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NEWS BOX

US Secret Service agent robbed at gunpoint during Biden's Los Angeles trip

Los Angeles A US Secret Service agent was robbed at gunpoint as President Joe Biden was visiting Los Angeles for a fundraising event over the weekend, officials said. The agent was returning from work Saturday night when he was accosted in a residential community in Tustin, about an hour's drive southeast of Los Angeles, according to the US Secret Service. Someone called the Tustin Police Department shortly after 9:30 pm to report the robbery. Police said the agent had his bag stolen at gunpoint. The agent, who was not injured, fired his gun during the confrontation, police said. The Secret Service said they did not know if anyone was shot. Tustin Police said Monday they had not found a suspect. Officers did find some of the agent's stolen belongings in the area. Police reported a silver Infiniti FX35 was seen leaving the scene. Biden and former President Barack Obama held a star-studded fundraising event in Los Angeles on Sunday that brought in more than \$30 million for Biden's reelection campaign.

Putin to visit North Korea for first time in 24 years

Seoul. Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit North Korea on Tuesday and Wednesday for the first time in 24 years, the two countries said, underscoring Moscow's burgeoning partnership with the nuclear-armed state since the invasion of Ukraine. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un extended an invitation to Putin during a visit to Russia's Far East last September. Putin last visited Pyongyang in July 2000. In Washington, the White House said it was troubled by the deepening relationship between Russia and North Korea, and the US State Department said it was "quite certain" Putin would be seeking arms to support his war in Ukraine. Putin's foreign policy adviser Yuri Ushakov said Russia and North Korea may sign a partnership agreement during the visit that would include security issues. He said the deal would not be directed against any other country, but would "outline prospects for further cooperation, and will be signed taking into account what has happened between our countries in recent years - in the field of international politics, in the field of economics ... including, of course, taking into account security issues." Russian Defence Minister Andrei Belousov, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Putin's point man for energy, Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Novak, will be part of the delegation.

After North Korea, Putin will visit Vietnam on June 19-20, the Kremlin said. Both visits had been expected, although the dates had not previously been announced. Russia has gone out of its way to publicise the renaissance of its relationship with North Korea since the start of the war in Ukraine, causing alarm among the United States and its allies in Europe and Asia. Washington says North Korea has supplied weapons to Russia to help it fight in Ukraine, though Pyongyang and Moscow have repeatedly denied this. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller repeated charges on Monday that North Korea had supplied "dozens of ballistic missiles and over 11,000 containers of munitions to Russia" for use in Ukraine. He said the United States had seen Putin "get incredibly desperate over the past few months" and look to Iran and North Korea to make up for equipment lost on the battlefield. Washington says North Korea has supplied weapons to Russia to help it fight in Ukraine, though Pyongyang and Moscow have repeatedly denied this. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller repeated charges on Monday that North Korea had supplied "dozens of ballistic missiles and over 11,000 containers of munitions to Russia" for use in Ukraine.

French parliamentary election campaign starts with President Macron facing struggle

PARIS. France began a frantically short election campaign Monday, with President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance facing an uphill struggle to avoid a new defeat at the hands of the far right. Macron called the snap parliamentary elections three years early in a dramatic gamble to shake up politics in France after the far right trounced his centrists in EU elections. But with less than a fortnight before the vote, a new poll underlined fears his alliance risks being squeezed by new coalitions on the left and right. According to the Ifop poll for the LCI TV channel, the far-right National Rally (RN) would take 33 percent of the vote, the New Popular Front left-wing alliance 28 percent and Macron's ruling centrists just 18 percent. Many in France remain baffled over why Macron called an election just weeks before the country hosts the Olympics, risking the RN leading the government and 28-year-old Jordan Bardella becoming prime minister. "Emmanuel Macron, who triggered this dissolution to trap the parties, has ended up trapping himself," said Le Monde daily, warning that the RN risked winning the election. Candidates had until Sunday evening to register for the 577 seats in the lower house National Assembly ahead of the official start of campaigning from midnight. The first round of voting takes place on June 30, with the decisive second round coming seven days later. Exemplary M'bappe The political tremors have reached the Euro 2024 football tournament in Germany, where France's star player Kylian Mbappe said he was "against extremes and divisive ideas" and urged young people to vote at a "crucial moment" in French history. "I hope I will still be proud to wear this shirt after July 7," he said. While some on the right rounded on Mbappe for wading into the controversy, Sports Minister Amelie Oudea-Castera lauded his comments as "exemplary." Macron's dissolving of parliament after the French far right's victory in the EU vote has undoubtedly redrawn the lines of French politics. The aim is to create a new parliamentary majority, "former prime minister Edouard Philippe, who leads a party allied to Macron's bloc, told BFMTV. But perhaps to Macron's surprise, a new left-wing alliance—the New Popular Front that takes in Socialists, Greens and hard-leftist France Unbowed (LFI)—has emerged.

US reporter's espionage trial in Russia to be held behind closed doors

Moscow Russia's espionage trial of detained Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who denies charges of collecting secrets for the US CIA, will be held behind closed doors, the trial court said on Monday. Gershkovich, 32, was detained by the Federal Security Service on March 29, 2023, in a steak house in the Urals city of Yekaterinburg, 1,400 km (900 miles) east of Moscow, on charges of espionage that carried up to 20 years in prison. The first American journalist to be detained on spy charges in Russia since the Cold War more than three decades ago, Gershkovich has denied the charges. The Journal says Gershkovich was doing his job and denies he is a spy. The FSB, the main successor to the Soviet-era KGB, said Gershkovich was trying to collect secrets about Uralvagonzavod, a Russian defence enterprise that is one of the world's biggest battle tank producers, for the CIA. "The process will take place behind closed doors," the Sverdlovsk Regional Court in Yekaterinburg said. "According to the investigation authorities, the American journalist of The Wall Street Journal, Gershkovich, on the instructions of the CIA, in March 2023, collected secret information in the Sverdlovsk region about the activities of

the defence enterprise JSC NPK Uralvagonzavod for the production and repair of military equipment." The first hearing is scheduled for June 26, the court said. US State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters the U.S. was concerned that the trial was to be held behind closed doors. "We have a concern about that. We are going to attempt to attend the trial - don't know if that will be possible," he said. The White House has called the charges "ridiculous" and President Joe Biden has said Gershkovich's detention is "totally illegal." Russia said Gershkovich was caught "red-handed." President Vladimir Putin has said there has been contact with Washington about potentially swapping Gershkovich but that such negotiations should be held away from the media. The Journal said Gershkovich was on a reporting assignment when detained and that his fate illustrates the threats journalists face trying to report on the front lines of major global stories. It has demanded his release. "This latest development means a sham trial is imminent. We expect that all parties will work to bring Evan home now. Time is of the essence," the Journal said.



the West. Among the detained Americans is Paul Whelan, an ex-Marine arrested in Moscow in 2018 and sentenced to 16 years in prison on spying charges in 2020. Putin suggested in February that Gershkovich could be swapped for Vadim Krasikov, convicted of the 2019 murder of a Chechen dissident in Berlin, although he did not mention Krasikov by name. Putin said in March he had agreed the idea of potentially swapping Alexei Navalny a few days before the opposition leader died in unexplained circumstances at a Russian prison on Feb. 16. A fluent Russian-speaker born to Soviet émigrés and raised in New Jersey, Gershkovich moved to Moscow in late 2017 to join the English-language Moscow Times, and subsequently worked for the French news agency Agence France-Press. It was unclear whether Gershkovich, on his reporting trip to the Urals, was planning to report on Uralvagonzavod, based in Nizhny Tagil. The enterprise sits at the heart of the Urals region, where Russia conducts some of its most secret weapons production and research. It is part of Rostec, Russia's vast defence corporation run by Putin ally Sergei Chemezov.

US midwife pleads guilty to destroying 2,600 Covid vaccines, issuing fake cards

Kathleen Breault, 66, of Cambridge, admitted in a New York court that she destroyed over 2,600 Covid-19 vaccines and issued fake vaccination record cards while working from 2021 to 2022.

New York. An upstate New York midwife pleaded guilty on Monday to federal fraud charges for her role in giving out thousands of Covid-19 immunisation cards to people who never received the vaccine, prosecutors said. Kathleen Breault, 66, of Cambridge, admitted in Brooklyn federal court that she destroyed more than 2,600 coronavirus vaccines and issued a corresponding number of fraudulent vaccination

record cards while working at Sage-Femme Midwifery from 2021 to 2022. The Albany facility was an authorised site for Covid-19 vaccine administration at a time when many government agencies and private companies were requiring their workers to be immunised against the



virus. US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York Breon Peace's office said Breault and her co-conspirators also made over 2,600

false entries into a state database that tracked Covid-19 vaccine distribution. Among those who were issued the fraudulent immunisation records were minors ineligible at the time to be vaccinated, as well as Canadian citizens who were not present in the country when they were purportedly vaccinated, according to prosecutors. Breault agreed to repay more than \$37,000 (approx Rs 30.90 lakh) in restitution for the destroyed vaccines and faces a maximum of five years in prison at her sentencing. Peace's office said Breault's lawyer said Monday that his client acted out of a "sense of profound concern" about the impact of the vaccination requirements.

"She believes that her actions were justified by moral necessity though she knows that she violated the law by defrauding the government," Michael Sussman said in an emailed statement.

