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All eyes on Priyanka Gandhi Vadra as Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll on November 13

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Oct 15: The Election Commission of India on Tuesday announced that the



Priyanka Gandhi's entry marks a new chapter for the Congress party in Kerala. In June, the Congress decided to field Priyanka Gandhi Vadra from Wayanad. The announcement was made after the Congress party's top leadership met at party president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in the national capital on June 17. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra has been actively involved in politics since 1999, initially campaigning for her mother Sonia Gandhi in Amethi. Despite her long political presence, she has never contested elections herself. Rahul Gandhi, her brother, has a deep emotional connection to Wayanad, where he won during the 2019 elections after losing his stronghold in Amethi to BJP's Smriti Irani, making Wayanad a key constituency for the Gandhis.

Maharashtra to vote on Nov 20, Jharkhand on Nov 13, 20

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Oct 15: The Assembly polls in Maharashtra will be held in a single phase on November 20, while the Jharkhand polls will be held in two phases on November 13 and 20, the Election Commission of India announced on Tuesday. "There are 9.63 crore eligible voters in Maharashtra, while the number of eligible voters in Jharkhand is 2.6 crore," Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said at a press conference here. Bypolls will also be held in 48 assembly seats and two Lok Sabha seats, the CEC said. Bypolls to the Kedarnath assembly seat in Uttarakhand and the Nanded Lok Sabha seat in Maharashtra will be held on November 20. Bypolls to the Basirhat Lok Sabha seat in West Bengal and Milkipur in Uttar Pradesh were not announced as election petitions are pending for the two seats. Kumar said elections will be held in both the states on Wednesdays to address the problem of urban apathy. The BJP is keen to retain power in Maharashtra along with allies Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and the NCP led by Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar. The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance is facing a challenge from the Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition of the Congress-NCPSP-Shiv Sena UBT, which hopes to repeat its performance in the Lok Sabha election. The opposition MVA alliance won 31 of the 48 seats in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha election. In Jharkhand, the Congress is playing second fiddle to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, while the BJP is looking to make a comeback.



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Haryana BJP MLAs to meet today to elect state legislature party leader

Chandigarh, Oct 15: The meeting of the Haryana BJP MLAs to elect the state legislature party leader will be held today. Nayab Singh Saini, who replaced Manohar Lal Khattar as the chief minister of Haryana in March, was the BJP's chief ministerial face in the state assembly polls, and is likely to be the CM choice. Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav are the central observers for the election of the state legislature party leader in Haryana. The meeting, which will be held in the party office in Panchkula, will elect the state legislature party leader, Saini and state BJP president Mohan Lal Badoli told reporters here. Saini and Badoli along with Union minister Krishan Pal Gurjar, BJP general secretary Vinod Shah and party's Haryana affairs in-charge Satish Poonia held a meeting to take stock of preparations for the swearing-in ceremony of the new party-led government in the state slated for October 17. Replying to a question, Badoli said while Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers, chief ministers of the BJP-ruled states and NDA partners will attend the oath-taking function in Panchkula on Thursday, opposition leaders of various parties, 'progressive farmers', 'Lakshpati Didis' and people from various social organisations have also been invited.

Maharashtra polls: Why is it a survival test for Sharad Pawar, Uddhav Thackeray

Naresh Malhotra

Mumbai, Oct 15: Both Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray have endured testing times after their respective parties NCP and Shiv Sena were split in the last two years. Maharashtra will vote in a single phase election to its 288-member assembly on November 20, the Election Commission announced. The upcoming election is a direct contest between the ruling Mahayuti coalition and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) bloc. The electoral battle is a tough test for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its ruling allies Shiv Sena and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). But the election won't be easy for the opposition MVA, which scripted a stupendous performance in the Lok Sabha elections. All eyes are on two leaders, who are facing a survival test this autumn. Sharad Pawar and Uddhav Thackeray. Both the regional satraps have endured testing times after their

respective parties NCP and Shiv Sena were split in the last two years. It is now or never for these two netas as the Maharashtra elections will determine their future. Just three days before the assembly elections in the state in 2019, Sharad Pawar braved heavy rain while addressing a rally in Satara. Many believed that the



moment proved to be a turning point in the Maratha strongman's political career. In the general elections held that year, the NCP had won just four seats and the political pundits had written Pawar off. But the tables were turned in

October 2019 as Sharad Pawar emerged as the kingmaker and architect of the MVA. He was instrumental in stitching an alliance comprising Shiv Sena, Congress and his party NCP. He thwarted a near-successful coup by his nephew Ajit Pawar, who took oath as the deputy chief minister in Devendra Fadnis's short-lived government. In May last year, Pawar shocked everyone by announcing his decision to step down as NCP chief. However, he withdrew his decision days later. But he did not know what lay in store for him. His ambitious nephew Ajit successfully split the party the veteran leader had formed after being expelled from the Congress in 1999. Ajit Pawar is currently the deputy to chief minister Eknath Shinde. Earlier this year, the Election Commission recognised Ajit Pawar's faction as the real NCP. However, the party could win just one seat in the Lok Sabha elections. If the NCP (SP) under 83-year-old Pawar pulls off an exceptional performance, it would bolster his morale in reclaiming the party he had founded. In 2019, Uddhav Thackeray walked out of the NDA over the issue of rotational chief ministership after the Maharashtra assembly elections.

UP bypolls on Nov 13; SP questions 'delaying elections' in Milkipur

Lucknow, Oct 15: The Election Commission of India on Tuesday announced that the bypolls to nine out of the ten vacant assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh will take place on November 13. The only constituency left out is the Milkipur assembly seat in Ayodhya, sparking a political war of words between the opposition and ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). The Samajwadi Party, shortly after the poll schedule was announced, alleged that the BJP is trying to "stall" the bypolls in the Milkipur seat as it was "afraid" of its defeat in Ayodhya. The assembly seats where bye-elections will be held are Kotehari, Karhal, Meerapur, Kundarki, Phulpur, Sisamau, Ghaziabad, Majhawan and Kahir. However, the polls in Milkipur were not announced by the ECI as an election petition is pending in the high court against the candidate who had won the seat earlier. In a veiled jibe at the BJP, SP president Akhilesh Yadav posted on X, "Whoever has postponed the war, consider that he has lost the war." SP spokesperson Anurag Bhadauria said, "When election is being held on nine seats, why it can't be held on

the 10th seat - Milkipur. What report the state government has given to the EC. It should be made clear." SP leader Awadhesh Prasad, who won from the Faizabad seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, told ANI, "Samajwadi Party is confident that we will win all the nine seats (in UP bypolls). I resigned from the Milkipur seat on June 12 and this seat was vacant. BJP has understood that they will lose the election and Samajwadi Party will win with majority. That is why they have delayed the election." However, the Bharatiya Janata Party defended the EC's decision to not announcing the polls in Milkipur, saying that the petition filed in court by two candidates from the seat has not been disposed yet. BJP spokesperson Harishchandra Srivastava told PTI, "The licence of the person who got the notary done in the nomination filed by SP's Awadhesh Prasad, who won Milkipur in the 2022 assembly elections, was revoked five years ago. Against this, two candidates Gorakhnath and Ram Murti had filed a petition in the court, which has not been disposed of yet. That is why bypoll was not declared on this seat."

Baba Siddique murder: 1 more person held

Mumbai, Oct 15: The Mumbai police have arrested one more person in connection with the killing of NCP leader Baba Siddique, officials said on Tuesday. Harishkumar Balakram (23), hailing from Bahraich in Uttar Pradesh, was involved in providing money and other logistical support to the shooters, an official said. Balakram worked as a scrap dealer in Warje area of Maharashtra's Pune, he said. A crime branch team apprehended him from Bahraich on Monday and brought him to Mumbai on Tuesday morning, the official said. With this, four persons have so far been arrested in connection with Siddique's killing. Police had earlier arrested Haryana resident Gurmil Baljit Singh (23), Uttar Pradesh native Dharmaraj Rajesh Kashyap (19), both alleged shooters, and 'co-conspirator' Pravin Lonkar from Pune. Another suspected shooter, Shivkumar Gautam, who hails from Bahraich, is on the run. Balakram, along with Kashyap, Gautam, Pravin Lonkar and the latter's brother Shubham Lonkar, was part of the conspiracy to kill three-time MLA Baba Siddique, the official said. Baba Siddique (66) was waylaid by three persons in Mumbai's Nirmal Nagar area, just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office, and shot at on Saturday night.

Jaishankar, Shehbaz Sharif exchange pleasantries

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Islamabad, Oct 15: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday exchanged pleasantries with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, hours after landing in the Pakistani capital to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). The brief exchange took place at a dinner reception hosted by Sharif at his residence in honour of the delegates of the SCO member countries. Jaishankar and Sharif warmly shook hands and held a very brief interaction. The Pakistan prime minister greeted all the leaders of the delegations of the SCO member nations. Jaishankar's aircraft landed at the Nur Khan airbase on the outskirts of the Pakistani capital city at around 3.30 pm (local time) and he was greeted by sen-

ior Pakistani officials. It is the first time in nearly nine years that India's foreign minister travelled to Pakistan even as the



ties between the two neighbours remained tense over the Kashmir issue and cross-border terrorism emanating from Pakistan. The external affairs minister will lead the Indian delegation at the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) summit on Wednesday. "Landed

in Islamabad to take part in SCO Council of Heads of Government Meeting," Jaishankar posted on X along with photographs of children and officials welcoming him with flowers at the airport. The last Indian Foreign Minister to visit Pakistan was Sushma Swaraj. She had travelled to Islamabad to attend the 'Heart of Asia' conference on Afghanistan that was held from December 8-9, 2015. Jaishankar, who was then India's foreign secretary, was part of Swaraj's delegation. During the visit, Swaraj had held talks with her then counterpart Sartaj Aziz. Following the Swaraj-Aziz talks, a joint statement was released in which both sides announced their decision to start a Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue. A little over two weeks after Swaraj's trip, Prime Minister Narendra Modi sprang a surprise with a 150-minute visit to Lahore on his way back home from Kabul.

V-P Dhankhar warns of 'demographic disorder' threat to India

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Oct 15: Echoing the sentiments recently expressed by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday expressed deep concerns over the growing threat of demographic disorder in the country. "Demographic disorder is no less severe in consequences than a nuclear bomb," he said. Addressing the gathering as the chief guest at the inaugural session of the International Conference for CA members at Birla Auditorium, Jaipur, Vice-President Dhankhar said, "Demographic dislocation is turning certain regions into political fortresses, where elections have no real meaning. It is alarming to see how some areas have been affected by this strategic



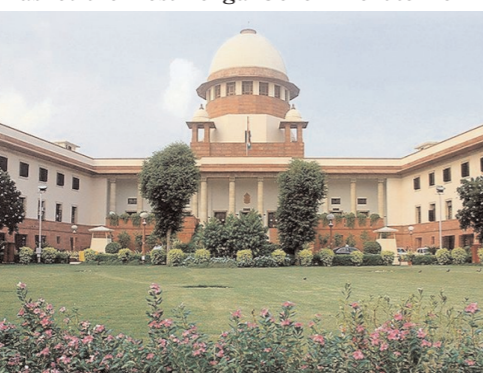
shift, turning them into impenetrable strongholds where democracy loses its essence." He elaborated on the broader implications of this issue for India's future, stating that Bharat must remain a stabilising global force. "This force has to emerge. This century has to belong to Bharat and that will be good for humanity, that will contribute to peace and harmony on the planet. However, it would be a disservice to the nation if we turn a blind eye to the dangers of demographic upheavals that are taking place in this country," the VP warned. He said organic, natural demographic change is never upsetting but a demographic change brought about in a strategic manner to achieve an object offers a scene that is frightening. The Vice-President underscored that analysing this demographic shift over the last few decades reveals a disturbing pattern that offers a challenge to our values, to our civilizational ethos, to our democracy. "If this alarmingly worrisome challenge is not addressed systematically, it would escalate into an existential threat for the nation. It has happened in the world. I need not name countries that have lost their identity 100 percent because of this demographic disorder, demographic earthquake," he said. Vice-President Dhankhar stressed the need for preserving the inclusivity that defines Bharat, saying, "We as a majority are all embracing."

Kolkata horror: SC questions West Bengal govt over 'unverified' civil volunteers working with state police

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct 15: Expressing apprehensions over political patronage given to unverified civil volunteers working with the West Bengal Police, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the state government to disclose details of the process of recruitment for hiring them. "This is a nice way to confer political patronage on selected individuals who are totally unverified," a Bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said during hearing on a suo motu case initiated by the top court on the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, Kolkata, on August 9 that triggered nationwide outrage and protests. "Who recruits these civic volunteers? We need to know what their qualifications are. We need to know that such volunteers do not operate in hospitals, schools which are

sensitive in nature," it said, directing the West Bengal Government to furnish details on their recruitment. The top court asked the West Bengal Government to file



an affidavit detailing the legal source of authority for recruitment of civic volunteers; the modalities for their recruitment; the qualifications prescribed; verifications carried out before the recruitment; institutions where they were assigned duties;

payments made to them on a daily/monthly basis; and the budget outlay. The Bench asked the state government to give details on the steps taken to ensure that the civil volunteers did not operate in particularly vulnerable and sensitive establishments such as hospitals and schools and sought to know the number of civic volunteers involved in police stations and crime investigation. Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, representing the West Bengal Government, submitted that security staff at hospitals was recruited as per norms prescribed under the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Act, 2005. The order came after senior advocate Karuna Nundy submitted on behalf of a doctors' body that the state government's 'Retire Sathi' initiative to protect women working at night shifts was fraught with serious consequences as it involved civic volunteers.

Citing the Salwa Judum case verdict (2011) in which the top court had disapproved of giving arms and police powers to private individuals, she said around 1,500 such civil volunteers were working in West Bengal. On behalf of the victim's parents, advocate Vrinda Grover pointed out that accused Sanjay Roy was also a civil volunteer having criminal antecedents who had access to a police vehicle registered in the name of Kolkata Police Commissioner. Expressing dissatisfaction over the tardy pace at which the National Task Force (NTF), constituted by it to formulate a protocol for ensuring the safety and security of doctors and other health care professionals was working, the Bench asked it to expedite its work. The Bench was surprised to know that the NTF had not held any meetings since September 9. Its first meeting was held on August 27. "What has the task force done after September 9? Why no meetings after September 9?"

News box

Govt renames state skills devpt varsity after Tata

Mumbai. The Maharashtra State Kaushalya Vidyapeeth has been officially renamed Ratan Tata Maharashtra State Kaushalya Vidyapeeth in recognition of late industrialist Ratan Tata's monumental contributions to industry and skill development.

Skill development minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha made the announcement on Monday, stating that the decision honours the industrialist's tireless efforts and support for the growth of new and emerging industries.

A towering figure in Indian industry, Tata played an unparalleled role in the development of numerous sectors, providing critical support to industries and creating opportunities for skill enhancement, said the university's founding vice-chancellor, Apoorva Palkar. The renaming of the Kaushalya Vidyapeeth is a tribute to his legacy, aligning with the institution's mission to provide skilled manpower to industries and empower the next generation of professionals.

"The renaming reflects Ratan Tata's vision of fostering technical growth and industry-ready talent," Lodha said, adding that students at this university, now bearing Tata's name, will take "immense pride in their education." The move also aims to bolster Maharashtra's role in providing skilled workers to the nation. — Hemali Chhapia

Slice of justice: Man's legal battle over 24 paise ends with 1k fine

Ahmedabad. What started as a fight for 24 paise spiralled into a hefty Rs 1,000 fine! A man took a local pizza chain to court, alleging he had been overcharged by just a fraction of a rupee under the pretext of rounding off the bill. However, the consumer commission did not share his sense of outrage. Calling the case a "mockery of justice" and a waste of its time, the commission slapped him with a penalty. Patel's fight for pocket change ended up costing him dearly.

Prashant Patel from Detroj-Rampura village took legal action after visiting a pizzeria on Jan 10 this year. The eatery presented him with a bill of Rs 665 for pizza and soft drinks, but Patel argued that the actual amount should have been Rs 664.76 after applying a discount and GST. Patel objected to the extra 24 paise, which he believed was overcharging. He was told that his complaint would be conveyed to the management and he would receive a message regarding the issue or refunded the excess if he had been charged wrongfully or by mistake.

When the restaurant did not respond, he escalated the issue to the Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission in Gandhinagar. The complainant submitted that under the pretext of rounding off the final amount, the restaurant charged more from its customers, revealing its intention to earn more. He argued that it should be fined heavily to stop it from duping its customers.

The restaurant defended itself, explaining that the bill was rounded off according to official guidelines. It argued that the billing software was set up to follow official rules while generating bills.

The legal battle for such a paltry sum irked the consumer commission, which stated, "The complaint was filed to recover 24 paise from the opponent (eatery), which is a mockery of justice and painful. The opponent submitted that the bill was generated by rounding off the amount according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and govt guidelines."

New NID director takes charge amid dissent over faculty transfers

Ahmedabad. Ashok Mondal, the newly appointed director of the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad, who formally took charge on Friday, held the first staff meeting on Monday. The interaction, however, turned stormy as students demanded answers from Mondal regarding the sweeping changes in faculty members' roles.

The NID, Ahmedabad, oversees the functioning of the Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Bengaluru campuses of the premier design institute.

According to NID sources, soon after taking charge, Mondal reshuffled the heads and leads of almost all the departments. The mid-academic year shuffle did not go well with the faculty members and students, who were already engaged in academic activities. Thus, before the formal meeting with the staff members scheduled at 5 pm on Monday, the students held a discussion with the director.

"The discussion ranged from his ideas for the institute and approach to design to the reasons for the sweeping changes. Almost all the women in lead roles were reassigned.

Mondal, in his response, assured the students that he is following the procedure and would be open to suggestions from the students and members of NID in the future for improvement," said sources. "He also assured the students that there will be freedom to express ideas as the institute aims to open new centres and focus on developing areas."

Pettah-Thiruvananthapuram's commercial centre of yore

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.

Once a happening town of merchants, Pettah was the main gateway to the city of Thiruvananthapuram. Its strategic coastal location and proximity to the renowned Padmanabhaswamy Temple made it a favoured destination for traders and pilgrims alike.

The Kotte Heritage Foundation, dedicated to restoring the ancient capital of the Sinhalese kingdom of Kotte in Sri Lanka, throws light on the historical significance of the name 'Pettah.' This term, an Anglo-Indian adaptation of the Tamil word 'pettai,' was introduced by the British and referred to areas identified by the Dutch as the 'oude stad' or old town. The Pettah market in Colombo, however, has long been a hub for trade, even during the Dutch era. After that, this term might have been shared by several



markets including the one in Thiruvananthapuram.

"There were two major markets in Thiruvananthapuram one is Ananthapuri Pettah and another one is Thirumadhura Pettah," explains historian Malayinkeezh Gopalakrishnan. "Ananthapuri Pettah later evolved into Chalai

Market, while Thirumadhura Pettah became known as Pettah. The term 'Pettah' denotes a commercial or trading centre. Historians continue to debate whether the name 'Thirumadhura Pettah' originated from traders who arrived here from Madurai," he explains.

