work. "Whether it is AAP MPs, Delhi government ministers, or MLAs and councilors, they are not concerned with public interest work but are worried only about Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who is embroiled in corruption charges," Sachdeva alleged. Sachdeva questioned why Kejriwal and other AAP leaders, who are in jail, are not getting bail if they are inno-



cent from any regular court. "The Kejriwal government is completely immersed in the swamp of corruption, and the current cases that have surfaced are just the trailers. When the investigation into the Delhi Jal Board and the espionage scandal begins, the entire dark film will be revealed," he claimed. Reacting to senior AAP leader Sanjay Singh's press conference, Sachdeva asked the MP about where he was when rain

# Repair pump house at Chandrawal WTP, Atishi instructs officials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Minister Atishi on Sunday instructed officials to repair the pump house at the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant and increase the capacity of the pump house at the Minto Bridge underpass that was flooded due to heavy rains and ensure that such problems do not recur. In a post in Hindi on X (formerly Twitter) after inspecting the Chandrawal water treatment plant, she said that unexpected rains flooded the pumping house of the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant, damaging the motors. "Due to this, (water) supply was disrupted in many parts of Central Delhi. Jal Board has worked quickly to resolve this problem and the plant has almost 80 per cent been repaired. Water supply will be back to normal soon," Atishi said. "Inspected the plant today and ordered officials to repair the pump house as soon as possible, and with joint inspection ensure that this problem does not recur in any plant in the future," she said.



Delhi Water Minister Atishi led an inspection of the Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant's pump house on Sunday morning. "It's noteworthy that Delhi received unexpected rainfall recently. Normally, Delhi receives 800 mm rainfall during the entire monsoon season, but two days ago, 228 mm rainfall occurred in just 24 hours," she said, adding that the water entered the pump house located at Chandrawal Water Treatment Plant. "Due to this, the motors of the pump house had been damaged. Through this pump house, water is supplied to many areas of central Delhi, but due to damage to the motors of the pump house, the supply was disrupted in these areas," she said, adding that the repair of the motors has been completed and the water supply will also become normal. Along with this, Atishi directed the officials that all the concerned departments including Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Urban Development Department to do a joint inspection of the plant and prepare a plan on that basis so that

such problems do not arise in any plant in future. Meanwhile, Delhi Public Welfare Minister Atishi conducted a thorough inspection of the Minto Bridge underpass pump house on Sunday. Accompanied by senior officials, the Delhi PWD Minister mandated an increase in its (pump house) capacity, signaling a proactive approach to the city's flood management challenges. She further added that due to heavy rains, the pumps deployed at Minto Bridge underpass took time to drain out the water. Due to this, there was a problem of waterlogging here for a few hours. To prevent such a situation from arising again, Delhi PWD Minister Atishi inspected the pump house located here on Sunday along with senior officials of the department. PWD Minister Atishi instructed the officials to further increase the capacity of the pump house present here, use new technologies to prevent waterlogging and take all possible steps so that there is no waterlogging here in the future.

# Rapidly advancing with phase four expansion: DMRC

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) announced on Sunday that it is rapidly advancing with its Phase fourth expansion, aiming to open all three priority corridors comprising 65 kilometers of new lines by 2026. More than 50 per cent work is complete on all three priority corridors under Delhi Metro's fourth phase expansion project. In a post on X, DMRC said that over 50 percent of the work on these corridors has been completed. Specifically, the Majlis Park-Maujpur section has reached about 80 per cent completion in civil work. Tunneling is ongoing on the Aerocity-Tughlakabad (Golden Line) and Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg (Magenta Line) corridors. Regarding delays in the project, DMRC officials said the Phase 4 expansion project is progressing rapidly with a target of opening all three priority corridors comprising 65 kilometres of new lines by 2026.



Though work on the fourth phase expansion project started in December 2019, progress was significantly impacted from 2020 to 2022 due to the Covid pandemic and delays in getting permissions to cut trees, they said. An agency official said work on the expansion project had been going only since the past one-and-a-half to two years, giving the DMRC about four years to complete the expansion project. "At present, more than 50 per cent progress has already been achieved on all three corridors. On the Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor, about 80 per cent civil work has been completed," the DMRC's principal executive director of corporate communications Anuj Dayal said. "Tunneling work is in progress on various stretches of the Aerocity-Tughlakabad (Golden Line) and the Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg (Magenta Line) corridors," he added. Despite the adverse Covid situation and delay in getting various permissions, the

Phase 4 section from Janakpuri West to Krishna Park Extension is now almost complete and is likely to open by August, Dayal said. The entire Majlis Park-Maujpur corridor is also likely to open next year. The remaining sections of the priority corridors are expected to open in phases by 2026, he said. However, certain permissions for tree cutting and acquisition of land pockets at isolated locations are still pending, the official claimed. The project is being monitored at various levels daily and site visits are taken up at the highest level to expedite the work. Permissions to cut trees are being pursued at appropriate levels, Dayal said. Two more corridors under Phase 4 -- Inderlok-Indraprastha and Saket G Block-Lajpat Nagar -- also received approval recently. The DMRC is seeking clearances for land acquisition, clearing forests and cutting trees. Further processes on planning and tendering for civil works are underway, Dayal said.

# Amid rains, civic bodies intensify deployment to tackle waterlogging

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Amid heavy rains predicted for the national capital till Tuesday, civic bodies have intensified manpower and equipment deployment to tackle waterlogging, while keeping field units on high alert. Delhi was brought to its knees on Friday morning as 228.1 mm of rainfall on the first day of monsoon, the highest for the month of June since 1936, submerged several parts of the city and claimed multiple lives. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rains in Delhi and has put the city on "orange alert" till July 2. An official in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) said the civic body has ramped up manpower deployment to handle waterlogging complaints and is monitoring areas under Lutyens' Delhi through CCTV cameras. On Friday, the upscale Lutyens' Delhi area witnessed a flood-like situation as water entered the bungalows of many MPs.

NDMC Vice-Chairman Satish Upadhyay said they have deployed four additional pumps on a standby basis at Golf Links and Bharti Nagar which witnessed excessive waterlogging on Friday. "Three super suction machines mounted on vehicles will keep patrolling the vulnerable areas. We have also deployed additional staff and cancelled the offs of all employees. Each vulnerable area has been placed under one superintending engineer who has staffers with them to address issues. The NDMC central command and control room will monitor all vulnerable areas through CCTV cameras," Upadhyay said. According to the NDMC, superintending engineers are now overseeing operations at vulnerable points to ensure timely interventions. "We will ensure 24-hour monitoring through CCTV cameras. CCTV cameras are in place for continuous monitoring of vulnerable areas," another official said.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has put its field units on high alert to deal with any such situation. A senior official of the civic body said their central control room is functioning round the clock and claimed that the desilting of drains has been completed. He added that mobile pumps, super sucker machines, earth movers and other machines have been deployed at various locations where waterlogging was reported through dedicated 24x7 zonal control rooms of the MCD. "In total, 72 permanent pumping stations are working as per requirement. Additionally, 465 mobile/submersible pumps of different capacities were made available to clear waterlogging. Manpower was adequately deployed also in tandem with machines for quick and sustained release of water," he said. "As part of the monsoon action plan, all arrangements have been made and field units are put on high alert to tackle the situation," the official added.

# City records maximum temperature of 37.1 degrees Celsius after rains

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The national capital recorded a maximum temperature of 37.1 degrees Celsius on Sunday, a couple of days after Delhi was lashed by 228.1 mm of rains, bringing the city to its knees and claiming multiple lives. Delhi's primary weather station Safdarjung recorded 37.1 as the maximum temperature, 0.3 degrees below the normal. The minimum temperature settled at 27 degrees, a notch below the normal. The feel like temperature or heat index for the national capital was 44 degrees Celsius. According to the weather department, 9 mm of rain was recorded in the city on Sunday, while humidity was 78 per cent at 8:30 am and 60 per cent at 5:30 pm. Additionally, Najafgarh recorded its maximum temperature at 36.3 degrees Celsius, Aya nagar at 37 degrees, Lodi road at 36.6 degrees,



Palam at 37 degrees, Ridge at 36.3 degrees, Pitampura at 38.2 degrees, Pusa at 36.5 degrees, Salwan Public school at 36.2 degrees and Jafarpur at 37.3 degrees. The Air Quality Index (AQI) of the national capital was in the "moderate" category with a reading of 118 at 6 pm, according to the Central Pollution Control Board.

# Haryana Govt signs MoU with NVVNL for green coal plants

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Haryana is soon to get waste-to-charcoal plants, also known as green coal plants. An MoU for this plant will be signed between NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Limited (NVVNL) and the Haryana Government soon. After setting up the plants in Gurugram-Manesar and Faridabad, this initiative will be expanded to other cities in Haryana. NVVNL officers will soon visit a few sites to establish green coal plants. The district administration spokesperson said that to implement these plants, a meeting was held at Shram Shakti Bhawan in New Delhi, chaired by Minister, Manohar Lal. The government is highly committed to reducing the problem of the increasing quantity of municipal solid waste and using it beneficially for renewable energy production. During the meeting on waste-to-energy, detailed discussions



were held on NVVNL's initiative to produce green coal from solid waste. It is noteworthy that green coal, also known as bio-coal, is a sustainable alternative to traditional waste, as it can be blended with regular coal for electricity generation in thermal power plants. NVVNL recently established a plant in Varanasi to produce green coal from solid waste. Once fully operational, this plant will consume 600 tons of waste and produce 200 tonnes of green coal, leaving very little residue. NVVNL is also working in various stages to set up green coal plants in Haldwani, Vadodara, Noida,

Gorakhpur, and Bhopal. Commissioner of Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG), Dr Narhari Singh Bangar mentioned that the MCG has already initiated this process and shown some sites in Gurugram to the NVVNL officials. The Union Minister instructed that the civic body, in collaboration with NVVNL, should set up a green coal plant at Bandhwari or alternative sites around Gurugram and Manesar. He stated that this plant should be capable of consuming around 1200 tons of solid waste daily. Similarly, Faridabad Municipal Corporation (FMC) should start the process with NVVNL to set up a plant with a capacity of 1000 tonnes per day on the available land in the village of Mothuka. Establishing waste-to-green coal plants in Gurugram-Manesar and Faridabad will not only provide a permanent solution to the waste problem but also increase energy production.

