

'All seats will be won by INDIA bloc, SP': Akhilesh Yadav

ST Correspondent

Lucknow, Oct 10: Ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh assembly by-elections, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav expressed confidence in the INDIA alliance. Ahead of the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly by-elections, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav expressed confidence in the victory, claiming that the SP, along with the INDIA alliance, will win all the seats. However, when asked about the seat-sharing arrangements within the INDIA bloc, he stated that it is still to be discussed, after which considerations will be made. Earlier in the day amid speculations of a rift in INDIA in Uttar Pradesh, Kannauj MP Akhilesh Yadav said on Thursday that the Opposition alliance will remain intact and the Samajwadi Party and Congress



will fight together in the upcoming UP by-polls. After offering tribute on the second death anniversary of Samajwadi party patriarch Mulayam Singh Yadav, Akhilesh Yadav addressed the media in which he told about the current scenario of alliance in UP by-elections. On Wednesday, the Samajwadi Party (SP) announced six candidates for the upcoming by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly. Tej Pratap Yadav will contest from Karhal, while other candidates include Naseem Solanki from Sisamau, Mustafa Siddiqui from Phulpur, Ajit Prasad from Milkpur, Shobhavati Verma from Katehari, and Dr. Jyoti Bind from Majhwan. However, soon after the announcement, Congress State Incharge Avinash Pandey said that no information was given to them about it and no discussion was held with the coordination committee of the INDIA bloc. "It is true that no information was given to us about it. There has been no discussion with the coordination committee of the INDIA alliance yet. As far as the announcement of seats and contesting elections is concerned, whatever decision the Coordination Committee of INDIA alliance takes, it will be accepted by the Uttar Pradesh Congress Committee. We are not overconfident in Uttar Pradesh but are fully confident and due to this, along with strengthening and empowering the organization, the work of election preparation has also started. Possibilities (of alliance) always remain till the end, it cannot be denied.

Tata, a man worth his salt: India bids farewell to her favourite son

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Mumbai, Oct 10: India's financial capital on Thursday bid an emotional farewell to Ratan Tata, one of her most illustrious sons who defined both her enterprise and humility as thousands, from ordinary citizens to luminaries, paid tributes to him before his last journey. The final rites of the industry titan-philanthropist were performed with full state honours at a crematorium in Worli in the evening after Mumbai police personnel accorded him a gun salute, a day after he died at a city hospital, marking end of an era. The last rites were performed as per the Parsi tradition, one of the priests present at the crematorium said. After the funeral, there will be three more days of rituals which will be conducted at the late business tycoon's bungalow in Colaba, south Mumbai, he said. After his death late on

Wednesday night, Tata's mortal remains were taken to his residence in the early hours of Thursday, and from there to a cultural centre to allow members of the public to pay their last respects. Industry captains, top politicians, sports and film personalities and Mumbaiers came together to pay their last respects to the 86-year-old former Tata Group chairman. As announced earlier by the Maharashtra government, the funeral took place with full state honours, as part of which the Tricolour covered the casket covering the body and a gun salute was given by the Mumbai Police. The Maharashtra

mortal remains were kept for most part of the day, and stayed put till the end of the last rites in the evening. The Ambani family

cultural institution, the crowds had already swelled up in anticipation. In a rare display of camaraderie, the A-listers joined in with the commoners in paying their last respects. Amongst the more recognised names from the business world who went to NCPA were Tata Group chairman Natarajan Chandrasekaran, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, billionaire Kumar Mangalam Birla and L&T chairman SN Subrahmanyam, among others. Top politicians, including NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, his Andhra Pradesh counterpart N Chandrababu Naidu, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel, Maharashtra Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnis and Ajit Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena president Raj Thackeray also went to NCPA. Actor Amir Khan and his former wife Kiran Rao, director Madhur Bhandarkar and actor Rajpal Yadav represented the tinsel town in paying their respects.



India bans Hizb ut-Tahrir as terrorist group: Amit Shah

New Delhi, Oct 10: The ministry of home affairs (MHA) on Thursday banned Hizb-Ut-Tahrir, an international Islamic organization formed in Jerusalem in 1953 with branches in many parts of the world under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA) for its involvement in radicalising youth to join violent jihad. Announcing the decision on X, Union home minister Amit Shah said "Pursuing Narendra Modi Ji's policy of zero tolerance towards terrorism, the MHA today declared Hizb-Ut-Tahrir as a terrorist organisation". "The outfit is involved in various acts of terror, including radicalizing the gullible youths to join terrorist organizations and raise funds for terror activities, posing a serious threat to the national security and sovereignty of India. The Modi government is committed to securing Bharat by dealing (with) the forces of terror with an iron fist," Shah added. In a formal notification, MHA said the outfit was involved "in radicalisation and motivation of gullible youth to join terrorist organisations, such as ISIS, and raising funds for terror activities". "Hizb-Ut-Tahrir (HuT) is an organisation which aims to establish Islamic State and caliphate globally including in India by overthrowing democratically elected governments through jihad and terrorist activities by involving citizens of the country, which is a grave threat to the democratic setup and internal security of the country".

Cabinet passed a resolution urging the Centre to confer the Bharat Ratna, the country's highest civilian award, on the legendary industrialist. Union Home Minister Amit Shah paid floral tributes at the National Centre for Performing Arts (NCPA), where

led by richest Indian Mukesh Ambani also paid homage to the departed business leader. Cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar was among those who visited the Colaba home of Tata to pay homage before the body was moved to the NCPA premises. At the famous

Maharashtra govt asks Centre to raise non-creamy layer limit to Rs 15 lakh

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Mumbai, Oct 10: The Maharashtra cabinet on Thursday decided to request the Union government to increase the income limit to qualify for 'non-creamy layer' to Rs 15 lakh per year from the current Rs 8 lakh. The decision came ahead of the assembly elections which are expected to be held next month. A non-creamy layer certificate, which means the family income of a person is below the prescribed limit, is needed to avail of reservation benefits in the Other Backward Class (OBC) category. A draft ordinance to accord a constitutional status to the Maharashtra State Scheduled Caste Commission was also approved in the cab-

inet meeting, said a statement from the office of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde. In other decisions, the cabinet approved a proposal to set up welfare corporations for

organisation Sulabh International will provide toilets and rest rooms at all 57 government hospitals in the state was approved in the meeting, the release said. Government land in Akse and Malwani in Borivali suburb of Mumbai will be given for the Dharavi redevelopment project and ineligible slum-dwellers will be provided housing in these areas spread over 140 acres, it said. The cabinet also decided to provide houses to the government employees living in the Bandra government colony in Mumbai. The Public Libraries Act will be amended give a boost to the library culture in the state, the release said. The cabinet also approved the construction of Jalna-Nanded expressway which will be linked to the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi corridor.



journalists and newspaper vendors. Additional funds of Rs 709.27 crore were sanctioned for the Balasaheb Thackeray Turmeric Research Centre in Hingoli district. A proposal under which non-profit

Media bodies slam journalist Langa's arrest

New Delhi, Oct 10: Media organisations on Thursday expressed concern over the arrest and ten-day custody of journalist Mahesh Langa by the Ahmedabad Crime Branch, terming his interrogation a "procedural overreach". In a joint statement, Press Club of India, Delhi Union of Journalists, Indian Women's Press Corps and Press Association said his questioning was "perhaps" a means to harass an individual whose name doesn't even feature in the primary FIR. Langa, arrested for his alleged involvement in a GST evasion case, is a "well-known and fearless journalist" with a career of employment in many reputed publications. "His reports on developments related to Gujarat have been widely appreciated," the press bodies said. They said, according to

available details, Langa is neither the director nor a promoter of the company that finds mention in the FIR filed on the complaint of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence Unit, Ahmedabad, and no transaction and signature was found in his name. "Even as the law should be allowed to take its own course, we feel that the custodial interrogation of Mahesh Langa is a procedural overreach and perhaps a means to harass an individual whose name doesn't even feature in the primary FIR," they said. "Whereas getting to the bottom of the issue is important, we feel that due process should not be compromised and accused persons not unduly harassed under the pretext of extended custodial interrogation," they added.

28-year-old PhD student found dead at IIT Kanpur

New Delhi, Oct 10: A 28-year-old PhD student at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT-K) was found hanging from a ceiling hook in an apparent suicide on Thursday, news agency PTI reported, citing police sources. This marks the fourth suicide case at the institution within the past year. The woman's hostel mates informed the institute authorities about her death, who subsequently notified the police. (Representational photo) The woman's body has been sent to the mortuary for a post-mortem examination. Family members have also arrived at IIT-K, according to police. According to the PTI report, Pragati Kharya, a PhD student in Earth Sciences from Kanpur's Sanigawan, allegedly took her own life in her hostel room (D-116) at hall number 4 during the intervening night, with the incident coming to light on Thursday afternoon. Her hostel mates informed the institute authorities, who subsequently notified the police.

Congress to form technical team to investigate EVM complaints in Haryana

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Oct 10: The Congress has called for an investigation into 'discrepancies' found in electronic voting machines during the Haryana assembly elections. The Congress party on Thursday decided to set up a technical team to investigate the complaints and alleged discrepancies related to electronic voting machines (EVMs) raised by its candidates in Haryana. Congress leader Bhupinder Singh Hooda speaks to the media after meeting election commissioners at Nirvachan Sadan in New Delhi on Wednesday. The decision was made after the party convened a meeting in Delhi to discuss the results of the Haryana elections, in which it faced a setback, winning only 37 seats. Earlier, the Congress party on Wednesday called for a thorough investigation into the "discrepancies" found in several electronic voting machines during the counting of votes for the Haryana

assembly elections. The party leaders urged that these EVMs be sealed and secured until the inquiry is completed. A delegation of senior leaders including former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok



Gehlot, as well as AICC members KC Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khera along with Haryana Congress chief Udai Bhan met with top officials from the Election Commission to discuss the matter. The delegation submitted a memorandum to the officials, detailing specific complaints from various

constituencies in Haryana. Senior party leader Abhishek Singhvi participated in the meeting online. Congress leaders claimed there were at least 20 complaints, including seven formal written grievances from different assembly constituencies. Many of these complaints pointed out that some EVMs allegedly operated at 99 percent battery capacity, while the average EVMs functioned at only 60 to 70 percent during the counting process. The party emphasised "glaring discrepancies" concerning certain EVMs in the Haryana elections and called on the Election Commission to investigate the matter. In its memorandum to the poll panel, the party mentioned that the counting of votes must be conducted in a fair, transparent, and accountable manner. This, they argued, is essential for any electoral process that aspires to uphold the principles of free and fair elections and the doctrine of a level playing field as outlined in the Constitution.

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News box

One dies after students clash at Chennai Central station

CHENNAI. A 21-year-old Presidency College student died at Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) on Wednesday morning. The man was admitted there on Friday after five Pachaiyappa's College students attacked him. The five men were arrested on Friday evening. A police source said security has intensified at the railway station and colleges to avoid untoward incidents.

The Periamet police said that the deceased man A Sundar, of Ponpadi village near Tiruttani in the Tiruvallur district, was a first-year political science student.

On Friday afternoon, as Sundar and two of his friends were outside the suburban train terminal at the Central Station, the five-member gang of the Pachaiyappa's College students waylaid them and started attacking them. While the other two escaped, Sundar sustained severe injuries. He was rushed to RGGGH for treatment.

Based on a complaint, the police traced and arrested Chandru, Yuvraj, Easwar, Hari Prasad and Kamaleshwaran. They were booked under the charges of attempted murder and were sent to judicial remand. However, after Sundar's death on Wednesday, the case was altered to murder. Sundar's body was handed over to his parents after the postmortem.

Madras HC allows state's appeal against compensation for injured student

MADURAI. The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court recently allowed an appeal filed by the state school education department against the compensation awarded by a single bench of the court to a boy, who lost vision in his right eye allegedly after an accident at his school in May 2010.

According to an order passed by a bench of Justices P Velmurugan and K K Ramakrishnan, the boy was attending special classes held for students entering Class 10 at a private school in Kanniyakumari district.

It was alleged that on May 5, 2010, another student of the school attacked the boy with a stone on the school's premises, causing injuries in his right eye, eventually resulting in loss of vision. When the injured boy's parent moved the high court seeking compensation, a single bench reportedly directed the government to pay Rs 25 lakh compensation to the boy's family, challenging which the government filed an appeal.

During the hearing, it was pointed out that the school, a minority institution, had conducted classes during holidays in violation of the government's instructions. Yet, no action was taken against the correspondent and headmaster of the school, the boy's parents alleged. They also contended that the incident would not have occurred if the classes had not been conducted.

However, the division bench pointed out that it could not find an iota of material to prove the cause of the injury. Cases of this nature require evidence and the writ court, without any proper pleadings and documentary evidence, ought not to have decided the matter, the judges said and set aside the single bench order.

Artificial intelligence cannot replace core engineering courses, experts opine

CHENNAI. Artificial intelligence (AI) is simply a tool and can never replace the need for core engineering technology, opined industry experts and academicians, calling for support from all stakeholders to popularise traditional engineering courses.

Concerned over the declining popularity of core engineering courses such as civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, the higher education department on Wednesday organised a brainstorming session at Anna University in which various stakeholders participated. Industry experts and academicians advised the state government to take measures to promote interdisciplinary engineering courses where students, along with core engineering courses, can also study AI and other Machine Learning (ML) courses.

Higher Education Secretary K Gopal said that in view of India's ambitious goals, from sustainable urbanisation to energy independence, the country depends heavily on the work of core engineers. "As we work towards our goals, we need a new generation of professionals who are not only well-versed in cutting-edge technology but also grounded in the principles and practices of core engineering disciplines. Without a balance in engineering courses, we will face in future a shortage of skilled professionals in core disciplines," he said. J Innocent Divya, managing director of the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation, highlighted the various initiatives taken under the Naan Mudhalvan scheme to bridge the gap between the industry and academia.

'Search for 47 people missing in Wayanad landslide has not been called off': Government informs Assembly

After the disaster, 124 persons were initially reported missing. Of these, 77 were identified and 47 persons are still missing, Minister K Rajan said.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

Confirming that the official death toll in the July 30 Wayanad landslide was 254, Minister K Rajan informed the Assembly that the search for the 47 people who went missing in the disaster has not been called off.

Minister Rajan was replying to a question from Wandoor MLA AP Anil Kumar, who sought to know the official death toll as the detailed statement on the landslide by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan in the Assembly earlier did not mention it.

The Revenue Minister said 233 bodies and 222 body parts were recovered in the rescue operation. Of these, 177 bodies

have been identified and handed over earlier. Another 77 bodies were identified after DNA tests. "As of now, we have scientifically confirmed the death of 254 people," the Minister said. After the disaster, 124 persons were initially reported missing. Of these, 77 were identified and 47 persons are still missing, he added.

To a question by Kalpetta MLA T Siddique on search operation, the Minister said there were difficulties in announcing that the search operation was over. The government will convene a meeting with MLAs and local body representatives in the worst-hit areas to further discuss the matter, he added.



