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### 3 people shot dead as fresh violence breaks out in Manipur's Thoubal

Sanjay Kumar

Imphal, January 1: Three persons were allegedly shot dead and five others injured in Manipur's Thoubal district on Monday evening, following which curfew was reimposed in the five valley districts of the state, officials said. Police are working to arrest those behind the attack. They will be arrested soon and punished as per the law. Gunmen, who are yet to be identified, arrived in camouflage dresses in the Lilong Chingiao area, and opened fire targeting locals, they said. While three people died on the spot, five others were injured. Those injured were admitted to a hospital, officials said. After the attack, the enraged locals set three four-wheelers on fire. It was not immediately clear to whom these cars belonged. Following the Imphal Valley.

fresh violence, curfew was reimposed in Thoubal, Imphal East and Imphal Kakching and Bishnupur districts, officials said. In a video message, Chief Minister N Biren Singh condemned the violence, and appealed to the people, particularly the residents of Lilong, for maintaining peace. "Police are working to arrest those behind the attack. They will be arrested soon and punished as per the law," he said. More than 180 people have been killed and several hundred injured since ethnic violence broke out in Manipur on May 3 when a Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status Meiteis account for about 53 per cent of Manipur's population and live mostly in the

### Sidhu Moosewala murder accused gangster Goldy Brar designated as terrorist by Centre under anti-terror law

New Delhi, January 1: Canada-based gangster Satinderjit Singh alias Goldy Brar, who was the alleged mastermind of the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala, was on Sunday designated terrorist by the government under the anti-terror law UAPA. In a notification, the Union Home Ministry said Brar, backed by a Pakistan-based agency, has been involved in mul-



tiple killings and professes radical ideology. He figured in making threatening calls to pro-nationalist leaders, demanding ransom and posting the claims of killings on different social media platforms. An activist of the banned Babbar Khalsa International, Brar has been volved in the smuggling of high-grad nition and explosive materials through drones from across the border and supplying them for carrying out killings and also providing sharpshooters. He hails from Sri Muktsar Sahib in Punjab and is presently residing in Brampton, Canada. The home ministry said Brar and his associates have been conspiring to disrupt the peace, communal harmony and law and order in Punjab through nefarious designs including sabotage, raising of terror modules, carrying out targeted killings and other anti-national activities. A Red Corner Notice has been issued against him by Interpol and there is a non-bailable warrant against him. The central government believes that Satwinder Singh alias Satinderjit Singh alias Goldy Brar is involved in terror ism and he is to be added as a terrorist in the Fourth Schedule to the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the home ministry said. "Now, therefore, in the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of subsection (1) of section 35 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, the central government hereby makes the following amendment in the Fourth Schedule to the said Act, namely: "In the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, in the Fourth Schedule, after serial number 55 and entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be inserted, namely:- '56.

### New Delhi, Tuesday, 2 January 2024

# Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann takes swipe at Congress

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Chandigarh, January 1: In a swipe at the Congress, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday suggested that the opposition party has been relegated to history in the state and in Delhi. "In Punjab and Delhi, mothers can tell the world's shortest story to their children - Ek Thi Cong (there was once a Congress)," he quipped at a press conference here when asked about the reported reluctance of state Congress leaders to having an alliance with AAP. Earlier, when asked about the issue of seat adjustment among INDIA bloc partners, Mann said these matters would be discussed in the alliance meeting and added, "Only after things are finalised we will be able to tell". "We are fighting for the country. If the Constitution is saved, then everything else will remain," he said. Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which is in power in Delhi and Punjab, and the Congress are among the 28 constituents of the INDIA bloc formed to take on the BJP in the upcoming general elections. When Mann was asked about

### Before visiting India, **Maldives President Mohamed** Muizzu to travel to China

New Delhi, January 1: A fortnight after Male decided not to renew an agreement signed with India to conduct hydrographic surveys in its waters, recently-elected Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu is planning to visit China. Muizzu had skipped making India as his first overseas destination after becoming President, a custom started by Mohd Nasheed in 2008. Muizzu had instead opted to travel to Turkey. His second overseas visit was to attend the COP28 in the UAE. In fact, even before getting sworn in as President, he visited the UAE and received an assurance of \$ 80 million from the Abu Dhabi Fund for expansion of the Male Airport project which till then was being financed by India. Muizzu, said sources, is skipping New Delhi due to the formation of a core committee to review about 100 bilateral agreements following his meeting with PM Narendra Modi last month in the UAE, the most crucial of which is the stationing of Indian military personnel and military hardware in the Maldives. India has insisted that the planes being operated by Indian military personnel are for the welfare of the people of Maldives since they are used for emergency medical evacuation, humanitarian assistance at sea and surveillance against smugglers.

Congress leaders reportedly telling their sentiments of party cadre in the state are

be wiped out in polls if it allied with AAP, the chief minister took a swipe at the opposition party saying, "Te hun ki hoya hai unada (is their state of affairs any different now)". He ended his press conference with his "shortest story" jibe at the Congress. Notably, many Punjab Congress leaders including Partap Singh Bajwa had earlier said the

party high command that the party would against any alliance with the ruling Aam

Aadmi Party for the 2024 Sabha Meanwhile, notwithstanding the Defence Ministry's statement on Sunday over the tableau matter, Mann again trained his guns at the Centre over the "noninclusion" of the state's float in the Republic Day parade. He also categorically stated that Punjab would not showcase its tableau in Bharat Parv at the Red Fort. "Why will we send our tableau to the rejected

category... We can take out all the three tableaux in Delhi that we had given for shortlisting purposes for the Republic Day parade. Why only the Red Fort...," he said. "How did they imagine a Republic Day without the tableau of Punjab? What are the criteria for the selection of tableaus? They are saying our tableau was considered in

the first three rounds. Is this some kind of tournament? "Who are these people sitting there who reject these tableaus and Punjab's culture? We know how to respect our freedom fighters, we don't need any NoC from BJP," he said. The Centre had on Sunday rejected as "baseless" Mann's criticism of the BJP-led government for not including the state's tableau in the Republic Day parade 2024 and his allegations of discrimination. The Ministry of Defence had issued a statement saying tableaux proposals from states and Union territories and central ministries or departments are evaluated by an "expert committee" comprising eminent persons in the fields of art, culture, painting, sculpture, music, architecture and choreography among others. "The tableau proposal of Punjab was considered in the first three rounds of meeting of the Expert Committee. After the third round of meetings, the tableau of Punjab could not be taken forward by the Expert Committee for further consideration for not aligning to the broader themes of this year's tableau," it

# 2024 to be a year of Gaganyaan readiness: ISRO Chairman Somanath

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Sriharikota (Andhra January 1: ISRO has lined up a series of tests for Gaganyaan, its ambitious manned mission, this year and 2024 will be a year of "Gaganyaan readiness," said the agency's Chairman S Somanath here on Monday. The Bengaluru-headquartered space agency earlier in the day had successfully placed its first X-Ray Polarimeter satellite in PSLV C58 mission. Briefing reporters on ISRO's agenda for 2024, he said, "We are going to get ready for at least 12-14 missions this year. 2024 is going to be a year for Gaganyaan readiness, though it is targeted for 2025. "The Gaganyaan mission began with the TV-D1 or the abort mission (successfully conducted in October 2023). We have four such missions in the series. Our target is to do at least two more in 2024. By then, we will have three abort mission demonstrations," Somanath, who is also a Secretary in the Department of Space, said. Somanath said

that the unmanned missions would help the agency understand its preparedness of various hardware, adding that ISRO would also conduct helicopter-based drop test to prove the parachute systems for the

unmanned mission. "There will be multi-

ple drop tests. Also, we will have the launch pad abort and hundreds of such valuation tests including environmental control support system tests, the crew

he said. On the other missions lined up for ISRO in 2024, he said, "We are going to have launches of GSLV for NISAR this year itself. We are going to have the first flight of GSLV with INSAT-3DS soon. The

(launch) vehicle is almost ready. "The second flight of GSLV will carry the NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar satellite. This means that a minimum of two GSLV satellites are required to be launched. There are a few more in pipeline, including the NAVIC series,' he said. The space agency has also planned to launch two commercial missions of PSLV for the clients of NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) this year, Somanath said. "We also have remote sensing missions of PSLV. So, there will be multiple PSLV missions," he said. ISRO would also undertake a 'Reusable Launch Vehicle Mission' this year to demonstrate the rockets under severe conditions. "We are planning at least two more landing experiments in 2024 with different conditions to validate its extremity handling capacity," Somanath said.

### 13 cows, treadmill, microwave oven on the list as Nitish **Kumar declares assets**

Patna, January 1: Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar owns assets worth Rs 1.64 crore, according to his latest public disclosure. According to details of the assets of the chief minister and his cabinet colleagues posted on the Cabinet Secretariat Department's website on Sunday evening, Kumar has Rs 22,552 in cash, and deposits of Rs 49,202 in different bank accounts. He also has a Ford Ecosport car worth Rs 11.32 lakh, two gold rings and a silver ring worth Rs 1.28 lakh, and other movable assets such as 13 cows and 10 calves worth Rs 1.45 lakh, a treadmill, an exercise cycle and a microwave oven. The only immovable property that he has is an apartment in Dwarka in New Delhi, which cost him Rs 13.78 lakh in 2004, and is now worth Rs 1.48 crore. Last year, Kumar had declared total assets of Rs 75.53 lakh. A comparison of the two disclosures showed that the jump in the value of assets was primarily due to the rise in the worth of his Delhi apartment. Kumar's government has made it mandatory for all cabinet ministers to disclose their assets and liabilities on the last

# Shorts, ripped jeans, skirts not allowed in Puri's Jagannath temple as dress code comes into force

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Puri, January 1: People wearing halfplants, shorts, ripped jeans, skirts and sleeveless dresses will not be allowed entry into the famed Jagannath temple in Odisha's Puri as a dress code came

into force on Monday, officials said. Devotees will be required to wear "decent clothes", which are not revealing, to enter the temple, they said. As the new rule came into force, men were seen entering the 12th-century shrine wearing dhotis and 'gamchas', while women were mostly seen in either sarees or salwar kameez. The Jagannath Temple Administration (SITA) has asked hotels to make people aware of the dress code as most of the devotees come to the temple from there, officials said. The SJTA also increased its vigil on chewing gutkha and pan inside the temple, besides the use of plastic

bags, which have been banned, they said. The doors of the temple reopened for devotees as early as 1.40 am to handle the rush on New Year's Day, and till 5 pm, about 3.5 lakh people visited the



ments were made to ensure that no untoward incident take place at the temple, which is the home to the sibling deities of

Goddess Subhadra. The air-conditioned tensile fabric structure that has been built outside the temple was made functional in the morning. Facilities such as drinking water and public toilets have been made available at the structure, and

it has also been equipped with CCTV cameras and public announcement systems. Sitting arrangements have also been provided in it. Police said that the number of devotees visiting the temple on New Year's Day this time was double as compared to last year. The added enthusiasm was because the people wanted to experience the revamped surrounding of the temple due to the heritage corridor project, which is almost complete, and will be inaugurated

on January 17, SJTA chief administrator Ranjan Das had said on Sunday. Traffic restrictions have also been imposed in

### day of every calendar year. PM Modi to visit Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep on January 2-3

New Delhi, January 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep on January 2 and 3 during which he will inaugurate and lay the founda-

tion stone of multiple development

projects, his office said on Sunday. On January 2, Modi will reach Tiruchirappalli in Tamil Nadu and will be the chief guest at the 38th Convocation Ceremony Bharathidasan University, a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said. At a

programme

opment projects worth more than Rs 19,850 crore related to aviation, rail, road, oil and gas, shipping and higher education sectors. Modi will then reach Agatti in Lakshadweep where he will address a public function. On January 3, he will reach Kavaratti in Lakshadweep, where he will lay the foundation stone of multiple development projects in Lakshadweep related to sectors such as telecommunications, drinking water, solar power and health. During his visit to akshadweep, Modi will lay the oundation stone of development projects, including the Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fiber Connection project, worth over Rs 1,150 crore. He will also dedicate to the nation the Low Temperature

Desalination plant at Kadmat,

which will produce 1.5 lakh litres of

clean drinking water every day.

Tiruchirappalli, the PM will lay the

foundation stone of multiple devel-

# Ayodhya case judges unanimously decided to keep verdict anonymous: CJI Chandrachud

New Delhi, January 1: More than four years after the historic Ayodhya verdict of the Supreme Court, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on Monday said the five-judges, who ruled in favour of construction of a Ram temple by a trust at the disputed site, had unanimously decided there will be no authorship ascribed to the judgement. On November 9, 2019, settling a fractious issue that went back more than a century, a five-judge bench headed by the then CJI Ranjan Gogoi had paved the way for construction of the temple and ruled that an alternative 5-acre plot will be found for a mosque in the holy town in Uttar Pradesh. In an exclusive interview with PTI, CJI Chandrachud, who was part of the constitution bench, candidly spoke on the issue of anonymity and said, when the judges sat together, as they do before a pronouncement, it was unanimously decided that this will be a "judgement of the court". He therefore, there was no authorship

was replying to the query as to why the ascribed to any individual judge," the CJI said. "The case has a long



name of the author judge was not made public. "When the five-judge bench sat to deliberate on the judgement as we all do before a Judgement is pronounced, we all decided unanimously that this will be a judgement of the court. And, history of conflict, of diverse viewpoints based on the history of the nation and all those who were part of the bench decided that this will be a judgeof the ment court. The court will speak through

voice and the

idea of doing so

flawed.

was to send a clear message that all of us stood together not only in the ultimate outcome but in the reasons indicated in the judgement," he said, adding "I will close my answer with that." Delivering a unanimous verdict on the case that long polarised the country and frayed the secular tapestry of Indian society, the apex court bench had said in 2019 that the faith of Hindus that Lord Ram was born at the site was undisputed, and he was symbolically the owner of the land. Yet, it is also clear that the destruction of the 16th century three-domed structure by Hindu kar sevaks, who want to build a Ram temple there, was a wrong that "must be remedied," the court had said. It said it is not concerned with faith and belief and instead treated the case as a title dispute over land between three parties the Sunni Muslim Waqf Board, the Nirmohi Akhara, a Hindu group, and the symbolic Lord Rama designated as Ram Lalla Virajman (the deity). The judgement, running into 1,045 pages, was widely welcomed by Hindu politicians and groups, while the Muslim leadership said they will accept the verdict, even though they described it as



# Excise and police move early to prevent drug peddling during Christmas-New Year season

Mumbai. Investor wealth, as measured by BSE market capitalisation, surged by about Rs 85 lakh crore in 2023, of which Rs 16 lakh crore — or nearly a fifth of the overall gain — came from state-owned companies.

The combined market of 65 odd public sector undertakings jumped by 45% in 2023 in line with the upsurge in the broader market. The market value of these PSUs, where the President (on behalf of the government) is either the majority owner or owns a substantial stake, increased by Rs 15.8 lakh crore to Rs 50.5 lakh crore, data from Refinitiv showed.In comparison, among large private sector business houses, Aditya Birla Group's market value increased by 38%, Tata Group's by nearly 32%, Bajaj Group's 23%, Reliance Industries' by a marginal 1.6%, while Adani Group, thanks to the Hindenburg Research report, saw 29% wealth erosion. The PSUs operate in a diverse set of sectors that include energy, insurance, power, railways, banks, ship-building and ports. In 2023, the biggest addition to the PSU market cap was by NTPC. It made its shareholders richer by Rs 1.4 lakh crore with its current market value stands at nearly Rs 3.1 lakh crore. The power sector giant was followed by LIC that added Rs 93,547 crore to its market value which is at Rs 5.3 lakh crore. Coal India stood third as India depends on coal to fire its power plants and several other industries amid a global move towards cleaner sources of energy. The 67% jump in Coal India's stock price also translated to a Rs 93,026-crore addition to its market value to Rs 2.3 lakh crore now, the data showed.

In NTPC, the President held 51.1% stake while in LIC, it was 96.5%. The stake in Coal India stands at 63.1%, shareholding data as of September-end, disclosed to the BSE, showed. In terms of market value, SBI tops the table among PSUs with a market cap of Rs 5.7 lakh crore. However, despite a rally in most PSU banks in 2023, the leader in the pack barely moved. Compared to 18-19% gains in the sensex and Nifty, and a 12% rise in BSE's banking index, SBI gained less than 5% during the year.

# 21 new, 60 active Covid cases in Ahmedabad

AHMEDABAD. In the past 24 hours, the city registered 21 new Covid cases, the highest in December. These include 15 men and six women from Naranpura, Bodakdev, Jodhpur, Ghatlodia, Navrangpura, Paldi, and Sarkhej among other areas.

According to Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) data, eight of them had travelled to Canada, US, Mumbai and Kerala. Eleven patients were discharged while one patient was in the hospital, the officials said. According to ministry of health and family welfare (MoHFW) data, Gujarat had 79 active cases, seventh highest among Indian states.

# History sheeter injured in encounter with police in Bhubaneswar



BHUBANESWAR. A history sheeter was injured in an exchange of fire with police here in the wee hours of Thursday. The injured Raghu Biswal is allegedly an associate of notorious criminal Rabi Rao who was arrested following a police encounter in the capital city in 2016. Biswal was admitted to SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack and his condition is stated to be stable.Acting on a tip-off about the movement of some criminals, a team of Mancheswar police and a special squad conducted a raid at Barimunda Road at around 3 am. They spotted Biswal and an associate on a motorcycle. The duo attempted to flee towards Nandankanan. When police began chasing, one of them opened fire at the cops near Jaripatna. In retaliation, the police team started firing during which Biswal sustained injuries. His associate, however, managed to flee. One motorcycle, a 7.65 mm pistol and five empty bullet shells were seized by police from the spot. DCP Prateek Singh said the miscreants were planning to commit robbery from the passersby in the area. "During the exchange of fire, they fell from the motorcycle and one of them sustained a bullet injury in his leg," he added.Police said Biswal was involved in more than 15 cases registered by Chandrasekharpur, Nayapalli, Sahid Nagar and some other police stations for robbery and dacoity. Out of the total cases, at least eight of them are registered against him under the Arms Act.

# Andhra: Streets stink as municipal staff strike enters day 5

VIJAYAWADA. Huge heaps of garbage piles are accumulating in many towns and villages across the State due to the ongoing five-day municipal outsourcing sanitation workers' strike. Despite several alternative measures taken by the civic authorities to maintain sanitation, the situation turns worse as municipal workers prevent cleaning operations. The garbage at main centres is being cleared by the daily wage labourers. However, the interior streets stinking with lots of trash.