# Hemant Soren tarnishes image of tribal community, claims Sai

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday said that former Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren has tarnished the image of tribal community by making an adverse comment on the tribal leadership in the country.

He said this while criticizing Soren for charging that the Chief Minister of BJP-ruled states are mere rubber stamps.

Taking on "X" Sai said: "The comment of Soren was condemnable and was an insult to all the tribal and backward communities across the nation."



Sai further charged that the Soren family looted the people while in power in Jharkhand and had tainted

the image of tribals. "It was under the BJP rule at Centre that the saffron party had ensured effective

tribal leadership in various states and that had never happened before," Sai said. The people of Jharkhand

**"It was under the BJP rule at Centre that the saffron party had ensured effective tribal leadership in various states and that had never happened before"**

have now made up their mind to teach a lesson to the Soren family in upcoming Assembly elections, he said.

# Newborn killed, 30 injured as bus overturns in Bilaspur

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
BILASPUR

A newborn died and more than 30 passengers on board sustained injuries after a private bus overturned in Chhattisgarh's Bilaspur district on Sunday.

A police official said the accident occurred near the Lalkhand flyover on the outskirts of Bilaspur when the bus was heading to Sarangarh town around 11 am.

Some passersby immediately called an ambulance and informed the police.

The child died on the spot while the injured were rushed to the Chhattisgarh Institute of Medical Sciences (CIMS) and other hospitals in Bilaspur.

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai said: "Received sad news of the death of a girl



child, and injuries to 30-35 passengers after a bus overturned near Bilaspur. The Collector has been instructed to make proper arrangements for the injured persons."

# Rampant corruption in Sai govt, alleged Congress

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

The Congress on Sunday charged that corruption was rampant in the Vishnu Deo Sai government in Chhattisgarh.

PCC chief Deepak Baij said that there was no work in any of the departments in the state which was done without taking commission.

A target of commission has been fixed in all the departments including



Excise, Public Health Engineering and Agriculture, he said.

Citing a viral video of the demand for commission and referring to complaints raised over the issue, the Congress leader said the government had not even paid attention to them.

The silence of the Chief Minister and Ministers over the charges of corruption was a proof of corruption in the government, Baij said.

# Liju Gopal elected SNSS Chairman

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

The Sree Narayana Sandesha Samajam (SNSS) on Sunday unanimously elected Liju Gopal as Chairman of the organization. The SNSS meet was held at Sree Narayana Guru Mandiram premises, Shankar Nagar.

The other elected members are Vice Chairman Dr K.N. Kishore, General Secretary Dhan Shivanand, Secretary Organization T.C. Shaji, Secretary Education Girish Gopinath, Treasurer S. Sudarshan, Joint Treasurer S. Vinod.

# NGO camp provides free artificial limbs

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
RAIPUR

The Narayan Seva Sansthan (NSS) provided free prosthetic limbs to over 750 disabled people at a camp held in Raipur on Sunday.

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated the camp. Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Tank Ram Verma and MLAs were present.

Addressing the camp, Sai praised the spirit of the NSS of Rajasthan to aid the disabled in Chhattisgarh. He also said the government was committed to providing all possible support



to the disabled. NSS President Prashant Agarwal announced plans to

set up a centre in Raipur. Sai pledged to provide all possible aid to him for this.

Established in 1985, NSS has provided over 41,000 artificial limbs.



Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai on Sunday listened to the "Man Ki Baat" programme of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Swadeshi Bhawan in Shanti Nagar in Raipur. The talk is held on every last Sunday of the month.

# Anti-diarrhoea campaign to protect children from today

**STAFF REPORTER ■**  
SURAJPUR

Authorities in Chhattisgarh's Surajpur will hold an intense diarrhoea control campaign from Monday to prevent deaths among children under five due to the disease.

An official communique said diarrhoea is one of the leading causes of death in children aged 0-5 years, and its early diagnosis and treatment can reduce infant mortality.

Collector Rohit Vyas has directed the Health Department to hold drives at district hospitals, community and primary health centres as well as other places until August 31.



# Asymptomatic heart condition raises risk of sudden cardiac death

**AGENCIES ■**

Aortic aneurysms, which is often asymptomatic, is the third leading cause of sudden cardiac death, said experts on Sunday stressing the need for raising awareness on the fatal heart condition. Aortic aneurysms are the ballooning of the major blood vessel aorta, which carries blood from the heart to the whole body.

It affects approximately 2 to 3 per cent of the population, but the risk increases with certain factors like atherosclerosis (collection of cholesterol in the blood vessels), hypertension, and generic deficiency in certain patients.

"Aortic aneurysms represent a critical yet under-recognised health concern that ranks as the third leading cause of sudden cardiac death, trailing only behind heart attacks and cardiac arrests," Niranjan Hiremath, a senior consultant cardiovascular and aortic surgeon at Indraprastha Apollo

Hospital, New Delhi, told IANS.

"When the aorta's wall weakens, it can dilate to twice or even three times its normal diameter, creating a significant risk of sudden rupture, which can result in immediate death, or lead to aortic dissections, another severe complication," he added.

In India, awareness about cardiac risks predominantly revolves around heart attacks and cardiac arrests, but the dangers posed by aortic aneurysms have not received comparable attention.

"The lack of awareness is concerning, especially considering that about 75 per cent of aortic aneurysms are asymptomatic and go undetected until they present a sudden, life-threatening emergency. These aneurysms are often discovered incidentally during examinations for other medical conditions," Niranjan said.

"Most intact aortic aneurysms do not



produce symptoms. As they enlarge, symptoms such as abdominal pain and back pain may develop. Untreated, aneurysms tend to become progressively larger and can present with life-threatening complications," added Shiv Choudhary, Executive Director - Adult Cardiothoracic & Vascular Surgery, Fortis Escorts (NS:ESCO) Heart Institute, Okhla Road,

New Delhi. Aneurysms can develop in any segment of the aorta, but most commonly affects the abdominal aorta. The experts noted that genetic predispositions, trauma or infection, and tobacco can also contribute to the risk of aortic aneurysms. It "weakens the wall of the aorta and finally leads to aortic rupture. In rupture, massive internal bleeding happens, and,

unless treated immediately, shock and death can occur. The other fatal complication is a dissection of the aorta. In dissection, the layers of the wall of the aorta are split. This can result in mal-perfusion to the brain or visceral organs or eventual rupture. In both situations emergency intervention is warranted," Shiv told IANS.

Open surgery used to

be the major form of treatment. Recently, there has been a paradigm shift to minimally invasive techniques of endovascular stent implantation, which is associated with low risk, minimal morbidity, and low mortality, (Surg Cmde) V S Bedi, NM Chairman & Senior Consultant Institute of Vascular & Endovascular Sciences, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital New Delhi, told IANS.

"The aneurysms are required to be treated once the size of the aorta increases to more than 5cm because an increase of more than 6cm can cause sudden leak/rupture which can be fatal," the doctor added.

The experts also advised strict control of blood pressure for patients with the condition and prohibition of tobacco in any form. Patients with diagnosed aneurysms should avoid intense physical sports and isometric exercise but can walk and indulge in light aerobic exercises.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(In relation to the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of Geekay Colonizers and Builders Limited)  
That, the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process in respect of Geekay Colonizers and Builders Limited commenced vide order of the Hon'ble National Company Law Tribunal dated 29.11.2023 pursuant to which a moratorium has been directed to be maintained in respect of Geekay Colonizers and Builders Limited and its assets, over which control and management vests in the Resolution Professional in terms of Section 18 (f) and Section 25 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Plot & Khatian No.
1.	Vill : Labhandi, Halka : 00065, Taheshil : Raipur, Dist : Raipur, State: Chattishgarh	PLOT Nos : 410/1, 511/1, 411/2, 411/3, 15006/1, 15006/30, 414/2, 414/3, 414/1, 415/1, 415/3, 393/4, 394/6, 394/7, 393/5, Khatian No. 1202.
2.	Village: Tekari, Tehsil: Abhanpur, Dist : Raipur, State: Chhattishgarh.	PLOT Nos : 595/1, 596/1, 596/2, 597/1, 598/1, 598/2, 598/3, 598/4, 598/5, 598/7, 598/8, 598/9, 599/1, 600/1, 600/2, 600/3, 601/2, 602/1, 602/2, 603/1, 603/2, 604/1, 604/2, 604/3, 604/4, 604/5, 605/1, 605/2, 606/1, 606/2, 607/1, 608/1, 609/1, 610/1, 611/1, 612/1, 612/2, 612/3, 612/4, 612/5, 612/6, 612/7, 613/1, 613/2, 613/3, 613/4, 613/5, 614/1, 614/3, 615/1, 615/2, 615/3, 616/2, 616/3, 616/4, 618/2, 735/1, 735/4, 735/5, 737/1, 738/1, 740/2, 741/2, 742/1, 743/2, 744/1, 744/2, 744/3, 744/4, 746/1, 746/2, 746/3, 704/4.
3.	Vill : Kolar, Tehsil : Abhanpur, Dist : Raipur, State: Chhattishgarh.	PLOT Nos : 1/2, 2/1, 2/2, 3/1, 3/2, 4/1, 4/3, 4/4, 5/2, 5/3, 5/4, 5/5, 6/1, 6/2, 6/3, 6/5, 6/6, 6/7, 7/1, 7/2, 7/3, 8/1, 8/3, 8/4, 10/1, 10/3, 10/5, 11/1, 11/7, 11/8, 11/9, 11/10, 12/1, 12/2, 12/3, 12/06, 12/7, 12/08, 17/1, 18/2, 18/3, 19/1, 19/4, 19/7, 19/9, 19/10, 19/11, 19/12, 19/14, 19/15, 19/16, 20/1, 20/2, 21/1, 22/1, 22/5, 22/6, 22/8, 22/9, 23/1, 23/3, 23/4, 24/1, 24/3, 26/4, 26/5, 26/7.