In ancient times, he says, waterways were the primary path for trade and transport. Even before the construction of the man-made Parvathi Puthanar canal, there were smaller water channels in the area, as per the records. "The construction of Parvathi Puthanar only strengthened these waterways. Some historians note that goods from various regions were brought to Pettah, where surplus products were sold and exported. And also, thanks to its proximity to the sea, the area became a key trading post for spices such as pepper and cardamom," he says. The historians also say the place was a significant centre for early Christians in Travancore. The Kollam-Thiruvananthapuram railway line, which started in 1918, ended at Pettah.

The 'Memoir of the Survey of Travancore and Cochin States' by

Lieutenants Benjamin Swain Ward and Peter Eyre Conner document Pettah's prominence as a trading centre and densely populated community, primarily made up of traders and members of the 'Mukkuva' community. It is said that this place is also known as a gathering centre for spiritual assemblies of figures such as Chattampi Swamikal, P Sundaram Pillai, Swaminatha Desikar, Velutheri Kesavan Vaidyan, Perunnelli Krishnan Vaidyar, and Narayana Guru.

The prominence of the Pettah market has decreased over time, while Chalai Market continues to thrive.

However, this area, located on the route to Thiruvananthapuram airport and the renowned tourist destination Shangumugham Beach, deserves to be remembered for its significant chapter in history.

Rare comet likely to dazzle morning skies this month

BENGALURU. Skywatchers are in for a rare celestial spectacle as the Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) is expected to be visible in the early morning skies until October 20. This comet, which has travelled for thousands of years from the distant reaches of the solar system, could become one of the brightest objects in the sky.

What makes this comet special is not only its potential brightness, but also the fact that this is a once-in-a-lifetime event -- C/2023 A3 won't return for tens of thousands of years, making it a unique opportunity for stargazers.

Dr BS Shylaja, scientist and former director of the Jawaharlal Planetarium, said the comet was discovered by two observatories earlier this year -- the Tsuchinshan Observatory in China and the ATLAS (Asteroid Terrestrial-impact

Last Alert System) project. Hence it bears the name C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS), with "C" indicating that it is a non-periodic comet and "2023 A3" reflecting its identification in early January 2023. Tsuchinshan and ATLAS are credited for spotting it independently, and its name honours both observatories.

"As Comet C/2023 A3 nears the Sun, it will form a glowing atmosphere, known as a coma, and a long tail made of dust and gas that stretches for millions of kilometres," Dr Shylaja said, adding that this tail will create a stunning sight as it reflects the sunlight.

However, there is a possibility that the comet could break apart due to the Sun's intense heat and gravitational forces, but if it holds together, it promises to be one of the most brilliant comets seen in recent years, she added. Dr BR Guruprasad,

Director of the Planetarium, said, "C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) comet is truly unique, taking about 80,000 years to complete one orbit around the Sun, so it is something none of us will see again in our lifetime. However, comets are notoriously unpredictable -- some, expected to be brilliant, end up fading out. We're still waiting to see how bright this one will get." In the first week of November, another comet is expected to be visible in the morning sky. With advancements in technology and modelling, scientists mentioned that they hope to improve the ability to predict how these comets will behave in the future. However, they highlighted that a degree of uncertainty will always remain as each comet can exhibit unique and unpredictable characteristics.

Cab driver and his family found dead

He found wife hanging, children dead on bed; removed wife's body and hanged himself; he was struggling to clear multiple loans

BENGALURU. In a tragic incident, a family of four, including two minor children, was found dead at their residence on Monday morning in Yediyurappa Nagar of Singanayakanahalli on the outskirts of the city. The Rajanukunte police registered a case and are investigating.

The deceased have been identified as Avinash (33), a cab driver, his wife Mamatha (30), a housewife, their son Adhir (5), and daughter Anaya (3). The couple from Kalaburagi was living in a rented house for the past five years.

Sources said that Avinash's brother Uday, who also lived with them and worked as a teacher at a private school, had travelled to their hometown for the festival and returned Monday morning. When he knocked on the door, there was no response. When he looked through the window, he saw

Avinash hanging in the room, with Mamatha and the children lying on the bed. Uday immediately alerted the



police, who rushed to the spot and confirmed the deaths. The bodies were sent for postmortem, and no suicide note was found, officials said.

A senior police officer told that had gone

to work on Sunday and when he returned home, he found his children dead on the bed and his wife hanging. After removing her body, he later died by suicide. Preliminary investigations revealed that Avinash, who was struggling to clear multiple loans he had taken, had asked his father-in-law for financial help, but was unable to receive support.

The police suspect that Mamtha may have strangled her two children and then killed herself. Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba told reporters that the police have registered two cases and are investigating the matter. One case pertains to the unnatural death of Avinash, while the other concerns the deaths of his wife and two children, he said.

Official apathy puts Varkala tourists at risk amid repeated cliff collapses

Residents complain of cracks in walls, peeling cement and lack of proper water facility.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. In the wake of escalating erosion and repeated collapse of portions of Varkala Cliff, the district disaster management authority (DDMA) on Monday directed Varkala municipality to take stringent measures to prevent unauthorised parking at the helipad, the site of the latest collapse. On Friday, after heavy rain, parts of the cliff gave way near the helipad, sparking widespread concern.

Varkala Cliff, a rare geological formation, has been severely impacted by rain, improper wastewater management, and uncontrolled vehicle movement, resulting in several instances of collapse over the past few months. According to sources, the DDMA has directed the Varkala municipal secretary to take steps to ban human activities, especially parking, 20 metres from the edge of the cliff at the helipad, where hundreds of tourists arrive every day. Despite stringent orders, a lack of coordination between the revenue and tourism departments and the municipal

authorities have led to unchecked activities and violations, triggering further destruction of the cliff and putting tourists at risk.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is carrying out a study to conserve the cliff, which is a geo-heritage site. GSI (Kerala) Deputy Director General V Ambili told TNIE that an expert from the central agency has initiated the study of Varkala Cliff.

"After a preliminary study, we gave our short-term recommendations to the DDMA long ago. Regulating vehicular movement on the cliff is imperative to slow down the erosion. Intense rain with vehicular movement will only trigger further collapse. The cliff, because of its natural features, can't hold so much weight," Ambili said.

According to geologists, the cliff is composed of a sequence of sedimentary rocks -- including sandstone, claystone, and shale -- deposited around 145 million years ago,



during the Cretaceous period.

Varkala municipality chairman M Laji said the local body has initiated efforts to provide proper parking for tourists and devotees. "We have taken over land to arrange parking facilities for visitors but the revenue authorities are coming up with objections to that. At the same time, other construction activities are happening in the

area.

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Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief

Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.thesikhimes.in
Email : sikhimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DEL/ENG/2008/25465

Legal Advisors:

Advocate Mohd. Sajid
Advocate Dr. A.P.Singh
Advocate Manish Sharma
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

News box

Man handed 20-year RI for abducting & raping minor

Gurgaon. Three years after a man abducted a minor from Panipat and raped her, a fast-track court sentenced the 28-year-old youth to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment. In 2021, Shiva Kumar, who hailed from UP, abducted the minor, took her to Punjab and raped her repeatedly. The survivor was rescued by her parents with the intervention of the police. The additional sessions judge of the fast-track (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) court of Panipat, in its order dated Oct 10, observed it found no inconsistency in the statement of the survivor and rejected the allegation that the accused was falsely implicated. A close analysis of the facts and circumstances of the case and the nature of the evidence available unequivocally establish the accused as the perpetrator of the sexual assault, the court, which also imposed a fine of Rs 50,000, said. The court also directed the district legal service authority to pay compensation of Rs 2 lakh to the survivor for her rehabilitation. The case was registered on Feb 26, 2021 at Samalkha police station under Section 6 of the POCSO Act and sections 365, 363, 366A, 376(2)(n) and 506 against Shiva Kumar, a resident of Shahjanpur in Lucknow, UP. On Feb 25, 2021, the survivor was searching for her brother when she met her friend, who took her to Anaj Mandi in Samalkha in Panipat district. From there, she was taken to a park where the accused, Shiva, was present. The minor was offered a soft drink and she fell unconscious. When she regained consciousness, she found herself in a room where Shiva tried to rape her. She was kept in custody and the accused repeatedly raped and physically assaulted her when she resisted. She was rescued with the intervention of the police and her parents from Punjab. She was counselled by the team from women and child welfare and underwent a medical examination.

Daily wagger killed by co-worker over Rs 500 debt in Faridabad

Gurgaon: A 42-year-old daily wagger was allegedly murdered by a colleague in Faridabad's Imamuddinpur for not repaying Rs 500 he had borrowed recently. No arrest was made in the case till late on Monday evening. On Saturday evening, Salauddin was sitting at home when Pawan, another daily wagger, arrived on a bike. The two had an argument over the money and Pawan allegedly forced Salauddin to accompany him somewhere on his bike. "Pawan barged into our house and abused my husband for not returning the money to him. Earlier, too, he had fought with my husband a few times and even threatened to kill him if he did not get his money back. That day, he forced my husband to go with him on his bike. Pawan did not say where he was taking him," said Dilshadan, Salauddin's wife. Around 9pm, Pawan dropped an unconscious Salauddin back at home. Their neighbours called a local doctor, who suggested that the daily wagger be taken to hospital. "I heard a sound and rushed out, only to find my husband lying unconscious in the courtyard. My daughter and I lifted him somehow and brought him inside the house. A doctor examined my husband and found him unresponsive. We took him to civil hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. My husband was murdered. It was Pawan who killed him," Dilshadan said in her complaint at Chhansa police station. A case was registered against Pawan under Section 103 (1) (murder) of BNS. "There was no mark of injury on his body. An autopsy was done to ascertain the cause of death. As soon as the autopsy report is out, we will take appropriate action," said sub-inspector Umesh of Chhansa police station.

Crackers burst, effigies burnt: AQI dips to 'poor' as smoke shrouds NCR

Noida. A smoky haze returned to Delhi-NCR on Monday morning as the region saw a jump in pollution levels after residents flouted the ban on firecrackers during Dussehra. The city, which experienced clear skies and abundant sunshine on Saturday, recorded two 'poor' air days on the trot. Its 24-hour Air Quality Index nosedived from 136 (moderate) on Saturday to settle at 243 and 268 on Sunday and Monday respectively. While the air quality in Noida has been largely recorded in the 'moderate' category over the last fortnight, on two days — Oct 4 (228) and 8 (217) — the city has recorded 'poor' AQI. The city also saw two 'poor' air days on Sept 24 (210) and 25 (250). UPPCB Noida regional officer Utsav Sharma attributed the sharp deterioration in air quality to a combination of factors: bursting of firecrackers during Dussehra and low wind speed that prevented pollutants from dispersing. With wind speed unlikely to pick up, AQI may remain 'poor' for the next few days. Except for Gurgaon, where the AQI has stayed at the 'moderate' level throughout the month, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad and Delhi too had two consecutive days of 'poor' AQI. On Monday, Greater Noida's AQI was recorded at 274, up from 228 on Sunday and 150 (moderate) on Saturday. Ghaziabad's AQI was recorded at 271 on Monday, 265 on Sunday and 177 on Saturday. In Delhi, the AQIs were 234, 223 and 155 on these three days respectively. Gurgaon's AQI was 108 on Monday, which is better than Sunday's 169 and Saturday's 120. Last year, the air quality had started to deteriorate from the first week of Oct across Delhi-NCR, especially in Greater Noida which saw only one 'moderate' air day and 13 'poor' ones when the AQI oscillated between 214 and 292. Noida and Delhi saw five 'poor' AQI days last Oct. In the corresponding period this year, the two cities saw four and two such days respectively. Ghaziabad saw four 'poor' air days in Oct 2023 and five in the same period this year. Gurgaon recorded four 'poor' days in Oct 2023. With the air quality deteriorating to the 'poor' category, pollution-control measures under stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) will be imposed across Delhi-NCR from 8am on Tuesday. GRAP Stage-I, implemented once air quality reaches between 201 and 300, mandates dust control and mitigation measures at construction sites, regular lifting of municipal solid waste, periodic mechanised sweeping and sprinkling water on roads, scientific disposal of dust at designated landfills. "We have held meetings and asked different stakeholders, like Noida Authority, traffic police, transport department, etc to take measures from their end. Developers have also been told to ensure compliance. We will conduct enforcement drives too," Sharma said.

Wrong-side driving: Commuters paid Rs 1.5cr fine in Sept as cases saw 4-time rise in a month

Gurgaon. Wrong-side driving — one of the deadliest habits on roads — has shown no signs of abating and collective consciousness against it remains elusive in a city where more than 400 people die every year in accidents. Data handed out by traffic police has shown that commuters in the city paid fines amounting to Rs 1.5 crore through Sept because of wrong-side driving. A total of 26,700 challans were issued for the menace last month. "Traffic cops deployed on roads slapped 26,700 challans for driving on the wrong side. The fines, which were issued under the Motor Vehicles Act, were worth Rs 1.5 crore in total," DCP (traffic) Virender Vij said. "A campaign against wrong-side driving will continue for now," he added. The rising number of offences show that commuters in the city throw caution to the wind to save a few minutes and litres of fuel despite an awareness drive by cops in various locations. In Aug this year, 6,300 challans were issued for wrong-side driving, which means the number of fines increased by more than four times in a month. "See, the practice of driving on the



wrong side to take a shortcut was always there. The number of challans does not necessarily mean that the menace has increased. It's only that police vigil has increased on the roads," an expert on city traffic said. Apart from awareness drives, police have increased the fine amount for wrong-side driving by five times to deter people. According to the MV Act, the

challan amount for wrong-side driving is only Rs 500. But cops in the city have been including the charge of dangerous driving while issuing a challan. So, the total fine amount comes to Rs 5,500 — Rs 500 for wrong-side driving and Rs 5,000 for dangerous driving. The traffic police have also identified 38 spots in the city where people drive on the wrong side with

impunity. "Despite stringent fines and focus on these blackspots, there hasn't been any significant dip in the number of wrong-side driving cases. People continue to flout the rule at will," a police officer said. According to police, wrong-side driving accounts for almost a fifth of the total fines issued in the city for various traffic violations. More than 15% of fatal accidents are caused by this menace, data shows. Vij said it was important for cops to be visible on the roads to deter people from violating rules. He asserted that the campaign to make roads safer would continue for now. "People should be extra careful while driving on the road. By driving against the traffic flow, they not only endanger the lives of others but their own as well," the DCP added. According to the data released by cops, a total of 31,870 challans were issued for wrong-side driving in 2023, while there were 40,315 incidents in 2022. The year before saw 32,618 fines for driving on the wrong side while 39,765 fines were issued in 2020. In 2019, 49,761 challans were slapped.

Drop in wind speed likely to turn city's air 'poor' in next two days

Gurgaon. The city's air quality index (AQI) remained in the 'moderate' range for the third consecutive day on Monday though Delhi and other NCR cities like Noida Ghaziabad witnessed 'poor' air. The city's AQI improved slightly to 108 on Monday compared to 169 on the previous day. Throughout Oct, Gurgaon hasn't witnessed 'poor' air days. Instead, it has logged four 'satisfactory' days and 10 'moderate' days. However, an HSPCB official said local surface winds are likely to remain calm for next two days, resulting in deterioration of air quality to 'poor' category. "Surface winds are expected to remain calm, at around 8kmph, for the next two days. This will not help disperse pollutants, with AQI likely to deteriorate to 'poor'," he said. So far, the average AQI was recorded at 113 from Oct 1 to 14, which is better than the past six years. Last year, the average AQI was clocked at 176 during

the same period, while it was 114 in 2022, 141 in 2021, 194 in 2020, 132 in 2019 and 223 in 2018. According to experts, though the region witnessed less showers and low wind speed this month, long-range transportation of pollutants was less than previous years. In the last two weeks, the southeast wind direction prevented pollutants from farm fires from reaching the city, resulting in a minor difference in air quality compared to previous years. However, the recent change in wind direction to northwest is expected to have an impact on the AQI. Shubhansh Tiwari, a research associate at the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), explained the situation. "The first half of Oct was much better this year. This change is because farm fires didn't pick up in Sept and till the first week of Oct. We are witnessing a rise now, so it is impacting Delhi's AQI. Also, a few

days before Dussehra, air was stagnant and after that, it became stagnant. As a result, pollutants from bursting of crackers, vehicular pollution, road dust and others failed to disperse," he said. As Delhi's air quality has worsened, with the daily AQI reaching 234, the authorities have implemented stage-I of GRAP to control air pollution. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) sub-committee has been closely monitoring the situation. According to experts, the AQI in Delhi has increased due to a combination of factors, including rising vehicular emissions, ongoing construction work and weather conditions. As GRAP stage 1 kicks in, NCR cities will have to ensure regular lifting of municipal solid waste, construction and demolition (C&D) waste, and any other trash considered "hazardous" from dedicated dumpsites.

Gurgaon civic body starts safety checks, deploys staff at Bandhwari landfill after fire

Gurgaon. A day after a massive fire erupted at the Bandhwari landfill site, MCG officials led by additional commissioner Balpreet Singh visited the spot on Monday and deployed staffers for the site's round-the-clock surveillance. Staff members, who would be assigned three shifts of 8 hours each to keep a watch at the site, will be penalised if any such incidents repeat, Singh said. Earlier too, the corporation had made its employees, including engineers, responsible for ensuring that no such incidents occur, but the manpower was diverted after Solid Waste Environment Exigency Programme (SWEEP) was implemented following the declaration of a



solid waste management exigency in the city. "We are going to ensure that the site is under surveillance for 24 hours. We will engage our workers in monitoring the site, instead of engineers, who have their fieldwork and other duties and are unable to devote time to monitoring. Moreover, we have held talks with the fire department to permanently deploy four

Its orders ignored, H-Rera issued 207 arrest warrants this yr, now goes to HC

Gurgaon. Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (HRERA) has this year issued 207 arrest warrants against 20 city-based developers for

referred the matter to the high court and police have yet not taken action. Thousands of homebuyers are suffering as a result. "Asked about

her flat for more than five years, said she was deeply disappointed in the redress system, which is failing homebuyers despite the govt

Funds boost of 30cr for road repairs & more before winter

Noida: The Noida Authority plans to use Rs 30.89 crore in funds received under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) to purchase anti-smog guns, hybrid smoke guns, and water sprinklers to combat winter pollution. Of this, around 10 crore will be allocated for road resurfacing and to fix potholes across several stretches in the city. Noida CEO Lokesh M said the authority is committed to tackling pollution during the winter season. "We have received Rs 30.89 crore as NCAP funds to check pollution. We have already purchased five anti-smog guns and are in the process of buying ten more. In addition to this, we have also issued tenders to buy 12 hybrid anti-smog guns," he said. Hybrid anti-smog guns are devices that help reduce air pollution by spraying fine mist or water droplets into the air to reduce particulate matter and other airborne pollutants. "We are also planning to sprinkle water from high rises in Noida so that the dust particles come down. Usually, the water is sprinkled from the ground and it covers a certain height. If the water is sprinkled from top down, it will yield

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hitherto known as RASHI D/O ANAND KUMAR SEJWAL, R/O 1A, Phase-2, Tilang Pur Kotla, West Delhi, Delhi-110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RASHI SEJWAL, for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hitherto known as MARIANA BARA GOSWAMI W/O RAJESH KUMAR GOSWAMI Permanent resident, M/G, 2/189, MF HOUSING BOARD COLONY, RAJEEV GANDHI WARD, BINA STATION, SAGAR, MADHYA PRADESH-470113, Presently residing at FLAT NO-731, G/F, PKT-2, SECTOR-28, ROHINI DELHI, DELHI-110042 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MARIANA BARA.