Special team stationed for collecting garbage in V'wada

The municipal workers, who are on strict terms intercepted the workers deployed by the municipal commissioner at Krishna Lanka and Vambay Colony on Saturday. In response, precautionary measures are being implemented in Vijayawada. Special teams were deployed to collect garbage from house to house. Municipal officials are also taking steps to clear the accumulated garbage on roads using JCBs. To address the situation, the number of garbage collection trips through tractors has been increased to 120 trips per day, and clap vehicle trips have also increased.VMC Commissioner Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar is closely monitoring the amount of garbage collected during the strike compared to previous records. The VMC chief has issued an appeal to the public.

urging them not to dispose of garbage on the roads and hand them over to the workers who visit their houses. Speaking to TNIE, Swapnil Dinakar Pundkar stated that they are deploying contract workers and ad hoc personnel for door-to-door waste collection in response to the ongoing strike by regular sanitation workers.He further outlined measures to prevent disruptions, mentioning the deployment of a special task force consisting of six members per shift. This task force, including a Special Officer, two Town Planning representatives, one Sub-Inspector, and two constables, will actively monitor the city to ensure the smooth progress of sanitation activities and prevent any obstructions

Workers climb water tank as part of protest
In Guntur, over 2,000 contract outsourcing staff and CLAP workers of Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) launched a strike demanding that the State government to resolve their long pending problems.

Disruption in sanitation services was evident, as several colonies in Two Town, AT Agraharam, RTC Colony, Brodipet, Arundalpet, and a few other areas were seen with overflowing dustbins, as garbage collection was hit. A Ramana Rao, resident of Mallareddy Nagar opined that, though door to door collection of wastes is being



conducted once in three days in our area, some people, not heeding to instructions, are dumping wastes on road sides and bins are overflowing, causing severe inconvenience to the public and commuters, he added. According to GMC officials, over 2,000 workers are on strike, and the remaining 150 workers are being utilised for sanitation works in important places and main centres in the city. Apart from this, a few workers, not participating in the protests are also attending the duties and conducting door-to-door garbage collection.

Meanwhile, the strike is partial in Tenali, Ponnur and Narsaraopet, and Sattenapalli municipalities in Palnadu as some workers didn't join the strike. Tension prevailed in Narasaraopet, as a few workers climbed onto a water tank to stage protests. The municipal officials and police personnel immediately rushed to the spot and convinced them to get down and continue the strike peacefully.

Stray animals feed on plastic waste in Visakhapatnam

Piles of garbage have accumulated in various parts of the district. Despite efforts by the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) to address the issue, it remains visible in many areas. The situation is anticipated to worsen as the public celebrates New Year's Eve in open spaces. In the KRM

Colony area, instances were observed where cows, buffaloes, and dogs were feeding on discarded food and other waste along the roadside. However, several individuals, including ward corporations, have taken the initiative to clean their surroundings with the assistance of sanitation workers.

Tension as workers intercept sanitation vehicles

Approximately 150 private individuals in Ongole were mobilised for round-the-clock sanitation efforts. This move drew protests from the striking workers, leading to an interception in Saturday's sanitation operations in the city. Additionally, tension erupted as the sanitation workers who were on strike intercepted moving sanitation collecting autos, and dumper vehicles, prompting intervention by the police.

# Chennai's metro rail projects receive lowest allocation from centre

CHENNAI. The union government has allocated Rs 3,273.55 crore for Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) since 2018, the lowest allocation among metro rail projects across the country. The data was submitted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in reply to a question in the Lok Sabha. The highest allocation was for Maharashtra, which received Rs 28,877 crore for metro projects in Mumbai, Nagpur and Pune.

Meanwhile, Bengaluru Metro (BMRCL) received Rs 19,236 crore during the same period. Metro rail projects in Uttar Pradesh's Lucknow, Kanpur and Agra got Rs 12,919 crore while Rs 15,218 crore was allotted to Gujarat's Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Surat metro.

According to an RTI reply received by activist Dayanand Krishnan, the Tamil



Nadu government had written to the union government at least seven times, seeking approval for Phase II of Chennai metro. The state government has accorded approval for the implementation of three metro rail corridors, covering a length of 118.9 kilometres under Phase II of the Chennai Metro Rail Project. The state government has also approached the union government seeking funds in a 50:50 ratio

and loan assistance from bilateral/multilateral agencies.

The state government's proposal is under the consideration of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. A senior CMRL official said a proposal sent to the union government to become an equity partner for Phase II of the Chennai metro project is pending approval. "Once it is approved, the situation will change," a senior CMRL official said. The Rs 61,843-crore

Chennai Metro Rail Phase II project is yet to be cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, even though the Public Investment Board approved the project two years ago. The state government has funded the project, pinning hopes on the union government to approve the proposal, and has allocated Rs 10,000 crore for the purpose in the state budget.

# AMC renames 9 projects after Ramayana events, deities

Ahmedabad. In the run up to the consecration of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya on January 22 , the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has approved renaming of several new infrastructure projects in the city after events and deities from the epic saga, the Ramayana.

The newly named projects, spread across two wards
— Odhav and Viratnagar — encompass bridges, a
rejuvenated lake, a party plot, a crossroads, and a
library. The proposal was put forth by AMC
corporators Vijay Panchal and Dashrath Patel,
who suggested these renaming as a fitting tribute
to the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya. In
Odhav, a party plot near the Gujarat Industrial
Development Corporation (GIDC) estate
transforms into Shri Ram Vatika. Two gardens,
one near the Shivdarshan society and the other in
Odhav village, into 'Shri Shabri Vatika' and 'Shri
Ayodhya Van'.

A newly built library takes on the title 'Shri Valmiki Rishi,' honoring the sage who immortalized the Ramayana. Finally, the newly revitalized lake in Odhav village finds its new name in 'Luv-Kush Sarovar.' In Viratnagar ward, three newly constructed bridges receive the names of the Ramayana's iconic figures. The bridges in Soni ni Chali, Rajendra Park, and Ajit Mills become 'Shri Ram Setu,' 'Shri Ramrajya,' and 'Shri Lakshman Bridge'. Even the bustling Kuvara Circle finds its place in this tapestry, renamed 'Shri Kesari Nandan Chowk,' a tribute to Lord Hanuman. We also published the following articles recently

Railway station to be renamed Ayodhya DhamThe main railway station in Ayodhya, Ayodhya Dham, will be inaugurated by PM Modi. The completely revamped station will have lifts, escalators, a tourist information centre, and medical facilities. It is expected that 50,000-60,000 people will visit Avodhva daily. The station also features murals of Lord Ram. Currently, there are nine railway stations with Dham in their names, five of which are in UP.Ayodhya Railway station in Uttar Pradesh renamed Ayodhya Dham JunctionAyodhya Railway station has been renamed Ayodhya Dham Junction as per public sentiments. The redevelopment work of Ayodhya Junction and the Ayodhya airport has been executed by RITES. The newly constructed Ayodhya Dham Railway Station offers facilities surpassing airport standards, including an Infant Care Room and a dedicated sick room. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will install the Ram idol in the temple in Ayodhya in January 2024, marking the end of a disputed history. The Ram Temple construction spans multiple phases and will feature murals, engravings, and seven temples of Saptarishis. Ayodhya airport to be named after ValmikiThe newly built airport at Ayodhya will be named Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil the airport on December 30, ahead of the consecration ceremony at the Ram Temple on January 22.

# Amrit Bharat Express between Malda Town & Bengaluru a big draw

Despite it being a holiday, a large number of schoolchildren gathered at the railway station in Srikakulam to greet the newly launched express train.

VISAKHAPATNAM. The maiden Amrit Bharat Express between Malda Town and Bengaluru, flagged off virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday, received a warm welcome from the residents of north coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Despite it being a holiday, a large number of schoolchildren gathered at the railway station in Srikakulam to greet the newly launched express train. The Amrit Bharat Express, a recently introduced superfast service by the Indian Railways, features non-AC sleeper and unreserved coaches.Offering more affordable fares compared to the airconditioned Vande Bharat Express, this day-night express train is designed to provide a cost-effective travel option. The Amrit Bharat Express, like other trains, is furnished with essential amenities, including mobile charging points, holders for bottles and mobiles, and slider-based window glass. Each coach is equipped



with CCTV cameras and a passenger information system to display approaching stations. A notable addition is the introduction of a foot button at the base of the sink, replacing traditional taps at the doors. This button allows passengers to activate the taps without direct contact, promoting hygiene. The train accommodates both Western and Indianstyle washrooms to cater to diverse passenger preferences."The Amrit Bharat Express particularly stands out for its cleanliness and neatness, with the innovative addition of a foot button to activate taps, enhancing hygiene by eliminating the need for hand contact,' expressed a group of Kendriya Vidyalaya School children, who travelled in Amrit Bharat Express from Srikakulam to Visakhapatnam.In Srikakulam, the arrival of the train was witnessed by Speaker Tammineni Seetharam, MP K Ramamohan Naidu, BJP district president B Umamaheswar Rao, and ADRM Infra Sudhir Kumar Gupta.In Vizianagaram, MLC Pakalapati Raghu Varma, BJP district president Reddy Pavani, Chief Engineer K Dhanunjaya Rao, and ADRM Operations Manoj Kumar Sahoo were present.At Visakhapatnam railway station, City Mayor Golagani Hari Venkata Kumari, MP GVL Narasimha Rao, DRM Saurabh Prasad and several others were present.

# Ensure more security for Palghar bridge area: HC

MUMBAI. Observing that only two police personnel are manning the security of a bridge in Palghar district, the Bombay high court said, "Obviously more is needed to be done" and directed that the commissioner of police concerned will deploy additional hands for ensuring the safety of the area under the bridge and protection from illegal sand excavation in Julie Island.

The HC was hearing a PIL that concerns the large-scale illegal excavation of sand around the Julie Island near Vaitrana Creek within the limits of Vasai taluka, District- Palghar. "Apart from the damage to the ecology, concern is also expressed, not only by the petitioners but also by the Western Railway, regarding the safety of the railway bridge, on which more than 20 lakh passengers travel every day," said the HC division bench of Justices Nitin Jamdar and Manjusha Deshpande in a recent order. "The genesis of these proceedings is the order passed by this court on 3 April 2018 on a public interest litigation (PIL) of 2014, giving various directions." Since the directions were not complied with, an interim application is taken out in the PIL filed by Awaaz Foundation, which is now being heard. Julie Kharbhumi Labharthi Sekhari Sanstha

Maryadit had made a plea before the HC as did the Awaaz Foundation. The HC said, "Considering the seriousness of the issue," it had called on the officers to inform about steps taken to comply and the collector gave statistics, but unfortunately, their efforts have fallen short. Superintendent of Police of Mira

Bhayander cited paucity of staff as reasons why surveillance was not ramped up. The superintendent of police at Palghar assured the HC that he does not face paucity of staff for the purpose of surveillance. The Railways suggested there be a beat chowki for a bridge that falls within the Mira Bhayandar

municipality and said the illegally excavated sand is landed at a point near bridge number 88, for further transport.

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Advocate Mohd. Sajid Advocate Dr. A.P.Singh Advocate Manish Sharma Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma **NEWS BOX** 

New Delhi, Tuesday, 2 January 2024

# Gr Noida to lease unsold flats to govt employees

Noida: The Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) plans to lease its unsold flats to government employees. Officials said despite multiple schemes, nobody has bought them yet.

The move will help the GNIDA generate revenue and address the housing crisis among government staffers, said officials. "The employees and officers in government departments in the district have been paying huge rents for houses in different sectors and societies," an official said.GNIDA has at least 1,500 such flats in sectors Omicron 1A, Omicron 1, Sector 12, MU 2, Xu 3 and Sector Eta 2. These flats are 1BHK, 2BHK and 3BHK. Of them, 1,000 are 2BHK, 450 1BHK and 50 3BHK. Built many years ago, they are not currently in use. It tried to sell the flats under various schemes but could not. "Recently, it contacted government departments, including the police, to lease these flats. The departments are ready for this. From now on, when government employees come to the district, they will get accommodation immediately. These flats are in a prime location, so they will not face any problems commuting to their offices," said the official. The GNIDA plans to charge rent equal to the employee house rent allowance (HRA). It will collect the rent from the respective departments, which, in turn, will deduct the HRA from the employees directly, curtailing any rent collection issues. A policy in this regard is under framing. Earlier, GNIDA sold 400 flats to the Noida Metro Rail Corporation near the depot station, where the NMRC employees and officers live

# Town planner seals shops & restos set up on govt land

Gurgaon. The enforcement wing of the town and country planning department (DTCP) freed government land, which was encroached for many years in sectors 17-18, on Sunday. During the drive, the enforcement team along with the police force sealed 10 buildings where commercial activities were being carried out. The sealed units included six shops, two garages, one office and a restaurant. These shops were mainly related to automobiles and their parts. The department is currently carrying out sealing drives against illegal commercial activities in the city. More than 800 properties have been served notices and sealed for violations so far.District town planner (enforcement) Manish Yadav said, "These activities were being carried out without mandatory permissions from the competent authorities." According to Yadav, these offenders were issued show-cause notices for violation of norms but when they did not furnish satisfactory replies and also did not close down the commercial activities, the department initiated sealing action against them. "In case sealing is removed or activities are found operational again, strict action will be initiated against them as per the law," he added.

Under the Non Nuisance Rules of the Haryana Urban Development Act, commercial activities going on in residential properties of licenced colonies are illegal and against the rules. Those activities which come under the rules of non-nuisance activities are being given permissions by the department and the activities are being registered with the department so that they can be monitored in future. According to the rules, some activities have been listed for which 25% of the built-up area of the ground floor of residential units can be given permission for commercial use. These include clinic or lawyer's office among others.

# No vacation for teachers if electoral rolls not revised'

Gurgaon. Teachers in the state have been told to complete summary revision of electoral rolls before going on winter break. At least 50% primary teachers from the department have been deployed at block level offices for electoral roll revision at supervisory level. The teachers have termed the state government's decision "discriminatory" and "arbitrary"

The chief electoral officer has directed all deputy commissioners-cum-district election officers to order teachers designated as booth level officers not to proceed on winter vacations without completing their task of special summary revision of the electoral roll.

The winter vacations are scheduled to begin January 1. "The process is in full swing and the final publication will be held on January 22. . If teachers proceed on break, the work will be held up," read the communique.

# city this wk; mercury to drop

at several places in Uttar Pradeshfrom January

"Dry weather conditions are very likely to prevail in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh during the next 4-5 Days. No large change in minimum temperature is expected in the next 4-5 days in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh. Dense to very dense fog is likely at a few places on December 31 and January 1 and at isolated places thereafter. Cold to severe cold day conditions are likely at a few places on December 31 and January 1," said an IMD official.IMD has issued an alert for dense to very dense fog for the region and has alerted residents to take measures for the same. In its fog advisory, apart from the risk of travelling in low visibility, IMD has also cited some health issues arising out of prolonged exposure to fog.

# CM launches 1-time settlement scheme for tax dues recovery

**Gurgaon.** Chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday launched a one-time settlement scheme for traders to settle any taxes that may have been pending before the GST regime was implemented. The OTS scheme will be effective from January to March 30, 2024. Traders and businesses can clear any tax dues that were pending before June 30, 2017.

"The one-time settlement scheme stands as a testament to the government's dedication," Khattar said at an event in the city on Sunday. He said the scheme was born out of the government's c o m m i t m e n t t o p u b l i c welfare.Outstanding arrears related to seven laws -- Haryana Value Added Tax Act, Central Sales Tax Act, Haryana Local Area Development Tax Act, Haryana Tax on Entry of Goods in Local Area Act, Haryana Luxury Tax Act, Punjab Entertainment Fee Act and Haryana General Sales Tax Act -- will be covered under the scheme.In one category under the scheme, if there is no dispute, taxpayers can pay 100% of the dues without any penalties or interest.

In the second category for disputed taxes

30% of the outstanding amount. For disputed taxes above Rs 50 lakh, the taxpayer can pay half of the amount and the remaining sum will be waived off. The third category will apply to undisputed taxes in cases where no appeal was made. Taxpayers can pay 40% if the amount is below Rs 50 lakh and 60% if it's above Rs 50 lakh, and the remaining dues will be waived along with penalties and interest. The fourth category includes outstanding amounts due to differences in tax rates. The scheme will give relief to taxpayers by allowing only 30% of the total outstanding amount.Khattar said a facility of easy installments has also

been provided under the scheme. Taxpayers with outstanding amounts below Rs 10 lakh will have to pay the entire outstanding amount in one go before March 30. For those with dues between Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh, the amount can be paid in two installments of 50% each. If the outstanding dues are



more than Rs 25 lakh, payment can be spread across three installments with 40% to be paid in the first 90 days, 30% over the next 90 days, and 30% in the final 90 days. Deputy chief minister Dushyant Singh Chautala, also at the event, said: "The state has collected Rs 46,000 crore in taxes so far. After the implementation of the new OTS scheme,

accountants and tax lawyers cooperate, it is expected that tax collection in the state by March 31 can reach Rs 66,000 crore, surpassing the CM's target of Rs 58,000 crore. Despite being a small state, Harvana ranks among the first five states in the country in terms of tax collection. Today, Haryana boasts the best infrastructure in the country regarding taxation."He also said the government plans to establish branches of the GST Tribunal in Gurgaon and Hisar. "To modernise the working style and easily resolve GST and tax

collection issues, employees and officers of the department have received training from national-level institutions such as CBI and central excise department. A help desk and online chatbot would be established at the state excise and GST department for the new scheme if needed," the deputy CM added.

# Two steal 9 phones in a day to pay fees to their lawyer, nabbed after gunfight in Noida

NOIDA. Two bikers were arrested after a brief gunbattle for stealing nine mobile phones from people walking on roads in a day. Police said Ghaziabad resident Aniket Kumar (24) and Anshu Yadav (26) of Noida had targeted around 20 people in the past few days to pay the fee of their lawyer who had got them released in a robbery case earlier this month. The duo were most active around Botanical Garden and in sectors 39, 24 and 57.A video widely

circulated on social media showed one of the accused pleading before a policeman with folded hands that he would never commit robberies in the future. Bursting into tears, he tells the cop he has stolen nine phones in a day to arrange for money.

Police said that after stealing the phones, Aniket and Anshu would destroy the SIM cards and sell the handsets to people saying they needed money urgently for a family emergency.



Amit Kumar, the SHO of Sector 58 police station, said they received a tipoff about the two phone snatchers on Saturday evening.

'So, we deployed police teams at various junctions to look for the two youths on a bike. Around 9pm, we spotted two suspected snatchers and asked them to stop near a signal in Sector 57. But they tried to flee. When cops gave them a chase, they fired at them. Police retaliated, and the

screeched to a halt and were arrested," the SHO said. The nine stolen phones, two country-made pistols and a bike without a registration number were recovered from them. While checking their criminal history, police found eight cases, including one for attempt to murder, registered against Aniket and Anshu each. The cops are trying to find out if they have cases registered in other states as

well."Six of the phones recovered from them did not have any SIM card. They admitted that they would target people and snatch mainly phones from them to raise money and pay fees of a lawyer who got them released in a robbery case," Kumar said.

An FIR was registered against the two at Sector 58 police station under sections 392 (robbery) and 307 (attempt to murder) of the IPC and relevant provisions of the Arms Act.

