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Political parties woo community voters in Yamunanagar district

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Yamunanagar, Sep 27: Arvind Kejriwal, national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), participated in a roadshow in Jagadhri on September 20, organised by AAP candidate Adarsh Pal Gurjar. Photo: Facebook/ @Aam Aadmi Party



tion outcomes. Recently, Arvind Kejriwal, national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), participated in a roadshow in Jagadhri on September 20, organised by AAP candidate Adarsh Pal Gurjar. Political observers note that voters strong support among rural voters and aims to bolster his chances by gaining traction among Jagadhri's Baniya voters, traditionally considered a BJP stronghold. Union Home Minister Amit Shah addressed a rally in Jagadhri on September 23, primarily benefiting BJP candidate Kanwar Pal Gujjar. Other notable leaders, including Kurukshetra BJP MP Naveen Jindal and industrialist Venod Sharma, have attended various political events in the district. While the Baniya vote bank has historically aligned with BJP, candidates from other parties are also vying for support within this community. In Radaur town, Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini addressed a rally on September 25, as BJP fields Shyam Singh Rana in the Radaur assembly segment, which is considered a stronghold of Saini community votes.

Lokayukta Police registers FIR against Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah in MUDA case

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Sep 27: The move comes after a special court in Bengaluru ordered directing the Lokayukta to carry out a probe against Siddaramaiah on allegation of illegalities in allotment of 14 sites worth ₹56 crore to the chief minister's wife Parvathi by MUDA. The special court exclusively to deal with criminal cases related to former and elected MPs/MLAs had issued the order directing the Lokayukta police in Mysuru to initiate an investigation on the complaint filed by RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna. The order came after Karnataka high court upheld Governor Thaaarchand Gehlot's sanction to investigate Siddaramaiah in the case. The single judge high court bench of Justice M Nagaprasanna on September 24 said in normal circumstances, a governor has to act on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers under Article 163 of the Constitution of India, "but (the Governor) can take independent decisions in exceptional circumstances, and the present case projects one such exception" and dismissed Siddaramaiah's petition. Siddaramaiah remains unfazed as he reiterated on Friday

that he will not resign as chief minister. "I have done no wrong. This is for the first time a political case is being registered against me. This is a political case, please underline," PTI quoted the Congress veteran as saying. On being asked about BJP's protest demanding his resignation, Siddaramaiah said, "Why should I resign? If one has committed wrong he has to resign, when we are saying that no wrong was done, where is the question of resigning?" Amid the MUDA case row, the Karnataka government on Thursday withdrew general consent given to CBI to investigate cases in the state as it alleged that the federal agency was "biased".



Accusation against RG Kar ex-principal grave, can attract death penalty

Kolkata, Sep 27: A designated CBI court, denying bail to former RG Kar Medical College and Hospital principal Sandip Ghosh, has observed that the nature of the accusation against him is grave and it can attract capital punishment if proved. The CBI had arrested Ghosh and former officer in-charge of Tala police station, Abhijit Mondal, for alleged tampering of evidence and delay in filing of FIR in the rape and murder of a doctor at the state-run hospital on August 9. The court in its order, dictated on September 25, said it appears from the case diary that the process of investigation by the central probe agency is in full swing. Denying the bail prayer of Ghosh, Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate S Dey observed that the nature and gravity of the accusation is grave and if proved, it may attract capital punishment, which is handed in the rarest of rare cases. The judge said the court is of the opinion that "it would be injustice flouting the principle of equity to release the accused on bail". He said in the order that a person may commit an offence with the help of other/s, and there is no need to be present for the other accused at the place of occurrence.

'PM Modi's monopoly model' took away jobs: Rahul

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Sep 27: Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused PM Narendra Modi and BJP government for running a 'monopoly model' which is causing job losses and hurting MSMEs. Attacking the ruling BJP, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that the government is running a "monopoly model" which has led to job losses, devastated micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and deprived many individuals of opportunities. Holding a discussion with business owners and professionals in Jammu, Rahul Gandhi said, "Modi ji's monopoly model has taken away jobs, devastated MSMEs and deprived people of opportunity. India deserves better." Citing reasons for unemployment during his discussion, the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said that India has a huge skillset but the attack on smaller corporations from big companies is exacerbating the job market



are having unemployment is because the basic structure of employment, which is smaller and bigger businesses, is under severe attack from 5-10 really big monopolies," he said. "They are not production monopolies. For example, a country like Japan has large monopolists as well, but their monopolists produce things, they are not simple traders. Our biggest monopolists do not produce things, they simply trade things. These large monopolists have control of the political system and they are organising a systematic attack on you people. GST was designed to hurt you people, demonetisation was designed to hurt you, people, and import duties were designed to hurt you people," he added. Rahul Gandhi posted on X, "The frustration in the eyes of a young startup owner from J&K reflects the struggles of most entrepreneurs and small-business owners in India. 'Modi ji's monopoly model' has taken away jobs, devastated MSMEs and deprived people of opportunity."

'Constitution embodies Sanatana Dharma, religious conversions 'antithetical' to its values': Vice President Dhankar

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Sep 27: Jagdeep Dhankhar said "values in the Constitution reflect the essence of Sanatana Dharma," calling it all-encompassing and the only way forward for humanity. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Thursday referred to religious conversions as "antithetical" to both national values and constitutional principles, emphasising that a "sugar-coated philosophy" is being used to target vulnerable sections of society, news agency ANI reported. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the 'Hindu Spiritual and Service Fair' in Jaipur, Dhankhar said that the "values enshrined in the Constitution reflect the essence of



Sanatana Dharma," describing it as all-encompassing and the only path forward for humanity. He further highlighted that Hinduism advocates for humanity and stresses the protection of all living beings and nature. "Sanatana never spreads poison; it channels its own powers. There is another indication that is very dangerous, one that could change the country's politics. This is happening through policy, institutionally, and in a planned conspiracy, and that is a religious conversion!" he said. "A sugar-coated philosophy is being sold. Where do they go? They target the vulnerable sections of society. They encroach more into our tribal communities. They lure them with temptation. I firmly believe that we are witnessing, very painfully, religious conversions in a structured manner as a policy, and this is antithetical to our values and constitutional principles. There is an urgent need to neutralize such sinister forces. We must remain vigilant and act swiftly," he added. "You cannot imagine the scale of those currently active in fragmenting India," he said. Reflecting on nationalism and patriotism, Dhankhar remarked, "When I observe events in neighbouring countries and hear a narrative from someone who has held a constitutional post, been a central minister, and is a senior legal advocate, implying that this could happen in India as well, I ask—Is our democracy weak?"

SC raps CAQM on stubble burning as Delhi winter approaches

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Sep 27: The latest status report presented by CAQM showed that between September 18 and 25, Punjab reported 93 incidents of stubble burning, while Haryana registered 70 farm fires. Tackling stubble burning requires a proactive approach by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the Supreme Court said on Friday as it was visibly upset over the orders passed by the panel failing to translate into action on ground. The latest figures from Punjab and Haryana over the past week showed a spike in stubble burning as compared to last year, raising alarms as yet another Delhi winter approaches. CAQM is the pollution watchdog for Delhi and adjoining areas - "Though the CAQM has taken certain steps, the commission needs to be more active. It must ensure that its efforts and directions actually translate into reducing the problem of pollution," the SC bench headed by



justice Abhay S Oka said. With the CAQM chairman Rajesh Verma attending the hearing via video conferencing, the court questioned the work that was being done by the three sub-committees constituted under the CAQM Act, 2021. On being told are in?" The bench, also comprising justice Augustine George Masih, noticed that the Act empowers the commission to launch criminal prosecution against officials, close polluting units and direct compensation for not complying with its orders. "Can you say for the three years that this commission has existed, because of you, air quality is improving in Delhi? You have issued 82 directions to various states and authorities. What is the use of these orders if there is no enforcement or criminal action against officers," the bench observed. The court was referring to section 14 of the Act, which makes any contravention of the provisions of the Act, or any order or direction issued by the commission, to be a punishable offence, with imprisonment for a term which may extend up to 5 years or fine extending up to ₹1 crore, or both. One of the judges - justice Masih, who hails from Punjab - shared inputs that the farm equipment for removing the paddy stubble is not readily available to farmers. This raised doubts over the claim by the Centre that machines and financial aid for purchase of stubble removing equipment has reached farmers. "We would like to know from the committee of the meetings held by the sub-committees and decisions taken by them, the equipment provided by Centre which are actually used by farmers, and other methods suggested by the commission to reduce stubble burning," the court said. The court's observations became relevant as the latest status report presented by CAQM to court showed that between September 18 and 25, Punjab reported 93 incidents of stubble burning compared to 8 during the corresponding period last year, with Amritsar alone accounting for 58 incidents. Similarly, Haryana registered 70 farm fires in the past week as opposed to 13 last year, with Karnal and Kurukshetra reporting 31 and 16 incidents.

Reject anti-reservation, anti-Dalit parties: Mayawati

Nareesh Malhotra

Palwal, Sep 27: Calling upon a gathering to elect the INLD-BSP alliance in the state, BSP Supremo Mayawati accused the Congress and the BJP of trying to end reservation, and following policies that were anti-Dalit and anti-poor. Seeking a caste-based census, she said a political change was needed to continue reservation. Speaking at an election rally organised jointly by the INLD-BSP alliance at Prithla here this afternoon, Mayawati focused her speech on the issue of reservation and the exploitation of the scheduled caste and backward communities. Attacking both parties, she said she had been concerned about the fate of reservation after the recent judgement of the Supreme Court. Claiming that the Congress and the INDIA bloc managed to get votes of Dalits and the poor on the pretext of its slogans or assurances during the Lok Sabha polls this year, she said the party stood exposed completely as it had not made any move to bring a bill in

the Parliament regarding the SC judgement given on August 1. She said both the BJP and Congress had still been playing with the sentiment on reservation, while stating that the BJP had also been trying to mislead people. She said the country was facing issues like rampant corruption, inflation, unemployment and poverty, adding that Haryana was no different as capitalist forces had taken over administration and governance, and this had made the majority of the population reel under the exploitation and atrocities of all types. She announced that Abhay Chautala would be the CM if alliance came to power, and said he would have two Deputy CMs, one of whom would be from the SC category. Earlier, INLD leader Abhay Singh Chautala, in his address, accused the Congress and BJP rule of looting the state. He said while the Congress made Haryana a CLU state from agricultural one, the BJP failed to fulfil its promises made in 2014 and 2019. Announcing an old age pension of Rs 7,500, he said two lakh government jobs, unemployment bonus of Rs 21,000, free power, water and gas along with a special allowance of Rs 1,100 for women would be given each month. The alliance has fielded Surender Vashist from the Prithla segment.



Amit Shah's 'Dealers, Dalaal, Damaad' attack on Congress at Haryana poll rally

New Delhi, Sep 27: Union Home Minister Amit Shah, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's words, attacked the previous Congress government in Haryana, alleging that "dealers, dalaals and

in the previous term, saying that it was marked with "cuts, commission and corruption." The home minister said, "The rule of dealers, dalals (brokers) and damads (sons-in-law) prevailed. Neither dealers nor brokers are left in the BJP government, there is no question of son-in-law." Addressing a rally in Rewari, further accused the Congress of lying to farmers in the name of MSP. Attacking Rahul Gandhi, Shah said that the Congress leader doesn't even know the difference between Rabi and Kharif crops. "Some NGO has recently told Rahul Gandhi that he will get votes by saying MSP. Rahul Baba, do you know the full form of MSP? Do you know which are the Kharif and Rabi crops? Congress governments running across the country, stop lying to the farmers in the name of MSP. The BJP government of Haryana is buying 24 crops from farmers at MSP. Congress leaders in Haryana should tell us once which government of yours in the country bought 24 crops at MSP?"



News box

Treasury glitch: Secretariat staff get 'advance' salary in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. In a major glitch, around 200 employees of the state Secretariat received their September's salary well in advance, on Thursday. Sources said it was a mistake on the part of an officer of the secretariat sub-treasury.

The salary bills of Secretariat employees are processed at the Secretariat sub-treasury. Normally, September's salary should be disbursed on October 1. The salary bills from different departments and offices will be submitted by the month-end following which the salary is processed by the treasuries.

A source in the treasuries department said an error in setting the due date of bills resulted in the mistake. The sub-treasury gets online bills. There was an error in setting the due date of three bills. The issue came to the notice of treasury officers after working hours on Thursday. The treasuries directorate will decide the further course of action, an officer said.

Salaries were credited to a number of officials, including personnel staff of about five ministers, including the chief minister, in addition to Secretariat staff working with a couple of departments. It's learned that the government is likely to take immediate action against the official responsible for the lapse. "It was a mistake on the part of one of the sub-treasury officers in signing the salary bills. The bills to be scheduled for October 1 were signed in advance and handed over. As per information, a bill of Rs 43 lakh got cleared. The total amount would come to less than a crore," said an official. What's more interesting is that the staffers who got the salaries, immediately transferred the amount to other accounts so as to prevent the government from holding it back.

Man fined Rs 10,010 for dumping waste in public place in Thiruvananthapuram

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The city corporation special squad under the Sasthamangalam health circle recently booked and fined a person for dumping waste at a residential area near Pippinmoodu. The residents in the area reported the violation with a photograph to the Peroorkada police and Sasthamangalam health circle authorities last week.

The health officials traced the person and slapped a fine of Rs 10,010. Since the death of sanitation worker Joy, the civic body has intensified drives to book violators dumping waste in public places. In the past two months, the corporation has collected a fine of Rs 50 lakh. "The person threw the waste near Soorya Gardens, a residential area at Pippinmoodu. We traced the person with the help of the police. We have a WhatsApp group to address the residents' grievances and the police are also very cooperative," said an official of Sasathamangalam health circle.

Guest lecturers' fight yields result, to receive remuneration every month

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The government has intervened to address the complaint of guest lecturers in colleges across the state that their remuneration has been pending for many months. The higher education department will bring out detailed guidelines to ensure that guest lecturers are paid their remuneration in a timely manner every month.

TNIE had earlier reported that majority of around 3,000 guest lectures in colleges across the state have been languishing without pay for many months due to apathy of the officials in issuing approval orders.

In the wake of the report, Higher Education Minister R Bindu convened a high-level meeting on Thursday to address the issue.

The meeting decided to evolve a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for payment of guest lecturers. From now on, guest lecturer aspirants will not have to get their certificates verified annually. Instead, they need to carry out one-time online registration for the purpose.

A special registration option will be provided for guest faculty who once get approval order from the office of the Deputy Director (DD) of Collegiate Education. This registration will enable them to work in any college in the state. The DD office concerned need to only examine if the appointment is in order.

"After appointing a guest lecturer, it will be mandatory for the principal concerned to submit the proposal to the DD office within a month. The proposal will be given quick approval and their remuneration will also be disbursed without delay," the minister said.

Move to preserve historic documents in Kerala begins, but concerns remain

Team of officials led by minister visits Ernakulam Regional Archives; public opinion and concerns regarding the conservation of heritage records recorded

KOCHI. The state government's attempt to preserve and conserve heritage records in public archives, comprising manuscripts, palm leaf inscriptions, and historical documents, began on Thursday with a team of officials led by the minister concerned visiting the Ernakulam Regional Archives.

The move, which is the initial step towards the implementation of Kerala Public Records Acts Bill (2023), will also see the procurement of historic documents under private holdings as well.

The committee headed by the Minister for Archaeology and Archives Kadannappalli Ramachandran, seven MLAs, the district collector, additional district magistrate, and the state and regional archives officials visited the Regional Archives Office.

