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Transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure: PM Modi

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Oct 13: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan (PMGS-NMP) has



emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure and is driving faster and more efficient development across sectors. He also made a surprise visit to the PM GatiShakti Anubhuti Kendra at Bharat Mandapam here on the third anniversary of PMGS-NMP. The Anubhuti Kendra showcases the key features, achievements and milestones of PMGS-NMP and was

launched on October 13, 2021, to provide multi-modal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones. PM GatiShakti is a transformative approach for economic growth and sustainable development which is driven by seven engines—railway, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure. In a post on X, Modi said, "PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionising India's infrastructure. It has significantly enhanced multimodal connectivity, driving faster and more efficient development across sectors." The seamless integration of various stakeholders has led to boosting logistics, reducing delays and creating new opportunities for several people, he said. "Thanks to GatiShakti, India is adding speed to fulfil our vision of a Viksit Bharat. It will encourage progress, entrepreneurship and innovation," the prime minister said.

Ready to share experience with Omar in running 'half-state' like J-K: Kejriwal

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Doda, Oct 13: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann and AAP MP Sanjay Singh with party leader Mehraj Malik, who won from Doda constituency in the recently held J&K Assembly elections, during a public meeting in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir, on October 13, 2024. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday congratulated National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah for winning the Assembly elections and said that he should consult him in case he faces any problem in running a 'half-state' like Jammu and Kashmir. "Omar Abdullah is going to take over as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in the next few days. I congratulate him for being the chief minister of the INDIA alliance. We will fully support him in running a successful government and hope Jammu and Kashmir treats the path of development under his leadership," Kejriwal. "Delhi is called a half-state because the Chief Minister had limited powers. Now, they (BJP) have also turned J&K into a half-state which means an elected government has minimum powers,

whereas the Lieutenant Governor has more powers. I want to tell Omar that if he faces any hardship in his work, consult me because I have run the gov-



ernment in Delhi for 10 years," added the former Delhi Chief Minister. Kejriwal, who has run into troubles with the BJP-led Central Government many times during his rule, was in Doda to thank the people for electing his party representative Mehraj Malik as the first member of the legislative

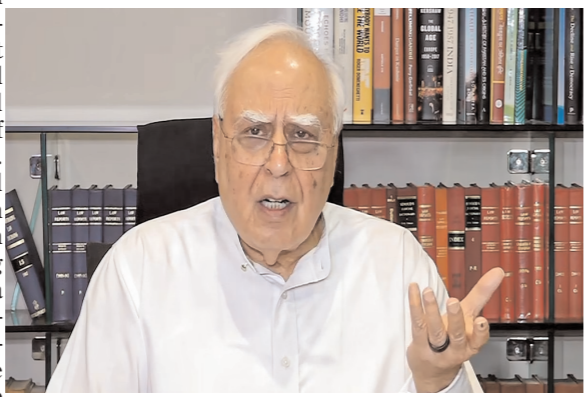
assembly in Jammu and Kashmir. Malik defeated BJP's Ganjay Singh Rana by over 4,538 votes besides former ministers Khalid Najib Suharwardy of the National Conference (NC) and Abdul Majid Wani of the Democratic Progressive Party from the Doda assembly segment to become the first member of the AAP to register a win in Jammu and Kashmir. "The AAP is formally supporting the Omar-led government and I hope his government will give Mehraj responsibility so that he can not only work for Doda but provide his services to the people of J&K," said Kejriwal. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader said that Mehraj had not won in the name of religion but raised the basic issues like education, health and roads. "AAP wants development of Doda and Jammu and Kashmir..We are not in the race to become MPs, MLAs, CM or prime minister for the sake of it but we are in the long struggle against the system and want to introduce a different type of politics in the country to improve the living standards of the people," he said. Thanking the people for voting Mehraj, Kejriwal said his party's historic win will change the situation and the history of Jammu and Kashmir in the next 10 years.

EC must clarify on questions raised by Congress about EVMs: Sibal

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Oct. 13: Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday said the Election Commission must clarify on the questions raised by the Congress about EVMs in the recently-concluded Haryana Assembly polls. Sibal asserted he is of the opinion that misuse of EVMs does take place in the elections. The Congress had on Friday submitted more complaints to the Election Commission alleging discrepancies in the electronic voting machines during counting of votes for the Haryana Assembly elections. The Congress candidates from 20 assembly constituencies, in their written complaints to the Election Commission (EC), have alleged that the batteries in some of the EVMs were charged at 99 per cent during counting on October 8. The complaints follow the Congress' shock defeat in the assembly elections after the party failed to win a simple

majority even after 10 years of the BJP rule in Haryana. Asked about the allegations, Sibal said, "The questions that the Congress has



raised about EVMs, it is providing proof to the Election Commission on it. So, I do not know much about it but the EC must give a clarification on it. I think misuse of EVMs does happen, to what extent it happens, I cannot say." "From the beginning I am against this. I have

given many statements in the past. What is opaque must not be accepted," the former Congress leader and Independent Rajya Sabha MP added. The Congress has said the assembly polls results were "unexpected" and have alleged discrepancies in the EVMs in some seats. "In furtherance of the issues raised and the representation submitted to the Election Commission of India on 9th October, we have now submitted an updated memo highlighting serious and glaring irregularities in the election process in 20 assembly constituencies in Haryana. We hope that the Election Commission will take notice and issue the appropriate directives," AICC general secretary, communications, Jairam Ramesh, had said in a post on X on Friday. "We request you to urgently take action on the enclosed complaints and ensure that all the EVMs from these constituencies are immediately sealed. It is further requested that a detailed inquiry is initiated on our complaints and the same is completed in a time bound manner," the party memorandum to the EC has said.

Baba Siddique murder: Third accused arrested from Pune

Mumbai, Oct 13: The third accused has been identified as 28-year-old Pravin Lonkar. He allegedly hired shooters for the attack on Baba Siddique. A team of Mumbai Police on Sunday arrested the third accused in the NCP leader

Gautam, the absconding shooter in the plot. So far, two out of three shooters involved in the killing of the Maharashtra leader, have been arrested and produced before the court. A holiday court today sent both the accused - Gurmail Singh and Dharamraj Kashyap - to police custody till October 21. Another shooter has been absconding. Baba Siddique News Live: NCP leader's mortal remains brought to Bada Qabristan in Mumbai for final rites. Meanwhile, the Mumbai cops also reached Madhya Pradesh in pursuit of a suspect allegedly involved in the murder of politician and former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, an official confirmed to Siddique, a leader of the Aaji Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party was shot dead outside his son's office in Bandra yesterday. About the attack, the 66-year-old NCP leader was ambushed by three individuals at Kher Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area, just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office. Shockingly, the attack was carried out on a busy road during the Dussehra celebrations on the day when the police were on high alert.



Baba Siddique murder case. The accused has been identified as 28-year-old Pravin Lonkar who was apprehended from Pune. He is believed to be one of the key conspirators who, enlisted Dharamraj Kashyap and Shivkumar

Cong alleges 'irregularities' in 13 Haryana seats: Union minister

New Delhi, Oct 13: Bharatiya Janata Party's Haryana assembly election win didn't go well with the Congress, which alleged irregularities in the counting of votes on the day their saffron rivals secured a third straight win. First, the Congress alleged irregularities in seven assembly seats, and now a fresh memorandum submitted by the grand old party to the Election Commission of India points to "irregularities" in the vote-counting process in 13 Haryana assembly seats. Dig Deeper Congress Spokesperson Pawan Khera addresses the media after a meeting of Congress delegation with the Election Commission over concerns on Haryana Assembly election results, in New Delhi. Congress Spokesperson Pawan Khera addresses the media after a meeting of Congress delegation with the Election Commission over concerns on Haryana Assembly election results, in New Delhi. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi on Sunday said the Union government shares the concerns of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on 'lack of control' over content on over-the-top (OTT) platforms and promised action from the concerned ministry. The minister claimed that concerns over 'unregulated' content on OTT is a worldwide concern and said the concerned ministry is examining the issue already.

Ritesh Dogra student of Dronacharya Bhupender Dhawan once again created this history

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Oct.13: Ritesh Dogra, a student of Dronacharya Bhupender Dhawan created history once again after winning 2 Gold and 1 Silver Medal in Mr. Olympia Pro Powerlifting Championship, held at Las Vegas, (USA) 2024.



The medals are dedicated to Khelo India and Fit India movement by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi. Ritesh secured 1st place in 90kg class with a total lift of 745 kg. He had a neck to neck competition in the bench press with Mark Hennings (body weight 90kg) from USA won the Gold and Ritesh Dogra won the Silver Medal in the bench press event. In 90kg Class Open Raw Deadlift Ritesh Dogra did his life's best lift (with 305 kg) and won the Gold Medal and the Silver medal is won by the Roger Paz from Mexico (who lifted 303) it was a very close fight.

Baba Siddique's death shows poor law and order situation in Maharashtra: Mallikarjun Kharge

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct.13: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said the assassination of Nationalist Congress Party leader Baba Siddique shows the poor law and order situation prevailing in Maharashtra. The people will teach a lesson to the ruling coalition government in the state in the upcoming election, he said. NCP leader and former Maharashtra Minister Baba Siddique was shot by three men in Mumbai on Saturday, following which two of the assailants were arrested. "It is quite visible that there is a complete failure of law and order in Maharashtra because in the broad daylight it happened," Kharge told reporters in his hometown of Kalaburagi. According to Kharge, a fortnight ago Siddique had shared information with the government that there was a possibility of attack on him. He even informed the

police commissioner expressing his apprehension about whether he would survive or not, the Congress chief claimed. "Why no protection was given to him? Why the situation reached this stage and why the culprits could not be caught? It means law and order has col-



lapsed there," he said. Kharge alleged that the government is in such a situation where three parties are taking decision and the bureaucrats are puzzled about whom to listen to and whom

not to. "Law and order problem has worsened there. People will teach them a lesson in the upcoming election," he said. Siddique was shot dead by three men in Mumbai's Bandra area on Saturday, and two of the assailants have since been arrested, officials said. The shocking incident prompted the Opposition to question the law and order situation in the state where Assembly elections are expected to be held next month. Siddique (66), a former Congressman, was admitted to the Lilavati Hospital but succumbed to injuries. He was attacked outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office near Colgate ground in Nirmal Nagar, Bandra East, police said. Siddique had represented Bandra (West) seat three times in the Assembly. A prominent Muslim leader from Mumbai, Siddique was also known to be close to several Bollywood stars.

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News box

Two class 10 students score well, get to be HM, deputy HM in TN

COIMBATORE: As per the assurance given by the Government High School Makkinampatti headmaster, two Class 10 students who scored high marks in their quarterly exams got to act as one day headmaster and assistant headmaster in their school on Thursday. K Harikrishnan, the school headmaster, told TNIE, "To encourage the students in their studies, I had assumed that I would allow the Class 10 students to act as the headmaster and assistant headmaster if they score good marks in their quarterly exams. After evaluating their exam papers, B Gamashri, an English medium student, scored 490 out of 500 and M Kalaiarasan, a Tamil medium student scored 393 out of 500. As per my assurance, they were honoured as the headmaster and assistant headmaster along with the teachers and members of the School Management Committee. They were also given cash prizes." The students were welcomed to the school with a band and they sat in the chairs of the headmaster and assistant headmaster respectively. Following that, they also followed the routine works of the headmaster and assistant headmaster such as checking the noon meals, monitoring the students, etc. The headmaster also said that due to continuous motivation by the teacher, the school got centum results in the last two years.

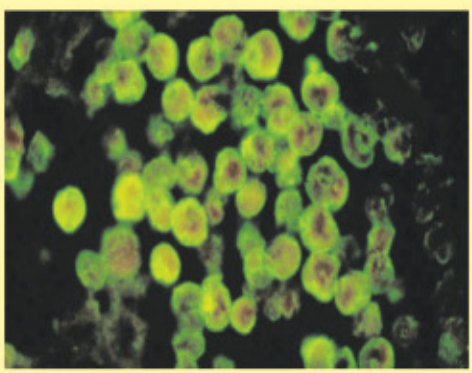
Eight Bangladeshis booked for illegal stay

UDUPI: Eight Bangladeshi nationals have been booked by the police for staying in the Indian territory without a valid passport and visa. They are being questioned by the police as these illegal migrants have been staying in Hoode of Udupi district in Karnataka for the past three years.

Udupi SP Dr Arun K said that one among the eight accused - Mohammed Maniq - initially tried to flee from Hoode to Dubai via Mangaluru airport using a fake passport. The immigration officials handed him over to jurisdictional Bajpe police in the neighbouring DK district. A case was booked in this regard at Bajpe police station. Upon questioning, the accused revealed that seven others from Bangladesh stayed with him in Hoode illegally. The Malpe police then went to check the whereabouts of seven illegally staying Bangladeshi nationals on Friday, detained them and launched an enquiry. When the police investigated, it was revealed that these seven had fake Aadhaar cards with them. SP said that, it is now the part of the investigation as to who facilitated them the fake Aadhaar cards and how they crossed the border from Bangladesh to India.

Kerala is detecting 'brain eating amoeba' cases like never before - and saving its patients too

Thiruvananthapuram. An alert medical fraternity and public, aggressive investigation, and a standard operating procedure - these are the major reasons why Kerala has been able to bring down mortality rate in the rare primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM), commonly called the "brain eating amoeba", from the 97 percent globally to 26 percent in Kerala. Amoebic meningoencephalitis is caused by Naegleria fowleri, a free-living amoeba found in warm, fresh water and soil, and infects people when it enters the body through the nose. According to the data



submitted by Kerala health minister Veena George in the state Assembly early this week, of the 29 PAM cases that Kerala has reported so far in 2024, only five have died. State health department pegs the mortality rate for the disease at 26 percent - considerably lower than the 97 percent globally.

This is despite the jump in the number of cases in Kerala - according to state government data, cases have gone from just eight between 2016 and 2023 to 29 this year. Significantly, six districts had reported the PAM cases during the period, with Thiruvananthapuram having recorded the bulk of it at 15. Of the 29 cases seen so far this year, 24 have survived. In contrast, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, between 1962 and 2023, there were 164 reported cases of PAM in the United States, and only four survived.

Meet the ex-DGP who led efforts to make Assamese a classical language

Guwahati. Since the Union government announced that Assamese will be counted among India's Classical Languages last week, former Assam Director General of Police Kuladhar Saikia has been inundated with calls and messages. "Strangely, more than congratulatory messages, I was having people thanking me. An elderly man living in a village even called and said: 'I feel like I have gotten my Independence today.' That's quite interesting, no?" Saikia, also a Sahitya Akademi Award winning writer in Assamese, told The Indian Express. On October 3, the Union Cabinet had approved classical language status to Marathi, Bengali, Pali, Prakrit and Assamese. The languages join six others already recognised as Classical Languages: Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia. While the demand for classical status to some of these



languages had been pending for as long as since 2013, the push for Assamese was first made in 2021, when Saikia was heading the Assam Sahitya Sabha, the state's apex literary and socio-cultural non-governmental body. By then, there had been calls to recognise Assamese as a classical language but the practical work for its inclusion had not yet begun. In 2021, a committee that included archaeologists, linguists such as

Bishweshwar Hazarika and Narayan Das and artists such as Noni Borpuzari was set up under Saikia's initiative to build the case for Assamese as a classical language. Among the criteria for a language to be recognised as a classical language are a recorded history over a period of 1,500-2,000 years; a body of literature and texts that are considered "a heritage by generations of speakers"; and epigraphic and inscriptional evidence. The committee headed by eminent writer and former Rajya Sabha MP Nagen Saikia was tasked with collating evidence that Assamese meets the criteria. "The challenge was basically to prove its antiquity... Archaeology, history, geography, and anthropological findings are what determine the antiquity of a language more than just morphology, syntax or phonology. That will not tell you the development of literature. So, we shifted to all these pieces of evidence and

we wanted to cover all aspects of the language," he said. The final product was a 391-page report called 'Memorandum for Granting Classical Status to Assamese Language' filled with evidence such as images of sculptures, inscriptions, and copper plates to make the case. That report was submitted to the Sahitya Akademi in 2021 and discussed by the central government's Linguistics Experts Committee to examine proposals from various states and bodies for this status. Meanwhile, another report was submitted through the state government this year by a committee chaired by Sumanta Chaliha, vice-chairman of the Publication Board Assam. In both reports, one of the crucial archaeological pieces of evidence for establishing the antiquity of the language was a 5th Century land grant written in the eastern variety of the Brahmi script and inscribed on a stone slab found in Assam's Golaghat district.

Madras HC: Power of attorney won't get cancelled with death of assignor

CHENNAI: The Madras High Court has ruled that a power of attorney agreement will not automatically be cancelled with the death of one of the persons who handed over the power, but the termination depends upon the facts and circumstances of each case. The ruling was given by a division bench of Justices R Subramanian and R Sakthivel recently while dismissing a 2002 appeal as abated regarding the issue of power of attorney termination. "From the precedents discussed above, we will have to necessarily conclude that a power of attorney deed executed by several persons, which cannot be said to be coupled with interest, is not automatically terminated on the death of one of the principals.

The question of termination would necessarily depend on the facts and circumstances of each case," the bench said in the order. The bench laid down

certain guidelines on the issue. They included the termination will necessarily be dependent on the facts and circumstances of each case; the intention of the parties at the time of execution of the



power will play an important role in the decision-making process, the bench said. It added if it is shown that the intention of the parties was that the power was to continue even after the death of one of the executants the agency (authorisation of

power) will continue till the object sought to be achieved is complete; if the interest of the deceased principal is separable from that of the surviving principals, then, the power would not survive in respect of the deceased principal, the bench underscored.

The appeal was filed by KA Meeran Mohammed (since deceased) in 2002. It was referred to the division bench after a single judge had made a reference on the questions of "whether the general power attorney executed jointly by more than one principal will survive even after the death of the principals and if so, under what circumstances?" Even though the petitioner died during the course of the pending case, the bench preferred elaborately hearing the matter to reach a conclusion. It dismissed the appeal as abated. The bench appreciated senior counsel Srinath Sridevan, who was appointed as amicus curiae, for his valuable assistance to the court.

"Act Against Evildoers": BJP MLA Distributes Swords Among Girls In Bihar

Patna: BJP MLA Mithilesh Kumar distributed swords among girls during the Vijayadashami celebration in Bihar's Sitamarhi district on Saturday. "If any evil person dares to touch our sisters, his hand will be chopped off with this very sword," he said while addressing the gathering at one of the Pujya Pandals at Kaprol Road in Sitamarhi city. "We have to make our sisters capable of cutting off their hands and, if needed, me and you all would have to do this. All those evildoers who have ill will against our sisters must be destroyed," Mr Kumar



said. Mithilesh Kumar appealed to the

people to support him in his initiative and encouraged people, especially women, to act against evildoers. The swords were distributed to school- and college-going girls.

