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Khattar rallies party workers, promises Industrial Model Township in Karnal

Sanjay Kumar Karnal, Sep 20: Former chief minister and Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Friday rallied the party's workers and leaders to support Jagmohan Anand, the party's candidate from the Karnal assembly segment. He held a



series of meetings with various sections of society. He also promised an Industrial Model Township (IMT) to boost the city's global industrial competitiveness. "We will establish IMT in Karnal to provide world-class services and facilities, putting the city on the global map of industrial competitiveness," Khattar said during a meeting with intellectuals and media persons. Khattar, a two-time MLA

and current MP from Karnal, highlighted his connection with the people and assured accelerated development if BJP's MLA is re-elected. He criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to Ghogripur village, calling selfie-taking "inappropriate". Khattar also commented on Congress MP

Kumari Selja's campaign absence, saying it's an internal dispute. Khattar clarified that Karnal's connection to Ladwa won't change and criticised Congress leaders Shamsher Singh Gogi and Neeraj Sharma for prioritising personal interests. BJP's Haryana campaign will continue with rallies by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, JP Nadda, Amit Shah, and other senior leaders. Regarding former councillors joining the Congress, Khattar said, "We don't pressure anyone. If someone finds our work unsatisfactory and prefers the Congress, they're free to make their choice. Nevertheless, we'll make an effort to engage with them in dialogue." Later, Khattar met with former councillors, urging them to ensure the victory of Jagmohan Anand, the party's candidate in Karnal. Subsequently, Sonu, brother of former councillor Ram Chander Kala, joined BJP in Khattar's presence at the party's Karnal office.

PM Modi attacks Congress over Ganpati Puja

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Sep 20: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday reignited the

Ganesh Chaturthi controversy, accusing the Congress of harbouring animosity towards the festival. He remarked that any party with genuine respect for India's faith and culture would never oppose Ganpati Puja. "A party that has even a shred of respect for our faith and culture can never oppose Ganpati Puja. But today's Congress harbours hatred even for Ganpati Puja. The land of Maharashtra is a witness to how, during the freedom struggle under the leadership of Lokmanya Tilak, the Ganpati festival became a symbol of India's unity," said PM Modi. While addressing a gathering

in Maharashtra's Wardha, PM Modi said that the current Congress is not the same as the one associated with leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, saying



that the soul of patriotism has left it and hatred has taken its place. Dig deeper The Supreme Court on Friday insisted on having uniform safety measures for

coaching institutes on a pan-India basis and directed a committee examining this issue to suggest interim measures within a month. The development comes in wake of the tragic death of three students at a Delhi coaching centre on July 27. A bench headed by justice Surya Kant said, "The unfortunate incident happened in Delhi, but this can happen elsewhere. We might have thought of expanding this matter on a pan-India basis but now there is a committee formed by the Centre." Attorney General R Venkataramani appearing for Centre produced the notification appointing the committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on July 30, within days after the tragic incident at Delhi-based Rau's IAS Study Circle claimed lives of three students who drowned in the waterlogged basement of the building housing the library.

TTD says samples had 'animal fat', Jagan slams CM for 'diversion politics'

Naresh Malhotra

Amaravati, Sep 20: As the Tirupati Laddoo row snowballed into a major national controversy, the temple body managing the super-rich shrine on Friday revealed it has come across sub-standard ghee and presence of lard in samples tested for quality, echoing claims first made by Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu two days ago. With the fingers of accusation being pointed at his led previous regime over the issue, former CM and YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy described the matter as "diversion politics," and slammed it as a "concocted story." The Centre too weighed in, with Union Health Minister JP Nadda seeking a report on the matter from Andhra Pradesh government and promising suitable action after examining it. On Friday, Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), which manages the Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple, asserted there was presence of 'Lard' (pig fat) and other impurities in the ghee, citing a lab report. TTD Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao said lab tests had revealed the presence of animal fat and lard in chosen samples and the board was in the

process of blacklisting the contractor who supplied 'adulterated' ghee. A lab value indicated the sample was adulterated with lard also, Rao said while addressing a press conference in Tirupati. "All the four reports of samples gave similar results. So we immediately stopped (receiving) the supplies. And the blacklisting of the contractor was initiated and the procedure to impose penalties would also be initiated. Now, the legal process will start," he said. The EO highlighted that the suppliers took advantage of a lack of in-house testing facility. The TTD administers the popular hill shrine that attracts lakhs of devotees throughout the year. CM Naidu had earlier expressed concern over the quality of ghee as well as laddoo and highlighted complaints of the presence of animal fat in the sweet, Rao said. During an NDA legislative party meeting on Wednesday, Naidu, chief of the ruling TDP, claimed that the previous YSRCP government did not even spare Sri Venkateswara Swamy temple and used sub-

standard ingredients and animal fat for making the popular sweet, known for its unique taste. Responding to the allegations, Jagan Mohan Reddy said the adulteration issue was taken up

Naidu's 100 days' rule. They are demanding what happened to their "Super six" (poll promises). Under these circumstances, in order to divert the public attention, this concocted story," he lambasted. All samples, tests and results mentioned in lab test reports as evidence occurred under the NDA government, he asserted. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu-based AR Dairy, a company that supplied ghee to Tirupati Lord Balaji temple, said their product samples have been duly cleared by authorities certifying its quality. The Dindigul based firm's spokespersons told reporters that only during the months of June and July did they supply ghee to the Tirumala temple. Even when ghee was supplied to Tirupati temple, it was sent along with duly accredited lab reports. Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar requested Naidu to take necessary measures to alleviate concerns among the public about Tirupati laddoo. Andhra Pradesh deputy CM Pawan

Kalyan, in a social media post said he was deeply disturbed by the alleged findings of animal fat mixed in Tirupati temple 'prasadam' (consecrated food), and called for the creation of a national level body to look into the issues pertaining to temples. Meanwhile, the former chief priest of Lord Venkateswara temple, Ramana Deekshitulu expressed anguish over reports of adulteration in the ingredients used for making the sacred 'laddoo prasadam'. He claimed he had taken the quality-related deficiencies to the notice of the Executive Officer and TTD Board chairman but in vain. The Congress said if claims of "desecration" of the Tirupati laddoo are right, a full-fledged enquiry must identify the guilty, but if they are wrong or motivated, millions of Tirupati devotees will not forgive those playing with their faith. In a post on X, the Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said, "If the claims of desecration of the Tirupati Laddus are right, of course a full-fledged enquiry must identify the guilty and strictest possible punishment must be meted out BUT, if the claims are wrong or motivated then, millions of devotees of Tirupati will not forgive those playing with their faith."



to divert the public attention from the state government's 100 days of rule. "This is diversion politics. On the one hand, people are expressing their anger at Chandrababu

State for Home Bandi Sanjay Kumar requested Naidu to take necessary measures to alleviate concerns among the public about Tirupati laddoo. Andhra Pradesh deputy CM Pawan

We have never implemented Pak agenda: Farooq Abdullah

ST Correspondent

Sri Nagar, Sep. 20: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday countered Prime Minister Narendra Modi, saying the party has never implemented Pakistan's agenda. Abdullah's remarks came a day after Prime Minister Modi said the NC, People's Democratic Party (PDP) and Congress were implementing the neighbouring country's agenda in Jammu and Kashmir. "We have never implemented Pakistan's



agenda. It is regrettable that those who accuse us are implementing Pakistan's agenda. What can we do to them?" the NC president told reporters in Hazratbal. Apparently referring to Baramulla Lok Sabha MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid whom the NC and PDP have accused of being the BJP's agent to fragment votes in the Kashmir valley, Abdullah said those who accuse his party of implementing Pakistan's agenda were standing with those who got funds from Pakistan. "They themselves are Pakistan's agents."

Can prosecute Lalu Prasad in land-for-jobs case

New Delhi, Sep 20: The CBI told a Delhi court on Friday that it has obtained requisite sanctions from the authorities concerned to prosecute former railway minister Lalu Prasad in a corruption case related to the alleged land-for-jobs scam. The CBI filed the sanctions before Special Judge Vishal Gogne. It informed the court that there were around 30 other accused in the case for whom prosecution sanction was awaited, and urged it to grant 15 more days to enable it to obtain the requisite documents. The court directed the CBI to expedite the process to obtain the sanctions for the other accused and posted the matter for further hearing on October 15. The case pertains to Group-D appointments made in the West Central Zone of the Railways based in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, during Lalu Prasad's tenure as the railway minister from 2004 to 2009, in return for land parcels gifted or transferred by the recruits in the name of the RJD chief's family or associates, according to officials.

3 FIRs filed in Chhattisgarh against Rahul for remarks on Sikhs

New Delhi, Sep 20: Three FIRs have been registered against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in parts of Chhattisgarh for allegedly hurting the religious sentiments of the Sikh community through his remarks made during the recent US visit, the police said on Friday. While two cases — one at the Civil Lines police station in capital Raipur and another at the Bilaspur Civil Lines police station in Bilaspur district — were registered on Thursday, an FIR was filed at the Kotwali police station in Durg district on Friday, they said. The cases were registered based on the complaints lodged by BJP leaders. Similar complaints have been submitted at police stations in other districts of the state, too, by ruling party leaders. In all these cases, he has been booked under various Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. State BJP spokesperson Amarjeet Singh Chhabra, in his complaint lodged in Raipur, stated that Rahul Gandhi remarked whether Sikhs would be allowed to wear a turban or a 'kada' and go to gurdwaras in India. His statement had hurt the religious sentiments of the Sikhs, Chhabra said in the complaint. "In the entire world, and even in India, the Sikh community is not prohibited from wearing a turban, a 'kada' and visiting gurdwaras."

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep 20: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, which manages the temple, asserted there was presence of 'Lard' (pig fat) and other impurities in the ghee, citing a lab report. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday expressed concern over reports of adulteration in the famed Tirupati laddu, a sacred offering distributed at the Sri Venkateswara temple in Andhra Pradesh. Taking to social media, Gandhi called for a thorough investigation into the issue, stressing the need to maintain the sanctity of religious spaces. In a post on X, Gandhi said, "The reports about the defilement of the Prasad at Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati are disturbing. Lord Balaji is a revered deity for millions of devotees in India and across the world. This issue will hurt every devotee and needs to be thoroughly looked into." Gandhi's comments come amid a growing national controversy sur-

Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders begin final round of seat-sharing talks

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Mumbai, Sep 20: With more than a fortnight to go for the announcement of the schedule for the Maharashtra Assembly polls, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi leaders — belonging to the Congress, NCP (Sharad Pawar) and Shiv Sena (Uddav Thackeray) — have begun their final round of seat-sharing talks for the polls. Given that the Election Commission of India (ECI) is expected to announce the Assembly poll schedule for Maharashtra and Jharkhand in mid October after the completion of the ongoing Assembly polls in J & K and Karnataka, the political parties in the state are gearing themselves for 288-member Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in the end of November or early December. Not wanting to delay further the seat-sharing tie-up among them, the MVA leaders got down to three-day seat-sharing negotiations which will continue till September 20. In the final round of seat-sharing talks that began on

Wednesday, the three constituents of the MVA will decide on the number of seats to be contested by each party and the identification of the constituencies from which each party will field their candidates. Having emerged as the number-one party in the recent Lok



Sabha polls, the Congress has staked claim for a maximum of 120 to 130 seats out of the total 288 seats. All the three MVA constituents have expressed their readiness to adopt a "give and take" approach in the seat-sharing talks. The criteria being adopted for the seat-sharing arrangement are the per-

formances of the three parties in the recent Lok Sabha polls, the base of the three parties in the respective constituencies and the "winnability" factor. On its part, the Shiv Sena (UBT) is insisting that it be allotted maximum number of seats and that the "winnability" factor should be only criterion for the seat-sharing tie-up. Shiv Sena's chief spokesperson has gone on record saying that his party's votes were transferred in a big way to the candidates belonging to the Congress and NCP (SP). In an effort to avoid differences over the leadership during the seat-sharing talks, the three MVA constituents have decided to go to the Assembly polls under the joint leadership of three parties. It may be recalled that on September 4, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar — who is considered the architect of the MVA — had said that the Opposition's grand alliance would declare its nominee for the chief minister's post based on which constituent party wins the maximum seats in the State Assembly polls.

Rahul Gandhi reacts to alleged use of 'animal fat' in Tirupati Laddu

New Delhi, Sep 20: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, which manages the temple, asserted there was presence of 'Lard' (pig fat) and other impurities in the ghee, citing a lab report. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday expressed concern over reports of adulteration in the famed Tirupati laddu, a sacred offering distributed at the Sri Venkateswara temple in Andhra Pradesh. Taking to social media, Gandhi called for a thorough investigation into the issue, stressing the need to maintain the sanctity of religious spaces. In a post on X, Gandhi said, "The reports about the defilement of the Prasad at Sri Venkateswara temple in Tirupati are disturbing. Lord Balaji is a revered deity for millions of devotees in India and across the world. This issue will hurt every devotee and needs to be thoroughly looked into." Gandhi's comments come amid a growing national controversy sur-

rounding the alleged use of animal fat in the preparation of the laddu, a symbolic offering at the hill shrine. He urged authorities to act promptly, adding, "Authorities across India have to protect the sanctity of our religious spaces." The controversy erupted after Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu raised concerns about the quality of ingredients used in the laddu. Naidu alleged that under the previous YSRCP-



led administration, there had been a failure to maintain quality standards, with reports of animal fat and other impurities found in the ghee used for preparing the laddus. The allegations sparked outrage across the country, with devotees voicing their distress over the possible desecration of the revered offering. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the governing body of the temple, said that lab tests had confirmed the presence of lard (pig fat) and other impurities in the ghee supplied by a contractor. TTD Executive Officer J. Shyamala Rao said that four separate lab reports had yielded similar results, leading the board to halt supplies from the implicated contractor and begin the process of blacklisting them. "All the four reports of samples gave similar results," said Rao during a press conference in Tirupati. "We immediately stopped receiving the supplies. Blacklisting of the contractor is underway, and penalties will be imposed. Now, the legal process will start." Union health

minister J P Nadda requested a detailed report on the matter from the Andhra Pradesh government, while Union food minister Pralhad Joshi called for a full investigation into the allegations. YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) has denied any wrongdoing, with former chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy dismissing the claims as "diversion politics." He accused Naidu of using the controversy to shift public attention away from dissatisfaction with his administration. "On the one hand, people are expressing their anger at Chandrababu Naidu's 100 days' rule. They are demanding what happened to their "Super six" (poll promises). Under these circumstances, in order to divert the public attention, this concocted story," Reddy charged. Tamil Nadu-based AR Dairy, one of the companies accused of supplying the adulterated ghee, defended the quality of their product, insisting that all ghee supplied to the temple had been certified by accredited labs and met the required standards.

News box

Kerala rolls out novel initiative to train students in palliative care

KOCHI. To address the phenomena of the growing elderly population and the migration of youths to greener pastures abroad, the Kerala state government has launched an innovative initiative to train school and college students in palliative care. The programme aims to promote student palliative care units in all educational institutions, fostering a culture of compassion and care among the youth.

As proposed in the revised state palliative care policy (2019), training sessions will be conducted for high school, higher secondary, and college students, including professional college students, with home visits as part of community outreach.

The policy also envisions training for the members of the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Student Police Cadets, and the NSS. According to Dr Bibin Gopal, nodal officer for palliative care with the Directorate of Health Services, Kerala, the action plan was prepared in 2023. "We have assigned primary health centres to organise awareness classes for students, especially NCC and NSS volunteers. Interested students will receive palliative care training and accompany health workers on sessions."

The first phase, creating awareness among students, is expected to be completed by December this year. This initiative has the potential to create a compassionate and caring younger generation, addressing the needs of the elderly and vulnerable populations in Kerala.

Meanwhile, student volunteer groups and nursing students are being trained in palliative care as part of their credit system. "For some student volunteer groups, palliative care is part of their credit system. Also, several non-governmental organisations have been training students under the initiative 'student palliative care'."

Pay Rs 5L to two girls assaulted at fake NCC camp: Madras HC to TN

CHENNAI. The Madras High Court has ordered the government to pay compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to two victims and Rs 1 lakh each to the other victims of sexual assault at the fake NCC camp in Krishnagiri.

The first bench of Acting Chief Justice D Krishnakumar and Justice PB Balaji, on Thursday, issued the interim orders when a public interest litigation petition (PIL) filed by advocate AP Suryaprakasam seeking a CBI probe into the incident came up for hearing.

Questioning whether the investigators held a probe on the shocking details contained in the report filed by the district legal services authority, the bench sought the government to file a detailed report on the death of the prime accused Sivaraman.

Advocate General PS Raman informed the court that as many as 20 people have been arrested so far and three FIRs registered at Bargur, Krishnagiri and Tiruchengode over the fake NCC camp and sexual harassment.

As many as 712 witnesses were examined, 25 direct victims and five witnesses were examined by the investigators, he said, adding that three police personnel, including an SP, who is a post-graduate in surgery, were additionally deputed to the investigation team. He also informed that the government had issued orders for taking over the school management, where the children were subjected to sexual assault, by a special officer.

Telangana transport department bans smart card maker

HYDERABAD. The state Transport department has debarred Colorplast Systems Private Limited, which supplies smart cards for vehicle registration certificates (RCs) and driving licences (DLs), from participating in future tender processes.

In an order dated September 18, the Transport Commission initiated legal action against the Delhi-based company after its responses were deemed unsatisfactory regarding compliance with Smart Card Operating System for Transport Application (SCOSTA) guidelines set by the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highway (MoRTH). According to a report from MeitY's National Informatics Centre (NIC), Colorplast supplied non-compliant cards, violating contractual conditions among other issues.

Vulnerable to data breach

In May, Kamal Soi, chairman of the Punjab-based NGO Raahat (The Safe Community Foundation), alleged that the China-manufactured chips in the smart cards were substandard, vulnerable to data breaches and did not adhere to SCOSTA norms.

On Monday, during a press conference, Soi told TNIE that the NIC's Smart Card Technology Division had received 20 sample cards, which returned two different answers to reset (ATR).

Telangana: Corporators of GHMC on 'study-tour', at public expense

As many as 48 corporators from Congress and BRS parties would accompany the mayor, while 47 corporators from Congress and BJP would accompany the deputy mayor.

HYDERABAD. Most corporators from the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) will be unavailable in the city from September 21 and 26, as they embark on study tours to various cities across the country to learn about best practices. The civic body will spend Rs 80,000 per person for the study tour, with overall cost around Rs 1.25 crore.

One group, led by Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi will visit Indore, Lucknow and other places along with 48 corporators from Congress and BRS. Another group, led

by Deputy Mayor Mothe Srilatha Reddy, will visit Assam and Guwahati with 47 corporators from Congress and BJP. MIM members will form a separate batch. In the name of study tours, a large number of corporators will leave the city on Saturday visit the respective cities and surrounding areas and return on September 26. As many as 48 corporators from Congress and BRS parties would accompany the mayor, while 47 corporators from Congress and BJP would accompany the deputy mayor.

Indore, recognised annually for its cleanliness programmes, will be a focus of study. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy recently directed municipal officials to examine the successful sanitation policies in Indore and consider utilising relevant agencies for implementation in Hyderabad. As many as 16 MIM members will depart separately on September 22, also visiting Assam and Guwahati.