# Sewer overflow in Sector Alpha 2 commercial area

GREATER NOIDA. Alpha 2 residents on Sunday woke up to sewer overflow on the main road near the commercial belt. The area accommodates many shops in a market block which leaves a foul smell and unhygienic

The commercial belt in Sector Alpha 2 in the backside of KB complex has a sewer line which is overflowing leading to sewer water on the road and leading to problems of accessing the market area. We have posted videos of the problem to officials of Greater Noida Authority as well as social media too," said NP Singh RWA general secretary of Sector Alpha 2.According to Alok Singh, another resident of Greater Noida, the sewer is no longer able to bear the load. He urged residents to raise the issue. "City residents should always keep their eyes and ears open and keep raising their voices for the betterment of the city," said Singh. Adite Banerjie, a resident of the sector also urged that the cleanliness and



# Teen tries to steer traffic after truck overturns on NH-8, run over by bus

Gurgaon: An 18-year-old trying to who works at a private company in identify the bus and the driver. It Delhi-Jaipur highway died after a speeding bus ran him over near Manesar in the early hours of Sunday. According to the complaint, Govind Kumar from UP's Auraiya was travelling in the pick-up truck when its driver Anurag Kumar swerved to avoid a collision with a car being driven on the wrong side of the carriageway around 5.30am. The truck lost balance and overturned, said Govind's brother Satish in the complaint.

'Both of them were fine and they got out of the truck to check the damage. Then they were on the road, signalling other approaching vehicles to avoid hitting the truck. It was at that moment that a speeding bus from Jaipur hit Govind," Satish,

alert commuters about an Rajasthan's Bhiwadi, told cops. The isn't clear if the bus was private or a overturned pick-up truck on the bus driver did not stop and sped public bus. Action will be taken away, he said. Satish said the impact of the collision was such that Govind was thrown to the ground and landed near the divider. He had severe injuries to his arms, legs and head. The truck driver Anurag called police and they rushed Govind to the General Hospital in Sector 10, where doctors declared him dead.Police said an FIR was registered at the Manesar station against the unidentified bus driver under sections 279 (rash driving) and 304A (death by negligence) of the IPC."A post-mortem examination was carried out and the autopsy report is awaited. We have handed over the body to the family. The case is being investigated and we are checking CCTV cameras to

according to law," said Virender Kumar, SHO, Manesar police station.

Accidents aren't uncommon on the highway. Earlier this month, two men on two-wheelers, among them a bike taxi driver, died after they were hit by cars in separate accidents on the highway near Khandsa Mandi and IFFCO Chowk. In both the cases, less than four days apart, the errant drivers fled after the collisions. Last month, a 30-yearold engineer died in an accident on NH-8 while he was on his way to IMT Manesar from Kankrola after quitting his job in the previous company to explore new opportunities. He was hit by a vehicle near Kherki Daula.

sanitation of the market should also be taken up by the shopkeepers too. "Why are shopkeepers not incentivised to keep the surrounding areas clean? The responsibility of keeping the market clean should be of the shopkeepers too," she said.Banerjie goes on and said that since the problem exists, the authorities need to resolve it by proactively getting shopkeepers to keep the place clean. "The fact is that a badly maintained, dirty complex will not help shopkeepers also. Their business will not increase and will remain a down marketplace, affecting the value of the neighbourhood. It is in the interests of GNIDA, residents and shopkeepers to address these issues," she said.

RWA general secretary NP Singh maintained that the water from overflowing sewers continued to flow all day even as they waited for authority redress.

NAME CHANGE

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Nov. 2023 before The Notary

Government of India in presence of Ld. Advocate G. M. Nabi.

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Dated 29th Nov. 2023 before Th Notary, Government of India in presence of Ld. Advocate G. M. Nabi.

# Very dense fog set to engulf

**Gurgaon.** After a short period of relief from the cold and foggy weather conditions, the temperature is likely to dip and visibility is expected to deteriorate in the first week of January. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) predicted that the minimum temperatures in the city may hover between 7 and 10 degrees Celsius. The Met office has forecast dense to very dense fog at most places in Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi and 2 to 6. Dense fog conditions in the last few days have gravely affected the movement of trains and flights. On Sunday, the city's minimum temperature was recorded at 11.8 degrees Celsius against 11.6 degrees on Saturday. Meanwhile, the maximum temperature dropped 4.1 degrees to 14.1 degrees Celsius compared to 18.2 degress the day before.

# Chicken party' on NH as vehicle carrying poultry crashes in Agra

Agra. Bizarre scenes unfolded on the Agra-Delhi NH-19 as a vehicle, laden with chickens, collided with other vehicles in dense fog. Rather than aiding the injured driver, bystanders and commuters seized the opportunity to loot the birds from the vehicle. video of the incident drew criticism, and hits, on social media. In the clip, people are seen rushing to the scene, grabbing chickens and hastily departing with bags of different sizes. Some went to the extent of bundling the birds into sacks.ound a dozen vehicles collided on NH-19, resulting in one death and several injuries. The truck carrying chickens was on its way to Kasganj from Agra. The driver, Sunil Kumar, said he tried to stop people from looting the birds, but he was helpless in front of the growing crowd. Kumar said he had incurred heavy losses as chickens worth nearly Rs 2.5 lakh

were looted. "Dense fog led to a pile-up near Jharna Nala flyover. A truck driver, Umesh Chand Yadav (37) died, and six people in other vehicles sustained injuries. They were rushed to a nearby hospital. The damaged vehicles were cleared, and traffic resumed.

# **NAME CHANGE** , NEERAJ WASON S/o SUSHIL KUMAR WASON residing at A1/73A. Keshav Puram, North West Delhi,

Delhi-110035 have changed the name of my minor Son SIDDHARTH NASON aged 14 years and he sha ereafter be known as DIWAN CHAND WASON

### **NAME CHANGE** Nizami R/o H. No. 106. Mohalla Kot

Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, Delhi-110013, have changed my name to Mohd Shams Nizami for all future I hitherto known as Atul Kumar alias Govind Kumar S/O Vishwa Nath Singh R/O- 19/45 Gali no -3, Hanumanpuri, Mahendra Nagar **PUBLIC NOTICE** 

Hanumanpuri, Mahendra Nagar, Koil, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh -202001.have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as

shall hereafter GOVIND KUMAR

### NAME CHANGE

RAI VIPIN Son of CHANDRAMANI RAI presently residing at DUBAITA, DURVASA, AZAMGARH, UTTAR PRADESH-276304 have changed my name from RAI VIPIN to VIPIN RAI for all future purposes vide affi-davit dated 01/01/2024 before Notary

### **NAME CHANGE**

MOHAMMAD FARMAN ANSARI S/O ISRAR AHMAD residing at H.NO-C-6/1056, GALI NO-8, R K MARG, CHAUHAN BANGER, JAF-FRABAD, DELHI-110053 have changed my name to MOHD FAR-MAN ANSARI for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

HANIF S/O ASGAR BASHIR siding at H NO-605/A NEW A-366 GALI NO-3 NEAR INSHA ALLAH MASJID CHAUHAN BANGAR Beelampur seelampur North East Delhi Delhi 110053 have changed my name to MOHD HANIFfor all future

### NAME CHANGE , hitherto known as SANDEEP S/O SUBE SINGH R/O C-343, 3RD

FLOOR, PALAM EXTENSION SEC-TOR-7, DWARKA, BAGDOLA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110077 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANDEEP KALSHAN.

### NAME CHANGE

WAHEEDA SALEEM ALEEM AHMED RESIDING AT HOUSE NO 1018 4TH FLOOR GAL SHAKTI MANDIR TIRAHA BEHRAN KHAN DARYA GANJ DELHI 110002 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM WAHEEDA SALEEM TO WAHEE-A PARVEEN FOR ALL FUTURE

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

 No. - 866, Ward -13, Gohana Sarak, Near Mata Mandir, Para Mohala, Rohtak, Haryana - 124001 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as TANYA in my minor Daughter namely DIKSHA aged 17 years in her 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is SIMTA which may be mended accordingly.

# NAME CHANGE

KAMAL SINGH S/o SH. SHISHPAI SINGH R/o G-234, Flat No. 1, Phase 6, Aya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi -10047 have changed the name of ny minor Son ARABH SINGH aged years and he shall hereafter be own as AARAV SINGH.

### NAME CHANGE RAMA RAJA Wife of No. 165592K Rank-HAV Name-BADE

RAJA PARMAR presently residing at /PO-KUCHLON, TEH-KARERA, DIST-SHIVPURI, MADHYA PRADESH-473665 have changed my name from RAMA RAJA to RAMA RAJA PARMAR for all future purpos es vide affidavit dated 01/01/2024 ore Notary Public, Delhi.

# NAME CHANGE , PAVITRA DEVI Mother of JC \$41243Y SUB MAJ BIRENDRA BINGH R/O VILL-NAYALGARH POST-CHAMRARA, NAYAL GAON PAURI GARHWAL, CHAMRARA

UTTARAKHAND-246147, in my son's service records my date of birth wrong by mentioned as 01/07/1937 instead of the control of th my correct date of birth as 07/03/1938 ide affidavit dated 01/01/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that Sh. Mahavir Singh S/o Sh. Diva Singh is the recorded owner of Commercial Shop, Having Land area meas ring 96 sq. yds, i.e., 80.26 sq. mtrs, Khasra no. 80, Situated in Village Barola Pargana & Tehsil Dadri Distt Gautam Budh Nagar U.P as per revenue record ho will execute registered Gift Deed in favour of Sh. Mohit Bhati S/o Sh Mahavir Singh who further intends to mortgage said property for his bonafide equirements with Fedbank Financial Services Ltd. Whosoever is having any bjection to the said mortgage or acquisition or anyone has claim or right of terest in the property shall contact the undersigned with the objection with n 07 days failing which it shall be presumed that there stands no objections NEW DĖLHI PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE DATE: 1/1/2024 Enrl. No. D/721/02

Office: L-27,GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48 Mob.: 9968006418

# **PUBLIC NOTICE** t is for general information that MOHD CHAND ALAM S/O MOHI

NIZAMUDDIN R/O 631 ,BLOCK-1 GALI NO 08, SANGAM VIHAF PUSHPA BHAWAN, SOUTH DELHI Delhi -110062. Declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as MOHD JAMALUD-DIN and ANISHA KHATOON in my 10th Class educational document. The actual name of my father and my mother are MOHD NIZAMUDDIN and RAJIYA KHATOON respectively which may be amended accordingly.

# **NAME CHANGE**

Name - Aman Kumar Parmaner Namie - Amain Numai Palmaniemi Resident of Vill - Nanglabari, Post -lazipur Nera, Tahsil - Karel, Dist -Idainpuri, State - Uttar Pradesh, Pin-05261 Presently Posted at Unit 017 ASC BN (MT), C/o 99 APO Pin 905017 Dist - North 24 Parganas State - West Bengal have changed my wife name from Sangeeta to ngeeta Yadav. Vide Affidavit No. 16, Dated 29th Nov. 2023 before The Notary, Government of India in pres nce of Ld. Advocate G. M. Nabi.

### **NAME CHANGE**

t is for general information I, PUJA PAL D/O SUSANTA KUMAR PAL EX. WIFE OF SUBHASHISH DUTTA R/O MANSAROVER PARK COLONY .AL KUAN, GALI NO. 2 CHHAPRAULA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201009 declare that I got divorce from musband vide court decree HMA No./Case No. 2704/2021 dated 4.11.2023. Further I remarried with H. ANIRBAN PAUL S/O DULAL CHANDRA PAUL on 22.03.2023 vide Marriage Certificate No 90740000007603. Henceforth I have changed the name of my minor daughter HANSUJA DUTTA aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be nown as HANSUJA PAUL.

### **NEWS BOX**

# North Korea's Kim orders military to 'thoroughly annihilate' US, South Korea if provoked

**Seoul** North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ordered his military to "thoroughly annihilate" the United States and South Korea if provoked, state media reported Monday, after he vowed to boost national defence to cope with what he called an unprecedented US-led confrontation. Kim is expected to ramp up weapons tests in 2024 ahead of the US presidential election in November. Many experts say he likely believes his expanded nuclear arsenal would allow him to wrest US concessions if former President Donald Trump is reelected.In a five-day major ruling party meeting last week, Kim said he will launch three more military spy satellites, produce more nuclear materials and develop attack drones this year in what observers say is an attempt to increase his leverage in future diplomacy with the US.In a meeting on Sunday with commanding army officers, Kim said it is urgent to sharpen "the treasured sword" to safeguard national security, an apparent reference to his country's nuclear weapons program. He cited "the US and other hostile forces' military confrontation moves," according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

Kim stressed that "our army should deal a deadly blow to thoroughly annihilate them by mobilising all the toughest means and potentialities without a moment's hesitation" if they opt for military confrontation and provocations against North Korea, KCNA said.

In his New Year's Day address Monday, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said he will strengthen his military's preemptive strike, missile defence and retaliatory capabilities in response to the North Korean nuclear threat."The Republic of Korea is building genuine, lasting peace through strength, not a submissive peace that is dependent on the goodwill of the adversary," Yoon said, using South Korea's official name. At the party meeting, Kim called South Korea "a hemiplegic malformation and colonial subordinate state" whose society is "tainted by Yankee culture." He said his military must use all available means including nuclear weapons to "suppress the whole territory of South Korea" in the event of a conflict.

South Korea's Defense Ministry warned in response that if North Korea attempts to use nuclear weapons, South Korean and US forces will punish it overwhelmingly, resulting in the end of the Kim government.

# Frederik, Denmark's 'woke' and popular future king

Copenhagen. A rebellious teen turned "woke" family man, Denmark's future king Crown Prince Frederik is the embodiment of the country's relaxed, liberal monarchy.

Passionate about the environment, he has discreetly imposed himself in the of his hugely popular mother, Queen Margrethe II, championing Denmark and its drive to find solutions to the climate crisis.

"When the time comes, I will guide the ship," he said in a speech celebrating his chain-smoking mother's half century on the throne in 2022."I will follow you, as you followed your father" in leading the thousand-year-old institution, Prince Frederik added.

But this measured assurance is a far cry from his younger self."He was not strictly speaking a rebel, but as a child and young man, he was very uncomfortable with the media attention and the knowledge that he was going to be king," said Gitte Redder, an expert on the Danish royal family. He only "gained confidence in his mid-20s," she told AFP.

Lonely and tormented

A lonely and tormented teenager, Frederik resented his parents for neglecting him as they fulfilled their royal obligations. He sought solace in fast cars and fast living, and was considered a spoiled party prince in the early 1990s.But that view began to change after he graduated from Aarhus University in 1995, the first Danish royal to complete a university education. His time at college included a stint at Harvard in the United States, where he was enrolled under the pseudonym Frederik

# Netanyahu Says War With Gaza Will Continue For "Many More Months



Jerusalem. The border zone between the Gaza Strip and Egypt should be under Israel's control, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday as he predicted the war in the Palestinian enclave and on other regional fronts would last many more months.

Netanyahu held a news conference as Israel entered the 13th week of its war against Gaza's ruling Hamas Islamists, which has stoked violence in the occupied West Bank and touched off attacks by Iran-backed

groups in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. "The Philadelphi Corridor - or to put it more correctly, the southern stoppage point (of Gaza) - must be in our hands. It must be shut. It is clear that any other arrangement would not ensure the demilitarisation that we seek," he said. Israel has said it intends to destroy Hamas in Gaza and demilitarise and deradicalise the territory in order to prevent any repeat of the Oct. 7 cross-border killing and kidnapping spree by the Palestinians militant group that sparked the war."The war is at its height. We are fighting on all of the fronts. Achieving victory will require time. As the (IDF) chief of staff has said, the war will continue for many more months," Netanyahu said.

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He added a rare threat to attack Iran directly over the neardaily exchanges of fire across the Israel-Lebanon border. "If Hezbollah expands the warfare, it will suffer blows that it has not dreamed of - and so too Iran,' Netanyahu said without elaborating.

# Vladimir Putin praises Russia's 'united society' in New Year address

... The nearly two-year-old war in Ukraine was front and centre in the address, with Putin directly addressing Russia's armed forces involved in what the Kremlin has termed its "special military operation" in Ukraine.

Moscow Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Russia's "united society" in his pre-recorded New Year's address to the nation, the country's state news agencies reported Sunday.Putin addressed Russians in a video that ran under four minutes long, significantly shorter than the New Year's speech he gave last year, according to state news agency RIA Novosti. Millions of people were expected to watch the new address when it airs on TV as each Russian time zone region counts down the final minutes of 2023 on Sunday. The first to see it were residents of the Kamchatka Peninsula and

the Chukotka region in Russia's Far East, some nine hours ahead of Moscow.Returning to tradition after his speech flanked by soldiers last year, Putin delivered his address to the nation against the backdrop of a snowy Kremlin. In remarks carried by RIA Novosti, he described 2023 as a year marked by high levels of unity in Russian society."What united us and unites us is the fate of the Fatherland, a deep understanding of the highest significance of the historical stage through which Russia is passing," the president said. He also lauded Russian citizens' "solidarity, mercy and fortitude."The nearly two-year-old war in Ukraine was front and centre in the address, with Putin directly addressing Russia's armed forces involved in what the Kremlin has termed its "special military operation" in the neighbouring country. We are proud of you, you are heroes, you feel the support of the entire people," the president said. According to state media, he emphasised that Russia would never retreat and asserted there was no force that could divide Russians and stop the country's development.

The address's broadcast comes a day after shelling in the centre of the Russian border city of Belgorod on Saturday killed 24 people, including three children.