Mr Kumar displayed several firearms, swords and other weapons at the venue and worshipped them. Mithilesh Kumar is a BJP LA from the Sitamarhi constituency. He made headlines at the start of Navratri when he visited several Durga Puja Pandals and distributed swords. Worship of weapons is a tradition among a section of the Hindu community during Navratri.

20,805 hectares of forest land given to infrastructure projects in 20 years

BENGALURU: The forest department has diverted around 20,805.72 hectares of land under it for various projects in the state in the past 20 years. As per information on forest land diverted for non-forestry purposes under the Forest Conservation Act (1980) from 2004-05 to 2023-24, 534 proposals were submitted to the department seeking its approval for land for various projects. Large and small land parcels were given for major projects, including mining and irrigation. For Upper Tunga Project in Shivamogga, 449.55 hectares, 335.04ha and 232.76ha for mining in Ballari, 215.55ha for wind power generation in Belagavi, 0.78ha in Belagavi and Raichur districts for road projects and 0.4ha for a sewage treatment



plant were given. Interestingly, in most cases, applications seeking less than one hectare of land were submitted.

The state government has also given forest land for setting up cell phone network towers. In the last one year, under the Union

government's project to enhance internet and mobile connectivity, lands were given for installing 256 BSNL towers, most of them in Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga and other places in the Western Ghats. A senior forest official said the list of land diversion also includes around 500 acres for Yetinahole and 50ha for Kalasa-Banduri projects. In most cases, applicants sought clearance for small plots. This is because of the stringent rules. Forest land has also been given for road and drinking water projects and other infrastructure projects, the official said.

Land as compensation must be given near the forest: Rules

As per rules, permission for land diversion is given under the Forest Conservation Act,

1980, amended in 2023.

If forest land is required for non-forestry purposes, then for every hectare, an equal dimension of land has to be handed over to the department for afforestation. Compensation for afforestation should be given.

The applicants should also bear the cost of felling trees and pay their present value. They should pay 2% of the project cost for wildlife mitigation and 0.5% for soil mitigation measures, the official said. The guidelines stated that land, as compensation, should be given near the forest. But in many cases, land had been given in places away from forests. Some land parcels given to the department are under litigation or encroached, the official said.

Man Dies In Police Custody In Lucknow, Family Claims Cops Beat Him To Death

Lucknow. A 24-year-old man who was arrested during a raid on a gambling den here died in police custody, officials said on Saturday. The family of the man, Aman Gautam, alleged that he was beaten to death by the cops, a charge denied by police that claimed that he died of heart attack. According to officials, a police team conducted a raid in Ambedkar Park in Sector 8, Vikasnagar here on Friday night following reports of gambling activities.

Two individuals, including Aman Gautam (24), were apprehended and taken into custody. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Jitendra Kumar Dubey said. "While being taken to the police station, Gautam's condition deteriorated and he was rushed to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival," he said. Gautam's family claimed he was beaten to death by police. Police, however, refuted the charge and said the cause of his death will be known after

the post-mortem report comes. Whereas in a press statement on Saturday night, the police said, "According to the postmortem report of the deceased conducted by a panel of three doctors, no visible injuries were found on the body and the cause of death was found to be heart attack (cardiogenic shock). Further legal action is being taken in the case." Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati expressed grief over the man's death and demanded action against the guilty policemen.

"The death of a Dalit youth, who had gone for a walk in Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Park in Mohalla Ganjraha Purva of Uttar Pradesh's capital Lucknow, due to police brutality yesterday evening is extremely sad," she said in a post on X in Hindi. People are angry due to this incident and the government should take strict action against the guilty policemen, the former chief minister said.



To discuss Kashmir's 'burning issues', Engineer Rashid meets L-G - day after Omar called on him

Srinagar. Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, met Lt Governor Manoj Sinha at the Raj Bhawan Saturday.

The meeting came a day before NC vice-president Omar Abdullah is set to be sworn in as the new CM. This is Rashid's first meeting with Sinha. In a statement it issued about the meeting, Rashid's Awami Ittehad Party (AIP) said it was aimed to discuss the "burning issues" of North Kashmir, which Rashid represents in Parliament.

"Er Rashid urged LG to relook in the cases of terminated govt. employees and sought LG's

intervention to release all prisoners lodged in and outside jails of J&K.

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News box

GMDA razes illegal nurseries, huts, cattle sheds

Gurgaon. GMDA continued its crackdown on encroachments for the third consecutive day with a demolition drive in Sectors 52, 52A, 53, and 57. Around 30 kiosks, three nurseries, and several Banjara shops encroaching on roads and green belts were removed. Temporary huts, cattle sheds, and illegally placed advertisement boards were also cleared. According to officials, these encroachments had been affecting traffic at major junctions, prompting the action. Residents expressed their support for GMDA's efforts to clear unauthorised structures. The drive was led by GMDA's DTP (Enforcement) RS Batth, supported by 50 police personnel. Vehicles that were illegally parked and obstructing traffic were towed away during the drive, said an official. The GMDA CEO emphasised the need to intensify these efforts, stating that maintaining the city's aesthetics and functionality is a priority.

Baited by influencer, woman invests 14L on 'mystery boxes', but co shuts

Gurgaon: A woman has filed a complaint at cyber police station in Faridabad, alleging she was cheated of Rs 8 lakh through an app that was promoted by a social media influencer but eventually turned out to be a racket. Police said several popular YouTubers, social media influencers and even actors were engaged to promote 'Hibox'. Among them was Elvish Yadav, who was issued a police notice, to which he responded through his lawyer. The complainant, Jyoti — a resident of Ahirwada — alleged that she downloaded 'Hibox' after watching a video of the influencer on social media on March 22. The app, she claimed, required users to purchase and sell 'mystery boxes' — a surprise pack that has contents of which the buyer is not aware of. If the buyer doesn't like the items, they can sell the box to someone else — possibly for a higher price. Jyoti alleged she was asked to create an account and invest money to buy 'mystery boxes'. Over the next three months, she not only encouraged others to download the app but also pumped in Rs 13.8 lakh to buy the boxes. While she received Rs 6 lakh in return after selling the boxes, the app was yet to return the remaining Rs 7.8 lakh. On Aug 1, the company sent a text message that the app would not function for a few days due to server issues. Some days later, the users were told they could not withdraw money because of "TDS provisions". On Aug 12, a group of Hibox employees announced on social media that the company's managers had announced a shutdown and ran away with all the money. Asking users to lodge as many FIRs as possible, the employees said they had resigned from their positions. A case of cheating and under various sections of BNS and IT Act were registered on a complaint by Jyoti. The special cell got involved in the case after 29 more victims filed complaints that they were lured with promises of high returns — upto 90% — a month. The cell found that the company had lured some 30,000 people in various cities, getting celebrities to promote its app. Officials said they had on Oct 5 sent a notice to Elvish, who responded through his lawyer. Hemant Tiwari, DCP at Intelligence Fusion and Strategic Operations (IFSO) unit, said more than 10 YouTubers were involved in the promotion of 'Hibox'.

4th filter unit at Chandu Budhera plant to boost water supply by 100MLD in Jan

Gurgaon. The fourth filtration unit at Chandu Budhera Water Treatment Plant (WTP) will be completed by Jan 2025, GMDA officials have said. With 45% of the project has been done, the additional unit will boost the city's water supply by 100 million litres per day (MLD). According to a GMDA official, 80% of the civil work for the fourth filtration unit is done, and the project is now moving into the electrical, mechanical, and instrumentation phases. "We are making efforts to ensure the new filtration unit becomes ready by Jan next year," said Abhinav Verma, executive engineer of GMDA. The augmentation project worth Rs 70 crore aims to address the rising water demand, particularly in new sectors, from 81 to 115. Once completed, the plant's capacity will rise to 400 MLD. GMDA supplies 300 MLD from Chandu Budhera and 270 MLD from Basai WTP. Initially scheduled for completion in June 2024, the deadline was first extended to Dec 2024 and is now Jan 2025. According to GMDA officials, delays in vetting hydraulic and structural designs caused the initial slowdown of the project. Despite this, officials remain optimistic that by next summer, GMDA will be in a much more comfortable position to meet water demands. This summer, the city's water supply stood at 570 MLD, while peak demand reached 675 MLD, leading to shortages in several areas.

Woman dies as fire breaks out in house; neighbour jumps off first floor, survives

Noida. A woman died while another was injured after a fire broke out in their house in Sector 27 on Friday night. Police said they received a call around 11.30pm, informing them about the incident. One of the persons saved his life by jumping from the first floor of the building, but two were found unconscious on the second floor. The woman died during treatment, cops said. According to DCP (Noida) Rambadan Singh, the occupants of the first floor were out of danger after leaping to safety from first floor of the house as the fire intensified. Emergency responders arrived promptly at the scene. "Preliminary investigations revealed that the fire was ignited by a short circuit, which caused nearby firecrackers to catch fire. This led to a gas cylinder explosion. A young boy inside the house alerted the police, prompting the dispatch of three fire tenders," Singh said. During the rescue operation, two women — identified as Shweta Singh and her cousin Namrata — were pulled from the second floor in critical condition. Shweta later succumbed to her injuries at a nearby hospital, while Namrata is reported to be out of danger, police said. DCP Singh added that the blaze was successfully brought under control and an investigation is currently underway at the scene.

Mountaineer scales his 8th 8,000m peak after close call at Annapurna



Noida. After a scare at Mt Annapurna last year, mountaineer Arjun Vajpai is back at doing what he knows best — scaling another peak. On Oct 9, the 30-year-old made it to the summit of Mt Shishapangma in Tibet, his 8th successful conquest of the world's 14 peaks above 8,000 metres. Speaking to TOI from Tibet — from where he'll return on Oct 20 — Arjun said this was his first major successful expedition since the Annapurna climb in April last year. "The Annapurna expedition was challenging but I managed to complete it and return safely to the base camp," he said. During the same expedition, Arjun's fellow mountaineer from Ireland, Noel Hanna, had lost his life while descending from the treacherous peak. Two of his other fellow hikers, Anurag Maloo and Baljit Kaur, were also not by his side. One of them was trapped in a crevice and the transmitter of the other had fallen silent. "Nobody knew the expedition would unfold in such a drastic way," he said. Asked about the challenges he faced in completing his latest expedition, Arjun said he planned to scale the mountain in

March this year, but had to put it off till Oct due to the restrictions put on foreign nationals in Tibet region by the Chinese govt. "The climb was a success as everyone from our team of 15 members reached the summit and returned safely," he said, adding that he was aware of the risks involved in mountaineering and had prepared thoroughly. In 2010, at the age of 16, Arjun scaled Mt Everest to become the youngest person to do so at the time. He now aims to climb the remaining six peaks above the height of 8,000 metres, which would make him

the first Indian to achieve this feat. "I am very happy with this achievement. I have six more peaks to climb now. I am not merely climbing mountains, I feel like I am merely carrying the hopes of our nation to the highest heights," he said. The eight of the highest summits he has reached are — Everest (2010), Lhotse (2011), Manaslu (2011), Makalu (2016), Cho Oyu (2016), Kangchenjunga (2018), Annapurna (2023), and Shishapangma (2024). Arjun's mother, Priya Vajpai, said she and his father, Captain Sanjeev Vajpai, were proud of their son, but advised him not to aim for records. "So far, he has tried to undertake 16 expeditions on 8,000-metre peaks and was able to complete the climb eight times. We advise him not to aim for records in this dangerous adventure sport, and just put his best foot forward. We are extremely happy and proud of him. His grit and determination are unshakable," she said, adding that he has even set a Guinness World Record for being the youngest person to climb two 8,000 metres peaks — the Everest and Lhotse.

Solve sewage problems in a day: New Fbd MLA to corpn

Gurgaon: Satish Phagna, the newly elected BJP MLA from Faridabad NIT constituency, convened a meeting with municipal corporation officials on Friday and asked them to fix problems related to sewage in 24 hours. He also urged the officials to address sewerage issues in other areas on a priority basis. He said officials must be active on the field rather than sitting in their offices. Furthermore, he also addressed the sewage and drinking water problems in various parts of the NIT assembly constituency with the officials, using maps, an official from his office said. He said that if there is deception and misleading information about the work on the field, officials should be prepared for suspension. Moreover, no deficiencies of any kind will be tolerated. He told all the officials to answer phone calls from the public and address their concerns. "The people of NIT elected me as their MLA for five years, and I will personally take to the streets to live up to their trust," he said. "NIT was listed as the key poll plank by the voters of the urban pockets in

Faridabad, besides the metro connectivity with Gurgaon. Meanwhile, Faridabad resident Ekta Sharma said now that the elections have concluded, it is time to address the civic disorder that "plagues our city, a result of ineffective authorities and inadequate political representation." "Even newly-built roads deteriorate quickly as corruption is rampant. Rain floods roads due to poor drainage, power supply is erratic and we are supplied dirty drinking water. Pollution is also a big issue as Faridabad is one of the country's most polluted cities, yet no politician is talking about it. Garbage is scattered everywhere. Our MLA hasn't even visited our area even once after being," said Rattan Singh, a resident of Sector 15. Gurgaon: Satish Phagna, the newly elected BJP MLA from Faridabad NIT constituency, convened a meeting with municipal corporation officials on Friday and asked them to fix problems related to sewage in 24 hours. He also urged the officials to address sewerage issues in other areas on a priority basis. He said officials must be active on the

Weather to remain dry, but winds set to bring temp down

Gurgaon: North-westerly winds are expected to bring down temperatures slightly in the coming days, according to the India Meteorological Department's (IMD) forecast. The city recorded a minimum temperature of 19.6 degrees Celsius on Saturday, a slight increase from the previous day's 18.5 degrees. The daytime temperature was 33.9 degrees Celsius, up from Friday's 32.8 degrees. Both temperatures remained close to the seasonal average. According to the IMD, dry weather is likely to persist over the next 7-10 days, with no signs of rainfall. Residents are already feeling the seasonal shift, with a noticeable nip in the air during the early morning hours. "Stepping out for my morning walk feels refreshing as there is a nip in the air. By noon, it becomes quite warm," said BP Singh, a resident of Sector 23. IMD officials noted that while temperatures are expected to dip slightly, no major cold spell is forecast at this time. "There won't be a sharp decline in temperature, but a gradual decrease is expected as the weather transitions. The maximum temperature will likely range from 32 to 34 degrees Celsius, while the minimum will hover around 19 to 20 degrees in the coming week," said an IMD official. Haryana, meanwhile, experienced a 0.2-degree Celsius increase in the average minimum temperature, it remains close to the seasonal norm. The lowest minimum temperature in the state was 17.9 degrees Celsius, recorded in Mahendragarh. Sunday is expected to be mostly sunny, with minimum and maximum temperatures forecast at 20 and 33 degrees Celsius, respectively. The city's air quality slipped into the moderate category on Saturday, with the AQI rising to 120 from 99 the previous day. "Air quality is expected to remain in the moderate to poor category for the next six days," added the official. The capital's minimum temperature dropped to 18.6 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, on Saturday at the city's base station, Safdarjung. It was the lowest minimum temperature reported this month so far, as it was the first time this Oct when the mercury remained below 20 degrees Celsius. IMD predicted that the minimum temperature would remain around 19 degrees Celsius on Sunday. "However, the minimum temperature may rise to 21 degrees Celsius on Monday, but again dip to 19 degrees Celsius by Wednesday," said a Met official. IMD said rain is unlikely in northwest India, including Delhi, in the next six days.

300 flats registered in Noida in Navratri, a three-time rise

Noida. Over the past nine days of Navratri, the stamp and registration department registered 303 flats and collected Rs 103 crore stamp duty. The number of registrations is nearly three times of what is done on usual days. Assistant inspector general registration (I) BS Verma said, "Usually, we register 10-20 flats daily. However, we registered three times more than that during Navratri as people see it as an auspicious time for significant purchases. On some days, we registered 75-85 flats in a day." Apart from flats, 1,804 other properties were registered between Oct 3 and 11, totaling 2,107 property registrations. The stamps and registration department collected Rs 3,585 crore in 2023-24, up from Rs 3,018 crore in 2022-23. The department aims to collect Rs 4,880 crore for the current financial year. Besides this, 17 developers made partial payments, while five gave



to refer developers of six residential projects to the economic offences wing (EOW) because they owe Rs 1,035 crore in land dues. These developers did not opt for the UP govt's rehabilitation package for stalled projects. Of 57 projects that defaulted on land dues, 29 accepted this package, which offers a two-year zero-period relief from April 2020 to March 2022, exempting developers from penalties and interest during the lockdown. Meanwhile, the Noida Authority plans consent but did not make payments. Six others did not give their consent. Under the rehabilitation and resettlement scheme, nearly 1,500 flats have been registered in Noida so far. In Dec last year, UP govt came out with a rehabilitation package to expedite flat registries in the state. The guidelines adopted several recommendations of the Amitabh Kant committee that drew up a roadmap for the revival of 2.4 lakh stalled or stressed housing units. The zero period waiver was on interest accrued during two years of the Covid pandemic. According to the rules, builders opting for the package were supposed to pay 25% of their recalculated dues within 60 days. Those who cleared the first tranche of dues were likely to be considered for another waiver on interest calculated during an NGT restriction on construction around Okhla Bird Sanctuary.

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

Noida. The Greater Noida authority has set up a panel to probe how untreated industrial effluents were making way into the Surajpur wetland, where numerous trees died earlier this year. The committee, comprising three senior officials from the Greater Noida authority, with representatives from the district forest office, irrigation department, and pollution department, will investigate and submit a comprehensive report on the wetland's status by the end of this week. The complainant, Vikrant Tongad, said, "I already sent two complaints regarding the matter. Despite the formation of a joint inspection team, there has been no action on the ground. No steps have been taken against those discharging untreated water into the wetland and causing loss of vegetation." Environmentalist Vikrant Tongad claimed there are about 100 industrial units near the wetland and most of them were discharging untreated water into the wetland. "We have already lost more than dozens of trees and many more will be destroyed if this continues," he said. According to the Provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution), Act 1974, industrial units must install effluent treatment plants (ETPs) and treat their effluents to comply with environmental standards before discharging into river and water bodies. The central and state pollution control boards monitor industries' effluent discharge and act against non-compliance under these two acts. "Upon visiting the wetland, our team found numerous trees that had perished due to industrial waste. A drain that runs through the wetland requires proper channelisation to prevent effluents from leaking into the ecosystem. We have advised the pollution department to inspect nearby factories and take appropriate measures if their effluents are found to be contaminating the wetland", said GNDA general manager Indu Prakash. Residents living near wetland said they saw canopy thin, branches dry, and trees die on east bank over the last four years due to chemical discharge into the waterbody. reported the dire condition of the wetland in Jan, and after over eight months, concrete action is yet to be seen.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SHALINI SHUKLA alias SHALINI PANDEY D/o S N SHUKLA W/o UPENDRA PANDEY residing at E-1020, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHALINI PANDEY.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MANISH KUMAR GUPTA S/O BALARAM DAS GUPTA R/O H-1 NO-A-304, PARK VIEW ANANDA, BISTECH, SECTOR-81, BESIDE DLF ULTIMA, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MANISH GUPTA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MUNNI DEVI W/O KUNWAR PAL R/O HOUSE NO-244, GROUND FLOOR, HARSH GARDEN, SAINIK ENCLAVE, MOHAN GARDEN, UTTAM NAGAR, D/K MOHAN GARDEN, WEST DELHI-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SEEMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUNIL KUMAR S/O MUNNA LAL residing at House No. - 1235, Pana Paposian, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110040 have changed the name of my minor Daughter's AVIKA alias AVIKA ARYA aged 14 Years and she shall hereafter be known as AVIKA ARYA.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I Naveen Kumar S/O DHARAMVIR R/O H.No-122, T.Huis, Camp No-1, Bhim Nagar, Nangloi, DIST West Delhi Delhi-110041, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written DHARM VIR in my 10th class educational document and in Driving licence NO DL-0420150369709. The actual name of my father is DHARAMVIR, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Amba Srikti W/O Sanjay Srikti, Gali no.6 Shyampr, Rishikesh, Garhmapy chak, S n Temple, Dehradun Uttarakhand-249204 Have Changed My Name Amba To Amba Srikti for All Future Purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, ANISH KUMAR S/O MUNNA LAL residing at House No - 1235, Pana Paposian, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110040 have changed the name of my minor Daughter's ADVIKA aged 5 Years and she shall hereafter be known as ADVIKA ARYA.