3, including suspected gunman, dead in shooting near daycare centre in Toronto

Toronto. A man and woman were shot to death and a male suspected as the attacker also died Monday at a north Toronto office space near a daycare centre and a school, authorities said. The shooting prompted a lockdown of both the daycare facility and the Catholic all-boys elementary school, and parents rushed to the area to pick up their children. Detective Sgt. Al Bartlett said the man and woman who were killed worked together in what he described as a financial transaction business. It's our belief at this point that the altercation that took place is in relation to that business," Bartlett said. "The person that we believe to be responsible is among the deceased," he added.

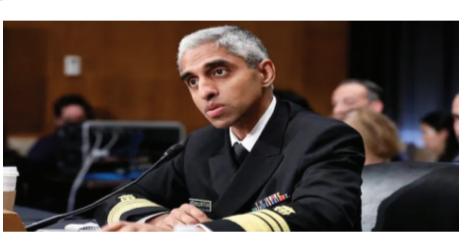
He withheld the identities of the victims and the shooter, saying officials first had to notify their



Top US official bats for tobacco-style warning labels on social media apps

US Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said a warning label alone will not make social media safe for young people but that it can increase awareness and change behaviour as shown in evidence from tobacco studies.

accused social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat of what they say is a harmful effect on children, including shortened attention spans, promoting



negative body images and making them vulnerable to online bullies and predators. "It is time to require a surgeon general's warning label on social media platforms, stating that social media were associated with significant mental health harms for adolescents," Murthy wrote on Monday. TikTok, Snap and Meta Platforms, owner of Facebook and

Instagram, did not respond to requests for comment. The CEOs of those three companies, along with social media platform X and messaging app Discord, were grilled by US senators in January during a hearing about online child safety, with Republican Senator Lindsey Graham accusing the leaders of having "blood on your hands", for failing to protect young users from sexual predators. Some US states have been working to pass legislation to safeguard children from the harmful effects of social media, such as anxiety, depression and other mental illnesses as a result. New York state lawmakers this month passed legislation to bar social media platforms from exposing "addictive" algorithmic content to users under age 18 without parental consent. In March, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill that bans children under 14 from social media platforms and requires 14- and 15-year-olds to get parental consent.

families. Bartlett declined to comment on whether the suspect killed himself or died in some other way, saying it was still under investigation. Bartlett said no child was injured. He said there was no access within the building between the daycare centre and the business. Shahrokh Biniaz, a graphic designer and photographer who has a studio in the building where the shooting happened, said he heard a loud bang and people arguing in the reception area. "I didn't know what it was, thought it was maybe a circuit breaker or something because it was really loud," he said. I came out of my office and I heard some arguments in the reception ... I went back to my desk and sat down, and I heard the second bang after two minutes." He said he walked out of his office again, heard more quelling and then left the building through a back door. "I called 911. Police came quite fast," he said, adding he then heard another round of gunshots. Relieved parents were seen hugging their children tightly after they were reunited just outside the police tape at St. George Mini School daycare. A supervisor told the crowd of parents gathered that everyone inside was safe.

11 migrants killed, 64 missing after 2 ships sink off Italy coast

Ten suspected migrants were found dead when their ship capsized off Italy's tiny Lampedusa island while another ship caught fire and overturned off Calabria. One migrant died later and 64 others were still missing at sea after the separate incidents.



Monday on the social media platform X, formerly Twitter. In the first shipwreck, which took place about 200 kilometres off Calabria, a boat that had set off from Turkey eight days earlier caught fire and

overturned, the UN agencies said, citing survivors. The search and rescue operation started following a Mayday call by a French boat, the Italian Coast Guard said in a statement. The boat was

sailing in a border area where Greece and Italy carry out search and rescue operations. Survivors and people still missing at sea came from Iran, Syria and Iraq, the UN agencies said. The Italian Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre immediately diverted two merchant vessels sailing nearby to the scene of the rescue. Assets from the European Border and Coast Guard Agency Frontex also helped. The survivors were brought to the Calabrian port of Roccella Jonica, where they were disembarked and entrusted to the care of medical personnel. One of the migrants died soon after, the coast guard said. In the second shipwreck, the crew aboard Resqship's boat, the Nadir, found 61 people on the wooden boat, which was full of water. "Our crew was able to evacuate 51 people, two of whom were unconscious. The 10 dead were in the flooded lower deck of the boat," it added.

Modi government will "struggle" to survive: Rahul

Ajit Pawar camp's 18-19 MLAs ready for crossover

RNS I New Delhi: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi said in a recent interview, that supporters of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are "in contact" with the INDIA group. He warned that even a minor disturbance could destabilize the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), which is heavily reliant on regional parties. Rahul highlighted significant discontent within the Modi government, stating it would "struggle" to survive. Speaking to the Financial Times, Rahul remarked, "The numbers are such that they are very fragile, and the smallest disturbance can bring down the government." He hinted that a single ally reversing their support

could jeopardize the NDA's stability but did not provide further details. The NDA secured 293 Lok Sabha seats to clinch a third term at the Centre. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) lost its majority, depending on minor parties to retain power. The INDIA coalition's success in winning 234 seats marked Rahul Gandhi's rise in opposition politics and a significant setback for the BJP. Gandhi attributed the BJP's defeat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections to India's rejection of the party's "hatred" to gain votes. He emphasized that the electorate had dismissed the notion of promoting anger and fury for political gain, leading to the collapse



of the BJP's core mission of fostering religious hatred. Adding to the political turbulence, former Maharashtra Chief Minister Sharad Pawar's grandson, Rohit Pawar, claimed that 18-19 Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs from the Ajit Pawar camp might defect to their group. Rohit Pawar told reporters that these MLAs would likely join Sharad Pawar's NCP after

the monsoon session. "We have 18 to 19 (NCP) MLAs in touch with us and Pawar saheb," he stated to NDTV. Rohit Pawar expressed concerns about cracks within the government coalition earlier this month. The INDIA coalition's victory in 30 of Maharashtra's 48 seats was a significant blow to the NDA, which has experienced several instances of "horse-trading" and coalition collapses, leading to political instability. The NDA, comprising Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar's NCP, managed to secure only 17 seats. In response to the BJP's loss in the state, Deputy Chief Minister and state leader Devendra Fadnis offered to resign.

Govt Seeks Proposals for '5G Intelligent Village' & 'Quantum Encryption Algorithm'



RNS I New Delhi: To boost innovation to transform rural life and herald digital inclusion, the Central government has invited proposals for '5G Intelligent Village' and 'Quantum Encryption Algorithm'. Industry, MSMEs, startups, academia and government departments involved in technology design, development and commercialisation of telecommunication products and solutions have been invited to participate. The '5G Intelligent Village' initiative underscores

the need for equitable technological advancement by harnessing the transformative power of 5G technology to uplift rural communities. It aims to address critical pillars such as agriculture, education, healthcare, governance, and sustainability. The India-specific 'Quantum Encryption Algorithm' will represent a cutting-edge approach to securing digital communication channels by leveraging the principles of quantum mechanics.

DPS Bokaro to Host State Senior Swimming Championship Trials, Selection on 23 June



RNS I Bokaro: Bokaro District Swimming Association will hold a trial cum Selection Camp for promising swimmers from colleges, schools, and clubs on June 23 at DPS Bokaro swimming pool at 6:00 AM. The selected cadets will represent the district at the 14th Jharkhand State Senior Swimming Championship 2024 at JRD Sports Complex, Jamshedpur on June 29. Today, Bokaro District Swimming Association President and DPS Bokaro Principal Dr. A. S. Gangwar stated this. Men and women will compete in Free Style, Back Stroke, Breast Stroke, Butterfly Stroke, Individual Medley, Freestyle Relay, and Medley Relay in the Open Category selection trial. The selection trial requires identity and local address evidence and swimming costumes. The chosen swimmers will represent Jharkhand in the 77th Glenmark Senior National Swimming Championship 2024, conducted by the Swimming Federation of India in September 2024.

Calls for DAV Institution to Manage Project Central School, Kiriburu

by Siddharth Pandey

Chaibasa: In a significant move to boost educational standards and ensure a promising future for local children, JMM district secretary Sona Ram Devgam has urged the Dayanand Anglo Vedic (DAV) institution to assume control of the SAIL-affiliated project central school in Kiriburu. The appeal was made during a meeting in Guwa. During discussions with MP Joba Majhi, Devgam stressed the importance of immediate action from SAIL Kiriburu Chief General Manager Kamlesh Rai. He highlighted the necessity to upgrade the school's education quality and infrastructure for the benefit of its students. Currently, the school operates with a teaching staff of 21, only two of whom are permanent, while the remaining 19 are on temporary contracts. The school caters to around 300 students. Devgam pointed out



the declining condition of the school, attributing it to the negligence of the SAIL Kiriburu management and their disregard for the deteriorating classrooms. Expressing his deep concern for the children's education and welfare, Devgam has demanded a revision of SAIL Kiriburu's management policies. He believes that the DAV institution is well-equipped to deliver excellent education and character-building, thus being the ideal candidate to take over the school's management. The meeting was attended by several JMM members, including Raju Purti, Mahendra Triya, Devendra

Bari, Vishwanath Bara, former Mukhiya Kapileshwar Dogon, Durga Devgam, and Mo Tabarak Khan from JMM Guwa, all of whom supported Devgam's demand.

