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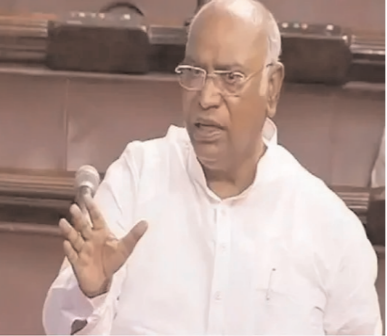
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Opportunistic double engine govt in Bihar responsible for hooch tragedy: Kharge

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Oct 17: The Congress president shared the previous incidents in which people lost their lives after allegedly consuming spurious liquor in Bihar Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday criticised the Bihar government for failing to stop the illicit liquor trade in the state. Kharge's statement comes in wake of the latest hooch tragedy in Bihar that claimed 36 lives in Siwan and Saran districts. In a post written in Hindi on his official X (formerly Twitter) account, the senior Congress leader expressed his condolences on the deaths calling it "painful and sad". "So far, 36 people have died due to poisonous liquor in 16 villages of Siwan and Saran in Bihar, which is very painful and sad. Our deepest condolences to the bereaved families of the victims. Request the government to give the strictest punishment to the culprits", his post read. "Earlier, many people have lost their lives due to illegal liquor in other districts, which shows

how unsuccessful the Bihar government is in stopping the illegal liquor business", he added. "April 2023: 26 people died due to consumption of poisonous liquor in Motihari.



December 2022: 71 people died in Chapra and dozens of people lost their eyesight. March 2022: 12 people died in Banka. November 2021: 43 people died due to consumption of poisonous liquor in Gopalganj, Bettiah and Muzaffarpur", Kharge wrote. Kharge also recalled the time in 2017, when chief minister Nitish Kumar had said liquor won't be sold in Bihar as long as he is alive, adding that the business of illegal liquor continues.

BJP's mega show of strength as Nayab Singh Saini takes oath as Haryana CM

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Chandigarh, Oct 17: OBC leader Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday took oath as the chief minister of Haryana at a ceremony in Panchkula attended by a galaxy of NDA leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The BJP's choice of the day for the swearing-in ceremony is significant as it is Valmiki Jayanti. Sage-poet Valmiki is the author of the Hindu epic Ramayana and a revered figure, especially among Dalits. Chief ministers of several NDA-ruled states, including Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya and Andhra Pradesh, were in attendance as were BJP president J P Nadda, Union ministers Rajnath Singh and Amit Shah. Hours before the ceremony, Saini visited the Valmiki Bhawan and offered prayers at a gurdwara and the Mansa Devi temple in Panchkula. He told reporters that the new BJP gov-

ernment will work towards taking Haryana forward at a rapid pace under the leadership of PM Modi. The people of Haryana have shown faith in

also be implemented by our government," he said. Ambala Cantt MLA and senior most party leader Anil Vij, Israna MLA Krishan Lal Panwar, Badshahpur MLA and Ahir leader Rao Narbir Singh, Panipat Rural MLA and Jat leader Mahipal Dhandra, Faridabad MLA Vipul Goel, Gohana MLA Arvind Sharma, Radaur MLA Shyam Singh Rana, Barwala MLA Ranbir Gangwa and Narwana legislator Kumar Bedi took oath as ministers. Two women MLAs, Tosham legislator Shruti Choudhary and Ateli MLA Arti Singh Rao, were also sworn in as ministers. Shruti is the daughter of Rajya Sabha MP Kiran Choudhary while Rao, a first-time MLA, is the daughter of Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh. Tigaon MLA Rajesh Nagar and Palwal MLA Gaurav Gautam took oath as state ministers (independent charge). All newly inducted ministers except Choudhary took oath in Hindi. Choudhary took oath in English. Each MLA greet-



CJI Chandrachud nominates justice Khanna as successor

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Oct 17: Justice Khanna will be eligible to assume the position of CJI upon justice Chandrachud's retirement on November 10 Chief Justice of India (CJI) Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud on Wednesday set in motion the process for appointing his successor by recommending justice Sanjiv Khanna, the Supreme Court's senior-most judge, to the Union government. Supreme Court Justice Sanjiv Khanna speaks during the judgement on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories in New Delhi. Supreme Court Justice Sanjiv Khanna speaks during the judgement on a batch of petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370 and the bifurcation of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union territories in New Delhi. Justice Khanna, who is next in line for the role based on seniority, will be eligible to assume the position of CJI upon justice Chandrachud's

retirement on November 10. Justice Khanna is expected to serve until his retirement on May 13, 2025, a tenure of about six months as CJI.



According to people aware of the matter, CJI Chandrachud handed over a copy of the letter to justice Khanna on Wednesday morning. On October 12, the central government sent a letter to CJI Chandrachud, requesting him to name his successor. Justice Chandrachud took over as the CJI on November 9, 2022. As a matter of conven-

tion, the law ministry writes to the CJI a little over a month before the latter's retirement, seeking the name of his successor. The incumbent then writes back, sending the recommendation to the ministry. According to the memorandum of procedure (MoP) which governs the process of appointment and transfer of judges in the constitutional courts, appointment to the office of the CJI should be of the most senior judge of the Supreme Court, considered fit to hold the office. After the recommendation of the incumbent, the government is expected to soon issue a notification appointing justice Khanna as the next CJI with effect from November 11. Justice Khanna has a distinguished legal career, marked by a wealth of experience and significant contributions to India's judicial landscape. He began his legal journey by enrolling with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983, practising initially at the Tis Hazari district courts before moving on to the Delhi high court. Justice Khanna developed a robust practice in various areas, including constitutional law, arbitration, commercial law, company law and criminal law.

'Everyone knows about Yogi's 'thok denge' policy': Asaduddin Owaisi

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Mumbai, Oct 17: Two key accused in Baharaich communal violence were shot by the Uttar Pradesh Police while they allegedly attempted to flee to Nepal. All India Majlis-



e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) president Asaduddin Owaisi on Thursday criticised the Uttar Pradesh government over the Baharaich encounter. Owaisi questioned the actions taken by the Uttar Pradesh police. He also mentioned "thok denge" policy of chief minister Yogi Adityanath. Five people allegedly responsible for the Baharaich vio-

lence were arrested after an encounter with the Uttar Pradesh Police in which two of the key accused suffered gunshot wounds. According to the police, the accused were trying to flee to Nepal, which shares a border with Baharaich district in Uttar Pradesh. Reacting to the encounter, Owaisi noted that if the police had sufficient evidence, they should have pursued legal punishment for the accused instead of "resorting to extrajudicial measures". "It is not difficult to know the truth about the 'encounter' of the accused of Baharaich violence by the police. Everyone knows about Yogi's 'Thok Denge' policy," Owaisi wrote in a post on X. "If the police had so much evidence, then efforts would have been made to get the accused punished legally," he added. According to Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police (DGP) Prashant Kumar, the incident took place when the police was taking the five accused for weapon recovery near the India-Nepal border. "When the Police were taking the five arrested accused for weapons recovery near the India-Nepal border, the two accused tried to run away," Kumar was quoted as saying by

Haryana politician Captain Ajay Singh Yadav quits Congress

New Delhi, Oct 17: Senior Congress leader Captain Ajay Singh Yadav on Thursday quit the party saying he had been treated "shabbily" since Sonia Gandhi stepped down as the party's president. His resignation came days after the Congress stunningly lost the Haryana assembly elections. "I have sent my resignation letter to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge ji from Chairman AICC OBC Department and also from the primary membership of Indian National Congress. Yadav posted on X. "This decision of resigning was really hard decision with whom my family had 70 years of association as my father late Rao Abhey Singh became MLA in 1952 and there after I continued with family tradition but am disillusioned with the party high command for treating me shabbily after Sonia Gandhi left the post of Congress President" Yadav posted on X. Yadav is the third prominent leader to have quit the Congress in the state over the past two years.

Supreme Court agrees to hear plea seeking restoration of Jammu and Kashmir statehood

New Delhi, Oct 17: The petition has been filed by advocate Gopal Shankarnarayan, requesting the court to restore the region's statehood. A plea seeking a time-bound restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir was mentioned in the Supreme Court on Thursday for urgent hearing and the apex court has agreed to hear the matter. Senior advocate Gopal Shankarnarayan, representing the applicants, requested an urgent hearing before a bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, along with Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra. "There is an MA (Miscellaneous Application) for conferring statehood. It was noted (in last year's judgement) that it has to be time-bound," the senior lawyer said. The fresh application was filed by Zahoor Ahmad Bhat, an academician, and Khurshaid Ahmad Malik, a socio-political activist in Jammu and Kashmir. On December 11, 2023, the Supreme Court had unanimously upheld the revocation of Article 370 on August 5, 2019, which granted special sta-

tus to Jammu and Kashmir. The court had also directed that assembly elections be held by September 2024 and emphasised that the state's status should be restored "at the earliest." Elections for the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly were held in three phases, from September 18 to October 1, resulting in the formation of a government by the National Conference-Congress alliance. National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah was sworn in as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday, along with five cabinet members. Before taking the oath, Omar Abdullah said that the first task of his government would be to become the voice of the people. He expressed optimism that Jammu and Kashmir would not remain a Union territory for long and would soon regain full statehood. Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, who was present along with Rahul Gandhi at the oath ceremony in Srinagar also reaffirmed his party's commitment to restoring statehood in Jammu and Kashmir.

Akhilesh to discuss seat-sharing plan for Maha elections

Naresh Malhotra

Lucknow, Oct.17: As the Samajwadi Party (SP) and Congress continue to negotiate seat-sharing for the Uttar Pradesh bypolls, SP president Akhilesh Yadav announced on Thursday that efforts are underway for INDIA bloc to contest elections together in Maharashtra. He is scheduled to travel to Maharashtra on Friday for discussions regarding seat-sharing, expressing optimism that a decision will be reached soon. While addressing journalists, Yadav reiterated the unity and strength of the INDIA bloc. When asked about the Maharashtra assembly elections, he stated: "I am going to Maharashtra tomorrow... We will strive to contest alongside the INDIA bloc. We have requested seats and hope to increase our representation from the two MLAs we currently have." Yadav emphasised that seat-sharing discussions in Maharashtra are expected to

conclude soon, and he expressed confidence that similar negotiations in UP would also be resolved shortly. He is set to embark on a two-day visit to



Maharashtra, with programmes planned in Malegaon and Dhule, where he will engage with the public. The SP is actively working to expand its influence beyond UP, indicating that it may contest elections as part of the INDIA bloc. The party claims a significant presence in 30 seats but is particularly

focused on 10-12 constituencies, notably those with sizeable Muslim populations and migrants from UP. Reports suggest that the SP may secure 3-4 seats in the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance. Currently, the SP holds two MLAs in the Maharashtra assembly: Abu Azmi from Shivaji Nagar and Raees Sheikh from Bhiwandi. Recently, Yadav convened a meeting with Maharashtra unit leaders in Lucknow to strategise for the upcoming elections. Should the SP officially join the INDIA bloc, Yadav is expected to actively campaign in Maharashtra. In response, SP MLA Abu Azmi took to X, stating, "If any party within the Mahavikas Aghadi—be it Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party, or Shiv Sena—issues an assembly candidate list without consulting the Samajwadi Party, it indicates that they do not regard us as a part of the Mahavikas Aghadi.

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News box

Netherlands delegation inspects Kalyan's solid waste management initiatives

KALYAN. Thierry van Helden, Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, along with a delegation, conducted an inspection of the solid waste processing project initiated by the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC).

The visit aimed to assess the ongoing solid waste management efforts and explore best practices for effective waste processing.

During the inspection, the delegation presented an audio-visual overview of various initiatives taken out in Netherlands, including the solid waste project, waste-to-energy and biogas projects, air pollution control measures, and strategies for maintaining clean rivers and minimising air and water pollution.

Following the presentations, the delegation, along with municipal officials, toured the Umbarde Integrated Solid Waste Project, the Adharwadi Biomining Project, and the Waldhuni River to gain firsthand insight into the projects.

The collaboration between the Govt of Maharashtra and the Netherlands, formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), aims to implement solid waste processing initiatives across India. The delegation emphasised that India generates approximately 60 million metric tons of solid waste annually, urging the need for modern technological solutions to address the growing waste management challenges. KDMC Commissioner Dr. Indurani Jakhar stated that the projects would be rolled out in phases as funding becomes available through central govt initiatives and MMRDA.

Thane police file charges against 10 in Rs 16.48 lakh



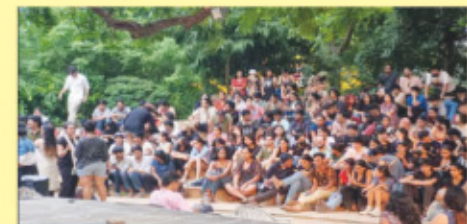
THANE. Thane police have filed a case against 10 individuals for allegedly defrauding a 71-year-old man and his friend out of Rs 16.48 lakh by promising returns on cryptocurrency investments. The accused claimed to represent a cryptocurrency company with offices in Mumbra and Dombivli, both in Thane district, Maharashtra.

In March of last year, they convinced the elderly man and his friend, residents of Chembur, Mumbai, to invest in cryptocurrency, collecting Rs 16,48,405 from them over time, according to an official from Mumbra police station.

When the victims did not receive any returns or their original investment back, they reported the matter to the police.

On Wednesday, a case was registered against the 10 accused, who are residents of Diva, Dombivli in Thane, and Uttar Pradesh, under sections relevant to cheating and criminal breach of trust, the official said.

NID director meets faculty, student protest continues



Ahmedabad. The protest by National Institute of Design (NID) students against the reshuffle of faculty members spilled into the third day on Wednesday, with many sitting outside the office of Ashok Mondal, the new director. Mondal had not met the students till late evening, sources said.

He however, met faculty members who had been transferred and discussed the future course of action for their specific departments. After assuming charge last week, Mondal shifted no fewer than 20 faculty members across Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Bengaluru campuses, including changing leads and co-leads of several key disciplines. Students started the protest on Monday after a meeting with Mondal in a public forum on issues including the removal of almost all women from key positions and the reshuffle right after assuming charge.

"The director promised to send a response to our email queries, which has not been received so far by the students. The change in the middle of the term may have detrimental effects on both, the students and faculty members. We learned that the director had one-on-one meetings with several key faculty members, possibly to discuss their new roles and responsibilities. We hope to get answers from the director soon," said a student on the condition of anonymity. Sources informed that the director is not in the favour of reversing the transfers, even as the dissent is likely to be escalated to the ministry.

Stormwater drain weighs down lives of hundreds in Vivekananda Nagar, Chennai

Though it is a stormwater drain, only sewage water flows through it throughout the year, and during rainy days, the rainwater along with sewage overflows from the drain and inundates the area.

CHENNAI. For H Chinnadurai, a senior citizen and resident of Sampangi Street in Vivekananda Nagar, life was peaceful until the Avadi Corporation constructed a stormwater drain in the area about four years ago. Since then, even during light showers, his house on the ground floor gets inundated. The 100-odd families in the area said they shared the same fate.

Even a day after rain stopped, many houses in Sampangi Street were inundated. Some residents bailed out, while some chose to wait for the water on the street to recede. C Chandrasekar, another resident, said this problem began after the corporation built a stormwater drain one and a half feet deep and

above ground level.

Though it is a stormwater drain, only sewage water flows through it throughout the year, and during rainy days, the rainwater along with sewage overflows from the drain and inundates the area. Water from all surrounding areas flows into this drain. The main chamber on the road is 10 feet deep and seven feet wide, and is connected to this one-and-a-half-foot stormwater drain, which, not being able to carry all the water gushing into it, overflows.

"The water from here drains into Puzhal lake, contaminating the potable water. Representations were submitted to the Avadi Corporation officials several

times, but no action ensued," he lamented. AP Sudarshan, another resident said, "I have been living here for decades, and had never faced this problem until the stormwater drain was constructed."

When contacted, a senior corporation official told TNIE that a team of officers had inspected the area, and identified that the width of the stormwater drain was smaller than the main drain. The elevated slope of the drain has been hindering the natural flow of water. However, they have been clearing blockages in the drain and water will be pumped out from the street soon, the official said.



Maharashtra polls: Congress leaders unhappy with speculations of 'RSS Man' Vilas Patil getting ticket from Bhiwandi West

BHIWANDI. Before the Bhiwandi (West) assembly ticket announcement by MVA, local Congress leaders are upset with the speculation of the party giving the ticket for the assembly to local leader Vilas Patil after he joined the Congress Party.

Congress leaders allege that Patil is the leader who, despite Congress getting an absolute majority in the Bhiwandi Municipal Corporation election in 2019, split 18 out of 47 Congress corporators in his favour and made his wife Pratibha Patil from his earlier local Konark Vikas Aghadi party the Mayor with the help of the BJP's corporators.

A local Congress leader said that Patil is associated with the RSS and he has good relations with the complainant in the court case filed against Congress Leader Rahul Gandhi in Bhiwandi.

Congress leaders alleged that in such a situation, if the party gives a ticket to Vilas Patil from this seat, then it will not



send a good message in the party, and supporters and other parties may benefit from it on the seat. It will also be an injustice to the leaders who were working in the party for years, many of whom are willing to contest the elections.

The Bhiwandi (West) assembly is considered a minority-dominated seat. Amid this, Patil's photo in RSS attire has also gone viral, the authenticity of which is not confirmed by , but due to this

photo going viral, a large section in Congress has now mobilised against Patil.

Sharad Patil, a Congress leader who himself is interested in contesting elections from Congress, told TOI, "Vilas Patil broke the Congress Party and made his wife the Mayor. Not only this, he is also associated with RSS. If the party gives a ticket to such a leader, then it will be an injustice to the common Congressmen and its ideology."

Several attempts to contact Vilas Patil over these issues turned futile as he did not pick up phone calls or reply to messages sent by the reporter.

If political sources are to be believed, then out of 18 assembly seats coming into Thane District, the highest 18 leaders of the Congress Party have expressed their desire to contest elections from the Bhiwandi (West) seat.

Apart from Patil, Dayanand Choraghe, Rashid Tahir Momin, Sharad Patil, and Rani Agarwal are included in this.

Families rescued by boat as water enters homes in Chennai

Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services personnel launched a rescue operation, evacuating many residents using boats.

CHENNAI. Around 70 families in Kumaran Nagar, Sengundram, North Chennai, faced severe hardship as hip-deep water inundated their homes on Wednesday, even after the rains had stopped.

Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services personnel launched a rescue operation, evacuating many residents using boats. According to K Seenivasagan, Station Officer of Redhills, the rescue team evacuated 49 people on Wednesday, many of whom lived on the ground floor and had their homes flooded.

"There was about four feet of water, and the level started rising from Wednesday morning," he said. He added that some families refused to leave their homes. On Tuesday, the team had already evacuated



15 people from the area. "All those evacuated, mostly elders and children, were taken to a marriage hall for shelter," Seenivasagan said.