A meeting was convened at the collectorate conference hall where the public opinion and concerns regarding the conservation of heritage records were recorded as part of the

initiative. A similar process will be carried out in the Kozhikode Regional Archives and the Trivandrum Central Archives as well, officials told.

The Kerala Public Records Acts Bill was presented in the Legislative Assembly on July 11, 2023, and a 16-member select committee was formed to look into the issues concerning the maintenance of public record archives.

"The required technology for the preservation of the records is not readily available with us now. Adequate measures have to be taken to redress the issue. The government site is open for the public to raise their concerns," said MLA Dr N Jayaraj



who is part of the committee. Experts said that most of the archives in the state are not properly maintained and urgent intervention is needed to ensure their proper upkeep.

Abdul Nazar, a former archivist, said, "The state of age-old records that has to be preserved under the department is in grave danger. A massive number of centuries-old archive materials have been either lost or stolen. It's been noticed for a long time that important heritage records from the District Heritage Centre, Chalakudy, which have

been taken away, have never been returned." He said several complaints regarding the same have been filed, but to no avail. "The regional archives had been formed 60 years ago for conservation purpose and several

attempts for digitalisation of the records were initiated 16 years ago. But they have not been followed up. Beyond just meetings and discussions, the department has to be adept at acting upon this issue.

What the new committee should look into is to conserve what is left in our hands without any delay. Also, thorough investigations into the department and its activities must be done," he added. The regional archives in Ernakulam is home to many historic records dating from the days of the erstwhile Cochin Kingdom and the colonial period.

Along with the aforesaid members, MLAs Ahmed Devarkovil, P Nandakumar, M Rajagopalan, K V Suresh, E T Taison Master, and P Ubaidulla held a meeting with Director in charge of archives Parvathy S, Director of Archaeology E Dinesan, secretary of law, Superintendent of regional archives Ernakulam, archivist Mini Paul and other officials.

Btech student allegedly assaulted by seniors after he refused to pay money for Onam celebrations

Vishnu, 23, a native of Mekkad in Angamaly claimed he was subjected to brutal ragging by a group of around 30 seniors.

KOCHI. A BTech student was allegedly assaulted by his seniors after refusing to pay an amount they demanded for Onam celebrations. Vishnu, 23, a native of Mekkad in Angamaly and a third-year Robotics and Automation student at Toc H Institute of Science and Technology, Arakkunnam, claimed he was subjected to brutal ragging by a group of around 30 seniors. He said they were led by fourth-year students Sidharth, Fasal, Murshid, Adhin, and Amal Krishna.

Recounting the incident, Vishnu said, "The seniors asked me to contribute Rs 350 for Onam celebration expenses. I only had Rs 200 at that time, which I gave them. Without believing what I said, they slapped me and left. Later, as I was going to bed, a friend took me to them. They brutally attacked me, citing my refusal to pay, and previous disagreements."

Out of fear, he did not reveal the ordeal he



faced to his parents. "But the doctor who treated me informed my parents that I had suffered serious injuries from some attack," said Vishnu, adding that the police did not register an FIR based on his

complaint.

But, an officer from Mulanthuruthy police station said, "We received the complaint on Wednesday evening and provided an acknowledgment receipt. Based on the claims, we contacted the suspects to verify the authenticity of the incident." During the preliminary investigation, it appears the incident may have stemmed from a regular fight among the students, he said.

Additionally, one of the suspects told the police that he too was attacked by the victim, said the officer, adding that the victim and the accused students had been suspended previously in connection with an assault incident. Meanwhile, principal Preethi Thekkath said the complaint was forwarded to the anti-ragging committee, adding that the committee's report would be completed within seven days, after which appropriate action would be taken.

Anna varsity to set up drone pilot training centre in Ladakh

While University of Ladakh will provide infrastructure like space on the campus, Anna university will take care of trainers and simulators for training drone pilots.

CHENNAI. After opening a branch of its Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) in Bengaluru, the Anna University is all set to spread its tentacles to Ladakh.

The varsity will soon set up RPTO's branch in University of Ladakh, Leh campus, to train drone pilots. A team from the university had recently visited Ladakh to participate in a drone expo, conducted by the defence force.

"In the expo, we met the governor and chancellor of university of Ladakh and he asked us to open a branch in the university. In a place like Ladakh, utility of drone is very much needed," said Senthil Kumar, director of the Centre for Aerospace



Research (CASR) under MIT at Anna University. Both the universities had a detailed discussion on the issue. While University of Ladakh will provide infrastructure like space on the campus, Anna university will take care of trainers

and simulators for training drone pilots.

The initiative will boost the revenue of AU, as it will get 10% royalty from the earnings through admissions. "After getting approval from Directorate General of Civil Aviation, we will start the centre. The whole process will take two months," said Kumar.

The university opened its RPTO on MIT campus in 2021. Since then, it has trained over 2,000 drone pilots. It is one of the few drone flying training centres which can provide training for small and medium category drones. Anna University has already opened RPTO branch at a private engineering college in Bengaluru, and it is fully functional.

Controlled implosion razes four storey building in seconds, owner expresses frustration over official

SANGAREDDY. A four-storey building constructed on the FTL of Pedda Cheruvu in Malkapur village of Kondapur mandal was demolished on Thursday, using implosion, a controlled process that uses explosives to weaken and collapse a structure into itself.

Recently, District Collector Valluru Kranthi ordered an inquiry upon discovering that the building was built on the FTL of the lake years ago with the assistance of certain officials. Following an investigation by the Revenue and Irrigation officials, a report revealed that the building was built on the FTL and the collector ordered the demolition of the structure.

During the explosion, a stone was dislodged and struck Gopal, a home guard on duty at the site, resulting in a severed head injury. He was taken to Sangareddy government hospital and then later shifted to AIG hospital in Hyderabad for better treatment.

The building was constructed by Narsimulu, from Hyderabad, who claimed to have purchased the land in 2011 under the impression that it was legal



property. Narsimulu alleged that he built the four-storey structure on a 200-yard plot without being informed by authorities that it was located in the FTL. The property owner expressed frustration over the demolition, asserting that it was unjust to take such action after thirteen years of investment totalling nearly Rs 6 crore without prior notification. He demanded action against officials who granted him construction permission when the land was in the FTL. In light of the demolition, residents with similar structures in other areas are now expressing concerns about their properties.

Locals against HYDRAA survey in Hyderabad, threaten to end lives

HYDERABAD. Amid the ongoing demolition drive of HYDRAA in various parts of the city, the residents of the Musi River Catchment areas expressed dismay over the authorities conducting surveys in the area. The residents are reportedly warning that they will end their lives if they are forced out of their houses. "Come what may, we will not move out of our houses. We will ignite our bodies to mark the protest against the authorities and protect our properties," a large number of residents said, adding "Despite possessing valid documents, and having constructed our houses with our hard-earned money, the authorities are still forcing us out." "We had thought after Revanth Reddy becomes the chief minister, our lives would become better. However, looking at his actions, he seems to be heartless," they expressed.

A few people also appealed to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi to intervene and direct the chief minister to stop this eviction programme against the impoverished families. On Thursday, the survey teams also visited KCR Nagar in Ramanthapur to gather details on houses built in the catchment area, sparking outrage among the residents. "As the state government is hellbent on displacing us, the future looks bleak and there is no scope to live, the only solution for us is to end our lives by igniting ourselves," a resident said. Another resident lamentably asked, "How can I make a livelihood if the government displaces us and gives us a 2BHK apartment in a far-off place where there is no way to earn or launch a business?"

Five-member gang robs three ATMs in a stretch in Thrissur; loots Rs 65 lakh

The CCTV cameras in the region were covered using spray paint. However, visuals were received from a nearby hotel in which five people, covering their face, were seen walking towards the ATM.



THRISUR: An overnight robbery by a five-member gang covering three ATMs in a stretch in three different locations in the district in the wee hours on Friday, saw Rs.65 lakhs robbed from the machines of SBI.

At around 2.30 am, SBI ATM at Mapranam was robbed by the gang using a gas cutter. The cash tray was cut and the money was looted. The bank authorities received an alert following which police were informed. The CCTV cameras in the region were covered using spray paint. However, visuals were received from a nearby hotel in which five people, covering their face, were seen walking towards the ATM.

At around 3.15 am, the SBI ATM at Shoranur road was looted in the same way following the robbery at Kolazhy SBI ATM. The police initiated a probe. Forensic team and dog squad have arrived at the locations. It is suspected that the gang used a white Hyundai Creta car for the crime.

News box

Biden signs stopgap spending bill to avoid government shutdown before polls

Washington. President Joe Biden on Thursday signed a temporary government spending bill that keeps agencies operating into December, after Congress punted key spending decisions until after the November election.

The bill generally funds agencies at current levels through December 20, setting up the prospect of a government shutdown fight just before the holiday season. Lawmakers did agree to add \$231 million to bolster the Secret Service after the two assassination attempts against Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. Money was also added to aid with the presidential transition. The measure easily passed Congress on Wednesday on a bipartisan basis, 341-82 in the House and 78-18 in the Senate, with Republicans supplying all the no votes in both chambers. House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., billed the measure as doing "only what's absolutely necessary," a statement directed at members of his own conference concerned about spending levels. Johnson said the only alternative to the continuing resolution at this stage would have been a government shutdown. The temporary measure was needed because Congress is nowhere close to completing work on the dozen annual appropriations bills that fund much of the federal government. The House has passed five of the 12 bills, mostly along party lines. The Senate has passed zero.

Indian-American Judge indicted for misrepresenting himself to influence election outcome

HOUSTON. Fort Bend County Judge KP George was on Thursday evening booked into jail following his indictment by a grand jury for misrepresenting himself online to influence the outcome of his election.

According to Fort Bend County judicial records, George was booked at 7.17 pm on a misdemeanor charge connected to a social media scheme aimed at swaying voters. His bond was set at USD 1,000.

A statement from his office said George was released from jail on a personal recognizance (PR) bond, meaning he was released without paying bail by signing a written agreement to appear in court as scheduled and comply with any conditions of his release. The allegations have sparked increased calls for George's resignation, he has however made it clear that he does not intend to step down. Earlier on Thursday, the grand jury indicted George on a Class A misdemeanor after he was alleged to have coordinated online imposture with his former chief of staff, Taral Patel. Patel was arrested in June on felony charges of online misrepresentation for his involvement in the scheme. During his successful re-election campaign in 2022, George claimed he was a victim of racist and xenophobic attacks. However, accusations have surfaced alleging that he collaborated with Patel to create targeted posts to generate sympathy and support. Sources said one of the accounts used for these posts operated under the screen name Antonio Scalywag. The indictment alleges that George utilised a fake Facebook account to post racist comments aimed at damaging his opponent Trever Nehls during the November 2022 election.

Who is Sanae Takaichi Japan's potential first female prime minister

World Sanae Takaichi, a conservative leader and protégé of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, is aiming to become Japan's first-ever female prime minister. Japan's ruling party is set to elect its new leader on Friday, with the victor poised to become the country's next prime minister. Among a record nine candidates, three frontrunners are locked in a tight race, which is likely to result in a runoff vote. The winner will inherit leadership of the world's fourth-largest economy amid surging living costs, driven by a weak yen and high inflation. Japan is also grappling with increasing regional security challenges and heightened tensions with neighbors, particularly China. Here's all you need to know about Sanae Takaichi: Japan's potential first woman prime minister — A political veteran from the right wing of the Liberal Democratic Party, she has pledged to focus on economic growth while maintaining a hardline stance on national security, with an emphasis on strengthening cyber and space defence. Despite her economic agenda, Takaichi has faced criticism for her conservative views on social issues, including her opposition to same-sex marriage and gender reforms.

She has also resisted legislation allowing married women to retain their maiden names. Her ties to controversial members of the Abe faction and admiration for Margaret Thatcher, the former British prime minister, further highlights her traditionalist stance. If successful, the 63-year-old would break significant barriers in Japan, where men continue to dominate politics and business leadership.

Florida braces for 'unsurvivable' storm surge as Hurricane Helene intensifies

UPDATED. Driving rain flooded roadways and closed airports in Florida as an intensifying Hurricane Helene marched toward the state's panhandle region, bringing the threat of a potentially deadly storm surge to much of the coastline. The storm became a major Category 4 hurricane on Thursday with sustained winds near 130 mph (209 kph), the National Hurricane Center said, and was expected to continue gaining power. Helene was forecast to make landfall around 11 pm EDT (0300 GMT Friday) in Florida's Big Bend region, Florida officials said.

Officials pleaded with residents in the path of the storm to heed mandatory evacuation orders or face life-threatening conditions. Helene's surge - the wall of seawater pushed on land by hurricane-force winds - could rise to as much as 20 feet (6.1 meters) in some spots, as tall as a two-story house, the center's director, Michael Brennan, said in a video briefing. A really unsurvivable scenario is going to play out" in the coastal area, Brennan said, with water capable of destroying buildings and carrying cars pushing inland. The hurricane was about 130

miles (209 km) west of Tampa, Florida, as of 5 pm EDT (2100 GMT), the center said. Strong rain bands were whipping parts of coastal Florida, and rainfall had already lashed Georgia, South Carolina, central and western North Carolina and portions of Tennessee. Atlanta, hundreds of miles north of Florida's Big Bend, was under a tropical storm warning. In Pinellas County, which sits on a peninsula surrounded by Tampa Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, roads were already filling with water before noon. Officials warned the storm's impact could be as severe as last year's Hurricane Idalia, which flooded 1,500 homes in the low-lying coastal county.

Videos posted on the county's social media site showed some swamped beachside roads and water rising over boat docks. Airports in Tampa, Tallahassee and St. Petersburg all suspended operations on Thursday.

Governor Ron DeSantis warned North Florida residents to flee before time ran out. "You have time to get to a shelter, but you've got to do it now," he said at a news briefing. "Every minute that goes by brings us closer



to having conditions that are going to be simply too dangerous to navigate."

Helene is expected to remain a full-fledged hurricane as it rolls through the Macon, Georgia, area on Friday, forecasters said. It could bring 12 inches (30.5 cm) of rain or more, potentially devastating the state's cotton and pecan crops, which are in the middle of harvesting season. "The current forecast for Hurricane Helene suggests this storm will impact every part of our state," Georgia Governor Brian Kemp said. After making landfall across the Florida coast,

Helene is expected move more slowly over the Tennessee Valley on Friday and Saturday, the NHC said. Storm surge was forecast to reach 15 to 20 feet (4.6 to 6.1 meters) in the Big Bend area of Florida's Panhandle region where the storm is expected to come ashore.

Numerous evacuations were ordered along Florida's Gulf Coast, including Sarasota and Charlotte counties. Pinellas County officials ordered evacuations of long-term healthcare facilities near the coast, including nursing homes, assisted living centers and hospitals. Not everyone heeded the evacuation orders. In coastal Dunedin, Florida, about 25 miles west of Tampa, state ferry boat operator Ken Wood, 58, planned to ride out the storm with his 16-year-old cat, Andy. "We're under orders, but I'm going to stay right here at the house," Wood told Reuters by telephone. "The storm looks like it'll be a bit west of us, but who knows? I'm sure it'll be interesting, to say the least."