Other members remain undecided on their travel plans but have the opportunity to choose their destinations later.



Non-Brahmin archakas doing menial work: PMK

VILLUPURAM. PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss voiced concern on Thursday over the mistreatment of government-appointed all-caste archakas (priests) by hereditary priests in temples. Speaking at a press conference at his residence in Thailapuram, Ramadoss highlighted the harassment faced by these priests.

"Of the 24 government-appointed priests, 10 are subjected to harassment, and some are even forced to do cleaning work," said Ramadoss. He accused temple officials of colluding with hereditary priests in this mistreatment.

Referring to the government's inability to uphold a policy of inclusiveness in temple worship, he remarked, "When this law was introduced under the DMK regime, then chief minister M Karunanidhi had said that Periyar's dream was realised. Now, the government is reversing that by not allowing all-caste archakas to perform rituals." Dr Ramadoss also criticised the Tamil Nadu government's approach to



alcohol consumption, saying, "The government has turned every household into one with a drunkard. Liquor has flowed like a river for the past 52 years, ruining three generations." He further alleged widespread corruption in law enforcement, with only 10% of police not involved in supporting the sale of ganja.

On the topic of a caste-based census, Ramadoss welcomed the Union Home Minister's announcement that a caste census would be conducted alongside the

population census. He urged the Tamil Nadu government to conduct a state-specific census to preserve the 69% reservation in the state.

Ramadoss also criticised the proposal to increase the property tax by 6%, citing the 150% hike in 2022, and vowed that PMK would protest if the tax hike proceeded. He also called for action regarding the Sri Lankan military's treatment of Tamil Nadu fishermen and addressed concerns over the 'One nation, one poll' policy.

Andhra: NDDB report finds foreign fat in ghee, says reasons may vary

TIRUPATI. A report of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) released on July 23, 2024, has raised alarm over the poor quality of ghee used in Tirupati laddus, suggesting potential adulteration with foreign fat. The Water and Food Analysis Laboratory of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) sent the sample to the NDDB for analysis on July 12, 2024.

According to the NDDB report, the S-value analysis of the sample fell outside the standard limits, suggesting the presence of foreign fats such as soya bean, sunflower, palm kernel fat or even lard and beef tallow. The acceptable S-value range for pure milk fat is between 98.05 and 104.32, but the tested sample showed values ranging from 19.72 to 117.42, reflecting significant deviations.

Despite these findings, the NDDB noted that certain factors such as feeding cows with fodder containing high amount of vegetable oil or employing specific extraction methods, could



lead to false positives. They indicated that technological treatments like cholesterol removal or fractionation as well as ghee extracted using methods like Gerber or Schmid-Bondzynski-Ratalaff, might contribute to inaccuracies.

The NDDB report stated that the method specified in ISO 17678 may be used for determining milk fat purity in non-cow bovine milk until further validation studies are completed.

It may be noted here that the TTD lab tests revealed that 20,000 kg of ghee supplied was of substandard quality. However, it remains unclear if the substandard ghee was linked to the recent concerns about ghee laced with animal fat.

The supplier was awarded a contract to supply 8.5 lakh kg of ghee and out of which 68,000 kg was delivered. Informing that the errant ghee supplier was blacklisted, TTD Executive Officer J Syamala Rao said criminal charges would be filed against him.

BRS forms panel to find facts over infant deaths in Gandhi hospital

The BRS leader questioned whether the government had conducted any review on the deaths or taken steps to ensure quality healthcare for the people.

HYDERABAD. BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Thursday announced the formation of a fact-finding committee by the pink party to investigate the ongoing maternal and infant deaths at Gandhi Hospital.

In a statement issued here, the BRS leader said that the committee, consisting of experts, will conduct a detailed study and share its findings with both the government and the public. He urged the government to cooperate with this initiative and to accept the advice and suggestions provided by the Opposition in order to improve public health.

Rama Rao expressed disappointment with the government's focus on retaliating against the BRS for bringing this issue to light, instead of addressing the core problem.

He criticised the government for diverting attention away from solving the issue and instead engaging in blame game.

The BRS leader questioned whether the government had conducted any review on the deaths or taken steps to ensure quality healthcare for the people. He also raised concerns over the alleged transfer of senior doctors from the hospital, which may have caused disruptions in providing medical services. He urged the government to address this issue and make efforts to reduce the mortality rate.

It is shameful that the administration treats these deaths as mere statistics, without considering the deep personal loss experienced by the families involved, he added.



Mpox scare: Kerala health department identifies 72 contacts; preventive measures on

MALAPPURAM. Following the confirmation of mpox in a 38-year-old individual from Edavanna, the health department has compiled a contact list of 72 people in an effort to contain its spread in Malappuram.

Of the 72 contacts, 23 — including the patient's family members — are from Malappuram, 43 travelled with him on an Air India Express flight from Dubai to Malappuram on September 13, and six of them had stayed with him in Dubai.

"The 23 people from Malappuram and the six in Dubai are now under home isolation. The health department is contacting the 43 people from the flight, who will also be asked to isolate themselves. The 43 people include passengers seated three rows in front and three rows behind the patient. Some individuals from the flight remain unreachable, as their phone numbers are inactive and their Kerala addresses unknown. They will also be contacted soon," said Health Minister Veena George.

The minister further mentioned that the patient's samples have been sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune for strain identification.

"The Clade 1b strain has higher rates of human-to-human transmission and is more virulent, while Clade 2b is generally linked to milder cases. If the patient is found to have the 1b strain, we will need to adjust our protocols accordingly," she added.

In a reassuring update, the health minister announced that three individuals in Pathanamthitta, who were under observation for mpox, tested negative on Thursday. Screenings are being conducted at Kerala's airports to prevent the spread of diseases, says Veena George.

The minister also noted that screenings are being conducted at Kerala's airports to prevent the spread of diseases like mpox. "Anyone showing symptoms of the disease should self-report at the airports," the minister said. Kozhikode Airport director Seshadri Vasam Suresh confirmed that a health office has been set up and is now operational at the airport. "The Union government issued an order on August 20 to screen passengers for symptoms, including fever, at airports. We implemented this screening the following day, August 21. All passengers must undergo health checks at the designated health office," the airport director said.

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NEWS BOX

Rain takes a break, dry spell likely for next six days in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. The city may get a break from the relentless rainfall it has been experiencing for the past few days. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the city may witness dry weather with light showers and moderately cloudy skies till Sept 25. No alert has been issued. The maximum temperature on Thursday, at 30.8 degrees Celsius, was nearly a notch higher than Wednesday's 30 degrees. Recorded at 23.1 degrees Celsius, the minimum temperature remained 2.3 degrees lower than the previous day. An IMD official said, "No heavy rain is expected over south Haryana over the next six days. However, a partly cloudy sky is forecasted for this week. The official added that the maximum temperature may oscillate between 34 and 35 degrees Celsius, while the minimum temperature may remain between 25 and 26 degrees. The humidity levels will remain high, ranging between 70-80% in the morning and 40-50% in the evening."

3 killed, 2 injured in firing at liquor shop on Haryana's Sonipat road



NEW DELHI: A shooting incident at a liquor shop on Sonipat Road in Haryana resulted in three fatalities and two injuries on Thursday night. The police reported that the incident occurred at Baliana Turn. The deceased individuals were identified as Jaideep, Amit Nandal and Vinay, all from Bohar village. The injured, Anuj and Manoj, were taken to the trauma center at Rohtak PGIMS and are currently receiving treatment. Authorities suspect the shooting is linked to a gang rivalry. "The miscreants were on a bike and the firing was possibly due to a gang war," said the police. An investigation is ongoing.

Faridabad cops seize Rs 2.8 crore in pre-poll raids

Gurgaon. In the biggest single-day seizure of cash in this election season, police on Thursday seized Rs 2.84 crore from three different vehicles in separate incidents. The assembly election in Haryana is scheduled for Oct 5. The cash seized by the police was supposed to be used in the assembly elections. With the Election Commission having issued strict instructions to curb the illegal movement of drugs, liquor and cash, interstate and interdistrict checkpoints have been set up across the state, including Faridabad district. On Thursday, the district police, in collaboration with paramilitary forces, set up checkpoints at the Faridabad-Delhi border to monitor the movement of vehicles. During the checking at Sarai Toll Plaza and Shooting Range in the Surajkund Road area, police seized a total of Rs 2.84 crore. According to the police spokesperson, two vehicles were stopped at the Sarai Toll Plaza. In the first vehicle, Rs 2.51 crore in cash was found and another Rs 20 lakh was seized from a second vehicle at the same checkpoint. Meanwhile, at the Shooting Range Road checkpoint in the Surajkund area, Rs 13 lakh was recovered from a third vehicle. The drivers of these vehicles were unable to provide satisfactory explanations for carrying such large amounts of cash, leading to its seizure by the police. The seized cash has been handed over to the income tax department, which will conduct further investigations as per the regulations. The police are trying to find out the destination of the cash.

Govt officials found violating transfer orders, 5 suspended

Noida. The Uttar Pradesh govt has suspended five officials from various industrial development authorities for failing to comply with transfer orders issued over a year ago. The transfer orders were issued on June 30 of the previous year. This follows a similar action last month. The officials include one each from the Noida Authority, the Yamuna Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) and the UP State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) and two from the Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA). The suspended officials are RK Sharma, senior manager at Noida Authority (formerly a manager at the time of the transfer order), Rajendra Singh Bhati, deputy general manager at YEIDA, Kailash Nath Srivastava, assistant general manager at UPSIDA and Gurvinder Singh and Ram Asre, senior managers at GNIDA. While Srivastava was assigned to the Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority, the four others from GB Nagar were directed to transfer to UPSIDA. Last month, the UP govt suspended nine officials from Noida Authority, GNIDA and YEIDA for not adhering to transfer orders. Additionally, departmental action was initiated against three more personnel from Noida Authority for similar non-compliance. The nine officials included six from Noida Authority, two from GNIDA and one from YEIDA. The suspension orders were issued under the direction of industrial development minister Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi, who had previously warned officials and employees about strict measures for ignoring transfer orders and overstaying their posts.

Up in arms over 'irregularities', farmers seek withdrawal of FIRs

Noida. Demanding power connection in the floodplain areas and withdrawal of cases of power theft filed against them, farmers — under the aegis of Kisan Ekta Sangh — held a mahapanchayat and staged dharna at the Noida Power Company Limited (NPCL) office on Thursday. Alleging that NPCL constantly "commits irregularities and sends inflated bills to the villagers", the farmers said if a complaint is made, an FIR is filed for power theft against them. "Farmers, numbering thousands, surrounded the head office of the NPCL electricity company in Tugalpur area of Greater Noida in Gautam Budh district, demanding connection in floodplain areas," Rajendra Chauhan, from Kisan Ekta Sangh, said amid a huge police force deployed on the spot. Farmers alleged that despite paying bills on time, they are being "overcharged and bills are not corrected". Also, unauthorised money is collected from them for new connections, they said. No power connections are being given by NPCL in the submerged area.



Arbitrary money is also being collected," Chauhan said. Rights of the regional farmers were being curbed, they said, adding, they would sit in indefinite protest till their demands were met. However, the NPCL maintained that the demands were "unreasonable". As for inflated bills and FIRs, it said, the discom "would address genuine cases post-investigation". Two rounds of talks were held today between the protesting farmers and the NPCL. There were two key

demands. They were insisting that electricity connections be provided in the doob area (the floodplain areas). To this, senior officials from the district administration as well as from the NPCL explained in detail about the ban imposed on all activity in the floodplain areas by the NGT. Hence, nothing can be done in this regard without explicit govt orders," NPCL vice president (Operations) Samarth Ganguly said. Secondly, the farmers were asking for the withdrawal of all electricity theft cases. But the NPCL said that there have been "no false cases" of electricity theft against any farmer. However, if any farmer believes otherwise, they are encouraged to submit a list of names to NPCL. It will then establish a committee to review these cases and address them based on their merits, it said. The farmers' demands are inappropriate. However, the NPCL is ready to hold another talk tomorrow with the protesting farmers to convince them," Ganguly said.

Honey trap gang busted in Fbd, 5 land in police net

Gurgaon. Five persons were arrested over the last week after Faridabad police busted a gang involved in extortion through honeytraps. The gang used to entice men into physical relationships and then blackmail them for money. The arrested accused are Saniya (23), Reshma (45), Rahish (48), Irfan (27), and Farid (27). Saniya, her husband Salim, uncle Rafiq, and aunt Reshma led the gang comprising 10-12 members. Saniya was involved in contacting targets and enticing them into physical relationships. The arrests came after Nuh resident Arif filed a case against Saniya on Sept 11 at Dhooj police station including charges of conspiracy, extortion, snatching, and kidnapping. Arif's friend Kale, who was part of the gang, gave Saniya his number. She started calling him in Feb this year. A few days into the conversation, she told Arif she had



fallen in love with him. On Feb 23, she called Arif and asked for help saying her husband had abused her. Arif and Kale alias Mubarak went to rescue her. They met her near Ballabhgarh Tevatia farm and took her to Nekpur village. There, Saniya and Arif got intimate. Just then, Salim and other accomplices arrived. They accused Arif of trying to harass Saniya and demanded Rs 10 lakh. Arif managed to arrange Rs 3.5

lakh. Arif discovered only later that Kale was a part of the gang. He alleged the gang committed similar crimes, filed false rape cases, and extorted money in Mujesar, Bulandshahr, and some parts of Rajasthan. Police found during the investigation that other members of the gang — Jamshed, Irfan, and Shamshu — committed a similar fraud involving Saniya's friend Farzana and extorted Rs 1 lakh from a dhaba owner in Sector 58. Cops had already arrested Farzana, Jamshed, Irfan, and Shamshu. After interrogation, Saniya, Reshma, Irfan, and Rahish were sent to jail, and Farid will be jailed after his police remand ends. DCP (crime) Hemendra Kumar Meena said police are making efforts to crack down on more such gangs. "Sector 56 Crime Branch previously held four members of a similar gang and will crack down on such activities," the DCP said.

43% posts of engineers lying vacant, MCG seeks appointments

Gurgaon. Over 40% of engineering posts in MCG are lying vacant. While the total sanctioned strength of engineers is 62, out of whom 27 (43%) are yet to be appointed. To address the staff crunch, MCG has written to the urban local bodies (ULB) department, requesting the appointment of engineers to fill the sanctioned positions. According to the sanctioned strength, MCG should have 10 executive engineers but has just three at present. Similarly, the sanctioned strength for assistant engineers is 16, but the engineering wing of MCG currently employs 10 assistant engineers. Of 32 sanctioned posts for junior engineers, 11 are lying vacant. Officials said the shortage of engineers has put a strain on the civic body's ability to effectively carry out its responsibilities and projects, especially at the Bandhwari landfill site.

Gurgaon, let's clean up: Garbage is everywhere and waiting for a solution isn't helping

Gurgaon. Earlier this year, a new word entered our daily lives. We had seen, felt and suffered as a result of it for months, but there was now a term for it. Exigency. In June, taking cognisance of the garbage mess across the city, Haryana govt sought to take corrective measures by declaring a solid waste exigency in Gurgaon under the Disaster Management Act. It also formed a committee that was tasked with cleaning things up. The task is Herculean, in a city that needs to get back to the drawing board to get its basic waste disposal practices right, right from collection and segregation to treatment. And get it right it must, for at stake is image and reputation. A city positioned as one of the engine rooms of India's corporate growth, a growing hub of startups and a talent magnet, and replete with upscale homes that reflect aspirations needs to see that ambition matched in the streets. A city built to look like the West can't lose itself in waste. But problems, as boardroom pep talk never fails to reiterate, also present opportunities. Though in the same civic domain, unlike broken roads and dysfunctional streetlights that are local to a particular area, the problem of garbage is a shared one because it manifests itself only when it accumulates. It's, therefore, safe to say that the most effective solution will be a shared one. The city's only landfill at Bandhwari is choked and has itself become an environmental hazard, with instructions from National Green Tribunal to remove it fully. There are crores that have already been spent to clean it, and yet around 9 lakh tonnes of garbage still lie rotting at the landfill. Many more tonnes, meanwhile, accumulate along roadsides. Much of this is unsegregated garbage from households. This is where a shared solution will help. Discipline in segregation right from the household itself can go a long way in reducing the total volume of waste that needs to be picked up by garbage collectors and taken to a landfill. Local composting facilities and a mechanism to recycle can further reduce the output of waste from a sector or a society. Unsegregated waste can neither be recycled, nor composted and ends up as trash heaps. In the way the city is structured, Gurgaon has an advantage. Almost all its residential areas have local managements in the form of AOAs or RWAs. So, it's not hard to build mechanisms to reduce garbage generated collectively by a condominium or society. Some already have, some have been trying. Their degrees of success differ. But with knowledge and information exchange, this can change. What better way of winning than working as a team? Today, we launch the latest edition of our #WeMakeGurgaon campaign that will focus on helping clean up the city by recognising local best practices, providing a platform where information can be shared and building a collective response to the exigency that has been staring us in the face for months. Do you have an idea that will help clean our city up? Does your society do something well in its garbage management practices that you think others can learn from? We would like to hear from you. We would also like RWAs and AOAs to tell us how you manage waste in your locality per condominium. Send us your entries (scan the QR code) and we will send them to a jury of four domain experts who have formed to recognise and reward the best practices. This waste management campaign is crucial due to the city's rapid urbanisation and growing population, which has resulted in an alarming rise in waste generation. It plays a vital role in addressing the mounting pressure on the city's already overburdened waste disposal systems. By raising awareness, the focus can shift to sustainable practices, reducing environmental hazards and promoting responsible citizenship. It can also help foster community engagement and collaboration between citizens, local authorities and businesses," said Swati Singh Sanbyal, a circular economy expert who is a member of the jury.

NAME CHANGE
I, VAISHALI D/O SANJAY SHARMA, residing at RZ-660/314 GALI NO-6 GHANAJI PARK WEST SAGARPUR SOUTH WEST DELHI-110046, have changed my name to VAISHALI SHARMA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, Medhavi D/O, Sanjay Kumar Srivastava R/o J-15 First Floor Jangpura Extension New Delhi 110014 have changed my name to Medhavi Singh for all purposes.

Name correction
I, Amandeep Kumar Singh S/o Mahinder Ram, Present Address 274, Transit Camp Saket, Gate No. 4, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, and Permanent House No. 45, Village Mainwan, Wadala Kalan, Po: Wadala Kalan, Dist kapurthala, Punjab-144601, Declare that Amandeep Kumar Singh and Amandeep Kumar both are one and same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, HAMZA SALAH S/O SALAHUDDIN KAMAL, R/O 29 - T, JASOLA VIHAR, JASOLA VIHAR, SHAHEEN BAGH METRO STATION, SECTOR - 8, OKHLA, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110025, have changed my name from HAMZA TO HAMZA SALAH for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, HITHERO KNOWN AS SUNITA Singh alias Sunita kumar Singh D/O Bansh Gopal Singh, W/O: Nagendra Singh, SE-583-A, Shastri nagar, Near Petrol Pump, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201002 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUNITA SINGH.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Mr. Gaurav Gupta and Mrs. Aika Gupta Owner of the Residential plot no 325, 'B', Block no C-1, measuring 175.75 Sq. Mtrs., situated in the residential colony known as Palam Vihar in and around village Chauma and carterpuri teh and Distt. Gurgaon (Haryana). Mr. Gaurav Gupta and Mrs. Aika Gupta have lost Original Agreement cum allotment issued in favour of Mr. Manoj Pant, for which complaint lodged to the police. That any person(s) who finds the misplaced Agreement cum allotment aforesaid person may come forward and inform the undersigned within 15 days from the date of Publication.