Political clash erupts in Bengaluru amidst flooding crisis

The heavy rains that flooded Bengaluru's IT corridors have led to sharp political accusations.



BENGALURU. After heavy rain caused flooding in Bengaluru, particularly in the IT corridors, a political clash erupted between the ruling Congress and opposition parties.

Rain disrupted traffic and inundated areas like Manyata Tech Park and Whitefield, prompting sharp accusations from opposition party leaders over poor infrastructure in the state capital.

Janata Dal Secular pointed out that former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda had laid the foundation for Bengaluru's IT boom with great foresight, but successive Congress governments had squandered the vision into a real estate debacle and exploitation of land.

In response, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar lashed out at the

opposition parties for shaming Bengaluru for rain fury. "It is impossible to control nature. The government is doing its best to manage the rain havoc. Opposition parties must stop tarnishing the image of Bengaluru. Since there are chances of more rain, the public should plan accordingly," he said. As a precautionary measure, a holiday has been declared and a meeting with BBMP, police and fire department officials will be held, he added.

On tweets from opposition leaders on Bengaluru rain, he said "we cannot tell nature to stop the rain, which is caused by cyclones". "The government and people of Bengaluru are capable of handling it," he added. Home Minister G Parameshwara echoed this sentiment, questioning the opposition's criticism by emphasising the unexpected nature

of the rain in October, and said no one could influence the changing weather

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News box

HC stays MCG action against 2 firms hired to manage bulk waste

Gurgaon. Punjab and Haryana high court has set aside an order issued by MCG to de-empanel two private firms that were hired to assist bulk waste generators (BWGs). The court also instructed the civic body to issue a new show-cause notice to the two firms and pass a fresh order after giving them an opportunity to be heard. The ruling came in response to a petition filed by the two agencies, who argued that they were not given a fair chance to present their case before being de-empanelled in July. "Let the authorities issue a fresh show-cause notice to the petitioners and pass a fresh order after affording the due opportunity of hearing to all the concerned parties," Justice Harsh Bunger said in his order passed on Oct 1. In March, MCG hired 15 private agencies for technical support and guidance to the BWGs of the city. In Sept, MCG ended contracts with 14 private agencies. The agencies were de-empanelled for dumping inert waste at garbage-vulnerable points instead of transporting it to the designated waste collection centres. However, after all the agencies raised objections, the orders were withdrawn. The agencies claimed that the de-empanelment was being done for the benefit of a private agency.

Rural India transforming into global India, says min at Saras fair launch

Gurgaon: Union minister of state for rural development and communications Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani said on Wednesday the tireless contribution of 'Lakshpati Didis', who are successfully running self-help groups (SHGs), will be significant in the country's economic progress and added, rural India is gradually "transforming into global India. While maintaining the new Lakshpati Didi Scheme, introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a "solid step towards women's empowerment", the Union minister formally inaugurated the Saras Fair at the city's Leisure Valley and addressed the 'Lakshpati Didis' from various states of India. Around 850 women, mostly 'Lakshpati Didis', who are running SHGs, have set up stalls at the fair. Pemmasani said that when the women of "our country become self-reliant, our villages will also advance economically and socially". "The determination to overcome poverty and the creative strength of the women participating in the Saras Fair in Gurgaon are clearly visible," he said. This fair seems to be realising the PM's vision for empowering women, the minister said, adding, experts have been invited to provide digital platforms like Amazon and Flipkart for marketing, designing, packaging, and quality improvement of the products of the SHGs. Two special enclaves for knowledge and learning have been set up for this purpose. Rural development ministry secretary Shailesh Kumar Singh said there are currently 90 lakh SHGs under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, involving over 10 crore women. "The Saras Fair offers a glimpse of India's art and culture," Singh said. Additional secretary of the ministry of rural development Charanjit Singh, joint secretaries Swati Sharma and Smriti Sharan and 'Lakshpati Didis' Sita Pradhan from Sikkim and Afsana Ayat from Jammu and Kashmir also shared their views.

Car rams into bike, 25-yr-old man dies, driver still on run

Gurgaon. A 25-year-old carpenter who suffered a head injury in an accident in Sector 93 on Oct 11 died while undergoing treatment on Tuesday evening. ASI Chander Bhan said a case was registered at Sector 10 police station, and police teams have been formed to apprehend the absconding accused. Rahul Sharma, a native of Mureta village in Darbhanga district, Bihar, worked at his brother-in-law Shatrughan Sharma's furniture-making unit in Gurgaon's Chandu Budhera area. The two lived together in a rented apartment in Hayatpur. According to police, Rahul and Shatrughan were on their way to a Navratri mela on Friday night when the accident occurred. "Rahul was riding the bike with Shatrughan as a pillion rider. Near a liquor shop in Sector 93, a vehicle coming from the opposite direction hit their bike. Shatrughan suffered minor injuries, but Rahul sustained a severe head injury," said an official, adding that Shatrughan rushed Rahul to Vedic Hospital in Sector 10. "Rahul underwent head surgery and was receiving treatment, but he succumbed on Tuesday afternoon," the official added.

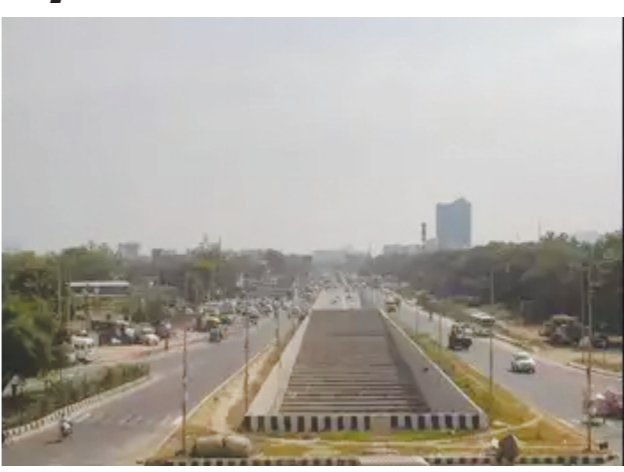
Admin plans outreach events, pink booth for better turnout in bypolls

Ghaziabad. Over 4.6 lakh, of them 5,449 first-timers, are eligible to cast votes in the byelections to the Ghaziabad assembly constituency on Nov 13. The ECI, which released revised electoral rolls on Wednesday, said there are 2.2 lakh women voters in the constituency. Around 130 voters over 85 years and 388 persons with disabilities (PwDs) can avail the optional home voting facility. "The administration has divided the assembly segment into four zones and 22 sectors for fair polls. The segment will have 119 polling centres and 506 booths, of which 72 booths have been tagged as 'critical'," DM Indra Vikram Singh said. Singh said efforts will be made to increase overall turnout through SVEEP and other outreach programmes. The segment will also have one pink booth to encourage women participation. The constituency has seen a marginal decline in turnout in successive elections. In 2022 state assembly polls, the voter turnout was 51.57%. This was slightly lower than 53.3% in 2017 and 54.1% in 2012. In 2024 Lok Sabha election, the voter turnout in the assembly segment was 47.9%, significantly lower than 53.2% in 2019 and 53.8% in 2014. As per the election schedule, the last date for filing nominations will be Oct 25, while results will be announced on Nov 23. The seat fell vacant after sitting MLA Atul Garg was elected to the Lok Sabha. Garg, a two-term MLA, outmuscled BSP to win the seat in the 2017 state polls.

Is AQ really 'moderate' Power failure hits monitor as city chokes on smoke

Gurgaon. "Power failure" leading to a dearth of authoritative data to evaluate air quality worsened the situation even as residents in Sector 56 and numerous other areas in the city encountered an acrid stench of smoke during the early hours of Wednesday. While several residents experienced respiratory distress, the monitoring station in Sector 51 ceased operations on Wednesday. The malfunction triggered concern among residents who rely on the station's data to assess air quality. On Wednesday, the city's AQI was categorised as moderate. However, the authenticity of the air quality being "moderate" remains uncertain. With data accessible from only two out of the four stations in the city to calculate a 24-hour average for Wednesday, ascertaining the precision of this assessment of the pollution level is arduous. Nonetheless, it constitutes the official data. The Sector 51 monitor is the most pivotal one for the district. It is located at Gurugram University. Highrises, hospitals, schools and markets fall in this area within a 10km radius. During night

also, dumpers, trucks and sand carrying wagons traverse these sectors which renders the area highly polluted. On visiting the areas, which the air monitor caters to, TOI observed that the construction materials are lying exposed along the roadside and the heavy vehicles transporting such materials contribute to PM 2.5. A large number of allotted or sold plots are lying unused throughout these sectors, which make it very convenient for indiscriminate dumping of C&D waste, mixed garbage and horticulture waste which then are left to cause uncontrolled pollution. On being asked about Sector 51 station, Haryana State Pollution Control Board chairperson P Raghavendra Rao said the problems will be investigated. "There was an issue with the power supply. We have restarted the unit. It will show results by midnight," another HSPCB official said. Out of the four stations, the one at Gwal

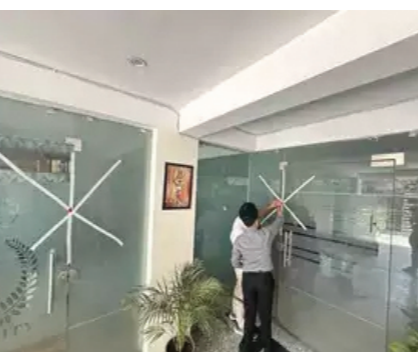


Pahari is maintained by the central govt and hasn't been able to show data for more than a month. "We are working with CPCB to resolve this issue. While instruments are working and data are reaching the CPCB server, they are not included in the calculation of AQI," an IMD scientist said. Residents have articulated concerns about smoke and ash from waste burning contaminating air. "Builders and contractors do not

adhere to appropriate material transportation, handling and storage practices that can prevent dust, diesel and noise pollution. Meanwhile, it is unacceptable that the monitor to check air quality is not working," Shekhar Wadhwa, a resident of Nirvana Country, said. "The areas near this station are very prone to waste burning. As winter approaches, these monitors need to function daily so that local authorities can take mitigation measures," research associate at the Centre for Science and Environment Shubhansh Tiwari said. "Accountability must be fixed on officers responsible for these areas for failing to implement sustainable waste management practices," Ruchika Sethi Takkar, a member of Citizens For Clean Air, a civil society group advocating environmental friendly and sustainable practices, said.

Town planner seals illegal guesthouses, gyms set up in upscale housing colonies

Gurgaon. The district town planner (DTP) launched a two-day sealing drive in South City 2 and Uppal Southend in Sector 49, targeting illegal commercial activities on residential plots. Three properties, including two guesthouses and a basement gym, were sealed in the drive on Oct 15. The following day, a similar drive in South City-1 and Greenwood City led to the sealing of two more guesthouses and an unauthorised structure. An encroachment issue in Uppal Southend was also addressed, based on a CM Window complaint. "Commercial activities on residential plots violate zoning regulations and



disturb the neighbourhood. We received multiple complaints from residents about the illegal operation of multiple guesthouses and gyms. Our

team, along with the cops from Sector 40 and 50 police stations, took strict action to seal these properties," said DTP Manish Yadav. "These guesthouses bring in a lot of outside traffic, noise, and security issues. We're glad to see that action is being taken after so many complaints," said Rakesh Malhotra, a resident of South City 2. Indicating that more sealing drives will be conducted in the coming weeks, an official from DTPC stated, "The misuse of residential areas for commercial purposes has been a growing problem in licensed colonies. We are committed to enforcing regulations and ensuring such violations are addressed promptly."

2k buses to take supporters to Saini's swearing-in ceremony

Gurgaon: A large number of people from south Haryana are set to attend the swearing-in ceremony of chief minister Nayab Singh Saini in Panchkula on Thursday. The roadways have deployed 2,015 buses to transport attendees from across the state. From the city, nearly 15 buses are making trips, while other districts are sending hundreds of buses. Whereas, Nuh will contribute the fewest, with just 10 buses. Several ministers from south Haryana, including Rao Narbir Singh, Aarti Rao, and Vipul Goyal, are vying for positions in Saini's cabinet. The director of roadways has instructed general managers to ensure buses are available from their districts for the ceremony. Karnal, the home district of former chief minister Manohar Lal Khattar, will send a maximum of

Days after 800 fell ill, E.coli found in water samples of Ecovillage 2

Noida: Escherichia coli (E coli) bacteria was detected in water samples collected from Greater Noida's Ecovillage 2, where over 800 residents, several of them children, fell ill over the past one week with symptoms including diarrhoea, vomiting, and fever. Presence of the pathogens indicate that sewage water was finding its way into the drinking water channels. Chief medical officer Sunil Kumar Sharma said several samples collected from the water tanks of 12 towers of the condominium, home to over 3,500 residents, were sent to a private lab and Noida Authority for testing. "The initial reports received from the private lab on Tuesday confirmed the presence of E.coli bacteria, indicating faecal contamination. The investigation is ongoing, and a final report is awaited to corroborate these findings to determine the full extent of the contamination," the CMO said. The health department has advised residents to avoid direct intake of drinking water from the taps until further notice and has initiated measures to address the problem. Dr Sushrut Singh, additional director of gastroenterology at Noida's Fortis Hospital, told TOI that E.coli can cause gut and urinary tract infections. "Most of the time, it can live in your gut without hurting you. But some strains can make you sick with watery diarrhoea, vomiting and a fever. If left untreated, it can cause infective diarrhoea, and invasive infections can cause sepsis and even multi-organ failure. If treatment is started promptly, it mostly resolves in 5-7 days," Singh said. E.coli can spread from person to person through the oral-faecal route, contact with an infected person, contact with contaminated surfaces, undercooked meat, and mixing of sewage water with drinking water in water pipes.

NAME CHANGE
I, ANAM HASAN W/O ZUHAB HASAN residing at H NO-D-192, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, DELHI-110025 have changed my name to ANAM all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shalni Singh Soni Ex-Wife of Vishal Soni R/o House No-D-202, Monsoon Breeze, Sector-78, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004. Have Changed My Minor Son Name Vikramaditya Soni To Vikramaditya Singh Soni For All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Divyanga Arora D/o Banwari Burman R/o R-70-C2, Gali No. 03, Near Lal Bakery, Old Tejab Mill, Bholu Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi - 110024 have changed my name to Divyanga Burman for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, VITEN DEVI mother of NO-2998656L Rank-CHM, Name-NARENDRA SINGH Presently residing at VILL-FAJOLPUR, PO-PREMPUR, KANNAUJ, UTTAR PRADESH-209721 have changed my name from VITEN DEVI to SAVITRI DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 17/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Sh. Gurmeet Singh purchasing Freehold Residential First floor, without roof/terrace rights (the said floor), Built on Property bearing No. 282-A/2, New No. 202, area measuring 58.52 sq. mtr., out of Kharsa No. 718, Situated in the area of village Chandrawali alias Shahdara, in the abadi of Gali No. 4, Jwala Nagar, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi, from Sh. Deepak Gupta, legal heirs of Late Sh. Mahender Kumar Gupta was died & he was purchased said property, vide Relinquishment Deed dated 10/08/2015 as Document No. 6218 in Book No. 1, volume No. 559, pages 133-139, registered on 24/09/2015. (SRO-IV B). Our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, which is to be financed by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Rohini Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claims with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
Advocate
F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09658871432

NAME CHANGE
I, MEHFUZZO S/O MANZOOR QURESHI residing at D-51, GALI NO.17, D-BLOCK, CHAUHAN BANGAR, NEW SEELAMPUR, DELHI-110053, have changed my name to MOHD MEHFUZZO QURESHI all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, No. 14664931Y Rank-NK Name-K MATHAN KUMAR S/O P. KAMARAJ Presently residing at VPO-KARAYAGOLIN, DANPATI, DIST-THENI, TAMIL NADU- 625521 have changed my wife's name from M. SUJITHA to SUJITHA for all future purposes vide Affidavit No. IN-DL7273140507703W dated 17/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Vijay Goyal and Mr. Vansh Goyal are the owners of Plot No. 1 A, 1 B, 1 C, 1 D, out of Kharsa No. 13, Total area measuring 8507.39 sq. yds., situated at Dhapra Pargana Dasna Tehsil Dhaulana Distt. Hapur through 4 Sale Deed i.e., Sale Deed dated 07.02.2024 as doc. No. 2145 in respect of Plot No. 1 D area measuring 1359.34 sq. yds., Sale Deed dated 07.02.2024 as doc. No. 2146 in respect of Plot No. 1 A area measuring 1394.33 sq. yds., both executed by Mr. Virender in favour of Mr. Vansh Goyal, Sale Deed dated 07.02.2024 as doc. No. 2148 in respect of Plot No. 1 C, area measuring 1394.33 sq. yds., both executed by Mr. Virender in favour of Mr. Vansh Goyal, Sale Deed dated 07.02.2024 as doc. No. 2149 in respect of Plot No. 1 B, area measuring 1394.33 sq. yds., both executed by Mr. Virender in favour of Mr. Vijay Goyal. Mr. Vijay Goyal is the owner of property area measuring 354.3655 sq. yds. situated at village Palkhuva Dehat (Achalpatari), Pargana Dasna, Tehsil Dholiana, Distt. Hapur, through 2 Sale Deed Sale Deed dated 20.10.2015 as doc. No. 9302, executed by Mr. Gajender and Sale Deed dated 29.03.2019 as doc. No. 2499 executed by Smt. Aika, bounded as East-Plot of Harpal Tomar, West-Plot of Shrinivas, North-Other Plot, South-Road 35 Ft Wide. Mr. Vijay Goyal and Mr. Vansh Goyal are in the process of mortgaging the said properties with Hero FinCorp Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said properties or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-day period by contacting
Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at
Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +91120-3101683, E-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hitherto known as Divanshi D/o Manoj Kumar R/o RZ-6H-1, Sangam Clock, West Sagar Pur, VTC-Sagarpur, PO Nangal Raya, Sub District Delhi Cantonment, District-South West Delhi, State Delhi, Pin Code-110046 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Deepanshi Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Mr. Chanderpal Singh is the GPA Holder of land area measuring 84 sq. yds., out of Killa No.135, situated in the village Naharpur, Halli colony Hans enclave Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaon. He is in possession through GPA, ATS dated 14.12.2011 executed by Mr. Narayan Sharma in favour of Mr. Chanderpal Singh in respect of Said Property. The above-said owner has misplanned the (1) Original GPA, ATS, Will and Receipt dated 27.04.1989 executed by Mr. Hoshiyar Singh in favour of Mr. Narayan Sharma in respect of Said Property Application No. 132270802401141, also registered at P.S. Palam Vihar, Gurgaon on dated 10.10.2024. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of DMI Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd, Gurgaon. Mr. Chanderpal Singh intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned Property to Mr. Krishan Kumar. Subsequently, Mr. Krishan Kumar is in the process of mortgaging the said property with DMI Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-day period by contacting
Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at
Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +91120-3101683, E-mail: accounts@lvnorth.in