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Portion of a bridge collapses in Bihar before inauguration, Sparks Outrage



RNS I Araria (Bihar): In a tragic incident, a newly constructed bridge in the Sikti block of Araria district collapsed and sank into the river before its inauguration. The bridge, built at the cost of crores, was located at Padariya Ghat on the Bakra river. The accident occurred on Tuesday afternoon at around 2:05 PM. The 182-meter-long bridge, constructed in three parts, saw two sections along with two pillars submerge into the river, causing a stir in the area. This bridge was erected as a replacement for a previously built bridge whose approach had been cut. Locals allege that substandard materials were used in

its construction, leading to the collapse before it could be inaugurated. The Department had recently initiated efforts to restore the approach path of the bridge, but the accident happened before these efforts could be completed. Notably, The construction of the 182-meter-long bridge began in 2021 under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Nirman Yojana, initially costing Rs 7.79 crore. Due to changes in the river's course and the approach road, the cost later escalated to Rs 12 crore. The project was completed in June 2023, but the bridge remained unused due to the lack of access roads on both sides. Villagers have

reported visible cracks in the bridge slab over the past two days, which they believe contributed to the sudden collapse on Tuesday. The bridge was constructed by contractor Sirajur Rahman from the neighboring district of Kishanganj, under the Central Government's Rural Works Department. Local MP Pradeep Kumar Singh and MLA Vijay Kumar Mandal of Araria have called for action against the contractor and the concerned officials. They have demanded strict action against those responsible for the poor construction quality that led to this mishap.

Devki Nandan Khatri's Birth Anniversary, Workshop Held at Hajipur Railway HQ

by Suresh Pd Nikhar

RNS I Gaya: The East Central Railway Headquarters in Hajipur commemorated the birth anniversary of celebrated author Devki Nandan Khatri along with organizing a Hindi workshop. The event was presided over by Manish Sharma, Chief General Manager (Signal and Telecommunication), IRCON, Patna, who emphasized the evolving nature of Hindi as a language of struggle. He stressed the importance of adopting new mediums, alongside traditional ones, to promote Hindi in today's digital age. He noted the proliferation of apps teaching Hindi and highlighted Indian Railways' pivotal role in promoting the language. Sharma urged attendees to take pride in Hindi and adopt a liberal approach towards its usage, recognizing the power of technology in advancing the language. He also spoke about the impact of Khatri's novels, "Chandrakanta" and "Chandrakanta Santati," in inspiring millions to learn Hindi. Renowned Hindi poet Vijay Kumar Vineet also graced the occasion, delivering a meaningful speech on the significance of Devki Nandan Khatri. Other speakers included Manish Raj from the Signal Department and Ajay Kumar Singh from the Stores Department, both of ECR Hajipur. The Hindi workshop, held in the second session, featured Surendra Kumar, Assistant Audit Officer, PUMRE, Hajipur, as the keynote speaker. Kumar emphasized the importance of such workshops in promoting the use and spread of Hindi. He discussed key directives of the Government of India's Official Language Policy, stressing the need to understand these policies to effectively work in Hindi. He highlighted the role of e-office systems, noting that 100% of the work is now conducted through this medium, making it easier to work in Hindi.

"Rayats" Defy Section 144, Halt Operations at Sakarmas Outsourcing Company

by Ashok Kumar

Loyabad: Tensions flared in Bansjoda Gaderia Basti as the "rayats" (peasants) disrupted operations at Sakarmas Joint Venture Outsourcing Company, leading to a complete halt in work under Loyabad police station at Dhanbad district on Tuesday. Despite the imposition of Section 144 by the district administration, hundreds of men and women broke the prohibitory order and obstructed the company's activities. The root of the conflict lies in the peasants' demand for employment in exchange for their land, a promise that Sakarmas Outsourcing Corporation failed to fulfill despite multiple negotiations. Frustrated by the lack of job opportunities, the rural peasants decided to take action and shut down the enterprise on June 18th. On June 17th, the district



administration imposed Section 144 in an attempt to prevent any unrest. However, on the morning of June 18th, hundreds of peasants gathered near the Sakarmas Outsourcing Company, defying the prohibitory order. Despite the heavy police presence, the determined peasants broke through Section 144, bringing the company's operations to a standstill. The situation became tense as police and officials, including Dhanbad's Deputy Superintendent of Police Law and Order, Deepak Kumar, attempted to mediate

between the protesters and company representatives. After approximately two hours of halted operations, the bandh supporters were invited to the office of the General Manager of Area Five. The BCCL management assured them that discussions would resume within ten days, allowing a temporary pause in the protest. The imposition of Section 144 and its subsequent violation by the peasants has raised several questions. Among the protesters were individuals with covered faces chanting slogans such

as "Congress Zindabad" and "Dhullu Mahato Murdabad," prompting concerns about the enforcement of the law and the need for legal action against those who breached the order. Deputy Superintendent of Police Deepak Kumar stated that the villagers of Bansjoda Basti obstructed the company's path due to unmet demands. A delegation of five locals has been sent to the Area 5 General Manager's office for further talks. Kumar emphasized that action would be taken against both parties for breaching Section 144. Subhash Mahato, a villager, expressed that the BCCL management has been given ten days to address the peasants' demands. He warned that failure to meet these demands within the stipulated time would result in another, more severe protest by the villagers. The situation remains tense as both sides await further negotiations.

Chinmaya Vidyalaya Bokaro hosts Workshop to enhance educational environment

RNS I Bokaro: A two-day in-house workshop was held at Chinmaya Vidyalaya Bokaro, aiming to enhance the educational environment in schools. The workshop focused on creating safe, happy, and effective classrooms, recognizing that students spend most of their day in these settings. Various methods were discussed to help teachers foster a positive classroom atmosphere. In the workshop's first session, Principal Suraj Sharma emphasized the importance of positive reinforcement. He stated, "Words of praise help build a positive mindset in children. It is essential to recognize and appreciate students' talents and efforts. Encourage students by acknowledging their good work." Sharma further highlighted the need for creative approaches to change the classroom environment. He pointed out that the traditional education system



often tries to fit all children into the same mold, which can lead to behavioral issues. "Not every child fits into the same mold, and our education methods should be dynamic and adaptable to individual needs," he added. In the second session, Dr. Namita Sharma discussed the intricacies and importance of a happy classroom. She emphasized that every teacher and student is unique, and specific feedback should be provided to

acknowledge their efforts. "Share your positive feelings about their achievements and encourage them to keep up the good work," she advised. Dr. Sharma also stressed that while parents and teachers often focus on outcomes, it is equally important to value the methods and processes. "Think creatively about changing the environment, as not every child can fit into the same mold. Our teaching methods should be dynamic,

continuously evolving, and transformative," she said. Rahul Roy conducted a unique session on financial literacy, impressing everyone with his approach. He stressed the importance of financial knowledge for both teachers and students. Roy explained various aspects of finance, including mutual funds, savings, investments, expenses, and income tax returns, emphasizing the need for proper study of savings plans and investment habits.

Pt Abhiram Pathak to Perform at Rajrappa Chhinnamastika Temple Ground

by Arun Pathak

Bokaro: Renowned Dhrupad singer Pt Abhiram Pathak from Ranchi, Jharkhand, is set to captivate audiences with his performance today at the Rajrappa Chhinnamastika temple grounds. The performance is part of the two-day cultural festival, Kala Pravah - Mandir Utsav, organized by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, on June 19-20, 2024, in Ramgarh district.

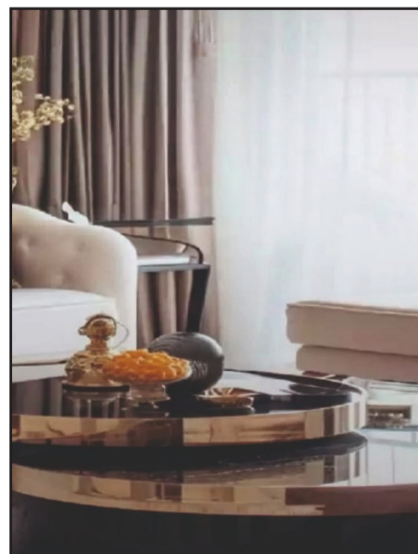
Pt Abhiram Pathak will be accompanied by an ensemble of esteemed artists: Pt Ram Vachan Pathak, also known as Pt Bachchanji Maharaj of Bokaro, on Pakhawaj, Pt Shyam Goswami on Harmonium, and vocalists Anandita Pathak and Shivani Kumari on Tanpura. The festival will also feature performances from distinguished artists across Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal. A prominent performer

for Akashvani and Doordarshan, Pt Abhiram Pathak belongs to the Gaya Gharana and is celebrated for his expertise in Dhrupad and Dhamar singing. His musical journey has seen him perform in numerous cities, earning him acclaim across the country. Pt Ram Vachan Pathak, or Pt Bachchanji Maharaj, a well-known Pakhawaj and tabla player, will join him. Pt Bachchanji Maharaj recently performed at the Ramotsav Music Festival

during the Prana Pratishtha ceremony of the newly erected Shri Ram temple in Ayodhya, organized by Sangeet Natak Akademi. The Kala Pravah festival, held under the auspices of Sangeet Natak Akademi and the Maa Chhinnamastika Religious Trust Committee, will take place at Shaktipeeth Rajrappa. The event will commence at 6 p.m. on both days, showcasing the talents of prominent artists from across the nation,



set against the backdrop of the sacred Siddha Peeth Maa Chhinnamastika on the banks of the Bhairavi River.



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Manish Kumar

Shashi Tharoor's Shoutout For Priyanka Gandhi After Wayanad Announcement

Priyanka Gandhi's candidacy is seen as a strategic move by the Congress to strengthen its position in a state where the party has performed well in recent elections.

