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The Sikh Times National Daily

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Why is ISRO planning to assemble Chandrayaan 4 mission in space?

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Oct 2: Chandrayaan-4 mission will achieve the foundational technological capability to land an Indian on moon by the year

also demonstrate advanced in-space docking and transfer capabilities to achieve significant savings in mission cost for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).



2040 and return safely back to Earth. Chandrayaan-4, India's next Moon mission will follow a new approach to launch and assembly of the mission's scientific instruments.

Chandrayaan-4 was announced on September 18 with an aim to develop and demonstrate technologies that can successfully land on the moon surface and bring back moon samples to Earth for scientific analysis.

This fight is against injustice and the wicked, oust BJP: Priyanka Gandhi

Simmi Kaur Babbar Haryana, Oct. 2: Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Wednesday asked the people of Haryana to oust the BJP in the October 5 assembly polls, saying this is a fight against the wicked, injustice and untruth.

employment opportunities as it has given "everything to Ambani and Adani". "All ports, land, industries, airports have been given to big industrial-

Agneveers would not get any pension and after four years of service, they would again have to look for employment. "This is what Modiji has given you," she added.



The BJP-led government in the state over employment, the Agneveer military recruitment scheme and farmers' welfare among other issues, Gandhi alleged that the ruling party "betrayed" people at every stage. "The opportunity has come again, similar to the battle of Kurukshetra and the fight against the British rule. There is no difference," she said.

No employment opportunities can be created from small businesses and the farming sector today, Gandhi said. "It (BJP government) cannot do the work of giving employment because its policies are against that," she claimed.

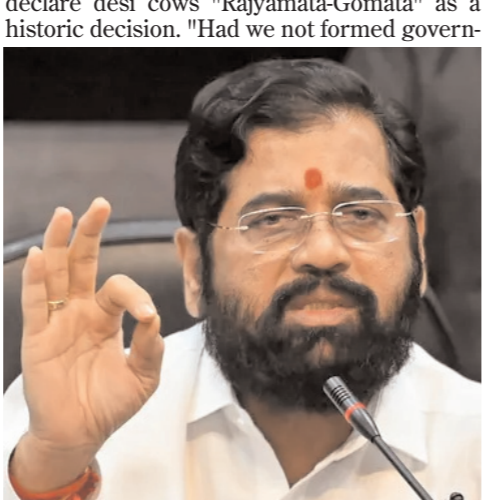
only relented when the elections of Uttar Pradesh came," Gandhi alleged. In a jibe at the BJP government's claim of giving MSP on 24 crops, she said 10 of those were not even grown in Haryana. "Whom are they fooling? The entire country is watching," Gandhi said.

'Ladki Bahin' scheme aid could be raised to Rs 3,000 with women's support: CM Shinde

Naresh Malhotra

Mumbai, Oct. 2: Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said the financial assistance under the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme could even be raised to Rs 3,000 if women in the state support his government.

Shinde termed the government's move to declare desi cows 'Rajyamata-Gomata' as a historic decision. "Had we not formed govern-



ment, which the common man was longing for two years, we would have not strengthened our sisters, we would not have given the 'Rajyamata' status to cows, we would not have done the work we could do in these two years," he said.

expected to be held next month. "We will go among the people with our development record, welfare schemes and the investments we have brought to the state in the last over two years. Our dear sisters (women), dear brothers and dear farmers will acknowledge our work and Mahayuti will return to power with a huge mandate," Shinde later told reporters.

Prashant Kishor announces political debut, launches Jan Suraaj Party

Patna, Oct 2: Political strategist-turned-activist Prashant Kishor on Wednesday announced the launch of his political outfit Jan Suraaj Party, a much-anticipated move by which he hopes to take the political land-

capital in presence of many renowned figures, including former Union minister Devendra Prasad Yadav, diplomat-turned-politician Pavan Varma and ex-MP Monazir Hassan



scape in Bihar by storm. Kishor also named Manoj Bharti, a Madhubani-born former Indian Foreign Service officer, as working president of the party, saying the latter will hold the post till March when organisational polls will be held.

The party was launched at making the people of Bihar understand that they have not been able to get quality education and job opportunities because they have never voted on these issues. We may be mocked by cynics who will say how will we fulfil promises like putting an end to migration. But we have a blueprint.