NAME CHANGE
I PRATIBHA RAJESHWAR DAYAL W/O RAJESHWAR DAYAL R/O-0312 ATS GREEN PARADISO SECTOR CH-4 GREATER NOIDA UTTAR PRADESH-201308 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRATIBHA DAYAL.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I Bhawar Lal Parihar S/O Mottram R/O T-241-A-1-T/f, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar West, Patel Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as Bhawar Lal in my minor son Sahil aged 15 years in his school record. The actual name of mine is Bhawar Lal Parihar which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I Naveen Kumar S/O DHARAMVIR R/O H.No-122, T.Huis, Camp No-1, Bhim Nagar, Nangloi, DIST West Delhi Delhi-110041, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written DHARM VIR in my 10th class educational document and in Driving licence NO DL-0420150369709. The actual name of my father is DHARAMVIR, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, PHOOL KUMAR S/O NAND RAM AND PRAMILA W/O PHOOL KUMAR chak, S n Temple, Dehradun Uttarakhand-249204 Have Changed My Name Amba To Amba Srikti for All Future Purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, OMVATI RANI Mother of J.C-473031W Rank-NB/SUB Name-SANJAY Presently residing at H NO-487, WARD NO-10, NEAR SHIV TEMPLE, BAHARI, BAHARI(65), PO-BAHARI, DIST-KARNAL, HARYANA-130309 have changed my name from OMVATI DEVI to OMVATI RANI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
No. 21001776L, LNK, VINOTHKUMAR R, r/o HQ NSG MEHRAN NAGAR, PALAM, NEW DELHI-110037 state that my wife's name PAVITHRA V has wrongly been mentioned in my service documents. The correct name of my wife is PAVITHRA S. Henceforth, my wife shall be known as PAVITHRA S.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as RAKESH alias RAKESH KAUSHIK S/O SHIV KUMAR KAUSHIK employed as Subs WG CRD at Govt. of India, DES-AHQ (RKT), New Delhi-110033, R/O - G-227, PALAM VIHAR, CARPARK ALIAS DAULAT PUR NARSIPABAD (63), GURGAON, HARYANA-122017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAKESH KAUSHIK.

NEWS BOX

Kim Jong Un's sister warns of disaster if South Korean drones enter Pyongyang

Seoul. North Korea's Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong un, on Saturday warned Seoul of a "horrible disaster" if South Korean drones are found flying over Pyongyang. She also criticised the South Korean military over its response to the North's claim that South Korean drones entered the sky of the capital city in a statement carried by state media KCNA.

On Friday, North Korea's foreign ministry accused South Korea of sending drones into Pyongyang at night this week and last and that the intrusion demanded retaliatory action. In response, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it could not confirm the North's accusations. "The fact that the means which carried the leaflets is the very drones is the core of the seriousness of the recent incident," Kim was quoted as saying, referring to anti-North Korea leaflets.

Kim said the blame lies with the South Korean military if it failed to identify drones sent by a non-governmental organisation crossing the border. North Korea has been floating thousands of balloons with trash attached into the South since May, exacerbating tensions between the two countries. Pyongyang says they are a response to some activists and North Korean defectors in South Korea who fly balloons into the North carrying aid parcels and leaflets criticising leader Kim Jong-un.

S Jaishankar, 7 Prime Ministers to attend SCO meeting in Islamabad this week

Islamabad External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and prime ministers of China and Russia among others will attend the two-day SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting next week to discuss the ongoing cooperation in economy, trade and environment, Pakistan said on Saturday. Pakistan is hosting the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting on October 15 and 16 and in his capacity as the current Chair of the CHG, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif will preside over the summit, the Foreign Office (FO) said in a statement. "SCO member States will be represented by the Prime Ministers of China, Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as well as the First Vice President of Iran and External Affairs Minister of India," it said. The CHG meeting will discuss ongoing cooperation in the fields of economy, trade, environment, socio-cultural linkages and review the performance of the Organisation. The leaders will adopt important organisational decisions to



further enhance cooperation among the SCO member States and approve the budget of the Organisation, it added.

Announcing the level of participation for the 23rd meeting of the CHG, the FO statement further said that the Prime Minister of Mongolia will attend as an observer while the deputy chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers and Foreign Ministers of Turkmenistan will participate as special guest.

Prime Minister Sharif will also hold important bilateral meetings with visiting heads of the delegations on the sidelines of the main meeting, the FO statement added.

Dhaka cops boost security for Vijaya Dashami amid vandalism during Durga Puja

Dhaka. Amid random vandalism during Durga Puja celebrations, police on Saturday said it has planned extensive security measure for the Vijaya Dashami procession and idol immersion on Sunday. Three control rooms have been set up on the route of the procession, three watchtowers have been installed, including at the Wiseghat where immersion will take place and a dog squad, a bomb disposal unit, crime scene team, and SWAT team will be on standby around the clock to ensure a festive and smooth celebration, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) said in release. The five-day Hindu religious festival began with an invocation of Goddess Durga, an occasion called Maha Shasthi on Wednesday. The celebrations would conclude with the immersion of Goddess Durga murtis on Sunday. A crude bomb was allegedly thrown at a Durga Puja mandap in the Tanti Bazar area of Old Dhaka and although the bomb caught fire, nobody was injured, daily Prothom Alo said, adding, the incident took place on Friday night. From October 1 onwards till Friday, 17 persons were arrested and about a dozen cases registered after Bangladesh witnessed about 35 untoward incidents related to the ongoing Durga Puja celebrations, The Dhaka Tribune said quoting Inspector General of Police (IGP) Md Moinal Islam. The Daily Start, quoting DMP release, said the proposed route for the immersion procession will begin at Dhakeshwari National Temple. Earlier in the afternoon, apparently prompted by the latest attack on the Durga Puja mandap, Yunus visited the Dhakeshwari National Temple, one of the prominent shakti peeths, in the old part of the city as against the earlier announced plan of a Sunday visit.

Pakistan prepares to shut Islamabad before SCO meet to maintain law and order

Islamabad. Pakistan authorities were on Sunday preparing to shut down the capital ahead of a Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit, overshadowed by recent militant violence and political unrest. India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Chinese Premier Li Qiang will be among senior regional government officials attending the two-day conference on Tuesday and Wednesday. In the weeks leading up to the summit, Pakistan's authorities have cracked down hard on dissent, banning an ethnic nationalist movement and introducing new laws that restrict protest in the capital. They have also arrested hundreds of supporters of jailed opposition leader Imran Khan who attempted to march in Islamabad earlier this month. A deadly attack on a convoy of Chinese engineers in the mega port city of Karachi last week has also deepened security fears in a country where separatist groups routinely target Chinese nationals. Islamabad has authorised the deployment of troops on the streets for the

duration of the summit. Imtiaz Gul, a security analyst and executive director of the Center for Research and Security Studies, said the meeting holds great significance for a country that's "not seen as safe". "The government claims to have made elaborate security arrangements and understandably so because it has to make sure that the event passes off peacefully without any untoward incident," he told AFP.

Counter alliance

The SCO comprises China, India, Russia, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Belarus -- with 16 more countries affiliated as observers or "dialogue partners". All visiting member nations are expected to send government heads apart from Pakistan's arch-rival India, who will dispatch its foreign minister in a rare visit to its neighbour. The SCO is sometimes touted as an alternative to the Western-dominated NATO military alliance.

As China's claim over Taiwan and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have seen them clash with the US and Europe, analysts say the



SCO is one forum where they are trying to curry regional influence. While the SCO has a mandate to discuss security, the Islamabad summit is due to focus on trade, humanitarian and cultural issues.

Protest threat

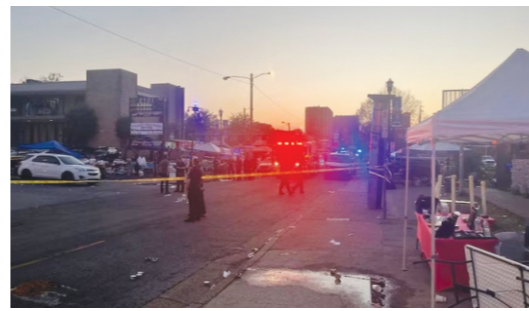
Pakistan's domestic concerns are likely to dominate the sidelines of the summit, however. Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party has threatened to stage protests, a week after scattered demonstrations by supporters saw the capital locked down for three days with mobile phone signal cut and exit and entry points blocked.

"The PTI doesn't want to showcase the positive side of Pakistan to the world," accused Ahsan Iqbal Chaudhary, minister for planning, during a press conference Saturday. "Instead, they aim to present a picture of the country filled with tear gas and unrest."

Authorities have declared a three-day public holiday for Islamabad and the neighbouring city of Rawalpindi starting Monday, along with road closures to reduce movement around the area. The "red zone" government quarter hosting the summit meanwhile has been spruced up with manicured lawns ringed by razor wire. Cash-strapped Pakistan is particularly at pains to protect citizens from China because it is a major investor, sending funds and staff for million-dollar infrastructure projects. Pakistan is grappling with a broad uptick in militancy coinciding with the Taliban's 2021 return to power in neighbouring Afghanistan, where Islamabad claims attackers are now taking shelter.

1 dead, 9 injured in gunfire at event near US's Tennessee State University

Gunfire erupted near Tennessee State University during homecoming events on Saturday afternoon, resulting in one death and nine injuries. Police reported that the shooting occurred around 5 p.m. between two groups as the crowd was dispersing.



Aaron said. Police spokesperson Brooke Reese said that at least some of the wounded appear to have been involved in the exchange of gunfire.

Police and firefighters who had been present for the day's activities were able to quickly respond to the shooting, authorities said.

Fire department spokesperson Kendra Loney said some firefighters used belts as tourniquets. Witness Jashawna Rucker told WTVF-TV that chaos ensued after people heard the shots, and she saw people crying as they ran for safety. "I am thankful I didn't lose my life or get shot," Rucker said. Rauf Muhammad told The Tennessee newspaper that he was selling food from a tent along the street when he heard the gunfire and dropped to the ground. "Everybody having fun, music playing or whatnot. Then all of a sudden, you just hear like you off in a war somewhere," Muhammad told the newspaper.

Nashville. Gunfire broke out among a crowd near a Tennessee university Saturday afternoon, killing one person and wounding nine others, police said. A crowd that gathered earlier in the day for homecoming events at Tennessee State University was beginning to thin out when the gunfire erupted between two groups around 5 p.m., said Metro Nashville Police spokesperson Don Aaron. He said shell casings indicate that gunfire was exchanged across a street near campus between the

groups. Metro Nashville Police Commander Anthony McClain said the gunfire didn't appear to be directly related to Tennessee State University events that had included a parade and other festivities earlier in the day. The football game was taking place in another part of town when the gunfire happened. "It's unfortunate that a few folks ruined it for everybody," McClain said. "We have to come to a point to stop this violence."

A police statement on social media said a 24-year-old man died. The victims included two 12-year-olds and a 14-year-old with non-critical injuries,

Israel orders more evacuations in Lebanon as Hezbollah conflict escalates

Beirut. Israel ordered more evacuations and targeted a new location in northern Lebanon on Saturday, as a third UN peacekeeper was wounded in Israel's escalating conflict with Iran-backed Lebanese group Hezbollah. At least 15 people were killed and 37 wounded in Israeli strikes across three different areas in Lebanon, the Lebanese health ministry said. One of the targeted locations was in the town of Deir Billa in northern Lebanon, which had not been struck before. The Israeli military also said Hezbollah had fired nearly 320 projectiles from Lebanon into Israel on Saturday, without giving further details. It declared areas around some towns in north Israel closed to the public. Also on Saturday, Israel's military ordered residents of 23 southern Lebanese villages to evacuate to areas north of the Awali River, which flows from the western Bekaa Valley

into the Mediterranean. The order, communicated via a military statement, mentioned villages in southern Lebanon that have been recent targets of Israeli attacks, many of which are already almost empty. The Israeli military said evacuations were necessary for the safety of residents due to increased Hezbollah activities, claiming the group is using sites to conceal weapons and launch attacks on Israel. Hezbollah denies concealing weapons among civilians. US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin, in a call with Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, expressed "deep concern" about reports that Israeli forces had fired on U.N. peacekeeping positions in Lebanon in recent days and urged Israel to ensure safety for them and the Lebanese military, the Pentagon said. Austin also "reinforced the need to pivot from military operations in

Lebanon to a diplomatic pathway as soon as feasible," according to the Pentagon statement. The Lebanese health ministry said on X that five hospitals sustained damage from the Israeli airstrikes in the eastern city of Baalbek and the Bekaa Valley. The Israeli military had no immediate comment, and Reuters was unable to independently verify the hospital strikes. The Israeli military said on Saturday that Hezbollah was using ambulances to transport fighters and weapons and that it would take any necessary action. Reuters could not independently verify the Israeli accusation. Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) last week was forced to close its clinic in a southern suburb of Beirut and temporarily stop its activities in another one in the north, because of heavy airstrikes, the group said in a statement on Thursday.

Ground Report: Displaced Lebanese see no end to conflict amid Israeli bombing

Beirut. Over 30 lakh Lebanese citizens have been internally displaced as Israel continues to pound many cities, including the capital, Beirut. Amid growing fears of escalation, the displaced--mostly women and children--are living in various relief camps, relying on charity for food and shelter. As the Israeli military intensifies its offensive against Hezbollah, it has ordered residents of more than 20 southern Lebanese villages to evacuate immediately. India Today visited relief camps in southern Beirut, which is still experiencing heavy bombardment.

Several schools and colleges have been converted into Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps. While the sound of bombings unsettles the children, the residents say they have become accustomed to it. "The small children, yes, they are afraid, but we are used to it. We've lived on the border with an enemy, and we have no human rights. They don't care about children or families," a Lebanese citizen told India Today when asked if there was any sense of fear.

He left his village near the Israeli border and is now



living in a camp in southern Beirut. "They are bombing houses, claiming there are arms and ammunition stored there. But there is nothing. We left our village for the safety of women and children," said the Lebanese man, who is in his 50s. His camp serves food to around 500 people, and the supplies are provided by what he describes as a "civilian resistance group". Another citizen, who wished to remain anonymous, said, "The situation is not very good. You can see scores of people leaving their homes in Beirut. We now depend on charity for food and blankets. When asked how hopeful he was for a quick end to the conflict, he replied, "We don't know. It may take a long time because there's no solution in sight". The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah militants erupted one year ago when the Iranian-backed group began launching rockets at northern Israel in support of Hamas at the start of the Gaza war.

Hezbollah claims Israel trying to infiltrate Lebanon village as conflict escalates

Beirut/Cairo. Hezbollah said on Sunday it was fighting Israeli forces trying to infiltrate Ramiya village in southern Lebanon, as a third U.N. peacekeeper was wounded in Israel's escalating conflict with the Iran-backed Lebanese group. Israeli strikes have shook the peacekeepers' main base in southern Lebanon, prompting U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Western countries to condemn the attacks. The UNIFIL force called it a "serious development" and said the security of U.N. personnel and property must be guaranteed. France summoned Israel's ambassador, and issued a statement with Italy and Spain calling such attacks "unjustifiable". U.S. President Joe Biden said he was asking Israel not to hit the UNIFIL forces. Russia said it was "outraged" and demanded Israel refrain from "hostile actions" against peacekeepers. Israeli military strikes on Gaza on Saturday killed at least 29 Palestinians, medics said, and forces kept pushing deeper into the Jabalia area, where international relief agencies say thousands of people are trapped.

Residents in Jabalia, in the north of the enclave and the largest of its historic

refugee camps, said it was being pounded by Israeli forces from the air and ground. The Israel Defense Force (IDF) said Hezbollah had fired nearly 320 projectiles from Lebanon into Israel on Saturday, without giving further details. It declared areas around some towns in north Israel closed to the public. Evacuation orders were issued to residents of 23 southern Lebanese villages to move north of the Awali River, which flows from the western Bekaa Valley into the Mediterranean. The military said evacuations were necessary for the safety of residents due to increased Hezbollah activities, claiming the group is using sites to conceal weapons and launch attacks on Israel. Hezbollah denies concealing weapons among civilians. Israeli military also published new evacuation orders on Saturday for two neighbourhoods on the north edge of Gaza City, saying it was a "dangerous combat zone". In a statement, Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry urged residents not to relocate. The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah militants erupted one year ago when the Iranian-backed group began launching rockets at northern Israel in support of Hamas, at the



start of the Gaza war. Israel has intensified its military operations in recent weeks, bombing southern Lebanon, Beirut's southern suburbs and the Bekaa Valley, killing many of Hezbollah's top leaders, and sending ground troops across the border. Hezbollah for its part has fired rockets deeper into Israel. Israel's expanded operation has displaced more than 1.2 million people, according to Lebanon's government, which says more than 2,100 people have been killed and 10,000 wounded in over a year of fighting. The toll does not distinguish between civilians and combatants, but includes scores of women and children.

US CALLS FOR "DIPLOMATIC PATHWAY" The Middle East remains on

high alert for further escalation, awaiting Israel's response to an Iranian missile barrage on Oct. 1, which was in retaliation for Israel's assassination of Hezbollah leader Syed Hassan Nasrallah in the Iranian capital Tehran. In a sign of a spreading conflict, a Syrian security source said the U.S.-led coalition in Syria had targeted Iranian-linked sites near northeastern Syria's Deir el-Zor airport on Friday night. The U.N. peacekeeping mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said on Saturday that a third peacekeeper was wounded in an Israeli strike when he was hit by gunfire on Friday, adding that the man was stable after undergoing surgery to remove the bullet. The UNIFIL statement also said its position in the southern Lebanese town of Ramyah sustained significant damage due to explosions following nearby shelling, but did not specify who was responsible for either attack. Two U.N. peacekeepers were wounded by an Israeli strike near their watchtower at the UNIFIL's main base in Naqura in southern Lebanon on Friday. UNIFIL has more than 10,000 personnel, with Italy, France, Malaysia, Indonesia and India among the biggest contributors.

