

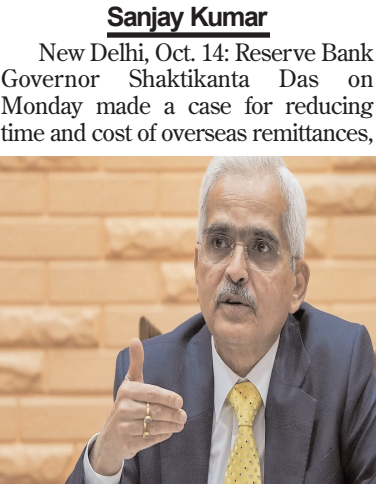
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RBI Governor pitches for reducing cost, time of remittances



Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Oct. 14: Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das on Monday made a case for reducing time and cost of overseas remittances, which are important for developing economies. The new technology and payments system can be used for expediting and expanding cross-border payments, he noted.

keynote address at the conference on 'Central Banking at Crossroads'. Besides, he said, the feasibility of expanding real-time gross settlement (RTGS) to settle transactions in major trade currencies such as dollar, Euro and Pound can be explored through bilateral or multilateral arrangements. India and a few other economies have already commenced efforts to expand linkage of crossborder fast payment systems both in the bilateral and multilateral modes, he said. The Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) is another area which has the potential to facilitate efficient cross-border payments, he added. Going forward, he said, harmonisation of standards and interoperability would be important for CBDCs for cross-border payments and to overcome the serious financial stability concerns associated with cryptocurrencies. The RBI Governor also raised concerns over misuse of Artificial Intelligence in the banking space saying it could lead to more cyber attacks and data breaches.

Surprise visit by PM Modi leads to traffic snarls near Bharat Mandapam

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct. 14: A surprise visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday led to traffic snarls in the national Capital with commuters trying to go from Central Delhi to South Delhi facing inconvenience even as the arterial roads remained choked for the VIP movement. With security protocols put in place on the roads around Bharat Mandapam for hours in the afternoon and evening, commuters shared their experience of sitting for long hours in their vehicles, waiting for the route to clear. "There is mindless traffic diversion due to the visit. We were unable to move towards South Delhi for hours from Central Delhi," a woman stated. Another added that the arterial roads around India Gate were choked. "It is pathetic that we common people can't travel normally because of the surprise visit. If their security and time is important, isn't ours too?" PM Modi visited PM Gati Shakti set up at Bharat



Mandapam on the third anniversary of the launch of the initiative. Due to his sudden visit to the site, elaborate security plans were laid out on the roads of the city as per protocol. A working professional was not able to reach her office on time as she got stuck on the road opposite to the Bharat Mandapam and complained that there is no value of a normal citizen's time. "I was coming from the road Bharat

mandapam to ITO to my office after finishing an assignment. However, my car was stuck on the red light just near the Bharat Mandapam for about 20 minutes while simultaneously the traffic police stopped the flow of traffic from ITO to Bharat mandapam," she said. Asking if her time isn't as valuable, she added, "I do not like that we as citizens aren't valued and the politicians that we have voted for to work for get such undue advantage." A commuter who frequently travels by buses stated that traffic police were creating chaos at the bus stations. "They hardly gave us a minute to onboard and asked the buses to move quickly at a bus stop near the area where the Prime Minister was visiting," he complained. However, this is not the first time such inconveniences were caused to the commuters in the Pragati Maidan area which was redeveloped for easing a chunk of east Delhi traffic. Security measures put in place frequently for VIPs visiting Bharat Mandapam, which was constructed for hosting big events like G20, has become a bane for commuters who are stalled in their vehicles for hours, restricting their movement.

Man shot dead over music during Durga idol immersion in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich

Naresh Malhotra

Lucknow, Oct 14: The incident took place when a procession carrying an idol of Goddess Durga for immersion passed through Mahrajanj Bazar in Mansoor village. A 22-year-old man died from a gunshot wound on Sunday during a communal clash in Uttar Pradesh's Bahraich over music being played during a procession. People set fire to two-wheelers after a man died of a gunshot wound during a religious procession carrying an idol of Goddess Durga for immersion at Mahrajanj Bazar in Bahraich. Around half a dozen more people were injured due to stone pelting and firing, said officials. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath has condemned the violence, saying those responsible will not be spared. The incident took



place when a procession carrying an idol of Goddess Durga for immersion passed through Mahrajanj Bazar in Mansoor village. Ram Gopal Mishra, a resident of Rehua Mansoor village was shot while walking with the group. He was taken to a hospital but later died during treatment, according to a family member. Following the killing, communal tensions escalated in the area, leading to the cancellation of similar processions in Fakharpur town and other locations. However, chief minister Yogi Adityanath directed the administration that

idol immersion must continue and to coordinate with religious organisations to ensure it happens on time. In response to the unrest during the idol immersion in Bahraich, Hardi Police Station head SK Verma and Mahsi outpost in-charge Shiv Kumar were suspended. The Superintendent of Police (SP) has taken action against the police personnel for their alleged negligence during the incident. UP DGP Prashant Kumar confirmed one casualty from the flare-up, noting that sporadic incidents of arson were reported in neighboring districts, including Gonda and Balrampur. "To control the situation, ADG Gorakhpur zone KS Pratap Kumar and DIG Devipattan, Amarendra Pratap Singh, have been dispatched to the incident site with additional forces," the DGP added. Meanwhile, news of Ram Gopal Mishra's death sparked outrage among local villagers, who vandalised vehicles and set them ablaze in Mahrajanj market. A heavy contingent of police and Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) was deployed in the village, accompanied by senior officers, including SP Bahraich Vrinda Shukla, DIG Amarendra Prasad Singh, and divisional commissioner Shashi Bhushan Lal.

Only one constable was with Baba Siddique when he was shot

Monday, Oct. 14: Only one constable was accompanying NCP leader Baba Siddique when he was shot dead in Mumbai's Bandra area on October 12 by three persons who took cover of Dussehra fireworks to open



fire, a police official said on Monday. Six rounds were fired on Siddique, two of which hit the 66-year-old former Maharashtra minister on the chest, outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Nirmal Nagar between 9:15pm and 9:30pm on Saturday. The Congress-turned-NCP leader, who police said was provided non-categorised

security, was rushed to Lilavati Hospital where he was declared dead by doctors. Non-categorised security, under which Siddique was given three constables, is provided as per the individual's threat perception, the official added. Two constables on security duty were relieved in the evening and only one personnel was with Siddique when he was leaving for Bandra West from his son's office on the fateful night, the official pointed out. When the assailants opened fire, several persons in the congested area thought it was sounds of firecrackers going off as part of Dussehra and Goddess Durga idol immersion processions, as per police. An assistant inspector (API) of Nirmal Nagar police station and some other personnel rushed to the spot, managed to apprehend two of the alleged shooters and recover two pistols and 29 live rounds from them, the official said. A third shooter managed to escape in the melee. Apart from this accused, Mumbai police, in its remand application has also mentioned one more person as wanted in the case.

Kerala man infected with Murine Typhus

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Oct 14: Murine Typhus is caused by the flea-borne bacteria Rickettsia typhi and is transmitted when an infected flea bites a human. He had recently travelled to Vietnam and Cambodia, and experienced severe body pain and fatigue upon returning from his trip. The patient sought medical attention, and the doctor ordered tests for rat-induced and flea-borne diseases. Although the test results were inconclusive, it was found that his liver and kidney functions were deteriorating, as reported by The Indian Express. Considering his travel history, the doctors suspected that he could have Murine Typhus, which would be the first diagnosed case in the area. Murine typhus is a rare infectious bacterial disease, recently found in a Kerala man. It is usually caused by the flea-borne bacteria Rickettsia typhi and is transmitted when an infected flea bites a human. The disease is also known as endemic typhus, flea-borne typhus, or flea-borne spotted fever. Rats, mice, and mongoose are known to be reservoirs of this disease. In some cases, the disease-carrying flea is also found in pets such as cats and dogs. Once a flea is infected, it can spread the disease for the rest of its life. The disease spreads when infected flea feces come into contact with cuts or scrapes in the skin. The Murine typhus is not spread from one person to another, or from person to fleas. In India, such rare bacterial infections have been reported in the Northeast, Madhya Pradesh, and Kashmir.

BJP's Panwar resigns from Rajya Sabha, front runner for ministerial berth in Haryana

Chandigarh, Oct 14: Panwar, a former minister and six-time MLA and prominent Dalit face of the saffron party, was specially picked up by the BJP to contest October 5 election polls from Insrana (Reserved) assembly segment. Panwar submitted his resignation to Jagdeep Dhankar, Vice-President and Rajya Sabha Chairman, in New Delhi on Monday. Panwar is a front-runner for a ministerial berth in the new Council of Ministers to be sworn-in at Panchkula on October 17. Panwar was a minister in the first BJP Government headed by Manohar Lal Khattar during 2014-19. He was later sent to Rajya Sabha by the BJP in 2022 by the party in a bid to woo the crucial Dalit vote bank. With the resignation of Panwar from Rajya Sabha, lobbying has picked up among senior BJP leaders for nomination to the Upper House from Haryana. Hon'ble Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar has accepted the resignation of Shri Krishan Lal Panwar, Member of Council of States (Rajya Sabha) from Haryana with immediate effect, finding the same in conformity with Constitutional out of five Rajya Sabha MPs, the BJP has three members—Subhash Barala, Ram Chander Jangra and Kiran Chaudhry.

Seat-sharing among NDA partners for Jharkhand polls almost final

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Oct. 14: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Monday said the seat-sharing arrangement among NDA partners for the assembly elections in Jharkhand was "almost final", and the first list of candidates would be announced within 48 hours of the declaration of the polls. Sarma, who is one of the in charge of the BJP for the assembly elections, was speaking to the reporters after a meeting of the party's election committee. "Seat-sharing among NDA partners is almost final. As soon as the Election Commission declares the model code of conduct (MCC) we will issue the first list within 24 to 48 hours. We are waiting for the EC's announcement," he said. "The seat-sharing talks with the AJSU Party are almost final. There is some problem pertaining to one seat. We will resolve that by Tuesday," Sarma said. He said the Nitish Kumar-led JD(U) will contest in two constituencies, while the seat-sharing talks with LJP (Ram Vilas) will be held on Wednesday or Thursday after its chief Chirag Paswan comes back from abroad. He said candidates for almost all the seats have been finalised, barring five or six, and the decision on those will be taken soon.

President's rule revoked in J&K, stage set for swearing-in of NC-led govt

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Oct 14: The Centre has issued a formal order for revoking the President's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the newly elected government headed by National Conference leader Omar Abdullah to be sworn in. An order issued by President Droupadi Murmu and subsequent gazette notification issued by the ministry of home affairs (MHA) on Sunday stated, "In exercise of the powers conferred by section 73 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 (34 of 2019) read with articles 239 and 239A of the Constitution of India, the order dated the 31st October, 2019 in relation to the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir shall stand revoked immediately before the appointment of the chief minister under section 54 of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019". The NC-Congress and other par-



ties alliance won the recently concluded assembly elections in J&K. On Friday, NC legislature party leader Omar Abdullah met lieutenant governor (L-G) Manoj Sinha at Raj Bhawan and staked claim to form the government. He handed over letter of support from a total of 55 newly elected legislators. Section 73 of the J&K reorganization act 2019, which came into effect on October 31, 2019, gives powers

to the Centre to impose the President's rule in case of failure of constitutional machinery. "If the President, on receipt of a report from the Lieutenant Governor of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir, or otherwise, is satisfied,— (a) that a situation has arisen in which the administration of the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Act, or (b) that for the proper administration of Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir it is necessary or expedient so to do, the President may, by order, suspend the operation of all or any of the provisions of this Act for such period as he thinks fit and make such incidental and consequential provisions as may appear to him to be necessary or expedient for administering the Union territory of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with the provisions of this Act," section 73 of the Act states.

Had offered to resign as Haryana Congress in-charge after poll loss: Deepak Babaria

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct 14: Congress' Haryana in-charge Deepak Babaria on Monday said he has offered to resign from his post, taking moral responsibility for the assembly polls defeat. Babaria said he offered his resignation to the high command soon after the result of the Haryana assembly polls came out last week but no decision has been communicated to him over the matter. "Last week, after the results, I offered to resign. I offered to the high command that you can replace me. My health is not well and also it is my moral responsibility in the wake of the results. Keeping that in mind, I had told this to the high command that 'if you deem fit, you can replace me'," said Babaria told. "After the Lok Sabha polls also, I had offered to resign as in-charge of Delhi, but no decision has been taken on that. Similarly, no decision has been

taken (for Haryana), but it was my responsibility to offer (to resign)," he said. The Congress top brass last Thursday held a



review meeting on the party's shock defeat in Haryana Assembly polls and decided to form a fact-finding team that will speak to all its candidates to find out the reasons for the debacle. Sources said

the leaders during the meeting discussed the possible reasons for the "unexpected" results in Haryana and decided to set up the team to ascertain the reasons behind such results and also look into complaints of "discrepancies" in EVMs, as alleged by party candidates. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, former party chief Rahul Gandhi, AICC general secretary organisation KC Venugopal, AICC senior observers for the polls Ashok Gehlot and Ajay Maken, as well as AICC secretaries for the state, participated in the review meeting. AICC in-charge of Haryana Babaria joined the meeting online. The Congress has also demanded a thorough probe into "discrepancies" found in some Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) during the counting of votes of the Haryana polls and demanded that such EVMs should be

sealed and secured pending the inquiry. A delegation of top Congress leaders comprising former chief ministers Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Ashok Gehlot and AICC leaders K C Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, Ajay Maken and Pawan Khara, besides Haryana Congress chief Uday Bhan, met with top Election Commission officials here on Wednesday. The Congress leaders alleged that there are at least 20 such complaints with many referring to EVMs functioning at 99 per cent battery capacity whereas the average EVMs were found to be operating at 60 to 70 per cent battery capacity during the counting. The Congress appeared confident of dislodging the BJP dispensation which was in power for 10 years and facing anti-incumbency. However, the BJP with 48 seats halted the Congress' comeback attempt and also proved several exit polls wrong which had predicted a comfortable win for the grand old party in Haryana.

News box

Study: Complex interplay of wind, emissions determines A'bad's AQ

Ahmedabad. An investigation into the city's air quality has found that a complex interplay between wind patterns and local emissions determines the distribution of two key particulate matter (PM) pollutants — PM10 and PM2.5 — across space and time. PM10 refers to particles with a diameter of 10 micrometres or less while PM2.5 encompasses even finer particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less. These microscopic particles pose significant health risks as they can penetrate deep into the respiratory system, leading to a range of respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The study was led by Isro's Space Applications Centre (SAC), PDEU-Gandhinagar and Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences, Coimbatore. The results were published in Springer's Water Air Soil Pollution journal on Oct 8. The scientists estimated a total of 802 tonnes/day of PM emissions for Ahmedabad.

The study also found that industries in the eastern region, specifically the GIDC estates in Odhav, Naroda and Vatva, are major contributors to PM emissions, exceeding 5,000 kg/day. These emissions, coupled with seasonal wind patterns, lead to varying pollution levels across the city.

For instance, in May, westerly winds carry pollutants eastward, affecting areas downwind of industrial zones. In contrast, during Dec, the shift to north-easterly winds traps pollutants, particularly under low planetary boundary layer height (PBLH) conditions, leading to poorer air quality in southern and central areas of the city. PBLH refers to the height of the atmospheric layer closest to the Earth's surface. Higher PBLH promotes pollution dispersion.

Poor condition of roads in Chennai's Manali may spell turbulent monsoon for residents

CHENNAI: While the IMD has predicted heavy rain to hit the city within a day, residents and commuters at Kamarajar Salai and its interior streets in Manali have raised concerns that the roads, which were dug up for underground sewerage work, have not been fully restored, even though the construction was completed a month ago.

The Underground Drainage (UGD) work, part of the Under Ground Sewerage Scheme (UGSS) project, in areas such as Manali and Kadappakkam, was completed by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board at a cost of Rs 150 crore in September. Subsequently, the State Highways and Greater Chennai Corporation were tasked with levelling the pits and road restoration, said a metro water official.

However, the restoration has been delayed for a month, causing significant traffic issues. The residents are also concerned about the impending heavy rains, fearing that potential flooding could make it difficult to identify the potholes. Govindaraj K (57), a resident of the area, Kamarajar Salai, which connects Mathur MMDA to Thiruvottiyur, is a busy thoroughfare used by hundreds of people daily morning. "However, due to its damaged condition, heavy traffic is commonplace now. The condition of the interior roads is no better. In the coming days, the potholes left by the UGD construction will get filled by rainwater, potentially inundating the entire stretch," he said. Babu, another resident, recalled that the last time buses plied on Kamarajar Salai or its interior roads was over two years ago. "Then the UGD work began. However, it remains unclear why the roads have still not been re-laid despite the work completion," he rued.