Congress going to form government in Haryana with historic victory: Sachin Pilot

ST Correspondent

Yamunanagar, Oct 2: Congress leader and MLA from Rajasthan Sachin Pilot said that the Congress would form a government in Haryana as there was a strong wave of change in the entire Haryana. He said that the India alliance was going to form a government in Jammu and Kashmir also.



Congress leader said that the huge crowd at this rally showed that there was a huge wave blowing in favour of the Congress in Haryana. He said that everyone knew very well that the Centre and state governments of the BJP had done nothing for the welfare of the public in the last ten years.

Government to introduce 'one nation, one election' Bill in Parliament

Yamunanagar, Oct 2: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said the BJP-led NDA Government at the Centre is preparing to introduce a Bill on 'one nation, one election' in Parliament, aimed at holding the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections simultaneously across the country.

Resolve to make state Swachh Andhra Pradesh by 2029

New Delhi, Oct. 2: Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday called on the people of the state to make a resolution to turn it into Swachh Andhra Pradesh (clean state) by 2029.

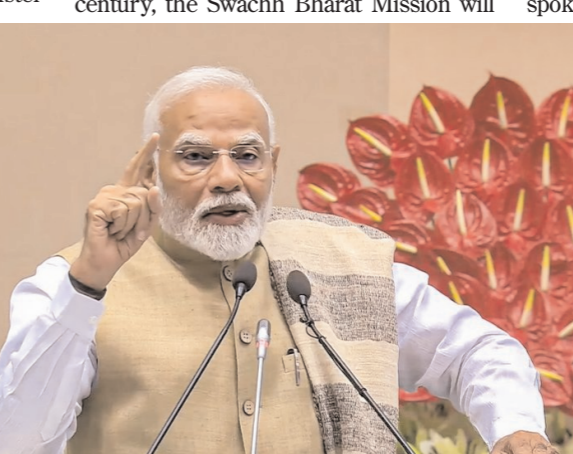
The Chief Minister stressed that everyone make it a goal without compromise. "Today, we have to make a resolution that by 2029 Andhra Pradesh state has to become Swachh Andhra Pradesh. We should make it our goal. There is no compromise," said Naidu, addressing a public meeting at Machilipatnam in Krishna district, on the sidelines of Swachta hi Seva programme, commemorating Gandhi Jayanthi.

Swachh Bharat Mission not just about cleanliness but means of prosperity: Modi

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Oct 2: Prime Minister

Narendra Modi referred to the impact of the Swachh Bharat Mission in Uttar Pradesh's Gorakhpur where encephalitis used to claim hundreds of lives. The Swachh Bharat Mission is not just a cleanliness programme but now a means of prosperity that has added jobs and provided dignity to the poor and women.



He said that the mission has not only benefited people by providing hygiene and cleanliness in their immediate surroundings. He under-

lined it has added employment opportunities across sectors. Modi said when he first spoke about the need to have toilets and sanitation, people took potshots at him. "It was an insult to the poor that they had to defecate in the open. The worst affected were the women. They had to suffer this pain and there was no option. They had to wait for the dark. Millions of women faced grave dangers...problems every day," he said.

Assam CM, Karnataka minister lock horns over semiconductor plant: 'Congress's true colours'

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct 2: A fierce war of words has erupted between Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge over the allocation of semiconductor manufacturing units.

a strong technological or research ecosystem. Speaking in an interview, Kharge said, "Five semiconductor manufacturing



units, four are in Gujarat, and one is in Assam, but they don't have the ecosystem of skills or innovation that Karnataka has." Also Read | Rahul Gandhi's lies were part of international conspiracy to oust PM Narendra Modi: Himanta Biswa Sarma

His comments referred to the Tata Group's plans to establish a \$26,000-crore semiconductor facility in Assam's Morigaon district, a major development project for the northeastern state. In response, Sarma hit back at Kharge accusing the Congress leader of opposing Assam's development.

stroke. When I do the same for Karnataka, it's called unfair?" Kharge also criticised Sarma's handling of other industries in Assam, asking why the state's tea and paper mills had shut down and whether the government had provided undue subsidies to certain companies.

