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6 arrested, departmental inquiry ordered against 2 Army officers

Sanjay Kumar Indore, Sep 13: A departmental inquiry has been initiated against two Army officers who were attacked by a six-member gang near Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, an official said on Friday.

Will keep fighting anti-national forces: Kejriwal

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep 13: In his first remarks after being released from the Tihar Jail, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Friday said he would continue to fight "anti-national" forces working to weaken the nation, and asserted the incarceration had only strengthened his resolve.

gans from atop a truck hailing Kejriwal. Slogans like 'Jail ke taale toot gaye, Kejriwal chhoot gaye' rent the air. Ahead of Haryana assembly election, the Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in a corruption case linked to the Delhi Excise Policy 'scam'.

in the money laundering case linked to the scam. Justice Bhuyan also expressed serious reservations on bail conditions debarring on each and every date of hearing, unless granted exemption; and "fully cooperate" with the trial court for expeditious conclusion of the trial proceedings.

Delhi excise policy 'scam' related cases after AAP leaders Sanjay Singh and Manish Sisodia, BRS leader K Kavitha, AAP's former communication in-charge Vijay Nair, Hyderabad-based businessman Arun Ramchandra Pillai, Rajesh Joshi, Gautam Malhotra, Sameer Mahendru, Chhappret Singh, Benoy Babu and alleged "middleman" Vinod Chauhan.



Niti Aayog suggests Public Health Emergency Management Act for future pandemics

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Sep. 13: With Covid-19 pandemic exposing significant gaps in global health preparedness, a report by Niti Aayog expert group has underscored the need for responding in the first 100 days of an outbreak and suggested enacting separate legislation to handle public health crises if any in future.



for any future public health emergency or pandemic and have a rapid response system comes amid WHO warning to tackle the unknown deadly 'Disease X, which could be 20 times deadlier than COVID-19'.

Noida DM clarifies after 'Pappu' jibe at Congress leader triggers uproar

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Noida, Sep. 13: A social media post from the official X handle of District Magistrate Gautam Budh Nagar, trolling Congress leader Supriya Shrinete, stirred controversy on Friday, with questions being raised about political bias within the bureaucracy.

Why Mamata Banerjee offered to resign?

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Chandigarh, Sep 13: As West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is confronted by one crisis after another following the horrific Kolkata hospital rape and murder, a big question looms over her: Will she be able to overcome these tough times, probably the toughest of her long political career?

"counter-emotional" pressure — something akin to reverse psychology — on the young doctors and others opposing her, and burnish her image as someone who cared only about the people, not the CM's post. Across the country, there has been palpable rage against the horrific rape and murder of the 31-year-old trainee post-graduate doctor at the RG Kar Medical College on August 9.

as attempts by the state government to shield the culprits. The crime has caused tremors in the Trinamool Congress ranks, too: Earlier this week, party Rajya Sabha MP Jawhar Sircar announced his decision to resign from the upper house of parliament over the horrific incident and related corruption at the hospital.



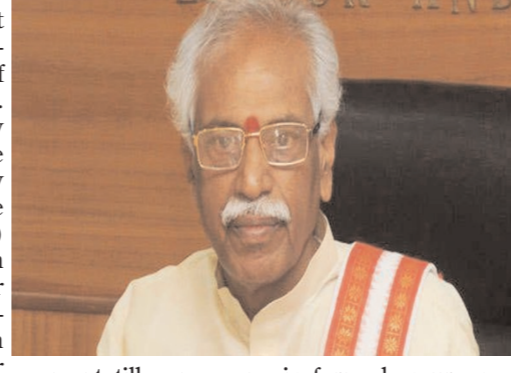
Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya dissolves the State Assembly

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep. 13 Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Thursday dissolved the state Assembly with immediate effect, a day after the state cabinet recommended the move to avoid summoning the House before the expiry of the six-month period from the last sitting.

Vidhan Sabha expires on November 3. After the governor's move to dissolve the assembly, the Nayab Singh Saini government will continue as a caretaker government till a new one is formed, sources said. Official sources had earlier said that summoning of the House before the end of the six-month period from the last session is a constitutional requirement. The cabinet move to recommend assembly's dissolution appeared to avert any constitutional crisis.

The Haryana Assembly's last session was held on March 13 when the Saini government had won the trust vote and the next session had to be convened by September 12. Saini replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as chief minister in March. Khattar is now a Union Minister. Earlier, the Haryana Cabinet had met here Wednesday evening and accorded approval to a proposal regarding the dissolution of the 14th Haryana Vidhan Sabha, an official release had earlier said.



Like Caesar's wife, an investigating agency must be above board, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan tells CBI

New Delhi, Sep 13: Maintaining that in a functional democracy governed by the rule of law, perception matters, Justice Ujjal Bhuyan of the Supreme Court on Friday asked the CBI to dispel the notion of it being a caged parrot.



UPA rule in May 2013, a Bench led by Justice RM Lodha (since retired) had dubbed the CBI as a "caged parrot speaking in master's voice". The CBI and the Enforcement Directorate have come under criticism for allegedly targeting opposition leaders at the behest of the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Cong slams govt over video of restaurant chain owner 'apologising' to FM

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Sep. 13 The Congress on Friday launched a multi-pronged attack on the government over a video of a restaurant chain owner purportedly "apologising" to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for voicing concerns about GST, with Rahul Gandhi saying "fragile egos" only deliver humiliation.

significantly to the state's and nation's economic growth. I request everyone to lay the matter to rest with due respect." Annamalai said. Hitting out at the government, Kharge said it follows the policy of "tax terror" for poor and middle class and "tax cuts" for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "cronies friends".

exceptions) that will not burden the poor," Kharge said. The Congress is strongly committed to this, he added. The BJP's "loot small owners and shoot the messenger" policy spells a disaster for the nation's economy, Kharge said.

hurt, it seems humiliation is what they will deliver. In a post on X, Gandhi said when the owner of a small business, like Annapoorna restaurant in Coimbatore, asks public servants for a simplified GST regime, his request is met with "arrogance and outright disrespect".



Gandhi said Addressing a press conference, Congress spokesperson Supriya Shrinete said a meeting was organised by the BJP as part of its membership drive, where people from all walks of life were invited to meet Sitharaman.

News box

1 terror associate arrested in J&K's Poonch, huge cache of explosives seized

Jammu. In a joint operation, the police, Indian Army and CRPF arrested a terror associate and recovered a huge cache of arms from him in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district.

At a joint checkpoint established at Poonch district's Potha bypass, the security personnel noticed a person suspiciously coming from Surankot. The suspect tried to escape but was arrested by the alerted personnel, police said. During the search operation, the security personnel recovered three hand grenades, explosive items and other incriminating material from the accused. Preliminary investigation suggested that the accused, identified as Mohammed Shabir, was in touch with his Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) - based handler Azim Khan, who directed him to collect the arms from Surankot.

Shabir was arrested by the police after seizing the arms and further investigation into the case was launched. In July this year, the Jammu and Kashmir Police also arrested two overground workers of the Pakistan-based terror group, Jaish-e-Mohammed, who were allegedly linked to the terror attack on Army vehicles in Kathua which claimed the lives of five soldiers and injured five others.

Similarly, in May this year, in a joint operation, the Army and Jammu and Kashmir Police arrested a terrorist associate and recovered a cache of arms and ammunition from northern Kashmir's Bandipora district.

3 house burglars arrested in Andhra, stolen goods worth over Rs 10 lakh seized



Eluru. The Andhra Pradesh police arrested three individuals in connection with a series of house burglaries in Eluru district. The police also recovered stolen property worth over Rs 10 lakh. The arrests were made during a routine vehicle check at the Kalapurra Toll Plaza on September 11. The arrested individuals have been identified as Peketi Venkata Reddy (36), Chekuri Venkata Reddy (35), and Sheikh Alla Bakshu (39).

During the investigation, police recovered stolen property worth approximately Rs 10,78,000, which included 82 grams of gold, 4.75 kg of silver, and a Glamour motorcycle.

Kanpur villagers attacked by jackal; 3 injured, including 10-year-old boy

New Delhi. After recent wolf attacks in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich, the fear of wild animals has now gripped the villages near Kanpur. In a series of unsettling incidents, two separate jackal attacks have left several villagers injured, including a 10-year-old boy. A jackal was also caught on camera moving through a field, prompting the Forest Department to be on high alert.

The escalating threat of wild animal attacks in the region has sparked concern among locals. On Tuesday evening, a jackal attacked and injured Shanu, a 10-year-old boy, and Ram Bahadur while they were working in the fields. In a separate incident, Ram Kishore,

50, a resident of Behat Sakat, was also injured by a jackal. The sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) stated that although there have been multiple jackal attacks, there have been no casualties reported so far.

"Villagers have reported sightings of jackals, and the Forest Department has been alerted. A search operation is currently underway," the SDM said. He suggested that excessive rainfall might have displaced these wild animals from their natural habitats, causing them to wander into nearby villages. "There is a need for vigilance, and the district administration is prepared to provide all necessary assistance to the affected communities," the SDM added. These recent incidents come amid an ongoing crisis in Bahraich, where wolves have claimed the lives of over 10 people and injured dozens more.

Ground report: In restless Manipur, displaced Kukis await return to normalcy

Manipur has borne witness to ethnic violence for the past 16 months. The victims of violence are spread across the valley and the hills, with thousands displaced from their homes. Here's a ground report from one displacement camp.

>Thousands displaced in Manipur after ethnic violence
>700 Kukis living in Kangpokpi camp since May 2023
>Lack of amenities adding to hardship faced by the community

Kangpokpi. Manipur is once again witnessing a surge in violence. And, again, protests are erupting on the streets. Despite efforts by

the government and agencies to control the situation, peace remains elusive in the northeastern state. Since the conflict began in Manipur, thousands of people from both communities have been affected.

Victims of violence are spread across the valley and the hills, with thousands displaced from their homes. Many are now living in relief camps or in makeshift houses provided by the central government. Crossing the valley, India Today TV meets victims of violence who have been displaced from their homes and villages. They are now living in the hilly areas under extremely difficult conditions, marked by pain and



trauma. In the Phaijang hills of Kangpokpi district, nearly 700 displaced Kukis are living in relief camps.

Hohoi and her sister Naiuin sing a song sending a message of peace and harmony — perhaps the most needed sentiment at this time. Both express their longing to return to the homes they were forced to leave during the violence. The

Kukis living here left their homes in the last week of May 2023, during the peak of the ethnic conflict, when their village was burned, their houses destroyed, and several vehicles were damaged.

From the foothills and surrounding areas, these Kuki families fled to the hills and sought refuge in schools and relief camps. A few were fortunate to have relatives in the hilly districts, but most were not. They spent months in temporary camps, surviving on food provided by the administration or churches. Eventually, thousands of these

displaced people were moved to houses set up in different locations across Kangpokpi and other areas. When the relief and aid mission started, the central government provided prefabricated houses for the victims in both the valley and the hills. These houses range from 100 to 250 square feet, depending on the size of the family. They include a toilet, washroom, kitchen, and bedroom, with metal sheet rooftops and fibre walls. The administration supplies electricity and water. In the camp India Today TV team visited, there were around 700 Kukis, including women, children, men, and senior citizens. A Kuki woman named Momo, who lived for decades in a house built with blood and sweat, narrates her plight and pain after the violence.