NAME CHANGE
I USHA RANI W/O SANDEEP SHARMA R/O H.NO -1208/VTC SANGHI 83 ROHTRAK HARYANA +124303, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR SON NAME DEVANSH TO DEVANSH SHARMA

NAME CHANGE
I, KULDEEP S/O CHANDER PRAKASH residing at H NO-5813, BLOCK NO-4, GALI NO-8, DEV NAGAR, KAROL BAGH, DELHI-110005 have changed my name to KULDEEP KUMAR all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Seema Devi, W/o MANISH KUMAR, resident of H.No.2511 A3, mohalla Kunj Gali, Rewari, Haryana-123401, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SEEMA in my minor SON LAKSHAY VERMA aged 15 years in his 10th class educational document and Birth certificate No.921. The actual name of mine is SEEMA DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, VIJAY KUMAR S/O SURENDER RAM R/O 2303 Gali No-12 Ajit Vihar Barari North Delhi, Delhi - 110084 declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as VIPIN KUMAR and KINTU DEVI in my minor daughter namely CHAHAT aged 14 year in her school record. The actual name of mine and my wife are VIJAY KUMAR and SAROJ KUMARI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, SAVITA is legally wedded spouse of No. 279650M Rank HAV, Name TARE BHALCHANDRA KHUSHALRAO R/VIL-LAGE -MANDVA, POST-ZOTINGA, TEH- LONAR, DIST BHULDHANA PIN-443202, STATE-MAHARASHTRA, have changed my name from SAVITA to SAVITA BHALCHANDRA TARE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit No. IN-DL71706805494508W dated 16.10.2024 before Public Notary Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 respect of immoveable properties which will be sold by public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS AND WHAT IS" basis invites sealed Bids/Tenders from interested parties for purchasing the following secured assets under provisions of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules made there under.
DETAILS OF PROPERTIES

Name of the Borrower : Smt. Ekta Rani
1. Secured Debt to be : Rs.30,52,756.00 due as on 06.12.2022 and further interest recovered thereon till realization

Description of the Property	Area	Reserve Price
Property Upper Ground Floor Flat, Having Super Covered Area 100.33 Sq. mtr i.e. 120 Sq. Yds i.e. 1080 Sq. Ft Out of Stilt Plus Three Storeyed Residential Building, Built up on Property No. D-415, Building Known as "Park View Apartment", situated at Indraprastha Colony, Ghaziabad, Distt.-Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh	100.33 Sq.mtrs.	Rs.33,48,000/-

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client, Nand Kishor Verma S/o Late Inder Mal R/o Pocket: C-1342, JJI Colony, Madanpur Khadar New Delhi -110076 has severed all his relations from his son Naresh Kumar, daughter in Law Poonam and their children Gourabh and Dev and debarred and disinherited them from all his movable and immovable properties. My client have no control over them. Anyone dealing with them shall be doing so at their own risk and consequences. My client and his other their family members shall not be responsible for any act/ deed done by them.
(M. Nausahad) Advocate
Ch. No.351 Saket Court, New Delhi-17

NAME CHANGE
I, PRIYANKA is legally wedded spouse of No. 280008F Rank- HAV, Name ASHTEKAR, SHIVAJI LAXMAN R/O VILL-KANGRALI B.K. POST-KANGRALI, B.K. TEH-BELAGAVI, DIST-BELAGAVI, PIN 590010 STATE-KARNATAKA, have changed my name from PRIYANKA to PRIYANKA SHIVAJI ASHTEKAR for all future purposes. Vide affidavit No. IN-DL71707249182957W dated 16.10.2024 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAVITA is legally wedded spouse of No. 279650M Rank HAV, Name TARE BHALCHANDRA KHUSHALRAO R/VIL-LAGE -MANDVA, POST-ZOTINGA, TEH- LONAR, DIST BHULDHANA PIN-443202, STATE-MAHARASHTRA, have changed my name from SAVITA to SAVITA BHALCHANDRA TARE for all future purposes. Vide affidavit No. IN-DL71706805494508W dated 16.10.2024 before Public Notary Delhi.

BOMBAY MERCANTILE COOPERATIVE BANK LTD. (SCHEDULED BANK)
36, NETAJI SUBHASH MARG, DARYA GANJ, NEW DELHI-110002 PH:23273786, 23266869, 47199100, FAX: 2325979

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 respect of immoveable properties which will be sold by public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS AND WHAT IS" basis invites sealed Bids/Tenders from interested parties for purchasing the following secured assets under provisions of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules made there under.
DETAILS OF PROPERTIES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mrs. Bhagwati Devi W/o Late Mr. Jagdish Singh Rawat is the owner of Freehold Residential First Floor Flat, area measuring 89.4627 Sq. Mtrs., out of Kharsa No. 1154, situated at Hindon Vihar, in the area of Village Barola, Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. By Virtue of Sale Deed Dated 07.04.2012 as Doc. No. 2889, SR-II, Noida, in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. Original Sale Deed Dated 06.01.2010, executed by Mr. Hanuman Singh S/o Late Mr. Shiv Prasad Singh & Mr. Yogesh Gaiand S/o Mr. Shiv Raj Gaiand in favour of Mr. Raj Kumar S/o Mr. Gaje as Doc. No. 67, in Book No. 1, Vol. No. 2636, on Pages 203-246, on Dated 06.01.2010, SR-II, Noida, now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold to be Mr. Akash Kumar and Small Finance Bank Ltd., Branch: Shadipur Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 14 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.
[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
Advocate
F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09658871432

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE
The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Under Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 respect of immoveable properties which will be sold by public auction on "AS IS WHERE IS AND WHAT IS" basis invites sealed Bids/Tenders from interested parties for purchasing the following secured assets under provisions of Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets & Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and rules made there under.
DETAILS OF PROPERTIES

(Aziz Ur Rehman Khan)
AUTHORIZED OFFICER/BRANCH MANAGER

News box

US strikes five underground Houthi weapons storage sites in Yemen

Yemen. The United States conducted precision strikes on Wednesday against five underground weapons storage locations in Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a statement. "US forces targeted several of the Houthis' underground facilities housing various weapons components of types that the Houthis have used to target civilian and military vessels throughout the region," Austin said. The attack comes after the US military earlier this month carried out 15 strikes against targets linked to Iran-aligned Houthi fighters in Yemen, where residents reported blasts at military outposts and an airport. Houthi fighters in Yemen have carried out nearly 100 attacks on ships crossing the Red Sea since November and say they are acting in solidarity with Palestinians in Israel's year-long war in Gaza. They have sunk two vessels, seized another and killed at least four seafarers.

The US Central Command (CENTCOM) said in a post on social media website X that its battle damage assessments were underway and do not indicate civilian casualties.

UK government to impose sanctions on Israeli ministers

LONDON. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer said Wednesday that the government was considering sanctions against far-right Israeli ministers Itamar Ben Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. Asked in parliament if the government would sanction the two officials, Starmer said: "We are looking at that because there are obviously abhorrent comments along with other really concerning activity in the West Bank." National Security Minister Ben Gvir and Smotrich, who is finance minister, are vocal supporters of settlements in the West Bank, which are considered illegal under international law. Smotrich has also triggered international uproar by suggesting it would be justified to starve two million Gazans to free Israeli hostages in the Palestinian territory. After Starmer's comments, Smotrich remained defiant, vowing to fight Israel's enemies in Gaza, Lebanon and Iran while working to prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"No threat will stop me from doing what is right and moral for the citizens of Israel," Smotrich posted on X. Earlier this week, former foreign secretary David Cameron revealed that the previous Conservative government had been "working on" sanctions against the "extreme" politicians. Starmer's Labour government announced separate sanctions Tuesday against seven Israeli settler outposts and organisations. Israeli settler violence and military raids have intensified in the occupied territory following October 7, after Israel launched its war on Gaza. Pointing to the "dire" humanitarian situation in Gaza, Starmer also called for Israel to "take all possible steps to avoid civilian casualties, to allow aid into Gaza in much greater volume".

Foreign Secretary David Lammy meanwhile announced that Britain, France and Algeria had called an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council after UN reports that "barely any food has entered" North Gaza in the last two weeks.

Israeli strikes kill dozens in Lebanon's Qana, where Israel has dark history of killing civilians

QANA. Israeli airstrikes pounded areas across Lebanon, killing at least 25 people, officials said Wednesday, including more than a dozen in a southern town where Israeli bombardments in previous conflicts are seared into local memory. Elsewhere in the south, a city's mayor was among the dead in a strike that Lebanese officials said targeted a meeting to coordinate relief efforts. The Israeli military said they were targeting a Hezbollah commander in the strikes late Tuesday on the southern town of Qana, where 15 people were killed. Associated Press photos and video of the scene showed several flattened buildings and others with their top floors collapsed. Rescue workers carried away the remains of dead people and used a bulldozer to remove rubble, as they searched for more victims. Israel said the target was Jalal Mustafa Hariri, Hezbollah's commander in charge of the Qana area. In 1996, Israeli artillery shelling on a United Nations compound housing hundreds of displaced people in Qana killed at least 100 civilians and wounded scores more people, including four UN peacekeepers. During the 2006 war, an Israeli strike on a residential building killed nearly three dozen people, a third of them children. Israel said at the time that it struck a Hezbollah rocket launcher behind the building. "Qana always gets its share," Mayor Mohammed Krasht told the AP, referring to the town's grim history. Lebanon's caretaker prime minister, Najib Mikati, meanwhile accused Israel of "intentionally targeting" a municipal council meeting to discuss relief efforts in Nabatiyeh, where six people were killed. What solution can be hoped for in light of this reality? he asked in a statement. Strikes continued across Lebanon, including in the eastern Bekaa Valley and Nabatiyeh, in southern Lebanon, where the Israeli military said it targeted.

Old letter by Pannun to Trudeau seeking expulsion of India envoy surfaces



Letter written to Justin Trudeau in September 2023 Sikhs for Justice called Nijjar "law-abiding" citizen in letter Accused India envoy Verma of being involved in killing

World An old letter written by Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun led-Sikhs for Justice to Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asking for the expulsion of India's High Commissioner in Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma, for his alleged role in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar has surfaced online. The revelation comes amid a deepening diplomatic row between New Delhi and Ottawa. Prime Minister Trudeau blazed guns at India, accusing the country of being behind the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Things took a turn for the worse when Canada called Verma and a few other diplomats 'persons of interest' in the investigation into Nijjar's murder. In response, India recalled top diplomat Verma from Canada and expelled six Canadian diplomats from New Delhi, including the acting High



Commissioner. In its letter to Trudeau in September 2023, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) accused "agents of the Indian government" of being involved in the killing of Nijjar in June of the same year. The letter came days after Trudeau, in the Canadian Parliament, accused India of being involved in Nijjar's killing. SFJ dubbed Nijjar a "law-abiding" and "peace-loving Canadian citizen" who was killed as he was trying to mobilise Canadian Sikhs to participate and vote in the 'Khalistan referendum'.

assassination of a Canadian citizen by India on Canadian soil is an unprecedented and unconscionable attack on Canada's sovereignty and on the lives and liberties of all Canadians," Pannun wrote. It further claimed that Verma either knew or ought to have known of the plot to assassinate Nijjar and accused him of "cracking down on those peacefully advocating for Sikh human rights". Sikhs for Justice asked for the expulsion of Verma, claiming there was a risk of further violence in the country. "If High Commissioner Verma is not immediately expelled, we fear that many more Khalistan Referendum campaigners may suffer harm at the hands of Indian agents active in Canada, with the knowledge and complicity of High Commissioner Verma," Gurpatwant Singh Pannun wrote in his letter.

Water crisis threatening global food production: urgent call to action

World A new report from the Global Commission on the Economics of Water (GCEW) warns that inaction on the water crisis could jeopardize over half of the world's food production by 2050. Nearly 3 billion people currently live in regions where total water storage is projected to decline, raising alarms about the sustainability of global food systems.



The report highlights that the water crisis could lead to an average GDP drop of 8% for high-income countries and as much as 15% for lower-income nations. Disruptions to the water cycle have significant global economic repercussions, driven by changing precipitation patterns, rising temperatures due to climate change, and a lack of access to clean water and sanitation. To address this critical issue, the report calls for recognizing the water cycle as a "global common good" and urges a transformation in water governance at all levels. It emphasizes the

need to eliminate harmful subsidies in water-intensive sectors and redirect resources toward water-saving solutions, especially for vulnerable populations. Co-chair Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization, stated, "The costs of taking action are minor compared to the damage caused by continued inaction." The report underscores the importance of proper water pricing and incentives to ensure efficient and equitable water use across all sectors. The findings reveal that current

water management strategies have failed to account for the diverse values of water, leading to excessive use and misplacement of water-intensive industries in vulnerable areas. Addressing these issues is not just a necessity for economic stability but also for ensuring food security and human development.

Johan Rockström, Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, noted, "We are pushing the global water cycle out of balance for the first time in human history." The report warns that half of the world's population already faces water scarcity, which threatens food security and overall well-being.

In conclusion, the GCEW report presents both a dire warning and a call to action, urging global leaders to prioritize water management and invest in sustainable solutions to avert a looming crisis that could affect generations to come.

What about Hindu Canadians Lawmaker's swipe at Trudeau on Khalistan threat

World Prominent Indian-origin Canadian MP Chandra Arya called for greater efforts to address the threat posed by Khalistani extremism in Canada, which he alleged has been fostered by political parties with vested interests.

In a video statement posted on X Thursday, Arya addressed the soaring tensions between India and Canada over the probe into Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar's murder, which has sent bilateral ties skidding to a new low. The remarks came on a day Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accused India of violating his country's sovereignty. Arya stated that any foreign interference in Canadian affairs is "unacceptable". At the same time, he warned that the ongoing revelations and developments are impacting Ottawa and India's ability to collaborate on the issue. "It is critical that we all recognise the importance of eliminating cross-border threats posed by Khalistani extremism and resume our efforts to address it effectively," he said. "The persistence of Canadian Khalistani extremism is rooted in the political patronage these extremists enjoy." The lawmaker, who belongs to Trudeau's Liberal Party, urged the government to address the growing threat of Khalistani extremism within its own borders. For long, India has urged Canada to act against the Khalistani elements it harbours, but Ottawa has refused, citing their right to peaceful protest. "This is a Canadian problem, and it is the duty of all levels of our government and our law enforcement agencies to address it," Arya said. The lawmaker also expressed concern for the safety of Hindu-Canadians, many of whom feel threatened by the recent surge in Khalistani activity. He revealed that he himself was forced to participate in a Hindu event in Edmonton under the protection of police officers due to disruptive demonstrations by Khalistani protesters. "As a Hindu Member of Parliament, I too have experienced these concerns firsthand," Arya said. "Unfortunately, I have yet to hear any politician or government official offer reassurance to Hindu-Canadians."

350 bodies recovered from Jabaliya as Israel continues attacks on northern Gaza

World Hospitals have received around 350 bodies since Israel's offensive on Jabaliya, an urban refugee camp in the north of Gaza began on Oct. 6, according to Dr. Mounir al-Boursh, the director-general of Gaza's Health Ministry. He told the Associated Press that more than half of the dead were women and children, and that many bodies remain in the streets and under the rubble, with rescue teams unable to reach them because of Israeli strikes. "Entire families have disappeared," he said. Israel has been carrying out a major operation for more than a week in Jabaliya refugee camp that dates back to the 1948 ethnic cleansing of Palestinians surrounding Israel's creation.



Israeli forces have repeatedly returned to Jabaliya and other areas claiming that Hamas militants had regrouped. An Israeli attack on tents of displaced Palestinians and patients near the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in the central city of Deir al-Balah on Monday triggered

severe criticism as several patients were burnt to death after their tents caught fire from the attack. The image of a 19-year-old student named Sha'ban al-Dalou being burnt to death went viral on social media triggering widespread criticism against Israel. According to media reports, Sha'ban al-Dalou was getting treated at the hospital after being injured in another Israeli strike on a mosque that killed 20 Palestinians a week earlier. Israel has so far killed at least 42,000 Palestinians in Gaza since October 7 2023. This includes at least 17,000 children and more than 11,400 women. Israel has also killed nearly 1,000 health workers.

US says India has removed alleged agent in assassination plot

An Indian committee set up to examine the US case visited Washington for talks on Tuesday -- a tension-easing diplomatic process that came just as the row between India and Canada was escalating much more publicly.

World The United States said Wednesday it had been informed by India that an intelligence operative accused of directing an assassination plot on US soil is no longer in government service. The action by New Delhi represented a sharp contrast to its defiant approach to similar charges from Canada, where Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday accused India of violating his country's sovereignty.

An Indian committee set up to examine the US case visited Washington for talks on Tuesday -- a tension-easing diplomatic process that came just as the row between India and Canada was escalating much more publicly. "We've received an update from them on the investigation that they have been conducting. It was a productive meeting," State Department spokesman Matthew Miller told reporters. "They did inform us that the individual who was named in the

Justice Department indictment is no longer an employee of the Indian government," he said. We are satisfied with the cooperation."

US prosecutors charged an Indian citizen last November over a foiled attempt in New York to kill an advocate for a separate Sikh homeland in India. The indictment described an "Indian government employee," who was not publicly named, as recruiting the hitman and directing the assassination plot remotely, including by arranging the delivery of USD 15,000 in cash. The Hindustan Times, quoting an unnamed US official, said Monday that India not only removed but arrested the employee on "local charges." The State Department did not confirm the arrest. The Washington Post, in an extensive article in April, identified the



employee as Vikram Yadav, an officer in India's intelligence agency, known as the Research and Intelligence Wing (RAW).

The United States has been courting India as a growing partner, seeing common cause between the world's two largest democracies faced with the rise of China, despite concern voiced by activists about an authoritarian turn under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu

nationalist government. Canada sees broader Indian campaign

Canada has separately alleged that India arranged a plot on its soil that ended in the killing last year of a Sikh separatist, who was a naturalized Canadian citizen, outside a Vancouver temple.

Unlike the United States, Canada has highlighted its concerns publicly and at the highest level, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau criticizing India's actions. Canada and India on Monday expelled each other's ambassadors as Ottawa said that the Indian campaign went further than previously reported. At a parliamentary inquiry Wednesday on foreign interference, Trudeau said India had clearly violated Canada's sovereignty and that its intimidation tactics were not limited exclusively to the Sikh community.