Iran never forgets those who...: Vice President on arming Russia in Ukraine war

World Iran's Vice President Mohammad Javad Zarif said Tehran "never forgets" those who help it in difficult times while stressing that its supply of weapons to Russia in the Ukraine war was more of a business to "earn currency". In an interview with CNN, the fiery former Iranian Foreign Minister, however, asserted that "war was not an answer" to any crisis. "We do not believe that war is an answer to anything. In any war, everybody will lose. All roads have been closed for Iran in violation of international law, and we need to engage in business and earn currency. The Russians engage with Iran in trade," Zarif said. Lambasting the West for ceasing all business ties with Iran, the Vice President said it was willing to discuss ways to end the various crises



that have been created due to the United States's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement, formerly known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "The US has closed all possibilities of trade with Iran. We never forget those who help us in times of difficulty. Europeans have to answer why

they closed all businesses in Iran. Had Iran violated deals? Why should we be concerned about the concerns of Europe when they are not concerned about their own obligations under international law," he said. Under the nuclear deal, Iran had agreed to dismantle much of its nuclear program and open its facilities to more extensive inspections in exchange for billions of dollars' worth of sanctions relief. However, the deal has been in jeopardy since former President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from it in 2018. "Everyone has to come down from their high heels and walk with us. We are willing to negotiate and willing to talk about how to end the various crises that have been created because of the US's withdrawal from the JCPOA," he said.

Several killed as Israel rejects US-supported ceasefire plan, hits Lebanon again

Beirut. Israel rejected global calls on Thursday for a ceasefire with the Hezbollah movement, defying its biggest ally in Washington and pressing ahead with strikes that have killed hundreds in Lebanon and heightened fears of an all-out regional war. Despite Israel's stance, the US and France sought to keep prospects alive for an immediate 21-day truce they proposed on Wednesday, and said negotiations continued, including on the sidelines of a United Nations meeting in New York. An Israeli warplane struck the edges of the capital Beirut, killing two people and wounding 15, including a woman in critical condition, Lebanon's health ministry said. That took deaths from hits overnight and on Thursday to 28 and over 600 since Monday. The strike killed the head of one of Hezbollah's air force units, Mohammad Surur,

Hezbollah said, the latest senior Hezbollah commander to be targeted in days of assassinations among the group's top ranks. Israel said it has struck about 220 Hezbollah targets over the past day.

On the Israeli side of the border with Lebanon, the army staged an exercise simulating a ground invasion - a potential next stage after relentless airstrikes and explosions of communications devices.

Israel's air force is planning to assist troops in the event of a ground operation and will stop any arms transfers from Iran, Air Force Commander Major General Tomer Bar said late on Thursday. We are preparing shoulder to shoulder with Northern Command for a ground maneuver. Prepared, if activated. This is a decision to be made above us," he told soldiers, in a video distributed by the Israeli military. Israel has vowed to secure

its north and return thousands of citizens who have evacuated since Hezbollah launched a campaign of cross-border strikes last year in solidarity with Palestinian militants fighting in Gaza.

Landing in the US to address the UN General Assembly, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters the military will keep hitting Hezbollah with "full force and we will not stop until we achieve all our goals, first and foremost returning the residents of the north safely to their homes." Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X, "There will be no ceasefire in the north." Israel's stance dashed hopes for a swift settlement after Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati, whose government includes Hezbollah elements, had expressed hope for a ceasefire.

One dead, 25 injured in blast inside police station in Pakistan

Peshawar A powerful blast ripped through a police station in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on Thursday, killing a child and injuring 25 mostly policemen. The incident occurred at Swabi police station, some 70 km off Peshawar.

As per an initial report received by the Central Police Office, the explosion apparently occurred "due to a short circuit" inside a depot on the first floor of the police station. Rescue and firefighting teams rushed to the scene immediately and started shifting the wounded policemen to the Bacha Khan Medical where emergency has been imposed. There are multiple injuries, and "the top portion of the building has caved in...", police officials said. A child has been killed and 25 others



mostly policemen have been injured in the blast, officials said. The power blast affected the building which caught fire, however, it was doused following an immediate response from firefighting teams. A senior Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial government official clarified that the explosion at the police station was not a terrorist act. According to the official, who wished to remain anonymous, "explosives confiscated during multiple operations accidentally detonated due to malfunction, despite plans for controlled disposal at some safe location outside." Rescue officials say they have pulled out 12 injured from the rubble so far and expect more. Chief Minister KPK Ali Amin Gandapur has expressed condolence over the death of a child in the explosion.

Kamala Harris leads Donald Trump in several key battleground states, polls say

Washington. US Vice President Kamala Harris has taken the lead over her Republican presidential rival Donald Trump in several key battleground states like Arizona, Michigan and Pennsylvania, according to various polls released here. Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate, enjoys a slight lead over former president Trump in Michigan, as per the latest poll released by UMass Lowell's Center for Public Opinion and YouGov. Harris is slightly leading 48 per cent to 43 per cent in the Great Lakes State against Trump, it said. "For a swing state, this margin is good news for the vice president's campaign," Rodrigo Castro Cornejo, UMass Lowell political science assistant professor and Center for Public Opinion associate director, said. If Trump wants to beat this margin, he has an uphill battle to fight in the Great Lakes State. "The Trump campaign,"



Castro Cornejo said, "has a negative favorability in Michigan that needs to be overcome if they want to remain competitive in the state." Harris stands at 48 per cent against Trump's 46 per cent in

Pennsylvania, the UMass Lowell's Center for Public Opinion said. "The presidential race remains very close in Pennsylvania with the coming weeks a crucial time for both campaigns," Cornejo said. "As can be

expected in a highly competitive race with few undecided voters, get-out-the-vote strategies will become increasingly important to mobilise supporters and ensure they go to the polls on Election Day," he said. According to a new poll from Fox News, Harris has a slight lead over Trump in Georgia but trails behind in Arizona. In Georgia, Harris has 51 per cent of votes against Trump's 48 per cent, the poll said. However, in Arizona, as per the Fox News poll, Trump leads Harris by a similar margin. He has the support of 51 per cent against Harris' 48 per cent. According to Real Clear Politics, which tracks all major polls, Trump trails Harris by two percentage points nationally, while in the battleground states, it is a statistical tie. Harris leads Trump by 0.3 percentage points in battleground states, it said.

Alabama carries out second-ever nitrogen gas execution of convicted murderer

UPDATED. Alabama executed convicted murderer Alan Miller on Thursday in the second-ever nitrogen-asphyxiation execution since the state pioneered the method in January.

Miller, 65, was convicted for the 1999 murders of three men, including two co-workers, in a shooting spree at two offices in Pelham, Alabama. His victims were Lee Michael Holdbrooks, Terry Lee Jarvis and Christopher Scott Yancy. Miller was taken into the execution chamber on Thursday evening at the Holman Correctional Facility in Atmore, and was pronounced dead at 6:38 pm, Alabama Governor Kay Ivey said in a statement. Alabama officials and journalists who witnessed the execution were due to speak at a press conference later in the evening. In January, Alabama executed

Kenneth Smith, also convicted of murder, by nitrogen asphyxiation, the first use of a new execution method since lethal injections began in the US four decades ago. The state called its new protocol "the most painless" execution method yet, and predicted that Smith would lose consciousness and suffocate within a few seconds of pure nitrogen flowing through an industrial-safety respirator mask strapped to his face. That did not happen. Multiple witnesses, including five journalists and members of Smith's family, saw Smith heaving against his restraints and convulsing as the nitrogen flowed, and it appeared to take him several minutes to lose consciousness. The administration of US President Joe Biden, a Democrat who promised to abolish the death penalty, said it was "deeply troubled" by the

new method. It has been condemned by senior UN human rights officials, who say it may amount to torture or cruel and inhuman treatment. Alabama has defended the method, with Attorney General Steve Marshall calling Smith's death a "textbook" execution. After Smith's execution, Miller sued Alabama over fears that its asphyxiation method could violate a constitutional ban on cruel and unusual punishments. He sought assurances that the mask would be properly fitted and that its seal be tested to ensure no oxygen seeps in, prolonging his death or even averting it entirely and leaving him alive with brain damage. His litigation ended in a confidential settlement. The Alabama Department of Corrections declined to say if it made any changes to its gassing protocol. Alabama has

offered to help others adopt nitrogen-asphyxiation executions, saying they are a simpler alternative for states struggling to find lethal-injection drugs. Advocacy groups against capital punishment have long pressured pharmaceutical companies to forbid their drugs be used in executions, and have turned their attention to nitrogen suppliers and mask makers, including the maker of the Allegro Safety mask Alabama acquired for its executions. Stephanie Boucher, a spokesperson for Allegro parent company Walter Surface Technologies in Connecticut, said the company will not comment on the use of its masks in executions. A spokesperson for Canadian private equity firm Onex Corp ONEX.TO, which has a majority stake in Walter Surface, did not respond to requests for comment.

News box

BMC put on hold Colaba Causeway revamp plan: Ex-corporator



Mumbai. After stalling the Gateway of India beautification plan, BMC has put on hold the Colaba Causeway revamp project, alleged former corporator Makarand Narwekar. He claimed that execution of these projects is in limbo as BMC had halted funding.

As part of the Colaba Causeway beautification project, a harmonised design for hawkers stalls, shop name boards, and enhanced road infrastructure was envisioned. Narwekar claimed that a stall prototype was prepared, but procurement of additional units has been hindered due to BMC's suspension of funds allocated for the project.

"We engaged an expert to design this prototype using funds from the district collector. The aim was to present a standardised and appealing appearance...BMC sanctioned funds enabling us to proceed with the project. Regrettably, I have been informed that BMC has decided against utilising these funds for unknown reasons...The same has happened to the Gateway of India beautification plan," Narwekar said.

Haji Ali Dargah gets bomb threat call; cops hot on caller's trail



Mumbai. An administrative officer of Haji Ali Dargah trust has filed a complaint with Tardeo police that on Tuesday, an unknown person called their office and claimed to have planted a bomb inside the dargah and threatened to blow it up. The caller, who identified himself as Pawan, said that he wanted to construct a house for himself on that land, said a police source.

Police have tracked down the caller's number to a north Indian state and a team has been sent to arrest him. The city crime branch is also conducting a parallel probe into the threat call.

IISER to be established in Gandhinagar

Gandhinagar. State capital Gandhinagar is set to become home to the prestigious Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) in the near future. The Government of India (GoI) has recently granted approval for the establishment of the institute at Gandhinagar, with the remaining formalities and official announcement expected to take place within the next few weeks, top sources in the state govt said.

IISERs are a group of autonomous institutions established by the Union govt for teaching and research in natural science and to provide collegiate education in basic sciences integrated with research at the undergraduate level. Seven such institutions are presently operational in the country.

According to the sources, since the formation of IIT (Indian Institute of Technology), Gandhinagar in 2008, no major institution of national or international repute has been established in the city. "After a hiatus of more than a decade, the GoI has accepted the Gujarat govt's long-standing request to establish an Indian Institute of Science & Research. To fulfill the primary requirement of land, the Gujarat govt has proposed allocating a substantial parcel of govt land in close proximity to the National Institute of Design (NID), National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), and the InfoCity in Gandhinagar. The state govt has also expressed its willingness to provide additional land near Gandhinagar if required," sources said.

Commenting on the GoI's in-principle approval for setting up an IISER in Gandhinagar, officials said that a majority of the investment will be borne by the GoI, while the state govt will provide the land free of cost. "The IISER will offer cutting-edge courses in pure sciences such as physics, biology and chemistry, as well as new-age courses. The institute will also undertake significant research activities for both academic purposes and potentially provide research services to industries within the state and across the country," said official sources.

Monsoon trailer: Just few hours of rain and parts of Chennai inundated

However, residents are concerned if this is how it will be when the monsoon actually arrives.

CHENNAI. Parts of the city were water logged on Thursday after an intense spell of rain the previous night. Areas including Koyembedu, Pulianthope, Perambur, Thiru Vi Ka, Chetpet, and Anna Nagar were affected. However, the water in most parts drained out by Thursday. Chennai Corporation also initiated measures to drain the water from affected areas using motor pumps and also began clearing drains. However, residents are concerned if this is how it will be when the monsoon actually arrives.



On Tuesday, the regional meteorological centre forecast light to moderate rainfall in North Tamil Nadu until the weekend. However, starting from 6pm on Wednesday, the city experienced heavy downpours, with the Nungambakkam observatory recording 7cm of rain from 8.30am on Wednesday to 5.30am on Thursday.

"Though we received the vegetable load on time on Thursday, many customers on two-wheelers turned back after seeing the waterlogged streets. Just one night of rain has reduced our sales by at least 60%

compared to regular days," a trader from Koyambedu said.

"The market has a drainage system to manage water during rains, but it is often damaged by workers using earthmovers to collect bulk waste," he added. Similarly, Pulianthope also experienced water stagnation, particularly in low-lying areas such as Ammai Ammal Street.

"Although the stormwater drains had been desilted, the waste was left nearby," a resident said. The corporation was seen desilting works again in the region.

The Perambur High Road subway was inundated and was later cleared using motor pumps. The corporation said that water in Duraiswamy, Manickam Nagar, and Aranganathan Subway was cleared, and it will monitor the subways via ICCR, noted an official release.

An official said that at the end of the southwest monsoon, there is often a confluence of southwesterly and northwesterly winds, leading to thunderstorms over northern Tamil Nadu. These thunderstorms, interacting with coastal winds, can result in intense rainfall spells.

There will be high variation spatially in a smaller region. "The local forecast for Chennai currently covers a 75 km radius. We are working to provide more localised forecasts with help of radar technology," the official added.

Govt order provides relief to gaming zone owners

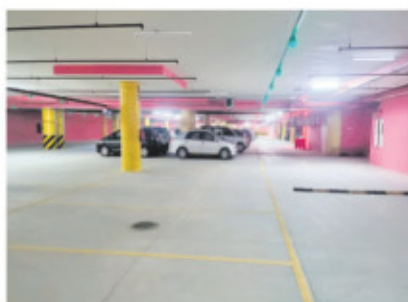


Ahmedabad. The state govt on Thursday provided relief to certain gaming zone owners and issued a new order to amend the regulations governing gaming activity areas across cities. It provided relief to the existing gaming establishments that have complied with all the necessary regulations, a notification issued on Thursday stated.

The notification issued by Prakash Dutta, joint secretary of the state urban development department, states, "Considering public interest, govt has decided to exempt certain existing gaming establishments from the purview of Regulation 6.23.3.W. These include gaming establishments that had obtained necessary NOCs, development permissions and building use (BU) permits from the concerned authorities before the date of the govt notification (Sept 5) and establishments that have already been constructed as per the approved plans and possess valid fire NOCs." The state govt issued the order under Section 122 of the Gujarat Town Planning and Urban Development Act.

Multi-level parking facility at Bengaluru's Gandhinagar metro station may shut over heavy losses

BENGALURU. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) multi-level parking facility at Gandhinagar, inaugurated under the 'Brand Bengaluru' initiative by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar, is facing significant challenges with Prince Royal Solution Pvt Ltd, the agency managing the facility since June 21, expressing its intentions of withdrawing the same due to mounting losses.



Kumar HN, who runs the agency said that he has written at least eight representations to the BBMP Chief Commissioner, appealing to

reduce rentals and waive off power bills due to low occupancy rates, which is contrary to BBMP's promises. "We paid Rs 1 crore security deposit after securing the 5-year contract. Every four months, we are supposed to pay Rs 48 lakh as rent. So far, we have incurred a loss of Rs 64 lakh," said Kumar.