New Delhi: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi was given a shoutout by her husband Robert Vadra and party leaders including Shashi Tharoor after it was announced that she would be contesting the Wayanad Lok Sabha seat in Kerala, a seat previously held by his brother Rahul Gandhi. Mr Tharoor took to X, proclaiming, "No more doubt, here comes Priyanka." Robert Vadra echoed this sentiment by sharing the same image with folded hands and a heart emoji. Since her entry into active politics in 2019, Priyanka, 52, has been seen as a potential challenger to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, particularly from Varanasi, and as a successor to Congress veteran Sonia Gandhi in Rae Bareilly. However, the Congress party has now decided to field her from Kerala's Wayanad. Rahul Gandhi, who recently decided to vacate the Wayanad seat for Priyanka while retaining Rae Bareilly, has expressed confidence in her abilities to carry forward his legacy in Kerala. "I am very happy to be able to

represent Wayanad. All I'll say is that I won't let them feel his (Rahul's) absence. I will work hard and try my best to make everybody happy and be a good representative," Priyanka said. Her candidacy is seen as a strategic move by the Congress to strengthen its position in a state where the party has performed well in recent elections. Priyanka's political journey has been marked by her roles as the general secretary in-charge of eastern Uttar Pradesh and later the entire state. Despite mixed results in the 2019 polls, she continued to bolster the party's grassroots presence. By December 2023, she had become the Congress' key strategist and star campaigner for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, contributing significantly to the party's improved performance, which saw it secure 99 seats, up from 52 in 2019. Robert Vadra, Priyanka's husband, who had earlier shown interest in contesting from Amethi, expressed his support as she takes on this

new challenge. If Priyanka wins the bypolls, it will mark the first time that three members of the Gandhi family will be in Parliament, with Sonia Gandhi representing Rajasthan in the Rajya Sabha. "I extend my best wishes to Mrs. @priyankagandhi ji on being declared the candidate by the Congress Party from Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency. I have full faith that the people of Wayanad will bless Priyanka ji wholeheartedly and will make her their voice and send her to Parliament," Congress leader Sachin Pilot wrote. Party leader Gaurav Gogoi said, "The voice of the people will resonate much louder with both Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi present inside the Parliament." Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee chief K Sudhakaran welcomed Priyanka's entry into Wayanad, stating, "From now on, two Gandhi voices will rise for Kerala in Parliament! Wayanad is stepping into history."



Asaduddin Owaisi on NCERT row: 'Children should know about Babri demolition'

New Delhi. All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday slammed the NCERT for modifying references related to the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya in textbooks that was demolished by 'kar sevaks' on December 6, 1992. The NCERT is in the middle of a fresh controversy again after it revised the Class 12 Political Science textbook and removed the term "Babri Masjid", which has now been referred to as a "three-domed structure" in the new edition. Owaisi, in a post on X, said that children should know about the demolition of Babri Masjid and that they should not grow up "glorifying criminal acts". The NCERT has decided to replace Babri Masjid with the words 'three-domed structure'. It has also decided to call

the Ayodhya judgment an example of 'consensus'. India's children should know that the Supreme Court called the demolition of Babri Masjid an 'egregious criminal act,' he tweeted. India's children should know that a functioning masjid was desecrated in 1949 and then demolished by a mob in 1992. They should not grow up glorifying criminal acts," the Hyderabad MP said. The NCERT has pruned the Ayodhya section from four to two pages and deleted details from the earlier version. The latest deletions in the textbook included: BJP's 'rath yatra' from Somnath in Gujarat to Ayodhya; the role of 'kar sevaks'; communal violence in the wake of the

demolition of the Babri Masjid; President's rule in BJP-ruled states;



"minority appeasement". The Opposition hit out at the NCERT, alleging that it was functioning as an affiliate of RSS, the ideological mentor of BJP, and hiding "inconvenient facts" from students. NCERT director Dinesh Prasad Saklani rejected accusations of saffronisation of the school curriculum and said the modifications in textbooks were part of the annual revision and should not be a subject of hue and cry. He said that references to the Gujarat riots and the Babri Masjid demolition were modified in school textbooks because teaching about riots "can create violent and depressed citizens".

and the BJP's expression of "regret over the happenings at Ayodhya". The new political science textbook of Class 11, now says that political parties "give priority to the interests of a minority group" with an eye on "vote bank politics", which leads to

Amid Crisis, Atishi Urges Haryana To Release Water Into Yamuna River

New Delhi: Delhi's Water Minister Atishi on Monday appealed Haryana government to release the water and solve the problems of the people of Delhi amid the escalating water crisis and sweltering heat. Addressing the media persons, Ms Atishi said, "Today we are here at Wazirabad barrack. Water from here is sent to various water treatment plants including Wazirabad, Chandrawal, and Okhla. Currently, no water is being released into the Wazirabad barrage. The water level has stepped so low that now the river bed is visible. Again, we are appealing to the Haryana government to release theater and solve the problems of the people of Delhi." Ms Atishi also informed that the senior officials and additional chief secretaries level officers from the Delhi Government will meet the officials of the Haryana Government amid the escalating water crisis and sweltering heat.

Ms Atishi conveyed, "The senior officials and additional chief secretaries level officers from the Delhi government will depart for Haryana on Tuesday to meet the 'Irrigation Department'. She further urged the Haryana Government to



release the water in Yamuna so that Delhi's public can be relieved. Delhi Water Minister said, "Till the time Haryana doesn't release water into the Yamuna, water shortage will continue in Delhi. Munak Canal is receiving very little water and on the other hand, Wazirabad Barrage is receiving no water. The water from Yamuna goes to water treatment and is then resent to Delhi's public after re-treatment. But there is no water in Yamuna, the reason why the supply is halted. I can just stand before the Haryana government with folded hands and appeal to save the lives of Delhi's public. She further conveyed that the maintained water level is due to the recycled water that is being sent by the plant to the barrage. Quoting the data, she said, "According to the data of reports of the last five years, the water level in Wazirabad Barrage is around 674.5 feet and it has now reached 668 feet. It's 668 ft because we send some recycled water from plants for its efficiency, otherwise, we could have spotted only river beds. Also, the water level in Munak Canal is also around 902-904 cusecs." She further stated, "It's very common that if the water from the source is disrupted, then the water supply will eventually be halted."

Once BJP's Go-To Ally In Crisis, Jagan Reddy Joins INDIA Cause In EVM Row

New Delhi: Amid the raging debate over Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), YSR Congress Party president Jagan Mohan Reddy has called for a move towards voting by paper ballots. The remark comes weeks after the YSRCP was routed in the Lok Sabha election in Andhra Pradesh and the Assembly polls held alongside.



Just as justice should not only be served, but should also appear to have been served, so should democracy not only prevail but must appear to be prevalent undoubtedly. "In electoral practices across the world in almost every advanced democracy, paper ballots are used, not EVMs. We too must move towards the same in upholding the true spirit of our democracy," Mr Reddy posted on X this morning. The YSR Congress chief's remark is significant as it joins cause with leaders of the INDIA Opposition bloc, who have been flagging apprehensions that EVMs can be manipulated. The Election Commission has trashed such arguments and stressed that robust

safeguards make EVMs the most reliable voting system.

In the past five years, the YSRCP, though not part of either NDA or UPA, extended critical support to the Narendra Modi government on key legislation. But in this election, the BJP allied with its arch-rival, N Chandrababu-led TDP, and the NDA bloc swept the polls in Andhra. The

NDA alliance won 164 out of 175 seats in Assembly polls, reducing YSRCP score to just 11. Of the 25 Lok Sabha seats in the state, NDA won 21 and the YSRCP four. Against this backdrop, Jagan Reddy's post hints at a political realignment that may compound troubles for the ruling BJP in Parliament, especially now that it does not have a clear majority and needs its NDA partners to stay on in power. The YSRCP now has four MPs in Lok Sabha and 11 in Rajya Sabha. In a media interaction, YSRCP leader V Vijayasai Reddy said his party may have lost power in Andhra Pradesh, but not its strength in the Upper House. "Please remember that the BJP, the central government needs our support to pass bills in Rajya Sabha. There should be no doubt. We are as strong as the TDP even though we have lost power in the state." Mr Reddy, however, indicated that his party is open to extending issue-based support to the NDA government if the matter is in the interest of the country and Andhra Pradesh.

Govt To Talk To Kukis and Meiteis: Key Highlights from Amit Shah's Manipur Meeting

Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced efforts to bridge the ethnic divide between Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur by increasing central forces and ensuring coordinated conflict resolution.

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah chairs a major meeting in New Delhi on Monday to review the Manipur security issue. Shah announced efforts to bridge the ethnic divide between Meitei and Kuki communities in Manipur by increasing central forces and ensuring coordinated conflict resolution. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) will soon engage in discussions with both the Meitei and Kuki communities in an effort to address and bridge the ethnic tensions in the troubled region of Manipur. He underscored the importance of coordinated approach to resolve the ongoing ethnic conflict. The Centre has been actively supporting the Manipur government in strengthening the security situation in the state, the official statement said. Who All Attended The Meeting? Security Advisor to the Manipur government Kuldiep

Singh, DGP Rajiv Singh and Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi attended the meeting on behalf of the state government. Interest, Chief Minister N Biren Singh was not present at the meeting. Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande, Army Chief-designate Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi and other senior officials were present at the hour-long meeting.

