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# The Sikh Times

## National Daily

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### Cong kept every important issue entangled: Modi

Sanjay Kumar

Palwal, Oct 1: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting ahead of Haryana Assembly elections, in Palwal,



Haryana, Tuesday, Oct 1, 2024. (PTI Photo) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday targeted the Congress, saying it kept every matter important for the country entangled,

as he hit out at the opposition party over several issues including reservation. Making a strong appeal to people to vote back the ruling BJP to power in Haryana in the October 5 polls, Modi said the Congress's politics is limited to false promises whereas the BJP's politics is to put in hard work and is result-oriented. Addressing his last poll rally in Palwal after having earlier addressed rallies at Kurukshetra, Gohana and Hisar last month for the Haryana polls, he said the BJP is going to come to power for a third consecutive term in the state. Attacking the Congress, Modi said its politics remains limited to false promises, whereas the BJP's politics is to put in hard work and is result-oriented. Those who looted rights of poor gave slogan of 'Garibi hatao', he said.

### Team Atishi, pothole hunting on city road

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct.1: Facing criticism of potholes and broken roads, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and her five cabinet ministers, accompanied by several Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders, including former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia and senior officials of Public Works Department (PWD) inspected roads in the national capital on Monday as part of the government's road assessment and repair initiative. This is the first time that the entire Delhi Cabinet was on the roads to assess the road's conditions. After the inspection, Atishi said that she found the roads at NSIC Okhla, Modi Mill flyover, Chirag Dilli, Tughlakabad, Mathura Road, Ashram Chowk and its underpass in a dilapidated condition. In a post on X, the chief minister said she found roads at NSIC Okhla, Modi Mill flyover, Chirag Dilli, Tughlakabad, Mathura Road, Ashram Chowk and its underpass in a dilapidated condition. There was a very big pothole at the U-turn at Modi Mill flyover. Also, the upper surface of the road was found broken. Due to which vehicles have to slow down here. All the pot-holes will be filled here and the road will be repaired within a week. The road at NSIC, Ring Road was cut towards the footpath due to laying of BSES wire, but the road was not repaired after laying the wire. At the Chirag Dilli flyover, many potholes were seen on the road below the flyover. Also, the black-top of the road was uprooted. The Tughlakabad Extension road was cut from the side due to laying of wire, but it was not repaired. Ashram Chowk is one of the busiest intersections in Delhi. During inspection here and in many parts of Mathura Road, large pot-holes were seen which are obstructing the traffic. Due to water on the road of Ashram Underpass, many pot-holes have been formed here too. Also, the black-top of the road has started getting uprooted. Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia inspected roads in east Delhi and found roads are bad condition. The road has been dug up in many places to lay the pipeline in Ganesh Nagar and it has not been repaired even after 4-5 months. Due to rainwater accumulation in many places, potholes have formed in the roads. Sisodia, in a post on X, alleged that the BJP sent him and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to jail in fake cases to stall the work being done by the AAP government for the people of Delhi. Minister Gopal Rai inspected Noor-Ilahi Road, Yamuna Vihar and Wazirabad Road in northeast Delhi.



### BJP, Congress, their alliance partners 'anti-reservation parties': Mayawati

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Yamunanagar, Oct 1: BSP leader Mayawati addressed an election rally in Chhachhrauli town of Jagadhri Assembly constituency from where Darshan Lal Khera is contesting Assembly election on INLD-BSP alliance ticket. Tribune photo Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati said that it was necessary to remove the BJP and Congress parties from power to save reservation as these parties and their alliance partners were anti-reservation parties. "Honourable Supreme Court gave a verdict in August 2024 holding that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The BJP government at the centre, the Congress and other political parties should have advocated properly in the court against the judgment, which they did not," alleged former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Mayawati. The BSP leader was addressing an election rally in Chhachhrauli town of Jagadhri Assembly constituency to seek votes for Darshan Lal Khera, who is contesting the Assembly election on INLD-BSP alliance ticket. Alliance candidates Dilbag Singh from Yamunanagar Assembly constituency, Dharam Pal Tigra from Raduar Assembly constituency and Brijpal Chhappar from Sadhaura Assembly constituency were also present in the rally. Mayawati said that after the judgment of the Supreme Court, the BJP government at the Centre with the help of Congress and other political parties should have amended the Constitution calling a special session of the Parliament, but they didn't do so, showing their intention against reservation. She added state governments would make the reservation ineffective, which had been given to SCs and STs to address educational, social and economic disparity.



ties from power to save reservation as these parties and their alliance partners were anti-reservation parties. "Honourable Supreme Court gave a verdict in August 2024 holding that states are constitutionally empowered to make sub-classifications within the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The BJP government at the centre, the Congress and other political parties should have advocated properly in the court against the judgment, which they did not," alleged former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Mayawati. The BSP leader was addressing an election rally in Chhachhrauli town of Jagadhri Assembly constituency to seek votes for Darshan Lal Khera, who is contesting the Assembly election on INLD-BSP alliance ticket. Alliance candidates Dilbag Singh from Yamunanagar Assembly constituency, Dharam Pal Tigra from Raduar Assembly constituency and Brijpal Chhappar from Sadhaura Assembly constituency were also present in the rally. Mayawati said that after the judgment of the Supreme Court, the BJP government at the Centre with the help of Congress and other political parties should have amended the Constitution calling a special session of the Parliament, but they didn't do so, showing their intention against reservation. She added state governments would make the reservation ineffective, which had been given to SCs and STs to address educational, social and economic disparity.

### CBI arrests ex-Bengal minister Partha Chatterjee in teacher recruitment case

Kolkata, Oct 1: CBI arrested former Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee in the teacher recruitment case on Tuesday. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Tuesday arrested former Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee in the teacher recruitment case. Chatterjee has been arrested eight months after the federal agency filed supplementary chargesheets in four separate cases related to the alleged bribe-for-job scam, naming him in all four documents as one of the prime accused. The development comes hours after the Supreme Court sought a reply from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Chatterjee's bail plea in the case. In July 2022, the ED arrested Chatterjee in connection with the alleged West Bengal School Service Commission (SSC) teacher recruitment scam. Chatterjee was previously lodged at the Presidency Correctional Home in May this year. The central agency had earlier recovered over ₹21 crore cash from the house of Arpita Mukherjee, an associate of Chatterjee.



दिल्ली सरकार  
आप की सरकार

## Be the change that you want to see in the world

- Mahatma Gandhi

## Happy Gandhi Jayanti

"Bapu, who dedicated his entire life to India's freedom and humanity, dreamt of a nation where every child receives excellent education, every sick person gets proper treatment, and there is harmony in society. Following in his footsteps, we will lay the foundation for an educated and developed India"

-Atishi

Chief Minister, Delhi



Directorate of Information and Publicity, Govt. of NCT of Delhi

DIP/Shabdarthi/Display/0021/24-25

## News box

### BMC & police raid Girgaum restobar's illegal hookah parlour

**Mumbai.** Following complaints of an illegal hookah parlour operating in a Girgaum restobar, a civic and police team seized 36 hookah pipes, 'sheesha' and two-and-a-half sacks of coal, among other paraphernalia, from it.

According to BMC officials, Hustle Restro and Bar on the fourth floor of Patel Chambers had an eating house licence and was operating the hookah parlour illegally. Prior to that, officials of the fire department had inspected the premises, where the ground floor is used for commercial purposes and upper floors for residential and commercial purposes, and the operators had produced a fire safety compliance certificate. "We initiated action against the bar after complaints and an independent report from the fire department. We will be keeping the premises under supervision. If the operators of the bar are found to continue the activity, then an offence sheet will be filed in court," said a BMC official.

### Boy (2) gets into fire service duct, falls 15 floors to death

**Mumbai.** A two-year-old boy fell to his death after slipping out of his flat from an SRA tower's fire brigade access duct on the 15th floor in Nehru Nagar, Kurla. Residents accused the builder of negligence, saying the building has been under construction for years. Police said when the father of Izaan Shaikh left for work on Saturday, he accidentally left the door open. Seeing the door ajar and curious to see where his father had gone, the boy stepped out of the flat soon after, climbed the passage wall of the fire brigade access duct and fell down, they said. His mother was at a hospital at the time and his grandmother was offering prayers inside the home.

Passersby found the child and alerted the family. The body was declared dead at the hospital. Nehru Nagar police said that prima facie they have registered an accidental death report and are looking to any potential negligence on the part of the builder. "We have written to the public works department, BMC and SRA to provide various reports on the building and whether there was any negligence on the part of the builder," said an official. tnn

### As Mumbai gears up for Navratri, govt permits use of loudspeakers till midnight only on 3 days

**MUMBAI.** The state govt has permitted the use of loudspeakers until midnight on three specific days during Navratri, with a 10pm limit on the remaining festival days.

Mumbai police officials said they have set up a one-window system for all applications for permission to erect mandals and loudspeaker permissions. Police have asked the mandals to follow the permitted sound decibel levels and be cautious, and alert police if they see anything suspicious.

Close on the heels of Ganpati, which ended two weeks ago, Navratri is set to bring more festive cheer. Idols of goddesses Durga and Amba are being prepared with artisans giving their final touches, following which they will be installed in pandals across the city. On Sep 27, mock drills were conducted at places like Bhaucha Dhakka, Barkat Ali Road, Iskon temple in Juhu, and Zaveri Bazar to check their security preparedness.

### Newborn baby found buried in Bengaluru, rescued

**BENGALURU.** A newborn baby boy who was buried alive, was rescued by an alert villager who had gone to attend nature's call in Katriguppe Dinne village in Sarjapur police station limits around 9am Monday.

Police suspect the accused must have buried the baby in the dark, when there were few people around. The baby is suspected to have survived for two to three hours. Luckily, street dogs did not spot the baby as it was covered with mud.

The villager saw the baby by chance, after hearing him cry. The baby was buried near some bushes in a secluded area. Luckily, he was not buried deep inside, and was covered loosely with mud. The villager lifted the baby and brushed off the mud before informing others. News spread among the other villagers who informed the jurisdictional Sarjapur police.

The baby was admitted to Dommasandra government hospital for treatment. Doctors said since he was rescued on time, he is recovering with minor injuries. Police notified the district child protection unit to take custody of the baby.

"Asha from the child protection unit and her team visited the hospital and are looking into the matter. The baby is out of danger. We are checking CCTV footage of the area to get clues about the accused. It appears the accused are not locals, and they buried the baby in a hurry, fearing they would get caught," said an officer.

# 67 cases against seer over Prophet Mohammed remarks, Bombay High Court told

The government told the court that the objectionable material containing Mahant Ramgiri Maharaj's alleged derogatory remarks, which was shared online, is being taken down by the cyber crime police.

**Mumbai.** The Maharashtra government submitted before the Bombay High Court that about 67 FIRs have been registered across the state against religious leader Mahant Ramgiri Maharaj over his alleged derogatory remarks against Islam and Prophet Mohammed at an event in Nashik.

The government further told the court on Monday that the objectionable material containing the alleged derogatory remarks, which was shared online, is being taken down by the cyber crime police.

Maharashtra Advocate General Dr Birendra Saraf made this submission while opposing a petition which sought registration of an FIR against Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde for sharing a stage with Ramgiri Maharaj after FIRs were registered against him. The petition had been filed by advocate Mohammad Wasi Sayed and others, alleging



that since 2014 there is "a steep rise in communal incidents and systematic Islamophobic customs are protected and conserved by the state and Union governments, thereby giving rise to moblynchings, riots, and boycotting of Muslims". Advocate Ejaz Naqvi on Monday, representing the petitioners, argued that instead of initiating action against Ramgiri

Maharaj, Shinde shared a stage with him and made a statement that saints would be protected in the state. Similarly, Naqvi pointed to inflammatory speeches delivered by BJP MLA Nitesh Rane as well, and that no action was taken against him.

However, the bench of Justices Revati Mohite-Dere and Prithviraj Chavan, noted that petitions concerning taking down of Ramgiri Maharaj's videos and registration of FIRs in instances of alleged hate speech by Rane are already being heard by it.

Regarding hate speech, the bench said, "We can't stop them from giving speeches, but the police are taking action and registering FIRs wherever they can." "Just because they (Eknath Shinde and Ramgiri) are sharing a stage, it does not mean that FIR should be registered. You have to show malafides. If there is a breach, there are FIRs being

registered. You (Naqvi) are making the issue political. When you digress from the core issue, then this is what happens. Your core issue is to take down videos."

Saraf too opposed the plea by saying that FIRs against Ramgiri Maharaj were already registered and that till September 19, 67 FIRs had been registered.

Opposing the petition, Saraf said, "One cannot initiate proceedings like this," and stressed that the Chief Minister's name should be deleted from the list of respondents in the petition.

The bench agreed and threatened to impose costs on the petitioners. The bench directed Naqvi to modify his prayers and delete all the respondents except cyber police and local police officials. The bench said, "Police have a mechanism. They will deal with this." The bench will further hear the petition on October 17.

## Andhra Pradesh launches skill census in Mangalagiri on pilot basis



**Amaravati.** The Andhra Pradesh government launched the skill census project, the first of its kind in India, on a

pilot basis in Mangalagiri and Thullur Mandal. The exercise will be conducted in 100 villages, for which the village

secretaries have already been given the permission to login. A total of 675 enumerators will visit 1,61,421 families, 1,35,914 in Mangalagiri segment and 25,507 houses in Thullur Mandal, to gather information for the census, the government said in a release.

A mobile application has been designed for collecting data for the census and the enumerators have undergone the necessary training to use it.

A technical team has been constituted to assist the field teams and the mapping has already been completed. Officials from the Skill Development Headquarters will closely monitor the progress of the pilot project and any issues will be corrected before taking up the exercise across the state, official sources said on Monday.

The primary objective of the skill census is to identify the talent in the youngsters and extend the necessary training to them before providing them better employment opportunities.

## 'Strange phenomenon in Kerala capital skies was heat lightning'

The rare phenomenon had stirred up a discussion among residents and the observatory had received several phone calls from the public seeking explanation regarding the phenomenon.

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** The unusual light seen in the eastern skies of the capital city on Sunday night was 'heat lightning'. R Jayakrishnan, Honorary Director of the Astronomical Observatory of the University of Kerala, has said.

The rare phenomenon had stirred up a discussion among residents and the observatory had received several phone calls from the public seeking explanation regarding the phenomenon.

"Heat lightning is a term commonly used to describe lightning from a distant thunderstorm which is too far away that the actual cloud-to-ground flash cannot be seen nor the accompanying thunder can be heard," he explained.

The movement of sound in the atmosphere depends on the temperature and density of air. As temperature and density vary with height, the sound of the thunder is refracted through the troposphere. This refraction results in spaces through which the thunder does not propagate.

"Many think that heat lightning is a specific type of lightning. But in fact, it is simply the light produced by a distant thunderstorm. Often, mountains, hills, trees or just the curvature of the earth prevents the observer from seeing the actual lightning flash," Jayakrishnan added.

The faint flash seen by the observer is the light being reflected off higher-level clouds. Also, the thunder can only be

heard for about 10 miles from a flash. This sound often reflects off the Earth's surface and the resultant rumbling sound is partly due to these reflections. This reflection and refraction can leave voids where thunder cannot be heard.

According to the scientist, the troposphere usually reflects the light, and leaves out the sound.

In such cases, some fraction of the light emanating from distant thunderstorms, whose clouds may be so low to the horizon as to be essentially invisible, is scattered by the upper atmosphere and thus visible to remote observers. Scattering by different constituents in the air results in various colors, he added.

## 30 hurt after KSRTC bus overturns on Mysuru Road

Around five passengers have suffered serious injuries and were admitted to MIMS Hospital.

**MYSURU.** More than 30 passengers, including students, were injured after the KSRTC bus they were travelling in struck a stationary car and overturned on the service road of the Mysuru-Bengaluru access-controlled highway near Sanjo Hospital in Mandya on Monday.

The bus, which was ferrying around 60 passengers from Tumakuru to Mysuru around 9.50 am, took a sudden turn to enter the service road. As the bus was travelling at high speed, bus driver Shashikumar is alleged to have lost control of the vehicle, hitting the canter. More than 30 passengers were injured in the accident, and were admitted to Sanjo Hospital and MIMS Hospital by the people.

It is said that a majority of the passengers were women and students. Around five passengers have suffered serious injuries and were admitted to MIMS Hospital. The accident could have been severe, if the canter was not parked at the place as the bus would have come in contact with an electric transformer.

Meanwhile, bus driver Shashikumar, who too was injured in the accident and was admitted to MIMS hospital, denied that the bus was at high speed.

He claimed that the vehicle was going at 40 kmph and the accident happened due to



brake lever jam. MLA P Ravikumar, DC Kumar and SP Mallikarjun Baladandi visited the spot and the hospital where the injured are admitted. Mandya Rural police have

registered a case. Ravikumar alleged that poor quality and unscientific work of the Mysuru-Bengaluru access-controlled highway have led to accidents on a regular basis. "The number of accidents had reduced in recent times after ADGP Alok Kumar installed CCTV cameras and initiated stringent actions against violators. The accident has taken place due to unscientific work," he claimed.