Another 108 people were wounded, Belgorod Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Sunday, making the attack one with the most casualties on Russian soil since the start of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine 22 months ago.Like last year, New Year's celebrations were toned down in Moscow, with the traditional fireworks and concert on Red Square cancelled. After the shelling in Belgorod, local authorities in the Pacific port city of Vladivostok and other places across Russia also cancelled their usual New Year's firework displays. Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy secretary of Russia's Security Council and former Russian president, also congratulated Russians on the New Year. In video remarks posted to Telegram, he said that "thoughts and hearts are with those at the front" and that the past year had required "a special stability and unity, and true

patriotism" from Russia.Medvedev also called on Russians to "make 2024 the year of the final defeat of neofascism," repeating Putin's claims of invading Ukraine to fight "neo-Nazis." The Holocaust, World War II and Nazism have been important rhetorical tools for Putin in his bid to legitimise Russia's military actions in Ukraine, but historians see their use as disinformation and a cynical ploy to further his aims. Analysts are

describing 2023 as largely a positive year for Putin."It's been a good year; I would even actually call it a great year" for the Russian leader, said Mathieu Boulegue, a consulting fellow for the Russia-Eurasia program at Chatham House think tank in London.Moscow in May won the fight for the bombed-out Ukrainian city of Bakhmut after the longest and bloodiest battle of the war. In June, Putin defused a revolt against him and reasserted his hold on the Kremlin. A Ukrainian counteroffensive against Russia started with high hopes but ended in disappointment. As he enters 2024, Putin is wagering that the West's support for Ukraine will gradually crumble due to political divisions, war fatigue and other diplomatic demands, such as China's menacing of Taiwan and war in the

# In New Year's address, Xi Jinping says China will 'surely be reunified' with Taiwan

**Beijing** Chinese President Xi Jinping said China would "surely be reunified" with Taiwan during his televised New Year's address, renewing Beijing's threats to take over the self-ruled island, which it considers its own. Taiwan split from China amid civil war in 1949, but Beijing continues to regard the island of 23 million with its hightech economy as Chinese territory and has been ramping up its threat to

achieve that by military force if necessary."China will surely be reunified, and all Chinese on both sides of the Taiwan Strait should be bound by a common sense of purpose," Xi said in his annual address, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. China has described Taiwan's January 13 presidential and parliamentary elections as a choice between war and peace.Beijing



considers the presidential front-runner, William Lai, who currently serves as vice president from the ruling Democratic People's Party, a 'separatist" and has accused him and Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen of trying to provoke a Chinese attack on the island.On Saturday, Chen Binhua, spokesperson for China's Taiwan Affairs Office, called Lai a "destroyer of peace" following a televised debate

earlier that day in which Lai defended Taiwan's right to rule itself as a democracy. Chen said Lai's discourse at the debate was "full of confrontational thinking," adding that the vice president is "the instigator of a potential dangerous war in the Taiwan Strait."Lai had said during the debate that Taiwan is not subordinate to China and that he was open to communications with Beijing "as long as there is

equality and dignity on both sides of the Taiwan Strait." While Lai doesn't describe himself as seeking independence from Beijing, he generally maintains Taiwan is already an independent country.Lai's election rivals include Hou Yu-ih from the more China-friendly Kuomintang party, and Ko Wen-je from the Taiwan People's

# Ukraine stronger, says Zelenskyy as war with Russia moves towards second year Kviv, UPDATED President Volodymyr Zelenskyy

in his New Year address early on Monday said Ukraine had become stronger in overcoming serious difficulties as the war against Russia moves toward its second year.

But Zelenskyy's slick 20-minute video message, delivered from his Kyiv office, made almost no direct reference to the situation on the 1,000-km front line or the limited success of a counteroffensive launched in June.

Nor did he refer to the political and diplomatic difficulties in securing continued military and other aid from both the US Congress and the European Union.Zelenskyy said the war had taught Ukrainians to withstand Russian attacks and adapt to hardships, including blackouts, the operation of industry and threats to shipping its exports."The major result of the year, its main achievement: Ukraine has become stronger. Ukrainians have become stronger," Zelenskyy said in the address, interspersed with footage of



# Denmark's Queen Margrethe II to step down on January 14 after 52 years on throne

**Copenhagen**. Denmark's popular Oueen Margrethe II, Europe's longest-serving monarch, said on Sunday that she would abdicate on January 14 and pass the baton to her son Crown Prince Frederik.Margrethe, 83, has reigned for 52 years and has been Europe's only reigning queen after the death of Britain's Elizabeth II.She has been hailed for subtly modernising Danish royalty in her half-century on the throne. She made the surprise announcement during her traditional Year's Eve speech Newshadow broadcast on Danish television, citing her age and health issues."In two weeks' time I have been Queen of Denmark for 52 years," she said.That length of time would take its time on anyone, she added. "One cannot undertake as much as one managed in the past..."On 14th January, 2024 – 52 years after I succeeded my beloved father — I will step down as Queen of Denmark. I will hand over the throne to my son Crown Prince Frederik."The chain-smoking queen has repeatedly said she would never abdicate, but back surgery she underwent in February

"gave cause to thoughts about the future -- whether now would be an appropriate time to pass on the responsibility to the next generation". The queen, known for her artistic talents, has been hugely popular in Denmark."She has managed to be a queen who has united the Danish nation in a time of large changes: globalisation, the appearance of the multicultural state, economic crises in the 1970s, 1980s and again in 2008 to 2015, and the pandemic," historian Lars Hovebakke Sorensen told AFP."The basis of her popularity is that the queen is absolutely non-political," he said. With sparkling blue eyes and a broad smile, she is known for her relaxed and playful side, as well as for her involvement in Denmark's cultural scene. A painter as well as a costume and set designer, she has worked with the Royal Danish Ballet and Royal Danish Theatre on numerous occasions. She studied at Cambridge and the Sorbonne in Paris, and is fluent in English, French, German and Swedish. She has also translated plays, including Simone de Beauvoir's "All

Men Are Mortal" with her French-born husband under a pseudonym.

But it is primarily her paintings and drawings that have caught the public's eve. She has illustrated several books, including a Danish 2002 edition of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings", and her paintings have been exhibited in museums and galleries in Denmark and abroad.Crown Prince Frederik, 55, is meanwhile, the embodiment of the country's relaxed, liberal monarchy. Passionate about the environment, he has discreetly imposed himself in the shadow of his mother, championing Denmark and its drive to find solutions to the climate crisis."When the time comes, I will guide the ship," he said in a speech celebrating his mother's half century on the throne."I will follow you, as you followed your father" in leading the thousand-year-old institution, Prince Frederik added.He met his wife Mary Donaldson, an Australian lawyer, at a Sydney bar during the 2000 Olympic Games. They have tried to give their four children as normal an upbringing as possible, sending them mainly to

cities under attack and meetings with leaders of Ukraine's Western allies."When, at the beginning of 2023 ... we surmounted, without exaggeration, the most difficult winter in history. When we proved that Ukrainians are tougher than cold and darkness. Stronger than power outages and blackout threats. Ukrainians are stronger than any blockades and vetoes, disbelief or skepticism," he said. Zelenskyy pointed to Ukrainian successes in containing and attacking Russia's navy in the Black Sea, confirmed "by their large landing ships, missile-armed and patrol corvettes on the bottom of the sea."Ukrainians were "stronger than any intrigues," he said, in putting together groups of Western countries for improving Ukrainian air defences and pledging to supply F-16 fighter aircraft."We will definitely see them in our skies," he said of the F-16s, while repeating a promise to boost domestic weapons production and produce at least one million drones in the

# Libya's theatre stages comeback after country's years of turmoil

**TRIPOLI.** Dressed all in white, a man pretends to aim a slingshot towards another who, running away, tries to dodge the imaginary rock flung towards him.

"Hassituha" (You Felt It), a mostly silent play from eastern Libya, symbolises both the country's divisions between west and east and the rebirth of Libya's National Theatre Festival, which staged a comeback this week in Tripoli after a 15year hiatus. When it last took place in 2008, the festival was to be held again in four years. Before that could happen, a NATO-backed uprising led to the overthrow and killing of longtime dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011. With a myriad of militias subsequently vying for power, more than a decade of stopstart conflict followed before a period of relative stability. Taking to stages in the capital Tripoli and Misrata, about 190 kilometres (120 miles) to the east, performers came from 11 cities around Libya -- a country split between a United Nations-supported government in the west and a rival administration backed by military strongman Khalifa Haftar in the east."Hassituha", performed at Tripoli's Scouts Theatre by a group who travelled from Marj in eastern Libya, was well

received by an audience of more than 1,000 people."Some of them burst into tears" over the actors' performances, Muhammad al-Khaitouni, a spectator, said after seeing the play. He said the actors "mostly used gestures and other non-verbal expressions, but they quickly conveyed the meaning to us".

Accompanying his father and two brothers, Khaled al-Muwadhaf, 14, said the actors demonstrated the suffering brought by the chaos, poverty, and political corruption that has gripped the North African nation despite its oil wealth.Ali al-Qadiri, who directd the play, said he believed the show was a success because it touched on the circumstances of ordinary Libyans, including a "lack of opportunities, and the economic stagnation that most cities in Libya suffer from".

'Uniting Libyans'

Anwar Alteer, director of this year's festival, told AFP, "We want to rekindle the flame and celebrate great artistic figures that the public must not be deprived of". More than 60 playwrights and performers took part in the festival, alongside dozens of directors and authors.Like "Hassituha", other



performances touched on the painful aftermath of Kadhafi's fall and the chaos that ensued.Salwa al-Maqsabi, a Libyan actress who came from the eastern city of Benghazi to perform in Tripoli, said arts and theatre were a means of overcoming divisions among Libyans."I am happy to be present in this sweet gathering," she said. "Theatre unites and does not divide, and it will succeed where politicians have failed.""Ajyal" (Generations), a theatrical group from Derna, said they were optimistic about reviving the country's theatre despite the many challenges Libyans face.On September 10-11, a flash flood in Derna swept entire neighbourhoods into the sea, leaving thousands dead or missing and more than

40,000 displaced.On top of the country's other challenges, Derna still faces the task of rebuilding after the disaster. But Milad al-Hasadi, head of Derna's National Theatre, expressed hope for Libya's future."Today we are here burdened, it is true, with wounds, pain and loss, but we are optimistic for our country and its artists who succeeded in revivin the national theatre", said Hasadi."The conflict in Libya has

isolated theatre from artists, and today we need to encourage and support every Libyan theatre because their role is great in rejecting division, uniting Libyans, and sowing smiles and hope in our lives,' Hasadi added. The Tripoli-based government funded the festival's return, and members attended the opening. Abdel Basset Buganda, undersecretary of the Libyan culture ministry, told AFP that Libya's theatre had gained lasting momentum."The Libyan artist has always sought to communicate with the public, but the interruption was caused by the neglect and political strife that harmed the arts, especially theatre," said Buganda.

# Ankolekar gets maiden Mumbai Ranji call-up

Mumbai: Left-arm spinning allrounder Atharva Ankolekar received his maiden Mumbai Ranji call-up as the selectors on Sunday named a 15man squad for the opening match, from January 5 against Bihar at Patna.

The 23-year-old, who played for India in the Under-19 World Cup in South Africa in January 2020 (he took four wickets and scored 61 runs), has played eight List A (8 wickets@31.50, 31 runs@10.33) and 12 T20 matches@35.83). Ankolekar was picked for the Ranji Trophy after he scored 74 and took five for 40 for the Victory Cricket Club against New Hind Sporting Club in the Police Shield final on Sunday.

The Squad: Ajinkya Rahane (Captain), Jay Bista, Bhupen Lalwani, Hardik Tamore (WK), Sarfaraz Khan, Shivam Dube, Suved Parkar, Prasad Pawar (WK), Shams Mulani, Tanush Kotian, Tushar Deshpande, Mohit Avasthi, Dhaval Kulkarni, Royston Dias, Atharva Ankolekar.Stand Byes: Amogh Bhatkal, Akash Anand, Dhrumil Matkar, Sylvester Dsouza.

New Hind clinch title

Meanwhile, New Hind Sporting Club ended the vear triumphantly with a one-run win against Victory Cricket Club in the final of the UPL-76th Police Shield at Mumbai Police Gymkhana ground. In a tense three-day affair, New Hind held their nerve to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Brief scores: New Hind Sporting Club: 1st innings: 180 all out in 58.1 overs & 2nd innings: 339 for 9, 40 overs (Sangram Bhalekar 92, Harshal Jadhav 61, Sisshant Aadhatrao 53; Shashank Attarde 7/96) Victory Cricket Club - 1st Innings: 333 all out, 89.4 overs & 2nd innings: 185 all out, 36.3 overs (Hardik Tamore 46; Parikshit Valsangkar 4/81). Result: New Hind Sporting Club won by one run.

# 41-year-old burnt alive at a crematorium in Odisha; murder or accidental death, probe on



PALANPUR. A 35-vear-old man was arrested for the brutal rape and murder of a four-yearold girl living in his neighbourhood in Dhansura taluka of Aravalli district.The accused was nabbed by villagers and handed over to the police on Saturday night after the incident. According to police, the body of the girl was found in a pool of blood in the house of the accused with her hands and legs tied. Police said that the accused had stuffed the girl's mouth with a cloth before raping and strangling her. He had hidden the body under the bed of his house. Police said that the man lured the girl under some pretext into his house on Saturday evening, raped her, and strangled her, said Dhansura police station sub-inspector S J Desai. The incident came to light on Saturday evening when the girl's parents complained that their daughter was missing. The villagers immediately launched a search for the girl. When they searched the house of the accused they found the body of the girl wrapped in a blanket under a bed. Her hands and legs were tied and her mouth was stuffed with cloth. Within a few hours, the villagers caught the accused who was on the run and handed him over to the police after they found the body, Desai added."The man has been detained and is being questioned," he said. An FIR was registered against the man on a complaint lodged by the uncle of the deceased girl. The investigation into the case was handed over to the Aravalli crime branch.

# GHMC's SRDP & SNDP, for long-term solutions

HYDERABAD. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is looking forward to continue implementing its Strategic Road Development Plan (SRDP) projects, including completing major projects like the Shilpa Layout Stage-II Bairamalguda second level flyover, Bairamalguda LHS loop clover 2 model, Bairamalguda RHS loop clover 2, ROB at Falaknuma, Nalgonda X Roads to Owaisi Junction flyover, ROB at Shastripuram, Aramghar to Zoo flyover and the Uppal Junction flyover. In flood prevention efforts, the GHMC aims to complete the 56 works at hand, costing an estimated Rs 985.45 crore, in

HMWS&SB: Quenching thirst

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) is on track to complete work on the Sunkishala intake well project, a vital component of the Krishna drinking water supply project. This project, to cost Rs 2,215 crore, aims to meet Hyderabad's long-term drinking water requirements until 2050.

The Water Board is also set to complete the Outer Ring Road Phase-II water project to bring relief to areas outside GHMC's jurisdiction. The Rs 1,200 crore project includes a 2,865-km pipeline network and storage reservoirs with a capacity of 137 million litres per day.

# Corporation's sweeping machine rusting for 10 yrs; civic body unlikely to repair it

Because of its disuse, the machine is in a rusted condition and has been lying idle in the corporation's garage for the past 10 years.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. While most cities in the country have resorted to the usage of sweeping machines to clean roads and footpaths, the Thiruvananthapuram corporation has abandoned it citing "less dust" on roads. As the first corporation in the state to have used the sweeper machine years ago, the city corporation had bought the truck-mounted sweeper machine for `73.5 lakh from a Coimbatore-based company. However, because of its disuse, the machine is in a rusted condition and has been lying idle in the corporation's garage for the past

Meanwhile, the Kochi corporation had launched a pair of truck-mounted sweeping machines earlier this month. These were procured using Rs 10.98 crore from the Cochin Smart Mission Limited (CSML) funds. The machines that can clean up to 8km in an hour were launched by LSG Minister M B Rajesh at Ponnurunni. Similarly, the Thrissur corporation has been using sweeper machines since 2020. Besides, many other cities, including Coimbatore, Chennai, Madurai, and north Indian cities like Indore and Lucknow, have also been using it for years. The city corporation bought the machine in 2010 from Roots Multiclean Company Ltd in Coimbatore, as part of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. It was initially deployed on 42 km of the newly laid roads in the city. Since the corporation lacked technical expertise, the company itself was entrusted with its operation and maintenance for three years, for which an additional '99.69 lakh was paid to them. Though the company had applied for a renewal of the

operation and maintenance contract in 2013, the corporation had declined. Since 2013, the machine has been lying idle in the garage of the corporation.

An inspection in 2021 revealed that its key parts had rusted and that repairing them was not economical as its parts would have to be imported from abroad. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report on Waste Management in Urban Local Bodies tabled in the assembly in September this year observed that it is the lethargy on the



corporation's part that led to the machine rusting in the corporation garage since 2013. Opposition leader and BJP councillor M R Gopan said the party would table the issue at the council meeting as the sweeper machines are largely beneficial to the public.

The sweeper machines are beneficial to the public as it can substitute manual labour and save time. So we strongly suggest reusing the machines on our city roads, and it will be discussed in the upcoming council meeting, he said. Corporation secretary Binu Francis told TNIE that the civic body had tried to

repair the machine by informing the company concerned. "We had tried fixing the machine multiple times. But the company informed us that the machine cannot be repaired. They had also suggested buying back the machine. But that would cause us a huge loss. However, we don't need sweeper machines, as the deposition of dust in the

city is low and can be managed by manual labourers. There is no immediate requirement for sweeper machines. Moreover, many of the roads in the city are being maintained by the Kerala Road Fund Board and not the city corporation," he said. The main advantage of sweeper machines is that they can provide a deeper and more thorough cleaning than manual methods. Their mobility can allow the cleaning of large areas in a fraction of the time it would usually take.

# Backed for a top-order job, Richa produces a special fighting knock

Mumbai. Even though India lost the second ODI by three runs on Saturday at the Wankhede Stadium to lose yet another home ODI series to Australia, they would be happy with the way young wicketkeeper-bat Richa Ghosh batted in the top order, scoring a fighting, career-best 96 off 117 balls, in a knock which included 13 fours, despite battling severe cramps.In a much-talked about move, India promoted the talented batter, who has been used mostly as a finisher in the past, to the pivotal No 3 spot. Ghosh responded by producing a scintillating knock to almost That's why she was dropped down. take India to he 269-run target. Talking to the reporters post the second ODI, India's head coach Amol Muzumdar made it clear that the team management was looking to groom Richa at one down.

We believe Richa can be a good top-order player. We believe in her talent and you've seen the kind of shots she can play. If she can use the first 10 overs and then play to the situation, I think that's the best spot for her," he said. In the past, several talented Indian batters — Rohit Sharma's elevation to the opening slot in early 2013 comes to the mind — have seen their careers turn after they were moved from No 5 or No 6 to the top three "So, the batting order has been Richa at number three, our number four is Harman (Harmanpreet Kaur) and number five is Jemi (Jemimah Rodrigues). In a match in which both the teams dropped Unfortunately, Harman wasn't feeling too

Otherwise, there is no up and down. Sometimes, in a game as tough as this, you need to address those situations therein. But Richa has been at number three," added Muzumdar.Showering praises on the 20-year-old from Bengal, who scored a half-century on Test debut against Australia in the one-off Test at the

Wankhede a few days back, Muzumdar said, "Richa (played a) fantastic knock. Under pressure, at number three — a new position for her — and she's just proven why she is spoken about highly. Her talent speaks for herself. I think probably a hundred would have been an appropriate one for her. But unfortunately she got out. I think it was a special knock," said Muzumdar.

as many as 11 catches, India paid for their horrendous fielding, which saw them grass seven opportunities, slightly more than Australia's four.Muzumdar confessed that his team was poor in the field, and called the side 'a work in progress.' "There's no doubt that our fielding was below par today. We dropped about six catches. We are still a work in progress. If we get some time post this series, we will spend some time on fielding and fitness," he said.

# Mining lease: Centre moots cap on performance security to encourage bidding

**BHUBANESWAR.** After inviting bids for grant of mining lease (ML) and composite lease (CL) for 20 critical and strategic mineral blocks across states including four from Odisha through an auction process, the Ministry of Mines has proposed to put a cap on the performance security and upfront amount to encourage more participation in the bidding process.At present, the performance security and upfront amount is required to be paid by successful bidders for commercial exploitation minerals is 0.5 per cent of the value of the estimated resources which is very high and has been acting as a barrier for the participation of more bidders in the auction process. "Such huge requirement for performance security and upfront amount would reduce participation of the bidders in the auction process," said the Ministry justifying the need for amendment of the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015.