Kerala govt to bring in comprehensive legislation for cinema industry

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The state government will bring in comprehensive legislation to ensure complete protection to all stakeholders in the Malayalam film industry. This was informed by Minister for Cultural Affairs Saji Cherian in the assembly on Wednesday.

Raising the issue in the assembly, IUML legislator Manjalamkuzhi Ali asked about the status of the government-constituted committee other than the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC).

Saji Cherian replied that ICC has been ensured in all film sets and also a special legislation would be brought in to ensure complete protection to the film industry. The minister of cultural affairs also said that currently, the law department is considering the recommendations towards formulating the new Bill. "In the backdrop of the Justice Hema Committee report, the LDF government is planning to bring in a piece of legislation. The state government is also considering



introducing ICCs in all film sets," said Saji Cherian. He also said that as per the directive of the High Court to the state government certain pages from the Justice Hema Committee report were removed and released. He was responding to a question raised by IUML legislator N Shamsudheen on the reason behind the delay in releasing the Justice Hema Committee report.

Saji Cherian recalled that after the three-member Justice Hema Committee submitted its report to the chief minister, it was handed over to the secretary of the cultural affairs department.

"The official was given the directive that the report should not be given to anyone and that the Supreme Court's recommendations should be adhered to. Later, a Right to Information application came up before the state government. The Information Commissioner made a decision that privacy has to be maintained. Later when the High Court intervened, it was decided that certain pages will have to be removed from the report before it is released," said Saji Cherian. Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan reiterated that there had been serious lapses on the part of the LDF government. He alleged that the report was put in cold storage for four-and-a-half years, during which no action was taken against the perpetrators.

Over 100 women in Nabarangpur duped of Rs 50 Lakh by Asha worker and family

Subhasini told the women if they gave their loan to her, she would repay it with interest and pay them a certain amount in return.

UMERKOTE. Over 100 women of a village in Nabarangpur district were allegedly duped of more than Rs 50 lakh by an Asha worker and her family.

Police said the Asha worker, Subhasini Mohapatra, her husband Sarat and son Nirakar of Banuaguda village in Papadahandi block had told the women they would help them avail loans from banks and other sources.

Subhasini told the women if they gave loan to her, she would repay it with interest and pay them a certain amount in return. Convinced, the women took the loan from four non-banking financial institutions (NBFI) and Axis Bank.



Sources said as many as 24 women availed loans from Annapurna group, 30 from Spandana, 24 from Suryodaya, seven from Tata and a few others from Axis Bank. Each woman availed Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 and handed over the

amount to Subhasini. However, six months after taking the money from the women, Subhasini and her son neither repaid the loan to the NBFI nor returned the amount.

A few days back, 10 women, who had availed loans from Axis Bank, received notices on non-payment of instalments. However, as Subhasini and her family went incommunicado, the women filed a complaint at Papadahandi police station. Papadahandi IIC Deepak Kumar Jena said basing on the women's complaint, a case has been filed. Probe has been started and efforts are on to trace Subhasini and her family, he said.

MLA Munirathna laid honey trap for two ex-CMs: Rape survivor

Mobile phones were never used, she said, adding that six to seven women were exploited by the MLA.

BENGALURU. The woman who filed a rape case against Rajarajeshwari Nagar BJP MLA Munirathna, dropped a bombshell on Wednesday, alleging that he had honey-trapped two former chief ministers of Karnataka to get a cabinet berth. Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, she claimed that if the government gives her protection, she would submit the evidence, including videos pertaining to the honey trap of the two former chief ministers, to the Special Investigation Team probing cases registered against him.

"Five to six women have been used for this honey trap. Munirathna had harassed and blackmailed both the former CMs to become minister," she

alleged. "The MLA has used many women to honey trap senior police officers, former ministers and even MLAs. Of these women, four are HIV-infected. The MLA and his two relatives have advanced cameras which no media house has, and use the cameras to film victims," the



woman said. Mobile phones were never used, she said, adding that six to seven women were exploited by the MLA. "No movie actors"

Urging these women to come forward and expose Munirathna, she said that none of the women used in the honey trap were movie actors.

The startling revelation was made by the 40-year-old social worker from the city, who has filed a rape complaint against Munirathna in Kaggalipura police station of Ramanagara district, following which the MLA was arrested.

Tamil Nadu government releases Samagra Shiksha salaries for September

Following protests, state pays over 20K employees from own pocket

CHENNAI. Following a protest by the coordination committee of all teachers' and non-teaching staff associations on Wednesday, the state school education department released the salaries of over 20,000 employees under the Samagra Shiksha (SS) scheme for the month of September. Officials confirmed that funds were dispatched to the respective districts to ensure the SS employees received their pay in time for the upcoming pooja holidays.

DMK leader R S Bharathi, who participated in the stir, stated that Chief Minister M K Stalin had directed him to take part and School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi assured him that the state would release the salaries by utilising its own funds by the time the protest is over.

According to officials, the state government has been covering the salaries of over 20,000 employees under the scheme since June due to a delay in the release of funds



from the centre. Various associations have condemned the central government for withholding more than Rs 2,150 crore —

this year's first installment of funds for Tamil Nadu — as the state has refused to sign the MoU for setting up PM-SHRI

schools citing the three-language policy involved.

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News box

Life-threatening hurricane Milton makes landfall in Florida, flash floods likely

World Hurricane Milton, now a Category 3 storm, made landfall and struck Florida near the coastal community of Siesta Key, after weakening from a Category 5 storm on Wednesday morning. Hile Milton slightly weakened on Wednesday afternoon to a Category 3 hurricane, the third-highest level, it was growing in size as it approached Florida and remained extremely dangerous with maximum sustained winds of 120 mph (195 kph), the hurricane centre said.

More than 1 million homes and businesses were without power Wednesday in Florida, reports said. The highest number of outages were in Sarasota County and neighboring Manatee County. Heavy rains were also likely to cause flooding inland along rivers and lakes as Milton traverses the Florida peninsula as a hurricane. In a state already battered by Hurricane Helene two weeks ago, as many as two million people were ordered to evacuate, and at least a million others live in the projected path of the storm. Both storms are expected to cause untold billions of dollars in damage. Once past Florida, it should weaken over the western Atlantic, possibly dropping below hurricane strength on Thursday night.

Kamala Harris's campaign raises \$1 billion since she became presidential candidate

Washington. Vice President Kamala Harris' presidential campaign and related political committees have raised \$1 billion since she became the Democratic candidate in July, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters. Since Harris replaced President Joe Biden on July 21, dollars have flowed into her campaign coffers and affiliated political action committees and Democratic Party at an unprecedented pace. Harris raised \$25 million on the day she was named the candidate, and had amassed \$500 million in about a month. Former President Donald Trump and the Republican Party raised \$130 million in August, leaving \$295 million cash on hand at the end of that month, vs. Harris and Democrats' \$404 million. Harris' race against Trump remains close, with her lead nationally narrowing, new Reuters/Ipsos polling shows, and the race a tossup in many battleground states.

The money haul reflect donors' enthusiasm going into the November 5 election, the source said, and will be used on advertising, operations in battleground states and staff.

'Extremely dangerous' Hurricane Milton makes landfall in Florida: NHC



World. Milton made landfall in Florida on Wednesday as an "extremely dangerous" Category 3 hurricane, packing life-threatening storm surge, extreme winds and flash flooding, the AFP quoting National Hurricane Center said. "Data indicate the eye of Hurricane Milton has made landfall near Siesta Key in Sarasota County along the west coast of Florida," the NHC said in an 8:30 pm (0030 GMT Thursday) bulletin. The Guardian quoting CNN said that Milton is the fifth hurricane to make landfall in the US this year, more than from 2021 to 2023 combined. Hurricane Milton has now knocked out power to more than 2 million Florida customers, according to utility tracker, The Guardian updated. According to The Associated Press, the cyclone had maximum sustained winds of 120 mph (205 kph) when it roared ashore near Siesta Key, Florida, at 8:30 p.m., the Miami-based National Hurricane Center said. The storm was bringing deadly storm surge to much of Florida's Gulf Coast, including densely populated areas such as Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota and Fort Myers. Hurricane Milton spawns multiple tornadoes across Florida. Multiple tornadoes spawned by the hurricane tore across Florida, the twisters acting as a dangerous harbinger of Milton's approach. Three Florida offices of the National Weather Service in Miami, Tampa and Melbourne issued more than 130 tornado warnings associated with Hurricane Milton by Wednesday evening. Videos posted to Reddit and other social media sites showed large funnel clouds over neighborhoods in Palm Beach County and elsewhere in the state.

Luke Culver, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Miami, said he wasn't sure whether Milton had spawned a record number of tornadoes, but he pointed out that only 64 Florida tornado warnings were associated with Hurricane Ian, which hit the Tampa Bay area as a massive storm in 2022.

Dozens killed as Israeli troops pound central, northern Gaza

Gaza's Health Ministry said it recovered 40 bodies from Jabaliya from Sunday until Tuesday, and another 14 from communities farther north.

World Israel's bombardment of central and northern Gaza has killed dozens of people and trapped thousands in their homes, Palestinian officials said Wednesday, as the death toll in the yearlong war passed 42,000. Gaza's Health Ministry said it recovered 40 bodies from Jabaliya from Sunday until Tuesday, and another 14 from communities farther north. The toll is likely higher as there are bodies buried under the rubble and in areas that can't be accessed, it said. Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, the military spokesperson, said that Israeli forces were operating in Jabaliya to prevent Hamas from regrouping and had killed about 100 militants, without providing evidence. Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because it fights in residential areas.

Civilians trapped in North Gaza

Israel expanded an ongoing military operation

around Jabalia in the north of Gaza, where around 400,000 people are trapped, according to Philippe Lazzarini, head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA). Posting on social media platform X, Lazzarini said there was "no end to hell" in the area and that "recent evacuation orders from the Israeli authorities are forcing people to flee again & again". The army surrounded the town of Jabalia and its refugee camp over the weekend and was shelling it on Wednesday, preventing the delivery of aid, the Palestinian territory's civil defence agency said. Washington said it was "incredibly concerned" about the humanitarian situation in north Gaza as Israel tightens its siege, adding that it had been "the subject of some very urgent discussions between our two governments".

"We have been making clear to the government of Israel that they have an obligation under international humanitarian law to allow food



and water and other needed humanitarian assistance to make it into all parts of Gaza," State Department spokesman Miller told journalists. US warns Israel not to repeat Gaza destruction in Lebanon. Israel's main international ally the United States warned Wednesday against Gaza-like military action in Lebanon after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu threatened it with "destruction" similar to that of the Palestinian territory. But armed forces chief Herzi Halevi vowed to keep up Israel's intensive bombing of Hezbollah targets, which has already killed

more than 1,200 people since September 23, "without allowing them any respite or recovery". The comments came after a hotly anticipated phone call between Netanyahu and US President Joe Biden, their first in seven weeks, which had been expected to focus on Israel's response to last week's missile barrage by Iran. During the call, Biden told Netanyahu to "minimise harm" to civilians in Lebanon, particularly in "densely populated areas of Beirut", the White House said. "There should be no kind of military action in Lebanon that looks anything like Gaza and leaves a result anything like Gaza," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told journalists. Netanyahu said in a video address to the people of Lebanon on Tuesday: "You have an opportunity to save Lebanon before it falls into the abyss of a long war that will lead to destruction and suffering like we see in Gaza."

Turkish Airlines flight makes emergency landing in New York after pilot dies

A Turkish Airlines pilot died mid-air, forcing the Istanbul-bound flight to make an emergency landing in New York. The flight had taken off from Seattle.

World A Turkish Airlines flight bound for Istanbul from Seattle was forced to make an emergency landing in New York on Wednesday after the captain collapsed mid-air, an airline official said.

Pilot İlcehin Pehlivan, 59, lost consciousness after Flight 204 took off from Seattle on Tuesday night. Turkish Airlines spokesperson Yahya Ustun said in a statement posted on X. He could not be revived despite medical intervention, following which a second pilot and a co-



pilot took over the controls. According to data from tracking site FlightAware, the flight landed at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York just before 6 am on Wednesday. The plane landed in New York eight hours after it took off from Seattle. Pehlivan had been working with Turkish Airlines since 2007.

He had undergone a periodic health examination on March 8, which found no health problem that would have prevented him from working, Ustun said.

"Arrangements were being made for passengers to reach their destination from New York," the airline spokesperson said. The cause of the pilot's death was not known. Generally, pilots have to undergo medical examinations every 12 months, while those above 40 years of age should renew their medical certificate after every six months. "On behalf of Turkish Airlines, we deeply feel the loss of our captain and extend our sincerest condolences to his bereaved family, colleagues, and all his loved ones," Ustun said.

Indian Americans mourn death of veteran industrialist Ratan Tata who 'drove India to prosperity'

WASHINGTON. Indian Americans have mourned the death of veteran industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Naval Tata, remembering him as someone who drove India to greater prosperity and development.

Tata, the former Tata Group chairman who transformed a staid group into India's largest and most influential conglomerate, breathed his last at south Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital at 11.30 pm on Wednesday.

"My last meeting with Ratan Tata at Google, we talked about the progress of Waymo and his vision was inspiring to hear. He leaves an extraordinary business and philanthropic legacy and was instrumental in mentoring and developing modern business leadership

in India. He deeply cared about making India better. Deep condolences to his loved ones and Rest in Peace Shri Ratan Tata Ji, wrote Google and Alphabet CEO Sunder Pichai on X. Atul Keshap, the president of the US-India Business Council (USIBC), told PTI the Padma Vibhushan recipient was a "unique and noble son of India, a role model for the nobility and generosity". "While some erroneously look down their noses at mere business, Ratan Tata reminded a global audience of the nobility of commerce even as he drove his companies and India to greater prosperity and development. He espoused values of humanity and compassion not only for his colleagues and business partners but also for the greater good," Keshap said.

"His devotion to his staff was never more visible than after the terrible terrorist attack in Mumbai on 26/11/2008, and his love for his country and humanity, and animal kind, was displayed in so many ways, including his establishment of cancer hospitals and his legendary care for the dogs of Tata House," he said. "It is with profound sadness that the Indiaspora community acknowledges the passing of Ratan Tata, a visionary leader, compassionate philanthropist, and one of India's most respected business icons," said M.R. Rangaswami, the founder of Indiaspora. His extraordinary contribution to industry and his deep commitment to social causes have left an indelible mark not only on India but the world at large.

Israel needs to urgently address 'catastrophic conditions' in Gaza, says ally US

US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said that Israel needs to stop "intensifying suffering" by limiting aid deliveries in Gaza.

World Israel needs to address urgently "catastrophic conditions" among Palestinian civilians in the besieged Gaza Strip and stop "intensifying suffering" by limiting aid deliveries, its ally the United States told the UN Security Council on Wednesday.