The agency highlighted that the BBMP had initially estimated around 80 per cent occupancy at the multi-level parking facility in which 600 four-wheelers and 750

two-wheelers can be accommodated. Additionally, it had also assured that no parking would be permitted within a 500-metre radius of the parking facility, but these promises have fallen flat. "There is hardly 10 per cent occupancy. To remove unauthorised vehicles parked in the surrounding areas, we have been paying Rs 7,500 daily for towing charges and staff, adding an additional Rs 4.5 lakh in losses. In August alone, we collected Rs 3.38 lakh but ended up paying Rs 56,000 to cover up 18 per cent of

GST. On the whole, we have incurred a loss of Rs 64 lakh so far, making it impossible for us to pay the salaries of 46 employees," he added. An official from the agency stressed that, if the Palike reduces rentals and waives off power bills (as BESCOM has threatened to cut off power supply), the facility can be run, else the agency will be forced to close down the business and take legal measures to recover its losses. Meanwhile, in an effort to offset the losses, the agency has proposed to the BBMP of running a restaurant in the basement.

Land acquisition process for Bengaluru metro Phase-3 kickstarts afresh

The Rs 15,611-crore project comprises two elevated corridors - the 32.15-km ORR Line, from JP Nagar IV Phase to Kempapura; and the 12.5-km Magadi Road corridor, from Hosahalli to Kadabgere.

BENGALURU. With the land acquisition process for the 44.65-km Phase-3 line of the Metro being abruptly stalled earlier this month, due to the need to incorporate double-decker flyovers along the route, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) restarted the process again on Wednesday. The preliminary notification to acquire 299 properties for one stretch on the Outer Ring Road Line has been submitted to the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB).



The Rs 15,611-crore project comprises two elevated corridors - the 32.15-km ORR Line, from JP Nagar IV Phase to Kempapura; and the 12.5-km Magadi Road corridor, from Hosahalli to Kadabgere. The Union Cabinet gave the green signal on August 17.

"We have decided to acquire land required for our network first. We will acquire

additional land needed to put in place the double-decker flyovers later. The list to go ahead with the acquisition for the first package of the ORR corridor has been submitted by BMRCL to the KIADB, which is responsible for paying the compensation for acquired property," Channappa Goudar, General Manager, Land Acquisition Cell, BMRCL, told.

The ORR corridor requires a total of 857 properties, for which we require total land of 1,36,415.93 sqm. Package-1 extends from JP Nagar IV Phase to Mysuru Road. "We require a total of 43,372.5 sqm of land for it, which will cover 327 properties. The process has been set in motion for it presently," he said. Package-2 covers Mysuru Road to Kanteevera Studio, for which 254 properties covering 42,065.54 sqm of land are required, and package-3 runs from Kanteevera Studio to Kempapura, requiring 224 properties covering 50,977.86 sqm.

Metro mess: Subway flooded, station roof leaks; citizens slam Aarey, Jogeshwari chaos



MUMBAI. A flooded subway near the Aarey Metro car shed and rainwater leaking through the roof of the Jogeshwari Metro station on the Western Express Highway during Wednesday's torrential rain sparked widespread criticism among citizens.

The flooding at the Aarey subway led to questions being raised about the construction of the Metro 3 car shed in an area which environmentalists said was a crucial green lung of the city.

Tasneem Shaikh, a resident of Jogeshwari-Vikhroli Link Road, said that the water currents were so strong that the subway, which abuts the Metro Line 3 car shed, was closed by sunset. "It was completely flooded and stayed shut all night. People had a tough time trying to navigate through the strong currents," she said.

Aarey Conservation activist Amrita Bhattacharjee said the water currents were so strong that a person on a scooter fell into the waters. "Luckily, he was rescued by others, but then his scooter got stuck in the culvert," she said.

The leaking of Jogeshwari Metro station roof led to many on social media calling out Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) for poor construction.

The second phase of Metro Line 7 and 2A (Gundavali-Dahisar-Andheri West) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Jan 20, 2023, following the opening of the first phase by then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on April 22, 2022.

In response to the backlash, Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Ltd (MMMOCL) issued an apology on X (formerly Twitter), stating: "We sincerely apologise for the water leakage at the metro station. This occurred due to heavy rains that dislodged storm water pipes in some areas because of excessive water pressure. The issue was promptly addressed, and repairs were completed last night by our team, despite the ongoing heavy rainfall."

X user Marisha Thakur commented with a post: "Tragic indeed! I wish we stopped invoking the spirit of Bombay when the infrastructure around it is crumbling."

Another X handle @Blues_Blue34 posted: "The kind of downpour our city experiences in short bursts can overwhelm any infrastructure. Even Dubai struggles! But yes, it's tough for daily Mumbaikars."

Delay in procuring soil affects NH 66 six-laning in Kerala

When it comes to National Highway road works, it's the contracting agencies that always face the wrath of the local people when it comes to land acquisition or the insufficient compensation package.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. A few contracting companies engaged in the six-lane work on NH 66 have been facing difficulty in procuring soil for the road works. One of them, a Hyderabad-based contracting company, had procured the requisite permission to get the soil and paid Rs 65 lakh as royalty towards the mining and geology department in Kasaragod.



However, they have not released the stacked soil citing opposition from the locals. The contracting company has since approached A P M Mohammed Hanish, principal secretary (industries), and also the Chief Minister to end the stalemate. When it comes to National Highway road works, it's the contracting agencies that

always face the wrath of the local people when it comes to land acquisition or the insufficient compensation package. On Tuesday, the National Highway Authority of India's (NHAI) regional office in Thiruvananthapuram had held a progress meeting to take stock of the work

with the contracting companies' representatives. Most of them are facing a slew of issues which include the various check posts in Tamil Nadu not issuing passes to transport raw materials to Kerala as well as the dearth of soil for road works, threatening the completion of the project on time. Ram Babu, vice president (road projects), Megha Engineering & Infrastructures Limited (MEIL), Hyderabad, is undertaking NH road works between Chengala and Neelawaram (37.26 km) and Neelawaram and Taliparamba (40.11 km). He told that without the help of the state government, his company would be unable to complete the NH works on time.

Geopolitical challenges keeping India on its toes

INDIA is recognised as the fastest-growing major economy in the world. The International Monetary Fund's assessment is that India's economy will grow at a rate of 7 per cent this financial year. Even as the country looks to maintain the growth momentum, it must be borne in mind that its position and influence in the world will be determined largely by its economic and technological progress. Given these imperatives, India has little choice but to strengthen its ties with countries in its immediate neighbourhood. This would ensure security and peace in the area extending from the Red Sea and Persian Gulf to its west to the Strait of Malacca to its east. The main challenges India faces beyond its borders arise from the expansionist ambitions and policies of China, even as Pakistan is mired in virtually perpetual bankruptcy. India has also sought for long to develop closer ties with the oil-rich (Persian) Gulf Region, comprising Iran and the Arab nations, where around six million Indians live. India has built good ties with Saudi Arabia while simultaneously reinforcing its strong relations with the UAE. Delhi also played an important role in restoring a cordial working relationship between the US and Saudi Arabia after intemperate comments made by President Joe Biden about the Saudi monarchy were resented by the Saudis. The national security adviser of the UAE, Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan, also participated in talks between US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman. The talks were reportedly facilitated by India's National Security Adviser, Ajit Doval. An agreement for promoting cooperation between the UAE, the US and India was also reportedly finalised and signed shortly thereafter. The stage is now set for India to play an increasingly positive and cooperative role across the shores of the Indian Ocean, together with six Arab Gulf states. India-US relations have grown significantly amid Washington's expectations that Delhi can balance out the growth of Chinese power across the Indian Ocean. China's policies remain committed to limiting and containing Indian influence. Beijing continues to strengthen Pakistan's missile and nuclear capabilities. It also works in close collaboration with Pakistan along and across India's western border with Afghanistan. New Delhi's recent moves for strengthening ties with Iran, including the construction of the strategic Chabahar Port, give India increasing economic and maritime access to Central Asia and limit the space for Pakistan to hinder India's access to Afghanistan. While the US had objected to India's growing ties with Iran, it now appears reconciled to Delhi going ahead with the project for a transport corridor linking it to Afghanistan and Iran. Pakistan is predictably not pleased with this corridor, as it prevents Rawalpindi from hindering India's access to Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia. This corridor, thereafter, can become a key gateway for India's access to the International North-South Transport Corridor, which, in turn, would eventually link India to Central Asia, Russia and, ultimately, to Europe by sea, rail and road. One important factor that has cast a shadow on India-US relations is the constant criticism by the US media of alleged violation of human rights in India, evidently with some encouragement from Washington. India may be among the few countries whose leadership found then President Donald Trump to be friendly — but blunt — during his visit to India. Trump has no illusions or expectations about China and has little inclination to even think about Pakistan. India can be confident that this relationship will grow, irrespective of whether Kamala Harris or Trump wins the upcoming presidential elections. Nevertheless, relations with the US have grown steadily, with considerable cooperation for strengthening maritime links. This is an important development amid the tensions and piracy in the high seas — across the Indian Ocean — that have been accompanied by the Israeli occupation of Gaza.

The path to simultaneous elections is dotted with hurdles

Elections are an essential requirement for the operationalisation of democracy. Do we wish to merely go through the motions of holding elections?

The Union Cabinet has accepted the Ram Nath Kovind Committee report on 'one nation, one election' (ONOE). Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, who announced the decision, also laid out an action plan, starting with the drafting of a Constitution Amendment Bill that will presumably amend several Articles. This ambitious and complicated Bill has to be drafted and presented in Parliament first. Then, it must be passed in each House by a special majority (more than 50 per cent), with two-thirds of the members present and voting. The Bill, if and when approved by Parliament, will then have to be ratified by the legislatures of half of the states by a simple majority, that is, by a majority of the members of the House present and voting. This is needed because it will seek to amend some critical provisions of the Constitution. If and when all of the above happens, the Bill will need the President's assent. How long will all this take is anyone's guess. This reminds one of the Women's Reservation Act, called Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, which was passed as the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2023, reserving one-third of the seats for women in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies. It received the President's assent on September 29, 2023. Amid the fanfare, most laypersons believed that the 2024 General Election would see 33 per cent women members in the Lok Sabha. However, when that did not happen, many read the fine print to discover that this law would be implemented only after the next delimitation exercise that first required a census to be held. As the 2021 census has not been held so far, when this Act will be implemented is not known. The same fate awaits the ONOE proposal. It has been reported that LK Advani mentioned in a blog in May 2010 that there should be simultaneous elections. It was included in the BJP's election manifesto in the 2014 Lok Sabha election. From 2015 to 2018, there was hectic activity about this proposal, but after 2018, the matter seemed to have gone into cold storage. Then, on September 2, 2023, the Kovind Committee was formed. A committee that has such an obvious political intent being headed by a former President was a novelty in itself. This committee submitted its report on March 14, 2024. This report was accepted by the Cabinet on September 18. Three main reasons have been given for recommending ONOE: recurring poll expenses, suspension of development works due to the imposition of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and neglect of governance because ministers get involved in campaigning. The argument that ONOE will result in significant saving of money that can be used for development works is anti-democratic. I have three questions: Are democracy and development mutually exclusive? Can we have either



one or the other? Do we want the most effective democracy or the cheapest possible? Elections are an essential requirement for the operationalisation of democracy. Do we wish to merely go through the motions of holding elections and provide a formal stamp of people's approval without them necessarily expressing their true opinion? Democracy has a cost and it will be a sad day when India concludes that it cannot afford to pay the cost of democracy and decides to have the least expensive or cheapest democracy. Anyone who has read the MCC would know that all it says is that the government cannot introduce new schemes which may have the potential to influence the election result. If there are some new schemes that the government feels must be initiated, the MCC has a provision for that — the government can seek clearance from the Election Commission. The MCC does not prohibit the continuance of ongoing development schemes. The question of governance suffering because ministers get busy campaigning is baffling. Two issues need to be highlighted in this context. One, political parties, particularly those in power at the Centre and in the states, have a large membership. Therefore, there should be no dearth of effective campaigners. It follows that it should be possible to easily exclude ministers from responsibilities for campaigning during elections. The second issue is that those who become ministers take an oath of office in which they swear to discharge their responsibilities to the best of their ability. It follows that

if they neglect their executive or ministerial responsibilities in favour of campaigning, they are violating their constitutional oath, which should make them liable for prosecution. What makes the dream unrealisable is the simple fact of the existence of the Basic Structure Doctrine of the Constitution, laid down by a 13-Judge Bench of the Supreme Court (SC) in the landmark Kesavananda Bharati judgment pronounced on April 24, 1973. The essence of the doctrine is that while Parliament has the right to amend the Constitution under Article 368(1), it does not have the right to amend what the SC called the Basic Structure. The elements comprising the Basic Structure have been laid down in the Kesavananda judgment itself and have been added in some subsequent judgments. One constant element in all such judgments is the federal character of the Constitution. The Constitution has separate sections/chapters titled 'The Union' and 'The States'. Each of these two entities, therefore, has separate and independent constitutional existence, which includes electoral dynamics. Forcibly fitting all these dynamics into one is a clear violation of the federal character of the Constitution, and is therefore a violation of its Basic Structure. Even if Parliament and the required number of states approve amendment to some Articles of the Constitution — and the President gives assent to that — it can still be challenged by concerned citizens in court for violation of the Basic Structure and will be subjected to a judicial review.

Reaching out to Dhaka

India engaging with key stakeholders

INDIA is steadily coming to terms with the ground reality in Bangladesh after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar discussed bilateral ties with the neighbouring country's Foreign Affairs Adviser Mohd Touhid Hossain on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York on Monday. This meeting made it obvious that Delhi is keen to engage with Dhaka despite the complications triggered by deposed PM Hasina's continued presence in India. No less significant was Sunday's meeting in Dhaka between India's High Commissioner Pranay Verma and Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, secretary general of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). The BNP, the principal Opposition party in that country, has had an uneasy relationship with India. Delhi was in the comfort zone over the past 15 years due to its good ties with Hasina, whose



Awami League was in power for three terms in a row and also won the BNP-boycotted elections in January this

year. The upheaval witnessed on August 5, 2024, and the subsequent formation of an interim government led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus changed the bilateral dynamics. Though the BNP is not part of the interim set-up, it is expected to be a leading contender once the elections are announced — and that explains India's interest in this party. Alamgir has rightly observed that the 'ice has started melting'. India erred in its Dhaka strategy by putting all its eggs in the Hasina basket but is now striving to make amends. This pragmatic approach is reflected in Jaishankar's assertion that India's relationship with Bangladesh would continue to be positive and constructive. Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said that friends can be changed, but not neighbours. This truism continues to be relevant for Delhi in the neighbourhood.