NAME CHANGE
I, Maninder Singh Gahlot S/o Rajbir Singh R/o C2/101, 10th Floor, Sobha City, Sector-108, Gurgaon-122017, Haryana, Have Changed My Name To Nisha Dhankar For All Future Purpose

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I Bal Kishan S/O Kaveri, R/O E-365, J.J. COLONY, SHAKUR PUR, North West Delhi, delhi 110034 declare that the name of my has been wrongly written as Bala Krishan in my minor son B. MANISHI aged 15 years in his school record. The actual name of mine is BAL KISHAN.

INDIAN RAILWAYS
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
रेल मंत्रालय / MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(रेलवे बोर्ड RAILWAY BOARD)
No. 2024/RS(E)/TMS/2 New Delhi, dated 19.09.2024
E-Open Indigenous Tender No. 2024-TMS-2B closing on 15/10/2024 for procurement of Hydraulic Spares for IR Track Machines. Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for procurement of Hydraulic Spares for IR Track Machines. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website <https://ireps.gov.in> for further details, downloading of the tender documents and submission of their e-bids.
Director, Railway Stores (F) (Railway Board) 2928/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tender No.: 24B-TRD-NDLS-2024-25 Dated 20.09.2024
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:
1 Name of work with its location Augmentation /Replacement of Catenary wire over Delhi Division
2 Approx cost of work Rs. 3.25,21,714.62/-
3 Earnest Money Deposit Rs. 3,12,600/-
4 E-Tender Bid Online Submission period 03.10.2024 (00:00 Hrs.) to 17.10.2024 (15:00 Hrs.)
5 E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time 17.10.2024 (15:00 hrs.)
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen [www.ireps.gov.in](http://ireps.gov.in)
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 2948/24

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD)
E-TENDER NO. 2024RSI8743TC
Director, Railway Stores(W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 2,70,288 Nos. Low Torque Grease Seal for AAR Standard Upgraded Class 'E'(6"x11") bearings used in freight stock to RDSO's Specification No. WD-63-MISC-2020 of October 2020 with latest amendments, if any.
2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website <http://ireps.gov.in> for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids.
3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender.
4.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 24.10.2024.
5.0 Any corrigendum to this tender will be published on the website <http://ireps.gov.in> only and not in print media.
Director, Railway Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi. For and on behalf of the President of India. 2939/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAME CHANGE
I, Ashok Kumar Kanjoria S/o Govind Ram Kanjoria R/o H No J 3/18 DDA Flats Kalkaji Delhi -110019 have changed my name from Ashok Kumar Kanjoria to Ashok Kanjoria for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rahul S/o Vijay Kumar R/o 781, Suwalan, Darya Ganj, New Delhi-110002 have changed my name from Rahul to Rahul Kumar therefore my name should be known as Rahul Kumar for all purposes in future.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANDEEP KUMAR resident of SMQ NO. 11/3, OLD WAPTI, AFSSR, GURGAON have changed my daughter's name from SAAVNI GAUTAM to ADVIKA GAUTAM vide affidavit dated 20.09.2024 before Bhim Singh Indora, Notary Delhi. SANDEEP KUMAR resident of SMQ NO. 11/3, OLD WAPTI, AFSSR, GURGAON have changed my daughter's name from SAAVNI GAUTAM to ADVIKA GAUTAM vide affidavit dated 20.09.2024 before Bhim Singh Indora, Notary Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I MANOHAR LAL S/O KALU RAM R/O C-6/293, SULTANPURI, DELHI-110086, DECLARE THAT THE NAME OF MINE HAS BEEN WRONGLY WRITTEN AS ??OHAR IN MY MINOR DAUGHTER GULJAN AGED 15 YEARS IN HER SCHOOL RECORDS, THE ACTUAL NAME OF MINE IS MANOHAR LAL, WHICH MAY BE AMENDED ACCORDINGLY.

PUBLIC NOTICE
BE IT KNOWN TO PUBLIC IN GENERAL THAT GRAND MOTHER OF MY CLIENTS YOGESH CHOWDHARY AND SANDEEP CHOWDHARY BOTH S/O RAKESH KUMAR CHOWDHARY R/O 487, CHIRAG DELHI, NEW DELHI-110017 HAS EXPIRED ON 12.11.2022 DURING HIS LIFETIME SAID SMT. DEVI HAS EXECUTED A WILL DUTY REGISTERED WITH OFFICE OF THE SUB REGISTRAR CONCERNED BEARING REGISTRATION NO. 1537, BOOK NO. III, VOL. NO. 20, PAGE NO. 78-79 DATED 04.10.2006 IN RESPECT OF HER SHARE OF AGRICULTURE LAND UNDER KHATA / KHATONI No. 26/24 MIN KHASRA No. 11/9 (4-16), 11/10/1 (2-10), 11/12/1 (0-18), KHATA No. 16/15 MIN KHASRA No. 11/102 (2-15) KHATA No. 33/30 MIN KHASRA No. 11/8(4-16), 11/13/1(3/04) OF VILLAGE TATESAR DELHI TOTAL ADMEASURING 17 BIGHAS 19 BISWAS SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE TATESAR, DELHI- 110081 IN FAVOUR OF HIS SONS MY CLIENTS
ANY PERSON HAVING ANY RIGHT OR INTEREST BY WAY OF INHERITANCE, MORTGAGE, POSSESSION, SALE, GIFT, LEASE, LIEN, CHARGE, TRUST, MAINTENANCE, EASEMENT, TRANSFER, PRIOR AGREEMENT OR OTHERWISE UPON THE SAID PROPERTY OR ANY PART THEREOF, CONTACT ON ABOVE MENTIONED ADDRESS WITHIN 14 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF PUBLICATION HEREOF TOGETHER WITH COPIES OF ALL DOCUMENTS ON THE BASIS OF WHICH CLAIMS ARE MADE, FAILING WHICH ANY SUCH RIGHT, TITLE, INTEREST OR CLAIM, IF ANY WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN WAIVED AND NOT BINDING ON OUR CLIENTS, AND MAY PROCEED TO CONCLUDE THE MUTATION PROCEEDING WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE SAME, IF ANY.

MOHIT Adv.

News box

Gaza ceasefire deal unlikely before end of Joe Biden's tenure: Report

World A ceasefire deal between Israel and militant outfit Hamas in Gaza is unlikely before the end of US President Joe Biden's term in January, the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported. The 11-month war in Gaza has already killed over 41,000 Palestinians and displaced over 100,000 US officials said no deal was "imminent". "I am not sure if it will ever get done," an official was quoted as saying by WSJ. The remark came even as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently said that 90 per cent of the ceasefire deal had been agreed upon. "I can tell you that we do not believe that deal is falling apart," Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh was quoted as saying by news agency Reuters on Thursday.

However, the US officials quoted by WSJ cited two main reasons for the ceasefire deal not going through anytime soon.

irstly, the ratio of Palestinian prisoners that Israel should release in exchange for Hamas-held hostages. The second sticking point has been Hamas making demands and then refusing to sign the final outcome despite the US and Israel accepting them.

Several critics have also accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of sabotaging the negotiations, trying to appease the right-wing coalition parties in the country. The pager and walkie-talkies explosions targeting strongholds of Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, has further complicated the negotiations. While Israel has not commented on the unprecedented incident, a case of supply chain attacks, Lebanon has blamed the Benjamin Netanyahu-led government for the incident that has left over 30 dead. "There's no chance now of it (ceasefire deal) happening," an official from an Arab country was quoted as saying by the WSJ, after Israel attacked Hezbollah. He further said that everyone was in a "wait-and-see mode" until after the elections.

"The outcome will determine what can happen in the next administration," he was quoted as saying.

Scientists in South Africa say they have identified the first known outbreak of rabies in seals

CAPE TOWN, South Africa. Scientists in South Africa say they have identified an outbreak of rabies in seals that is believed to be the first time the virus has spread in sea mammals. At least 24 Cape fur seals that were found dead or euthanized in various locations on South Africa's west and south coast had rabies, state veterinarian Dr. Lesley van Helden said. Rabies, which affects mammals and can be passed to people, is almost always fatal once symptoms appear. Rabies spreads via saliva, usually through bites but also sometimes when animals lick and groom each other. The virus has long been seen in wild animals such as raccoons, coyotes, foxes, jackals and in domestic dogs. But it had never been recorded spreading among marine mammals, van Helden and other experts said this week. The only other known case of rabies in a sea mammal was in a ringed seal in Norway's Svalbard islands in the early 1980s. That seal had likely been infected by a rabid arctic fox, researchers said, and there was no evidence of rabies spreading among seals there. Authorities in South Africa first discovered rabies in Cape fur seals in June after a dog was bitten by a seal on a Cape Town beach. The dog became infected with rabies, prompting rabies tests on brain samples from 135 seal carcasses that researchers had already collected since 2021. Around 20 new samples also were collected and more positives have come back on subsequent tests. Scientists are trying to work out how rabies was passed to the seals.

Python attacks, squeezes Thai woman for two hours before rescue

World Arom Arunroj, a 64-year-old woman, was attacked by a large python while doing her dishes at her home near Bangkok, Thailand, on Tuesday. The incident occurred when Arunroj felt a sudden pain in her thigh and saw a python biting her.

The python, measuring approximately 13 to 16 feet long, constricted her and forced her to the kitchen floor. Arom attempted to grasp the snake by the head, but it tightened its grip. Unable to free herself, the woman called out for help, but it took around an hour and a half before a neighbor heard her and alerted authorities. "I was just about to scoop some water when I sat down, and it bit me right away," Arom said, according to Thai Rath newspaper. "When I looked, I saw the snake coiling around me." In Thailand, encounters with snakes are common. In 2023, 26 people were killed by venomous snake bites, and 12,000 people were treated for bites from venomous snakes and other animals. Larger pythons may hunt animals like pigs, deer, and domestic pets. Despite being bound by the python for almost two hours, Arom only received minor bites. In videos recorded shortly after the incident and shared on social media.

Addressing Lankan democracy deficit, graft as important as economy

COLOMBO. Sri Lanka's economic crisis is directly linked to its governance crisis, and unless accountability issues, including corruption and democracy deficit, are addressed, the island may not be in a position to overcome its current challenges, subject experts say.

As Sri Lanka goes to polls on September 21, poor governance remains a key concern.

To restore public trust and to change the country's trajectory, a few measures must be taken in the first 100 days of a new presidency, including the abolition of executive presidency, steps to return to a parliamentary system and create the post of independent public prosecution, says Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, internationally renowned rights advocate, Executive Director of the Colombo-based Centre for Policy Alternatives and Co-Convenor of the Center for Monitoring Election Violence. Addressing governance concerns are as critical as economic reforms and relief to the people, he says. "The 2024 presidential election is not about selecting the best formula for economic revival. The IMF diagnostic report and a Sri Lankan civil society study have both identified systemic corruption as a significant malaise. The 2022 people's movement was not just a reaction to the economic crisis but more of a



reaction to the governance crisis. People called for an end to corruption, to drive corrupt politicians home, to create a meritocracy. Curbing corruption is at the centre of any future solution," adds Dr Saravanamuttu. Saliya Peiris, PC, former president of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, says, democracy and governance are tied to sustainable development.

Sri Lanka goes to polls on Sept 21, poor governance remains a major concern

"There are those who claim that economic development must be given priority over democracy and governance. They argue that

for the sake of the economy, democracy and the rule of law may be sacrificed. Those who believe these claims are willing to ignore the rampant corruption of politicians at the highest levels costing the public billions of rupees, cronyism, violation of orders of the highest courts, attacks on the judiciary, the weakening of independent institutions, the intolerance of dissent, appointments of corrupt and unsuitable persons to highest offices," says Peiris.

"However, the reality is that democracy and governance are tied to sustainable economic development of a nation. Long-term

economic stability is linked to the respect for democracy, the rule of the law, governance, and the rights of people," he adds.

The democracy agenda is going to be key to the success of the next administration. The IMF diagnostic also identified systemic corruption as a contributor to the crisis we find ourselves in. Corruption and lack of accountability were significant drivers of Aragalaya, the 2022 people's movement. People felt the urge to protest, demand accountability, force the Rajapaksa family to step down and end family rule, all because their names were linked to grand corruption. "Addressing accountability issues of all kinds and prioritising governance will be key to success," says Manjula Gajanayake, Executive Director of Institute of Democratic Reforms.

Adds Imran Furkan, a geopolitical risk analyst: "For Sri Lanka to overcome the current economic crisis, it is critically important to create conditions conducive for foreign direct investment. Nobody wants to invest in a country notorious for corruption with no systems in place."

Dilrukshi Handunnetti

Award-winning journalist and lawyer, founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

Trump says God saved him, promises to bring back religion in US

World I believe that we are at the onset of a new phase in this war, and we need to adapt," Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said as a series of pager and walkie-talkie blasts in Lebanon further pushed the Middle East to the brink of a full-blown regional war. The latest development has the potential of escalating the war on many fronts, engulfing Lebanon, Iran, Yemen and the broader region, as the Israel-Gaza conflict nears a year. Even though the intensity of the hostilities has waxed and waned, there is no sign of a pause in the year-long war in Gaza after terror outfit Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. However, the war's centre of gravity is now shifting towards northern Israel, which shares a border with south Lebanon. Lebanon's southern part is the stronghold of the Hezbollah terror group, which has been exchanging daily fire with Israel since the Gaza war started in solidarity with Hamas. On Thursday, Israeli warplanes destroyed 100 rocket launchers as its military targeted Hezbollah sites. Cross-border strikes were also reported near the border.

ISRAEL-LEBANON WAR ON CARDS?

Israel has already started diverting its forces and resources towards the Lebanon border after multiple explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies of Hezbollah members killed over 30 and left nearly 3,000 injured. The blast, believed to be a supply chain attack carried out by Israel's sophisticated spy agency Mossad, has ratcheted up tensions with Lebanon after weeks of an uneasy calm. While Lebanon has described the attacks as a "serious violation of Lebanese sovereignty", Hezbollah has been more blunt,



threatening a "just punishment" for Israel. In fact, it has already started rocket attacks on Israeli artillery positions. The apparent

Worldsabotage attack came after months of targeted assassinations by Israel against senior Hezbollah leaders, including the group's top commander, Fuad Shukur. The assassination was believed to be in retaliation for the killing of 12 children in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in a Hezbollah drone strike.

However, Hezbollah, Iran's most powerful proxy in the Middle East, will be no pushovers and is considered to be more formidable than Hamas in the region.

Elon Musk's X goes offline again in Brazil after court order: What is the spat all about

World. Elon Musk's X social media platform was once again inaccessible in Brazil on Thursday, merely a day after it had resumed service in violation of a judicial ban, according to internet providers. Earlier in the day, Brazil's Supreme Court had mandated X to suspend access to the platform, determining that the company had "unlawfully, persistently and intentionally" disregarded judicial rulings and would face a daily fine exceeding \$900,000 for non-compliance. Last month, the former Twitter was banned in Brazil, but access to the phone app was restored on Wednesday, which the government condemned as a deliberate breach of the suspension. X said that the restoration of its service was "inadvertent and temporary." On Thursday, the ABRINT

association of internet providers reported that the network went offline again "just before 4 pm" local time and was once again "blocked." In a court order on Thursday, Judge Alexandre de Moraes referred to X as "recalcitrant" and instructed the state telecommunications agency Anatel to take the necessary steps to block access to the network once more. The high-profile judge has been engaged in a prolonged dispute with South African-born billionaire Musk as part of his efforts to combat disinformation in Brazil. His suspension of X last month occurred after Musk refused to remove dozens of right-wing accounts accused of spreading fake news and failed to appoint a new legal representative in the country as directed. Moraes has also frozen the assets of X and

Immigration politics divide border communities amid election season

New Mexico The politics of immigration look different from the back patio of Ardovino's Desert Crossing restaurant. That's where Robert Ardovino sees a Border Patrol horse trailer rumbling across his property on a sweltering summer morning. It's where a surveillance helicopter traces a line in the sky, and a nearby Border Patrol agent paces a desert gully littered with castoff water bottles and clothing. It's also where a steady stream of weary people, often escorted by smugglers, scale a border wall or the adjacent Mount Cristo Rey and step into an uncertain future. It's a stretch of desert where reports of people dying of exhaustion and exposure have grown commonplace.

"It's very obvious to me, being on the border, that it's not an open border," said Ardovino, who pays for fencing topped by concertina wire to route migrants around his property. "It is a very, very, very difficult situation." As immigration politics have moved to the forefront of this year's presidential election, they've also dominated contests for hotly contested congressional seats that could determine which party controls Congress. The urgency is greater in some districts than others. Three of 11 districts on the Southwest border are rematches in districts that flipped in 2022 with the election of Democratic Representative Gabe Vasquez in New Mexico and Republican Reps. Juan Ciscomani in Arizona and Monica De La Cruz in Texas. A partner in a decades-old family business, Ardovino lives in one border district in Texas and works in Vasquez's New Mexico district. "It's frustrating for people who need a border bill of any kind, any time, to start dealing with the big picture," Ardovino said. Early voting starts October 8 in Sunland Park, where partisan control flipped in 2018, 2020 and again in 2022 with the election of Vasquez. Democrats in Congress, including Vasquez, are aggressively touting border initiatives. He emphasises his knowledge of the region as the U.S.-born son of immigrants with relatives on both sides of the border.

Iconic Churchill photo stolen in Canada now found in Italy set to return

Canadian police said the portrait was stolen from the hotel sometime between Christmas 2021 and Jan. 6, 2022, and replaced with a forgery.

ROME. Canadian and Italian dignitaries on Thursday marked the successful recovery of a photo portrait of Winston Churchill known as "The Roaring Lion," stolen in Canada and recovered in Italy after a two-year search by police. At a ceremony at the Canadian Embassy in Rome, Italian carabinieri police handed over the portrait to the Canadian ambassador to Italy, Elissa Goldberg, who praised the cooperation between Italian and

Canadian investigators that led to the recovery. The 1941 portrait of the British leader taken by Ottawa photographer Yousuf Karsh is now ready for the last step of its journey home to the Fairmont Château Laurier, the hotel in Ottawa where it was stolen and will once again be displayed as a notable historic portrait. Canadian police said the portrait was stolen from the hotel sometime between Christmas 2021 and Jan. 6, 2022, and replaced with a forgery. The swap was only uncovered months later, in August, when a hotel worker noticed the frame was not hung properly and looked different than the others.icola Cassinelli, a lawyer in Genoa, Italy, purchased the portrait in May 2022 at an online Sotheby's auction for 5,292 British pounds. He says he got a phone call from the auction house that October advising him not to sell or otherwise transfer the portrait due to an investigation into the Ottawa theft. Cassinelli, who attended Thursday's ceremony, said he thought he was buying a regular print and quickly agreed to send the



iconic Churchill photograph home when he learned its true story. "I immediately decided to return it to the Château Laurier, because I think that if Karsh donated it to the hotel, it means he really wanted it to stay there, for the particular significance this hotel had for him, and for his wife too," Cassinelli told The Associated Press.