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NEWS BOX

### Four of 'Pardi' gang arrested for looting Gzb jewellery shop

**Ghaziabad.** Four members of 'Pardi' gang, two of whom carried rewards of Rs 50,000 each on their arrest, were nabbed following a gunfight in Loni on Monday. The accused, from Guna district of MP, had allegedly stolen jewellery from a shop in Loni in Jan and fled with valuables worth Rs 50 lakh. The arrested accused -- Bhagat Pardi (22), Khalnayak Pardi (23), Vinod Pardi (55), and Rahul Pardi (24) -- belong to the Pardi tribe of Madhya Pradesh and have robbed houses and shops in different states, said ACP (Ankur Vihar) Bhaskar Verma. Two country-made pistols with live cartridges and some silver coins were recovered from their possession. Police spotted the suspects while checking the Loni border. Cops said they followed two of them when they did not stop despite their directions and tried to flee. "The two accused fired at the cops. In a retaliatory gunfight, they received bullet injuries. The other two were arrested during combing. During the interrogation, they revealed they were on their way to rob another shop in Loni," the ACP added. The gang members would receive different target areas for robbery under the garb of hawkers selling balloons and toys. They would observe people's schedules and decide their targets accordingly," he said. Explaining the modus operandi, he added, "The gang would divide itself into three groups. One would rob houses masked with weapons and rods, another would keep a watch outside for police, and the others would flee with valuables."

### Woman who lost 9L in job fraud kills self, father-son duo held

**Ghaziabad.** A father-son duo was charged with abetment to suicide on Sunday after a woman, who was cheated of nearly Rs 10 lakh on the pretext of a job at the home ministry, hung herself earlier this month. On Sept 13, 34-year-old Deepa, a resident of Ram Nagar pipe market in Sahibabad, hung herself from a ceiling fan at home. She used to run a public service centre near her house. After her death, her husband Vikash Vana filed a complaint against two people, alleging that they had defrauded his wife, leading to her death. The accused were identified as Sandeep Shival, a resident of Indraprastha Colony in Tila Mor, and his son Yashi Shival. Vana told cops that the accused were acquainted with his family. In Oct last year, Sandeep came to the centre Deep ran and introduced his brother-in-law as an official from the ministry of home affairs. He allegedly promised Deepa he could get her a job at the ministry and could also get her children admission at a central school. "Subsequently, Deepa discussed the admission of her two children and her brother's daughters. The accused took Rs 40,000 for admission to Shahdara KV and provided some ID cards. Later, in January, they started taking money from her under the pretence of securing a job," he said. Deepa gave the accused around Rs 9.5 lakh over some time. The accused even provided her with a fake joining letter. However, neither her job nor her children's admission was ever actually finalised. "When my wife asked them to return the money, the accused threatened her with consequences. When she didn't find any solution, she committed suicide. We learnt about it after checking her phone and then we made a police complaint," Vana added. An FIR has been registered against Sandeep and his son under BNS Section 108 (abetment of suicide). "One team has been formed to nab the accused, but both are absconding at the moment," ACP (Sahibabad) Rajneesh Upadhyay said. In another case, a 20-year-old law student allegedly jumped to her death from the 8th floor of a building in Swam Residency in Sahibabad on Sunday night.

### Festive relief No planned shutdown till Nov 15: Discom

**Noida.** The power department will launch a maintenance drive from Tuesday to Nov 15. Officials said there will be no planned shutdown during the upcoming festivals, like Navratri and Diwali. Special teams will be deployed around Durga puja pandals and Ramlila grounds to fix faults or address electrical snags. Maintenance and repair work addressing tripping, overloading, network distribution, and equipment replacement will also be done across GB Nagar. Faulty cables, rusty poles, overloaded transformers, and switch gears will be repaired during this period. The most affected areas are rural parts of the district like Sudamapuri, Etehra, Bishnoli in Dadra, while in urban areas sectors 46, 47, 158, Surajpur are more prone to outages because of poor equipment and old, dilapidated infrastructure. Under the maintenance drive, the power department has begun to identify cable lines of 33 kV with maximum faults, either due to damaged switch gear or dilapidated cables. Plans are also underway to assess damaged poles, faulty cables, overloaded transformers, and fix dual source cables which have been damaged because of digging. "The maintenance and repair drive will conclude on Nov 15. During this period, both long and short-term work will be undertaken. Short-term tenders will also be issued to address smaller electrical snags and get them fixed within days," Harish Bansal, chief zonal engineer of the Noida power department, PVVNL, told TOI. For seamless supply during festivals, the power department will deploy special teams. "I have sought a list of puja pandals and Ramlila grounds to ensure that electrical safety measures are in place there. Special teams will be deployed at those locations to fix any faults and safety issues there," said Bansal.

# Most voters here, Fbd seeks way out of clutter

**Faridabad.** With almost 18 lakh voters, Faridabad district, which comprises six assembly constituencies, is the biggest in Haryana. The upcoming elections are likely to be a closely contested affair here, with crumbling civic infrastructure and lack of metro connectivity emerging as the key poll planks. Dhanesh Adlakha — BJP's candidate from Badkhal, where minister Seema Trikha is the outgoing MLA — has promised voters that he will transform the assembly constituency's civic infrastructure "within 100 days". "As the MLA, I will focus on civic amenities, with a focus on the drainage network and other civic infrastructure. We will rope in RWAs to streamline the system. I have been a councillor for 15 years in the city. So, I am aware of the issues that locals are facing. The garbage management problem worsened after the contract with Ecogreen was terminated," he said. While Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini has visited the district once — he visited NIT and Tigaon constituencies on Sept 24 — Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath hit the campaign trail in Faridabad NIT on Saturday. Vijay Pratap Singh, the Congress candidate from Badkhal, has promised Faridabad-Gurgaon metro connectivity, a degree college and a trauma centre, removal of the Gurgaon-Fbd toll and stray animal control in his poll manifesto. "The local civic issues which require immediate attention include sewerage, solid waste and roads. Another issue that we will work on is metro connectivity, which is urgently required because a lot of people from Faridabad travel to Gurgaon daily. We will also work to resolve the problems faced by the public regarding property IDs, family ID and other govt portals," he said. Former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda visited Badkhal and Dushyant Chautala Tigaon the same day, Sept 24, to campaign for Congress candidates. Hooda also promised a sports city and metro connectivity to Gurgaon and Palwal. Ravji Dagar, the AAP candidate from Faridabad NIT constituency, said voters have been "exploited and deprived of basic civic amenities". "Roads are broken, and sewage is overflowing onto most roads. Heaps of garbage are dumped along roads and waste management is a major issue in the area, which will be resolved. I'll also ensure round-the-clock power supply in the area," he said. Residents, meanwhile, are frustrated with such promises. "The BJP-led govt announced metro connectivity to Gurgaon several years ago, but no progress has been made. Given the current rate of work, it appears that this will be yet another broken promise.

Metro connectivity is vital because a significant number of workers from Faridabad travel to Gurgaon every day. Politicians shouldn't make such promises if they have no intention of fulfilling them," said Surender Sharma, another resident. "Faridabad's infrastructure has not kept up with the standards expected from an NCR city. Despite the city's proximity to the national capital, we are facing numerous challenges, including potholed roads, choked drains and sewage overflow, waterlogging, garbage dumping and insufficient streetlights. Urban voters prioritise these issues when casting their ballots. But in the older areas of the city, voters tend to support candidates from their own communities and castes. For them, these issues take a backseat and caste plays a pivotal role," said Manisha Bhadana, a resident of Sector 16. "The key election issue is the lack of proper infrastructure. Even newly-built roads deteriorate quickly as corruption is rampant. Rain floods roads due to poor drainage, power supply is erratic and we are supplied dirty drinking water. Pollution is also a big issue as Faridabad is one of the country's most polluted cities, yet no politician is talking about it. Garbage is scattered everywhere and stray cattle, dogs and monkeys are a menace. Our MLA hasn't even visited our area even once after being," said Rattan Singh, a resident of Sector 15. Former councillor Adlakha of BJP is contesting against Congress' Vijay Pratap in the Badkhal assembly segment. Pratap is the son of former minister Mahender Pratap, who unsuccessfully contested the Lok Sabha elections against Krishan Pal Gurjar. Faridabad NIT will witness a battle between outgoing MLA Neeraj Sharma of Congress, BJP's Satish Phagna, and Nagender Bhadana, who is contesting as an Independent after being denied a ticket by BJP. Cow vigilante Bittu Bajrang, an accused in the Nuh riots case, is also contesting from the NIT segment. In the Faridabad assembly segment, the contest will be between Vipul Goel (BJP), who served as an MLA here from 2014 to 2019, and Congress candidate Lakhan Singla, who lost the last Assembly polls from the same seat by a margin of 21,000 votes to BJP's Narender Gupta. In 2014, Singla, who was fielded by Congress from Ballabgarh, had lost to BJP's Mool Chand Sharma. Ballabgarh is set for a three-cornered contest between Mool Chand Sharma, Parag Sharma from Congress, and Sharda Rathore, who is contesting as an Independent after being denied a ticket by the Congress.

# Alto crashes into tractor head-on, four out for late-night dinner die

**Noida.** Four friends died while one suffered injuries after the Maruti Alto in which they were travelling crashed into a tractor on a two-way road in Sector 11 early on Monday. Police said the five were returning to Delhi after a late-night dinner in Noida when they crashed into the tractor around 2am. A passerby called the police helpline number to inform them about the accident. "A team rushed to the accident spot from Sector 24 police station. The five occupants were brought out of the mangled car and the tractor seized. Its driver had fled the spot, leaving the vehicle behind," said DCP Rambadan Singh. All residents of New Kondli, Mohit, Vishal, Himanshu, Manish Singh and Uttam — all in their late twenties — headed for dinner at a Noida restaurant. "After having dinner, they were on their way back home when the car collided with the tractor near H Block in Sector 11. The tractor was carrying garbage and collided with the car head-on," the senior officer said. Mohit, Vishal and Himanshu were declared dead when police took them to a hospital. While Manish succumbed to injuries during treatment, Uttam — who was seated behind — was discharged after first-aid. "All of them worked in call centres and malls in various capacities," Singh said. "Himanshu owned the car and was behind the wheel at the time of the

accident. Preliminary investigation revealed that it was speeding on the empty road when the tractor appeared suddenly," he added. Following a complaint by Uttam, a case was registered under sections 106(1) (causing death by negligence), 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others), and 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way) of BNS at Sector 24 police station. Chief minister Yogi offered condolences to the families of the four friends who died. "My office is actively coordinating with the local administration to ensure that necessary steps are taken to assist the victims' families and address any further safety concerns on the roads," the CM said.

# 41-yr-old handed life term for killing wife, 2 daughters over dowry in 2011

**Noida:** A Surajpur court on Monday found a 41-year-old man guilty of killing his wife and two minor daughters over dowry demands in 2011 and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Four of his family members were also awarded two years in jail. The case dates to Jan 2011, when Parmanand, a resident of Kudi Khara village in Greater Noida, filed a complaint alleging that his daughter Bhumika (24) and two granddaughters were missing for two days. Bhumika got married to Omdutt, a factory worker in 2004, and the couple had three children — two daughters aged 5 and 2, and a son (3). Parmanand alleged that Omdutt, then 28 years old, his parents Kalicharan Sharma and Harwati, and two brothers Satish and Suresh, were demanding Rs 1 lakh as dowry from Bhumika. "They physically and mentally tortured her. Twenty days before she went missing, Omdutt dropped Bhumika to her maternal home and said she should only return when she had Rs 1 lakh. We later asked her to return to her husband's place," Parmanand said in the complaint. He told cops that Omdutt's neighbours called them on Jan 12 and told them that Bhumika and the two girls were missing. "Omdutt told cops during interrogation that he strangled Bhumika and his daughters Sakshi (5) and Prachi (2) on Jan 10. He then dumped their bodies into the Upper Ganga Canal after throwing acid on their faces," said Ratan Singh Bhati, additional district govt counsel. Police on Jan 13 recovered the bodies of Bhumika and Sakshi in the canal in Badalpur, but could not find Prachi's remains. Omdutt was arrested on Jan 14. His parents and brothers were also charged under the Dowry Prohibition Act, and the trial began on May 11, 2011. Dr Rakesh Kumar, who had carried out the post-mortem examinations, told

# Court summons 4 of AOA who took money to keep pets in condo

**Noida.** A Surajpur court has issued summons to four former and current AOA members of ATS Greens Paradiso in Greater Noida following a complaint by a resident that she was illegally charged an annual fee of Rs 1,000 to keep her pet in the society. Shweta Kundiari, the complainant, alleged that when she moved into the society in Feb 2022, she was told that residents who had pets must pay a

Haleja and Somveer — but no action was taken against the AOA. Haleja and Somveer are no longer members of the AOA. "It was then that my client approached the court. The court took cognisance of the matter and issued summons to four former and current members under Section 506 (criminal intimidation) of BNS," said Gautam. The next hearing is scheduled for Nov 15. According to animal

# A drain runs through it: Panel to probe what's killing Surajpur trees

**Noida.** The Greater Noida authority has set up a panel to probe how untreated industrial effluents were making way into the Surajpur wetland, where numerous trees died earlier this year. The committee, comprising three senior officials from the Greater Noida authority, with representatives from the district forest office, irrigation department, and pollution department, will investigate and submit a comprehensive report on the wetland's status by the end of this week. The complainant, Vikrant Tongad, said, "I already sent two complaints regarding the matter. Despite the formation of a joint inspection team, there has been no action on the ground. No steps have been taken against those discharging untreated water into the wetland and causing loss of vegetation." Environmentalist Vikrant Tongad claimed there are about 100 industrial units near the wetland and most of them were discharging untreated water into the wetland. "We have already lost more than dozens of trees and many more will be destroyed if this continues," he said.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as GOLU S/O PYARE LAL R/O J-1164, MANGOL PURI, MANGOLPUR N-BLOCK, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110083 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NISHANT.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Rahul Jindal & Mrs. Faruq Jindal are the owner of Freehold Residential House Bearing Municipal No. 212, land area measuring 155 Sq. Yds. situated at Ward No. XV, Ghee Mandi, Paharganj, New Delhi-110001. The said Sale Deed dated 12.12.2023 as Doc. No. 11526 Vol. No. 20285 Page No. 9-25 Dated 12.12.2023 SR0-III, New Delhi & Sale Deed dated 12.12.2023 as Doc. No. 11527 Vol. No. 20285 Page No. 29-42 SR0-III, New Delhi. In the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. (1) Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mrs. Saraswati Devi Sawhney, (2) Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mr. Brij Mohan Sawhney, (3) Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mr. Charan Lal Sawhney, (4) Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mr. Mangal Sain, (5) Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mr. Vinod Sawhney & (6) Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mr. Deepak Kumar Sawhney now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been finance by ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd., Branch: NSP, Delhi. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RAJ BALA mother of NO-3010378H Rank-L/HAV Name- PAWAN KUMAR residing at VILL-REDHJWAS, POKHAWADA, TEH-KAATHEHAIL, DIST-JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124109 have changed my name from RAJ BALA to BALA for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 01/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RAJ BALA mother of NO-3010378H Rank-L/HAV Name- PAWAN KUMAR residing at VILL-REDHJWAS, POKHAWADA, TEH-KAATHEHAIL, DIST-JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124109 have changed my name from RAJ BALA to BALA for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 01/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**INDIAN RAILWAYS**  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)  
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)  
(RAILWAY BOARD)  
New Delhi, dated: 01.10.2024  
**CORRIGENDUM-XI**  
Subject : E-Tender No. TM-2303 for procurement of Rail Borne Maintenance Vehicle "RBMV" for Indian Railways to be opened on 06.11.2024  
The date of opening of above mentioned tender due on 04.10.2024 has been postponed to 06.11.2024.  
All other terms and conditions of the subject tender remain unchanged.  
(Vijay Singh)  
Executive Director/Track (M&MC)  
Railway Board  
Tel: No. 011-47845531  
Email: vijay.singh.2017@gov.in  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, CHANDANI KUMARI W/O KRANTI KUMAR residing at H NO-212 BLOCK-1 SHIV DURGA VIHAR NEW PLOK, FACTORY LAKKARPUR AMAR NAGAR FARIDABAD HARYANA-121003 have changed my name to CHANDNI KUMARI for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RAJ BALA mother of NO-3010378H Rank-L/HAV Name- PAWAN KUMAR residing at VILL-REDHJWAS, POKHAWADA, TEH-KAATHEHAIL, DIST-JHAJJAR, HARYANA-124109 have changed my name from RAJ BALA to BALA for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 01/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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**NAME CHANGE**  
I, KHATUN BANU Wife of CAPT HAFIZ KHAN (Retd.) Presently residing at PLOT NO-218, SANJAY NAGAR-E, JHOTIWARA, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN-302012 have changed my name from KHATUN BANU to KHATOON BANU for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RIMPA DAS wife of NO-15429534N Rank-HAV Name- SATYENGO DAS R/O VILL-SURULI, PO-SRINIKETAN, TEH-BOLPUR, DIST-BIRBHUM, WEST BENGAL-731236 have changed my name from RIMPA DAS to RIMPA DUTTA DAS for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 01/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, JITTENDER KUMAR S/O YED VRAT SHARMA residing at 24 A 243 B BLOCK VIKAS VIHAR VIKAS NAGAR D.K. MOHAN GARDEN DWARKA DELHI-110059 have changed my name to JITTENDER KUMAR PANDYA for all future purpose.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, RAJIV KUMAR S/O RAJ KISHOR R/O C-29 VISHWAS PARK UTTAM NAGAR NEW DELHI 110059 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM RAJIV KUMAR GUPTA TO RAJIV KUMAR FOR ALL IN FUTURE PURPOSE