Lessons from the southern surge

Laggard states must focus on economic development rather than political brinkmanship

IT was in the 1990s that the trend of new industrial projects moving southwards gained ground. Hyundai and Ford set up factories in Tamil Nadu soon after the liberalised regime for foreign direct investment was rolled out. This territory was far away from the large passenger car markets of the National Capital Region. But global car companies were prepared to incur high freight costs rather than set up plants in northern states. This was followed by the information technology revolution, which centred around the capitals of Karnataka and then undivided Andhra Pradesh. Bengaluru and Hyderabad became the preferred locations for Big Tech to set up huge campuses. Even fledgling Indian IT companies like Infosys and Wipro established their bases in these states. The result was an influx of software professionals to these IT hubs and the creation of what is now considered India's Silicon Valley in Bengaluru. By now, it is accepted wisdom that southern states are the natural home of hi-tech industries and that overall growth is also better in this region than in the more densely populated northern and eastern states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Punjab and West Bengal. The fact that states like UP accounted for a big chunk of the country's GDP in the 1960s has been forgotten over the years. It has taken a working paper by the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council on states' relative development to highlight the fact that these regions lost their pre-eminence over the past six decades. The study has focused on the relative performance of states from 1960-61 to 2023-24. It has used two indicators — the share of India's GDP and relative per capita income. This has shown wide variations in development indicators over this period. For instance, in the northern region, the paper has highlighted the divergent growth paths of Punjab and

Haryana. The former's share of the GDP rose to reach 4.3 per cent in the 1960s, apparently due to the Green Revolution. It declined to only 2.4 per cent in 2023-24. Haryana's share now exceeds that of Punjab, and the per capita income has reached 176.8 per cent of the national average in 2023-24 compared to the larger state's 106.7 per cent. The study raises the question of whether the focus on agriculture hindered the transition to industrialisation for Punjab. But the same phenomenon could have occurred in Haryana, which was also part of the Green Revolution. Clearly, aggressive policies to attract investments that led to the creation of the corporate hub in Gurugram have made a difference. As for the western region, primarily Maharashtra and Gujarat, it saw consistent growth even prior to 1991, according to the paper. One of the historical factors in the case of Maharashtra is the fact that it developed around Mumbai, which was a key colonial outpost and emerged as the country's financial capital. Favourable commercial policies continued after Independence, ensuring that the west coast became an industrial hub with many of the so-called Bombay Club industrial houses located there. The discovery of oil in the Bombay High offshore region in the 1970s fuelled the establishment of refineries and ancillary industries. Gujarat, too, benefited from being close to offshore gas fields that led to the proliferation of small and medium industries using the fuel as feedstock. State government policies were also consistently industry-friendly, whether it was the Congress or the BJP in power. In contrast, West Bengal, with similar advantages of

being a major commercial hub in colonial times, has exhibited a sharp deterioration in economic performance. The paper finds that it held the third largest share of the national GDP at 10.5 per cent in 1960-61 but now accounts for only 5.6 per cent. The relative per capita income has fallen from 127.5 per cent to 83.7 per cent. The reasons for the decline have to be found in policies of various state governments over six decades. This includes the Left Front, which was in power for 34 years of the period under review. Though the front has been lauded for carrying out land reforms, it cannot escape blame for the slow pace of growth. The Trinamool Congress took charge in 2011, but it has not been able to reverse the declining trend. Regarding Uttar Pradesh, the paper describes it as being the largest economic powerhouse in 1960-61 with a 14.4 per cent share in the country's GDP. The decline began even after Uttarakhand was carved out

of UP, and the share is now only 8.4 per cent. Similarly, Bihar presents a dismal picture, with the relative per capita income dropping from 70.3 per cent in 1960-61 (when it was undivided) to 33 per cent. For both UP and Bihar, it cannot be denied that the decline in relative economic performance has to be laid at the door of successive governments. On the other hand, the southern states, which did not show exceptional performance prior to 1990-91, surged ahead later. Governments of these states tailored their incentives for fresh investments to make productive use of liberalised economic policies. As a result, by 2023-24, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu together accounted for about 30 per cent of India's GDP. In addition, the per capita income of all southern states became higher than the national average after 1991. This data shows that some states used the 1991 reforms and liberalisation policies as a springboard to attract both domestic and foreign investment. Others failed to take advantage of the opening up of the economy. The result has been the creation of vast regional disparities, with western and southern states racing towards affluence while central and eastern states still have large swathes mired in poverty. It is not too late, however, for laggard states to learn lessons in effective governance. The study is a timely reminder for them to recognise that the focus must be on economic development rather than political brinkmanship. 'It's the economy, stupid,' an American catchphrase, fits perfectly here.



Doing up your Study your way

For many, reading is recreational. Given a choice, everyone would want to have that little space in the house to do what you like the most without any speck of distraction. Having a study at homes and apartments is a rare luxury, thanks to space constraints. However, it is not impossible. "A study or an office space in home should be a cosy corner that is relatively tucked away from the on-goings in the house especially away from the television," says Shweta Kaushik, a multi-disciplinary design consultant based in Mumbai.

There are umpteen things that go into planning and decorating a study room - from the colour and kind of furniture to the allotment of space and so on. Below are a

corner with a laid-back and relaxed theme in mind. Throw a few bean bags, cushions and sitting mats on the floor. Get a low, wooden coffee table where you can place your computer or laptop. A bright coloured rug will help add more drama to the already informal setting. For newspapers and magazines, pick multi-coloured book holders that will further



few ideas that you may implement while doing up your own study at home:

Decor

Ambience is the foremost important thing to be taken care of while decorating your study. The comfort level of the room rests in your hands.

Casual setting: Do up your reading

take away the seriousness of a conventional study room. Not to mention, pick a contemporary design for the bookshelf and stack all your favourite books.

Formal setting: Serious work needs serious atmosphere. A large bookshelf is a must for such setting, especially the one that has glass doors. Place your books neatly on the shelf to give it an organised look. A smaller bookshelf can be placed beside it to store all your

stationery. A dark wooden table and a chair to go along with it will complete the look. Ensure that the table has sufficient drawers where you can store important documents. Also, arrangement of equipments

like printers and routers can be neatly done up using wire managers that help reduce clutter.

Lighting

The role of lights while you read or work is vital. You don't want your study to be too bright or too dim therefore choosing the apt lighting can be tricky. If there are windows in the room, try using drapes or blinds to keep the glaring sunshine out. Study rooms should have recessed lights as it helps in overall illumination spread evenly across the whole room. Pendant fixtures are a good option if you need light at only one particular spot.

Colours

Your study should be an extension of your personality, a place where you can be at ease. Choosing the

colours, therefore, is a tricky task. Wall colours that best complement a study room are cheerful greens, sunny yellows and soothing creams. You may also go for soft, floral prints done up on neutral shades of ivory and beige. Add gravity to the decor by opting for blinds instead of curtains.

Furniture

There are a few must-have furnishings in a study room - a table, a bookshelf, and a chair. And usually, a study room is devoid of clutter and no nonsense furniture. "One should keep the ergonomics in mind like proper seating, table heights and foot rests. The idea is to be as comfortable as possible to be able to create a productive work space," adds Shweta. You may include a few more things to add to the spirit of the room such as carpets, rugs, cushions, and a mini refrigerator for drinks and snacks.

Now that you have all the ideas in place, go ahead, clean that unused corner in your house and set up a cool study much to the envy of your friends!



Add personality to your home decor



A home is your most prized and intimate space. But does it reflect the person you are? Are you wasting your time and energy in having a decor just because it is in vogue or you just want it to be appreciated by your friends? Is it possible that a person who doesn't really know you walks into your home and get a feel of who exactly you are as an individual and what are your tastes? It's time to bring that touch of your personality to your decor.

There's a thumb rule:

Just like your wardrobe, your decor should reflect personal style. So, if you are a cinephile, then you can source those lovely film posters to add a unique decor to your home. Similarly if you are a person who loves entertaining friends and having a party in a relaxed way then your home should reflect this. In that case, you can have informal entertainment zone where people can put their feet up and soak in the warmth of your home.

Think what are your preferences and add pieces that reflect it. So, add rugs, floor cushions, table lamps to add your unique touch to the decor.

While buying items for your home, ask yourself, "Does this define my personality?" If it doesn't, then don't buy one. Your home is not something to flaunt, it is a just reflection of who you are as a person.

How to add Life

Be a little creative and add more colour and vibrancy to your wall

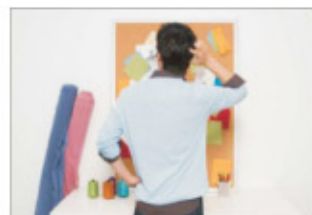
Walls with a dash of colour and imagination can change the look of your room. And there are simple not so expensive ways to add more life to your walls. Just let your creative juices flow. And then see the change.

Art power: Nothing brightens up the wall like a canvas. So, if you have an artwork then display it. Choose the perfect place to showcase it so that it becomes the centre of attraction. And if you don't have the money to buy original art, don't lose heart. You can always buy a print and with a stylish frame, it can change the look.

Colours of life: Interestingly, fabrics add much colour to a wall. India is a country of great textile heritage. So, you can choose from the ikkats to mangalagiris for adding a completely different, vibrant look to your wall. If you have seen the Calico Textile Museum in Ahmedabad, you will definitely know the power of textile in adding a warm rich look. Learn to use saris, dupattas, rugs in adding more colour and texture to your decor.

Stringing memory: Memories are great to have as company in your intimate space. Dig into your album for your favourite family photos and then arrange it to bring in a sense of personal touch to your space. How about being a little different and creative? Write your favourite poem on a nice handmade paper and then frame it. You can also make a collage out of your kids' paintings and then frame it to hang on the wall.

Shelve it: Do you think shelves are boring? Well, you couldn't be more wrong. These days there are many colourful shelves in different shapes available in the market. Even you have an ordinary shelf, paint it in warm colours with different motifs and see the result yourself. Arrange your favourite books, DVDs and knickknacks on the shelf and see the transformation.



It is easy to fall in love with sparkling silverware, well-polished and winking in delight at its own splendour. But maintaining the pristine glow is a herculean task, especially in Mumbai where humidity levels are usually high.

Experts from Episode Silver give you some damage control tips to maintain your silverware this monsoon...

Tarnish

Silver tarnishes when in contact with atmospheric sulphur. Therefore use your silver regularly as usage breaks the sulphur sulphide film that causes tarnish.

For food products, be sure to wipe dry after washing. Use of soft cloth.

For decorative products, wipe daily during the daily house dusting process. This delays tarnishing.

Cleaning Silver

Heavily tarnished pieces can be cleaned with :- Foam, Sprays or liquid paste silver polishes.

Both Indian and imported polishes are easily available in the market. Use a soft chamois cloth.

Silver dips are also very effective. Use a weak solution of washing soda and water to clean heavily stained Tea or Coffee pots.

Pierced work should not be cleaned with a cloth as it may get stuck on the edges. Use a soft brush.

Silver can be washed in dishwashers, but avoid contact with stainless steel as a reaction can occur.



Best kept silver cleaning secrets

"All In The Air": Supreme Court Comes Down Heavily On Delhi Air Quality Panel

Come winter, the NCR plunges into a severe air quality crisis every year, with stubble burn in Haryana and Punjab among the major contributors.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court came down heavily on the central air quality panel on Friday for not taking adequate steps to monitor the air quality and curb pollution in the national capital region. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) did not form any committee for monitoring the air quality, contended a bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and AG Masih. "There has been total non-compliance of the Act. Have committees been constituted? Please show us a single step taken, which directions have you used under the Act? Just see the affidavit. Show us a single direction issued under S 12 and others," said Justice Oka. "It is all in the air, nothing they have showed as to what they have said to the NCR States," he added.

Towards the end of the hearing, the bench noted that it cannot be said that the CAQM did not take any action, but they did not perform the way they were expected to. Come winter, the NCR plunges into a

severe air quality crisis every year, with stubble burn in the neighbouring states of Haryana and Punjab among the major contributors. On being informed by CAQM chairman Rajesh Verma that they meet once



in three months, the court sought to know if that's enough, if decisions taken by them have helped in solving problems, and if incidents of stubble burning are coming down. The top court also asked the chairman what action has been taken against erring officials. Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre,

said that the chairman had joined only two weeks ago. The CAQM chairman also informed that meetings were held with the officials and pollution board of Punjab and Haryana, and they have issued warnings to their chief secretaries.

Senior advocate Aprajita Singh, assisting the court as amicus curiae, said if their law was being violated, they have the authority to take action. "But they are being silent spectators," the court observed. Ms Singh said thousands of crores were offered to the farmers for equipment to help stop stubble burning. "In 2017, we thought it would help stop, but it has not and that is why the CAQM has come today and now some officer has to be held responsible," she said.

The court said efforts must be taken to ensure the use of stubble-burnin alternatives at the grassroots level. "One of the duties is to work with NCR States and it (CAQM) has vast powers conferred including closure of polluting units.

NIA raids at 7 locations in J&K linked to Reasi bus terror attack

Reasi bus terror attack: The locations under investigation are connected to hybrid terrorists and Over-Ground Workers (OGWs).

New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency is conducting searches at seven locations in the case linked to the June 9 terrorist attack on a pilgrims' bus in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district today.

The locations under investigation are connected to hybrid terrorists and Over-Ground Workers (OGWs), the anti-terror agency stated. Officials stated that multiple teams from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) have been conducting searches in the Rajouri and Reasi districts since this morning, news agency PTI reported.

On June 9, a bus transporting pilgrims to the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine fell into a gorge in Reasi



district, Jammu, following a terrorist attack. At least 10 people died, and nearly three dozen were injured. The incident occurred around 6:10 pm when the bus, en route to the Shiv Khori temple—the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine's base camp—was ambushed in Teryath village, officials reported. During the assault, the driver was wounded, causing him to lose control of the vehicle. Authorities have detained 50 individuals in connection with the attack.

On June 17, the Ministry of Home Affairs transferred the case to the National Investigation Agency (NIA). The Resistance Front (TRF), an offshoot of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba terror outfit, initially claimed responsibility for the attack, but retracted its statement later. So far, Hakam Khan from Rajouri has been arrested for allegedly supplying food, shelter, and logistics to the terrorists and aiding in reconnaissance before the attack. NIA teams have conducted searches since this morning, with more details forthcoming, officials stated. Earlier, on June 30, the agency raided five locations associated with hybrid terrorists and their overground operatives in Rajouri.

Ayush ministry's 'Swarna Prashan' initiative launched in Odisha's Kalahandi

NEW DELHI. Ayush Ministry's 'Swarna Prashan' initiative was launched in Odisha's Kalahandi district on Thursday with 500 school students administered traditional ayurvedic formulation. Vedanta Aluminium in collaboration with the Ministry of Ayush has introduced the initiative in the district and planned to extend support to adjacent Rayagada and Koraput districts. About 500 students of Manikeshwari High



School and Saraswati Shishu Mandir in Bhawanipatna, the headquarters town of Kalahandi district, participated in the programme. So adopting the Uttar Pradesh model," Islam said.

Speaking at the event, Ayodhyannath Behera, district assistant medical officer, said Swarna Prashan is a time-tested ayurvedic practice, and its benefits in boosting immunity and cognitive function in children are well-documented. "Through our partnership with the government of Odisha and the Ministry of Ayush, we aim to expand the Swarna Prashan programme to benefit 30,000 children, from infants to 16-year-olds, across Koraput, Kalahandi and Rayagada within 2024," the COO of Bauxite Mines, Vedanta Aluminium, Nitin Kumar Tiwari, said.

'Silent Revolution': Minister Says Women In India's Labour Force Doubled In 7 Years

New Delhi: Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Friday revealed that the number of women in India's labour force has doubled in the past seven years, and they are now working more hours than men in some sectors. He hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policies for reshaping women's roles in the workforce. The Union Minister described this shift as a 'silent revolution' in India's labour force, led by the nation's women.

A government press release quoting him stated, "India's workforce is now witnessing what no one expected... Women are leading the charge, taking on greater responsibilities and breaking barriers like never before!"

Mr Mandaviya noted that recent data shows a major increase in women's labor force participation in India. "Indian women are stepping out, taking charge, and doing it in a way no one saw coming. We should talk about this more," he added. He credited Prime Minister Modi's initiatives for placing women at the forefront of this movement. "Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India, Skill India - these aren't token policies, but tectonic policy shifts in how we see women as drivers of India's growth," he proclaimed.

BJP leader Smriti Irani also highlighted the demanding hours women are putting in, especially in high-demand fields such as professional, scientific, and technical activities.