MLAs from Manipur's warring groups to meet for 1st time since start of violence

Imphal. For the first time since the ethnic violence broke out in Manipur last year, a number of MLAs of Meitei, Kuki and Naga communities are set to hold a joint meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday under the supervision of the home ministry, officials said. Three Naga MLAs will attend the meeting in the national capital, while the exact number of Meitei and Kuki legislators to participate is not yet clear, they said. "The talks are part of



the Centre's efforts to facilitate a dialogue between the warring communities and seek a solution to the crisis," an official told PTI. Over 200 people have been killed in ethnic violence in Manipur since May 2023.

"From the Naga side, three MLAs — Awangbou Newmai, L Dikho and Ram Muivah — will be attending the meeting in New Delhi. Muivah is currently in the national capital over a personal issue," an official source said.

Chennai region to get very heavy rain until Oct 17

The centre has also warned heavy to very heavy rainfall and issued an orange alert for October 15 and 16.

CHENNAI. The Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) has forecast rainfall across Tamil Nadu and Puducherry until October 17. The rain is expected to hit Chennai and its surrounding districts on Sunday night and intensify on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The centre has also warned of heavy to very heavy rainfall or extremely heavy rainfall in these districts, and issued an orange alert for October 15 and 16. Extremely heavy rainfall is predicted in isolated areas of Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, and Chengalpattu on Wednesday. Seven places in the state received very heavy rainfall and 21 received heavy rainfall in the 24 hours ending Sunday morning. Madurai recorded 16cm rainfall, the highest, while Tirubhuvanani in Sivaganga got 14cm.

On Sunday evening, RMC Chennai additional director general of meteorology S Balachandran said that two weather systems in Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal are expected to bring rainfall to Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. There is a well-marked low pressure over the east-central and adjoining west-central Arabian Sea, and a cyclonic circulation over the southeast Bay of Bengal. Due to the interaction of both weather activities, the rainfall can be high, he said.

The upper air circulation will intensify into a low pressure which will move towards west-northwest direction and move in the



direction of north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and adjoining south Andhra Pradesh coasts in the next two days, said S Balachandran, additional director general of meteorology at RMC Chennai.

On October 14, heavy to very heavy rain is expected in isolated places over Villupuram, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Mayiladuthurai, Thanjavur, Tiruvallur, Pudukkottai, and Nagapattinam districts, and Puducherry and Karaikal, with heavy rain also likely in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Ranipet, Chengalpattu, Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi, Tiruchy,

Sivagangai, and Ramanathapuram.

On October 15, heavy to very heavy rain is forecast in isolated places in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Ranipet, Chengalpattu, Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi, Cuddalore, and Puducherry, with heavy rain expected in Vellore, Tirupattur, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Erode, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Thanjavur, Tiruvallur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, and Karaikal. On October 16, heavy to very heavy rain is expected in Ranipet, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, and Puducherry, and heavy rain is forecast in

Vellore, Tirupattur, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem, Kallakurichi, and Cuddalore.

From October 1 to 13, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have received 95.3 mm, which is 66% higher than the usual rainfall of 57.4 mm. In the 24 hours ending Sunday morning, Sivakasi in Virudhunagar, Thallakulam and Periyapatti in Madurai, Rameswaram in Ramanathapuram, and Vettikadu in Thanjavur received 12 cm rainfall each. Balachandran added that the conditions are favourable for the complete withdrawal of southeast monsoon from India in the next two days and northeast monsoon rainfall activity is likely to commence on October 15-16.

Independent weather blogger K Srikanth has forecast very heavy rain in Chennai and surrounding districts on both October 15 and 16. "While it's difficult to estimate the quantum of the rainfall, it is expected to last for 36-48 hours, with intervals in between. Most of the rain will likely occur from late evening to early morning," he said. But, he said the risk of flooding is minimal. "Unlike rain caused by Cyclone Michaung, which came at the end of northeast monsoon, this is only the beginning of the northeast monsoon season, so there's no need to panic," he added.

Kerala CM's daughter Veena questioned in payoff case; UDF, BJP trade barbs

KOCHI. Veena T, the daughter of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was reportedly questioned by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in Chennai recently as part of the latter's investigation into the alleged kickbacks her IT firm Exalogic Solutions received from the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Ltd (CMRL).

Soon after the news broke, the Congress-led UDF alleged a "deal" between the CPM and BJP ahead of the bypolls in Kerala, while the BJP claimed the case exposed the LDF-UDF nexus in the state.

Veena appeared before the SFIO last Wednesday, for the second time. She had earlier appeared before the SFIO, which

comes under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, following the Karnataka High Court's refusal to stay the investigation in February. This was shortly after the Centre ordered the SFIO probe into the affairs of Exalogic as well as CMRL and Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation.

Responding to the development, Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan termed the questioning an election stunt, as the announcement for the bypolls is expected on Monday. "It is an attempt to mislead the public into believing that the CPM and BJP are fighting face-to-face in the state. We saw it in the case of Thrissur Lok Sabha seat and in the Karuvannur bank issue," he said,

emphasising that the CPM and BJP could not hide the nexus. Satheesan also said that even if Veena was questioned, it was part of the procedure. "Even if she was questioned by the SFIO, it is part of the investigation. They are repeating whatever they did in the last election. We don't take it seriously and know that no investigation will be conducted by central agencies against Pinarayi Vijayan or the CPM," he alleged.

'Case exposes real face of LDF, UDF'

Meanwhile, BJP state president K Surendran said the real face of the LDF and UDF had been exposed through the case.

"Satheesan has been alleging a deal between CPM and BJP. He should clarify. Congress

and League leaders received the amount from Karimnagar Kartha (Sashidharan Kartha, the CMRL MD). The leader of Opposition should clear his stand in this matter too," Surendran said, adding that the only party that has not received any amount from Kartha is the BJP. He also criticised the UDF for its inaction during the investigation, stating that while the BJP actively pursued the case through central agencies, UDF leaders remained mere spectators.

On the status of the Karuvannur cooperative bank corruption case, Surendran said the investigating agencies are trying to return the money to the investors.

Drivers bring down Rs 200 access fee at SMVT

Despite much publicity by the Commercial taxes department, the 'Access Control' charge met with stiff resistance from vehicles users.

BENGALURU. Just over a month ago, a fee was introduced for vehicles stationed beyond 10 minutes inside the premises of Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal in Baiyappanahalli. Despite much publicity by the Commercial taxes department, the 'Access Control' charge met with stiff resistance from vehicles users. Through vociferous arguments, those with personal cars have managed to bring it down to a flat rate of Rs 50 instead of Rs 100, 200 or Rs 500 depending on the duration of overstay. Taxi drivers, auto-drivers and two-wheeler riders have refused to pay any amount.

When TNIE visited all three access control gates at the station on Wednesday, it noticed the disappearance of congestion caused earlier by vehicles which haphazardly park inside its sprawling premises. There are separate parking

spaces earmarked for pre-paid autos, taxis and a separate parking space for vehicles.

In a bid to decongest the station, on September 6, the access control system was kick-started at SMVT, and Balaji Foods & Beverages was given the contract. Vehicles that come inside to drop or pick up passengers are to be penalised if they stay beyond 10 minutes.

The overstay charges from 10 to 20 minutes for two-wheelers is Rs 40, and four-wheelers is Rs 100. If the time exceeds 20 minutes and is within 30 minutes, the fee is Rs 100 for two-wheelers and Rs 200 for four-wheelers. Beyond 30 minutes is a flat Rs 250 for two-wheelers and Rs 500 for four-wheelers. A staffer manning the barrier gate on the Banaswadi side told TNIE, "We tried asking car drivers staying for nearly 30 minutes to pay Rs 200. The

owners/drivers argued, I remember a driver saying that even airports don't charge that much and he will not pay it. We cannot keep fighting with every driver. So we ask them to just pay Rs 50 regardless of the duration of overstay."

On Baiyappanahalli Main Road side are two barrier gates. A staffer at one gate said, "We are ourselves feeling embarrassed to ask them to pay Rs 100 or Rs 200 for extra time at the station. So, we just tell anyone driving up in a car to pay Rs 50. Two-wheeler riders are just let off as most refuse to pay even this sum."

Another staffer member at the counter said, "As soon as a car enters the terminal, we note the timing and vehicle number and hand over a small chit. We also caution them to leave within 10 minutes or they will have to pay. This has had an impact and a number of them try their best to leave by nine minutes!"

This is the only railway station which is having this system presently. A senior official told TNIE, "These are teething problems. The objective was to decongest the station and it is happening. We have decided to leave the auto and taxi drivers out of it."

TN train crash: Gummidipoondi line reopens after 36 hours

CHENNAI. Nearly 36 hours after the accident involving Bagmati Express and a goods train at Kavaraipettai station which left several passengers injured, the Chennai-Gummidipoondi line was reopened for both express and local trains on Sunday morning. Suburban services, which had been suspended between Minjur and Gummidipoondi for track restoration, also resumed. However, due to safety concerns, local trains to Gummidipoondi via Kavaraipettai will now operate every 60 minutes instead of the usual schedule, officials said. The down line (towards Gudur) was cleared around 7 am, followed by the completion of signal, telecommunication and overhead line work by 8.30 am, allowing the line to reopen at 9 am. The first express train to pass the accident site was the Chennai Central-Shalimar Coromandel Express at 9.08 am, travelling at 10 kmph. Additionally, a Gummidipoondi-bound local train from Chennai Central passed through Kavaraipettai at 8.40 am, according to a Southern Railway official. Earlier, the up lines (towards Chennai) for both the mainline and loop line were reopened at 9 pm on Saturday night. Official sources explained that the restoration work involved removing 10 derailed coaches of Bagmati Express and two coaches of the goods train from the track. In addition, 500 metres of both mainline and loop lines, which were completely damaged, were re-laid with new rails. Power cables, signal poles and other infrastructure were also installed.

Telangana govt to develop unified Geographic Information System in 20 towns, cities

HYDERABAD. The state government has decided to develop a unified Geographic Information System (GIS) hub for citizen-centric services in 20 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) across Telangana. This initiative aims to assist the MAUD department in tracking information, complying with enforcement and identification of illegal construction in all ULBs and UDAs in the state. Schemes to be established at the office of the Directorate of Town and Country Planning (DTCP), the GIS hub will closely monitor urban planning-related activities. The ULBs include Armour, Badepally, Bhainsa, Bodhan, Gadwal, Jangaon, Kagaznagar, Kodad, Korutla, Kothagudem, Mancherla, Mandamarry, Medak, Metpally, Palvoncha, Sircilla, Tandur, Vikarabad, Wanaparthy and Zaheerabad. Sources said that the creation of a GIS hub at the state level aims to substantially augment prospects of urban planning within the state. It would facilitate the availability of urban



data on a shared platform, amalgamated with the GIS-based maps which would enable various departments within the MAUD department to employ these maps and data in their decision-making processes. Thereby fostering a more scientific approach to urban planning and infrastructure development.

Drone survey for database

It is important to note that under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 sub-scheme, the government in July 2024 accorded administrative sanction to form the GIS-based master plan for 20 towns with a population between 50,000 and

99,999. Acting on the plan, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) agreed with the Survey of India (SoI) in December 2023 to carry out the drone survey to create the GIS database as per the AMRUT design.

Multi-faceted development

The sources said that urban areas in the state have been witnessing multi-faceted development, characterised by the integration of policies.

With substantial infrastructure, the development of urban growth is seen alongside the preparation of the GIS-based master plan. It leverages technology for optimum delivery of services with an emphasis on citizen-centric governance and the burgeoning of infrastructure development in ULBs. "Nonetheless, the emergence of novel urban concepts and evolution of planning requirements necessitate an expansion in the scope of the GIS-based maps to incorporate additional urban details," they added.

Conmen 'John', 'Rocky' from A'bad on radar of US agencies

Ahmedabad. Two men from Gujarat, referred to as 'John' and 'Rocky' by the US law enforcement agencies, are in the spotlight for swindling elderly US citizens by employing intermediaries (mules). According to sources, John and Rocky, who are based out of Ahmedabad, used threat tactics to force their mules to execute their gold bar scam. This information was revealed after the arrest of one Kush Patel from Pawtucket in the US. Patel reportedly told the agencies that the duo confined his family and coerced him into collecting gold bars from an elderly man in the US in Sep. The Department of Homeland Security of the US had recently arrested Patel, a student residing in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, for his alleged involvement in the gold bar scam targeting gullible elderly individuals. Patel was arrested on Sep 21 while attempting to collect gold bars from an elderly woman in Pawtucket. During interrogation, Patel said that he had been taking

instructions from Rocky and John, who had allegedly threatened to kill his family if he did not obey them.

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News box

2 brothers try to shoo away barking dogs, attacked with axe and iron rods by locals

Gurgaon. Two brothers were attacked with an axe, iron rods, and sticks for trying to shoo away dogs that started barking at them...

After HC's order, pvt univs to start admission to diploma in elementary education course

Gurgaon. State Council of Education Research and Training (SCERT) released the schedule for admission to the Diploma in Elementary Education course...

Two bikers die in hit-&-run accidents, no arrests yet

Gurgaon. Two men died in separate hit-and-run cases in Pataudi and Sohna since Friday night. The police have yet to identify the accused...

Boy playing near home touches power pole, dies

Ghaziabad. A 5-year-old boy died after he came in contact with an electric pole in Sahibabad's Lajpat Nagar area on Saturday evening...

Wide roads, footbridge with lift: Noida to ease jams in office hub

Noida. A 3.5km stretch of road from Noida Sector 62 to Mamura is set to undergo a major revamp to ease traffic congestion...



aimed at addressing the current issue of haphazard parking, which frequently leads to roadblocks and traffic delays. These stands will regulate vehicle parking and ensure that autos and taxis leave in an orderly manner...

of the roundabout near Model Town, which is expected to significantly ease traffic flow. The adjacent road will also be widened to accommodate the heavy traffic from nearby corporate offices...

Make shift dumpsite comes up at DLF 5; will streamline collection, says MCG

Gurgaon: Residents of DLF-5 are faced with a daily hassle of having to wade through a huge pile of garbage accumulated near Heritage International Xperiential School...



Westend Heights. In an attempt to address the issue, MCG had placed a trolley at the site for garbage collection. However, residents said the trolley too, was not being cleared regularly...

health and the health of our children. There are many residential societies here, and a school. The MCG need to step up and ensure proper garbage collection for the nearby colonies.

Stubble burning on the rise, DM tells team to reach out to farmers in Noida

Noida. The district magistrate directed officials on Saturday to conduct initiatives aimed at preventing stubble burning, with a particular emphasis on rural regions.

Only ones to clean banks of Yamuna are citizens' groups

Noida. On Oct 2, which is also marked as Swachhta Diwas, a citizens' group met near the banks of the Yamuna at Kalindi Kunj with gloves, bags and brooms. Over the next few hours, they collected all kinds of garbage...

A grid of public notices and name change announcements, including details for individuals like Anil Vaidya, Asha Devi, and others, with their respective addresses and the nature of their legal notices.

A grid of public notices and name change announcements, including details for individuals like Zeenat W/o Mehbub Ali, Mohd Shoaib, and others, with their respective addresses and the nature of their legal notices.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE. Invitation of Tenders through E-Procurement System. Principal Chief Materials Manager, Northern Railway, New Delhi-110001, for and on behalf of the President of India...

NEWS BOX

3 killed as Israeli air strikes hit tents of displaced people in Gaza

Cairo. Israeli forces widened their raid into northern Gaza and tanks reached the north edge of Gaza City, pounding some districts of the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood and forcing many families to leave their homes, residents said. In the early hours of Monday, an Israeli air strike killed three people and wounded 40 others when it hit some tents of displaced Palestinians inside Al-Aqsa Hospital in the central Gaza Strip city of Deir al-Balah, where a million people were sheltering, medics said. Footage circulated on social media, which Reuters couldn't immediately verify, showed several tents were set ablaze as some Palestinians tried helplessly to put out the fire. The Israeli military said it struck militants operating from a command centre inside the compound, accusing Hamas of using civilian facilities such as hospitals for military purposes, which Hamas denies.

Residents said Israeli forces had effectively isolated Beit Hanoun, Jabalia, and Beit Lahiya in the far north of the enclave from Gaza City, blocking access between the two areas except upon permission for families willing to heed evacuation orders and leave the three towns. Nine days into a major Israeli operation in northern Gaza, the Hamas-run Gaza government media office said Israeli strikes had killed around 300 Palestinians there.