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Sarmila Devi W/o Mr. Sube Singh is the owner of Freehold Residential House No. K-39, area measuring 557.95 Sq. Meters, out of Kharsa No. 309M1, situated in the Village Chaura Sadatpur Mazra Bisnupura, Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P. By Virtue of Gift Deed dated 26.09.2024 duly registered in the office SRO-108-I, Gautam Buddha Nagar. Vide Document No. 11848, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 13154, on Page No. 1-16, on dated 26.09.2024. Now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been finance by Pirama Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Shahdara Delhi. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.  
(NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA)  
Advocate  
F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-20110, Contact at 09956871432

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, KHATUN BANU Wife of CAPT HAFIZ KHAN (Retd.) Presently residing at PLOT NO-218, SANJAY NAGAR-E, JHOTIWARA, JAIPUR, RAJASTHAN-302012 have changed my name from KHATUN BANU to KHATOON BANU for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 01/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
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**NAME CHANGE**  
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News box

Bangladesh sees fresh protests over increasing age limit for government jobs

**World** Protesters took to the streets of Dhaka on Monday demanding the Bangladesh caretaker government to increase the age limit from 31 to 35 for government jobs. The fresh protest in the capital city came as the crisis-hit nation is still recovering from the political turmoil that erupted in August, leading to the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. On Monday morning, the protesters gathered in front of the National Museum in the city's Shahbagh. From there, they started their march to Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus's official residence, Jamuna in Minto Road. According to local media reports, the protesters ignored a police restriction on rallies and gatherings in front of the Chief Advisor's residence and attempted to occupy the premises. As the protest march proceeded, police personnel deployed in the area tried to block the demonstrators from moving ahead, leading to clashes and scuffles between the two sides. In an attempt to disperse the protesters, the police then resorted to firing tear gas shells and rubber bullets. This is not the first time that Bangladesh witnessed protests demanding an increase to the age limit. During Sheikh Hasina's Awami League-led regime, several such demonstrations took place, but the then government rejected the demand. Despite the formation of a new caretaker government in the wake of the political crisis two months ago, lawlessness is still evident across Bangladesh.

Israeli troops enter Hezbollah tunnels amid ongoing ground raids in Lebanon

**World** The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Tuesday announced that it began "limited, localised and targeted" ground raids against Hezbollah targets and infrastructure in southern Lebanon, in yet another escalation of the ongoing hostilities between the Jewish nation and the Iran-backed Lebanese militant group. Meanwhile, a Wall Street Journal report said that Israeli troops had already entered Hezbollah tunnels near the nation's border with Lebanon before the IDF made the ground invasion announcement on Tuesday morning. The army said the targets were located in villages close to the Israel-Lebanon border and "pose an immediate threat to Israeli communities in northern Israel". Just hours before the IDF announcement, Israel warned residents in Dahieh, a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut's southern suburbs, to evacuate. The warning was followed by a series of strikes in Beirut. The IDF's ground operation comes days after Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut. Meanwhile, more than 1,000 people have died in the past two weeks since the cross-border hostilities first started, while up to a million others are likely to have been displaced.

Turkey's Erdogan urges UN to recommend force if Israel doesn't stop attacks

**Ankara.** Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that the United Nations General Assembly should recommend the use of force, in line with a resolution it passed in 1950, if the UN Security Council fails to stop Israel's attacks in Gaza and Lebanon. NATO member Turkey has denounced Israel's devastating attack in Gaza against Palestinian militant group Hamas, and condemned its recent attacks in Lebanon targeting Hezbollah militants. It has halted all trade with Israel and applied to join a genocide case against Israel at the World Court, which Israel rejects. "The UN General Assembly should rapidly implement the authority to recommend the



use of force, as it did with the 1950 Uniting for Peace resolution, if the Security Council can't show the necessary will," Erdogan said after a cabinet meeting in Ankara. The resolution says the UN General Assembly can step in if disagreements among the Security Council's five permanent veto-wielding powers - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States - mean they fail to maintain international peace. The Security Council is the only UN body that can normally make legally binding decisions, such as authorising use of force and imposing sanctions.

Erdogan also said he was sad to see Muslim countries failing to take a more active stance against Israel, urging them to take economic, diplomatic, and political measures against Israel to pressure it into accepting a ceasefire.

"For the peace of everyone in our region, from Muslim to Jew to Christian, we call on the international community and Muslim world to mobilise," Erdogan said, adding Israel's attacks would target Muslim countries too if it is not stopped soon.

'Trump took my dad', says Rudy Giuliani's daughter as she backs Kamala Harris

On September 23, a federal appeals court permanently disbarred Rudy Giuliani from practising law in Washington D.C. for the efforts he made to discredit the 2020 election results and prevent the transition of power after Trump lost the polls.

**World** Caroline Rose Giuliani, the daughter of Donald Trump's former lawyer Rudy Giuliani, has endorsed Democratic nominee Kamala Harris for the upcoming US presidential election and declared that she was "grieving the loss of my dad to Trump. I cannot bear to lose our country to him too". In an article for Vanity Fair magazine, Caroline Rose Giuliani said that she wanted to "remind Americans of just how calamitous being associated with Trump can be, even for those who are convinced he's on their side". "Watching my dad's life crumble since he joined forces with Trump has been extraordinarily painful, both on a personal level and because his demise feels linked to a dark force that threatens to once again consume America," she added. Rudy Giuliani, a politician and lawyer, served as the Mayor of New York City from 2001 to 2004. He formally joined Trump's personal

legal team in April 2018, almost two years after advising the latter during his first presidential campaign in 2016. He remained on Trump's team during the 2020 election. Caroline Giuliani's endorsement of Harris came a week after a federal appeals court on September 23 permanently disbarred Rudy Giuliani from practising law in Washington D.C. for the efforts he made to discredit the 2020 election results and prevent the transition of power after Trump lost the polls. I am constantly asking myself how America is back here, even considering the possibility of electing Donald Trump again, after all the damage he has caused, both in office and since... There are unmistakable reminders of Trump's destructive trail all around us, and it has broken my heart to watch my dad become one of them. "In the article, she said that the US Vice President had gained



"extraordinary momentum" by infusing vitality and hope in her election campaign. She cited Harris's stand on issues like reproductive rights, the economy, foreign and environmental policy as reasons for her endorsement. "We need experienced, sane, and fundamentally decent leaders who

will fight for us instead of against us—who will safeguard our democracy rather than dismantle it... I need to advocate for a future worth bringing children into, which is why I am voicing my adamant support for Kamala Harris and Tim Walz," Caroline Giuliani declared. She also called Harris the "only candidate who cares about my rights as a woman". "Seeing Republican state officials enact draconian abortion bans and threaten fertility care is incredibly personal for me... Hearing Trump flip-flop on the issues of abortion and IVF only makes me trust him less - if that's even possible - because his lies are so clearly politically motivated. He's already caused irreparable damage, and I don't believe for a second that he won't cause more."

Why one nation, one election is ringing in US

**World** In India, one nation, one election is a hot-button political issue. It is ringing in the US too, albeit in a different way ahead of the crucial November 5, 2024 US Presidential election. In the US, it is the political right wing that is warning that one nation, one election could become the norm if the Democrats were to win the November polls. In India, the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that India will roll out simultaneous polls for the Lok Sabha, state Assemblies and local bodies in this term of government. The Cabinet had on September 18 cleared the one nation, one election bill, and it will most likely be tabled in Parliament in the upcoming winter session. The government argues that simultaneous polls can save money and time spent on conducting elections. Several opposition parties, including the Congress, AAP and Shiv Sena (UBT), have opposed

simultaneous polls, alleging that it would benefit the ruling party at the Centre. They claim it will benefit the ruling party, the BJP in this case, and was planned to facilitate "one nation, one leader", and "one nation, one party". This is the premise that the Republicans are trying to whip up support for Republican candidate Donald Trump. "Very few Americans realise that, if Trump is not elected, this will be the last election. Far from being a threat to democracy, he is the only way to save it," posted Tesla and X boss Elon Musk. So, like the Opposition in India, which is arguing that simultaneous polls would spell doom for democracy, boosting a single party, the political right in the US believes that it would be left with one nation, one election if Democrats win the November polls. "...America then becomes a one-party state and democracy is over. The only 'elections' will be the Democratic Party primaries," said Elon

Musk, urging voters to support Trump. **WHY ELON MUSK WARNS US WILL BE ONE-PARTY STATE** The warning from Elon Musk, who is from the political right-wing and a supporter of former president Donald Trump, is over millions of voters who have been naturalised by the Joe Biden administration. "If even 1 in 20 illegals become citizens per year, something that the Democrats are expediting as fast as humanly possible, that would be about 2 million new legal voters in 4 years," Musk said. The voting margin in the swing states is often less than 20 thousand votes. That means if the Democratic Party succeeds, there will be no more swing states," he added. Musk alleged that the Joe Biden-Kamala Harris administration had been flying in asylum seekers and fast-tracking their citizenship in swing states like Pennsylvania, Ohio, Wisconsin and Arizona.

Depth of Amazon tributary in Brazil drops to record low due to severe drought

**UPDATED** The Solimoes, one of the two largest tributaries of the Amazon River in Brazil, fell to its lowest level ever on Monday in the worst drought on record in the Amazon region, leaving villages on its banks stranded without food, water and transport. At Manacapuru, some 100 km (63 miles) upriver from state capital Manaus where it meets the Rio Negro to form the mighty Amazon, the depth of the Solimoes measured at just 3 m (9.8 feet), according to the Civil Defense agency. That is 11 cm (4.3 inches) lower than the previous record low registered on October 25 last year. With almost another month to go before the rains come to end the dry season, the level of the Solimoes, which flows down from the Andes in Peru, is expected to drop further in coming weeks, deepening the crisis for riverine communities. Villages have been left isolated, without transport on water too shallow for boats to travel on, and they are lacking food supplies and, more critically, drinking water. The exposed Solimoes riverbed as turned into a massive long sandbank that the villagers have to walk across for two hours to get home carrying their shopping under a blazing sun. "This is very hard. Everyday we have to this long walk along the beach carrying our things," said Taciana Souza Oliveira, a young woman. Boats were stranded on river banks and some were trapped in ponds of water in the sand dunes, in areas that were once navigable for large boats. "The drought is bad and it is getting worse. There is still a month to go of dry season. We have to make this sacrifice to get home," said riverside resident Manuel de Castro. Fishing is the main source of protein for river communities and the Indigenous people of the rainforest, but the fish have disappeared, and many have died in shallow waters that are too warm for them to survive in. Environmentalists say climate change and global warming are drying up rivers in the Amazon and leading to unprecedented wildfires that are destroying parched vegetation.

Brazilians choke as Amazon rainforest faces worst fire in 14 years

**Brasilia** With as much as 80 per cent of Brazil under a blanket of smoke from historic wildfires, face masks last used during the coronavirus pandemic are coming out again. South America's biggest country has for weeks been choking on pollution along with much of the rest of the continent battling extreme drought and record fires. Millions of hectares of forest and farmland have burnt in Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay and Peru. The Amazon basin, usually one of the wettest places on Earth, is experiencing its worst fires in nearly two decades, according to the EU's Copernicus observatory. And last week, satellite images from the National Institute for Space Research (INPE),



showed 80 percent of Brazil affected by smoke. "I am a smoker but I've been coughing more than usual," student Luan Monteiro, 20, told AFP in the port of Rio de Janeiro. Indeed, experts say that inhaling smoke from the fires has effects comparable to smoking four or five cigarettes a day. Air pollution can worsen bronchitis and asthma, and the risk is

greater the longer the exposure, according to paediatrician Renato Kfour, vice president of the Brazilian Immunizations Society. In one of the biggest hospitals in the capital Brasilia, the number of patients treated for respiratory problems in recent days was more than 20 times higher than usual. In Brasilia, which has seen 160 days without rain, homemaker Valderes Loyola said she had bought a fan she uses to blow over wet towels and buckets of water to try and add some moisture to the dry air. "When I go out, I put on my mask," the 72-year-old told AFP. Sao Paulo, Latin America's biggest metropolis, for several days last week was ranked the world's most polluted city by Swiss-based monitoring firm IQAir.

Ground report: How Lebanon's largest public hospital is dealing with heavy casualties

**Ashraf Wani, India Today reporter from Lebanon (L), and the Rafik Hariri University Hospital that has been swamped with patients due to Israeli airstrikes.**

**Beirut, Lebanon** Israel continues to pound areas in southern Lebanon even after the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and several other commanders of the Iran-backed militant outfit. The wave of attacks has resulted in the deaths of over 1,000 Lebanese and forced lakhs of people to flee their homes, according to the Lebanese government. The increased casualties due to Israeli airstrikes have resulted in the hospitals

being swarmed with patients. India Today TV's Ashraf Wani, the only Indian reporter on the ground in Lebanon, reached Rafik Hariri University Hospital on the outskirts of southern Beirut to report how the doctors have been dealing with the healthcare crisis. Speaking to India Today TV, Dr Jihad Saadeh, Director of the Rafik Hariri University Hospital, said the hospital received over 300 people injured by airstrikes today. "These injuries may be mild, moderate, severe, or disabling. So it's a war, a real war," he said. He also talked about the indiscriminate airstrikes by Israel which have resulted in many people turning up at the hospital. "They (Israel) don't care if they kill 100-150 people for just one Hezbollah member," said Dr Saadeh. Despite the increased number of patients, Dr Saadeh said his team is prepared well to deal with this situation. "We are trained very well," he said, noting the experience they



have gained since the Israeli attacks and subsequent war started from as early as 1976. Dr Saadeh recalled an incident from his childhood which left a lasting impression on him. "We have experienced many wars since 1976. When Israel attacked its neighbours, they dropped bombs called Napalm, which burned bodies. I still remember that I could not speak when I saw, as a 10-year-old, these bodies, which

are all burned," he said. Dr Saadeh said when the Gaza war started in October last year, his team worked on organising the procedure which we do when we deal with injured patients. Dr Saadeh said since they are short staffed to deal with such a large number of surgeries, they have to prioritise people with life-threatening injuries. "We are postponing eye surgeries as eyes do not usually bleed when they are injured. Same thing applies for fingers," he said. The latest actions by Israel indicate that it has no intention of slowing down its offensive against Iran's proxies in the region, including Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthis in Yemen. While Hezbollah has vowed revenge against Israel over the killing of its leader Hassan Nasrallah, the Lebanese government is seeking a diplomatic route for a ceasefire.

Biden plans survey of devastation in North Carolina as Helene's death toll tops 130

**ASHEVILLE.** President Joe Biden was set to survey the devastation in the mountains of Western North Carolina on Wednesday, where exhausted emergency workers continued to work around-the-clock to clear roads, restore power and cellphone service, and reach people left stranded by Hurricane Helene. The storm killed at least 133 people and hundreds more were still unaccounted for on Monday night, four days after Helene initially made landfall. Meanwhile, election officials across the South were making emergency preparations to ensure displaced residents would be able to vote in the upcoming presidential election. Officials in the hard-hit tourism hub of Asheville said their water system suffered "catastrophic" damage that could take weeks to fully repair. Government officials, aid groups and volunteers were working to deliver supplies by air, truck and even mule to the town and surrounding mountain communities. At least

40 people died in the county that includes Asheville. The North Carolina death toll included one horrific story after another of people who were trapped by floodwaters in their homes and vehicles or were killed by falling trees. A courthouse security officer died after being submerged inside his truck. A couple and a 6-year-old boy waiting to be rescued on a rooftop drowned when part of their home collapsed. Rescuers did manage to save dozens, including an infant and two others stuck on the top of a car in Atlanta. More than 50 hospital patients and staff in Tennessee were plucked by helicopter from the hospital rooftop in a daring rescue operation. How some of the worst-hit areas are coping. The storm unleashed the worst flooding in a century in North Carolina. Rainfall estimates in some areas topped more than 2 feet (61 centimeters) since Wednesday, and several main routes into Asheville were washed away or blocked by



mudslides. That includes a 4-mile (6.4-kilometer) section of Interstate 40 that was heavily damaged. Joey Hopkins, North Carolina's secretary of transportation, asked people on Monday to stay off the roads. "The damage is severe, and we're continuing to tell folks if you don't have a reason to be in North Carolina, do not travel on the roads of

western North Carolina," Hopkins said at a news conference. "We do not want you here if you don't live here and you're not helping with the storm." At an Ingles grocery store in Asheville, Elizabeth Teall-Fleming was standing in line with dozens of others waiting to get inside and hoping to find some non-perishable food, since they have no power. She planned to heat up some canned food over a camping stove for her family. "I'm just glad that they're open and that they're able to let us in," she said. Teall-Fleming said she was surprised by the ferocity of the storm. "Just seeing the little bit of news that we've been able to see has been shocking and really sad." In one neighborhood, residents were collecting creek water in buckets to flush their toilets. Others waited in a line for more than a block at Mountain Valley Water to fill up milk jugs and whatever other containers they could find with drinking water.