Nijjar killing: Canadian PM Trudeau admits he had no hard proof when he alleged Indian agents' involvement

OTTAWA. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Wednesday acknowledged that he had only intelligence and no "hard evidentiary proof" when he alleged the involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar last year. Testifying before the public inquiry into foreign interference in federal electoral processes and democratic institutions, Trudeau claimed the Indian diplomats were collecting information on Canadians who are in disagreement with the Narendra Modi government and passing it to the highest levels within the Indian government and criminal organisations like the Lawrence

Bishnoi gang. "I was briefed on the fact that there was intelligence from Canada, and possibly from Five Eyes allies that made it fairly clear, incredibly clear, that India was involved in this. Agents of the government of India were involved in the killing of a Canadian on Canadian soil," he said. He added that it was something that his government had to take extremely seriously. "Five Eyes" network is an intelligence alliance consisting of the US, the UK, Australia, Canada and New Zealand. It is both surveillance-based and signals intelligence (SIGINT). "India had indeed done it, and we had reasons to believe that they had,"

Trudeau said, adding that his government's immediate approach was to engage with the government of India to work on this together to make sure that there was accountability. Recalling the G20 summit hosted by India in September last year, he said it was a big moment for India, and Canada "had the opportunity of making it a very uncomfortable summit" for India if it went public with these allegations. We chose not to. We chose to continue to work behind the scenes to try and get India to cooperate with us," he said. Trudeau said the Indian side asked for evidence "and our response was, well, it's within your security agencies."

But the Indian side insisted on the evidence. "And at that point, it was primarily intelligence, not hard evidentiary proof. So we said, well, let's work together and look into your security services and maybe we can get that done," he said. He said he met Prime Minister Modi after the end of the G20 summit in Delhi and shared that "we knew that they were involved and expressed a real concern around it. He responded with the usual response from him, which is that we have people who are outspoken against the Indian government living in Canada that he would like to see arrested."

News box

Man accused of rape after not marrying woman acquitted

Ahmedabad. A city sessions court acquitted a 30-year-old man of rape charges filed on the grounds that he had promised to marry the victim. The decision was taken after it was established that he could not marry the victim because his family members were against their union.

According to the case details, a 25-year-old woman, who is a divorcee and a mother, filed an FIR with Shaherkotda police on Sep 29, 2019, against her neighbour Akash Pawar for allegedly raping her after falsely promising to marry her. They had eloped three weeks before the filing of FIR and gone to Delhi. They lived in a rented house for eight days until the accused disappeared. The woman was brought back to Ahmedabad by her parents.

During the trial, it was revealed that the woman and the accused were in love for over a year before they eloped. A few days after the couple eloped, Pawar's mother and other family members visited them in Delhi. There was a quarrel between Pawar and his family members. The next day, he disappeared. The woman filed an FIR three days after returning to Ahmedabad.

After the trial, additional sessions judge P K Khanchandani acquitted Pawar of the rape charge by giving him the benefit of the doubt. The court stated in its order that to hold the accused guilty, it is necessary to prove that from the beginning he had an intention of not marrying the victim, and that he made false promises of marriage.

The court stated in its order, "The evidence showed that the accused was ready to marry and accept the victim with her minor daughter. But his mother and family members did not agree to the marriage. They had a quarrel with Pawar in Delhi and the marriage was not possible."

Unravelling the mystery of two road 'accidents' in Thiruvananthapuram

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. How easy is it to pass off murder attempts as casual road accidents? Very simple, thought a 58-year-old man and his hitmen, who planned to murder a 22-year-old in Thiruvananthapuram earlier this year.

If it had not been for the diligence shown by the investigators from Mannanthala police station, the culprits could've found their hunch turning true. Anujith, a resident of Vencode, had two back-to-back road accidents within about 30 days. The first incident occurred on July 24 within the Vattappara police station limit, while the second incident took place on August 27 at the Mannanthala police station limit.

Anujith was riding a two-wheeler on both occasions and the vehicles that knocked him down could not be identified. The Vattappara police deemed the incident as a road accident, but they could not trace the vehicle — a red car. Almost a month later, another accident occurred when Anujith was knocked down by a two-wheeler.

The Mannanthala cops initially did not suspect any foul play. However, Anujith felt being hit with a heavy object from behind by one of the passengers travelling in the two-wheeler. When he told the police about this, their curiosity was piqued. Little did Station House Officer Gopi D and his team thought they were about to unravel a well-hatched conspiracy. There were no CCTV cameras in the accident spot. But the cops managed to retrieve footage from a camera located some 300 metres away. In the visual, a scrap dealer was seen walking along the road and the cops felt he would've witnessed the whole episode.

Shiggaon bypoll: Congress eyes win, BJP prepares for tough contest

HUBBALLI: With the schedule for the Shiggaon Assembly bypoll out, political activity has intensified in the constituency with local leaders touchbasing with top state leaders over selection of candidates.

While Congress leaders expect their party could win the seat with the advantage of being in power, the BJP is confident of retaining the high-profile constituency.

The Shiggaon bypoll has been necessitated by the resignation of sitting BJP MLA Basavaraj Bommai, who was elected to the Lok Sabha from Haveri this year.

BJP had won the Assembly seat, which falls under the Dharwad parliamentary constituency, with a huge margin of nearly 36,000 votes in the 2023 Assembly polls. But in the parliamentary election, party candidate and Union minister Pralhad Joshi lagged behind by 8,598 votes against Congress' Vinod Asuti in this Assembly segment. This proved considerable support for Congress and points to an interesting battle in the bypoll.

Generally, the Grand Old Party fields a Muslim candidate from here, considering the significant number of Muslim votes.

But this time around, the party may change its strategy and field Asuti, who gained a significant lead in the Parliamentary election, despite Bommai's influence over the constituency.

My childhood dream fulfilled as Sabarimala's new melsanthi, says Arun Kumar Namboothiri

Arun Kumar will be the 16th melsanthi to serve at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple. He will officially assume his duties on November 16, marking the beginning of the 2024-25 pilgrimage season.

KOLLAM. For Kollam native S. Arun Kumar Namboothiri, his selection as the new head priest (melsanthi) of the revered Sabarimala Ayyappa temple is more than just an achievement—it is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream. Arun Kumar, who received the news while performing morning rituals at the Lekshmi Nada Temple in Kollam, where he has been serving as the head priest for the past two months, humbly attributes his appointment to divine intervention.

"This is the decision of Lord Ayyappa. I came to know about it right after the morning pooja. Like everyone else, I had a small hope in my heart, but ultimately, it was Lord Ayyappa's will. My name has been in the draw for six years, and each time I waited, trusting in his timing. We are all so happy with the outcome," he said.

From a young age, Arun Kumar was immersed in temple life, helping his father, who was the head priest at the Sree Dharmasastha Temple. "Before I formally learned

the rituals of poojas, I was already serving Lord Ayyappa. Since childhood, I have dreamed of this moment, to dedicate my life fully in service to Him," he recalled. Arun Kumar has previously served as the head priest of the Attukal Bhagavathy

Thirumullavaram Sree Maha Vishnu Swami Temple, the Chavara Sree Krishna Swami Temple, and the Vazhiyilkkavu Devi Temple in Sakthikulangara. Currently, he is serving as the head priest at the Lekshmi Nada Temple in Kollam.



Selected through the traditional lottery draw, Arun Kumar will be the 16th melsanthi to serve at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple. The draw, carried out by the youngest member of the Pandalam royal family, Hrishikesh, chose him from among 25 candidates.

Arun Kumar will officially assume his duties on November 16, marking the beginning of the 2024-25 pilgrimage season. His term will last for one year, during which time he will lead thousands of devotees at one of India's most significant spiritual centres.

State-level police meet kicks off for first time since Telangana's formation

HYDERABAD. DGP Dr. Jitender inaugurated the state-level police duty meet, the first since Telangana's formation, on Wednesday at Vishwambhara Grounds, Telangana State Police Academy. A total of 13 teams, comprising 400 participants from 26 different police wings including all district commissionerates, CID, TGANB, and others will compete in the event, which concludes on October 19.

The competition features six events: scientific aids to investigation, anti-sabotage checks, dog squad, computer awareness, photography, and videography. The winners will undergo an intensive two-month training program and will represent Telangana at the All India Police Duty Meet in Ranchi in January 2025.

According to Telangana police, this is the first state-level police duty meeting since the state's formation. The last such event was held in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, in 2013.

Shikha Goel, DG of CID and chairperson of the organizing committee, said, "This event marks a significant milestone in enhancing collaboration between different teams within the police department. It reflects Telangana Police's constant commitment to excellence."

"Excelling in the duty meet translates to excellence in the field, where police, as a crucial pillar of the criminal justice system, must often rely on scientific evidence, especially in cases with no direct witnesses," he added.



Government school students forced to sit in corridor after wall collapses in Dindigul

DINDIGUL. Students were forced to sit in the corridor after the wall of a balcony in a classroom collapsed in the Government Primary school in Old Ayakudi in Palani on Tuesday night.

According to sources, there are eight classrooms at the school, of which five are dilapidated. M Raviselvi, a parent, said, "There are more than 200 students studying here. For the past few years, there has been no proper infrastructure. Some of the walls are in dilapidated

condition. As the wall collapsed, parents and teachers became upset and tried to approach the headmaster, but he was on leave. Hence, children were forced to sit in the corridor." She added that if the approach continues, they will be forced to move schools.

Social Activist K Thiruloganathan said, "Many walls at the school are dilapidated. As this endangers students, parents are worried. The situation was better during the Covid-19 pandemic but it is intolerable

now. Despite several protests and complaints to the education department, no action was taken. Hence, we will be staging a protest at Palani soon."

An official from the education department said, "We are aware of the issue and lodged a complaint with the Block Development Officer (Palani), a few months ago. An order was given to demolish the wall and other buildings before the rain. We consulted with the district administration and local revenue authorities.

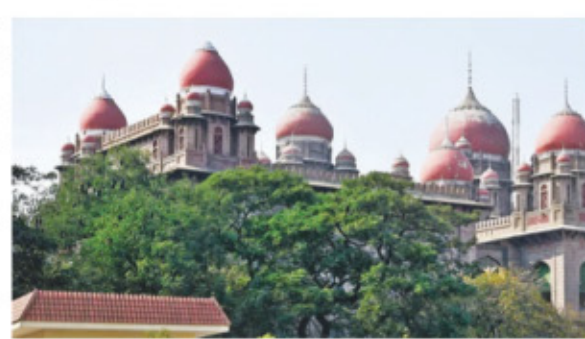
Some of the walls are in dilapidated condition. As the wall collapsed, parents and teachers became upset and tried to approach the headmaster, but he was on leave.

Telangana HC refuses to interfere in Group-I mains schedule

HYDERABAD. The Telangana High Court on Wednesday refused to postpone the Group-I mains examination scheduled to begin on October 21. A bench of Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Namavarapu Rajeshwara Rao was hearing a batch of writ petitions filed by aspirants challenging the state's Group-I services notification.

The petitioners, represented by senior counsel E Madan Mohan, argued that the government order, which sets a 1:50 ratio for inviting candidates to the written exam, indirectly reduced the number of posts available for reserved categories. Mohan contended that this order sought to dilute the constitutionally recognised reservations for disadvantaged groups.

Senior counsel KG Krishna Murthy further argued that the previous government



policy required category-wise selection of candidates for the written examination, and questioned why this practice was suddenly changed. He expressed concerns over the rationale behind the alteration.

Additionally, senior counsel L Ravichander pointed out discrepancies in the examination process, arguing that reservations for persons with disabilities

should not be applied vertically. He also noted that the total reservations had breached the constitutionally mandated 50% cap, reaching 63%. He criticised the process as being riddled with illegalities and constitutional violations.

On behalf of the state, counsel S Rahul Reddy dismissed the petitions as based on "casual pleading" and argued that they did not merit any relief.

After hearing the arguments, the court refused to stay the examination but stated that any selections made as a result of the Group-I mains would be subject to the final outcome of the case. The court granted the state seven days to file a counter-affidavit, with the petitioners allowed to file a rejoinder within 10 days thereafter. The matter has been posted for final hearing on November 20.

Ernakulam market complex to be opened soon

The project, implemented at a cost of Rs 75 crore, has three floors with separate commercial and office spaces.



KOCHI. The much-awaited Ernakulam Market Complex, the project in Kochi city, is set to be open to the public soon after around two years of renovation work. The restoration of the 19,822.14 square metre complex, which was started in February 2022, is in the final stage. The project is carried out by the Cochin Smart Mission Limited (CSML).

The project, implemented at a cost of Rs 75 crore, has three floors with separate commercial and office spaces. "The basement is allocated for parking. The ground and first floors will be allocated for the existing vendors. The first floor has spaces for an electrical room and FMP section, while the sewage treatment plant for the building is provided in the basement.

The second and third floors are currently open spaces with no partitions, providing ample commercial or office space, which Kochi Corporation can further utilise for leasing," said an official with the CSML, adding that the facility has 275 shops. Also, solar panels, having a capacity of 40 KV, will be installed on the top floor to power the common area lighting.

"The coordination between the trade unions, associations, and people's representatives has made the renovation of the market complex possible. The task seemed impossible, but we followed it up thoroughly," said Kochi Corporation Mayor M Anilkumar, adding that the projects implemented by CSML in the city would be landmark projects.

He said that the maintenance of the three-storey construction was more important. "We need to maintain the facility properly after the inauguration. Now we have entrusted the company to maintain it. However, the municipal corporation and other authorities also will cooperate in maintaining the facility properly," emphasised Anilkumar. He also said the complex would have a solid waste management system, multi-level parking, security mechanisms, and other facilities.

Swell surge batters Poonthura fishing hamlet in Thiruvananthapuram; several families displaced

The fishing villages are becoming increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events with each passing year.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The massive waves that lashed the state capital on Tuesday night left a trail of destruction at the densely populated fishing village of Cheriyaattam in Poonthura, displacing several families in the process. The swell surge that started hitting the coast by evening continued to batter the shoreline.

As many as 60 houses were hit hard by sudden waves, according to local residents.

"I was sleeping with my six year old daughter and was woken up hearing an explosive sound at around 3 am. The entire house was filled with rocks, garbage and debris of the house. My husband was sleeping in the verandah and he went to a shock. He is under treatment," said Sahayarani, one of the many families, who had a near death experience on Tuesday night. When the announcement came about the swell surge alert on Tuesday from the church, the fishermen's families took it

lightly thinking it's just routine. Though they didn't move from the area, they kept awake and alert till 2 am.

"This is the first time something of this



Tall waves almost razed her house to the ground. A majority of the families suffered heavy losses. Other than the dresses they were wearing, nothing valuable could be saved from their houses.

"People are panic-stricken as nobody expected such destruction," Poonthura councillor Mary Jipsy said.

"There are around 100 houses in the area and we have already moved out around 60 families. The alert is on till 11 or 11.30 pm tonight. We have warned the families to stay away from their houses till Thursday morning."

The fishing villages are becoming increasingly vulnerable to extreme weather events with each passing year.

"We have nowhere else to go. We depend on this sea for survival. Unfortunately, we cannot sleep peacefully even for a few hours after a hard day's work," said Janet, another villager.

The larger message from Ottawa

AN important story of global migration flows of the past decade has been the sharp rise in Indian emigration. From the US to Australia, from Singapore to Dubai and from Portugal to Israel, Indians have been emigrating in ever-increasing numbers. A mere 38,364 Indians became permanent citizens in Canada in 2014. By 2022, this number hit an all-time high of 1,18,095. By contrast, in 2022, only a little over 30,000 Chinese moved home to Canada. Canada has been a go-to place for Indian, especially Punjabi, emigrants for decades and was a strategic partner that helped in the building of India's nuclear capability. Why, then, have relations between the two countries hit an all-time low? Indian diplomats and other government officials have blamed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, charging him with mixing up self-serving domestic political stratagems with foreign policy and national security. He needs the Canadian Sikh vote and so he is pandering to their Khalistani aspirations. The charge is even more severe. Trudeau's government has been accused of harbouring drug peddlers, criminals and anti-India terrorists. For their part, the Trudeau government has accused Indian intelligence operatives and diplomats of conspiring to assassinate Canadian citizens.

What began as a diplomatic kerfuffle soon escalated into a major spat and blew up when the US entered the game and linked the assassination of a Canadian Sikh to a similar attempt on a US Sikh. The Indian complaint about pro-Khalistani activism in Canada, the US and Britain is based on domestic security concerns, but the question remains unanswered as to how serious such activism has been in recent times, and whether it required such an explosive blow-up in diplomatic relations between democracies.

The view of the Modi government that western governments have not been sensitive to Indian concerns is understandable. However, the charges of culpability levelled by Canada and the US against an assortment of Indians, including diplomats and senior government officials, are serious. Two questions arise. First, why did the Canadian and US governments go public? Second, where does the buck stop on the Indian side? On the second question, both the US and Canada have mentioned names and placed the onus of proving innocence on the Indians concerned. The first question is important because Canada and the US have had reasonably good diplomatic relations with India and could have been expected to handle matters with greater discretion. The official Indian charge, with respect to the first question, is that Trudeau is playing partisan politics, hoping to seal an electoral deal with Canadian Sikh voters. This sounds very much like Pakistan accusing Indian politicians of making political capital out of charges relating to alleged 'cross-border' terrorist attacks. Mixing national security issues with domestic politics cuts both ways and one must be careful about how third parties view such imputations. Will international public opinion view the Indian charge with greater sympathy than they would view Canada's charges? Should one care? Perhaps, some would, understandably, take the view that India can afford to ignore the Trudeau government. That was a dominant view in New Delhi when the initial charges pertaining to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar were made. Then, the US upped the ante by not only accusing Indian officials of plotting a similar killing on US soil, of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, but also launching legal proceedings. Is all this just a misunderstanding and bad faith between friends or are larger issues involved? That the Anglosphere countries of Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand and the US share intelligence through their 'Five Eyes' alliance is well known. Given this, merely accusing Trudeau of trying to pick up more votes does not sound a very credible response. More importantly, the question must be asked as to why the Indian government believes it is being targeted by western democracies. That there is a problem between India and the Anglosphere is becoming clear. It is not clear how serious it is and what is being done to mend fences.

The man who steered Indian business into global waters

Ratan Tata also became wedded to the need to become environmentally responsible. He junked the idea of making diesel autos.

When a long public life like that of Ratan Tata comes to an end, Indians have a tradition of heaping lavish praise on the memory of the departed, leaving aside some of the not-so-palatable parts of the departed's story. So, a measured assessment of the person's position in the history books must wait for some time. But within these limitations, a view has to be taken right away on what Ratan Tata did and did not do. And ask ourselves if he has left behind what is worth remembering.

In fairness, it can be said that the economic consequences of the life and legacy of Ratan Tata made public life richer and better. He should be a role model for upcoming scions and startup new promoters which, hopefully, will take the economy forward and make the country a better and kinder place to live in. Tata took over India's largest business conglomerate in 1990 when India had not yet started opening up but he made the group move with the times and helped make the economy incalculably more robust and self-confident. The symbol of this is the Tata Consultancy Services, the most profitable group company, which grew under the umbrella of the group's leadership to become one of the most globally respected information technology players that enabled India to coin the slogan 'Make in India, for the world'.