NAME CHANGE
I, Gyanchandra Sah S/O Lalan Sah, R/O Kh. No. 320/155, Gali No. 12, Mukundpur, Darya Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110042, have changed my name from Gyanchandra Sah to GYANCHANDRA SAH. Both name same and one person.

NAME CHANGE
I, No. 15217626K Rank-HAV Name-PATIL ANIL PRAKASH S/O PRAKASH PATIL Presently residing at VPO-DEOLI, TEH-CHALISGAON, DIST-JALGAON, MAHARASHTRA-424116 have changed my minor son's name from SARTHAK to SARTHAK ANIL PATIL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANDEEP GUPTA S/O SHRI KRISHAN GUPTA R/O HOUSE NO-2 A-181, VIJAY VIHAR-1, BALAJI CHOVK, ROHINI SECTOR-5, RAJAPUR KALAN, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI - 110085, I have changed my name from SANDEEP KUMAR GUPTA TO SANDEEP GUPTA for all future purpose.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
SMM/EMU/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India Invites E-Tender against Tender No. 46245074-10-10-2024 The details are as under:-
1. Name of Work: SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL INTER VEHICULAR COUPLER ASSEMBLY FOR 12 CAR MEDHA (MAE675V2) AC EMU RAKES CONSISTING OF END BASIC UNIT-1, END BASIC UNIT-2, MIDDLE BASIC UNIT-1 & MIDDLE BASIC UNIT-2 IV COUPLERS EXCLUDING (WITHOUT) JUMPER P AS PER ANNEXURE ATTACHED. (M/S HUBBER AND SUHNER OR M/S HARTING ONLY)
2. Approx. cost of work 1,04,47,720/-
3. Quantity 01 Set
4. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender: 12-11-2024 (11:00 Hrs.)
5. Date of Time of Opening of tender document 12-11-2024 (11:00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in
Note: (i) The tenders must be registered on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in.
(ii) Please refer to the tender document for all terms and conditions.
(iii) No manual offers are acceptable.
NIT No. 46245074 Date: 10-10-2024 3183/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I MANOJ KANOJIA S/O RAMESH KANOJIA R/O M-97-98, M - Block, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi Delhi - 110092 declared the name of my minor daughter have been wrongly written as ARADHYA aged 14 year in his school record the actual name of my minor daughter is ARADHYA KANOJIA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mr. SURYAMANI S/O Mr. ECHAI RAM R/O N-28F-430 AZAD COLONY, WAZIRPUR INDL AREA, NORTH WEST DELHI-110052, have disowned and debarred his son Mr. SUNIL KUMAR S/O SURYAMANI R/O N-28F-430 AZAD COLONY, WAZIRPUR INDL AREA, NORTH WEST DELHI-110052 and his wife extended family, from all his movable and immovable properties due to his bad habits. Anybody dealing with Mr. Sunil kumar and his extended family will do so at their own risk. Henceforth my client have no concern/relationship with Mr. Sunil kumar in their life time.
Razia Khatoon (Advocate)
Enrol no. - D/11408/2023

NAME CHANGE
I, CHAVAN RUPALI Wife of No. 15217626K Rank-HAV Name-PATIL ANIL PRAKASH Presently residing at VPO-DEOLI, TEH-CHALISGAON, DIST-JALGAON, MAHARASHTRA-424116 have changed my name from CHAVAN RUPALI TO RUPALI ANIL PATIL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is informed to all in General Public that my client name Kanti Devi W/O Lt. Shri Parshuram Khanwar R/O H.No. B-594, Gali No.14, Mahavir Enclave, Part-II, New Delhi-110059 hereby in sound mind and disposing memory, annul and emphatically withdraw and cancel her previous public notice circulated in Jansatta Newspaper on 07.10.2020 regarding disowning her son namey Panikaj Kumar, his wife Pooja Kumari, his son Vyan now aged 4 year all residents of H. No. B-594, Second Floor, Gali No. 34, Mahavir Enclave, Part-II, New Delhi-110059. I declare that there was some dispute arisen as such they got separated and disowned by me. Now the dispute has been resolved and my son namey Panikaj Kumar has equal right like his brothers in all my properties movable or immovable or other assets with immediate effect.
SHIVAM MISHRA (ADVOCATE)
CH.No.150, CIVIL WING TIS HAZARI COURTS, DELHI-110054
MOB. :-8808805259, 8707651998

PUBLIC NOTICE
IT IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT I, MY CLIENT SHYAM KUMAR S/O SHYAM PHOOL R/O H. N. 70-A INDRAJ COLONY, BAWANA, DELHI-110039, HAS DISOWNED HER DAUGHTER NAMELY PRIYANKA OF HIS FREE WILL AND CONSENT FROM ALL HIS MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES AS SHE IS NOT ACCORDING TO HIS TEMPERAMENTS, AS WELL AS BEYOND HIS CONTROL. SO OUR CLIENT SEVERE ALL RELATIONS WITH HER AND DISOVNS FROM HIS INHERITANCE ABSOLUTELY AND WHOSOEVER WILL DEAL WITH HER, WILL BE DOING SO AT HIS/HER OWN RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY AND OUR CLIENT AND HIS FAMILY SHALL NOT BE LIABLE FOR HER ACT AND CONDUCT.
AJAY KR. KHOWAL & ASSOCIATES Advocates
Ch. No. 418, Lawyers' Chambers, Rohini Courts, Delhi-110085

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Tushar S/O-Rakesh Kumar R/O Soldha(62)-jhajjar, Soldha, jhajjar Haryana -124507 have changed my name from Tushar to Tushar Jangra for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ashok Kumar Mittal S/O, Hari Kishan R/O H.No.143, 2nd floor, Bhera Enclave, Paschim vihar, P.O.Sunder Vihar, West Delhi, Delhi-110087 declare that my father's name has been wrongly written as H.K.Gupta which may be corrected as Hari Kishan as per Aadhar Card/Pan Card of Ashok Kumar Mittal. Father name: H.K.Gupta may be corrected as Hari Kishan in the records wherever necessary.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as MOHIT KUMAR alias MOHIT S/O MAHESH CHANDRA R/O Gram Kishanpur, Post. Sarautya Aliganj, Sub District Aliganj Etah Uttar Pradesh-207247, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHIT.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Umesh Kumar Chaturvedi S/O K.L. Chaturvedi, R/O House No- 203, Second Floor, Pocket-18, Sector-24, Rohini, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as UMESH CHATURVEDI.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-16114450A, Rank-NK, Name-SARDAR VIDYAKAR BHASKAR residing at VPO-GOREGAON (PM), TEHSIL-MURTIZAPUR, DISTT-AKOLA, MAHARASHTRA-444102 have changed my mother's name from NIRMALA TO NIRMALA BHASKAR SARDAR for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1957 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1947 vide Affidavit dated 15/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-16114450A, Rank-NK, Name-SARDAR VIDYAKAR BHASKAR residing at VPO-GOREGAON (PM), TEHSIL-MURTIZAPUR, DISTT-AKOLA, MAHARASHTRA-444102 have changed my father's name from BHASKAR SARDAR to BHASKAR BABAN SARDAR for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1957 instead of his correct date of birth as 01/01/1944 vide Affidavit dated 15/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Mohd Shareef S/O KHAJA PASHA R/O House No. 341, Pocket-6, Sector-A-5, Police Colony, Narela, North West Delhi-110040 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MOHD KHWAJAJA in my 10th and 12th Educational Documents and in my Domicile Certificate No. 9054000200538 and in my Pan Card No. MFEPS6992A and in my aadhaar card No. 871661251246. The actual name of my father is KHAJA PASHA which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The general public is hereby informed that Dr. A.S. Khan, son of Sri Allahmehar Khan, is the owner of the entire third floor with roof/terrace rights of property bearing No. 95, situated in the area of village of Khasra No. 97, situated in the area of Village Matiala and the colony known as Om Vihar in Block E, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059. This property was purchased from Shri Imran Khan S/O Dr. A.S. Khan, through a sale deed dated 04.04.2018, as Regd. No. 9832. The original registration Particulars page Sale Deed Dated 04.04.2018 pertaining to this property has been lost, and an FIR (LR No: 2200505/2024) has been registered on 14.10.2024 with the Crime Branch, Delhi. Any person(s) found in possession of aforesaid original sale deed, then kindly contact the undersigned along with original property document, within 07 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid sale deed shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.
[ASHWANJ KUMAR] Advocate
Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-16114450A, Rank-NK, Name-SARDAR VIDYAKAR BHASKAR residing at VPO-GOREGAON (PM), TEHSIL-MURTIZAPUR, DISTT-AKOLA, MAHARASHTRA-444102 have changed my father's name from BHASKAR SARDAR to BHASKAR BABAN SARDAR for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1957 instead of his correct date of birth as 01/01/1944 vide Affidavit dated 15/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-16114450A, Rank-NK, Name-SARDAR VIDYAKAR BHASKAR residing at VPO-GOREGAON (PM), TEHSIL-MURTIZAPUR, DISTT-AKOLA, MAHARASHTRA-444102 have changed my father's name from BHASKAR SARDAR to BHASKAR BABAN SARDAR for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1957 instead of his correct date of birth as 01/01/1944 vide Affidavit dated 15/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hitherto known as RASHI D/O ANAND KUMAR SEJWAL, R/O 1A, Phase-2, Tilang Pur Kotla, West Delhi, Delhi-110043, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RASHI SEJWAL, for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hitherto known as MARIANA BARA GOSWAMI W/O RAJESH KUMAR GOSWAMI Permanent resident, M/G, 2/189, MF HOUSING BOARD COLONY, RAJEEV GANDHI WARD, BINA STATION, SAGAR, MADHYA PRADESH-470113, Presently residing at FLAT NO-731, G/F, PKT-2, SECTOR-28, ROHINI DELHI, DELHI-110042 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MARIANA BARA.

NAME CHANGE
I, Gyanchandra Sah S/O Lalan Sah, R/O Kh. No. 320/155, Gali No. 12, Mukundpur, Darya Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110042, have changed my name from Gyanchandra Sah to GYANCHANDRA SAH. Both name same and one person.

NAME CHANGE
I, No. 15217626K Rank-HAV Name-PATIL ANIL PRAKASH S/O PRAKASH PATIL Presently residing at VPO-DEOLI, TEH-CHALISGAON, DIST-JALGAON, MAHARASHTRA-424116 have changed my minor son's name from SARTHAK to SARTHAK ANIL PATIL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANDEEP GUPTA S/O SHRI KRISHAN GUPTA R/O HOUSE NO-2 A-181, VIJAY VIHAR-1, BALAJI CHOVK, ROHINI SECTOR-5, RAJAPUR KALAN, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI - 110085, I have changed my name from SANDEEP KUMAR GUPTA TO SANDEEP GUPTA for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I NARESH DOGRA S/O PREM CHAND DOGRA R/O House no 14, Neelkanth Apartment-2, Sant Nagar, Barari, North Delhi, Delhi - 110084 declared the name of mine has been wrongly written as NARESH in my minor son MANIT DOGRA aged 17 year in his 10th class marksheet the actual name of mine is NARESH DOGRA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
SMM/EMU/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India Invites E-Tender against Tender No. 46245074-10-10-2024 The details are as under:-
1. Name of Work: SUPPLY OF ELECTRICAL INTER VEHICULAR COUPLER ASSEMBLY FOR 12 CAR MEDHA (MAE675V2) AC EMU RAKES CONSISTING OF END BASIC UNIT-1, END BASIC UNIT-2, MIDDLE BASIC UNIT-1 & MIDDLE BASIC UNIT-2 IV COUPLERS EXCLUDING (WITHOUT) JUMPER P AS PER ANNEXURE ATTACHED. (M/S HUBBER AND SUHNER OR M/S HARTING ONLY)
2. Approx. cost of work 1,04,47,720/-
3. Quantity 01 Set
4. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender: 12-11-2024 (11:00 Hrs.)
5. Date of Time of Opening of tender document 12-11-2024 (11:00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.ireps.gov.in
Note: (i) The tenders must be registered on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in.
(ii) Please refer to the tender document for all terms and conditions.
(iii) No manual offers are acceptable.
NIT No. 46245074 Date: 10-10-2024 3183/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NEWS BOX

Kamala Harris slams Trump's 'enemy from within' remarks, calls him unstable

Pennsylvania Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris on Monday slammed Donald Trump for his ominous comments about "the enemy within" the United States and the threat to deploy the military domestically, in a renewed effort to paint her Republican opponent as a threat to democracy. In a rare move at her campaign rally in the political swing state Pennsylvania, the US vice president showed a clip of Trump, the former president, telling his supporters "those people are more dangerous - the enemy from within - than Russia." Harris, 59, has recently pressed Trump to release his health records, as she has, and knocked him for meandering tangents and focus on fictional characters such as Hannibal Lecter. A second Trump term would be a huge risk for America, and dangerous. Donald Trump is increasingly unstable and unhinged," Harris told the Erie crowd after playing the clip. She went on to say that Trump poses a danger because he believes those who do not agree with him are the enemy. Trump in recent rally speeches has hinted about facing "an enemy from within," more dangerous than a foreign adversary. His campaign did not immediately return a request for comment. In an interview on Sunday on the Fox News program "Sunday Morning Futures," host Maria Bartiromo asked Trump if he was expecting "chaos" on Election Day, and he appeared to suggest the military could be deployed against citizens. "I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within," Trump said. "We have some very bad people. We have some sick people, radical left lunatics." He added: "It should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen."

Trump would not be able to give orders to either National Guard or active-duty military units on Election Day on November 5 because he is not president.

Harris' trip to Pennsylvania on Monday is her 10th to the battleground state since becoming the Democratic candidate in July. The state's 19 electoral college votes will be pivotal to the election outcome. She kicked off her trip to Erie with a stop at a Black-owned coffee shop for a sit-down discussion with Black men. Her campaign is concerned about slipping support from Black voters.

Harris unveiled new policy proposals aimed at Black men on Monday that include forgivable small business loans and access to a new legal recreational marijuana industry.

Trump pauses Arizona rally, praises female supporter: I would say that's beautiful

World During a campaign rally in Arizona on Sunday, October 13, former US President Donald Trump took a brief pause from his usual stump speech to laud a female supporter with compliments, leading to a moment of light-hearted banter about modern political correctness. The rally, held in the key swing state, was part of Trump's effort to flip Arizona back to red in the upcoming presidential election after it went to Joe Biden in 2020. While Trump was discussing his large rally crowd sizes, a woman from the audience shouted, "Because we love you!" The remark caught Trump's attention, and he responded by scanning the crowd to find the source of the praise. "Where is that woman? Stand up! Look at her. Wow! I would say -- that's beautiful," Trump remarked, before joking about the constraints of political correctness, reported the New York Post.

"Is she your wife? You know what? I would say she's a beautiful woman, but if I did say that -- my political career, you're not allowed to say that," Trump said with a smile. The moment drew laughter and applause from the crowd, as Trump used it to criticize what he calls the overreach of "PC culture".

"It's crazy what's gone on! You have to be politically correct, nowadays," he added, before returning to the key topics of his campaign. In his Arizona speech, Trump focused on border security, a central issue of his platform. He pledged to increase US Border Patrol staffing by 10,000 agents if re-elected and promised to push Congress for a 10% pay raise for border agents, along with a \$10,000 signing and retention bonus.

Who am I A South Korean adoptee finds answers about the past — just not the ones she wants

SEOUL Rebecca Kimmel sat in a small room, stunned and speechless, staring at the baby photo she had just unearthed from her adoption file.

It was a black-and-white shot of an infant, possibly taken at an orphanage in Gwangju, the South Korean city where Kimmel had heard all her life that she'd been abandoned. But something about the photo — the eyes, the ears, an uneasy feeling deep in her gut — confirmed what she'd long suspected: This baby was not her.

Overcome, she started howling like a strange, wounded animal. This photo meant that the stories she had been told about herself were a lie. So who was she? Who is she? Thousands of South Korean adoptees are looking to satisfy a raw, compelling urge that much of the world takes for granted: the search for identity. Like many of them, Kimmel has stumbled into a web of switched photos, made-up stories and false documents, all designed to erase the very identity she desperately wants to find. These adoptees live with the consequences of a tacit partnership by the South Korean government, Western nations and adoption agencies that has supplied some 200,000 children to parents overseas, despite warnings of widespread fraud.

For decades, South Korea tried to get rid of children from biracial parents, poor families, orphanages and unwed mothers, ignoring illicit practices. Western families in turn were eager to adopt from abroad, after access to birth control and abortion crushed the supply of domestic babies. While many adoptions ended happily, the desires of both sides also resulted in the unnecessary removal of generations of children from their families based on fake paperwork. As Kimmel sat weeping in that room in the Seoul adoption agency, she knew little of this background. All she knew was that she needed answers. Kimmel, an artist, thinks she is about 49; her exact age is one of the many things about herself she does not know. She throws herself with intensity into almost everything she does, particularly her all-consuming quest for her roots.

Why Ukrainian military is raiding weddings, nightclubs

Amid the war with Russia, Ukrainian defence personnel are raiding weddings, concerts, nightclubs and bars to nab men who are dodging military service. This comes after Ukraine brought down the conscription age from 27 to 25, and passed a law making it mandatory for all those eligible for service to register online.

World It is true that all is fair in love and war. Both Ukrainian conscription officials and its civilian population know this. Amid the war with Russia, Ukrainian officials are raiding weddings, bars, nightclubs, concerts and markets to check if all eligible men in Ukraine are dodging military service. In love, Ukrainian people are trying to skip military service

to get married and stay with their loved ones. But in this love and war, there is also a constant dread. Many men in Ukraine are living in a constant state of dread, since Ukraine decreased the eligible age for military recruitment from 27 to 25 and removed any exemptions for military recruitment in April. It has also asked anyone eligible for conscription to get registered online. This need for conscription comes against the backdrop of an ongoing Russia-Ukraine war which started in 2022. The ongoing war has led to the loss of life of 10,582 Ukrainian civilians with many more wounded. With a decrease in the number of people, Ukraine is making an all-out effort to recruit men. While many of the conscription raids conducted were in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, the wedding celebration was in the Ukrainian town of Lviv. These raids should be seen in the context of a law passed in April wherein Ukrainian men aged 25-60 can apply for conscription and men aged 18-60 are not allowed to leave Ukraine, reported The Associated Press. This is due to the new law where anyone eligible for military



service must input their information online.

UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS RAID A WEDDING TO CHECK MILITARY REGISTRATION OF MEN

It was uploaded to Instagram by one of the guests, Kasyanchuk Sergiy, who said conscription officials rushed into the celebration to check the military registration of men. The video also shows how the crowd pushed the officers away from the people. The people of Ukraine chanted, "shame on you". Finally, the guests asked the officers if they had been officially authorised to conduct these raids. The video shows the officers walking out of the room then.