She pointed out that Indian women are now working more hours per week than their counterparts in many other countries. "Women are no longer the silent workforce; in fact, they are working more hours than ever, some even over 55 hours a week, in professional, scientific, and technical fields! Indian women are working themselves to the bone, putting in more hours than men across sectors," Ms Irani said. Ms Irani brought to focus the need for businesses, industries, society, and women themselves to acknowledge the sacrifices women are making. "Prime Minister Modi has set the stage, but now it's time for everyone to embrace the sacrifices women are making and ensure that this silent revolution becomes impossible to ignore," she said.

Null and void: China as mountaineers name Arunachal peak after 6th Dalai Lama

China's reaction comes after a team of the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports scaled an unnamed and uncharted peak in Arunachal Pradesh.

NEW DELHI. A livid China said the act of a group of Indian mountaineers naming a peak in Arunachal Pradesh after the 6th Dalai Lama was illegal.

Addressing a media briefing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson reiterated the nation's longstanding claim on Arunachal Pradesh, which it calls Zangnan. "It's illegal, and null and void for India to set up the so-called 'Arunachal Pradesh' in Chinese territory," spokesperson Lin Jian said. Lin said he was unaware of the specific incident but affirmed China's consistent position on the region. India has not yet reacted to China's remarks but has maintained that

Arunachal Pradesh was an integral part of India and assigning "invented" names does not alter this reality. On September 25, a team of the



Defence Ministry press release, the naming of the peak after the 6th Dalai Lama was a tribute to his "timeless wisdom and profound contributions" to the Monpa community. The Monpa community is the only nomadic tribe in Northeast India.

The Defence Ministry said the peak was one of the most technically challenging and unexplored summits in the region, highlighting how the mountaineering team overcame "sheer ice walls, treacherous crevasses, and a two-km-long glacier". Sources said the necessary formalities were being completed to ensure that "Tsayang Gyatso Peak" is recognised on India's official map.

Heavy rain pounds Mumbai, red alert issued, showers to continue throughout week

NEW DELHI. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued warnings for heavy to very heavy rainfall across Mumbai and Maharashtra, with significant impacts expected over the coming days. Following the recent trend of erratic monsoons, Mumbai is bracing for widespread rain, particularly in the Konkan region, which is anticipated to experience intense downpours today. According to the latest bulletin by the Met Department, a cyclonic circulation lies over north-central Maharashtra, and, under its effect, Maharashtra is expected to witness more downpour in coming days. Heavy rain lashed out at several places in Mumbai today. The IMD has issued a red alert for Nashik, while orange alerts have been placed for Palghar, Pune, Nandurbar, and Dhule. Additionally, nearly every city in Maharashtra is under a yellow alert for the day.

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation predicted a generally cloudy sky over Mumbai today, with chances



of moderate rain and thundershowers across the city and suburbs. According to the weather department, the Konkan and Goa region, along with central Maharashtra, is likely to see fairly widespread light to moderate rainfall throughout the week. However, September 27 is marked as a critical day, with heavy

rainfall expected to occur in isolated locations. The IMD predicted that some areas could receive more than 12 centimetres of rain. The weather department also predicted light to moderate rainfall in most areas of north central Maharashtra, many parts of south central Maharashtra, and a few locations in Marathwada. The IMD further stated that from September 28, the risk of heavy rainfall will extend to various parts of central Maharashtra and Gujarat. With isolated heavy rain projected for these regions, officials are urging residents to remain cautious and prepared. The agency has also highlighted a moderate flash flood risk for several watersheds, especially in the south Gujarat region and the coastal areas of Konkan and Goa. Residents are advised to avoid unnecessary travel during periods of heavy rainfall. Local authorities are monitoring the situation closely, ready to respond to any emergency that may arise due to flooding.

Who flooded Waqf Bill JPC's mailbox with millions of feedback?

New Delhi: The joint parliamentary committee (JPC) scrutinising and holding consultations over the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has received overwhelming feedback, triggering a controversy. Panel member and BJP MP Nishikant Dubey questioned the origins of the "unprecedented" 1.25 crore suggestions sent to the JPC, and sought a probe into the possible role of a "foreign hand". The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) and the Congress both lashed out at Dubey, and called the massive response normal in a country as populous as India. In fact, the AIMPLB told India Today Digital that the number of 1.25 crore was a gross understatement, and that 3.7 crore suggestions were sent to the JPC on its appeal. On August 8, the government introduced the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha, saying that the law was aimed to streamline the Waqf Board's work and ensure the efficient management of Waqf properties. It was immediately sent to a

joint parliamentary committee after Opposition parties and Muslim organisations expressed concerns, claiming that the bill was a targeted measure against the community and an infringement on its constitutional rights. The JPC had in August invited views and suggestions from the public, NGOs, experts, stakeholders and institutions on the law that the NDA government had proposed to change the Waqf law. It gave a 15-day window for people to send in their feedback.

BJP MP SEEKS PROBE INTO 'UNPRECEDENTED' RESPONSE

The JPC might not have expected such a massive response to its invitation for suggestions. The contentious issue saw mobilisation from both sides and crores of emails landing up with the parliamentary panel. Nishikant Dubey, in a letter to Jagdebika Pal, chairman of the JPC on the Waqf

(Amendment) Bill, has now sought an investigation by the Union home ministry into the origin of the feedback to the parliamentary panel, reported news agency PTI. Dubey, a four-time MP, said

also named wanted Islamist preacher Zakir Naik among the suspects. Dubey wrote it was essential to ask whether foreign entities, organisations, and individuals may be deliberately orchestrating this "flood of responses to manipulate the democratic process".

NOT 1.25 CRORE, BUT 5 CRORE SUGGESTIONS SENT, SAYS AIMPLB

The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) said the volume of response was on expected lines and junked Dubey's conspiracy claims, citing an earlier instance when 4.85 crore suggestions were sent to the government after its appeal. "The number of feedback of 1.25 crore sent to the JPC being shared is less. Around 3.7 crore feedback was sent by Muslims to JPC on the appeal of AIMPLB," SQR Ilyas, AIMPLB spokesperson, told India Today Digital.



the number of submissions was "unprecedented" and had set a global record for legislative submissions. He alleged the possibility of the involvement of China or Pakistan's spy agency ISI or other fundamentalist organisations. He

How to do up your Staircase



Make your staircase look as interesting as the rest of your house. Here's how...
When it comes to home decor, staircases can sometimes become one of the most neglected areas because we tend to underestimate it. Actually,

staircases can, if done up well, add a certain charm to your interiors. For row houses, bungalows, penthouses and duplex flats, the staircase forms an integral part of the structure and is often located in the living room or in an important part of your home. You should make sure that they are nicely done up.

Wall of fame Mandira Bedi's bungalow in Bandra has a beautifully done up staircase. She says, "Since it is an integral part of my home, I have taken special care to do it up. The decor at my home includes this area of the house and I like it that way. There are pictures of family and friends,

vases of flowers, lights etc on my staircase."
Living room walls are not really ideal for putting up a lot of pictures of family and friends but the walls of your staircase can be like a gallery where you can display all your favourite pictures and get away with it! Since the stairways often lead upstairs to

the private area of the house, keeping these personal images here will help them from being too much in the public view.

Light it up You can go as

creative as you want here. Overhead spotlights will make the stairs well-lit and safe. You can also use lights on the steps for effect. Gouri and Yash Tonk have beautiful and very

contemporary chandeliers on the landings of their staircase in their duplex apartment. "I liked these trendy chandeliers. They light up the stairway very nice and look very elegant and chic," says Gouri.

Take it to the next level You can use wood, stone, carpeting on the stairs and you can make it look interesting with a nice handrail, a variety of which is available readily.

The perfect landing The way you do up your landing can make or break the entire decor of the stairway. You can place a large vase or a pot of indoor plant or a tall floor lamp in the corner. Place interesting things but make sure that you do not clutter the stairway space.



Make your kitchen a sleek and stylish space

Your kitchen should be a sleek and stylish space. Here are some simple tips you need to keep in mind when you are choosing a modular kitchen.



yet stylish - that is what modular kitchens are all about. These kitchens not only make cooking convenient and efficient, they also make your kitchen look like a happier and fun place to be in. Modern modular kitchen furniture include various units of cabinets, each designed for a unique purpose, so it increases your efficiency. Pick one that has the most appropriate design to suit your particular needs.

Here are some simple tips you need to keep in mind when you are choosing a modular kitchen...

Know your Budget

With the variety available these days, you could easily tend to overspend. So, it is best to decide on a budget before you go out shopping for your modular kitchen. There are small-budget kitchens also available that do not compromise on functionality. And of course, there are very high-budget kitchens that are glamorous.

You need to plan well

Measure the exact area and also keep in mind the layout and kind of space you have in your kitchen before you go out looking for a modular kitchen set-up.

An important thing that you need to bear in mind is what your specific needs are — do you need a built-in hob, or would just a simple oven work? Do you need a microwave oven or grill? What kind of chimney do you want and how much space are you allocating for it? Would you opt for an L-shaped kitchen counter or would you need a kitchen island?

Wood you?

What would you choose — there is a variety of designs and materials available right from the more contemporary steel and glass, to the classic wood and stone. It would be wise to choose something that



not just looks nice but is also sturdy and long-lasting. Another thing you need to keep in mind is that it should be easy to clean.

Size it up

Keep comfort in mind when you are selecting your modular kitchen. The cabinets that you get installed in your kitchen should be within your reach. You should be able to use them without straining yourself unnecessarily.

Flashy or functional

When you are selecting decorations and fixtures for your kitchen, you should ideally look for designs that are functional. The decorations should not obstruct your free movement in the kitchen.

Does it Cater to your needs?

Your modular kitchen should have cabinets and drawers that cater to your daily and specific cooking needs in the kitchen. Ideally, separate racks and storage units for your cutlery should be built. You should have your ovens and other electrical appliances fitted in according to your needs.

Light right

When you are getting your kitchen installed, make sure you know where you want the lights. If you have a large window in the kitchen, you should install your kitchen in a way that it does not get blocked — a dark kitchen area can hinder energies. It is a good idea to use accent lights, wherever needed. Under-cabinet lighting is also essential for your work area.

The lowdown on buying Rugs

Square or oval? Patterned or plain? Brightly hued, subdued or somewhere in between?

The myriad choices in pattern, style, colour, fabric and size, not to mention price, can make buying an area rug rather anxiety provoking. Thankfully, there are a few guidelines that will take some of the confusing guesswork out of choosing a rug, and put some fun into shopping for one.

Getting started

City slick, traditional or countrified? Decide on the mood you want to create in the room where you're putting the rug. That will narrow down the options while still allowing you to play with pattern and colour. Will the rug be purely decorative or will you be lounging or even dancing on it? Your answer will determine whether you should get a flat weave or knotted pile.

Size wise

Decide on the size of rug required. A large one can create a cosy, intimate feel in a room. As a rule of thumb, leave at least one foot around the perimeter of the room to create contrast between the floor and the rug. You can also use rugs to carve a large space into distinct areas, making it more dynamic. The size of the room is less important than the grouping of the room's furnishings. First, decide on the configuration of your furniture and then on the number and size of rugs required.

Settle on a budget

Dealers at most specialty rug stores can show you a range of rugs at various price points. Picking a wool/polyester blend over silk or even wool will mitigate costs without sabotaging style. Or consider a machine-made rug while you save up for that hand-woven masterpiece.

Style solutions

To decide on a style, start by examining your existing furnishings. Feel free to mix it up a bit—modern pieces with a traditional Turkish rug or '30s furniture on a contemporary geometric. But



do choose a rug that incorporates one of the neutral colours on the walls or in the upholstery so that it blends with the room's colour scheme.

And whether you love geometric, oriental or floral patterns the trick is to create contrast. If your sofa has a small floral, go for a larger patterned rug." Or if draperies and furnishings boast a large pattern, choose a smaller, more intricate motif. Pros mix up to five patterns, but novices should stick with about two per room.

If you haven't decided on furnishings, let the rug lead the way. A rug is a great place to begin a decorative scheme. A really beautiful one makes everything that sits on it look great.



KRN Heat Exchanger IPO: Check latest GMP, subscription status, other details

New Delhi The initial public offering (IPO) of KRN Heat Exchanger has already seen huge subscriptions, garnering strong interest from retail investors. KRN Heat Exchanger opened for subscription on September 25 looking to raise Rs 341.95 crore from its public issue, and has already seen bids of over 80 times. The IPO of KRN Heat Exchanger has seen a subscription of 83.39 times. As of September 27, 2024, at 11:43 AM, the issue had been subscribed 69.62 times in the retail category, 4.57 times in the QIB category, and 217.73 times in the NII category. KRN Heat Exchanger and Refrigeration Ltd specialises in producing fin and tube-type heat exchangers. The company manufactures heat exchangers with copper and aluminium fins and copper tubes, as well as water coils, condenser coils, and evaporator coils. IPO of KRN Heat Exchanger is entirely a fresh issue of 1.55 crore shares and will be open for subscription till September 27. The price band for the IPO is set at Rs 209 and Rs 220 per share. Retail investors need to apply for a minimum of 65 shares, requiring an investment of Rs 14,300. Latest grey Markey premium (GMP) for KRN Heat Exchanger The latest Grey Market Premium (GMP) for the KRN Heat Exchanger IPO stands at Rs 274, as of the update on September 27, 2024 at 11:01 AM. With an issue price set at Rs 220, the projected listing price of the IPO is Rs 494, combining the cap price and the current GMP. Based on this, the anticipated gain per share is approximately 124.55%. The allotment for the KRN Heat Exchanger IPO is set to be finalised on Monday, 30th September 2024. The company's shares are expected to be listed on both BSE and NSE, with the tentative listing date scheduled for Thursday, 3rd October 2024.

Swiggy to raise Rs 3,750 cr through public offer



NEW DELHI. Food tech firm Swiggy said on Thursday it aims to raise ₹3,750 crore (\$449 million) in its initial public offering (IPO). Existing shareholders such as Accel India and Tencent Europe will sell about 185.3 million shares, Swiggy said in its draft prospectus. Swiggy's plan to go public comes at a time when investors are showing confidence in new age companies. Shares of Swiggy's rival Zomato have gained more than 184% in the last one year. Backed by Japan's SoftBank investment major Prosus, Swiggy competed against Zomato in India's fast growing online restaurant and food delivery market. India's food delivery market is estimated to grow to Rs 2 lakh crore by 2030, as per industry estimates. Swiggy and Zomato together commanding over 90% of this market. Prosus with 32% stake is among the leading stakeholder in the company. SoftBank, Accel, Elevation Capital, DST Global, Norwest, Tencent, Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) and Singapore's GIC are other shareholders in Swiggy. The Bengaluru-based company was valued at \$10.7 billion when it last raised funds in January 2022. Market experts believed that Swiggy can list with a market valuation of around \$10-14 billion.

OMCs can reduce petrol, diesel prices by Rs 2-3: ICRA

NEW DELHI. Oil marketing companies (OMCs) could reduce petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2-3 per litre if the international crude prices remain stable, according to a report by ICRA. The rating agency noted that the recent decline in crude oil prices has improved margins on retail auto fuels, allowing state-owned companies to consider price cuts. The average price of India's crude oil imports fell to \$74 per barrel in September, down from \$83-84 per barrel in March, when petrol and diesel prices were last reduced by Rs 2 per litre. "ICRA estimates that the OMCs' net realisation was higher by Rs 15 per litre for petrol and Rs 12 a litre for diesel vis-a-vis international product prices in September 2024 (till September 17). The retail selling price (RSPs) of these fuels have been unchanged since March 2024 (Rs 2/litre was reduced on



petrol and diesel on March 15, 2024) and there appears to be headroom for their downward revision by Rs 2-3 per litre, if crude prices remain stable," said Girishkumar Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head, Corporate Ratings, ICRA. The last revision in fuel prices took place in March, with a Rs 2 per litre cut for both petrol and diesel. Crude prices have seen a significant drop in recent months, primarily due to weak global economic growth and high US production.