He was born (1937) when India was still ruled by the British but now leaves behind it as the fifth largest economy in the world. Under his leadership, the group restructured internally, and in the beginning of the current millennium went forth across the world to acquire some of the most globally known brands. Successes were touted up even as mistakes were made, but today the group is able to stand up on its own feet in the global business arena and keep going forward. Here are some numbers 'which give an idea of the transformation that the group went through between 1991 when Ratan Tata took over the leadership of the group and 2013 when he retired. Revenue went up from Rs 600 crore to Rs 5,000 crore (rounded off). The bottomline, profit after tax (PAT), went up from Rs 9 crore to Rs 17 crore.

On the other hand, return on equity (what the group's own money earned) fell from 16 per cent to 12 per cent (again rounded off). So the group paid a price to be able to go global. Market capitalisation (market

value of all the shares), however, rose from Rs 9,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore. Thus, despite the group seeing a fall in its own money, the capital market expressed confidence in the group leader by raising by multiple amount the public-quoted value.

Now let us retell the story in terms of flesh and blood, the companies which were impacted by the



numbers. When Tata took over, the group was led by biggies like Telco (now Tata Motor), Tisco (now Tata Steel), Tata Electric companies, Tata Hydro-Electric, Andhra Valley Supply, Associated Cement (ACC) and Tata Chemicals. Through the nineties the group also acquired consumer goods portfolios through Lakme (cosmetics), Tata Oil Mills (soaps), Goodlass Nerolac (paints), Merind (pharmaceuticals), Voltas (air-conditioners), Titan (watches), Tata Tea, Tata Coffee and Tata Press (printing). Plus, very importantly, the group was an important player in computer hardware with joint venture with IBM and telecom equipment through Tata Telecom in partnership with AT&T.

However, the group saw a challenge in long term viability in domestic consumer goods. This led to a period of pruning. This freed up capital and managerial resources and enabled Ratan Tata to enter the global arena for growth in sectors where the Tatas had the potential to become global leaders.

Then in the new millennium, the group acquired the UK's Tetley, making Tata Tea the world's second-largest branded tea company after Unilever. Tata Motors acquired the heavy vehicles' unit of Daewoo Motors, thus becoming one of the top global truck makers. Thereafter came the big acquisition, Jaguar Land Rover, again catapulting the Tata player, Tata Motors, to become one of the leading global players

in the field. Then Tata Steel acquired Corus, seeking to become a leading global steel player.

With such mega acquisitions taking place, not every turn out to be a winner. The acquisition of Corus did not become a success. Former Tata Steel managing director JJ Irani described the action as an "acquisitional mistake". In the category of mistakes, also comes the Nano project with which Tata saw the vision of producing a Rs 1-lakh people's car that would allow the family on a scooter to switch to a car. But its cost went up and most importantly the car couldn't meet the upwardly mobile picture of an aspirational car owner. Eventually, the product was closed down.

Hard business apart, Ratan Tata was known for his ethical leadership style and his values of trust and reputation. He was also known for his modest and unassuming style. Under his leadership, the group became known for its employee-centric approach while offering a variety of benefits and welfare programmes. For example, Tata Motors has a health and wellness programme that includes insurance, medical facilities, and health check-ups. On Glassdoor, the Tata Group has an employee rating of 4.0 out of 5 stars. Ratan Tata also became wedded to the need to become environmentally responsible. Initially, he thought diesel autos made business sense but he changed his mind when he realised that diesel produced a lot of very small particulates which travelled and stayed put in our respiratory system.

Overall, it can be said that he looked forward and took risks. Some of them paid off, some didn't. But he went on, keeping in view the need to be a responsible employer and environmental practitioner. So, he has given a role model which can make the economy richer in an environmentally sustainable manner.

We can end with two anecdotes which tell more than numbers and names do. When he was put up at a posh hotel suite in Washington as leader of the corporate team that accompanied Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, he sought out and moved to a single modest room. In 1984, when many Sikh truck owners' vehicles were destroyed in the anti-Sikh riots after the death of Indira Gandhi, Tata Motors immediately replaced all the destroyed trucks without any condition of repayment. Ratan Tata's logic was that if we have prospered by them, we will stand by them in their hour of the greatest need.

Reusable rockets

SpaceX paves way for sustainable space era

SPACEX has redefined the boundaries of space technology with its remarkable achievement of catching a returning rocket booster directly on the launch pad using robotic arms. This feat, part of SpaceX's Starship programme, brings the world closer to sustainable space exploration. It showcases a leap forward in reusable rocket technology that could drastically reduce costs for future missions. The accomplishment reflects the company's dedication to the principle of "making life multi-planetary", an ambition to which Elon Musk often alludes.

Awestruck spectators watched as Starship's 400-foot frame lifted off from Texas and arced across the Gulf of Mexico, only to return minutes later for a flawless capture by SpaceX's towering "chopstick" arms. The manoeuvre showcased innovation that goes beyond rocket science — melding automation, precise control and



structural resilience into a symphony of advanced mechanics. This accomplishment is not merely about technological

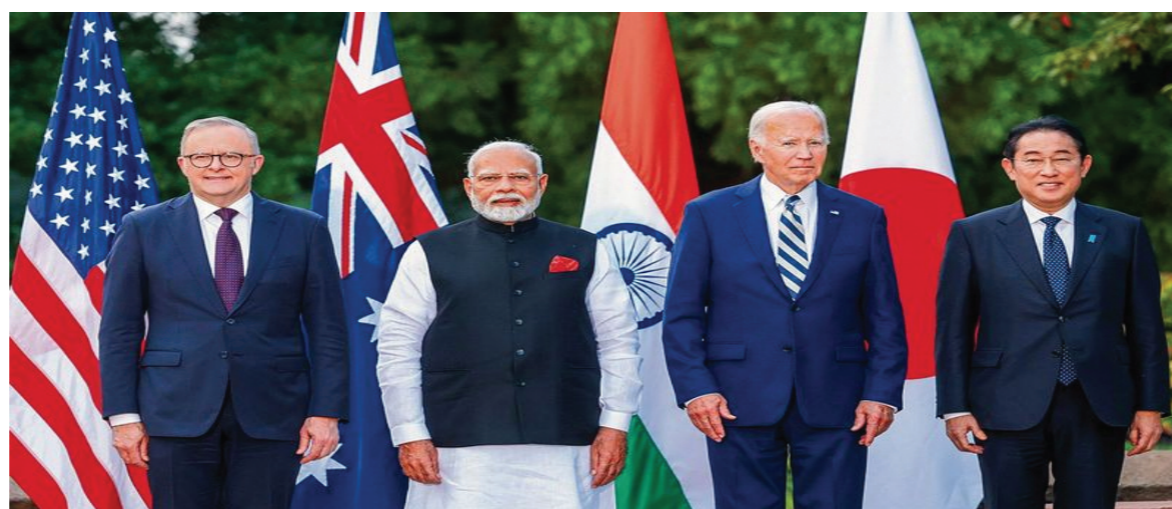
spectacle; it holds significant potential to reshape global space exploration strategies. Reusable rockets could allow agencies like ISRO to lower costs and increase mission frequency, supporting ambitious programmes like Chandrayaan and Mangalyaan. Moreover, reusable technology is a greener approach as it reduces material waste and space debris, aligning with global efforts to minimise environmental impact. Global collaboration could expand this innovation's reach, allowing space agencies such as NASA, ESA and ISRO to explore joint missions and advance human spaceflight. SpaceX's technology provides a promising roadmap for future partnerships, benefiting agencies, scientists and the next generation of STEM professionals. Once the stuff of science fiction, reusable rockets are now becoming a reality.

It's time Coast Guard was delinked from Navy

Apart from the Quad-at-Sea missions, the ICG will also be useful for the protection of commercial sea lanes originating from India.

THE Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad), aimed at promoting regional security and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region, has come up with a seminal initiative by announcing the first-ever joint Coast Guard mission at sea, at its recent Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, USA. The official statement made it clear that the coast guards of the USA, India, Japan and Australia would work together closely and that the four maritime security organisations "plan to launch a first-ever Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission in 2025 in the Indo-Pacific to improve interoperability. Members of the Japan Coast Guard, the Australian Border Force, and the Indian Coast Guard will spend time on board a US Coast Guard vessel operating in the Indo-Pacific. The Quad intends to continue with further missions in the Indo-Pacific." As part of this mission, smaller countries in the Indo-Pacific will be trained in maritime security. This is clearly in response to the coercive and intimidating manoeuvres by Chinese ships and planes in the South China Sea (SCS), intended to compel other nations bordering these disputed waters to cede control. Recent clashes, including the ramming of vessels of the Chinese and the Philippine Coast Guard in the SCS, have further heightened these concerns.

Though the Observer Mission, scheduled for launch in 2025, appears very limited in its scope with only one operating US vessel, further missions, as intended, would enhance the scope and level of participation in this first-of-its-kind Quad cooperation at sea. Its significance lies in the fact that it's the Coast Guard and not the navies, which are involved. The strategic offensive role of a navy is projection of force into areas beyond a country's shores. And a multi-lateral naval presence in troubled waters, against a force like the PLA Navy, would be fraught with an ominous signature of a direct military threat. Moreover, the



Coast Guard is primarily tasked with law enforcement, maritime policing and humanitarian missions and require less integration than the naval forces, where cooperation is more combat-oriented. Since its birth in 1978, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has been acting as a maritime law enforcement and search and rescue agency in the EEZ (exclusive economic zone). It actively patrols India's vast coastline. Functioning under the Ministry of Defence, it has evolved into an established and capable force that can intercept any illegal activities at sea and provide a full spectrum of non-military maritime services to the nation. It has also been carrying out joint sea exercises as far as Japan and South Korea. The ICG achieved a historic operational success in October 1999, with the recapture of a Panamanian-registered Japanese cargo ship, MV Alondra Rainbow, at high seas, hijacked off

Indonesia. This was the first successful prosecution of armed pirates in over a century. After the 2008 Mumbai attacks in which the terrorists entered India from Pakistan via the sea route, the Indian government initiated a programme to expand the ICG force, assets and infrastructure for enhanced protection and surveillance of the Indian waters. The ICG has a fleet of 152 ships and 78 aircraft, with a target of 200 vessels and 100 aircraft by 2030.

The other Coast Guard of the Quad nations, while having similar roles, are distinctly different from their navies in terms of government control. The US Coast Guard operates under the Department of Homeland Security while the Japan Coast Guard works under the oversight of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

From its very inception, the ICG has existed in the shadow of the Indian Navy. While this may have been

necessary in its initial years due to dependence for equipment, training, manning and officering of this new force, it may need a review now.

The Indian Navy is a large and growing service with a third aircraft carrier and more nuclear-powered submarines in the pipeline. These are clearly indicative of its power and reach, which now has to go far beyond the Malacca Straits and the Gulf of Aden in terms of force-projection capability.

For an emerging power like India, a large and modern navy is a most essential service. However, this deep blue-water navy has to be delinked from the ICG, especially in peacetime. The logical step, thus, would be for the ICG to be under the control of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and not the Ministry of Defence. This would also be in line with the way the Coast Guard of most developed countries operate, and would enhance its distinct identity while working with its counterparts in the foreign seas. Our border-guarding forces deployed on land borders, also come under the MHA. Looking ahead, apart from the Quad-at-Sea missions, the ICG will be most useful for roles like the protection of commercial sea lanes originating from India. One such commitment would be the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) that aims to bolster economic development by fostering connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Persian Gulf and Europe. It has not yet taken concrete shape due to the geopolitical turmoil and conflicts in West Asia, but is an idea which should fructify in future. Initiatives like the Quad missions will have a beneficial spinoff for India in different ways. The sequencing of China's force structure investments indicates the prioritisation of its strategic objectives. This also indicates that Taiwan and the SCS continue to have precedence over China's wider global ambitions.

6 fat facts you must know

Science essentially recognises four main types of fats in our foods: polyunsaturated, monounsaturated, saturated and trans fats. Each has different chemical and physical properties, and therefore, a different role to play in the body. Vegetable spreads and cooking oils mainly rapeseed, sunflower, soybean and olive mostly contain the first two and small amounts of saturated fat. Palm oil, on the other hand, which has a

released, the fat mobilisation process leads to fatty acids entering the bloodstream. Visceral fat is more rapidly mobilised than subcutaneous fat and can accumulate in the liver. Fat also accumulates in the liver if the intake of alcohol or sugar is high. Excess accumulation of body fat is harmful if it is in the abdominal cavity or liver. It is often linked to developing type 2 diabetes.



higher melting point and is now used in many products, is highly saturated. Nutrition studies have moved on from obvious facts that we should eat less saturated fat, salt and sugar, to emphasis on eating a healthy portion of fruit, vegetables, low-fat dairy food, wholegrains, poultry, fish and nuts, and consuming less red meat, sweets and sugar-containing beverages. But what fat should be consumed and what shouldn't still remains a confusing puzzle. Here are six things you would like to know.

Mass storage:

Where will the fat eventually in the body? This is the one fact, everybody, especially women, worry about (read: obsess over). Women have more subcutaneous fat stores than men, so men store this visceral fat around the mesenteric blood vessel in the abdomen. When energy stored in fat cells is

Fats are important:

Fats are essential. We need certain polyunsaturated fatty acids, aptly named essential fatty acids (linoleic and linolenic acids), in our diet for healthy skin and hair. We get these from vegetable oils, nuts and oily fish. These also contribute to cardiovascular health as well as brain and visual function. Fat also provides insulation for body temperature regulation by filling up your body's adipose tissue. And while fat is an important part of a healthy diet, it's

as important not to get too much as it is not to get too little. Eating too much can lead to weight gain and high cholesterol.

Fats for vitamins:

Medical experts say about 30g of fat is required every day to promote the absorption of fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E and K. Vegetable oils, for instance, are an important source of vitamin E and oily fish is the best dietary source of vitamin D that has become an urban epidemic of some sorts. Provitamins are substances that can be converted within the body into vitamins. So the next time, if your mummy adds a little oil to your platter of green veggies and carrots, don't fret. This actually improves the absorption of carotene (pro-vitamin A).

Women must consume fat:



Why obesity runs in Families

That parental obesity affects the likelihood of children to over-eat and develop obesity is known, but researchers have now identified the genetic link behind the mechanism.

Being over-weight and obese has a direct impact on the genes which signal when it is time to stop eating, the findings showed. Blocked expression of a gene called POMC, which manages a discrete area of the brain that controls feeding behaviour could provide the missing link between a mother's



sequence of interest. The researchers found that genetic malprogramming induced by maternal high-fat diet had a long-term effect on the offspring's vulnerability to development of obesity.

diet and an offspring's risk of future obesity. Excess methylation (an important component in cellular processes) on the DNA sequence blocks the ability to express this gene, leading to a late satiety response, increased food intake and eventual obesity.

"We observed a clear correspondence between a specific genetic mechanism and weight gain, potentially allowing for early detection and prevention of obesity," said Asaf Marco, a researcher involved in the work from Bar Ilan University in Ramat-Gan, Israel.

For the study, the researchers fed female rats a high-fat diet and a standard diet from post-weaning to adulthood and in a separate group through pregnancy and lactation. All offspring, including those of the high-fat treated rats, received standard food after weaning until adulthood. Blood was analysed for hormone levels and brain sections for genetic modification on the specific DNA

sequence of interest. The researchers found that genetic malprogramming induced by maternal high-fat diet had a long-term effect on the offspring's vulnerability to development of obesity.

That red meat, junk fare, and foods are rich sources of saturated fatty acids are associated with cardiovascular disorders are well-documented. However, studies also suggest that nuts, oily fish and dairy products, which are again high in saturated fats, are associated with lower risk of cardiac problems. Every now and then, we stumble upon a new study - one that is constantly evolving - which throws light on a different theory concerning fats.

Body fat plays an important role in fertility. Between 20-30 per cent of a healthy woman's body weight is fat (this makes it twice as much as men). If the level drops below 18 per cent, for instance, ovulation stops. Likewise, high levels typically about 50 per cent of her weight can also pose problems of infertility. Here's why: A hormone called leptin is secreted by adipose (fat) tissue into the blood in proportion to the amount of fat it stores. The brain detects the blood leptin signal and this promotes ovulation when the level is high enough.

An energy food:

Most of the energy in our diet comes from carbohydrates. But fats provide your body with energy as well as provide storage spots for energy in the body. Fat supplies between a quarter and two-fifths of an adult's energy intake and half for a newborn. So, adding fat to food can

double the energy content. Saturated fact: The cholesterol raising effects in saturated fats are confined to lauric, myristic and palmitic acids (found in palm oil). These raise low-density lipoprotein

cholesterol (LDL-C) in decreasing order of potency compared to carbohydrates (including all types of starches and sugars) or unsaturated fatty acids. One can lower cholesterol by replacing saturated fatty acids with oils rich in monounsaturated (olive, rapeseed) or polyunsaturated fatty acids (soybean, sunflower oil) than lowering carbohydrates. For example, replacing butter with olive oil as your main source of fat can lower LDL-C by about 10 per cent.



"I wish more men would try out a class of yoga. There is a misconception that yoga cannot build strength and endurance," says Yoga guru ashok mundetiya.



He says that an Artistic Yoga session is guaranteed to make you sweat and build up every muscle in your body. "It's the most effective way to lose weight around the stomach, strengthen your back, unwind and also re-energise. It makes you more productive during the day!" Artistic Yoga, was developed by Bharat Thakur 12 years ago, when yoga was thought of as a boring and difficult practice. "Some of the biggest businessmen and CEOs are practicing

Why men should take up

Yoga

yoga today as it's a great way to get fit and de-stress at the same time." Hussain, a businessman says, "I have noticed massive improvements after starting Artistic Yoga. I need less sleep and my energy levels are higher. My friends say I am looking much better as I am toned and have lost weight. My

stress levels are lower and I feel fresh every day. I look forward to many more positive changes in my life, thanks to Artistic Yoga."



The five-a-day weight-loss diet plan

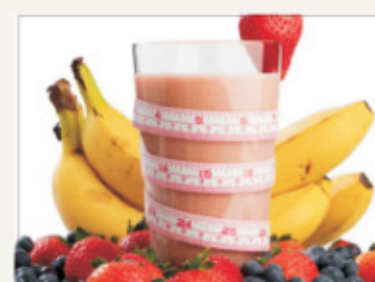
To meticulously stick to your body's requirement of five fruit-veggie portions every day, it is important that you know all about the programme.

The five-a-day plan — long hailed as the cornerstone of great health — stresses on the health benefits of eating five portions of fruits and vegetables every day. As most fruit and vegetables are low in fat and calories but high in fibre, they help in filling us up without piling on the pounds and keeping our hearts healthy. The fibre they contain keeps our digestive system healthy, preventing problems such as constipation, piles and bowel cancer. For instance, their soluble fibre helps lower cholesterol, thereby reducing the risk of heart disease.

Fruits and veggies also boost vitamin and mineral intake, including folate for a healthy nervous system and vitamin C for strong immunity and healthy skin and hair. They also provide potassium, which helps lower blood pressure and many antioxidants that help guard against problems such as heart disease, strokes, cancer, dementia, arthritis and even wrinkles.

Do fruit juices matter?