Under the auction rules, the net worth requirement is capped at Rs 200 crore for the auction of a mining lease and the bid security amount is capped at Rs 50 crore for the auction of a mining and composite licence. However, presently there is no cap for the performance security and upfront amount.

been sulking from the recent The Centre has proposed to cap the performance security and upfront amount at Rs 500 crore each for a mining lease and Rs 250 crore for performance security under a composite licence. A mining lease is given for areas which have proven reserves of minerals while the composite lease is for areas where preliminary exploration has been done but further exploration is required by mining companies to establish more resources. Performance security amount is to be maintained by successful bidders till the expiry of the mining lease period and revised every five years based on the reassessed value of the resources. The upfront amount is adjusted in full against the auction of premium payable by the successful bidder on commencement of production.

Circulating the draft Mineral (Auction) third Amendment Rules, 2023, on December 26, the ministry has sought views and suggestions from the state governments and mining industry stakeholders about the proposed amendments by January 10, 2024. The ministry has invited tenders for action of Dudhiasol East nickel and copper block in Mayurbhani district, Babja graphite and manganese block and Biarpalli graphite and manganese block in Balangir and Akharkata graphite block in Angul district in November.Impetus to bidders Centre has proposed to cap performance security and upfront amount at Rs 500 crore for a mining lease

It is Rs 250 crore for performance security under a composite licence.

# City turns out at its festive best for the New Year

# Fort Kochi, which is central to the festivities and the venue of the Cochin Carnival, was elaborately decked up for the occasion.

KOCHI. Revellers from all over the state and outside converged on Fort Kochi to ring in 2024. The famous Cochin Carnival, which is in its 38th year, ended with the burning of Pappanji, at the stroke of midnight.

Like in previous years, the New Year celebrations in Fort Kochi attracted people from far and wide as authorities introduced restrictions to manage the entry of crowds at Parade Ground and to West Kochi on Sunday.

Hundreds of visitors, especially from the northern districts of the state, including Kasaragod, Kozhikode and Malappuram, arrived a day in advance to take part in the various New Year celebrations in the city.Fort Kochi, which is central to the festivities and the venue of the Cochin Carnival, was elaborately decked up for the occasion.

"Kochi is famous for its New Year celebration. Several youngsters from across the state are here to celebrate New



Year's Eve. I came to witness the burning of Pappanji. I am here with many of my friends. This is going to be an experience and a long-lasting memory. I just could not give up on the opportunity," said Mohammad Mansoor, from Malappuram, who arrived in Kochi on Sunday along with his friends. The festive vibe was evident on the streets of Fort Kochi, which was keen to attract tourists by being a generous host and throwing a memorable party. And this also raised

decline in visitor numbers. They did brisk business catering to the needs of visitors. Even locals could be seen happily helping out visitors by providing them with necessary directions to the main venue at Veli. Taking into consideration last year's stampede-like situation, which was caused by to the uncontrolled surge in crowds, numbering around 2.5 lakh, at Veli ground, the district administration introduced stringent measures. Law

the spirits of vendors, who had

enforcement was on its toes, with police strictly enforcing traffic control and crowd management. The administration decided to limit the entry to Parade Ground to 40,000 reveller. Buses were allowed till Cochin College ground, where a temporary bus stop was set up. It was also decided to halt jhankar and other boat services from Vypeen to Fort Kochi by 7pm. No boat services from the mainland were also operated after that

# Rowdy out of jail after 2 yrs kills trader in Chennai

**→**On Friday night after closing his shop, Vinoth Kumar came to a bakery on a bike. Four men who were following Vinoth Kumar waylaid him,

hacked him to

death and fled.

CHENNAI. A 44-year-old medical shop owner who tipped off the police two years ago about a history-sheeter demanding 'weekly bribe' was hacked to death by a gang in Chengalpattu on Friday night. Members of traders' association blocked traffic on Saturday demanding action against the

According to police, Vinoth Kumar (44) from Thoothukudi lived in Vandalur and had a medical shop on the Vandalur - Otteri main road. He was staying in Mannivakkam with his wife and two children. On Friday night after closing his shop, Vinoth Kumar came to a bakery on a bike. Four men who were following Vinoth Kumar waylaid him, hacked him to death and fled.

After investigation, police said a history sheeter named Silambarasan used to harass and assault Vinoth Kumar seeking 'weekly bribe' two years ago. Kumar recorded the incident on his mobile phone and complained to police. Silambarasan,



who had several cases against him and been detained under Goondas Act in Cuddalore prison, was arrested and remanded in judicial custody. Two weeks ago, he was released from prison.

Men connected to Silambarasan had constantly pestered Vinoth Kumar to

drop the case over the past two weeks. Since Vinoth Kumar did not budge, the gang planned to kill him. Members of traders' association blocked traffic along Chennai -Tiruchy National Highway on Saturday seeking action against the

"Vinoth Kumar had informed police about the threats, but the officials neglected the issue. We demand immediate action against those personnel and the culprits," one of the protesters said. Police said that special teams have been formed to nab the accused.

# Remembering the King of Melody

Mohammed Rafi, who would have turned 99 today, has been rightly given the title of King of Melody. Rafi possessed a unique voice quality, distinct style and abundant humility. He was a man of few words and quite shy too. Having an insatiable curiosity to learn and improve, he sang nearly 25,000 songs, out of which a huge number remain evergreen and immortal.

Rafi aka 'Pheeku' was born on December 24, 1924, at Kotla Sultan Singh village near Amritsar. He had a passion for singing since childhood, but his father Haji Ali Mohammed was strictly against it. Rafi could not oppose his father but continued to indulge in his passion.

Rafi made his singing debut with the song 'Sohniye nee, Heeriye nee' for Punjabi film 'Gul Baloch' (1944) and never looked back. The singer recorded many superhits with well-known music directors like Shankar-Jaikishan, Naushad, Laxmikant-Pyarelal, Kalyanji-Anandji and Madan Mohan. Some unforgettable ones include 'Aaja Tujh Ko Pukare Mera Pyaar' ('Neel Kamal'), 'Yeh Duniya, Yeh Mehfil' ('Heer Ranjha'), 'Baharo Phool Barsao' ('Suraj'), 'Madhuban Mein Radhika Nache Re' ('Kohinoor'), 'O Duniya Ke Rakhwale' ('Baiju Bawra') and 'Chahe Mujhe Koi Junglee Kahe' (Junglee').

Rafi also acted in some films like 'Laila Majnu' (1945), 'Jugnu' (1947), and 'Samaaj Ko Badal Dalo' (1947). These movies did good business at the box office but his heart remained in singing.

Rafi lent his voice to all the top stars of the day. He won the Filmfare Award for best singer six times



and was awarded the Padma Shri in 1967. His immortal voice was voted as the Greatest Voice of Hindi Cinema in a 2013 poll, 33 years after his death. According to Yasmin K Rafi, daughter-inlaw of the versatile singer and author of 'Mohammed Rafi: My Abba — A Memoir', "Rafi saheb had a thoroughly innovative mind and was well dedicated to his profession. Though he attained the pinnacle of perfection, he never forgot that he was a humble child of povertystricken parents who lived in a less privileged and mud-walled house at Kotla Sultan Singh, a littleknown village in Punjab. He was grateful to Almighty God that Pheeku, a poor boy, had become the most sought-after bard of Bollywood.'

Mohammad Rafi recorded his last couple of songs for 'Aas Paas' (1981) — 'Tu Kahin Aas Paas Hai Dost' and 'Shehar Mein Charcha Hai' — a few days before his death on July 31, 1980. His melodious voice will remain immortalised in the memory of all music lovers. In the run-up to the centenary celebrations, diehard fans are planning a series of events, including music shows, one of them being 'Sau Saal Pehle' by his grandson Fuzail Rafi. Also in the works is the construction of a 'Rafi Minar' at his birthplace.

# **Yearning for peace**

# When will we learn that there are no victors in war. Ultimately, we are all losers. I pray that peace returns to the embattled war zone

This is that special year that will end on a Sunday so that the new year will literally start on a fresh slate. Be that as it may, as I sit down to write my last column for 2023, my mind goes over some landmark events that have changed our world forever. Equally, it is a time to remember those dear souls who we will miss as we step into 2024 and those wars and strife that have scarred this year but will hopefully find resolution in the coming one.

All around me are the familiar scenes of X-mas celebrations: brightly lit streets, shopping arcades and shops. Fake fir trees garlanded with fairy lights and cheery Christmas decorations with a star or angel on its crown. Yet, is it not ironic that Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Palestine in general, where Christianity was literally born, are today drowning in darkness and death? A few years ago, on a visit to Israel, we attended the Midnight Mass in Bethlehem's Church of Nativity. In this bitterly divided territory, Bethlehem is still zealously controlled by Palestine. However, since Christmas is a season for peace and goodwill, it allows access to Jews and pilgrims from countries across the world to its part of the Holy Land. Long lines of believers wait patiently to enter the birthplace of Christ the Redeemer. Even non-believers are moved by the carols that sing: 'Away in a manger, no crib for a babe/The little child Jesus lay down his sweet head' and that famous hymn, 'Silent night, holy night', acquires a different timbre when it is sung at that time of the year. The term 'heavenly peace' acquires a significant dimension if you hear it in Bethlehem, believe me.

However, what we have seen in this land lately are flying missiles, drones bombing homes and settlements. Even hospitals have not been spared, nor children, women and the innocent citizens who are not Hamas. As I see news clips beamed from there, my eyes well up when I see terrified children, many who have lost their parents, grandparents and siblings in one day, running away from the rubble that was once a home. I cannot understand how those who carry out instructions to kill can bring From there, let me turn to an incident that gave me such joy themselves to destroy hospitals and kill children. If this is not the opposite of the spirit of peace and goodwill among men, what do you call it? Words fail me for even terms like dystopia cannot convey the horror of such bestial behaviour.Israel has weaponised its memories of the Holocaust so deeply that it has now raised an army of heartless avengers who have no compassion for those who had no role to play in the Nazi pogrom that exterminated their brethren decades ago. How long will they carry this legacy of revenge? Despite the severe criticism of their determination to reduce Palestine to dust, which has now shaped into unacceptable war crimes, Israel has not let up its hunting of Hamas. Not even after appeals from the WHO and the UN. When will we learn that there are no victors in war; ultimately, we are



all losers. I pray that peace returns to this embattled war zone and that the true spirit of Christmas inspires them to restore peace and goodwill among men.

that I must share it with my readers. Every month or so, I do a story-telling session in our club for little children between the ages of four and 10. For an hour, I am alone with them and instead of reading 'good' stories from the classics, such as the Panchtantra, I make up characters and adventures that ignite their imagination. So the children become storytellers (you will be surprised when you hear how hilarious their suggestions are). Logic and reality are happily dispensed with as they join me in adventures that take them to forests where trees speak, owls and monkeys share their knowledge and where doing all the things forbidden to them by parents and teachers are allowed. I have always known that children love other naughty children for in making up stories about them, they are able to sublimate their hidden wishes. So, when they hear of a

naughty chap called Agdum Bugdum, they giggle when they learn he wears his chaddis over his pants, eats from a chair while seated on a table and walks backwards when going to school.

By the end of the session, they were making up scenarios where Chunnu-Munnu smuggle a monkey into their home and teach their pet to steal mangoes from the garden of the crusty uncle next door. Or how the owl they meet one night in the forest outside their house has a friendly ghost who waits to serve them all kinds of goodies when they visit him. I have to confess that by the end of the session, the kids had taken over the storytelling and I was rocking with laughter at the improbable tales they thought up.

In our 'normal' world, there is a shrinking space for innocent fun. Parents are more concerned about their children learning how to sing, dance, play games and what have you. Remember what children love above all else is having fun with other children and being naughty. Keep moral lessons for later.

# Qatar reprieve

Alleged mercenary role of ex-officers worrisome





judicial system. India is hopeful that the convicts would be allowed to serve their remaining sentence back home under a

2014 agreement between the two nations. In the best-case scenario, they can be pardoned by the Emir. Going by India's

handling of the issue, it seems unlikely that the charges against them are all trumped

Amid the widespread relief and backslapping over the commutation of sentence, there is no denying that the case has caused embarrassment to the Indian government. It has been a tough tightrope walk for New Delhi as it enjoys friendly ties with Doha as well as Tel Aviv. The alleged use of India's retired defence personnel as mercenaries by another nation is a matter of grave concern. Such James Bond-style adventurism can adversely impact bilateral relations, besides having wider geopolitical ramifications. Considering the ongoing conflict in West Asia, where Qatar is acting as a mediator between Israel and Hamas, India needs to be wary of nefarious moves that can damage its reputation in the global

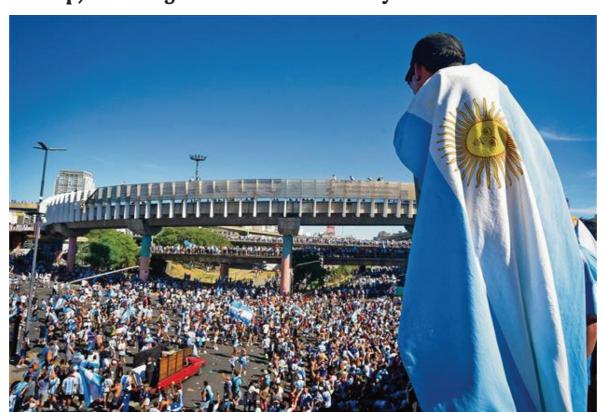
# Why nations search for sporting glory

# When a nation wins a world cup, enduring notions of masculinity & nationhood surface. Everyone is forgiven

Just a month back, clouds of gloom had descended on the country after India lost to Australia in the cricket world cup final in Ahmedabad. It was an unpredictable gloom that displaced a well-planned national euphoria for which everything was going according to plan till that day. It was not a coincidence that the burst of national euphoria was planned to come out of Gujarat, from where only such glorious stories of wealth, sparkling diamonds, world's biggest stadium, world's biggest office building, world's richest men, etc, are meant to emerge. Why would an entire country go into mourning? Isn't a sporting victory or defeat meant to be left behind in the stadium where fairy lights glimmer? Unfortunately not, because sport for various reasons has been linked irreversibly to national pride and the very notion of national glory itself. Usually, only economically advanced countries often have the privilege of celebrating sporting victories, which in turn are projected as national achievement, glory, etc. When a well-known singer gets an award, or a writer gets a big award, it is not celebrated as a national victory but an individual achievement. Only in big sporting events do the winners cover themselves in national flags and do a lap of glory. Just as the Indian team would have done had they not been vanquished.

It took a month for the captain, Rohit Sharma, to even summon the courage to talk about the defeat. "I had no idea how to come back from this. The first few days, I didn't know what to do. After the final, it was very hard to get back and start moving on, which is why I decided that I needed to get my mind out of this. But then, wherever I was, I realised that people were coming up to me and they were appreciating everyone's effort, and how well we played. I feel for all of them." That was an endearing comment. A defeat stays longer in a sportsman's mind than the champagne pop of victory. A sportsman's life is counted in victories, just as ours is

counted in monthly salaries. Nations have always used sport to pep up national mood, to



advertise achievement and rulers of all states appear on stage to appropriate all the glory grinning from ear to ear as if they themselves scored all the goals. A country winning the world cup, in say football, the most popular sport, can forget all its woes for months on end. A mindboggling 50 lakh people turned out at the Buenos Aires city square to receive the world cup winning Argentina

team last year. In the musical Evita, when Evita Peron sang 'Don't cry for me, Argentina', she was asking the country to look ahead. Through all its struggles and wars and many close defeats, the victory and the cup had finally come home to Buenos Aires. It was a great sporting moment when a football victory wiped out all sorrows. But yet, today, Argentina is in an economic

shambles. Just recently, a new government of Javier Milei took over and adopted drastic measures, including devaluing the pesos by 50 per cent, reducing the Argentine pesos to a piece of paper at 800 per US dollar. Eighteen government departments have been cut to nine. All subsidies have been scrapped. So, unfortunately, sporting glory does not translate into anything real. It is an emotion that vaporises. Messi's curling, left-legged free kicks are just that: unreal.

Now countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar are trying to achieve national pride and international acceptance by buying out world-class players to play in their leagues. The Qatar World Cup was seen by some as "a task of the Islamic world".

From here to hosting the Olympics is but a short step. For the Gulf states, it is time to assert their emerging superiority in material wealth, and to stand shoulder to shoulder with Christianity in religious fervour.So when a nation wins a world cup, enduring notions of masculinity and nationhood surface and the celebrations mirror like what was witnessed in Buenos Aires. In such moments, the actual economic stature of the country is forgotten and everyone, including the rulers, is forgiven, for, after all, a global victory has come their way. The same thing happened after the 1936 Olympics hosted by Nazi Germany when nationhood and political philosophy came to be attached to sport in a big way. Hitler was opposed to the idea of hosting the Olympics, saying that it was an invention of "Jews and freemasons". But Josef Goebbels convinced Hitler about the possibility of presenting Germany as a civilised and modern state. Hitler was convinced. While standing at the site of the Olympic stadium, Hitler ordered, on the request of the architect, that the adjoining horse racing track should be removed for the expansion of the stadium. He also ordered a sports complex for a unified 'Reich sports field'. "It will be the task of the nation," he announced. Sounds familiar.



### Use natural products

Rubbing a little coconut or olive oil works the best for your eyebrows. Says beautician and makeup artist Puja Taluja, "Every night before you go to bed, take it a little oil on your palms and rub them hard so that the oil warms a bit. Apply this evenly on your brows and massage it for a while. Keep this on for the whole night." Oil will make your brows healthier and in a few days, you will notice that they have become fuller.

### Find the right shade of colour

When you fill your eyebrows with a shadow or a pencil, always choose a colour that is closest to your natural brow colour. For example, if your brows are dark brown, choose a shade of coffee to fill in. But if you cannot find the exact colour, always go for a shade lighter. This will make your brows look as natural as possible.

### Fill them with a pencil colour

If you have extremely thin brows, it is always best to fill

Eyebrows with these tips do this, use an angled brush (if you are using a shadow) or a pencil colour and apply it on your brows, without straying too far from your natural hair line. If you have a bigger spot to be filled, it is best to use an eyebrow pencil. Apply thin and light strokes in the

### Do not use tweezers too often

it in with a brow shadow for a soft and natural look. To Tweezing your eyebrows more often will make them

direction that your hair grows.

thin. If you have unwanted hair growth and wish to get rid of that, it is always best to go in for a threading than tweezing and taking out that hair. Says beautician Tasneem Subzwari, "Your eyebrows normally takes about six to eight weeks to grow fully. Thus wait for it to grow completely, rather than forcefully taking it out because that will damage your hair growth and in turn make it thinner."

# Hair gel can work wonders too

At times applying hair gel on your brows will make your brows thicker as well as make them look well-groomed as

that you are not only losing out hair on your scalp but on your eyebrows as well! Since eyebrows shape your face, it is important for them to be healthy and strong. Here are a few things that you must keep in mind.