News box

NCP cancels all party programmes scheduled for today over killing of Baba Siddique

MUMBAI. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique was shot dead in Mumbai on Saturday. Following his death, the NCP has cancelled all programs scheduled for Sunday. The incident occurred near Nirmal Nagar in Bandra. Siddique, who was a three-time MLA from Bandra West and a former Maharashtra minister, was taken to Lilavati Hospital after being shot. He later succumbed to his injuries. Chief minister Shinde addressed the media, calling the incident "extremely unfortunate." He confirmed that two suspects had been arrested, with one remaining at large. "This is an extremely unfortunate incident. I spoke with the doctors and the police. Two people have been arrested -- the accused are from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. The third accused is absconding. We have instructed Mumbai Police to take strict action against those who take law and order into their hands," he stated. According to the doctors at the hospital, Baba Siddique sustained two gunshot wounds to his chest before being brought to Mumbai's Lilavati Hospital for emergency treatment. Mumbai Additional CP Paramjit Singh Dahiya confirmed the arrest of two suspects. "The incident occurred around 9.30 pm in Nirmal Nagar. Baba Siddique was taken to Lilavati Hospital after being shot. Two suspects have been arrested, and the Mumbai Crime Branch is investigating the case," Dahiya told reporters. Mumbai Police said that they recovered the weapon used in the crime. "A 9.9mm pistol was used in the firing," officials said.

Orange alert for Chennai on October 15, heavy rain likely

CHENNAI. The met department has issued an orange alert for Chennai on October 15, with a forecast of heavy to very heavy rainfall. The rain will commence from Monday afternoon and intensify thereafter. It is caused by a well marked low pressure area over east central Arabian sea to north Sri Lanka across coastal Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. As per the forecast, on Monday, heavy to very heavy rain is likely over Villupuram, Cuddalore, and Puducherry on Monday, while heavy rain is expected over Nagapattinam, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Kancheepuram, Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kallakurichi, Tiruvannamalai, Ariyalur, Chengalpattu, Mayiladuthurai, and Karaikal. On Tuesday, heavy to very heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Tiruvallur, Chennai, Kancheepuram, and Chengalpattu. Heavy rain is likely to occur over Cuddalore, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tiruvannamalai, and Puducherry. The wet spell will continue till October 16. The state has been receiving good rain for the past few days. In the last 24 hours ending 8.30am on Saturday, Karaikudi in Sivagangai received the highest rainfall of 15cm followed by Tiruchy airport (13cm). Wet spell to go on till 16th. According to the meteorological department's forecast, on Tuesday, heavy rain is likely to occur over Cuddalore, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tiruvannamalai, and Puducherry. The wet spell will continue till October 16.

Women get stuck on zipline at Kalaignar Centenary Park in Chennai

CHENNAI. Social media was abuzz on Saturday with claims that the zipline at the Kalaignar Centenary Park stopped working just five days after it was inaugurated, and left two women suspended mid-air. However, the firm that operates the 500m-long zipline told that there was no equipment malfunction, and the issue was resolved in under five minutes. According to a representative from the firm, the ride's speed had been deliberately set low (5km/hr) to accommodate participants of all ages, from children to senior citizens. The reduced speed, coupled with opposing wind pressure on Saturday and gravitational factors, caused the ride to slow down further, briefly leaving the women suspended mid-way. The situation was resolved in a few minutes as operators pulled the women for a distance of 5ft with the help of a rope, after which the ride resumed and functioned normally, he said. Officials from the firm said that the zipline's speed limit will be re-adjusted to a suitable level, keeping in mind both children and senior citizens. Unlike the current setup, the speed will be henceforth adjusted to ensure it is consistent from start to end to prevent similar incidents, he added. Meanwhile, opposition leader Edappadi K Palaniswami took to X stating that the ruling DMK government was toying with public safety by using substandard equipment, despite the trust people placed in a newly opened state-run park. He also raised concern about the excessive fees collected, "Named after Karunanidhi, the park charges an entry fee of Rs 100, with additional charges for each facility."

Manipur Police forms special cell to combat extortion by gangs amid rising cases

A top police official said that 121 extortionists have been arrested over the past year, including members of various underground groups and gangs.



Imphal. In response to the rise in extortion activities in the strife-torn state of Manipur, police have taken decisive action by establishing an anti-extortion cell. This new unit led by the Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) and includes all zonal Deputy Inspector Generals of Police (DIGs) as members. The move comes in light of numerous complaints from the public, educational institutions, and government staff regarding increasing extortion since the violent incidents that began on May 3 last year. Inspector General of Police (IGP) K Kabib announced on Saturday that over the past year, the police have arrested 121 extortionists, including members of various underground groups and gangs. In total, more than 250 individuals indirectly linked to extortion have also

been arrested. These arrests were made following direct complaints from the public, underscoring the community's role in combating this issue. To enhance safety for commuters and transporters, especially those carrying essential goods, 16 companies of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) have been deployed at strategic locations along Manipur's national highways. An additional two companies are providing escorts for transporters navigating these routes. The police have identified several hotspots for extortion in Imphal and are ramping up efforts in these areas, including increased frisking and checks to apprehend perpetrators. IGP Kabib has called for public cooperation, urging citizens to report any extortion threats to the police. He assured that all investigations would be conducted confidentially, preserving the identity of the complainants. Residents can approach known police personnel or contact the police control room with any concerns. In a cautionary note, the IGP emphasised the importance of refraining from "moral policing". "Do not allow individuals or groups to engage in moral policing. Instead, contact the police for any incidents, and necessary action will be taken in accordance with the law," he said.

Over 600 traffic violations booked via Public Eye app in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. Residents of Bengaluru are increasingly turning to the Bengaluru Traffic Police's (BTP) Public Eye app to report traffic violations and maintain discipline on the roads. In 2024, the app has seen a consistent rise in usage, with an average of 850 traffic violations reported daily, of which 600 cases have been booked by the police. As of August 2024, a total of 2,55,048 traffic violations were reported. Of these, the police booked 2,13,048 cases, rejected 23,750, and 18,250 cases remain under review. In comparison, in 2023, 3,14,564 violations were uploaded, with 2,43,116 cases booked by the police. Since its launch in September 2015, a total of 19,30,584 cases were uploaded, 16,16,445 were booked, and 3,14,139 were rejected. The app enables users to upload pictures or videos of traffic violations. If valid, the traffic police issues penalties to the violators. The vehicle's registration number and the violation must be clearly visible in the uploaded photo. Speaking to TNSE, DCP (Traffic-East) Kuldeep Jain said that the app has gained popularity, with over a lakh people in the city using it to seek better road discipline and safety. He emphasised that the goal behind the app is not to file cases but to promote safer driving habits and better discipline on the roads. While commuters tend to follow rules in the presence of police officers or cameras, the app allows the public to act as additional eyes, reporting violations even in areas without police and camera presence. Senior officers added that data from the app helps the police develop enforcement plans, with most violations reported in residential and commercial areas. The most common complaints are related to footpath parking and no-parking violations. DCP (Traffic-North) Sri Gowri added that the police also act on violations and cases uploaded on X and other social media platforms.

Incessant downpour leads to landslides on Erode ghat road

ERODE. Due to incessant rain, landslides occurred on Anthiyur-Kollegal and Sathyamangalam-Kadambur hill roads in Erode on Saturday. Erode district recorded 423 mm of rain till Saturday morning. In this, hilly areas like Talavadi, Bargur, and Kadambur have been receiving continuous rain. On Saturday morning, there was a landslide on Thamarai Karai on Anthiyur-Kollegal Road and near Malliamman Temple on Sathyamangalam-Kadambur Road. Leading to severe traffic in these two areas. On information, officials from the revenue and state highways departments rushed to the spot and engaged

in repair works. C Rajesh Khanna, an assistant divisional engineer of the State Highways department, said, "The landslide on Thamarai Karai may have occurred around 5 am. As soon as we got the information, our team immediately went to the spot and started the work. The landslide on the road was repaired in about two and a half hours." Sathyamangalam Tahsildar S S Saktivel who inspected the spot said, "The landslide near Malliamman Temple occurred at around 2.15 pm. Officials immediately rushed to the spot and fixed it in



about an hour." A senior official from the State Highways Department of Erode, said, "We are monsoon ready. Sandbags, concrete

materials, and machinery are ready for use in emergency situations. For example, around 5,000 sandbags are kept ready in the Bhavani division alone. Also, due to rain, the Varattu Pallam Dam located on the foot of Baragur hills, and the Kunderipallam Dam located on the foothill of Gundri in Gobichettipalayam Taluk reached their full capacity on Thursday. Due to this, surplus water has been flowing out of the dam. Besides, the water level of Perumpallam Dam has also increased.

10 lakh witness Soorasamharam at Kulasekarapattinam beach, TN



THOOTHUKUDI. 'Mahisha Soorasamharam', the final event of the Dussehra festival was held at the beach adjacent to Kulasekarapattinam Mutharamman temple on Friday. Over 10

lakh devotees from across south India participated. Sources said that as part of the 11-day festival, several hundred devotees had worn sacred threads, adorned guises of gods, animals and other forms, to seek fulfilment of their wishes. People of all ages dressed up to seek alms for Goddess Mutharamman. Sources added that streets across Tiruchendur were occupied by 'Dasara sets' -- a group of artistes in the guise of Goddess Kali and other gods -- who perform religious and cultural programmes seeking alms. Many call them home to perform pooja with the belief that they bring blessings. Several professional artistes from Mumbai and Chennai were brought in for the event. On Saturday, which marked the tenth day of the festival, after the day-long pooja, the Amman came out in a procession to the Kulasekarapattinam beach at 12 am on Friday and in the subsequent event of Soorasamharam, the asura was killed, sources said. Sources added that the district administration had taken efforts to manage the crowd and the traffic. Over 4,000 police personnel from southern districts were deployed to ensure safety and security.

Bengaluru man threatens woman with acid attack, loses job

According to a post by the woman's husband on X, the accused, Nikith Shetty, a private firm employee, sent a threatening message to the woman, over her attire. **BENGALURU.** A man in his early 20s was fired by his employer after allegedly threatening to throw acid on a woman over her choice of clothing. The woman's husband Shahbaz Ansar, a journalist, filed an online complaint regarding the incident. According to a post by the woman's husband on X, the accused, Nikith Shetty, a private firm employee, sent a threatening message to the woman, a social media influencer, over her attire. Shahbaz also shared a screenshot of Shetty's LinkedIn profile, revealing his employment status. After the post went viral on social media, the firm where Shetty was employed swiftly terminated him. In a statement, Etios Digital Services said, "We are deeply saddened to address a serious incident involving one of our employees, Nikith Shetty, who made a threatening statement regarding another individual's choice of clothing. As a company committed to fostering a safe and respectful environment, we have taken immediate action. Nikith's employment has been terminated for a period of five years."

Women get stuck on zipline at Kalaignar Centenary Park in Chennai

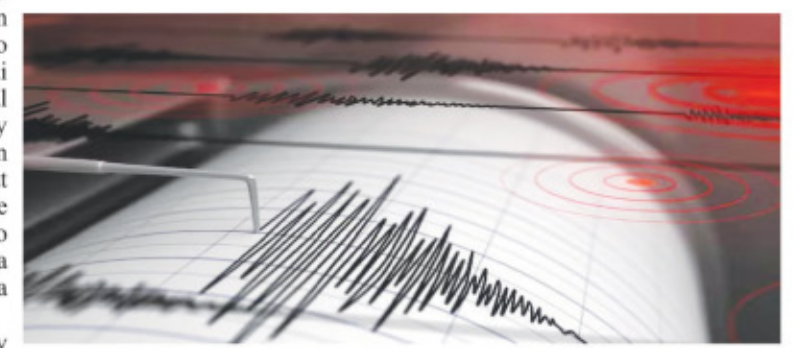
CHENNAI: A day after the train accident at Kavaraipeetai station, 40km north of Chennai, in which nine passengers were injured after the Mysuru-Darbhanga Bagmati Express rammmed into a goods train and derailed on Friday night, separate investigations have been initiated by the NIA, Government Railway Police, and RPF to probe



the possibility of sabotage. Critical bolts and brackets were found open with missing nuts at the signalling points, sources said. The accident occurred when 1,800 passengers were travelling on the train, but fortunately there were no fatalities. In a press statement late on Friday, the Railway Board said the passenger train was given a green signal for the main line but it experienced a jerk and entered the loop line, resulting in the collision with the freight train. On Saturday, Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, Bengaluru, A M Chowdhary initiated a thorough inspection of the tracks, points and blocks, signals, station electronic interlocking systems, control panels and other significant safety, signal and operational aspects. Meanwhile, over 500 workers are engaged in clearing the tracks, and partial train service resumed around 9.05 pm on the Gudur-Chennai section. Around 20 express trains to Vijayawada, Hyderabad, and other destinations, train near the guard's coach. The impact derailed the locomotive and eight coaches of the Bagmati Express, while two others -- a power car and motor van -- caught fire. Two coaches of the freight train also derailed. Stranded passengers from the express train were transported in buses to Ponneri and then to Chennai Central by two special suburban trains early morning. A special train left Chennai Central at 4.45 am carrying the passengers to Darbhanga via Arakonam, Renigunta and Gudur. The accident severely damaged two tracks (down main line, down loop line) for about 500 metres, signal and telecommunication cables, overhead lines, and power cables. Rescue and accident relief equipment were transported using the two up lines (toward Chennai). To clear the wreckage, five earthmovers, three JCBs, two 140-tonne cranes, re-railing equipment, and accident relief trains have been deployed.

4.2 magnitude earthquake jolts Assam, no reports of damage

A 4.2 magnitude earthquake hit Assam on Sunday morning, no injuries or damage were reported. The exact location of the earthquake epicentre is around 105 km north of Guwahati.



Guwahati. An earthquake of 4.2 magnitude jolted the north-central part of Assam on Sunday morning, an official bulletin said. A National Center for Seismology report said the quake was recorded at 7:47 am in Udalguri district on the northern bank of Brahmaputra, at a depth of 15 km. The exact location of the earthquake epicentre is around 105 km north from Guwahati and 48 km west of Tezpur, near the Assam-Arunachal Pradesh border. People in the neighbouring Darrang, Tamulpur, Sonitpur, Kamrup and Biswanath districts also felt the jolt. Kamrup Metropolitan, Morigaon and Nagaon on the southern bank of Brahmaputra too felt the tremor. The earthquake could be felt in some areas of western Arunachal Pradesh as well as eastern Bhutan, the report said. There are no casualties reported and no damage to any property.

Gods, demons and political parties

THE story of victory of good over evil has been playing out all over India this week. Behind my house in Chandigarh, a Garhwal troupe has just enacted Meghnad badha, the killing of Ravan's warrior-son, Meghnad by Lakshman, as it is meant to be performed on the ninth day of the navratras; under the bright starlight and within earshot of the chitter-chatter of the ice-cream vendor, the story is moving inexorably to its logical conclusion. Ravan simply has to die the next day, today, by the unerring flight of Ram's arrow. Whatever else you believe about the BJP — you have to accept that it also learns fast, swallowing its own arrogance if need be, in order to achieve the required result.

And yet, as you walk home from the Ramlila, you cannot escape the fact that the gods also employ both deception and illusion to get their way — that, according to famous Bengali poet Michael Madhusudan Dutt, Lakshman abandoned the Kshatriya warrior code by cornering Meghnad in a temple where he had no access to his weapons. And that's how he killed him. Back in Bengal, meanwhile, the goddess is taking charge, all set to slay the buffalo demon Mahishasura in sync with clanging cymbals, the deafening sound of the dhaak-player and the rising smoke from the pujari's lamp. In one stunning image from a Kolkata pandal, the Devi holds a female doctor in her arms, complete in white coat and stethoscope — a direct reference to the ongoing protest over the brutal rape of a young doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. All week, then, as India's male and female gods have fought their immortal battles, politicians in Haryana and Jammu & Kashmir have taken a leaf out of their book — the BJP is celebrating its unexpected victory in Haryana, while the INDIA coalition is crowing about its mandate in J&K. In both states, the voter has punished the arrogant and high-handed political party, which believed it could take the voter for granted. Unfortunately, the Congress party still refuses to come to terms with the fact that the BJP fairly and squarely won Haryana. That the saffron party worked hard, employing every instrument in and outside the book — from micro-managing every seat via the door-to-door campaign of RSS cadres, to ensuring that proxy candidates cut into the opposition candidates' vote, to getting Dera Sacha Sauda chief Ram Rahim released on parole so that his whispered message impacted about 35 seats across the state. There was nothing the BJP did not try to do in tiny Haryana. The people's mandate in favour of the BJP has left the Congress party stunned. Party spokesman Jairam Ramesh has sought to pin the blame on the EVMS, implying the BJP tampered with the source code — a shameful charge that slanders the voter. (That charge has since been put on hold as wiser Congressmen and women have realised the damage it can do to the democratic mandate.) Worse, Rahul Gandhi has tried to pass the buck by blaming the infighting between regional satraps Bhopinder Singh Hooda and Kumar Selja.

Clearly, there's nothing worse than a leader refusing to take responsibility for the defeat of his team — especially since Rahul would have got all the credit if his party had won the state. An inquiry has been set up, but Rahul himself seems to have moved on. That one gesture smacks of both cynicism and hauteur. It's the noblesse oblige syndrome — you owe me, but actually I don't really care if you don't. It was the same in J&K. The Congress behaved with such entitlement that it didn't even care to pick the best candidates in Jammu — “oh the people will vote for us, because they are so upset with the BJP,” they said, airily. That was certainly true — a whole month ago, in mid-September. At the time, Jammu was seriously upset with the BJP for a variety of reasons, but it is to the credit of its local leadership that it worked damn hard to alleviate that distress. The RSS-BJP realised it could not afford to do badly in Jammu, because this, here, is the ideological underpinning of Hindutva. When the results came out this week, the BJP had won 29 seats, vastly improving upon its own expectations.

Is 'cash for vote' the harsh reality of the poll process

ADULT suffrage, guaranteed by Article 326 of the Constitution of India, is the foundation of elections to Parliament and Legislative assemblies. Every citizen of India above the age of 18, who is not otherwise disqualified, is entitled to be registered...

ADULT suffrage, guaranteed by Article 326 of the Constitution of India, is the foundation of elections to Parliament and Legislative assemblies. Every citizen of India above the age of 18, who is not otherwise disqualified, is entitled to be registered as a voter. This right alone is the backbone of democracy, where each head counts rather than money power, social status or military might.