Referring to reports of squalid conditions in south and central Gaza, US Ambassador to the UN Linda Thomas-Greenfield said: "These catastrophic conditions were predicted months ago, and yet, have still not been addressed. That must change, and

now." The 15-member Security Council met over the humanitarian crisis a year after a deadly attack by Palestinian militants Hamas on southern Israel sparked the war in Gaza. Israel has since laid to waste much of the enclave and almost the entire population of 2.3 million has been displaced.

Israel says Hamas militants killed some 1,200 people on Oct. 7, 2023, while health authorities in Gaza say nearly 42,000 people have been killed so far during Israel's retaliation. Thomas-Greenfield also addressed a recent Israeli order for civilians in Gaza's north to evacuate again, saying they must be able to return to communities to rebuild. "There must be no demographic or territorial change in the Gaza Strip, including any actions that reduce the territory of Gaza," Thomas-Greenfield said.

Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency UNRWA, told the Security Council: "Hundreds of thousands of people are again being pushed



to move to the south, where living conditions are intolerable." Yet again, Gazans are teetering on the edge of a man-made famine," he said. **NO RESTRICTIONS'**

The UN has long complained of obstacles to getting aid into Gaza and distributing it during the war. Reuters reported last week that food supplies to Gaza have fallen sharply in recent weeks because Israeli authorities have introduced a new customs rule on some humanitarian aid and are

separately scaling down deliveries organized by businesses.

"We need to see fewer barriers to the delivery of aid, not more of them," Thomas-Greenfield said. Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon defended his country's record: "Israel imposes no restrictions on humanitarian aid. In fact, 82% of all requests for humanitarian coordination have been approved and implemented."

He accused Hamas of diverting aid from those in Gaza who need it. Britain's UN Ambassador Barbara Woodward told the council that Israel "must do much more" to avoid civilian casualties and ensure the UN and aid groups can operate safely and effectively in Gaza. "Delivery of humanitarian assistance is being hindered, and humanitarian workers are constantly under threat," French U.N. Ambassador Nicolas de Riviere said.

More than 300 humanitarian aid workers, most of them UNRWA staff, have been killed.

More than 2 million without power as Hurricane Milton slams Florida; causes deaths, flooding

TAMPA. Hurricane Milton plowed into Florida as a Category 3 storm Wednesday, bringing misery to a coast still ravaged by Helene, pounding cities with winds of over 100 mph (160 kph) after producing a barrage of tornadoes, but sparing Tampa a direct hit. The storm tracked to the south in the final hours and made landfall in Siesta Key near Sarasota, about 70 miles (112 kilometers) south of Tampa. The situation in the Tampa area was still a major emergency as St. Petersburg recorded over 16 inches (41 centimeters) of rain, prompting the National Weather Service to warn of flash flooding.

Tropicana Field, the home of the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg, appeared to be badly damaged. Television images Wednesday night showed that the fabric that serves as the

domed building's roof had been ripped to shreds. It was not immediately clear if there was damage inside the stadium. More than 2 million homes and businesses were without power in Florida, according to poweroutage.us, which tracks utility reports. The highest number of outages were in Hardee County, as well as neighboring Sarasota and Manatee counties. Before Milton even made landfall, tornadoes were touching down across the state. The Spanish Lakes Country Club near Fort Pierce, on Florida's Atlantic Coast, was hit particularly hard, with homes destroyed and some residents killed. "We have lost some life," St. Lucie County Sheriff Keith Pearson told WPBF News, though he wouldn't say how many people were killed. About 125 homes

were destroyed before the hurricane came ashore, many of them mobile homes in communities for senior citizens, said Kevin Guthrie, the director of the Florida Division of Emergency Management. About 90 minutes after making landfall, Milton was downgraded to a Category 2 storm. By late Wednesday, the hurricane had maximum sustained winds of about 105 mph (165 kph) and storm surge warnings were in effect for parts of Florida's Gulf and Atlantic coastlines. Heavy rains were also likely to cause flooding inland along rivers and lakes as Milton traverses the Florida Peninsula as a hurricane, eventually to emerge in the Atlantic Ocean on Thursday. It is expected to impact the heavily populated Orlando area. The storm slammed into a region still

reeling two weeks after Hurricane Helene flooded streets and homes in western Florida and left at least 230 people dead across the South. In many places along the coast, municipalities raced to collect and dispose of debris before Milton's winds and storm surge could toss it around and compound any damage. Officials had issued dire warnings to flee or face grim odds of survival. "This is it, folks," said Cathie Perkins, emergency management director in Pinellas County, which sits on the peninsula that forms Tampa Bay. "Those of you who were punched during Hurricane Helene, this is going to be a knockout. You need to get out, and you need to get out now." By late afternoon, some officials said the time had passed for such efforts.

News box

Four Nagai fishers escape mid-sea 'SL' gang attack

NAGAPATTINAM. A group of four from the district escaped assault by an armed gang, allegedly from Sri Lanka, while fishing near Kodyakarai in the early hours of Wednesday. They, however, had to cut off their nets, weighing around 300 kg, and abandon them at sea while fleeing. M Madharasan (26), M Rajendiran (60), Sachin (23) and A Naveen (23) ventured into sea in a motorised boat from Pushpavanam in Vedaranyam taluk on Tuesday afternoon.



While the group was pulling back the nets they cast into sea southeast of Kodyakarai past midnight, a gang on another motorised boat came towards them, brandishing weapons. Fearing that the gang would board their boat and assault them, the fishermen cut off their nets and fled, sources said. SL Navy nabs 21 Pudukkottai men for IMBL violation

Pudukkottai: A total of 21 fishers from the district were arrested by Sri Lankan navy on Wednesday evening for allegedly crossing the IMBL. The arrested fishermen hailing from Jegathapattinam and Kottaipattinam were part of around 1,000 who put out to sea in over 200 mechanised boats that morning.

57,325 applications filed for liquor shop licences

VIJAYAWADA. In all 57,325 applications for liquor shop licences have been received by the Prohibition and Excise Department netting Rs 1,146.6 crore towards non-refundable fee, even as the State government has extended the last date by two more days to October 11. The applications were originally scheduled to be received from October 1 to 9 but the date was extended following numerous requests from the applicants.

An order was issued by the Excise Department Director Nishant Kumar extending both the last date of applications as well as extending the existing policy till October 15. "Applications are allowed till October 11 up to 7 pm, and verification process will be conducted on October 12 and 13," the order read. Excise officials anticipate that applications for liquor shops will flood following the deadline extension. "We are expecting more than 5,000 applications in the next two days, which will generate Rs 100 crore revenue," said an excise official.

According to official data, the notification regarding the issuance of licences for 3,396 liquor shops in the State attracted a staggering 57,325 applications so far and of the total shops, 10% were allotted to the toddy tappers community. Soon after the change of guard in the State with the TDP-led government forming the government, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced that a new excise policy will be brought in instead of the government running liquor shops. Following the instructions of Naidu, Excise Minister Kollu Ravindra directed officials to formulate the policy by including some best practices being implemented in other States. According to data obtained from the Excise Department, NTR district topped the list by receiving 4,399 applications for 113 shops, followed by Eluru with 3,820 for 144 shops, Vizianagaram with 3,677 for 153 shops, and West Godavari with 3,490 for 170 shops. "A shop allocated to NTR 96 sector has received the highest number of 110 applications," according to the official portal.

Incomplete building collapses, Two injured

DHENKANAL. At least two workers were critically injured after an under-construction five-storey building collapsed at Mahisapata on Wednesday afternoon.

The two workers who sustained critical injuries in the incident are Kailash Rout and Samarendra Rout of Khuntujhari village within Dhenkanal Sadar police limits. Police said, they were rescued from the debris and rushed to the district headquarters hospital. While unconfirmed reports stated a worker died in the incident, it was denied by the local administration. Sources said over 20 workers were engaged in the construction when the incident occurred. "It is unclear whether there are any casualties as the debris is still being cleared," said sub-collector Bibhudha Garnaik.

He, however, said more workers may still be trapped in the rubble. Fire personnel and other organisations are clearing the debris using machines. A probe will be conducted into the incident and whoever is found guilty will be dealt with as per law. Sources said the under-construction building is that of a hotel. Collector Somesh Upadhyay and SP Abhinav Sonkar who rushed to the spot said the rescue operation is still on and no efforts are being spared to clear the debris and rescue any other worker.

Dhenkanal MP Rudra Narayan Pany asked officials concerned to conduct a thorough inquiry into the incident and spare nobody if found guilty.

Four of family die in car-tourist van collision near Madathukulam in Tiruppur

A case has been registered against the driver of the tourist van. He is undergoing treatment at the Udumalaipet Government Hospital, a police officer said.



TIRUPPUR. Four members of a family, including an 11-year-old boy, died in a collision between a car and tourist van near Madathukulam in Tiruppur district on Tuesday night. Fourteen people were injured.

The deceased were identified as N Thiagarajan, (45), his wife Preethi, (40), their youngest son Jaya Priyan, (11),

Thiyagarajan's mother N Manonmani, (65), of Indra Nagar in Palani in Dindigul district. Police said Thiagarajan along with his family was returning to Palani after visiting his realtive in Thamaraikulam near Kinathukadavu. On Tuesday, around 10 pm, when the car was on the Udumalaipet-Palani road near Karuppassamy Pudur in Madathukulam, a

tourist van from Madurai heading towards Palakkad, with 22 people collided head-on with the car," police said. Thiagarajan, Preethi and Jaya Priyan died on the spot. Three other people in the car were seriously injured. Twelve people in the van were injured, including M Sivan, the van driver, police added. The injured were sent to Udumalaipet Government Hospital. Manonmani died in the hospital. Natrayan and Jeeva Priyan were referred to Coimbatore Government Hospital for further treatment. A case has been registered against the driver of the tourist van. He is undergoing treatment at the Udumalaipet Government Hospital, a police officer said.

Chief Minister MK Stalin condoled the deaths and announced solatium of Rs 2 lakh each to the victim's family members. In a statement, the CM said, "I offer my condolences to the families and relatives of those who lost their lives in the accident. I have ordered to give Rs 2 lakh each from the CM's Public Relief Fund to those who died in the accident, and Rs 50,000 to each of the injured and undergoing treatment."

Couple held as daughter dies by suicide



BERHAMPUR. Sadar police on Wednesday arrested a couple for allegedly abetting the suicide of their daughter. Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said the 20-year-old girl of Kukudahandi village set herself ablaze on October 7 and was rushed to MKCG medical college and hospital. In her statement to police recorded in presence of a doctor before her death, the girl stated her father and step-mother used to tortured her and it forced her to take the extreme step. The girl died at 7 am the next day.

Basing on a report filed by Dr Jitendra Kumar Sahoo of the hospital, an unnatural death case (29) was registered and SI Prafulla Kumar Sahoo assigned the task of investigating it. During probe, it came to fore that the mother of the girl had passed away 19 years ago when the latter was just one-and-a-half years old.

The girl's father married again. The girl who was a Plus III final year student was harassed and abused by her father and step-mother. On the night of October 6, the girl's father scolded her when she asked him for her examination fees. He reportedly gave her '500 and asked her to leave. The girl could not take it and bought a bottle of petrol and used it to set herself ablaze. A case under section 108(3)(5) of BNS was registered and the accused arrested, the SP said.

Change in guard? Congress brass reins in ministers

Swift political developments within the ruling Congress over a change of guard have manifested in a situation that "anything" can happen shortly.

BENGALURU. Amid speculation over leadership change and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi meeting leaders to gather support, the party high command has intervened as a damage control measure. Perturbed by the developments, KPCC president and DCM DK Shivakumar reported to AICC president Mallikarjuna Kharge, who in turn suggested that AICC General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal control the damage, according to sources. Venugopal dialled Shivakumar, following which he met Siddaramaiah at the latter's residence in Cauvery. The trio discussed the issue and came to the

conclusion that no minister, including Satish, should hold separate meetings with party leaders as it sends a wrong message. "Satish projecting himself as the next CM has only damaged Siddaramaiah and the government. There will be no scope for change in the CM's post until Siddaramaiah finishes his two-and-a-half-year term. The ED cannot arrest him in the MUDA case," a Congress leader who is close to both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, told. However, swift political developments within the ruling Congress over a change of guard have manifested in a situation that "anything"

can happen shortly. Siddaramaiah's confidant Satish held parleys with two other Dalit leaders -- Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara, and Social Welfare Minister Dr HC Mahadevappa in Bengaluru, Tumakuru and also in Mysuru. It gave an indication that Siddaramaiah's coterie of ministers is gearing up for an impending change. Satish managed to convince Dalit leaders to continue the mission by visiting MLAs and taking them into confidence; he met Chikkamagaluru MLA HD Thammaiah on Wednesday. Thammaiah, a Veerashaiva Lingayat, had defeated CT

Ravi, a Vokkaliga, with the polarisation of Ahinda votes. His statement indicated that some MLAs who are with Siddaramaiah are also aligning with Satish. The turn of events disturbed Shivakumar, who sought the high command's intervention. Shivakumar is not ready to accept Siddaramaiah's coterie's proposal of a change in guard. He wants the CM's post to come to him, if Siddaramaiah resigns after 2.5 years. He knows that if a Dalit leader becomes CM in the meantime, transition of power would be difficult, analysts said.

Kerala Women's Commission panel resolves 68 cases in two-day adalat

Panel finds increase in no. of couples living like strangers at homes

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The Kerala Women's Commission resolved 68 cases during a two-day adalat held at the Jawahar Bal Bhavan. A total of 325 cases were brought before the commission.

On the second day, the commission attended to 150 cases, 32 of which were resolved. While the commission sought reports on 10 cases, and five were referred for counselling, 103 cases were postponed to the next adalat. Addressing the media after the session, Women's Commission Chairperson P Sathedeivi said there has been an increase in the number of couples living like strangers in their own homes. The issue is prevalent among those over 40, she said. "It was found that couples lead separate lives in the same house. They do their daily



activities, even eating, separately with little or no communication. The commission is working to resolve such cases through counselling," Sathedeivi said. Another rising concern is the number

of women getting abandoned after being exploited under the false promise of marriage. The chairperson noted that several cases of women being defamed by perpetrators were also brought before the adalat. The commission also mentioned the impact of extramarital affairs that lead to divorces, highlighting how these broken families affect and cause severe psychological distress for children caught in between.

Financial fraud targeting women was another issue brought for discussion. Women involved in small savings groups reported being cheated when lending money at an interest. It was found that these dealings are carried out without formal agreements, making legal recourse difficult.

Cops claim arrest fallout of Samsung protesters 'shoving' SSI at accident spot

According to CITU members, the Kancheepuram police went to the houses of 10 Samsung workers, who were also office-bearers of the union, at midnight to arrest them.

CHENNAI. The Kancheepuram district police came down heavily on the protesting Samsung workers since midnight Tuesday, days after the government's attempt to persuade CITU to give up the protests failed. The police arrested 10 persons from their houses in Sunguvarchatram on Tuesday midnight, and later on Wednesday, detained 616 others who continued to protest even after police dismantled the temporary shed from where they had been protesting for the last month.