There must have been

days when you've realised

well. But do not apply this on an every day basis. Adds Taluja, "If you apply a hair gel on daily it will make your brows sticky and thereby making the roots weak. Stick to applying this at least once in a fortnight.'

# Box - Shape them perfectly

- Use a concealer that is as close to your natural skin colour and apply this on the inner area of your brows.
- Pick an eyebrow pencil and fill in your brows perfectly. - Take an angular brush and comb your brows properly.

Young women are COOUITING
THEIR HAIR GREY!

Vintage style granny chic fashion like thick-rimmed glasses, floral tea dresses, frumpy cardigans and kitten heels have featured heavily on the catwalks for many seasons. Taking a cue from this popular sartorial style, we now have celebrities who have extended this trend to beauty as well.

Popstars Rihanna and Lady Gaga, singer Kelly Osbourne, reality TV star Kylie Jenner are among the many young women, who have been talking about a few odd pesky strands; they're going the whole hog and dyeing their hair in this stale shade of silver! Closer home, designer Nandita Mahtani has been known to proudly sport grey streaks. Why is this dull hue becoming such a rage

### Grey is the new black

amongst young women?

Stylist Uday Shirali believes granny chic beauty is a reflection of the carefree attitude that young women have today. "The confidence of sporting grey hair makes one look sexy. Feminine dye colours like pink, purple, blonde, magenta, cherry are done to death; grey is a welcome change. Also, there is the constant pressure to look different.

So women who like experimenting and have access to high-end beauty products and salon services are not afraid to move away from spotted with grey hair. And we're not conventional trends and try something path-breaking." why it will suit Indian women "The

ver streaks would look more enhanced and beautiful on black hair that most Indian girls have. This is a great look to pull off, if you are in your twenties and thirties," says Shraddha Naik, hairstylist. The key to sporting the trend right

-If you're going grey on your hair, you have to complement it with the right make-up. Wear your lips in bright shades of hot pink and fiery red. Match the grey tones in your hair by going for smokey eyes.

touch to your grey locks, add a purple or red tinge to the tips of your hair. -Flowing waves or a bob work best for grey hair.

-Says Dr Amrapali Patil, "Since dyeing is a chemical process, your hair will require regular maintenance,

like conditioning treatments and frequent touch-ups. Also, hair colour fades over time and looks dull, so avoid washing your hair frequently. Be careful in chlorine-treated swimming pools, as chlorine can cause the hair colour to change."



# How this gang in Delhi left its stamp behind: Designed, printed & sold fake papers

'mini-Telgi scam'. Delhi Police is learnt to have busted a massive racket involving designing, printing and supplying of fake stamp papers in a clandestine operation, which lasted six months and led to the arrest of 13 people in raids across six states. Fake stamps worth crores of rupees were recovered, sources said.

The cops not only caught the sellers who dealt with customers, but also the masterminds and dismantled their facility. They recovered metal plates, high-end computers, machines, software and printers, s o u r c e s added.mini telgi scam delhiA probe was initiated after a lawyer filed an FIR in May this year alleging that he had been duped. The government printing facility in Nashik confirmed that the stamps sold to him were Thereafter, both these suspects were not genuine."During the course of the investigation, an accused named Pradeep Kumar, who sold the counterfeit share transfer stamps to the complainant, was arrested on May 23 and 2,700 counterfeit share transfer stamps were recovered from his possession," said an official.

disclosed that these stamps were sold to him by a man named Akbar and his brother, Asgar. Thereafter, cops conducted raids and arrested the siblings. More counterfeit share transfer stamps were recovered from

Thereafter, some other accused were arrested in the case who used to sell these forged stamps to people. The cops remained tight-lipped on the names.During detailed interrogation of some of the accused, it emerged that two men named Rakesh Kumar Jaiswal and Ranjeet Kumar were the masterminds who would supply these stamps to many of the arrested accused.

arrested in the case and, at their instance, the machine used to print the counterfeit share transfer stamps, along with metal plates and other equipment, was recovered from their facility.During interrogation, it was revealed that the accused would print the forged share

transfer stamps, postal stamps and stamp papers at their facility and give them to their "distributors", who would then sell it to end users across cities. The total value of counterfeit share transfer stamps, stamp papers and postal stamps initially stood at over Rs 2.24 crore. Overall, 13 people were

arrested in the case, and a chargesheet detailing their modus operandi was filed against them in a Delhi court, said an official. The accused, cops found, were fond of a lavish life and took to crime to make quick money. They often visited night clubs and splurged on booze and luxuries

reminiscent of their supposed ideologue, who had spent Rs 93 lakh in a dance bar in one night.In Delhi, it's not very often that the city police bust fake stamp paper printing racket and dismantle a printing facility of this scale. In 2003, Delhi Police had recovered fake stamp papers worth Rs 1.5 crore and arrested a couple in north

The fake stamp papers were being prepared at an east Delhi facility. In 2012, a former Delhi police inspector was convicted in a case related to the Telgi scam. Seven years ago, the police had arrested a man for selling fake stamp papers worth Rs 1.5 lakh to a businessman at Patiala House courts. The accused, identified as Farhan (24),

had assisted his father, who was an unauthorised stamp paper vendor, at the courts. The accused would print digital stamp papers worth Rs 10 and then scratch off the part where Rs 10 was written. He would then use the same font to write Rs 500 on the scratched part, and sell the stamp paper at a profit, officials had said.

2023 Year Of Highest

Student Suicides In

Kota, Many Steps To

# 4,000 People, 108 Locations: **Gujarat Sets World Record** For Surya Namaskar

New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday praised Gujarat after the state made it to the Guinness Book of World Records for most people performing Surya Namaskar simultaneously.PM Modi took to X and said that Gujarat welcomed 2024 with a remarkable feat."Gujarat welcomed 2024 with a remarkable feat - setting a Guinness World Record for the most people performing Surya Namaskar simultaneously at 108 venues! As we all know, the number 108 holds a special significance in our culture. The venues also include the iconic Modhera Sun Temple, where several people joined. This is indeed a true testament to our commitment to Yoga and our cultural heritage," PM Modi said.

"I also urge you all to make Surya Namaskar a part of your daily routine. The benefits are immense," he added. On the morning of January 1, 2024, over 4,000 participants across 108 locations and 51 different categories performed the iconic sun salutation yoga sequence, solidifying the state's commitment to wellness and cultural heritage. The record-breaking event, held at the majestic Modhera Sun Temple, witnessed enthusiastic participation from diverse groups, including families, students, yoga enthusiasts, and even senior citizens.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi attended the celebrations from Modhera. Swapnil Dangarikar, Adjudicator at Guinness World Records said, "I was here to verify the record for the most people doing Surya Namaskar. This is a new title because no one had attempted to break this record before. After going through all the evidence and seeing them perform here in Modhera...They have successfully set a new Guinness World Record title for most people doing Surya Namaskar. "Gujarat Home Minister Sanghavi, brimming with pride, stated, "Today Gujarat has registered the first world record of the country and the world, where thousands of people have done yoga together at 108 places and in 51 variety of places."

# **Truckers Protest New** Law That Increases Jail **Term For Road Accidents**

New Delhi. A change in the colonial-era criminal laws increasing jail term in hit-and-run cases has triggered truckers' protests across the country. Under the new law, drivers can be jailed for up to 10 years for fleeing and not reporting a fatal accident. Earlier, the accused could be jailed only for up to two years under Section 304A of the IPC (causing death by negligence). Private bus operators have gone on strike today in Haryana's Jind while those running autos too have opened a new front against the new law. The truckers allege the new law will discourage drivers from their duty and also prevent new ones to take up the job. The transporters



say no one causes accidents intentionally and the drivers fear of being thrashed by a mob if they try to take the injured to hospital, demanding that the "black law" be repealed.

They also expressed fear that if an accident happens due to the fog, the driver will be punished for 10 years without any fault of his. Similar demonstrations erupted in Lucknow where bus drivers too joined the truckers in their protest against the new law. Truck and tanker drivers staged protests in parts of Madhya Pradesh too. Yesterday, some truckers had blocked NH-2 in West Bengal's Hooghly district to protest the new law. Drivers fear being roughed up by locals after accidents and therefore, they try to flee such situations without reporting them to the authorities. Lengthy procedures involving the police are another reason that discourage them to take the legal route.

# 3 Indian Airlines' Safety Check On Boeing 737 Max After Loose Bolt Alert

New Delhi. The Indian Air Force (IAF) is considering extending the operational life of its Su-30 MKI fighter jets, which have been in service for over two decades."We are now exploring the possibility of extending the aircraft's lifespan by an additional 20 years or more through extensive trials and testing. Russian aircraft are robust in terms of airframe and other components, allowing their operational life to be extended,"

defence officials told India Today TV. With over 260 of these planes in its fleet, the IAF aims to ensure their availability for operations until 2045



the capabilities of the Su-30 MKI jet fleet through an ambitious project in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).As part of the upgrade, the aircraft will be

weapons, and radars developed domestically. The indigenously developed Virupaaksha radar, designed to meet the specific requirements of the IAF in various sectors, is expected to be the most advanced among all Sukhoi-30 variants globally, according to government sources.The

IAF has been actively pursuing a mission to indigenise its equipment inventory and is poised to procure equipment from Indian firms valued at over Rs 3 lakh crore soon,

# **Prevent Them** New Delhi. For Ramesh Kumar (name changed)

from Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, 2023 was the worst year of his life. His family is still coming to terms with the loss of their elder son, who killed himself in a hostel room in Rajasthan's Kota where he had been preparing for the medical entrance exam for the past two years. His son is among 26 coaching students who died by suicide this year in Kota, the highest-ever figure. Last year, the toll was 15. The spate of student suicides also prompted the stakeholders to come up with desperate measures such as installing anti-hanging devices in hostel room fans and iron mesh in balconies and lobbies.

Mourning the loss of his son, Kumar has decided to bring back his younger son, who had moved to Kota earlier this year and was preparing for the engineering entrance exam JEE. "They were living in separate hostels as they were enrolled in different coaching institutes. Our plan was that in 2024, my wife would move to Kota and rent a house so the three of them could live together and the children could prepare for the entrance exams in the comfort of home. I had never imagined that my son would not be there by then...," he told PTI."I wanted both my children to study at the best colleges and become doctors and engineers but not at the cost of their lives ... We decided to call our younger son back to Bulandshahr and continue with his schooling here. We are not willing to take any further risk," he added.

More than two lakh students move to Kota annually to prepare for competitive exams such as the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) for engineering and the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) for admission to medical colleges. Packed schedules, cut-throat competition, constant pressure to do better, the burden of parents' expectations and homesickness are among the common struggles the students contend with in the coaching hub.

The family of Farheed Hussain from West Bengal's Birbhum district is still looking for answers about what made his son take the extreme step."He was a very bright student, I wanted him to be a doctor but never pressured him. He used to score well in the routine tests, barring a few ... I don't know why he was compelled to end his life then," said Hussain, choking on tears.

Seeking desperate measures during a desperate time, the Kota administration and stakeholders of the coaching industry sprung into action and took various steps to prevent student suicides. The year 2024 will be reflective of how efficient these measures prove to be.

# Why ISRO Wants To Study **Black Holes? Scientist Explains**

New Delhi. India began the New Year with the successful launch of a new mission to solve the mystery of black holes. XPoSAT or X-ray Polarimeter Sat lifted off at 9:10 am on Monday with an advanced astronomy observatory meant to study black holes and neutron stars. The scientists aim to learn how the universe functions with this latest mission, says Dr Varun Bhalerao - an astrophysicist at IIT-Bombay - in an interview with NDTV's Science Editor Pallava Bagla, explaining the whys and hows of this complicated project.Black holes are remnants of stellar deaths and India has been trying to study the cosmic activities using its AstroSat telescope launched eight years ago. The method goes like - scientists try to

learn about the spectrum (phenomenon where a ray of light breaks into a rainbow when passed through a prism) and how the brightness changes with time. Then they use physics or mathematical models to explain what is going on.Unlike other science experiments, studying an object light years' away isn't as simple and requires massive observatories to collect the required data. Science too has come a long way and now the challenge is different.

Now we are at a stage where we still have a few models left that can all explain what we observe. So how do we figure out which of those is the



to this is in the study of X-ray polarization," says Dr Bhalerao.X-ray polarization helps in probing conditions very close to these objects. But these objects are so far away from earth, that even the most powerful telescopes fail in getting the desired data.Here enters XPoSAT - which is India's mission to study these objects and only the second in the world. The mission aims to study remnants of stars that have been even hundred times the size of the Sun. These massive stars blow up in spectacular explosions called the supernova -

> which emits light as much as an entire galaxy at its peak. At its end, they leave behind neutron stars and black holes."A star that died millions of years ago - we are observing the scene of death from far away and using evidence from telescopes we are trying to piece together what happened during that moment. We are also observing the extreme environment that exists around the dead object or remnant," says Dr Bhalerao.XPoSAT will help us understand things that have never been understood before because

we never had the tools. Not just Indians, scientists from across the world will be trying to get the XPoSAT data," he says.India is not going to have any competition in this area for a very long time, says Dr Bhalerao.

# RSS leader urges Muslims to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' during Ram Temple inauguration

Indresh Kumar, a national executive member of the RSS, urged Muslims to recite "Shri Ram, Jai Ram, Jai Ram" at mosques, dargahs, and madrassas during the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22.

New Delhi.RSS national executive member Indresh Kumar on Sunday appealed to Muslims to chant "Shri Ram, Jai Ram, Jai Jai Ram" at mosques, dargahs and madrassas on the occasion of the Ram temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22. Speaking at an event here, he said "about 99 percent" of Muslims and other non-Hindus in India belong to the country. "They will continue to be so because we have common ancestors. They have changed their religion, not the country."The RSS leader appealed to the "I appeal to gurdwaras, churches people practising Islam, Christianity, Sikhism or any other faith to join the consecration ceremony in Ayodhya by offering prayers at their respective religious places for "peace, harmony and

He was addressing an event organised here to release book: "Ram Mandir, Rashtra Mandir - A Common Heritage".umar, who is also the chief patron of RSS-

brotherhood".

linked Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM), said, "We have common ancestors, common faces and a common dream identity. We all belong to this

country, we have nothing to do with foreigners.""The MRM has appealed, and I am reiterating today, that chant 'Shri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram' 11 times at dargahs, maktabs, madrassas and masjid, 11 times. For the rest you follow your way of worship," he said. and all religious places that they magnificently decorate

their Ibadat Gah and prayer halls on January 22, between 11-2 pm, and watch this (consecration ceremony at Ram Temple) event on TV."Pray for

peace, harmony and brotherhood in India

and across the world," he said and urged

all the non-Hindus to consider lighting

Lord Ram does not only belong to Hindus alone but everyone in the world."He said Ram belongs to everyone, not just Hindus. When did we say that it is not so?" Kumar said, and

asked Abdullah to make "people in the group he is in" understand that Lord Ram belongs to "them as well". "He should tell

the INDIA alliance also that Ram belongs to everyone. Hence, there is no need to get an invitation (to attend consecration ceremony)," the RSS leader added.Addressing the event, Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan said India's "gyan parampara" is full of teachings that seek to convey that "only a petty mind" would carry thoughts such as "this is mine and that is yours"."To

those who have a big heart and a broad mind, the entire world is their own qunba (family). Gyan parampara, on which India's culture is based, is full of this teaching," he added.



"chirag" (diyas) as well in the

evening.The RSS leader also took

potshots at National Conference leader

# Spa Therapies

you must try before your

# Wedding day

The run-up to it is bound to be full of stress, it's a good idea to chalk up trips to the spa to-do lists, shopping trips and more. And in for a mix of massages for your pressure all that, it's important to find the time to points, body wraps, facials and other recharge, lose the fatigue and get prepared relaxation therapies. Here's more...

Heading towards your big, D-Day soon? for your wedding day. To help you unwind,

### Skincare facials

Signature facials are definitely a part of the list. "Brides love the 'blue diamond' facial, with mineral ingredients and thermal spring water, which gives a brightening and even tone skin effect," says Husnavaz Dastur, spa director at a hotel at Lower Parel. And grooms get pampered, too. "Popular for men are facials that use minerals to remove dead skin cells and clarifying masks. You also have eye treatments that are part of the facial," she

One of the best ways to de-stress is via an

drains away toxins and restores the energy balance in the body. The masseur uses vigorous strokes (not painful) in order to balance the energy centers. There's a lot to try — Abhyanga, a hot-oil massage, Shirodhara, where herb-infused hot oil is dripped onto the forehead or Tanlepa, an oil massage followed by a wrap. There's also an international blend to help you relax and get shipshape. Says Gunjan Chawla, spa director at a five-star hotel at Juhu, "We do an odyssey, a total indulgence trip, which is an hour-long massage followed by a scrub and a facial that enhances one's glow. Brides-to-be also love the Mediterranean sojourn — a luxe scrub

softens the skin and the Egyptian one, where you relax in a milk bath with brown algae extracts and gold flecks, that lends the body a silky smoothness." And to bust fatigue, opt for a de-stress massage. Says Nalini Naegamvala, "This is a scalp, neck, shoulder, hand and foot massage that eases away aches. It's a lunchtime regimen that can be done without taking off the clothes or having a shower."

Skin pampering soaks for the bride and coupleto-be are also big on the agenda. Informs Dastur, "In demand are 'royal baths' that use rose bath salts, crystals with rose oil and coloured flower petals and Moroccan lamps all of which go to enhance the whole experience. So it's really a colour therapy experience, which is very popular, now.' Traditional herbal baths are also a great option. They offer a tranquil and beautifying experience. "You can use herbs such as triphala churna or mulgari churna which are added to water or milk and poured over the person. Not only does it help with skin disorders but it is also cooling and refreshing," says Nitin Rajen, ayurvedic spa co-ordinator.

One of the biggest skin woes is tanning and roughness on the skin of the feet. Spa foot therpies are now as exotic as it gets. You can choose from a variety of foot treatments with roses, chocolate, peppermint oils, Mandarin oranges, lime and honey.

It's not just for the bride alone. The trend is to round up the gals and head to the spa. The therapies have now translated into girl getaways to places like Goa and Maldives before the big day. "Each spa has a curated menu designed to ensure that the bride and her friends feel rejuvenated. Popular now, are massages using heated coconut sticks and organic scrubs made from pineapple and papaya, followed by lunch, yoga and meditation," says Lyle Lewis, general manager at such a facility.

# Check into a salt room

One of the latest wellness trends, this uses one of natures' most basic ingredients - salt, which is anti-bacterial and anti-inflammatory. Say hello to the 'salt therapy'. Opened at Horniman Circle in Mumbai, you check into the salt room here and breathe in the grain, This helps combat respiratory ailments and leaves you feeling calm and refreshed. Salt also acts as a cleanser on the skin and gives it a glow.