CCTV footage of Nagpur bar visited by BJP leader's son before Audi crash missing

Sanket Bawankule's Audi, allegedly driven by his friend Arjun Hawre, hit several vehicles in Ramdaspath in the early hours of Monday, leaving two persons on a moped injured.

Nagpur. CCTV footage of the bar visited by Maharashtra BJP chief Chandrashekhar Bawankule's son Sanket and his friends before his Audi car crashed into several vehicles in Nagpur is missing, police have said.

The Digital Video Recorder of the joint in Nagpur has been seized, an official said on Thursday. Sanket Bawankule's Audi, allegedly driven by his friend Arjun Hawre, hit several vehicles in Ramdaspath in the early hours of Monday, leaving two persons on a moped injured. Occupants of a Polo car that was hit chased down the Audi at T Point in Mankapur, apprehended Hawre



and one Ronit Chittawar, and handed them over to police. Hawre was arrested on Monday night and later released on bail at the police station. "The CCTV footage of the time when they were at La Horee Bar (before the crash) is missing. We seized their DVR on Wednesday and

have sent it for forensic analysis," the Sitabuldi police station official said.

The manager of La Horee had on Tuesday refused to hand over the CCTV footage and the electronic equipment to a probe team, he claimed. "The bar management relented after it was threatened with legal action.

However, we realised there is no footage since Sunday night. Further probe is underway," he added. Although Sanket was riding in the car, he was not at the wheel at the time of the accident, police had said earlier. As per police, he consumed liquor and some chicken and mutton dishes at the bar.

Maharashtra to give household utensils worth Rs 10,000 to 50,000 house helps ahead of state elections

MUMBAI. Around 50,000 domestic workers will receive household utensils worth Rs 10,000 from the Domestic Workers Welfare Board. On Thursday, the state government granted administrative approval for the scheme. The scheme comes ahead of the state elections likely to be held in November.

The scheme is only for those domestic workers who are registered with the welfare board. A senior official from the labour dept said that till July 31, 37,444 domestic workers had registered, and it was estimated that another 18,000 registered in August.

"The highest number, 15,000 domestic workers, have registered in the Nashik

division. We will be holding camps at the district level where these utensils will be distributed. A camp was recently held in Sangli, and the next will be held in Pune. For Mumbai, so far no date has been fixed," said the official.

Uday Bhat, founder-president of Sarva Shramik Sanghatana, said domestic workers are required to register with the board every year.

"Earlier, the registration fee was Rs 100, but it has now been brought down to Rs 12. However, the board hardly offers any welfare scheme, so there is no incentive to register," he said. Bhat said that six months ago, the government announced a one-time payment of Rs 10,000 for registered

domestic workers who had completed 55 years of age. Criticising the scheme of providing utensils worth Rs 10,000, Bhat said domestic workers are women and they already have utensils at home.

"This would only duplicate what they already have. Besides, who is keeping an eye on the quality? Instead, the government should have transferred the money to their accounts and allowed the women to decide how they would like to utilise the money," he said.

A few years ago, when the government had carried out a registration drive, over a lakh domestic workers had registered with the welfare board.

Week after milk poisoning, twins in hospital for eating mosquito coil

The twins had previously been admitted to the hospital last week after they allegedly consumed lizard-infested milk.

TIRUNELVELI. Two-year-old twin brothers were admitted to the Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital (TvmCH) here on Thursday, after they ate a mosquito coil, mistaking it for candy. The toddlers were identified as M Chandralingam and M Suriyalingam, sons of M Manchu, a resident of Palayamkottai.

The twins had previously been admitted to the hospital last week after they allegedly consumed lizard-infested milk. "Manchu, whose husband Mari Selvam had died recently, resides in a rental house in Palayamkottai along with her two kids. When the toddlers were playing at the house on Wednesday, they allegedly mistook the



mosquito coil for candy and ate it. The incident came to light only when the twins started vomiting and later fainted at night. Manchu

allegedly found a piece of the coil in one of the toddler's mouth, and soon rushed them to the Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital," sources said. When contacted by TNIE, Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital dean Revathy Balan said that the children, who had initially been critical, were stable by Thursday evening.

"We are administering medicines and oxygen to them. Our doctors had treated the same toddlers last week when they were admitted here, after consuming lizard-infested milk," she added.

Meanwhile, the Palayamkottai police have conducted an inquiry with Manchu, and further probe is under way.

Tamil fishermen's boat sinks after alleged collision with Sri Lankan Navy

The fishermen, identified as Shaktivel, Devaraj, Karthikeyan, and Satish from Cheruthur, had embarked on their fishing trip in a boat owned by Dharman. The collision occurred as they were working in the area. T

Several fishermen injured, questioned for six hours before treatment
Boat recovered, injured admitted to District Hospital
Visuals of incident went viral on social media

Chennai. A boat belonging to Tamil fishermen sank after reportedly being rammed by a Sri Lankan Navy vessel while fishing in the South-East of Kodiyakkara on Tuesday. The incident has left several fishermen injured.

The fishermen, identified as Shaktivel, Devaraj, Karthikeyan, and Satish from Cheruthur, had embarked on their fishing trip in a boat owned by Dharman. The collision occurred as they were working in the area. The Sri Lankan Navy ship, which was on patrol, allegedly rammed into their boat, causing it to sink.

Following the incident, the injured fishermen were reportedly questioned for nearly six hours by



Sri Lankan Navy officers before receiving any medical treatment. The fishermen were eventually handed over to other local fishermen who arrived at the scene,

and the Sri Lankan Navy vessel departed. With the assistance of other fishermen, the sunk boat was recovered and the injured were brought to shore.

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News box

Communal clash in Nagamangala: Violence a planned incident, says HD Kumaraswamy

BENGALURU. Union Minister for Steel and Heavy Industries HD Kumaraswamy, who is MP from Mandya, hit out at Karnataka Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara for calling the Nagamangala violence a minor incident. Kumaraswamy said that the Nagamangala stone pelting and the subsequent violence was a planned incident. The former CM said such incidents were happening because the State Government is trying to appease one community for the sake of votes. Taking to 'X', Kumaraswamy strongly condemned the violence. "It is the proof of 'failure of law and order' in the town that the miscreants of a community deliberately raised a ruckus by targeting the devotees who were walking peacefully in the procession of God Ganapati, throwing stones and slippers on public and policemen, exploding petrol bombs, and brandishing swords," he said. He said bad days are not far for Congress if it does not stop "appeasement politics". Shobha demands NIA probe Union Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje demanded that the probe into the incident be handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). "They (miscreants) have insulted the entire Hindu community by throwing footwear at a Ganesha procession. They even burned shops belonging to Hindu vendors. But for Home Minister G Parameshwara, the burning of 25 shops of Hindus looks like a small incident. People are slamming the corrupt Congress government. To divert people's attention, the Nagamangala incident has happened," she alleged.

Kaushik's remarks rile Andhraites, BRS in damage control mode

HYDERABAD. For the first time after the formation of a separate Telangana state in 2014, debates on issues like "local and non-local" and "Andhra and Telangana" have begun in political circles. The trigger was the war of words that ensued between MLAs Arekapudi Gandhi and Padi Kaushik Reddy, which turned into a violent showdown at the latter's residence in Madhapur on Thursday. Kaushik termed Gandhi an "Andhraite," while the latter called the former a "non-local" who went to Huzurabad from Karimnagar to contest the 2023 Assembly elections. In those elections, the Congress drew a blank in Hyderabad, where most of the Andhra-origin people in the state live. The BRS leaders fear that if the Andhra-Telangana conflict is resurrected, the party might lose support in Hyderabad and cede ground to the Congress. The BRS can ill afford antagonising Andhraites at a time when its chips are down and it is out of power. Adds new dimension to state politics Politically shrewd as always, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, who was in Delhi on Thursday, said that the BRS won Assembly seats in Hyderabad with the support of Andhra settlers. He pointed out that the pink party's violent opposition to the appointment of Gandhi as the PAC chairman appears to have sprung from its hatred for the Andhra settlers. His comments have added a new dimension to state politics even as the BRS is trying to limit the damage with statements that it was never against Andhraites in Hyderabad and their interests.

Odisha govt tightens norms for re-engagement of retired employees

BHUBANESWAR. Doing away with the indiscriminate post-retirement re-engagement of officers by the previous BJD regime, the BJP government on Thursday issued comprehensive guidelines banning reappointment of retired employees for routine and day-to-day office work. A resolution in this regard issued by the General Administration department repealed the earlier guidelines issued by the BJD government in 2014 and stated that re-engagement of retired employees will be considered only in rare cases. The reappointment will have to be approved by the chief minister after recommendation by a four-member committee headed by the chief secretary. The guidelines stated retired employees up to 65 years of age and those who are fit will be considered for re-engagement. If the past experience of retired employees is highly required, only then his or her case will be considered for re-engagement on contractual basis. Employees having outstanding CCR/PAR for continuous 60 months before superannuation will be considered for re-engagement on temporary basis after retirement. Employees against whom departmental proceedings had been initiated or had been punished for misconduct within five years before retirement will not be considered.

Heartbreaking scenes in Wayanad as Shruthi bids farewell to Fiancé Jenson

The van carrying Jenson, Shruthi and others had collided head-on with a private bus from Kozhikode on Tuesday, leaving nine injured.

KALPETTA. Heart-wrenching moments unfolded at the WIMS Medical College Hospital in Meppadi, Wayanad, on Thursday, as Shruthi bid farewell to her Fiancé Jenson. In a cruel twist of fate, the 24-year-old Chooralmala native, who lost nine of her family members, including her parents and sister, in the devastating July 30 landslides, also ended up losing Jenson, 27, who had been her pillar of strength during those difficult times. The duo was involved in a grievous accident at Vellaramkundu along the Kozhikode-Kollegal NH on Tuesday. Jenson succumbed to injuries on Wednesday. On Thursday, a visibly-shaken Shruthi, herself recovering from injuries, paid last respects to Jenson in the presence of friends and family. His mortal remains were later brought to his hometown Andoor, a village under Ambalavayal panchayat in Wayanad, and kept at Glory's Auditorium for the public to pay homage. The body was then taken to his family home and the funeral was held at Nithyasahaya Matha (Our Lady of Perpetual Help) Church in the evening. The van carrying Jenson, Shruthi and others had collided head-on with a private bus from Kozhikode on Tuesday, leaving nine injured.



Shruthi and Jenson had got engaged on June 2, after a decade-long relationship. However, the landslides cut short their happiness with Shruthi losing her father Sivanna, mother Sabitha, younger sister Sreya, and six others to the calamity. At the time, she found solace in the company of Jenson, her childhood friend and long-time partner. As Shruthi recovers from the emotional and physical trauma of losing her loved ones, the entire region has extended its support to her and those affected by the loss.

Jenson is survived by his father Parimalamveetil Jayan, mother Mary, brother Jaison and sister Jency. **SATHEESAN VOWS HELP** Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan has said that Shruthi is not alone following her fiancé's demise. He also said that he would rally behind Shruthi like his own daughter. Talking to reporters at Cantonment House, Satheesan said that he would urge the chief minister to provide a government job to Shruthi.