Reports of Fresh Violence

There were reports of fresh violence in capital Imphal and Jiribam recently. The Centre is said to be worried over the violence spreading to new areas like Jiribam, which has been by and large peaceful in the last one year, the sources said. Key Takeaways From The Meeting: At the high-level meeting, Shah was given a detailed briefing on the prevailing situation in the state by top



security officials, sources said. The home minister took stock of the situation in Manipur a day after the state's Governor Anusuiya Uikey had called on him here. It is believed that Uikey apprised him about the law and order situation there.

Review of Security Situation

Reviewing the security situation in Manipur, Shah said that the central forces deployment will be increased and that they should be deployed strategically to restore peace and tranquillity in the state, according to an official statement.

Action Against Violence Perpetrators He directed that strict action must be taken as per law against the perpetrators of violence in the northeastern state.

Ensuring No Further Violence Shah also directed to ensure that no further incident of violence take place in the state which has been witnessing ethnic clashes for over a year.

Dialogue with Meitei and Kuki Communities

The MHA will talk to both the groups, Meiteis and Kukis, so as to bridge the ethnic divide at the earliest, Shah was quoted as saying in the statement.

Cricketers as marasis

There's self-deprecating humour, and then there's other-deprecating humour. The former may lay bare deep insecurities, but it's deemed acceptable because it hurts none; other-deprecating humour, however, can and will cause hurt and anger, especially if done in public. Marasis — Punjab's rustic comedians — indulge in other-deprecating humour; they make fun of people's facial features, body shape, handicaps.

Where does humour lie? In prose and on the stage, it's often found in exaggeration; in the world of marasis, humour lies in lampooning and deriding and mocking others, and often the frailties that they can't do anything about — such as short stature or a limp or crooked teeth.

Kamran Akmal, the former Pakistan cricketer, was in the role of a marasi when he cracked a 12 o'clock joke about Arshdeep Singh, the India and Punjab pace bowler, when India played Pakistan in the T20 World Cup in New York.

Now, we've all heard such jokes — Sikh friends have related these with relish, too. There is no one rule that fits all situations of humour, but such jokes are often alright among friends in a private sphere; but in public, and coming from a stranger, such jokes become offensive — an other-deprecating taunt likely to cause anger.

Cricketers learn to grow a thick skin, for they've heard all sorts of abuse from their opponents. Such harsh and cruel words, though, are often spoken in the heat of the moment, on the field of play. When a cricketer-analyst passes inappropriate jokes on live television, it's nothing but crass jeering, betraying a lack of sensitivity and good taste. But then, in a region — including India and Pakistan — where an amputee could be referred to as tunda, a man with a squint called bhainga to his face, and a dark-skinned person nicknamed kalu, it would be too much to expect a man like Akmal to be oversensitive. Add to it the state-sponsored hate for the minorities in Pakistani schoolbooks, and you can well believe that Akmal is a victim, too, and what he said about Arshdeep was quite inevitable. Maybe it's because we in Punjab have similar marasi/comedian culture, our own Navjot Singh Sidhu, humour king on TV, can laugh at people's appearance on reality shows. A few years ago, he had this to say about the Bangladeshi team: "Jo kangal, behal Bangladesh tha, woh khushhaal aur maalamaal..." This caused resentment in Bangladesh, as did his comment likening the team to "cockroaches" that can't fly. Sidhu's coarse humour may have raised some laughs, but such humour is clearly offensive and inappropriate. Between crass humour and extreme political correctness, there's much territory on which humour can flourish — middle ground that Akmal and Sidhu can occupy, removing their marasi hats. Giving up boorishness isn't a bad idea. When Hardik met Natasa, sparks flew; he liked her face, she liked his style, and love blossomed. It was 2018, and in 2020, they were married — cricketer Hardik Pandya and Natasa Stankovic, an actress and model from Serbia.

But in between was 2019, too, when Pandya put his foot in the mouth in a big way — in a TV interview, he boasted about his adventures with multiple women, saying this about his method of picking them up: "At a party, my parents asked me, 'Achcha tera wala (women) kaun sa hai,' so I said, 'Yeh, yeh, yeh (pointing out women)'... And they were like 'waah, proud of you beta!'" "I like to watch and observe how they move" Pandya said, adding that he paid particular attention to "the backside". Pandya and KL Rahul — also part of the interview, but much more restrained — were criticised for being misogynists. It could be argued that Pandya didn't bring forth his misogyny — dislike for women; it was philogyny — love for women, instead. But it was peppered with deep contempt for them — due to their easy availability, added to his upbringing in a patriarchal society. Anyone who has covered cricket tours would testify that hundreds of young women practically throw themselves on cricketers all the time; during the IPL parties in Lalit Modi's era, stories of casual after-match trysts were legion. If the young Pandya, among others, succumbed to temptation, how much can he be blamed? As for him and Natasa, love seems to have soured; she got married to him despite his crassness. Speculation now centres round how much of his wealth would she be entitled to if they get divorced — a sordid end to love.

Sighting King Cobra and addressing the fear factor

As wars rage on in the human world, the human kings have much to learn from these 'principled' kings

ENVIRONMENTAL conservation and climate issues were consigned to oblivion by various political parties in the recent Lok Sabha elections, despite a heatwave sweeping through many parts of the country. Delhi is making headlines over its drinking water crisis. The AAP government has claimed that the Capital is facing a water shortage of 50 million gallons per day. The most polluted capital city in the world is struggling to cope with the heatwave. The weather conditions have hit poor people the hardest; they lack access to basic needs, such as food, water, health, housing and electricity, to fight or adapt to heatwaves. The impact of climate change is not the same for the rich and the poor. Societal inequalities exacerbate the effect of heatwaves on the poor, whereas the rich can afford to adapt to them. Over 80 per cent of the street vendors surveyed in Delhi reported a decline in customers amid the heatwave in April and May, and around 50 per cent experienced significant income loss, according to a report by think tank Greenpeace India and the National Hawker Federation.

While the rich contribute to climate change, it is the poor that suffer its negative effects, such as high temperatures or heatwaves. Rising temperatures cause a multitude of problems, such as health issues, water scarcity and food adulteration. Heatwave-related morbidities like dehydration, weakness, restlessness, headache, diarrhoea, skin rashes, heatstroke and sleeplessness continue to affect people, especially children, the elderly, women and those with comorbidities.

Climate change has adversely affected the adequacy, accessibility and affordability of drinking water, with an increase in demand for it in Delhi. Residents, especially those in slums, continue to grapple with water shortage. The fundamental right to access clean water is denied even as the government proclaims the success of the Jal Jeevan Mission for an assured supply of rural drinking water and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation for the universal coverage of drinking water supply in urban areas. Further, the past two months have seen a high demand for climate adaptation appliances like fans, air coolers, air conditioners and refrigerators in India. And there has been a huge surge in the consumption of electricity. Frequent incidents of fire are reported amid high temperatures and a corresponding

increase in the consumption of electricity to ward off the heat. The NCR has around 750 slum settlements, housing 3,50,000 families with a total population of 20 lakh. Poverty, sweltering heatwaves and an inadequacy of water have worsened the living conditions of slum-dwellers. With limited economic resilience, the poor are unable to adapt to the climate. The poor seek relief from the excessive heat inside their homes — which have plastic and asbestos roofs — in open spaces like



footpaths, parks and the areas under flyovers. Children, the elderly and women remain the hardest hit. The rich, on the other hand, can adapt to the heatwaves, as they have access to water and air conditioners. These unsustainable human lifestyles and the extractive and exploitative use of common property resources can create problems for the common man in India. Governments are hardly prepared to face the greater developmental challenges posed by climate change. There is an urgent need to economically empower the poor to battle climate change. Sunstroke is not treated as a natural disaster in policy forums, and there are no rehabilitation centres or livelihood support for the poor who suffer because of heatwaves. There is an urgent need to assess urban climate risks for each city for a holistic climate resilience policy in India. The urban climate risk and vulnerability assessment — in terms of the number of people vulnerable to climate-related

disasters, the damage to humans and infrastructure and the financial support needed to rebuild — is important for climate resilience. The system requires three kinds of resources to fight climate change at the city level: natural (forest and water), man-made (infrastructure) and human (technology and employment). Without them, an individual's capacity for climate resilience is highly limited. Climate resilience largely relies on the sustainable development of cities through practices like

rainwater harvesting, replenishing groundwater and the conservation of urban forests, land, biodiversity, lakes, rivers and trees. Indian cities lack modern and sustainable infrastructure. Most of the infrastructure is old, and it cannot support the growing demands, for example, multimodal public transport, 24x7 water supply, sewage and solid waste management, green energy, urban housing and public hospitals and schools. It is also imperative to improve the human capital through education, technology, health, jobs and a decline in poverty and income inequality. Inclusive development, such as social protection, acts as an insurance against climate change. The poor need financial, technical and institutional support in the form of poverty reduction programmes, social security schemes, etc, to improve their quality of life and develop climate resilience. Indian cities need to have institutional capacity to adapt to climate change. Systemic wealth and income inequalities have exacerbated the impact of climate change on the poor. The present model of economic development perpetuates inequalities and fails to reallocate and redistribute resources. Economic inequality and climate change are intricately linked to an unequal distribution of income and resources, limiting the economic resilience of the poor to fight climate change. Therefore, there is an urgent need to restructure economic and environmental governance systems to achieve inclusive development and strike a balance between ecological and economic stability to tackle climate change in India.