Soumitra Lahiri  
Resolution Professional in the matter of Geekay Colonizers and Builders Limited  
IBBI/PA-001/FP-P00734/2017-2018/11232  
Flat 14D & E, Tower 32, Genesis Valley, Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata - 700104  
Date: 01.07.2024 Email: slahiri0207@gmail.com, geekaycolonizers.ibc@gmail.com  
Place: Kolkata Phone: +91 33 23903644, Cell: +91 8420969857

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# Bihar Police ready to implement new criminal laws from July 1

PTI ■ PATNA

The Bihar Police is "fully geared up" in terms of technology, capacity building and awareness generation to implement the three new criminal laws that come into effect across the country from Monday, officials said.



out training of its 25,000 senior officers ahead of the new laws coming into effect and also on digital policing, it said.

videography of crime scenes for all heinous crimes, official sources said. Booklets on the new laws have been issued and specific apps developed to make it easy for Bihar Police officers to comprehend the widespread changes in India's criminal justice system, the statement said.

# From being farmer's son to Vice Prez, Venkaiah's journey inspiring: Modi

PTI ■ HYDERABAD



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday released three books on the life of M. Venkaiah Naidu and recalled his contributions, including the fight against imposition of Emergency and as Union Minister and Vice President.

Naidu chose to take up the Rural Development ministry in the cabinet of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, despite being a senior in the party, as he wanted to serve the villages, farmers and the poor, he said.

during the Vajpayee regime. During Naidu's tenure as Chairman of Rajya Sabha, the bill to abolish Article 370 was passed with majesty, dignity and honour though the government did not have majority in the upper house, he said.

endeavour for the country's development, he said skill development is the need of the hour. "Development and welfare must go hand in hand. We should not be tempted by these freebies and then make the people lazy. Yes, we must give them a helping hand. You have been giving free ration to crores of people across the country. That should continue as long as it is required. But, at the same time, skill development is the need of the hour," the former Vice President said.

## Tragic drownings spark calls for enhanced safety measures at Pavana dam

PTI ■ PUNE

The serene surroundings of the Pavana Dam in Lonavala have been marred by a series of tragic drownings, prompting urgent calls for enhanced safety measures in the region.



measures, such as increasing police presence, installing metal fencing, deploying more lifeguards, and marking danger zones with visible signs.

Dhumal told PTI. Police-Patils are village-level personnel, appointed by the concerned collector, who assist the police in maintaining law and order in rural areas.

## Railways to invest ₹1 lakh crore in Odisha in next 5 years, says Vaishnav

PTI ■ BHUBANESWAR

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav on Sunday said new railway projects worth Rs 1 lakh crore will be implemented in Odisha in the next five years.



previous BJD government, said Vaishnav, adding, "Now double engine government is formed and the pace of the railway projects will be accelerated."

railway sector, he said. Vaishnav further said that a new railway line of 1,826 km was constructed in Odisha during the last 10 years, which is higher than the total railway network of Sri Lanka (1700 km).

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi and two deputy chief ministers K V Singh Deo and Pravatī Parida are like Lord Jagannath and his siblings Lord Balabhadra and Devi Subhadra who have been given a big responsibility for the development of the state.

## Gold smuggling syndicate at Chennai International airport busted



PTI ■ CHENNAI

In a major intelligence operation, the Customs department at the airport here has busted a syndicate which was involved in smuggling of 267 kg of gold worth Rs 167 crore from Sri Lanka, during the last two months.

## No livelihood and caught in debt trap, weavers resort to suicide in Telangana's textile hub

PTI ■ KARIMNAGAR (TELANGANA)

The 'recent' suicide of a weaver at Sircilla in Telangana has brought to the fore the alleged lack of work and adequate income in this textile hub, with the issue leading to a war of words between the opposition BRS and the Congress.



"My husband borrowed some amount and failed to repay the lenders. He did not have the livelihood to take care of me and our two sons," Nagaraju's wife Lavanya told PTI.

the closure of powerlooms in the area. He borrowed money and failed to repay it," said Mahender, sibling of the deceased.

said. According to him, 10 weavers took the extreme step in Sircilla district during this year.

## Jaipur Heritage Municipal body turns plastic waste into cash

PTI ■ JAIPUR

The Jaipur Heritage Municipal Corporation has successfully turned single-use plastic waste into cash by selling it to cement plants through.

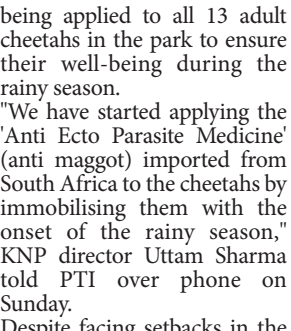
generated revenue by selling it to cement plants through, officials said. "Disposal of the seized single-use plastic was a major issue. We assessed that a supply chain exists in the system and installed Refuse Derived Fuel machines at dumping yards to shred the plastic and sell it to cement manufacturing plants.

significant amount has been made by selling the plastic to the cement plants, Surana said. Apart from the polythene taken out of the garbage, seized single-use plastic is also crushed into small pieces.

## Cheetahs receive special ointment treatment to prevent deadly infection

PTI ■ SHEOPUR (MP)

In an effort to protect the cheetah population at Kuno National Park (KNP) in Madhya Pradesh, a new initiative has been launched to apply foreign ointment to their fur, an official said.



being applied to all 13 adult cheetahs in the park to ensure their well-being during the rainy season.

"We are going to apply this medicine to the bodies of all 13 adult cheetahs in the KNP, spread over an area of 1,235 sq km including buffer zone in Sheopur district," he said, adding "the effect of the ointment lasts for three to four months".



immisation process efficiently. The history-making reintroduction of cheetahs in India aims to revive the species, which was declared extinct in the country back in 1952.

once part of MP, in 1947. Last year's unfortunate incident of cheetah deaths due to septicemia underscored the importance of taking proactive measures to safeguard these magnificent animals.

the northern hemisphere, the official said. "So, the hostile weather plus rain caused dampness in the thick fur of the cheetahs. They rubbed their bodies for relief and in the process wounded themselves last year," he added.

With the monsoon season already underway in Madhya Pradesh, the authorities are leaving no stone unturned to protect the cheetah population from potential health risks.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

## Grit and glory

India's T20 World Cup win after a 13-year hiatus is a story of resilience, brilliance and sheer determination

## Modi's tumultuous new innings

Like a cricket team facing tough opponents, Team Modi relies on aggressive posturing and self-confidence to maintain its stance



DEEPAK SINHA

The performance of the Modi team in its new innings can be best described using a cricketing analogy.

The new team is woefully short of bench strength and faces a serious quality issue, with some members lacking commitment and motivation to the cause. Despite this, they have come out, much like the Aussies always do in any competition, riding their luck on abrasive aggression, hype and self-belief. It is certainly a technique that has worked well for them against most oppositions, forcing them on the back foot from which they seldom recover. But as we have just witnessed in the ongoing T-20 World Championships with their unexpected departure, bluster doesn't cut much ice with teams that are determined to win and unafraid of battle. Perhaps Team Modi would do well to keep this in mind. The truth is Team Modi is on a very sticky wicket, not unlike those in the Caribbean, with uneven bounce and unpredictable turns. Not surprisingly, they are already three down with not much to show on the board. Amit Shah opened the innings but was LBW on the second ball he faced, the Kashmiri looser, followed by the Manipuri yorker that beat him all up.