While eight persons were let off after the judicial magistrate refused to remand them, two others have been remanded in judicial custody, according to union members. Kancheepuram district secretary of CITU, E Muthukumar, told TNIE the protests will continue from Thursday at usual site near the Samsung plant with the court giving the nod for peaceful protests on Wednesday. According to CITU members, the Kancheepuram police went to the houses of 10 Samsung workers, who were also office-bearers of the union, at



midnight to arrest them. They allegedly refused to brief the family members on the charges against them. The police then proceeded to dismantle the temporary shed on a vacant private land they were protesting from. Police sources said the arrests were in connection with workers allegedly shoving an SSI, who came to the spot, after a load van in which a group of protesting Samsung workers were travelling in, fell sideways when the driver lost control of the overloaded vehicle. "The workers did not push the SSI or anyone else. The entire incident has been staged in order to keep the workers and us from

protesting any further," Muthukumar told.

"We have been constantly in touch with the owner of the land where the protest is happening and he has no complaints with the protest continuing. This is not an illegal protest. We have done everything by the book, including issuing a strike notice to Samsung," he added. Union members also said the police began the crackdown on workers from Tuesday when they began checking private vehicles, including buses, for those wearing the Samsung uniform to ask them their names, identity cards and details of where they were heading to. Despite this, workers began arriving at the protest site on Wednesday morning and continued the agitation even as it rained heavily until 616 protesting workers and union members, including CITU state president A Soundararajan, were detained. They were let off later in the day. Speaking to media, Soundararajan alleged that the state government has been a mute spectator to the police excess.

Alliance Air gets replacement to clear festive rush

The existing ATR-72 aircraft from Rourkela was damaged while landing in Bhubaneswar



ROURKELA. In a relief for travellers on Bhubaneswar-Rourkela-Kolkata route during the festive season, Alliance Air Aviation Ltd (AAAL) has reportedly arranged an alternate ATR-72 aircraft to prevent flight cancellations.

On Tuesday afternoon, the existing ATR-72 aircraft met with a minor mishap at Bhubaneswar airport during landing. The mishap rendered the aircraft unfit to fly for at least one month. Sources in Airports Authority of India (AAI) informed the tail of the aircraft from Rourkela hit one of the approach lights while landing in Bhubaneswar. While no passenger was hurt, the aircraft's tail was damaged in the incident. As the aircraft remains grounded at Bhubaneswar airport, a team of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has initiated investigation to ascertain the circumstances and reason of the incident and the extent of damage to the aircraft. Even after the damaged portion of the aircraft is repaired, it may take at least a month to resume flight services on the route after necessary clearance from DGCA.

While AAAL had officially announced cancellation of the flight on the route only for Wednesday, there were enough indications of more such cancellations. However, despite AAAL facing acute scarcity of ATR-72 aircraft it was forced to urgently draft an aircraft from another route to prevent flight cancellations during the festive season when all tickets are already booked.

A frequent flier and former general secretary of Steel Executives' Federation of India (SEFI) Bimal Kumar Bisi on Tuesday sent an urgent request to acting CEO of AAAL Ram Babu to arrange an alternate aircraft to avoid cancellation of flight for a long period citing the festive season. Bisi on the day quoting the CEO of AAAL said another ATR-72 type aircraft has been drafted from a different sector to cater to the need of the Bhubaneswar-Rourkela-Kolkata sector. He said the immediate intervention of Union Tribal Affairs minister Jugal Oram was crucial.

Indianise certainly, but also demystify defence

THREE weeks in London were invigorating. I visited Royal United Services Institute, the International Institute of Strategic Studies, Chatham House and Policy Exchange, among several think tanks, and the Royal College of Defence Studies, where I studied — to simply imbibe the new flavours of the land. Each new prime minister or government orders a strategic defence review (SDR), the last being done in 2015. It is updated periodically with an integrated review, which was done in 2021, followed by a defence, development and foreign policy review in 2023. Capability and spending reviews are interspersed, ensuring targets are met and there are no surprises. In July, the new Labour government ordered a root and branch review of the SDR, which will deliver its report before July 2025. The spending review has found a hole of GBP 3.9 billion, which the government has pledged to meet by raising taxes in the budget due on October 30. Whether Labour or Tory, defence spending enjoys rare consistency, with a target of 2.5 per cent of the GDP, which, at present, is 2.3 per cent. Lord Karan Bilimoria, whom I met, has advocated in Parliament since 2019 that the UK should spend 3 per cent of the GDP on defence. He told the Peers that the term Indo-Pacific, for which there is a minister now, was coined by Policy Exchange, of which he is a trustee. Our Navy's Capt Vijay Sakhuja, with the Kalunga International Foundation, had claimed to have invented it. Bilimoria told Parliament that Britain must upgrade relations with India, the emerging power centre, and apologise for its 'monstrous act' in Jallianwala Bagh. Britain has a small-sized military, but it fields state-of-the-art equipment. Robust debates on defence are held in both Houses of Parliament and the media. Its Strategic Nuclear Force, operational since 1962, is reliant solely on Continuous at Sea Deterrence (CASD). The debate in the UK is over a backup second delivery system of the other two legs of the Triad — aircraft or land-based — and maintaining 180-200 nuclear ballistic missiles of its Credible Minimum Deterrent.

India's military is rapidly modernising. But it is also focused on dismantling the colonial legacy, as directed by PM Modi in 2021, and replacing it with Indian political strategic culture and indigenisation. So, the Vivekanand Foundation begins its programmes by invoking Hindu gods. The Indian Navy has introduced kurta pajama as its mess kit. The Army is engaged in collating pearls of ancient Indian wisdom from the Gita, Panchatantra, Arthashastra, Chanakya Neeti and Thirukkural. But absent are modern defence planning and budgetary fiscal and defence allocation as a percentage of the GDP, like 3 per cent recommended by several Standing Committees on Defence. The annual defence budgets are, predictably, the previous year's budget allocation plus inflation and, sometimes, less than the Revised Estimates.

An SDR has never been done nor have capability and spending reviews been done. Still, often, defence forces are unable to spend the meagre moneys allotted for modernisation. There is no documented National Security Strategy (NSS), which the CDS, Anil Chauhan, says is not needed, making India the only democracy with no NSS. No parliamentary debate has been permitted on the China threat despite intrusions and loss of territory over the past five years and two books by former Army Chiefs have been blocked as they are critical of the government.

With the fifth largest economy (it just surpassed that of the UK) and the third biggest standing military, India's defence spending was less than 2 per cent in 2024-25 despite multiple and collusive threats. The UK, with the 11th largest military, will spend nearly 2.5 per cent of the GDP with comparably less substantial threats.

While the UK will not let its deterrent blunt, Indian political leaders believe there will be no war: "Not an era of war; we are the land of Buddha, not yuddh." So, the Agniveer scheme was imposed to reduce manpower and pension costs in the guise of having a youthful Army, which former Army and Navy Chiefs have decried. So was "atmanirbharta", about which the late CDS,

Unlock India-Canada economic potential via CEPA

The unexploited potential of trade between India and Canada amounts to as much as 50 per cent of the present level.

Interdependence of countries is the order of the day. The scale of dependence has converted the world into a global village. Communication technology has reduced distances. Intercountry flows of goods, services and financial transfers has integrated the world at a level never seen before. There is a specificity to the development of partnership between Canada and India. This is expressed in terms of a large Indian diaspora in Canada. This diaspora is integrated in the Canadian society and is active, socially and politically. Some of them have done very well economically and are interested in developing their ancestral land. The formation of the World Trade Organisation in 1995 formalised the framework of global economic integration. Since then, the scale of economic exchanges between countries has increased and given a fillip to the rise of emerging economies. India is one of the beneficiaries of globalisation. As of 2023, India's economy reached \$3.57 trillion (3.40 per cent of the global GDP), while Canada's stood at \$2.14 trillion (2.03 per cent). Both are market-oriented economies well-integrated into global trade networks, with a total recorded bilateral trade of \$7.55 billion in 2023. This trade includes \$3.77 billion in Indian exports to Canada and \$3.78 billion in imports. These figures, while significant, represent a smaller portion of the global trade compared to the two countries' combined economic contributions. However, in percentage terms, the trade between the two big economies is much lower than their share in the global income. At an aggregate level, the trade between the two countries should be equal to their average share of income in the global economy. This average works out to be 2.72 per cent, but actual trade is less than 2 per cent. This means that the unexploited potential of trade between India and Canada amounts to as much as 50 per cent of the present level. This potential expansion could be facilitated by India's substantial diaspora in Canada, which provides a strong base for trade in goods and services that cater to the Indian community's cultural preferences. The Census data of 2021 shows that migrants from India constitute 3.6 per cent of Canada's population. If children born to Indian migrants in Canada are included, the population with Indian ancestry rises to 5.1 per cent. This population continues to follow Indian food patterns, with a large component of items imported from India or other South Asian countries. They include long grain rice (basmati), spices, clothes, jewelry etc. The Indian diaspora also continues to maintain close contacts with the people and places of their origin. This foundation of demand underscores the untapped trade potential, yet there are challenges to address for these opportunities to be fully



realised. For economic ties between Canada and India to grow, it is crucial to overcome certain trade barriers. In a competitive world, the countries must compete with their rival suppliers to access their respective markets. This requires each country's producers to improve efficiency and product quality continually. Moreover, sufficient surplus products must be available to meet each other's demands. Overcoming these economic barriers involves addressing non-economic challenges, such as regulatory and policy constraints. On the Indian side, the supply of agricultural goods such as long grain rice or coarse grains, vegetables, fruits or dairy products must be free from pesticide residues and preferably produced by organic farming. Since the distance between the two countries is long, perishable items have to be transported through refrigerated containers or cold supply chains. This would require a lot of investment to improve production, storage and transport technology to access the Canadian market. Given the present level of dynamism of development, India can achieve this in the near future. This can enable Canada to break the monopoly of California in the supply of fruits and vegetables. Another area in which India has the capacity and advantage in price and quality is the service sector. In software technology, India has established itself in the world, but the presence of Indian software companies in Canada is not sufficient. The export of pharmaceutical products is only at the level of telemedicine or test-related services. India can improve her position in Canada in this field. There is a lot of pressure on medical services in Canada. India can help in easing it through medical tourism. The current list of exports from India comprises consumer goods such as jewelry, worked diamond, long grain rice etc. The other goods are

chemicals, plastic, rubber, metallic and non-metallic minerals. The scale of the existing exports from India can be raised and more goods and services added to the list. Similarly, the Canadian list of exports to India can be enlarged. The present list of exports from Canada to India includes metallic and non-metallic minerals, farm products, fishing food and energy products. Nearly half of the Indian imports of lintels come from Canada. Further economic cooperation between Canada and India can be supported through increased Canadian investments in Indian manufacturing, aimed at producing goods and services for export. Additionally, increasing daily flights between Indian and Canadian cities would support business travel and cultural exchange, further enhancing trade and investment opportunities. It is a question of increasing economic cooperation between the two countries for mutual benefits. To expand partnerships, both the countries must be on board. The diplomatic hurdles that cropped up a couple of years back, involving citizens in the breach of safety and security of the two countries, must be cleared. Similarly, a large number of Indian students studying in Canada are facing problems due to changes in its migration policies. With the resolution of these issues, the two countries can take economic relations to greater heights. India and Canada must resume negotiations to discuss the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) to expand and achieve the full potentials of trade and investment. The two countries have differences in factor endowment: there is an abundance of young and skilled population in India while Canada has scarcity of labour. Both the countries fall in different climatic zones, which creates complementarity between them.

J&K's clear verdict

Mandate for NC-Cong signals a fresh start

JAMMU and Kashmir has spoken, and in no uncertain terms. The decisive victory of the National Conference-Congress alliance marks a new beginning for the five-year-old Union Territory. Getting a chance to have their say in the Assembly elections after 10 years, the voters have chosen stability over a fractured mandate. The prospects of detested political manipulations in case of a hung House have been rejected. A clear majority also puts paid to the controversy over the nomination of five legislators — who have voting rights — by the Lieutenant-Governor. Now begins the real test for the winning alliance and the Centre — how to negotiate the handover and exercise of power. Equally important is building trust, and the onus for it is on these two entities. A confrontational start would amount to sheer disrespect of the people's verdict. In Jammu and Kashmir, the residue of past events informs the present to a great



extent. The trauma of violence, the regional divide, the communal tensions, the perceived sense of injustice and a

heightened notion of victimhood — it's been tough going for the erstwhile state. After a long time, the spectre of poll boycott and contempt for the electoral process has been lifted. Voters' enthusiastic participation in the election campaign lends hope.

The new government, thus, has the added responsibility of grasping the message sent by the electorate — shift the focus from political wrangling to what the people really want, improve their lives and give them the agency they deserve. The NC-Congress alliance is not new to holding the reins of power, but it must recognise the altered reality. There is no room for a repetition of mistakes. The restoration of statehood may be a legitimate demand, but it must look beyond the rhetoric and work for social cohesion and economic prosperity.

Rahul's missteps & BJP's gains

Setbacks in Haryana and J&K signal tough road ahead for Congress

THE outcome of the Haryana Assembly polls has enhanced Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stature and the BJP's standing within the NDA. On the other hand, the Rahul Gandhi-led Congress will find making seat adjustments in Maharashtra and Jharkhand more challenging than before. Both the Congress and the BJP suffered setbacks in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir, as the election results did not meet their expectations, but there is greater dismay in the grand old party. The Congress campaign in Haryana went horribly wrong due to Rahul Gandhi's overconfidence. He chose to travel to the USA amid electioneering, relied heavily on regional satrap Bhupinder Singh Hooda, and delegated ticket distribution to inhouse pollster Sunil Kanugolu. Kanugolu, who enjoys Rahul's support, overruled Bhupinder Hooda, Selja and AICC general secretary Deepak Babaria in ticket allocation. Until the last night of the campaign, Kanugolu was asserting that the party would cross the 60-seat mark. Former pollster Yogendra Yadav had also made Rahul believe the tally would reach 60 or higher. Multiple inhouse surveys had predicted a Congress landslide in Haryana and Kanugolu micromanaged the entire communication campaign there. For the BJP, J&K has been a setback as it failed to stop the National Conference-Congress alliance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and J&K

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha now face a demanding state government seeking full statehood and various concessions, which have the potential to strain Centre-state ties. For the BJP, a hung Assembly with a chief minister from the Jammu region would have been ideal. However, National Conference leader

Farooq Abdullah quickly understood the BJP's strategy of fielding proxies. The NC did what it does best — working on ground, fielding Omar Abdullah in two constituencies, and performing impressively even after the Assembly segments were significantly altered during delimitation.