The famous image was taken by Karsh during Churchill's wartime visit to the Canadian

Parliament in December 1941. It helped launch Karsh's career, who photographed some of the 20th century's most famed icons, including Nelson Mandela, Albert Einstein and Queen Elizabeth. Karsh and his wife Estrellita gifted an original signed print to the Fairmont Château Laurier in 1998. The couple had lived and operated a studio inside the hotel for nearly two decades. Genevieve Dumas, general manager of the Fairmont Château Laurier, said on Thursday she felt immensely grateful. "I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everybody involved in solving this case, and ensuring the safe return of this priceless piece of history. Police arrested a 43-year-old man from Powassan, Ontario, in April and have charged him with stealing and trafficking the portrait. The man, whose name is protected by a publication ban, faces charges that include forgery, theft over \$5,000 and trafficking in property obtained by crime exceeding \$5,000.

Hezbollah chief says Israel will face 'tough retribution and just punishment' for device blasts

World Lebanon's Hezbollah chief said Thursday that Israel had dealt an "unprecedented" blow to his group, crossing all red lines with device explosions that killed 37 people and wounded nearly 3,000 over two days. He warned Israel that it will face "tough retribution and just punishment" for the blasts. Delivering a speech after the attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday, which plunged Lebanon into panic, Nasrallah struck a defiant tone and warned of retaliation. Describing the attacks as a possible "act of war", he said Israel would face "tough retribution and just punishment, where it expects it and where it does not". The attacks were a "massacre" that "could be a war crime or a declaration of war," he said, accusing Israel of having wanted to "kill no less than 5,000 people in two minutes". Nasrallah also vowed to keep up Hezbollah's fight against Israel until a



ceasefire in Gaza is reached. "The Lebanese front will not stop until the aggression on Gaza stops" despite "all this blood spilt," he said. Nasrallah announced the launch of an internal probe into the attacks, which experts and some Israeli media have said bear all the hallmarks of Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. Just minutes before the Hezbollah chief delivered his remarks, the

Israeli military traded new strikes over the border. Israeli war planes flew low over Beirut and broke the sound barrier, sending birds flying in panic and people in their houses and offices rushing to open the windows to avoid the glass shattering. Lebanon's Hezbollah chief said Thursday that Israel had dealt an "unprecedented" blow to his group, crossing all red lines with device explosions that killed 37 people and wounded nearly 3,000 over two days. He warned Israel that it will face "tough retribution and just punishment" for the blasts. Delivering a speech after the attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday, which plunged Lebanon into panic, Nasrallah struck a defiant tone and warned of retaliation. Describing the attacks as a possible "act of war", he said Israel would face "tough retribution and just

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News box

Two months after crash, biker booked for murder in Coimbatore

COIMBATORE. Two months after an elderly man died due to injuries believed to have been caused by his fall, police on Wednesday night booked a 19-year-old college student for knocking him down with her e-bike. According to police, M Subramani (71) of Cheran Nagar in Mettupalayam, who was working as security guard in a godown at Chinniyampalayam, informed his family around June 29 midnight that he suffered head injury and felt dizzy while travelling in a bus, and got down at Karamadai. His family members thought he had fell on the road and took him to Mettupalayam GH around 1.30 am. Later, he was shifted to the CMCH. Despite treatment, Subramani died on July 1. Based on a complaint from his wife Shelli Elpreetta, Kattoor police registered a case under section 174 CrPc. The month-long investigation revealed that Subramani was hit by an electric bike in Gandhipuram area and got treated in a private hospital before boarding a bus to his home on June 29 night. CCTV footage revealed Subramani getting hit while walking on Dr Nanjappa Road in Gandhipuram around 8.40 pm by a girl who was riding an e-bike without number plate. Further inquiries revealed that the bike rider, identified as B Asvitha from Ram Nagar, along with her father Balasureshkumar, took him to a private hospital in Park Gate area on Dr Nanjappa Road where he was treated as outpatient. After being discharged from the hospital, Subramani took a bus to his hometown from Gandhipuram. Based on the finding, the case was transferred to the Traffic Investigation Wing -East police, and they registered a case against Asvitha.

Debt net: Mom poisons 3 kids, tries to kill self in Tamil Nadu

TENKASI. A four-year-old boy died and two of his siblings were hospitalised after their mother allegedly poisoned them ahead of attempting to end her life here on Thursday, as she was unable to repay a loan of ₹3 lakh. The deceased was identified as Praveen Raj, son of 40-year-old beedi roller Uchimahali, a resident of Melatheru of Cellapillaiyarkulam village near Alwarthur. According to sources, daily wage Uchimahali and her husband Kumaravel had taken loans amounting to ₹3 lakh from various private finance companies. The couple had been repaying the loan regularly, however was unable to pay their pending installment for the past few days. Due to pressure from the companies, Uchimahali allegedly administered poison to her three sons — Palani Sakthi Kumaran (7), Indiravel (6) and Praveen Raj (4), before attempting to die by suicide. Her relatives immediately rushed them to the Government District Headquarters Hospital (GDQH), however, Praveen could not be saved. The trio was later shifted to Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital (TVMCH), and the condition of the two children remains critical, sources said. Alwarthur police have registered a case in this connection and investigation is under way.

Bengaluru firm designs satellites for ultra-low earth orbit

BENGALURU. Bengaluru-based Bellatrix Aerospace announced that it has designed a satellite that can operate in the 180-200-km ultra low earth orbit. This technology could become a game changer for satellite owners and operators, revolutionising various applications, including high-resolution Earth observation, telecommunications and scientific research. "Project 200 is a technology demonstration mission to qualify a new unconventional satellite powered by an innovative propulsion system at around 200 km," the company said in an official release. According to Bellatrix, at 200 km, a satellite's capability would improve significantly since the communication latency is reduced by half and image resolution is improved by three times. This also reduces the cost of the satellite. Rohan M Ganapathy, co-founder, CEO and CTO of Bellatrix Aerospace, said, "Traditionally, satellites have been deployed in orbits at altitudes well above 450 km. This altitude choice has been influenced by various considerations, such as the desire to minimise the impact of atmospheric interference on satellite operations. Though it is known that a satellite's capabilities improve significantly at 200 km, limitations on propulsion technology have prevented satellites from operating at this orbit. Over the last four years, Bellatrix has been working on solving this." He added that propulsion is always at the heart of a satellite and cracking this part of the puzzle was of crucial importance. "We have a breakthrough in propulsion technology that would allow satellites to operate from this orbit for years instead of deorbiting within a few days due to drag. We are not just building a propulsion solution, but a first-of-a-kind satellite capable of operating from this altitude," he said during the launch at Bengaluru Space Expo.

Odisha: Four Balasore blocks hit, people allege government apathy

Amid the situation, residents of affected areas alleged the free kitchen run by the administration is yet to reach them.

BALASORE. Even as the water level of Subarnarekha river is going down, the flood situation remains grim in low-lying pockets of Bhograi, Baliapal and Jaleswar blocks of Balasore district. Around 230 villages under 50 panchayats in the blocks are worst affected by the flood. Residents of Uluda, Khardipimpal, Kalikapur villages in Bhograi and Jaleswar blocks were forced to severe communication on a road between Paschimbar and Uluda as water from a tributary of Subarnarekha river, Andia Khal overflowed and entered the villages.



Residents said the tributary started overflowing after receiving water from West Bengal on Thursday morning. Amid the situation, residents of affected areas alleged the free kitchen run by the administration is yet to reach them. A video of a woman from Bishnupur expressing her ire over the alleged administrative apathy has gone viral on social media. After Kumbhigadi and Kulha panchayats in Bhograi block, Bada Talapada in Jankunda in Baliapal was adversely affected by the flood. Bada Talapada is located near Subarnarekha and the sea. Several families from the village took refuge on the roofs of their houses as floodwater submerged the village. The villagers were later shifted to safer places

after repeated pleas to the local administration. Chakradhar Sahoo, a local said Bada Talapada comprises two wards and has a population of over 1,500. "All the families in the village are adversely affected by the flood," he said. Ward members Rabindra Dalei and Kanhu Mangaraj said the district administration has arranged free kitchen in the village but no dry food has yet been provided to the affected people. The villagers have urged the district administration to provide them dry food as the free kitchen is not enough to cater to their needs. They demanded that Balasore MP Pratap Chandra Sarangi visit the flood-affected areas including their village on a power boat but the latter did not meet any of the affected people.

Susmita Sahoo of Rashalpur village said her village has been waterlogged for the last four days yet no officer has taken stock of the situation or extended any relief to the affected. Pravakar Sahoo, a resident said officers and the revenue inspector has reached Baliapal bus terminal but are yet to visit the village. "We are surviving on dry food stored at home and we are worried about what would happen when the stock runs out," Sahoo said. District emergency officer Sai Krishna Jena said more than 39,000 people are affected in Bhograi, Baliapal, Jaleswar and Basta blocks of which 19,000 have already been evacuated. The district administration has opened at least 51 free kitchens with help of self-help groups in the affected villages. This apart, health and veterinary officials are on the job to prevent outbreak of waterborne diseases in the affected areas. Officials at the headquarters are monitoring relief operations round-the-clock, he said. The district administration had directed the revenue inspectors and other officials to assess crop and property damage after water recedes from the low-lying areas of the blocks. As per official reports, the water level of Subarnarekha river stands at 10.61 metre at Rajghat against its danger level of 10.36 metre.

93 per cent of households in Telangana spend on mosquito repellents: Survey

HYDERABAD. About 93% of households in Telangana spend between Rs 200 and Rs 5,000 on mosquito repellent measures each month, according to a recent survey conducted by LocalCircles, a community social media platform. Over 54,000 respondents (62% men and 38% women) from 322 districts across India participated in the survey. The survey included 45% of respondents from Tier-1 districts, 26% from Tier-2 and 29% from Tier-3 and 4 districts. The survey revealed

that 86% of Indian households spend on mosquito control every month, highlighting the failure of many municipalities and health departments to implement effective mosquito control measures. Additionally, 7 in 10 households reported that their municipality or panchayat had not conducted any fogging during the monsoon season. In Telangana, the survey found that 41% of households spent up to Rs 200 on mosquito control monthly, while 26% spent between Rs 200 and Rs 500, 19% spent Rs

500 to Rs 1,000, 5% spent between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000, and 2% spent between Rs 2,000 and Rs 5,000. This means that 93% of households in the state undertook some form of mosquito control measures. The survey also found that 59% of households in Telangana used repellent liquids, sprays and creams, while 34% used mosquito nets, 29% used electric rackets, 14% employed fogging services and 9% used coils to combat mosquitoes.

Encroachments identified along Budameru: Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu

VIJAYAWADA. Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu reviewed the action plan for Operation Budameru on Thursday, with senior officials of irrigation, town planning, revenue, and survey departments, focusing on clearing encroachments along the river to mitigate flooding in Vijayawada. He said Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu is determined to restore the Budameru to its original course and eliminate its impact as the "sorrow of Vijayawada." The Minister stated that encroachments have been identified along a 13.25 km stretch from Velagalur Head Regulator to Kolleru Lake, passing through Vijayawada and Gudivada. Major encroachments, mostly agricultural, have been noted in areas like Kavulur, Elaprolu, Paidarapadu, and Vidyadharapuram. Within Vidyadharapuram to Gunadala, 70 acres



out of a total of 202 acres have been encroached, with over 30,000 houses constructed illegally. A detailed report has been compiled and will be submitted to the Chief Minister for further action. He highlighted the need to increase the capacity of Chimalavagu, Kesarapalli, Enkepadu, and UT channels, and strengthen the bunds of the Budameru drain over a 50.6 km stretch from

Enkepadu to Kolleru. Plans are also in place to enhance the capacity of Pamula Kaluva, Mustabad Canal, and Enkepadu Canal to divert Budameru's water and benefit agricultural lands. "We are on the job and have been reviewing the situation with officials over the last three days," he said. A PowerPoint presentation detailing the plan will be made to the CM, following which Operation Budameru will commence, he added. Special centre for flood-hit people NTR District Collector Srijana said a special banking facilitation centre has been set up at the Vijayawada sub-collector's office to assist victims of the Budameru floods. The centre will start functioning from September 20, and public can help flood victims

Odisha: Sambalpur singer dies of scrub typhus, family alleges foul play

As per Ruksana's mother, her daughter fell out with a fellow singer over some issues following which she might have been poisoned.

SAMBALPUR. Popular Sambalpur singer and album artist Ruksana Bano died of multiple organ failure allegedly caused by scrub typhus at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar. While Ruksana was hospitalised for three weeks at different hospitals before she succumbed, her family has alleged foul play and blamed a fellow artist of poisoning her. The 27-year-old Bhawanipatna-based artist fell ill towards the end of last month and was initially admitted to a hospital in Bhawanipatna on August 27. She was referred to Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Balangir. However, as her condition deteriorated, she was first shifted to a private hospital in Bargarh and referred to AIIMS, Bhubaneswar two days back. Dr Santosh Kumar Tete who treated Ruksana at the private hospital in Bargarh said, she was admitted on August 31 with complaints of persistent



fever and respiratory distress. The test confirmed she was infected with scrub typhus. "She was also suffering from severe pneumonia. This apart, her organs had

not been functioning as usual as she had liver infection and heart problems too. As her condition deteriorated, she was kept on ventilator for around 10 days," Dr Tete said. As there was no improvement in her condition, her family expressed the desire to shift her to a better facility. The hospital discharged her after giving medical advice. Meanwhile, Ruksana's family members have alleged foul play and claimed her death is a pre-meditated murder. As per Ruksana's mother, her daughter fell out with a fellow singer over some issues following which she might have been poisoned. The fellow artist uploaded a video defying the allegation. Ruksana is survived by her mother, elder sister and a younger brother. She was the sole bread winner of her family.

Undeclared Emergency in Karnataka, says Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje



BENGALURU. Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje and LoP in Assembly R Ashoka slammed the Karnataka government for registering FIRs against them for their social media posts about the violence in Nagamangala. "There is an undeclared emergency in Karnataka and CM Siddaramaiah is behaving like Hitler," Shobha told the media. The State Government that failed to prevent violence is registering FIRs against BJP MPs and MLAs who speak against it, she said. She slammed the government for not taking any action against the Congress MLC who had warned of a Bangladesh-like protest against the governor and against a Congress MLA who had allegedly demanded money from a police officer who died by suicide. Accusing the government of indulging in appeasement politics, Shobha said she would not be intimidated or silenced. Ashoka termed Dr G Parameshwara as an incompetent Home Minister, who failed to take action against those involved in the violence and was booking cases against the opposition leaders. Ashoka said he will not be scared of 100 such FIRs. Police have registered FIRs against Shobha and Ashoka for allegedly making provocative statements on social media following the unrest in Nagamangala.

Congress in Odisha protests BJP leaders' death threat to Rahul

BHUBANESWAR. Congress workers and leaders staged a demonstration in Bhubaneswar on Thursday protesting against the derogatory statements made by BJP and Shiv Sena leaders against party leader Rahul Gandhi. Hundreds of party workers marched from the Congress Bhawan to the Kharavela Nagar police station and filed complaints against Union minister Ranveet Singh Bittu, Uttar Pradesh Minister Raghuraj Singh, BJP functionary Tarvinder Singh Marwah and Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad. The

demand cases should be filed against these leaders for their derogatory remarks and death threats to Gandhi. The Congress workers were by BJP and Shiv Sena leaders against party leader Rahul Gandhi. The Congress workers were by BJP and Shiv Sena leaders against party leader Rahul Gandhi. The Congress workers were by BJP and Shiv Sena leaders against party leader Rahul Gandhi. The Congress workers were by BJP and Shiv Sena leaders against party leader Rahul Gandhi.



Prove claim or face defamation suit: YV Subba Reddy to CM Naidu

Speaking to mediapersons at the YSRC party headquarters on Thursday, the MP said Naidu had stooped to an all-time low to gain political mileage.



VIJAYAWADA. Condemning Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's comments accusing the previous regime of using animal fat for making Srivari laddus, YSRC Rajya Sabha MP and former TTD (Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams) chairman YV Subba Reddy said the party will move the Supreme Court and file a defamation case if the TDP-led NDA government does not submit evidence to support its claims. Charging Naidu with hurting the sentiments of lakhs of devotees of Lord Venkateswara, Subba Reddy asserted, "As a Hindu and a devotee of Lord Venkateswara, I have strived to ensure no mistake or sacrilege occurred in TTD. My family and I are ready to take an oath before the almighty regarding Tirumala Prasadam. Is Chandrababu willing to do the same with his family?" Speaking to mediapersons at the YSRC party headquarters on Thursday, the MP said Naidu had stooped to an all-time low to gain political mileage. Asserting that the Srivari temple Trust not only maintained high standards in preparing Naivedyam and Prasadam from 2019 to 2024, but also improved the quality of the ingredients used in comparison to before 2019, the two-time former TTD chairman said, "In the run-up to elections, the TDP chief (Naidu) had made several baseless allegations against the YSRC government and resorted to malicious propaganda, besides making a plethora of impossible promises. Now, after failing to keep those assurances in the first 100 days after forming government, Naidu is making such baseless allegations to divert the attention of people."

Erosion of integrity plagues state police forces

A couple of weeks ago, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the Kolkata rape-murder case and transferred its investigation to the CBI. It was rape and murder most foul that shocked the nation to its core. Spontaneous anger and anguish found expression in violent and non-violent agitations, especially in the community of doctors who struck work throughout the country. The quick results expected from the CBI have not come. Following this intervention, many heinous crimes like rapes and murders have taken place in the country. But they have not received the same attention of the courts or social groups.

The apex court's intervention in earlier cases has failed to prevent rapes and other crimes. And this intervention is not likely to stop such crimes in future either. The transfer of this case to the CBI, although fully justified, set my mind on a different train of thought — why have the Supreme Court and the high courts lost faith in the professionalism and integrity of the state police forces? Why have the people lost faith in the state police and police station or, for that matter, the state governments and the lower judiciary? Did it happen overnight or has it come as a gradual process that has snowballed because of the politician becoming all-powerful with the help of criminal elements inside and outside the police and the government? Looking back, at first, only very important cases of corruption were transferred to the CBI by the courts or the state and Central governments. Officers in the state used to take offence at such transfer of cases because they thought it cast a poor reflection on them. The CBI also got good results because it was not overstretched as it had started out as a specialised agency to tackle high-level corruption. Because of continued strengthening of the political arm and its accompanying moral decline and loss of integrity, people started approaching the courts directly for the transfer of cases. The Central and state governments also took recourse to this remedy to achieve their desired results because the overall decline in the body politic has adversely affected the CBI as well. Officers were specially brought in so that a more pliable structure could be created. The CBI also expanded and opened offices in most of the states. However, this only whetted the appetite of the Central Government, and a new agency was born — the National Investigation Agency (NIA); its purpose was also to investigate, but with greater stress on terror activities with interstate ramifications. Here also, it was the discretion of the Centre to assign cases. There have been frequent statements from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that NIA offices would be opened in all states. We already have the Narcotics Control Bureau and a freshly empowered Enforcement Directorate armed with extensive countrywide powers, as also the Intelligence Bureau and R&AW (Research and Analysis Wing). We also have the paramilitary forces (PMFs), which have a national remit. The PMFs are there to tackle law and order situations that are considered to be beyond the state police forces. The state can also ask for these forces from the MHA or the ministry can directly inject them into the state with nominal approval of the state government. The CRPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, ITBP, etc, have been in some states for decades without a break. They work under the command of the state police. But otherwise, they are independent in their day-to-day functions. What about the state governments and the fact that law and order is a state subject under the Constitution? The police station and the district SP are the cornerstones of the edifice of the police department. Again, because of extra-departmental intervention, both have been rendered as adjuncts of the ruling party. This has come at the cost of the professionalism of the state police and led to its decline, especially at the cutting edge, that is, the police station and the district SP. These remain points where the police and public interact. But the interactions leave a lot to be desired. This is not an interaction in which the citizen has confidence that he will get justice. Rather, he goes as a client or a supplicant.