News box

Travel agents dupe Umrah pilgrims of Rs 1 crore, one held

**BHUBANESWAR** . The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Crime Branch has arrested a Mumbai-based travel agent for allegedly cheating pilgrims from Odisha on the promise of facilitating their Umrah (pilgrimage) in Mecca. By offering very affordable tour packages they managed to lure many pilgrims and swindled around Rs 1.2 crore from them, the EOW officials said.

The agency has arrested one of the proprietors of Al-Adam Tour and Travels, Nabeel Abdul Mubin Shaikh from Mumbai and brought him to Odisha. He was produced before a court in Balasore on Monday.

Investigation revealed, the two other co-owners of Al-Adam are Nabeel's mother Firdos Bi Abdul Mubin Shaikh and his sister Saima Anjum Shaikh. The trio in association with proprietor of Al-Izma Tours and Travel in West Mumbai, MD Bismillah Shaikh, cheated around 189 pilgrims in various parts of Odisha like Balasore, Bhadrak and Baripada between 2019 and 2023.

The accused had allegedly posted advertisements on social media and distributed leaflets offering two lucrative tour packages of Rs 45,786 and Rs 50,786 per person to perform Umrah in the holy cities of Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia.

Initially, they facilitated the visit of some pilgrims and managed to build trust. Soon, more pilgrims came to them and transferred the money in the bank accounts of Nabeel and his mother Firdos Bi, while some also handed cash to them. However, in the later part of 2023, the accused switched off their mobile phones and closed their office. They neither arranged the tour or refunded the money to the people. In a few instances, they handed over cheques to some persons but they were not honoured by the bank.

BJD cracks whip sends show cause to 4 rebel leaders

**BHUBANESWAR** . As infighting in the Bhubaneswar district unit of the BJD has intensified in the recent days, the party on Monday served show cause notice to four leaders including two corporators of the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC).

BJD Bhubaneswar district unit president Sushant Rout issued show cause notices to party state secretary Vivek Swain, BYJD president for Ekamra Rajesh Patra along with BMC corporators Amaresh Jena and Biranchi Narayan Mahasupakar.

"It has come to the knowledge of the party president that you are involved in indiscipline activities inside the party (sic). As directed by the party president, you are hereby called upon to explain within 15 days of the receipt of this letter as to why disciplinary action shall not be initiated against you for such indiscipline activities," said the letter issued by Rout separately to the four leaders. Admitting that show cause notice has been issued to him, Jena, the corporator of Ward-45, told mediapersons, "I don't think it would be proper on my part to make any comment on the issue in public. I will give my reply within the stipulated time and you will come to know about it then. I have full confidence in my leader, the party president, and will abide by whatever decision he takes," Jena said.

Jena, however, said that two leaders of the party are creating all the problems. "It is the responsibility of the MLAs or MLA candidates to keep unity among members of the party in their constituencies. This is not happening here," he said. BMC corporator of Ward-59, Mahasupakar said no one in the BJD is above the party. Each member of the party irrespective of their position should be treated equally when it comes to disciplinary action.

VMC's selfie points to raise awareness on hygiene in Vijayawada

**VIJAYAWADA**. Under the direction of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) Commissioner Dhyanaachandra, the Swachhata Hi Seva campaign on Monday featured selfie points and street performances to raise public awareness about cleanliness. Selfie stands were set up at key locations including Maris Stella College, Shoppers Stop Mall, Usha Udaya Supermarket in Guru Nanak Colony, Narayana School on Bandar Canal Road, Gandhi High School in One Town, and the VMC headquarters. The campaign aims to engage the public in maintaining clean surroundings. This is part of Vijayawada's broader effort to secure top rankings in the Swachh Survekshan cleanliness survey.

In Division Four, cultural performances were organised at Srinivasa Nagar and Bank Colony. A Kala Jatha troupe used traditional dance and storytelling, including Burrakatha, to educate the public on cleanliness, banning single-use plastics, reducing pollution, public responsibilities, and tree planting for environmental protection. VMC also launched the 'Invite Your Commissioner' programme, encouraging residents to showcase their cleanliness efforts, such as home composting, terrace gardening, and participation in cleanliness drives.

Kerala health minister orders probe into power outage at SAT Hospital

The hospital faced a power outage after the connection from the main supply lines could not be restored after carrying out maintenance work.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Health Minister Veena George has called for a thorough investigation by a technical committee into the power outage at SAT Hospital on Sunday night. Strong action will be taken if any official is found at fault, she warned. The initial investigation points fingers at the internal electrical wing.

The PWD electrical wing successfully switched off the power supply from the generator and restored the direct supply by Monday morning.

The hospital authorities said that further maintenance work, including the replacement of contact switches on the panel board, will be carried out in a planned manner to avoid disruptions to the hospital functioning.

The hospital faced power outage after the connection from the main supply lines could not be restored after carrying out maintenance work.

It became a major issue after the power backup mechanism failed. The issue was resolved after a new power generator was



brought in following protests. While KSEB provides the high-tension supply, the PWD wing manages the electrical work at the hospital. In light of the controversy, KSEB denied responsibility, citing the poor condition of the hospital's electrical equipment as a contributing factor for the outage. As a referral hospital for women and children, power outages lasting over three hours, along with subsequent protests, have become an

embarrassment for the health department.

Thiruvananthapuram Deputy Mayor P K Raju described the incident as a serious oversight by the authorities. On Monday, councillors from both the BJP and the Congress staged protests in response to the situation. The hospital has two generators while another generator supplied by HLL remains unused.

Power minister gives clean chit to KSEB Electricity Minister K Krishnankutty on Monday reiterated that the KSEB was not at fault on the power outage that occurred at the SAT Hospital. On Sunday night itself, the minister had given a

clean chit to the KSEB. Minister's office informed that they had done maintenance work at the SAT Hospital for two hours from 3:30pm onwards which was initiated after informing the hospital authorities. A KSEB official told TNIE, "The equipment had rust on it which revealed a lack of periodic maintenance. The KSEB officials worked along with the electrical section of the PWD officials".

25 injured after speeding bus collides with ambulance and container truck in Kochi



**KOCHI**. Around 25 people were injured, three of them grievously, after a private bus collided with an ambulance and a container truck at Vallarpadam in Kochi on Monday evening. The accident occurred near DP World gate number two as the speeding bus - proceeding to Chaapa Beach in Malippuram - lost control. After colliding with the ambulance, which was carrying a patient, the bus hit a container truck nearby, a police officer said.

Under the impact of the collision, the patient inside the ambulance was injured grievously, said an officer at the Mulavukadu police station. "The injured were quickly moved to three hospitals in the city, namely Lourdes Hospital, Ernakulam General Hospital, and the Specialists' Hospital," he said.

The accident resulted in the road being blocked for around an hour, but the police and the fire and rescue services squad managed to restore traffic, the officer added.

Inspiring author speak event at MOP Vaishnav college highlights resilience amid challenges

**Dr. Priyanka Bagdi shared her journey of overcoming acute myeloid leukaemia at 28, emphasizing the importance of setting goals and engaging with literature to navigate life's complexities.**

**CHENNAI**. Have you ever found yourself torn between the latest café trend in Nungambakkam and your commitment to a balanced diet? In vibrant Chennai, where irresistible California burrito bowls and artisanal coffees abound, it's easy to get swept up in culinary adventures. Yet, amid this buzz, young people often grapple with maintaining balance, facing unexpected bends that challenge their aspirations.

The true test of resilience lies in our response: do we allow light to seep through the cracks, or do we let shadows

overwhelm us? This theme is especially relevant for young women, making the recent Author Speak event at MOP Vaishnav College for Women particularly significant. On Monday, the college hosted Dr Priyanka Bagdi, a distinguished obstetrician, gynaecologist, and author of Sunshine At The Bend: Turning Trials into Triumph. Organised with The New Indian Express and Pegasus, the Student Book Club, the event aimed to raise awareness about leukaemia and lymphoma while inspiring students to face life's challenges. The

session began with Greeshma SS, the college librarian, who introduced Dr Priyanka and highlighted that September is leukaemia and lymphoma awareness month. Outlining Dr Priyanka's educational achievements, it was her personal battle with acute myeloid leukaemia at 28 that truly defined her narrative. As Dr Priyanka took the stage, she captivated the audience with her compelling story of survival. Engaging the students directly, she asked them to write down their goals and envision where they saw themselves at 30.

Complainants to be treated as guests: New CP Suresh Dev Datta Singh

**BHUBANESWAR** . Twin city Commissionerate of Police in the eye of the storm over the alleged assault and harassment of an army officer and his fiancée in police custody, its newly-appointed chief Suresh Dev Datta Singh on Monday said complainants will be treated as guests from the moment they step into a police station.



"Ours is a service organisation and all attempts will be made to treat people visiting the police stations in Bhubaneswar and Cuttack as guests," Singh told The New Indian Express. Without referring to the allegations levelled against the army

officer and his fiancée of misbehaving with cops in Bharatpur, the new Commissioner of Police said there may be a few instances when some unruly people visit police stations, but there are certain rules to deal with them.

"Even if unruly complainants visit a police station, they will be treated as guests and their grievances will be promptly looked into. Though it may take some time, police's public-friendly behaviour will be enhanced further," he said. On being asked whether any etiquette training will be provided to the cops, Singh said he will workout a plan in this regard and decide if

any existing orientation programme should be rerun or a new one implemented. As the job of police is strenuous and the cops also have their personal responsibilities, their orientation will be planned accordingly and if required, help of experts will be taken, he said.

An officer of the 1998 batch, Singh said his other priorities will be to ensure safety and security of citizens, especially elderly people and women. As Bhubaneswar has emerged as an education hub in recent years, utmost importance will be given to the security of students arriving in the city from different parts of the state and the country. Efforts will also be made to prevent all types of offenses. If a crime takes place, steps will be initiated to detect it at the earliest, said Singh who took over charge from outgoing CP Sanjeeb Panda on the day.

Telangana HC orders contempt notices to CS, DGP over police reforms

**The Court bench was hearing a contempt petition filed by the Forum Against Corruption.**

**HYDERABAD**. A bench of justices Abhinand Kumar Shavili and Laxmi Narayana Alishetty on Monday issued notices to top state officials, including Chief Secretary A Santhi Kumari and former and incumbent DGPs Dr Jitender and Ravi Gupta, directing them to respond to the contempt notices by appearing in person or through legal representation on October 25.

The Telangana High Court bench was hearing a contempt petition filed by the Forum Against Corruption, represented by its president Vijay Gopal, under Sections 10 to 12 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, "for willfully violating the court's earlier order in a PIL".

The petition alleged that the government failed to implement key reforms, including the mandatory minimum service duration of two years for officers of the ranks of IG, DIG, SP and CI.

The petition also pointed out the non-separation of investigative functions from law and order duties within the police force, as well as the failure to establish the Police Establishment Board and operationalise the District and State Police Complaints Authorities.

The petitioner sought maximum imprisonment for the respondents, along with a fine of Rs 5 lakh each for their continued non-compliance despite previous notices. The petition also requested the court to direct the respondents to provide a clear timeline for implementing all the required reforms. The case has been adjourned to October 25 for further hearing.

HC ALLOWS COLORPLAST TO PARTICIPATE INTENDER PROCESS

Suspending the debarment order of the Transport department, the Telangana High Court has allowed Delhi-based smart card supplying company Colorplast to participate in the department's tender process. The HC observed that the department does not have the power to debar the company under the terms and conditions of the tender notice dated August 8. On September 18, the department debarred Colorplast after its responses were deemed unsatisfactory regarding compliance with SCOSTA guidelines.

'Poor upkeep drives shoppers away from Angamaly KSRTC complex'

Non-functional lifts, waterlogging plague building despite tenants doling out huge rent

**KOCHI**. While the strategically-located five-storey shopping complex at Angamaly bus depot, built to augment the non-operational income of the Kerala State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), is finally enjoying a decent occupancy rate, the 30-odd tenants there are crying foul over the "lackadaisical attitude" of the authorities in maintaining the facility despite collecting a hefty amount every year towards its upkeep. That, they say, is driving away potential customers and affecting the business of the 30 shops now functioning at the Angamaly bus terminal-cum-shopping complex.

"We cough up around 45 lakh per annum for maintenance alone. However, the facilities are not being maintained properly," said Poly Kuriakose, president, Angamaly KSRTC Bus Terminal Shop Owners' Association. Of a total of eight lifts, only four are functioning, he pointed out.

"The cellar parking area is in a dilapidated condition and gets waterlogged quickly during heavy rains due to a lack of drainage



facilities. The toilet facilities too are poorly maintained. Parking is another issue. With the parking space in front of the building given to the general public, our customers find it difficult to park their vehicles," Poly said. KSRTC initiated the shopping complex project in tandem with the Kerala Transport Development Finance Corporation (KTDFC), which was appointed the nodal agency for the project in 2008 by the then LDF government.

Four shopping complexes were built at Angamaly, Thampanoor, Tiruvalla and Kozhikode at Rs 204 crore. Almost half of the total commercial space at these buildings lay vacant for years, forcing the

KTDFC to even slash the rent, from Rs 70 to Rs 40 per sq ft for the ground floor at Angamaly. "The commercial space in the first, second, third and fourth levels at Angamaly were mostly lying vacant for years. The ground floor and the fifth floor were, however, nearly fully occupied. Now, a majority of the total one lakh sq ft have been rented out. Only around 3,000 sq ft area on the second floor lies unoccupied. But of late, prominent clients like Carnival Cinemas have opted out," a source said.

Transport Minister K B Ganesh Kumar admitted that the facility, despite being located at a prominent location and enjoying a good footfall of customers, is not being properly maintained.

"The bus terminal featured big in our scheme of things and there were plans to make it an inter-transit hub. Recently, I visited the facility and felt sad at how it's being maintained. Will be taking up the matter with the KTDFC, which is now entrusted with the shopping complexes," Ganesh said.

## Haryana's legacy of Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram

Haryana, which goes to the polls on October 5, has had several 'double-engine' governments over the decades, with the same party in power in the state as well as at the Centre. Even when no party could muster a majority in the Assembly, the ruling party at the Centre was able to form a government in the state.

Haryana is no stranger to defections by politicians, who set aside ethical or moral considerations. Poaching of MLAs and hiding them in resorts to keep them away from the lure of monetary benefits and promises of ministerial berths have become the new norm in Indian politics.

In 1967, political defections became an accepted phenomenon. Haryana set the trend when MLA Gaya Lal changed his political affiliation thrice in a day. Hence, the term 'Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram' was coined to denote defections. Gaya Lal's son Uday Bhan, the current president of the Haryana Congress, was once a member of the Lok Dal.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the BJP had given the party ticket to five Haryana leaders with a Congress background. The defection of Rao Inderjit Singh, Arvind Sharma, Ramesh Chander Kaushik, Dharambir Singh and Chaudhary Birender Singh from the Congress to the BJP helped the saffron party consolidate its position in the state. By the 1980s, Haryana's politicians had mastered the craft of defection. In 1980, fearing the dismissal of his government after the return of Indira Gandhi as PM, Bhajan Lal, then Chief Minister, defected with his entire Cabinet from the Janata Party to the Congress. One had witnessed defections of legislators, but a CM jumping ship with his entire Cabinet was virtually unheard of. This happened decades before the BJP came up with 'Operation Lotus' to engineer mass defections. The ruling party feared that their members would defect and join the Opposition ranks and destabilise the government. The Opposition parties, too, feared that their members would be poached by the ruling party. In 2009, the Congress, falling short of a majority in the state, lured five MLAs of the Haryana Janhit Congress and one MLA of the BSP to form a majority.