While the Abdullaha managed their campaign with ease and confidence, Rahul could not achieve the same in Haryana. He remained diffident and his rhetoric of "Kisan, Jawan, Pehalwan" seemed uninspired. Attacks on Modi and the Central Government did not resonate and Dalits, who united against Bhupinder Hooda. When Selja, the state PCC chief, expressed her displeasure for two weeks, Rahul did not adopt a hands-on approach. Instead, he relied on a group comprising TS Singh Deo, Ajay Maken and Mallikarjun Kharge to act as peacemakers. The BJP, wary of Rahul's effective campaign during the Lok Sabha elections on Dalit reservation insecurity, swung into action. The RSS cadre capitalised on Rahul's statement that reservations would end with a 100 per cent quota based on a caste census. This narrative of Rahul seeking to end reservations was effectively amplified on social media. Rahul's focus on a caste census and caste-based reservation was high on rhetoric but lacked the necessary support. In his team and the AICC secretariat, the Yadavs are dominant, while other OBC representatives are

largely absent. Rahul was frequently accompanied by Ajay Yadav, Anil Yadav, Subhashini Yadav and Yogendra Yadav. This created a sense of exclusion among other OBC and Dalit leaders. The Congress has a big problem in hand now. After Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, this is the



fourth time that a regional satrap has failed and faltered. Kamal Nath was given a free hand in November 2023. As in Haryana now, many pollsters, opinion makers and inhouse surveys had predicted a Congress victory then, but the party was routed. There was a similar story in Chhattisgarh, where Bhupesh Baghel led the Congress to a defeat, and in Rajasthan, where Ashok Gehlot kept claiming that he would win.

There is an additional headache for the Congress and Rahul within the INDIA grouping. Several alliance partners — namely, Udhav Thackeray, Arvind Kejriwal and Omar Abdullah — have begun taunting the Congress, attributing the Haryana defeat to its 'overconfidence'. Mamata Banerjee and Akhilesh Yadav are likely to join the bandwagon of restless allies.

Rahul will now be under pressure to advance the INDIA alliance story instead of focusing on his own party's revival. Maharashtra would be a litmus test for Rahul and the grand old party.

Once specific aspect of the results would gladden hearts in the BJP — after the Lok Sabha polls, the RSS significantly backed the BJP in Haryana and the Jammu region. The RSS appears to have realised that it depends on Modi and the BJP for survival. During the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, reports suggested that the RSS and BJP had differed on some issues. BJP insiders attach significant weight to RSS Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat's recent call for Hindu unity. If the RSS indeed supported Modi in Haryana, it is likely that similar backing will extend to Maharashtra. In Kashmir, the National Conference benefited significantly from the anti-PDP and anti-BJP sentiment. The NC gained largely due to the previous PDP-BJP alliance, especially after Ram Madhav was appointed as the point man. Madhav had earlier worked out the PDP-BJP alliance that had seen Mufi Mohammad Sayeed becoming chief minister.

Simple ways to purify your Indoor air



Nine out of 10 people globally are breathing poor quality air. Yet, oblivious to the dangers of indoor pollution, when we speak of pollution we only refer to outdoor pollution. Jayati Singh, Business Head, Air, Philips India adds, "Indoor air is 3-5 times more polluted than the outdoor air because it is a mix of outdoor pollution that comes in through windows and doors as well as indoor pollutants like dust, cooking fumes, allergens, incense, cigarette smoke and pet dander."

According to a recent survey conducted by Artemis Hospital under the Clean Air India Movement, due to unhealthy indoor air quality, about 31 per cent of the survey respondents had some kind of airway disease and 46 per cent people were found to have symptoms suggesting a respiratory disease.

Dr Amol Kumar, Pulmonologist, from iCliniq says, "Indoor air pollution is wreaking havoc on the sleeping patterns of people, thus leading to multiple ailments. The right home air purifier can help us sleep better and prevent sinus and breathing problems as it will remove dust and allergens from the air and leave us breathing easier and even reduce snoring."

Here are some easy ways to prevent your indoor air from getting worse:

Monitor indoor pollution

You can download a pollution mapping mobile application to monitor air inside your house. Also, keep your windows and doors closed in the wee hours and early morning, as that is the time when pollution is at its worst.

Use chimney to filter cooking fumes

Researchers have established that cooking fumes are cancerous and contribute greatly to contaminating indoor air. While cooking, always keep the exhaust fan on (and use chimney). Also, it is important to clean grease traps on regular intervals.

Avoid smoking indoors

Smoking is a big health hazard and it can permeate into your environment. So it's best to avoid smoking indoors and you are also advised to wash your hands and face after smoking.

Keep air-purifying plants

Houseplants can help you purify indoor air. They absorb particulates in the air and then process it into oxygen via photosynthesis. Plants like chrysanthemum (Garden mum), spider plant, weeping fig and peace lily are some of the indoor plants you can consider keeping at your home.

Change bed linen regularly

Change your bed sheet and pillow covers at least twice a week and always use clean blankets. Regularly washing curtains is also a healthy practice to prevent indoor air pollution.

Avoid moisture from getting trapped

Clean your house well and prevent moisture since dust and mites thrive on moisture. High moisture inside the house leads to mold growth and is also associated with respiratory issues. Use exhaust fan while cooking and even in the bathroom after shower; put the clothes' dryer outside, don't put too much water in houseplants and make sure there are no leaky plumbing to prevent mold. Get your electronic devices, especially air conditioners serviced regularly and use dehumidifier.



Extraordinary health benefits of Black Pepper

From an omelette, pasta to a vegetable stir fry, black pepper can enhance the taste factor.

Black pepper has more healthy properties than most people know about. Black pepper is a spice that has the potential to make food more beneficial when used in various recipes and as a table spice. In Kerala, many start their day with a cup of black coffee with a pinch of black pepper powder. The aroma of freshly ground black pepper is difficult to ignore.

We get our black pepper from the pepper vine that can grow in tropical climate. The pepper vines actually bear fruit-small white flowers that turn into berries called peppercorns. And the peppercorns are collected as whole berries or as ground black pepper. Research studies have shown that black pepper has quite a handful of healthy properties.

It has the ability to enhance the function of the digestive tract. Black pepper is a great way to combat this. More than just a spice, it has been shown to improve digestion and stimulate the secretion from the taste buds. This taste bud stimulation tells the stomach that it's supposed to increase its own digestive juices, namely hydrochloric acid. This, in turn breaks down protein in the stomach, improving the process of digestion. Black pepper is known to have a great amount of antioxidant properties. It also has benefits against bacterial growth, particularly in the intestinal tract.

So, just add freshly ground black pepper to your dish and see the difference.



It's time to change the adage from 'what you wear says a lot about you' to 'how you walk says a lot about you'. That's right. Researchers from the UK have found that people make judgments about an individual's personality based on his walk. Remember James Bond's suave stride or John Wayne's iconic swagger? Theories say that Wayne's walk may not have been so much about confidence and being macho, but his need to control his lanky body better. If you use the Monday slouch on most days, watch out! It may reveal that you are insecure and heading for a burnout. Of course, you can't judge a book by its cover, but body language experts say that walking styles definitely give away secrets about an individual. Here are a few key gaits and their interpretations...

KEY GAIT TYPES

Saunterer

Here's a non-pretentious soul, someone who loves to grab the day on his terms. A man or woman-about-town, this is a great communicator, someone who likes to reach out and have conversations while ambling. It's said to be one of the most ideal ways of walking.

The Power Strider

Have a strong lunging step? You're someone who loves to hit ground running. You are able to multitask and can focus on what is at hand. The study says this gait is mostly seen at the workplace. Unfortunately, power striders also expect others to keep up with them.

The Stomper

These folks press their feet down hard on the ground while walking, not so much due to body weight, but because of a persistent nature. They like to hit the concrete hard and can be childish or even easily prone to anger.

Egg-shell walker

A cautious, tight-lipped personality, this person takes calculated steps. This pattern of walking as if on eggshells, could arise out of a worried mind. The walking style is light, but deliberate. He or she gives off signals of being shy and aloof, too.

The foot dragger

How many of us have adopted this style? Studies say if this gait is repetitive it denotes a person who is listless, devoid of energy, sad and unable to detach from stress and worries.

Daytime sleep-walker

thinker. This is someone who's lost in thoughts and noise and other distractions become white noise to him or her. If you call out to such a person and get no reply, don't take offence.

The skulker

Watch out for this type! Here's someone with a predatory nature who likes to prowl about looking for another's weakness. At the workplace, you'll find this character skulking in the background, trying to eavesdrop on others' conversation.

30 minutes = zero stress

Scientists say a stroll can be one of the most effective ways to bust anxiety and stress. Brisk walking boosts endorphins and activates neurons in the brain that can soothe the mind and body. Walking meditation is also catching on as a daily wellness practice.

A British study that rated walkers' gaits found that a slower longer stride meant more internal dialogue, a looser gait denoted extroversion and a tighter one was

What's your walking

Personality?



about a more closed personality.

Here's how to walk right

First, adjust your posture, keep your head and spine straight.

Do not lean forwards or backwards. Make sure the shoulders do not hunch.

Don't let the arms tighten; swing them naturally.

Breathe steadily and pick up a calm pace.

Nordic walking, the new body toner?

Imagine you are going skiing minus the snowy slopes. That's Nordic Walking (also called ski walking), a fast-catching trend. It involves applying pressure on the ground with poles, which tones the arm muscles, chest and back. Nordic walkers are fitter and torch more calories (40% more than regular walking).

MCD seals 84 factories for flouting industrial rules

This enforcement is part of a larger crackdown to address industrial pollution and curb illegal operations in areas that are not zoned for industrial activities.

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has taken action against 84 factories across the city for violating industrial regulations, sealing them and cutting off electricity to several units, an official said on Wednesday. This enforcement is part of a larger crackdown to address industrial pollution and curb illegal operations in areas that are not zoned for industrial activities.

In September, the MCD officials inspected 520 industrial units situated in non-conforming zones—areas where a majority of the land, over 70%, is used for industrial purposes. Out of these, 84 units were found to be non-compliant and were immediately sealed.

Delhi has 27 unplanned industrial areas where operations often bypass legal and environmental regulations. In addition to sealing these factories, the MCD disconnected electricity in seven other units. The official also noted that further action is

planned, particularly in the Rithala region of northwest Delhi, where authorities expect to uncover more violations in the coming weeks. Whether they are around Yamuna or not is not of much significance.



When questioned about the impact of these industries on the pollution of the Yamuna river, the official explained, "All the polluting industries, irrespective of their location, contribute to the pollution of the Yamuna. The MCD is working comprehensively against such industries.

Pollution control is a central concern for the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Delhi, which also manages the MCD. The cleanup of the heavily polluted Yamuna has been one of its main environmental commitments, with the river often highlighted as a key site of ecological concern.

Despite these efforts, untreated waste from industrial factories and sewage continues to flow into the river, leading to persistent foul odours and growing concerns over toxic foam and contamination. These pollutants are also affecting agriculture and water supplies in the surrounding areas. According to the Labour Commission, Delhi has 24 officially approved industrial zones. The city operates 35 sewage treatment plants, maintained by various civic bodies, including the Delhi Jal Board, to address waste treatment and pollution control.

BJP demands videography of Delhi CM's residence after Atishi's eviction

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Wednesday demanded that the "official residence" of the Chief Minister should be videographed and a survey should be conducted which must be made public. "Sealing of the bungalow by the Public Works Department (PWD) is in line with public aspirations, and the department should conduct a video graphic survey of this building and present the report to the people of Delhi," Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said. He said that AAP's haste to occupy the bungalow for the Atishi "without following proper



government allotment rules" suggests that there is something in the bungalow that former CM Arvind Kejriwal wishes to hide. The ongoing row over the allotment of CM's bungalow at the 6

Flagstaff Road in north Delhi to Atishi has snowballed after the latter was evicted from the official residence, starting a new face-off between the ruling-AAP and the saffron party. Earlier, the Vigilance department issued a show-cause notice to three officials, including the special secretary to former CM Kejriwal, for not handing over the keys of the house to the PWD. The Delhi BJP chief noted that Atishi already has a ministerial bungalow at 17 A.B. Mathura Road, from which former Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit ran the government between 1998 and 2004. "Why can't Atishi do the same? People of Delhi have a right to know why both Kejriwal and Sanjay Singh are so anxious to get the Sheeshmahal bungalow allotted to Ms. Atishi," Sachdeva said.

DUSU poll results only after defacement is cleaned up: Delhi HC

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court, on Wednesday, ruled that the counting of votes for the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections held in September will be allowed the day after all defacement of public property by candidates is cleaned up. The court emphasised that while elections are a celebration of democracy, they should not become a "festival of money laundering." A division bench, comprising Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, directed the DUSU candidates to clean up the campus buildings that were defaced during the election campaign. The court clarified that its intention was not to obstruct the election process but to send a strong message that vandalism and public property damage will not be tolerated.

Earlier, on September 26, the court had suspended the vote counting and results announcement for both the DUSU and individual college elections, pending the removal of campaign-related defacement, including posters, hoardings, and graffiti. The court had stressed that the counting could proceed only after the affected areas were restored. In its response to the court's concerns last month, Delhi University indicated that it had circulated guidelines to candidates, emphasising adherence to regulations and the Lyngdoh Committee's recommendations designed to uphold the integrity of student elections.

However, as per the reports, even on the day of voting, the recommendations were not followed by any student body and their candidates. "How about you clean up the mess? We will permit the vote counting the very next day after the location is cleaned," remarked the bench during the hearing of an application submitted by two DUSU candidates.

The candidates assured the court that the university will be cleaned and the defaced areas repainted, in compliance with the guidelines. The application was part of an ongoing case, filed by advocate Prashant Manchanda, seeking legal action against DUSU candidates and student groups involved in damaging public property. The petition demanded that the offending parties remove the graffiti, repair the vandalised areas, and undertake beautification measures. The court set the next hearing for October 21, allowing the petitioner, the MCD, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), and the candidates additional time to submit status reports on the cleanup efforts.

When Ratan Tata Flew An F-16 Fighter Jet Over Bengaluru Skies

Under the guidance of a seasoned Lockheed Martin pilot, Ratan Tata took over the controls during the half-hour flight.

New Delhi: In February 2007, Ratan Tata took to the skies in a high-speed adventure that few would ever experience. At the Aero India Show held in Bengaluru, Mr Tata, 69 at the time, was invited by US defence contractor Lockheed Martin to co-pilot an F-16 fighter jet.

Known for his aviation skills, Mr Tata, who held licenses to fly both jets and helicopters, seized the opportunity to co-pilot the combat aircraft. Under the guidance of a seasoned Lockheed Martin pilot, he took over the controls during the half-hour flight. Soaring through clear skies and reaching altitudes as low as 500 feet, Mr Tata's experience was described as nothing short of "exhilarating." Speaking to shortly after his flight, Mr Tata couldn't contain his excitement. "You end up feeling



thrilled. The highlight was when we flew at low altitudes—around 500 feet—around 600 knots. You get a real sense of how fast this aircraft can move," the pilot recalled. On landing, Mr Tata was greeted by Lockheed Martin officials who presented him with a miniature replica of the F-16. The American defence giant was at the time competing for a major multi-billion-dollar defence contract with India.