Biannual admissions

Implement in phases, ensure quality education

THE somewhat muted response to the announcement by the University Grants Commission (UGC) to permit admissions to higher educational institutions twice a year is on expected lines. The switch to a biannual admission process entails not only an infrastructure upgrade, but a whole series of administrative and faculty readjustments. Since it's a voluntary provision, a majority of universities are likely to adopt a wait-and-watch approach for now. UGC chairperson M Jagadesh Kumar would be hopeful that the scepticism is short-lived. There is merit in his argument that the decision will offer greater flexibility to the students and the institutions.

Students in India can now be admitted in January-February as well as in July-August, as is the case in most foreign universities. The UGC chairperson feels the policy will benefit students who missed admission due to a delay in the



announcement of board results, health issues or personal reasons. The education regulator's experiment of biannual

admission for open and distance learning and online programmes, he claims, has helped nearly five lakh students join degree programmes without waiting one full academic year. That's commendable, but what may work for online and distance education programmes may not necessarily turn out to be feasible for on-campus learning.

While one would advocate keeping an open mind on the new policy, what can't be discounted are the apprehensions regarding its potential impact on educational quality. Allowing double the intake of students without ensuring a commensurate presence of qualified teaching staff can spell chaos. Phased implementation, with an ample scope for course correction, appears to be the ideal strategy. As the UGC presses for biannual admissions, it will have to ensure that the process is not misused as a money-making opportunity. The students must not lose out.

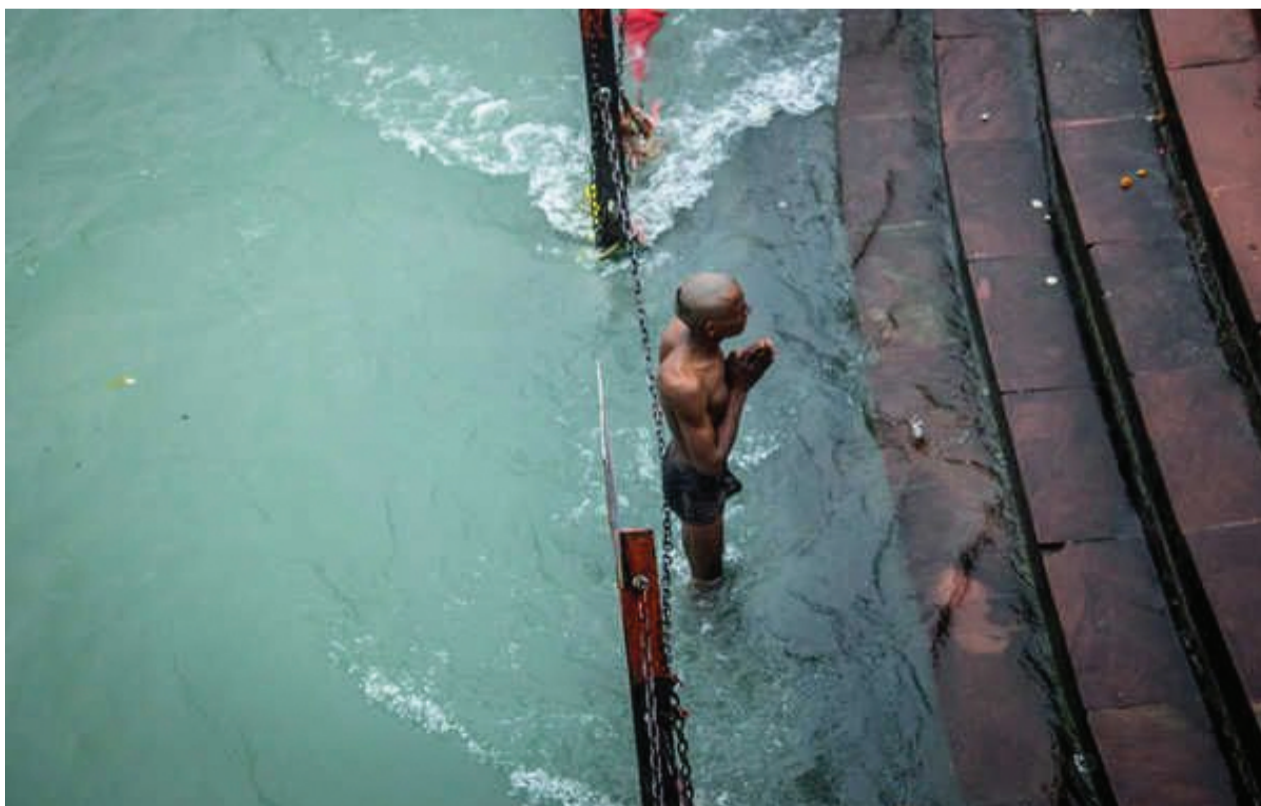
Do remember, you are mortal

Our lives will pass, and if there is a statue or a road named after that passing, it has no relevance to mortal life. Humanity does

The formidable Joseph Campbell's immense body of work covered mythology, religion and belief systems. His writings provided substantial insights into the human experience and its behaviour. He once wrote, "Every myth is psychologically symbolic. Its narratives and images are to be read, therefore, not literally, but as metaphors."

Of the many books bought by my parents when I was young was the obligatory 'Tales from Akbar and Birbal'. Akbar and his trusted courtier Birbal would thrust and parry, and in doing so created some wonderful stories and parables. Some may be fiction, some may be fantasy and some may be outright lies. Be it so. They, however, are simply delightful. In one story, Akbar packs Birbal off to search for the most beautiful child in the kingdom. Birbal returns and asks the Emperor to accompany him. Hiding behind a bush, they see a small child come out of a hut. Akbar angrily whispers in his ear, "You have brought me to see this? This must be the ugliest child in my kingdom." In moments, the child's mother appears and lovingly clasps the child to her chest. She calls him the 'most precious jewel in the world', her 'piece of the moon' and a dozen other endearments. Akbar watches and listens silently. Then Birbal says, "Now you know why he is the most beautiful child in Hinustan? It is because his mother thinks so."

This lack of or the presence of the beauty of the child may be transferred to other situations, to other places and to other people. This metaphor can become the prism to look at those that have ruled us, and to those that shall. Each turn of history has had its beautiful, as well as its ugly, children sitting at the helm of affairs. With either, it is a question of perception. My saint may be your sinner — and the other way round. The scales that decide which is which, is what we call 'humanity and civilisation'. One of the most polarising politicians of post-World War-



II England was Enoch Powell. He called for an end to migration from the Commonwealth countries to Great Britain. In 1968, Powell made his deeply disturbing 'Rivers of Blood' speech which was, supposedly, the result of the Race Relations Act introduced by the Labour Government. The Legislation would prohibit

discrimination on grounds of race in certain aspects of British life, especially by persons or councils denying non-whites places of residence. The press lashed back and The Times called it an "evil speech". Edward Heath, as leader of the Opposition, sacked Powell from his Shadow Cabinet and Powell did not hold a

political post again. However, just a year later, a Gallup poll placed Powell as the most 'admired person' in public opinion. In later years, based on various polls, Powell's popularity remained and there is a school of thought that he would have won had he contested for political leadership. While there are several other issues and standpoints involved, echoes of Powell's stance continue to the present day; for example, Nigel Farage of the UKIP considers Powell to be his political hero.

Somewhere parked at the back of my head, along with other pointless clutter, is an image of ancient Rome. I know precious little of modern Rome, far less the ancient. But this image, which has roots in Europe's broader tradition, if not in reality, appears repeatedly in art and elsewhere. In my image, a triumphant General is returning in glory. Whoever he was sent out to sort, has been sorted. The enemy, real or imagined, has been conquered. Crushed. Decimated. Rome is as triumphant as ever. The victor's chariot is drawn by the finest horses. The crowds cheer him and flower petals come as thick and fast as the arrows he fended in battle.

Standing behind the victor on the chariot is a slave. Amidst the din of adulation, he has just one task. He holds a crown over the victor's head and constantly whispers in his ear, 'Respite post te. Hominem te esse memento. Memento mori.' From Latin, this roughly translates as, 'Look after yourself. Remember you're a man. Remember you will die.' If we would like to call ourselves civilised, or wish to hold a candle to basic humanity, there is the essence of that phrase, 'Memento mori' (Remember you are mortal). Our lives will pass, and if there is a statue or a road named after that passing, it has no relevance to mortal life. Humanity does. This is valid for whichever side one is cheering for — the left, the right, the pink, the blue or, the sweet old lady, who before one steps into it, clears her dog's litter in the park.

NEWS BOX

WI vs AFG: West Indies decimate Afghanistan to finish group stage unbeaten

New Delhi. West Indies continued their dream run in the T20 World Cup 2024 after beating Afghanistan by 104 runs in the T20 World Cup 2024 Group C match. On Tuesday, June 18, Rovman Powell's men made sure that they finished the group stage unbeaten with a top-place finish. The Afghans, in the meantime, defeated New Zealand, Uganda and Papua New Guinea without having to break a sweat, but had to face a heavy defeat at the hands of the co-hosts.

WI vs AFG, T20 World Cup 2024 Updates

The decision to field first backfired for Afghanistan as the co-hosts scored 92 runs in the powerplay, the most in the history of the T20 World Cup. Azmatullah Omarzai bore the brunt of some powerful hitting after



he leaked 36 runs in his second over. After Brandon King departed early, Nicholas Pooran and Johnson Charles put on 80 runs for the second wicket. On the back of his knock, West Indies put up a huge score of 218 for 5 on the board. Noor Ahmad was the pick of the Afghan bowlers as he finished with figures of 4-0-20-0. Shai Hope and Andre Russell chipped in with useful knocks of 25 and 26 respectively. Hosein, McCoy strangle Afghanistan

Chasing the huge target, the Afghans found themselves in trouble as Rahmanullah Gurbaz failed to get off the mark. Ibrahim Zadran scored 38 runs off 28 balls with 5 fours and a six to inject some momentum into the innings. But once Obed McCoy accounted for his wicket, it all went downhill for the Afghans. McCoy was the standout bowler for the Caribbean after he picked up 3 wickets for 14 runs. Azmatullah Omarzai tried to make amends for his horrendous showing with the ball while batting. But Akeal Hosein cut short his stay after he scored 23 runs off 19 balls.