"This is real lawlessness that cannot be tolerated any longer," said a guest. "People were so much against it they were ready to fight, to chase [the officers] away. That is the reality in Lviv," he added. But these officials raided venues across Ukraine.

FEAR OF BEING 'CALLED UP' FOR MILITARY SERVICE ANYTIME

The Kyiv's Palace of Sports venue was raided by conscription officers during a concert by Ukrainian rock band Okean Elzy. Reports show officers right outside the hall as they stop men and speak to them. As a 27-year-old man left the concert after the last song, he found out about officials questioning people. Then, he saw the soldiers and the police. He also said that his university waiver was taken away after Ukraine passed laws in April which lowered the age of recruitment for men from 27 to 25 and did away with some draft exemptions.

Although he did not see the officials act aggressively, he discussed with the Associated Press how men feared being recruited into the military all the time. "That inner state of always being in danger, it's back again," he told The Associated Press.

Nazi Swastika flags seen at boat parade organised by Trump supporters, spark row



World A boat with Nazi Swastika flags tried to join a boat parade organised for Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump in Palm Beach, Florida. Several videos surfaced online, showing masked individuals shouting "White Power", "Heil Trump", and "Make America White Again!". The videos showed five individuals, including two bearded males with sunglasses, and

three additional individuals with face coverings trying to join the parade. The individuals had Nazi Swastika flags tied to the boat, along with flags supporting Donald Trump and carrying the message "Make America Great Again". The individuals also reportedly used racial slurs while chanting slogans in support of Donald Trump. One of the individuals on board seemed

to be holding a picture of My Pillow CEO Mike Lindell, a well-known Trump supporter who recently retaliated against allegations that his product pricing was unintentionally associated with neo-Nazi ideology.

The organiser of the boat parade, Carlos Gavidia, claimed that the individuals on the boat were not a part of the boat parade that was carried out for Donald Trump. He shared a video on Facebook showing a large boat belonging to a Trump supporter dousing the neo-Nazi with water churned up by the boat's propellers. "These patriots took care of the infiltrators that came in, pretending to be with us wearing masks and having terrible flags supporting the Nazis!" Gavidia said while sharing the video. The incident also sparked a massive row on social media, with many terming the incident as "sickening". Meanwhile, Donald Trump's niece Mary L Trump, who is a frequent critic of the former President, shared images of the boat carrying the Nazi Swastika flags with the message, "What the f*** are we even doing?"

Canada cops' self-goal on charges of India targeting Sikh Canadians

World In the midst of escalating diplomatic tensions between India and Canada over the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) seems to have scored a spectacular own goal. During a press conference on Monday (local time), the RCMP claimed their investigation into Nijjar's killing revealed links between agents of the Indian government and "homicides and violent acts" in Canada. It also alleged that these agents had been coercing and threatening businesses and individuals in Canada's South Asian diaspora. But the real entertainment began when a journalist sought clarification, asking if the alleged "transnational repression, foreign interference and organised crime" specifically targeted the Sikh Canadian community. "So, yes, I mean, it (India) is targeting the South Asian community," fumbled RCMP Assistant Commissioner Brigitte Gauvin, before adding, "but what we've seen is they are specifically targeting pro-Khalistani elements in Canada." For years, India has accused Canada of providing a



platform to Khalistani separatists and not doing enough to stem their anti-India activities. New Delhi has also raised concerns over the maple country being a safe haven for people with links to organised crime. The journalist pressed on, asking if Sikhs not associated with the Khalistan movement were also being targeted. Gauvin, clearly aware of the quagmire, backpedalled, refusing to provide specific details to "preserve the integrity" of the ongoing investigation. Still, the assistant commissioner insisted that organised crime groups, particularly the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, were at the centre of this so-called intrigue, working with agents allegedly connected to the Indian government. "What we have seen is, from an RCMP perspective, they use organised crime elements. It has been publicly attributed and claimed by one organised crime group in particular - Bishnoi Group. We believe that the group is connected to agents of the Government of India," she said, though evidence to substantiate these bold claims was notably absent.

Pro-Gaza protesters stage sit-in outside New York Stock Exchange, 200 arrested

New York Police arrested more than 200 pro-Palestinian demonstrators who had staged a sit-in outside the New York Stock Exchange on Monday to demand an end to US support for Israel's war in Gaza, authorities said. The protesters, many of them from activist groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace, chanted "let Gaza live" and "stop funding genocide" in front of the exchange's iconic building near Wall Street, in lower Manhattan. None of the protesters got inside the stock exchange, but dozens crossed a police security fence set up outside its main building on Broad Street. A police spokesperson said 206 arrests were made, without providing details. Jewish groups involved with the protests said around 500



demonstrators attended. The stock exchange had no immediate comment. The protesters directed anger at American defence contractors and weapons manufacturers. Others chanted slogans against Israeli attacks in Lebanon, where Israel says it is waging war against Iran-backed Hezbollah militants. "(Hundreds) of Jews and friends are shutting down the New York Stock Exchange to demand the US stop

arming Israel and profiting from genocide," Jewish Voice for Peace said on X. Israel denies genocide allegations at the World Court, and says its military operations in Gaza target Hamas militants. There was also a much smaller number of pro-Israel counter-protesters at the site, who carried Israeli flags. The demonstration was the latest expression of anger against American support for Israel's assault on Gaza, which it launched after Hamas killed 1,200 in Israel and took 250 others hostage in the October 7, 2023, attacks, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's subsequent military assault on blockaded Gaza has killed nearly 42,000 Palestinians and displaced nearly the entire population, according to Gaza health officials.

UN Security Council voices concern for peacekeepers after Israeli attacks

New York The United Nations Security Council on Monday expressed strong concern after several UN peacekeeping positions in southern Lebanon came under fire amid clashes between the Israeli military and Iran-backed Hezbollah militants.

In a statement adopted by consensus, the 15-member council also urged all parties - without naming them - to respect the safety and security of the personnel and premises of the UN peacekeeping mission, known as UNIFIL. "UN peacekeepers and UN premises must never be the target of an attack," said the council, reiterating its support for UNIFIL and the operation's importance for regional stability. The Security Council also called for the full implementation of its resolution 1701, which was adopted in 2006 with the aim of keeping peace on the border between Lebanon and Israel. The council "recognised the need for further practical measures to achieve that outcome," but did not offer specifics.

Since the start of Israeli ground operations in Lebanon on October 1, UNIFIL positions have been affected 20 times, including by direct fire and an incident on

Sunday when two Israeli tanks burst through the gates of a UNIFIL base, the UN said. "Five peacekeepers have been injured during these incidents, including one peacekeeper who sustained a bullet wound," UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters on Monday. "The source of that gunfire has yet to be confirmed by UNIFIL." For the past two weeks, Israel has been telling UN peacekeepers to move 5 km (3 miles) back from the so-called Blue Line - a UN-mapped line separating Lebanon from Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights - for their own safety.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday in a statement addressed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres: "The time has come for you to withdraw UNIFIL."

UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix said on Monday that UN troops would not move. After briefing the Security Council behind closed doors, he told reporters that he would meet with Israeli UN Ambassador Danny Danon on Tuesday. Lacroix added that the UN is "reviewing constantly the situation, and we have contingency planning for all



UNIFIL MANDATED 'TO ASSIST'

Deputy US Ambassador Robert Wood told reporters ahead of the council meeting that it was important that UNIFIL be able to do its job. The Security Council authorized UNIFIL - under resolution 1701 - "to assist" Lebanese forces in ensuring southern Lebanon is "free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the government of Lebanon." "We have to stand against ... every suggestion that if resolution 1701 was not implemented it's because UNIFIL did not implement, which was never its mandate," said Lacroix, stressing that UNIFIL had a supporting role. Danon said last week that the

Lebanese army and UNIFIL had failed to gain control of the area.

He argued that Israel was now acting to enforce resolution 1701, telling the Security Council: "Our soldiers are now in the field, along the border in Lebanon, exposing and dismantling Hezbollah's infrastructure." The United States and France have said that strengthening Lebanon's army would be crucial to implementing resolution 1701.

"UNIFIL cannot prevent hostilities," Russian UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said on Monday. "UNIFIL is being jeopardized and endangered and one country openly threatens its personnel, which is unacceptable."

UNIFIL is also authorised under resolution 1701 "to assist" - if requested by the Lebanese government - in preventing the illicit transport of weapons into the country. The resolution 1701 also bans parties from crossing the Blue Line by ground or air. UN officials have long reported violations by both sides.

Danon told the Security Council last week that it "must ensure the right mechanisms are in place for the Lebanese army and UNIFIL to meet their obligations."

News box

DMK is creating illusion that preparatory measures for monsoon is done: BJP leader Tamilisai

MADURAI. The DMK government is creating an illusionary image that all preparatory monsoon measures have been completed, which is false, said BJP leader Tamilisai Soundararajan during a press meet at the airport here on Monday.

While addressing the media, former governor Tamilisai said that it was the duty of the government to safeguard the public from the monsoon, and on the other hand, it must desilt ponds and save rainwater. "Channels of the Periyar dam have been damaged in a few places, and water entered residential areas. The DMK government failed to take preparatory measures in various districts including Chennai, Madurai, and Tiruchy. Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin is sitting in the war room, and the government creates an illusionary image that it has done all sorts of preparatory measures to face the monsoon rain," she said.

She added, "They are doing work for advertisement purposes only. It has failed to arrange even an air show for people. It is very difficult to ascertain whether the government will safeguard the public. People are worried that the DMK government will not distribute dal in view of the Deepavali festival."

When asked about the BJP's poor failure in the Kashmir election Tamilisai said that compared to the present alliance party which is in power, BJP has secured 25% of the seats, while Congress secured only 7% votes.

"Everyone praised Rahul for becoming an excellent leader, but it is proven that Narendra Modi is welcomed by people across the nation because he is implementing visionary schemes for the upliftment of the nation and the people," she further said.

Pilgrims without online registration allowed in Sabarimala, says CM Pinarayi Vijayan

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan informed the Legislative Assembly that pilgrims visiting Sabarimala without online registration should be allowed darshan during the upcoming Mandala-Makaravilakku season. He pointed out that the government allowed spot booking last year as well. The response came after various Hindu organisations decided to up the protest against a government decision to make online booking mandatory for all pilgrims, on Wednesday.

Earlier the online reservation was stressed to limit the number of pilgrims visiting the shrine to 80,000. However, this resulted in protests from Opposition UDF and other organisations.

Chief Minister had convened a meeting with the Travancore Devaswom Board, Police and District Administration to make arrangements for the pilgrimage season. The meeting discussed crowd-controlling measures and improved facilities for pilgrims with the help of prior booking details.

The details of pilgrims available as a digital document through virtual queue registration, help ensure safety in Sabarimala and locate people in case of accidents. The virtual queue system is modelled after the system in Tirupati temple. It was introduced in 2011. Chief Minister said the virtual queue system would be strengthened and made foolproof.

Heavy rains likely in Andhra Pradesh for next three days

VIJAYAWADA. Several districts in Andhra Pradesh, including Nellore, Tirupati, Prakasam, and Annamaya, witnessed heavy rainfall starting early Monday morning, due to the formation of a low-pressure over the Southeast Bay of Bengal. By 10 pm on Monday, Kodavaluru in Nellore district recorded the highest rainfall at 11 cm. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the low-pressure system is expected to intensify into a well-marked low-pressure area by Tuesday over the central parts of the south Bay of Bengal. It is likely to continue moving west-northwest, affecting northern Tamil Nadu and southern Andhra Pradesh in the coming days.

The IMD forecast predicts that the coastal and Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh will experience heavy rains with thunderstorms and lightning between October 14 and 17. These weather conditions are expected to affect both South Coastal Andhra Pradesh (SCAP) and North Coastal Andhra Pradesh (NCAP). In response to the situation, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has directed all district administrations to remain on high alert for the next four days. Special emphasis has been placed on monitoring water bodies and preparing for potential flash floods.

The public has been advised to avoid crossing canals and streams during periods of heavy rainfall and flooding. During a review meeting with Minister for Water Resources Nimmala Ramanaidu and senior officials, the Chief Minister stressed the importance of providing advance warnings to residents in areas expected to receive heavy rainfall.

Dasara festival leaves Palike grappling with mounds of garbage

BBMP collects 17,733 MT of waste in last 3 days against daily collection of 4,900 MT



BENGALURU. In the backdrop of the three-day Dasara festival, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) collected 6,306 metric tonnes (MT) of waste from across eight zones on October 12 against the normal daily collection of approximately 4,900 MT.

Officials attached to the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd said during the Dasara festival, plantain leaves and stems, pumpkins and flowers were sold in all markets and on roadsides for Ayudha Puja. The unsold items were left behind by sellers and BSWML has been continuously cleaning them.

"Approximately, 4,900 MT of waste is generated in the city every day. But during this Dasara festival, 6,306 MT waste was generated on October 12, 5,561 MT on October 13 and 5,866 MT on October 14. Raw waste was disposed of at treatment plants and mixed waste at the landfill," said an engineer with BSWML.

In the last two days (Saturday and Sunday), 414 MT of waste has been disposed of from 12 markets, including major ones like KR Market, Gandhi Bazaar, Devasandra, KR Pura, Malleswaram, Madiwala and Russel Market and Palike Bazaar. On Monday, more than 150 MT of waste was disposed of, the official added.

Due to the excess production of waste in the market and roadsides, health officials, senior engineers and marshals of the solid waste department were deployed in respective zones. Additional earthmovers were used to collect the garbage. Auto tippers and compactors did repeated trips in most of the wards to collect and dispose of garbage.

Chennai records 6.9 cm rainfall amid monsoon preparations

CHENNAI. Chennai has recorded an average rainfall of 6.9 cm between 8:30 am on Monday and 8:00 am on Tuesday, according to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai. Ennore reported the highest rainfall at 10 cm, followed by Manali, Kolathur, T.V.K. Nagar, Ponneri, and Royapuram, each receiving 9 cm.

A report from the Greater Chennai Corporation's Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) indicated that Manali New Town experienced the most rainfall, with 9.21 cm recorded since Monday. Kolathur and Perambur in the Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar zone closely followed, each receiving 9 cm of rainfall.

In just one hour between 7:00 am and 8:00 am on Tuesday, Ayapakkam saw 3.3 cm of rain, while Mugalivakkam in the Alandur zone received 3.09 cm. Heavy rainfall resulted in waterlogging in several areas, including Pulianthope, Vyasarpadi, and OMR. Staff from the Greater Chennai Corporation were deployed to pump out stagnant water using motor pumps.

Late on Tuesday night, around 12:30 am, Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin conducted an inspection of areas around Narayanapuram Lake, between Pallikaranai and Kovilambakkam. He also visited the canal on Ambedkar Road, which diverts surplus water from Kilkattalai Lake to Narayanapuram Lake, and interacted with local residents to understand their concerns. Additionally, he inspected Chepauk and Royapettah.

Addressing the media, Udhayanidhi Stalin assured that preparations for the monsoon season were underway to prevent a recurrence of the problems experienced in previous years. "Water stagnation is already being addressed in several areas, and the situation will continue to be monitored regularly," he said.

Students seek action against encroachment of college land in Vijayawada

VIJAYAWADA. Old student leaders of SRR & CVR Government Degree College, led by Donepudi Shankar, have accused influential individuals of illegally occupying the college's land on BRTS Road.

Addressing the media on Monday, Shankar revealed that despite a 2009 court stay order, unauthorised construction has

continued on the land. "We have been fighting this legal battle for over a decade. The government must launch 'Operation SRR College' to reclaim the property," Shankar urged, calling on Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu to intervene. Another student leader, Kasinadh, questioned the municipality's inaction, wondering how town

planning officials allowed the sale of 4,000 square yards of government land. He raised concerns over the officials' apparent negligence and called for immediate action to protect the institution, which has educated thousands over the years. The leaders stressed the need for justice, free from political interference.



'MSMEs key to achieve USD Five trillion economy': MP Suresh Prabhu

MSME exports have declined, labour productivity is low, and many MSMEs have closed in the past five years.

VIJAYAWADA. The Andhra Pradesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Federation (AP Chambers) hosted an interactive session in Vijayawada with former Union Minister and Rajya Sabha MP Suresh Prabhu, Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) President Ameya Prabhu, and ICC Director General Rajeev Singh.

AP Chambers President Potluri Bhaskara Rao stressed that the MSME sector, the backbone of the economy, faces challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Gaza wars, high production costs, expensive financing, poor market linkages, and delayed payments.



MSME exports have declined, labor productivity is low, and many MSMEs have closed in the past five years. He urged Suresh Prabhu to address these

issues with the Union government and expressed optimism about the potential for upskilling and technology adoption to boost the sector. Suresh Prabhu emphasised the need to strengthen MSMEs to achieve a \$5 trillion economy and increase citizens' per capita income. He called for district-level MSME development, global market linkages, and technological upgrades. Ameya Prabhu highlighted ICC's global expansion and the challenges to job creation posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI), urging collaboration with Andhra Pradesh Chambers to address these issues.

ISRO Chief S Somanath receives IAF World Space Award for Chandrayaan-3

India is also among the elite group of nations like United States, Russia and China to have completed a successful soft landing on the Moon's surface.



BENGALURU. S Somanath, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Secretary, Department of Space, received the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award for the achievements of Chandrayaan-3.

An official release from ISRO stated that the recognition celebrates India's contribution to space exploration.

"Celebrations underway in Milan as we continue to strive for new frontiers," ISRO posted on 'X' on Monday. The award ceremony was held on October 14 during the 75th International Astronautical Congress in Milan, Italy. The IAF recognised the mission's achievement where India was the first country to land near the lunar South Pole on August 23, 2023. The IAF on its

website posted: "Chandrayaan-3 mission by ISRO exemplifies the synergy of scientific curiosity and cost-effective engineering, symbolising India's commitment to excellence and the vast potential that space exploration offers humanity. Rapidly unveiling previously undiscovered facets of the Moon's composition and geology, the mission stands as a global testament to innovation. Achieving a historic milestone, Chandrayaan-3 becomes the first to touch down near the lunar South Pole, showcasing both aspiration and technological prowess on an international scale." India is also among the elite group of nations like United States, Russia and China to have completed a successful soft landing on the Moon's surface. At the event, scientists also made a special note of the lander Vikram and rover Pragyan, which were designed to explore the Moon's surface and conduct experiments to better understand the Moon's composition and geology.

DFI becomes event partner for Amaravati Drone Summit

Drone Federation of India submits revised Rs 5.54 crore proposal to organise summit at Amaravati on Oct 22 and 23

VIJAYAWADA. The State government has appointed the Drone Federation of India (DFI) as the preferred event and knowledge partner for organising Amaravati Drone Summit 2024 at a cost of Rs 5.54 crore (exclusive of GST). Orders to this effect were issued on Monday.

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on August 6, 2024, emphasised the strategic importance of promoting drone technology for problem-solving across departments and directed the AP Drone Corporation (APDC) to take the lead in organising a national-level event.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation K Ram Mohan Naidu, in his review meeting, proposed that the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) should extend technical guidance and support to the Andhra Pradesh government in organising the National Drone Conference.