But the F-16 wasn't Mr Tata's only airborne conquest that week. The very next day, he took to the skies once more - this time in Boeing's F-18 Super Hornet. Larger and more powerful than the F-16, the F-18 is a key asset in the US Navy's aircraft carrier operations. For Mr Tata, who has long harboured a passion for aviation, flying two of the world's most advanced fighter jets back-to-back was a dream come true.

climb over a hill and come down, turn on your side or turn over. It's just unbelievable," Mr Tata told. The Lockheed Martin pilot, who guided Mr Tata through the flight, shared the excitement. "He was absolutely

10 Years Of Act East Policy- How India's Foreign Relations Were Shaped In Modi Era

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launched India's Act East Policy (AEP) in 2014 focusing on enhancing relations with the Indo-Pacific region, particularly ASEAN countries. The policy aims to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties, and strategic partnerships through bilateral, regional, and multilateral engagement. In the past 10 years, India has actively reshaped its foreign relations, focusing on enhancing regional cooperation and connectivity. Politically, India aims to empower ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific, strengthen the BIMSTEC initiative for Bay of Bengal collaboration, and promote the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation group to improve east-west transport links between Southeast Asia and Indo-China.



Minister's visit also mentioned that there was a five-point consensus among ASEAN countries and their partners regarding the situation in Myanmar. It will be interesting to see India's stance on these issues over the next two days.

Understanding ASEAN and the East Asia Summit

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established in 1967, comprising member countries such as

Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, India, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Brunei Darussalam. The East Asia Summit includes these 10 ASEAN countries along with eight partner nations: Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia, and the United States, with Timor-Leste serving as an observer.

Progress of the Act East Policy

Defence experts believe that India seeks to

counter China's growing influence in the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean through this policy. Over the past decade, India has reaped benefits, including increased investments and expanded trade with these countries. According to the reports, trade with ASEAN nations has risen from \$65 billion to \$120 billion over ten years, with exports also seeing significant growth.

Key Partners in the Act East Policy

India's Act East Policy prominently includes the United States, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and ASEAN countries. The ASEAN members are Singapore, the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, and Brunei. Brunei, located near crucial maritime routes linking the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean, is a key partner for India as it seeks to strengthen ties.

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In solidarity with Bengal doctors fast unto death, city medicos to intensify stir

Discussions are on with Delhi RDA members for a coordinated and joint escalation of the protest, said a doctor.

NEW DELHI: Doctors from different medical colleges, under the banner of Delhi Resident Doctor Associations (RDA), may escalate their protest in the city in support of their West Bengal colleagues, who are on 'Fast unto Death', demanding justice for the Kolkata doctor raped and murdered two months ago. Discussions are on with Delhi RDA members for a coordinated and joint escalation of the protest, said a doctor. "We are in touch with our Bengal colleagues and are exploring all the options to escalate our protest, since the Bengal government is not paying any heed to the demands raised by them. Meanwhile, their health continues to deteriorate due to the fast," a senior member of Delhi RDA said. "We are discussing about fasting while working or pen-down strike, among other options. A

final decision would be made after reaching a consensus from all RDAs," he added. Meanwhile, medicos from different medical institutions have already started

Bengal colleagues are fighting for.

"We commend their courageous decision to take such drastic action in the face of the severe injustice surrounding this tragic incident. In memory of Abhaya, we will be working under a black ribbon as a symbol of solidarity and grief, ensuring her legacy of service and sacrifice is not forgotten. This black ribbon will serve as a reminder that the medical community will not remain silent when one of our own has suffered brutal violence," UCMS RDA announced. Medicos at AIIMS carried out a candle march in the evening.



"The government's silence in the face of such a grave injustice is not just a failure of leadership, but also a threat to the very fabric of our healthcare system. We won't rest until justice is served," said Dr Raghunandan Dixit, general secretary, RDA AIIMS.

escalating their symbolic protest. The resident doctors at University College Medical Sciences (UCMS) have decided to wear black ribbon during work hours as a gesture to support the cause their West

9 reasons why you're

Constantly Worn out

Do you struggle to get out of bed, feel constantly drained and rely on pick-me-ups like coffee and sugary treats to get you through the day?

If so, you're far from alone. Research reveals that one in three of us admit we're permanently worn out because of the pace of modern life. A survey by a vitamin company revealed that a whopping 97% of us claim we feel tired most of the time and doctors' records reveal that 10% of people who visit them complain of unexplained tiredness. So much so that doctors have even created a handy acronym — TATT (Tired All The Time). Here, experts point to some of the causes and how to deal with them.

No Exercise

Avoiding exercise because you're tired actually makes you feel worse. Regular exercise makes your heart and lungs work more efficiently, delivering oxygen and vital nutrients around the body. Remedy: Next time you're tempted to flop on the sofa, force yourself up for a brisk 10-minute walk — you'll feel more alert.

Lack of sleep

Recent research shows many of us survive on so-called 'junk sleep' — the kind when we wake up frequently throughout the night. It doesn't replenish our energy levels as well as long stretches of continuous sleep do. Remedy: Develop good sleep hygiene. Go to bed on time, avoid staring at screens an hour before bed time. If sleep evades you, have a relaxing bath and a cup of warm milk. Throw in some easy reading, as that helps.

Caffeine addiction

Although we think of caffeine as a pick-me-up, it actually makes us feel more tired once the initial surge wears off. This is because our brain chemistry doesn't like being interfered by stimulants, so it releases chemicals to dampen down the alert response. Drinking coffee even six hours prior to bedtime meant poorer quality kip. Remedy: Avoiding caffeine will increase energy levels in the long run. But cut down gradually to avoid headaches and irritability.

Iron deficiency

Figures show that around one third of women are low



Dehydration

on iron often due to heavy periods. Some have low enough iron levels to be anaemic. If you pull down your bottom eyelids and the inner rim looks pale rather than pink, it's an indicator. Remedy: Include plenty of iron-rich foods in your diet, such as lean meats, dark green vegetables, pulses and dried fruits, and pair them with foods like citrus fruit high in vitamin C.

Losing even as little as 2 per cent of your body's normal water content can take its toll on your energy levels.

As we get older we lose our thirst reflex. Also, working in an air-conditioned office, going for a long walk can lead to depleted fluid levels. This causes blood pressure to drop and not enough blood gets to the brain or muscles. It results in headaches, fatigue and loss of concentration.

Remedy: Try to drink water every two hours. If you need encouragement, add mint, basil, lemon or cucumber to liven its flavour.

Sugar Overdose

Sugary energy drinks and snacks like biscuits, chocolate and crisps cause sharp spikes in blood sugar levels that can leave you tired. Remedy: Swap to low-sugar foods. Avoid white carbs such as bread and pasta which quickly convert to sugar in the body. Choose wholegrain carbs such as granary bread, wholemeal pasta and brown rice.

Missing out on protein

Surviving on fruit and salad might feel worthy, but

avoiding protein will leave you exhausted, as it's a vital energy giver. Remedy: Eating a minimum of a palm-sized amount of protein with meals and eating seeds and nuts or nut butters can prevent tiredness. Meat, fish, cheese, tofu, beans, lentils, yogurt, nuts and seeds are good sources of proteins.

Storing on stress

While a little stress helps to keep us on our toes, long-term stress exhausts the body leaving us emotionally drained. Remedy: When stress strikes, instead of going frantic to fix things, try to slow down and take a break. Call a friend, walk the dog or do some yoga.

Sluggish Thyroid Having an underactive thyroid — which means it's not making enough of the hormone thyroxine — is a surprisingly common cause of unexplained fatigue, especially in middle-aged women. Other symptoms of a thyroid condition include excessive thirst, weight gain and feeling cold. Remedy: See your doctor and take a blood test. For an underactive thyroid, a simple once-a-day tablet can correct the problem — and most people get their normal energy levels back soon after starting the treatment.



Top 5 healthiest alcohol Drinks

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks

Vodka Soda

Hip hop artists endorse it as the 'cool quotient drink', but the Russians believe it is a cure to all their problems and they might just be on to some thing. In several cultures, Vodka is used as an alternative medicine. Consume no more than 1-2 units (30ml each) of Vodka at one go.

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks

Bellini

Bellini is prepared with champagne orange or peach juice. Champagne is rich in antioxidants which is beneficial for your skin. When you add orange or peach to champagne you are adding vitamin A, B and C to your drink. The juices are good sources for calcium, riboflavin, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, niacin and thiamine.

Healthiest Alcohol Drinks

Red wine

Indians have opened up to drinking wine. It is no longer associated with just the Italians and the French. From rosy cheeks to a happy heart, wine was and is a popular beverage. Red wine is considered



Plan to go drinking but afraid you may gain weight? Fret not! There are alcoholic drinks that have less calories and that do not make you gain weight as much as their counterparts. We give you top five healthiest alcoholic drinks to try this weekend.

the fountain of youth by many thanks to the high level of antioxidants. A great accompaniment for romantic dinners, wine will boost your body's defenses, build bones and balance blood sugar levels. Red wine can also increase women's libido too.

White wine

Red wine may be popular, but white wine has health benefits too. While red wine has antioxidant resveratrol, white wine has hydroxytyrosol which is an important antioxidant and effective for clearing blockages.

Guinness

Though beer gives you a beer belly, Guinness has less calories than regular beer. There are 128 calories in 35ml of Guinness beer. This beer also has the same number of antioxidants as red wine. This beer can help reduce and flush out blood clots and improve heart problems.

Telcos' ARPU rises to Rs 157.45 in June quarter

NEW DELHI. The average revenue per user (ARPU) of telecom service providers in India increased by 2.55% to Rs 157.45 in the June quarter of 2024, according to the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

The TRAI's Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicators report shows ARPU of all telecom operators rose from Rs 153.54 in March 2024 to Rs 157.45 in the quarter. ARPU measures how much money telecom service providers such as Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea Limited (VIL) earn from each customer per month.

The ARPU saw a significant annual growth, up 8.11% in June quarter as against the same period last year. Both prepaid and postpaid ARPU saw increases, with prepaid ARPU rising from Rs 150.74 in March 2024 to Rs 154.80 in June 2024. Postpaid ARPU rose from Rs



187.85 to Rs 189.17 in the quarter.

In terms of ARPU, Airtel reported the highest at Rs 211, followed by Jio at Rs 181.70, while VIL had the lowest ARPU of Rs 146 in the quarter. Regarding revenue, the gross revenue (GR) of the telecom service sector for June was Rs 86,031 crore, a fall of 2.16% as against the previous quarter. The Applicable Gross Revenue (ApGR) fell by 1.02% to Rs 83,087 crore, while the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) increased by 0.13% to Rs. 70,555 crore.

The report also noted that the overall Minutes of Usage (MOU) per subscriber per month declined by 2.16%, from 995 in March 2024 to 974 in June 2024. Prepaid MOU per subscriber stood at 1,010, while postpaid MOU per subscriber was 539 in the June quarter.

Airtel reports highest APRU, VIL lowest

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GMP sees sharp decline ahead of issue

NEW DELHI. The grey market premium (GMP) of Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) has plunged sharply in recent days amid concerns related to 'rich valuation' that may leave little room for investors to make listing gains when the shares are listed on the exchanges later this month. Last check on Tuesday, GMP for Hyundai came down to Rs 145 per share, suggesting a gain of about 7.5% to the investors at the upper end of the IPO price band. The same hit a high of Rs 570 per share in late September and was hovering around Rs 360-370 level at the start of this month. GMP is the premium amount paid at which initial public offering (IPO) shares are traded before it is listed on the stock exchanges. GMP is a key indicator of how an IPO may perform on listing. However, GMP is not always an accurate indicator and changes rapidly.

HMIL, the local arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, has fixed a price band of Rs 1,865-1,960 per share for its Rs 27,870 crore IPO, the largest in India ever. The offering opens for subscription on October 15.

Star health data hack: More than 3 crore customers' information up for sale online

BENGALURU. A hacker claims to have data of over 31 million customers of Star Health Insurance and that it is available for sale at \$150,000. On Wednesday, customers of the insurance company were shocked as a hacker identified as xenZen claims to have all details of customers including date of birth, phone number, PAN Card, among other details.

The insurance company in a statement to TNIE acknowledged that they were the victim of a targeting malicious cyberattack, resulting in unauthorised and



illegal access to certain data.

"We make it absolutely clear that our operations remain unaffected, and all services continue without disruption. A thorough and rigorous forensic investigation, led by independent cybersecurity experts is underway, and we are working closely with government and regulatory authorities at every stage of this investigation, including by duly reporting the incident to the insurance and cybersecurity regulatory authorities apart from filing a criminal complaint," the statement added.

Hyundai sets price band at Rs 1,865-1,960 for Rs 27,870 cr IPO

The issue opens on October 15.

Employees have a Rs 186 discount apiece from the declared price band.

MUMBAI. Hyundai Motor India on Wednesday announced the price band for its initial share sale worth Rs 27,870 crore, making it the biggest-ever share sale in Dalal Street's history at Rs 1,865-1,960 a share. This will value the second-largest domestic carmaker at Rs 1.59 lakh

crore or a tad less than \$19 billion, which is as much as 42% of its parent Hyundai Motor Corp's \$44 billion current valuation.

The issue, which is only an offer for sale, through which the parent will sell 17.5% or 14.2 crore of its equity in the issuer and has no fresh issue, therefore, the entire proceeds will go to the selling shareholder and not to the company.

The issue opens on October 15.

Employees have a Rs 186 discount apiece from the declared price band. While at the upper end of price band, the company will raise Rs 27,870 crore, making it the largest-ever IPO, breaking record set by LIC in May 2022, raising Rs 23,000 crore. At the upper-end the company is commanding a premium of 159x.

When asked about high premium valuing it



42% of its parent's value, which is the world's third-largest carmaker, bankers said. Tarun Garg, COO of Hyundai, said many MNCs that have subsidiaries operating here have at different valuations to that of the parent. One of bankers to the issue, Citigroup's Rahul Saraf said the consumption story offered here is very different and so the valuations

commands a higher multiple. "We have been India's largest exporter of passenger vehicles from fiscal 2005 to the first 11 months of fiscal 2024, having exported the highest cumulative number of passenger vehicles. Since 1998 and up to March 2024, we have cumulatively sold nearly 12 million PV in the country and through exports. In 2023, we were among the top three contributors to our parent's global sales volumes, and our contribution to its sales volume has risen from 15.48% in 2018 to 18.19% in 2023," Unsoo Kim, MD, Hyundai India said.

Kim said the company has plans to invest Rs 32,000 crore here over next decade and will invest to make its Pune plant automated, aiming for a healthy mix of domestic and exports sales.

Sensex, Nifty open higher; Tata shares in spotlight after Ratan Tata's death

New Delhi. Benchmark stock market indices opened on a positive note on Thursday, following gains in Asian markets. This came after the minutes from the latest Federal Reserve policy meeting boosted expectations of further US rate cuts, which may lead to increased foreign investments in emerging markets.

The S&P BSE Sensex added 110.95 points to 81,578.05, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 19.80 points to 25,001.75 as of 9:55 AM.