China begins military drills near Taiwan, calls it warning to 'separatist acts'

Taipei. China's military started a new round of war games near Taiwan on Monday, saying it was a warning to the "separatist acts of Taiwan independence forces", and offered no date for when they may conclude, drawing condemnation from Taipei's government.

Democratically governed Taiwan, which China views as its own territory, had been on alert for more war games since last week's national day speech by President Lai Ching-te, an address Beijing condemned after Lai said China had no right to represent Taiwan even as he offered to cooperate with Beijing. The Chinese military's Eastern Theatre Command said the "Joint Sword-2024B" drills were taking place in the Taiwan Strait and areas to the north, south and east of Taiwan. "The drill also serves as a stern warning to the separatist acts of Taiwan independence forces. It is a legitimate and necessary operation for safeguarding state sovereignty and national unity," it said in a statement carried both in Chinese and English.

The command published a map showing nine areas around Taiwan where the drills were taking place - two on the island's east coast, three on the west coast, one to the north and three around Taiwan-controlled islands next to the Chinese coast. Chinese ships and aircraft are approaching Taiwan in "close proximity from different directions", focusing on sea-air combat-readiness patrols, blockading key ports and areas, assaulting maritime and ground targets and "joint seizure of comprehensive superiority", the command said. However, it did not announce any live-fire exercises or any no fly areas. In 2022, shortly after then-U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan, China fired missiles over the island. In rare operations, China's coast guard circled Taiwan and staged "law enforcement" patrols close to Taiwan's offshore islands, according to Chinese state media. Taiwan's China policy making Mainland Affairs Council said that China's latest war games and refusal to renounce the use of force were "blatant provocations" that seriously undermined regional peace and stability.

26 poorest countries in worst financial shape since 2006: World Bank

Washington DC The world's 26 poorest countries, home to 40 per cent of the most poverty-stricken people, are more in debt than at any time since 2006 and increasingly vulnerable to natural disasters and other shocks, a new World Bank report showed on Sunday.

The report finds that these economies are poorer today on average than they were on the eve of the Covid-19 pandemic, even as the rest of the world has largely recovered from Covid and resumed its growth trajectory. Released a week before World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings get underway in Washington, the report confirms a major setback to efforts to eradicate extreme poverty and underscores the World Bank's efforts this year to raise \$100 billion to replenish its financing fund for the world's poorest countries, the International Development Association (IDA). The 26 poorest economies studied, which have annual per-capita incomes of less than \$1,145, are increasingly reliant on IDA grants and near-zero interest rate loans as market financing has largely dried up, the World Bank said. Their average debt-to-GDP ratio of 72 per cent is at an 18-year high and half of the group are either in debt distress or at high risk of it.

Two thirds of the 26 poorest countries are either in armed conflicts or have difficulty maintaining order because of institutional and social fragility, which inhibit foreign investment, and nearly all export commodities, exposing them to frequent boom-and-bust cycles, the report said. "At a time when much of the world simply backed away from the poorest countries, IDA has been their lifeline," World Bank chief economist Indermit Gill said in a statement.

"Over the past five years, it has poured most of its financial resources into the 26 low-income economies, keeping them afloat through the historic setbacks they suffered." IDA normally is replenished every three years with contributions from World Bank shareholder countries. It raised a record \$93 billion in 2021 and World Bank President Ajay Banga is aiming to exceed that with over \$100 billion in pledges by December 6. Natural disasters also have taken a greater toll on these countries over the past decade. Between 2011 and 2023, natural disasters were associated with average annual losses of 2 per cent of GDP, five times the average among lower-middle-income countries, pointing up the need for much higher investment, the World Bank said.

McDonald's worker fails to recognise Bill Clinton. What happened next

While campaigning for Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris in Georgia, former President Bill Clinton stepped into a McDonald's, only to find the employee at the counter failing to recognise him.



World Former US President Bill Clinton surprised both staff and customers during a campaign stop for Democratic presidential nominee Kamala Harris in Georgia, when he walked into a local McDonald's. Dressed casually in jeans and a bomber jacket, Clinton, once the most powerful man in the world, faced an unexpected situation when the employee

at the counter initially failed to recognise him. As Clinton approached the counter, the worker stared, trying to place the familiar face. Taking the confusion in stride, the 78-year-old Democrat extended his hand in greeting. While other employees quickly realised who he was, some pulling out their phones to capture

the moment, Clinton kept his focus on the puzzled staff member. After a few moments, it clicked, and the woman behind the counter beamed, exclaiming, "Oh my god!" before enthusiastically hugging the ex-president. What could have been an awkward encounter quickly became heartwarming, as more phones

appeared for photos, and laughter filled the restaurant. One person in the background was heard saying, "This is huge, y'all!" A video of the incident was posted on X by Clinton's deputy chief of staff. Clinton's visit to McDonald's revived memories of his well-known fondness for the fast-food chain in his younger years. The Golden Arches was a frequent stop for him during his presidency. He revisited the theme during his speech at the Democratic National Convention in August, when he joked about Kamala Harris, who worked at the Golden Arches in her teens, potentially breaking his record for the president who spent the most time at McDonald's. The former president's love for McDonald's was famously parodied on 'Saturday Night Live', with comedian Phil Hartman portraying Clinton in a famous skit where he ate customers' food while cracking jokes. Clinton has since traded in burgers and fries for a mostly vegan diet following his quadruple-bypass surgery, according to The Washington Post.

Trump vows to hire 10,000 extra border patrol agents if re-elected in November

Washington Donald Trump pledged on Sunday to hire an extra 10,000 border patrol agents if he is re-elected as president, as he intensifies his attacks on Kamala Harris on the issue of immigration. The Republican presidential candidate said he would meet the goal by asking the US Congress to fund a 10 per cent pay rise for border patrol agents and a \$10,000 retention and signing bonus, at a rally in the border state of Arizona, an election battleground. Flanked on stage by leaders of the Border Patrol union, who have endorsed Trump, the former president said: "This will ensure that we can hire and keep the Border Patrol agents that we need." Trump is locked in a close race with Democratic Vice President Harris ahead of the November 5 election. Illegal immigration is a top voter concern, and Trump is seen by a majority of voters as the person best able to address it, opinion polls show. Trump helped kill a bipartisan border security bill earlier this year that would have funded the



hiring of 1,500 extra customs and border patrol agents, and an additional 1,600 asylum officers. There are currently roughly 20,000 US border patrol officers. Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate, and President Joe Biden have both blasted Trump for his role in pressuring congressional Republicans to kill the bipartisan border security bill, accusing him of sabotaging it for political gain. Some 7 million migrants have been arrested crossing the US-Mexico border illegally during Biden's administration, according to government data, a record high number that has fueled criticism of Harris and Biden from Trump and

fellow Republicans. Harris has outlined her plans to fix "our broken immigration system" while accusing Trump of "fanning the flames of fear and division" over the impact of immigrants on American life. Harris has also called for tighter asylum restrictions and vowed to make a "top priority" of stopping the deadly opioid fentanyl from entering the United States. On Friday Trump called for the death penalty for "any migrant" who kills a US citizen. Trump has noticeably hardened his anti-immigration rhetoric in the final weeks of the campaign. Last month he called immigrants in the US illegally who commit violent crimes "monsters," "stone-cold killers" and "vile animals." Studies generally find there is no evidence immigrants commit crimes at a higher rate than native-born Americans and critics say Trump's rhetoric reinforces racist tropes.

Zelenskyy accuses North Korea of sending troops, weapons to Russia

Kyiv Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused North Korea on Sunday of sending troops to Russia's army and once again appealed for more support to prevent "a bigger war". Zelenskyy's comments came days after visiting several European capitals to press his case for more military and financial help in the war against invading Russian forces. "We see an increasing alliance between Russia and regimes like in North Korea," Zelenskyy said in his evening address. "It is no longer just about transferring weapons. It is actually about the transfer of people from North Korea to the occupier's military forces." "Obviously, in such circumstances, our relations with our partners need to be developed. The frontline needs more support," he

said. "When we talk about more long-range capability for Ukraine and more decisive supplies for our forces, it is not just a list of military equipment," Zelenskyy said in Sunday's address. "It is about increasing the pressure on the aggressor, which will be stronger for Russia than they can withstand. And it is about preventing a bigger war."

Zelenskyy completed a whirlwind tour of European capitals last week including Berlin, London, Paris and Rome to ask for sustained military aid as Russia's invasion of Ukraine grinds on through its third year. Biden expected in Europe. Those trips were organised at the last minute after US President Joe Biden postponed a trip to Germany originally due last week, to oversee preparations to deal with Hurricane Milton as it approached Florida. Biden's visit was to have

included attending a meeting of more than 50 of Ukraine's allies to discuss further support for Kyiv, at which Zelenskyy had been expected. A German government source said Sunday that Biden was now set to visit this coming Friday for one day, with Ukraine and the Middle East expected to be high on the agenda. Earlier Sunday, Russia said it had captured another east Ukrainian village as it closes on the important city of Pokrovsk, where its forces have been advancing for weeks.

Russian troops have moved westward in the Donetsk region for months, with Kyiv saying this weekend that the situation was "very difficult". Moscow's defence ministry said its forces had now taken Mykhailivka, at the gates of the town of Selydove, and south of Pokrovsk.

Netanyahu considers 'surrender or starve' plan for northern Gaza: Report

World Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Sunday that Israel's military operations are intensifying in northern Gaza's Jabalia, with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) urging civilians to evacuate and move south. New reports suggest that this may be the precursor to a contentious plan to seal off humanitarian aid to the region, a strategy aimed at starving out Hamas militants but which could trap hundreds of thousands of Palestinians without food or water. The plan, proposed to Netanyahu and the Israeli parliament by a group of retired generals and accessed by news agency The Associated Press, would give Palestinians in the northern third of the Gaza Strip, including Gaza City, a week to evacuate before declaring the area a closed military zone.

Those who remain would be considered combatants, subject to military regulations that allow troops to kill them, and would be denied essential supplies such as food, water, medicine, and fuel. Dubbed the 'Generals' Plan', this strategy is designed to dismantle Hamas leadership and break the armed group's grip on northern Gaza by creating unbearable conditions for the civilian population. The plan's chief architect, Giora Eiland, a former head of the National Security Council, believes this is the only way to end the year-long war and pressure Hamas to release the remaining Israeli hostages. Since we already encircled the northern part of Gaza in the past nine or 10 months, what we should do is to tell all the 300,000 residents [estimated by the UN to be 400,000] who still live in the northern part of Gaza that they have to leave this area, and they should be given 10 days to leave through safe corridors that Israel will provide," Eiland told the BBC. "And after that time, all this area will become a military zone. All remaining Hamas fighters or civilians will have two choices: either surrender or starve," he said.

Plan on the anvil?

Despite the detailed proposal, it remains unclear if the Israeli government will adopt the so-called 'Generals' Plan. When asked by AP whether the recent evacuation orders in northern Gaza were part of this strategy, Israeli military spokesperson Lt Col Nadav Shoshani denied the connection, saying, "We have not received a plan like that." However, an official with knowledge of the matter told AP that some parts of the plan were already being implemented, though they did not specify which. Another Israeli official AP spoke to confirmed that Netanyahu had reviewed the plan, along with other proposals that had been presented during the conflict, but gave no indication of whether it had been approved. However, it appears that Israel is already tightening the noose around northern Gaza.

Kamala Harris slams Trump for spreading misinformation about hurricane response

Greenville Kamala Harris used an appearance Sunday before a largely Black church audience in battleground North Carolina to call out Donald Trump for spreading misinformation about the government's hurricane response. President Joe Biden visited Florida for the second time this month to survey storm damage. Harris, the Democratic presidential nominee, did not speak Trump's name, but he is most prominent among those promoting false claims about the Biden administration's response to Hurricanes Milton and Helene. Florida was in the path of both storms, with Helene also hitting North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, while Milton headed for the open Atlantic. "Yet, church, there are some who are not acting in the spirit of community, and I am speaking of those who have been literally not telling the truth, lying about people who are working hard to help the folks in need, spreading disinformation when the truth and facts are required," Harris said.

"The problem with this, beyond the obvious, is it's making it harder, then, to get people life-saving information if they're led to believe they cannot trust,"

she said. "And that's the pain of it all, which is the idea that those who are in need have somehow been convinced that the forces are working against them in a way that they would not seek aid." Harris said they are trying "to gain some advantage for themselves, to play politics with other people's heart break, and it is unconscionable," she said. "Now is not a time to incite fear. It is not right to make people feel alone." "That is not what leaders, as we know, do in crisis," she said. Trump made a series of false claims after Helene struck in late September, including saying that Washington was intentionally withholding aid from Republicans in need across the Southeast. The former president falsely claimed the Federal Emergency Management Agency had run out of money to help them because it was spent on programs to help immigrants who are in the United States illegally. He pressed that argument on Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," saying the White House response was "absolutely terrible" and repeating the claim about FEMA's dollars. "It came out from there and everybody knew it," Trump said in an interview that was taped

Thursday and broadcast Sunday. Before Harris spoke in church, Biden was surveying hurricane damage on a helicopter flight between Tampa and St. Pete Beach on the Gulf Coast. From the air, he saw the torn-up roof of Tropicana



Field, home of the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team. On the ground, the president saw waterlogged household furnishings piled up outside flooded homes. Some houses had collapsed. The president said he was thankful that Milton was not as bad as officials had anticipated, but that it still was a "cataclysmic" event for many people, including those who lost irreplaceable personal items. He also

praised the first responders, some of whom had come from Canada. "It's in moments like this we come together to take care of each other, not as Democrats or Republicans, but as Americans," Biden said after he was briefed by federal, state and local officials, and met some residents and responders. "We are one United States, one United States." Harris opened her second day in North Carolina by speaking at the Christian center in Greenville, part of her campaign's "Souls to the Polls" effort to help turn out Black churchgoers before the November 5 election.

The vice president later spoke to roughly 7,000 supporters at a Sunday afternoon rally at East Carolina University's arena, suggesting that Trump's team has stopped him from releasing medical records or debating her again because they might be "afraid that people will see that he is too weak and unstable." The North Carolina appearances mark the start of a week that will find Harris working to shore up support among Black voters, a key constituency for the Democratic Party.

News box

SC tells builder to pay buyer Rs 6.8 crore

BENGALURU. In a major boost to home buyers struggling to receive their homes within the promised deadlines, the Supreme Court recently ordered a Bengaluru-based builder to reimburse the full amount of Rs 6.86 crore paid by a buyer, along with an annual interest of 9% from 2015 until 2024. The project, Windmills of Your Mind, is located in the EPIP Zone in Whitefield. The verdict favors buyer Monica Bansal, who paid for an apartment unit on February 23, 2015. Builder Total Environment Building Systems Pvt Ltd has been ordered to compensate her for a delay of over three years in handing over the project.

The court upheld the order of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, New Delhi, which awarded compensation to Bansal on March 27, 2024. The builder had approached the apex court on July 12, 2024, challenging the commission's order.

The initial handover date, according to the agreement, was July 30, 2016. The first extended date given by the builder for possession was January 31, 2017, which was also not honored. The commission noted that Bansal had paid more than 90% of the cost of the flat and that the buyer's choice for customization cannot justify the delay of over three years.

In their opinion, the defaulting builder cannot rely on the acquiescence of the allottee to justify or mitigate the consequences of the delay in handing over possession, as the prime consideration for the allottee is the safety of their investment, not their lack of objection. Documents reveal that the first offer of possession made by the builder was as late as July 22, 2020, after obtaining the occupancy certificate on February 1, 2019.

GHMC'S Rs 144 crore dues pushes EESL into crisis

HYDERABAD. The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power, is facing a severe financial crisis due to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) defaulting on payments amounting to Rs 144.48 crore.

"Despite the financial challenges posed by GHMC's delayed payments, EESL remains committed to serving Hyderabad. However, for the long-term sustainability of the project, the GHMC must fulfil its contractual obligations. We urge the GHMC to release the pending dues promptly to help us improve the city's lighting infrastructure and meet the growing demands," said Ramesh T, EESL state head. The withheld payments, including those for streetlight maintenance, energy savings and penalties, have hampered EESL's financial stability, officials said, adding that the delays have affected the project's viability and threatened the company's capacity to sustain operations in Hyderabad.

Sources said that though EESL's contract runs until April 2025, the GHMC has issued a tender for the procurement of 15,000 new streetlights, costing Rs 3 crore, without clearing EESL's dues. This move is not due to any performance issues, as EESL has been consistently maintaining the city's streetlights and resolving complaints. Instead, the delay is attributed to GHMC's failure to reconcile and settle the pending payments, they added.

EESL operates under the Energy Service Company (ESCO) model, wherein it made the upfront investment, expecting monthly repayments from GHMC to cover both capital and operational costs. Despite the significant delays in payments, EESL has ensured public safety by addressing 98.9% of the 2,18,422 complaints received over the past eight months, officials said.