Hosein and Gudakesh Motie picked up a couple of wickets apiece. In the end, West Indies bowled their opponents out for 114 in 16.2 overs. As far as Afghanistan are concerned, they have their task cut out before their Super 8 clash against India.

Belgium's Tedesco not stressing over Lukaku disallowed goal: Want to be a fair loser

New Delhi. Belgium head coach Domenico Tedesco does not want to think too much about the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) ruling out Romelu Lukaku's equaliser in the side's defeat to Slovakia at UEFA Euro 2024 on June 18. Tedesco explained that Belgium will continue to put faith in the FIFA-licensed referees Euro 2024 and VAR, rather than complain about the disallowed goal. Belgium were handed a shocking 1-0 defeat in their tournament opener after conceding an early goal to Slovakia from Ivan Schranz's 7th minute strike. The side were not able to find their way back into the match despite multiple attempts on goal in the second half.

An all-out attacking second-half from Belgium saw two of Lukaku's equaliser attempts get ruled out by VAR, once for offside and then the handball incident. The second disallowed goal from the Belgium number 10 on the 87th minute mark was something that has been a talking point in the football world since last night. In the buildup to the late goal, Lois Openda brushed his fingers on to the ball while being pressed by Slovakia defender Denis Vavro. The decision has



faced some fire from fans since the initial VAR check on the goal was for a possible offside, only for it to go back on the Vavro handball. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Tedesco did not criticise VAR and the match referees and chose to reflect on his own side's performance instead. "It's tough for me to speak now... If we would have won, I could probably share my opinion a little more. But we lost and I want to be a good or at least a fair loser; we shouldn't be talking about VAR. We trust these guys, we trust the VAR and the referees and if they blow and say it's handball we have to trust and accept it and that's that," Tedesco said. Tedesco also went on to defend Lukaku and brushed off the criticism talk that has fallen on the player since. "He [Lukaku] has been playing for Belgium for a long time and knows very well how to score goals... He's a top-class player, a great character and he doesn't need any help on that score. Everyone is disappointed, but I think you can harness that and make use of this defeat.

France without Kylian Mbappe are not the same: Deschamps rues injury vs Austria

France captain Kylian Mbappe broke his nose in the team's first match at Euro 2024 against Austria. Mbappe had to be subbed off after he was left bleeding due to an aerial clash late in the match.

New Delhi. France captain and one of the best attackers in the world - Kylian Mbappe - suffered a broken nose against Austria on Monday, 17 June. Mbappe was taken off late in the game after he was left bleeding due to an aerial clash. Coach Didier Deschamps rued the player's injury after the game and said that the team would not be the same in case Mbappe is not able to play the next few matches. Mbappe, who was making his first appearance as captain in a major international tournament, had a mixed night. He created several chances, including the one that led to the own goal, but also missed some glaring opportunities. His night took a turn for the worse when he collided with Austria's Kevin Danso, resulting in a facial

injury that left him writhing in pain. The severity of the injury was confirmed by the French Football Federation, which stated that Mbappe had broken his nose and would require a protective mask. Deschamps expressed his concern over the injury, acknowledging that the team without Mbappe was significantly different. "He's got a really bad nose," Deschamps said. "We'll have to wait and see, the medical staff are dealing with it. We'll have to see what's going to be done and then how long it will take. It's very bad news for us tonight. Obviously, the French team with or without him, this is not the same thing. I hope he can be there." Euro 2024: France vs Austria Match Report

France secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Austria in their opening Group D match at Euro 2024, but the win came at a significant cost as captain Kylian Mbappe suffered a broken nose. The injury, which occurred late in the game, left Mbappe in agony and forced his substitution, casting a shadow over an otherwise historic night for manager Didier Deschamps, who recorded his 100th victory. The match was far from a vintage performance for France, but they managed to edge past Austria thanks to an own goal by Maximilian Wober shortly before halftime.



Despite the win, the French team's reliance on Mbappe was evident, and his absence was deeply felt.

Mbappe's injury has raised concerns about his availability for France's upcoming matches, particularly their next encounter against the Netherlands on Friday. The French team will be hoping for a swift recovery for their star striker as they aim to make a deep run in the tournament.

RANGNICK'S AUSTRIA WORK HARD
Austria coach Ralf Rangnick had promised his in-form side, with one defeat in their last 16 matches, would go toe-to-toe with France

and they were as good as his word.

Their relentless high-pressing and tackling never wavered and with their red-clad fans roaring them on they were in the contest until the end of a lengthy period of stoppage time. "All in all the French earned the win, but that we were chasing the equaliser throughout speaks for the performance of our team," Rangnick said.

Austria could even have taken the lead shortly before France scored when captain Marcel Sabitzer cleverly touched a Michael Gregoritsch cross into the path of Christoph Baumgartner whose shot was deflected wide by France keeper Mike Maignan.

The French were more dynamic after the interval with Pentz saving well from Marcus Thuram but too often the pre-tournament favourites were wasteful when in promising positions. While Mbappe's injury cast a shadow over the victory, a huge bonus for France was the sight of 2018 World Cup winner Kante, a surprise pick for the squad after a two-year absence, producing a majestic display at the heart of midfield. For all their graft and possession, Austria struggled to create many clear chances and more often than not it was man-of-the-match Kante who blocked their path.

WI vs AFG: Rashid Khan not fussed by Afghanistan's heavy defeat before Super 8

New Delhi. Rashid Khan said that the heavy defeat at the hands of West Indies would not affect Afghanistan before the Super 8 of the T20 World Cup 2024. On Tuesday, June 18, the Afghans slumped to a 104-run defeat at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet, St Lucia. After being asked to chase down a target of 219, the Afghans were bowled out for 114. The game was a dead rubber since both the teams had already made their way through to the second round. Afghanistan finished the group stage at second with 6 points and a net run rate of +1.835 thanks to wins in 3 out of 4 games. Rashid said that the loss could turn out to be a blessing in disguise for Afghanistan. "Don't think so. We've achieved what we wanted - to get Super Eight. The different pitches coming up... we'll adjust to them. Good learning this loss happened at this stage, not in a do-or-die



game," Rashid said in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Hope to not repeat mistakes" Rashid also lauded Noor Ahmad for his economical spell of 4-0-20-0, although the left-arm wrist spinner failed to make a

breakthrough. "We take the positives with us, like fielding, middle-overs bowling and Noor's spell," Rashid said. Rashid admitted that after West Indies scored 92 runs in the powerplay, it was tough for Afghanistan to bounce back.

"The way they batted, scoring around 90 runs in the powerplay, it is tough to come back from that. But in the middle overs we did well and it was good to restrict them under 200.

But this game is good to understand mindset and strategy. Hope to not repeat," Rashid added. Afghanistan's first Super 8 match is against Rohit Sharma's India on Thursday, June 20 at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados.

Gautam Gambhir to be interviewed for India coach job in Mumbai on Tuesday

New Delhi. Gautam Gambhir will appear for an interview for the role of the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team on Tuesday, June 18. The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) will take his interview in Mumbai. Along with Gambhir, another candidate will also be interviewed for the role of the selector. The interview is set to start at 12 pm IST. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is currently looking for Rahul Dravid's successor and Gambhir is one of the frontrunners to replace him. Dravid's tenure with the Indian team ends after the ongoing T20 World Cup in the West Indies and United States of America (USA). Earlier, Dravid himself confirmed that he would not stay as the head coach after serving the national team from November 2021, since Ravi Shastri stepped down.



with the 2011 World Cup winner emerged. The BCCI had invited applications previously, the deadline of which was May 27, 2024.

"Gautam Gambhir is capable" Legendary leg-spinner Anil Kumble, who also worked as the India head coach, said that Gambhir needs to be given some time to settle down.

"You will have to give him (Gambhir) time. He certainly is capable. We have seen

Former Indian cricketer Gautam Gambhir will appear for an interview for the role of the head coach of the Indian men's cricket team on Tuesday, June 18. Gambhir recently mentored KKR to their third IPL title.

Gautam handle teams, he has been a captain for India, for his franchise. He has all the credentials to be that. But, Indian team coaching is slightly different. So you will have to give him time to settle in," Kumble told Star Sports. As far as Dravid is concerned, he would be looking to finish on a high as India are looking to win their first ICC title in 11 years since last winning the 2013 Champions Trophy. The Men in Blue are already through to the Super 8 after topping the points table in Group A.



incidents.

UEFA's statement on the issue

UEFA also released a statement after the video garnered over a million views. UEFA informed that 3 people have suffered a ban from entering the stadiums that will be hosting the Euro 2024.

We can confirm that there was an incident with a fake mascot costume at the match in Munich ... between Germany and Scotland," UEFA said in a statement. "Three people have gained unauthorised access." UEFA has assessed the situation and initiated the necessary organisational measures. Three individuals have been banned from entering stadiums hosting UEFA Euro 2024 matches. Please understand that we cannot provide any further information due to the ongoing proceedings of the investigating authorities."