Madras HC dissatisfied over 'NCC camp' probe, decries delay in the arresting of accused

CHENNAI. Expressing dissatisfaction over the investigation into the sexual assault of girls at a fake NCC camp held in a private school in Krishnagiri, the Madras High Court on Thursday wanted the investigators to "unravel the mystery" shrouding the death of the prime accused, Sivaraman, and the persons who had close links with him in organising the camp. The first bench of Acting Chief Justice D Krishnakumar and Justice PB Balaji made the comments when a public interest litigation petition filed by advocate AP Suryaprakasam seeking CBI probe into the assault of students came up for hearing. The prosecution submitted that the police are



investigating Gopu, an assistant NCC officer, for his links with Sivaraman, and Bhuvan, who had introduced Sivaraman to the private school. However, they have not

been arrested yet. "What is the link among Gopu, Bhuvan and Sivaraman. No proper investigation on these aspects is being done. Why there is so much of delay in arresting Bhuvan," the bench asked. Referring to the contents of the report of the district legal services authority, the bench said, "It is shocking to know certain parents do not want their children to continue their studies in the same school, fearing their safety." It also pointed out that one of the trainers of the fake NCC camp had a pistol and rifle and they had threatened the boys of cutting off their fingers if they revealed what had

happened at the camp. Advocate General PS Raman, representing the government, informed the court that three FIRs have been registered so far and 18 people arrested. He noted that Bhuvan, during interrogations, had said that he had no knowledge of Sivaraman's antecedents. Referring to the affairs of the private school, the AG informed the court that a GO is expected at any time for appointing a special officer for running the institution. Apart from the AG, Additional Advocate General J Ravindran and State Public Prosecutor Hasan Mohamed Jinnah also made submissions before the court on the issue.

'Governor hasn't pointed out Siddaramaiah's role in site allotment': Singhvi in Karnataka HC

BENGALURU. Senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi on Thursday argued before the Karnataka High Court that Governor Thawarchand Gehlot had committed a serious constitutional sin by granting sanction to prosecute Chief Minister Siddaramaiah without giving any reasons as well as recording findings to point out what and how he played a role in the alleged illegal allotment of compensatory sites to his wife Parvathy BM. The court has reserved the order as the marathon arguments on the petition concluded on Thursday. Arguing before Justice M Nagaprasanna, who was hearing the petition filed by Siddaramaiah questioning the order passed by the Governor, Singhvi expressed concern that there are chances of an elected government falling if the protection under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act is not extended to public servants by the act by the Governor, who unilaterally granted sanction by accepting

the politically motivated complaints filed by third parties. The court orally observed that the protection was given to protect innocents but not the guilty. To a query by the court whether the CM's son, who is an MLA, participated in the meeting held by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority as an ex-officio member, Singhvi said he attended the meetings but did not participate in the deliberations on site allotment. Alleging that the act of the Governor was biased and irrational, he argued that the Governor had violated Article 14 by choosing only the petitioner by misapplying discretionary powers though there were similar requests for sanction pending before him against former ministers of the previous BJP government and a union minister. The whole alleged transactions in MUDA took place when the BJP government was ruling the state and the Congress, to which Siddaramaiah belongs, was in the

opposition, he said. He contended that the Governor had taken two-and-a-half years to reject the request for sanction against former minister Shashikala Jolle about irregularities in the supply of eggs to schoolchildren. "A clarification was sought by him on August 28 about the request for sanction against former minister Murugesh Nirani. Similarly, a request against Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy was rejected. In one of the cases, the Governor has asked to provide translated copies of Kannada documents. However, in the MUDA scam, he issued a show-cause notice on the very same day of the complaint received, though the documents were in Kannada," he said. Singhvi accused the complainant TJ Abraham of habitual litigating with well-history of blackmailing. The court, however, orally observed that a whistle-blower always faces this problem.

Yechury's demise irreparable loss to Indian politics: CM Revanth



Revanth said that Yechury, starting from his student days, remained active in national politics for over four decades.

HYDERABAD. Expressing deep shock over the passing away of CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Thursday, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy said that the demise of the senior communist leader was an irreparable loss to Indian politics. Conveying his condolences to the bereaved family, the CM said that Yechury's fighting spirit was an inspiration to all. Revanth said that Yechury, starting from his student days, remained active in national politics for over four decades. He gained popularity not just as CPM politburo member and a seasoned politician but also as a Rajya Sabha member, economist and social worker, he added. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vilramarka, ministers N Uttam Kumar Reddy, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy and D Anasuya alias Seethakka were among a host of leaders from across the political parties who expressed their grief over demise of Yechury. At a condolence meeting held at MB Bhavan, CPM leaders S Veeraiah, Cherukupalli Sitaramulu, G Nagaiah, Julakanti Rangareddy and M Srinivas paid rich tributes to Yechuri. The CPM leaders said that Yechury played a key role in the formation of INDI Alliance against the BJP. CPI state secretary and Kothagudem MLA K Sambasiva Rao said that Yechury led several people's movements in the country.

Communal clash in Nagamangala: 20 shops burnt, 56 held



NAGAMANGALA. Tension prevails in Nagamangala after a communal clash during a procession taken out in the town

orders have been clamped across the town and parts of Mysuru-Nagamangala highway. Educational institutions, shops and other commercial establishments in the town remained closed on Thursday. According to sources, more people are likely to be arrested as police are examining the CCTV footage obtained from the affected areas. An argument broke out between youths from a particular community and those in the procession near a mosque on Mysuru-Nagamangala road. Soon, they exchanged blows and went on a rampage attacking shops and other business establishments. They indulged in stone-throwing and even hurled petrol bombs. Some miscreants tried to disrupt power supply in the area. Twenty shops were set ablaze. The clash soon spread to the outskirts of Nagamangala and the highway where miscreants attacked vehicles with iron rods, logs and stones.

to immerse Ganesha idols on Wednesday night. Police have arrested 56 people in connection with the clash. Prohibitory

Govt has the leeway to cut oil prices

IT was just about a year ago that global investment bank Goldman Sachs predicted that world crude oil prices would touch \$100 per barrel by the end of 2024. The forecast rattled emerging economies like India that are large importers. Luckily for them, the prediction has gone way off the mark. Oil prices have fallen by about 20 per cent over the past year with the benchmark Brent crude currently ruling around \$70-72 per barrel. The turnaround has taken place despite a grim geopolitical environment, with the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas conflict showing little signs of ending. Oil markets have clearly factored in the fact that neither are likely to disrupt supplies even though Russia remains the third largest crude oil producer in the world. Its production is still flowing into major consumption areas despite sanctions imposed by Western countries. Many European countries, including Poland, Finland, Hungary and even Germany, continue to buy oil and petroleum products from Russia, though the amount has reduced considerably. In addition, the European Union makes sizeable purchases of products like gasoline and diesel from Indian refineries using Russian crudeAs for the West Asian conflict, it has disrupted international trade flowing through the Red Sea and Suez Canal owing to the depredations of Yemen-based Houthis rebels. Traversing these inlets has been made dangerous for merchant vessels, many of which are now taking the long and expensive route via the Cape of Good Hope. But it has not affected availability of crude and natural gas supplies from the region, and they are continuing to reach consumers through both sea and land routes. It is thus a variety of other factors that have led to the bearish trend in oil prices over the past year. One of the most significant is weakening global demand, especially from the world's biggest importer, China. Economic woes are continuing in that country as the manufacturing sector contracted for the fourth month in a row. Over the past year, there has been an expectation that the economy would revive and the real estate sector would come out of the doldrums. Such a scenario seems distant now and multinationals are slowly withdrawing from the second largest global economy which is now producing more than the rest of the world can absorb. China recorded a 5.2 per cent growth rate in 2023, but the World Bank has projected that it will touch only 4.8 per cent in 2024. The slowing economy has, in turn, led to a cut in oil imports. Another factor contributing to softening prices has been rising output in the US, which has emerged as the world's largest crude producer. In fact, countries outside the Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries (OPEC) cartel are expected to lead output growth this year. This has largely offset the voluntary production cuts of 2.2 million barrels per day imposed by OPEC Plus since last year. These were expected to be lifted last week but with markets remaining relentlessly bearish, the cartel decided to extend the cuts for some more time. Even this news failed to perk up prices which rose slightly and then fell again to reflect the surplus availability in the market. The ebb in oil markets has come as a bonanza for India, which buys over 85 per cent of its fuel from abroad. Ever since the Ukraine-Russia war began in February 2022, prices have remained volatile. But India was able to get Russian crude at discounted rates which helped tide over the crisis of high prices during that year. The recent declining trend has meant that the Indian basket of crudes has fallen from \$89 per barrel in April to \$72 currently. The significance of this decline can be gauged from the rough estimate that every \$10 rise in oil prices leads to a 0.5 per cent increase in the current account deficit. In this upbeat scenario, the government has the leeway to cut prices of petroleum products like petrol, diesel and LPG to bring some relief to the common man. With several states going to the polls later this year, it would also be a pragmatic political move. A similar measure was taken in March prior to the General Election.

Assam's nativist push fraught with grave consequences

Like his counterparts in UP and MP, Sarma has been allowing the use of bulldozers as a retaliatory measure.

ASSAM Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has been relentless in his drive against Muslims. The more he ramps up his rhetoric and his government enacts laws to protect the 'indigenous population' from what he calls various jihads, the more he remains in the spotlight. His latest campaign is to make it mandatory for all adult applicants to provide their NRC (National Register of Citizens) application number while applying for the Aadhaar card from October 1. Sarma has already expressed concern about the number of Aadhaar card holders being more than the recorded population in at least four districts. The CM has mentioned that these districts have a Muslim majority, and he suspects that illegal migrants from Bangladesh may have procured fake Aadhaar cards. The issue of migration from Bangladesh has always defined Assam's political landscape, triggering one of the strongest and most successful students-led agitations in the 1970s. Sarma was also part of that agitation before he joined the Congress (he switched over to the BJP in 2015). It is well documented how the NRC updating exercise in Assam in 2014 led to hundreds of arrests and incarceration in detention camps. More than 19 lakh applicants were left out of the 'complete draft' of the NRC, released in 2019. As many as 688 persons were thrown in the detention camps, where 28 have reportedly died. Most of them are Muslims. The whole NRC exercise was ridden with clerical errors that led to years of repression. However, the idea behind this massive effort was to 'cleanse' Assam of illegal Bangladeshis. The purpose was not achieved as only 321 were declared foreigners. Since then, the Chief Minister has taken it upon himself to rid the state of 'termites', a slur used by then BJP chief (and now Union Home Minister) Amit Shah in 2018 while referring to Bangladeshi migrants in Assam. The Sarma-led state government has been changing laws and enacting new ones. He has been saying things which can be reported as hate speech. In March this year, he candidly said, "Islamophobia is real for many Hindus." In a recent statement, he said he would take sides against the state's Miya community (including Bengali Muslims), while speaking about the sexual assault on a 14-year-old Assamese girl, allegedly by a Muslim man, Tafazul Islam. He projected the incident as an attack by Muslims on 'indigenous communities'. The accused later drowned in a pond while reportedly trying to flee when the police were reconstructing the scene of the crime. Assam has a record of killings in police encounters. Earlier, Sarma had led a similar campaign against criminals and drug peddlers, most of whom he identified as Muslims. Since that time, landlords have been asking Muslim tenants in eastern Assam to immediately vacate