On a more serious note, while issues of terror attacks in Kashmir can and will be tackled with relative ease, Manipur is at the opposite end of the spectrum. Not since the Punjab and Kashmir insurgencies initially erupted, with terrible consequences, has the Indian State been found so wanting. The tragedy is that responsibility for this state of affairs rests squarely with Modi 2.0 and its rather incongruous decision not to interfere as things went from bad to worse with the Chief Minister having been rendered hors de combat. Manipur today has fallen off the cliff and is in need of urgent surgery. If we are to save this patient, and the integrity and health of the North East hinges on that, then the Army has to be pulled out of the cold storage where it sits and



allowed to do its job, once again. The second wicket to have fallen was to a railway googly, that of the relatively experienced and administratively skilled Ashwini Vaishnav. Sadly, for him, he's got out to a very similar delivery in his last innings as well and just hasn't been able to discern the googly. One can feel sorry for him because it is a tough position that he plays, with stress levels that can only be described as gargantuan. That is also the term that one describes our railways as well, and despite whatever the opposition may say, it is in the ICU and needs urgent attention. Not unlike the Air India story, substantive change is unlikely under the umbrella of one ginormous government-controlled public entity. Before 1950, we had around 55 companies operating railways over 55000kms of track until they were all amalgamated into the Indian Railways. At present with over double that kilometrage of track to expect one single entity to manage operations, nominally in six divisions, is a herculean task that will lead to repeated systems or human



THE TRAGEDY IS THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS RESTS SQUARELY WITH MODI AND ITS RATHER INCONGRUOUS DECISION NOT TO INTERFERE AS THINGS WENT FROM BAD TO WORSE WITH THE CHIEF MINISTER HAVING BEEN RENDERED HORS DE COMBAT

failure with dire consequences. Change is inevitable, the sooner the better if lives matter as all politicians insist, be it complete privatisation or a mix of synchronised public and private enterprise. The third wicket down, that of Dharmendra Pradhan, to a vicious NEET bouncer, has been the most devastating for him and the team as well. He's taken a nasty blow on his helmet that seems to have incapacitated him and has the team teetering on the edge of disaster. Whether he can continue to find a place in the playing eleven or if the team can recover and succeed only time will tell. Whatever the result in the long term, there is no getting away from the fact that the NEET scandal has been a body blow to Team Modi and its emphasis on loyalty to the cause above all else. The fact of the matter is that the problem of leaked question papers has been around forever and rumours are doing the rounds of how influential persons have been able to help their children succeed in such centralised exams, such as the CLAT, through means that

were perceived to be unfair. The numbers involved tended to be insignificant, but all that changed with the centralisation of admissions under the NTA, leading to cheating at an industrial scale, for want of a better word. The damage this has caused to the body politic, especially the upcoming generations, is enormously difficult to fully comprehend. The winners and losers are not divided by ideology, ethnicity, religion or any such measure but by those who have the money and those who don't, and in this game of snakes and ladders the don'ts have no ladders to climb. The impact of what all of this means for the ruling coalition, which cannot avoid responsibility, is not difficult to gauge and we may well see some of that fallout in the forthcoming state elections, which can then only further add to Mr. Modi's troubles. (The columnist, a military veteran and former para-trooper, is presently a Senior Visiting Fellow with the Peninsula Foundation, Chennai; views are personal)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## A WAKE-UP CALL

Madam — India has been witnessing a series of tragic infrastructural failures, the most recent being the collapse of the roof at Terminal 1 in Delhi, which resulted in one death and injured five others. Such incidents are unfortunately common, with the country experiencing multiple train accidents and bridge collapses. Data from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways reveals that 32 bridges have collapsed nationwide between 2020 and 2023. Despite substantial investment in construction, the problem persists. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) reported a record expenditure of ₹2,07,000 crore on national highway construction for the fiscal year 2023-24, marking a 20% increase from ₹1,73,000 crore in 2022-23 and ₹1,72,000 crore in 2021-22.

These figures point to a worrying trend of inadequate construction standards and corruption, leading to significant losses and the need for repeated investments. It is imperative that the government implements stringent measures to tackle these issues, ensuring accountability among contractors and relevant authorities to prevent corruption and guarantee the safety and durability of infrastructure.

Jakir Hussain | Kanpur

## IMPROVE BASIC CIVIC AMENITIES

Madam — The citizens of Delhi recently endured severe heat, followed by heavy monsoon rains that resulted in significant damage and chaos. On June 28, the canopy over the forecourt at Terminal 1 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport collapsed on parked vehicles, leading to one death and six injuries. The intense weather changes left Delhiites in a difficult situation, highlighting the need for better infrastructure and planning. This issue is not isolated to Delhi; cities like Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and others have also suffered during the rainy sea-

## Bridge gender inequality



In response to the news report "25% of new hires are married women, nearly 70% of the workforce are women: Foxconn," published on

June 28, I would like to express my views. As India strives to replace China in the global supply chain, incidents like the alleged discrimination against married women at Foxconn's manufacturing plant are highly concerning. Although Foxconn has denied these allegations and stated that 70% of its workforce comprises women, a thorough and impartial investigation is necessary to dispel any doubts. There is a significant disparity in the ratio of men to women in the workforce, and companies like Foxconn can set a positive example by employing more women. This should be encouraged as we work to close this gap. Apple has consistently enforced strict policies with its manufacturing suppliers, and Foxconn should not be an exception. Ensuring gender equality in the workforce is crucial for our progress and competitiveness on the global stage.

Bal Govind | Noida

son due to poor planning and inadequate drainage systems. While substantial funds are often spent on constructing statues and other non-essential projects, basic civic amenities remain neglected. It is crucial for the authorities to prioritize improving these facilities to safeguard the well-being of citizens.

Nagendra K Vempally | Hyderabad

## GOVT HOSPITALS IN A DISARRAY

Madam — The 'Indian Public Health Standard' report, produced by the National Health Mission (NHM), reveals a concerning state of government hospitals in India. According to the report, 80 percent of these hospitals lack even basic facilities. This alarming assessment comes from a survey conducted by the government itself, highlighting a severe scarcity of doctors, nurses, and essential equipment in these institutions. The report sheds light on the conditions of government hospitals under the 'National Health Mission' (NHM), a critical initiative encompassing district

hospitals, community health centers, primary health centers, and Ayushman health facilities across the country. The 'Indian Public Health Standard' (IPHS) is a digital platform developed by the government to collect hospital statistics. Among the 40,451 hospitals that participated in the survey, only 8,089 met the IPHS criteria. This indicates that 42% of hospitals scored less than 50% on the IPHS scale, while 15,172 hospitals received ratings ranging from 50% to 80%. The report aims to identify and address the deficiencies in these hospitals, with the central government planning to establish 70,000 government hospitals meeting the IPHS standards within 100 days of the new administration's inception. The goal is to ensure that all government hospitals are equipped with basic infrastructure, equipment, and medical staff, thereby improving patient care.

Abhijit Roy | Jamshedpur

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

## PICTALK



Devotees wade through a waterlogged area at Dharm Path in Ayodhya

PTI

## Trespassing in the lives of others: The uninvited interference

Human curiosity often leads us into the lives of others, crossing boundaries and delving into matters that are not our own



SANJAY CHANDRA

We have an insatiable appetite to interfere in the lives of others. The desire to take a bite of even the tiniest morsel from another's life also makes us, trespass on conversations of strangers at best, more often gossip about others, and make inappropriate remarks at the worst. We were a batch of seven railway officials from across the globe on training in Japan in 1991. Our program was coordinated by a young Japanese lady, maybe a couple of years older than me.

A few weeks together had made the eight of us share an easy relationship — easy enough for me to ask the lady one day if she was married. She had been married for almost a decade. I was already the father of two little daughters; thus, my next query if she had any children was probably not entirely baseless. I should have stopped once she had replied in the negative. My thirst to trespass into the private life of another individual kicked in as I asked her the reason.

She was quiet for so long, a myriad of emotions flitting across her face, that I was afraid that this one time I had



crossed the line. As I was about to apologise for my impertinence, she responded, "Thank you for an insightful query, which set me thinking. The reason is that both I and my husband are so busy in our daily lives, that we barely spend our waking hours together.

There is just no time for making a baby!" It was a lesson learnt about the price of progress on human relations in the more developed countries. We were yet to witness this back home, at least in smaller cities and towns. I also witness incidents in the lives of others in public places. I am certain even others may be looking at my daily life under the microscope. We don't need to be celebrities for

our lives to be trespassed upon. This also sometimes leads to overhearing interesting snatches of conversations. Recently, waiting at the airport for my flight, I observed a father handing over cash to his young daughter to get tea for the family, even before she had had time to put down the bags. The girl good-naturedly asked him to wait. I smiled and commented with an attempt at humour, "All fathers are like that." The family was not amused. I was in a cabin in the COVID ward of a hospital. The cabin was shared by two more patients. One morning, I overheard the lady on the adjoining bed talking to her husband on the phone rather loudly, "I am much better. You

must see the uncle on the next bed. He does not do any exercises, just lying there all the time." The shoe pinched. I was not amused at this blatant trespassing in my life. I have observed that the supposedly well-meaning interference is more prominent during a visit to a convalescing acquaintance and dispensing advice from own morbid experiences.

We cannot forget one such well-meaning advice from a neighbour who did not hesitate to tell us that his father had passed away at my age due to a similar affliction that had kept me bedridden for a rather long time. He may have only been trying to caution us to be more careful. We love to dissect the lives of our friends, and even acquaintances, particularly when they are not around. We usually try to pass off the blatant gossip as honest criticism or well-meaning advice. If only we keep in mind what Wentworth Dillon said, "Words spoken can never be recalled."

(The author is an electrical engineer with the Indian Railways and conducts classes in creative writing; views are personal)



## FIRST COLUMN

## OLDER EMPLOYEES THRIVE UNDER WORK PRESSURE

Younger employees cow down to work pressure while elders manage well



SAKSHI SETHI

As per recent research and studies, younger employees are reporting more struggles at work while older ones are doing better. Also, around 85% of the working parents in the creative, marketing and related industries feel pressure to prioritize work over parenting duties while a greater proportion also feels they must sacrifice family life to achieve their career goals. An individual at the workplace often comes across situations where they have too many tasks that need to be completed within a limited timeframe without adequate breaks or rest periods. Moreover, not receiving sufficient recognition or rewards for hard work or perceived unfair treatment or favoritism creates a stressful and demoralizing work environment making it difficult to make decisions and remember tasks which can lead to anxiety and cause stress due to a variety of psychological, physiological and situational factors. When an individual experiences work pressure, it triggers the body's stress response, known as the fight or flight response which releases stress hormones like cortisol and adrenaline, which prepare the body to deal with perceived threats. While this response can be beneficial in short bursts, prolonged activation can have negative effects on both physical and mental health resulting in increased heart rates, headaches and fatigue. Also, constant pressure can impair cognitive functions, making it difficult to concentrate, make decisions and remember tasks, which further increases stress.