The anti-defection law of 1985 was meant to stop elected representatives from deserting the parties on whose symbol they had been elected. In order to circumvent the law, a new modus operandi was devised: make some elected members resign from their seats, hence reducing the strength of the opponents, and then get them elected from the party they had switched their allegiance to. In recent years, 'Operation Lotus' failed in Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, but was successful in Madhya Pradesh.

Indian politics exemplifies the crassness associated with Machiavellian tactics. 'Ghar wapsi' is a term used by these uncanny politicians to describe their return to the party they had left. 'Homecoming' is considered as 'rediscovering' one's roots. Chaudhary Birender Singh moved from the Congress to the BJP in 2014 and was back in the grand old party earlier this year. This is a classic case of 'ghar wapsi' or the return of the prodigal son. In the current Assembly elections, party-hopping is again the flavour of the season. Voters are confused that their representatives, elected on the symbol of a particular party in the previous elections, are now contesting from the very party that they had opposed five years ago. The Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) is on a sticky wicket as several of its elected members, including ministers, have defected to other parties, leaving the mother-son duo (Naina and Dushyant Chautala) to fend for themselves. The BJP, which regarded itself as a party strongly rooted in ideology, had no qualms about letting Kiran Choudhary and her daughter join its ranks and also getting her elected as a Rajya Sabha member. In 1996, the BJP had formed an alliance with Bansilal's Haryana Vikas Party, ignoring what its leaders had said about the former Congress stalwart's role during the Emergency. So, one can infer that ideology often takes a back seat in Indian politics and ethical pronouncements are just for public consumption. All parties need 'notable' and 'electable' leaders to garner votes and extend their social support base, and that is why they have no compunction about co-opting leaders who hold diametrically opposite views.

## Systemic change, not a quick fix, can tackle gender violence

Instead of solely advocating harsher penalties, it is crucial to focus on understanding the victim's psychology.

From the horrific 2012 Nirbhaya case in Delhi to the chilling Abhaya case in Kolkata, India has witnessed a surge in legal reforms meant to curb sexual violence and ensure justice for victims. Laws have become stricter, sentences harsher and policies more rigid. Yet, despite these legal advancements, the ground reality remains largely unchanged. A haunting question arises: why do these laws fail to bring about the expected change in society? Andhra Pradesh's Disha Bill, Maharashtra's Shakti Bill and West Bengal's Aparajita Bill are quick-fix solutions to a deep, underlying rot. While the process of making a law is typically long and deliberate, the Aparajita Bill was introduced less than a month after the Kolkata rape-murder. The Disha and Shakti Bills were also swiftly enacted following heinous crimes against women. Criminal laws fall under the Concurrent List, requiring the President's nod, and enacting such laws suggest political manoeuvring and diffusing responsibility, while simultaneously brushing real issues under the carpet. Laws, however well-crafted, are inanimate — they exist on paper. The challenge lies in how these laws are implemented, interpreted, and enforced. This is where the animate components of the justice system — the police officers, judges, and society — come into play, breathing life into the inanimate laws. If these animate components fail to respond adequately, even the most stringent laws become ineffective. We must recognise this distinction, or we will continue to struggle in achieving true justice. Historically, efforts to achieve gender equality often provoke a backlash that can lead to an increase in crimes against women, particularly sexual offences, until genuine equality is realised. Research studies and reports from the UN and WHO show that progress in gender equality can trigger hostility and increased violence against women as a means to reassert traditional power structures. This pattern, noted in journals like Violence Against Women and Lancet, highlights the need for comprehensive strategies to address both gender biases and the protection of women during these changes. From 2018 to 2022, conviction rate in rape cases in India was around 28 per cent, the second lowest among serious crimes, including murder, kidnapping, rioting and grievous hurt, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

In contrast, Britain's rape conviction rate was 60.2 per cent in 2023-24 and 63.5 per cent the year before, according

to the Crown Prosecution Service. In Canada, 42 per cent of the sexual assault cases resulted in convictions in 2016-17, as reported by the Department of Justice. India's low conviction rates are partly due to judges' reluctance to convict under stringent laws, fearing life sentences or death penalties based on insufficient



evidence. Besides, stricter laws, combined with the fact that most victims know their assailant, suggest a higher risk of murder in such cases. Instead of solely advocating for harsher penalties, it is crucial to focus on understanding the victim's psychology and effectively rebutting defence arguments. The Swedish approach, which led to a 75 per cent increase in rape conviction rates over two years after a 2018 law change, emphasises the importance of removing the need to prove violence or threats. The term 'fast-track' courts is self-defeating; despite advocating speedy trial, rape cases in India still take a long time due to inadequate judicial infrastructure and a shortage of judicial officers, cops, judges and public prosecutors. The high pendency of cases increases the likelihood of flawed investigations, potentially allowing perpetrators to escape justice. Hasty investigations can lead to tampering with evidence and coercion of crucial witnesses. Completing the investigation in even 21 days is practically impossible. Once an FIR is filed, the investigating officer must collect evidence, ensure the survivor's safety, conduct medical examinations, request police custody

for further investigation, address rehabilitation schemes, conduct identification parades and prepare for numerous court hearings. Additionally, the officer must corroborate evidence, prepare the chargesheet, coordinate with the public prosecutor, and frame charges. If the offender is absconding in another state, arresting them becomes more complex and time-consuming. A proper trial typically requires at least five hearings, involving the survivor, police, public prosecutor, accused, defence counsel, witnesses and the court itself. Completing all this in three or four weeks increases the possibility of a shoddy probe.

Sexual violence survivors often face secondary victimisation, particularly during stressful and judgmental police interviews. This can result in incomplete statements, poor investigation and conviction. To address this, there is an urgent need for trauma-informed policing. Such police forces understand the impact of trauma and incorporate practices such as specialised training, interdisciplinary collaboration and empathy. Effective leadership is crucial for implementing these best practices and improving responses to rape cases.

"Good laws alone do not create a just society; what is needed above all is a change in mindset," said Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, addressing issues concerning women in India. This sentiment was echoed by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who emphasised that our male-centric society must change its mindset before it is too late. In indictment of this societal decay, we have witnessed the horrifying spectacle of fathers violating their own daughters, and even children, perpetrating such heinous acts. The recent incident in Ujjain, where bystanders filmed rather than help a rape victim, further highlights this moral decline.

Unless we develop a comprehensive strategy to address sexual violence, rather than resorting to measures like the death penalty for rapists, we merely risk appeasing public sentiment without addressing the root causes. Such superficial steps are intended to pacify the public with a short memory and limited understanding of the complexities of violent sexual crimes. We end up creating symbolic victim identities like Nirbhaya and Abhaya, whose bravery is reduced to case studies in legal and social journals. To truly honour and protect victims, we must implement deep systemic changes that tackle the underlying issues of gender violence.

## Chinese temerity

No LAC trade-off should be acceptable to India

THE irony is not lost on anyone: Chinese negotiators have suggested to India that their troops be allowed to patrol in two sensitive areas along Arunachal Pradesh, even as Chinese soldiers have denied Indian troops access to four patrolling points in eastern Ladakh over the past four years. The Arunachal spots — including one in the Yangtse area north-east of Tawang, where the two sides had clashed in December 2022 — have been under Indian control for decades. Delhi knows very well that if you give Beijing an inch, it will end up taking a mile. The unreasonable demand speaks volumes about China's dubious intentions. No trade-off or quid pro quo of any sort should be acceptable to India.

Trust deficit continues to define the India-China relationship in the wake of the Galwan clash, even though the two countries have held 21 rounds of Corps Commander-level talks regarding the LAC dispute in eastern Ladakh since June 2020. There



have also been 31 meetings of the Working Mechanism

for Consultation & Coordination on India-China Border Affairs. Despite the all-out emphasis on dialogue and communication, disengagement at the friction points of Demchok and Depsang has remained elusive.

The fact that the Chinese have made a demand this time rather than going ahead with a brazen incursion should not lull Delhi into believing that the Dragon has mellowed. India must hold its ground to counter attempts by the People's Liberation Army troops to change the status quo in Arunachal. Beijing's sharp reaction to the naming of an Arunachal peak after the 6th Dalai Lama by an Indian mountaineering team has again laid bare its territorial overreach. Chinese temerity stems partly from a dominant position on the trade front — India seems helpless in reducing its heavy dependence on imports from its northern neighbour. The double challenge for India is to stand up to China — militarily as well as economically.

## Nasrallah killing worsens West Asia crisis

What began as Israel's reprisal against Hamas has been expanded into a genocidal war

ENTROPY is defined as the absence of order or predictability and the gradual and irreversible decline into disorder. The last week of September has witnessed developments that have sharply increased both regional and global strategic entropy. The audacious killing of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut by Israel has the potential to plunge Lebanon and swathes of West Asia into greater turmoil. Much will depend on how Iran and non-state groups such as Hamas and the Houthis respond to this Israeli attack. Tactically, the discredited Israeli intelligence leviathan that was unable to pre-empt the October 7, 2023, Hamas terror attack has redeemed itself, but the strategic prudence of targeting the Hezbollah leadership is a moot point. It is evident that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has chosen to escalate the level of violence that he had unleashed after the Hamas attack on Israel. What began as an intense reprisal against Hamas in Palestine has been expanded with impunity into a genocidal war. With Hezbollah having entered the fray, Netanyahu has upped the ante by taking recourse to a lethal combination of telecom sabotage (pager explosions) and conventional airstrikes to decapitate the top leadership of Hezbollah. Adding to the violence, the Yemen-based Houthi militia launched a barrage of missiles and drones against US naval ships in the Red Sea on September 27. While these were intercepted and neutralised with no damage to the warships, this points to a steady uptick in hostilities in West Asia in the run-up to the first anniversary of the Hamas attack. This has grave implications for maritime security and the global supply chain. Washington has claimed that it was not in the loop with regard to the Nasrallah killing. While this may sound incredulous, given the depth of the US-



Israel relationship and American intel capabilities, the fact that PM Netanyahu cut short his US visit after addressing the UN General Assembly points to strained bilateral ties. The US is caught up in its domestic politics ahead of the presidential election. Neither candidate (Kamala Harris and Donald Trump) can afford to take an unambiguous position on PM Netanyahu and the disproportionate violence he has unleashed. While there are courageous voices in Israel that want an end to this war, domestic political compulsions and the fear that he may be indicted for other transgressions have emboldened Netanyahu to press the 'death accelerator' with impunity. Hence, the first anniversary of the October 7 attack will pass off with no tangible prospect of a

cessation of hostilities. The war in West Asia will enter the second year, with the global community wringing its hands in ineffectual despair. A similar pattern is discernible in the strife-torn region of eastern Europe. The war that jolted the world when Russia embarked upon its 'special operations' and invaded Ukraine in February 2022 is back in focus, with Russian President Vladimir Putin issuing an explicit nuclear warning to his adversaries. He announced changes in the Russian nuclear doctrine. Russia's 2010 nuclear doctrine, which stated that the use of nuclear weapons would be allowed as a response to conventional aggression that threatens the very existence of the state, has now been revised and made more elastic. The 2010

formulation was that nuclear weapons could be used by Russia "in response to the use of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction against it or its allies, and also in case of aggression against Russia with the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is threatened". This was refined in June 2020 when President Putin signed an executive order titled 'Fundamentals of Russia's Nuclear Deterrence State Policy', which, in essence, endorsed the use of nuclear weapons in response to a non-nuclear strike. Experts aver that this was due to the improved capabilities of America's conventional weapons. This 2020 formulation was a significant departure by Russia from the core principles of nuclear deterrence, which envisioned the nuclear weapon as having only one role or core mission — to 'deter' the use or threat of use of another N-weapon. The changes to the 2020 policy and the new threats that could elicit a nuclear response by Moscow include the following: aggression against Russia by a non-nuclear country, but with the participation or support of a nuclear country would be viewed as a joint attack on Russia; reliable information about a massive takeoff of strategic or tactical planes towards Russia or the launch of cruise missiles, drones, hypersonic weapons towards its territory may be interpreted as a sufficient reason for a nuclear response by Moscow; reserving the right to use nuclear weapons in case of aggression against itself and its ally Belarus; and any critical threat to Russian sovereignty with conventional weapons. Any of these exigencies will be sufficient for a nuclear response. The transmutation from a threat to the 'very existence' of the state to a threat to 'sovereignty' can be interpreted as a case of lowering the nuclear bar and.

# How to survive a Road trip with kids



The weather's just perfect for a vacation and what better than planning a road trip, as trains and flights will be over-booked. To top it all, if you have kids along with you, going on a road trip will not only be a fun experience for you and your partner, but also for your kids as well. Simply pack your stuff and get into your cozy four-wheeler and get ready for the relaxed holiday you've been looking forward to. Since, travelling with kids can sometimes be a task, here are a few ways you can plan the trip with your little ones.

**MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A WELL-EQUIPPED AND COMPLETE FIRST AID BOX**

A well-equipped first aid box is a pre-requisite for any trip. It saves the panic since you have all the necessary medication handy in case of any emergency. Stock up everything from painkillers to paracetamols, and from ointments to band-aids, hot water bags as well. This will help you stay prepared always, as stomach infections, a minor flu and wounds are common among kids.

**STOCK UP AS MUCH Eatables AS POSSIBLE**

There might be a possibility that you won't find any restaurants or roadside eateries when you are driving on the highway. So, pack sustainable food items with you for the journey. From sandwiches, sausages, fruits, chips, dry fruits, juices, etc. make sure you have enough with you. Make a separate food bag with neat compartments. Also, do not forget to carry enough drinking water.

**TAKE FREQUENT BREAKS**

Do not drive continuously for a long time, take short

breaks in between. This will not just make you feel relaxed, but let the children have some open space to stretch their legs or jump and run a bit to put their boredom at bay. Secondly, the kids would need too breaks, or you might just want to stop midway to enjoy a coffee or juice along with a picturesque view.

**CARRY COMFORTABLE AND PORTABLE BEDDING**

Adults might adjust within their limited seating space, but kids often get irritated and cranky if their body movements are restricted for a long time. Carrying portable bedding will help him/her get a sound sleep whenever he/she wants to sleep in the car.

**LOAD YOURSELF WITH GAMES AND ENOUGH ENTERTAINMENT SO THAT THEY DON'T GET BORED**

Right from good books to video games, and from scrabble to blocks, ensure your child is busy while on the trip. Carry your laptop or any other gadgets which will keep your child occupied. You can also download your child's favourite movies before you set out. This way you and your partner can enjoy your road trip, without having to attend to your child.



## How to build trust with new colleagues

Getting used to a new environment, say when you join a new office can be challenging.

Undergoing scrutiny and being keenly evaluated by colleagues can lead to anxiety and in this situation maintaining a friendly and cordial relationship with your team mates and colleagues can be tough. Read on to get a better idea how to make friends at a new workplace.

3. Try and build a strong friendship with some of your colleagues since we often end up spending more time at the office than with our own family. Plan out lunch or outing with them some times when time permits.

4. Keep away from any office gossip and avoid being seen standing in the corridors talking in hushed tone with colleagues. Even if someone tries to scoop some secret office information, politely refrain from getting involved in such conversations as this will later give others to question your credibility.  
5. Be cautious of those who try to be overfriendly at the workplace at the very first instant. Maintain a cordial relationship with everyone and to allow friendship to develop at its own pace.



1. It is important to display teamwork at a new workplace as this sets the foundation for a healthy work relationship. Offer your help spontaneously and assist others for difficult projects. This will be appreciated by your colleagues and help in build strong bond with them.  
2. Have proper communication with colleagues and co-workers for a healthy environment in a new office. Voice your thoughts and opinions at the right time and moment to avoid misunderstandings.



**Though many say that you should be careful when going in for a rebound, it actually helps you in more ways than one. Here's how...**

## Why a rebound Relationship is good for you

As much as people warn against going in for a rebound relationship, there's no reason why you should feel bad. No matter what, it makes you feel happy and be loved again. Here is why a rebound works—

**It fills the void in your life:**

Right after you break up, you naturally start missing your ex. And chances are you might end up texting him or calling him again, which may make matters worse. If you fall into a rebound at this stage, you will find it easy to move on in life.

**Brings excitement back into your life:**

Why should you grieve over a relationship which didn't work out at all? Though a bit of grieving is okay, if you keep feeling bad for it for a long time, you are sure to lose your mental stability. Whereas, if you get into a rebound, you will find love and happiness once again in your life and feel happy about it.

**Might mature into a better relationship:**

Don't ignore getting into a rebound. You may never know whether this relationship has anything good in store for you in the long run.

## Toddlers remember good times for life

According to researchers from the Utah-based Brigham Young University, babies are more likely to remember an incident if there is a positive emotion or affect that accompanies it.

"People study memory in infants, they study discrimination in emotional affect, but we are the first ones to study how these emotions influence memory," said lead author and psychology professor Ross Flom.