their premises. In less than a week, more than a hundred families have fled. Small groups of Assamese youth, reportedly moving across various districts, are issuing ultimatums to Bengali Muslims to leave within a week. Just like lynch mobs in other parts of the country, these groups have been created to intimidate Bengali Muslims, using violence if necessary. In Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, such mobs have been threatening a section of the Muslim community on the suspicion of smuggling/eating beef. It is not the anti-Bengali rhetoric of the 1970s that has been reawakened in Assam. The communal equation has since been reconfigured into a sharper polarisation between Hindus and Bengali Muslims (Assam's Muslims are perceived to be members of an affluent community who prefer to assert their Assamese identity). The old feud — the Brahmaputra valley versus the Barak valley (inhabited largely by Bengali Hindus and Muslims) — has also become much more strident. Sarma plays to the nativist gallery — someone who would have preferred ousting all non-Assamese people from the state but has reconciled with forging alliances to target the common 'enemy'. Under Sarma's regime, the target population remains the same during frequent eviction drives. Sarma seems to be in a hurry to compete with fellow BJP Chief Ministers in

other states in his tirade against Muslims. Considering his steadfast support to the Hindus, it was inevitable that he got on the bandwagon of love jihad. In 2023, his government carried out a brutal crackdown on child marriages. Thousands of Muslim men were arrested and madrasas demolished. This ideology aligns with the BJP campaign theme that Muslim men marry Hindu girls to convert them to Islam. In August, the state passed the Assam Compulsory Registration of Muslim Marriages and Divorces Bill, 2024, to replace the 1935 Act. Sarma has now promised to introduce a legislation to ban polygamy. In 2021, following some other states' example, he started a cow protection campaign. In January this year, a man in Karbi Anglong district was lynched on the suspicion of cattle smuggling. For the record, a huge number of Indian head of cattle are smuggled to Bangladesh every day, allegedly in collusion with law-enforcement agencies and local residents. Like his counterparts in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, Sarma has been allowing the use of bulldozers as a retaliatory measure. He recently restarted the bulldozer exercise. Sarma is determined to walk the talk on his jihad against Muslims, though he clarifies that his tirade is against the Miyas or Bengali Muslims. His desire to dominate the mainstream narrative is a cause for concern.

Acrimonious debate

Harris, Trump pull no punches

THE US presidential debate between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris was largely about who did better. Did Harris outperform Trump? Yes, she did, but Trump was still better than what a jittery Joe Biden was against him in their June debate. And, of course, Harris was far, far better than Biden. She did rub it in: 'It is important to remind the former President. You're not running against Joe Biden. You are running against me.' The televised matchup began with a handshake, but the slender hope of cordiality evaporated quickly. Both pulled no punches as they rained insults and barbs on each other. The twin challenges for Harris were to erase the memory of Biden's debate fiasco, which had forced him to abandon his presidency, and present herself as the



best choice for American voters. She succeeded to a greater extent in

doing the first than the second. Harris is gaining ground, according to online prediction market Predictit, but this is still a race too close to call. The candidates targeted one another over the Israel-Hamas war and the Russian invasion of Ukraine, but neither offered any specific roadmap to bring both conflicts to an end. They also locked horns over abortion restrictions, again not so convincingly. The fact that debate moderators had to repeatedly inject fact-checks showed that both nominees had no qualms about telling a lie here, a lie there. Trump's trump card was his question: Why has Harris, as Biden's deputy, not done in the past three-and-a-half years what she is promising now? This valid point caught her on a sticky wicket. Nevertheless, she managed to provoke Trump into making the preposterous claim that Haitian immigrants were eating dogs and cats of Ohio residents. This fight is only going to become more fierce and bitter from here on.

America holds the key to ending the war in Gaza

The involvement of a Bedouin in violence against Israel might fly in the face of Tel Aviv's claims that the Bedouins living in the country have been victims of Hamas.

THE killing of three Israeli civilians near the Allenby (King Hussein) Bridge border crossing in the occupied West Bank on September 8 by Maher Ziab Hussein al-Jazi, a former Jordanian soldier, has added a new dimension to the Israel-Hamas war by directly involving Jordan in the conflict. The Allenby Bridge was originally a World War I crossing point for the British forces from the East to the West Bank. It was named after Field Marshal Edmund Allenby, who had led the Palestine campaign. The recent incident has revealed different dimensions of the Israel-Jordan relationship in terms of security, diplomacy and trade. During the late 1980s, I was taken on a conducted tour of the Allenby Bridge, 5 km east of Jericho city in the West Bank, for the showcasing of Israel's preventive security measures to track terrorists and drug traffickers crossing over from Jordan to Israel. We did not have diplomatic relations with Israel then. Apart from video tracking, the bridge had a facility to track border crossings on foot through a study of sand footprints by expert Bedouin trackers. I also met members of the Israel Defence Forces' (IDF) Bedouin Tracker Unit. According to the IDF, on September 8, Maher Ziab drove a truck from Jordan, "exited the truck and opened fire," killing three Israeli civilian employees. Why didn't the IDF, with their most modern, AI-driven mass facial-recognition tools like Red Wolf, Blue Wolf and Wolf Pack, detect him while he was on the Allenby Bridge? Also, the bridge is a high-security zone in



which all persons crossing get searched at least three times. That the Jordanian could travel with a weapon means that it is a serious security breach. The IDF had shot dead a Jordanian judge, Raed Zeiter, in 2014 on the bridge merely on the basis of suspicion, something that Israel had to publicly apologise for. Inquiries later revealed that Raed was going to his hometown, Nablus, in the West Bank. The killing had led to strong protests in Jordan and the West Bank. The Arab media had also reported that there were large-scale protests in Jordan after he was killed. Notably, Maher Ziab, who was shot dead by the IDF, belonged to the influential Huwaitat tribe among the Bedouins. He was a resident of the Husseiniya area in Jordan's southern Ma'an Governorate. Huwaitat traces its origin to Fatima,

daughter of the prophet Muhammad. Some of them were part of the historical 'Great Arab Revolt', described by Lawrence of Arabia in his 'Seven Pillars of Wisdom'. The involvement of a Bedouin in violence against Israel might fly in the face of Tel Aviv's claims that the Bedouins living within Israel have been victims of Hamas, as they were supporting the regime. It may be recalled that Kaid Farhan Elkadi, a Bedouin hostage who was found by the IDF in a Gaza tunnel on August 27, was given a rapturous welcome. However, in the wake of Elkadi's rescue, international media outlets that visited his village in Negev found strong resentment against the Benjamin Netanyahu regime. Originally from Saudi Arabia, the Huwaitat had migrated to Jordan, Syria and Egypt (Sinai Peninsula), where they are found in large numbers. In 2020, Huwaitat leader Suleiman Mohammed al-Taique al-Hwaiti had started an agitation against a new Saudi project called Neom, a planned mega-city, that could result in the displacement of 20,000 Huwaitat tribe members. This resulted in violence and brutal suppression by Saudi Arabia. If the Huwaitat decide, they could open another front against Israel. Diplomatically, Jordan — which has been highly critical of Netanyahu's handling of the Gaza war — has a peace accord with Israel that was signed in 1994 by King Hussein and then Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in the presence of US President Bill Clinton. Annex III deals with the details of cooperation on crime. This is under strain, as revealed by the joint statement issued by Jordan, Qatar, Palestine and Kuwait on September 3 condemning PM

Netanyahu's accusations that weapons were being smuggled to the Hamas through the Egyptian border. West Asia observers now feel that Netanyahu's prolonged war in Gaza, aimed at keeping him in power, is going to affect Jordan adversely. David Hearst, Editor-in-Chief of the Middle East Eye, had observed on August 23 that Jordan's "balancing act is at risk of crashing down" with the latest Israeli intrusion into the West Bank, reviving the old Zionist policy to consider Jordan as the 'only Palestinian state', combined with Donald Trump's latest idea of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. He has stated: "The crudest version of this plan entails direct threats to the Palestinian villages and towns of the occupied West Bank to leave or be burnt out by settlers." At the same time, prominent US Democrats like Senator Chris Van Hollen have criticised President Joe Biden's policy on Israel on the ground that it violates American law. In March, Hollen said Netanyahu's actions in Gaza preventing US humanitarian aid had violated Section 620I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 — also known as the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act — and stated that no arms should have been given to Israel. Jonathan Steele, The Guardian's former foreign affairs correspondent, reminds us how the Secretary of State in President HW Bush's Cabinet, James Baker, had dealt with Netanyahu in 1989 by banning him from entering the US State Department. He says that Baker was furious with Netanyahu, who was then Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister under Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, for describing American policies as a 'distortion and lies'. Bush and Baker had refused US assistance of \$10 billion until Israel's illegal settlements in the West Bank and Jerusalem ended. Consequently, Shamir faced a defeat in the June 1992 elections.



It is always best to make maximum use of natural daylight with additional focus lighting on work tops.

Be safe and sound always
Safety is important in all offices — big or small, since there are a lot of people involved. If you have a large office with a considerable footfall every day then you need to extra careful about this. So, measures like emergency exits, automatic water sprays in case of fire accidents; fire extinguisher and alarms should be adopted in the designing stage of the building itself.

A hang-out zone is essential
Cafeterias, hang out spaces can be more informal and specifically created for the employees. If your office area is not spacious enough for a cafeteria, then a little kitchenette should be arranged for that has an electric kettle, a coffee dispenser, a microwave, a cold water dispenser etc. Potted plants, false or real, can be placed all around to make the area look appealing.

Go into the auto mode
These days it is important to save as much energy as possible. Automation in terms of motion sensors for lights and air-conditioning etc in various zones leads to conservation of energy.

Points to keep in mind
-Basic requirements: a computer workstation, an ergonomically correct desk chair, and both ambient and task lighting. - Flooring and walls should create an atmosphere of ease. -A potted plant here and there, should characterise the space. - There is always room for art and object d' arts. -Place photos on your desk to remind yourself of all the reasons you work so hard. -Windows should be draped with curtains or blinds. -Floors in offices should be no fuss — marble and wooden floors make a lot of sense. -Everything you need should be within comfortable arm's reach. -Finally, don't forget to give your office a feeling of coziness.

An example
Your office need not always be all too official, at all. Prithi Nandy's Nariman Point office has no stereotypes, no fixed patterns, and Prithi agrees with an enigmatic smile, "My inconsistency is my strength, it makes me who I am." One entire wall in his office has been dedicated to the family — cutouts of articles that have been published on him and his family. The wall is adorned with articles and pictures. "I love this wall," smiles the man who is a synonym for the word multifaceted — writer, poet, painter, journalist, photographer, businessman. Nandy says, "I believe that a place of work should have an identity," and we have to agree on that — his definitely has a very strong one.