There is no denying the fact that work pressure is a natural part of most jobs and can sometimes act as a motivator (such as when prompting a student to study before an important exam), helping individuals stay focused and productive but when the pressure becomes excessive or prolonged, it leads to stress, strain, nervous tension or anxiety. Maintaining a healthy balance between pressure and stress at the workplace is crucial for both productivity as well as employee well-being. Organizations must work towards setting clear communication and expectations by ensuring that job roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and communicated; an environment where managers are approachable and available to support their teams are well created and the distribution of the



tasks and responsibilities are even to avoid overburdening of any single employee. Introducing wellness programs such as yoga, meditation or fitness classes along with access to counseling and support services for employees dealing with stress, regularly acknowledging and rewarding employees for their hard work and contributions, and promoting teamwork and collaboration to create a supportive and cohesive work environment, creating a feedback loop where employees can voice concerns about their workload and suggest improvements, implementing strict anti-harassment policies and ensure they are enforced are a few strategies that can help organizations create a work environment where pressure serves as a motivator rather than a stressor.

Apart from organizations working towards employee well-being, it becomes crucial for the individual working at any level to maintain a balance between work pressure and family stress as it can be challenging to maintain overall well-being. Prioritizing what is most important both at work and at home, defining clear boundaries between work and family time focusing on high-priority tasks and letting go of less critical ones, maintaining a healthy lifestyle, engaging in hobbies and activities that are outside of work and staying updated on stress management techniques are a few strategies that can help an individual build resilience and manage work stress more effectively. Remember, when stressed, individuals have a more difficult time creating short-term memories and turning those short-term memories into long-term memories. By understanding the causes of work pressure and implementing effective strategies to manage it, individuals and organizations can reduce stress and create a healthier, more productive work environment.

(The writer is an educator; views are personal)

## Venkaiah Garu: Life in service of Bharat



NARENDRA MODI

From his early days in politics to his tenure as Vice-President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his ability to navigate the complexities with ease and humility



Today, India's former Vice-President and respected statesman M Venkaiah Naidu Garu turns 75. I wish him a long and healthy life and also extend my greetings to all his well-wishers and supporters. This is an occasion to celebrate a leader whose life journey showcases dedication, adaptability and an unwavering commitment to public service. From his early days in the political arena to his tenure as Vice-President, Venkaiah Garu's career exemplifies his unique ability to navigate the complexities of Indian politics with ease and humility. His eloquence, wit and steadfast focus on developmental issues have earned him respect across party lines.

Venkaiah Garu and I have been associated for decades. We have worked together and I have learnt a lot from him. If there is one thing that has remained common in his life, it is the love for people. His brush with activism and politics began in Andhra Pradesh with student politics as a student leader. Considering his talent, oratory and organisational skills, he would have been welcomed in any political party but he preferred to work with the Sangh Parivar. He was associated with the RSS, ABVP and then strengthened the Jana Sangh and the BJP. Almost 50 years ago, a young Venkaiah Garu immersed himself in the anti-Emergency movement. He was imprisoned and, that too, for inviting Loknayak JP to Andhra Pradesh. This commitment to democracy would be seen time and again in his political career. In the mid-1980s, when the great NTR's Government was unceremoniously dismissed by the Congress, he was again at the forefront of the movement to protect democratic principles.

Venkaiah Garu has always been comfortable swimming even against the most formidable tides. In 1978, Andhra Pradesh voted for the Congress but he beat the trend and was elected as a young MLA. Five years later, when the NTR



ALL THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD VENKAIAH GARU SPEAK WILL VOUCH FOR HIS ORATORY SKILLS. HE IS CERTAINLY A WORDSMITH BUT HE IS AS MUCH A WORKSMITH

tsunami swept the State, he got elected as a BJP MLA, thus paving the way for the BJP's growth across the State.

All those who have heard Venkaiah Garu speak will vouch for his oratory skills. He is certainly a wordsmith but he is as much a worksmith. Since his days as a young MLA, he began to be respected for the rigour he put into legislative affairs and speaking for people of his constituency. No less than a stalwart like NTR noted his talent and even wanted him to join his party but Venkaiah Garu refused to deviate from his core ideology. He went on to play a big role in strengthening the BJP in Andhra Pradesh and even became the AP BJP president.

It was in the 1990s that the BJP central leadership took note of Venkaiah Garu's efforts and thus in 1993 began his stint in national politics when he was appointed the party's all-India general secretary. It was truly a remarkable moment for a man, who as a teenager would go around announcing the visits of Atal Ji and Advani Ji, to be working directly with them. As the general secretary, he was focused on how to bring our party to power and ensure that the nation get their first ever BJP Prime Minister. After the move to Delhi, there was no looking back and he rose to become the party's national president.

In 2000, when Atal Ji was keen to induct Venkaiah Garu in the Government, Venkaiah Garu instantly conveyed his preference for the Rural Development Ministry. This left everyone, including Atal Ji, puzzled. After all, here was a leader who was

being asked which portfolio he wanted and his first choice was Rural Development. But Venkaiah Garu was clear - he was a Kisan Putra. As Minister, he was closely associated with the conception and rolling out of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana'. Years later, when the NDA Government of 2014 assumed office, he handled the crucial portfolios of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. It was during his tenure that we launched the important Swachh Bharat Mission and important urban development-related schemes. Perhaps, he is one of the only leaders to have worked for both rural and urban development for such an extensive period.

When I came to Delhi in 2014, I was an outsider to the national Capital, having worked in Gujarat for the previous decade and a half. In such times, Venkaiah Garu's insights were very handy. He was an effective Parliamentary Affairs Minister - he knew the essence of bipartisanship but at the same time he drew a line when it came to parliamentary norms and rules.

In 2017, our alliance nominated him as our vice-presidential candidate. I can never forget one of the speeches he gave when he resigned as Minister and MP. He could not control his tears when he recalled his association with the party and efforts to build it. It gave a glimpse of his deep-rooted commitment and passion. Upon becoming the Vice-President, he undertook various steps that also enhanced the dignity of the office. He was an outstanding Chairperson of the

Rajya Sabha, ensuring that young MPs, women MPs and first-time MPs get the opportunity to speak.

When the decision to remove Articles 370 and 35(A) were placed before the Rajya Sabha, Venkaiah Garu was in the Chair. I am sure it was such an emotional moment for him - the young boy who was drawn to Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee's dream of a united India!

Apart from work and politics, Venkaiah Garu is a voracious reader and writer. For the people in Delhi, he is known as the person who brought the glorious Telugu culture to the city. His Ugadi and Sankranti programmes are clearly among the most cherished gatherings in town. I have always known Venkaiah Garu as someone who loves food and also hosting people. But, of late, his self-control has also been visible to everyone. His commitment to fitness is seen in how he still plays badminton and enjoys his brisk walk.

Even after the vice-presidency, Venkaiah Garu has led an active public life. On the issues that he is passionate about, he calls me and asks me about them. I met him most recently when our Government returned to office for the third term. He was delighted and conveyed his best wishes to me and our team. I wish him again on this milestone. I hope young karyakartas, elected representatives and all those who have a passion to serve, learn from his life and imbibe those values. It is people like him who make our nation better and more vibrant.

(The writer is the Prime Minister of India.)

## A reflective moment on India's democratic values and political integrity

From displays of loyalty to controversial gestures, this year's oath-taking ceremony reveals a transformed landscape in Indian politics

Newly elected members of the Lok Sabha taking oath to adhere to the Constitution of India is a solemn occasion. "I, X, having been elected a member of the House of the People do swear in the name of God (solemnly affirm) that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India as by law established, that I will uphold the sovereignty and integrity of India and that I will faithfully discharge the duty upon which I am about to enter", is what they have to tell while taking the oath. It is not known what is the role of the presidents of the parties under whose label they enter the precincts of the House. Agreed, these members were either hand-picked by the bosses of their parties, or they themselves could have kept a



KUMAR CHELLAPPAN

gun on the forehead of the proprietors of the parties demanding the latter to nominate them as candidates for the Lok Sabha election. While watching some of these newly elected members taking the oath of office, one was flabbergasted by the fall in the quality of politics and the standard of our parliamentary system. Previously we had titans as members of political and social life but now, the only titans that

we come across are the wrist-watches and clocks made by the House of Tatas. The Dravidian politicians from Tamil Nadu were the butt of jokes as they took the oath of office. After taking the customary oath specified in the Third Schedule of the Constitution, the DMK members sang paeans to their Gods in Chennai. All DMK members except T R Balu raised slogans eulogizing the DMK supreme and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin, the future chief minister Udhayanidhi (son of Stalin) and late M Karunanidhi (former chief minister and one of the founders of the DMK) seeking their blessings to serve Tamil Nadu! Sycophancy and servility were at their peak while they were

swearing in as members. There has been criticism against members of the DMK and the AIADMK for their servile nature and lassitude to their leaders which make them laughing stocks. Most DMK members wore Vibhuti and holy Kumkum on their foreheads. It is not uncommon to see MPs and MLAs belonging to the DMK and the AIADMK doing Danda Namaskar, an obeisance to the presiding deity of the party. Though they do not believe in pilgrimage to temples, politicians have made it a point to fall down on the floor once they come face to face with the party head. But whether the sycophancy they exhibit in public is real or not is a major question. One of the elected MPs from Tamil Nadu



who took the oath of office last day was going around astrologers and sorcerers in Kerala to ascertain whether the Karunanidhi clan had performed black magic either on him or his family members. Since his father is a bigwig in the party hierarchy, it was the mother who accompanied the son to liberate him from the evil spirits. That is the rationalism and atheism practised by the followers of Ramasamy

Naicker. While the DMK MPs were happily extolling the K-Clan members, there were reservations in the minds of a section of people about what Thol Thirumavalavan of the VCK, whose antipathy for north Indians is infamous, would do. He is the one who frequently declares that north Indians are not welcome to stay in Tamil Nadu though he has demanded that Rohingya refugees

should be given a place of residence in the State. Thank God Thirumavalavan did not raise the slogan Jai Prabhakaran. Many DMK politicians in Chennai were heard asking why the newly elected MPs did not say Jai to Inbanidhi and Tanmaya (Udhayanidhi's son and daughter).