The foremost duty of the Election Commission of India (ECI) is to ensure free, fair and impartial elections. It is the sole constitutional authority to exercise supervision over elections.

Interference from the courts has been barred in election matters under Article 329 of the Constitution. Only a petition can be filed after the polling is over. However, the ground reality is that electioneering in India is often a saga of treachery, manipulated processes and blatant misuse of money and muscle power under the watch of those supposed to ensure a level playing field for all contestants. Corrupt practices are so widespread and varied that election observers may not notice them all as they seem primarily concerned with keeping the polling process unhindered. From the moment candidates are finalised, free liquor begins to flow on the streets, especially in colonies inhabited by underprivileged masses, often situated on the outskirts of towns or villages. People know where to fetch their supply and the police typically turn a blind eye. Everyone understands which party is the supplier. Those consuming alcohol as part of this distribution can be seen wandering around distribution points opened by candidates indiscriminately. Digital payments to liquor vendors upon the presentation of a signed voucher from a candidate's agent make the supply hassle-free. Expenditures on unaccounted liquor surpass all other election expenses, making liquor a significant factor determining the outcome of the ballot battle in many elections. “Cash for vote” is a harsh reality.

The amount varies, depending on the election's importance and the voter's status. Cash is often distributed through local contractors who align with potential vote buyers to ensure a certain number of votes from the locality for a specific candidate.

Some candidates even engage in direct vote-buying on the polling day by operating from behind the voting-slip desk, offering cash under the guise of distributing slips. The going rate for impersonated

electioneering. The financial demands of SM platforms and freelance YouTubers on candidates are often steep. They may even attempt to influence the candidates' public statements to either unsettle or harm their prospects if not compensated adequately. Paid news and malicious campaigns have become a reality. The local police and administration often ignore the ruling party's malpractices despite the best intentions of the district-level authorities as lower-level officials, who must work in the district, cannot afford to annoy influential local politicians.

The observers appointed by the ECI offer a mechanism to candidates to file complaints and deter wrongdoers to some extent, but their effectiveness is limited due to the reliance on the local authorities. Moreover, they often prefer to simply monitor the situation rather than take a proactive stance. Sections 169 to 177 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023 (BNS) provide punishment of up to one year of imprisonment for bribery and corrupt practices in elections. However, these provisions are non-cognisable. It means that the police cannot register a First Information

Report (FIR), rendering them toothless and redundant. Election offences should be made cognisable, attracting severe punishment. The electoral process in a democratic system must not be allowed to be corrupted by vested interests. It is the responsibility of the ECI to address new irregularities in electioneering and introduce corrective measures. The campaign process needs an overhaul. National media debates could replace traditional rallies in this digital era and publicity materials should be banned. Election staff should be from outside the district and elections should be held under President's rule in a state. The ECI should take strict action against officials for misconduct during elections. Offenders in cases registered during elections often go unpunished due to a lack of supervision and monitoring by the ECI.



votes can be as high as Rs 5,000 per vote.

Interestingly, many greedy elected representatives of local bodies and gram panchayats form groups just before elections and collectively bargain with candidates for votes under their influence.

Political party manifestos are often just academic documents for debates on national media. The elections on the ground are generally contested on local issues, where the candidate choice plays a crucial role. However, some attractive promises like monthly pensions or laptops for voters can also instantly sway voters. Caste, creed, religion and faith play significant roles in determining election outcomes, with candidates openly seeking support from religious leaders and seers. Political narratives are daily set by rival parties, and the social media (SM) plays a crucial role. The ECI has yet to address the unbridled influence of the SM and YouTubers in

Question of fair play

HC halts Punjab panchayat polls

THE stay by the Punjab and Haryana High Court on panchayat elections in 275 Punjab villages has cast a shadow over the entire electoral process. Triggered by allegations of arbitrary rejection of nomination papers, the court's intervention raises questions about transparency and fair play in the state's grassroots democracy. The court's stance reflects its deep concerns over democratic integrity in electoral procedures. At the heart of the issue is the widespread complaint that nominations were dismissed without due cause or personal hearings, seemingly to benefit candidates aligned with the ruling party. Such irregularities strike at the core of democratic principles, eroding public confidence not only in local governance but also in the broader political fabric of the state.

With over 3,600 nominations for sarpanch posts rejected and complaints of procedural lapses, accusations are mounting against the state government for undermining democratic norms. Several aspirants have



had their papers rejected after symbol allotment, sparking further outrage and prompting an official inquiry. An unusual development also saw all 72 sarpanches in Patti,

Tarn Taran, elected unopposed — although touted by some as democratic consensus, this certainly raises questions about transparency. Sarpanches were elected unopposed across some other districts too, with over 20,000 candidates withdrawing, allegedly under pressure; certainly, the whole process seems more than opaque. Along with reports of officials opting out of poll duty to avoid potential violence, the developments suggest an environment conducive to fair electoral practices.

The state government, however, has denied allegations of bias. As the court prepares for a hearing on October 14, the question remains — will the government ensure a transparent and accountable election process? In the long run, democracy in Punjab depends on a credible response to these allegations and a commitment to rectifying flaws in the electoral machinery.

Reopening trade with Pak will also help India

Given that India never banned trade, it should be simpler for India to reciprocate diplomatic outreach by rolling back the penal import duty.

INDIA and Pakistan are at a near-historic low in their levels of mutual engagement. Born in 1947, these 'Midnight's Children' have still not been able to overcome the trauma of their bloody and messy partition, despite the deep bonds between their people — evidence of what might have been and, indeed, what might be possible. Trade, in the current context of their soured bilateral relationship, represents a low hanging fruit.

Since 2019, bilateral trade — which, in the past, withstood grave provocations — has been virtually halted, representing India's reaction to the Pulwama terrorist attack and Pakistan's reaction to the passage of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill.

India imposed a penal 200 per cent duty on Pakistani goods and Pakistan banned Indian imports. While the mutual recriminations — based on historical grievances — continue, there is a strong constituency in Pakistan that would like direct trade to resume (currently, most trade occurs via the indirect, Dubai route). It wants to shelve the more contentious issues for a later date. Pakistan's economy is in the throes of a crisis. It recently received the approval for a record 24th International Monetary Fund (IMF) support programme. Trade with India in goods, services, tourism and energy should be of immense benefit. Exports, for example, could rise by as much as 80 per cent, a huge gain for a country constantly struggling with foreign exchange crises. Commodity trade with India could help dampen rampant inflation in food and electricity prices. More generally, it is poor economics for Pakistan to not exploit the gains from deep engagement with the world's fastest growing large economy (think Mexico and the US).

But, make no mistake. India's gains will also be significant, and future gains even more so. Like Bangladesh, Pakistan could become a top market for



Indian exports and source for tourism earnings.

Interestingly, Pakistan's freelance workers have reportedly become a competitive source for Indian BPO (business process outsourcing) firms, owing to Pakistan's rupee devaluation and the cultural affinity of the Pakistani and Indian workforce.

At full potential, trade can create millions of more stable and better quality jobs on both sides and could help create conditions for significant strategic gains. Both countries have troubled borders that are currently more challenging than their mutual border — Pakistan with Afghanistan and India with China. Neither would mind a quiet India-Pakistan border at this point. A dynamic, interdependent trading relationship can help sustain the current, uneasy border truce. So, in the face of such obvious and

potentially huge gains, what is holding back the resumption of a trade dialogue? Most Indians, even those in favour of trade with Pakistan, say that the Pakistani army exercises a veto, and will not allow such trade. While at some points in the past, the Pakistani army may have vetoed a normal trade relationship with India, recent evidence is different. In 2021, the then army chief, General Qamar Javed Bajwa, called for a focus on geo-economics and stable India-Pakistan relations. Despite occasional violations, a fragile truce has prevailed at the border since 2021 — something that the Pakistani army could easily scuttle. The army is also concerned about Pakistan's precarious economy and would likely be more amenable to a beneficial economic relationship with India. At two meetings with

development partners in recent months, where the military was present, the Pakistan government indicated that it is in favour of trade with India. Finally, the government has invited Prime Minister Modi to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) meeting scheduled to be held in Islamabad from October 16-17. This outreach would have required the sanction of the army.

Besides this, there has been a chorus of voices, starting with Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, supporting trade resumption with India. Big business has repeatedly demanded trade normalisation, complaining about the high costs of indirect Indian imports routed via Dubai and Singapore. If there is a consensus amongst the key Pakistani constituencies, where is the problem? Why does Pakistan not approach India with a formal proposal? Is Pakistan only waiting for a favourable “handshake moment” to propose the resumption of trade?

How might India react? Given that India never banned trade, it should be simpler for India to reciprocate diplomatic outreach by rolling back the penal import duty. However, given the historical patterns of start and stop, India may be cautious about bilateral initiatives to restart trade discussions. It might prefer to talk on the sidelines of a larger meeting where the bilateral engagement is kept low key to minimise the domestic political impact of Pakistan possibly backing out at the last minute. At the same time, India should react positively to feelers/overtures from Pakistan, because it is in its own interest to do so.

The forthcoming SCO meeting in Islamabad — a non-bilateral setting — provides a possible opportunity for an India-Pakistan handshake since a senior official, Foreign Minister Jaishankar, is representing India.



Recipe:
Barley risotto with lamb & mushroom

Rich with tender lamb and meaty mushrooms, this barley risotto will have you in wonders!

Preparation time: 15 minutes.
Cooking time: 1 hour 15 minutes.
Serves: 4

Ingredients:
500g boneless leg of lamb, trimmed of visible fat and cut into 1/2 - pieces
Salt to taste
1/2 tsp fresh ground black pepper
1 cup chopped yellow onion
250g sliced Button mushrooms
3 cloves garlic, minced
fresh rosemary, divided
1 cup pearl barley, rinsed
3 cups chicken broth
1/2 cup balsamic vinegar
50g Parmesan cheese, grated
2 tsp lemon zest
3 cups baby spinach
2 tsp refined vegetable oil

Method:
Season lamb with salt and pepper and set aside for 15-20 minutes.

Heat a large nonstick skillet on medium and add the oil. Sear the lamb, turning once for 1 to 2 minute per side or until just brown. Remove. To the same pan, add onion and mushrooms and saute, stirring occasionally, until softened, about 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low. Add garlic and 1 tsp rosemary and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Stir the lamb, barley and broth into the pan. Cover and cook on low for 2 hours or until the barley is tender and liquid is absorbed. Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, bring vinegar to a boil on medium - high heat. Boil steadily for 5 minute, until reduce by about two-thirds. Transfer to small bowl and set a side at room temperature until ready to serve. Add parmesan to the pan and stir until melted. Stir in remaining 1 tsp rosemary and lemon zest. Fold in spinach until just wilted. Spoon onto serving dishes and drizzle with balsamic reduction, evenly.



Cooking is therapeutic. But when it becomes a chore, it can add stress to your life. We ask professionals in the kitchen, who survive the pressure-cooker environment of top-notch restaurants, to give us their 'calmsutra'; in other words, spool out their secrets of de-stressing. It has worked for them it will for you.

Unwind, chef
Style

Calmsutra: Thai curry and rewind
"After service time in the kitchen, food is the last thing you would like to touch and see. But then, as I walk out, I realise that all I need is a bowl of rice with Thai or Goan curry. I love a bit of coconut milk in my food, and a slight hint of spice, which

reminds me of my childhood when my Goan maid would make this curry whenever I was feeling low. It works even today!" - Chef Mikhail Shahani

Calmsutra: Cooking with kids
"I have never been a fast food fan but thanks to my kids, it's a fast food dish that

taught me to de-stress. It's called Dosa Pizza and is made of dosa batter and coconut chutney. My kids taught me how to make this Indo-Italian dish and christened it 'Appa Pizza'. It is hugely relieving because it has no recipe, no right and wrong way of doing things, and helps you spend a fun time with your

family, friends and team." - Chef Girish Kumar

Calmsutra: A book and risotto
"Kitchen life is very stressful but the sheer energy is what makes it so addictive. Yet, there are days when the din gets to you, and you need to scoot out. Books, meditation and my favourite chicken and mushroom risotto are all I need to get me up and about. What works is its simplicity and the aroma. Watching the chicken and mushroom simmer in vegetable stock and wine is in itself therapeutic. The garnish of mascarpone cheese and Grana Padano (the semi-aged hard Italian cheese) only ensures I am up to any challenge - including pandering to an extremely irate guest's demands." - Chef Kshama Prabhum

Calmsutra: A cup of chamomile tea
"The pre-opening days of a restaurant can be really hectic because, at that time, you are not just cooking, sampling or hiring people, you are also the operations head. I walk out for a breather, come back and make a nice cup of chamomile tea. It soothes my frayed nerves instantly. I avoid any conflicting conversations during this time. Once I feel my nerves settling down, I go into the kitchen to whip up an easy dessert, share it and then get back to the grind." - Chef Amey Marathe

Calmsutra: Salad with bare hands
"A bowl of watermelon and organic feta salad is my go-to buddy when things get off-hand. The first advantage is that the ingredients are fresh. And while it's hard to explain how a salad can immediately send me into a meditative mode after a very hard day in the kitchen, it works every time. My bet is its aroma. It puts you at ease, and then using your bare hands to toss it up is a pleasure. At the end of all the fun, you have a healthy meal that perks you up." - Chef Rahul Kulkarni



Healthy salad recipes:
Oriental pear salad

Pears fight cancer, lower cholesterol, give you instant energy and are an excellent source of fibre.

So if you are bored of eating them raw, try tossing them in a salad! Distinctly oriental in flavour and appearance, this crisp and crunchy salad with pears is tasty and interesting. We also have a choice of two different dressings to toss in, just before serving it.

Ingredients
1-3/4 ounces (about 1/4 pkg.) Uncooked rice sticks (Maifun)
1/4 cup vegetable oil
1 quart shredded iceberg lettuce
1 fresh pear, cored and sliced
1 cup cooked shredded chicken
1/2 cup each diagonally sliced green onion and sliced green pepper
1 tablespoon toasted sesame

seeds (optional)
Sesame Oil Dressing or Hoisin Dressing

Method
Break rice sticks into 3- or 4-inch lengths. Heat oil to 375° to 400° F; fry rice sticks until white and fluffy. Turn once to fry pieces evenly. (Entire process takes less than 1/2 minute.) Drain on paper towels. Toss rice sticks with remaining ingredients. Serve with choice of dressing.

Sesame Oil Dressing: Combine 1/4 cup each vinegar and sesame oil, 1 tsp soy sauce 1 tsp each salt and sugar; mix well. Makes about 1/2 cup.

Hoisin Dressing: Combine 2 tsp catsup, 1 tsp each Hoisin sauce, salad oil, sugar and vinegar and 1/2 tsp salt; mix well. Makes about 1/3 cup.

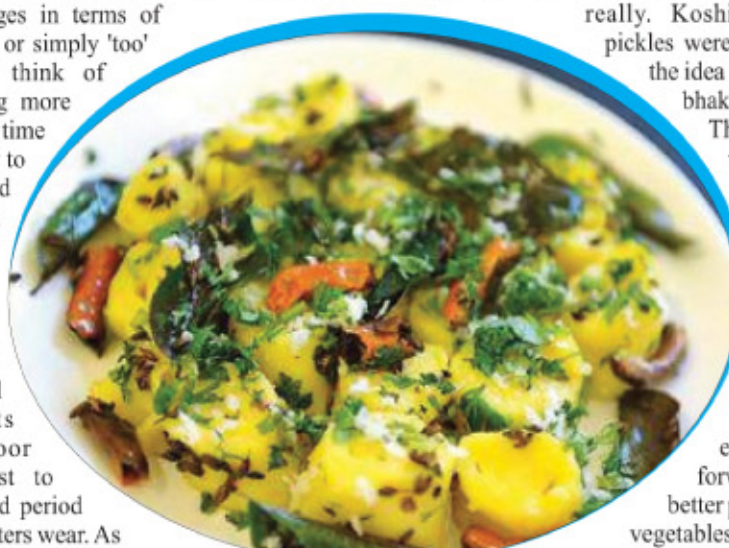
Calmsutra: A good read with a good snack
"My idea of unwinding after work is to grab a great book to read. I am an avid reader and have a great collection of books of various genres - fiction, autobiographies, classics and poems. But on a bad day, what works best for me is a jog, followed by a glass of freshly squeezed juice and a multi-grain ham, cheese and tomato sandwich. Nothing beats stress like a workout, and then a little treat." - Chef Sandeep Pande

Restaurant review: Shabree
(Maharashtrian)



Strangely enough, good thali joints are few and far between, in Pune. Decor They are either tasty but a bit rough on the edges in terms of decor and service or simply 'too' family style to think of spending anything more than simple eating time there. I was happy to learn that my old favorite Shabree, off FC road now has a branch near Market Yard in Gultekdi. Personally I prefer the old model with its indoor - outdoor simplicity, honest to goodness food and period style dress the waiters wear. As

long as the food is good, I don't think this style dates at all. The new model is on the main road in an



annexe next to Golden Emerald. It looks like any of the smarter veg restaurants from the outside and I must say I like the new beaten style thali sets. It is clean and reasonably well decorated in an 'Indo Foreign stores' sort of way. Washrooms are clean and thankfully separated from the main dining hall by a door. There is a waiting room as well as space outside and on holidays you may even need to wait in a queue to get in. The place attracts a lot of families from the nearby area so be prepared for some amount of noise.

Food For '300 the lunch and dinner menus change daily. The food is neither oily nor packed with masala. In fact, I would say that it is exceedingly simple and could do with some sprucing up in terms of recipes and fresh vegetables. The dishes are no longer purely Maharashtrian Guju dishes have crept in. We had an excellent mutter karajji and very good khandvi which they call surali vadi. The sukha batata bhaji was lack lustre as was the shev rassa and purnachi amti. There was peas again in the usal and 'kadi chawal' to finish off. Nothing to write home about really. Koshimbir, chutneys and pickles were pretty standard. I like the idea of serving both kinds of bhakri - jowar and bajra.

The highlight of my lunch was the puranpoli and the shrikhand both made in-house. As is the case with most thalis, there is a sukhi bhaji, amti, rassa bhaji, rice, usal and farsan everyday. The spices for me were not distinctive enough and I look forward to a meal which is better planned with more fresh vegetables both wet and dry.

Restaurant Review:
Seasonal Tastes

Light, open and airy, complete with a high ceiling, Seasonal Tastes, the 24-hour dining facility at The Westin Chennai, gives you a sense of well-being every time you enter.

Decor
It is soothingly done up in subtle colours: white, lilac, blue, green etc, offset by light wood. I, of course, choose the window table, and look out at the greenery and the gurgling water bodies through the tall glass wall.