Research funding needs a clear pathway

The ANRF or the govt should have a blueprint on how private sector funding would be raised

LAST week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the governing body of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), a new research funding agency. When it was announced by the Central Government in 2019, it was conceived as an umbrella organisation to 'fund, coordinate and promote' research in thrust areas relevant to national priorities as well as fundamental research. Now, the government has described it as "an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research" in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP). The prevailing national research system faces multiple challenges — bureaucratic delays in the release of funds, a lack of transparency in the award of grants, restrictive procurement rules, taxation issues, problems in international collaboration, etc. The biggest hurdle is dwindling or stagnating levels of funding. Could the SERB and other funding agencies have been reformed before superseding them with an umbrella, centralised body? Is the ANRF a solution to all this? Ideally, a critical evaluation of the SERB in advancing scientific research in India should have preceded the creation of a body that supersedes it. The government has also not clarified how far social science research would be covered under the ANRF when dedicated research councils are functional for social science and historical research. This clarity is needed because the governing body decided to establish Centres of Excellence to support interdisciplinary research in humanities and social sciences and a representative of the Indian Council of Historical Research attended the board meeting. The elephant in the room is the level of funding required for scientific research. The government has repeatedly been saying that the ANRF would get funding of Rs 10,000 crore a year with the caveat that 65 per cent of it would come from the private sector. If this is so, the ANRF or the government should have a blueprint on how private sector funding would be raised. The first board meeting had hardly any industry representation and the official version of the meeting makes no mention of any discussion on the ways to make the private sector cough up Rs 6,500 crore every year for funding research in public institutions and universities. All that the Prime Minister had to say on funding was that "the scientific community of the country should have faith that there will be no dearth of resources for their endeavours".

Often, the US National Science Foundation (NSF) is cited as a model for research funding; the ANRF is said to be inspired by it. A former head of the NSF, Subra Suresh, has been made a member of the ANRF governing board. Incidentally, the current head of the NSF, Sethuraman Panchanathan, is also a scientist of Indian origin. While the NSF is an important source of research funding in America, it is not the sole one. Multiple government



agencies fund research — the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and now there is the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). While the NSF focuses on basic research and some applied research, the NIH is dedicated to translational medical research and technologies. Other agencies fund defence and energy-related applied research. It is not a perfect research ecosystem but has adequate levels of transparency, accountability and external review.

Borrowing just the NSF model without attendant checks and balances is not a good idea. Instead, we should strive for a heterogeneous research funding system, building on our strengths. For example, India followed a diverse research council system to promote sector-specific research — agriculture, medical, industrial research etc. This system needs to be revived and nurtured to make it responsive and serve national needs, instead of replacing it with a monolithic, centralised and opaque structure.

We also need to evolve new criteria for measuring research output. For a long time, scientists have followed the dictum of 'publish and perish'. This is so because grants,

promotions and awards are linked with the number of research papers published. The same goes for another important matrix — patents. It's no use gathering more patents if they have no economic value. Now there are 'altmetrics' which reflect media coverage and social media buzz around one's research. Publications, citations and patents are important measures, but they give an incomplete picture of the quality and usability of research. Artificial intelligence, storage technologies, solar energy, advanced materials, etc. are often cited as areas Indian funding agencies and researchers should focus on. The ANRF should cut through such generalities and identify niche areas where India needs to develop research and technological capacity in short, medium and long terms — areas that need a major leap or just incremental improvements, technologies that require substantial and sustained funding, and areas not covered by ongoing academic efforts in research institutes or industrial firms. Such clear mapping of critical areas across sectors is a prerequisite to serving the twin objectives of deploying scientific research for societal needs and attaining technological capability.

Delhi's new CM

Atishi has her work cut out, so does Kejriwal

OUT on bail in the excise policy case, AAP chief and outgoing CM Arvind Kejriwal has entrusted party leader Atishi with the onerous task of putting Delhi's governance back on track. Welfare schemes and development works have been in limbo in the national capital for almost six months following Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The growing public discontent with the AAP government has prompted him to step down and throw the ball in the voters' court.

With the Assembly elections just five months away — unless they are held ahead of schedule — he is seeking a 'certificate of innocence' from the people of Delhi.

It will be a race against time for CM-designate Atishi to ensure that various pending projects are expeditiously completed and the flagship schemes cover all intended beneficiaries. New promises will have to be announced in a bid to retake control of its



populist narrative. Considering Kejriwal's many run-ins with the Lt Governor, it is too much to expect that Atishi will have a cordial relationship with the Centre's

appointee. Another big challenge will be to carve a niche for herself and dispel the notion that she is a rubber-stamp CM under her mentor's control. Kejriwal would be well advised to focus on revitalising his party, whose 'politics of honesty' has been severely undermined by the accusations levelled against him and other AAP leaders by the ED and the CBI. AAP, which was accorded the status of a national party last year, is trying to gain a foothold in Haryana after drawing a blank in Delhi and winning only three out of 13 seats in Punjab in this year's Lok Sabha elections. The strategy of playing the victim card and accusing the BJP-led Centre of political vendetta has to be complemented by earnest efforts to redress people's grievances in Delhi as well as Punjab. AAP's emphasis, now more than ever before, should be on corruption-free governance and hassle-free delivery of services.

Two assassination bids, a different Trump each time

The real winner in the wake of the second go at Trump's life is the Secret Service. It's like Christmas come early for them.

THE two assassination bids on Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump are now hot campaign news in the US. When his ear was nicked in the first attempt on July 13, he defiantly pumped his fists in the air and left the stage unfazed. At that time, a non-threatening Joe Biden was his opponent, so Trump didn't care much to accuse or implicate him when this happened. When Trump addressed a rally after that narrow escape, he was gracious all over. He thanked people for their support and said he would recount that event just once and never again, for it was too painful. He even praised his security detail, but nowhere did he accuse Biden, directly or indirectly, for what happened. Trump also said at the time that he felt safe as "I had God on my side". He could have added that Biden, too, made him feel safe. All that seems like long ago, especially after Trump's loss to Kamala Harris in the debate. This still rankles, for Trump also took a shot at ABC News for being partial to Kamala, the 'Marxist'.

That was then and this is now. When the second attempt took place, though no bullet was fired, Trump reacted differently. Short of putting on war paint, his demeanour was aggressive all the way. He blasted Kamala and the 'radical lefts' by her side and said that on their account "bullets are flying and it will get worse." Very ominous, indeed!

It is clear that Trump is missing Biden, who was like a tethered bait bleating to be killed. Instead, he now has a feisty and very credible challenger before him. Kamala is no Biden and could plausibly steal the presidency from him. Predictably, Trump did not take kindly to this and scattershot every barb he could summon at Kamala. Biden, though, gets a free pass.

Trump actually praised him for the concern he showed when news of the second failed assassination became known. "Biden was very nice," Trump said, "he called up to make sure I was okay... couldn't have been nicer." Without Biden in the race, Trump's campaign has become more difficult.

First Elon Musk and then JD Vance, the Republican vice-presidential nominee, went for overkill and damaged Trump's chances to leverage the aborted assassination. They loudly wondered why Kamala and Biden were so far unharmed and not in the crosshairs of somebody's rifle. This kind of veiled insinuation upset many. The slight bump in Trump's ratings after the second assassination bid soon levelled out because of Vance and Musk. Worse, encouraged by Trump and his allies, following the second foiled attempt on his life, right-wing militias, led by a group called the Proud Boys, started patrolling the streets of Springfield, Ohio, and threatening migrants. So far, there have been about 30 bomb threats there, creating a pall of imminent violence. Even though Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, a Republican like Trump, has said there is no evidence of Haitian migrants eating pet dogs and cats, 80 per cent of Trump's supporters believe they do, because he said so in his debate against Kamala. Many of those who call themselves the



Proud Boys were also involved in the Capitol Hill insurrection nearly four years ago. They were the hammer heads of the wrecking crew that went berserk that day. Soon after, for the record, Trump pardoned one Roger Stone, a Proud Boys mentor, who was convicted for stoking the mob on Capitol Hill.

Trump's ability to command and control his crowd is primarily because he speaks a language that tugs at sentiments bereft of deliberation. He spouts a mother's milk ideology that harks back to fixed stereotypes that seem to comprehensively explain away complexities. His credibility with his followers

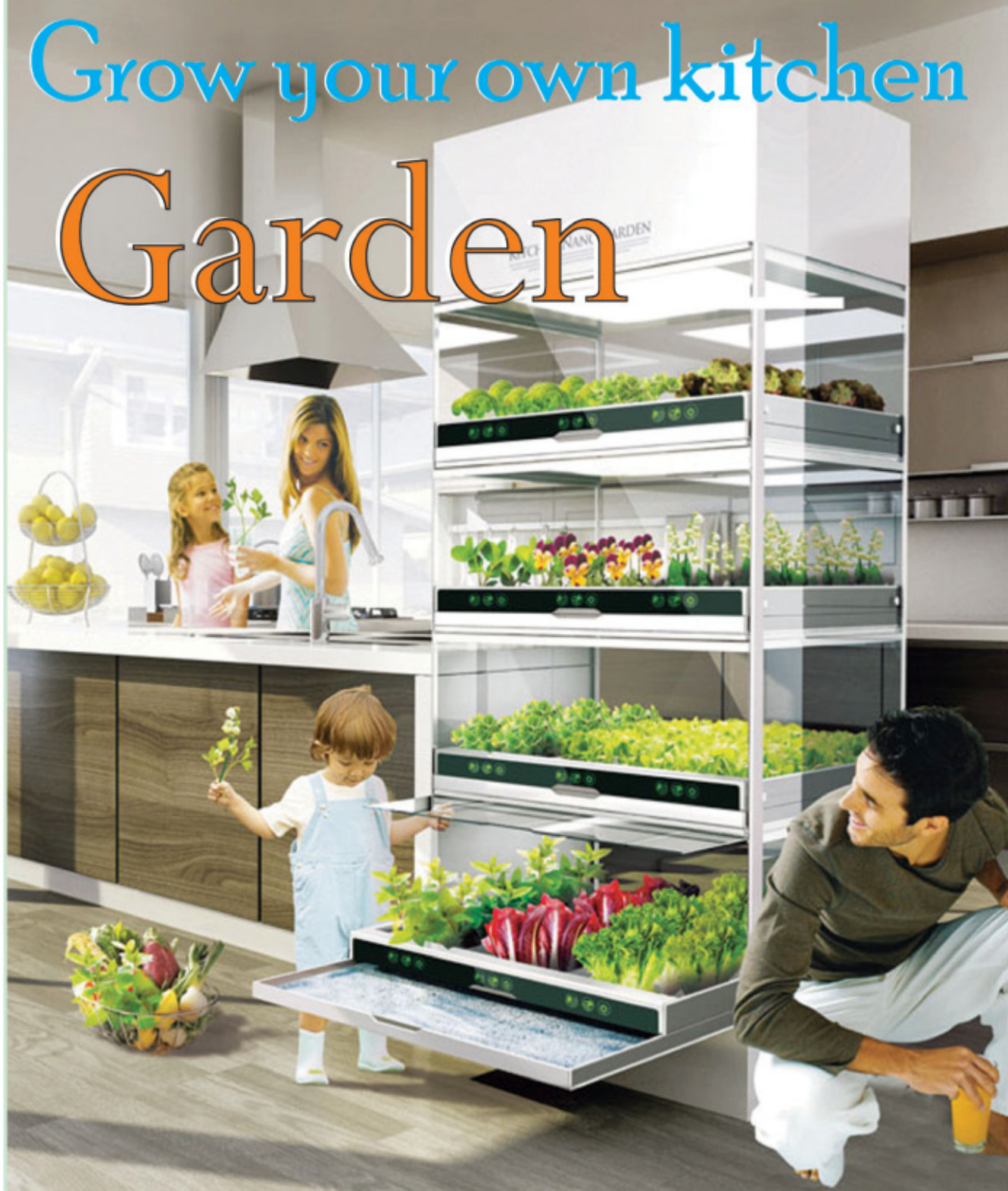
is of cultish proportions. The more he alleges that Kamala's left rhetoric kindled violence, the more he points at migrants eating pets or Democrats killing babies, the stronger his base gets. Inversely, such statements also firm up the opposing side for they find Trump too bold and brazen.

This is why in the coming elections, there will be no waverers. Trump has made sure of that; you either love him or hate him, nothing in between. So, whether the election is held today or in November, the outcome will be the same. Of course, neither side can let go, because you need energetic supporters to pull the lethargic ones to come out and vote.

The real winner in the wake of the second go at Trump's life is the Secret Service. It's like Christmas come early for them.

Biden from the White House, Kamala and Trump in between stump speeches, are all asking for more money and resources for this establishment. For the bosses of the Secret Service, it's a dream come true. There is, however, a wrinkle which Trump's current aggressive stance gives us a foretaste of. He has also said that should he lose, there may even be a 'bloodbath'. In all likelihood, this is protein shake talk for cosmetic muscle bulk and nothing really dramatic will happen. On the other hand, the race is so even, Trump may well win.

In which case, will gangs like the Proud Boys be out of work?



Grow your own kitchen Garden

While space is a problem in the city, planting a few vegetables, fruits or just herbs on your kitchen windowsill or in your balcony will not only increase the aesthetic value, but also provide you with healthy and fresh ingredients for your meals. With these simple steps, you can grow your own kitchen garden.

Plan your site
Opt for the sunniest spot in your house, one where you get at least six hours of sunlight daily, to grow the plants. Ideally, choose a spot that is nearest to your kitchen.

With vegetable prices hitting the roof, now would be a good time to start your own kitchen garden.

Choose your veggies
It is best to plant fruits and vegetables that you like to eat and consume on a regular basis. Also, go for veggies that are quick to grow and don't require much space. Salad garden is a good option as lettuce, radish and other greens require lesser

maintenance and grow quickly.
Plant herbs, too
Planting herbs in your garden is a good option as their freshly plucked leaves add flavour to your meals. The most popular herbs include curry leaf, basil, thyme, rosemary, mint and parsley.
Select proper containers

While investing in earthen pots is a good option for your plants, you can also recycle and reuse plastic bottles, buckets or bathtubs to grow vegetables. Take care while planting. You can buy seedlings at nurseries. However, plant them carefully, without harming the tender roots. You can also grow seeds that you might have scooped out of the veggies.
Maintain your garden
Keep a regular check on your garden to prevent breeding of insects. Go for 'companion gardening', like, planting garlic between two tomato plants.

Accessorise your room and be happy



Do your accessories make you happy or are they there because you have had them forever? Go through every single thing you consider an accessory and decide why you have it.

If it accents the colours in the room, if it has fond memories connected with it, if it works with your room, then keep it. If it does nothing for the room and is not an emotional attachment, get rid of it! There are so many new things out there which will add punch to your rooms, that changing accessories may be all you need to update your look.

New, updated picture frames for your favourite photos, fresh flowers for those tired arrangements, new lampshades, new candles; chenille throws to replace old worn ones, even new slippers! For those who are really tired of the look as they scan their homes, try replacing small

furniture pieces like coffee tables, end tables, and some lamps. It is amazing how much these touches can update and refresh a look. You don't have to spend a fortune either. Buy used pieces and repaint them "your way". Buy unfinished pieces and stain them or dye them! And the colour choices are endless.

Now look at your linens. Do they look tired and boring? I can fall in love with a great comforter and a few years later, I am totally bored with it. Tastes change. You change.

So change things around you to reflect the changes. Find a new comforter that makes your heart sing. And your bedroom! A single comforter goes a long way. And while you are at it, treat yourself to some luxury linens.

Nothing feels better than high thread count sheets. Yummy! Without breaking the bank, you can add and subtract some accessories to give your home a new fresh look.

Art for your home

They can make or break your home decor. Here is all you need to know about framing your artwork...



Artwork adds the final decorative touch to every room in your home. A beautifully decorated room looks unfinished without any artwork on the walls. Yet, the most beautiful paintings, prints and, yes, even mirrors will detract from the overall look if the wrong frames are used.

When you are trying to decide what types of frames to select to enhance your artwork, consider the following points; they will make your selection process easier and the result will flatter your home.

Check out your furniture

Look at the furniture and other details in the space to decide what type of frame will work with what you already have. Don't forget to check out the moldings, door frames, architectural details window frames and baseboards already present.

Get the right colour

Determine which colours predominate in your home. Does one colour seem to stand out? You may choose to play up this colour by having your art matted in a similar shade or the frame finished in a like hue. For a dramatic effect, try using a complimentary colour to make your artwork stand out and take centre stage, if that is the look you are striving for.

Revamp the frames

If you already possess artwork that is framed in various styles, why not try painting the frames in the same colour or revamping them in the same type of stain or finish? The result will provide visual harmony, without your having to spend a lot of money on framing. Also, the result will be more interesting than if you have the same molding used for all the frames. Although the end results will provide a unified look, it may be a bit too boring or conservative.

What's your style

If one style predominates

in your home, contemporary, for example, a good framing choice may be to use an ornate gilded-style molding. The contrast will make your artwork stand out and will draw attention to the furniture and other decorative accessories in your home.

Frames that enhance your art

Choose frames that enhance your artwork. Note the size and scale of the picture, painting or other piece that you wish to hang. If you have trouble deciding what type of frame is best suited to your art, consult with a local art gallery or framing shop. These professionals are adept at choosing the correct frame and matting for your artwork.

Style for a series

If you are framing series or pairs of artwork, try to select the same style of molding for all pieces. This will unify the look of the art, as well as avoid visual confusion in your home.

Light right

Notice the type of light in your room. Some rooms are naturally dark, so gilded or gold-toned frames may be an excellent choice as they tend to reflect

light, making the artwork more visible.

Keep in mind

Avoid trendy styles in frames. Like all other types of home accessories, frames reflect current decorating trends. Try to select frames that will not be out of vogue in five or six years. Good quality framing is worthwhile and an excellent investment!

Art for your homes

When you are choosing artwork for your house, try not to be overambitious. Yes, we all like to have the best of everything, but remember that your home needs to have a theme. Try not to make it too cluttered. Don't try mixing a little bit of everything, for you may just end up living in a mess.