The Indian equity markets experienced a decent uptick in buying activity, driven by stabilised global developments and a positive outlook from the previous trading session. However, in the second half, the momentum fizzled out, and the benchmark index once again faced a strong bout of sell-off from intraday highs and slipped below the psychological mark. Eventually, the index settled slightly below the 25000



mark, albeit on a subdued note," said Sameet Chavan, Head Research, Technical and Derivative - Angel One. All eyes will be on the shares of the Tata Group as Ratan Tata died on Wednesday, aged 86, in Mumbai. He had been undergoing treatment for prolonged illness at Mumbai's Breach Candy Hospital for the last few days.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services

said that investors can pay tribute to Ratan Tata and the great corporate empire he built by buying stocks like TCS, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Consumer and Indian Hotels. "Ratan Tata, while pursuing the group's growth, contributed substantially to India's growth and millions of ordinary investors gained from the great man's vision. Also, investors should learn from the growth of the Tata empire that a long-term investment horizon is required to really participate in the wealth creation that happens through the capital market. In a bull market like the present one, there will always be valuation concerns. But great companies like the ones Ratan Tata built will create wealth for investors in the long run," he added.

Country's mango export now tastes global success

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Mango export in India has made huge strides by utilising radiation processing to meet international phytosanitary standards, particularly for markets like the USA. After resuming exports in 2007, India has seen steady growth with shipments reaching 2,500 tonnes in 2023 and 3,000 tonnes in 2024. India resumed mango exports in 2007 after an 18-year break, following the commissioning of the KRUSHAK irradiation facility. In 2006, KRUSHAK was upgraded to quarantine treat mangoes, and received approval from the USDA for exporting Indian mangoes to the USA. Though Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu produce mangoes, export is mostly made from Maharashtra and Gujarat. A total of 28 food irradiation plants are there in India. The Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board (MSAMB) has leased KRUSHAK to irradiate mangoes, onions, spices,



and food grain. This treatment ensures mangoes are free from pests, allowing them to meet the phytosanitary requirements of many countries. It also increases the shelf life and the ability to supply high-quality, irradiated fruit. According to data from BARC, India's mango exports have shown steady growth since 2007 when 157 tonnes were exported to the US. The numbers climbed consistently, with 1,150 tonnes exported by 2017, 2,500 tons in 2023, and projections reaching 3,000 tonnes by 2024. "This shows the increasing global demand for Indian mangoes and the success of

radiation processing in meeting international quality standards," said P A Hassan, scientist and associate director of bio science group at Homi Bhabha National Institute. The US has been a major importer of Indian mangoes since 2007, and India has successfully made it into other markets as well. Australia joined the list of export destinations in 2017, Malaysia in 2022, and South Africa more recently in 2023. India's mango export industry marked another milestone last year with its first successful sea-route shipment to the US. Utilising BARC-developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and radiation-treated mangoes, 16 tonnes of the fruit were shipped and it reached the USA in 25 days. The shift from air to sea-route exports has brought many advantages for stakeholders. The cost of sea shipping is just one-eighth of air freight, drastically reducing the overall costs of export. Also, the sea route allows for larger shipments.

When inflation was sticky for long and sticking around in double-digit, Das used to repeatedly say that the RBI MPC will not rest till the elephant is sent back to forest and ensured that the wily animal remains there for a durable time so that the economy grows at a higher pace sustainably longer. However, the RBI monetary policy committee (MPC) retained the CPI projection for FY25 at 4.5%, with Q2 at 4.1%; Q3 at 4.8%; and Q4 at 4.2%. CPI inflation for Q1FY26 is projected at 4.3%. Unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy, the governor said the flexible inflation targeting (FIT) framework, which has completed eight years since its introduction in September 2016, is a major structural reform of the 21st century India. Under FIT, the RBI has ensured that the consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation remains at 4% with a margin of 2% on either side. "The CPI print for September is expected to see a big jump due to unfavourable base effects and pick-up in food price momentum, caused by the lingering effects of a shortfall in the production of onion, potato and gram in FY24, among other factors," Das said.

He added that the headline inflation trajectory, however, is projected to sequentially moderate in Q4FY25 due to good kharif harvest, ample buffer stocks of cereals and a likely good crop in the ensuing rabi season. Unexpected weather events and worsening of geopolitical conflicts constitute major upside risks to inflation. International crude oil prices have become volatile in October, Das added.

Ratan Tata: The visionary who fuelled India's startup revolution

Even after his retirement, Ratan Tata continued to embody the spirit of entrepreneurship, emerging as a formidable investor and mentor to a multitude of startups across India.

NEW DELHI. Ratan Tata, the iconic former chairman of Tata Group, died on October 9, 2024, leaving behind a legacy that transcends traditional business leadership. Even after his retirement, Tata continued to embody the spirit of entrepreneurship, emerging as a formidable investor and mentor to a multitude of startups across India. His commitment to nurturing innovation and supporting young entrepreneurs has significantly shaped the Indian startup ecosystem. Ratan Tata, in a 2021

interview with CNBC-TV18, mentioned that his early passion for entrepreneurship stemmed from the excitement he experienced while working at Tata. During this time, he encouraged the company to explore budding computer and software startups in the Bay Area.

After stepping down from his formal role at Tata Group, Tata embraced a new identity as an investor through his personal investment vehicle, RNT Associates. His approach wasn't just about financial returns—it was fueled by a deep passion for fostering entrepreneurship. He often referred to his investments as "learning experiences," understanding the risks and challenges of building a business. Tata's portfolio spanned over 50 startups, including some of India's most prominent names like Paytm, Ola, and FirstCry. His early investments in Paytm in 2015 played a crucial role in transforming the digital payments giant into a comprehensive financial services platform. Similarly, his backing of Ola that same year helped the ride-hailing



company solidify its market position. FirstCry, a leading baby products e-commerce platform, thrived under Tata's guidance, enhancing its omnichannel strategy and successfully going public. His impact wasn't limited to financial backing; Tata's mentorship was often regarded as invaluable by startup founders. Entrepreneurs described his insights as transformative, providing clarity in times of uncertainty and helping them refine their strategies. Tata's investment in Upstox, an online trading platform, yielded a staggering 23,000% return when he sold part of his stake,

showcasing his ability to identify high-potential ventures.

Among his more socially driven investments, Tata backed Goodfella's, a startup offering companionship services for senior citizens—demonstrating his interest in social entrepreneurship and creating businesses that made a positive impact. Many of Tata's investments went on to achieve remarkable success, with companies like FirstCry delivering impressive returns during their IPOs. These achievements underscored Tata's keen understanding of India's rapidly evolving startup landscape, one that he helped shape through his relentless belief in innovation. Ratan Tata's entrepreneurial spirit, which lived on long after his formal retirement, has left a lasting mark on India's startup ecosystem. His legacy as an investor and mentor will continue to inspire future generations of entrepreneurs, shaping a vibrant ecosystem that thrives on creativity and ambition.

NEWS BOX

Sai Sudharsan determined to make a mark in red-ball cricket

CHENNAI. As India continue to prepare and get ready for the eight Test matches ahead, the one highly talked about spot is the back-up opener. With Rohit Sharma and Yashasvi Jaiswal being regular openers, the selectors and team management would be looking at standby options who can travel with the team to Australia.

Keeping this in mind, Tamil Nadu opener B Sai Sudharsan is keen to start the Ranji season on a positive note. A proven performer in white-ball cricket, the youngster is not thinking about the IPL mega auction and wants to start well against Saurashtra in Coimbatore. "I am not thinking about the IPL auction right now. My focus is on the Ranji trophy and the Test matches that are also coming. My focus is to do well for Tamil Nadu and try and make it to the national team in both formats," Sai Sudharsan told this daily.

Tamil Nadu will be led by Sai Kishore and L. Balaji is the new coach. "We have a good team. The team has the right mixture of experience and youth. We are keen to start



the season on a positive note and carry forward the momentum," said Sai Sudharsan. Saurashtra are always a competitive side and they have been in the same Group as Tamil Nadu for a while. "At this level (first-class) none can take any team lightly. We are aware of the task ahead and will play accordingly. We do not believe in putting unnecessary pressure on ourselves. As I said earlier we wish to start well and go with the flow," explained the 22-year old. In his last first-class game, Sudharsan played for Rest of India in the Irani Trophy, got a good start but couldn't convert the same. "I had a decent start in the Irani Trophy. Could have definitely converted it into a big score as it was a good wicket to bat on. I was disappointed, but then it happens and it was part of the game. I am keen to make amends in the Ranji and perform well," he insisted.

The youngster derives strength from his County stint where he made a century for Surrey. "The experience at Surrey was pleasant. Glad to make some runs. Professional County cricket is tough and I am happy that I got to spend some time in England where the conditions are different before our domestic season," he said.

Sai Kishore has been leading the Tamil Nadu side with a lot of fire and zest.

IND vs BAN: Blame Game In Bangladesh Camp After Series Defeat Against Team India, Pacer Taskin Ahmed Says THIS

New Delhi. In a dramatic twist to the T20I series between India and Bangladesh, the Bangladeshi camp has found itself engulfed in controversy following their recent defeat. Taskin Ahmed, the standout pacer for Bangladesh, has openly addressed the team's shortcomings, shedding light on the reasons behind their inability to compete with a formidable Indian side. The reality of their situation, he admits, is stark and demands immediate attention.

Early Missed Opportunities Haunt Bangladesh Bangladesh's defeat in the second T20 match, which took place at the Arun Jaitley Stadium



in Delhi, was marked by a crucial moment that proved to be costly. Taskin Ahmed highlighted a significant turning point: the dropped catch of Nitish Reddy when he was just on 5 runs. Wicketkeeper Litton Das's lapse in judgment allowed Reddy to flourish, and he seized the opportunity, scoring a stunning 74 runs off just 34 balls. "Catch drop is always costly, especially against an opponent like them who are the best in the world," Taskin lamented. This incident not only shifted the momentum in favor of India but also underscored the thin margins in international cricket.

The 86-run defeat has sparked a blame game among the players, with captain Najmul Hossain previously commenting on the team's struggle to score 180 runs. Taskin echoed this sentiment, stating, "We don't have that habit of scoring big runs, and that is the reality." His remarks reflect a growing concern within the Bangladesh camp about their ability to adapt to high-pressure situations against top-tier teams.

Taskin Ahmed: A Beacon of Hope Amidst Challenges

Despite the team's overall performance, Taskin Ahmed stood out as a beacon of resilience. He returned impressive bowling figures of 2 for 16, showcasing his ability to perform under pressure. "We were in the game till the 11th or 12th over, but the spinners had a bad day," Taskin explained, emphasizing the challenges posed by the pitch conditions.

T20 World Cup: How close are India to semis berth after record win vs Sri Lanka

New Delhi. India started their campaign in the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 with a heavy 58-run loss against New Zealand. Although they won against Pakistan by six wickets, their purpose wasn't quite served after their net run rate stayed in the negatives. Under immense pressure, Harmanpreet Kaur's India boosted their chances of making their way through to the semis.

India recorded their biggest win by margin of runs in the T20 World Cup after beating Chamari Athapaththu's Sri Lanka by 82 runs at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Smriti Mandhana's 50 laid the platform after which skipper Harmanpreet used the long handle to good effect, hitting the fastest fifty by an Indian woman in the history of the mega event. Shafali Verma also became the youngest to the landmark of 2000 runs in Women's T20Is. After posting 172 for three on the board, India did not look back. Renuka Singh and Shreyanka Patil made early inroads after which Arundhati Reddy and Asha Sobhana picked up three wickets apiece.

India bowled Sri Lanka out for 90 in 19.5 overs. That India improved their net run



rate from -1.271 from +0.576 gave them some breathing space. Their win over the Islanders have put pressure on Sophie Devine's New Zealand before their last two games against Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Here's how the scenario stands after

the India vs Sri Lanka Considering New Zealand, Australia and India beat Pakistan and Sri Lanka India beat Australia, Australia and New Zealand will be locked on 6 points each (3 wins out of 4 matches). In that case, the two

teams with the better net run-rate will go through to the semi-finals. Given the current net run rates of all three teams, India (+0.576) and Australia (+2.524) should advance to the semis above New Zealand (-0.555).

India lose to Australia

Australia with 8 points (4 out of 4 matches), and New Zealand with 6 points (3 wins out of 4 matches) will qualify for the semi-finals. India with 4 points (2 wins out of 4 matches) will be knocked out of the competition.

Others

India can also sneak into the semis with 4 points (2 wins out of 4 matches), but for that to happen, Pakistan and Sri Lanka need to beat New Zealand and Australia.

Here's the points table after the India vs Sri Lanka clash. Here's the head-to-head record between India and Australia

India have won only seven out of 34 matches against Australia in Women's T20Is since they first met in 2008. One game was tied while one match did not produce a result. In Women's T20 World Cups, India have a 2-4 record against Australia.

IND vs BAN: Nitish Kumar Reddy gives perfect 'all-round' audition in Delhi

New Delhi. India cricketer Nitish Kumar Reddy had a remarkable outing during the second T20I against Bangladesh on Wednesday, October 9 at Arun Jaitley Stadium, Delhi. The 21-year-old, who remained unbeaten 16* (15) on his debut in the first T20I, registered his maiden half-century as he walked in to bat at a critical stage for the team.

With India reeling at 25/2, which quickly turned to 41/3 in no time, Reddy showed great maturity to bat through different phases of the game. The right-handed batter first got his eye in during the first 13 balls of his innings as he held one end after the team was under immense pressure. However, after getting set at the crease, the youngster began attacking spinners and played some breathtaking shots. Reddy brought up his half-century in just 27 balls and even ripped apart Mehidy Hasan Miraz by smashing him for three sixes and a boundary. His innings unfortunately came to an end on 74 (34) as he clobbered four fours and seven sixes. After smashing a breathtaking 74, Reddy also contributed with the ball and picked up two wickets in his four-over spell, giving away just 23 runs. The right-arm seamer dismissed Mahmudullah and Tanzim Hasan Sakib as his first two international scalps. Following his match-winning show, Reddy became the first Indian player to score over 70 runs and take two wickets in T20Is. Reflecting on his match-winning show, Reddy revealed how he planned his innings and also mentioned how he's also working on his bowling to become a true all-rounder. I took my time and once I saw the over I need to attack that's where everything changed: Nitish

"We were 3 down and we knew we were in a pressure situation, but we always plan in the dressing room that we need to play fearless cricket. That's what helped me, I guess. I took my time and once I saw the over I need to attack, that's where everything changed. It's my individual plan to be honest, like at that moment, Bangladesh was having great momentum at that time. So, we were thinking let's take some time. I felt that no ball just changed everything. When I got that no ball six, and then we got charged up and everything went in the right way. So that's the over we targeted, obviously off spinner is bowling to right hander so obviously it's big but I was backing my power," said in a conversation with Sports18. "To be honest, yes I'm working on my bowling as well. Like I want to bring more consistency, whatever I want to bowl, I want to be more clear. So that will help me to perform as a good all-rounder. Morne Morkel, he's a good person, he's giving me a lot of confidence as well. So I feel so grateful that he's there in our team. The plans and all, it's very different here, it was very helpful for me as well like for my skill as well," he added.