Third day of Nari Shakti captivates audience in Vijayawada

VIJAYAWADA. On the third day of the Nari Shakti Vijayotsavam celebrations at Babburi Grounds, Punnami Ghat, the audience was captivated by a series of enchanting cultural performances. The event, held on Sunday, was filled with spiritual grandeur and showcased a variety of traditional arts that left spectators in awe. A highlight was the 'Kommu Dolu' dance, a signature performance of the Koya tribe. Dancers, adorned with buffalo horns on their heads and large drums around their necks, performed the rhythmic chant of 'Rela.' Men and women of all ages joined hands and moved in sync, as drummers used sticks and their hands to beat the drums. Adding to the spectacle were Poturaju's dynamic Vinyasalu and Shivasattu's lively 'Poonakala Vinyasas,' folk artists further energised the crowd with traditional drum dances, a practice with deep roots in local heritage. Performers also formed impressive pyramids and sang folk and devotional songs, creating an electric atmosphere. The combination of rhythmic drumming and graceful dancing left the hundreds of audience thoroughly mesmerised.

Ahmedabad scientist reaches for Jupiter's moon to study its surface features

AHMEDABAD. As Nasa readies for its ambitious journey spanning millions of kilometres into the solar system to study Jupiter's moon, Europa on Monday, a name among those making it possible comes from the city's terra firma. On the Europa Clipper Mission's science team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) that manages missions for Nasa is Rutu Parekh, a post-doctoral fellow, who calls Ahmedabad her home. Parekh is an alumna of St Xavier's College and Cept University in the city for BSc and MSc courses whose journey into planetary science began with an internship at the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL).

Artist's impression of Europa Clipper above Jupiter's moon Europa in an email interview with TOI, Parekh, a post-doctoral fellow working on the mission to find 'ingredients of life' on the moon, spoke about her contribution and why the interplanetary mission is an important one for mankind. "For the past two years, I have closely

collaborated with the project science team. My research focuses on studying the small-scale surface features of Europa and other icy worlds in our solar system and beyond, with the aim of understanding the surface and near-surface conditions on Europa," she said. "Mission will deliver insights into Europa's habitability"

Rutu Parekh, who earned her doctoral degree in planetary science from the Freie University of Berlin and German Aerospace Center (DLR), Germany, said that Europa is thought to conceal a vast subsurface ocean beneath its icy crust, potentially providing a stable environment for life.

And Europa Clipper, Nasa's largest spacecraft, is expected to reach its destination by 2030 and perform a series of fly-bys to understand the composition of the icy moon, which is slightly smaller than Earth's moon, to unravel its mysteries. "The Europa Clipper mission is poised to deliver



crucial insights into the moon's composition, geology and habitability, offering invaluable clues about the existence of habitable zones beyond Earth. This mission will not only deepen our understanding of Europa but will also shed light on the broader dynamics of icy moons, with implications for other Jovian moons such as Ganymede and Callisto, as well as Saturn's Enceladus," said Parekh. The

mission will pave the way for future explorations, including landers that can investigate the surface up close, she added. She said that Europa Clipper is pushing the boundaries of our knowledge about planetary formation, evolution, and the potential for habitable regions elsewhere in the solar system.

A Chevening Scholar, Parekh was supported by the German Academic Exchange Service for her PhD.

Some of her early associations include MASCOT (Mobile Asteroid Surface Scout) Lander for the Hayabusa2 mission, and the Dawn Mission to Vesta and Ceres in the asteroid belt, among others. The mission's official launch date of Oct 10 was postponed due to Hurricane Milton. Nasa's website indicates that the launch is no earlier than 12:00 pm Eastern Daylight-Saving Time (EDT) on Monday, Oct 14.

Vizhinjam port set to launch commercial operations on December 3

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The government is preparing to move forward with the commissioning of the first phase of the Vizhinjam International Seaport Ltd (VISL) for commercial operation on December 3, following successful trial runs. A final decision will be made in consultation with Adani Vizhinjam Port Pvt Ltd, said officials. They said that port operations have advanced significantly during the trial period, and an announcement regarding the commissioning is expected soon.

The trial operations of the port began in July with the successful berthing of a mothership named San Fernando. Since then, the port has welcomed 20 ships.

VISL, India's first semi-automated container port, demonstrated its capabilities by unloading over 60,503 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) of cargo from the ship.



The port set a new record by handling 10,330 TEUs in a single vessel exchange with MSC ANNA, one of the largest container ships in the world, earlier this month. The most recent ship to berth was MSC LISBON, which departed the port on Sunday. The VISL is equipped with eight ship-to-shore cranes, including the largest in the category (1,620-tonne) in the country, and 23-yard cranes. The ship-to-shore cranes are used to lift the containers from the ship and place them in the

terminal track. Additionally, the port has received regular International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code certification, solidifying its status as a secure hub for global maritime trade. ISPS approval is mandatory for the service of international vessels.

The permanent certification follows provisional approval granted in March. The marine merchant department, part of the Centre's Ministry of Shipping and Ports, issued the certification in accordance with the International Maritime Organisation, a specialised agency of the UN. Recently, the port also obtained its navigational chart from the National Hydrographic Office, which serves as an authoritative guide containing safety information and other documents for ships.

Six held for raping woman, daughter-in-law in Andhra Pradesh

ANANTAPUR. The Sri Satya Sai district police on Sunday detained six suspects in connection with the alleged gang-rape of a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law at Nallabommanipalle village in Chilmathur Mandal. The incident took place in the early hours of Saturday when armed assailants, under the influence of alcohol and drugs, attacked a family of watchmen. The father and son were overpowered and threatened with a knife, while the women were sexually assaulted in front of them.

The victims' family, originally from Bellary of Karnataka, had come to Nallabommanipalle to work as security guards at a carton factory under



construction. The suspects, including three minors, reportedly attempted to rob the factory before committing the heinous crime. The minors, known for their involvement in petty crimes and substance abuse, were arrested along with the others following a swift police

investigation. Local authorities, including Sri Satya Sai district Superintendent of Police (SP) V Ratna, confirmed that the victims were receiving medical treatment and their condition was stable. The crime has ignited outrage throughout the State, with public protests demanding justice. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, took immediate action by reviewing the investigation's progress and instructing police to expedite the arrests. Handlooms & Textiles Minister S Savitha, Hindupur MP BK Parthasarathi and MLA Nandamuri Balakrishna also urged the police to ensure the culprits face justice. Special police teams were formed to locate the suspects and.

Tamil Nadu: Marriage certificate comes in way of removing name from ration card

CHENNAI. The food and civil services department's move to strictly enforce the submission of marriage or death certificate, along with field verification, to remove names from ration cards has resulted in hundreds of such applications being rejected across the state, while more people are facing months-long delays. The woman heads of several households are facing similar delays in obtaining new ration cards that are mandatory to qualify for the monthly assistance under the Magalir Urimai Thogai Scheme. Meanwhile, the department after a year-long halt has resumed issuing new ration cards; out of the 2.9 lakh applications received since 2023, 1.3 lakh new cards have been issued. Despite officials remaining tight-lipped about the enforcement of said regulations, it has come to light that errors while submitting Aadhaar details to obtain

death certificates had led to the removal of the names of people who are still alive. Taking such issues into account, the department has mandated field verification to remove names from the ration cards because of marriage or death. Further, in the case of marriages, the department has stopped removing names unless a marriage registration certificate is submitted. Although said procedures have existed for years, they were not strictly adhered to, with names being previously removed based on just the submission of death or marriage certificates; wedding photographs were accepted in the past as a substitute for marriage certificates. Only marriage certificates are accepted to access ration commodities. An official clarified that only marriage registration certificates are accepted now, except in the case of divorce



or adoption. A few consumer activists noted that, in some instances, family members removed their children's names over personal disputes. A section of applicants from Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram told TNIE that their applications were rejected as they had not submitted marriage certificates. "I got married four years ago. When I

applied online, they asked for a marriage registration certificate. My siblings, however, removed their names and obtained new ration cards without it," said a resident of Tiruvallur. Tamil Nadu Progressive Consumers' Centre president T Sadagopan pointed out, "Marriage registration certificates were never listed as an essential document under the Citizen's Charter for consumers to access ration commodities. The sudden enforcement is causing hardship for applicants." Commissioner of Civil Supplies & Consumer Protection D Mohan said that, sometimes, many applicants belonging to the same household apply for name removal to obtain separate ration cards. "As such requests have increased, we now require marriage registration certificates. However, we do not insist from tribal and.

Telangana: Customers outraged after finding centipede in idli



JAGTIAL. A centipede was allegedly discovered in an idli served to customers purchased from Ganesh Bhavan Udipi Hotel on Sunday. After having breakfast at the eatery, a couple ordered a plate of idli for their child. Upon opening the package at their residence, they

discovered the centipede in the food, sources said.

Outraged, the couple returned to the eatery with the idli and confronted the management. They also accused the staff of misbehaving during the argument. In response, the hotel management attempted to dispose of the remaining idlis in a garbage tractor, but the couple intervened and reported the matter to the municipal authorities, the sources added. The municipal officials arrived at the hotel, cleared out the remaining customers, imposed a fine and temporarily sealed the establishment. A brief period of chaos ensued at the hotel premises following the incident. Several customers, who had come for breakfast, later filed a complaint with Jagtial police against the hotel management, alleging poor attitude and misconduct.

This incident comes in the wake of inspections conducted by the Food Safety Wing's special task force team in various hotels in Karimnagar on Friday and Saturday. The inspections, which included Maitri Hotel and Mitai Wala Sweet House.

Greater Chennai Corporation pulls out all the stops as rainfall to get head start

CHENNAI. In the wake of the meteorological department issuing an orange alert for the city for Tuesday, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) announced that it has readied pumps and tractors for responding to any eventuality. Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin visited the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) at Ripon Building on Sunday to review the city's monsoon preparedness.

The GCC has deployed 10 tractor pumps in Zone 6 and over 400 tractor pumps have been sent to various parts of the city to provide assistance in the event of waterlogging or flooding. In addition, a total of 133 locations

across the city have been equipped with 100-HP motor pumps to facilitate water evacuation. After inspecting the monsoon preparation, Udhaya addressed complaints received through the 1913 helpline, instructing officials to take immediate action. He also followed up on previous complaints by directly interacting with the public through phone calls. Speaking to mediapersons, he said, "According to warnings from the IMD, heavy rainfall exceeding 20 cm is expected in Tamil Nadu in the coming days. We are taking all necessary precautionary measures to protect the lives and properties of the public, as a priority."

Consumer Rights: Not so intelligent chatbots

I have yet to come across consumers who do not have a complaint about chatbots that are being increasingly deployed by e-commerce sites to deal with customer queries and complaints.

Initially, compared to the highly frustrating experience of going through complex and lengthy Interactive Voice Response (IVR) menus to speak to a customer care executive, artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted automated chats seemed like a welcome change, given their quick and easy accessibility. However, poorly designed and executed chatbots that fail to answer queries or resolve complaints have left consumers totally disappointed and angry. First and foremost, most of these chatbots are not programmed to deal with a wide range of problems that consumers encounter in their transactions on e-commerce sites. Yet, businesses force consumers to go through that frustrating experience, before connecting them to a human being, thereby wasting the time of consumers. Under the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, every e-commerce entity must display prominently the email address, landline and mobile numbers of customer care as well as grievance officers. But many are violating this mandate with impunity.

In a case where a wrong product was delivered to a customer, the only answer she could get from the chatbot was that it was a 'non-returnable item'. That may be so, but she had not got what she had ordered and there was no way of communicating this on the chat. It was only after wasting considerable time that she got a phone call from a consumer care executive. She later learnt that the phone number from which she got a call was programmed to only make calls and not receive calls. The e-commerce entity practically barred consumers from calling them! In another case where the chatbot provided by a bank could not answer her query, the consumer asked for the helpline number on which she could speak to an official. The repeated response was: "Sorry, I am still learning. Can you please rephrase it for me once again? I can help you with bank-related queries!" A consumer found on an online clothes retailer website that the default option for payment was through cash on delivery. Since he could not locate the option to pay through credit card, he tried the chatbot for help. It did not even understand his query.

Chatbots are also known to 'hallucinate' or give incorrect information. In the United States, where many companies are using chatbots endowed with advanced AI technologies, there have been instances of companies withdrawing them following highly erroneous advice or use of profanities. A parcel delivery firm in Britain, for example, disabled the AI function in its online chat system after a customer, frustrated by its poor responses, made it compose a poem on how bad the company's customer service was!

In February, Air Canada was held liable for the incorrect information on a discount claim given by its chatbot to a customer. It was asked to pay him \$812 by a civil resolution tribunal in Canada.

Last year, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in the United States issued a warning against advanced AI chatbots being used by banks and said they posed the risk of providing inaccurate financial information, besides affecting customer privacy and data protection.

In the absence of proper encryption, authentication and authorisation, chatbots can also inject malware or ransomware into the users' devices. Companies must pay more attention to what consumers want, give them an option to choose an automated or human interaction and not force chatbots as the primary customer service delivery channel. Chatbots may save them money, but they will also take away customers!

Shrinking habitat of markhor, the shy wild goat

Markhor (*Capra falconeri*), known for its spiralled horns, quietly roams the rugged mountains in the landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir. Known for its grace and strength, the markhor is more than just a wild goat — it's a symbol of...

Markhor (*Capra falconeri*), known for its spiralled horns, quietly roams the rugged mountains in the landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir. Known for its grace and strength, the markhor is more than just a wild goat — it's a symbol of the region's natural beauty, biodiversity and heritage. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), markhors are found in Afghanistan, India, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, between the altitudes of 600m and 3600m. However, due to habitat loss, illegal hunting and climate change, the markhor was classified earlier as 'Endangered' and later, in 2015, as 'Near Threatened' by the IUCN.

The future of markhor isn't just about conservation — it's also about the people who live alongside it, the pastoralist communities whose lives are intertwined with these mountains and valleys. For centuries, the pastoralist communities, the traditional herders of this region, have shared the landscape with the markhor. Moving seasonally with their livestock, these pastoralists knew the land, the wildlife and the rhythms of nature. The markhor found refuge in the high altitudes of the Pir Panjal range, in areas like Hirpora, Tattakutti, Tosamaidan and Kazinag National Park. The relationship between these communities and the wild was one of coexistence — each respecting the other's space.

But times have changed. Roads have been cut through the mountains, high-tension power lines pass through the wildlife sanctuaries and due to the armed conflict in the region, the markhor's habitat is shrinking. The population of the markhor has also been significantly impacted by poaching for their prized horns. Various conservation efforts are in place like the Markhor Recovery programmes run by the J&K Government, beside initiatives from organisations like the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), WWF India, and the School for Rural Development and Environment (SRDE). While legal protection and conservation efforts have helped stabilise numbers, poaching and habitat destruction still pose a significant threat. Conservative estimates put the population of the markhor at around 350. Yet, the pastoralists who know these mountains believe the numbers are higher, possibly over 500.

Says Shamim Ahmed, conservation officer at SRDE, "Pastoralists play a crucial role in conservation. Through awareness of wildlife laws, sustainable



herding practices and community-tourism initiatives, they gain new income opportunities and incentives to protect the land and the wildlife. It's not just about saving the markhor — it's about empowering communities to preserve their heritage." His words resonate with local leaders like Samir Khazir, a sociologist with WTI, who emphasises the role of the community: "Conservation isn't just about the animal — it's about the people who live here, who understand the land in ways outsiders can't."

Yet, challenges remain. The installation of concrete fences, barbed wire and landmines blocks the natural movement of wildlife, putting animals like the markhor at risk. The NHPC high-tension power lines through markhor habitats only add to the disruption, not just fragmenting the landscape but also introducing noise and pollution, further disturbing these already shy animals. Climate change threatens the markhor by pushing them to higher altitudes where food is scarce. The herding communities, too, feel the pressure. With development projects shrinking their pastures, they are forced higher into the mountains, into the markhor's territory. As the line between human and wildlife space blurs, so do the chances of conflict.

The markhor competes with livestock for grazing land, and although poaching has decreased, it's still a threat, especially in the remote areas where law enforcement is weak. In a region long troubled by political instability, conservation often takes a backseat. Resources that could be used to protect wildlife are diverted elsewhere, leaving both the markhor and the communities that rely on the land vulnerable. Dr Sajjad Shafi, the newly elected MLA from Uri, understands the delicate balance. "Uri's biodiversity is fragile," he says, "and my focus will be on conserving wildlife like the markhor and ensuring peaceful coexistence between people and nature."