Food
Here's my chance to go completely healthy, I thought, as I went through the menu and its many interesting options. Several are vegetarian, I noted. Dishes containing pork can be spotted, thanks to a tiny pink sign. My taste buds craved Bubblicious, Westin's Sunday brunch. Those live counters looked so inviting with their global food - Indian, Thai, Chinese, Japanese, Grills, Continental, Moroccan and lots more. Our starters came to our table, and we had a wide variety, including paneer tikka, tandoori fish, chicken along with a choice of chutneys. And some crisp-around-the-edges with stringy cheese, thin crust pizza. Succulent meat, I must say. It was moist and tender, yet perfectly charred, to give that smoky charcoal-y taste one expects from the tandoor. The salads were bursting with life, begging to be eaten, while the limited sushi was nice. What I did enjoy, though,



was the pasta. Getting it right is an art. You've got to know when to stop. The chef has mastered the technique of not going overboard. Each Sunday sees the chef bringing out new, innovative food, a feast for the eyes and the taste buds. They have a separate section for kids on the menu too - their food is placed in their play area, on low counters. Someone

watches over them so they can eat and get their fun in peace while their parents are kept out of the way. Desserts could spoil you for choice. The cold stone ice cream had me experimenting with flavours and toppings. Liquid Nitrogen-dipped chocolate could have me addicted to their cold crispness encasing soft gooeyness on the inside.

Army looks to hire civil choppers for logistics on northern borders

Bids have been invited from potential service providers for details of helicopters available for the purpose, including their rate per flying hour and additional flying hours.

New Delhi. The Indian Army is looking to hire helicopters from civil agencies to carry out a range of jobs along the country's northern borders such as logistics supplies, carrying troops to forward locations and casualty evacuation when needed. The Indian Express has learnt. It plans to deploy these single-engine helicopters in specific sectors in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, such as Drass, Kargil, Batalik, Doda, Kishtwar and Gurez. Barring the specific sectors, the helicopters will be mostly deployed during the winters — from November to April — for stocking of ration, fuel, other stores and operational purposes. Bids have been invited from potential service providers for details of helicopters available for the purpose, including their rate per flying hour and additional flying hours.

when the Army will hire helicopters for winter stocking, carrying out logistics work and supplies and other operational purposes. There are plans for the Armed Forces to increasingly move towards outsourcing of major platforms and equipment instead of buying them — these need massive capital expenditure — and the Army's move to hire the helicopters reflects that. It is learnt that the helicopters will be used to fill in for the ageing Chetak and Cheetah fleet with the Army, which continue to face serviceability issues due to their long, extended years of service and the fact that many of them will begin completing their total technical life in the next three years. The Army plans to eventually replace them with the indigenous light utility helicopters.



Cheetah fleet, big helicopters cannot land in several high-altitude forward locations due to lack of large helipads, and these smaller choppers will be able to perform a variety of roles, particularly in the transportation of all things for sustenance in the forward locations," an official said. The hiring will also offer larger maintenance time for the Army's helicopters which will continue to be used for operational duties.

The IAF also pitches in with its bigger helicopters like Chinooks and smaller helicopters to carry out a range of operational duties for the Army in forward locations. An official said this move is another initiative which will ease stocking and assist in quick de-induction of soldiers from high altitude areas. It will also help soldiers going on emergency leave to come down from the higher reaches. "The strain on service aircraft and pilots will be reduced, permitting them to focus on operational tasks and winter air surveillance sorties. It will also ease the maintenance schedules of the Army helicopters as their flying hours will comparatively go down," the official said. The hiring of helicopters will be done under the Delegation of Financial Powers to Defence Services (DFPDS-2021) which was unveiled by Defence Minister Rajnath

Singh. The DFPDS is the only document which lays out the financial powers of the three services for defence revenue procurements. All defence capital procurements are governed by the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020. Other than increasing the number of Armed Forces officers who can take financial calls on major revenue procurements, the revised DFPDS-21 also had a provision to hire aircraft, mid-air refuellers and associated equipment for a short time for operational emergencies. Earlier, the IAF was also considering hiring mid-air refuellers under this DFPDS provision. According to officials, the service provider or the civil agency selected will need to provide fully functional helicopters along with pilots and crew members and maintenance personnel, who have to be competent for high altitude flying operations.

Man gives death threat to Nayab Singh Saini on WhatsApp group, arrested

Police said the accused gave the death threat to Nayab Singh Saini on the day of the results of Haryana Assembly elections on October 8.



New Delhi. A man has been arrested for allegedly giving a "death threat" to the Haryana chief minister in a WhatsApp group in Julana, police said on Saturday. The accused was identified as Ajmer, a native of Deverar village of Jind district. Jind Superintendent of Police Sumit Kumar said Ajmer made a death threat on October 8, the day of vote counting in the state, in a WhatsApp group. "As soon as the matter came to the notice of the police, an FIR was registered and Ajmer was arrested," he said. Congress candidate and wrestler Vinesh Phogat won the Julana assembly seat, defeating her nearest rival and BJP nominee Yogesh Kumar by a margin of 6,015 votes.

Woman dies by suicide over not getting new saree from husband in Jharkhand

The woman was reportedly unhappy over her husband not gifting her a saree on the occasion of Dussehra.

New Delhi. A 26-year-old woman killed herself allegedly by jumping in front of a train at Bagihopa village in Dumka district on Saturday, police said. The deceased, identified as Sando Devi, was apparently unhappy over her husband not gifting her a saree on the occasion of Dussehra, they said. "The woman had asked for a new saree for Dussehra, but her husband, a tractor driver, could not afford it. This led to her taking the extreme step," a police officer said. She was a mother of two minor children, he said. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination and an investigation is underway, the officer added.

LPG cylinder found on railway track in Roorkee in another train derailment bid

New Delhi. A major disaster was narrowly avoided early Sunday when an empty LPG cylinder was discovered on the railway tracks near Roorkee, Uttarakhand. The cylinder was spotted by the loco pilot of a goods train, who immediately alerted authorities, preventing a potential derailment. The Northern Railway's Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO), Himanshu Upadhyay, stated that the incident occurred at 6:35 am between Landaura and Dhandhera stations, approximately one kilometer from Dhandhera. A pointsman was dispatched to the scene and confirmed the cylinder was empty. It has since been placed under the custody of the Station Master at Dhandhera. Local police and the Government Railway Police (GRP) have been notified, and an FIR is being filed.

The incident is one of many in a recent surge of train derailment attempts across India. Indian Railways revealed that there have been 18 such attempts nationwide since August, with an additional three reported in the weeks following. In the most recent case, another LPG cylinder was found on the tracks in Kanpur.

War of words between AAP, Delhi Lt Governor over Durga Puja pandal visit

Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed that thousands of people couldn't read CR Park as security was heightened in the area due to VIP movement.

New Delhi. A war of words erupted between AAP and Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena following the latter's visit to a Durga Puja pandal in CR Park. AAP leader and Delhi minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said thousands of people were unable to reach CR Park as security was amped up in the area due to VIP movement. Bharadwaj claimed that thousands of people were unable to visit and participate in the Durga Puja festivities in CR Park on October 10. CR Park is a part of the Delhi minister's constituency.



- ▶ Saurabh Bharadwaj claimed VIP visit blocked public entry
- ▶ Lieutenant Governor's office said people attended pandals in huge numbers
- ▶ Root cause of traffic poor condition of roads, said Raj Niwas Office

"Yesterday it happened for the first time that thousands of people could not reach CR Park Durga Puja in the evening. Yesterday the traffic was blocked the whole evening due to a

VIP. I request them that it is not right to harass the public like this," Bharadwaj

said on X. The Raj Niwas Office reacted to Bharadwaj's claim that people were unable to visit the area, saying "a record number of people turned up" and participated in the festivities along with the Lieutenant Governor.

In a post on X, the Raj Niwas Office claimed that people in CR Park complained to VK Saxena about the poor condition of the roads, which was the reason why some of them had to wait for hours in traffic.

"Thousands of people told VIP that the poor condition of roads in the area leads to hours-long traffic jams every day and life is hell because of sewer overflow and garbage. The local VVIP leader remains absent due to the press conference," the Raj Niwas Office said.

Ex-Delhi University professor GN Saibaba, acquitted in Maoist link case, dies

New Delhi. Former Delhi University professor GN Saibaba, who spent a decade in prison over alleged Maoist links before being acquitted earlier this year, died on Saturday.



The 57-year-old died due to post-operative complications after undergoing surgery for gallbladder infection. He was admitted to Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences in Hyderabad for the last 20 days. In March, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court acquitted Saibaba and five others in the alleged Maoist links case, ruling that the prosecution failed to prove the

charges. The court also overturned his life sentence. The High Court overturned his sentence, terming the sanction for prosecution granted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) as "null and

void." The court stated that the sanction granted under the UAPA by the state authorities lacked proper consideration. It described the report submitted by the independent authority, which recommended invoking UAPA provisions, as a "cryptic and concise half-page communication."

Saibaba had been lodged in jail since 2017 following his conviction by a trial court in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district. Before that, he was in prison from 2014 to 2016 before being granted bail.

Uttarakhand will not tolerate any demographic changes: Chief Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhama said there are many places in Uttarakhand which have witnessed events related to Lord Ram, Goddess Sita, Laxman and Hanuman.

New Delhi. Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on Saturday said that no kind of demographic change will be tolerated in the state. Participating in the Dussehra Mahotsav in Uttarakhand, Dhama spoke of the state's "close association" with events in the life

of Lord Ram and said the 'sanatan' (eternal) form of the "holy" land and the purity of its cultural and religious heritage will always be protected.

"No kind of demographic change will be tolerated in the state," he said.

There are many places in Uttarakhand which have witnessed events related to Lord Ram, Goddess Sita, Laxman and Hanuman, he said.

"Lord Hanuman brought Sanjivani from Dronagiri mountain in the Chamoli district. The Tapasthali (place of penance) of Lord Shri Ram's family guru Vashishtha is also located in Rishikesh. Ramleelas are held in every corner of the state. The preservation of our cultural



- ▶ Dhama participated in the Dussehra Mahotsav
- ▶ He highlighted state's ties to Lord Ram's life
- ▶ State Guest House to be built in Ayodhya

heritage and traditions makes us united and strong," he said.

Describing Dussehra as a festival symbolising the victory of truth over falsehood, he said it reminds us of the end of an arrogant and unrighteous person like Ravan and the triumph of the qualities of an ideal life represented by Lord Ram.

The state government is soon going to build Uttarakhand State Guest House in Ayodhya, he said.

Paulgarh Wildlife Sanctuary has been renamed as the Sitawani Wildlife Sanctuary after Goddess Sita, Dhama said, adding the state government is committed to keeping the "divine form of Uttarakh.

Baba Siddique's iftar and SRK-Salman patch-up: It was Allah, I had no role



New Delhi. Baba Siddique, a veteran politician and former Maharashtra minister, was shot and killed by armed assailants in Mumbai on Saturday evening, sending shockwaves through both the political and film industries. Siddique, known for his extensive political connections and his ability to bring people together, was also famous for hosting lavish iftar parties that attracted the crème de la crème of Bollywood. One such gathering in 2013 played a pivotal role in ending the most infamous celebrity feud in the entertainment world — Shah Rukh Khan vs Salman Khan.

The rift between Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan began in 2008 after a heated argument at Katrina Kaif's birthday bash, which led to the two actors avoiding each other for nearly five years.

This cold war came to an end at Siddique's annual iftar party on April 17, 2013. At the event, Siddique strategically seated Shah Rukh Khan next to Salman's father, Salim Khan, ensuring the two stars came face-to-face. The moment when Shah Rukh and Salman greeted and hugged each other was captured in a photo that quickly went viral, marking the beginning of the end of their long-standing beef.

After their reconciliation, Siddique downplayed his part as peacemaker, saying, "They both wanted it... Allah shows the way. I had no role to play."

Siddique's iftar celebrations were legendary, attended by a plethora of Bollywood stars, including Sanjay Dutt, Shilpa Shetty, and the Khan duo themselves. His ability to bring people together, both in politics and the film world, was a defining aspect of his personality.

In his political career, Siddique served as an MLA from the Bandra West constituency for three consecutive terms and held the position of Minister of State for Food & Civil Supplies, Labour, and FDA. He was a close associate of actor-turned-politician Sunil Dutt, who helped him secure his first Congress ticket in 1999.



First-gen Foodpreneurs

pack old vada in

New pav

Barring a Haldiram or a Bikanervala, most desi snacks and beverages have stayed in the unorganized sector, sold by vendors using ancient, unstandardized methods.

Several entrepreneurs are trying to change that by using global practices to sell Indian street food. Green mangoes are hard. And no one knows this better than Neeraj Kakkar, co-founder of Paperboat.

Hector Beverages, the makers of Paperboat, has been selling its aam panna drink (green mango juice flavoured with roasted masalas) for a while. Green mangoes are notoriously hard to process because they are tough, and Kakkar says his team had to innovate extensively to make Paperboat's aam panna flavour taste like its fresh, home-made version.

"So our biggest challenge is today our biggest advantage. Nobody has done this kind of thing before and it is difficult to replicate," says Kakkar. Paperboat now boasts an array of 10 distinct beverages including jaljeera, golgappe, kokum and chilled rasam. Many more innovative products are under development including coconut water and the juice of purple carrots. The company, which opened its biggest factory in Mysuru a few months ago, works with agricultural universities and farmers across the country to figure out best practices, as they break new ground on products.

Across the country, entrepreneurs are picking up traditional Indian food and beverage products to challenge Western imports like colas and burgers. In some cases they are reimagining the products and offering innovative variants. Mr & Mrs Idli and Idli Factory offer exotic stuff like Idli Manchurian, Kanchivaram Idli and Punjabi Idli. Faaso's, with funding from Sequoia and Lightbox, and Kaati Zone do a variety of Indian rolls, including Cheesy Corn

Salsa and Chicken Mushroom. In other cases, they are using technology to make the products at scale and sell them around the country, the way McDon ald's and KFC do. Ammi's Biryani, with funding from Saif Partners, is doing that with biryani, as is the Hyderabad-based chain Paradise which is opening outlets in cities like Bengaluru at a fast clip. At Paradise, the self-service counter is clearly modelled after the McDonald's and Burger Kings of the world, with combos and packages and easy-to-select options. Similarly, Jumboking pioneered the organized vada pav business, and was quickly followed by Goli Vada Pav, which

has received funds from Ventureast. Dheeraj Gupta of Mumbai initially dabbled in the Indian mithai (sweet) market. But the technology needed to keep sweets fresh was expensive and since the venture wasn't very profitable, Gupta was finding the going difficult. He looked at India's streets and realized how disorganized the vada pav business was. "Vada pav was the largest selling snack in Mumbai but no one had thought of organizing that segment," he says. He borrowed Rs 2 lakh from his father and founded Jumboking. The venture is about to open its 100th store and is present across the top eight cities in the country. The company charges a 30% premium on

vada pavs compared to the street pavs. It also focussed on the bread size, weight and size of the patty and eliminated wastage. The patties needed instant quick freezing at minus 18 degrees centigrade, and with hygiene a priority for Gupta, he invested in the required technology.

Hygiene is a big focus for most, because for many middle class Indians today, that's the concern they have about food offerings from the unorganized segment. "Tea is available in all corners of this country but our focus is the white collar corporate employee in the top seven cities who are conscious about cleanliness and consistency," says Amuleek Singh Bijral, founder of Chai Point.

Most tea joints in India end up being smoking joints, which discourages nonsmoking customers. Chai Point does not allow smoking and so enjoys a broader clientele. The average price of a glass of tea at Chai Point is less than Rs 20, less than a fourth of the price at leading cafe chains, and is designed to drive volumes. The company's 50 outlets sells more than three million glasses a month.

Hygiene, comfort and innovation is also the focus of Chennai's Idli Factory. "My biggest driver is to create food for travelling, which means comfort food that is well-packaged and easy to carry," says R U Srinivas. The company's flagship product is its 'Madras bars' which are idlis shaped like bars coated with powders such as milagai podi, garlic podi and curry leaf podi. Srinivas researched and tested 300

different batters before arriving at the best combination of rices and dal to create idlis that would remain soft and fresh even after they are cold.

Arvind Singhal, chairman and MD of retail consultancy Technopak, says native food offers great opportunity in terms of revenue. "Indian food has long been neglected," he says, and appreciates startups like Chaayos and Chai Point that have leveraged Indian tea rather than going after coffee, like many others.

Singhal also notes that many Indian startups in this space fail because they complicate their menus by adding too many different items. Keeping it simple helps with handling the supply chain, quality assurance and faster service across all outlets, and in keeping prices low.

Bijral of Chai Point agrees. While expanding his food variety option looks enticing - currently it contributes 25% of topline - Bijral wants to reduce it to 20% and focus even more on tea. "Let others sell food," he says. Idli Factory also has a skeletal menu, and Srinivas intends to keep it that way. So does Jumboking's Gupta, who notes that multinational food chains too stick to a narrow menu but offer different versions of that menu. "Once this mindset (to complicate menus) changes, it will benefit a lot of entrepreneurs," he says.

But that strategy could have its limitations too. When Mohan Kumar, partner with Norwest Venture Partners, received a request from a food startup for investment, he analysed a number of companies in the space. He found that some 25 companies in the space had touched revenues of Rs 200-300 crore, but then stopped growing. "Probably there aren't enough categories to scale up and these companies tend to get acquired by bigger ones. Big Indian players like ITC and Marico understand the market well. Some of the MNC competition too could catch up," he says.

Jacob Kurian, partner at private equity fund New Silk Route, which has invested in Bengaluru-based Vasudev Adigas, a south Indian food retail chain, feels that Indian food businesses tend not to grow beyond the local area as the promoters tend to be contented at a certain size. One exception, he notes, is Haldiram. "The skill set needed to grow till Rs 200 crore and to grow beyond that are different," he says.

Kurian also notes that unlike the earlier family-owned Indian businesses, those like



Paperboat and Chai Point are not family businesses and don't have legacy issues. "Let these guys reach around Rs 200 crore and then we will see," he says. That could happen if the brands can go into smaller towns or even global. Paperboat's Kakkar is not sure if his drinks can be as popular as Coke in small towns. But he notes with some satisfaction: "Cola sales are declining globally."

4 not-so-known uses of Peanut butter

Removes foul smell This one's especially for those homemakers who spend a lot of time in the kitchen. Peanut butter is very effective in removing the smell of fish from your hands and as well as utensils. Simply, rub some peanut butter on to your hands after washing them as well as spread some of the utensils and keep them for a while to get rid of the smell.

To clean leather Cleaning leather furniture is one of the most challenging things we do, since maintaining them is a tedious task. But, using peanut butter will solve a great deal of your problem. Rub it in a gentle circular motion on the surface and wipe away with a clean cloth. Mix it with some scented oil to mask the smell of peanut butter.

To fix scratched CDs With pen drives and portable hard drives, a lot of our old storage methods have been rendered useless. Hence, if you find any of your old CDs getting scratched and damaged, peanut butter can fix the problem. Rub some peanut butter gently on the scratched CDs and wipe it off with a dry cloth to see the magic. For scratch-free furniture Our home furniture is subject to a lot of scratches



While, we all know the health benefits of peanut butter and the fact that it makes for a yummy breakfast, not many of us know about its unusual uses.

and damage due to daily use. If you do not want the pain of polishing your furniture after every scratch, just apply peanut butter directly on the scratched areas and wipe it off with a dry cloth after a while, and see the scratches disappear.