Bright walls not needed for a bright home

Neutral colours chiefly include whites, beiges, creams, pale yellows and pale pinks. But just because you've chosen to go safe with your wall colours doesn't mean your home has to be dull and boring.

Colours are an important aspect of interior decoration as they add to the aesthetics of the decor. If used correctly, they go a long way in enhancing the mood of a room. So here's how you can tastefully include splashes of colour in your home and thus, increase its vibrancy:

Art on the walls

Art is basically a beautiful blend of a lot of different colours and it's undoubtedly one of the best ways to incorporate splashes of amazing colours onto plain walls. If the room is big, make sure the size of the art work is also big so that it has the desired effect. Alternatively, you can also use a number of small pieces in a formation. And when we say art, we don't mean only painting. Photographs, art work by kids, jigsaw puzzles, picture collages are also a part and parcel of art. You can have a range of family pictures blown up, framed and hung on the wall or some nice art work done by your kid at his/her school project.

Cushion-me-red

Most people tend to opt for furniture in muted colours and for all good reasons. Most furniture pieces are permanent fixtures in homes and getting them in sober colours makes it easier to blend them with the decor or colour scheme when one decides to go in for a new look. But having sober coloured furniture doesn't mean you can't have fun with colours. This is where cushions come in. Today, you can get cushions in a range of sizes and cushion covers in an array of colours, designs and patterns, be it shiny, or with a mural on them or with frills on the side. All you need to do is indulge your creative side as you can change colours and arrangements as frequently as you choose to.

Lamp shades

Available in a range of materials including paper, fabrics, glass, ceramic, plastic and metal, lamp shades work beautifully to bring those much needed splashes of colour into a room. In fact, their beauty can be appreciated when the lamp is lit and the colours spread around the room. Intricately worked



Walls painted in a range of bright and happening colours may be the hottest trend in the world of home painting, but there are many who prefer to stick to neutral colours



handcraft lamp shades that are easily available at handicraft exhibitions and handloom stores are a raging trend in home decor.

Greenery and flowers are the perfect option to infuse a room with a natural burst of colours. But if you're one of those who detests changing flower vases or is nervous about handling live plants, the artificial variety offers as much, if not more, range that you can use to beautifully decorate your home. The good part of the artificial variety is that apart from dusting them and washing them once in a while, you don't have to fuss over their care and upkeep and can instead concentrate on other important chores.

Rugs, carpets

Last but not the least, one good way to add an element of colour in a room is by using brightly coloured floor rugs and or carpets. While most carpets still come in relatively sober colour schemes predominantly maroons, mocha browns, olive greens and dark blue, when it comes to floor rugs, they are available in a range of interesting colours and patterns. Also, rugs are far less hassle free than carpets when it comes to care and upkeep.

Post a comment

Will never happen again: Rajiv Memani on EY missing funeral of employee

Ernst and Young India chairperson Rajiv Memani has expressed regret on no one from the company attending the funeral of its employee, who died allegedly due to excessive work pressure.

NEW DELHI. Ernst and Young India chairperson Rajiv Memani has expressed regret at no one from the company attending the funeral of its employee, who died allegedly due to excessive work pressure, calling it "alien to our culture". In a post on LinkedIn, Memani, who has faced massive backlash on social media over an alleged toxic work culture, said he was deeply saddened by the tragic demise of Anna Sebastian Perayil. "I have conveyed my deepest condolences to the family, although nothing can fill the void in their lives. I truly regret the fact that we missed being present at Anna's funeral. This is completely alien to our culture. It has never happened before; it will never happen again," Memani said. It has always been very important to us to create a healthy workplace, and we attach the highest importance to the well-being of our

people. I would like to affirm that the well-being of our people is my top-most priority and I will personally champion this objective," he said.



Anna Sebastian Perayil, who joined E&Y in March, died on July 20. The incident came to light earlier this week after her mother Anita Augustine's open letter to the company, alleging that Anna succumbed to "work

pressure", went viral. Augustine claimed that no one from the company attended her daughter's funeral. "After her funeral, I reached out to her managers, but I received no reply. How can a company that speaks of values and human rights fail to show up for one of its own in their final moments?" she wrote in the letter. Memani faced criticism on social media after he denied the claim that "work pressure" was behind the death of the Pune woman, according to an Indian Express report. As the issue gained momentum, the Centre launched a probe into the circumstances that led to the death of Anna. On Thursday, Minister of State for Labour Shobha Karandlaje said a thorough investigation into the allegations of an unsafe and exploitative work environment was underway.

Teen Delhi University Student, Returning Home After His Birthday Party, Dies In Car Crash

The victim was returning from Gurugram after celebrating his birthday with his four friends, who were also injured when the guardrail pierced through their vehicle.

New Delhi: A 19-year-old Delhi University student died after his car crashed into a guardrail near Rajghat in Delhi on Thursday. The victim, Aishwarya Pandey, was returning from Gurugram after celebrating his birthday with his four friends, who were also injured when the guardrail pierced through their vehicle, a Hyundai Venue. Pandey, a first-year BA student of Deshbandhu College, was admitted to LNJP Hospital where he was put on ventilation support. He died late on Thursday. According to sources, the students were under the influence of alcohol. "It was Pandey's birthday on Wednesday. He threw a party for his friends and had rented a car. While returning to Delhi, he gave the keys to his friend



Aishwarya Mishra to drive," the news agency PTI quoted a senior police officer as saying. He was sitting behind the driver and suffered serious injuries. Pandey, a resident of Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, was living in a hostel in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar. Both his parents are dead. "He lost his father, who worked for a private company, due to an illness, and his mother, a teacher, died in a road accident," a relative said. Mishra, who also hailed from Etawah, suffered critical injuries and was admitted to a private hospital in Delhi. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Delhi) MK Meena said a case under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125(a) (causing hurt by act endangering the life of personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita had been registered and a probe is underway from all angles to ascertain the actual cause of the accident.

Armed robbers attack man inside shop in Punjab, flee with cash, mobile

At least four to five armed robbers entered a medical shop and attacked a man with sticks and sharp-edged weapons in Punjab's Moga district before fleeing away with cash and a mobile phone.

NEW DELHI. A man was critically injured in Punjab's Moga district after at least four to five armed robbers entered a medical shop and attacked him with sticks and sharp-edged weapons, before fleeing away with cash and mobile phones. The incident happened on Wednesday, September 18, in the Moga's Duneke area when the man, identified as Rajesh Kumar, had gone to meet his friend Shamsher Khan. After meeting Kumar, Khan asked him to sit in the shop as he went out for some urgent work. Four to five masked men then entered the shop and attacked Kumar with sticks and sharp-edged weapons before fleeing with cash and a mobile phone. A CCTV footage of the incident shows the men attacking Kumar with sticks, swords, and other sharp-edged weapons as he tries to resist them. After the attack, when Kumar lost consciousness, the attackers took away the cash and his mobile phone. Later, Kumar was rushed to a private hospital in Punjab where he received treatment for his injuries. "Four to five people came on two motorcycles and their faces were covered. They attacked me with sticks and swords. They also abused me and then fled away with money and my mobile phone. I have received 19 stitches on my head and I want action against the accused," Kumar said. A case has been filed against the unknown attackers under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and a probe has been launched to arrest them. Speaking about the case, a senior official of the Moga Police said, "We are investigating the case based on the complaint filed by Rajesh Kumar at the City Police Station. Several teams have been formed and all the accused will be arrested soon".

Don't Wait In Line, Get Your iPhone 16 Delivered In Minutes

New Delhi: You don't have to wait in line to buy an iPhone anymore. Starting today, order it on quick-commerce platforms like Blinkit and BB Now it will be delivered to your doorstep within minutes.

Albinder Dhindsa, the co-founder and CEO of Blinkit, informed in a social media post on Friday that the company will deliver the iPhone 16 in Delhi, NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru on the very launch day of the iPhone. "Get the all-new iPhone 16 delivered in 10 minutes! We've partnered with @UnicornAPR for the third year in a row, bringing the latest iPhone to Blinkit customers in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru (for now) -- on launch day! P.S - Unicorn is also providing discounts with select credit cards and EMI options are available too," said Dhindsa.

Blinkit, known for delivering groceries and other essential items within minutes, is expanding its offerings to cater to the high-demand tech market. The company has collaborated with key Unicorn Stores and Apple retailers, to ensure the iPhone 16 is available to its users immediately on release. Meanwhile, long queues were seen outside the Apple store in Delhi's Saket and the flagship store in Mumbai's BKC. A customer Akshay says, "I came at 6 am. I purchased the iPhone 16 Pro Max. I liked iOS 18 and the zoom camera quality has become better now, I came from Surat."

Another customer Ujjwal Shah said "I have been standing in the queue for the last 21 hours. I have been here since 11 AM yesterday and I will be the first one to enter the store today at 8 AM. I am very excited today...The atmosphere in Mumbai for this phone is absolutely new...Last year, I stood in the queue for 17 hours." Apple launched the new variants of the iPhone 16 during the second week of September, and the phone will be available for starting today Friday, September 20th. The price of the base variant of the iPhone 16 with 128 GB memory is ₹ 79,900. To ensure timely deliveries, the companies has optimized its network of micro-fulfillment centres, positioning stock in strategic locations across major cities.

Union Minister claims madrasas are threat to national security, foster terrorism

Union Minister and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar claimed that madrasas provide training to their pupils in making AK-47 rifles with the help of broomsticks.

Amravati. Union Minister and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar sparked controversy on Wednesday by making allegations against madrasas for fostering terrorism and posing a grave threat to national security. He made these remarks while unveiling a new hostel block for girls at Sri Vidyananya Avasa Vidyalayam in Telangana's Karimnagar district. He claimed that madrasas provide training to their pupils in making AK-47 rifles with the help of broomsticks.

He slammed the state government for providing funds to such institutions, who are using the money to promote extremism. Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister stated, "In places like Hyderabad, Siddipet, or Karim

Nagar, some madrasas are said to offer small sums of money, ranging from Rs 10 to 100, to their students. But what happens inside these madrasas? If you



look at many of the wrongdoers in the world — the so-called 'bad guys'— when asked where they learned such things, many will point to a madrasa. Whether it's a bomb blast in America, Mumbai, or London, there's often a

connection to teachings from such institutions." "Yet, what does the government do? Instead of addressing this, it provides funds for these madrasas, under the guise of developing new technologies and educational programs," he added. Earlier in July, a row erupted in Uttar Pradesh after the opposition leader stated that the government did not honour meritorious students studying in madrasas as it did for toppers of Sanskrit and state board schools. JP leader Mohsin Raza, in response to opposition demands, stated that no awards are given for "progress in religious education." "If such an award is to be given, then go to Saudi Arabia and get the award from there," Raza said.

How Can You Say...": Top Court Scolds CBI Over Bengal Post-Poll Violence Plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday rebuked the Central Bureau of Investigation over the wording of a plea asking that cases related to violence after the 2021 Bengal election be heard outside the state. The CBI had filed a petition in December to transfer these cases citing concern over the possible intimidation of witnesses. However the language of that petition - which included references to a "hostile environment prevailing in the courts (in Bengal)", irked the top court. A bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Pankaj Mishra took exception to the federal agency casting aspersions against the "entire judiciary in Bengal". "... you are talking as if there is a 'hostile environment' in the whole of Bengal..." the court told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the federal agency. "Mr Raju, what kind of grounds are taken in this plea?"

"How can you say this... how can you say 'hostile atmosphere prevails in Bengal courts'? Your officers may not like the judicial officers but don't make such statements," the CBI was told. The agency was warned of



contempt of court proceedings but after Mr Raju apologised, and acknowledged the petition had been "loosely drafted", the court allowed its withdrawal. A fresh petition will be filed, Mr Raju told the court. The CBI had been mandated by the Calcutta High Court to

investigate, with help from a special police team, "heinous crimes of rape and murder" and other complaints of violence after the results of the 2021 election were declared. The Assembly poll saw Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress retain power despite a strong challenge from the Bharatiya Janata Party, but the election period and that after were marred by shocking reports of violence across the state; multiple videos and images of atrocities, that each party claimed had been perpetrated by the other, flooded social media.

The High Court, in its directions, had criticised the state police for not filing complaints when presented with possible major crimes, such as rape or murder, and sometimes displayed a "predetermined mindset to take a case in a particular direction", apparently to favour the accused who, in many cases, were identified as workers or supporters of the ruling party. The BJP has welcomed the judgment, calling it "historic" and a vindication of its claims, while the Trinamool expressed unhappiness over the CBI being summoned.

Tirupati Laddoos Row Explained: Who Said What, Where Ghee Came From

Tirupati Temple Laddoo Row: The Tirupati temple is devoted to Lord Venkateswara, a manifestation of Lord Vishnu.

New Delhi: Laddoos, specifically those offered as 'prasadam', or devotional offerings, at the temple town of Tirupati are the battleground de jour in Andhra Pradesh, after a lab in Gujarat indicated the presence of animal fat in the ghee used to make them. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his Telugu Desam Party have ripped into his predecessor YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his YSR Congress Party over the

"desecration" of the temple, a religious landmark that holds pride of place among practicing Hindus in the state and across India. The Chief Minister - who declared the temple would be "sanitised" - also accused his rival of corruption in negotiating tenders for buying the vast quantities of "adulterated ghee" needed for an estimated three lakh laddoos daily, and having insulted "one of the most revered Gods".

The board of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, or TTD - the government trust that manages the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple and others in the state - has not commented on the row as yet, but has formed a four-member committee to submit a report about quality standards in preparing the food item. It is important to note that it was the TTD board itself that had asked for the lab report, citing multiple complaints from the public about the quality of the laddoos, in recent weeks and months.

What Is Tirupati Laddoos Row?

The TTD board buys an estimated five lakh

kilograms of ghee annually, or 42,000 per month. This is purchased via an e-tender floated every six months. In addition, the TTD also requires around 22,500 kg of cashew nuts, 15,000 kg of raisins, and 6,000 of cardamoms to make the laddoos,



which are made by in-house cooks. According to the Karnataka Milk Federation the TTD used to purchase the ghee from them, but supply was discontinued four years ago, reportedly over pricing issues. Reports suggest they were unable to offer ghee at prices low enough for the TTD as the Karnataka

government - ruled by the Congress - ordered a ₹ 3 per litre increase in milk prices.

Their contract, they have said, was renewed only after Mr Naidu's TDP returned to power. In the meantime, reports state the temple board turned to a supplier from Tamil Nadu's Dindigul, in whose ghee there was allegedly traces of the animal fat. Tirupati laddoos have a 'Geographical Indication' tag, which is a name or sign that identifies a product as originating from a specific geographical location or origin. The tag is a form of intellectual property right (IPR) that protects the product and ensures that only authorised users can use the name.

What Gujarat Lab Report Said

A July 17 report from the Centre of Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food, or CALF, lab at the centre-run National Dairy Development Board in Gujarat, released Wednesday, said it found animal fat in ghee used to make the famous Tirupati laddoos when the YSRCP was in power.



Use wall

Wall clocks are an inexpensive way to enhance the decor of any room...

Wall clocks may sound boring as decorative pieces but if selected with care they can add more meaning and character to the decor of your house. There are people who are passionate about this and take real pains to search for the perfect clock to match the interior of a home and most of the times, when used intelligently, they add an attractive touch to your house.

"I love collecting clocks of different kinds. They fascinate me. Every room in my house has a different kind of clock on its walls," says singer, Abhijeet Bhattacharya. Though there are some that have been gifted to him by his admirers and friends, most of them have been personally picked. They are indeed truly intriguing. "Whenever I go abroad I pick up ones that look interesting," he elaborates. Clocks that have a period look and those that are contemporary have both found a place in his house.

Decorative wall clocks come in many varieties and are easily available says interior designer Sheetal. Some are handcrafted and made of wood; there are others that are made up of metal, or plastic and acrylic. Precious metals like silver are also used.

"The most important thing to remember when decorating with wall-clocks is to choose something that you feel represents you and in some way enhances the decor of your room," says Hitesh Somaiya, who has used clocks in interesting patterns to decorate walls. Hanging a wall-clock is pretty much like hanging a picture or a painting in a room. It is part of the overall decor. Since wall-clocks are generally inexpensive, you could actually have a collection of them. One of the ways to decorate with wall-clocks is to hang several similar ones in a row, as if they were an art gallery. You can set the clock to display real-time of some popular city in another part of the world. "My sons live abroad and I have placed three

clocks showing the time of Chicago, London and India in one single row," says Chandana Sengupta, an artist who has herself designed her Bandra home.

Placing a dark colored wall-clock on a pristine white or light coloured wall is an eye-catching option.

One of the oldest types of wall clocks are the cuckoo clocks and their timelessness will never go out of style. Even today, think wall-clocks and somewhere the thought of a cuckoo clock is bound to cross your mind. Most of these clocks are made either in the shape of a birdhouse or chalet. They have a small mechanical cuckoo bird pop out of a door on the hour to accompany the chirping noises.

A cuckoo clock is among the most unusual type of clocks. A majority of them are pendulum clocks that give the time by striking the hour, using whistles that often sound exactly like the call of the cuckoo bird. Another kind of wall-clock that you can consider are those that come equipped with front-opening beveled

glass doors, polished brass lyre pendulums, and are quartz-driven. These clocks are generally key-wound with chime silence options. Some of the many finishes available are cherry, oak, mahogany, and even leather.

However, for a more stylish touch, go in for antique wall clocks. Many antique wall clocks are pendulum operated and some are set in picture frames.

Of late, even eclectic art deco with motifs of the sun, moon, stars, and other new age designs are becoming popular. While we are at interesting ideas for the home, why should the kitchen be left behind? So, try out kitchen wall clocks as well! There's again a large variety of designs to choose from — fresh fruits, roosters, etc. Your kitchen clock will be a great addition to your kitchen and will help to enhance an inviting, relaxing atmosphere. For the kids room especially, you can opt for neon wall clocks. Not only are they a great way to add extra light, they are also fun and funky.

Clocks to enhance Home decor

Quick tips to keep your kitchen clean



Begin by cleaning your kitchen counters. If you don't use your juicer everyday, the ideal thing is to stash it away somewhere out of sight and away from your kitchen counter.

Do away with everything that you think you are not going to use in the next couple of days. Then, spray liquid cleaner and wipe the counter clean.

Clean your gas stove/hob or oven. Make sure all the grime and the spills are wiped clean.

Next, clean your refrigerator. Check what the leftovers are discard them. Find out which of the bottles are almost empty, or are too old. Remove the shelves and clean them. Clean the outside as well as the inside of the fridge with a soft cloth.

Make sure your sink is free of clutter. Wash and stack away your dishes and utensils. clean the sink once it is clutter-free. Remove stubborn stains. Finish by rubbing it dry.

Clean the floor of your kitchen last. Pick all the debris that you had thrown onto the floor from the counter top and the over and the toaster etc.

Beginners guide to Bonsai

You can make your bonsai into master pieces provided you follow the right techniques. We list down the basics of bonsai.



1. Anyone with the interest and little space for growing plants, even on a window-sill or balcony can build and enjoy Bonsai collection.
2. The 3 main techniques to grow your own Bonsai plants are growing, pruning and shaping.