No matter how much fresh fruit juice you drink in a day, it is counted as only one portion. That is because



juices don't contain fibre (unlike a whole piece of fruit) and the juicing squeezes out the natural sugars found between the fruit cells, making them more harmful to teeth. As for juice drinks, they usually contain little juice, lots of sugar and hence don't count for much. Smoothies may count as two portions, but not more. If you're making your own smoothie, it needs to contain two pieces of fruit such as a banana and a pear, or one portion of fruit and a small glass of pure fruit juice.

Must fruits and veggies be eaten on their own to

count?

No. The fruits and veggies you add to dishes such as stir-fries, curries, stews, soups, pizzas, pasta, rice dishes, sauces and desserts all count towards your tally. As for baked beans, kidney beans, chick peas and lentils, they count as only one portion, even if you eat a lot of them. That is because nutritionally they are more similar to meat, poultry, fish and eggs rather than fruits-veggies.

What exactly is a

portion?

A portion of fresh fruits or veggies is 80 grams. The World Health Organisation recommends at least 400 grams of fruits and vegetables daily to prevent obesity, heart disease, cancer and type 2 diabetes. So breaking this 400 into five servings means each serving should be around 80 grams.

Shouldn't we eat more than five portions? Studies show our health may benefit even more with greater intakes of fruits-veggies. The World Cancer Research Fund recommends that, in future, we should aim for at least 600g of fruits and veggies daily; equivalent to six portions. Meanwhile, a study published

earlier this year in the European Heart Journal found people who ate eight portions of fruits and veggies each day had a 22 per cent lower chance of dying from heart disease than those who ate three portions. For each extra portion added, the risk was lowered by 4 per cent.

Should we eat different fruits and veggies? To get the most health benefits, it's best to vary your choices as different fruits and veggies contain different combinations of fibre, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants. Aim to eat five differently-coloured fruits and veggies each day.

How can we get kids to eat five-a-day? Don't be tempted to hide fruits and veggies in dishes as it would only keep them away. Children need to learn that fruits and veggies are tasty as well as beneficial for them, so get them involved in helping prepare meals and snacks that contain fruits and veggies.

Other ways to five-a-day

Add raisins to cereal. Make shakes and smoothies with fresh berries and bananas. Top pizzas with sweet corn, peppers and tomatoes. Make fruit skewers with chunks of pineapple, mango and melon. Serve meals with baked beans or corn on the cob. Mash potatoes with an equal amount of carrot.

Sharpshooter wanted in Delhi gym trainer's murder arrested after shootout

Court asks man to chant 'Bharat Mata ki Jai', salute Tricolour in granting bail

Delhi Police's Special Cell teamed up with local police in Mathura and arrested a prime suspect in the murder of a gym trainer in Delhi.

New Delhi. A member of the Lawrence Bishnoi and Hakim Baba gangs, who was allegedly involved in the murder of a Delhi gym trainer, was arrested following a shootout with police on Thursday. The arrest followed a joint operation by Delhi Police's Special Cell and Uttar Pradesh Police in Mathura.

Yogesh, a sharpshooter, is the prime suspect in the murder of Nadir Shah, who was killed outside the gym where he worked in Greater Kailash, Delhi, on September 12. His associate, Madhur, was arrested on October 12. A team from Delhi Police's Special Cell, acting on a tip, set up a joint operation with local police in Mathura. Around 4 a.m., they spotted Raju on a motorcycle near Baad railway station on the Agra-Mathura Highway, police said.



When Raju saw the police, he fired three shots. Officers returned fire with two rounds in self-defence. Raju was hit in the left leg and taken to the hospital, police said. Authorities recovered a .32-caliber pistol,

seven live rounds, three spent cartridges, and an unregistered motorcycle from the scene.

DELHI GYM TRAINER'S MURDER

In CCTV footage that captured the incident, Nadir Shah, 35, is seen talking to another man while standing next to a black SUV. A man in a checked shirt approaches and opens fire at Shah, while his companion flees. The attacker then escapes on a bike.

According to police sources, the shooter fired 11 bullets at Shah, of which eight hit him. The victim died in a hospital.

After the incident on September 12, Rohit Godara, an aide of Lawrence Bishnoi's close associate Goldy Brar, posted on his social media claiming responsibility for the murder.

The high court ordered the man to salute the Tricolour and chant 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' on the first and fourth Tuesday of every month till the end of his trial.

New Delhi. The Madhya Pradesh High Court has granted bail to a man accused of shouting a pro-Pakistan slogan and directed him to salute the national flag at a Bhopal police station 21 times and raise 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' slogan twice a month till the end of the trial.

The accused, identified as Faizal alias Faizan, was arrested in May following the registration of an FIR at Bhopal's Misrod police station. He was charged under Section 153B of the Indian Penal Code, which addresses imputations and assertions that can incite enmity between different groups. The prosecution contended that Faizan's actions promoted discord and undermined the country's integrity.

In the court's ruling, Justice Paliwal stated that Faizan could be released on bail upon furnishing a personal bond of Rs 50,000, along with one solvent surety of the same amount. This measure was put in place to ensure his regular appearance before the trial court throughout the legal proceedings.

Furthermore, the court imposed several unique conditions as part of the bail. Faizan is required to report to the Misrod police station on the first and fourth Tuesday of every month until the conclusion of his trial.

During these visits, he must salute the 'national flag unfurled at the police station 21 times and chant the slogan 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' twice. The court emphasised that these conditions were designed to instil in him a greater sense of pride for the country in which he was born and raised.

"After investigation, a charge sheet has been filed," the court order noted.

The prosecution's case rested on evidence including a video in which Faizan was seen openly shouting slogans supportive of Pakistan while denouncing India.

The state government's counsel opposed the bail request, arguing that Faizan was a habitual offender with a concerning criminal history, which reportedly includes 14 previous cases against him.

In response, Faizan's defence counsel maintained that he had been falsely implicated in this matter, insisting that the charges were unfounded. However, the court acknowledged the evidence presented, which suggested otherwise.

Centre hands over security of nine 'high-risk' VIPs to CRPF, removes commandos

The transfer of duties between the two forces under the Minister of Home Affairs is expected to be completed within a month, officials said.

New Delhi. The Union government has ordered the complete withdrawal of the counter-terrorist commando force NSG from VIP security duties and handing over its nine "high-risk" VIPs to the CRPF by the next month, official sources said Wednesday.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also sanctioned a fresh battalion of specially trained personnel, recently withdrawn from Parliament security duties, to be attached to the CRPF VIP security wing. Sources said the protection of nine 'Z plus' category VIPs being guarded by the 'black cat' commandos of the National Security Guard (NSG) -- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, his predecessor and BSP supreme Mayawati, Union defence minister Rajnath Singh, veteran BJP leader and former deputy prime minister L K Advani, Union shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal, BJP leader and ex Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman



Singh, former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister and Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) president Ghulam Nabi Azad, National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu -- will now be guarded by the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The transfer of duties between the two forces under the MHA is expected to be completed within a month, they said. The CRPF, which has six VIP security battalions, has been asked to absorb a seventh

battalion for this purpose. The fresh battalion is the one that used to guard the Parliament till a few months back. After a security breach that took place last year, the Parliament security was handed over to the CISF from the CRPF, a senior officer told. As part of the taking over the new task, a team of Andhra Pradesh Police was in Delhi recently for the change of its chief minister's security from the NSG to the CRPF, the sources said.

Two among these nine VIPs will also have the advanced security liaison (ASL) protocol being undertaken by the CRPF -- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and UP Chief Minister Adityanath, as per the sources.

ASL involves an advance reconnaissance of the location to be visited by the VIP. The CRPF undertakes such a protocol for five of its VIPs including Home Minister Amit Shah, former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and three Gandhi family Congress leaders.

Couple, Army and IAF officers, die by suicide 240 km apart: Cremate us together

New Delhi. An Indian Air Force Flight Lieutenant allegedly died by suicide in Agra. Unable to bear the shock, his Army officer wife also took her own life by hanging herself inside a guest house at the Delhi Cantonment.

Police have recovered the woman's suicide note in which she requested to be "cremated together, hand-in-hand" with her husband, Deendayal Deep.

IAF Flight Lieutenant Deendayal Deep was posted to the Air Force Station in Agra, while his Army Captain wife, Renu Tanwar lived in a guest house at the Delhi Cantonment.

While Deep, a resident of Bihar, was posted at the Air Force Station in Agra, his wife, Renu Tanwar lived at the Garouta Officers Guest House in Delhi Cantonment. The couple had a love marriage in 2022.

The Delhi Police received information of the incident only on

Wednesday. According to information, Deep took the drastic step on Monday night, and Renu followed a day later. Police found Renu's body hanging from a fan inside the guest house on Tuesday night. The reason for Deep killing himself is yet to be determined.

20 dead in Bihar's Siwan after consuming spurious liquor



New Delhi. At least 20 people have died after consuming spurious liquor in Bihar's Siwan. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar announced compensation of Rs 4 lakh each for the families of those who died in the incident. However, he said that the families would need to give a written undertaking in support of alcohol ban in the state.

A top police official said that people fell sick after consuming spurious liquor on October 15. He added that three individuals have been arrested while FIRs have been filed against eight others.

Police said that the spurious liquor came from Siwan and that teams have been formed to probe the matter. The official claimed that raids are being conducted in connection with the case and information about the substance will only be known after the post-mortem report comes out.

Meanwhile, the RJD slammed the NDA government in Bihar over deaths due to consumption of spurious liquor. "People have lost their lives by drinking spurious liquor. It is very sad and a matter of concern that despite the liquor ban law being in force in Bihar, spurious liquor is available. Every time during Holi and Diwali, it is seen how people die due to spurious liquor. The NDA government is directly responsible for this," RJD leader Mrityunjay Tiwari said.

Siwan Councillor Sushil Kumar Dablu accused the government of hiding the exact number of casualties. He said the number of deaths in the incident is nearing 50 while as many are hospitalised.

"The administration always reports false figures... They are trying to cover up. Had the administration been alert, such an incident would never have happened. Ever since liquor has been banned in the state, such incidents have happened very frequently," he said.

Former Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav said people haven't died but have been "murdered". He said the number of casualties has increased to 30 while several have even lost their eyesight.

Poll officer's chopper lands in remote Uttarakhand village after mid-air snag

The helicopter took off on Thursday morning once the weather cleared and successfully reached the Munsyari Tehsil headquarters.

Rajiv Kumar spent night in uninhabited house due to sub-zero temperatures. Helicopter reached Munsyari Tehsil after weather cleared. Kumar planned to visit remote polling stations in Pithoragarh.

New Delhi. A helicopter carrying Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar was forced to make an emergency landing in a remote village near Munsyari on Wednesday due to adverse weather conditions. He spent the night in an uninhabited house, accompanied by two pilots and two election officials, in sub-zero temperatures.

The helicopter took off on Thursday morning once the weather cleared and successfully reached the Munsyari Tehsil headquarters, according to sources.

Kumar had planned to visit several remote polling stations in Pithoragarh and 14 nearby



villages to understand the challenges faced by election officials and the electorate in high-altitude areas.

Pithoragarh District Magistrate Vinod Girish Goswami reported that the helicopter, en route to Milam Glacier, left at around 1

PM on Wednesday but landed at a helipad in Ralam village, 42 km away, at approximately 1:30 PM due to cloudy weather and low visibility.

This is not Kumar's first venture into remote polling locations. After assuming office in 2022, he trekked to Dumak village in Chamoli district to witness firsthand the difficulties faced by polling staff.

Following that visit, district election officers reviewed and optimised the route maps for polling stations that required two to three days of trekking. A special backpack for carrying Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) was also introduced for such challenging terrains.

Badruddin Ajmal claims Parliament complex, most areas of Delhi under Waqf land

Badruddin Ajmal also claimed that the area around Vasant Vihar, which houses diplomatic missions, extending to the Delhi airport has been built on Waqf property.

New Delhi. AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal sparked a controversy after claiming that the Parliament building and its surrounding areas in Delhi were built on Waqf property. Ajmal's remarks were called out by Union Minister Kiren Rijju, who said India had the "largest Waqf properties" and they should be utilised for the welfare of women and children of the Muslim community.

Speaking to reporters, the Dhubri MP from Assam also claimed that the area around Vasant Vihar, which houses over 50 diplomatic missions of foreign countries, extending to the Delhi airport has been built on Waqf property.

"The Parliament building is also part of Waqf property. Even the airport was constructed on Waqf land. It is wrong to use Waqf land without permission. Their government will soon fall over

this Waqf board issue," Ajmal said. Reacting to the Assam MP's remark, Kiren Rijju appealed to all MPs to support the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

"Parliament and municipal buildings, airports, cities and villages need protection. India has the largest

Waqf properties in the world. We must use them for the welfare of women, children and backward groups within the Muslim community," Rijju tweeted.

Ajmal's remark comes at a time when the Waqf bill is being examined by a joint parliamentary committee (JPC). The Waqf

(Amendment) Bill was tabled by the Centre on July 28. However, it saw strong objections from opposition parties.

The legislation aims to restrict the authority of Waqf boards to designate any property or area as "waqf property".

'DDA NOC not required for power meters in unauthorised colonies': Delhi CM

NEW DELHI. The Delhi government has removed the requirement for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from DDA to install electricity meters in unauthorised colonies. Announcing the decision at a press conference on Wednesday, Chief Minister Atishi said that the move is aimed at tackling corruption and making the process smoother for residents who previously faced delays due to bureaucratic inefficiencies.

"Previously, those who paid bribes could get electricity connections, while others were left powerless," Atishi stated. "We've issued directives to prevent any further obstacles in these areas. The NOC process often led to unnecessary delays, forcing people to bribe officials and go through a tiresome ordeal just to get the certificate," she added. Atishi said that many residents from unauthorised colonies had raised complaints about difficulties in obtaining electricity connections. According to her, there are currently 1,731 illegal colonies in Delhi, where residents will now be able to install electricity meters without requiring a NOC.

The Chief Minister also accused the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) of causing unnecessary problems for people in these colonies, assuring that the Delhi government would ensure residents are not further troubled. Vijender Gupta, Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, called the announcement misleading. "Atishi's press conference was filled with half-truths. The NOC requirement had already been lifted by the Lieutenant Governor on October 1, following public demand. Residents have been receiving electricity connections since then, and this new announcement is just an attempt by the AAP government to take undeserved credit," Gupta said. He added that the NOC was originally tied to the DDA and had already been abolished, rendering the Delhi government's latest decision redundant. Electricity and its related issues have become a contentious issue as the Delhi assembly elections are only months away.

Top 5 myths about Weight Loss

According to Tim, some common nutrition and exercise myths are...

Myth 1: Exercise makes you eat more and gain weight

We think that all our hard work at the gym will sabotage our weight loss efforts, as we end up eating more after we exercise. Tim says, 'every little bit of exercise can help in shifting unwanted flab.' According to various researches, exercise is the best way to reduce body fat. The mantra is, the more you move, the more you lose.

Myth 2: 'Negative calorie foods' like celery burn up more energy

There is actually no such thing as 'negative calorie food'. Tim says, 'Even the humble stick of celery, while being about 95% water, still contains a small amount of kilojoules from carbohydrate (65 kJ to be exact).' He further explains, 'There certainly is an energy cost to our body in digesting food, but that equates to about 10% of the energy in the food. So even celery adds some kilojoules to our diet, and while it's a small number, it's definitely not a negative number.'

Myth 3: A slow metabolism is to blame for most people's weight gain

People, who try to lose weight, always blame it on metabolism for their failure or slow down.

According to some research, resting metabolism, which is the number of kilojoules used by the body at rest, increase

Nowadays, we are constantly bombarded by myths about food, sex, exercise, nutrition and pretty much everything else. Tim Crowe - Nutrition Academic at Deakin University and freelance writer at Thinking Nutrition helps us bust some of these myths.

s rather than decreasing as people gain more weight. As someone gains more weight from storing fat, the body needs to support that extra weight so more muscle is added. So, the conclusion is, the more muscle you have, the higher your metabolic rate tends to be even at rest.

Myth 4: You need to exercise in the 'fat burning zone'

Tim says, 'the truth is, you need to exercise at a low-to-moderate level of intensity to burn fat. Yes, it is true that the body burns the greatest percentage of

fat at lower intensities of aerobic exercise, but at higher intensities you burn way more total kilojoules - and more fat kilojoules overall.

If you do low intensity workouts, it will help promote weight and fat loss; but you need to do them for a longer period.

Myth 5: You gain weight when you stop smoking

The truth is, when you check over a long period of time, smokers do not control their weight any better than non-smokers. In fact, according to studies, very heavy smokers gain more weight than light smokers. Tim says, the 'thin smoker' image arises because thin people are more likely to take up the habit in the first place. Once they start smoking, they gain just as much, and sometimes even more, weight as the rest of the non-smoking population.'



To control cholesterol, turn to pistachios

Simple dietary changes like adding pistachio nuts to the diet can lead to multiple health benefits -- diabetes could be controlled, and the propensity for heart disease may be reduced in Indians, a new study has found.



The study, the first of its kind with a trial period of six months, was carried out by the Diabetes Foundation of India (DFI) and the National Diabetes, Obesity and Cholesterol Foundation. The results of the study were released Monday, even as the prevalence of obesity and diabetes are rapidly rising in India.

Nuts (mainly pistachios, almonds and walnuts) have been shown to have

beneficial effects on glycaemic and lipid parameters.

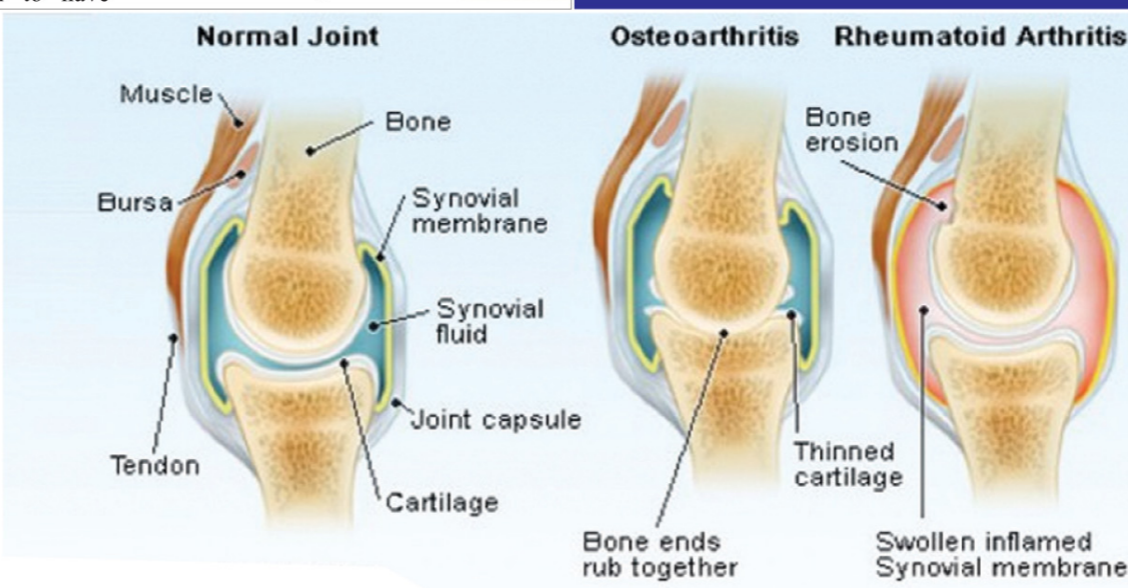
Pistachios have a low glycaemic index, are naturally cholesterol free, and are source of protein, fibre and antioxidants, the study found.