Recipe: Coconut Flavoured Alu Vadi

Also known as Patra, Alu Vadi is a popular preparation by the Maharashtrian community. While, some people steam and shallow fry the rolls, some just add a mild tempering of sesame and mustard seeds.

You can also add a dash of freshness to this dish by adding some thick coconut milk to recipe as well as some freshly grated coconut over it and make it even yummier.

This dish is a perfect tea time snack, light on the stomach and extremely delectable.

Ingredients

- Alu leaves-7-8 nos.
- Besan (gram flour) - 100gms
- Chilli powder-2 tsp
- Coriander powder-2 tsp
- Tamarind pulp-2 tsp
- A pinch of finely chopped Coriander leaves
- Salt as per taste
- Oil-2 tsp
- 1 cup of grated coconut

Method: - Mix all the ingredients together — gram flour, chilli powder, coriander powder and tamarind pulp.

- Put in on the leaves and roll it.
- Heat oil in the pan.
- Add clove, cinnamon, pepper.
- Cut the aloo roll and put it in the pan and put coconut milk over it.
- Keep for 20-25 minutes on a slow flame.
- Boil it till the milk dries.
- Serve it with grated coconut and finely chopped coriander leaves spread over it.
- Also, garnish it with some freshly grated coconut.



FPIs Take Out Rs 58,711 Crore From Equities In October On Geopolitical Crisis, Strong Chinese Stocks

NEW DELHI. Foreign investors turned net sellers in October, withdrawing shares worth Rs 58,711 crore in the month so far owing to the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices, and the strong performance of the Chinese market.

The outflow came following a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore in September. Since June, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have consistently bought equities, after withdrawing Rs 34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, and May, data with the depositories showed.

Looking ahead, global factors such as geopolitical developments and the future direction of interest rates will play a crucial role in determining the flow of foreign investments into the Indian equity markets, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said. According to the data, FPIs made a net withdrawal of Rs 58,711 crore from equities between October 1 and 11. "Escalating conflicts, particularly in the Middle East between Israel and Iran, have increased market uncertainty, leading to risk aversion among global investors. FPIs have become cautious and pulling out money from emerging markets," Vinit Bolinjkar, Head of research at Ventura Securities, said.

The geopolitical crisis has also led to a sharp rise in Brent crude oil prices from USD 69 per barrel on Sep 10 to USD 79 per barrel on Oct 10, which poses inflationary risks and increases the fiscal burden for India, he added.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, believes that FPIs have been following a strategy of 'Sell India, Buy China' after the Chinese authorities announced monetary and fiscal measures to stimulate the slowing Chinese economy. FPI money has been moving to Chinese stocks, which are cheap even now. Together, these developments have created a temporary barrier in Indian equities, reflected in FPI outflow in both debt and equity segments. It is anticipated these trends will stabilise around the time of the US polls, Pankaj Singh, smallcase Manager and Founder & Principal Researcher at Smartwealth.ai, said. In the debt markets, FPIs pulled out Rs 1,635 crore through the General Limit and invested Rs 952 crore via Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) during the period under review.

Hindustan Aeronautics Joins 'Maharatna' League, Becomes India's 14th PSU to Get Top Status

NEW DELHI. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been granted the prestigious status of Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). The announcement was made on October 12 by the Department of Public Enterprises via a post on X, following approval from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

This upgrade was recommended by two high-level committees: the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), chaired by the Finance Secretary, and the Apex Committee, led by the Cabinet Secretary. HAL, which operates under the Department of Defence Production (DoDP), reported a turnover of Rs 28,162 crore and a net profit of Rs 7,595 crore for the financial year 2023-24. With Maharatna's status, HAL will benefit from enhanced operational autonomy and greater financial power. The most recent company to be awarded the Maharatna status was Oil India, which received the designation in August 2023.

What is Maharatna Status?

The Government of India classifies Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) into three categories—Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna—based on specific eligibility criteria. In India, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are categorised based on their non-financial objectives and are registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (formerly Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956).

We Aren't A Perfect Country, But...', Radhika Gupta Praises India's Healthcare After Facing An Emergency Hospital Visit

New Delhi. Radhika Gupta, CEO and Managing Director of Edelweiss Mutual Fund was rushed to the hospital on Sunday, October 06, after suffering a severe fall that resulted in a head injury.

The incident occurred earlier in the day, and she was immediately taken to hospital, where she received emergency care, including medical tests and stitches. Gupta praised India's healthcare system, noting that medical services in "developed countries" are often slower to respond. She shared her experience on social media, emphasising the high cost of medical insurance in developed nations, where people still face long waits for urgent care, even in critical situations.

Gupta was treated at Mumbai's Jaslok Hospital for her injuries, and despite the seriousness of the fall, she was discharged within two and a half hours. She credited the swift response and efficiency of the medical staff for her rapid recovery.

Appreciation Post

After her recovery, Gupta took to the social media platform X (formerly Twitter) to share her experience and express her gratitude for the swift medical care she received at the hospital. "This is an appreciation post! I had a bad fall and subsequent head injury last Sunday. Had to be rushed for emergency medical care and then treatment. Despite it being a Sunday morning, I managed to get an ambulance, excellent care, tests, and stitches within a few hours thanks to the efficient team at Jaslok Hospital. I was back home in 2.5 hours of the fall," She wrote on X.

Healthcare In Developed Countries

In her post, Gupta contrasted her experience with healthcare services in other developed nations, emphasising the long waits often encountered in emergency departments overseas. She commended the Indian healthcare system for its efficiency, stating,

ONGC looks at mini-LNG plants to evacuate gas from isolated fields

The firm has identified five sites in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat for setting up mini plants that will convert the gas pumped out from under the ground into liquefied natural gas.

NEW DELHI. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is looking to set up mini-LNG plants to evacuate natural gas from wells located in areas that are not connected with pipelines. The firm has identified five sites in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat for setting up mini-plants that will convert the gas pumped out from under the ground into liquefied natural gas (LNG) by supercooling it to minus 160 degrees



celsius. This LNG will be loaded on cryogenic trucks and transported to the nearest pipeline, where it will be reconverted into its gaseous state and pumped into the network for supply to users like power plants, fertilizer units or city gas retailers. ONGC has floated a tender seeking manufacturers/service

providers to tap stranded natural gas. The locations identified for setting up mini-LNG plants in the tender are two sites at Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh and one each at Ankleshwar and Cambay in Gujarat, Bokaro in Jharkhand. ONGC in the tender document said while the country has an extensive network of

pipelines that connect supply and demand centres, there remains a substantial volume of stranded gas (non-connected) that is required to be tapped for enhancing domestic supplies and meeting the needs of nearby demand centres. The stranded volumes range from 5,000 to 50,000 standard cubic meters per day that can be produced for up to 5 years. Before floating of this tender, it had entered into a partnership with the nation's largest fuel retailer Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) to set up a small-scale LNG plant near its Hatta gas field in the Vindhyan basin in Madhya Pradesh.

The initial LNG plant capacity is planned for 32 to 35 tonnes, with 45,000 standard cubic meters per day of gas coming from the Hatta field. As per the agreement, IOC, which is conducting a detailed feasibility study of the project, will bear the cost of the small-scale LNG plant.

ONGC will sell gas to IOC.

The LNG plant will be operated and managed by IOC and it will further sell the gas to consumers.

SBI plans to enhance threshold limit under instant loan scheme for MSME sector

NEW DELHI: To ensure easy and adequate credit availability to the MSME sector, the State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to enhance the threshold under the instant loan scheme from the existing Rs 5 crore.

'MSME Sahaj - End to End Digital Invoice Financing', provides solutions ranging from applying for the loan, documentation and disbursement of the sanctioned loan within 15 minutes, without any manual intervention. "We have, last year, introduced a business rule engine based, data based assessment of the credit limits up to Rs 5 crore. Anybody walking into our MSME branch has to give only their PAN and approval for sourcing GST data, we can give approval in 15-45 minutes," SBI Chairman C S Setty told PTI in an interview.

Simplification of the MSME credit is something that the bank is emphasising on and making lending cash flow based backed by the CGTMSE guarantee, he



said. This reduces the need for collateral, which would enable a lot of people to come into the formal MSME borrowing system, he said.

"We still have a large number of MSME customers accessing the informal credit. We would like to bring them to the banking fold," he said. As far as network expansion is concerned, Setty said SBI is planning to open 600 branches across the country in the current financial year. SBI has a network of 22,542 branches across the country as of March 2024. "We have strong branch expansion plans that

would be mainly focused on emerging areas. A lot of residential colonies are not covered by us. Around 600 branches is something we are planning in the current year," he said.

Apart from a vast branch network, SBI reaches its customers through 65,000 ATMs and 85,000 business correspondents. "We serve about 50 crore customers and we take

pride in saying that we are the banker to every Indian, and, more importantly, to every Indian family," he said. He also said it will be his endeavour to transform SBI into the best and the most valued bank not only from a stakeholder point of view but for every stakeholder who deals with the lender. "It could be my customers, it could be our shareholders, it could be the larger ecosystem - the society, the institutional framework - all the stakeholders should be saying that this is the best bank to deal with," he added.

RIL, Maruti, L&T join PM's internship scheme

NEW DELHI. Reliance Industries, L&T, and Maruti Suzuki are the latest companies to show interest in hiring interns under the PM Internship Scheme even as the number of opportunities posted on the special portal dedicated to the scheme has surged to 90,849 as of October 11, 2024. Sources in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) said that Internship opportunities have been posted by 193 companies, including by major private sector players such as Jubilant Foodworks, Maruti Suzuki India, Eicher Motor Ltd, Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Muthoot Finance, Reliance Industries, etc. The opportunities are spread across 24 sectors, with the greatest share available in the oil, gas & energy sectors, followed by travel & hospitality, automotive, banking and financial services, etc.

Internships are available in over 20 fields, including operations management, production & manufacturing, maintenance, sales & marketing, etc. Sources said the internship opportunities are spread across the length and breadth of the country, and have been made available in 737 districts, spread over all states



and Union Territories. The portal opened on Saturday for registration by prospective candidates. The scheme is an integral component of a broader initiative aimed at offering skill training to more than one crore youth in India over the next five years, with a total budget allocation of Rs 2 lakh crore. Interns will be provided with Rs 4,500 per month via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), while companies will contribute an additional Rs 500 from their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds. The scheme also includes insurance coverage through government initiatives, providing financial security for interns. Those in the age group 21-24 years meeting specific educational and employment criteria can apply. The government has also provided a dedicated grievance redressal system and a multilingual helpline to resolve the issues in a timely manner.

Economic toll of Israel's widening war

NEW DELHI. It's one year since Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel's border communities. It's also one year since Israel's lethal invasion of Gaza. Both have been commemorated worldwide in different ways. The common thread is recognition of the horrific toll it has taken so far. Gaza has been flattened beyond recognition. Hamas killed 1,200 while the Israelis have killed over 40,000 Palestinian civilians, mostly women and children. And we are still nowhere near a ceasefire.

Three months into the war last year, we had speculated in these columns on the cost of a widening West Asia conflict. The one-year milestone is indeed worse than anyone had imagined. The Gaza conflict first spilt over to the occupied West Bank; then followed the assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, and now we are in the middle of Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Even as we write this, the world is bracing for a possible Israeli attack on Iran in retaliation to the barrage of ballistic missiles Iran had let loose after

the assassination of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrullah. The circle of conflict is expanding by the day. The toll so far beyond the human deaths and suffering, Gaza's economy has been bombed back to the stone age. A comprehensive UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report of early 2024 said between 80% and 96% of Gaza's agricultural assets - including irrigation systems, livestock farms, and orchards - had been decimated, crippling the region's food production and worsening already high levels of food insecurity. As much as 82% of private businesses, a key driver of Gaza's economy, are damaged or destroyed.

For Israel too it has been a crippling war, though nowhere near what the Palestinians have suffered. Israel's economy is experiencing the sharpest slowdown among the developed OECD countries. Its GDP contracted by 4.1% in the weeks after October 7, and the downturn continued into 2024, falling by an additional 1.1% and 1.4% in the first two quarters. With the

fighting intensifying after the invasion of South Lebanon, the Bank of Israel has estimated the cost of the war will reach USD 67 bn by 2025 - a huge deficit to cover even after a USD 14.5 bn military age package from the US. For the region, the one year of war has meant plummeting GDP growth and a slowdown in investments. In its mid-April assessment of the region, the IMF has warned the Middle East, north Africa and Pakistan GDP growth will be a 'lacklustre' 2.6% in 2024, down from 3.3% in its previous forecast.

There has been a major disruption of maritime trade routes due to the persistent attacks by the Houthi rebels on commercial shipping in the Red Sea. Traffic through the Suez Canal—a significant source of revenue for Egypt—has been reduced to a trickle as ships are taking the longer route via the Cape of Good Hope. Trigger happy

Strangely, as the circle of conflict expands drawing in Iran, there is quiet confidence among Western bankers that the impact of the war will be limited.

Succession Wars: How Hinduja brothers went from 'All for One' to 'Each for Himself'

New Delhi. Blood is thicker than water," a saying that has echoed through generations, implies that family bonds are unbreakable. Yet, the saga of the Hinduja family proves that even the strongest ties can fray under the weight of ambition and discord. Once celebrated for their unity and shared vision, the four Hinduja brothers became embroiled in a bitter feud that transformed their illustrious legacy into a high-stakes drama. However, recent developments have shown that reconciliation is possible, even in the face of seemingly insurmountable differences. For decades, the Hinduja family has been synonymous with wealth, power, and global influence. As the heads of the Hinduja Group, one of the world's largest and most diversified conglomerates, the four Hinduja brothers—Srichand, Gopichand, Prakash, and Ashok—have overseen operations spanning banking, energy, healthcare, and more. Yet, beneath this veneer of unity and success, a bitter family feud emerged, threatening not only the cohesion of the Hinduja dynasty but also the stability of their multi-billion-dollar empire.

Legacy built on unity

The Hinduja family story begins with Parmanand Deepchand Hinduja, who founded the business in 1914 in Mumbai, India. From its humble beginnings as a trading firm, the company quickly grew, establishing a significant presence across industries such as automotive, with Ashok Leyland; banking, with IndusInd Bank; healthcare; and energy. At the heart of this success was a unique family philosophy: trust, unity, and shared ownership. This approach allowed the four brothers to work seamlessly as a team, managing different branches of the business in various parts of the world, from London to Geneva and Mumbai. For years, the brothers upheld the principle that all assets belonged to the family as a collective, avoiding individual control over particular assets.

The 2014 letter: Document of discord

The philosophy of collective ownership was formalised in a 2014 letter signed by all four brothers. The letter stated, "Everything belongs to everyone, and nothing belongs to anyone." It was intended to reaffirm the family's long-standing tradition of shared control, ensuring that no single brother had



ownership over any part of the business.

However, this document, which once symbolised family unity, eventually became the catalyst for a protracted legal battle. The first cracks in the family's solidarity became public in 2020 when Srichand Hinduja, the eldest brother and patriarch of the family, challenged the enforceability of the 2014 letter through his daughter, Vinoo Hinduja.

Court battles and public scrutiny

The legal battle over the 2014 letter played out in the UK courts, with Vinoo Hinduja's claims against her uncles—Gopichand, Prakash, and Ashok—being intensely scrutinised. The case revealed deep-seated tensions within the family, with allegations of attempts to sideline Srichand and exert

control over his assets. In 2022, the UK High Court ruled in favour of Srichand's side, stating that the letter did not automatically confer control of assets to the other brothers. The court highlighted that each brother had the right to independently manage the assets they were overseeing, contradicting the idea of collective ownership. This ruling was seen as a victory for Srichand and his heirs but did little to heal the rift within the family at the time.

Srichand's death and family reconciliation

The family dispute took a significant turn in May 2023 with the passing of Srichand Hinduja at the age of 87. His death marked not only the end of an era for the Hinduja Group but also became a catalyst for family reconciliation. The loss of the family patriarch seems to have prompted a reevaluation of priorities among the remaining brothers and the next generation of Hinduja. In a surprising turn of events, the family announced a settlement to their long-standing dispute in November 2023.

NEWS BOX

Suryakumar Yadav told us India were defending 170, not 300: Ravi Bishnoi

Hyderabad. India spinner Ravi Bishnoi picked 3 wickets in the first chance he got against Bangladesh. Speaking about the team's mentality with the ball, Bishnoi said that Suryakumar Yadav told the Indian team that they were not defending 300 but 170 runs. India had hammered 297 against Bangladesh in the first innings of the match, the highest T20I total by any Test-playing nation in the history of the game. However, India were aggressive with the ball in their defence and restricted Bangladesh to just 164 runs. "When we walked into bowl, Suryakumar Yadav told us that we were defending 160-170 and not 300 as it would help us prepare for matches later on which will have such scores. It was a good surface to bat on but that's the mentality we had," Bishnoi said. India vs Bangladesh, 3rd T20I: Highlights | Full Scorecard

Saba Karim, commenting for the broadcaster asked Bishnoi what the difference was between this Indian team



and the others. Bishnoi replied that the main difference was the aggression and it was clear to see in front of everyone.

"This is the new generation, and you can see what the difference is. 298 runs was the target and look how we attacked and bowled them out for 160s. The approach is when you are on the top, be on the top," Bishnoi said.

"With this Indian team, we have been told by the management that every day is a new day. Once yesterday's match is done it is done, we cannot live with it," he further added. India hammered Bangladesh 3-0 in the T20I series. Before that, the team had beaten Bangladesh 2-0 in the Test series as well. Both victories were categorised by aggressive batting and bowling from the Indian team.

5 Records Broken By Sanju Samson During His 111-Run Knock In 3rd T20I Against Bangladesh

New Delhi. Sanju Samson was in red-hot form for Team India on Saturday (October 12) during the third T20I against Bangladesh, which was played at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. The right-handed wicketkeeper-batter opened the innings for the hosts and top-scored by amassing a total of 111 runs from 47 balls. During his stay at the crease, he hammered 11 fours and eight sixes. It was due to his super show with the bat that India managed to post a total of 297 runs on the board, which in the end proved to be enough for Men in Blue to win the match by 133 runs. 1st Indian wicketkeeper to score century in T20Is: Samson created history on Saturday by becoming the first Indian wicketkeeper-batter to score century in T20Is. He crossed the 100-run mark with a boundary on the 40th ball of his inning. Before Samson, the record for the highest individual score by an Indian stumper in T20Is was in the name of Ishan Kishan, who scored 89 runs against Sri Lanka in February 2022. 1st batter to score 100 in India-Bangladesh T20I match: The century in



Hyderabad also helped Samson become the first batter to score a century in 17 T20I matches played so far between India and Bangladesh. Before Samson, the record for the highest individual score in an India-Bangladesh T20I match was in the name of Rohit Sharma, who hammered 89 runs in Colombo on March 14, 2018. Most sixes in an India-Bangladesh T20I match: Samson smacked as many as eight sixes during his 111-run knock against Bangladesh in the third T20I. The eight sixes helped him break Nitish Kumar Reddy's record of scoring most sixes in an India-Bangladesh T20I match. Reddy smashed seven sixes for India during the 2nd T20I against Bangladesh, which was played in Delhi on October 9, 2024. 2nd fastest century by an Indian in T20Is.