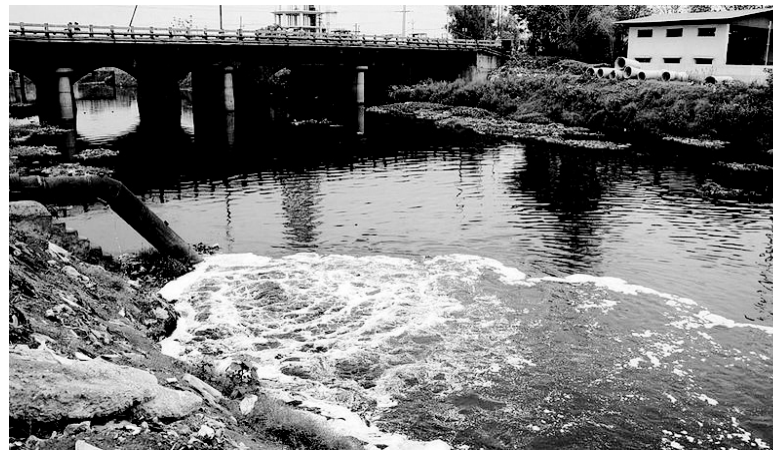
There's hope for both the markhor and local communities through climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Wildlife-friendly infrastructure — designed with corridors for animals — can ease pressure on the markhor's habitat by allowing them to move freely and safely. Sustainable livestock practices, like rotational grazing and creating new pastures, would reduce the competition between the herders and wildlife. These efforts will not only protect the markhor, but also support local livelihoods, ensuring that both wildlife and the communities can thrive together.

Save Buddha Nullah

Turn rejuvenation plans into reality

THE recent review of the Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project underscores the urgent need to restore this vital waterway. A tributary of the Sutlej river flowing through Ludhiana, it has long been a significant resource for the region. However, rampant pollution has turned it into a toxic drain, threatening both public health and the environment. The Central and state governments' commitment of Rs 840 crore to rejuvenate the nullah is promising, yet progress has been sluggish, with pollution sources still unchecked. Industrial waste from Ludhiana's dyeing units, untreated sewage and solid waste have severely polluted the nullah.

One major problem is the lax enforcement of pollution control regulations. Although the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) recently ordered three common effluent treatment plants to stop discharging into Buddha Nullah, compliance remains spotty. These facilities continue to disregard the ZLD (zero liquid discharge) mandate, and over 120 pollution



points remain unchecked, adding to the degradation. A recent decision to form a joint task force by the Centre and the Punjab Government is a step in the right direction. This team of experts is set to inspect critical pollution

points, address infrastructure gaps and recommend long-term solutions. This collaborative approach underscores that restoring the nullah requires strict oversight, improved waste management and community involvement.

The situation is critical. For the residents of Ludhiana and surrounding areas, the pollution in the nullah results in contaminated drinking water, increased health risks and degraded agricultural lands. Civil society and environmental groups have advocated for stronger pollution controls, immediate action at the pollution sources and public awareness on waste management. The Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project represents an opportunity to reverse years of environmental degradation. This lifeline must be restored to its pristine state so it can again support the ecosystem and serve the people sustainably.

Touchstones: Powerful, innocent promises

If only we could learn to listen to the voices that hesitate to speak loudly, what a great country we could be

I am no historian, economist or political scientist. However, I do have a good memory (even at 73) and can remember almost all that happened to fashion my life in these seven decades. My friends call me a storehouse of useless information and although they don't always mean that as an acknowledgement of my powers of recall, I take it as a compliment. So, I am currently writing a book to document all the trivia that has a history of its own and that links others of my generation to a galaxy that is light years away from the globalised world that has rendered faceless, or useless, all those who are not connected digitally.

The '50s and '60s were the foundational decades of our country as we know it now. Moreover, for those like me, who were born then, it went along with a way of life and an upbringing that left a deep imprint on each one of us. Everything that is still good in this country dates to that time, but all that eventually derailed the innocent promises of that age can also be traced back to those decades. My birth in 1951 was the year when India had just been given its Constitution. So, I like to believe that the values that it was founded on were also the same that were instilled in us as my generation grew up. Today, when I look around, I find that all those who stand up for those moral values belong to that age group. You will find them in each public demonstration against the erosion of human rights, the division of this country on the basis of caste and creed, the centralisation of power and the snuffing of weak voices.

This is, of course, a romantic view and peculiar to a certain section of the upper middle class, who had a long history of a liberal education behind them but who lived modest lives. In the small towns of Uttar Pradesh, this meant that we were products of a mix of Hindi medium and English medium education. We went to posh missionary schools that still taught us



British rather than Indian history, prayed in chapels and abided by the rules of a Christian way of life. At home, our lives were different: we spoke in our own tongues, had pet names such as Chhotu and Motu that we hid from our school friends. Our mothers had a strong belief in religion and taught us prayers such as the Durga Saptashati and the Shiv Pancharatnam sloka, while at school we started the day with the Lord's Prayer, said Hail Marys and prayed to St Jude, hope of the hopeless. At home, St Jude was replaced by the Hanuman Chalisa. That is probably how we grew up, firmly anchored in our secular world.

As I remember that time now, our day began with the prayers my mother recited as she did her morning rituals, then walked to school and stood still at noon as the chapel bell rang for the Angelus and Benediction. And when we went out to play after school and homework was done, my mother told us to return home before the evening azaan floated from the local mosque. Whether we believed in other religions or not, we were made aware from an early age that this country belonged to people of different faiths and that no religion was superior to another. This background was already receding even when we

were growing up. In the secular world that was fashioned by the State to promote equality and tolerance, ritual worship and cultural traditions became a casualty. I have no shame in admitting that I still say my prayers each day, and that includes the Christian ones learnt in school, alongside the Sanskrit ones we were taught as children and recited at home. Since we grew up in what was a home where often three generations lived under one roof, we learnt tolerance for the eccentricities that accompanied my mother and mother-in-law's way of life. So, not only was our kitchen a staunchly vegetarian one, but as long as my mother-in-law controlled it, onions and garlic were a no-no. However, as our boys grew up in Chandigarh and often ate with their Punjabi and non-Brahmin Hindu friends, they began to ask her why it was forbidden to get meat or chicken cooked in our home. My father-in-law (a wonderfully liberal and fair man) then stepped in as the magisterial voice on such occasions. He told my mum-in-law firmly that she had run her own home according to her prejudices but now that she lived with her son and daughter-in-law, she had no right to impose those taboos. 'You are one against six,' he reminded her. 'Always remember that there is a difference between the Queen and the Queen Mother.' Give and take comes naturally to those of us who grew up in large clans. Alas, with the rise of the modern nuclear family living in gated communities, we are in danger of becoming uncaring of others and self-centred in a way that is alarming. Looking out for the needy, the disadvantaged and those less fortunate may be our State policy, but I see little of it in urban homes now.

Everyday Habits that could be ruining your Skin



There are some habits we indulge in unknowingly, and frequently, that can become extremely harmful for our skin health. Trying to treat your skin with information researched online, or taking cues from your friends could be detrimental and land you with some major skin problems. Here's looking at some skin-sins that experts say, you should avoid...

Buying over-the-counter medicines

Using over-the-counter medicines, without having complete knowledge of them, can cause damage to your skin. Dermatologist Dr Shefali Trasi Nerurkar says, "Every individual has a different skin type. Hence, any treatment cannot be standardised. It's commonly observed that if a patient is given a treatment for any skin condition and if their relative suffers from a similar problem, they tend to use those medicines without consulting the doctor. Such cases have damaged many patients' skin."

Going by the brand value of cosmetics

Another common mistake most women make is using wrong cosmetics, solely relying upon their brand value. Just because you watch an advertisement that promises to do away with wrinkles in a few weeks, you should not dab it all over face and wait for the miracle to happen. "Before using the cosmetic on any part of the face, check it by doing a patch test on the hand or behind the ears," says Dr Trasi.

Scrubbing skin to become fairer

According to Dr Trasi, rubbing and excessively scrubbing the skin, trying to make it fairer, is a myth. Instead, it becomes darker by these methods.

Using Steam at home to clean your face

Dermatologist Dr Apratim Goel says, "Skin needs steaming to open the pores, but it needs to be done at a certain temperature. Moreover, the skin has to be prepped for that, or else it may not only burn the face, but can also dehydrate your skin."

Using hot water to wash your face

Using extremely hot water for bath and washing your face with it can be damaging. Dr Trasi says, "Hot water removes all the oils present in the skin and as a result, the natural moisturisation is lost with it."

Waxing your face

Excessive facial hair can be a big problem for some women and sometimes, local salons suggest waxing to get rid of it. Experts warn that this can be harmful. Waxing tugs at the delicate facial skin and could lead to early wrinkles. Dr Goel says, "Waxing your face to get rid of excessive hair is a blunder, but still most of us have done it at some point in our life. Of course, if the hair is thick, laser hair removal is the best, but one could go for bleaching too."



Waxing is traumatic to hair follicles and can lead to infection and inflammation. This can result in scars which are difficult to treat."

Using a razor on face: There are women, who have excessive hair on their sideburns and they resort to drastic measures like using razor on their face to get rid of it.

Cosmetologist Dr Rashmi Shetty says, "Whenever you shave, the new hair that grows is darker and thicker than before." She explains that natural hair on a woman's face is light and fine because they are at a resting phase. "However, after a woman shaves the hair on her face, it changes and now, is at a growing phase. A good alternative to reduce excessive facial hair is laser removal treatment. This technique not only helps in hair removal, but reduces its growth in six to eight sittings. However, if your facial hair is fine and matches your skin colour, then do not get tempted to go in for a laser treatment as it may not help at all and lead to paradoxical growth and excess hair."

Haircare mistakes you should avoid

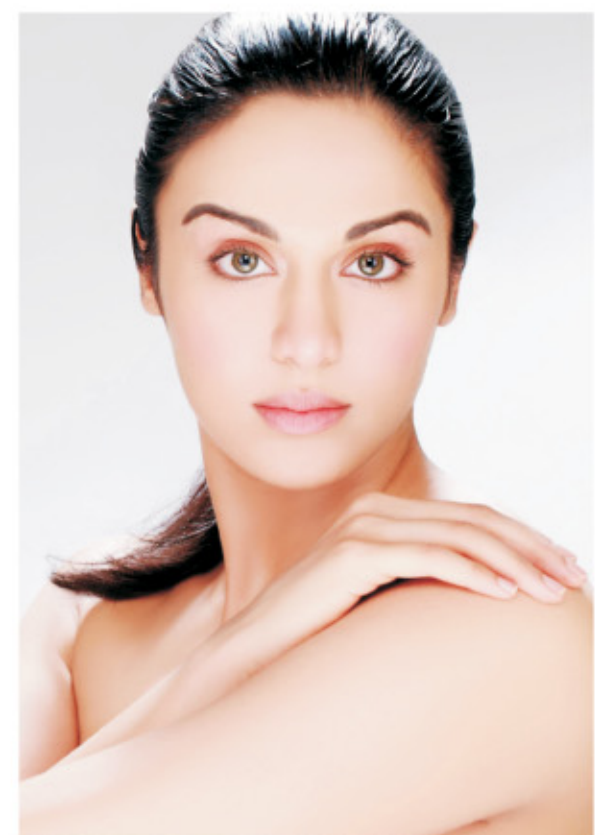
- Tying your hair tightly can lead to hair loss (traction alopecia). Hence, keep your hair loosely tied. - Avoid combing hair too frequently. It can cause hair breakage. - Frequently oiling of hair may not remove or treat dandruff. In fact, it is likely to increase it.

DIY guide for a gel eyeliner

Method - Take the tweezer and scrape off the black eyeshadow into an empty bowl. - Take a spoonful of petroleum jelly and mix it well with the scraped eyeshadow using a spatula. - Now keep alternating between the eye shadow and petroleum jelly, till you have a considerable amount in the bottle. - Once you have the consistency that you require, store the bottle in the refrigerator.

What you need

A black eyeshadow - Petroleum jelly - A spatula - Tweezer - A small empty bottle



5 things girls with wavy hair struggle with

Being an Indian, you are obviously used to wavy hair, as it is the most common hair type in our country.



You never take the risk of letting them dry on their own; you always make sure you either blow dry it or tie it into a bun to take a certain shape, than go frizzy and all over the place.

You can never experiment with bangs and bob

So what if you have a playground-size forehead or are feeling extremely uncomfortable to manage your long hair during summers, you have no choice but to keep it as it is; since no other fancy hairstyle like a fringe, bangs or bob will ever suit your hair type.

Although it doesn't seem that much an issue to many, only girls with wavy hair know what they have to go through on a daily basis. Here are five most common struggles every wavy hair girl goes through.

Too many bad hair days

You are just used to your hair looking horrible; its not that long after you had a hair wash, but the next day after a hair wash feels like a disaster. Even a few drops of water or a strong wind can make it a mess.

Letting it dry on its own is like taking a huge risk

There are several occasions when you had to stay in because of your hair

Its never your clothes or non-waxed legs that have stopped you from going

out, it is your silly way hair that have ended up looking disgusting after a long day at work or travel. You can never bank on them to make you look good on a day when your face or body doesn't feel like.

Any new hairstyle or treatment ends up looking the same

Just a hair wash, and all the moolah you spent on getting that new haircut from that plush salon, will go the drains. No matter how stylish the hair cut or style is or how good a hair spa or conditioning treatment is, you hair ends up looking the same.



Taking right care for your teeth is essential not only to keep them in good health but also to keep them bright and shiny. And there are only few simple do's and don'ts that can give you a bright smile.

Do's and don'ts for shiny white Teeth

Maintaining shiny white teeth is simpler than you think. Read on to know how

Don't:

Avoid baking soda as much as you can. While it might be good for many things, it starts to remove the enamel from the teeth resulting in yellowness.

Avoid fruits and other foods that have dark color pigmentation. Food items like soy sauce, marinara sauce etc have dark pigmentation that can stain your teeth.

Avoid drinking those much marketed energy drinks. They are not as good as they tell you, especially for your teeth. The acids they contain have eroding effects which can remove the whitening from your teeth.

Do's:

Keep your toothbrush updated. Replacing your toothbrush every three



months is a good idea. Or any time you feel your brush looks worn-out, make sure you get a new one. Get a good quality toothbrush.

Keep your tongue clean. Cleaning your tongue is not only about having fresh breath, but also keeping away bacteria that can cause discoloration.

Eating fruits is a good idea for retaining the whiteness of your teeth. It is said that eating fruits helps in cleaning the teeth and also keep them healthy.

Rinse your teeth every time after eating citrus fruits like lemon, oranges and limes as they contain acid that erodes enamel.

Satellite pics show new Chinese settlement under construction near Pangong Lake

Satellite imagery accessed by shows significant Chinese construction activity, 38 km from the 2020 standoff point, raising fresh concerns over border infrastructure.

New Delhi. As India and China continue diplomatic efforts to ease tensions along the border, recent satellite imagery reviewed by India Today reveals the ongoing construction of a large Chinese settlement near the north bank of Pangong Tso Lake. The settlement is located approximately 38 kilometres east of one of the 2020 standoff points between Indian and Chinese forces, though it lies outside India's territorial claims. Pangong Tso, the world's highest saltwater lake, straddles India, China-administered Tibet, and the disputed border between them. The satellite images, captured on October 9 by US-based Maxar Technologies, show rapid construction over an area of about 17 hectares. Situated near Yemagou Road at an elevation of 4,347 meters, the site is bustling with construction and earth-moving machinery. According to Y Nithyanandam, Professor & Head of the Geospatial Research Programme at the Takshashila Institution, "More than 100 buildings, including residential structures and larger administrative buildings, are being built. Open spaces and flattened land suggest possible future use for parks or sports

facilities." He also pointed out a 150-meter-long rectangular strip in the southeast corner, speculating it could be prepared for helicopter operations. Analysis of open-source satellite imagery indicates that construction began in early April 2024 on a riverbed sloping towards the lake. The settlement appears to be divided into two parts, possibly distinguishing between administrative and operational zones, according to military sources. Shadow analysis of the structures reveals a mix of single and double-story buildings, with smaller hutments nearby, likely accommodating six to eight people each. Two larger structures may serve as administration and storage facilities. The layout, designed in staggered rows rather than straight lines, suggests an intention to reduce vulnerability to long-range attacks. The settlement's location behind high peaks further enhances its strategic advantage, limiting visibility from nearby areas. "The surrounding high peaks obscure the site from land-based surveillance equipment,"



Nithyanandam noted. Military sources speculate that if used for military purposes, the settlement could function as an "ad-hoc forward base," reducing reaction times for Chinese forces. **A SETTLEMENT FOR TIBETAN NOMADS?** Nature Desai, an observer of the Indo-Tibetan frontier, offers another interpretation. He suggests that the settlement could be intended for Tibetan nomads, identifying the site as Chanzun Nuru, a historic campsite mentioned in Swedish geographer Sven Hedin's Central Asia Atlas: Memoir of Maps. Desai argues that the design is more consistent with the style of permanent housing built for Tibetan nomads by the Chinese government over the past two decades, rather than typical Xiakong-style border defense villages. If so, this would be the first such settlement close in the area, reflecting China's ongoing efforts to settle Tibetan nomads permanently. China could frame this development as "a long-awaited gift to its loyal nomads along the Indian frontier," Desai noted. Nithyanandam pointed out that while the proximity to a water source likely resolves water supply issues, the settlement's energy needs will likely rely on renewable sources. The rapid pace of construction suggests that residential buildings are nearing completion, and significant progress has been made over the past six months. However, the settlement's completion timeline could be impacted by extreme weather conditions in the coming months.