Growing- select a tree from a nursery which has a thick trunk. take a small ceramic container to plant the bonsai - usually the depth of the pot should be equal to the thickness of the trunk of the plant. Place a plastic net at the base of the container, so that water can drain out. Now add the specially prepared bonsai soil made of garden soil, cow manure, broken brick pieces, sand and organic manure (available in the market). Trim 1/2 to 1/3rd pf the existing roots of the plant. leaving most if the thin white roots (known as feeder roots) and some old thick roots. Plant the tree into the pot.

NOTE- materials matter, so if the soil good, the bonsai will take few months or even a year to grow, and two years for fruits to flower

Pruning: Generally, you have to prune the roots and the foliage. Pruning bonsais is one of the more enjoyable aspects of growing bonsais.

Pruning roots: Due to small containers, bonsai roots are stunted in growth. By pruning roots, you will ensure that there is space for the new roots to grow, which is critical for the health and growth of the bonsai. Prune roots twice a year and change the soil when it's done.

Pruning Foliage: This is vital for aesthetic purposes. Workout a specific design in the mind for your tree and shape it into the form you desire. Removing dead leaves help keep it healthy and beautiful.

Shaping: To create a desired shape, you can use a wire (copper wires are the best) to assist the branches to grow as per your design. Make sure that the wire is of the right thickness and does not break the branches. Hold the branch you are wiring in both hands and carefully wind the wire around it.

3. Select the plants which can be easily trimmed and shaped, and ones with a rough bark.
4. For the flower and fruit bonsais, four to five hours of direct sunlight is essential.
5. Avoid too much of watering. Alternate days are good enough.
6. Ready-made bonsais are available. Plant them into containers with the given steps
7. Bonsais are kept indoors, but a suitable place is on the window sill, balcony, terrace or a garden shelf. Avoid keeping them in an A/C room for long.
8. Although Bonsai trees can be grown from seeds, more developed material is already available. Seedlings, cuttings or young trees with smaller leaves are usually preferred.

How to make baubles at home



A month more to Christmas and preparations have already begun. Making your own baubles can be fun. Make as many as you can before the D-Day and get the Christmassy feel at home...

You will need:
Ping-pong balls (table tennis balls) Red nail paint Gold sparkler tube A tube of quick fix A carpet needle or large safety pin A few meters of gold thread

Method:
-Paint the ping-pong ball with the nail paint. This can be tricky. Hold it with the tips of your thumb, forefinger and middle finger and paint one side of it. -Let it dry. Now paint the other side. You will need an even coat and for that you need to make sure that your nail paint is fresh, not dry and clumpy. Let it dry completely.

-Now, pierce your carpet needle or safety pin to make a tiny hole on one side of the ping-pong ball. Take a four-inch piece of the gold thread, fold it in half. -Apply quick-fix on the tips and push it into the tiny hole. Hold. Let it stick to the ball. If needed apply a dot of quick-fix solution,



sealing the hole with the thread.
-The next step is all about your creativity — you can use your gold sparkler tube to create any design you like on your red bauble. For the gold star shown in the picture put a dot of your gold sparkler on the ball and then with the help of the blunt end of the needle, give six tiny strokes pulling out the paint from the centre to form a six-pointed star.-You can also stick tiny mirrors in a pattern and make your bauble look pretty.

Western Carriers IPO allotment: Step-by-step guide to check status

NEW DELHI. The initial public offering (IPO) of Western Carriers India Limited saw decent subscription numbers before closing for bidding on Thursday.

Western Carriers Limited was subscribed 31.69 times overall. The retail portion saw a subscription of 26.92 times, while the QIB category was subscribed 28.81 times, and the NII segment received 46.68 times the bids. Investors who have bid for Western Carriers Limited can check their allotment status online. They can log in to either the BSE website or the website of Link Intime India Private Ltd, the registrar for the issue. The latest Grey Market Premium (GMP) for Western Carriers (India) IPO is Rs 20, as of September 20th, 2024, at 10:01 AM. With a price band of Rs 172, the estimated listing price for the IPO stands at Rs 192 (cap price plus the current GMP). The anticipated gain or loss per share is around 11.63%.

The IPO shares of Western Carriers (India) are expected to debut on the BSE and NSE on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Should you buy Vodafone Idea shares after 20% fall UBS shares new target price

NEW DELHI. Shares of Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) took a sharp hit on Dalal Street, falling close to 20% after a legal setback. The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the company's curative petition, which sought a re-computation of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues. This decision came as a major blow for the company, as it had hoped for some relief regarding its hefty financial liabilities. With the court's ruling going against the telecom firm, Vodafone Idea's share price tumbled, prompting many investors to reconsider their positions in the stock. Vodafone Idea, along with other telecom companies, has been embroiled in a long-running legal dispute over AGR dues. In 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that telecom operators owed billions in dues to the government, based on a broad definition of AGR. Since then, Vodafone Idea has been struggling to cope with the massive financial burden. On Thursday, the company's hopes for relief were dashed when the Supreme Court dismissed its request to reconsider the 2019 judgment. This means Vodafone Idea will have to pay the full amount of AGR dues, estimated at Rs 70,300 crore. The news triggered a steep sell-off, with the stock plunging by 20%. Following the share price collapse, several brokerages have weighed in on the stock's prospects. Opinions are divided, with some recommending a cautious approach and others seeing potential buying opportunities.

Nuvama Institutional Equities: 'Hold' recommendation

Nuvama Institutional Equities said that the Supreme Court's decision was a significant blow to Vodafone Idea but added that the stock's 20% correction already reflects the impact of the increased liability. Nuvama adjusted its target price to Rs 11.50 from Rs 16.50, factoring in the full AGR dues liability. However, the brokerage reiterated a 'Hold' recommendation, suggesting that investors should keep an eye on key operational metrics like subscriber losses, tariff hikes, and capital expenditure.

10th round bidding for oil, gas assets under OALP to be held early next year



NEW DELHI. The 10th round of bidding for oil and gas assets under the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) will be held in early next year, said a senior official of the petroleum and natural gas ministry.

Bidding for 28 oil and gas blocks in the ninth round is set to close on September 21, with preparations for the 10th round already underway. The official noted that the Oil (Regulations and Development) Amendment Bill, aimed at reforming the oil and gas exploration sector, is expected to be passed in the upcoming winter session of Parliament. These reforms are anticipated to take effect for the 10th round. "OALP round nine closes the day after tomorrow, and we are already in advanced stages of preparing for OALP round 10. We are hopeful that the ORD Act will pass in the winter session, which will facilitate our efforts," said the official. The next round is likely to include areas that were previously designated as 'no-go' zones, where exploration and production of oil and gas were restricted for strategic reasons. To boost India's oil and gas production, the government has recently opened up more than 1 million square kilometers for exploration and production operations that were formerly categorised as 'no-go' areas. India is the third-largest importer of oil and gas, relying on imports for approximately 85% of its energy needs.

Efforts to enhance domestic production are critical for ensuring energy security. In FY24, India imported 233.1 million metric tons (mmt) of crude oil, compared to 232.7 mmt in FY23. The OALP rounds are essential for India to raise domestic crude oil and natural gas production. Currently, India imports more than 85% of its crude oil needs and roughly half of its gas requirement. In the previous eight OALP rounds, 144 exploration and production blocks comprising a total area of 242,055 sq km have been awarded. The government introduced the OALP in 2017 to attract oil and gas firms to develop India's upstream sector. The OALP guarantees marketing and pricing freedom with a revenue-sharing model, apart from offering reduced royalty rates. Oil Regulations Bill could be passed in winter session. Bidding for 28 oil and gas blocks in the ninth round is set to close on September 21, with preparations for the 10th round already underway. The official noted that the Oil (Regulations and Development) Amendment Bill, aimed at reforming the oil and gas exploration sector, is expected to be passed in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.

iPhone 16 in 10 minutes: Quick commerce steals spotlight from e-commerce giants

Blinkit announced its partnership with Unicorn Stores, an authorised Apple reseller, to deliver the latest iPhones in key cities like Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru.

NEW DELHI. Quick commerce platforms are changing the way people shop, and their latest target is the premium smartphone market. Blinkit, a leading player in the quick commerce space, has begun offering the all-new iPhone 16 series for delivery within just 10 minutes, posing a challenge to traditional e-commerce giants. Sales of the new iPhone 16 series began today and on this occasion, Blinkit announced its partnership with Unicorn Stores, an authorised Apple reseller, to deliver the latest iPhones in key cities like Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and

Bengaluru. This move could disrupt the dominance of established e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart, which typically offer delivery times ranging from 1 to 2 days for such high-demand products. Albinder Dhindsa, Founder and CEO of Blinkit, shared the news of this service on social media, saying, "Get the all-new iPhone 16 delivered in 10 minutes! We've partnered with @UnicornAPR for the third year in a row, bringing the latest iPhone to Blinkit customers in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru (for now) — on launch day!" What makes this move even more attractive to customers is that Unicorn is offering additional discounts for select credit card holders, along with EMI options, making the purchase of a premium smartphone more flexible and affordable. Dhindsa also shared the overwhelming demand for the new iPhones and said, "We started delivering iPhones at 8 AM — and we're going to cross the 300 mark in a couple of minutes. Today is going to be one crazy day." Challenge for traditional e-



commerce This new development is set to disrupt the traditional e-commerce model. Quick commerce platforms like Blinkit have built their reputation on speed and convenience. Customers who used to wait for 1-2 day deliveries from platforms like Amazon and Flipkart now have the option to get their new iPhone in just minutes, thanks to Blinkit's super-fast service. For traditional e-commerce sites, which rely on a more extensive supply chain and delivery process, competing with a 10-minute delivery window will be a huge challenge.

The very nature of quick commerce is based on hyperlocal deliveries from warehouses or dark stores located within close proximity to customers, enabling them to fulfil orders much faster than conventional logistics chains. While platforms like Amazon and Flipkart can offer discounts and EMI options, the speed of delivery is a key differentiator that could shift customer preferences towards platforms like Blinkit, especially for high-demand products such as the iPhone 16.

Changing consumer preferences

The rise of quick commerce also reflects changing consumer preferences. Today's buyers, particularly those in urban areas, value speed and convenience more than ever. Blinkit's decision to offer iPhones for instant delivery aligns perfectly with this trend. People no longer want to wait for days to receive their purchases — they want their products now, and Blinkit's 10-minute delivery option fulfils that need.

Quick commerce platforms also add an element of excitement to the shopping experience.

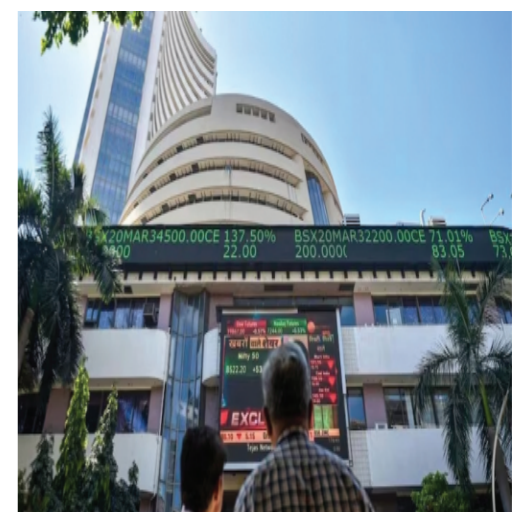
Elliott Hill's 32-year journey at Nike from intern to CEO goes viral

NEW DELHI. Nike has announced that Elliott Hill will take over as the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the global sports brand, effective from October 14, 2024. In a regulatory filing, Nike also revealed that Hill's annual base salary as CEO will be \$1.5 million. Hill, who has spent over 32 years at Nike, started his journey as an intern and will now be leading the iconic company. His inspiring career progression has caught the attention of many, and his LinkedIn profile has gone viral, highlighting his steady rise within the company. Hill's journey with Nike began in 1988 when he joined as an Apparel Sales Representative intern. Over the years, he climbed the corporate ladder, working in various sales and management roles across different regions and divisions of the company. Now, after three decades of dedication and hard work, he has been chosen to lead Nike as its CEO. Elliott Hill's career at Nike is nothing short of remarkable. Starting as an intern in 1988, he held that position for two

years before moving into sales roles. From 1990 to 1991, he worked in Sports Graphics sales, followed by a three-year stint in Team Sales from 1991 to 1994. His ability to excel in these roles led him to a Sales Representative position, which he held for another two years until 1996. Hill's leadership skills were soon recognised, and he transitioned into management roles. He worked in Sales Management from 1996 to 1998 before becoming the Director of the Team Sports Division, a position he held for two years. This period marked the beginning of Hill's rapid ascent in the company. In 2000, Hill took on an international role as Vice President of EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) Sales and Retail, where he spent three years. After that, he returned to the US market as Vice President and General Manager of USA Retail for a year, followed by a role as Vice President of USA Commerce from 2004 to 2005. Hill's career continued to flourish, and from 2006 to 2010, he served as Vice President of Global Retail. He then

became Vice President and General Manager of North America, where he remained for three years, from 2010 to 2013. As Hill took on more senior roles at Nike, his responsibilities grew. In 2013, he became President of Geographies & Sales, a role he held until 2016. He was then appointed President of Geographies & Integrated Marketplace, serving in that position until 2018. From 2018 to 2020, Hill served as President of Consumer & Marketplace, overseeing Nike's operations globally. Now, Hill is poised to take on the top job as CEO, after three decades of working his way up the company. His rise from intern to CEO has made headlines, and his career path is being celebrated as an example of dedication, hard work, and loyalty. Elliott Hill's promotion to CEO has been welcomed by Nike's Executive Chairman, Mark Parker, who has worked with Hill for over 30 years. Parker praised Hill's deep understanding of Nike's industry, customers, and partners, calling him the right person to lead.

Sensex surges 500 points, Nifty gains momentum; JSW Steel jumps 3%



Benchmark stock market indices opened Friday's trading session on a positive note as the US Federal Reserve's rate cut has boosted the risk appetite among investors. The S&P BSE Sensex was up 415.45 points at 83,600.25 at 10:16 am, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 135.80 points to trade at 25,550.90. Most of the other broader market indices that weakened yesterday have gained momentum today, providing a boost to smallcap and midcap stocks. Major sectoral indices such as Nifty Bank, Nifty Financial Services and Nifty Auto gained, but Nifty IT was in the red due to profit booking in information technology stocks.

The top 5 gainers on the Nifty50 were JSW Steel, Coal India, HDFC Life, M&M and Maruti. On the other hand, NTPC, Grasim, Cipla, TCS and Tata Motors. Among other individual stocks, Rites gained over 7% as its shares trade ex-bonus and ex-dividend from today.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The Dow and S&P 500 setting yet another record highs yesterday is indicative of the strength of this ongoing global bull run led by the mother market US." "The good labour market data from the US indicates that it is only slowing, not deteriorating. With inflation under control, this means the US is set for a soft landing under a declining interest rate scenario. This is positive for global equity markets," he added. "A significant trend in India is the outperformance of Bank Nifty which is up two percent this week against Nifty's rise of 0.2%. Weakness in the broader market on valuation concerns is another important trend. These trends are likely to continue."

Relief for importers as Gujarat HC revises ruling in Cosmo Films case

NEW DELHI. In a major development for Indian importers, the Gujarat High Court has reviewed and amended its earlier decision in the Cosmo Films vs. Union of India case. This move comes in response to concerns about the application of a key rule related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had been investigating Indian exporters, alleging they improperly benefited from both exemption on Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and a rebate on exports. The central issue revolved around Rule 96(10) of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Rules, which underwent major changes in 2018, leading to confusion over its application and prompting legal battles across the country. In its initial ruling, the Gujarat High Court upheld the constitutionality of Rule 96(10).

However, following a review petition filed by lawyer Abhishek A Rastogi, the court agreed to reconsider its decision. The review identified eight



significant errors in the original judgment. In the revised order, the court clarified that Notification No. 54/2018, which was initially interpreted to apply retrospectively, will now only be applied prospectively. This change protects exporters from facing unfair charges related to past transactions. Additionally, the court corrected its earlier statements regarding interest on IGST, further relieving importers from

potential liabilities. Recent changes made during the 54th GST Council meeting, which removed Rule 96(10), now enable importers to reassess their bills and rectify any previous import issues.

While this ruling brings positive news for Indian exporters, the ongoing debate regarding interest charges remains unresolved, and Rastogi has indicated plans to challenge the rule's validity in the Supreme Court.

RITES shares rise 8% but why railway PSU stock may be showing 48% slide

Despite this positive momentum, many investors were caught off guard, seeing what appeared to be a 48% slide in the stock price on their trading apps.

NEW DELHI. Shares of RITES Ltd, the state-owned railway PSU, rallied sharply during Friday's trading session, hitting a day's high of Rs 383.35 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). At 10:45 am, the shares of the railway PSU were up 7.43% at Rs 363.90. The surge came as the stock began trading on an ex-dividend and ex-bonus basis, following the company's 1:1 bonus share issue and a final dividend of Rs 5 per share, both announced earlier this year. Despite this positive momentum, many investors were caught off guard, seeing what appeared to be a 48% slide



in the stock price on their trading apps. This significant drop, however, was purely due to price adjustments post the bonus issue. RITES shares, which had closed at Rs 682.45 on Thursday, opened lower at Rs 362.95 on Friday as the bonus issue effectively halved the share price in line with the 1:1 ratio. The bonus issue, which grants shareholders one additional share for every share held, increases the number of outstanding shares while

proportionally reducing the share price. As a result, investors witnessing the unadjusted price may have been alarmed by the seeming 48% dip, but on an adjusted basis, the stock actually rose 8%, reaching an intra-day high of Rs 362.45. Bonus issues, like the one from RITES, are often used to improve liquidity by making shares more affordable, though they also reduce a company's reserves. RITES is no stranger to bonus issues,

having also turned ex-bonus in August this year with a 1:4 ratio. The current 1:1 bonus issue further highlights the company's shareholder-friendly stance. RITES has delivered strong returns, up 46.17% in the past year, and continues to perform well technically, with its stock trading above key moving averages. Alongside RITES, several other companies also turned ex-date for their bonus issues today, including Phoenix Mills, Axita Cotton, MINDTECK (India), and Ujaas Energy. These stocks saw upward momentum, with Axita Cotton soaring 6.10% post its 1:3 bonus issue. For RITES shareholders, the eligibility for both the bonus shares and the Rs 5 dividend is determined by today's record date, with dividends expected to be paid by October 12. While the price adjustment may have caused confusion for some investors, RITES continues to maintain its strong position as a multi-disciplinary engineering and consultancy firm in the transport infrastructure sector, particularly in the railway industry.

NEWS BOX

Virat Kohli, Chepauk applaud R Ashwin after 113 in Chennai Test

New Delhi R Ashwin received a standing ovation from his hometown crowd and a special applause from Virat Kohli after his brilliant 113 on Day 2 of the first Test between India and Bangladesh on Friday, September 20. Ashwin had scored his 6th Test hundred to save India on Day 1 of the Test as the hosts had found themselves in a precarious position. Ashwin and Jadeja had stitched together a 199-run stand to ensure India was in control of things heading into Friday's play.