The Agenda will include the development of diverse applications for drones across sectors such as agriculture, health care, urban planning and law and order as well as research and development, manufacturing, testing and policy creation.

In line with these directions, the APDC has proposed to organise a two-day national level drone conference tentatively named 'Amaravati Drone Summit 2024' on October 22 and 23 in Amaravati.

The expected outcome of this conference includes the identification of drone use cases and their commercialisation potential, engagement with industry stakeholders, investors and academia, preparation of a road map to establish Drone City, including components, and exploration of collaborative opportunities with investors and industry experts.

Accordingly, the APDC has invited the Drone Federation of India (DFI) to collaborate for organising the proposed two-day national level drone event in Amaravati.

The DFI in turn has submitted its initial proposal for organising the summit at a cost of Rs 6.37 crore (exclusive of GST) which includes costs for the two-day summit at CK Convention, Mangalagiri to host 500-600 delegates and guests across the industry and academia, along with cultural events at Berm Park, Vijayawada.

MoCA has been requested to sanction the proposed budget (expected after negotiations) of Rs 6 crore (exclusive of GST) as a grant-in-aid to AP Drones Corporation Limited to facilitate the organisation of the prestigious event. Later on a further site assessment, the DFI submitted a revised proposal for Rs 5.54 crore (Exclusive of GST).

Not criminalising marital rape smacks of patriarchy

IN an affidavit before the Supreme Court, the Union government has taken a stand against the criminalisation of marital rape. In the affidavit before the apex court, the Home Ministry mentioned that a man has no fundamental right to force sex on his wife as there are enough laws to protect women against sexual violence and that criminalisation of marital rape would be an extremely "harsh measure." The Supreme Court is hearing a number of petitions seeking to amend the British-era law that a man cannot be prosecuted for rape within marriage, even though violence within marriage is rampant in India. According to a recent government survey, one in every 25 women has faced sexual violence from their husbands. In January 2023, the Supreme Court appointed two advocates as nodal counsels to streamline the proceedings by compiling a common document of relevant materials from all parties. Currently, marital rape is outlawed in more than a hundred countries around the world. It was outlawed in the Great Britain in 1991. India is one of the few countries, along with Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Saudi Arabia, where the marital rape law remains in force. The Indian Government, in its affidavit, highlighted the fact that Parliament, in its wisdom, has deliberately chosen to retain the marital rape exception and urges the court to defer to legislative judgment in such sensitive matters. Parliament is directly elected by the people and is aware of the understanding of the people in such delicate, sensitive issues. In the affidavit, the government urged the court to exercise judicial restraint and leave the regulation of marital relations to the wisdom of Parliament. A number of petitions have been filed by different women's rights groups to strike down Section 375 of the IPC, which mentions several situations in which having sex is not considered rape, one of them being sex by a man with his wife, if she is not a minor. According to the campaigners, this kind of argument is medieval and unacceptable in modern times. The United Nations, Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have raised concerns about India's refusal to criminalise marital rape. The Delhi High Court has given a split verdict, which remains pending for the Supreme Court's final judgment, in which one judge has held that marital rape is "morally repugnant" while the other expressed the view that the exception to Section 375 of the IPC is valid and should continue to exist.

It has to be borne in mind that the marital exception in the IPC and the definition of marital rape were drafted on the basis of Victorian norms that did not recognise men and women as equal and merged the identity of husband and wife under the "Doctrine of coverture." Further, marital rape violates the right to equality enshrined in Article 14 of the Indian Constitution. Hence, it creates two classes of women based on their marital status and immunises action perpetrated by men against their wives. There is no other reason for the victimisation of women other than their married status. Moreover, it becomes difficult for married women to avoid abusive conditions because of their financial dependence on their husbands. The exemption is also violative of Article 21 of the Constitution, which includes the right to life and encompasses the right to health, privacy, and dignity. The Supreme Court has recognised the right to abstain from sexual activity for all women, irrespective of their marital status, as a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution. In 2013, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) strongly recommended that the Government of India criminalise marital rape. The forthcoming judicial review by the Supreme Court will provide an opportunity to eliminate a discriminatory legal relic that violates the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution and will help to transform women's lives and rights.

India's western flank is on fire

Why US is acting in tandem with Israel to carry out missile attacks against Iran

ON October 11, Iran launched its third missile strike on several targets in Israel, including on the capital city of Tel Aviv. According to an Israeli Defense Forces statement, nearly 300 ballistic missiles were involved in the attack but most were reportedly intercepted and neutralised by Israel and US forces based in Qatar, working together. The first missile strike took place on April 13, in retaliation for the targeted killing of Iranian diplomats in an Israeli bombing attack on an Iranian consulate in Syria. However, Iran gave advance warning of the attack and avoided causing major damage. It also announced that it did not want to escalate the conflict beyond this retaliatory attack. Nevertheless, this missile attack was the very first direct attack from Iranian soil on Israel and therefore a significant departure from the past.

The proxy war against Israel conducted hitherto through Iranian proxies such as Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Houthis in Yemen, had now graduated to a direct clash of arms between the two major adversaries in West Asia and the Gulf.

Israel did not respond directly to the Iranian attack, but it chose to inflict damage on Iran by targeting both the Hamas and Hezbollah leadership in Lebanon. It carried out the brazen assassination of the Hamas chief, Ismail Haniyeh, in the Iranian capital, Tehran, just hours after he had attended the inauguration of the new Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on July 31. This was a humiliating blow to Iran, demonstrating Israel's ability to strike at will at targets within Iran, leveraging its superior intelligence capabilities. More importantly, Iran's attempt at deterrence by launching its April missile attack on Israel had failed. Israel then upped the ante with the bold assassination of the Hezbollah chief, Hassan Nasrallah, on September 27 in a suburb of the Lebanese capital, Beirut. Not just Nasrallah but several other senior leaders of this Shia militia were also killed in the targeted bombing of their headquarters. This was a prelude to the start of a major Israeli ground offensive into southern Lebanon with the objective of flushing out Hezbollah forces spread across southern Lebanon.

Iran's second missile barrage against Israel came soon thereafter on October 1. Like the April attack, this,



too, reportedly caused little damage. Assisted by the US, Israel was able to intercept and shoot down most of the missiles. Unlike the April attack, however, Iran gave no advance warning about the attack. Nor did it declare its intent to avoid further escalation.

As anticipated, Israel declared its intention to retaliate against Iran and promised that it would be "painful." While in April, US President Biden had urged restraint on Israel, this time there was no such advice from Washington. On the contrary, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, promised severe consequences for Iran and said the U.S. would "work with Israel to make that the case."

This change in US stand has not been fully appreciated. This is no longer just an Iran-Israel conflict. It is now a US-Iran conflict and that changes the nature of the confrontation unfolding in the region with serious consequences.

It is against this backdrop that Iran chose to launch yet another missile barrage against Israel on October 10, reportedly using hypersonic missiles which it may have developed itself or may have obtained from Russia. There may have been greater damage inflicted on Israel than in the earlier attacks but it is difficult to assess the scale of such damage. The US announced that it had worked together with Israel to shoot down most of the missiles. This time President Biden declared that the US was "fully, fully, fully supportive of Israel." One should now jettison the view of the US acting as a restraint on Israel, in favour of avoiding escalation and a wider regional war. We will now increasingly see the US acting in tandem with Israel to carry out devastating aerial

and missile attacks against Iran. Three categories of targets are being mentioned: Iran's nuclear facilities, its oil and gas facilities and terminals and military targets, including the command-and-control centres of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

The longstanding effort of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli leader, to drag the US into a war against Iran, has finally succeeded. It may be noted that a wider war in the region will have relatively less impact on the US since it is no longer dependent on energy supplies from the region. It would be less worried about an Iran lashing out by attacking oil and gas facilities of the Gulf countries or blockading the Hormuz Straits, through which most of oil and gas supplies are exported to markets both in Europe and Asia. It would be prudent to plan for another era of very high oil prices. India will be seriously impacted.

Iran may be seriously weakened and face a debilitating economic crisis. Its proxies may also be weakened even if they are not neutralised. They will respond as such groups always do — by engaging in asymmetrical warfare. There will likely be an uptick in international terrorism. Even a weakened Iran may finally cross the nuclear threshold and acquire a nuclear arsenal despite the immense sacrifices this may entail. It will be convinced that it is only as a nuclear weapon state that it could ensure its survival. This could have a cascading effect in the region, with Saudi Arabia and Egypt choosing to embrace the nuclear option. None of the countries of the region can escape a negative fallout from a war against Iran. They have tried to shield themselves by pretending that they do not have skin in the game, but they always did. If they had intervened early in the day to impose some penalty on Israel to stop its brutal war against Gaza and now in Lebanon, the trajectory of events may have been different. But their silence meant that Israel saw no downside to its aggressive policies. We may be on the threshold of another major war and one on our western flank where nine or more million Indians live and work. Our energy supplies may be significantly disrupted. That India has so few levers to influence events in its strategically critical neighbourhood is a sobering thought.

Unsafe in Bangladesh

Yunus cannot abdicate responsibility

A SENSE of frustration is visible in India's strong condemnation of the attacks on Hindu temples in Bangladesh. Ever since former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's ouster following the political upheaval in early August, New Delhi has repeatedly voiced concern about the safety and security of Bangladesh's minorities. It is ironic that the targeting of symbols of Hindu identity continues unabated under the watch of Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. There have been multiple instances of desecration, vandalism and robbery at shrines and puja pandals. Yunus' contention that these attacks are politically motivated and not communal amounts to a singular abdication of responsibility. A systematic pattern of hate is being allowed to gain ground in Bangladesh, despite his assurances of protecting religious freedom and periodic visits to temples.

Certainly, these are testing times for India-Bangladesh ties. New Delhi's reticence over the demand to deport



Hasina to face trial is possibly raising hackles in Dhaka. For some in the new regime, riling India is the perfect way

with which Bangladesh can look its powerful neighbour in the eye — however misconceived the notion. Still, both sides must be fully aware of the grave consequences of any delay in bridging the growing distrust. Diplomatic channels need to be activated soonest at full throttle. First and foremost, though, Dhaka must crack the whip. To act — or not to act — cannot constitute leverage. Especially not when the reins of power are with Muhammad Yunus, the West's poster boy of all that is noble.

There's a lesson in what's taking place in Bangladesh, for India as well. Side-stepping the elephant in the room would be as deplorable as not calling out Dhaka. Let's not be in denial about minority-bashing at home. This vile absurdity must

end. It's a disservice to India and Indians.

Holding your breath on an India-Pak encounter

India and Pakistan are now at a point where even if they want to sit across a table and talk to each other publicly, they cannot do so for fear of enraging domestic constituencies.

THE visit of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to Pakistan to participate in the October 15-16 meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is unlikely to have a thawing effect on the 10-year freeze in bilateral relations. This much the minister has made clear, ruling out any bilateral agenda. "The visit will be for a multilateral event. I'm not going there to discuss India-Pakistan relations. I'm going there to be a good member of the SCO," he said. Jaishankar's statement is almost identical to that of then foreign minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari in May 2023, before he arrived in Goa for the SCO Council of Foreign Ministers meeting: "My decision to attend this meeting illustrates Pakistan's strong commitment to the charter of the SCO... during my visit, which is focused exclusively on the SCO, I look forward to constructive discussions with my counterparts from friendly countries."

Nonetheless, bilateral drama is written into the script of every India-Pakistan encounter, or even a non-encounter. That was how it was in Goa, where Zardari and Jaishankar managed to have a showdown without exchanging a single bilateral word. It may be the same in Islamabad. Jaishankar claimed the other day that he is a "civil and courteous person, and will behave accordingly." That was possibly self-deprecatory humour. He is no Diljit Dosanjh who won Pakistani hearts the other day by calling up Pakistani singer Hania Aamir on stage during his Europe tour. The galleries back home would be terribly put out if Jaishankar returns without his signature-style tough talk against Pakistan, this time on Pakistani soil. After all, this is what India-Pakistan diplomacy has been reduced to, not just now, but over several years — a performance for domestic audiences defined by the need to demonstrate toughness toward the other, even in body language.

So, Jaishankar's "namaste" to the Pakistan minister in Goa last year got approving media coverage, as "Jaishankar gives the cold shoulder to Zardari."

India and Pakistan are now at a point where even if they want to sit across a table and talk to each other publicly, they cannot do so for fear of enraging domestic constituencies. This is a logjam that can be broken only with statesmanship and political will. A back-channel process between the two NSAs in 2016-2017, and another the UAE claimed it had mediated in 2020-21 shows a willingness to speak.

When the process makes progress, as in February 2021 when the two armies reaffirmed their commitment to the two-decade-old ceasefire on the Line of Control, things freeze up again, because then the process must be made public. The lessons of the past are not helpful. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's visit in 2004 came after several years of back-channel contacts and a massive shift in relations between the US and Pakistan after 9/11.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh continued the engagement that began then, but India-Pakistan ties have never recovered from the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach lasted only a week, from his Christmas Day stopover in Lahore on his way back to Delhi, to the Jaish e-Mohammed (JeM) attack on Pathankot. Today, the dynamic has changed from what it was even 10 years ago. Jaishankar will arrive in Islamabad after the successful holding of an election in the post-August 5, 2019 truncated Jammu & Kashmir. In Kashmir, the victory of the National Conference (NC) is viewed as a verdict against Delhi and the changes the Modi government wrought on August 5, 2019. But the NC knows, and has said as much, that in running the government, a confrontation with the Centre is not



the way forward. From Delhi's point of view, Pakistan's internal turmoil is a further disincentive for engagement. Who to talk to in Pakistan — the civilian government or the army — was a question even in normal times. But now, General Asim Munir, the embattled army chief, is in the midst of a self-inflicted do-or-die battle with not just the untameable and ever-growing popularity of the jailed Imran Khan, but also sections within his own force. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his brother, Prime Minister Emeritus Nawaz Sharif, once thought of as the most likely of the Pakistani political class to make a paradigm shift in relations with India, are now beholden to Munir for their survival.

The Beijing-Islamabad relationship, the increasingly communal lens in India on ties with Pakistan plus Delhi's demand for a review of the Indus Waters Treaty further complicate the relationship.

For his part, Munir has not spoken his mind on India. What Delhi can see and feel is that the Pakistan

army's preoccupations, including with the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and its Afghan Taliban patrons, the resurgence in Baloch militancy — with Chinese nationals in their crosshairs — have not led to the quietening of groups like the JeM and Lashkar-e-Toiba. A shadowy group, the so-called 'People's Force Against Fascism', has owned the regular attacks in Jammu since 2021, but Indian security agencies link it to the LeT and JeM. Delhi believes it can handle the costs of cross-border terrorism and leave ties in deep freeze. But flip the script for a moment. Imagine that Jaishankar is taking with him the message, like Vajpayee in 2004, that Modi has accepted Pakistan's invitation to attend the SAARC summit it has been waiting to host since 2016.

India's unquiet quitting of SAARC due to tensions with Pakistan is one reason why it faces so much resentment from smaller countries in the neighbourhood. When India laments the growing influence of China in the region, it needs to recognise its own role in letting the region go.

A revival of SAARC would put the energy back into India's neighbourhood policy and earn it the goodwill of neighbours. It would certainly put some pressure on Pakistan to conduct itself responsibly. The revival of SAARC may or may not resolve the differences between India and Pakistan, but it will provide bilateral engagement opportunities, normalise interactions in multilateral fora and make them less of a circus than they are now.

Bonus: An India engaged with Pakistan may help Prime Minister Modi to be taken more seriously by the world in his efforts to stop the war between Ukraine and Russia — and give that peace initiative greater heft.

Bath salts

for a glowing skin



expert Nikos Narkissos, "They should contain natural ingredients and nutrients. Blue and purple bath salts are soothing, while yellow and orange are energising. Grain size also matters. For example, finer grains dissolve quickly and work well as scrubs and exfoliants."

Types of bath salts

- Orange:** These are fresh, crisp and tangy. They work wonders for your skin and also lift your mood.
- Lavender:** Relaxing, therapeutic and curative, they provide relief from tension and stress.
- Dead Sea:** Apart from their healing properties, they also make your skin glow.
- Eucalyptus:** Has curative properties, which ease stiff muscles and also reduce pain.
- Cinnamon:** Known for antibacterial properties, it flushes impurities from your system and refresh your pores. They also tone your skin.
- Green Tea:** For a softer and problem-free skin, these work wonders.

Bath salts not only exfoliate your skin and relieve muscle tension, but also heal common problems such as eczema, psoriasis and rashes. They cleanse and brighten your skin as well.

The benefits

When used in their natural form, bath salts contain minerals and nutrients that keep your skin soft, smooth and supple. Says beauty expert Farheen Shaikh, "Bath salts contain Magnesium, Sodium and Bromide. They get easily absorbed in your skin pores and purify it, thus improving its radiance, texture and tone."

A good relaxant

Bath salts ease muscular tension and help remove fatigue. They also remove toxins from the body and promote a feeling of well-being.

Choose the right one for your skin

Dry and flaky skin:

Use a bath salt which will boost your skin's radiance and

increase moisture. Almond or orange bath salts work the best for you.

Tired and dull skin:

Rosemary or peppermint will provide a cooling sensation, which will improve blood circulation and perk up your skin's appearance.

Puffy skin and cellulite:

Mineral or seaweed bath salts are your best bet. They have negative ions, which pull in minerals and nutrients into your bloodstream and help flush toxins.

Pick the right one

Always pick a bath salt that is not lumpy. Says beauty



Lip gloss looks beautiful but it has a short life as it wears off quite easily. Read on to know how to make it last longer

Lip gloss is every woman's basic necessity. It's shiny and glamorous and adds volume to any lip colour. But the only problem is that it doesn't last longer and smudges off quite easily. But that doesn't mean that you stop wearing it. Just keep in mind not to wear it on bare lips. We suggest you some tips to make your lip gloss last longer and look beautiful.

Use a lip liner

Before you apply any lip gloss, outline your lips with a lip liner of the same colour and fill in a bit. It will prepare a base for your lip gloss to adhere to. It not only makes the lip gloss last longer but also avoids any smudges. It also makes you lips look fuller.

Try out a lip stain

Applying lip stain beneath lip gloss is another smart trick as it is not sticky. When you apply a coat of lip gloss over lip stain, its dry formula will absorb the gloss. Another benefit is that it will moisturize your lips and give it a sheer, which you can flaunt.

Final step, lipstick

Sometimes even long-wear lipsticks fail to give long-lasting finish and effect. This is why, many use lipstick and lip gloss together as it makes a strong combination. Apply a layer of gloss over lipstick to make your lip colour last longer.



Ways to make lip gloss last longer



Keep your make-up Brushes clean

Women tend to have elaborate make-up sets but they often forget the importance of keeping the application brushes spick-and-span for hygiene and longevity. Femalefirst.co.uk reports that the market offers specialist make-up brush cleaners from leading brands like MAC. Even if they are a little costly, they work very well.

A gentle foaming cleanser may also be used. It is vital to remember that the water you use for cleaning is clean. Put the brushes under the tap and lie them flat to dry since if the water seeps into the handle, the bristles can become loose.