Wanted man arrested outside hospital while visiting newborn, linked to attempted murder

NEW DELHI. A 26-year-old man wanted in an attempted murder case was apprehended outside a hospital where he had come to visit his newborn baby, an official said on Sunday. According to the officer, a crime branch team monitored the hospital for four days, as their only lead on the suspect, Mohd. Amaan Saifi, was that he would likely be there to see his newborn. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Sanjay Kumar Sain stated that a case of attempted murder was registered in Shaheen Bagh, where Saifi, along with his accomplices, got into a confrontation with a guard at a construction site and stabbed him. "After committing the crime, they escaped while a police van rushed the victim to AIIMS Trauma Centre," the officer said. Based on the victim's statement, a case was registered, but Saifi remained untraceable. To apprehend him, a team was formed to maintain round-the-clock surveillance. During the investigation, Sub Inspector Samay Singh discovered that Saifi would visit Malviya Nagar Hospital to see his newborn. "The team waited for four days and maintained constant vigilance at the hospital. On the fifth day, the accused was spotted near the hospital," the DCP said. He attempted to escape, resulting in a scuffle with police officials, but the team managed to overpower and apprehend him. During interrogation, Saifi disclosed that his brother is a builder in the Shaheen Bagh area, where they intended to construct a building. A dispute had arisen with the owner, and on the day of the incident, when he and the other accused reached the site, a guard stopped them, leading them to attack him with a knife. They later escaped, leaving the guard in a pool of blood.

Doctors renew shut-down call in support of RG Kar strike

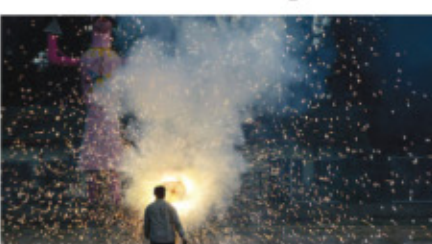
The call for a nationwide boycott of medical services has been given by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FAIMA).



NEW DELHI. Nearly two months after the suspension of the nationwide strike following the RG Kar incident, medicos have once again issued a national call to shut down all non-essential services, including outpatient departments (OPD) and planned surgeries, in support of the demands of West Bengal junior doctors who remain on a "fast unto death" in Kolkata. This response came after three protesting doctors were admitted to the ICU following 160 hours of hunger strike, as their health parameters worsened. The call for a nationwide boycott of medical services has been issued by the Federation of All India Medical Associations (FAIMA). "As of early morning on October 13, three of our fellow doctors have been admitted to intensive care units (ICUs), their health critically compromised, simply because they sought justice and safety. After exhaustive discussions, we have unanimously decided that it is time to unite on a national scale," said FAIMA. "We had previously given an ultimatum to the West Bengal Chief Minister in a letter. However, no satisfactory action has been taken, forcing us to request Resident Doctors' Associations (RDAs) and medical bodies to join us in our call," FAIMA stated.

Cops seize 1,323 kg illegal firecrackers in raids, three arrested

NEW DELHI. The Delhi Police announced on Sunday that they had uncovered a significant cache of 1,323 kilograms of illegal firecrackers and arrested three individuals involved in distributing these banned items across the Delhi-NCR region. According to a police statement, the contraband was seized from two godowns in outer Delhi. "1,323 kg of banned firecrackers were seized from two godowns. The owner of both godowns and a driver who supplied the illicit firecrackers in Delhi and NCR have been arrested," the statement said. The operation was initiated based on intelligence provided by Head Constables Vikesh and Kapil Dev, who informed the police about an illegal firecracker racket operating in



Village Baprola, Outer Delhi. Following this tip, a specialized team was formed to tackle the issue. Led by Inspector Pukhraj Singh, the team also included Woman Sub-Inspector Khushboo, Sub-Inspector Sitaram, and several head constables, including Vikesh, Kapil, Narender, Mukesh, and Sachin. The operation was supervised by Assistant Commissioner of Police Vivek Tyagi, with the goal of dismantling the supply chain of illegal firecrackers. A raid was first carried out at a godown in Baprola village, where a substantial quantity of banned firecrackers was discovered. The police arrested Manoj Kumar, the owner, and Sanjay Atri, a driver involved in distributing the illegal goods. During the interrogation of Atri, he revealed that he had also supplied banned firecrackers in the Prem Nagar area of Kirari. Acting on this information, the police conducted another raid at a godown on Main Majri Road, Roop Vihar, Mubarakpur Dabas, Kirari, Delhi, where another large cache of illegal firecrackers was seized. The owner of this godown, Vipin Kumar, was also arrested. Last month, the city government banned the production, sale, and use of firecrackers in Delhi to control air pollution in the coming winter season.

CM Atishi grants Rs 100 crore to 12 DU colleges

NEW DELHI. The Delhi government has released around Rs 100 crore for 12 Delhi University (DU) colleges funded by it, the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) announced on Sunday. According to the party, the government has made a budgetary provision of approximately Rs 400 crore for the colleges for the financial year 2024-25. The latest funding is for the third quarter, it added. The government released Rs 100 crore for the colleges in April last year, while the second tranche of Rs 100 crore was granted this July. According to officials, Chief Minister Atishi approved the funds to address ongoing financial constraints that have hindered operations and affected the benefits for faculty and staff. Since the AAP came to power in the national capital, the budget allocated to these colleges has increased more than threefold, demonstrating the



government's commitment to education, a party release stated. Emphasising that the party has always stood for quality education, Chief Minister Atishi said, "Under the guidance of Arvind Kejriwal, education has always been the top priority for the AAP government. Since the formation of Kejriwal's government in Delhi, the largest share of the budget has been dedicated to education every year." "The Delhi government has focused on

higher education by opening three new universities and expanding the existing ones. The 12 fully funded Delhi University colleges play a crucial role in higher education in Delhi," she asserted. The colleges that received funding include Acharya Narendra Dev College, Aditi Mahavidyalaya, Bhagini Nivedita College, Bhaskaracharya College, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College, Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar College, Indira Gandhi Institute of Physical Education and Sports Sciences, Keshav Mahavidyalaya, Maharaja Agrasen College, Maharishi Valmiki College, Shaheed Rajguru College, and Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies. The funding for these colleges has tripled since the AAP came to power in Delhi, the statement claimed.

Delhi 'clean air days' over? AQI slides to 'poor' category



Rai observed that despite Dussehra celebrations in the city, people are breathing clean air, a phenomenon last seen in 2020 due to Covid-19 induced restrictions.

NEW DELHI. Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Sunday said the capital witnessed 200 clean air days between January and October 12 for the second consecutive year with air quality ranging between categories of "good", "satisfactory" and "moderate" on the air pollution index. However, Delhi's air quality worsened to the "poor" category on Sunday, the day after Dussehra, with the Centre deciding to closely monitor the situation before taking anti-air pollution measures under Stage 1 of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). GRAP is categorised into four stages based on Delhi's air quality: Stage I: 'Poor' (AQI 201-300); Stage II: 'Very Poor' (AQI 301-400); Stage III: 'Severe' (AQI 401-450); and Stage IV: 'Severe Plus' (AQI more than 450). Delhi's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 224 on Sunday, according to the 4 pm AQI bulletin from the Central Pollution Control Board. Rai observed that despite Dussehra celebrations in the city, people are breathing clean air, a phenomenon last seen in 2020 due to Covid-19 induced restrictions. On Saturday, the AQI was in the "moderate" category with a reading of 155, as per the Central Pollution Control Board. "Achieving 200 good air quality days out of 365 without a lockdown is a major achievement. The figure was 109 days in 2016. I believe in the coming months, if we continue to work together, we can increase the number of days," he said. While Rai credited his government, he also acknowledged the role of extended rains that helped keep air pollution at bay. "Recent good air quality days can be attributed not only to government initiatives but also to increased rainfall. During July, August, and September, the AQI remained around 50 for extended periods, largely due to rainfall," the minister said.

Delhi metro's blue line achieves carbon neutral certification

These efforts are in line with the central government's goal to reach net zero emissions by 2070, the officials said.

NEW DELHI. Delhi Metro has added another feather in the cap. A section of Blue Line connecting Yamuna Bank in Delhi with Vaishali in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh (UP), has achieved carbon neutral certification, officials said on Sunday. DMRC already has carbon-neutral certification for its headquarters at Metro Bhawan and the staff quarters in Sector-50, Noida, UP, the officials said. These efforts are in line with the central government's goal to reach net zero emissions by 2070,

the officials said. By adopting various sustainable, environment-friendly initiatives, including using more renewable power in operations, constructing rainwater harvesting pits, the rapid transit system has successfully minimised its carbon footprint, they stated. With this certification, DMRC aims to inspire other transportation systems to adopt sustainable practices by setting a benchmark in eco-friendly operations, they added.



Tips to reduce Hair breakage this winter



If you thought your precious locks were safe in the three-odd winter months, think again. Dry and brittle hair, flaky scalp and sticky tresses are common occurrences this time of the year, all thanks to the cold spell. Bidisha Dip, a trichologist, says, "Hair is vulnerable to damage because of changes in the environment. Loss of moisture, exposure to dry air and not giving due importance to a haircare regimen are some of the reasons why you end up with damaged hair." Some simple tricks and a little TLC will ensure your

Condition More Than You Shampoo

locks don't lose their lustre this season. Even if you are hard-pressed for time, make sure you condition at least once every alternate day because it's dry hair that breaks easily. Alayna Angami, a beautician, says, "Avoid shampooing your hair every day because the chemical ingredients will only do more damage in this weather. Instead, use an intensive conditioner regularly. Cold weather absorbs all the moisture in the hair. So, when you are choosing products, look for those that can retain it. You can also use leave-in conditioners."

Massage Your Scalp And Oil Your Ends

While a good scalp massage will help you cleanse flakes and dandruff, oiling your strands will control split ends and boost volume. Bidisha says, "A good massage boosts blood flow to scalp and encourages hair growth. Use oils that are thick and viscous, like castor, olive, jojoba or almond."

Sleep On Silk

Wrap your hair in a silk or satin scarf when you hit the sack. Divya Raj, a primary teacher, says, "Satin can



actually prevent friction between the hair and pillowcase. So, I braid my daughter's hair till the ends and wrap it in a silk scarf. The hair fall has visibly reduced."

Trim Once In Six Weeks

At least in the cold climes, it's advisable to trim the ends of your hair once in six months. Alayna adds, "We suggest people to come in for a trim once in 10 weeks.

But during this season, it's recommended to go for a trimming session once in six weeks because it's a great way to keep the ends from splitting."

Protect Hair From Heat

Avoid using heat on hair. And that includes hot water, curling irons straightener, even hair dryers. While hot water dries the tresses, hot air sucks away all the moisture.

Don't Leave Your Hair Wet

Towel dry your locks before stepping out of home. Stepping out of home in the cold with wet hair not only breaks them, but also gives you a cold!

Keep Your Tresses Covered

Style your hair such that the ends are always tucked in. Preferably, twist them into buns so that the strands are hidden from cold. This helps in reducing loss of moisture. Gauri S, a sales executive, says, "I wear a soft scarf when I'm stepping out. If I'm wearing woollen, then I'm doubly sure that my hair doesn't come in contact with the material. Because wool is rough, it can cause a lot of damage to delicate hair strands."



5 inside-the-mouth facial for stress-free skin

procedures of diamond microdermabrasion, acoustic wave therapy and infrared laser in a single session. "This facial affects the deeper layers of the skin and helps in the release of skin-firming collagen, which makes the treatment quite beneficial," says dermatologist Dr Nihar Mistry.

Benefits Works miraculously on blemishes Soothes slack skin Helps get rid of premature signs of aging like fine lines and wrinkles **Duration** A one-hour procedure involving exfoliation procedure before the treatment; it is done with a diamond tip to peel off rigid dead skin cells

Photo facial As the name suggests, the facial involves the use of a bright burst of BBL (broadband light) that penetrates through the skin. By utilising specific light parameters, this procedure helps improve the tone, texture and elasticity of the skin with no downtime. Dermatologist Dr Geeta Oberoi says, "This facial not just rejuvenates your face, but your neck and décolletage. Being a mechanical procedure, it is painless and can be done on any skin type. It specifically works on lines and wrinkles."

Benefits Reduces hyper pigmentation, excessive sun-damage, wrinkles, age spots and other signs of ageing Helps the skin get rid of acne and birthmarks Stimulates collagen in the skin Makes the skin youthful **Duration** A 60-minute treatment, the skin will have to be free of any sunscreen, cream or make-up before the procedure. Men need to shave at least five hours before undergoing this facial.

Oxygen facial A simple procedure that introduces hyperbaric or a

pure form of oxygen at high pressure directly into the skin's pores using an airbrush. The oxygen used in this facial is usually treated with a number of skin-beneficial supplements like vitamins. Dr Geeta says, "Since it involves introducing oxygen into the skin, it acts as a healing tool to improve the appearance and texture of the skin. A small dose of nourishing serum is also added to penetrate through deep layers of the skin and thus open the skin channels so that the serum soaks into it."

Benefits Improves blood circulation Rejuvenates the skin, makes it blemish-free Helps get a clearer complexion **Duration** The procedure is quick and painless and needs exfoliation before it begins. It does not involve using chemical peels. It simply oxygenates the skin for a more healing and soothing effect. Unlike other facials, one can resume normal activities as well as apply make-up soon after the procedure.

A-lift facial It involves using nano current technology (small electric currents). These currents synchronise with the natural frequency of our body, which then help to combat ageing by working at the cellular level. Skin specialist Netra Prabhu says, "Small measures of current are used for this facial, as they perfectly sync with our skin wavelength. Although high tech, this facial causes absolutely no harm and has no side-effects at all."

Benefits A visible improvement in skin texture, muscle tone, deep lines and wrinkles Makes the skin firm and lifts it Enhances the radiance by improving the blood circulation **Duration** In just a 55-minute session, it works to recharge the cells of the skin by boosting the ATP levels (adenosine triphosphate), triggering the rejuvenation process quickly.



While facials and spas for rejuvenation are the norm, high-tech facials are the new beauty buzzword for women in the city. With the promise of no-redness, no skin damage and no downtime, these super facials, which they're often referred to as, are gaining quite a fan-following off late. **The buccal technique** What makes this facial different is the fact that it is done inside the mouth. It consists of massaging facial musculature like the upper lip, cheek and jaw area, often the stress zones. Says Dr Radhika Khona, a cosmetic dermatologist, "It is one of the most effective facials as the massage is done from within your mouth, where the actual pressure points and muscles that determine the shape and structure of the face lie." **Benefits** Tones the facial muscles Improves blood flow and hence promotes oxygenation of the skin cells Results in contoured and plumped-up skin **Duration** A 60-minute intense technique that focusses on the deeper pressure points and lymphatic massage movements around the jaws and gum. **Triple action facial** This facial works on all the three layers of skin — epidermis, dermis and the subcutaneous tissue — by combining three high-tech

Here's how to trim your own Fringe

Having a fringe gives your hairstyle that edge and takes years off your face. But one inconvenience that comes with having a fringe is the need to get it trimmed every now and then, especially if your hairdresser charges a bomb to do it. However, with the right equipment and a little practice, you can trim your own fringe. Here's how...

1. Get the right equipment: Don't make the mistake of using nail or kitchen scissors to trim your fringe. You'll need haircutting shears, along with a comb.

2. Style your hair first: Style your hair and your fringe as you



normally would so that you trim your fringe to suit your hairstyle. 3. Separate your fringe from the rest of your hair: Do this by clipping up all your hair, except for your fringe. This way, you won't cut into the rest of your hair by accident.

4. Start the actual trim: Pull your fringe down in front of your face and make sure it's even. Insert the comb under your fringe and pull it down till where you want to cut your fringe. Then, position your scissors in such a way that they're pointing upwards, perpendicular to the line of your fringe. Cut into your fringe, starting in the centre, and working your way outwards till you reach the middle of your eyebrows. Work on the outer sides of your fringe by inserting your comb under those areas and holding your scissors at a 45-degree angle and then start to trim.