Your office is the first thing that your clients and other people who come in to meet you will notice, and, trust us, the way your office is done up, can tell a lot about you. Just a casual look around your office can reveal the kind of person you are and also the kind of business you are into. A cold and uninviting office will project the image of a business difficult to relate to. An office that is too warm and friendly appearing, will probably tear down any resistance to do business that a client may have. Some offices are so cold (we are not talking about the temperature here) that you just want to bolt from there at the first chance you get. There is such a lack of 'personality' in some offices that you are left wondering about the owners personality (and probably the lack of it!). For an office, starting from the entry point to the lobby, decorating must

How your office looks can speak volumes about you. Here are a few ways to do it up

How you keep your

Office

says a lot about

You

up desk space, small drawer systems, and shelf accessories to hold small tools and supplies. Vertical space is important on shelves too. Adjustable shelves are great for using this wasted space, but you can also find accessories for fixed shelves that help accomplish the goal.

Allow free movement
Separate workstations are the order of the day. If you have a lot of employees working for you, then you have to consider this. Work spaces/workstations need to be well spaced out, to allow free movement, provide privacy and give the office.

Going modular is the idea
This kind of ready-made furniture that can be installed within a matter of a few hours has made setting up of an office a lot easier. Modular furniture not only works best but it also saves space and gives a very well-coordinated look. It can be customised to meet space, storage and colour scheme requirements of the organisation. Ergonomic chairs provide comfort for long use.

Colour code it to get the look
In terms of colour schemes, furniture can be in neutral colours with one or two highlight (bright) colours in the upholstery, curtains, soft boards etc.

The right light works best
Proper lighting is directly proportionate to productivity in an office. Lights are extremely important in every office and you should not neglect good lighting! Well-lit places are always more inviting and are a delight to work in. Overall lighting needs to be adequately bright.



be executed carefully. You have to keep in mind that you never really get a second chance to make a first impression. A comfortable, welcoming office says 'successful' and that attracts more clients!. Also, your employees will perform far better if given comfortable surroundings.

You are welcome
The entrance to any office makes a huge impact. The reception and meeting areas have to reflect the philosophy and work ethics of the organisation in terms of design, graphics and colours. These are areas which will be most visible to clients and visitors.

Make the best use of space

Since the prices for commercial real estate are not getting any cheaper, and because many companies pay for office space by the square foot, they're looking to maximise the space they can afford. Whether you're stuffed inside a tiny cubicle or in a home where a walk-in closet is the only available space to convert to an office, there are ways to deal with small work spaces and make them livable and workable. Lot of space-saving accessories for furniture systems and offices have been invented such as literature wall racks, wire rack shelving, copy holders that attach to the side of a computer monitor rather a copy stand that takes



Grow a garden in your Apartment

We practically live in a box called apartment, such is the constraint of space in most big cities of the world. One look around and all you'll see are lofty cemented towers or dusty construction sites. Amidst the dust, grime and lifeless surroundings, it's good to crop up something 'green'.

Not many have the luxury of a lawn facing cottage or a bungalow with a private garden at the back. However, that should not be a reason to avert the idea of growing some greens in your humble little apartment. Surf through your home carefully - the window next to your kitchen

sink, the balcony, the corners of your living room, and the terrace (if you have one), all of these serve to be ideal places for your urban garden. For Mumbai based multi-disciplinary design consultant, Shweta Kaushik, cacti and succulents make for ideal house

plants. "If you are looking for hassle free no nonsense green within your household, cacti and succulents are your best option. They do not need to be watered that often as their natural tendency is to survive in harsh conditions. You can leave them out on your balcony or a window sill and pretty much forget about them until you remember you were trying to cultivate a green thumb. I have personally grown some Aloe

Vera, and if you have the right conditions, it even blooms!" she says. Another kind of container plant that features in her list of apartment greens is tropical palms. She says, "They are very easy to maintain and do not die on you unless you ignore them for too long. They come in a variety of sizes and will be easily available at your local nursery. They can grow up to 4 feet in height and look quite elegant when placed in the balcony."

Besides this, people with culinary inclinations can try growing herbs. "Herbs aren't difficult to maintain at all and the thought of plucking fresh leaves from your makeshift garden while cooking can be quite exciting," adds Shweta. 6 herbs you can grow in your apartment

Lemongrass: When you buy a stalk of lemongrass at your local market, pick a stem that has a firm base. Simply, trim the top of the herb and place it water. Don't submerge it; just ensure that the base is 2-3 inches deep in water. The stalk will start producing roots and news shoots in a few days.

Mint: Out of spearmint and peppermint, the latter is an easier option when it comes to growing herbs in an apartment because this herb has a tendency to grow like a weed. Spread the peppermint seeds in a small pot full of soil and keep it in the shade but near the sun.

Curry leaf: A flavoursome herb with beautiful aroma, curry leaves are found in most South Indian homes. Plant the sapling in a flower pot and support it with a stick as it will grow

vertically and would need some support. Make sure it gets enough sunlight and water it at least once a day.

Parsley: Simply spread the seeds in a pot full of soil and wait for the seeds to germinate. Parsley grows very slowly and it may take 2-3 weeks for the herb to grow fully. Place it in an airy, shady corner.

Rosemary: Rosemary doesn't need to be watered frequently and therefore can be easily maintained in an apartment. Out of the many varieties of the herb, it's wise to pick the one that grows upright, making it easier for you to care for it in compact spaces.

Indian Basil: Almost all Indian homes will have the Indian basil (tulsi) in their homes. The herb requires very little care and grows well if placed near the windows. Ensure that the soil remains moist always.



False, malicious: Madhabi Puri Buch, husband reject conflict of interest claims

Heavy rain predicted for Delhi, UP as depression moves towards Uttarakhand

In a joint statement, Sebi chief Madhabi Puri Buch and husband Dhaval Buch rejected recent allegations of conflict of interest as "false, malicious, and defamatory."

NEW DELHI. Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Madhabi Puri Buch and her husband Dhaval Buch issued a joint statement on Friday, rejecting conflict of interest allegations levelled against them by the Congress party. In a joint statement released on Friday, they described the recent accusations as "completely false, malicious, and defamatory." The statement outlined the consulting assignments of Dhaval Buch with companies like Mahindra & Mahindra, Pidilite, Dr. Reddy's, and Alvarez & Marsal. These contracts, they stated, were purely merit-based and occurred well before Madhabi Puri Buch took office as Sebi chairperson. "It is unfortunate that questions have been raised regarding the consulting assignments of Dhaval Buch and the firms Agora Advisory in India and Agora Partners in Singapore. There seems to be an assumption that when a spouse of a senior government official is appointed as an advisor, it must be attributed to factors beyond professional merit. Such assumptions



overlook the strength of qualifications and expertise and reach conclusions that are most unfortunate," the statement read. Mahindra & Mahindra, which contributed to the majority of Agora Advisory's income, clarified in its own statement that Dhaval Buch was hired in 2019 for his expertise in supply chain management, long before Madhabi assumed her role at Sebi. Pidilite and Dr. Reddy's also echoed similar sentiments, dismissing any

notion of undue favoritism or conflict. The Buchs also addressed allegations related to their rental income from a property leased to a Wockhardt associate, explaining that Madhabi Puri Buch had no involvement in any Sebi investigations regarding the company. They highlighted that the rental agreement was made under standard market terms and had been disclosed to Sebi since Madhabi Puri Buch's appointment in 2017. "All necessary disclosures have been made to Sebi in writing right from Madhabi's appointment as a Whole-Time Member in 2017, including details about the property's market value and the rental income derived from it," they said. "Making such baseless allegations reflects a clear disregard for the comprehensive legal framework and mechanisms that govern public institutions like Sebi and are motivated to mislead the public."

NEW DELHI. More of rain this week. A red alert situation has been declared for Delhi, west Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand as a depression is moving towards the hill state. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rain would trigger landslides and cloudbursts in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. Flash flood alerts have been issued in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan on September 12 and 13. The IMD has also predicted widespread rains across north India this week. The depression, which was moving towards northwest from the Bay of Bengal for the past four days crossing Odisha, Chhattisgarh, north Madhya Pradesh, suddenly took a sharp turn towards northeast on the night of September 11. "Due to the westerly winds at mid-level, the depression will recur in the northeast, leading to heavy to very heavy rain over west Uttar Pradesh, north Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and parts of Haryana on September 12," said Mahesh Palawat of Skymet, a private Indian company providing weather forecasting.

Delhi HC to take up PIL on sewer overflow, water contamination

The petition, filed by NGO Social Jurist, criticises the authorities for failing failure to desilt major sewer lines, inadequate cleaning of branch sewers, and reduced manpower and machinery for sewer maintenance.

NEW DELHI. A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Delhi High Court, highlighting a year-long issue of sewer overflows in various areas of the capital, often leading to water contamination and the spread of waterborne diseases. It is set to be heard on Friday. The petition, filed by NGO Social Jurist, criticises the authorities for failing failure to desilt major sewer lines, inadequate cleaning of branch sewers, reduced manpower and machinery for sewer maintenance, and outdated sewer systems that need urgent replacement. It attributes the delays to internal disputes within the Delhi government.

"The authorities' failure to address this severe sewer overflow problem due to internal conflicts has resulted in significant health risks for the public, violating the fundamental rights of Delhi residents under Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution," stated the petition, which was filed by advocates Ashok Agarwal and Kumar Utkarsh.

According to the petitioners, the NGO had previously raised the issue with the authorities and received a response from the Delhi Water Minister Atishi, attributing the problem to an artificial financial crisis and bureaucratic gridlock created by the Finance Department, which has stalled efforts to resolve the situation. "...since January 2023, a situation of artificial fund crunch has been created in the DJB due to non-release of budget on one pretext or the other, by the Finance Department of GNCTD. In fact, Rs 2,802 crores remained unreleased to DJB even at the end of FY 2023-24, even though the DJB had more than Rs 700 crores of pending financial liabilities," the plea stated. The PIL seeks an order directing the Finance Department to release sufficient funds and provide the necessary approvals to enable the DJB to take corrective measures.

Gym owner shot dead by bikers in South Delhi's Greater Kailash



NEW DELHI. A 35-year-old man was shot dead by two bike borne assailants in south Delhi's Greater Kailash area on Thursday night, officials said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (south) Ankit Chauhan said that an information was received regarding firing at GK 1, adding one person was injured and taken to the Max Hospital. The police personnel on reaching the spot found some bullet projectiles and empty cartridges.

On enquiry, it was found that Nadir Shah, a resident of CR Park, had suffered bullet injuries, police said. "The attackers came on a two wheeler, fired on him and ran away. He was immediately rushed to the hospital by his friends but was declared brought dead," Chauhan said. Shah used to run a gym here on a partnership basis. The investigations are on from all possible angles, he added. The police has also not ruled out the possibility of gang war.

Delhi HC halts final order on charges in 2020 riots case amid plea for evidence access

The order came in response to a plea by Devangana Kalita, one of the accused, seeking access to certain videos and WhatsApp chats that she believes could help prove her innocence in cases linked to the riots.

NEW DELHI. The Delhi High Court on Thursday directed the trial court not to issue a final order on framing charges in the alleged larger conspiracy behind the 2020 northeast Delhi riots till September 23.