The researchers monitored the infants' eye movements and how long they look at a test image. The babies were set in front of flat-panelled monitors and then exposed to a person on screen speaking to them with either a happy, neutral or angry voice. Immediately following the emotional exposure, they were shown a geometric shape. To test their memory, the team did follow-up tests five minutes later and again one day later. In the follow-up test, babies were shown two side-by-side geometric shapes: a brand new one, and the original one from the study.

The researchers then were able to record how many times the baby looked from one image to the next and how long they spent looking at each image. The babies' memories did not improve if the shape had been paired with a negative voice, but they performed significantly better at remembering shapes attached to positive voices. "We think what happens is that the positive affect heightens the babies' attentional system and arousal," the authors added. The study was published in the journal *Infant Behavior and Development*.

# Vice Admiral Arti Sarin is first woman to head Armed Forces Medical Services

Arti Sarin is now highest-ranking woman officer ever to have served in Indian Armed Forces. Recently appointed as member of National Task Force. She was honoured with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in July 2024.



head of the Tri-service Armed Forces Medical Services and is also the highest ranking woman officer ever to have served in the Indian Armed Forces. The DGAFMS is directly responsible to the Ministry of Defence for overall medical policy matters related to the Armed Forces. Commissioned in 1985, Vice Admiral Sarin graduated from

the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC), Pune. She has two postgraduate degrees in Radiodiagnosis and Radiation Oncology and is trained in gamma knife surgery.

She has held numerous key positions throughout her career. She has served as the Director General of Medical Services for both the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.

Vice Admiral Sarin has commanded two major units - INHS Asvini and AFMC, and has been the Command Medical Officer of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) and the Western Naval Command (WNC). An advocate for promoting young women to join the Armed Forces, she was recently appointed as a member of the National Task Force by the Supreme Court to formulate safe working conditions and protocols for medical professionals.

She was honoured with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (AVSM) by President Droupadi Murmu for her exceptional service in July 2024.

**Vice Admiral Arti Sarin, who is now the highest-ranking woman officer to have ever served in the Indian Armed Forces, was honoured with the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in July 2024 by President Droupadi Murmu.**

## "Public Safety Paramount, Temple, Dargah On Road Must Go": Supreme Court

**The Supreme Court stressed India is a secular country and its directions for bulldozer action and anti-encroachment drives will be for all citizens**

New Delhi: Public safety is paramount and any religious structure encroaching upon a road, water bodies, or rail tracks must go, the Supreme Court said today. The court stressed that India is a secular country and its directions for bulldozer action and anti-encroachment drives will be for all citizens, irrespective of their religion.

The bench of Justice BR Gavai and Justice KV Viswanathan was hearing petitions challenging bulldozer action against people accused of crimes. The trend, which has caught on in several states, is often referred to as 'bulldozer justice'. The state authorities have, in the past, maintained that only illegal structures were demolished in such cases. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta appeared for three states -- Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Asked if being accused in a criminal case can be a ground for facing bulldozer action, Mr Mehta replied, "No absolutely not, even for heinous crimes like rape or terrorism. Like my lord said it cannot also be that the notice issued is stuck one day before, it has to be in advance. One of the concerns was that notice has to be issued... most municipal laws, depending on the subject matter they are dealing with, have provisions for issuance of notice. Your Lordships may read that a notice be issued via registered post."

The bench said there are different laws for municipal corporations and panchayats. "There should also be an online portal so people are aware, once you digitise it there is a record." The Solicitor General then said he was worried that the court was issuing directions based on a few instances alleging that one community was being targeted. "We are a secular country and our directions will be for all, irrespective of religion or community. Of course, for encroachment we have said... if it is on a public road, footpath, water body or railway line area, it has to go, public safety is paramount. If there is any religious structure in the middle of the road, be it gurudwara or dargah or temple, it cannot obstruct public," the court said.

Justice Gavai said, "For unauthorised construction, there has to be one law, it is not dependent on religion or faith or beliefs." Senior Advocate Vrinda Grover appears for UN Rapporteur and makes arguments on housing availability. The Solicitor General objected, "I know for whom they are, we don't want this to internationalise. Our Constitutional courts are powerful enough and our government is assisting non-adversarialy. We don't need an international agency to come in," he said. Senior Advocate CU Singh, appearing for one of the petitioners, said his only point was that bulldozer action not be used as a crime-fighting measure. Mr Mehta said bulldozer action against minorities will be "far and few between". The bench responded, "It is not some or two persons, the figure is 4.45 lakh."

## Thane school peon thrashed for passing lewd comments at 4 girls

NEW DELHI: A complaint has been filed against a peon of a school in Thane for allegedly passing lewd comments at four girls, a police official. The case was filed after the girls informed their parents about the incident. As news of the incident spread, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) workers barged into the school to confront the accused. He was beaten up by the MNS



workers, the police official added. "The MNS activists also roughed up the peon. Further probe into the case is underway," the official said.

A video has surfaced online, showing MNS workers thrashing the accused even as others around him try to pacify them. "You have done something that's very wrong," a worker said, following which another MNS worker could be seen slapping the accused in the now viral video. The accused was attacked in what looked like the computer lab of the school. The accused could be heard repeatedly apologising to the workers in the video.

## "My Personal Credibility...": Chief Justice Criticises A 'New Practice'

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud has strongly criticised a "new practice" in which multiple lawyers mention the same matter before the bench to get a date. The Chief Justice said lawyers "cannot take the court for a ride" by adopting such tactics.

"This is a new practice. Different counsels mention the same case for listing and once a judge blinks, you get some date. This is the practice that is emerging. A little bit of discretion which I have as the Chief Justice will never be exercised in your favour. You cannot take the court for a ride. My personal credibility is at stake. I have to follow standard rules for all," the Chief Justice



said. During several recent hearings, the Chief Justice of India has pulled up lawyers mentioning matters out of turn. He has repeatedly asked them to follow the procedure, file an application and raise the matter accordingly.

Maintaining decorum in the courtroom and ensuring proper processes are followed has been a key focus area of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud since he took over. Lawyers have often been pulled up for interfering in matters and addressing the bench loudly.

Only yesterday, a lawyer's use of the informal 'yeah' in court drew a barb from the Chief Justice. The lawyer was mentioning a matter when he used the expressions. "This is not a coffee shop! what is this yeah yeah. I am very allergic to this yeah yeah. This cannot be allowed," the Chief Justice said sternly.

## Masterstroke by Israel: Indian Army chief on Lebanon pager blast operation

Last month, multiple explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies of Hezbollah members in Lebanon killed nearly 40 and left over 3,000 injured.

NEW DELHI: Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said the move by Israel to set up a shell company that manufactured the "explosive pagers" sent to Lebanon in order to derail the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group was a "masterstroke". Speaking at the Chanakya Defence Dialogues, the Army Chief said the move required years and years of preparation by Israel. "The war does not start the day you start fighting, it starts the day you start planning," General Dwivedi said. Israel has now shifted its military focus from the Gaza Strip to its northern border with Lebanon, where it has targeted Hezbollah and bumped off its chief Hassan Nasrallah and several top commanders.

"Israel has done something different. Israel had decided that Hamas was

their primary target. So, Israel first wiped out Hamas and then focused on the other side (Hezbollah). The shell company that was created for the pagers was something of a



masterstroke by Israel," he said. Last month, multiple explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies of Hezbollah members in Lebanon killed nearly 40 and left over 3,000 injured. Three Israeli intelligence officers told the

New York Times that the company that manufactured the pagers was a shell firm set up by Mossad to rig the devices at the source before shipping them to Lebanon. Experts called the move a "supply chain attack",

which involves infiltrating a supplier and placing a small amount of explosives inside devices. Asserting the need for various levels of inspection at the technological level, General Dwivedi said India needed to be "watchful" of supply chain interruptions. "Supply chain interruption, interception is something we have to be very watchful of. We need to have various levels of inspection at the technological level as well as the manual level to make sure such things do not get repeated in our case," the Army chief said.

## Major bureaucratic reshuffle in Odisha as 55 IPS officers transferred

New Delhi: The Odisha government has reshuffled 55 senior IPS officers in the state, including SPs of 21 districts, just days after an Army officer and his fiancée were allegedly tortured and assaulted in a police station. Sources told India Today TV that irregularities exposed during the investigation of the case have been considered a key factor behind the massive police reshuffle.

### KEY LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Among the most notable transfers is the reassignment of Additional Director General of Police Arun Bothra, who was earlier involved in overseeing certain aspects of the investigation. Bothra has been appointed as the Additional Director General (Railways & Coastal Security). Similarly, RP Koche was appointed as the new Director of



Intelligence.

Vinaytosh Misra, the former Director of the State Crime Record Bureau, has been appointed as the new head of the Crime Investigation Department. This leadership change is being seen as a critical step to ensure a fair and impartial probe into the case. Bhubaneswar-Cuttack Police Commissioner Sanjeeb Panda was made ADG (Training) and Director of Biju Patnaik State Police

Academy (BPSPA). Suresh Dev Delta Singh will replace Panda as the police commissioner of Bhubaneswar-Cuttack, according to the notification. Anup Kumar Sahoo was posted as IGP (Training) at BPSPA, whereas S Shyni was appointed as IGP (Crime Against Women and Children Wing). The government said it has appointed Pinak Mishra as the new Deputy Commissioner of Police of Bhubaneswar. He will replace Prateek Singh, who has been transferred as Superintendent of Police of Cuttack (Rural). Ganjam SP Jagmohan Mena was appointed as the DCP of Cuttack, while Loganayagi Divya V was appointed the SP of Vigilance.

The Army officer's fiancée alleged that she was thrashed and molested at Bharatpur Police Station, while her Army officer-

fiancée was illegally locked up by the police on September 15. The incident happened when the couple went to lodge a complaint over a road rage case.

The woman also claimed that she was repeatedly kicked on her chest, dragged by her hair before a police inspector assaulted and also flashed her. She was arrested as she bit one of the officers in self-defence. However, the woman was granted bail by the Orissa High Court.

As the incident triggered a nationwide outrage, five police officials, including the inspector-in-charge of Bharatpur Police Station, were suspended for negligence during the investigation. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Majhi has also ordered a judicial probe by a retired judge. These officers were taken to Gandhinagar in Gujarat, along with the CID's investigative team, for polygraph tests.

## Be it temple or dargah, it has to go: Supreme Court on encroachment

**The Supreme Court was hearing petitions challenging bulldozer action against people accused of crimes -- a move often referred to as 'bulldozer justice'.**

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Tuesday said public safety was paramount and any religious structure, be it temple or dargah, encroaching on roads or railway tracks must go. The top court, which was hearing petitions challenging bulldozer action against people accused of crimes, extended its interim order barring demolitions across the country without prior judicial approval. The Supreme Court said India was a secular country and its directions on bulldozer action and anti-encroachment drives would be irrespective of any religion.

The bench, comprising Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan, reserved its judgment. "We are a secular country and our direction will be for all, irrespective of religion or community. If there is any religious structure in the middle of the road, be it gurudwara or dargah or temple, it cannot obstruct the public," the two-judge bench of the Supreme Court said. The court also suggested that notices and orders for demolitions could be digitised

and uploaded to an online portal to ensure more transparency. On September 17, the Supreme Court barred demolitions across the country till October 1, except in cases



involving encroachments on public roads, footpaths, railway lines, or water bodies. **'JUDICIAL OVERSIGHT NEEDED ON BULLDOZER ACTION'**

During the hearing, the court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, who appeared for the Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh governments, if being an accused

in a criminal case could be a ground for facing bulldozer action. "No, absolutely not. Even for heinous crimes like rape or terrorism. Like my lord said, it cannot also be that the notice issued is stuck one day before, it has to be in advance," the Solicitor General said. The Supreme Court said it was "problematic" when certain illegal constructions are selectively demolished, and it is later found that the owner is an accused in a criminal case.

"If there are two structures in violation and action is taken only against one... and you find in the background there is a criminal offence, then what? Some solution has to be found for that... some judicial oversight," Justice Viswanathan said. Justice Gavai said, "For unauthorised constructions, there has to be one law, not dependent on community." However, the Solicitor General said the petitioners' claim on the use of demolitions as a punitive measure accounted for less than 2% of the actual demolitions carried out in the country.



# Debunking



# Six common Baby-care

**One unexpected appendage of becoming a parent is the endless advice offered by friends, family and every stranger who finds your baby cute. While some of it will be helpful, some of it is best ignored. Here's debunking a few common ones.**

### Small doses of adult medicines are safe.

A number of medications that help adults can be harmful for children even when the dosage is down-sized. Cough medicines, even those designed for children, aren't a good idea for babies or children under four. Agitation, elevated heart rate and respiratory depression are among the side effects they might develop if they're given cough medicine. Medications, which ease congestion and sinus problems in adults, are also a no-no for babies and children. Treatment might have a downside in the form of an upset stomach, a rash or

diarrhoea.

### Teething can cause fevers.

The danger in some myths is that parents may ignore a problem. Parents often tend to attribute fevers in babies and toddlers to teething. However, research has not shown a strong relationship between the two. A fever in a teething baby shouldn't be written off and medical attention should be sought to determine if something else might be causing the rise in temperature.

### Videos can help babies learn sooner.

Research has shown that specially produced programmes can help young children learn, but those benefits only kick in at two and above. The educational merit of media for children younger than two years remains unproven despite the fact that three-quarters of the top-selling infant videos make explicit or implicit educational claims. The babies seem to watch with awe or attention. But the videos actually seem to lead to delays in language progression.

### Walkers are a safe way to help babies walk earlier.

While parents may buy walkers to keep their babies entertained and help little ones walk, a research has suggested that walkers can slow a baby's ability to walk on his own. Also, the enhanced mobility is frequently a problem. A baby in a walker can quickly and unexpectedly approach a staircase, even under a parent's watch. This is a problem known as the myth of supervision.

### Crib bumpers are safe.

Some parents may use crib bumpers, thinking that a baby will hit his head on the side of the crib and get hurt. However, a baby is not generating enough force to cause any significant injury on the bars of the crib. Meanwhile, the risk of suffocation or sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) from crib bumpers is high.

### Use breast milk to treat an ear infection.

Some individuals advise parents to put a small amount of breast milk in a baby's or toddler's ear to treat an ear infection. It is a strategy that won't help and may cause a new infection. Breast milk does have some antibodies in it, which are helpful to the body. But it also has lots of sugars that bacteria love to grow on. Because the eardrum seals off the area that's infected, breast milk won't reach the infection. And when the milk pools, it can attract bacteria.



## Pets don't give your kids allergy

A new study has revealed that exposure of children to pets in early life does not increase the risk of their allergies to these animals later in life. The researchers followed a group of children from birth until they reached adulthood. And at age 18 years, 565 study participants supplied blood samples to the researchers, who measured antibodies to dog and cat allergens in the samples. They found that being exposed to the specific animal in the first year of life was the most important exposure period, and the exposure appeared protective in some groups.



Young men whose families had kept an indoor dog during their first year of life had about half the risk of becoming sensitized to dogs compared to those whose families did not keep a dog in the first year of life. Both men and women were about half as likely to be sensitized to cats if they had lived with a cat

in the first year of life, compared to those who did not live with cats. "This research provides further evidence that experiences in the first year of life are associated with health status later in life, and that early life pet exposure does not put most children at risk of being sensitized to these animals later in life," said Ganessa Wegienka, the Department of Public Health Sciences, Henry Ford Hospital. The study was published in the journal, Clinical & Experimental Allergy.

## 'Yoga helps me maintain my work-life balance'

### Managing work-life balance

When one runs one's own business, the balance becomes a lot easier to achieve, since hours are flexible. Living close to work is a key factor in saving time - something that we force even our employees to comply with. But the most important factor is yoga, which balances everything out by making one a 'saakshi' - an observer of one's actions. Yoga helps me maintain my work-life balance. Once this is achieved, one is freed of dualities and one remains unaffected by the ups and downs that seem to be so difficult for people to handle. The more you get rid of the conditioning that society has given you, the more relaxed, real and blissful you will be. Start now! Being a fit man Yoga automatically regulates your diet (if you wish to do it properly), especially kriya yoga. The extremes are avoided and fitness follows. I follow a paleo diet, as it helps me detox, especially after long overseas business trips.

### Energy high and happiness

Happiness and misery are two sides of the same coin and one gets to a state of peace - shanti, which is followed by continuous bliss, as long as one remains unattached to one's actions. This is not as difficult as it sounds - it follows with proper yoga. It's a surprisingly easy journey

and transformation.

### Risk-taker or a micro-planner?

I take risks and I also believe in micro-planning. Both happen and both are necessary, so it depends on situations.

### Spiritual diet

Osho, yoga and kriya are enough to keep one going for a lifetime and beyond.

### Handling failure/success

For me, failure and success don't really matter and the less they matter, the more blissful one becomes!

### Crisis management

Once one has achieved a balance and is not upset with the ups and downs of life, crisis is handled matter of factly. Once they're gone, you realise they were never really a crisis in the first place for the most part.