5. Check to see if your fringe is even: Move your fringe around with your fingertips to check whether it's even and is the way you want it to be.

TIPS
- Do not wet your fringe when you're trimming it. This is because wet hair is longer than dry hair, which means you could end up cutting your fringe too short when it's wet.
- Do not cut straight across your fringe as this will give it a more severe and less natural look.



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).

Sensex jumps 500 points, Nifty above 25,000; Wipro, HDFC Bank gain

New Delhi Benchmark stock market indices opened on a strong note on Monday as stocks such as Wipro and HDFC Bank registered decent gains. The S&P BSE Sensex was up 409.75 points to 81,791.11 at 10:20 am, while the NSE Nifty50 rose 126.45 points to trade at 25,090.70. Most of the other broader market indices also gained during early trade, backed by positive investor sentiments. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Coal India, L&T, Wipro, Shriram Finance and HDFC Bank. On the other hand, the top losers were Maruti, Ultratech Cement, Cipla, Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv. Among other individual stocks, DMart shares dipped 9% after it received multiple downgrades from brokerage firms after reporting Q2



earnings. Investors are likely to keep a close eye on inflation data due later in the day and Q2 results of Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and HCLTech.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "IT and banking stocks are likely to remain resilient on the back of expected good Q2 numbers. However, there is only limited scope for the market to move up sharply from here." "FY25 earnings expectations have been downgraded by most analysts. The uncertainty surrounding the US presidential elections next month also is likely to weigh on markets along with the geopolitical tensions in the Middle East," he added.

How estate planning plays crucial role in preserving wealth

NEW DELHI. Divi Dutta, a partner with Khaitan & Co, remembers a case where her client found himself amidst litigations that threatened his financial stability.

The client's wife was involved in a lawsuit concerning the enforcement of a personal guarantee, his daughter was in the middle of divorce proceedings, and his son, who got separated from his wife, was also anticipating divorce proceedings. The client wanted to protect his assets from these litigations and ensure a succession plan for his children and grandchildren. She resolved his problem by designing a trust. "Setting up a trust early on helps ring-fence assets from legal risks like divorce or litigation, while still allowing control during one's lifetime. It also ensures a smooth transition of wealth to future generations, protecting both family stability and business legacy," says Dutta. As per Lokesh Shah, Partner with IndusLaw, it is essential that one grows his wealth while at the same time has a backup mechanism in the form of estate planning to preserve his

wealth. "There are numerous instances of successful businessmen setting up family trust to secure their future. For instance, the Fisher Family Trust, Zydsu Family Trust. These instances teach us that the right time for estate planning is 'now,'" Shah says. With the growing number of start-ups, estate planning has become quite popular among young entrepreneurs. According to Amit Pathak, Managing Director at Warmond, "Risks and rewards in start-ups are quite high and therefore, promoters are concerned about putting all their eggs in one basket. Many amongst them have set up private trusts to mitigate this risk and safeguard their personal wealth from future business uncertainties."

Mistakes in succession plan

People generally make the will and forget about it. In situations where a person may have acquired properties after the creation of the will, if the will is not updated the inheritance of such assets may become challenging, says Divi



Dutta. Lokesh Shah of IndusLaw also echoed the same.

"Proof of medical fitness of the testator should always be there when the testator is aged and writing the will. This would show that the testator was medically fit and of sound mind when he was drafting the will," Dutta added. She also stressed that formation of Trust is a complex and comprehensive process. One must always consult experienced professionals. If the purpose of the Trust, appointment of trustee, revocation of trustee, roles of trustee, etc. are not

clearly defined in the Trust Deed, the governance of Trust becomes difficult. Also, forming a trust is an expensive process, so all costs related to it should be understood in depth beforehand. Even the different tax implications that the Trust could be subject to should be known beforehand, cautions Dutta.

Common misconceptions

As per Shah of IndusLaw, estate and succession planning are often seen as taking away self-control and giving control to future generations. However, one of the prominent reasons to undertake estate planning is to have the freedom to do as you wish and to give legal authority to your preferences, which the intestate rules may not provide for. Pathak of Warmond emphasises, "A private trust can be structured in a way that the settlor or entrepreneur retains control over the assets during their lifetime. Another misconception that some individuals have is that private trusts should only be created by the elderly, which is also incorrect.

RBI Governor Asks Banks to Strengthen Liquidity Buffer, Stay Alert on Social Media

NEW DELHI. RBI Governor

Shaktikanta Das on Friday asked banks to strengthen their liquidity buffer to handle any unfavourable situation and stay alert in social media space. He also said the feasibility of expanding RTGS (real-time gross settlement) to settle transactions in major trade currencies such as the dollar and euro can be explored. He also said the Central Bank Digital Currency has the potential to facilitate efficient cross-border payments. In his keynote address at the conference on 'Central Banking at Crossroads', Das said, "Remittances are the starting point for many emerging and developing economies, including India, to explore cross-border peer-to-peer (P2P) payments. We believe there is immense



scope to significantly reduce the cost and time for such remittances." He added that the feasibility of expanding real-time gross settlement (RTGS) to settle transactions in major trade currencies such as dollar, Euro and

Pound can be explored through bilateral or multilateral arrangements.

Das also said divergence of monetary policies across the world is leading to volatility in capital flows and exchange rates. Today's global economy is more integrated than ever before. The RBI Governor also raised concerns over misuse of Artificial Intelligence in the banking space saying it could lead to more cyber attacks and data breaches.

"Banks and other financial institutions must put in place adequate risk mitigation measures against all these risks. In the ultimate analysis, banks have to ride on the advantages of AI and Bigtech and not allow the latter to ride on them," he said.

HDFC Bank shares rise 2% ahead of Q2 results. What should investors do

HDFC Bank shares jumped over 2% in early trade as the country's largest private lender prepares to announce its Q2 results on October 16. The stock was trading 2.11% higher at Rs 1,685 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), contributing significantly to the early gains on Dalal Street. Investors are showing increased interest in HDFC Bank shares, anticipating a positive performance in the upcoming quarterly results. Brokerage firm Arianth Capital, which maintains a buy rating on the stock, noted that it has been trading sideways after a six-day losing streak. The firm predicts a "pullback rally" and highlighted that the momentum indicator (RSI) is showing positive signs, suggesting further upward movement. Arianth Capital recommended buying the stock at the current level with a stop loss of Rs 1,600 and a target range of Rs 1,751-1,800 in the next few weeks. Earlier in October, HDFC Bank shared



its Q2 business update, revealing that its deposit growth had outpaced its loan growth. Gross advances rose by 1.3% to Rs 25.19 lakh crore in the quarter ending September, following a slight decline in the previous quarter. Retail loans increased by Rs 33,800 crore, while commercial and rural banking loans grew by Rs 38,000 crore. Deposits, on the other hand, grew by 5.1% quarter-on-quarter to Rs 25 lakh crore, reversing the flat growth seen earlier this year. The bank also reported a 2.3% increase in its low-cost CASA deposits. After its merger with HDFC in July 2023, the bank inherited more loans than deposits, causing its loan-to-deposit ratio (LDR) to spike to 110%. This liquidity challenge led the bank to focus on increasing deposits faster than loan disbursement.

To manage liquidity, HDFC Bank also securitised Rs 19,200 crore in loans during the second quarter, bringing its total securitisation for the year to Rs 24,600 crore.

Ola cabs directed to offer refund choices to users

Ola only provided a coupon code which could be used for the next ride without providing a clear choice to the consumer to opt between a bank account refund or a coupon.



NEW DELHI: The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has directed Ola to implement consumer-friendly changes, including offering refund options and providing receipts for auto rides. On Sunday, the regulator said it observed that whenever consumer raised any grievance on the Ola app, as part of its no-question-asked refund policy, Ola only provided a coupon code which

could be used for the next ride without providing a clear choice to the consumer to opt between a bank account refund or a coupon.

"It was observed that this violates consumer rights and the no-question-asked refund policy cannot mean that the company incentivises people to simply use this facility for taking another ride," it added. Following the CCPA's intervention, Ola has

implemented several changes, including displaying contact details of grievance and nodal officers on its website, clearly mentioning cancellation policies and fees at the time of booking, adding more options for ride cancellation reasons, and publicizing fare component breakdowns. The other changes implemented were showing address of both pickup and drop locations to drivers and revised payment cycles for drivers for swift payment. The CCPA said that as per information on the National Consumer Helpline, 2,061 complaints have been registered against Ola from January to October 2024, with top issues including overcharging, refund delays and driver-related problems.

"Through its regulatory intervention, the CCPA has been steadfast in ensuring that Ola adheres to the legal framework established to secure the rights of consumers," the regulator said. The move comes as the CCPA increases scrutiny of digital platforms to protect consumer interests.

Hyundai IPO to Open Tomorrow: Should You Apply Check Recommendations, Price, Lot Size

NEW DELHI. Hyundai Motor India Ltd (MIL), the Indian arm of South Korean automaker Hyundai, is set to launch its initial public offering (IPO) for public subscription on Tuesday, October 15. The Rs 27,870.2-crore IPO, which is a complete offer-for-sale (OFS) where the company's South Korean parent will be diluting some of the stake, will be closed on October 17. Should you apply? Here's everything you need to know: Though the IPO will remain opened for public between October 15 and October 17, anchor investors can submit bids on October 14. The share allotment will take place on October 18, while Hyundai Motor India's shares will be listed on BSE and NSE on October 22. It is India's biggest IPO comfortably surpassing LIC's Rs 21,000-crore IPO, which was until now the biggest IPO in the country's history.

Hyundai Motor India IPO: Price Band and Lot Size The price band of the much-awaited IPO has been fixed in the range of Rs 1,865 to Rs 1,960 per share.

Investors can bid for the IPO for a minimum of 7 equity shares and in

multiples of 7 equity shares thereafter.

Hyundai Motor India IPO GMP Today According to market observers, unlisted shares of Hyundai Motor India Ltd are trading Rs 65 higher in the grey market than its issue price. The Rs 65 grey market premium or GMP means the grey market is expecting a 3.32 per cent listing gain from the public issue. The GMP is based on market sentiments and keeps changing. 'Grey market premium' indicates investors' readiness to pay more than the issue price.

Hyundai Motor India IPO: Analysts' Recommendations

This IPO marks a significant milestone for the Indian auto industry, as it is the first automaker's initial share sale in over two decades, following Japanese automaker Maruti Suzuki's listing in 2003. Most brokerages have given a 'buy' ratings to the IPO. Giving a 'Buy' recommendation, Bajaj Broking in its IPO note said, "For the last three fiscals, the company has reported an average EPS (earning per share) of Rs 62.56, and an average RoNW (return on net worth) of 39.11 per cent. The issue is priced at a P/BV (price-to-book value) of 13.11 based on its NAV

(net asset value) of Rs 149.52 as of June 30, 2024, as well as post-IPO equity capital since this is a secondary issue." "If one attributes FY25 annualised super earnings to its post-IPO fully diluted paidup equity capital, then the asking price is at a price-to-earning (P/E) of 26.73, and based on FY24 earnings, the P/E stands at 26.28, it said.

"The issue relatively appears fully priced, but the company is poised for bright prospects post completion of its ongoing expansions," said Bajaj Broking.

Hyundai Motor India reported profit after tax (PAT) margins of 6.05 per cent (FY22), 7.67 per cent (FY23), 8.50% (FY24), 8.48% (Q1-FY25), and RoCE (return of capital employed) margins of 20.37 per cent, 28.75 per cent, 62.90 per cent, 13.69 per cent for the referred periods, respectively. Another brokerage Master Capital Services in its IPO note said, "Hyundai's IPO offers potential value growth by expanding investment prospects in the underdeveloped Indian auto market." Another brokerage LKP Securities also recommended a 'subscribe for long term'. "We believe it (Hyundai Motor India IPO) is the second best player to play as a proxy to the Indian

PV (passenger vehicle) theme along with the likes of Maruti Suzuki. The company has about 15 per cent market share on the back of 68.15 per cent share coming from the SUVs, while more than 20 per cent share coming from exports. Its revenues are growing along with the industry in India and have strong return ratios as well. Its EBITDA margins at 13.8 per cent in Q1 FY25 are best among the industry. The current capacity utilisation of HMI's plants is nearly 100 per cent, due to which in near future the company may not be able to cater to the demand." LKP stated. However, since the PV industry is slightly in a slow lane currently, this may augur well for the company, as HMI is expanding its capacity by 30 per cent in the next 2 to 3 years. With new model launches (4 in mid-term, including the new Creta EV), HMI should give a strong fight to its rivals. At the upper end of the price band, on FY 24 earnings, the stock should trade at 26x times which is a fair value as compared to its closest peer Maruti Suzuki (29x FY 24 earnings). "Therefore, on all favourable parameters, we assign a SUBSCRIBE rating on the stock."

NEWS BOX

Steve Smith will not open in Test series vs India, confirms George Bailey

New Delhi. Australia's opening conundrum is wide open after Steve Smith decided to return back to his original No.4 spot for the Test series against India. Australia's chief selector George Bailey announced the development on Monday, October 14, while announcing that Cameron Green would be out for six months due to his back surgery.

Smith, who had promoted himself to the opening spot after the retirement of David Warner will be going back to his usual spot, where he averages 61.51 in 111 innings. Bailey revealed that captain Pat Cummins and coach Andrew McDonald have already had conversations with Smith about the same. "Pat, Andrew (McDonald) and Steven Smith have been having ongoing discussions, separate to the untimely injury to Cameron, anyway and I think Steve had expressed a desire to move back down from that opening position. Pat and Andrew have confirmed that he will be dropping back down the order for the summer," George Bailey told the press on Monday, October



14. Smith played 8 innings for Australia in the opening spot and scored a total of 171 runs. The legendary batter was not able to make his mark in the spot and has now left Australia will very little time to select someone. Australia white-ball opener Travis Head has already confirmed that he has no interest in opening the batting in the red-ball format. Australia have named multiple openers for the four games against India. Cameron Bancroft, Marcus Harris and young prodigy Sam Konstas are expected to be in the running for the opening spot in the India vs Australia Test series.

Australia A squad for Tour matches

Nathan McSweeney (c), Cameron Bancroft, Scott Boland, Jordan Buckingham, Cooper Connolly, Ollie Davies, Marcus Harris, Sam Konstas, Nathan McAndrew, Michael Nesar, Todd Murphy, Fergus O'Neill, Jimmy Peirson, Josh Philippe, Corey Rocchiccioli, Mark Steketee and Beau

Pat Cummins returns as captain as Australia announce ODI squad vs Pakistan

New Delhi. Australia captain Pat Cummins will warm up for the Test series against India with a 3-match ODI series against Pakistan. Australia announced their 14-member squad for the home series against Pakistan, which is scheduled to be played in November, just before the Border Gavaskar Trophy. Cummins has been resting since Australia's T20 World Cup 2024 campaign. The fast bowler had a brief stint in the Major League Cricket this season and has been resting for the past two months after that. Australia announced their squad early on Monday morning, 14 October, which saw a good mix of youth and experience. Talented Jake Fraser-McGurk has been given another chance to solidify his position in the ODI team, having played only one match (T20I) in the England series.



Australia squad vs Pakistan

Pat Cummins (c), Sean Abbott, Cooper Connolly, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Aaron Hardie, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Marnus Labuschagne, Glenn Maxwell, Matthew Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Marcus Stoinis, Adam Zampa

Australia vs Pakistan: Fixtures
First ODI: November 4; Melbourne
Second ODI: November 8; Adelaide
Third ODI: November 10; Perth

After the ODI series against Pakistan, Australia will take on India in a 5-match Test series - the Border Gavaskar Trophy. Australia also announced their squad for the four games against India A, which is set to feature fast bowlers Scott Boland and Michael Nesar, alongside young batting prodigy Sam Konstas. The BGT is set to be a showpiece bilateral series between the two sides and could be crucial in deciding who plays the final of the World Test Championship next year. Australia are the reigning WTC champions, having beaten India in the final back in 2023.

'Absolutely Stupid Decision': Michael Vaughan Blasts PCB For Dropping Babar Azam

Babar Azam scored 30 and 5 runs for Pakistan in the first Test against England, which the hosts lost by an innings and 47 runs in Multan last week.

New Delhi. Former England skipper Michael Vaughan, who has now donned the hat of an expert, took to X (formerly Twitter) on Sunday (October 13) to blast Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) after it dropped Babar Azam for the last two Tests of the ongoing three-match series against England. Babar, who has failed to score a fifty in his last 18 Test innings for Pakistan, got out after making 30 and 5 runs in the first Test against England, which Pakistan lost by an innings and 47 runs last week in Multan.