The order came in response to a plea by Devangana Kalita, one of the accused, seeking access to certain videos and WhatsApp chats that she believes could help prove her innocence in cases linked to the riots, including charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

"The video would exonerate me, showing that from February 22 to 26, 2020, we were engaged in peaceful protests. Selective screen grabs are being used against me, but the complete footage is exculpatory and



should be provided," Kalita's lawyer argued. Besides the video footage, Kalita has requested the entire WhatsApp chat from a group, portions of which have allegedly been selectively used to support the case

against her. Her legal team maintains that withholding these materials violates her rights under Section 207 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), which mandates the supply of related and unrelated documents to the defence. The Delhi Police, however, contested the maintainability of Kalita's plea, arguing that her petitions for accessing these documents were not valid.

Justice Neena Krishna, while acknowledging both sides' submissions, ruled that although the trial court could continue hearing arguments on the framing of charges, no final order should be passed till September 23.

Delhi gov't-run hospital turns away women in labour

NEW DELHI. Delhi government-run Indira Gandhi Hospital in Dwarka has issued notices to two of its post-graduate students for en masse referral of women patients to another hospital who came there in emergency labour.

The move came after a complaint raised by Dada Dev Hospital where these patients were referred, leading to an "embarrassing situation" for Indira Gandhi Hospital.

However, the trainees said the decision was made since the hospital lacked emergency labour room and blood bank to deal with such patients.

"It has come to the notice of the undersigned that on 07.09.2024 at around 3:30 PM, about six patients were referred to Dada Dev Hospital en masse. Administration of Dada Dev Hospital has taken strong exception of the said incidence and raised complaints on several levels leading to embarrassing situation for the Hospital as well as the Department," the hospital's notice to the trainees read. Upon enquiry from the



Specialist on call, she submitted that she was not informed about the said referrals. You are hereby directed to submit in writing for doing so and why no

disciplinary proceeding should be initiated against you," the notice further read.

Responding to it, the trainees said the referrals were made as no senior resident doctor was on duty and in accordance with the precedence set by the parent department (Obstetrics & Gynaecology).

"It has been verbally communicated and established as a SOP within the department for the past few months that patients in low-risk early labor should be referred to Dada Dev Hospital after 1:00 PM on Saturdays due to the non-availability of emergency OT services.

After careful consultation with the patients and their relatives, referrals were made in compliance with these verbal instructions to ensure that the patients receive timely care as per the established practice," the response from the trainees read.

A resident doctor working at the hospital said the administration is making the trainees scapegoats to hide the lack of essential facilities. Despite attempts, no response was received from the hospital.

Delhi HC directs CBI to probe waterlogging causes in UPSC Aspirants' deaths

The court raised concerns about the building's safety violations, with the counsel for one of the victim's families urging the rejection of bail.

NEW DELHI. While hearing the bail pleas of four co-owners of a basement accused in the deaths of three UPSC aspirants in Old Rajinder Nagar on July 27, the Delhi High Court on Thursday directed the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) to investigate and report on the cause of the severe waterlogging on that day, and whether it was solely due to heavy rainfall or other contributing factors.



"Was it merely the rain, or was there something else that led to such intense flooding?" Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma asked the CBI. The court has sought a detailed report from the CBI regarding the intensity of the rain, the installation of gates allegedly meant to block water at the entrance of the coaching center, and the overall cause of waterlogging. During

the hearing, the defense counsel, representing the four accused, Parvinder, Tajinder, Harvinder, and Sarbjit Singh, all brothers, argued, "I have been in custody long enough. At this stage, I only seek liberty and prepared to face trial." The CBI opposed the bail, noting that the investigation is still in its early stages and citing concerns that witnesses may be

influenced if the accused are released. The agency informed the court that a chargesheet would be filed within 10 days. The CBI also stated that 35-40 students were in the basement when the flooding occurred, with water rising in a manner reminiscent of a "dam failure" after the gates collapsed. Rainfall records showed 58 mm of rain on the day of the incident, the probe agency said.

The court raised concerns about the building's safety violations, with the counsel for one of the victim's families urging the rejection of bail.

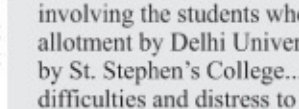
In response, the defence suggested that their father would contribute to compensation for the victims' families, following similar gestures made by other coaching centers.

While highlighting the non-functional stormwater drain system as a significant cause of the flooding, the defence claimed that the responsibility could not solely rest on the co-owners.

St Stephen's teachers urge college to allow students' admission as special case

NEW DELHI. Three days after the St. Stephen's College on Monday approached the Delhi High Court against a single judge's order of granting admission to seven students based on Delhi University's seat allocation system, the college teachers' association has requested the governing body to ensure that all these students be given an option of taking admission in college.

In a meeting held on Wednesday, the association requested the administration that the college should admit all these students as a special case for this year while continuing the legal procedures/administrative conversations with the University. "The legal battle



involving the students whose admission allotment by Delhi University was turned down by St. Stephen's College...has caused a lot of difficulties and distress to the students..." read the statement by one of the teachers present in the meeting.

Another concern highlighted by the association is that September 15 is the last date for completing admissions at Delhi University and time is running out.

Plan for a perfect guest room



Do you love having house guests over? When you start to plan your guest room, think about what you expect to find in a five-star hotel room, and try to make your room measure up to that standard. Your budget may not be enough to let you create a getaway oasis, but you can arrange what's necessary, and provide a

quiet place to relax. In a guest room, less is more—more space is more welcoming. Keep only the most useful items in the room, like a clock and calendar. Provide paper, pens, tissue and a hair dryer. If you don't have an extra iron and ironing board to offer, be sure to tell your guest where they can find

yours. A phone in the room will be a much appreciated bonus. If your guests will be going around town without you, they'll appreciate area maps, brochures on the hot spots, and directions to your home. If you can't afford a new bed, think about getting a quality air mattress. They're quite comfortable and can be placed on top of a box spring, over a sofa bed mattress. Beyond clean bedding, think about adding good bed linen, a choice of pillows, extra

blankets, and freshly ironed pillowcases. Always have an extra set of bed and bath linen available for your guests. Clear a space to put a luggage rack or a small table or bench to set down a suitcase. Clear some space in the closet or purchase an inexpensive hook that can accommodate some hanging clothes. Place an upholstered armchair or side chair in the room with a table and lamp close by. A TV in the guest room would also be much appreciated.



Get your furniture right

Want your personality to reflect in your house? Getting right furniture is the answer. Gautami Deshmukh finds out more

When you want your personality to reflect in your house, there's nothing more effective than choosing the right and modern trends in the furniture world. The furniture that you choose for your home should be as comfortable as possible in order to make your living space an enjoyable and attractive place. One of the best ways to find quality furniture is to follow the modern trends in the industry. There are a variety of different elements that are being explored in the furniture industry, many of which are rising quickly in popularity. The following are just a few modern furniture trends that are sweeping not only the nation, but the whole world.

Eco friendly furniture
These days people make efforts to contribute their bit for the environmental welfare than ever before. As a result, various furniture manufacturers have focused on creating green, eco-friendly furniture in order to meet public demand. This furniture is often made out of sustainable materials, and is typically thought to be better for the environment than more traditional furniture. The downside to this trend in furniture is that the materials that are used are often very expensive in price, forcing manufacturers to raise their prices beyond what many people would consider to be fair. Still, those who do not need to worry about sticking to a budget can find a great deal of enjoyment and satisfaction in outfitting their homes with eco-friendly furniture.

Modern minimalist furniture
One of the most effective and popular aspects of modern furniture design is what many people consider to be minimalist. Minimalist furniture

usually employs simple, sleek design, and is not always meant to attract attention to it. This type of furniture tends to be solid in colour and crafted from hard materials such as plastic and other composites. Minimalist furniture tends to be quite expensive, which is sometimes due more to the fact that it is rather en vogue than the actual cost of manufacturing the furniture. But for those who are looking for a way to add a radical edge to their dwelling space, minimalist furniture can be highly effective.

Modular furniture
Space-age furniture design seems to come and go throughout time in the furniture industry, and is currently enjoying somewhat of a renaissance. One of the most

obvious representations of this is the popularity of modular furniture. Modular furniture allows you to customise your living space quickly and easily so that you can change the way the space looks and feels on a regular basis. Many people enjoy the flexibility that modular furniture provides, although it's true that this type of furniture can be rather high in price. The best way to find modular furniture without paying too much for it is to shop at a local furniture retailer that has been in business for many years and has a good reputation in the community.



Maintain your personal spa at home

But who says that you need to dole out huge amounts of money or visit an expensive spa to relax your soul? Get together a hot tub, aromatherapy scent, wine, candles, flower petals and some romantic music and you are set to treat your body to a home spa. To add that zing, don't forget a nice towel and a sexy bath

robe. If you have a partner, then a hot tub can be the most inviting place to add on to your romance as there's nothing cozier than giving him/her an ultimate home spa experience. To add to the feel, play some romantic and soulful music and revive the flame of romance. But if you are alone, then worry not. Make

your home sparkle with the brilliance of cozy dim lights of candles. Once your bath is ready, play some jazz, or Sufi or any soft music and create the ultimate altar for relaxation. For a home spa, essential oils play a very important role in soothing you. This season, oils like jasmine, rose, neroli, ylang ylang,

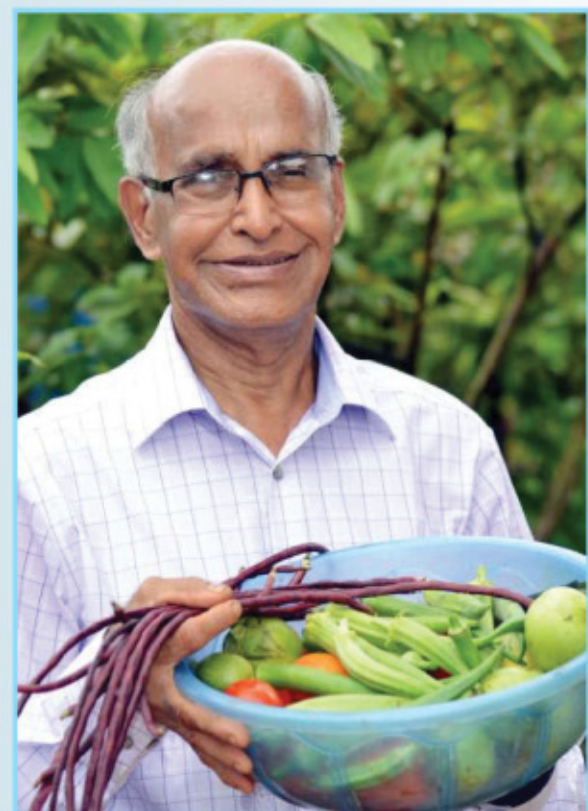
sandalwood, patchouli and vetiver are the 'hot' favourites. Mukesh Gupta, owner of a spa, says, "This is the spring summer time and the time for vetivar. While you soak in a milk and honey bath, burn chandan and rose, and get a cooling effect that will act as a fuel for your tired body. There's nothing better than beating

the heat with something cool." Anurag Kedia, director of another spa, votes for alo vera gel, lime, melon and mint. So this summer, just place a basket of towels near you, prepare a hot tub, soak your tired body into it and get ready to pamper yourself, within the snugness of your home.