These properties make consumption of pistachios potentially useful for those at risk for obesity and heart disease.

"Pistachios are part of the traditional Indian diet. However, the health effects have not been clearly understood. This study shows multifaceted beneficial effects of pistachios suitable for the Indian body type, for the alleviation of multiple risk factors," said Anoop Mishra, chairman, Fortis Centre of Excellence for Diabetes Metabolic Diseases and Endocrinology (CDOC).

Seema Gulati, research head at the National Diabetes, Obesity and Cholesterol Foundation, said: "Based on this study, we can say that pistachios provide an excellent snack option, especially for those at risk of metabolic problems and diabetes. They provide a beneficial effect in two ways: One, by displacing energy from other unhealthy sources, and second, due to their own intrinsic nutritional properties".

Diabetes has taken epidemic proportions in India, and emerged as one of the most serious healthcare problems.



Top 20 tips to prevent Arthritis

Arthritis in different forms affects a large number of people all over the world. There can be primary and secondary causes of arthritis, the most common being a degenerative form of arthritis, which can be due to the ageing process. There is also wear and tear of the cartilage between the two articulating bones, which forms the joint and in some cases, due to

osteoporosis bones are already weaker and softer and susceptible to deformation. Dr. Rajesh Badiyani, Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, Sai Snehdip Hospital, Navi Mumbai lists out the 20 ways to prevent arthritis in men and women. Physical activity like choose stairs instead of lifts, walk 500 metres before getting into the car.

- ❖ Start mild to moderate exercises and weight management.
- ❖ Indulge in distressing activities like meditation.
- ❖ Protect your joints from fresh injury as well as the existing injuries.
- ❖ Drink plenty of water.
- ❖ Increase your calcium intake.
- ❖ Increase your vitamin intake.
- ❖ Treat injuries.
- ❖ Reduce repetitive motion in your daily life.
- ❖ Avoid smoking.
- ❖ Avoid alcohol consumption as it weakens bone health and structure.
- ❖ Try taking glucosamine and chondroitin.

Drink milk regularly, and in case you are lactose intolerant than switch to calcium and broccoli for calcium intake.

For a post menopausal woman, hormone replacement therapy and additional calcium and vitamin D are important.

Practice yoga or simple stretching.

➤ Use of good body mechanics.

➤ Make are that your shoes are the right size and make sure that they are padded.

➤ Avoid inflammatory foods
Often chronic inflammation is associated with a host of diseases, some of which are even life threatening like cancer and heart disease. You will be surprised to find that most of the internal inflammatory conditions occur due to the increased consumption of certain foods such as: salt, sugar, sweeteners, alcohol, caffeine, injected meat, common cooking oil, trans fats and red meat.

Home remedies for arthritis

- ❖ One teaspoon of honey and apple cider vinegar each with a cup of warm water
- ❖ Ginger
- ❖ Mustard oil
- ❖ Turmeric
- ❖ Epsom salt
- ❖ Cinnamon
- ❖ Fish oil
- ❖ Alfalfa
- ❖ Cherries
- ❖ Borage

Hyundai IPO: Big drop in GMP on day 3, should you subscribe

New Delhi. Hyundai Motor India's initial public offering (IPO), the largest in India's history, is struggling to gain traction on its final day, with just 46% subscription so far. Despite its size, the IPO hasn't attracted much interest from investors, unlike other recent public issues that saw massive oversubscriptions.

So far, qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) have subscribed to only 65% of the shares reserved for them, while non-institutional buyers (like high net worth individuals) have subscribed 29%. Retail investors have subscribed to 41% of the shares allotted to them, while only the employee portion has been oversubscribed. According to market analysts, the Hyundai IPO is struggling due to concerns about its valuation. Many analysts believe the company is overvalued at its current price range, which has made potential investors cautious.

LATEST GREY MARKET PREMIUM (GMP)

The grey market premium (GMP), a common measure of investor sentiment, has also dropped significantly. As of now, the GMP stands at just Rs 17, suggesting a mere 0.87% listing gain at Rs 1,977 compared to the IPO price of Rs 1,960. While GMP is not always a reliable indicator of how a stock will perform on listing day, this drop aligns with analysts' views on the IPO's valuation.

SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE?

Most analysts caution investors against expecting quick gains from Hyundai's listing, recommending instead that they focus on the company's long-term growth potential. With a solid presence in the Indian market, Hyundai plans to expand its product lineup and focus on premium vehicles. However, some experts caution that the high valuation of the IPO leaves less room for short-term gains. Amar Nandu from SAMCO Securities points out that Hyundai is priced much higher than its competitor Maruti Suzuki, which could limit returns for investors looking for a quick profit.

Moreover, because the IPO is so large, many applicants are expected to receive shares. This wide distribution could prevent a big price surge after the listing, reducing short-term profit potential.

TRAI refuses to issue consultation paper for spectrum allocation

NEW DELHI. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Wednesday refused to issue a new consultation paper for spectrum allocation to satellite communication players.

This move goes against the demand of India's top telecom service provider, Reliance Jio, which advocates for an auction method for satellite spectrum allocation. Anil Kumar Lahoti, chairman of TRAI, said it is reviewing the comments on the existing consultation paper on spectrum allocation to firms from all stakeholders. However, he didn't address the possibility of issuing another consultation paper.

"We are receiving, and we keep on receiving multiple views from various stakeholders. They are in different dimensions and directions. As a regulator, we consider all stakeholders' views and then take a considered view that is in the best interest of all," said Lahoti.

TRAI released paper on September 27, 2024, seeking comments on frequency bands, pricing models, and spectrum assignment duration for satellite companies. Jio has urged TRAI to revise the paper to ensure a level playing field by including the option for satellite spectrum auction. While Bharti Airtel initially supported administrative allocation, has since shifted its stance in favour of auction.

Telecom demand auction

This move goes against the demand of India's top telecom service provider, Reliance Jio, which advocates for an auction method for satellite spectrum allocation

Over Rs 75 per kg for tomatoes, Rs 50 per kg for onions: 29% households cut down vegetable consumption

NEW DELHI. Amid rising prices and budgetary constraints, close to 29 per cent Indian households that were part of a thin-sample survey reported having reduced the consumption of essential and green vegetables to cope with the unbridled price rise in the last few months.

One out of two Indian households are now paying over Rs 75 per kg for tomatoes, Rs 50 plus per kg for onions and over Rs 40 per kg for potatoes, the survey conducted by LocalCircles said. "In the case of potato, tomato, onion and other vegetables this may be a difficult choice if they are intrinsic to the family diet," it said. The survey said 29 per cent out of 14,619 consumers included in the study said that they "have reduced consumption somewhat to stay within budget", 42 per cent stated that they "have kept consumption the same and paid more while 29 per cent stated that they "have kept consumption the same but buying from sources that sell at lower prices". Nearly 56 per cent of 15,260 consumers who responded to the survey said that they bought "tomato for Rs 75 or more, potato for Rs 40 or more and onion for Rs 50 or more" while 29 per cent said that they bought "tomato for Rs 50-75, potato for Rs 30-40 and onion for Rs 40-50" and 6 per cent of respondents said they bought "tomato for Rs 50 or less, potato for Rs 30 or less and onion for Rs 40 or less". Though the government has stepped in to procure onion and sell it at subsidised prices, this benefit is restricted to residents in a few cities. The government should either ensure such interventions are at a national level or provide relief by reducing petrol and diesel prices to assist with the budget squeeze faced by many households. Vegetable prices have spiked in most cities due to disruption in supplies and damage to several crops. While the summer monsoon is over, adequate supplies of many crops like onion, tomato, green leafy vegetables is not arriving in the wholesale markets leading to higher-than-normal prices in the retail market, such that the central government through state-owned organisations is providing subsidised onions in cities like Delhi.

'New' India's ACs alone will consume more power than all of Mexico by 2035

New Delhi. India is on the verge of becoming a global energy giant, with its power consumption set to rise rapidly in the coming years. According to a new report by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the country's growing demand for energy will soon outpace that of many nations, with air conditioners alone expected to consume more electricity than the entire power usage of Mexico by 2035.

INDIA'S ENERGY SURGE

India is currently the world's most populous country and is projected to become the third-largest economy by 2028. This growth is driving the demand for energy across all sectors. The IEA's World Energy Outlook 2024 predicts that India will lead the world in energy demand growth over the next decade. The demand for oil, gas, coal, electricity, and renewable energy will rise sharply, making India a key player in the global energy market. As the country continues to grow, it is adding over 12,000 cars to its roads daily. Additionally, the built-up space in India is expanding at an

incredible rate, increasing by more than 1 billion square metres annually—equivalent to the total built space in South Africa today. These trends are expected to continue through 2035.

POWER DEMAND FROM AIR CONDITIONERS

One of the most striking predictions from the IEA report is that the number of air conditioners in India will grow more than 4.5 times by 2035. This increase will result in the country's air conditioning systems consuming more electricity than Mexico's entire power demand in the same year. The rise in air conditioner use reflects the growing middle class, urbanisation, and higher standards of living.

RISE IN OIL AND COAL DEMAND

India is also expected to see significant growth in oil consumption, with demand projected to increase by nearly 2 million barrels per day by 2035. This makes India the main source of global oil demand growth. At the same time, coal will remain a key energy source for the country, particularly for industries like



steel and cement production. The IEA report states that India's steel production is set to increase by 70% by 2035, while cement output is expected to grow by 55%. These industries rely heavily on coal, which will continue to play a significant role in meeting India's energy needs. By 2030, coal-fired power plants are expected to generate over 15% more electricity than they do today, with coal still accounting for a large share of India's power generation.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AND NET ZERO GOALS

Despite its growing demand for coal, India

is also focusing on renewable energy and has committed to achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2070. According to the IEA, India is expected to have the world's third-largest battery storage capacity by 2030, which will help manage the increasing amount of electricity generated from renewable sources like solar power. In the "Stated Policies Scenario" (STEPS) outlined by the IEA, India's total energy demand will increase by nearly 35% by 2035, with its electricity generation capacity nearly tripling to 1,400 gigawatts (GW).

Solar power is expected to play a major role in this expansion, but coal will still account for a large portion of the energy mix due to its reliability and lower costs compared to solar power. As part of its long-term energy strategy, India aims to reduce its dependence on fossil fuels and increase the use of clean energy. By 2035, clean power generation is expected to be nearly 20% higher than in the STEPS scenario.

Meta job cuts hit WhatsApp, Instagram teams as tech layoffs drag on

NEW DELHI. Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, has once again begun laying off employees across various divisions, including WhatsApp, Instagram, and Reality Labs. The layoffs were reported by The Verge and mark another chapter in the ongoing wave of job reductions that have been affecting the tech industry.



Some of the affected employees, such as Jane Manchun Wong, who was part of Meta's Threads team and known for uncovering new app features, have openly shared their experiences of being laid off. Wong joined Meta in 2023 and was involved with developing its Threads platform. Meta spokesperson Dave Arnold commented on the situation, explaining that these layoffs are part of the company's strategy to reorganise its resources to better align with its long-term goals. "When a role is eliminated, we work hard to find other opportunities for impacted employees," Arnold said.

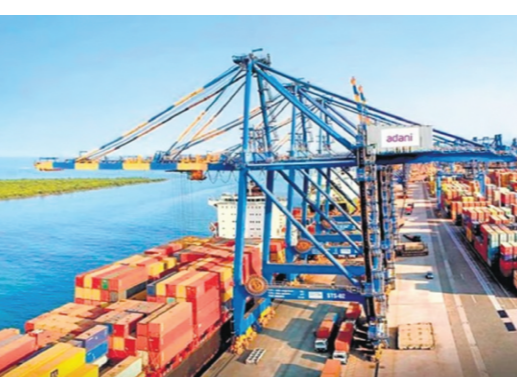
The recent layoffs follow a pattern of restructuring that Meta has been pursuing for more than a year. Earlier this year, Meta's Reality Labs division, which focusses on developing virtual and augmented reality products, was hit with job cuts. These moves have been part of CEO Mark Zuckerberg's larger "year of efficiency" plan, aimed at making the company more streamlined and effective.

In November 2022, Meta initiated its first round of major layoffs, cutting around 11,000 jobs after the company's workforce grew rapidly during the pandemic. At the time, Meta had

misjudged the continued demand for digital services after lockdowns ended, which led to an over-expansion of its staff. When the anticipated growth did not materialise, the company found itself overstaffed and began the process of scaling back. The layoffs resumed in 2023, when another 10,000 jobs were cut as part of Meta's efficiency drive. These cuts targeted different parts of the company, including recruiting and technical roles. Zuckerberg described 2023 as Meta's "year of efficiency," focusing on streamlining operations, reducing redundancy, and shifting resources to priority areas such as the development of the metaverse and AI-driven technologies. Meta is not alone in reducing its workforce. The broader tech industry has experienced a wave of layoffs over the past year, as companies adjust to the post-pandemic economic landscape. Companies like Google, Amazon, and Microsoft have also announced layoffs, reflecting a wider trend in the tech sector.

India's merchandise trade deficit narrows to five-month low in Sept

NEW DELHI. The country's merchandise trade deficit declined five-month low to \$20.78 billion in September, attributed to a slowdown in import growth to 1.6% and a slight increase in merchandise exports by 0.5%. Goods trade deficit had reached a 10-month high of \$29.7 billion in August. Goods exports amounted to \$34.58 billion, while imports reached \$55.36 billion. Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal noted that despite various challenges, merchandise exports showed strong performance in the first half of FY24. Sequentially, goods exports have shown a fall in recent months, recording \$29.65 billion in August, \$33.98 billion in July, \$35.20 billion in June, and \$38.13 billion in May. Briefing media, Barthwal



highlighted the resilience of exports in the face of challenging conditions. He said engineering goods now represent nearly a quarter of total exports. Growth in sectors such as organic and inorganic chemicals, plastics, pharma and ready-made garments has contributed to this

performance. Barthwal said despite global challenges, these sectors have been pivotal in driving export growth, bolstering India's position as a major player in global trade. In September, goods imports totalled \$55.36 billion, slightly higher than \$54.49 billion in the same month last year but significantly lower than August's \$64.36 billion. This fall indicates a weakening domestic demand. Imports have shown fluctuations in recent months, with figures of \$57.48 billion in July, \$56.18 billion in June, and \$61.91 billion in May. Services exports rose to \$30.61 billion, up from \$28.42 billion during the same period last year.

Hoax bomb threat on flights: Aviation industry's new financial headache

In the past few days, Indian airlines have faced multiple hoaxes, forcing flight diversions and delays, piling up massive operational costs.

NEW DELHI. Imagine boarding a flight, excited for a long-awaited holiday, only to hear the captain announce a sudden diversion due to a bomb threat. The chaos and confusion that follows aren't just stressful for passengers but are now becoming a costly headache for airlines. In the past few days, Indian airlines have faced multiple hoaxes, forcing flight diversions and delays, piling up massive operational costs. What seems like a harmless prank to some is quickly turning into a financial storm for an industry already battling sky-high expenses during its busiest travel season. The latest being a Vistara flight operating from Frankfurt to Mumbai. It received a

security threat on social media on Wednesday, an airline spokesperson said, adding that the aircraft was taken to an isolation bay for inspection after landing safely at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport. In the past three days, Indian airlines have experienced 13 bomb hoaxes, forcing flight diversions, delays, and cancellations. While these threats often turn out to be false alarms, they are causing real financial losses for airlines, which are already struggling with rising expenses in one of the busiest travel periods of the year. "While we don't have an exact figure yet, airlines are facing major costs related to crew, passengers, and preserving goodwill. We are not in a good position to manage these diversions, especially with the festive season ramping up occupancy," reported BusinessToday quoting an industry insider. When a bomb threat is received, airlines are required to take immediate action, which includes diverting flights, conducting security checks, and ensuring the safety of passengers and crew. These measures come with significant costs.



Airlines face extra expenses such as overtime pay for crew, additional fuel for detours, and hotel stays for stranded passengers. One example is an Air India flight from Mumbai to New York, which had to be rerouted to Delhi due to a bomb scare. According to CNBC TV18 report, the diversion cost the airline around Rs 24 lakh for fuel alone, with a further Rs 12 lakh spent on accommodating passengers in Delhi. Similar scenarios have unfolded with other airlines, leading to mounting losses. Flight delays also add to the problem. Rerouting planes mid-air and rescheduling departures not only increase fuel costs but also disrupt crew schedules. In some cases, airlines must

arrange overnight stays for passengers, book new landing slots, and bring in fresh crew due to duty limitations. All of this makes handling bomb threats a costly affair. Airlines aren't the only ones affected. Airport operations are also thrown into chaos as authorities carry out security checks and investigations. Delays can cause a domino effect, impacting other flights and leading to further disruptions. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA), along with other agencies like the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), is actively working to address the issue. A Bomb Threat Assessment Committee has been formed to assess the risks and recommend countermeasures to prevent future hoaxes. Law enforcement agencies are also involved in identifying the sources of these hoax calls. Once the culprits are apprehended, the Ministry is considering adding them to a no-fly list to prevent future incidents. Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has held meetings with the Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and ministry officials to discuss the way forward.



1%-2%. That is lower than the industry's expectation of at least 5%-6%. Meanwhile, shares of Infosys rose 1.5% ahead of its Q2 results. Other IT stocks gained today, citing strong gains in the US markets due to strong corporate earnings. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "Dow reaching yet another record high and the resilience of the US economy coupled with impressive corporate earnings indicate the continuation of this bull rally in the mother market of the US." "With the Fed expected to continue the rate cut with another 25bp cut in the next policy meeting, S&P 500 has the potential to move past the 6,000 level bringing cheer to other equity markets," he noted. "In India the consolidation around Nifty 25,000 level is likely to be extended with bouts of FII selling and DII buying. The reemergence of outperformance of smallcaps driven by liquidity is again becoming a cause of concern," he added.

"Coming days will witness lots of stock-specific action in response to Q2 results. Expect a positive response to results of Financials. IT stocks can be bought on dips."