## F&O frenzy: SEBI gives markets a breather by skipping any action

**MUMBAI.** The board of the markets regulator SEBI which met Monday, has left a much-awaited decision on curbing the fast rising derivatives play by retail investors who have been losing heavily from that but has taken a slew of other pro-investor measures.

Some of the key decisions include slashing the number of days to complete a rights issue to just 23 working days from the present 317 days, increasing the T+0 settlement to top 500 stocks from the present 25 and has also decided not to push for instantaneous settlement. Measures to deepen the bond markets by easing disclosure norms about debenture trustees and introduced single filing system for listed and to be listed entities to file relevant reports, documents etc on one exchange which will be automatically disseminated at the other exchanges. Among others.

Market has been closely watching today's board meeting outcome to see if the regulator would rollout a new framework to govern index derivatives. But in an anti-climax, the regulator did not make any changes to the index-derivatives rules at all at the meeting which was the first since a volley of allegations were raised against the chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch mid-August by a US short-seller Hindenburg and the main opposition party Congress accusing her of conflicts of interest and favouring certain corporates where her husband Dhaval Buch has some pro-profit assignments.

At the 207th meeting of the board was held in Mumbai, SEBI approved the much-anticipated introduction of the regulatory framework for a new investment product/asset class in the mutual fund business by introducing the liberalised MF lite (MF Lite) framework for passively managed fund schemes.

Amending the mutual funds regulations of 1996, the Sebi introduced new investment product called MF lite under the existing mutual fund framework. The new product will bridge the gap between MFs and portfolio management services in terms of flexibility in portfolio construction. The new product also aims to curtail the proliferation of unregistered and unauthorized investment schemes/entities, which often promise unrealistic high returns and exploit investors' expectations for better yields, leading to potential financial risks. It has also allowed investors the option to trade in the secondary market (cash segment) either using UPI block mechanism (Asba-like for secondary markets), or 3-in-1 trading facility in addition to the current mode of trading. The regulator has said from now on one of the two facilities have to be mandatorily offered by stock brokers and other incidental matters.

## Stock Market Holiday: BSE, NSE To Remain Closed On October 2; Check MCX Details

**New Delhi.** Indian bourses – National Stock Exchange (NSE) & Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) – will remain closed on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, in observance of Gandhi Jayanti. This national holiday celebrates the birth of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a pivotal figure known for India's independence, coupled with his principles of nonviolence and civil disobedience. As per the BSE holiday calendar, there will be no trading on October 2 in the equity, equity derivatives, and SLB segments. The Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) will also observe the holiday, closing for both trading sessions on October 2. That said, the exchanges will resume regular operations on Thursday, October 3, allowing investors to re-enter the market after a day of reflection.

Upcoming stock market holidays in 2024 include Diwali on November 1, Guru Nanak Jayanti on November 15, and Christmas on December 25, during which the stock exchanges will also remain closed.

There will be a special trading session, the Muhurat trading session, conducted by the exchanges on November 01 to mark the auspicious occasion of Diwali. The session will usher in Samvat 2081, a new Hindu Calendar year.

## Tech Mahindra Shares Rally 4% After CLSA Upgrade Ahead Of Earnings On Margin Boost



**New Delhi.** Shares of IT major Tech Mahindra rallied 4.2 per cent to a day's high of Rs 1,642.20 on the BSE after the global brokerage firm CLSA upgraded the stock to an 'Outperform' rating from an earlier 'Hold,' with a target price of Rs 1,749 per share.

In its note, CLSA mentioned that Tech Mahindra is already seeing an expansion in its EBIT margin, with the next key milestone being the order book. However, a broad-based growth revival for Tech Mahindra is not expected until FY26. The financial services, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors are expected to drive the majority of this growth. CLSA views the company's EBIT margin target of 15 per cent by FY27 as achievable and not overly ambitious, noting that the recent upward trend in EBIT margins provides scope for further rerating. Last month, Citi had assigned a 'Sell' recommendation on Tech Mahindra, with a price target of Rs 1,260 per share. Citi said the IT stock's growth is still difficult in the current environment. Out of the 44 analysts that have coverage on Tech Mahindra, 18 of them have a 'Buy' rating, 11 of them say 'Hold', while 15 have a 'Sell' call. The consensus implies a potential downside of about 4 per cent from the current levels. Since May 2023, the stock has been on an upward trajectory.

# Consumers await fuel price relief as OMCs pocket huge gains

**Despite falling crude prices and record profits, consumers are still waiting for meaningful reductions in fuel prices, even as oil marketing companies are reaping huge benefits.**

**New Delhi.** Indian oil marketing companies are seeing a sharp rise in profits as crude oil prices drop, but consumers continue to wait for noticeable cuts in petrol and diesel prices. While household budgets are already strained by rising food and essential costs, fuel prices have remained unchanged since earlier this year. Major state-owned companies such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum

Corporation Ltd (BPCL), and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) are currently earning significant profits—Rs 15 per litre on petrol and Rs 12 per litre on diesel—thanks to the drop in crude prices, according to a recent report by ICRA. Girish Kumar Kadam, Senior Vice President and Group Head - Corporate Ratings at ICRA, said, "ICRA estimates that the OMCs' net realisation was higher by Rs 15/litre for petrol and Rs 12/litre for diesel compared to international product prices in September 2024 (up to September 17). The retail selling prices of these fuels have remained unchanged since March 2024." A minor reduction of Rs 2/litre was implemented on both petrol and diesel on March 15, 2024.

The report highlights that recent reductions in crude oil prices have improved marketing margins for Indian OMCs. Despite this, fuel prices in India remain elevated, with petrol still exceeding Rs 100 per litre in many states and diesel



hovering above Rs 90 per litre. These persistent high prices directly impact inflation across various sectors, from transportation to aviation, and even daily essentials like cooking. ICRA had earlier suggested that there is room for OMCs to cut petrol and diesel prices by Rs 2-3 per litre. The financial performance of OMCs for FY 2023-24 has been remarkable, with combined profits reaching Rs 86,000 crore—25 times higher than the previous fiscal year. HPCL reported a record net profit of Rs 16,014 crore, a stark contrast to its loss of Rs 6,980 crore in FY 2022-

23. BPCL's profit after tax soared to Rs 26,673 crore, nearly 13 times higher than the prior year. Despite these stellar financial results, consumers have yet to see any significant reductions in fuel prices. Experts suggest that OMCs now have an opportunity to lower prices, potentially offering relief ahead of upcoming state elections in Maharashtra and Haryana. The price of crude oil significantly impacts the profitability of fuel retailers, particularly OMCs that control about 90% of India's fuel retail market. As global crude prices have fallen, these companies have widened their marketing margins. ICRA's report indicates that marketing margins for OMCs have improved considerably due to this dip in crude prices. Earlier this month, Pankaj Jain, Secretary at the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, mentioned that price reductions could be considered if crude oil prices remain low for an extended period.

## This smallcap EV stock is up 38,000% in 5 years. Have you invested

**New Delhi.** A little-known smallcap firm's stock from the electric vehicle (EV) sector has once again hit the 5% upper circuit on Tuesday, marking its fifth consecutive session of rapid gains. Mercury Ev-Tech's share price has surged by more than 25% over the past week, driven by robust buying momentum. In just a month, the company's shares have gained over 83% and over 168% in a year. In the past five years, the stock has gained a whopping 38,900%. As of 1:34pm, the shares remained locked at Rs 132.60 apiece on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), continuing the company's remarkable upward trajectory. The rally follows the company's surprising announcement of a significant acquisition. According to a recent stock exchange filing, the board has approved the purchase of a 70% stake in a key player within the electric three-wheeler market for Rs 35 lakh.

"The Board of Directors of the Company at



its meeting held today, inter-alia had considered and approved the acquisition/purchase of 70% stake in Haitek Automotive Private Limited, equivalent to 350,000 equity shares of Rs 10/- each at a price of Rs 10/- each, total consideration being Rs 35,00,000." Mercury Ev-Tech said in a BSE filing on September 30. With this acquisition, the company aims to strengthen its presence in the rapidly growing EV space, particularly in West Bengal, where demand for three-wheelers has seen a notable uptick.

## India's factory growth cools to eight-month low in September

**New Delhi.** Growth in India's manufacturing industry cooled to an eight-month low in September as solid demand and output eased slightly, according to a business survey that also showed weaker price increases despite rising input cost inflation. Factory production growth has been weakening since June and is likely to have further affected the expansion rate in Asia's third-largest economy last quarter, after the rise in gross domestic product (GDP) softened to 6.7% in April-June. The HSBC final India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (INPMI)=ECI, compiled by S&P Global, fell to 56.5 last month from 57.5 in August - the weakest since January - and slightly below a preliminary estimate of 56.7. However, the reading has been above the 50-mark, which separates growth from contraction, since July 2021. "Momentum in India's manufacturing sector softened in September from the very strong growth in the summer months," noted Pranjal Bhandari, chief India economist at HSBC. New orders - a key gauge of demand - grew at the weakest pace

since December, though were still robust, while output was at an eight-month low. International demand took a bigger hit and export growth eased to a level not seen in a year-and-a-



half. Only 6% of firms surveyed reported an increase in overseas orders. That meant business sentiment soured slightly and the future output sub-index, indicating optimism among firms about the coming year, fell to its lowest since April 2023 and employment generation eased to a six-month low. Although input cost inflation increased from August, inflation in prices charged was at a five-month low, suggesting not all price

**New orders - a key gauge of demand - grew at the weakest pace since December, though were still robust, while output was at an eight-month low.**

rises were being passed on to customers amid weaker demand. "Input prices rose at a faster rate in September while factory gate price inflation eased, intensifying the compression on manufacturers' margins," added Bhandari. However, a Reuters poll last month showed price pressures would increase in coming months despite inflation recently falling below the Reserve Bank of India's medium term target of 4%.

The central bank is expected to keep interest rates on hold in October and only start cutting from December.

# Who is Tony Vinciguerra, outgoing CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment

**Tony Vinciguerra joined Sony Pictures Entertainment in June 2017 and saw five consecutive years of profit growth**

**New Delhi.** Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) have announced a major leadership change with Ravi Ahuja, currently the Chairman of Global Television Studios and President and COO of SPE, being promoted to President and CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment. This change will take effect on 2nd January 2025 as Ahuja will take over from Tony Vinciguerra, who has decided to step down as CEO. However, Vinciguerra will remain as non-executive Chairman in an advisory role until the end of December 2025.

Who is Tony Vinciguerra? Tony Vinciguerra joined Sony Pictures Entertainment in June 2017 and led the company through a period of significant transformation. During his tenure, SPE

saw five consecutive years of profit growth. This success was driven by a stronger film slate, a revitalised television business, and strategic mergers and acquisitions, including the notable acquisition of anime streaming company Crunchyroll in 2021. Under Vinciguerra's leadership, SPE also made key decisions, such as divesting most of its international cable networks and opting not to launch a general entertainment streaming service. These moves helped SPE stay profitable amid rapid changes in the media and entertainment industry.

Kenichiro Yoshida, Chairman and CEO of Sony Group Corporation, praised Vinciguerra's contributions to SPE, and said "extraordinary turnaround at SPE over the last 10 years would not have been possible without Tony's deep experience and expertise in the entertainment space." He also mentioned that Vinciguerra's strategic decisions were key to making SPE a core part of Sony's overall entertainment strategy. Tony Vinciguerra's career before Sony Pictures Before joining SPE, Vinciguerra



held senior roles in the media and entertainment industry. From 2011 to 2017, he worked as Senior Advisor to Texas Pacific Group (TPG) in the Technology, Media, and Telecom sectors. At TPG, he focused on capital investment, growth opportunities, and the impact of digital and emerging technologies on the distribution and consumption of film and TV content. Vinciguerra's career at Fox spanned nearly 10 years, from 2001 to 2011. During his time there, he served as Chairman and CEO of Fox Networks Group, which was the largest operating unit of News Corporation. The group included Fox

Television Network, Fox Cable Networks, Fox Sports, Fox International Channels, and their related online businesses. He also had oversight of Fox Networks Engineering & Operations, as well as News Corporation's interests in professional sports teams and entertainment venues. Vinciguerra started at Fox in December 2001 as President of Fox Television Network and was later named President and CEO of Fox Networks Group in 2002, becoming Chairman in 2008. He was inducted into the Broadcasting and Cable Hall of Fame in 2009. Prior to his work at Fox, Vinciguerra held key leadership positions at various media companies. He served as Executive Vice President and COO of Hearst-Argyle Television from 1997 to 2001, and before that, he was Executive Vice President at CBS's television group from 1995 to 1997. Vinciguerra also held leadership roles at KYW-TV in Philadelphia and WBZ-TV in Boston, where he began his television career.

## Check latest interest rates on PPF, SCSS, SSY and more

**New Delhi.** The government has confirmed that the current interest rates for small savings schemes will stay the same for the October to December 2024 quarter. This means there will be no changes in the rates during this period. The post office savings schemes included in this decision are the Public Provident Fund (PPF), Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS), Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY), National Savings Certificate (NSC), Post Office Time Deposits (POTD), Mahila Samman Savings Certificate, and the Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (POMIS). In a press release dated 30th September 2024, the finance ministry said, "The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the third quarter of FY 2024-25 starting from 1st October 2024 and ending on 31st December 2024 shall remain unchanged from those notified for the second quarter of FY 2024-25." As a result, the PPF will continue to earn an interest rate of 7.1% from October to December 2024. How are interest rates determined? Small savings schemes, offered through the post office, are backed by the central government and are considered a safe investment option. They also provide tax benefits under section 80C of the Income-tax Act, 1961, for schemes like NSC, SCSS, and PPF. The government adjusts the interest rates on these schemes every quarter. The rates are set based on recommendations from the Shyamala Gopinath Committee, which suggests that the interest rates should be 25 to 100 basis points higher than government bond yields of the same maturity.

This approach ensures the schemes remain attractive to investors by offering competitive returns. The last significant adjustment to interest rates for small savings schemes occurred for the quarter ending December 2023. Some small savings schemes saw rate hikes, but the PPF rate has stayed at 7.1% since April-June 2020. There is growing curiosity about when small savings scheme rates might begin to decrease. Some experts suggest that the government could eventually lower rates, especially after the United States Federal Reserve recently cut its rates by 50 basis points. However, any decision on this is expected to be made cautiously. Since the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained its interest rates in recent meetings, it is unlikely that the government will make any drastic reductions to small savings scheme rates in the near future. Investors can expect rates to stay stable for the time being, especially given the slight increases seen in recent quarters. Experts believe that a gradual decrease in small savings interest rates could happen over the next six months to a year. With the US Federal Reserve already starting to lower its rates, it signals a possible downward trend globally.

## NEWS BOX

## Shan Masood's self-respect questioned, Pakistan media urged to show respect

New Delhi. Pakistan Test captain Shan Masood found himself in an awkward situation during a recent press conference, prompting the Pakistan Cricket Board's (PCB) media director to step in and defend the skipper. Masood was confronted with a question about his self-respect at the press conference, held ahead of Pakistan's upcoming home Test series against England. The tense moment occurred when a journalist bluntly asked Masood whether he had considered stepping down as captain due to Pakistan's poor performance in recent matches. "(Aapne bola jub tak woh mauka de rahe hain, avail kareng. Kabhi khud say koi khuddari nahi aati ki 'yaar haar gaye, performance nahi ho rahi, chod ke chale jayin?)" You said till PCB gives chances you will avail them. Don't you have the self-respect to call it quits since the team is losing and not able to perform? Masood, visibly caught off guard by the phrasing, briefly glanced at the PCB's media director, Sami ul Hasan, before responding minimally and moving on without directly answering the question. The interaction sparked an immediate reaction from Hasan, who stepped in at the end of the press conference to address the tone of the inquiry.



"Pakistan ka captain baitha hai, aap bilkul sawal karein (Pakistan captain is sitting, you can definitely ask questions). But please show respect... It was not the appropriate way of asking the Pakistan captain the question that you asked."

This incident marked Masood's first press conference since being retained as Pakistan's Test captain, despite a string of defeats. Pakistan has lost all five Tests under Masood's leadership since he succeeded Babar Azam, raising questions about the PCB's decision to stick with him. Masood's captaincy has been heavily criticized following Pakistan's struggles, including a 0-2 whitewash at home against Bangladesh earlier this year. Despite the challenging results, Masood remains at the helm as Pakistan prepares to face England in a three-match Test series, set to begin on October 7 in Multan.