Grow vegetables in your apartment



are convenient. - Stone pots or terracotta pots allow plants to breathe freely, but are difficult to shift. - Wooden containers shield plants from heat but they might give out a foul smell. - Place plastic saucers under the pot as this will prevent water and soil spillage. - You can also use old buckets and wire baskets for hanging smaller plants. - Try to avoid using containers with a small opening. - Make drain holes in all the pots. **Seeds:** Seedlings are easily available in various nurseries and should be planted carefully, without harming the tender roots. Even seeds from tomatoes or bitter gourd can be used. **Soil:** It is the most important thing to be considered. Soil should be light, disease-free and have the capacity to hold



Gardens can grow on a balcony, along a fence, or even in containers in an apartment window. With a little bit of research and creativity, you can enjoy fresh herbs and vegetables even in your own high-rise building. We talk to Mullaivan, founder of an organisation that donates free saplings to people. **Deciding on what to grow:** If you stay in an apartment, you will not have the freedom to grow a full-fledged kitchen garden, but you can grow certain veggies in smaller areas. You can grow vegetables like brinjal, tomato, spring onion, radish and capsicum, salad greens like cucumber and lettuce leaf and essential herbs like coriander, mint, curry leaf, green chilly etc. But, it will be difficult to grow onions and potatoes. **Selecting containers:** You need to consider two factors while selecting containers — the vegetable you want to grow and the space available. Plants like curry leaf or chilly will require a much smaller pot, as compared to vegetables like cucumber and capsicum, which will require a bigger pot. - Window boxes are ideal for flats as they look attractive and

With the congestion of urban city life, vegetable gardens for apartment dwellers seem like an impossible prospect. However, the concept of kitchen gardens is picking up in India, as more people staying in apartments want their own home-grown vegetables.

moisture. Organic manure or compost can make for wonderful growing medium. You can add organic kitchen waste to it. **Watering:** Plants need constant moisture, with most plants requiring daily watering. But excessive watering is not good either and may lead to diseases. **Fertilisers:** Most chemical fertilisers are easily available in the market but liquid organic fertilisers are the best option. Another option would be to water the plants with a solution made with neem leaves or flowers. **Insects and diseases:** Regular checks on the plants is a must. 'Companion gardening' is the best bet to keep insects away. For example, planting garlic between tomatoes will keep pests away. **Five quick tips:** 1. The months of April, May and June are considered the best for planting new saplings. 2. As far as possible, avoid planting trees on the terrace, as the overexposure to sunlight might hamper growth. 3. Water the plants twice a day and keep the soil moist. 4. Plants should ideally be kept in a place where there is moderate sunlight; enough for them to perform photosynthesis. 5. Finally, the growth of the plant completely depends on the type of seeds you use, hence, select a high-quality seed.



NEWS BOX

La Liga: Former Celta Vigo captain Hugo Mallo found guilty of sexual assault

New Delhi Former Celta Vigo captain Hugo Mallo was found guilty of sexual assault on September 12 for a case dating back to 2019. The verdict was delivered by a Barcelona court, which ruled that Mallo, who currently plays for Greek club Aris, had sexually assaulted a woman working as the team mascot for LaLiga club Espanyol before a match in 2019.

The incident occurred when the players lined up to shake hands before the match, during which Mallo assaulted the woman who was dressed in Espanyol's parakeet mascot costume. The court's ruling not only found Mallo guilty of the charges but also directed him to cover all legal costs associated with the trial from his own pocket. Following the court's decision, the 33-year-old footballer issued an official statement denying any wrongdoing and announced his intention to appeal the verdict. Mallo's conviction has sent shockwaves through the football community, especially given his long-standing career at Celta Vigo, where he



served as captain before transferring to Aris. The La Liga club is yet to give out any statement on the matter. The case has drawn significant attention due to the nature of the allegations and the involvement of a high-profile athlete. The court's ruling underscores the seriousness with which such accusations are treated, even in the world of professional sports. Mallo's appeal process is expected to be closely monitored as it unfolds in the coming months. The incident highlights ongoing concerns about the behavior of athletes both on and off the field, and it serves as a reminder of the importance of maintaining professional conduct in all interactions.

AFG v NZ: Greater Noida rain forces 1st abandoned Test in 26 years, 8th in history

New Delhi The one-off Test match between Afghanistan and New Zealand was abandoned completely without a ball being bowled at the Greater Noida Sports Ground Complex. This became only the 8th Test in the history of cricket to be abandoned without a ball being bowled. The Afghanistan and New Zealand match at Greater Noida became the first Test in the 21st century to be abandoned due to rain in Asia. It was another day and the same fate as the persistent rains didn't allow Afghanistan and New Zealand to face each other for the very first time.

The Day 1 of the Test match was marred by heavy rain in the Delhi NCR region, which didn't allow teams to take the field. The next day witnessed a poor outfield at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex, with the ground staff taking out the grass from practice pitches to use it on the main field.



The lacklustre drainage facilities at the venue further added to the woes as the ground was declared unfit by the umpires. The poor facilities, coupled with the inclement weather, led to the game eventually getting called off. In an official announcement, the Afghanistan Cricket Board said, "It is still raining in Greater Noida and due to frequent rain, the 5th and final day of Afghanistan vs New Zealand has also been called off by the match officials." This was only the 8th instance of a complete abandonment of a Test match. The first three happened between Australia and England in the Ashes in 1890, 1938 and 1970. The other four instances happened between 1989 and 1998.

What next for AFG and NZ

The ACB informed that the BCCI offered three venues to them, including Dehradun, Kanpur and Greater Noida. Looking at the connectivity between Kabul and Delhi, the Afghanistan board went ahead with Greater Noida because of its proximity to Delhi.

The Afghans will move to the UAE to host South Africa for a three-match ODI series, starting next week. Meanwhile, New Zealand will travel to Sri Lanka for a 2-match Test series before they return back to India for a 3-match Test series in October.

Carlos Alcaraz set to face Ben Shelton in Madison Square exhibition clash

Carlos Alcaraz headlines the star-studded Garden Cup at Madison Square Garden in December, facing Ben Shelton. With top players like Jessica Pegula and Emma Navarro, the event marks tennis' return to the iconic venue since 2018.

New Delhi Wimbledon 2024 and Roland Garros champion Carlos Alcaraz has been invited to participate in an exhibition match at Madison Square Garden in December, where he will face American star Ben Shelton. The event, known as the Garden Cup, will mark the first tennis event at Madison Square Garden since 2018 and will feature a star-studded lineup, including US Open runners-up Jessica Pegula and Emma Navarro. World No. 3, Alcaraz, has had an exceptional start to 2024, securing titles at Roland Garros and Wimbledon. However, he encountered challenges later in the season, losing the Paris Olympics gold medal match to Novak Djokovic, followed



by early exits from the Cincinnati Masters and the US Open. Currently, Alcaraz is competing in the Davis Cup for Spain to regain his winning momentum and has already begun his campaign with a significant victory. Shelton, who had a promising run at the US Open, saw his

journey come to an end in a thrilling five-set battle against Frances Tiafoe in the third round. Despite the loss, Shelton's performance has solidified his reputation as a rising star in the tennis world. Jessica Pegula and Emma Navarro, who are also set to compete in the Garden Cup, had

remarkable showings at the US Open. Pegula reached her first Grand Slam final before falling to Aryna Sabalenka, while Navarro defeated defending champion Coco Gauff in the fourth round, eventually reaching the semifinals, where she too was defeated by Sabalenka.

Mbappe and PSG set for likely court battle after club refuses to clear wages

New Delhi Kylian Mbappé and Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) are poised for a legal showdown after the Ligue 1 club refused to settle unpaid wages owed to the French star. Mbappé, who recently completed a high-profile free transfer to Real Madrid, has accused PSG of withholding two months' salary and a third of the loyalty bonus he was entitled to after spending seven years with the club. The dispute has escalated quickly, with Mbappé filing a formal complaint to the French Commission, urging them to intervene. On Wednesday, representatives from both Mbappé and PSG met in Paris to discuss the matter, but the meeting ended in a stalemate. PSG, in a surprising move, denied Mbappé's claim and announced its intent to take further legal action if the player does not agree to a settlement. "As a matter of law and fact, the player has made clear, repeated public and private commitments that must be respected,



having been afforded unprecedented benefits by the club over seven years in Paris," PSG told Reuters. "The club looks forward to these being upheld in the proper forum, if the player seeks to pursue this incomprehensibly reputationally damaging matter further, in due course," PSG added. PSG's decision is reportedly rooted in the fact that Mbappé received numerous

benefits during his tenure with the club, which they believe justifies their stance. The club issued a statement explaining their position, emphasizing that their decision was based on what they consider a fair balance of the player's overall compensation package. Mbappé's move to Real Madrid on a free transfer is widely regarded as one of the most significant deals in football history, given his status as a 2018 FIFA World Cup winner and one of the sport's brightest stars. However, his departure from PSG, a club where he rose to global fame, has been marred by this financial dispute, leaving a bitter aftertaste to an otherwise illustrious chapter in his career. As the situation unfolds, the football world watches closely, as this legal battle between a global superstar and one of Europe's biggest clubs is likely to set significant precedents in the sport.

'Played like performers not participants': PM Modi praises Paralympics stars

New Delhi Prime Minister Narendra Modi heaped praise on India's Paralympic athletes, celebrating their remarkable achievements at the Paris Paralympics and emphasizing the shift in India's mentality toward competing to win, rather than just participating. During a meeting at his residence in New Delhi on September 12, PM Modi praised the para-athletes for instilling a winning attitude in the country's athletic setup, crediting their inspiring journeys for transforming the nation's approach to international competition. India's para-athletes had an exceptional campaign at the Paris Paralympics, securing 29 medals—seven golds, nine silvers, and 13 bronzes—an impressive improvement over their previous best tally of 19 medals at the Tokyo 2021 Paralympics. The historic performance saw India finish 18th in the overall medal table, establishing the country as a rising force in para-sports. "All of you have not only won medals, but have also changed the mindset... Nowadays, medals at the Games



and everything has a lot of importance and are indeed counted. But being a country with a population of 140 crores, we go to the Games not just to play but to win," PM Modi said. "I am not a participant but a performer" - This mindset turns into a strength of a country, and you have brought a new flair in that strength. Congratulations on your achievements and I am really happy to see your mood," PM Modi added.

The meeting with PM Modi, which lasted over an hour, provided a platform for the para-athletes to share their success stories. The Prime Minister was particularly impressed by the achievements in track-and-field events, which contributed 17 medals, including four golds. PM Modi himself gave a heartwarming speech to the stars, congratulating them for their historic triumph.

Usman Khawaja picks Travis Head as Australia's opener for Border Gavaskar series

New Delhi Australia's Test opener Usman Khawaja picked Travis Head as his opening partner for the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy series. With David Warner's retirement from international cricket, who was opening across the formats for more than a decade, he left a spot that seemed tough to fill in. Australia's star batter Steve Smith raised his hands to fill in for the Test opener spot, but could not impress in his limited outings at the top of the order. Khawaja wanted Smith to bat at No. 4 against India in Tests. The opener felt that Smith batting at the No. 4 position would give the hosts the best chance to beat heavy-weighted India.