India keeps markets guessing over MPC members

New Delhi India's central bank watchers are getting anxious about who will decide interest rates in two week's time, a crucial meeting as a wave of global easing kicks off. The contracts of three external members of the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy committee will expire on October 4, just days before the MPC is expected to meet and make its rate decision on October 9. A government-appointed selection panel hasn't disclosed who the likely candidates are or when they will release the names of the new MPC members. A delay in the appointments risks a repeat of 2020, when the RBI had to postpone its rate decision because the new committee members hadn't been appointed in time. Looming in the background is also uncertainty over who will lead the RBI from next year, with the contracts of both Governor Shaktikanta Das and his deputy in charge of monetary policy, Michael Patra, coming to an end in coming months. "Extensions and reappointments should be concluded and announced well ahead avoiding last minute delays. Unwarranted suspense in critical appointments is unsettling and distracting," said Shubhada M Rao, founder of QuantEco Research, based in

Mumbai. "This becomes relevant especially for the financial markets that seek signals around policy continuity," she said. The RBI's policy committee is made up of three external members — usually well-known economists from the academic or finance worlds — and three RBI officials, comprising the governor, the deputy governor in charge of the monetary policy, and another official, typically the executive director of the monetary policy department. Das's contract — already extended once by three years — comes to an end on December 9 and Patra finishes his term on January 14. Neither the government nor the RBI have signaled if they will remain in their posts.

The external MPC members who end their terms next month have been more dovish than their RBI counterparts in recent rate meetings. Both Goyal and Varma voted for rate cuts in the past two meetings. Bhide raised concerns about the impact of high rates on economic growth, even though he voted in line with RBI officials. Analysts say India should follow other central banks in having a more transparent process in selecting key

candidates. At the Bank of England, for example, four external MPC members are appointed through an open and public process where the applicants are known before the selection is made. "Why would there be so much of secrecy?" about the appointments at the RBI, asked Amol Agrawal, who teaches economics at Ahmedabad University. "They are external members, they cannot be appointed like insiders. What is the big deal in not naming the members, and not following an open, transparent process?" A selection panel — led by Das, Cabinet secretary TV Somanathan and economic affairs secretary Ajay Seth — chooses the external MPC members. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's office has final sign-off on the positions. The RBI and prime minister's office didn't immediately respond to emails seeking further information. Appointments of key RBI officials are typically made ahead of time, aside from the 2020 debacle, which was partly due to disruptions over the pandemic period. "While clarity is always welcome, I think as long as candidates are being vetted properly and being announced with a reasonable window, we do not feel there is any material impact on

decision making," said Rahul Bajoria, an economist at Bank of America Corp. Before the MPC was appointed in 2016, interest rates were decided by the governor alone. While policymaking is more consensus-based now, the governor still has veto power to break a deadlock in the six-member MPC. Change in the leadership of the RBI can bring sweeping monetary policy shifts. Urjit Patel, who was RBI governor before Das took over in December 2018, was a policy hawk, rejecting calls to cut interest rates even when inflation tumbled to a record low of 1.46% in June 2017. In Das's first MPC meeting in February 2019, he promptly cut rates in a surprise move. Das is now facing calls to cut interest rates as global central banks pivot and the economy shows signs of moderating. The governor has repeatedly said he's not considering a cut yet and wants to see inflation easing to the 4% target and staying there. If the new MPC members are appointed before the October MPC meeting, analysts don't expect they will have enough time to acquaint themselves with the issues to call for a rate cut. Economists surveyed by Bloomberg predict the RBI will likely ease in December.

Accenture guidance boost lifts Infosys, Wipro; IT stocks rally up to 4%

New Delhi, Shares of major Indian IT firms, including Infosys, Wipro, Tech Mahindra, and Coforge, surged up to 4% on Friday, following an upbeat earnings report from US-based Accenture. Accenture not only exceeded market expectations for its Q4 results but also raised its revenue guidance for FY25 to a range of 3-6%. The positive momentum from Accenture's performance has bolstered investor confidence in Indian IT stocks, with expectations for growth in the sector improving. According to brokerage firm Nomura, the Indian IT industry is likely to see growth bottom out in FY25. The firm anticipates a gradual recovery in discretionary spending, although it may take a few more quarters for a full rebound. Nomura predicts revenue growth for large-cap Indian IT companies to improve significantly in FY26, forecasting a 7.9% year-on-year

increase, compared to 3.6% in FY25. During early trading, Infosys shares climbed as much as 4%, reaching a high



of Rs 1,974.60 on the National Stock Exchange, making it one of the top gainers on the Nifty index. Other IT firms, including Coforge, Wipro, LTIMindtree, and Tech Mahindra, also saw gains of up to 4%. Motilal Oswal, in its recent analysis, expressed minimal concern about short-term revenue fluctuations for Indian IT companies in

the upcoming quarter, believing that these variations are unlikely to affect market estimates or valuations significantly. The brokerage said that the sector's critical catalyst will come after Q3 FY25, when corporate client budgets for calendar year 2025 are finalized, providing a clearer picture of demand. Accenture's report highlighted 2% year-on-year growth in FY24, including a 3% contribution from inorganic acquisitions. The company's outlook for consulting and outsourcing services suggests further growth, a development that is particularly positive for Indian IT firms, as it signals a recovery in discretionary spending. Dr. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, noted that Indian IT stocks are expected to respond positively to Accenture's strong guidance, suggesting potential gains for the sector in the near future.

Government to borrow Rs 6.61L cr in H2, maintains target

NEW DELHI. The Centre has retained its borrowing target for the current financial year as it announced its Rs 6.61 lakh crore borrowing plan for the second half of the financial year. The government borrowed Rs 7.4 lakh crore in the first half out of the gross market borrowing of Rs 14.01 lakh crore estimated for 2024-25. As per the Centre, out of Gross Market borrowing of Rs 14.01 lakh crore budgeted for 2024-25, Rs 6.61 lakh crore (47.2%) is planned to be borrowed in second half of the year through issuance of dated securities, including Rs 20,000 crore of Sovereign Green Bonds. The government said it will continue to reserve the right to exercise greenshoe option to retain an additional subscription of up to Rs 2,000 crore against each of the securities indicated in the auction notifications. In the third quarter of FY25, weekly borrowing via issuance of Treasury Bills is projected to reach Rs 19,000 crore over a span of



13 weeks. This will include Rs 7,000 crore from 91-day dated Treasury Bills (DTBs), Rs 6,000 crore from 182-day DTBs, and Rs 6,000 crore from 364-day DTBs. To manage temporary discrepancies in government accounts, the Reserve Bank of India has set the Ways and Means Advances (WMA) limit for the second half of FY 2024-25 at Rs 50,000 crore. Of the total estimated gross market borrowing of Rs 14.01 lakh crore for 2024-25, Rs 7.4 lakh crore, accounting for 52.8%, has already been raised in the first half of the fiscal year. It is to be noted that the gross borrowing for FY25 is lower than

last year's gross borrowing estimate of Rs 15.43 lakh crore, which was the highest ever. According to Aditi Nayar, chief economist & head - Research and Outreach at ICRA Ltd, while the Rs 6.61 lakh crore borrowing in second half of the year is only marginally higher than year-ago levels, a sharp decline in redemptions would entail a sharp 32% YoY expansion in the net borrowings to ₹ 6.0 trillion in the second half of the fiscal. India set to achieve 6.5-7% growth in FY25. **NEW DELHI:** India is set to achieve 6.5-7% GDP growth in the current financial year as indicated by the movements in high-frequency indicators till August, a finance ministry report said on Thursday. The recent developments analysed indicate strong foundations of macroeconomic stability in India with steady growth, investment, employment and inflation trends, a strong and stable financial sector and a resilient external account, including a comfortable foreign exchange reserve position.



and vary greatly among individuals, making the condition hard to diagnose and manage. Current treatments can be effective, but up to 60% of patients find them inadequate or experience intolerable side effects. "For people living with schizophrenia, it's often difficult to find a treatment that works for them. Having a variety of treatment options gives patients and healthcare providers the tools to help manage this serious condition," said Gordon Lavigne, CEO of the Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance. "People living with schizophrenia want and deserve more. Today's approval provides a new option as people with schizophrenia move forward with proper support to rebuild their lives."

Swipe, spend, struggle: How credit card defaults are spiking in India

Once a symbol of freedom, credit cards now trap young Indians in growing debt. Could defaults be the new norm?

NEW DELHI. India's credit card boom has reached a tipping point. While credit cards were once seen as a symbol of financial freedom and convenience, they are now pushing many young Indians into a growing debt trap. Defaults on credit card payments have surged, particularly among millennials and Gen Z, despite growing awareness of credit scores. The growing popularity of Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) schemes, EMI-based e-commerce purchases, and easy access to credit have made the situation even more precarious. In the first half of 2024, credit card defaults climbed to 1.8%, up from 1.7% at the end of 2023, according to data

from TransUnion CIBIL. While a 0.1% rise might seem negligible, the real concern lies in the mounting outstanding dues. Credit card outstanding amounts hit an alarming Rs 2.7 lakh crore by June 2024, compared to Rs 2.6 lakh crore in March. This marks a massive jump from Rs 87,686 crore in March 2019, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 24% over five years.



Youth at greater risk of default The most concerning aspect is the behaviour of young millennials and Gen Z, who are driving this surge in credit card defaults. Sold on the convenience of EMI-based purchases and BNPL schemes, many young borrowers are maxing out their credit limits without even attempting to revolve their loans. A recent report by Macquarie Capital indicated that most young millennials are using the entire limit and directly defaulting, turning into an NPA without even revolving the loan. The report said net credit losses for credit cards have surged to 5-6%. E-commerce platforms like Amazon have fuelled this spending

frenzy, with the majority of transactions made through credit cards. Experts suggested that the rise of BNPL and attractive EMI schemes on e-commerce platforms are directly contributing to higher credit card spending among the youth. **How defaults spiral out of control** The path to default often starts innocently enough, typically with a large purchase the borrower plans to pay off in easy installments. However, those seemingly manageable payments come with steep interest rates that can climb as high as 48% annually. As the debt balloons, many borrowers find themselves able to pay only the minimum due each month,

trapping them in a cycle of accumulating interest and worsening debt. A common misconception about credit scores adds fuel to the fire. Many borrowers believe they're financially stable as long as they continue making minimum payments, which temporarily prevents them from being marked as defaulters. However, as interest continues to compound, the financial strain intensifies, turning the situation into a downward spiral. RBI's wake-up call goes ignored. In response to the rapid surge in credit card defaults, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has flagged concerns over the growing risk in unsecured loans. Retail loans, driven largely by personal loans and credit card debt, have been the backbone of Indian banking growth for two decades. However, as the demand for unsecured loans has risen, so have the risks. The RBI increased risk weights on unsecured consumer credit in late 2023, forcing banks to set aside more capital to cushion against potential losses. The RBI's measures appear to be working. According to Macquarie's Unsecured Retail Index.

NEWS BOX

IND vs BAN: India sticks to Chennai winning mantra in Kanpur Test, no 3rd spinner

New Delhi, India have decided to stick to the same playing XI from Chennai for the Kanpur Test as the option of the third spinner wasn't exercised on September 27, Friday. Going into the 2nd Test, there was hope that an extra spinner could be used for the game in Kanpur and give one of Mohammed Siraj, Jasprit Bumrah or Akash Deep a bit of a rest. However, India decided to stick to the same lineup that won them the game at Chepauk. India had won the toss and opted to field first at Green Park as Rohit felt that the pitch was a bit soft. The India captain said that they would be aiming to make early inroads and wanted the 3 seamers to make most of the conditions. Rohit also said he expects the same fight from Bangladesh as they showed in the Chennai Test but expects his side to show the same spirit that won them the first game. "We are going to bowl first. The pitch seems a bit soft, so we have to make early inroads and we want our three seamers to make use of it. We didn't start well with the bat in the first game, but we found a way to score and the bowlers did the job. I expect no different here (fight from



Bangladesh), we will be challenged but we have the experience to bounce back. Same team," said Rohit. Bangladesh made two changes to their side as they left out Nahid Rana and Taskin Ahmed from the side as they roped in Taijul Islam and Khaled Ahmed. IND vs BAN, 2nd Test: Playing XIs India (Playing XI): Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rohit Sharma(c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant(w), KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj. Bangladesh (Playing XI): Shadman Islam, Zakir Hasan, Najmul Hossain Shanto(c), Mominul Haque, Mushfiqur Rahim, Shakib Al Hasan, Litton Das(w), Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taijul Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Khaled Ahmed

Manchester United boss Erik ten Hag backs Bruno Fernandes to regain form

New Delhi Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag has come to the defence of captain Bruno Fernandes, following the midfielder's sluggish start to the season. Ten Hag expressed confidence that the Portuguese international will soon return to top form. Fernandes, who has recorded just one assist and no goals so far this season, has faced criticism for his recent performances in back-to-back draws against Crystal Palace and Twente Enschede. When asked if the 30-year-old was fatigued after playing over 4,000 minutes for United last season and then competing in Euro 2024 for Portugal, Ten Hag downplayed the concerns. The Dutch tactician said that it is just a matter of time before Fernandes will start scoring goals and get his form back. "I think the team brings him in a situation. I think he is capable and he has proven already, so many times in the Premier League, he can create many chances," Ten Hag told reporters, as quoted by Reuters. "I am convinced he will not do differently. He will find his form." "He is already creating chances but he will make final passes, he will score goals 100%. It is just a matter of time."



Goals have been an issue for United this season despite creating a lot of chances as was seen during the draw against Palace. Ten Hag feels that the structures are well in place and urged his team to make the most of the opportunities after they get into the box. "We have players across the team who have the abilities to score. But it's clear you see all the opportunities we've created, we've not scored enough," Ten Hag said. "You always work into a season, you have to build it, the structures in defending, structures in possession, of course, you start with the build-up, I think we have the structures quite right." "Across all games we have more possession... and then it's about what we do with the possession. We bring the ball into the final third, we bring the ball into the box a lot... but we have to take advantage of it."

India vs Bangladesh: Bowling coach Morne Morkel relishing India job

Former South African pacer Morne Morkel enjoyed his first week as the bowling coach of the Indian men's cricket team during the two-match Test series against Bangladesh.

New Delhi, Former South African pacer Morne Morkel is relishing his new role as the bowling coach of the Indian men's cricket team during the two-match Test series against Bangladesh. After years of competing against India on the field, Morkel is excited to now be part of the team, having kicked off his coaching tenure with a stellar performance from the bowlers in the first Test against Bangladesh. Reflecting on his first week in this new position, Morkel shared his enthusiasm: "What a wonderful week. I have always played against India and



followed India after my playing days. It's wonderful to be in this environment and see how the guys operate."

The Indian bowling unit showcased their prowess, with Jasprit Bumrah leading the charge in the series opener in Chennai Test.