NEWS BOX

Rohit aims for a fresh start vs NZ with World Test Championship final in mind

New Delhi. Indian captain Rohit Sharma said that the Indian team aim for a fresh start against New Zealand with the World Test Championship 2023-25 final. Rohit said that the Indian team will take confidence from their previous wins to further strengthen their position at the top of the WTC ranking. He won the toss and opted to bat first on a gloomy Day 2 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium after the opening day was washed out completely. Rohit further said that the aim would be to get a result despite losing one day of the 1st Test to rain. India introduced two changes, with Kuldeep Yadav and Sarfaraz Khan making it to the playing XI. "[The pitch has] been under the covers for a couple of days, and we do understand it will be sticky to start with. Keeping that in mind, we wanted to put runs on the board. Look, it's a tricky one because you lose the entire day and have four days to play. A lot can happen over the four days as well, and you want to get the result as much as possible. The last few Tests we played, we played well, and we can get confidence from that and the table looks brilliant. We assess where we are and decide



what needs to be done as a team. We have played well in the last few Test matches. A fresh series for us and we want to start well. From the last Test, two changes: Gill misses out, not 100%, so Sarfaraz comes in and Kuldeep in for Akash Deep." Rohit said during the toss. New Zealand went with a three-pace attack and India opted for two pacers, namely Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj. India went with three spinners with Kuldeep Yadav getting a go ahead of Axar Patel to team up with Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja. Shubman Gill misses out as he is still recovering from a stiff neck. In his absence, Sarfaraz Khan, who is coming fresh after scoring a double hundred in the Irani Cup for Mumbai, has been named in the team. KL Rahul is expected to take up Gill's No. 3 spot with Sarfaraz batting at the usual No. 5 position.

Dale Steyn confirms exit as SRH bowling coach: Won't be returning for IPL 2025

New Delhi. Former South African fast bowler Dale Steyn has confirmed that he will not be returning as the bowling coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad for the upcoming IPL season. However, Steyn will continue his coaching duties with Sunrisers Eastern Cape in the SA20 league.

Earlier this year, Steyn withdrew from IPL 2024 for personal reasons, prompting Sunrisers to appoint former New Zealand cricketer James Franklin as their bowling coach, working alongside head coach Daniel Vettori. The former South African bowler took to X to make the announcement and revealed that he will continue his work with SRH's sister franchise, Sunrisers Eastern Cape. Steyn said that he is hoping to see the defending SA20 champions make it 3 in a row. "Cricket announcement. A big thank you to Sunrisers Hyderabad for my few years with them as bowling coach at the IPL. Unfortunately, I won't be returning for IPL 2025. However, I will continue to work with Sunrisers Eastern Cape in the SA20 here in South Africa." Two time winners here in



SA20, let's try make it THREE in a row," read the tweet from Steyn. During his IPL career, the 41-year-old Steyn represented teams like Deccan Chargers (now defunct), Royal Challengers Bangalore, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and Gujarat Lions (now defunct). His last appearance as a player came with RCB in 2020 before joining Sunrisers as their bowling coach in 2022. He is credited with significantly aiding the progress of pacers like Umran Malik.

Also Read: Shreyanka, Fatima Sana win hearts with adorable gestures

SRH reached the IPL 2024 final but were defeated by KKR, marking their first appearance in the final since 2018. Given the team's success under the Vettori-Franklin partnership, they may opt to retain their coaching setup for the next season.

Sajid Khan's emotional celebration after 7-wicket haul on Test return viral

Sajid Khan took 7 wickets against England as he recorded his 2nd five-wicket haul in Test cricket for Pakistan. The team shared an emotional moment as the players gathered to hug Sajid as he completed the milestone.



New Delhi. Pakistan's off-spinner Sajid Khan picked up his 2nd five-wicket haul in Test cricket during Day 3 of the 2nd Test against England in Multan. Sajid picked up seven wickets against England to lead Pakistan's charge in the 2nd Test. His spell of 7/111 in 26.2 overs is also the best bowling figures at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The spin duo of Noman Ali and Sajid Khan spun their web to share 10 wickets between them to bundle England out at 291. The visitors trailed by 75 runs as they were strangled by the spin. Sajid had four bowled dismissals in the innings with the victims being Ollie Pope, Joe Root,

Harry Brook and Matthew Potts. He became only the fourth Pakistan spinner with four or more such dismissals. The previous Pakistan spinner with four or more bowled dismissals in an innings was Abdul Qadir in Karachi in 1987-88, also against England. The previous spinner from any country to effect four or bowled dismissals in the first innings (of the team) in a Test was Imran Tahir against

A dream return for Sajid Khan

It was Sajid's spell on Day 2 which triggered England's collapse as they slipped from

211/2 to 225/6. For Sajid, the dismissal of Root was a personal milestone, one he described as his "dream wicket." England's opener Ben Duckett hammered an aggressive century, steering England to a commanding 211 for 2 before Sajid turned the tide with a late flurry of wickets. England collapsed spectacularly from a position of dominance, losing five wickets in the final session to end the day at 239 for 6, still trailing Pakistan's first-innings total of 366 by 127 runs. In the post-match press conference, an elated Sajid shared the significance of Root's wicket. "As soon as Joe Root came to bat, I told him I've played against your brother in England, but you are my dream wicket, so he started laughing. But that was my dream and most prized wicket today," Sajid revealed, with a smile. Reflecting on his journey, Sajid spoke passionately about his struggles and his pride in representing Pakistan. "If I look back at my career, I've struggled a lot and gotten here. Now I'm playing for the Pakistan star on my chest, which gives me jazba. My father was from the Pakistan army, and I play just for Pakistan and for the star on my chest. All my energy and passion is because of the star, and in that, Allah gave me respect," Sajid added, his voice brimming with emotion.

Edulji welcomes David in ICC Hall of Fame: Can't think of anyone more deserving

Former India captain Neetu David in Class of 2024 Hall of Fame

- Neetu David is a chairman of selectors for the Indian women's team
- Neetu David holds the record for the best figures by an Indian woman in Tests



New Delhi. Former India captain Diana Edulji warmly welcomed Neetu David into the ICC Hall of Fame, and described the fellow left-arm spinner as the perfect addition to the prestigious group. Edulji, who became the first Indian woman to be inducted last November, expressed her joy in an open letter addressed to David, released by the ICC. Former England captain Alastair Cook, former South Africa skipper AB de Villiers and India women's cricket great Neetu David were inducted into the International Cricket Council (ICC) Hall of Fame on Wednesday, October 16.

me you were set for big things, and you proved me right." Neetu David's illustrious career David, now 47, is India's second-highest wicket-taker in ODIs with 141 wickets. She also became the first Indian woman to reach 100 ODI wickets, cementing her legacy as one of the country's finest bowlers. Edulji noted that David was destined to follow in her footsteps: "I knew then, too, that you would replace me both for Railways and India as our leading spinner. That we were both left-arm spinners meant our time playing together on the pitch was limited, but it was a true pleasure to watch you take on my mantle after I retired." Praising David's skill, Edulji added, "To me, you were one of the best spinners I have ever seen. Your technique and skill that allowed you to generate such flight and dip was par excellence." She concluded the letter by reflecting on their shared legacy. "Off the pitch, you have been a firm friend throughout the years, and I am delighted to welcome you into the ICC Hall of Fame. There are few higher honours in our sport, and to be the only two Indian women currently inducted is a special bond between the two of us. I know the number of Indian women in the Hall of Fame will only increase, but many will have achieved what they did because of you."

Alyssa Healy is very approachable, never felt pressure under her: Shweta Sehrawat

- In an exclusive chat with India Today.in, Shweta Sehrawat spoke about her goals of aiming to break into the national team with strong performances on the domestic circuit. The 20-year-old plays under Alyssa Healy for the UP Warriorz in the Women's Premier League.



New Delhi. After smashing 297 runs at an average of 99 and finishing as the top run-scorer of the U19 Women's T20 World Cup on South African soil, Shweta Sehrawat started taking baby steps in her career. With the next edition of the tournament to be held next year in January in Malaysia, the

youngster is still finding ways to make a name for herself and climb up the ladder. It was after UP Warriorz picked her for Rs 40 lakh in the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 that she took a giant leap. Playing alongside Alyssa Healy, who has won a plethora of trophies for Australia over

the last decade, came as a privilege. Sehrawat hailed Healy as someone who is 'approachable' and 'supportive'. She said that she hadn't felt any discomfort or hesitation with Healy as the captain of the Warriorz. "I haven't felt any pressure while playing under Alyssa Healy. She is very supportive on the ground. She is very approachable whenever we want to have an interaction," Sehrawat told India Today in an interaction facilitated by UP Warriorz. "Learned from experience" Shweta had a disastrous outing in her maiden season, making only 34 runs at an average of 6.80. 2024 was a tad different. She looked a lot more fluent, top-scoring with 45 off 42 against Meg Lanning's Delhi Capitals in Bengaluru. "I was short of experience in the first season, but had a better experience in the second season and I had a lot to learn from.



overs when rain came in to provide them some respite from the onslaught by the New Zealand pacers. The fans weren't happy with a lot of decisions made by the team management, starting with toss. Many wondered why India decided to bat first, given that the pitch was under covers for two full days. Another one was to see KL Rahul not coming in at No.3, given that he is familiar with the conditions at the Chinnaswamy as he was the hometown boy.

IND vs NZ, First Test Day 2: Live Updates

Many were also surprised to see Rahul coming in behind Sarfaraz, who failed to make an impression with his chance at No.4. India currently have Jaiswal and Rishabh Pant at the crease and will hope they can steady the ship.

Praggnanandhaa beats mentor Viswanathan Anand, loses to Arjun in WR Chess Masters

- Praggnanandhaa defeated Viswanathan Anand in the quarters in London
- Pragg outclassed his mentor in the Armageddon after two drawn classical games
- Pragg lost to Arjun Erigaisi in the semi-final of the WR Chess Masters

New Delhi. Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa produced a sensational result at the WR Chess Masters in London on Tuesday, beating his mentor and five-time world champion Viswanathan Anand. Meeting over the board for the first time since 2018, Praggnanandhaa and Anand played out two marathon classical games, each of which ended in a draw in the quarter-finals of the tournament. The quarter-final tie headed to Armageddon, in which Praggnanandhaa triumphed over his mentor and booked a place in the semi-finals. However, Praggnanandhaa lost to another compatriot, Arjun Erigaisi, in the semi-final of the WR Chess Masters. The first of the two all-Indian clashes was a momentous occasion as Viswanathan Anand, who is semi-retired, faced up against Pragg, whom he supports and mentors. The clash began with two intense classical games, both ending in hard-fought draws. Anand, equipped with Black pieces in the first game, had opportunities to seize the advantage. However, Praggnanandhaa showcased remarkable resilience, successfully neutralising any threats. In the second game, Anand shifted to defence, countering



Praggnanandhaa's advances adeptly. Thus, the match proceeded to the Armageddon, a high-stakes game with Praggnanandhaa in a must-win scenario. It was in the Armageddon that Praggnanandhaa shone, outwitting his mentor in the dying moments of the game. Anand, playing as Black, needed only a draw to advance, but the young star denied him.

ARJUN OUTCLASSES PRAGG

In the semi-final, Praggnanandhaa was comfortably outclassed by Arjun Erigaisi

who won the opening game and drawing the second one to clinch a 1.5-0.5 win. Praggnanandhaa was beaten by Arjun, who played with white pieces. The first game of the semi-final was filled with chaos as both Arjun and Pragg wanted to be offensive. Arjun thrived in the end, putting pressure on Pragg, who eventually wilted. In the second game, Praggnanandhaa, who needed nothing less than a win, went all-out aggressive. But Arjun used all his expertise to secure a draw and progress to the final. Arjun will take on Maxime Vachier-Lagrave in the final of the WR Chess Masters. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave defeated Ali Firouzja in the other semi-final. Arjun and Praggnanandhaa's run to the final rounds of WR Chess Masters only adds to the growing reputation of the youngsters from India. Both Arjun and Pragg were part of the Indian team that won the Chess Olympiad last month. Arjun is India's highest-ranked player at No.



'Haters Gonna Hate': TV Actress

Deepika Singh

Posts Her 'Unpolished' Dance Video

TV actress Deepika Singh clapped back at the trolls after posting a dance video on her Instagram. In the video, the actress was seen dancing to Falguni Pathak's song Aiyu Rama. Through this dance, the actress stated that she is giving a chance to her haters to troll her performance as she claims it to be an 'unpolished' and 'impromptu' performance. The video of the actress has gone viral. Deepika Singh, who garnered fame with the superhit serial Diya Aur Baati Hum, recently made a return on the small screen with the serial Mangal Lakshmi this year. The viewers love this serial. Her performance in the show is garnering headlines, but her haters often find a way to troll her based on the actress' Instagram posts, videos or statements. Now, in a befitting reply to her trolls, Deepika Singh uploaded a dance video and invited her haters to comment on it. She showcased her fearless side by doing so. Deepika Singh targeted the trolls and wrote, "Haters gonna hate, but I'm gonna troll. And here's I'm giving you a chance to deflate me, by posting this unpolished, not practised, impromptu, unclean dancing video." She shared that her unpractised dance is due to her busy schedule. She claimed that she can do better. Deepika Singh is reportedly taking lessons in the classical Odissi dance form.

"No, I don't want trolls but I want to be active on the gram with my busy schedule. Yes, I can do better but to do better we need practice for practice we need time and I only got this much time. Now go ahead and say that I do this intentionally, doesn't matter," Deepika Singh further wrote in the caption. Fans appreciated her bold move. They called her dance beautiful and inspiring. "Waoooo. Queen mode activated: unstoppable and unbothered. Thanks for being a constant source of motivation dearest diiii. You are just amazing," wrote one of the users on Instagram.



Kareena Kapoor Says Taimur Doesn't Know Controversy About His Name: 'I Keep Reminding Him That...'



Kareena Kapoor recalled the controversy that unfolded after she and Saif Ali Khan named their older son, Taimur Ali Khan. Born in December 2016, a section of social media was angry after they assumed Taimur's name was drawn from the Turkish invader Timur. In a new interview, Kareena Kapoor admitted that the noise around his name was massive and it did affect her. She added that Taimur still isn't aware about the controversy. "Of course, it affected me that people were talking about his name. He probably doesn't even know that there was a whole drama and now suddenly everybody if like, 'Ok whatever'. But he also got a lot of love for the fact that people were so interested in him. I was like, 'But why? Because you don't even know him, he is so small'. So I feel that now he will slowly understand and is understanding the whole culture of the fact that people follow him or he is being clicked," she told Miss Malini. "But I have to obviously keep reminding him that, 'It's important that you do something, your parents have done something.' So he has figured it out slowly and I took that in my stride. In fact, Saif was very relaxed and calm also about it. He was like, 'We need to be calm and we need to be sure.' So I'm happy we had each other to discuss that. That's also the reason why I share a lot on Instagram but yet I don't share a lot on Instagram. I'm happy to be accessible to my fans for what they need to see. But there's also a side because of everything I've been through I'm always gonna be a little away," she added. Kareena also shared the word of advice her grandfather, legendary filmmaker and actor Raj Kapoor had shared that she still follows. She said he once told her to take things in her stride "If you want to be a superstar otherwise this place isn't for you". He also urged her to have a "patthar ka dil (be strong)". In older interviews, Kareena and Saif admitted that the uproar around Taimur's name had them wondering if they should change his name. However, they did not cave into making the move.

Kartik Aaryan Spotted At Mumbai Airport, Heads To New Delhi For Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 Title Song Launch



Kartik Aaryan is gearing up for his next film Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. The film is releasing on Diwali. Well, ahead of the release, the makers will be releasing the first song which is the title track in New Delhi today. The actor was spotted today at the airport as he heads for the national capital. In the video, shared by Filmygyan, we can see Kartik Aaryan looking dapper in a casual yet stylish outfit. He sported a black hoodie and denim jeans, paired with trendy sunglasses. The actor is traveling to New Delhi for the official release of the title track from Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3, which has already created a massive buzz. Kartik will be reprising his role as Rooh Baba. International singer Pitbull and Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh have teamed up for the song. To maintain the excitement level, Kartik also shared BTS video on social media. Taking to his Instagram handle, Kartik shared the video in which we can see work is going on the song while he is seen taking video and lip syncing the lyrics. "super excited for tomorrow," read the caption. One of the fans wrote, "Everybody getting hot tonight" fa sure after seeing the vid." Another wrote, "just when you think it can't get bigger, bb3 drops bomb collabs like this." During a chat with Pinkvilla for their latest Masterclass episode, Kartik talked about Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 and the secrecy surrounding its plot. When asked about rumours of two climaxes being shot, Kartik confirmed, "Yes, two climaxes were filmed, so there's some confusion. In fact, when the script was sent, no one except a few key people had the last 15 pages." However, the real revelation came when Kartik unintentionally mentioned Kiara Advani while discussing the shoot. "When we were shooting... with Kiara..." he started, before realising his slip-up. Quickly apologising, he tried to cover up his mistake by changing the subject to Vidya Balan's involvement instead. Laughing off the moment, Kartik nervously asked, "Yeh live toh nahi hai na? (This isn't live, right?)." Directed by Anees Bazmee, Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 will feature an ensemble cast that includes Tripti Dimri, Vidya Balan, and Madhuri Dixit. The film promises to deliver more chills, thrills, and laughs just in time for Halloween season.

Divya Khosla

Takes Fresh Potshots at Alia Bhatt, Jigra's 'Fake Tickets Bookings': 'True Heroism Is...'

Divya Khosla called out Alia Bhatt yet again with regard to Jigra. The Savi actress had claimed that Alia and Karan Johar engaged in 'fake ticket bookings' to hype up the box office collection of Jigra. She also shared a photo of an empty theatre hall that was playing Jigra to back her claims. In a new interview, Bhushan Kumar's wife said that Alia doesn't need to resort to such tactics because she is already popular and well-established. "Alia doesn't need to resort to such tactics; she's already well-established. But true heroism is in speaking against wrongdoing. Let the audience decide based on merit, not money and power," Divya told Hindustan Times.



She also addressed the claims of manipulating box office collections. "After Covid, smaller production houses have shut down, and only those with money survive. I saw an empty theatre, yet Jigra's opening figures were inflated. That needs serious correction." She claims that false numbers are put out for certain films. "We are creative people, we are not in a share market, and by giving fake box office numbers, certain media persons also highlight bad films. When good films work, no one talks about that.

These people decide which film is will be declared a hit-as tickets are bought and fake collections are announced. And that's why only those people will be able to survive here, who have money. New talent, will never be able to enter," she said. For the unversed, Divya had claimed that the team of Jigra posed fake opening day box office collection. She shared a picture of an empty Citi Mall theatre in Mumbai and said, "Went to Citi Mall PVR for Jigra show. Theatre was totally empty... all theaters going empty every where. #Aliabhatt me sach mein Bahut #Jigra hai.. khud hi tickets karide aur fake collections announce kar diye. Wonder why paid media is silent. #weshdnotfooltheaudience #truthoverlies #HappyDussehra ? (Sic)." Alia Bhatt starrer released on October 11. The film collected Rs 4.55 crore on its opening day. The film, directed by Vasun Bala, collected Rs 16.75 crore in its opening weekend.