# habits to fix now



Pause and take a look at your daily beauty when it comes to beauty. But not many of us Following a beauty routine according to ritual. Time to bring it back on track if the don'ts overpower the dos

beauty professional, "Poor hygiene could It's natural to pick a bad habit or two even lead to severe skin and hair infections.

are aware of these. Says Narcis Jordan, a your skin and hair type is not enough, you need to make sure that you are doing it the

proper and healthy way." There's more... Sleeping with make-up on

Beauty experts have often spoken about the

harmful effects of sleeping with make-up on. Nevertheless, many still forget to cleanse their face before going off to bed. No matter how tired you are, make sure to remove each and every trace of make-up thin eyebrows and keep plucking it, it can

before you retire for the night. It can clog your pores and can cause acne breakouts. It can also make your skin look dull due to the product buildup.

Beauty advice: Make-up professional Meghna Butani says, "Use a make-up remover to clean your face thoroughly,

before washing it off with water and cleanser. You can use unscented baby wipes to remove your eye make-up. Make sure to

### apply night cream after that." Touching your face too often

A common mistake that most women make, consciously or unconsciously, is to keep touching their face throughout the day. Touching your face consistently can lead to a buildup of dirt and oil from your fingertips to your face; this will can clog your pores and cause breakouts.

Beauty advice: "Sanitise your hands if you've been outdoors or to the washroom can lead to a buildup of dirt on your face," brushes, else they might stay damp.

adds Jordan.

### Throw away old make-up

Make-up expires with time. Once opened, make-up products become susceptible to contamination and can also collect bacteria. Using old make-up items can cause blemishes and also lead to skin irritations.

Beauty advice: Always remember to throw away eye and face make-up products like mascara, kajal, foundation and compact which have been used for more than six months.

### Overdoing the tweeze

Dermatologist Dr Aparna Santhanam says, "You might not have enough time to visit the salon, but plucking away uneven or extra hair with tweezers could be harmful for your facial skin. Do you know that too much tweezing of your eyebrows can completely change the look of your face? For example, if you have

> make your face look larger and older than you actually are."

> Beauty advice: If you feel that you have unwanted hair around your eyebrows, stick to just plucking one or two. Further use a thin comb to shape your eyebrows and use a little bit of gel to shape them properly.

### Clear off dirty make-up brushes

More often than not, one forgets to clean the make-up brushes on a daily basis. Think about all the surfaces your make-up brush comes in contact with — bathroom countertops, inside of your make-up bag etc. They breed bacteria, if you do not clean them properly. They will irritate your skin and also cause itching and burning eyes. Apart from this, using dirty brushes may also impact the look of your make-up. The application of your foundation or compact will not be smooth as it's supposed

**Beauty advice:** Clean your brush at least once before you touch your face. Further, you a week. Wash them with water and shampoo need to make a conscious effort to and lay them flat to dry out in the sun. remember that touching your face too often However, you must never blow-dry these

# Fixed deposit rates may stay stable; bond yields likely to fall

NEW DELHI. What lies ahead for fixed income investors in 2024? There's a sense of certainty that Central banks globally, especially the US Fed, has softened its tone and is likely getting ready for a rate cut in the Calendar Year. While back home, the RBI continues to be vigilant on inflation risk but falling core inflation has already lowered the inflation risk premium on bond yieldsPankaj Pathak, fund manager, fixed income, Quantum AMC, says, "Falling core inflation should lower the inflation risk premium on bonds by reducing the yield spread on government bonds over the policy repo rate. This in turn can bring down the bond yields even without a rate cut by the RBI. Any increase in the rate cut probabilities would further intensify the downward trend in bond yields." This could have a downward impact on bank FD rates as well.

owever, since RBI has made it clear that it is not lowering its guard in the fight against inflation, it is likely that FD rates may remain at the current level before seeing a marginal drop. According to Manish Kothari, president and head, Commercial Banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd, bank deposit rates may remain at present levels for some time to come before heading lower, that too maybe marginally.

It must be noted that the weighted average domestic term deposit rate (WADTDR) on fresh rupee term deposits of SCBs moved to 6.34% in November 2023 from 6.31% in October 2023. For outstanding rupee term deposits, it stood at 6.78% in November 2023 as against 6.75% in October 2023.

# Gold price outlook hinges on **US** economic performance

CHENNAI. Gold price outlook for 2024 hinges on whether the US economy is pulling a soft landing, easing the global macroeconomic situation and the possibility of a simmering conflict in the Middle East emerging as a wider conflict. "While the Fed steering the US economy to a safe landing is a possibility, it is a rarity and a global recession is still on the cards. This should encourage many investors to hold gold as a hedge in their portfolio," according to the World Gold Council Report.A soft-landing environment is not attractive for gold, resulting in flat to slightly negative



growth as gold is considered a hedge against economic uncertainties. Gold spot prices rose after October 6 from \$1,819 per ounce and currently stands at \$2062 an ounce as on December 30, 2023. It stood at \$1,813.8 on December 29, 2022.On the domestic front, 22 carat gold prices in Bengaluru are at Rs 58,550, Rs 59,100 in Chennai, Rs 58,700 in Delhi. Economic expansion, risk and uncertainty are positive factors for gold prices.

"All in all, gold can be a useful asset to hold in 2024. As interest rates peak and timing and extent of rate cuts remain uncertain, it can provide an opportunity for markets to speculate, creating volatility across asset markets, including gold," says Chirag Mehta, Chief Investment Officer, Quantum AMC.According to Mehta, markets can oscillate between optimism and pessimism creating wild short-lived swings in gold prices on either side. So, he suggests investors to use these swings wisely to build your allocation to gold.

# With AI in focus, hiring landscape set for growth in 2024

BENGALURU. The country's hiring landscape is set for growth despite many challenges it faced in 2023. From BFSI, ecommerce, consulting to healthcare and analytics and data, many sectors show a significant hiring intent in 2024. Akshay Munjal, Founder and CEO, Hero Vired said, that despite various challenges in the job market, the Shine Talent Insights Report projects a favourable market for Indian job seekers in the coming quarter, with seven out of ten IT companies in India expressing intent to expand their workforce in the coming year. India's hiring landscape is projected to expand by 8% in 2024, with evident growth already apparent in sectors like Manufacturing, BFSI, Automotive, Retail, and Travel & Tourism. While 2023 witnessed a dip in erecruitment activity, the last quarter hinted at a marginal yet positive hiring trend, said Sekhar Garisa, CEO of Foundit (formerly Monster APAC & ME).



Experts say though top IT companies are on hiring freeze, they will give preference to skill-based hiring such as AI/ML, cloud computing, cyber security and DevOps roles. "Campus hiring is currently down to 15%, with a 25% overall decline predicted in 2024. 2023 has been a dull year due to an economic slowdown which has reduced attrition, but it has also stalled headcount growth in the sector. Additionally, a slowdown in overall increment has influenced hiring dynamics in the IT industry," said Anshuman Das, CEO and Co-Founder, Careernet.

# Institutional Investments in Real Estate Decline 37% in October-December to \$822 Million: Colliers

**Institutional** investments in real estate stood at \$822.3 million during **October-December** 2023, as against \$1,299.40 million in the year-ago period

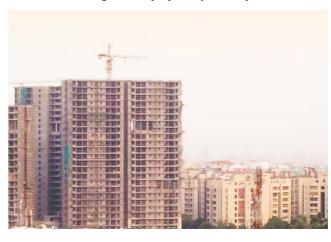
**NEW DELHI.** Institutional investments in real estate fell 37 per cent annually in the October-December quarter of last year to \$822.3 million as fund inflows were less in all asset classes, according to Colliers. Real estate consultant Colliers India data showed that institutional investments in real estate stood at \$822.3 million during October-December 2023, as against

\$1,299.40 million in the year-ago period. The inflow of funds declined 23 per cent in the office segment to \$135.5 million during the fourth quarter of last calendar year, from \$175.5 million in the

corresponding period of the previous year. In housing, the investments plunged 79 per cent to \$81 million in October-December 2023, from \$379.1 million in the year-ago period. Alternate assets saw a dip of 11 per cent to \$418.7 million, from \$467.9 million. Alternate assets include data centres, life sciences, senior housing, holiday homes, student housing and selections. housing and schools among others.Fund inflow in industrial and warehousing assets dipped 16 per cent to \$187.1 million during

October-December last year, from \$222 million in the corresponding period of the previous year. Mixed use projects did not attract any investments in the fourth

quarter of 2023, as against \$54.9 million in the year-ago period. The institutional flow of funds includes investments by family offices, foreign corporate groups, foreign banks, proprietary books, pension



funds, private equity, real estate fundcum-developers, foreign-funded NBFCs and sovereign wealth funds. During the entire 2023 calendar year, institutional

investments in real estate grew 10 per cent to \$5,380.40 million, from \$4,877.90 million in the previous year.

The office segment dominated in fund inflow with a 53 per cent rise in

investment to \$3,022.50 million during last year, from \$1,978.30 million in the 2022 calendar year. In housing, the investments rose 20 per cent to \$788.9 million in 2023, from \$655.6 million in the previous year.Fund inflow in industrial and warehousing projects more than doubled to \$877.6 million last year, from \$421.8 million in 2022. Alternate assets saw a 25 per cent decline in investments to \$649.1 million, from \$866.7 million.Inflow of funds in mixed-use projects fell sharply by 91 per cent to \$42.3 million in 2023, from \$463.7 million in 2022. Retail assets did

not receive any institutional investments last year as against \$491.8 million in the 2022 calendar year, the Colliers data

# Why you must be careful of excesses in 2024

**NEW DELHI.** An economic boom often against any potential excesses. leads to big aspirations. You dream of a What are excesses bigger home, car or a holiday to an There is a tendency to go casual about exotic destination. You want to earn more money and spend more than ever before. As we start a brand New Year, you could try a balancing act. The following 12 months could see an

economic boom that could boost your income and aspirations. If you are a regular investor in the stock market, you would know that money is flowing in equity assets worldwide. With the hope of a 'softlanding' of the US economy, investors are taking a 'risk on' approach towards investing. In 2024 much global money will likely reach high-growth emerging markets like

India. With elections in May 2024 and a new government, India's economy will likely see an eventful year ahead. Your finances must be fine-tuned to ensure you do not get carried away amidst the euphoria. You must protect your money

money when there is a boom in the economy. It starts with the 'easy money' from banks and non-banking finance companies. If you look at the expenditure. You are fine as long as you pay off your credit card bills within the interest-free cycle offered by banks. Excesses tend to happen when you spend today anticipating an income

Over-investing

the stock market and share prices are record-high, you need not commit all your savings to it. Do not invest in hearsay. You can get information on anything related to financial markets at the tap of your smartphone. Fundamental analysis of companies, and basic concepts are explained vividly on social media platforms. There are several books you can refer

to before taking the plunge. You must engage a professional financial advisor if you have not yet. Work with them to create an asset allocation plan that suits your short-and long-term financial

# **Adani hires** global team for Mumbai slum overhaul project

NEW DELHI. Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's Just because there is a boom in joint venture with Mumbai's slum rehabilitation

authority has hired a global team to redevelop Dharavi, a key step in rebuilding one of Asia's biggest slums amid growing opposition to the project. Dharavi, about three quarters the size of New York's Central Park, is a crowded area that houses thousands of poor families in cramped quarters in the centre of India's financial capital. Many residents have no access to running water or clean toilets. Rebuilding it is a mammoth task, which was first mooted in the 1980s.

technical analysis of stocks, The state government of Maharashtra in July approved Adani's \$619 million bid to redevelop the area that covers 625 acres (253 hectares), and has been described by officials as "the world's largest urban renewal scheme". The joint venture, Dharavi Redevelopment Project



(DRPPL), said on Monday it was partnering with architect Hafeez Contractor who has done many social housing projects, US design firm Sasaki, and consultancy firm Buro Happold from the UK for the redevelopment.DRPPL was set up in July and hiring of the team assumes significance as it comes amid allegations from a rival bidder that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's allies afforded Adani favourable treatment while residents worry about his capacity to deliver amid hih-profile financial setbacks. The Adani group has said the Dharavi project was awarded through a fair, open and internationally competitive bidding process. The state government has denied any wrongdoing. Thousands of protests marched toward Adani's offices in Mumbai last month to voice their opposition to his conglomerate's

redevelopment plans.

# hesitating to swipe your credit cards for Commercial LPG Cylinder Gets Cheaper; Jet Fuel Rate Reduced By 4%

latest trend in banking and finance

published recently by the RBI, personal

loans from banks are at a record. Within

personal loans, outstanding from credit

cards are at a record high, too. That

shows that you, the consumer, are not

**NEW DELHI.** Jet fuel or ATF price on Monday was cut by 4 per cent, the third straight monthly reduction, and commercial cooking gas (LPG) rates were marginally lowered by Rs 1.50

per 19-kg cylinder in line with international benchmarks. However, the price of domestic LPG used in household kitchens for cooking purposes remained unchanged at Rs 903 per 14.2-kg cylinder. Aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was cut by Rs 4,162.5, or 3.9 per cent, in the national capital to Rs 101,993.17 per kl, according to price notifications of state-owned fuel retailers. This is the third straight monthly reduction in jet fuel prices.

ATF price was cut by almost 6 per cent already financially strained airlines. by Rs 5,189.25, or 4.6 per cent, in December. The three rounds of reduction have wiped away almost 45 per cent of the Rs 29,391.08 per kl

increase in rates effected in four monthly tranches starting July 1. The makes up for 40 per cent of an airline's operating cost, will ease the burden on



(Rs 6,854.25 per kl) in November and Alongside, oil firms also reduced the price of commercial LPG - used in various establishments such as hotels and restaurants – by Rs 1.50. A 19-kg commercial LPG cylinder will now

cost Rs 1,755.50 in the national capital and Rs 1,708.50 in Mumbai. reduction in the price of jet fuel, which The price hike follows a Rs 39.5 per

cylinder reduction in rates effected on December 22. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat

Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) revise cooking gas and ATF prices on the 1st of every month, based on the average international price in the previous month. The revision on December 22 was an outlier.

Petrol and diesel prices continued to remain on freeze for a record 21st month in a row. Petrol costs Rs 96.72 per litre in the national capital, and diesel costs Rs 89.62 per litre.

State-owned fuel retailers are supposed to revise petrol and diesel prices daily, based on a 15-day rolling average of benchmark international fuel prices, but they haven't done that

# Stock Market Updates: 2024 Sees A Flat Start, Sensex Down 170 Pts, Nifty Below 21,700

**NEW DELHI.** Equity benchmark indices benchmarks surging by up to 20 per cent. first trading day of the New Year 2024, amid profit-taking after the recent sharp rally and lack of trends from global markets.On Monday, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 207.29 points to 72,032.97 after a muted beginning. The Nifty declined 46.65 points to 21,684.75.Among the Sensex firms, Hindustan Unilever, Mahindra & Mahindra, Wipro, Axis Bank, Tata Consultancy Services, NTPC, HDFC Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major laggards. Tata Motors, Nestle, IndusInd Bank and Power Grid were among the winners.

Asian markets were closed on Monday for the New Year. The US markets ended marginally lower on Friday.Global oil benchmark Brent crude declined 0.14 per cent to USD 77.04 a barrel.

Srock Markets 2023 Recap

Meanwhile, equity Sensex and Nifty declined on the last trading day of 2023, December 29, as investors preferred profit-taking after the recent sharp rally, wrapping up a record-setting year with

declined in early trade on Monday, the After a five-day winning run, selling pressure emerged in energy, banking and IT counters on Friday, which dragged indices lower, traders said. The 30-share Among the Sensex firms, State Bank of BSE Sensex fell 170.12 points or 0.23 per cent to settle at 72,240.26 after a weak beginning to the trade. During the day, it dropped 327.74 points or 0.45 per cent to 72,082.64. The wider gauge Nifty declined 47.30 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 21,731.40. In intra-day trade, the index slipped 101.8 points or 0.46 per cent to 21,676.90.In 2023, the BSE benchmark jumped 11,399.52 points or 18.73 per cent, and the Nifty climbed 3,626.1 points or 20 per cent.In a memorable year for the equity market, Dalal Street investors added a whopping Rs 81.90 lakh crore to their wealth in 2023 as a raft of positive factors powered a stellar rally in stocks. Experts said India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, political stability owing to the BJP's success in recent elections in three significant states, optimistic the US Federal Reserve about three

retail investor participation played a major role in fuelling the stock market rally in 2023.

India, Infosys, Titan, Tech Mahindra, IndusInd Bank, NTPC, ICICI Bank,



Power Grid, Reliance Industries and Kotak Mahindra Bank were the major laggards. On the other hand, Tata Motors, Nestle, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Steel, Bajaj Finance and UltraTech Cement were among the gainers.

corporate earnings outlook, signals from "We feel that though the outlook on broader indexes is moderate in the short

prospective rate cuts next year and heavy to medium term, the large caps will maintain their vibrancy due to strong earnings growth and in anticipation of the continuation of premium valuation," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Financial Services. In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge climbed 0.85 per cent, while the smallcap gauge jumped 0.69 per cent. Among the indices, oil & gas fell by 1.10 per cent, bankex went lower by 0.53 per cent, IT declined by 0.46 per cent, teck dipped by 0.38 per cent, consumer durables (0.07 per cent) and financial services (0.05 per cent). Telecommunication jumped 2.84 per cent, auto climbed 1.17 per cent, services (1.06 per cent), FMCG (0.86 per cent) and consumer discretionary (0.77 per cent). On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark jumped 1,133.3 points or 1.59 per cent, and the Nifty rallied 382 points or 1.78 per cent.

In Asian markets, Tokyo settled lower, while Shanghai and Hong Kong ended with gains. Markets were closed in South Korea. European markets were trading in positive territory. The US markets ended on a mixed note on Thursday.

### **NEWS BOX**

SA v IND, 2nd Test: Aggressive Virat Kohli in spotlight as India train on New Year's Day in Cape



New Delhi . India seem to be leaving no stone unturned to stage a fightback in the second and final Test of their series against South Africa, starting January 3 in Cape Town. The Test regulars attended an optional training session at the Newlands on New Year's Day. India arrived in Cape Town on New Year's eve, flying down from Centurion where they played the Boxing Day Test.India have been putting in the hard yards in the lead up to the New Year's Test after the humbling in the series opener at SuperSport Park. India were handed an innings and 32-run defeat after one of their most timid performances in a Test match in the recent past.

India cricket full schedule in 2024

India had an optional training session on December 30 at the SuperSport Park as they made use of the extra day at their disposal due to the early end to the first Test. India folded inside 3 days in Centurion, managing just 245 and 131 across two innings. KL Rahul's well-paced 101 in the first innings and Virat Kohli's solid 76 in the second went in vain as none of the other batters stepped up. While Virat Kohli did not take part in the optional training session in Centurion, he was seen leading the team's drills and net session in Cape Town on New Year's Day. Kohli looked pumped up for the new challenges in 2024, getting into the stride without wasting time ahead of the 2nd Test.

Head coach Rahul Dravid oversaw the preparations as India had a center-wicket training in Newlands. Captain Rohit Sharma, Raivndra Jadeja and young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal did not take part in the training session on January 1. The three players were part of the optional session in Centurion on December 30. Shardul Thakur suffered an injury scare in Centurion but he is reportedly fit for the 2nd Test. Avesh Khan, who shone for India A in their unofficial Test against South Africa A, also joined the team on Monday after he was drafted into the squad as Mohammed Shami's replacement.