The most disgusting of the lot was made by AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi who shouted "Jai Palestine" while taking oath as a member of the House. This is a cardinal sin capable of throwing shadow over India-Israel ties. People like Owaisi are a blot on this nation as he had the audacity to describe the infamous criminal Mukhtar Ansari as a Shaheed. Owaisi is a living example that one could not

have civility by attending Lincoln's Inn. The day is not far when he or others of his ilk would shout "Jai Pakistan" from the temple of Indian democracy.

Organizations like Hamas have no place in the comity of nations and the civilized world. What happened in October 2023 should be condemned in the strongest of words. India has given enough support to the Palestinians and what it got back was just brickbats. The general public should know the truth. Shouting slogans in support of the party president's wife and children from the Speaker's podium while taking the oath of office is not secularism or pluralism.

(The writer is a special correspondent with The Pioneer; views are personal)







# Indian economy set for stable high growth

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Indian economy is poised for potentially a stable high growth phase and it is also in a strong position in the context of significant risks that are also facing us," he told PTI.

The current official estimate of GDP growth in 2023-24 is 8.2 per cent, accelerating from 7 per cent in the preceding year.

Earlier this month, the Reserve Bank of India pegged the GDP growth rate for FY25 at 7.2 per cent.

Bhede noted that the monsoon rainfall, which is expected to be normal this year, is a significant positive factor for growth as well as bringing down food inflation.

While noting that



improvement in global demand conditions are necessary to spur external demand for goods and services, he said. Sizable capital inflows supporting investment, reflect both the supply side efficiencies and high growth potential of the economy both in terms of domestic demand as well as India's exports.

Responding to a question on inflation, Bhede said the concerns are mainly in terms of the impact of risks from any adverse weather and climate events, disruptions in global supply chains due to international conflicts and the slow recovery of the global economy from the recent high inflation period.

"Our own overall CPI

inflation is marked by high levels of food inflation and a decline in this component of the overall inflation is crucial going forward," he opined.

Bhede said while food inflation is at a high level, averaging about 8 per cent during Jan-May 2024, the overall CPI-based inflation has moderated to below 5 per cent during March-May 2024.

"The prevailing policy rate combined with the gradual decline in inflation rate does mean higher real interest rates, but continued focus on keeping the inflation aligned with the target in a sustained way is important at this point to support growth as well," he said.

In its latest bi-monthly review earlier this month, the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) of Reserve Bank of India left the key interest rate (repo rate) unchanged for the eighth time in a row at 6.5 per cent.

The RBI has projected Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based retail inflation at 4.5 per cent for FY25 with 4.9 per cent in Q1 (April-June), 3.8 per cent in Q2, 4.6 per cent in Q3, and 4.5 per cent in Q4.

Retail inflation was 4.75 per cent in May.

The RBI, which has been mandated to ensure inflation remains at 4 per cent (with margin of 2 per cent on either side), mainly factors in CPI while arriving at its monetary policy.

## FPIs invest ₹26,565 crore in Indian equities in June

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

After two months of net outflow, foreign investors turned buyers in June, infusing Rs 26,565 crore in Indian equities, driven by political stability and a sharp rebound in markets.

Looking ahead, attention will gradually shift towards the budget and Q1 FY25 earnings, which could determine the sustainability of FPI flows, Vipul Bhowar, Director, Listed Investments, Waterfield Advisors, said.

According to the data with the depositories, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have made a net infusion of Rs 26,565 crore in equities this month.

This came following a net outflow of Rs 25,586 crore in May on poll jitters and over Rs 8,700 crore in April on concerns over a tweak in India's tax treaty with Mauritius and a sustained rise in US bond yields.



Bhowar said. They are favouring the financial, auto, capital goods, real estate, and select consumer sectors.

"With government stability assured, impressive GDP performance and forecasts, stable consumer price index, ample forex reserves, and robust banking sector health, I anticipate a steady and substantial FPI inflow," Kishay Upadhyay, smallcase Manager & Founder Fidelfolio, said.

Additionally, FPIs invested Rs 14,955 crore in the debt market in June. With this, FPIs' investment in the debt market reached Rs 68,624 crore in 2024 so far.

India's inclusion in the JP Morgan Bond Index is positive.

In the long term, this will reduce the cost of borrowing for the government and the cost of capital for corporates.

This is positive for the economy and therefore, for the equity and debt market.

## EPFO gross new members addition dips 4 per cent in 2023-24: MoSPI

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Retirement fund body EPFO's gross new subscribers addition declined by over 4 per cent to 1.09 crore in 2023-24 compared to a year ago, as per a report by Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

According to the report 'Payroll Reporting in India: An Employment Perspective - January to April, 2024', the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) recorded 1,09,93,119 gross addition of new members in 2023-24 compared to 1,14,98,453 in 2022-23.

The gross addition of new members was affected due to the pandemic and declined from 1,10,40,683 in 2019-20 to 85,48,898 in 2020-21. It bounced back to 1,08,65,063 in 2021-22.

The Centre as well as states had imposed lockdown restriction in 2020 and 2021 to curb the spread of deadly coronavirus in the country, which had hit economic



activities as well as employment.

The data shows that in the last five fiscal years till 2023-24, the gross new members addition by EPFO had not recovered to pre-covid level of 2018-19.

The gross addition of new members was 1,39,44,349 in 2018-19.

Since April 2018, the ministry has been bringing out the employment related statistics in the formal sector covering the period September 2017 onwards, using information on the number of subscribers who have subscribed under three major schemes, namely Employees' Provident Fund

## Aviation market big enough for Akasa Air to succeed: CEO

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

As Akasa Air spreads its wings on domestic and international routes, the less-than-two-year-old airline's chief Vinay Dube has said he does not think about competition in encouraging or discouraging terms, as the aviation market is "big enough for us to succeed".

The carrier, which took to the skies in August 2022, currently has a fleet of 24 Boeing 737 MAX planes and operates more than 900 flights weekly.

While emphasising that the focus is on service excellence and cost leadership, Dube said the airline is looking for network and international expansion.

"I don't think about competition and certainly don't think about it in encouraging or discouraging terms. If we focus on ourselves, the market is big enough for us to succeed," he told PTI in a recent interview.

## Urja Ganga gas pipeline completion delayed to March 2025, says GAIL

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

The construction of the Rs 12,940-crore 'Urja Ganga' gas pipeline, India's most ambitious project taking environment-friendly fuel to eastern parts of the country, has been delayed by nine months and will now be completed by March 2025, state-owned GAIL (India) Ltd said.

The 3,306-kilometre Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra pipeline was originally targeted for completion by June 2024. But due to "delay in right of use (RoU) availability", the completion schedule has been revised "from June 2024 to March 2025", GAIL said in a stock exchange filing.

The bulk of the pipeline has already been constructed, and gas has started to flow in most cities along the route.

Traditionally, natural gas was available for use as fuel to generate electricity, make fertiliser or turn into CNG and cooking gas only in the western and northern parts of the country, as pipelines taking the fuel from source to users were limited to these parts.

In October 2016, work on laying a pipeline from Jagdishpur in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia in West Bengal, Bokaro in Jharkhand and Dhamra in Odisha began.

The line was extended to Guwahati in Assam from Barauni in Bihar, a length of 726 km, to take the fuel to hereto-unconnected states in the eastern region.

The Jagdishpur-Haldia-Bokaro-Dhamra Pipeline (JHBDPL), popularly called the Pradhan Mantri Urja Ganga pipeline, is to supply gas to the eastern states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal.

GAIL, the firm executing the pipeline, said its board of directors in a meeting on June



## Mcap of nine of top 10 most valued firms jumps ₹2.89 lakh cr

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Nine of the top-10 most valued firms together added Rs 2,89,699.42 crore in market valuation last week, with Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainer, in line with a rally in equities.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,822.83 points or 2.36 per cent.

The BSE Sensex recorded the best monthly gain in June by climbing 7.14 per cent. The Sensex breached the historic



79,000 mark on Thursday.

While Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Infosys, Hindustan Unilever and ITC were the gainers, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) emerged as the laggard.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 1,52,264.63 crore to Rs 21,18,951.20 crore. TCS added Rs 34,733.64 crore taking its valuation to Rs 14,12,845.09 crore.