Surprised by Babar's sacking, Vaughan said that Pakistan cricket is full of surprises, but the decision to drop the 'best player' when the team is 1-0 down in the series tops the



list. According to him, it's a stupid decision to drop Babar. "So Pakistan haven't won in a while... Go 1 nil down in the series and decide to drop the best player in @babarazam258. I guess Pakistan cricket is full of surprises, but this tops the lot..

absolutely stupid decision.. unless he has asked for a break !!!" Vaughan tweeted. Apart from Babar, pacers Naseem Shah and Shaheen Shah Afridi and former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed are also ignored for the last two Tests, which are scheduled to

take place in Multan and Rawalpindi.

As per the PCB release, "Taking into consideration the current form and fitness of key players and looking ahead to Pakistan's future assignments in the 2024-25 international cricket season, the selectors have decided to give rest to Babar Azam, Naseem Shah, Sarfaraz Ahmed, and Shaheen Shah Afridi. Abrar Ahmed (who is recovering from dengue fever) was unavailable for selection."

The four players have been replaced by Haseebullah, Mehran Mumtaz, Kamran Ghulam (all uncapped), fast bowler Mohammad Ali, and off-spinner Sajid Khan. Noman Ali and Zahid Mehmood, who were initially part of the original first Test squad but were subsequently released, have also been included in the 16-player squad."

Pakistan's squad for the last two Tests against England: Shan Masood (C), Saud Shakeel (VC), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (WK), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Rizwan (WK), Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, and Zahid Mehmood.

UEFA Nations League: England return to winning ways with 3-1 Finland win

New Delhi. England bounced back from their loss to Greece with a 3-1 win over Finland at the Helsinki Olympic Stadium on Sunday, thanks to goals from Jack Grealish, Trent Alexander-Arnold, and Declan Rice. The victory revived England's Nations League campaign after a disappointing defeat, leaving them second in Group B2 with nine points, tied with leaders Greece. Finland, on the other hand, remained at the bottom without a point. England were looking for a response after their loss to Greece at Wembley and were given the ideal start by Grealish. The Manchester City midfielder opened the scoring in the 18th minute, netting his fourth goal for England after Angel Gomes cleverly set him up with a sharp pass. Alexander-Arnold extended England's lead in the 74th minute with a stunning 20-meter free-kick that curled over the wall into the top corner. Ten minutes later, Rice capped off the scoring by tapping in Ollie Watkins' cross after a surging run. Finland's only response came in



the 87th minute when Arttu Hoskonen headed in from a corner, denying Dean Henderson a clean sheet in his first start for England. Despite the defensive lapse, the win was a relief for interim manager Lee Carsley, who made six changes to the lineup following Thursday's 2-1 loss to Greece. Carsley's decision to return to a more traditional formation, with captain Harry Kane leading the attack after recovering from injury, paid off after his experimental approach against Greece had been widely criticized.

Sunday's win keeps England's hopes of promotion to League A alive, but they will likely need a victory in their upcoming rematch against Greece in Athens on November 14. Finland will be left ruing missed chances, particularly two from Fredrik Jensen—one that went wide in the first half and another glaring miss early in the second, when he shot over from close range. The win meant that England remained second in the group with 9 points from 4 matches with Greece leading Group F with 12. England will next face Greece on November 14 and Ireland on November 17 in the Nations League during the next international break.

Hasan Ali backs 'brothers' Babar, Shaheen and Naseem after Pakistan axe

Babar, Shaheen and Naseem were dropped for remainder of England Test series

Hasan hailed all three men as champions

Babar, Shaheen and Naseem flopped in Pakistan's heavy loss in 1st Test vs England

New Delhi. Hasan Ali has backed Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah after the star trio was axed from the Pakistan squad for the remainder of the England series on Sunday, October 13. Babar Azam has struggled for form in Test cricket since 2023, managing only 366 runs at a disappointing average of 20.33, with his highest score being 41 against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). He has failed to score a half-century in his last 18 innings, with his most recent notable knock coming on December 26, 2022, when he hit 161 on Day 1 of the first Test against New Zealand in Karachi. In Pakistan's heavy defeat by an innings and 47 runs in the first Test against Multan, Babar was dismissed



for just 30 and 5 in his two innings, continuing his poor run of form. Shaheen and Naseem conceded 120 and 157 runs during the first Test against England.

After the announcement was made, many have come in support of the trio, with Hasan being the latest. Taking to X, the pacer said that tough times would make the comebacks sweeter. Hasan called all three of the stars as his brothers and champions and claimed they would come back stronger.

Tough times only make comebacks sweeter! My brothers, you're champions! You've done wonders for Pakistan and will continue do so. Keep believing and you'll be back

stronger than ever, Inshallah!" said Hasan.

Why was Babar, Shaheen and Naseem axed? Aaqib Javed disclosed that the decisions were based on the players' current form, the need to rebound in the series, and their challenging international schedule. He also emphasised that the break from international cricket will give the players time to recover their fitness, confidence, and composure. Javed assured that the PCB will provide full support to help them make a strong comeback. "We are confident that this break from international cricket will help these players regain their fitness, confidence and composure, ensuring they return in top shape for future challenges. They remain some of our finest talents with much more to contribute to Pakistan cricket. We are fully committed to supporting them during this period so they can come back even stronger," said Javed. Pakistan Squad for 2nd and 3rd Tests vs England: Shan Masood (captain), Saud Shakeel (vice-captain), Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Haseebullah (wicket-keeper), Kamran Ghulam, Mehran Mumtaz, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Huraira, Mohammad Rizwan (wicket-keeper), Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Zahid Mehmood.

IND vs AUS: Cameron Green out of Border Gavaskar Trophy, sidelined for 6 months

New Delhi. Australia's Cameron Green will be out of the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy and will be sidelined for a period of 6 months as the all-rounder decided to take up the option of undergoing surgery after scans found a 'unique issue' that was worsening his back injury. Cricket Australia released a statement on October 14, Monday, announcing that the 25-year-old will not be part of the upcoming 5-match Test series against India. Green had reported lower back pain during Australia's tour of the UK and subsequent scans revealed a stress fracture. The surgery and the subsequent recovery period also means that Green will miss the Test tour of Sri Lanka in February and the ICC Champions Trophy. Additionally, his participation in the next Indian Premier League season is now uncertain. "Green reported lower back pain during September's tour of the UK, with subsequent scans revealing a stress



fracture. "While stress fractures are not uncommon in fast bowlers, a statement from Cricket Australia said Green had a 'unique defect in an adjacent area to the fracture that is believed to be contributing to the injury.'"

"No further details on the nature of the 'unique defect' were provided," read the statement from Cricket.com.au.

After a week of evaluations and consultations, Green faced the decision to undergo the same type of surgery that had revitalised the careers of several fast bowlers. This procedure has benefited players like Australian pacers James Pattinson, Jason Behrendorff, and Ben Dwarshuis, as well as India's Jasprit Bumrah.

Knock-on effects of Green's withdrawal from BGT

The knock-on effects because of Green's withdrawal would be significant. The all-rounder came in the No.4 spot for the Aussies in Tests and this allowed Steve Smith to open the batting alongside Usman Khawaja. Green's overs with the ball had also come in handy for the reigning WTC champions.

Babar Azam vs Virat Kohli comparisons are baseless: Brad Hogg

Former Australia spinner Brad Hogg shunned comparisons between Babar Azam and Virat Kohli after the former was dropped from the Pakistan Test side. Hogg said that dropping Babar was the right call from Pakistan.

New Delhi. One should not compare Babar Azam's off form to Virat Kohli's, said former Australia spinner Brad Hogg. The spinner's comments come after Babar Azam fans flocked to social media after batter got dropped from the Test team and argued against the moving using the example of

Virat Kohli. Even Pakistan batter Fakhar Zaman took to Twitter to state that India never dropped Kohli when he was going through a rough patch between 2020-2023. Fakhar called Babar as one of the best batters that Pakistan had ever produced and said that dropping the player would send a negative message to the team. "It's concerning to hear suggestions about dropping Babar Azam. India didn't bench Virat Kohli during his rough stretch between 2020 and 2023, when he averaged 19.33, 28.21, and 26.50, respectively.

If we are considering sidelining our premier batsman, arguably the best Pakistan has ever produced, it could send a deeply negative message across the team. There is still time to avoid pressing the panic button; we should focus on safeguarding our key players rather



than undermining them," Fakhar said. However, former Australia spinner Brad Hogg had a completely different take on the matter and said that Babar and Virat's lows should not be compared as Pakistan cricket team's results are starkly different to Indian teams. Hogg pointed out that during Virat's lows, India were the second best team

in the world, while during Babar's lows, Pakistan are the second-worst. Hogg believed that tough calls needed to be taken in difficult times. Comparing bad form between Babar Azam & Kohli after rumours the Pakistan legend will be dropped for the 2nd test vs England is baseless. India: 2nd best win % during Kohli's draught. Pakistan: 2nd worst win % through Babar's. Hard decisions need to be made!" Hogg said. Babar Azam has been in a terrible patch of form, not only in Tests but in ODIs and T20Is as well. Babar has not been able to score a fifty in his last 18 innings in Test cricket and was woeful in the T20 World Cup 2024 as well. In the previous match against England, Babar got out after being challenged on both his outside and inside edge and was not able to score big runs on an absolutely flat pitch in Multan.

Taapsee Pannu

SLAMS Turkish Airlines Over A 24-Hour Delay: 'Not Passenger's Problem To Figure Out'

Actress Taapsee Pannu, who recently starred in "Khel Khel Mein" with Akshay Kumar, took to her Instagram stories in August 2024 to express her disappointment with Turkish Airlines. In the story, she called it her "#WorstExperience" and shared how her flight was delayed by 24 hours without prior intimation. In her Instagram story, Taapsee slammed Turkish Airlines and accused them of having the "most 'non-caring' customer service." She shared that passengers on her flight were left to fend for themselves because the airline offered no support. According to her, there wasn't even a customer care service to help with the long delays, forcing travelers to figure things out on their own.

Taking to her Instagram story, Taapsee wrote, "#WorstExperience @turkishairlines u have the most 'non caring' customer care service. Or wait, u don't have a customer 'care' service itself especially for passengers who suffer coz of your delay. Left to figure it out yourself. Wow 24 hour delay coz of your airline issue is not passenger's problem to figure out!" Not long back, Taapsee, who is known to be vocal about social issues, expressed concern for the current situation of women's safety in the country as she revisited the her film Pink's theme. "8 years ago we never knew this small film of ours would find such a big place in the notable films of our country and 8 years after that we can't believe that we are still amidst the battle and struggle of security of women and their consent. What bittersweet emotion it is for someone who is proud to be a part of this film," she said.



country and 8 years after that we can't believe that we are still amidst the battle and struggle of security of women and their consent. What bittersweet emotion it is for someone who is proud to be a part of this film," she said.

Taapsee Pannu was recently seen alongside Akshay Kumar in Khel Khel Mein. The film co-starring Pragya Jaiswal, Ammy Virk and Vaani Kapoor failed to perform well at the box office. Besides the comedy-drama, Taapsee also had another release this month - Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba in which she reprised her role of Rani Kashyap from the film Haseen Dillruba. Joining the actress to entertain the masses were Vikrant Massey and Sunny Kaushal who portrayed her husbands in the film.

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Kareena Kapoor Reveals THIS Actor Was Sister Karisma Kapoor's First Bollywood Crush



The latest episode of The Great Indian Kapil Show saw the Kapoor sisters gracing the show with their infectious energy. Karisma Kapoor and Kareena Kapoor appeared on the show and spilled secrets. One notable moment was the game segment where Kareena shared who was Karisma's first Bollywood crush. She also named Karisma's 'worst film' and 'cringe-worthy' role. Appearing on the second season of The Great Indian Kapil Show, Kareena and Karisma indulged in fun games as they spilled secrets. Karisma wore noise-cancelling headphones as Kareena shared her secrets. Kapil asked Kareena about Karisma's first Bollywood crush and she instantly revealed that it was Salman Khan.

In the same segment, Kareena revealed that she considers Karisma's role in Paapi Gudia the most cringeworthy. She also mentioned that her sister takes a lot of time to dress up and considers this her most irritating habit. She said that she considers Maidaan-E-Jung to be Karisma's bad film. As Karisma took off the headphones, she said that she had sent her sister to watch her films quite often. She said, "I've sent Bebo to watch many of my films, and she would often come back saying, 'What a bad film you made me watch. I got a lot of firings.'" The Kapoor sisters fondly remembered their grandfather, Raj Kapoor, in the episode. They mentioned how he motivated them to pursue a career in Bollywood and take the Kapoor legacy to newer heights. They shared how their family pushed them to prove themselves in the film industry without providing any special assistance.

On the work front, Kareena was last seen in Hansal Mehta's The Buckingham Murders. Karisma, on the other hand, was last seen in Murder Mubarak. The Great Indian Kapil Sharma Show Season 2 is available to stream on Netflix.

Aditya Seal On Chemistry With Sunny Singh In Amar Prem Ki Prem Kahani: 'Once We Broke The Ice...'



Aditya Seal, known for his versatility and dynamic range as an actor, has taken on one of the most challenging roles of his career in the groundbreaking film Amar Prem Ki Prem Kahani, where he portrays a queer character. This bold move not only pushes the boundaries of his own artistic capabilities but also shines a light on the nuances of love and identity. In an exclusive interview with News18, Aditya shared the intense preparation he undertook to bring authenticity to such a deeply emotional role. He revealed the creative challenges he faced, the intricate process of embodying the character, and the powerful connection he built with his co-stars to bring this complex story to life. Reflecting on his journey, Aditya spoke candidly about how playing diverse characters has profoundly shaped his career, allowing him to explore new depths in his craft. He described how this role, in particular, has broadened his understanding of human emotion and storytelling, marking a transformative chapter in his career. Here's an in-depth look at his thoughtful reflections and the impact of this groundbreaking role on his artistic journey.

Portraying a Queer Character: Breaking Stereotypes

Aditya Seal's role in Amar Prem Ki Prem Kahani marks a significant step for LGBTQ representation in mainstream Indian cinema. Unlike many stereotypical portrayals, Aditya's approach was to normalize the character and treat the love story with the same authenticity as any heterosexual relationship. Reflecting on his preparation for the role, he explained, "The preparation was just trying to normalize the entire thing. Many might think it required meeting several people from the community for research, but that wasn't necessary for me. I already knew people from the LGBTQ community, and I wanted to approach this like any other love story—just two individuals in love."

His portrayal has been praised for its authenticity and avoidance of clichés. "We weren't trying to make anyone laugh or present caricatures. There was no attempt to dress up in a particular way that could reinforce preconceived notions about the community," he said. "It was important to keep it real and show that, at the end of the day, these are two people experiencing genuine emotions and love, just like anyone else."

Shraddha Kapoor

Dating? Stree 2 Star Says 'Love Spending Time With My Partner'

Shraddha Kapoor, one of Bollywood's most beloved actresses, is basking in the success of Stree 2. The horror-comedy has broken all records at the box office. Well, amid this she has been grabbing headlines after the actress confirmed that she is in a relationship. The Stree 2 star, who is known for keeping her private life away from the spotlight, has left fans guessing after mentioning her "partner" in a recent interview. In a recent interview with Cosmopolitan, Shraddha was asked about her approach to relationships. Kapoor confirmed her relationship and said, "I really love spending time with my partner and doing things with him like watching a movie, going for dinner, or traveling. I am generally someone who likes to spend time doing things together or even not doing things together."

The actress was reportedly dating Rahul Mody but recently news came in that the couple has parted ways. The speculation intensified when Shraddha unfollowed Rahul, along with his sister, his production house, and even his dog on Instagram. And now, Shraddha's cousin, Zanai Bhosle — granddaughter of legendary singer Asha Bhosle — has also unfollowed Rahul, which has seemingly confirmed the breakup. Neither Shraddha nor Rahul has commented on the this, but the couple's alleged relationship had been a topic of speculation for some time. The two first sparked dating rumours earlier this year, with multiple sightings together, including a wedding appearance that fuelled the speculation. In June, Shraddha all but confirmed the romance when she posted a photo on her Instagram Stories. While she flashed a smile, Rahul couldn't resist pulling a goofy face, sealing the deal for fans. Sharing the picture, Shraddha wrote, "Dil rakh le, need to vaapis de de yaar." She added a series of emojis, including a laughing emoji and a heart emoji. She also tagged Rahul in the picture.

"They are not afraid to be photographed with each other, but that doesn't mean they will make their relationship official anytime soon. They are both private people and want to keep their relationship out of the limelight. They are not afraid to be photographed with each other, but that doesn't mean they will make their relationship official anytime soon. They are both private people and want to keep their relationship out of the limelight," a source had earlier told the Hindustan Times. On the work front, Shraddha has not announced any new projects after Stree 2.