'Stronger' & 'special': Tahuu's tale of hard work, persistence

Once Tahuu made it to the national setup, it was not smooth sailing as she had to face multiple obstacles that included health concerns and being dropped from the squad.

SHARJAH. After taking one of the wickets against India in New Zealand's first match of the women's T20 World Cup at Dubai International Stadium, Lea Tahuu made a heart sign with her hands looking at the dressing room. "I thought she was doing it to me actually," joked captain Sophie Devine before adding "No, I think it was certainly for Grace back home and little Louie as well, who's only a couple of months old. Lea is a really special person to me and to this whole group," Devine said with a beaming smile on her face. Devine knows the journey the Kiwi pacer has been through to get to the level she

is right now. Penny Kinsella, the former New Zealand player and women's selector would know. After all, she was one of those who saw the potential in Tahuu and selected her back in 2011.

"So essentially, as a young bowler, she was the most challenging and aggressive of the bowlers," Kinsella told this daily from New Zealand. "She always ran in hard. She always tried hard. She was pretty erratic in those days. She bowled a lot of wides. But you don't see many women run in like she did with that kind of intent. She was going to bowl as fast as she could and she was going to try and take wickets. It's that balance between that raw kind of pace and the need to maintain economy rates was crucial," she mentioned.

Once Tahuu made it to the national setup, it was not smooth sailing as she had to face multiple obstacles that included health concerns and being dropped from the squad. Kinsella believes that just made Tahuu stronger. "She has been able to reinvent herself, because of what she learned, having entered into the New Zealand setup. Establishing herself also within the Canterbury setup, which was full of really strong women, who were clever



about cricket and knew how to prepare, she started to find that knack of preparing herself

so that she was going to get rhythm. That was her thing. 'If I can keep my rhythm going, then I can use that to enhance my ability to contribute both in T20 and 50 over cricket,'" Kinsella sounded like a proud senior.

Apart from her cricket, being married to another cricketer and former New Zealand captain, Amy Satterthwaite, changed the way Tahuu started looking at her cricket. With the addition of their two kids, Grace and Louie, the family is there to cheer for Tahuu when she is on national duty.

"I think so because you are not living and breathing cricket all the time, you have a chance to move away from that. If you are co-dependent on cricket, to give you your identity as a professional, it's a difficult balance. You're on the edge of the sword all the time in terms of selection. And we know, because she lost her contract, that would have been devastating. And it hasn't been the devastating blow that it could have been if she didn't have those people around her," Kinsella said.

"Bring home the World Cup, Mummy," said baby Grace in one of the videos published by ICC's social media handles. If White Ferns are to do it, Tahuu could be one of the forces behind it.

Hardik, Samson pose with Hyderabad ground staff after India hammer Bangladesh

India stars Hardik Pandya and Sanju Samson posed for photographs with the ground staff at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad in a heartwarming gesture following India's series win over Bangladesh.



New Delhi. Star cricketers Hardik Pandya and Sanju Samson took time to pose for photographs with the ground staff at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad in a heartwarming gesture following India's emphatic victory over Bangladesh. The pictures, which captured the joyful moments with the dedicated ground crew, quickly went viral on social media, winning the admiration of fans across the country. Sanju Samson's maiden T20 International century and a dominant all-round team performance helped India secure a massive 133-run victory, completing a 3-0 whitewash over a lackluster Bangladesh on Saturday. The series sweep further cemented

India's status as a formidable force in T20 cricket. Samson, responsible for opening the innings, displayed explosive batting, smashing an unbeaten 111 off just 47 deliveries. His innings, with 11 boundaries and 8 towering sixes, marked the second-fastest T20I century by an Indian, trailing only Rohit Sharma's 35-ball hundred. Captain Suryakumar Yadav added to the carnage, scoring 75 off 35 balls, as the duo powered India to a mammoth total of 297/6.

India's score of 297 was the second-highest team total in T20I history, behind only Nepal's 314 and ahead of Afghanistan's 278/3. It was also India's highest score in the format, showcasing their dominance throughout the series. Bangladesh, chasing an insurmountable target, could only muster

164/7 in their 20 overs. Pacer Mayank Yadav (2/32) and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/30) played crucial roles in stifling the visitors' batting lineup, ensuring India's comprehensive win. While Sanju Samson was named Player of the Match for his scintillating century, it was Hardik Pandya who earned the Player of the Series honors. Pandya's consistent performances with both bat and ball throughout the series were instrumental in India's dominance. He contributed 118 runs at a staggering strike rate of 222.64 and also chipped in with key wickets. After the match, Pandya and Samson's gesture of posing with the ground staff drew praise for their humility and acknowledgment of the behind-the-scenes efforts that contribute to the smooth conduct of games. With the T20I series now behind them, India will turn their attention to the upcoming three-match Test series against New Zealand, starting on October 16 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. India will be aiming for another clean sweep, which would guarantee their spot in the World Test Championship final for the third consecutive time, regardless of the outcome of the Border-Gavaskar series later this year.

Sanju Samson 3.0 Unlocked Making sense of his Hyderabad T20I heroics

New Delhi. It's not easy being Sanju Samson. Identified as a teenage prodigy, the batting superstar from Kerala has faced numerous challenges. After making his debut in 2015, Samson had to wait five more years for another opportunity to represent India in the T20I format. While he has shown flashes of brilliance at the highest level, his consistency has often contrasted with his performances in the Indian Premier League with the Rajasthan Royals. Since his comeback in 2022, Samson has had a relatively more consistent run in terms of opportunities. That year was one of his best in the format, as he scored 179 runs, including a fifty, in six matches. However, a World Cup call-up eluded him. In 2023, he received eight more opportunities but averaged just 15.60 runs per innings. Before the series against Bangladesh in 2024, he had six chances to impress, but the Kerala



batter struggled to make an impact. It seemed as if time was running out for the 29-year-old. When captain Suryakumar Yadav confirmed before the series opener in Guwahati that Samson would be opening alongside Abhishek Sharma, it looked like the team management was giving him one last chance to deliver, considering the intense competition for opening spots. Samson himself felt that his time in

T20Is might be over after he recorded two ducks in a three-match series against Sri Lanka. "I was a bit doubtful after a couple of ducks in Sri Lanka as to whether I would be getting a chance in the next series," he said after smashing a 47-ball 111 that powered India to a Himalayan total of 297 in 20 overs on Saturday in Hyderabad. Samson persisted through the lows and the lack of opportunities. Every time he wore the pink of the Rajasthan Royals, he made sure to send reminders to the selectors. The talent he displayed must have been irresistible for those making the decisive calls. Despite his inconsistent run at the highest level, Samson kept coming back into contention.

SAMSON FINALLY ARRIVES AT THE PARTY

On Saturday, October 12, Samson finally arrived at the party.



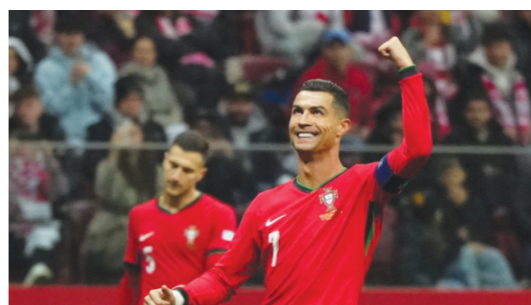
on May 13, 2010, and in that fixture, Aussies hammered India by seven wickets. The Women in Blue could only manage to post a total of 119 runs on the board for the loss of five wickets, which the Southern Stars easily chased down in 18.5 overs for the loss of three wickets. Captain Alex Blackwell top-scored for the Australian team by remaining unbeaten on 61 runs.

2012: In the 2012 Women's T20 World Cup match, Australia defeated India by 8 wickets in Galle on September 27, 2012. Erin Osborne's 3 for 13 helped Jodie Fields & Co. restrict India to 104 for 8 in 20 overs, and then Meg Lanning's 39 and Jess Duffin's 36 not out helped them achieve the required target for the loss of two wickets in 17.2 overs. 2018: India secured its first win over Australia in the Women's T20 World Cup on November 17, 2018.

Portugal maintained their perfect record in Group A1 with a 3-1 win over Poland. Bernardo Silva and Cristiano Ronaldo were pivotal in the victory, keeping Portugal at the top of the league standings.

New Delhi Portugal's Bernardo Silva and Cristiano Ronaldo led their team to a comfortable 3-1 victory against Poland in the Nations League on Saturday, maintaining their perfect start in Group A1 with three wins from three games. Silva opened the scoring in the 26th minute,

slotting home after a headed assist from Bruno Fernandes. Captain Ronaldo doubled the lead 11 minutes later, scoring his 133rd international goal with a first-time finish after Rafael Leão's shot hit the post. Poland pulled one back in the 78th minute through Piotr Zielinski, who blasted the ball into the roof of the net. However, their hopes of a comeback were dashed when Jan Bednarek scored an own goal in the closing minutes. Portugal remain top of League A Group One with nine points, three ahead of Croatia, who came from behind to beat Scotland 2-1 earlier that day. Poland, having won 3-2 against Scotland in their opener before losing 1-0 to Croatia, sit third with three points, while Scotland are yet to register a point. The match began with Poland on the attack, with Robert Lewandowski nearly connecting with a



cross early on, but Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa reached the ball first. Portugal quickly gained control, forcing Polish keeper Lukasz Skorupski into action, particularly with a close-range effort from Diogo Dalot and a curling shot from Fernandes in the 14th minute. Despite Poland's efforts, their defense crumbled

when Silva struck the opener. Ronaldo then calmly added a second after Leão's impressive solo run ended with a shot off the post, leaving Ronaldo to finish the rebound. The 39-year-old forward, who had already scored in Portugal's wins against Scotland and Croatia, netted his 11th goal of the season for club and country. He could have added another but opted to pass to Fernandes, who fired over the bar.

Poland's best chance after the restart came from Lewandowski, who narrowly missed with a header. Ronaldo was substituted in the 63rd minute, with Portugal coach Roberto Martinez continuing to manage his playing time. Zielinski's goal gave Poland hope, but they failed to create clear chances to level the score before Bednarek's own goal ended their two-year unbeaten.

Divya Khossla

Takes Indirect Dig at Karan Johar Amid Jigra Box Office Row: 'When You're Shamelessly...'

Actress Divya Khossla Kumar has seemingly responded to filmmaker Karan Johar's cryptic post about "silence is the best speech you'll ever give to fools" following her claims that Alia Bhatt inflated the box office numbers of their newly released movie 'Jigra'. Divya wrote on her Instagram story, "Truth will always offend fools opposed to it." In another story, she shared, "When you're shamelessly accustomed to stealing what rightfully belongs to others, you will always seek shelter in silence. You will have no voice, no spine."

Divya Khossla Kumar's Shocking Claims Against Alia Bhatt and Jigra

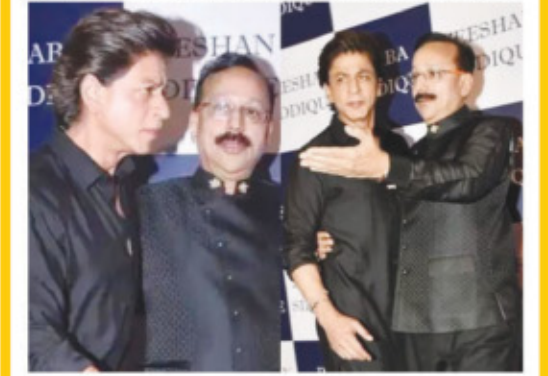
Divya Khossla Kumar accused Alia Bhatt of rigging the box office numbers for her latest release Jigra, which is jointly produced by Karan Johar's Dhama Productions and Alia's Eternal Sunshine Productions. She claimed that Alia allegedly purchased tickets for "fake collection". On Saturday, Divya took to her Instagram Stories to take a dig at Alia by sharing a photo of an empty theatre. She claimed that the theatres for Jigra were mostly empty and suggested that Alia might have purchased her own tickets to artificially boost the film's reported earnings. Divya wrote, "Went to Citi Mall PVR for Jigra show. Theatre was totally empty... all theatres going empty every where." "Alia Bhatt mein sach mein Bahut #Jigra hai... khud hi tickets kharide aur fake collections announce kar diye. Wonder why paid media is silent. #WeShouldNotFoolTheAudience #TruthOverLies #HappyDussehra," she added.

Karan Johar's Indirect Response to Divya Khossla Kumar's Claims

In a subtle response, Karan Johar shared a cryptic Instagram post, just hours after Divya's remarks, stating, "Silence is the best speech you will ever give to fools." While he did not directly address the controversy, the timing of his post seemed to suggest that it was a veiled reaction to Divya's accusations against Alia. The post comes after chatter around the similarities between Divya's film Savi and Jigra. Savi, starring Harshvardhan Rane and Anil Kapoor, is about a housewife trying to break her husband out of a prison in England. In Jigra, Alia Bhatt's character plans a jailbreak to rescue her brother from prison. Meanwhile, Vasan Bala's Jigra had a slow start at the ticket windows. It was released on October 11. The film earned Rs 4.55 crore on the first day of its release, marking Alia Bhatt's lowest opening in 10 years.



'Baba Siddique Is My Friend': When Shah Rukh Khan Opened Up On Late NCP Leader, Said He Met Him For 'Hugs'



Former Maharashtra Minister and Ajit Pawar-led NCP leader Baba Siddique was shot dead in Mumbai on Saturday evening. As per the preliminary information, three to four people fired two-three rounds of gunshots at the NCP leader outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddiqui's office near Colgate ground in Nirmal Nagar, Bandra (East). He was immediately taken to Lilavati Hospital, where he died shortly after arrival. Apart from politics, Baba Siddique was also known for his close association with Bollywood - especially Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan. During a light-hearted chat with the team of AIB, they cheekily asked Shah Rukh Khan if he ever worries about passing through Bandra, where Baba Siddique resided, fearing he might end up hugging him. The question was possibly a dig at the famous 2013 Iftar party where Baba Siddique orchestrated the moment that saw Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan hug, ending their long-standing feud. Baba Siddique, with his well-known warmth and ability to bring people together, sparked the unexpected reunion and patch-up that went down in Bollywood history.

During the chat, Shah Rukh Khan mentioned how Baba Siddique always held a special place in his life as a friend, particularly during the holy month of Ramzan and his iconic Eid parties. Shah Rukh Khan would make it a point to visit him during these times, as Baba Siddique's warmth and hospitality brought people together in a way that made everyone feel included. Their bond extended beyond politics and stardom. Shah Rukh Khan had jokingly said, "I have to tell you this, that Baba Siddique is my friend, and I regularly meet him for the hugs. I don't want to be accosted or taken by surprise, so I plan it! I plan it on Eid. I am always there, and nights during Ramzan. I want to tell you that Baba Siddique's hugs are the best when planned." The investigation into Baba Siddique's murder is ongoing, with more details expected to emerge in the coming days.

Hrithik Roshan Steps Out With Son And Ex-wife Sussanne Khan To Visit Eye Hospital



Hrithik Roshan is currently shooting his upcoming film War 2. He recently returned from Italy after shooting a romantic track with Kiara Advani. On Saturday, the actor was spotted visiting an eye hospital with his son and ex-wife Sussanne Khan. The video has gone viral, and fans are also reacting to it. In the video, shared by Instant Bollywood, we can see Hrithik Roshan, in casuals, coming out of the hospital followed by his son and ex-wife Sussanne Khan. The trio was busy in conversation and did not pose for the camera. Netizens trolled them for coming together and even targeted their divorce. Many times, Hrithik and Sussanne have come together for their sons.

Recently, Hrithik Roshan looked irritated with the paparazzi when he stepped out for dinner with girlfriend Saba Azad and a few other friends. The actor was seen attending director Siddharth Anand's wife's birthday bash in Mumbai. In a video surfaced online, Hrithik and Saba made their way to the party together. The couple navigated their way to the party venue under the rain. While the couple posed for the cameras, it seemed like Hrithik was annoyed with the rain and the paparazzi. The video revealed Hrithik had successfully reached the entrance of the restaurant but Saba was left behind the group of cameramen. This seemingly annoyed the actor. He rushed into the crowd to help her, made a path for them to come through and stood for the paparazzi. The cameramen apologised to Hrithik.

Meanwhile, Hrithik and Saba have been dating for a while now. Almost two years ago, Hrithik Roshan and Saba Azad made their relationship official. The couple soon started appearing at every event together, often posing for the paps, even though they never publicly confirmed their relationship. Not long ago, Saba mentioned that her voice-over offers had dried up because she was dating Hrithik. She criticised those who assumed she wouldn't need to work due to her relationship with the successful Bollywood star.

On the work front, Hrithik Roshan will be next seen in War 2 with Kiara Advani and Jr NTR. The film will release in 2025 but an official announcement is awaited.



Alia Bhatt

Reacts To Rumours Of Salman Khan Being Replaced In Inshallah: 'Whatever Sanjay Sir Decides...'

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Inshallah is one of the films that has been the most talked about for a long time. Calling it his one of the dream projects won't be wrong. A few years ago, Alia Bhatt and Salman Khan were set to star in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Inshallah. However, the film is now shelved due to unknown reasons. But reports were saying that Salman Khan was replaced in the film due to creative differences with Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Reacting to the same, Alia Bhatt said whatever the director is the best for the film. In conversation with The Lallantop, Alia Bhatt said, "I am doing another film with Sanjay sir called Love and War. I hope he makes the film someday, because it is a brilliant story. It is a lovely love story," the Jigra actor said. When the anchor joked that they might have to 'replace the hero' and cited the 'creative differences' that reportedly emerged between him and Bhansali, Alia smiled and added, "Whatever Sanjay sir decides will be the best for the film!"

According to Bhansali, Alia Bhatt was deeply affected by the sudden halt of the project, to the point where she locked herself in a room to cope with the news. In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India, Bhansali opened up about the emotional toll Inshallah's cancellation took on Bhatt. While discussing his approach to working with actors and finding their raw essence as performers, the acclaimed filmmaker recalled how Bhatt reacted to the scrapping of Inshallah. "She broke down, she cracked up, cried, raved, ranted, and locked herself in a room," Bhansali shared.

Looking ahead, Bhatt and Bhansali are set to collaborate again on Love And War, a grand project that will also feature Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. Bhansali, in his conversation with the publication, mentioned that this film is particularly important and challenging, and he's determined to pour everything into it. The epic love triangle is expected to release in March 2026, and fans are already buzzing with anticipation. Currently, Alia Bhatt is seen in Jigra with Vedang Raina. The film revolves around brother and sister story. The film was released on October 11 and clashed with Rajkummar Rao's Vicky Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video.