The mcap of ICICI Bank soared Rs 30,286.99 crore to Rs 8,44,201.88 crore and that of Bharti Airtel surged Rs 18,267.7 crore to Rs 8,22,530.35 crore.

The market valuation of Infosys climbed Rs 14,656.3 crore to Rs 6,50,602.10 crore and that of HDFC Bank zoomed Rs 13,808.74 crore to Rs 12,80,865.43 crore.

State Bank of India's valuation rallied Rs 11,111.14 crore to Rs 7,57,565.68 crore.

The mcap of Hindustan Unilever went up by Rs 7,953.37 crore to Rs 5,81,570.83 crore and that of ITC climbed Rs 6,616.91 crore to Rs 5,30,475.82 crore.

However, the valuation of LIC tumbled Rs 22,042.61 crore to Rs 6,25,573.90 crore. Reliance Industries remained the most valued firm, followed by TCS, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Bharti Airtel, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Hindustan Unilever and ITC.

## Domestic macroeconomic data, global trends to drive markets this week: Analysts

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Domestic macroeconomic data announcements, global trends and trading activity of foreign investors would guide market sentiments this week, analysts said.

After a record rally, markets may face volatile trends this week amid elevated valuations and investors would also keep a track of global oil benchmark Brent crude and rupee-dollar movement for further cues.

"Potential volatility in the stock market is anticipated this week. Elevated valuations remain a concern, with investors now focusing on monsoon progress and its impact on the rural economy. The upcoming Union Budget in July has become the next focal point, with high expectations for growth-oriented policies," said Praveesh Gour, Senior Technical Analyst, Swastika Investment Ltd. Market sentiment will be gauged by closely monitoring foreign and domestic institutional investors' activity (FII and DII) and crude oil prices, he said.

On the global front, the US market has experienced some profit-booking from higher levels. Key economic data, such as the US job openings report, will be released on July 2, 2024, followed by the US ISM Services PMI data on July 3,



2024, he noted.

"Additionally, the US Federal Reserve Chairperson Powell's speech is scheduled for July 2, 2024, and the US FOMC (Federal Open Market Committee) minutes will be released on July 3, 2024. The movement of dollar index and US bond yields will also be crucial factors to watch," Gour added.

Last week, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,822.83 points or 2.36 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 509.5 points or 2.16 per cent.

The Sensex recorded the best monthly gain in June by climbing 7.14 per cent.

The Sensex breached the historic 79,000 mark on Thursday, and the Nifty hit the 24,000 level for the first time in intra-day trade.

"The outlook for the market will be guided by major domestic and global economic data such as HSBC India Manufacturing PMI, HSBC India Services PMI, S&P Global Manufacturing PMI, Fed speech, initial jobless

## Sattva Group targets 85 per cent growth in housing sales: MD Bijay

**PTI ■ NEW DELHI**

Realty firm Sattva Group is bullish on India's housing market and will launch many projects to achieve 85 per cent growth in sales of residential properties to around Rs 6,500 crore this fiscal, a top company official said.

In the 2023-24, Bengaluru-based Sattva Group achieved sales bookings of Rs 3,500 crore. "We are very bullish on housing demand. We are targeting to achieve sales of Rs 6,000-6,500 crore this financial year," Sattva Group MD Bijay Agarwal said.

He said the company would invest Rs 12,000-14,000 crore over the next three years to build housing, office and hotel projects. The bulk of the investments would be to develop housing projects and office complexes.

Sattva Group is one of the leading real estate developers in India with a significant presence in South India. It has completed 140 projects comprising 80 million square feet area in the last 30 years. Around 23 million square feet are under construction, and 65 million square feet are in the pipeline.

Agarwal noted that the demand for the residential segment has been very strong

half of FY2024-25 of approx 1.3 million sq ft," said Shivam.

Furthermore, the company is looking to acquire land parcels for another 1.5 million sq ft in Mumbai.

The company's MD highlighted that the group's co-working and co-living joint ventures — Simpliwork Offices and Colive — have been performing well and expanding.

"We plan to list our co-working and co-living businesses on stock exchanges in the next 2-3 years by launching public issues," Agarwal said.

Sattva Group has more than 50 per cent stake in Simpliwork and Colive. When asked about its plan to launch Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), Bijay said, "We are in the early stage of discussion with Blackstone".

He did not give any timeline for the launch of the public issue of REIT to monetise the commercial assets developed jointly by Sattva Group and global investment firm Blackstone.

Sattva Group and Blackstone have a joint portfolio of around 32 million square feet, of which 18 million square feet are already completed.



# FROM DHONI, TENDULKAR TO GAVASKAR ALL HAIL INDIA'S T20 WORLD CUP TRIUMPH

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The who's who of Indian cricket fraternity, including Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Sachin Tendulkar and Sunil Gavaskar, hailed the title triumph in the T20 World Cup, saying it will inspire the country's "starry-eyed children to move one step closer to their dreams".

India's first T20 world champion skipper Dhoni led the chorus of former and current cricketers, hailing Rohit Sharma's men for regaining the trophy after 17 long years after beating South Africa by seven runs in a pulsating final in Barbados on Saturday.

Former skipper Dhoni, who led India to their maiden title win in 2007 in South Africa, praised the team for maintaining their calm during the adverse situations in the game.

"WORLD CUP CHAMPIONS 2024. My heart rate was up, well done on being calm, having the self belief and doing what u guys did," (sic) Dhoni wrote on Instagram.

"From all the Indians back home and everywhere in the world a big thank you for bringing the World Cup Home. CONGRATULATIONS. Arre eee thanks for the priceless birthday gift," said Dhoni, who will turn 43 early next month.

The legendary Tendulkar took to social media to express his delight on India's achievement, saying the



country has now got a 'fourth star', following two 50-over World Cup wins in 1983 and 2011 as well as the historic triumph in the inaugural 2007 World T20.

"Every star added to the Team India jersey inspires our nation's starry-eyed children to move one step closer to their dreams. India gets the 4th star, our second in

T20WC," he wrote on 'X'. Tendulkar, who was a member of the Indian team which suffered a first-round exit in the 2007 50-over World Cup, said life has come a full circle.

"Life comes full circle for Indian cricket in the West Indies. From our lows in the 2007 ODI World Cup to becoming a cricketing

powerhouse and winning the T20WC in 2024," he said.

"Very happy for my friend Rahul Dravid, who missed out on the 2011 World Cup win but his contribution to this T20 World Cup victory has been immense. I am so so happy for him."

Hailing Rohit's captaincy and the contributions of the other squad members, Tendulkar

said, "What can one say about Rohit Sharma? Superb captaincy! To put the 2023 ODI World Cup loss behind and to keep all our players motivated towards the T20 World Cup is commendable."

"Jasprit Bumrah's Player of the Tournament award as well as Virat Kohli's Player of the Match award are both well-deserved. They were just

superb when it mattered," he added.

"Along with Rahul, Paras Mhambrey and Vikram Rathour also made their international debuts in 1996. It was wonderful to see Team India excel under the guidance of this class of '96."

"A total team effort. Hearty congratulations to all the players, coaches, support

staff, and BCCI," Tendulkar continued.

Gavaskar said that winning the trophy is like finally scoring a hundred.

"It is a great win after such a long time. Earlier, I kept saying that India was getting 90s but not getting centuries because they were reaching semi-finals and finals. Now, they have got a century and what a wonderful century this is," the former India captain told PTI.

From VVS Laxman to Anil Kumble, Sourav Ganguly to Gautam Gambhir, everyone praised the stupendous achievement in unison.

"Congratulations Team India on becoming the T20 World Champions. Been the best team in the tournament remaining unbeaten throughout," VVS Laxman, current head of the National Cricket Academy wrote on X.

"Great composure and character shown by the team to win this from the situation we were in with 5 overs remaining. Every player deserves credit for giving it their all and rising to the occasion and wonderfully led by Rohit," he added.

"We are champions!" rejoiced ace spinner and 2011 World Cup winner Ravichandran Ashwin.

Former India captain and head coach Anil Kumble wrote, "Congratulations team India! Wonderful victory."

"YEH MERA INDIA. WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS. SO PROUD OF YOU GUYS. (This is my India. We are the champions, so proud of you guys.)," wrote former spinner

Harbhajan Singh. An ambassador for the T20 World Cup in the Americas, Yuvraj Singh individually praised all the key members of the side.

"You did it boys ! @hardikpandya7 your a hero ! @jaspritbunrah93 what an over to bring India back in the game ! Extremely ecstatic for @ImRo45 great captaincy under pressure ! @imVkohli #Rahul Dravid and the whole team indyavssa #ICCT20WorldCup2024," he wrote.

"Well played @akshar2026 @lamShivamDube. Koi reh to nahi gaya ! Oh @surya\_14kumar what a catch under pressure," Yuvraj added, wondering if he mistakenly did not leave out anyone.

Hero of two T20 World Cup finals and India's would be coach Gautam Gambhir wrote, "CHAMPIONS!"

Having earlier explained his standout moments of the game when it was under progress, legendary Sachin Tendulkar wrote, "Chak De India!!!"

Former India captain and BCCI president Sourav Ganguly also congratulated the side.

"Heartiest congratulations to Rohit sharma and his team .. What a game to win .. May be a World Cup in 11 (13 yrs but the talent the country has ,they will win many more .." (Sic)

"Bumrah is absolutely magic .. Well done Virat,axar ,Hardik and every one .. Rahul Dravid and the support staff .. What a proud moment," (sic) Ganguly added.