Eye pillow not only soothe your eyes after a long, tiring day at work but also benefit you in a couple of other ways. Here are a few...

5 benefits of using Eye Pillow



1. Eye pillows are not only designed to soothe and relax tired eyes but the aromatic effect of essential oils and herbs that are infused in the flax seeds help calm and rest the mind.
2. Flax seeds sewed in delicate muslin cloth of eye shaped frame ensures perfect amount of acupressure needed by the eye to revitalize and freshen the vision.
3. Essential oils and herbs that are used in our variants of eye pillows work for a particular therapeutic purpose. For e.g. Eucalyptus eye pillow is excellent for people suffering from

4. Common properties of eye pillows: Relieves irritated, itchy and burning eyes caused by over exposure to television, sitting in front of computer screens. Sedates the nerves, relaxes the mind and balances the body.
5. A slight refrigerated eye pillow cools the eyes further. Place the eye pillow in refrigerator prior to use in the sealed zip pouch.

L-G Saxena grants MCD commissioner financial powers over solid waste projects

UD Minister Saurabh Bhardwaj delayed approving crucial files, hampering MCD services due to lack of financial sanction.

NEW DELHI. In a move that is set to escalate the confrontation between the AAP-led government and Rajniwas, L-G VK Saxena on Monday granted financial powers enjoyed by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's Standing Committee to the civic body's commissioner by approving his authority to take financial decisions on the management of solid waste amounting to more than Rs 5 crore. Under the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act that governs the MCD, proposals worth over Rs 5 crore have to be passed by the standing committee. Rajniwas said the move would ease the existing problem of municipal solid waste in the city due to the non-existence of the standing committee. "In a step that will help ease the existing problem of municipal solid waste in the city due to non-existence of a standing committee in MCD and intransigence of the UD



Minister, Saurabh Bhardwaj, the L-G has approved the delegation of financial powers exceeding the current Rs 5 crore to the MCD commissioner," a statement issued from the L-G House read. "On July 10, the MCD had moved the GNCTD to delegate financial powers to the MCD as per the provisions of Section 202 of the DMC Act, 1957. However, the UD Minister, Saurabh Bhardwaj kept the file pending at his level,

severely affecting municipal services due to lack of financial sanction since the Standing Committee was not in place," it added. "The L-G Secretariat has recalled the file on two occasions. However, the file was not yet sent by the minister and remains untraceable," the statement said. "Finally, contracts for collection and transportation of municipal solid waste and street sweeping were approved on Monday by the L-G by delegating financial powers upon the MCD commissioner," the statement added. It cited projects amounting to Rs 1,137.98 crore, rate contract for setting up of waste-to-energy facility at Narela, Bawana for Rs 604.26 crore, rate contract for bio-mining of legacy waste at Singhola amounting to Rs 46.17 crore and bio-mining of legacy waste at three dump sites at Okhla, Gazipur and Bhalswa.

Lawrence Bishnoi gang member provided weapons to Baba Siddique's killers: Cops

The main target, as confirmed by the police, was not Zeeshan Siddiqui but Baba Siddiqui. The shooters were given a photograph of Baba Siddiqui along with a flex banner to identify him.

Mumbai. Shubham Lonkar, who made a social media post claiming responsibility for the murder on behalf of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, supplied weapons to the shooters responsible for the murder of former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddiqui.

Shubham's brother, Pravin Lonkar, played a pivotal role in providing both financial and logistical support to the shooters. The two brothers, along with several accomplices, held multiple meetings in Pune to plan the murder. The 66-year-old leader was shot dead while leaving his office for his residence in Bandra West on Saturday night. A total of six rounds of bullets were fired at Baba Siddique, three of which struck him. The NCP leader was declared dead after being taken to the hospital.

Sources revealed that a meeting between Shubham Lonkar, Shiv, Dharmaraj, and Gurmail Singh took place in Pune to finalise details of the murder. Though no specific amount was promised to the shooters initially, they were assured a significant sum after the successful execution of the murder. Each shooter was, however, given Rs 50,000 upfront for expenses related to the operation.

The main target, as confirmed by the police, was not Zeeshan Siddiqui but Baba Siddiqui. The shooters were given a photograph of Baba Siddiqui along with a flex banner to identify him. "There was no fixed amount promised, but they were assured a big reward," an investigator familiar with the case said.

The shooters arrived in Mumbai in September, with Dharmaraj and Shiv Kumar coming first, and Gurmail Singh joining them later from Haryana. The attackers reportedly fired at the NCP leader from a distance of six to seven feet, with Dharmaraj using pepper spray to escape the scene. After shooting Baba Siddique, Dharmaraj Kashyap used pepper spray in the air to create a diversion and flee the scene. Despite the chaos, the shooters managed to escape initially.

The police are currently investigating the authenticity of social media posts claiming responsibility for the murder. Both Facebook and Instagram have been contacted to verify if the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was involved as claimed.

Delhi Police takes action against fake Diljit Dosanjh concert tickets, arrests 1

Delhi Police said that the accused was using social media to sell fake tickets for the concert.

New Delhi. Delhi Police arrested a person involved in selling fake tickets for Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh's concert in Delhi. The concert, part of Diljit's Dil-Luminati Tour, will be held on October 26 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The arrest comes a month after Delhi Police issued a warning, urging fans to stay alert to online ticket scams. The tickets for the concert were sold out within minutes, leaving several fans frustrated.

However, the Delhi Police found out that the tickets were being sold at exorbitantly high prices online, and urged the citizens to be careful while dealing with resellers. Police also pointed out that fake tickets to the concert were being sold and advised people to be extra

careful while clicking on unknown links. Delhi Police stated that the accused was selling tickets through social media, and they were being sold

In a post on Instagram, Delhi Police used a witty caption using Dosanjh's hit song Oh Paise Puse Baare Billo Soche Duniya from his GOAT album to warn them about scams ahead of the concert.

"Gana sunne ke chakkar me ticket ke liye galat link par paise puse dekar apna band na bajwa lena (Don't fall for fake ticket links and end up getting scammed; always verify first)," read the caption of the post. Diljit Dosanjh reposted the creative warning on his Instagram Stories, tagged the Delhi Police handle, and posted a fist emoji to lend a mark of respect to the authorities. Following Delhi, Diljit will perform in cities like Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Pune, Kolkata and others. It will conclude with a show in Guwahati on December 29.



at prices ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 50,000. **Delhi Police warn Diljit Dosanjh fans of ticket scams ahead of concert**

JNU alleges arbitrary extension of faculty probation, raises concern over rector appointment



NEW DELHI. The Jawaharlal Nehru University Teachers' Association (JNUTA) on Monday alleged that several newly appointed faculty members have had their probation periods arbitrarily extended, as it also raised objection to the appointment of Rector I, claiming that it was done in violation of the seniority rule. Terming these actions "illegal" and "detrimental" to the institution's ethos, the JNUTA in a statement alleged that the appointment of Rector I was made in violation of Ordinance 5 (Clause 4), which states "if there are two or more rectors, the rector who has the longest continuous period of service shall be the senior most".

The JNUTA claimed that by disregarding the clause, the vice chancellor "is willingly committing an illegality that has repercussions for the university, given that it involves an office as important as that of Rector I". According to JNUTA, the move has already had its implications as the newly-appointed rector participated in the 159th academic council meeting on October 10 and is set to attend the 319th executive council meeting scheduled for Monday.

Rajya Sabha polls in 4 J&K seats to be held after nearly 4 years: Sources



Srinagar. Elections in four Rajya Sabha seats in Jammu and Kashmir will be held after nearly four years following the swearing-in of the National Conference-led government on October 16, sources told.

Lt Governor Manoj Sinha had invited National Conference leader Omar Abdullah to take oath as the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister on October 16.

According to sources, the National Conference-Congress is expected to win three Rajya Sabha seats. The alliance won a majority in the just-held Assembly polls in the Union Territory, securing 48 of 90 seats. Other parties, including CPI-M, AAP and five Independents are supporting the alliance, pushing the overall tally to 55.

The BJP, which finished second with a best-haul of 29 seats, could get one Rajya Sabha seat, sources said. National Conference supremo Farooq Abdullah is likely to be nominated to Rajya Sabha while BJP may send one of its senior leaders to the Upper House, they added.

Former Deputy Chief Ministers Nirmal Singh and Kavinder Gupta, who were denied tickets for Assembly polls, are the frontrunners for the BJP's Rajya Sabha nomination, sources further said. The last Rajya Sabha polls in the erstwhile state were held in 2015 and the four seats have remained vacant since 2021 after the elected members completed their six-year tenures.

In the Assembly polls held after a decade in Jammu and Kashmir, the National Conference won 42 seats, Congress 6, BJP 29, PDP 3 and one each by the People's Conference, CPI-M and AAP. Seven independents also emerged victorious.

Who is protecting Lawrence Bishnoi? Trinamool MP to Centre on Canada's charge

Saket Gokhale questioned how Lawrence Bishnoi was able to allegedly carry out murders and extortion in India and abroad from jail.

New Delhi. Trinamool MP Saket Gokhale asked the Centre to come clean on the role and status of jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi after Canada alleged that Indian agents were working with his gang to target pro-Khalistan elements.

Gokhale said the role of Bishnoi in the India-Canada standoff has got "murkier" following a report by The Washington Post that claimed the gangster featured in discussions during a secret meeting between National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval and his Canadian counterpart.

Bishnoi, whose gang has a presence in Canada, is currently lodged in Sabarmati Central jail in Ahmedabad. Asserting that Canada's claims don't matter, the



Trinamool MP questioned how Bishnoi was able to allegedly carry out murders and extortion in India and abroad from jail. Bishnoi, whose gang has a presence in Canada, is currently lodged in Sabarmati Central jail in Ahmedabad. Asserting that Canada's claims don't matter, the

Trinamool MP questioned how Bishnoi was able to allegedly carry out murders and extortion in India and abroad from jail. "How is Lawrence Bishnoi so powerful despite being inside a Gujarat jail?... Who is protecting Lawrence Bishnoi and on whose orders is he working?" Gokhale questioned.

He also pointed out that the killing of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moose Wala, former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddique, a gym owner in Delhi and several others have been attributed to Bishnoi. In recent months, the Bishnoi gang has targeted Salman Khan and sent him death threats.

"Why is the Modi government opposing every attempt at taking Lawrence Bishnoi to other jails outside of Gujarat for investigations in other cases?" Gokhale

said. He also questioned if Bishnoi was being "actively used" by the Modi government and being given a "free hand intentionally". "The government is best equipped to answer the Canadian claims... However, the role and status of Lawrence Bishnoi is something that the government must come clean on," the Trinamool MP said. The Washington Post has claimed that during their meeting with Ajit Doval last week, Canadian officials outlined alleged evidence showing that India had enlisted the Bishnoi gang's networks to carry out the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and attacks on Sikh separatists. Doval acknowledged that Bishnoi was "capable of orchestrating violence from wherever he is incarcerated" and "was known to be up to no good from his jail cell", the report claimed.

How will Delhi government cut dust pollution with 500-km of unpaved roads

MCD officials confirmed that only about 68 kilometres of road repairs have been completed from April to September this year.

New Delhi. With the onset of winter, pollution levels in Delhi have surged, prompting the implementation of Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Level 1. The situation has worsened due to dust from the city's deteriorating roads, causing respiratory issues for residents.

A recent survey by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) revealed that approximately 500 kilometres of roads are in a dilapidated state, significantly contributing to the pollution crisis.

The MCD is responsible for maintaining 15,000 kilometres of roads, but ongoing financial challenges and the failure to form a standing committee have hindered repairs. For years, the condition of the roads has remained poor, with potholes left unfilled and no new carpeting. MCD officials, speaking anonymously, confirmed that only about 68 kilometres of road repairs

have been completed from April to September this year. The situation has drawn sharp criticism from



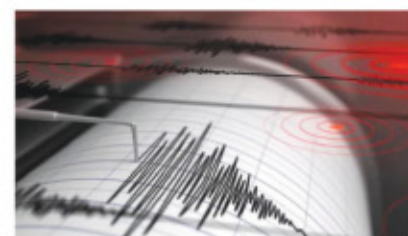
the opposition. Sardar Raja Iqbal Singh, Leader of the Opposition in the MCD and former mayor, condemned the current administration's efforts to ensure cleanliness and curb pollution. He highlighted that broken roads and garbage piles throughout the city are major contributors to the dust pollution that

plagues residents. Singh accused the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government of failing to address local factors affecting air quality over the past decade. He asserted that residents are frustrated with the MCD and AAP's inaction and are determined to vote the party out in the upcoming assembly elections.

In response to the ongoing issues, the 2024-25 budget has allocated approximately 1,000 crore rupees for the repair of MCD-managed roads. However, Atul Goyal, president of United Residents Joint Action (URJA), pointed out that while the MLA fund has increased to 15 crore rupees, the funds will primarily be directed towards Public Works Department (PWD) roads.

The remaining amount for MCD road repairs will depend on the tendering process, which could be complicated if the election code of conduct is enforced soon.

Earthquake of magnitude 3.3 hits Mandi in Himachal, no injuries



New Delhi. An earthquake of magnitude 3.3 hit Himachal Pradesh's Mandi around noon on Tuesday, according to the National Centre for Seismology. The depth of the earthquake was 5 km below the ground.

The epicentre of the earthquake was located in the hilly region between Kullu and Mandi. The quake registered a magnitude of 3.3 on the Richter scale. Despite the tremor, no reports of damage have surfaced.

The epicentre was pinpointed at latitude 31.74 and longitude 76.86 and five km deep. While the earthquake's intensity was low, its recurrence has raised concerns among residents about potential future shocks.

10 ways to make your Life More Romantic

Here are tips to bring back some fun into your relationship

Sometimes we get so busy with our work that we don't get time to express our love to the most important person of our life. So here are some tips to bring back the romance into your marriage.

Spend quality time

Sometimes you maybe in the same room for hours but not talk to each other simply because you are busy with your own work. If you are alone with your husband make sure you spend the time talking to him.

Arrange for a date

If you have kids, arrange for a baby sitter and go out on a date. If he enjoys dancing then you can hit a nice place where you can shake a leg. If your man would like to indulge in some games take him to a bowling parlour. Believe it this will work like a charm.

Be the chef

Food is the easiest way to a man's heart. So, cook a great meal comprising of the dishes he likes. But if you aren't convinced about your culinary skills don't try and experiment, order food from his favourite restaurant and then set up some candles for a romantic candlelight dinner.

Leave love notes

Whether it's leaving some love notes around the house or SMSes or email, write him a lovey-dovey note. Men may pretend to be tough but they do like to know that they are on your mind.

Express it loud

Though you may have sent him a love note or email, there's nothing like professing your love every now and

then. Do let him know that after all the years as a married couple you are still very much in love with him.

Shower him with attention

Dote on him once in a while. Praise him for his hard work. Men love attention though they may claim otherwise. Praise him for his taste in clothes or perfumes, he's sure to like it a lot.

Plan a surprise vacation

If you are not likely to get any alone time in the city, plan a vacation. Depending on the kind of time you both can spare, take a long or short trip. You could take him out to the place he's always wanted to go.



Find ways to spend time together

It could be while travelling to or from work or just going shopping together or even a long drive after dinner. If you can't head out for a vacation just find ways to be in each

other's company.

Let him spend time with his gang

Yes, you should spend some time together, but your man will really appreciate it if you let him spend an evening with his buddies. Ensure that you don't call him during the time when he is with his friends.

Appreciate things he does

Even if it's something simple, try and tell him how much you appreciate his help around the house. More than the praise and attention that you shower on him, it's this appreciation that will make him fall in love with you all over again.



Dos and don'ts of writing professional e-mails



Whether you are applying for a job, internship, loan, grant, applying for admission in a college or just writing an e-mail for business or job related communication, these tips will help you give your mails a professional touch

When you are writing a professional e-mail, you have to be very careful about a few things or you might appear very immature or inexperienced. In professional e-mails, you cannot let your personality show as much as you do in personal mails. Professional or business-related e-mails have to be crisp and to-the point and should contain only relevant information. Read the tips below...

1. Professional presentation is a must

Being over-creative and over-innovative is a strict no-no. Use standard formats and standard fonts for professional e-mails. Using varied colours of various font sizes in one mail is just going to portray you as an amateur. Yes you can convey your individuality but through content and not through wrapping.

2. Keep your e-mail id simple and straight

The first and the foremost thing that could help you establish a professional image is your email address. Do not try to be extra creative, clever or confusing. Yes, your e-mail id should portray your professional capacity but in a simple way. It either be your full name or your middle initials or something related to your profession but not something irrelevant like sexycelina@gmail.com.

3. Always use a professional e-mail signature

As a professional person, you want to leave a lasting impression on a recipient and a key point of knowing how to write professional emails is how to sign off. Your signature is your identity and is left in every message. If you are seeking employment, it is vital to include your name, contact details and alternative phone numbers. This is all part of representing yourself as a professional and finding common ground with other

professionals.

4. No emotions or emoticons in e-mails

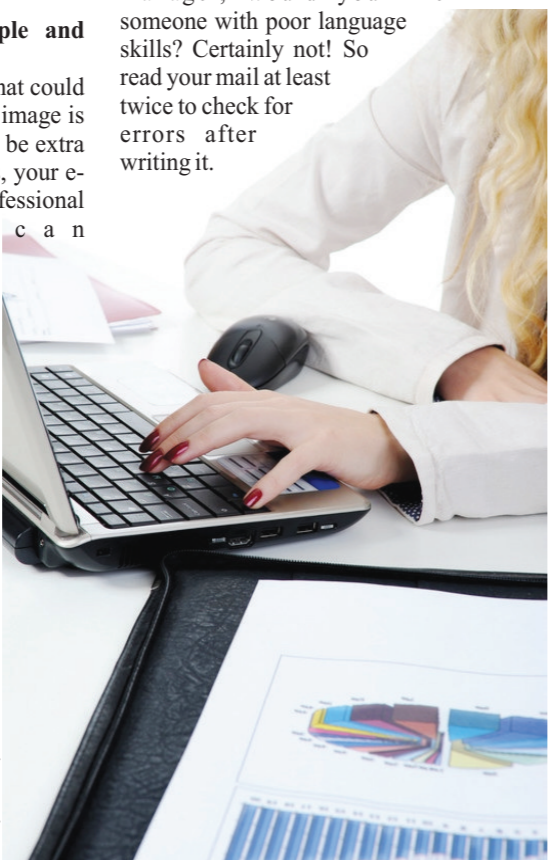
There is a lot of difference between sending a casual text to a friend and sending a formal mail. In casual chats, we frequently use smileys and emoticons to express what we are feeling. For any professional e-mail, this kind of expression may be considered very inappropriate. You will certainly not put a happy face in the subject of your e-mail when applying for a job. One important tip when writing professional e-mails is that you should allow emotions to dictate your writing. Whether you are happy, sad, frustrated or annoyed, first calm down before you write an e-mail. And even after writing it, double check before you hit the send button.