## 'Selfless approach and play to win': Manjrekar on Rohit Sharma's legacy

Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar lauded Rohit Sharma's selfless approach after Day 4 of the Kanpur Test match. Speaking on ESPNcricinfo Manjrekar said that the India Test captain had secured his legacy in the Indian team. Under Rohit's leadership, India deflated the Bangladesh side on Day 4, with their firebrand cricket. Despite losing more than two days of cricket due to wet outfield and rain, India came out with an aggressive approach on the



penultimate day of the Test match. The Indian team scored 285 runs in just 34.4 overs, breaking open the Test match. Manjrekar lauded the aggression and called it a 'champion's approach' - one that Sharma had imbibed in the Indian team. "This is the legacy that Rohit Sharma will leave behind as captain. This is how he thinks. A strong team, which is one of the top two sides in the world, they also showed the champion's approach, realising so much time has been lost. And he leads by example, exactly how he did in the 50-overs World Cup. So, this is what Rohit Sharma will leave behind as his contribution to Indian cricket," Manjrekar said on ESPNcricinfo.

IND vs BAN, 2nd Test: Day 5 Live Updates | Full Scorecard

Manjrekar added on Rohit Sharma's legacy and said that the Indian captain did not care about personal milestones because his only goal was to win matches. "You do something only for the team and play to win. He does not mind in the process, like in the 50-overs World Cup... He didn't get a big hundred on anything like that. Even here, was quite happy to put his wicket on the line and suddenly we have a Test match which India could win. You have to applaud Rohit Sharma for that," the former India batter further added. India started Day 5 with a lead of 25 runs. Bangladesh had Mominul Haque and Shadman Islam in the crease and had 8 wickets in hand in their second innings.

## Barcelona set 17-year-old Marc Bernal's buyout clause at 500 million euros

FC Barcelona handed their 17-year-old mid-field prodigy Marc Bernal a new senior team contract. Bernal, who is recovering from an ACL surgery has a new buyout clause of 500 million euros.

New Delhi FC Barcelona have handed a new contract to their 17-year-old mid-field prodigy Marc Bernal. The Spanish club set Marc Bernal's buyout clause at 500 million euros and extended the teenager's contract until June 2026, the LaLiga club said on Monday, 1 October. When Spaniard Bernal will no longer be an Under-19 player in 2026, he will have an option to extend for an additional three years, the club said. Bernal, who was compared to Sergio Busquets after



he played his first match for the club in LaLiga, ruptured his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during Barca's 2-1 victory at Rayo Vallecano last month. Bernal was involved in a late tackle, where he was

forced off the pitch in the final minutes. A product of Barcelona's youth academy, Bernal has made three league appearances since his debut for the senior team in their LaLiga opener against Valencia. "Marc

Bernal was, until his unfortunate injury, the huge sensation at the start of the season. After he joined manager Hansi Flick for the pre-season, the German coach was convinced that he was ready to move up to the next level," Barcelona said in a statement. "The club is convinced that he is a fabulous investment for the future and has reflected this belief with today's new deal," it further added.

## Marc Bernal's Injury

FC Barcelona had announced on August 28 that 17-year-old rising star Marc Bernal will be sidelined indefinitely after rupturing his anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) during the team's La Liga match against Rayo Vallecano. The promising defensive midfielder sustained the injury during stoppage time in the 2-1 comeback victory, which marked his third consecutive start for the Blaugrana this season. In an official statement, Barcelona confirmed the extent of the injury, revealing that Bernal also suffered damage to the lateral meniscus in his left knee. The club described the development as a significant setback for the young player, whose performances had made him a key figure in the early stages of the season.

## Phil Foden back to his best soon, predicts Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola

Manchester. Manchester City forward Phil Foden is yet to replicate the dazzling form of last season, but manager Pep Guardiola believes the 24-year-old is poised for a breakthrough in the coming weeks. Foden, who netted 28 goals across all competitions last season and was crowned PFA Player of the Year, has struggled for game time so far, starting just once in five appearances this term. His sole start came in a League Cup match against Watford, while he's been mostly relegated to the bench in the Premier League. However, speaking ahead of City's upcoming Champions League fixture against Slovan Bratislava in Slovakia, Guardiola expressed confidence that Foden is nearing his best form. "Maybe I can have some doubts in many things, but Phil Foden is going to be back! As much as he feels good, he will be back," Guardiola told reporters. "In 30 minutes at St James' Park (against Newcastle), I already saw something I liked that I didn't see against



Watford."

Foden is still waiting to open his goal tally for the season, but Tuesday's match against Bratislava, who were hammered 5-1 by Celtic in their group stage opener, could provide the perfect stage for him to make his mark. Guardiola noted that Foden's slow start could be attributed to fitness issues. "Don't forget after the Euros he didn't have any training for two months, he had problems with some niggles and his health," Guardiola said. "But now he is smiling, he's in his rhythm. He was the best player in the

Premier League last season, so we need him. I have no doubts about his passion, and he will be back." City opened their Champions League campaign with a goalless draw at home to Inter Milan, and they will be looking to secure a more convincing result in Slovakia. Guardiola warned, though, that they cannot afford to be complacent. "I have incredible respect for all the teams in the Champions League, especially when you play away," he said. "Hopefully we can be aggressive and take the result that we need. Nothing is for granted, nothing comes for free." City defender John Stones echoed his manager's caution, recalling England's narrow 2-1 victory over Slovakia in Euro 2024. "We know the quality that they've got," said Stones. "That game went right to the wire, and tomorrow night, they will be well-organized, and it will be an incredible atmosphere." Manchester City will be aiming to avoid any surprises as they continue their quest for European glory, with Foden's anticipated resurgence potentially providing a crucial boost to their ambitions.

## Tamim Iqbal praises Rohit, Gambhir's 'champion mentality' in Kanpur Test

New Delhi Former Bangladesh captain Tamim Iqbal lauded India coach and captain duo Gautam Gambhir and Rohit Sharma for the team's champion mentality in the Kanpur Test. Speaking ahead of Day 5 of the Test match, Tamim said that India could have easily batted for 90 overs on Day 4 of the Test match and tried to bowl out Bangladesh on the final day of the game. However, the hosts decided to come out with aggressive intent and did not care about personal milestones. On Day 4 of the Kanpur Test, India took Bangladesh by surprise when they started smashing fours and sixes from the very first ball of the match. Sharma hit a six off the first ball himself, while Yashasvi Jaiswal reached his fifty in no time.

In fact, India broke the record of reaching the fastest 50, 100, 150, 200, and 250 in Test cricket in a remarkable show of power-hitting. Tamim lauded the approach and said

that this kind of cricket was only possible if there was full backing from the coach and captain. When Bangladesh play against Zimbabwe there's a lot to lose for Bangladesh, not a lot to gain. A lot of pressure is on Bangladesh. It's similar to India when India is playing Bangladesh. There's a lot to lose for India, not much to gain. So in this kind of situation, the bigger teams normally take the safer way and which India could have taken yesterday. Just bat normally 90 overs and see what happens and then give Bangladesh 30-40 overs and see if they can get out. But that is the difference of the mentality of a champion team, and a team who has not been very successful in international cricket. India took the attacking way and it was backed heavily by the management and the captain," Tamim Iqbal said on Jio Cinema ahead of Day 5 of the Test match.

IND vs BAN, 2nd Test: Day 5 Live Updates |

## Full Scorecard

Tamim said that Rohit Sharma was able to convince the Indian team that personal milestones were not important and that the team needed to play in a particular way. The former Bangladesh captain said that Sharma was leading the team by example, coming out and hitting the first ball for six.

"You saw the way Rohit came in yesterday, first ball six, maybe the first three shots were almost all sixes, so that shows the mentality and that is the way he wants to lead and that is the way he wants all the other players to perform. So it's a great example. I think whatever he is doing, I'm not in that dressing room, I don't know much, but from the outside, whatever he is doing is working for them. Personal milestones, personal achievements are not important, as they used to be before. It's all about team, whether you get 20 or whether you get 200. If the team needs you.



Before his Ranji Trophy debut, Suryavanshi had already made a name for himself in age-group cricket. He played for the India B U-19 side in a Quadrangular Under-19 series, where he scored 177 runs in six innings, including two half-centuries. He also performed well in the Vinoo Mankad Trophy, ending as the eighth-best run scorer with 393 runs from five matches and an average of 78.60. Suryavanshi's journey in cricket began at the age of nine, with early coaching from his father, Sanjeev Suryavanshi. His father's passion for cricket and his own dedication have driven Vaibhav to achieve remarkable success at such a young age, making him a promising talent in Indian cricket.

## Ousmane Dembele controversy: PSG coach says he will drop player '100 more times'

PSG manager Luis Enrique has said that he would drop star winger Ousmane Dembele 100 times over if it would help him make a better team. Dembele fell out with the manager just days ahead of the team's crucial Champions League clash against Arsenal.

PSG manager Luis Enrique said that he would drop winger Ousmane Dembele a 100 times over if it meant making a better team. PSG snubbed an in-form Dembele from their squad ahead of their crucial Champions League clash against Arsenal. Dembele reportedly had a fallout with the manager after their 3-1 win over Rennes. The PSG coach said that Dembele failed to

meet the needs of the team and was omitted from the squad for disciplinary reasons. While Luis Enrique said there was no argument between himself and Dembele, he took the decision for the good of the team.

If someone doesn't comply with the requirements of the team, it means that they are not ready," Luis Enrique told a press conference. "It means in such an important week, with such an important game coming up, we need every player to be fully available." "My objective is to do the best for the team and that was my decision."

The manager was pressed further on making such an important choice, leaving out a player who has scored four league goals in six games, for such a key European game. "You think it is easy to create a team. You press a button and the 11 best players play and everything goes well," the manager said.



"No, making a team takes a certain amount of circumstances that can be difficult. Yesterday I had to make a difficult decision but I think it is the best decision without any doubt. "I would make it 100 more times. That doesn't mean the situation is irreversible. But the best situation for the team right now is this, in my opinion." The coach would not

give further details on what happened with Dembele, but said that his job is to create a team and that is what he will continue to do.

"I am not going to make a soap opera out of it, there was no argument between the player and me. There was a problem with the players responsibility to the team. Nothing else," he said. "I signed for PSG last season to create a team. That is something I can guarantee. Until the last day that I am in

Paris, I am going to make a team. "A team that is brave, daring, plays good football or tries to. The first day I cannot do that I will go back home." PSG won their opening Champions League game 1-0 against Girona while Arsenal were held to a 0-0 draw away to Atalanta.

# Urvashi Rautela

**BRUTALLY Trolled For 'Speaking in Tamil': 'Is She Making Fun of It?'**



Urvashi Rautela is getting trolled on social media after a video of her 'speaking in Tamil' surfaced online. The actress was attending IIFA 2024 in Abu Dhabi. This year, the organisers honoured the best of South and Hindi films. Urvashi has worked in a couple of South Indian films in the past year and was one of the guests at the ceremony. As she posed for the paparazzi, a cameraman requested her to speak in Tamil. She obliged to the request and attempted to speak in the language. However, she blurted out gibberish words and walked away. Several social media users pointed out that she was not speaking. A few also accused her of making fun of the language.

Where is the Tamil?? asked a user. "Who said this is Tamil oh god," added another.

"She is not speaking tamil bro," a third user wrote. "Is she making fun of Tamil people she can't speak English without her fake accent," a comment read. "That is not Tamil language she is just pretending," a social media user said. "Nonsense this is not Tamil don't even know what she said and which language it is," a user said. Urvashi recently made the headlines for claiming that stars such as Aditya Roy Kapur and Hrithik Roshan are on dating apps. In a conversation with Hauterrfly, the actress claimed to have seen the profiles of Aditya Roy Kapur and Hrithik Roshan. "I am on Raya, but that's only for friends and not with another kind of perspective."

Hrithik is there on Raya; I saw Aditya Roy Kapur, and there are so many other celebrities on the app," Urvashi said. On being asked if she has been swiping on Raya, the actress joked, "I already have their numbers. Why would I need to swipe right? Also with the schedule, if I have free time and they have free time, we can talk. Then a lot of people have to pay to send you a direct request."

# Deepika Padukone

**Teases Ranveer Singh In Hilarious Instagram Story About His Late Arrival**

Bollywood's beloved couple Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh became parents to a baby girl earlier in September. The new mom, busy fulfilling her duties towards her newborn baby, often takes to her Instagram account, sharing hilarious posts and relatable memes. On Monday, the Kalki 2898 AD actress re-posted a video highlighting how she waits for her husband. The clip opens with a child running towards a glass door while holding a pair of binoculars. Upon reaching the door, the child carefully peers outside, as if waiting for someone. The caption on the video read, "Me when my husband tells me he'll be home at 5:00, and now it's 5:01."

Deepika shared the post on her Instagram Stories with a smiley face sticker and tagged her husband.

Deepika and Ranveer, who tied the knot in 2018, welcomed their first child, a daughter, on September 8. The couple shared this news with their millions of fans through a collaborative Instagram post. Weeks after the announcement, the new dad in town made his first appearance sans his wife at an event hosted in Antilia. In a now-viral video, Ranveer expressed his happiness in becoming a father and said, "Baap ban gaya re (I have become a father)." Just days before welcoming their child into this world, the couple shared a bunch of pictures where Deepika was seen flaunting her bare baby bump, silencing those who questioned her pregnancy earlier. The duo looked much in love in the monochromatic pictures that they shared on September 2. The actress dropped the pictures without any profound caption and just with a few emojis. The couple's excited fans couldn't keep calm after watching the pictures, flooding the comment section of the post with their heartfelt reactions.

On the work front, Deepika Padukone was last seen in the period drama Kalki 2898 AD, co-starring Prabhas and Amitabh Bachchan, among others. The new mom will be next seen in Rohit Shetty's film Singham Again, scheduled to be released in theatres on November 1. The film also features Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Akshay Kumar, Tiger Shroff, and Arjun Kapoor. Meanwhile, Ranveer Singh's last film was Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani, co-starring Alia Bhatt. He has been roped in for a multi-starrer film directed by Aditya Dhar.

## Bigg Boss Marathi 5: Ankita Walawalkar's Heated Clash With Abhijeet Shocks Fans In Finale Week



The final week of Bigg Boss Marathi has begun, and all eyes are on the house to see what will unfold. Many are curious whether the true nature of some contestants will be revealed in this last phase. Konkani girl Ankita Walawalkar, has been making headlines since her first day in the house. She has excelled in many tasks throughout the season, but in this final week, Ankita achieved something she hadn't managed from the start. Colors Marathi has released a new promo of Bigg Boss Marathi 5 on their official social media handle. In the first week, Ankita was assigned dishwashing duties but revealed that she had a trauma related to washing dishes, stating she never washes dishes even at home. This comment led to her being trolled online. It has also been said that Ankita often tries to maintain a certain image in the house. Recently, she has been seen continually confronting Nikki over Suraj. Many believe Ankita has yet to show her true self in the house.

In the last week, Ankita did something unexpected after eight weeks—she lost her temper for the first time. In the Bigg Boss promo, Ankita and Abhijeet have a heated argument over household duties. Ankita accuses Abhijeet of "taking over the entire bathroom by giving her the dining table," to which Abhijeet responds that if she finds her duties overwhelming, she should speak up. Ankita fires back, telling him, "You always present yourself as a gentleman, then be one here too." Abhijeet defends himself, saying he has taken on his duties as per his convenience. The argument escalates when Ankita shouts at him, leaving the audience surprised to see her so aggressive for the first time in the Bigg Boss house.

## THIS Superstar Played Cupid Between Sonakshi Sinha And Zaheer Iqbal



Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal are one of the most loved Bollywood couples. The duo, who got married in June after 7 years of dating, do not shy away from flaunting their love for each other in public. Recently, the star couple arrived as special guests on the dancing reality show India's Best Dancer 4, where the Notebook actor revealed that superstar Salman Khan played cupid in their life to help them unite. During the episode, when the host Jay Bhanushali asked the newlyweds whether there was a cupid between them, Zaheer mentioned the Bajrangi Bhaijaan actor's name. He said, "He was the first to notice."

Unhone mujhe bulaya aur kaha ki tum bhi family ho aur woh bhi family hai, toh kya ho raha hai. Maine kaha nahi nahi, genuine feelings hain. (Salman called me and said that you are my family and she is also my family, so what actually is happening between you two? I said we have genuine feelings) and we really love each other."

Both Sonakshi and Zaheer kept their relationship private before getting married earlier this year. Recently, during the CNN-News18 Mumbai Townhall 2024 event, the two revealed their reasons for staying private, shedding light on their journey as a couple. The Dabangg actress said, "Nazar," hinting at the common belief of warding off negative energy. "I believe it is always best to keep private matters secret. You're already in the spotlight, and everyone knows everything about you. Something so precious to you should be kept for yourself," she said.

Zaheer, however, admitted that he initially thought his feelings were just the result of something new and exciting. "I knew from the beginning that she was the one, but I only accepted it much later," he said. On the work front, Sonakshi Sinha was last seen in the horror-comedy film Kakuda alongside Riteish Deshmukh and Saqib Saleem. She will be next seen reportedly in the film Tu Hai Meri Kiran opposite her husband Zaheer Iqbal. The duo shared the screen space for the first time in the comedy-drama film Double XL which also starred Huma Qureshi and Mahat Raghvendra.