## Toni Kroos retirement delayed amid Germany's adventure at Euro 2024



AP ■ DORTMUND

Toni Kroos gets another game before he retires. Germany's Euro 2024 title challenge looks more real than ever.

One of the most decorated players in modern soccer with six Champions League titles and a World Cup, Kroos wasn't flashy as Germany beat Denmark 2-0 on Saturday, but he was a calm, assured presence holding the midfield together.

Kroos already won the Champions League with Real Madrid this season. Now he's three games away from one final trophy and could face his Madrid teammate, Spain's Dani Carvajal, in his next game.

Some fans already have their eyes on the final in the German capital and sang about heading to Berlin as Germany saw out the win.

Just like another Real Madrid great, Zinedine Zidane in 2006, Kroos is ending his storied career at a major tournament in Germany.

He came out of international retirement in February for one last tournament. Each game Germany plays in the knockout stage could be the last of his career.

Germany weathered a thunderstorm, hail and stubborn Danish resistance Saturday to ensure the 34-year-old midfielder will play again. Germany faces either Spain or Georgia in the quarterfinals July 5.

Zidane reached the 2006 World Cup final with France, only to headbutt an opponent, get a red card and lose to Italy. Kroos and Germany can still dream of a win on home soil and a first major trophy since Kroos and his teammates lifted the 2014 World Cup.

Until the Denmark game, Germany had not won a major tournament knockout game since Euro 2016. The win continues the sense that Germany is finally turning things around under coach Julian Nagelsmann after years of disappointment.

He took over last year with a mission to deliver a host-nation success story at Euro 2024, and has already signed an extension for the 2026 World Cup.

## For now, it stings, just gut-wrenching: SA skipper Markram on World Cup heartbreak

PTI ■ BRIDGETOWN

Devastated South African skipper Aiden Markram is hopeful that at some point he would be able to see the good in his team's T20 World Cup campaign but for now, all he feels is a "sting" which, he hopes, will ensure a "fire in the belly for next time".

South Africa needed 30 off 30 balls in a chase of 176 against India but fell short by seven runs despite Heinrich Klaasen's awe-inspiring 27-ball 52 in the see-saw summit clash here on Saturday.

India had Jasprit Bumrah and Hardik Pandya's death bowling and a blinder of a catch by Suryakumar Yadav to thank for the close win after the peerless Virat Kohli set up the match for them with a brilliant 76-run knock.

"It's not the first game of cricket that's been lost with a team needing 30 of 30 - it's more that India was allowed to bowl well, they're allowed to field well, they're allowed to go from that position to a position of strength," the 29-year-old Markram said in the post-match press conference.

"...Right now to pinpoint something is quite tough but we'll reflect over the next few days, over the next few weeks, try and find areas that we could have maybe improved in during today's game, but also to highlight the things that went really well for us," he added.

The pain aside, Markram is proud of his teammates, who



managed to get rid of the chokers' tag to an extent by making their first World Cup final.

"I think one thing that I will definitely say is how proud we are. Not just of today, the game itself, but the competition as a whole, the build-up to get here. "So, in hindsight, the things will still feel really good about this competition. But like I mentioned, just for the time being, it stings a bit, but it's good for it to sting. It gives you that little bit of fire in the belly

for next time that you're here," he said.

Markram admitted that Klaasen will find it tough to make peace with the result after such a "special effort".

"We've seen him do it many, many times around the world and to deliver it in a stage like this is a really special effort. So, it's going to be tough for him, that's what I say when I mean we reflect back."

"There's going to be lots of things to be happy about," he said.

While the Indian players had happy tears in their eyes, the Proteas broke down in the realisation that another major title had slipped through their hands, only this time at the final hurdle.

"It's just gut wrenching, that's really what it is. Each player has been on a different individual journey to get to this first final. Ultimately you become really tight as a group and you want good things to happen to this group because you know they're great people," he said.

"...When you get really close like that, especially the nature of how the game went, obviously adds to the emotions and it's one of those things but yeah, we can channel it moving forward but I think next couple of days you let it be.

"...You let yourself feel the way you want to feel and then really start reflecting in a positive manner."

Despite the disappointment and heartbreak, Markram did not forget to applaud India's brilliance and composure in the final.

"It's tournament cricket, it's tough cricket, it's not easy to win trophies and you've got to take your hats off to a team like India for lifting the trophy. A lot of hard work goes into it."

"But yeah, we'd like to think we're one step closer and hopefully moving forward we can get that first win and it can be a snowball effect of quite a few to come," he said.

## Told crowd to behave because Hardik is big-stage player: Sanjay Manjrekar

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

When Sanjay Manjrekar schooled the Wankhede crowd to "behave" after they booed the newly-appointed Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya, all he wanted the public to realise that their boorish behaviour targeting a "big stage player", was unfair.

Pandya was jeered at every venue after he was handed captaincy by MI, signalling a controversial end to the successful and popular Rohit Sharma's tenure at the helm.

The whole episode had a deep-level impact on Pandya. Manjrekar, while conducting the toss at the Wankhede during a home match of MI, did interject but it only led to a meme-fest by the insensitive social media trolls.

Pandya played a major part in India's second T20 World Cup trophy with 144 runs and 11 wickets, and Manjrekar now stands vindicated.

"What a turnaround for Hardik Pandya. In IPL, there were people jeering him and booing him and I told them to behave because this is a big-stage player," Manjrekar told ESPNcricinfo.

The former India player and noted pundit always knew that Pandya would hold his nerve in pressure situations as he brought his team back in the game with the wicket of the dangerous Heinrich Klaasen and then closed out



the game with a mindblowing final over. "We have seen that umpteen times, wickets of Heinrich Klaasen, David Miller and right at the end, Rabada, so he was a champion and no surprise, to see him flourish on the big stage," Manjrekar said.

Manjrekar reminded Indian fans that even in their humiliating defeat against England in Adelaide, back in the 2022 edition, the colourful Baroda man was a face-saver and a calm presence under pressure.

"Even in that semifinal against England, he came in and gave India some hope with 60 off 33. So that's what he is all about."

"You felt safe when he came to bowl in the last over, he was not going to lose his nerves, he was going to bowl sensibly," he concluded.

## Sindhu focussed on perfecting her skills to bag third Olympic medal

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu is physically and mentally in best shape but realises she needs to be "much more smarter" in her pursuit of a third medal at the Games.

Sindhu had claimed a silver and bronze medal at the last two Olympics at Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo and will be heading into Paris with the aim of becoming the first Indian to win three Olympic medals.

"It is challenging, it's not easy but, at the same time, it's not impossible," Sindhu said during an interaction conducted by Sports Authority of India, the Indian Olympic Association and the Badminton Association of India.

"Going into the third Olympics, I need to be smarter. I have a lot of

experience on my side and I need to be much more smarter and I hope I can change the colour, and of course, get another medal for the country."

Sindhu is currently training at the Hermann-Neuberger Sportschule in Saarbrücken, Germany after her proposal was cleared by the sports ministry. She will be heading to Paris directly from there when the Games begin on July 26.

"... Physically and mentally I am right there, I just have to be smarter and my coach Agus (Dwi Santoso) has been taking care of that, my trainer has been taking care of my physical part."

"I am working on all the strokes, whether it is defense, or attack or netplay, it is important to be perfect in all things."

"So I'm not focussing on just one stroke or technique,

because you never know what it is going to be, there are players who are smart enough to change and move to plan B. "So you need to be prepared for it and I am focusing on practicing each and everything to make everything perfect -- each stroke, all techniques."

Asked why she picked Germany as her training base ahead of the Games, Sindhu said: "Prakash (Padukone) sir, and we all discussed and thought, it will be a good place, it is near to Paris, it is in between nowhere, so I am much more focussed."

"I have taken few sparring partners and have a team and currently training here has been very peaceful. I can focus even more before the Olympics."

Sindhu has spent most time on the court in the run-up to the Olympics but she hasn't been consistent enough or



beating the top players. The Indian, though, did manage a runner-up finish at Malaysia Masters super 500.

"It took me some time to come back (from injury) and I feel that now I'm doing well. Coming to the finals is not an

easy thing. And, finishing matches, not finishing matches, it depends on how we play."

"Sometimes nothing might work out," she said referring to the loss in Malaysian Masters final.

"I feel that there's been a lot of improvement and I know that I can do much better and I'm confident that I'm getting there. I need to keep believing in myself and keep working much harder."

"I feel the Olympics is

something where it will be very different. I don't want to compare with others but looking at my form, I'm in great shape and it's just that you have to play very differently with every player. "It's a different style of play. I think the strategy will be very different whether it is Chen Yu Fei or An Seyoung. It also depends on the draws, with whom I play. Looking forward to going to the Olympics. So, yeah, hoping for the best."

Sindhu, who trained under Pullela Gopichand for many years, moved from Hyderabad to Bengaluru after trying out four different coaches in 12 months.

The ace shuttler feels the level of competition now is very high. "I've played two Olympics and this will be my third and every time the game keeps changing, every Olympics there are different players. "So it is going to be

very challenging and really hard because one is we know each other's game and two is the game has completely changed and I think there are a lot of players who would be looking at your game, how you're playing, what are they doing, what needs to be done. "So there are a lot of tactics and techniques which will go into this and also physically and mentally you need to be much more stronger, much smarter." Talking about her mentor Padukone, Sindhu said he has been helping her out by pointing out flaws.

"Prakash sir has been seeing my matches and he's been telling me a few things if I'm making mistakes. He observes a lot."

"When he sat behind me in the last All England and French Open, his inputs were quite simple. He just always told me that you know just play freely and just give your best."



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