5. Be careful when using humour

There is a fine line between the between humour and sarcasm and this is very difficult to achieve in writing. There are chances you will be misinterpreted or misunderstood which may not only make you sound very personal but also ruin your image. The same goes for abbreviations or acronyms, frequently used today. Do not use it until you are very sure they will be well-understood.

6. Run a grammar and spell check

Do check your standard of grammar and spellings when writing a professional e-mail. Spelling and grammar errors can portray you as a bad communicator. Remember, first impression is the last impression. If you were a recruiting manager, would you hire someone with poor language skills? Certainly not! So read your mail at least twice to check for errors after writing it.



Smart plan for a less stressful week

Always pressed for time? Here's a Saturday to Sunday plan to make your life simpler. Do you often feel overloaded, and end up working late to meet deadlines? Or are you spending the day battling one crisis after another? The problem may be in your time management skills. When we manage our time well, we are more productive at work, and our stress levels are lower. Here's a weeklong guide that'll help you work, not efficiently, but effectively.

Saturday: Sort the mailbox. Electricity bills, telephone bills, bank statements, sundry invoices and other promotional letters sum up to nearly 1,000 pieces of mails every year. Being surrounded by clutter can sap away at your productivity. So, choose one spot at home to sort out your papers on a weekly basis. Ideally, sit in front of the computer and stock the table with stamps, envelopes, pens, 'In,' 'Out' and 'File It' folders, so you can work at top speed. Ask yourself, what's the worst thing that could happen if I don't keep this junk mail? If you're willing to live with the result, then toss it in the bin so you can get to the important paperwork quickly.

Sunday: Catch up on sleep. Do you scramble through the week to get your eight hours of snooze? Medical experts point out that chronic sleep deprivation has a huge impact on memory,

creativity, concentration and problem solving skills — and it can double the length of time it takes you to accomplish a task. If you want to be productive tomorrow, getting eight hours of sleep tonight needs to be way more important than sending those mails that can wait until morning.

Monday: Do the tough job first

After a long, relaxed weekend, walking to office on a Monday morning can be quite challenging. It is found that people spend 75 per cent of their time on a Monday doing only 20 per cent of work. Besides, distractions, interruptions and unnecessary tasks chew up the remaining five per cent. So, to boost productivity, pick the toughest, most unpleasant task you need to accomplish first. Once you knock that off your list while you're still fresh, focused and working at good speed — everything else will seem like a breeze in comparison, and that will help you stay on track all day.

Tuesday/Wednesday:

Avoid social media

According to Mayo Clinic researchers, women spend at least one out of every seven minutes at work checking, and responding to, social media messages. Going online several times daily can cut your productivity by 25 per cent or more. To protect yourself, schedule specific times when you'll log on and limit how long you'll stay online when you do. To start with the socialmedia detox, check mails and long on to social networking sites only once a day.

Thursday: Trim the to-do list

Is dragging work home with you eating into your free time? People spend at least 75 per cent of their day doing tasks they feel are important though they could have delegated, or ignored most of them. Each morning, divide your day's to-do list into two categories—things you could do, and things you must do. Mark the more important ones

as, 'A' and the less as 'B'. Be ruthless and put as much as possible into that easily-ignored could do list. Then tackle your tasks in reverse order, so you start with the must-do's, first, and only bother with the could-do's if you have time.

Friday: Tidy your home

There's no question it takes time to clean out overflowing closets, tables, and the mess that has accumulated in the kitchen. However, you could lose even more precious time if you don't spend time cleaning up the mess. According to a British research team, women spend up to 188 hours every year looking for things they've misplaced — like keys, remote controls, passports, and matching shoes. While your home doesn't have to be

perfectly organised to prevent this frustration, start by getting rid of the things you no longer use or value, so you'll have easier access to what you actually need.

Saturday: Make an errands list

Once you're done sorting out your mails, make a trip to your local market. If you are one of those who run to the grocery store two or three times a week, this weekend visit could save you at least an hour every week just by combining your errands into one big trip. And, instead of writing what you need on a scrap of paper, create a blank grocery list — with headings like fresh veggies, fruits, meat, canned goods and dairy products. Photocopy it and stick a fresh copy on the fridge each week.



Sensex, Nifty gain in early trade, RIL shares drop after Q2 results

New Delhi. Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Tuesday and traded higher in early trade. The S&P BSE Sensex was up 194.75 points at 82,167.80 at around 9:39 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was up 38.30 points to 25,166.25. Most of the other broader market indices were trading in positive territory in early trade, with decent gains in smallcap and midcap stocks. Among sectoral indices, Nifty Bank, Nifty Financial Services and Nifty IT gained, providing support to the benchmark indices. However, heavyweight Reliance Industries Limited fell nearly 1% in early trade after its net profit declined 5% in the second quarter of FY25. The top gainers on the Nifty50 were BPCL, Bajaj Finserv, Bharti Airtel, Infosys and ICICI Bank. On the other hand, the top losers were ONGC, Tata Steel, Hindalco, JSW Steel and M&M.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "Going into the Q2 results season, the market has been expecting good numbers from IT and banking. HCLTech's good results confirm the optimistic expectations and the banking results, particularly from the leading private banks, also are likely to be good." "Unlike IT stocks where there is only limited valuation comfort, the banking stocks offer decent valuation comfort and, therefore, have the potential to move up from the present levels," he added.

He said the sharp cut in Brent crude by 3% is a macro positive for India, but added that CPI inflation for September coming worse than expected at 5.49% is a "concern and the MPC will be forced to take this seriously and postpone the rate cut to 2025".

"Even though FII's continue to sell, the intensity of their selling has come down reducing the pressure on largecaps," he said.

Retrospective levy of cess bleeds automobile sector

NEW DELHI. The retroactive clarification issued by the GST Council regarding compensation cess is causing significant turmoil in India's automobile sector as companies are now facing show cause notices demanding payment on past vehicle sales.

As per sources, carmakers have received tax notices worth Rs 10,000 crore for failing to pay compensation cess, which is part of the goods and services tax (GST), on utility vehicles sold prior to the issuance of clarification in 2022. This issue affects several popular models in the segment, including Mahindra's Thar and Scorpio, Tata Motors' Safari and Harrier, and Maruti's Brezza, among others. In 2022, the Council had issued a clarification about application of cess on all utility vehicles and SUVs with certain criteria for prior period. The companies are now getting the show cause notices. "The most damaging aspect of this retroactive application is that companies can't pass the tax burden to customers. Vehicles have already been sold and automakers can't go back and charge the cess to previous buyers," said Abhishek Rastogi, founder of Rastogi Chambers. Sudipta Bhattacharjee, partner with Khaitan & Co, said, "Unfortunately, the ghost of retrospective taxation seems to have reared its head yet again. The issue arises from an explanation of 'ground clearance' that was added post the 50th GST Council meeting - since it was added as an 'explanation' GST authorities appear to have taken a position that the same would be applicable retrospectively."

"However, this position loses sight of the fact that the said explanation was recommended to be added in conjunction with the recommendation by GST Council to amend relevant rate entry in GST Compensation cess notification to include all utility vehicles in that entry - in other words, this was not an independent explanation but an explanation which was necessitated by the amendment and hence the explanation cannot be read independently, with retrospective effect. One hopes that the CBIC will issue suitable clarification to avoid retrospective liabilities on auto-manufacturers based on such a hyper-technical (and seemingly untenable) argument," Bhattacharjee added.

Power generation capacity needs to rise four-fold by 2047, says Min Manohar Lal Khattar

NEW DELHI. The country will be required to increase its power capacity fourfold by 2047 to meet anticipated demand of 708 gigawatts, according to Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. Speaking at the two-day Brainstorming Session on the Indian Power Sector Scenario 2047, he emphasised the critical role of renewable energy in the country's future energy mix.

"By 2047, we anticipate our power demand to reach 708 Gw. To meet this, we need to increase our capacity by four times, i.e. 2,100 gigawatts," said the minister. "This is not just about increasing capacity; it's about reimagining our entire energy landscape." The minister also highlighted the goal of achieving 500 Gw of non-fossil energy capacity by 2033, stating that this transition aligns with India's commitment to reducing carbon emissions by one billion tonnes by 2030.

The power minister also launched the National Electricity Plan (Transmission), which outlines the necessary transmission infrastructure to support 500 Gw of renewable energy capacity by 2030, with an increase to over 600 Gw by 2032. The plan includes innovative features such as the integration of 10 Gw of offshore wind farms, 47Gw of battery energy storage systems, and 30 Gw of pumped storage plants. It also addresses the power needs of green hydrogen and green ammonia manufacturing hubs and includes cross-border interconnections. With a planned addition of 190,000 circuit kilometers of transmission lines and 1,270 gigavolt-amperes (GVA) of transformation capacity over the next decade, the plan represents an investment opportunity exceeding '9 lakh crore in the transmission sector.

Need PLI scheme for transmission equipment

India should explore need for a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for critical transmission equipment to improve its renewable energy transmission capacity, said Power Secretary Pankaj Agarwal on Monday. Speaking on the sidelines of the inaugural session of the Brainstorming Conclave on the Indian Power Sector in New Delhi, he also mentioned that it will ease the strain on global supply chains and boost its renewable energy infrastructure.

Hyundai IPO opens for subscription: Check GMP, price band, other key details

New Delhi. Hyundai Motor India's highly anticipated initial public offering (IPO) has opened for subscription today, October 15, and will run until October 17. This IPO is a landmark event, making Hyundai the first automaker to go public in India since Maruti Suzuki's listing in 2003.

PRICE BAND AND ISSUE SIZE

The price band for the Hyundai IPO has been set between Rs 1,865 and Rs 1,960 per share. Through this public offering, Hyundai aims to raise Rs 27,856 crore, which includes an offer-for-sale of 14.2 crore shares, representing a 17.5% stake in the company.

LATEST GMP

As of today, the grey market premium (GMP) for Hyundai's stock is at Rs 40, reflecting a modest 2.04% premium over the issue price. This is a significant drop from the Rs 570 GMP seen just two weeks ago. While the grey market sentiment is often seen as an early indicator of listing performance, it is important to note that

GMP can be volatile and should not be the sole factor driving investment decisions.

SUBSCRIPTION TIMELINE

The Hyundai IPO is open for subscription starting today and will close on October 17. Retail investors, qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), and non-institutional investors (NIIs) can all participate in the IPO. Hyundai's IPO is expected to attract significant investor interest due to the company's strong market presence and financial performance.

HYUNDAI'S MARKET POSITION

Hyundai is a dominant force in India's automotive sector, boasting a 14.6% market share. The company's manufacturing facilities in Chennai have a combined production capacity of 8.24 lakh units and are currently operating at over 90% capacity. Hyundai's product lineup includes 13 models, with SUVs like the Creta and Venue playing a pivotal role in its success. In the first quarter of FY24, Hyundai posted revenue of Rs



17,344 crore and a net profit of Rs 1,489.65 crore, reflecting solid growth from the previous year. The company plans to utilize the IPO proceeds to expand its business, improve its electric vehicle (EV) offerings, and fund other strategic initiatives.

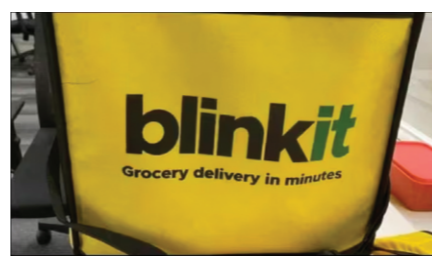
SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE?

Several brokerage firms have provided positive recommendations for Hyundai's IPO, citing the company's solid market position, robust financials, and growth potential. ICICI Direct, Bajaj Broking, and SBI Securities have all advised investors to subscribe, especially those

with a long-term investment horizon. Hyundai's valuation, pegged at 26.3 times its FY24 earnings at the upper end of the price band, is seen as competitive when compared to rivals like Maruti Suzuki, which trades at 29 times FY24 earnings. LKP Securities and Anand Rathi have echoed these sentiments, highlighting Hyundai's strong standing in the Indian automotive landscape, particularly in the SUV segment. They recommend subscribing to the IPO with a focus on long-term gains, given the company's potential to maintain its leadership position and grow its electric vehicle portfolio. Master Capital Services Ltd also noted that Hyundai's growth trajectory aligns well with the projected 4.5-6.5% CAGR for the domestic passenger vehicle (PV) industry. They suggest that investors consider subscribing, especially those looking for a long-term play in the auto sector. Saji John, Senior Research Analyst at Geojit Financial Services.

Blinkit scraps 'zero notice' policy amid talent war in quick commerce: Report

NEW DELHI. Quick commerce company Blinkit has recently made a significant change to its employment contracts, especially for key employees, by scrapping its 'zero notice' policy. The company has increased the notice period for several top-level staff from zero to two months, reported Moneycontrol. This change comes in response to growing competition in the quick commerce industry, which is valued at \$5.5 billion in India. Blinkit is facing stiff competition from other players like Zepto, Flipkart, and Swiggy, all of whom are in a race to attract and retain the best talent in this rapidly growing sector. The move to introduce longer notice periods at Blinkit is seen as a proactive step to prevent its employees from being poached by rivals. This is a preventive measure. Companies like Zepto, which is well-funded, or Flipkart, can offer lucrative deals to Blinkit employees, making it easy for them to jump ship. Blinkit is trying to



safeguard its workforce by making such changes," said a person quoted in the report. The quick commerce sector has seen huge investment and expansion in recent months, which has intensified the competition.

Zepto recently raised \$340 million, further solidifying its position in the market. Walmart's Flipkart has also expanded its rapid delivery service, Flipkart Minutes, which has grown from its initial launch in Bengaluru to multiple cities across India. Meanwhile, Swiggy, another major player in the

sector, has received approval for its Initial Public Offering (IPO), marking one of the largest IPOs by a new-age company in recent years. In cases where Blinkit suspects that an employee might be joining a direct competitor, the company has also started placing such employees on "garden leave" for two months. This practice is intended to prevent the sharing of sensitive company information with competitors. In some instances, employees are immediately relieved of their duties to avoid any risk of data leakage. Though Blinkit is the first major quick commerce company to make such changes to employment contracts so soon after introducing the zero notice policy in July, poaching talent in the sector is common. The quick commerce industry is still relatively new and growing rapidly, making it a fertile ground for talent acquisition from rivals.

Nvidia inches closer to overtaking Apple as world's most valuable company

NEW DELHI. Nvidia hit a record high on Monday, edging closer to potentially overtaking Apple as the world's most valuable company. The AI chipmaker's shares surged 2.4%, closing at \$138.07, fuelled by investors' growing confidence in the demand for its next-generation processors. The latest stock jump pushed Nvidia's market value to \$3.39 trillion, just shy of Apple's \$3.52 trillion, but ahead of Microsoft's \$3.12 trillion. Nvidia, a key player in the artificial intelligence boom, has benefitted immensely from the competition among tech giants like Alphabet, Microsoft, and Amazon, all striving to dominate the rapidly advancing AI space. Analysts at TD Cowen echoed this sentiment, emphasizing that the major companies involved in AI are trapped in a "Prisoner's Dilemma"—where each must continue hefty investments to avoid being left behind. Despite the delayed production ramp-up for its



upcoming Blackwell chips, Nvidia assured investors that current AI chip demand remains strong. TD Cowen, in a report, reaffirmed its \$165 price target for Nvidia and maintained the company as its "Top Pick." Earlier in June, Nvidia briefly claimed the title of the world's most valuable company but was overtaken by Microsoft. Since then, the three tech giants—Nvidia, Apple, and Microsoft—have been in a close race, trading places in terms of market capitalisation for months. As quarterly earnings season approaches, both Apple and Microsoft showed modest gains, with Apple rising nearly 2% and Microsoft adding 0.7%,

helping propel the S&P 500 to a record high close. Nvidia, Apple, and Microsoft combined now account for roughly 20% of the index's total weight, underscoring their significant influence over market movements.

In the coming days, Nvidia's partner, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC), is expected to report a 40% increase in quarterly profit, driven by surging demand for Nvidia's AI processors. According to analysts, the growing need for AI data centers is likely to more than double Nvidia's annual revenue to nearly \$126 billion.

While Nvidia's remarkable rally has buoyed the broader market, some investors remain cautious, worried that enthusiasm for AI could wane if signs of a slowdown in spending on the technology begin to emerge. However, for now, Nvidia remains at the forefront of the AI revolution, inching ever closer to the top spot in the global market rankings.

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) shares declined by over 1% after the company posted a 5% drop in net profit for the second quarter. At 12:30 pm, shares of the Mukesh Ambani-led conglomerate were down 1.20% at Rs 2,712.30 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

he dip, driven by weaker-than-expected performance in its oil-to-chemicals (O2C) segment, has left investors and analysts contemplating their next move.

RIL reported a consolidated net profit of Rs 16,563 crore for the quarter ending September, down 5% from the previous year. The decline was largely attributed to softness in the O2C business, which missed estimates and impacted overall profitability.

WHAT SHOULD INVESTORS DO?

Motilal Oswal maintained its buy rating on



Reliance but adjusted its target price downward, from Rs 3,410 to Rs 3,255. The brokerage trimmed its FY25 and FY26 consolidated EBITDA estimates by 1-2%, while reducing PAT forecasts by 6% and 3%, respectively. The revision comes after adjusting estimates for RIL's core businesses: standalone earnings were reduced by around 8%, RJo by 1-3%, and the Retail segment by 2-10%. Jefferies, with a target price of Rs 3,400, also acknowledged the weaker-than-expected Q2 results, particularly in the O2C business, along with slight underperformance in both Jio and Retail. However, Jefferies pointed out that the stock's recent 14% correction has made the current valuation more attractive, presenting a potential buying opportunity for investors.

Similarly, CLSA noted that the recent pullback in RIL's share price has brought it closer to a more conservative valuation, making it a favorable entry point. Nomura, which maintains a buy call with a target price of Rs 3,450, sees significant triggers on the horizon. The firm pointed to the anticipated launch of RIL's new energy operations by March 2025 as a key driver of future growth.

Garuda Construction and Engineering listing: Book profit or hold

Garuda Construction and Engineering listing: Despite a sluggish outlook in the grey market, which had indicated a flat or negative listing, the company surprised many with its strong opening.

New Delhi. Garuda Construction and Engineering Limited (GCEL) made a decent debut on the stock market, listing at Rs 105 per share, a 10.5% premium over its issue price of Rs 95. Despite a sluggish outlook in the grey market, which had indicated a flat or negative listing, the company surprised many with its strong opening. Now, the question arises: should investors book profits or hold on? GCEL's Rs 264-crore IPO saw robust demand, especially from retail and non-institutional investors, who



oversubscribed their portions by 10.81 and 9.03 times, respectively. While the qualified institutional buyers' quota was subscribed 1.24 times, retail investors drove much of the excitement surrounding the stock. Ahead of its IPO, GCEL raised Rs 75 crore through its anchor book, and the public issue included fresh equity worth Rs 173.85 crore, along with an offer-for-sale of 95 lakh shares by promoter PKH Ventures.