The Ashwin-Jadeja stand would end quickly as Taskin Ahmed got rid of the southpaw to end his stay at 86. This meant that Ashwin was left with the tail and he was looking to play his shots and get as many runs as possible. The all-rounder got some support from Akash Deep, who scored an exciting 17 runs. Ashwin started the day with a streaky boundary and once Akash Deep fell, decided to go into full aggressive mode. However, Taskin bowled a well-disguised knuckle ball, which made



Ashwin hit the ball in the air and was caught by Najmul Shanto. As Ashwin was walking off after his fine knock, the whole of Chepauk stood up to appreciate the effort from the hometown hero. As soon as Ashwin reached the pavilion, he was applauded by everyone with Kohli leading the way. Ashwin scored 113 from 133 balls and his innings consisted of 11 boundaries and 2 sixes. India were eventually bowled out for 376 runs.

What Ashwin said about hundred at Chepauk Ashwin talked about his hundred at the end of Day 1 and said Chepauk is a ground that he loves.

"Always special to play in front of a home crowd, it's a ground I completely love. Last time I got a hundred here, you [Ravi Shastri] were the coach. It does feel special. It helps that I'm coming off a T20 tournament, and worked quite a bit on batting and playing shots. I've always been giving the ball a wait," Ashwin said.

Champions League: Barcelona stunned by AS Monaco, Arsenal held by Atalanta

New Delhi FC Barcelona and Arsenal didn't have the best of starts to their Champions League campaign on September 19, Thursday. Barcelona stumbled in their Champions League opener with a 2-1 defeat to AS Monaco on Thursday, a match that quickly unravelled after an early setback due to Eric Garcia's red card. The game took a disastrous turn just 11 minutes in when Garcia was sent off for a foul on Monaco's Takumi Minamino, who had been put through on goal following a wayward pass from goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Monaco capitalised on their numerical advantage almost immediately, with Maghnes Aklouché netting a low-driven shot to give the hosts a 1-0 lead just five minutes later. Barcelona fought back, leveling the score in the 28th minute thanks



to Lamine Yamal's composed strike from the edge of the box. However, Monaco's pressure eventually paid off in the second half when substitute George Ilenikhena found the back of the net in the 71st minute, securing a memorable victory for the French side in their first Champions League group stage appearance in five years.

David Raya saves Arsenal

Arsenal earned a hard-fought 0-0 draw against Atalanta in their Champions League opener on Thursday, with goalkeeper David Raya playing a crucial role in securing the point. The Spaniard made a brilliant save in the 51st minute, diving to his right to deny Mateo Retegui from the penalty spot. Raya's heroics didn't stop there—he immediately reacted to block Retegui's follow-up header, keeping the match level. Despite relentless pressure from Atalanta inside a lively Stadio di Bergamo, Arsenal held firm defensively while posing occasional threats on the counterattack. Bukayo Saka came closest to breaking the deadlock for the visitors, forcing a strong save from Atalanta keeper Marco Carnesecchi with a first-half free kick. Gabriel Martinelli also had a rare chance after the break but fired over the bar, as Mikel Arteta's side settled for a point in a gritty away performance.

Dinesh Karthik feels Ashwin, Jadeja 'will be valued a lot' after retirement

Former India cricketer Dinesh Karthik opined that India all-rounders Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will be valued a lot after their retirement.

New Delhi Former India cricketer Dinesh Karthik has hailed all-rounders Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja following their rescue act on Day 1 of the first Test against Bangladesh. Notably, Ashwin joined Jadeja at the crease with India reeling at 144/6.

The duo put up a massive 199-run stand for the seventh wicket and took India to safety. Ashwin registered his sixth Test hundred while Jadeja scored a brilliant 86 to guide India to 376 in the first innings. Commenting on their outstanding batting performance,



Karthik mentioned how the duo has been outstanding for India bringing all their experience into play. "It was outstanding, the way they batted. The experience they have, the way they started, the kind of shots Ashwin played, the backfoot punch first up... Jadeja going over mid-on and getting boundaries. They came in with singles and

odd boundaries, got to their milestones, and got a lot more comfortable. Then they went on to play superb shots," Karthik said on Cricbuzz. Further speaking ahead, the former wicketkeeper mentioned India's large pool of all-rounders and said that both Ashwin and Jadeja will be valued a lot more once they hang up their boots.

"What a set of all-rounders we have. We have Axar Patel not playing, and understandably so. Sometimes I feel people value only when they're not around anymore, and these two people will be valued a lot more when they're done. These two have been phenomenal for India in this format," he added.

Ashwin continues love affair with Chepauk

Ashwin's century marked his second consecutive hundred at his home venue in Chennai as he earlier scored a ton against England as well in 2021. He went on to get level with MS Dhoni and MAK Pataudi in terms of Test centuries for India with all three having six centuries to their name. Having already scored a hundred in the first innings, Ashwin will be

eyeing to take a fiver with the ball and register his fourth instance of a hundred and a fiver in the same Test. The India all-rounder ranks on second spot in the list after legendary England all-rounder Ian Botham who achieved the feat on five occasions in his career.

David Raya makes incredible double save as Arsenal get point vs Atalanta

India vs Bangladesh, Chennai Test: Virat Kohli's return to the India Test side is off to the worst possible start as he was dismissed for just 6 runs in the first innings of the Chennai Test.

New Delhi Arsenal goalkeeper pulled off one of the best double saves in recent memory to help his side get a point in their Champions League opener against Atalanta on September 19, Thursday. Raya pulled off the save in the 51st minute when Atalanta had got a penalty after Thomas Partey was penalised for bringing down Ederson inside the box. There was a big delay as the call from the referee was checked by the VAR.

However, once the dust had settled, Raya was ready for the job and denied Mateo Retegui's penalty by diving to his right. However, the ball would rebound straight into the path of Retegui and the Atalanta striker felt he was



going to give his side the lead. However, Raya jumped up and then dived to his left to claw the ball away from going and saving the day for the Gunners. Arsenal would then hold on to salvage a point in the end.

You can see the video of Raya's save below: Raya's double save got rave reviews from both his manager Mikel Arteta and Atalanta boss Gian Piero Gasperini. Arteta hailed it as the best he had seen in his career. "I witnessed two of the best saves I've ever

seen in my career from David in that moment," Arteta said. Gasperini was equally in awe of the double-save from Raya and said he was agile like a cat. "He's a cat. The first save is good but the rebound is unbelievable.

The goalkeeper has been crucial," the Italian coach said. Raya downplayed his penalty save, attributing it to a bit of luck, while also acknowledging the support of Arsenal's goalkeeping coach, Inaki Cana. Raya revealed he had consulted Cana during the VAR review of the penalty decision, crediting his guidance for the crucial stop. "It was a long time to decide if it was a penalty so I took the decision to go to the side and I went to speak with the goalie coach about where to go and where not to go," he said. "He helped me a lot in every aspect so credit to him." Arsenal will next play Manchester City in a blockbuster clash on Sunday, September 22.

Former Manchester United forward Anthony Martial joins AEK Athens

Former Manchester forward Anthony Martial has joined Greek club AEK Athens on a three-year deal. Martial joins the club on a three-year deal.

New Delhi Anthony Martial has joined AEK Athens on a free transfer after leaving Manchester United in June, ending a nine-year spell with the Premier League side. The Greek club confirmed the signing on Thursday, with the 28-year-old forward penning a contract until 2027 and taking the number 26 shirt at the 13-time Greek champions.

While the financial terms weren't officially disclosed, British reports suggest that Martial will earn £2.5 million (\$3.32

million) annually, making him one of AEK's highest-paid players. During his time at Manchester United, Martial scored 90 goals in 317 appearances across all competitions, contributing to the club's successes in the Europa League, FA Cup,



and two League Cups. However, his final appearance came in December, as injuries often limited his playing time in recent years. Martial was then allowed to leave Manchester United after his contract had expired in the summer. PAE AEK

announces the acquisition of football player Anthony Martial. The international French striker signed a cooperation contract with our team until the summer of 2027," read the statement from the club's official website.

What did Martial say?

Martial commented about his move and said he was very happy to join the Greek club. The French forward said he would give his best to achieve things, win trophies and bring joy to his new side.

"I am very happy. AEK is an opportunity for me and I will give my best to achieve things, win trophies and bring joy to the world of the team," said Martial.

Martial joins an AEK squad that also added former Tottenham and Sevilla midfielder Erik Lamela this summer. The team currently sits atop the Super League Greece table with 10 points from four games as they prepare to face Kallithea on Sunday.

Hasan Mahmud becomes 1st Bangladesh bowler to take Test five-wicket haul in India

India vs Bangladesh, Chennai Test: Pacer Hasan Mahmud became the first Bangladesh bowler to take a five-wicket haul in a Test match on Indian soil and rattled India's batting lineup in the first innings of the first Test in Chennai.

Chennai. Pacer Hasan Mahmud etched his name into the history books by becoming the first Bangladesh bowler to take a five-wicket haul in a Test match on Indian soil on Day 2 of the first Test at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Mahmud's stellar

performance rattled India's batting lineup on the opening day of the first Test in Chennai, reducing the hosts to 96/4 in the second session. He completed the historic fifer on Day 2 by dismissing Jasprit Bumrah in the first session and bundling out India for 376. It was the second successive fifer for the Bangladesh seamer who also picked up five wickets in Bangladesh's victory in the second Test over Pakistan. He finished with figures of 5/83 and was down on his haunches to celebrate his achievement.

Opting to bowl on a humid Chennai morning, Bangladesh made the most of overcast conditions, with Mahmud proving to be the surprise star. While much of the pre-match focus had been on Bangladesh's express bowler Nahid Rana, it was Mahmud's precision and swing that left India in tatters. His figures of 5/38 marked a career-high and a landmark achievement for Bangladesh cricket. India's innings began on a shaky note



as opener Rohit Sharma (6) was the first to fall, edging a wobbling delivery from Mahmud to Najmul Hossain Shanto at second slip. Rohit's dismissal, after being saved by DRS earlier in the innings, triggered a collapse that saw India struggling at 34 for three within the first 10 overs. Shubman Gill (0) was the next to go, feathering a down-the-leg-side delivery to wicketkeeper Litton Das off Mahmud's

bowling. The dismissal of Gill, who had played only eight balls, further amplified the pressure on India. Virat Kohli (6) entered the scene to a roar from the Chepauk crowd but was soon undone by a classic fast bowler's delivery. Mahmud pitched one just short of a good length outside off-stump, and Kohli's expansive drive resulted in an edge to Litton, silencing the home crowd as India reeled at 34 for three. India's middle order showed some resilience through opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (56) and wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant (39), who added 54 runs for the fourth wicket. However, Pant's dismissal, courtesy of Mahmud again, came at a crucial juncture. After smashing a boundary off Mahmud in the third over after lunch, Pant's attempt to play another aggressive shot saw him edge behind, reducing India to 96 for four.



but I personally think he is a very underrated batter. As a batter, he might be averaging 26. But when he comes to bat, he doesn't look like a tailender or a bowler. He looks like a proper batter. The shots that he plays, the balance, the bat swing. I think he's very, very underrated as a batter and he has become a crisis man for India recently," said Tamim.

What Ashwin said about his hundred Ashwin commented about his hundred and said that it was better go all out on a surface like at the Chepauk hard like Rishabh Pant. Ashwin said he was enjoying himself on Day one.

"On a surface like this, it's better to go hard like Rishabh does. It's an old-school Chennai surface with bounce and carry. When there is width, you can give it a tonk. I love playing when there is bounce and carry. I enjoyed myself today," Ashwin added.

IND vs BAN: 'Crisis-man' R Ashwin is underrated as a batter, says Tamim Iqbal

New Delhi. Former Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal claimed that R Ashwin is underrated as a batter after his brilliant hundred on day one of the Chennai Test on September 19, Thursday. Ashwin got to his 6th Test hundred on Thursday off just 108 balls as his knock consisted of 10 boundaries and 2 sixes. Ashwin was aggressive with his approach and stitched together an impressive partnership with Ravindra Jadeja to save India from a tough spot.

Speaking ahead of the start of Day 2's play, Tamim was asked if Ashwin was the true all-rounder. The former opener said that Ashwin doesn't look like a tailender when he comes out to bat and looks like a proper batter. Tamim pointed out to some of the shots Ashwin played during his innings and said the balance and bat swing shows Ashwin is a far better batter than he is given credit for.

"Definitely. I think we can talk about his bowling, his records, his achievements all day. We all know how good he is with the ball,

Nabha Natesh's

Pink Crop Top And Denim Look Is All About Style And Comfort

Actress Nabha Natesh is one of the prominent names in the Telugu and Kannada film industries. She made her acting debut with the 2015 Kannada film *Vajrakaya*. Besides her acting prowess, Nabha is also known for her ethereal fashion sense. She recently dropped a string of pictures on Instagram that left the followers drooling for her. Nabha turned up the heat in a pink crop top with a plunging neckline. She paired it with denim jeans. Nabha Natesh left her hair loose and opted for a glowing base with pink lips. Nabha's adorable smile added allure to the photos. She captioned the photos, "A smile is sunshine for the soul", and attached the track *Hass Hass* by Diljit Dosanjh and Sia. Nabha looks drop-dead gorgeous, flaunting her well-toned figure, in the photos.

She knows how to weave magic with her outfits. Earlier, she shared pictures wearing a floral bralette top, which she paired with colour-coordinated print trousers. Nabha Natesh opted for a no-makeup look and left her hair open. While sharing the pictures online, she captioned, "Wake me up when it's summer". Moments after she posted her pictures online, several social media users rushed to the comment section to praise her looks and fashion sense. One social media user wrote, "Adorable". Another user commented, "Stunning". One social media user also called her,



"Beautiful". Rest users filled in the comment section with heart and fire emojis.

Nabha Natesh is popular for her acting stints in films including *Solo Brathuke So Better*, *Nannu Dochukunduvate*, *Vajrakaya* and *Disco Raja*. She rose to stardom with *iSmart Shankar*, and after that, she acted in many hit films. Nabha Natesh is currently anticipating the release of her upcoming film *Tyson Naidu*, written and directed by Saagar K Chandra. Actor Bellamkonda Sreenivas will play the male lead in this film. Reportedly, the film's production formalities have been underway in full swing for the past few weeks. As per the reports released in August, a portion of *Tyson Naidu*'s shoot was wrapped up already.



Shriya Saran's

Backless Bling Dress Is Perfect For Date Nights

Shriya Saran is considered one of the most celebrated actresses in South Indian cinema. She featured in several hits with the leading names of the industry. The actress is not only a formidable presence on screen but she has also amassed recognition through social media. Her latest entry redefines her as a fashion icon. Shriya Saran took to her official Instagram handle to share glimpses from her new photoshoot, where she is seen rocking a sparkly outfit with graceful ease. Shriya has chosen to wear a floor-length shimmer backless dress, designed with sparkly florals and stars on a black base. The sleeveless outfit is tailored with a deep, round neckline, accentuating her fit body. It is accessorised with big pointy earrings, bracelets on her left wrist and matching finger rings and is worn on black stilettos. She has kept her hair sleekly styled to the back and half-open from the bottom. Shriya is captured exuding confidence, posing at various locations. According to the caption, she attended the SIIMA business award night event, opting for the breathtaking look.

Fans share their reactions to the posts in the replies, expressing their love and support to the actress. The first user wrote, "Wow you're looking absolutely stunning and gorgeous." A second user shared, "Dazzling beauty." A third user stated, "You are looking so beautiful." Actress Lakshmi Manchu complimented Shriya and wrote, "You beauty you." A lot of fans have flooded the comments with heart and heart-eye emoticons. Shriya Saran was last seen in the Hindi series *Showtime*, which premiered on Disney Plus Hotstar. It is directed by Mihir Desai and Archit Kumar. The cast includes names like Naseeruddin Shah, Emraan Hashmi, Mahima Makwana, Mouni Roy, Rajeev Khandelwal, Shriya Saran and Vishal Vashishtha. While Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Somen Mishra and Mihir Desai produced the show under the banner of Dharmatic Entertainment and Anand Bhaskar did the music. It premiered on the platform on March 8, 2024.



Chaithra J Achar Calls For Hema Report Committee-like Body In Kannada Film Industry



The Film Industry for Rights and Equality (FIRE) in Bengaluru has recently reached out to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, requesting the establishment of a committee to investigate any instances of sexual harassment within the Kannada film industry. This move follows the release of the Hema Committee report, which revealed significant systemic injustice faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. FIRE's appeal reflects growing concerns about the treatment of women in the film industry and aims to address these issues in Kannada cinema as well. A meeting was also held on September 16 regarding the formation of a committee in the Kannada film industry. Actress and singer Chaithra J Achar is one of several celebrities who are in favour of a similar committee in Karnataka. Chaithra J Achar has acknowledged that she has herself not been subjected to sexual harassment, she recounted that a junior artist once spoke about her ordeal. Chaithra said that right during the shooting of her second film, a junior artist opened up to her. She said the junior artist was selected for the first round of auditions and was then asked to go on a trip with the casting team in order to bag the role. "It cannot be said that there is no sexual exploitation in the film industry. Saying that there is no exploitation is like saying that there is no theft in the world," Chaithra said. She also said that forming a committee akin to Hema Committee will benefit many actresses who can bring their ordeals to the notice of the committee. Sumalatha Ambareesh was also in favour of forming a committee. At an event where a bronze statue of Dr Ambareesh was inaugurated, she said that while she was supporting the formation of the committee, it should not be misused by artists. She also said that having worked across different film industries including all South languages as well as Hindi, she never experienced harassment of any sort.

Diljit Dosanjh, Neeru Bajwa's Jatt & Juliet 3 Releases On OTT: Here's When And Where To Watch Film



After facing multiple delays, the Vikrant Massey and Raashii Khanna drama thriller film *The Sabarmati Report* is now expected to be released on November 15. Directed by Dheeraj Sama and backed by Ektaa Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms, the film is based on the unfortunate burning of the Sabarmati Express in Gujarat's Godhra on February 27, 2002. Taking to Instagram, actor Vikrant Massey dropped a new poster of *The Sabarmati Report* and wrote in the caption, "The burning truth will be out on 15th November! Stay Tuned! #TheSabarmatiReportonly in cinemas!" The new poster depicts a burning train along with a burning mic lying on the ground.

As soon as the 12th Fail actor shared the poster, the comment section was flooded with reactions from the fans. An Instagram user wrote, "Waited so long." Another person said, "Wow this looks fab." *The Sabarmati Report*, announced in January this year, was earlier slated to hit the theatres on May 3. However, it was later pushed back to July and then August 2. Recently, several reports suggested that the makers are planning to release the film in September or October 2024. But now, the film co-produced by Vikir Films Productions will be arriving in the theatres on November 15. Apart from Vikrant Massey, Vikrant Massey and Raashii Khanna, the film also stars Riddhi Dogra in a pivotal role.

Previously, the makers of *The Sabarmati Report* released a teaser of the film which featured Vikram Massey playing the role of a journalist, Samar Kumar, sitting in a studio as he announced the news on February 27, 2002, when the Godhra accident happened. Reportedly, Raashii will be seen playing the role of a reporter while Riddhi will portray a senior news anchor. Meanwhile, Vikrant's thriller film *Sector 36* co-starring Deepak Dobriyal is currently streaming on Netflix. Raashii, on the other hand, was last seen in the Tamil horror-comedy film *Aranmanai 4*.