Rohit Sharma eager for 'hectic Super 8 stage': Everyone wants to make a difference

Rohit Sharma hypes up India team before Super 8 stages
India are unbeaten in the tournament so far
India play Afghanistan in their first Super 8 game

Barbados. India captain Rohit Sharma is really excited for the Super 8 stages in the T20 World Cup 2024. Speaking ahead of the team's first match against Afghanistan, Sharma said that the Indian team wants to do something special in the next stage of the tournament. Speaking via a BCCI video, the Indian captain said that everyone in the Indian team wanted to make a difference in

the tournament. India have not lost a single match in the group stage of the tournament. They played against Ireland, Pakistan and USA and won in all three of them. The team's final group-stage match against Canada was washed out by rain.

"There is real keen-ness in the group to go and do something special. It clearly shows that everyone wants to make a difference and we take our skill sessions quite seriously. There is something to achieve in every skill session that you do. Once we play the first game, we are going to play the next two in 3-4 days. It is going to be a little hectic but we are used to all of this. We travel and play a lot so that is not going to be an excuse," Rohit Sharma said in a video uploaded by the BCCI.

T20 World Cup Coverage | Points Table | T20 World Cup 2024 Schedule | Player Stats India arrived at Barbados several days ahead



of their first Super 8s match. They spent a little off time on the beaches of the island and since then have been back to their training regime. Sharma said in the video that the players knew what they needed to do as they had played before in these conditions.

"We will look to focus on our skill and what we need to do as a team. We have played a lot of games here. Everyone understands what they need to do. Everyone is looking forward and are excited at the same time," concluded Rohit.

SUPER 8: INDIA'S FULL FIXTURES

India will begin their campaign on June 20, against Afghanistan at Barbados. Then they head to Antigua to face Bangladesh, two days later before ending the Super 8 stage with a mouthwatering clash against Australia at St Lucia on June 24. All of India's matches will start at 8 PM IST.



Swara Bhasker

REACTS to Kangana Ranaut Getting Slapped in Chandigarh: 'At Least She Is Alive'

Swara Bhasker weighed in on Kangana Ranaut getting slapped by a CISF constable in Chandigarh. The actress, who has worked with Kangana in Tanu Weds Manu, condemned the incident but called her out for allegedly justifying violence. Noting that she defended incidents such as Will Smith slapping Chris Rock at Oscars, Swara asked what one can say about that. "Anybody who is a reasonable person will say that whatever happened with Kangana was wrong," Swara told Connect Cine. "There is nobody who will justify the violence or an act of assault which Kangana suffered. So yes, what happened with her was wrong and shouldn't have happened. It is not right to assault anyone," she added. Swara went on to share, "Kangana just got slapped—and even that should not have happened—but at least she is alive, and has her security around. In this country, people have lost their lives, they've been lynched to death, shot dead in a train by a security personnel, in riots, security personnel have been recorded beating up people. Jo log ye saare acts ko justify kar rahe hai, woh phir aake Kangana ke case pe hume matsikhao."

Addressing Kangana's old tweets and videos allegedly justifying violence, such as the Smith slapgate, Swara said, "The problem with the Kangana case is that she herself has used her platform to justify violence. Her past tweets resurfaced, including the one for which she was banned from Twitter, where she has almost called for a genocide... Then she had also justified Will Smith slapping Chris Rock at the Oscars, saying that if her mother or sister was abused, she would have also slapped someone. So now what do you say? What happened to her wasn't right, and the one who did that has already been suspended and punished. So there, justice has been served, but those who have been killed in the last ten years in the country, the perpetrators are roaming free." For the unversed, Kangana was slapped by a CISF guard at the Chandigarh airport on Thursday afternoon. The actress-turned-politician was travelling to New Delhi days after her Lok Sabha elections win from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi constituency. The CISF woman constable, identified as Kulwinder Kaur, has been suspended. An FIR is being registered against the CISF constable at Chandigarh Airport based on a written complaint by CISF officials. A complaint has also been filed by CISF to the local police.



Sonakshi Sinha

Wedding: Daisy Shah To Attend, Reacts To Shatrughan's 'Kids Don't Ask Permission'

Bollywood actress Daisy Shah confirmed she has been invited to Sonakshi Sinha's wedding with Zaheer Iqbal, slated to take place on June 23. The Race 3 actress revealed she knew about Sonakshi and Zaheer's wedding. She confirmed she is one of the many people who received the quirky wedding invite which eventually was leaked online and had gone viral. In a recent interview, Daisy praised the couple for the unique wedding invite and added that it is in tune with Shatrughan Sinha's viral comment that "children these days do not ask for permission." Speaking with Instant Bollywood, Daisy said, "Those who were aware (of Sonakshi and Zaheer's relationship), they weren't shocked. I am one of that person." She added, "I really liked it. It is not a typical wedding invite. It had a snowy background. It is very modern and fresh. Like Shatrughan Sinha ji rightly said, 'Aaj ke bachche inform karte hai, permission nahi lete'. Their wedding invite completely justifies that statement," she said. Last week, Sonakshi's wedding invite was leaked online. The wedding invite also includes an audio QR code which features a sweet message from Sonakshi and Zaheer: "To all our hip, tech-savvy and jasoos friends and family who has managed to land on this page, hi," the note began with Sonakshi greeting the invitees. "For the last seven years that we have been together, all the joy, love, laughter and many, many adventures has led us to this very moment," Zaheer continued. "The moment where go from being each other's rumoured girlfriend and boyfriend," Sonakshi said, before Zaheer added, "To being each other's definite and official husband and wife." "Finally! This celebration will not be complete without you so drop whatever you're doing on the 23rd of June and come party with us. See you there," the couple concluded the message. While Shatrughan Sinha had said that he wasn't aware of the wedding at first, he then shared a statement in which he said that "if Sonakshi is getting married, he will support her



Sonakshi is getting married and they will be attending the ceremony.

Varun Dhawan Shares FIRST Pic of Daughter, Reveals He's Going To Spend Father's Day Working



Bollywood actor Varun Dhawan shared the first picture of his daughter on the occasion of Father's Day. He said he is the happiest to be a father of a baby girl. "Happy Father's Day. My father taught me that the best way to celebrate this day is by going out there and working for your family so I'll be doing just that. Couldn't be happier to be a girl dad," Varun wrote. The Student of the Year actor also shared a picture of his dog, proudly flaunting his 'dog dad' tag. Check out the photos below: Fans took to the comments section and showered Varun Dhawan with love. "You already are the best dog dad and now you'll be the best girl dad. Happy Father's Day, hero!!" a comment read. "I melted at the first slide and then I swiped and lost it," added another. "Awwww ♥♥ she's the luckiest little girl, our choti princess," a third comment read. "We are so happy for ya!" a fan wrote. Varun Dhawan and Natasha Dalal welcomed their first child, a baby girl on June 4 at Mumbai's Hinduja Hospital. Today afternoon, the couple made their first public appearance with their baby girl, as they headed home from the hospital. Following the news of their baby's arrival, it was reported that Varun and Natasha will be moving into a bigger house. Varun and Natasha were living in an apartment in Juhu that Varun had purchased back in 2017. However, recent reports suggest that the actor has decided to rent fellow actor Hrithik Roshan's lavish sea-facing house in Juhu, Mumbai.

A source told Hindustan Times, "Varun and Natasha will be shifting into this house with their daughter. It is a sea facing apartment, currently occupied by Hrithik, who in turn is moving to another apartment in the same location Juhu. VD and family will have actor Akshay Kumar and producer Sajid Nadiadwala as neighbours, who are residing in the same building." On the work front, Varun will be seen in Baby John, backed by filmmaker Atlee.

Diljit Dosanjh BREAKS Silence On His First Love Amid Marriage Rumours: 'Mera Pehla Pyaar Toh...'

Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh opened up about his 'first love' in a recent podcast. The Crew actor is very secretive about his personal life. While there are rumours doing the rounds that he is married and even has a child from the marriage, Diljit has chosen to not address the rumours. So when he was asked about his first love, Diljit tactfully picked his own name. "I love myself bro. I love myself like crazy, main apne aap nu bahut pyaar karda. Toh mujhe lagta hai pehla pyaar toh main hi hoon mera (laughs). Mera pehla pyaar main hi hoon (I love myself a lot, I believe I am my own first love)," Diljit said, in an interview with Figuring Out podcast.

When asked his take on selfless love, Diljit said, "Chalo rakhhi jao fir (laughs). I believe in first loving yourself before loving others. Take care of yourself first. If you are not loved and taken care of first, how will you give that love to someone else?" In the podcast, Diljit was also asked his take on modern love vs old school love. Diljit said that love has been evolving with changing times. "There used to be Doordarshan before, it was the only channel we had. Now, there are so many channels. Similarly, food preferences have changed, conversations have changed, era has changed," he said. When asked if he also believes in a checklist for his partner, Diljit replied, "I feel we should love ourself first. When an aircraft also experiences turbulence, you are asked to help yourself before helping others. Similarly, love yourself. If a person cannot love themselves, they cannot love or respect anyone else. It is important to love yourself first. People should try and prioritise their own well-being first."

All eyes went on Diljit's love life when an unnamed friend claimed Diljit has a wife and child in a profile piece done by Indian Express for their section, Sunday Express Eye. The friend has claimed that the Punjabi singer's wife is an Indian-American and they share a son. "An intensely private person, little is known about his family but friends say his wife is an American-Indian and they have a son, and his parents live in Ludhiana," the profile piece mentioned. The report also claims that his wife