"He'll just probably never say it," the opener laughed this week. "So I'll say it for him. "Opening is a very important spot and (but) I still think we have the best Test player of my era in the side, in Steve Smith, and his best spot has been number four. I feel like that's his best spot. I feel like the best balance for our team is (Marnus) Labuschagne three, Smith four. For me, the number one consideration is 'what's best for the team?'. What order scores us the most runs? And if you look at how many runs we scored with Davey Warner in the team and Smudge batting at four, we scored a lot of runs," Khawaja told Fox Sports.

Who should open vs India?

The former World No. 1 batter took up the opening spot after David Warner's retirement and has averaged 28.50 in four Tests, contrary to his overall average of

56.97. Steve Smith has played four Tests as an opener in 2024 -- two against the West Indies and two against New Zealand -- and has managed just one fifty-plus score. "With Smudge opening, we've still won games, but I don't think we've scored as many runs as we could've. And when things are in his favour," Khawaja said, "he's almost unstoppable".

Khawaja picked Head as Australia's other Test opener, because of the kind of form he has been and his boasting history against India.

Can Travis Head make comeback?

"At the end of the day, it's a decision for the selectors. But if you have me opening, Labuschagne three, Smith four and I feel like Travis Head might be best suited. He's obviously been very successful opening the batting in one-day cricket and, breaking it down, I'd probably lean towards him.

Head has been in the form of his life as he scored 23-ball 59 in the 1st T20I against England, which also included 30 runs off Sam Curran's over.

In pics: Gambhir leads Indian team's huddle in Chennai for Bangladesh Test series

Gautam Gambhir led the Indian team's huddle as the Test squad reached Chennai ahead of the 1st match vs Bangladesh. The opening Test will be played on September 19.

New Delhi. The Indian team has regrouped ahead of the big home season as they will take on Bangladesh for a 2-match Test series. This will also be the first assignment of India's new coaching staff, which recently included Mome Morkel as the bowling coach. The official social media handle of the BCCI shared glimpses of India's first training session from M Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. The caption read, "The countdown starts as Team India begin their preps for an exciting home season. It was a bright sunny morning at Chepauk as the Indian team huddled before the start of



training. Gambhir, alongside assistant coach Abhishek Nayar and Morkel, addressed the Indian team. All the star players, including captain Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and ace pacer Jasprit Bumrah returned to the side. Kohli and Rohit landed in Chennai during the wee hours of Friday

morning, September 13. Team India in Chennai Kohli flew directly from London, where he spent quality time with his family and Rohit arrived from Mumbai. The Indian team regrouped after a month-long break from international cricket and many players like

Shubman Gill, Axar Patel and KL Rahul took part in round one of the Duleep Trophy. The Test series also marked the return of Rishabh Pant to red-ball cricket, a format in which he flourished and played many match-winning knocks.

The upcoming 10 Test matches will be crucial for India in order to stand a chance to make it to the World Test Championship final, which will be held in June 2024 at Lord's Cricket Ground.

India will host Bangladesh, followed by New Zealand for a 3-match Test series. Their main challenge will be the 5-match Border Gavaskar Trophy series against Australia, starting November this year.

India squad for 1st Test against Bangladesh

Rohit Sharma (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), R Ashwin, R Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Yash Dayal.

Prachi Desai's

36th Birthday, A Look At Her Career And Personal Life

Actress Prachi Desai is a popular face in the Indian entertainment industry. She gained prominence with her performance in the 2006 TV serial Kasamh Se. She was seen alongside Ram Kapoor and their onscreen chemistry created quite a buzz in the television world. The actress portrayed the role of Bani which is still remembered by the audience. From the television industry to the film industry, Prachi has left her mark with her acting skills. Today, the actress is celebrating her 36th birthday and on that occasion let us know more about her in this article.

Prachi doesn't often share much about her personal life in front of the media. She had been an active face in the entertainment industry. The actress appeared in the 2012 film Bol Bachchan directed by famous director Rohit Shetty. During the shooting of the film, several rumours emerged which stated that Prachi Desai and Rohit Shetty were dating. The media reports also stated that their closeness almost led to Rohit Shetty's divorce, but eventually, he reconciled with his wife and ended his relationship with Prachi.

The actress reportedly fell in love twice but both times, her relationships didn't last and she experienced betrayal. In an old interview with Filmfare, she mentioned that she is a very sensitive person and when she falls in love, she tends to forget everything. Sharing an experience she mentioned that once she was dating someone and for him she travelled to several countries before realising that she was betrayed.

Prachi said, "I have flown to several countries for someone. When I spoke to him on the phone, he said he was in a particular country. I believed him and flew across to give him a surprise. Later I realised that he was lying. He is never at the places he mentioned over phone calls." Talking about her acting career, she worked in several well-known films like Rock On!!, Once Upon a Time in Mumbai, Teri Meri Kahaani, Azhar and Silence: Can You Hear It?



Hina Khan Seeks Bappa's Blessings Amid Breast Cancer Treatment



Amidst the challenging journey of undergoing chemotherapy for Stage Three breast cancer, actress Hina Khan made a poignant appearance at producer Ekta Kapoor's Ganeshotsav celebration. The pictures shared by social media personality Rizwan Bachav feature Hina in a white and yellow co-ord set. She is happily posing with other TV celebrities, who were present for the festive celebration. The snaps also feature Divyanka Tripathi and her husband Vivek Dahiya, Anita Hassanandani Reddy, Krystle D'Souza, Rithvik Dhanjani, Ridhima Pandit, Shabir Ahluwalia and Kanchi Kaul.

In another boomerang video, we can see Hina posing with actor Sahil Anand. Sahil has captioned the post as: "Bappa blessings". Hina posted a sticker to the post: "Love and Friends". On September 11, Hina had shared an update about her health, revealing that her 'Mucositis' is much better, and thanked fans for sending lots of love to her. In a note, she wrote: "This is for each one you.. My Mucositis is much better.. I read all your comments and suggestions. You all hv been a great great help.. Sending you all tons of love".

Best known for her role as Akshara in 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai', Hina has participated in 'Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 8', 'Bigg Boss 11', and 'Bigg Boss 14'. She has also been a part of the movies like 'Hacked', 'Wishlist', and a short film 'Smartphone'. The diva has starred in music videos like 'Bhasoodi', 'Raanjhana', 'Humko Tum Mil Gaye', 'Patthar Wargi', 'Baarish Ban Jaana', 'Main Bhi Barbaad', 'Mohabbat Hai', 'Barsaat Aa Gayi', and the recent track by Asees Kaur, and Saaj Bhatt- 'Halki Halki Si'. Hina had also recently made her Punjabi film debut with 'Shinda Shinda No Papa', alongside Gippy Grewal. She next has 'Country of Blind' in the pipeline.

Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video Trailer: Rajkumar, Triptii's Marriage Turns Chaotic In This Comedy



Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri will be sharing the screen together for the first time in Raaj Shaandilyaa's film. The film's much-awaited trailer is finally out now and it has only piqued fans' interest in the film. The teaser takes us into the 90s and promises that the film will be '97% parivarik' and '3% maha parivarik'. As per the trailer, the story revolves around a CD containing an intimate video of a couple that leads to chaos in a small town. Watch the trailer here: Vicky and Vidya get married in 1997 and he convinces her to make a suhaagraat video. However, the CD gets stolen and chaos ensues in Vicky and Vidya's lives. The film promises to be a comedic journey as Vicky and Vidya try to retrieve the video.

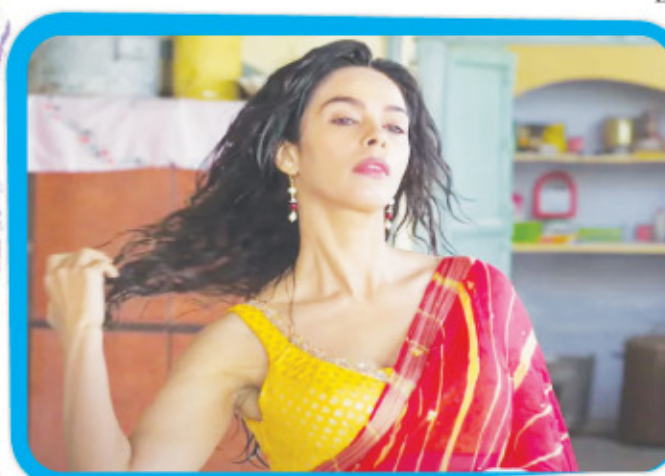
In another exciting update about the film, Sachin Sangvi of Sachin-Jigar composer duo, exclusively told News18 Showsha that the film will also mark Adnan Saami's return to Bollywood after nine years.

Talking about Adnan's return to Bollywood, Sachin told us, "I was born in the 80s. I was in my teen years in the 90s. So, I've lived every bit of the music of the 90s. The songs of that decade have left a strong impression on me and so, one of the songs in the film is sung by Adnan Sami." While most details about the track are still kept under wraps, it will surely be interesting to see Rajkumar and Triptii bringing it to life onscreen. Sharing his excitement about the song and the joy of working with the Noor E Khuda and Baatein Kuch Ankahein Si hitmaker, Sachin further added, "I truly cherish the fact that we could do this because my god, haven't we enjoyed his melodies and his reign! What a talent and what a person he is! It was just amazing to work with him. So, be assured that those times are coming your way again." Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video is produced by Bhushan Kumar's T-Series. The film will be out in theatres on October 11. The anticipation for the film is high after Rajkumar Rao's performance in the juggernaut, Stree 2, also starring Shradha Kapoor. As for Triptii, she was last seen in Bad Newz with Vicky Kaushal and Amy Virk.

Mallika Sherawat

Is the Biggest Surprise of Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video, Has a Welcome Style Role

The trailer of Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video released on Thursday and one of the biggest surprises of the trailer was Mallika Sherawat. The actress, who is known for films such as Murder and Pyaar Ke Side Effects, has a prominent role in the Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri led film. The makers had kept her casting under the wraps for a while now, making her appearance an impactful surprise. The trailer revealed that Mallika will be seen playing Vicky's family member. Vicky is played by Rajkumar Rao.



Director Raaj Shaandilyaa seemingly gave nod to her iconic appearance in Welcome in the film. Much like the Akshay Kumar starrer, Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video also seems to feature her as one of the family members who everyone has the hots for. The trailer also showed Vijay Raaz's character falling head over heels for her, bringing back memories of Majnu and Uday from Welcome.

Mallika was last seen in RK/RKay, which released in 2022. She took a five-year break before that. Besides Bollywood, she has also worked in international projects such as Hiss, Time Raiders, and Dirty Politics. Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala

Video is set in the 90s and features a newlywed couple, Vicky and Vidya. One night, they decide to film themselves getting intimate. Unfortunately for them, the CD gets stolen. The film promises to keep you entertained with the events that unfold while searching for the stolen CD. The film stars Rajkumar Rao, Triptii Dimri, Mallika Sherawat, Archana Puran Singh, Archana Patel, Rakesh Bedi, Mukesh Tiwari, Tiku Talsania, Mubeen Saudagar, and Jaswant Singh. The film is produced under the banners of T-Series, Balaji Telefilms, and Wakao Films, in association with Kathavachak Films. Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video is coming to theaters near you on October 11, 2024.