The company, which offers a wide range of construction services across residential, commercial, industrial, and infrastructure sectors, plans to use the proceeds for working capital, corporate expenses, and possible acquisitions. Analysts are cautiously optimistic about the stock's performance. The company's diversified project portfolio, strong order book, and solid return on net worth are seen as key

factors driving the positive market response. However, they have warned that GCEL's growth momentum slowed in FY24 due to the election year, and market volatility could impact the stock. Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd, advises investors to tread carefully. While the listing gains are encouraging, she suggests keeping a stop loss around the issue price to protect against potential downside risks. "Investors should closely monitor the company's performance and market conditions. Those holding shares should consider booking profits but also remain cautious about long-term volatility," Nyati said. While GCEL's listing has provided a decent opportunity for short-term gains, investors need to weigh their options carefully. Those looking for stability might want to lock in profits now, while others with a higher risk tolerance could consider waiting for further growth, albeit with a close eye on the market.

NEWS BOX

IND vs NZ: New Zealand's Ben Sears ruled out of series, Jacob Duffy called in

New Delhi. New Zealand pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the Test series against India due to a knee injury, a statement from the Blackcaps revealed on October 15, Tuesday. Sears has been replaced by Jacob Duffy in the squad for the 3-match series, which will begin on October 16 in Bengaluru.

Sears had complained about pain in his left knee while training during the Sri Lanka series and had undergone Tests in New Zealand last week. His trip to India was delayed as the scans revealed a tear in the meniscus. While New Zealand cricket sought out medical advice and was hoping the pacer could make the cut for the squad, the doctors advised New Zealand cricket to rule him out of the series. Duffy, who has been called in as Sears' replacement, will be leaving for India on Tuesday. The 30-year-old is yet to play a Test match for New Zealand, having represented them in 6 ODIs and 14 T20Is so far. Duffy has 299 first-class wickets to his name.



What Stead said about Sears' injury

New Zealand coach Gary Stead said that they were disappointed to see Sears miss out but feel excited with the prospect of having Duffy as an option. Stead admitted that Duffy has the chance to make his Test debut during the course of the series. "We're obviously disappointed for Ben who made a strong start to his Test career during the home summer and offers a genuine pace option," said Stead.

"It remains to be seen how long we'll be without him for, but we're hopeful his road to a full recovery will be a short one."

"It's an exciting opportunity for Jacob who has been around Test the squad before. With three Tests ahead of us, he has every chance of making his Test debut." New Zealand are already without the services of Kane Williamson for some duration of the series as the star batter is recovering from an injury.

UEFA Nations League: 10-man France edge past Belgium, Germany beat Netherlands

New Delhi. Randal Kolo Muani's brace propelled France closer to the Nations League quarter-finals with a 2-1 victory over Belgium in their League A Group 2 encounter in Brussels on Monday. Kolo Muani opened the scoring from the penalty spot after Wout Faes handled the ball in the box, but Belgium equalised through Lois Openda just before halftime. Belgium's captain Youri Tielemans had missed an earlier penalty, sending his shot over the bar. Kolo Muani secured the win with a header in the 62nd minute, converting Lucas Digne's cross, as France held on for the win despite playing the final 14 minutes with 10 men after Aurelien Tchouameni received a second yellow card. Belgium, missing key players Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, created several chances but were wasteful in front of goal, a recurring issue for the team. Openda had been a bright spot, winning the missed penalty after being brought down by William Saliba and later



scoring a well-timed header from Timothy Castagne's cross.

France, without Kylian Mbappe, held firm despite Belgium's pressure and saw a goal disallowed for handball before Kolo Muani's decisive second goal. With Italy leading the group on 10 points and France just behind on nine, both teams are in strong contention for the quarter-finals. Belgium, with four points, still have work to do.

Leweling stars for Germany on debut

Germany's Jamie Leweling marked his international debut in style, scoring the decisive goal in a 1-0 win over the Netherlands in their Nations League Group A3 clash on Monday. The 23-year-old midfielder, one of two new faces in the squad, had an early goal disallowed for offside in the second minute. However, he made no mistake in the 64th minute, smashing the ball into the top corner after the Dutch failed to clear a corner. Germany dominated from the outset, keeping the Netherlands under constant pressure.

OTD in 2021: CSK scripted redemption to win 4th IPL trophy, beat KKR in final

CSK won their 4th IPL trophy on October 15, 2021

They beat KKR by 27 runs in the final in Dubai

Ruturaj Gaikwad scored 635 runs to win Orange Cap



Chennai Super Kings scripted their redemption by winning their 4th IPL title in Dubai. The MS Dhoni-led side beat Eoin Morgan's KKR in the final by 27 runs.

New Delhi. On this day in 2021, Chennai Super Kings lifted their fourth IPL trophy, defeating Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs in the final held in Dubai. It was a moment of redemption for MS Dhoni's men, who bounced back after missing out on the playoffs in the previous season. CSK's consistent performances throughout IPL 2021 were capped off by an impressive win in the final, with young opener Ruturaj Gaikwad playing a pivotal role in their success during that particular season with a century and four fifties. Batting first, CSK posted a daunting total of 192/3. Faf du Plessis led the charge with a brilliant 86 off

59 balls, anchoring the innings with well-timed boundaries and clever running between the wickets. Ruturaj Gaikwad also made an impact with a steady 32, setting a solid platform at the top. Robin Uthappa (31) and Moeen Ali (37*) added crucial runs

towards the end, taking CSK to a challenging score.

CSK's epic redemption CSK beat KKR in final

In response, KKR made a flying start with openers Venkatesh Iyer (50) and Shubman

Gill (51) adding 91 runs for the first wicket. However, CSK's bowlers pulled things back remarkably, picking up wickets at regular intervals. Shardul Thakur was the pick of the bowlers with 3/38, while Ravindra Jadeja and Josh Hazlewood also kept things tight, ensuring KKR could not maintain their momentum. With this victory, CSK became four-time IPL champions, joining Mumbai Indians as the most successful franchises in the tournament's history.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's performances stood out throughout the season. His tally of 635 runs earned him the Orange Cap, making him the youngest player to win the prestigious award. He was also awarded as the Emerging Player of the Season for his performance. Gaikwad also became the first cricketer to win both the IPL title and the Orange Cap in the same season, marking a significant milestone in his young career.

The triumph in 2021 further cemented MS Dhoni's legacy as one of the greatest leaders in T20 cricket. The title win was a testament to CSK's resilience and team spirit, as they once again proved why they are among the most consistent teams in the IPL.

R Ashwin defines beauty of Test cricket ahead of IND vs NZ: It's pinnacle of sport

R Ashwin will be back in action during India vs New Zealand Test series

India host New Zealand for a three-match Test series, starting October 16

The 1st test match will take place at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru



New Delhi. India's veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin defined the beauty of Test cricket in a video released by the BCCI on their official social media handle. The video gave snippets of the Indian team's practice session in Bengaluru with a voice-over by Ashwin from behind. The veteran spinner said that the format requires

adaptability and every day the team needs to come up with a new approach and strategy. Meanwhile, the Indian team has been training hard in the nets ahead of the all-important Test series vs New Zealand. "See, Test cricket is always about adaptability, right? You can't start Day 5 like how you started Day 1. Every day you need to be able to adapt along with conditions. That's why they say Test cricket is the pinnacle of this particular sport," Ashwin said in the video. Ashwin will be back in action for India after he won the Player of the Series award for a 2-0 clean-sweep vs Bangladesh last month. He will hope to emulate a similar kind of performance against the Kiwis. With 527

Test wickets to his name, Ashwin has a chance to surpass Nathan Lyon's tally of 530 and become the off-spinner with most wickets in the format from the current era.

IND vs NZ: What to expect

India host New Zealand for a three-match Test series, starting October 16, Wednesday. The 1st Test will take place at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. New Zealand will be led by

Tom Latham after Tim Southee stepped down from captaincy duties after their 0-2 Test series loss against Sri Lanka. New Zealand have failed to win any of their last five Test matches, whereas India have won each of their last five matches in red-ball cricket. The Rohit Sharma-led side stand at the top of the points table of the World Test Championship rankings. The Indian team will aim to strengthen their position at the top as they currently have 74.24 PCT. New Zealand, on the other hand, slumped to sixth position in the rankings with 37.50 PCT.

India and New Zealand last played a Test match in Bengaluru back in 2012. India won the match by five wickets by playing just four specialist bowlers (two pacers and two spinners).



first innings. Ross Taylor led the way with a brilliant 113, while Kruger van Wyk added 71 to take the visitors to a competitive total. Pragyan Ojha was the pick of the Indian bowlers, taking 4/90. In reply, India managed 353, falling 12 runs short of New Zealand's total. Virat Kohli stood out with a patient 103, his second Test century. MS Dhoni (62) and Suresh Raina (55) chipped in with crucial runs to keep India in the game. For New Zealand, Tim Southee impressed with figures of 7/64, troubling the Indian batters with swing and seam.

Virat's 2nd Test hundred

New Zealand's second innings was wrapped up for 248, despite Ross Taylor's quick 35. R Ashwin once again starred with the ball, finishing with 5/69, taking his match tally to 12 wickets. His consistent bowling proved decisive in restricting the Kiwis. Chasing 261 for victory, India's top order struggled early, losing three quick wickets. However, Kohli (51) held the innings together, and Dhoni (48*) finished the job with composure. Cheteshwar Pujara's steady 48 also provided crucial stability during the chase.

Kylian Mbappe, LaLiga president accuse FIFA of destroying football ecosystem

New Delhi. A players' union, the European leagues' group, and Spain's LaLiga have jointly filed a complaint against FIFA, alleging "abuse" regarding the governing body's international match schedule. The complaint was submitted to European Union antitrust regulators amid growing concerns over player well-being, with many athletes facing fatigue, injuries, and mental strain despite their substantial salaries.



The complaint asserts that FIFA's control over the international calendar constitutes an abuse of dominance and violates EU law, according to FIFPRO Europe, European Leagues, and LaLiga in a joint statement. The European Leagues, an association that includes major leagues like the Premier League, Bundesliga, Serie A, and Ligue 1—excluding LaLiga—has voiced specific concerns about the revamped Club World Cup set to take place next year. The tournament will expand from

seven to 32 clubs and is scheduled for nearly a month in the U.S., potentially disrupting clubs' pre-season tours aimed at enhancing global fan engagement. Premier League CEO Richard Masters expressed that the situation has reached a "tipping point," emphasising feedback from players who feel overwhelmed by the excessive number of matches. LaLiga President Javier Tebas criticised FIFA for prioritizing its own interests while disregarding the broader

impact on the football ecosystem.

In a video statement during a news conference held by the three organisations, French captain Kylian Mbappe echoed these sentiments, stating, "When it's too much, it's too much." FIFA, however, maintains that the international calendar was established with input from representatives across all continents, including Europe, and in consultation with FIFPRO and various leagues. In addition to the expanded Club World Cup, the upcoming World Cup will also grow from 32 to 48 nations. UEFA has similarly adjusted its schedule with a new Champions League format but has not been included in the current complaint, as FIFA is seen as responsible for the international calendar. Mathieu Moreuil, Premier League director of international football relations and EU affairs, noted that relations with UEFA are different due to ongoing dialogue.

IND vs NZ 1st Test, Bengaluru weather report: Will rain play spoilsport

India and New Zealand are all set to renew their rivalry in the Test arena with the first match of the series happening at the iconic Chinnaswamy stadium on October 16. Will the weather in Bengaluru play spoilsport

Wednesday. The Indian team will be aiming to get the preparations in before the Border Gavaskar Trophy against Australia down under, which will begin in November. Rohit Sharma and his men will be buoyed by the fact that they won the series against Bangladesh where the team showed two different facets to their game. While the Chennai Test showed the team's resilience, in Kanpur the Indian team showed that they could easily dominate a bowling attack. New Zealand are coming into the series after being beaten 2-0 by Sri Lanka recently. They will also be without Kane Williamson for some part of the series as the star batter recovers from an injury. However, they still have firepower in the side that can Test the hosts. With all the elements for a thrilling series in store, will the weather be kind to both teams in Bengaluru?



India vs New Zealand 1st Test: Bengaluru weather report

According to Accuweather, Bengaluru is expected to be cloudy throughout with some showers also expected. Tuesday is expected to be a day filled with rain showers as there is

a 90 percent chance. On Wednesday, which will be Day 1 of the contest, the rain percentage is 41, with thunderstorms predicted in the afternoon.

Read: IND vs NZ 1st Test predicted XIs

The percentage is 40 on Thursday and will be the highest on Friday at 67. On Saturday, it will decrease to 25 percent before rising to 40 on the final day of the game on Sunday. India vs New Zealand: Squads

India: Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep

Adah Sharma

Responds To Backlash Over Moving Into Sushant Singh Rajput's Flat: 'This Is a Free Country...'



Adah Sharma grabbed eyeballs when it was reported that the actor would be moving into late actor Sushant Singh Rajput's house in Mumbai. The flat was vacant for four years after the actor died by suicide. Sharma was criticized by netizens for moving into Rajput's house. In a recent interview, the actor opened up about the hate that she received and shared her thoughts. In a conversation with India Today Digital, Adah Sharma talked about the backlash that she received for moving into Sushant Singh Rajput's house. She mentioned how she loves the flat and said that she cannot react to everything that comes her way. The actor said, "As an actor, or even as a person, you cannot react to everything that's been said. We all have a lot of things to do in life. Also, this is a free country, and everyone has the right to have an opinion."

Sharma mentioned that she does not want to explain herself or her decision to people. She continued, "If they feel about something, they should... and continue to do so. I am not here to tell anyone 'I am a good person' or give them reasons for my actions. I did what I had to do, and I know myself. And just like I don't want anyone to change for me, I would also not change myself. I am really all settled in the house, and I really love the place."

Apart from working in Bollywood, Sharma has also worked in Telugu, Tamil, and Kannada films. She made her Bollywood debut with the horror flick, 1920. She was nominated for the Filmfare Best Female Debut Award. She, later, became a household name after she starred in Sudipto Sen's The Kerala Story.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu

Pens A Note And Praises The Cast And Crew Of Jigra, Calls Alia Bhatt 'Tigress'

Alia Bhatt's latest movie Jigra was released in theatres over the weekend. The film is being lauded by many for Bhatt's riveting performance. Among them is Samantha Ruth Prabhu who also praised the film. She recently took to her social media to appreciate the film and penned a long note. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Samantha Ruth Prabhu shared a poster of Jigra. Along with the poster, she praised Alia Bhatt for her performance and called her a 'tigress.' She also lauded director Vasana Bala and Vedang Raina. She wrote, "@aliaabhatt you tigress! A performance so feisty and throbbing with life that I couldn't take my eyes off you! The brave choices you make... the standards you set for yourself... Keep inspiring!" Prabhu continued, "@vasanabala you've made a film so unique and you've really pushed the envelope with how to present a female lead! Thank you! Still tripping on the vibe of your film. @vedangrainna what a talent! Going to be looking out for your work. The lashings scene... you had me gasping! So visceral. @rahulr_23 my dearest... Your best performance yet! Your action scenes... So good! You made me forget I am watching my best friend. I could only see Muthu! The adorable Manoj Ji, the crazy talent that was Vivek, and the rest of the cast... all of you have my heart! Superb performances from everyone. @achintstagram your score and the songs! Going to be living rent-free in my head."

Ahead of the release of Jigra, Prabhu attended the pre-release event of the film in Hyderabad. Bhatt had praised Prabhu at the event and said, "My dearest Samantha, you are a hero on and off-screen. I have so much admiration for your talent, for your resilience, for your strength. It's not easy to be a woman in a man's world, but you have surpassed gender. You stand tall on your two feet, and you have your talent, and your strong kicks to be an example for everyone." On the work front, Bhatt will be next seen in Alpha where she will share the screen with Sharvari. Prabhu, on the other hand, will be seen in Citadel: Honey Bunny where she will star alongside Varun Dhawan.



Kannada Actor Darshan And Pavithra Gowda Denied Bail In Renukaswamy Murder Case: Report



The bail petitions of popular Kannada actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and his friend Pavithra Gowda were rejected by a Bengaluru sessions court on Monday in connection with the high-profile Renukaswamy murder case. The case has captured significant attention, as Darshan, a beloved figure in the Kannada film industry, has been embroiled in this serious legal matter for several months. The case revolves around the murder of 33-year-old Renukaswamy, reportedly a fan of Darshan, whose body was discovered near a stormwater drain in Sumanahalli, Bengaluru, on June 9. Police sources indicate that the tragic events were allegedly set in motion when Renukaswamy sent inappropriate and obscene messages to Pavithra Gowda, Darshan's friend. These messages reportedly enraged the actor, leading to the chain of events that culminated in Renukaswamy's murder.

According to police, Renukaswamy had been communicating with Pavithra since February, with their interaction turning more explicit in June when he allegedly sent indecent photos. Despite the inappropriate nature of the messages, instead of contacting the police, Pavithra and Darshan reportedly chose to take matters into their own hands. Prosecutors argue that this decision led to Renukaswamy being abducted by a gang linked to the Akhila Karnataka Darshan Thoogudeepa Sena, a fan organization. It is claimed that Renukaswamy was taken to a shed in Pattanagere, where he was assaulted by the gang members before Darshan and Pavithra arrived. Upon their arrival, Renukaswamy was reportedly beaten again, which prosecutors allege ultimately resulted in his death. Darshan, who has been in judicial custody since June 11, has been fighting to secure bail over the past few months.

'Should Conduct The Show Responsibly': Rupesh Rajanna On Kiccha Sudeep's Exit From Bigg Boss



In a major announcement, Kiccha Sudeep confirmed that he will be leaving the Bigg Boss Kannada franchise after the end of Bigg Boss Kannada 11. Sudeep revealed that the current season will be his last as the host and stated that it is time for him to leave the show. The news has taken the internet by storm, leaving fans shocked and emotional. In a heartfelt post, Sudeep thanked his fans and the viewers for their unfailing love and support throughout his tenure as the host. He attributed the success of Bigg Boss Kannada 11, which set a new benchmark in Kannada television with an outstanding rating of 9.9, to the engagement of the viewers.

While Kiccha Sudeep said that it is time for him to move on to his next projects, actor Rupesh Rajanna's tweet tells a different story. Rupesh Rajanna's recent tweet tells the story that Kiccha Sudeep did not voluntarily quit the program but something else happened. The truth about what happened is yet to come out. "Bigg Boss, which has become a business show, should give a chance to good Kannada actors. Our Kannada actor @KicchaSudeep should also conduct Bigg Boss responsibly. Instead of encouraging those who have a bad reputation, it is better to give an opportunity to deserving contestants in Bigg Boss and bring dignity to the show", he tweeted.

In his statement, Sudeep said, "It's been a great 10+1 years of travel together, and it's time for me to move on with what I need to do. This will be my last season as a host for BBK, and I truly believe that my decision will be respected by Colors and all those who have followed Bigg Boss all these years." His exit marks the end of an era for the popular reality show. Kiccha Sudeep has been the second longest-serving Bigg Boss host for all languages after Salman Khan, who has hosted 14 seasons of the Hindi version. Fans of Bigg Boss Kannada were left disappointed after Kiccha Sudeep announced that Bigg Boss Kannada 11 would be his last season as host.

Many took to social media to express their feelings. One ardent viewer tweeted, "We will miss you as a host as you have been an integral part of BBK since its start. We are disappointed but we respect your decision."