In a video shared by PTI news agency journalist Kushan Sarkar, Virat Kohli was seen batting aggressively in the nets. The star batter did not hold back as he lofted offspinner R Ashwin over his head after dancing down the track. Kohli was also seen facing a local net bowler, a left-arm pacer, as the focus has been on helping the Indian batters get used to a left-arm fast-bowling threat.

# Naomi Osaka on daughter Shai after making winning start on comeback: Playing tennis over changing diapers

New Delhi. Naomi Osaka showed her humorous side after she said that she would prefer playing tennis over 'changing diapers' of her newborn daughter Shai.On Monday, January 1, Osaka made her return to competitive tennis in the ongoing Brisbane International. In the Round of 64 match, the 26-year-old defeated Germany's Tamara Korpatsch 6-3, 7-6 (11-9). Osaka, also a fourtime Grand Slam women's singles champion, returned to playing tennis only five months after becoming a mother with rapper Cordae. "Shai likes to fight her sleep. So I'd say preferably playing tennis over changing diapers," Osaka was quoted as saying in the on-court interview after her win. Osaka, who became the World No.1 back in 2019, said that she would like to live up to people's expectations this time around.



"I feel like the last couple of years I played before I had my daughter I didn't return as much love as I was given. That's what I want to do on this chapter. I just really appreciate people coming out and people knowing me and cheering for me. There was a time I was a little kid just trying to watch my role models play," she added. After beating her German opponent, Osaka will next cross swords with Karolina Pliskova in the second round on Tuesday, January 2.

Osaka will take part in the Australian Open 2024 at the Rod Laver Arena. Out of the four Grand Slams that she has won, two were in

Australia back in 2019 and 2021. Earlier, Osaka said that becoming a mother has changed her perspective towards life. She also talked about inspiring her daughter by making a comeback to tennis.

# India Women's tough 2024 challenges: Bigger and better WPL, maiden T20 World Cup title

- → India will be starting the year with a 3match T201 series against Australia
- → India will take part in the T20 World Cup to be held in Bangladesh
- Indian cricketers will also ply their trade in the Women's Premier League 2024

New Delhi .India Women did not have a happy ending to 2023 after they lost their home ODI series against Australia. Harmanpreet Kaur and Co. had a great chance of finishing the year on a high, but unfortunately, they did not have the rub of the green going their way. Dropping six catches in the second ODI on Saturday did not help them as they lost by three runs to concede the series 0-2 with one match left However Indian women's cricket match left. However, Indian women's cricket has a lot to look forward to in 2024. Starting with, they have a T20I series against Australia that gets underway on January 5. After the disappointment of the ODIs, the hosts will be looking to turn their campaign around. The series is a part of India's preparations ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup to be held in Bangladesh next year. As far as world events are concerned, it has always been a case of 'so near and yet so far' for India. Having floundered in quite a few semi-finals and finals, India has often



faced questions regarding their temperament to shine in crunch matches.

### Better showing in world knockouts

It started in 2017 when India lost the 50-over World Cup final against Heather Knight's England in front of a packed house at the Lord's Cricket Ground. After being in a position of command, India crumbled in the death overs when Anya Shrubsole blew them away with a six-wicket haul.

Then in the final of the 2020 World Cup final against Meg Lanning's Australia at the

Melbourne Cricket Ground, India surrendered tamely. Earlier this year, India again failed to hold their nerve under pressure despite being in a strong position as they lost to Australia in the T20 World Cup semi-final at the Newlands in Cape Town.

India's women's cricket has grown in the last eight years, especially after the likes of Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Harmanpreet Kaur and others took charge. But now it's time for them to win an ICC trophy, which will further strengthen their

position in world cricket as a force to be

### More talents and a grander WPL

In men's cricket, the Indian Premier League (IPL) has brought forth a number of talents over the years. The Women's Premier League (WPL) is in its formative years, but it has already given a glimpse of what the future could look like for Indian women's cricket.Shreyanka Patil and Saika Ishaque were both breakout stars from the previous edition of the WPL. Even as the 21-year-old Shreyanka impressed the likes of Sophie Devine and Ellyse Perry with her fearlessness while playing for the Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB), Mumbai Indians' (MI) Saika bamboozled the best of batters with her guile and trajectory.

Both Saika and Shreyanka made their ODI and T20I debuts recently. In fact, Shreyanka already has a Player of the Match award to her name in the third T20I against England at the Wankhede Stadium. This time around, the focus will be on the likes of Kashvee Gautam, Vrinda Dinesh and Keerthana Balakrishnan, who have all done well at the domestic level. The 20-year-old Kashvee became the most expensive uncapped player in the history of the WPL after Gujarat Giants bought her for INR 2 crores.

# Sunil Gavaskar praises Team India for successful 2023 barring 'just one bad day' in World Cup final

- -Sunil Gavaskar lauded the Indian men's and women's teams
- **⊸** India played in the WTC final and Men's World Cup 2023 final
- → India Women recently beat England and Australia in Tests

New Delhi. Legendary batter Sunil Gavaskar lauded the Indian men's and women's teams for their impressive showing in 2023.

The women's team, led by Harmanpreet Kaur, recently beat England in the Only Test, after which they got the better of Alyssa Healy's Australia at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.It also happened to be the first time that India beat Australia in a Women's Test since their first meeting back in 1977."I think it's been a fantastic year for both the



the way the women's team has performed," Gavaskar was quoted as saying on Star Sports show 'Follow the Blues'

Those two Test wins towards the year-end, one against England and one against Australia, both teams against whom the Indian women's team have had tough times

Indian men's team had a decent year. After winning 10 matches in a row in the mega event at home, Rohit Sharma and Co. lost to Australia by six wickets in front of a packed house at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad."That's been the most exciting aspect of cricket apart from, of course, what we saw in the World Cup. The 10 straight wins, and, then, just that one bad day, which sadly happened to be the finals of the World Cup. So really some exciting times in 2023," Gavaskar added.

India also lost the final of the World Test Championship 2021-23 where

Australia defeated them. India are currently in South Africa where they are taking part in a two-match Test series. After losing the series opener by an innings and 32 runs at the SuperSport Park in Centurion, India will be looking to make amends in the second Test, starting December 3 at the Newlands in

# Rafael Nadal entertains crowd with football skills on comeback in Brisbane **International**

New Delhi. Rafael Nadal made his comeback in professional tennis on Sunday, December 31 after a gap of nearly 12 months. Even as he entertained the crowd with his aggressive and fearless tennis, the 37-year-old also showed his skills at football. In the first set of his men's doubles match with countryman Marc Lopez, Nadal showed his dribbling skills by returning the ball to the ball-girl. The crowd cheered for the 22-time Grand Slam winner when he showed that he wouldn't have the worst footballer had he not chosen tennis as a profession. Nadal is next



# India men's cricket in 2024: 3 big assignments for India as Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli in focus

- →India are going to play a lot of cricket in 2024
- India will hope to win the 2024 T20 World Cup
- This could be Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli's last year in T201 cricket

New Delhi. India finished 2023 as the top ranked team in all formats of the game. While India dominated the bilateral ties and won the Asia Cup 2023, they fell just short of winning the ODI World Cup despite hosting the tournament. Star India batters Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli had strong year with the bat and paved the way for an attractive brand of cricket, which India would hope to carry into 2024. The senior India batters will be in focus once again given this could be their final year in T20 cricket. The Indian team are set to play a lot

of cricket in 2024, and it will be an important year for the team that has already begun its transition.In Test cricket - India now have an attacking No. 3 and No. 4 batter in Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer instead of Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane.In ODI cricket, the team has seen fresh players in the ODI series against South Africa and that could mean the start of an exciting journey for a new generation of cricketers. On that note, here's a look at what could be their top 3 assignments this

### Test Series Against England

Ben Stokes' England are coming to play India in a 5-match Test series in January. This will be the first time that the Bazballing side will go up against Rohit Sharma's India.

The two sides have played against each other only once in England, where England came out with a win in a high-intensity encounter. Jasprit Bumrah was the captain of India in that Test match and will hope to turn the tables on home soil. It will be a big series for Ben Stokes' England too, who have dominated the majority of the Test matches in the last year and a half. A trial by spin will be a proper test of their character and will prove if they are actually one of the best sides in the world.

# T20 World Cup 2024

There is a major lack of clarity about the Indian side which will play in the T20 World Cup 2024, set to be held in the Caribbean Islands and the United States of America in the month of June. India will only play 3 more T20Is before the tournament, which means that the Indian Premier League will play a major role in the selection of players.

### **Captaincy Dilemma**

India T20I captain Rohit Sharma has not played a single match after the 2022 World Cup semi-final loss against England. Neither Rohit, nor BCCI have put out a confirmation on the batter's availability for the tournament and fans have been left confused by the non-committal attitude of both sides. Hardik Pandya has captained the Indian team since Rohit but is currently out with an ankle injury that he faced in the World Cup 2023. It is expected that Hardik Pandya will only return during the Indian Premier League, which leaves him a little over two months to prove his fitness and capability ahead of the ICC tournament.

set to take part in the men's singles where he will lock horns with former US Open champion Dominic Thiem, who came in through the qualifiers. The 37-year-old Nadal hasn't played a singles match since losing to Mackenzie MacDonald in the second round of the Australian Open last year. Nadal will also be making his Grand Slam return in the upcoming edition of the hard-court tournament at the Rod Laver Arena. Earlier, in a press conference, Nadal said that 2024 could possibly be the last time that he plays tennis on Australian soil.

"The problem about saying that it's going to be my last season is I can't predict what's going on 100 per cent in the future. That's why I say probably. It's obvious that it's a high percentage that this is going to be my last time playing here in Australia," Nadal was quoted as saying. Nadal said that he is in good shape after having to struggle with his body due to injuries over the last 12 months or so.

'In a realistic world, I'm happy the way that I am practicing. Of course, I don't have the expectations that I used to have in the past, especially for the beginning," Nadal added.

# David Warner 'going to be available' for Champions Trophy 2025 after announcing ODI retirement

- David Warner said that he will be available if Australia need him for **Champions Trophy 2025**
- **₩**Warner retired from ODIs on Monday, January 1
- Warner is also set to play in his farewell Test against Pakistan in Sydney

New Delhi. David Warner said that he is 'going to be available' if Australia need him to come out of retirement for the Champions Trophy 2025 to be staged in Pakistan. On Monday, January 1, Warner started the New Year by announcing his retirement from ODIs. The southpaw said that bidding goodbye to ODIs was in his mind when he was taking part in the World Cup 2023. Warner was Australia's leading run-scorer in the mega event with a top score of 163 against Babar Azam's Pakistan at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bangalore. The lefthanded batter, however, understands the need of an established top order batter in a tournament as big as the

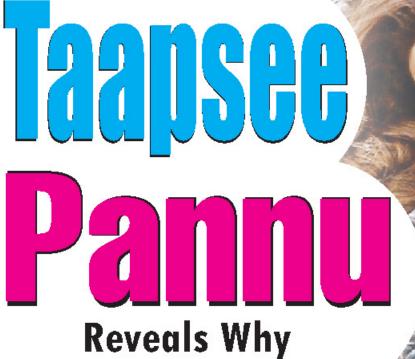
Champions Trophy."I know

there's a Champions Trophy coming up and if I'm playing decent cricket still in two years' time, and they need someone, I'm going to be available," Warner was After retiring from both Tests and

conference in Sydney.Warner also said that it's high time that he devoted more time to his beloved wife Candice and their three daughters, Indi, Ivy and Isla.

quoted as saying in a press ODIs, Warner said that he will now

domestic T20 leagues and commentary."I definitely am keen to pursue playing Big Bash next year. There's going to be conversations behind the scenes to allow me to do that," Warner said."Obviously I've joined the Fox commentary team next year during the Test series against India, which I'm looking forward to. There's a BBL window that we're able to play, and then quite clearly there has been a lot of talk about the ILT20 which will be starting, I'm pretty sure, after the BBL," he added.Warner is now set to take part in his farewell Test match, which is scheduled to get underway on December 3 at the iconic Sydney Cricket Ground.



Romancing Shah Rukh Khan In The Film Was **'Very Hard'** 

aapsee Pannu is currently basking in the success of her recently released film, Dunki. The actress shared the screen space with Shah Rukh Khan in the movie. The Rajkumar Hirami film also marked their first collaboration. Recollecting the shooting days, in a recent interview, Taapsee recalled having a 'freezing' moment when she met SRK for the first time. Taapsee was speaking to the Times Of India, when she shared, 'In your head, obviously, all the flash cuts of all his (Shah Rukh Khan's) films and the moments he's created on screen, his songs to his dialogues and all of that keep giving a good reel. But when you come in front of him, it's not like he has an intimidating personality. He is a very warm and welcoming person. But because you can see the same man you've been seeing for years on the big screen, you just freeze in that moment. I had to constantly keep shaking myself after the first couple of meetings, like, 'come back to reality.. he's just' sitting there in



you're putting up this very confident and brave front but you know, mentally, you are in a certain danger looking at him. But, it did take me a couple of days to actually snap out of it," the actress added.Taapsee further shared that romancing Shah Rukh Khan was quite difficult for her. She mentioned that on the initial days King Khan kept looking at her very lovingly' which made it 'very hard' for her 'to not freeze in that moment'.

front of me' ...

"Actually, when your eyes meet, when he is looking at you with those expressions, you immediately have that déjà vu of those classic romantic films that he has done and we have loved him in those films. So you slip into that memory of what you have seen of him in the movies and have loved so much. Since most of our scenes were together, during the initial days when he kept looking at me very lovingly, it was very hard to not freeze in that moment,"

Taapsee Pannu is renowned for her versatile performances in Bollywood. She has given hits like Pink, Badla, Thappad, and Mulk, Next, Taapsee will be seen in the comedy-drama film, Woh Ladki Hai Kahan. The movie is written and directed by Arshad Syed and will also star Prateik Babbar and Pratik Gandhi in the lead roles. Apart from that, the muchawaited sequel to Haseen Dillruba is in the works. In Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba, she will be sharing the screen with Vikrant Massey, Sunny Kaushal, and Jimmy Shergill.





ver since he made his debut with Vicky Donor, Ayushmann Khurrana has given some of the himself by picking unconventional and unique roles. The actor had only one release this year with Dream Girl-2 which went on to be a super hit at the box office. He has indeed cemented his reputation as a powerful performer, but the industry is not without competition. In an exclusive interview with News18, the actor revealed how he remains unfazed by the constant pressure of proving himself and also revealed how he is happy when his contemporaries succeed, "I get inspired by my contemporaries. As long as the release dates of our films aren't the same, there's no competition (laughs). I consume their films as an audience member, who loves to get entertained and that's about it. I'm happy for their success. I would pick up the phone with them if I liked their work. I loved Ranveer Singh's performance in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. He was phenomenal. I complimented him and Karan (Johar, the director). I loved that film. I think it's a beautiful film."

The 38-year-old actor who has portrayed a variety of roles says that his choices of subjects may be unconventional but he also thinks about the commercial feasibility. "If you take a look at my filmography, you will see that there are progressive films but they still are made for a wider palate and audience. If I do a niche film, I'll do an OTT film but my love for the big screen is phenomenal. So, I always aspire to do films that are commercial in a good way. In the case of Dream Girl 2, we went all out with our conviction. It's too massy and it is doing great in two and three-tier cities. It's not really for the intelligent audience."At the same time, the Anek actor adds that he would love to create a balance like he has done in the past. "Once in a while, I'll do a film like Dream Girl which takes me to a wider audience. I've received scripts of different genres, types, and tonality. It's just that I follow my gut when it comes to doing a film. If I'm entertained or engaged by the narration or by reading a script, I just go for it. I don't think if I've done something like that in the past or the fact that I should only do commercial films."

# Oscar Wins for 'Naatu Naatu', 'The Elephant Whisperers' Find Mention In PM's Mann Ki Baat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday highlighted India's twin wins at this year's Oscars for the song "Naatu Naatu" from "RRR" and documentary short "The Elephant Whisperers" in his last Mann Ki Baat address for 2023. In the 108th episode of the radio broadcast, the prime minister said the world saw India's creativity and understood the country's connection with the environment through its entertainment industry. Friends, when 'Naatu Naatu' got the Oscar, the whole country rejoiced with joy. Who was not happy when they heard about the honour given to 'The Elephant Whisperers'? Through these, the world witnessed India's creativity and understoo our connection with the environment," Modi said.t the



95th Academy Awards, the foot-tapping Telugu chartbuster "Naatu Naatu", composed by MM Keeravaani and penned by Chandrabose, won the best original song award and made SS Rajamouli's "RRR" the first Indian feature film production to bring home the Oscar.

Netflix's Tamil documentary "The Elephant Whisperers", directed by debutante Kartiki Gonsalves and produced by Guneet Monga, also became the maiden Indian production to win the Oscar in the documentary short film category. During the Mann Ki Baat broadcast, actor Akshay Kumar also shared his fitness tips. "Don't live a filter life, live a fitter life," Kumar said as he called for focusing on physical fitness as well as overall wellbeing."Change your lifestyle on the advice of doctors and not by looking at some film star's body. Actors are often not what they appear on screen. Many types of filters and special effects are used and after seeing them, we start using shortcuts to change ourbody," the actor added.



Sheru hit theatres, all of them failed to leave a significant mark at the box office. As Kangana is now all set to welcome 2024, the actress recently took to her X handle and penned down a thought-provoking note, looking back at her biggest learnings. In her post, Kangana admitted that there were times she felt "out of place" but added that she is happy and at peace today. "I grew up with an inbuilt feeling of being out of place. I travelled miles and built the homes of my dreams, farmhouses, and cottages. I felt happy, content even at peace but I never felt at home," she wrote. "Slowly it started to get evident that may be we don't belong in this body, life is just a fleeting phase, we must recognise that and never try to be at home. Ever since I acknowledged that I feet at home. This was my learning of 2023, if you too feel out of place

and it seems to you that you don't belong anywhere remember you are on your way home," the actress

Many users resonated with Kangana's post. One of them wrote, "Wow Kangana! I feel that pulse. I completely get ur msg! Because I've been feeling this for several years now and ultimately it's a boon to have such realizations I'd say! So, go on! We all are on the right track." Another user shared, "Mine is the same story. Just remove farmhouse and cottages."Kangana Ranaut was last seen in



Tejas. In the film, she played the lead role of IAF officer Tejas Gill, who is on a mission to rescue an Indian spy, alongside Anshul Chauhan and Varun Mitra. Released in October 2023, the film failed to impress the audience. This year, she was also seen in the Tamil comedy-horror sequel Chandramukhi 2, in which Kangana played the role of a dancer.

Now, the actress has begun working on her next movie in Chennai. She recently shared on social media that the film is a psychological thriller. Even though Kangana did not share much information about the yet-to-be-titled movie, she said that it is a "very unusual and exciting" script.Kang ana also has the highly anticipated political drama Emergency in her pipeline.