The ace pacer took four wickets in the first innings, while Ravichandran Ashwin produced a remarkable six-wicket haul in the second innings, helping India secure a resounding victory over Bangladesh. IND vs BAN 2nd Test: Live Updates

Morkel emphasized the importance of building experience among the bowlers, particularly with the increasing number of five-Test series on the horizon. "There is a lot of experience in this dressing room, but for the guys coming in, it's essential to ensure they fit in and evolve. They need to start thinking about setting goals," he noted. PlayUmmute Fullscreen

His coaching philosophy revolves around fostering a supportive environment. "I am a believer in mapping out a journey for direction," Morkel explained. "If they can take it series by series and focus on improvement, it will be beneficial. The key is to make new bowlers, like [Akash] Deep and [Vikram] Dayal, feel at home. Once you allow them the space to learn and make mistakes, it creates a great environment."

With Morkel at the helm, the Indian bowling attack is poised to gain invaluable insights and techniques that could elevate their game further. The combination of his extensive experience as a player and his approachable coaching style is expected to bring a fresh perspective to the squad.

Virat Kohli's feet touched by Kanpur ground staff member before 2nd Test

New Delhi, A ground staff member in Kanpur decided to approach Virat Kohli ahead of the 2nd Test and proceeded to touch the feet of the Indian star ahead of play on Day 1 on September 27, Friday. Kohli and India are looking to wrap up the series and complete a clean sweep against Bangladesh at Green Park. The start of play was delayed on Friday due to a wet outfield because of overnight rain. As the ground staff were taking off one of the covers, Kohli was stepping out to get some practice in before the start of play. This is when the ground staff member approached the star batter and proceeded to touch his feet. Kohli tried to acknowledge the staff member and tried to play it down. You can see the full video below:

Kohli aiming to bounce back after 1st Test failure

Kohli will be aiming to bounce back in the Kanpur Test after his failure in the first game in Chennai. The star batter, who was making his return to the Test side, scored 6 and 17 runs across both the innings. Kohli will aim to get some form in before the start of the New Zealand series and the Border



Gavaskar Trophy tour in Australia.

India won the toss in Kanpur and opted to field first. The hosts went in with an unchanged team, while Bangladesh made 2 changes by bringing in Taijul Islam and Khaled Ahmed instead of Nahid Rana and Taskin Ahmed.



IND vs BAN, 2nd Test: Playing XIs

India (Playing XI): Yashasvi Jaiswal, Rohit Sharma(c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant(w), KL Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin, Akash Deep, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj.

Virat Kohli faces more pressure than Smith, Root and Williamson: Parthiv, Tamim

New Delhi, Parthiv Patel and Tamim Iqbal has claimed that the rest of the Fab four don't face the same pressure as Virat Kohli. The fab four has been a collection of Kohli, Joe Root, Steve Smith and Kane Williamson, who have been considered as the greats of the modern generation. Compared to the three, Kohli hasn't had the best of times in Tests as he has scored just 2 fifties and 2 hundreds since 2023. Before the start of the Kanpur Test, Parthiv and Tamim was asked if Kohli has been facing pressure in recent times. The former wicketkeeper said that he doesn't feel pressure while playing and Smith, Root and Williamson don't go through what the Indian star is going through. Parthiv feels that the pressure of expectation is huge for Kohli because of the standard he has set for himself. "I don't think he's feeling that kind of pressure. And as you rightly mentioned that, I don't think Smith or Joe Root or Williamson can even think of the type of pressure he must be feeling."

"The pressure of expectation, that is huge. He has set his standard so high that even if he



scores 60 or 70, that comes across as a failure. Because every time he walks in, we expect him to score 100. We expect him to play with that kind of intensity, which he has always been playing," said Parthiv. Parthiv said that the hunger to perform will remain in Kohli as long as he is playing Tests.

"But you have to understand that he is also getting older but that zeal to play Test cricket and to do well, does not die, and it will never die as long as Virat Kohli is playing Test cricket. But yeah, I think I don't think he would be feeling that kind of pressure to

perform. But the expectation of us is always high because of the standard which he has set," said Parthiv.

Kohli has won games single-handedly in white-ball cricket

Tamim pointed out to white-ball cricket records of the Fab 4 and claimed that Kohli had won more games for his side single-handedly compared to Smith, Root and Williamson. And also, I think yes in Test match cricket, the Fab 4 that we are talking about have done wonders. Because in Test match cricket, basically as a batter, you can't win a game single-handedly. There are two innings and everything."

"But we also call them Fab 4 in white-ball cricket and hands down, in what Kohli has done for India, amount of games that he has won single-handedly, I'm pretty sure none of the other three has won that many of the games. And as you mentioned because of the amount of pressure that he goes through, I think those three combined do not have the similar pressure," said Tamim.



scoring 347 for 3.

INDIA'S RECORD IN KANPUR

PLAYED - 24, Won - 7, Lost - 3, Drawn - 13.

India, led by Rohit, will be looking to complete a 2-0 whitewash and take another step closer to the World Test Championship final. India hammered Bangladesh by 281 runs in the first Test on a Chennai pitch which had more bounce than normal.

Considering the overcast conditions and the amount of grass on the pitch, India retained their playing XI, opting for the three-man pace attack. On the other hand, Bangladesh went in with three spinners, bringing in Taijul Islam. They dropped Taskin Ahmed and Nahid Rana, adding Khaled Ahmed to their pace battery.

IPL 2025: Dwayne Bravo appointed new KKR mentor, replaces Gautam Gambhir

IPL 2025: Kolkata Knight Riders announced former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo as their mentor for the upcoming Indian Premier League season. Bravo's association with Chennai Super Kings, therefore, comes to an end.

New Delhi, Defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders announced former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo as their mentor for the Indian Premier League 2025 season. The legendary fast bowler will replace Gautam

Gambhir, who left the mentor's role to take up the job of Indian national team's head coach. Dwayne Bravo will therefore end his association with Chennai Super Kings. Bravo was the bowling coach of the Super Kings in IPL 2024. Bravo's appointment comes hours after the all-rounder announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on Friday, September 27. Bravo, the highest wicket-taker in T20 history with 631 wickets in 582 matches, confirmed his decision following a groin injury that cut short his Caribbean Premier League (CPL) 2024 season. KKR CEO Venky Mysore confirmed that Bravo will be working with all other franchisees of the Knight Riders in the Caribbean Premier League, Major League Cricket in the United States and ILT20 in the UAE. "DJ Bravo joining us is a very exciting development. His deep desire to win wherever he plays, his extensive experience



and knowledge will benefit the franchise and all players immensely. We are also very pleased that he will be involved with all our other franchisees around the world - CPL, MLC & ILT20," Mysore said in a statement. Despite having played only for Mumbai

Indians and Chennai Super Kings in the IPL, the four-time IPL winner has a long association with the Knight Riders, having played the majority of his CPL career with the Trinbago Knight Riders. Bravo had retired from international cricket in 2021 but continued to participate in franchise cricket and took on coaching roles. Most recently, he worked with his IPL side Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and was named Afghanistan's bowling consultant for the 2024 T20 World Cup in the West Indies and the USA. During his storied career, Bravo became synonymous with T20 cricket, thanks to his ability to deliver under pressure, particularly with his slower balls and death-over bowling. He led Trinbago Knight Riders (TKR) to back-to-back CPL titles in 2017 and 2018 and guided St Kitts & Nevis Patriots to their maiden CPL title in 2021.



Triptii Dimri

Auditioned For Item Song But Was Rejected? Here's What We Know



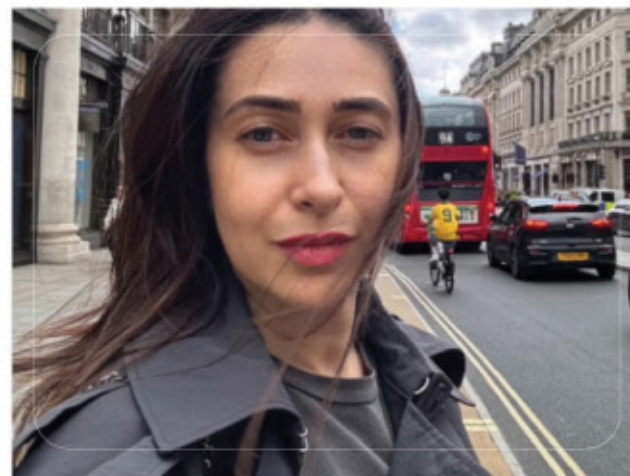
Triptii Dimri allegedly auditioned for Allu Arjun starrer Pushpa 2 but it is claimed that she did not impress the makers. The actress is the new rage in Bollywood. Ever since she starred in Animal, Triptii has been bagging movies after movies. This year alone, her filmography includes Bad Newz, Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video, Bhoor Bhooraiyaa 3 and Dhadak 2. If a new report is to be believed, Triptii was eyeing on ending the year with a bang with an item song in Pushpa: The Rule. However, it seems like her plans did not fall in place. "Triptii Dimri, the current sensation in Bollywood, was keen on being a part of Pushpa 2: The Rule through an item song. She even auditioned for the same," the source told Times Now. The grapevine added, "The makers auditioned Triptii Dimri, but rejected her." News18 Showsha has couldn't verify the claims at the time of reporting. However, this is not the first time that her name has been linked to Pushpa 2. Back in May, Bollywood Now had also claimed that Triptii and Pushpa 2 makers were in talks. At the time, it was claimed that she was roped in. However, the makers nor the actress addressed these claims. Meanwhile, Triptii has grabbed eyeballs with the song Mere Mehboob. Featuring in Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video, the song marks her first solo dance number. This is also the first time that she is sharing the screen with Rajkumar Rao. The film's much-awaited trailer was released recently and it has only piqued fans' interest in the film. The teaser takes us into the 90s and promises that the film will be '97% parivarik' and '3% maha parivarik'. As per the trailer, the story revolves around a CD containing an intimate video of a couple that leads to chaos in a small town. Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video will be out in theatres on October 11. On the other hand, Pushpa 2 is set to release in December. The film is headlined by Allu Arjun, and marks Rashmika Mandanna as well as Fahadh Faasil.



Karisma Kapoor

Is A Wildflower In Her Latest Instagram Entry. We Can't Stop Gushing

Away from the bustling streets of Mumbai, Karisma Kapoor is busy soaking in the beauty of London and how. The actress, on Thursday, took fans through her day in England with an eye-catching post on Instagram. The photo dump may want you to pack your bags right away. Sharing the same, she wrote, "In a world full of roses, be a wildflower." Roaming around the streets of London, Karisma Kapoor is seen proudly flaunting her ethereal beauty in the pictures. Her natural radiance shines through in every frame. A few images also depicted flowers and apparel. In the final slide, she attached a video strutting down the streets of the British Capital. For her exciting day out, Karisma wore an all-black ensemble comprising a black graphic printed T-shirt layered with an overcoat. Karisma Kapoor is set to make an appearance on The Great Indian Kapil Show with her sister Kareena Kapoor Khan. The filming for the episode was completed on Friday, September 20. However, the premiere date is yet to be confirmed. Their reunion for the comedy show comes as exciting news as they haven't been seen enough together on screen. A source close to the Netflix show, in an interaction with India Today Digital, shared that the episode emerged will feature the palpable chemistry and love between the sisters. "They opened up about their bond, growing up together, and further shared some lesser-known insights about each other. They were also seen having a gala time interacting with Kapil and the team," the source said. After her last role in Murder Mubarak streaming on Netflix, Karisma Kapoor is now gearing up for the upcoming OTT series Brown. The thriller series will witness a detective investigating the murder of a young woman who hails from a well-connected family. Apart from Karisma, the film also stars Helen, Ajinkya Deo and Soni Razdan in pivotal roles. Kareena Kapoor, on the other hand, was last seen in Hansal Mehta's The Buckingham Murders, released in cinemas on September 13. The film boasts a stellar cast including Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ash Tandon, Ranveer Brar and Keith Allen. It is directed by Hansal Mehta and jointly written by Aseem Arrora, Kashyap Kapoor and Raghav Raj Kakker. The film also marks Kareena Kapoor Khan's debut as a producer.



Who Was Yuvraj Singh's Girlfriend? Deepika Padukone to Kim Sharma, Actresses Linked To Him



Yuvraj Singh has the internet buzzing after he revealed he was dating an actress in 2007. In a recent podcast, Yuvraj revealed he was in a relationship with an actress and she followed him in Australia during team India's test tour of 2007-08. He decided to distance himself from her owing to his bad performance. While Yuvraj did not reveal the ex-girlfriend's identity, he did say that she is "very good at the moment and very experienced." The internet was quick to point a finger at Deepika Padukone. The actress was rumoured to be dating Yuvraj for a brief period. However, Deepika wasn't the only actress Yuvraj was linked with. Here's a look at the actresses he was rumoured to be dating before he got married in 2016.

Deepika Padukone-Yuvraj Singh:

Deepika Padukone and Yuvraj Singh were rumoured to be dating back in the early 2000s. As per Bollywood Shaadis website, Deepika and Yuvraj allegedly met during the first T20 World Cup, which took place in 2007. They became friends and eventually allegedly fell in love. However, their romance was short lived. She eventually started dating Ranbir Kapoor.

Kim Sharma and Yuvraj Singh

Before he was rumoured to be dating Deepika, Yuvraj was reportedly dating Kim Sharma. The Mohabbatein actress is said to have dated Yuvraj for four years before they parted ways in 2007. They have not opened up about their split. Despite their break up, the exes share a good bond today. They often wish each other on special events.

Riya Sen and Yuvraj Singh:

After his dating rumours with Deepika settled down, Yuvraj made headlines for his alleged romance with Riya Sen. NDTV reported back in 2011 that they met at a party and fell head over heels for each other. Their dating rumours also did not last long.

Preity Zinta and Yuvraj Singh:

Yuvraj and Preity also sparked the romance rumours as well. Yuvraj was captaining her IPL team, Kings XI Punjab, when the rumours of their alleged romance made headlines. In 2015, Preity denied the dating rumours.

When Ananya Panday Said She Inherited This Skill From Father Chunky Panday



Chunky Panday is celebrating another year today. Known for his iconic portrayal of Aakhri Pasta in the Housefull series, Chunky first rose to prominence in the late 1980s. From his debut film Aag Hi Aag (1987), he has consistently captivated audiences with his versatility, chocolate boy charm and charismatic screen presence. His ability to transition seamlessly between intense roles and comedic characters has made him a bankable star. Over the years, Chunky has experimented with roles in films like Tezaab, Aanhen and Begum Jaan, thus, making his place in the entertainment industry. As the actor celebrates his 62nd birthday today, September 26, let's look back at the time when Ananya spoke about her father's resilience and humour and said she wants to grow thick skin like her actor-father, Chunky Panday. In an interview with THE WEEK's Salon, Ananya Panday shared valuable lessons she learned from her father, Chunky Panday. Reflecting on his influence, she said, "I inherited the thick skin from my dad, just taking everything with a smile. He is all heart. And he always cracks the joke on himself first. He is like, Every Friday is like a cricket match; you either hit a six or you are going to get out. But there will be another ball after that. He never gives up." To mark the special occasion, the actress took a walk down memory lane and picked a gem from her memory trunk. She posted a slew of unseen photos on Instagram stories to wish her father. Ananya Panday also penned a sweet note that read, "Happy birthday, bestie." On the professional front, Ananya Panday last starred in Amazon Prime Video's Call Me Bae. Now, she is gearing up for the release of Vikramaditya Motwane's CTRL opposite Vihaan Samat. Mark your calendars! The cyberthriller will be available on Netflix from October 4. Chunky Panday, on the other hand, is all set to reprise his role as Aakhri Pasta in the fifth installation of the popular Housefull series. The movie boasts a star-studded cast, including Akshay Kumar, Abhishek Bachchan, Sanjay Dutt, Nana Patekar, Jacqueline Fernandez, Fardeen Khan, and Jackie Shroff.