Full freedom, play your game: Rinku Singh's life under Gambhir-Suryakumar

Rinku Singh has opened up about his life under the Gautam Gambhir-Suryakumar Yadav regime and claimed that both the coach and captain have given the team full freedom. Rinku scored a match-winning fifty in Delhi on October 9.

New Delhi. Rinku Singh has claimed that coach Gautam Gambhir and captain Suryakumar Yadav has given the team to play with full freedom and back their natural game after the 2nd T20I win over Bangladesh on October 9, Wednesday. Rinku produced a stunning 29-ball 53 that was laced with some elegant and destructive shots that helped India register a mammoth total of 221. Rinku also had a match-winning 108-run stand with Nitish Kumar Reddy, that saved India from a precarious spot. Bangladesh were unable to mount a challenge in the run chase as India won the game by 86 runs to clinch the series. Speaking after the game at the press



conference, Rinku said that both Gambhir and Suryakumar have told him to play his natural game, irrespective of the situation. "Both the coach and the captain have always told me to play my natural game, no matter the situation of the match. They've given us full freedom to back our shots and hit every

ball with confidence," said Rinku.

The ball was gripping on the wicket Rinku came in when India were 41 for 3, having lost both the openers and captain Suryakumar. The southpaw said that the ball was gripping on the wicket and he was informed about it by Nitish. Rinku said he decided to play according to the track at first and then switched gears as the pitch got better for batting.

The star batter pointed out Nitish's six off the free hit from Mahmudullah changed the momentum for the hosts in the end.

"When the match started, the ball was gripping on the wicket, especially after we lost three wickets. When I went out to bat after Sanju Bhaiya and Surya Bhaiya got out, the ball was gripping on the deliveries they were out to. So, when I entered to bat, Reddy Bhai informed me that the ball was gripping, and I played accordingly in the beginning. Later, the wicket improved, and we discussed focusing on building a partnership and hitting bad balls to maintain momentum. The free hit Reddy Bhai got helped us gain momentum from there," said Rinku.

Shakib Al Hasan issues public apology after criticism in Bangladesh unrest

New Delhi. All-rounder Shakib Al Hasan issued a public apology after facing criticism over staying silent during the political tensions in Bangladesh. Shakib was earlier accused of murder after Rafiqul Islam, whose son Rubel passed away in the protests, filed a case against him back in August. Calls to withdraw Shakib from Bangladesh's Test squad against Pakistan were also made.

Earlier, Shakib said that he wished to play his last and final Test at home when Bangladesh face South Africa in Mirpur. But the 37-year-old also said that he would need security clearance to return to his country for his farewell Test. Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain, the Youth and Sports Advisor, had stated that Shakib must first clarify his stance before requesting security.

"I would have felt the same way"

"At first, I respectfully remember all the students who sacrificed their lives or were injured while leading the anti-discrimination student movement. I offer my deepest respect and condolences to them and their families. Although no sacrifice can ever



fully compensate for the loss of loved ones, the pain of losing a child or a brother is irreplaceable," Shakib wrote in a post on Facebook. "For those of you who felt hurt or disappointed by my silence during this

critical time, I sincerely apologise acknowledging your feelings. If I were in your position, perhaps I would have felt the same way," Shakib said.

Shakib, who has also retired from T20Is, also asked his fans to lend him support when he plays his farewell Test in front of his home crowd.

"As you know, I will soon be playing my final match. In my final match, in the closing chapter of this story, I want you all by my side. I want to bid farewell with all of you standing with me. I hope, and I don't just hope, I believe that in this final moment, you all will stand with me. You all will be there to close the story, a story where the true heroes are not me, but all of you," Shakib added.

Shakib recently played in the Test series against India where he struggled both with bat and ball. He also had trouble with his vision due to which he was seen biting a strap inside his helmet during the Chennai Test. Shakib is currently playing for Los Angeles Waves in the NCL USA T10 League.

Sachin Tendulkar mourns death of Ratan Tata: In life and demise, he moved the nation

After sharing an emotional note, mourning the death of industrialist Ratan Tata, Sachin Tendulkar visited the industrialist's residence early on Thursday to pay homage. BCCI secretary Jay Shah was among the many who expressed condolences.

New Delhi. Cricket great Sachin Tendulkar mourned the death of industrialist and philanthropist Ratan Tata in a heartfelt social

media post on Thursday, October 10. Tendulkar was among the many who visited Ratan Tata's residence in Mumbai and paid respects to the national icon, who died aged 86 at a hospital in Mumbai on Wednesday.

Sachin Tendulkar recalled his interactions with Ratan Tata, saying those who knew him and those who didn't have the opportunity to meet him feel the same grief after his death. "In his life, and demise, Mr Ratan Tata has moved the nation. I was fortunate to spend time with him, but millions, who have never met him, feel the same grief that I feel today. Such is his impact. From his love for animals to philanthropy, he showed that true progress can only be achieved when we care for those who don't have the means to take care of themselves. Rest in peace, Mr Tata. Your legacy will continue to live through the institutions you built and values that you embraced," Sachin Tendulkar said in his social media post. Sachin Tendulkar was



seen entering Ratan Tata's residence and heading out after paying his respects. The legendary cricketer was even spotted interacting with a few known faces as the public came out in large numbers to pay homage to the industrialist.

Indian cricket board (BCCI) secretary Jay Shah also took to social media to express his condolences on Ratan Tata's demise. Notably, the Tata Sons has been IPL official title sponsor since the 2022 edition. Ratan

Tata began his career with the Tata Group in 1962, working on the shop floor of Tata Steel, which provided him with hands-on experience in the family business. He quickly rose through the ranks, taking on leadership roles at companies like National Radio and Electronics (NELCO) and Empress Mills. Despite initial challenges, his leadership skills and vision eventually led him to succeed J.R.D. Tata as the chairman of Tata Sons in 1991. Under his leadership, the Tata Group underwent significant transformation and expansion. Tata oversaw the acquisition of several global brands, including Tetley in 2000, Corus in 2007, and Jaguar Land Rover in 2008. He also launched the Tata Nano, aimed at creating the world's most affordable car, and drove the growth of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) into a global IT powerhouse. During his tenure, the group's revenue grew from \$5.7 billion in 1991 to nearly \$100 billion by 2012.

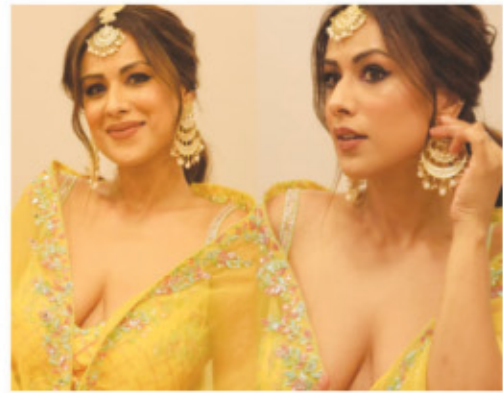


Nia Sharma

Flaunts Cleavage In Yellow Ethnic Wear As She Shares New Hot Photos, Fans React

Nia Sharma always grabs attention for her bold photos. She constantly shares them on her social media handle too. Today, also Nia dropped another series of hot photos flaunting her cleavage. Fans were quick to react and dropped heart emojis in the comment section. Taking to her Instagram handle, Nia shared photos in which we can see her wearing a yellow colour traditional outfit with a plunging neckline. "oops! Par sajna to Hai hi nahi," read the caption. One of the fans wrote, "Nia in Traditional is another level of beauty & elegance." Another wrote, "looking pretty".

Nia Sharma grabbed headlines after she apologized to fans for not participating in the reality show Bigg Boss 18. She took to her social handle and shared a note about the same. But looks like fans are not happy and are trolling her. The actress even interacted with fans on her X handle and mentioned that she is very sorry. However, one of the fans demanded a personal apology for breaking his heart. Nia's reply is winning hearts. The fan wrote, "Nia Sharma should personally call on my number and apologize. #Biggboss #SR @Theniasharma." The actress replied, "Loan lekar thodi na bhaag gayi mein tumse yar. Don't be so adamant." Another fan wrote, "#NiaSharma very smartly made fool out of her fans and now blaming everything on channel Girl you enjoyed the fame and money And such big publicity stunt cant happen without her consent #BiggBoss18." On this she wrote, "I loved the attention for sure ..would have loved money too but I didn't get any". "I like you but You're not queen Elizabeth Nia that people will have to understand your stupidity. Imagine fandoms using their energy and time to hype you up to get to know it was just a mere lie." Nia replied, "Until Today I genuinely didn't know I had fandoms except a few. Never took myself seriously. But thanks for letting me know. I'll be more serious." Earlier in the day, Nia took to her Instagram stories and wrote, "To the fans And well wishers. I've disappointed. Truly been overwhelmed for the tremendous support, love and crazy hype! almost made me want to go inside the house for once made me Realise what I've earned in the last 14 years. Can't say i didn't enjoy the hype and attention but please don't blame me. It wasn't me." Reportedly, Nia Sharma's participation in Bigg Boss 18 was announced on the grand finale night of Khatron Ke Khiladi 14.



Alia Bhatt, Rashmika Grab Eyeballs at Jigra Premiere After Dharma Halts Pre-release Screenings for Media



The much-awaited premiere of Jigra, starring Alia Bhatt and Vedang Raina, took place in Mumbai on Wednesday evening, and the star-studded affair grabbed everyone's attention. Alia Bhatt, the lead actress of the film, arrived in an effortlessly chic black tank top paired with white wide-leg pants, exuding her signature minimalist style. Joining her was her sister, Shaheen Bhatt, while her mother-in-law, Neetu Kapoor, also made an appearance to support her "bahu." Neetu opted for a smart casual look, donning a crisp white shirt under a black blazer with classic blue jeans. But the highlight of the evening was Rashmika Mandanna, who stole the show with her simple yet stunning outfit—a white t-shirt tucked into high-waisted denim. Her appearance sparked excitement, especially since Rashmika recently made waves for her performance in Animal alongside Alia's actor-husband, Ranbir Kapoor. The chemistry between Ranbir and Rashmika in the film, where she played his wife, was loved by fans, making her presence at Alia's premiere all the more exciting.

Vedang Raina, who plays Alia's brother in Jigra, arrived in a laid-back all-black ensemble, wearing a hoodie that proudly featured the name of Jigra's director, Vasan Bala. His casual yet cool appearance matched the vibe of the evening. Also in attendance was Karan Johar, the producer of Jigra, who made a public appearance with his business partner, Apoorva Mehta. The duo has recently been in the news after Dharma Productions announced their decision to halt pre-release screenings for media. In a joint statement, Johar and Mehta shared that the production house made this decision to preserve the excitement and experience of watching films in theatres.

Sharvari Wagh And John Abraham's Vedaa To Release On OTT On This Date



Vedaa, starring Sharvari Wagh and John Abraham, is all set to make its OTT debut this week. The action-drama was released in theatres on August 15 and viewers can now enjoy it on OTT from October 10. Vedaa will be released on the streaming platform Zee5. Upon theatrical release, the film faced severe competition from Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao's blockbuster Street 2 and Akshay Kumar's Khel Khel Mein. The official Instagram handle of the streaming platform ZEE5 announced the digital release of Vedaa. The announcement clip featured John Abraham and Sharvari running in a fast-paced adventure sequence while the catchy theme music played in the background. The text embedded on the video read "World Digital Premiere Vedaa Releasing Tomorrow." The caption read, "In this fight for justice, she'll be unstoppable. Watch #Vedaa releasing TOMORROW on #ZEE5!"

Clashing with two major films, Vedaa did not perform well in the Box Office. Speaking about its performance, John Abraham told Radio City, "It's a brave film to do. I wanted to work with Nikkhil again after Batla House. Honestly, more than success and failure, it's the message that you're sharing via your film that's more important. We've told it in an entertaining way, but there's no getting around the fact that the subject is heavy. And if people aren't interested in watching films with heavy subjects, that's their choice. I respect it. But you have to face the subject at the end of the day."

In addition to John Abraham and Sharvari, Abhishek Banerjee and Tamannaah Bhatia have significant roles in the film. Nikkhil Advani directed Vedaa and it was written by Aseem Arora. It was produced by Umesh KR Bansal, Monisha Advani, Madhu Bhojwani and John Abraham. Inspired by real incidents, Vedaa delves into the dark and brutal world of caste-based violence and societal inequality. The film focuses on three major people caught up in a storm of societal injustice. The lead character Vedaa is played by Sharvari Wagh, who is a dedicated law student who has a strong interest in boxing. She leads a happy life with her sister Geetanjali, brother Vinod, and their parents until a series of events forces them into a nightmare existence. John Abraham plays the role of Abhimanyu Kanwar, a court-martialed army man whose life is tragically altered when his wife is ruthlessly murdered by terrorists.



Sonam Kapoor's

Maldives Photo Dump Is All About Family, Fun And Food

Sonam Kapoor is having a quality family life. The actress recently jetted off to the Maldives for a vacation with her husband Anand Ahuja, her son Vaayu, sister Rhea Kapoor and brother-in-law Karan Boolani. As their vacation came to an end, Sonam treated her Insta fam with a few glimpses from their "magical" trip, highlighting the wonderful moments spent with her family. Reportedly, the family also marked Karan Boolani's birthday during the trip. The actress posted a series of pictures and videos from her family getaway featuring some of the most picturesque locations in the Maldives. The post proves that Sonam's trip was a wholesome mix of family, fun and food. The dump was accompanied by a long heartfelt note that read, "As we conclude our incredible family vacation, I find myself thinking about the memorable experiences we've enjoyed. This trip was nothing short of magical—a wonderful escape that restored our spirits and strengthened our friendships."

The album began with the actress standing near the sea with her son Vaayu and a video of a stunning beach view from her room. Talking about this, she mentioned, "The moment we arrived, the spectacular beauty of the islands took our breath away. The turquoise waters, soft white sands and vibrant coral reefs provided a stunning backdrop for our family outings. Every sunrise felt like a gift, reminding us of the beauty in each new day." Sonam Kapoor also shared that she enjoyed several fun activities such as snorkelling among colourful fishes and playing beach games. "Vaayu's excitement at finding the glories of nature was infectious, filling our hearts with appreciation," she added. What also stood out in Sonam's photo dump were her incredible ensembles. Her vacation-perfect outfits included a black monokini, a bright green cocktail dress and a stunning red dress with a plunging neckline.

She concluded her post by sharing that the trip has reminded them of the importance of family time. "We've returned not just rejuvenated, but with a greater appreciation for one another and the wonderful world around us. We leave with hearts full of love, memories that will last a lifetime," she wrote. On the work front, Sonam Kapoor recently revealed that she would start filming for her first project post-pregnancy early next year. Sharing the news, she said, "I'm super excited to face the camera again post my pregnancy. I love being an actor and I love living so many interesting characters through my profession. Human beings fascinate me and I love playing varied roles. I'm looking forward to my next."