## News box

## Displaced residents accuse BRS of double standards in handling evictions

**SIDDIPET.** With the opposition BRS choosing to be on the offensive against HYDRABAD demolitions and Musi project, persons displaced by the Mallannasagar and Kondapochamma projects criticised the "hypocritical stance" of pink party leaders. "Why is BRS adopting double standards? Why did the pink party do injustice when it was in power? Now, BRS leaders are standing by those being shifted from Musi riverbanks," they said.

Recently, when the Congress government proposed evacuating those living on the banks of the Musi river, the BRS invited the dwellers to its office. Responding to this, the oustees said they were angry at BRS leaders for not showing the same love to them when their lives were turned upside down.

Mallannasagar oustees — Hayath Uddin, Srinivas Reddy and former MPP president from Mulugu Venkatram Reddy — along with others complained that not only did the BRS government treat the oustees very unkindly but left their issues unresolved.

They said during the BRS rule, the leaders of the opposition parties had to take permission from the high court to visit them. They added they too would organise a 'Chalo Telangana Bhavan programme' to expose the BRS. It is learnt that a Chalo Telangana Bhavan programme is being finalised by Mallannasagar Porata Samiti with oustees from the district.

## STA warns against fraudulent money collection in name of road safety

**BHUBANESWAR.** The State Transport Authority (STA) has warned of stringent action against collection of money from vehicle drivers on the pretext of conducting road safety drives.

The STA has directed RTOs to take immediate action if such incidents come to their notice. "No one has been granted permission to engage in such activities, and vehicle owners or drivers should neither trust nor pay these individuals," said Joint Transport Commissioner (road safety) Pradeep Kumar Mohanty.

This direction came after the transport officials noticed through various media reports that some persons in Sundargarh district are collecting money from vehicle drivers under the false impression of conducting road safety. Transport commissioner Amitabh Thakur has directed Sundargarh RTO to take the matter seriously and lodge a complaint with the police against the people involved in such illegal activities.

Expressing concern that certain individuals are defrauding people in the name of road safety, Thakur assured that legal action will be taken to stop such activities. He also discussed the issue with the collector and SP of Sundargarh.

Meanwhile, the STA urged people to report such incidents to their local transport authorities immediately since these fraudsters are often from outside the state and are primarily active in border districts and mining areas, targeting trucks and buses.

"Instructions have been issued to all RTOs across the state to take immediate action if such activities are reported in their areas, not just in Sundargarh," said Mohanty.

## Nutritional info missing on Aavin packs; officials cite printing error

**MADURAI.** After nutritional information, which must be mandatorily printed on all milk packets, was missing, hundreds of customers were upset with Aavin in Madurai. Key information, including fat and protein content, were not printed on packets and the same was noticed by customers who purchased the milk packets from Aavin parlours.

Speaking to , social activist NG Mohan said, "Every day, we find the nutritional information printed in black along with packaged date on the milk packets. It contains details of the fat content and SNF (solids-not-fat). SNF is the nutrient portion present in milk, other than milk fat and water. When SNF is combined with milk fat, it is called total solids. Although most customers do not notice these things, they are mandatory as per the standards of Aavin. If the same is not printed, legal action can be initiated through consumer forums." A milk agent from Madurai said, "We did not notice that the labels were missing from the packets as the milk arrives early in the morning and is mostly sold within a few hours. But some customers who bought milk packets from Aavin parlours in the afternoon noticed the missing labels."

Speaking to , an official from Aavin (Madurai) said, "Every day, more than 80,000 litres are packaged and supplied in each shift from the dairy plant in Madurai. This could be a printing error on the polymer film. However, when it comes to the quality of the milk, there is no compromise. We will check the dairy and maintenance division and it will be rectified."

# Hyderabad evictees face uncertainty as riverbed demolitions commence

Most of the evictees are daily-wagers, eking out a livelihood as domestic workers, vendors, construction workers, mechanics etc.

**HYDERABAD.** Poignant scenes were the order of the day in Musanagar, Shankarnagar and nearby areas on Tuesday as the authorities began demolishing houses built on the riverbed.

While some evictees could be seen taking a final stroll through their homes, others were busy packing their belongings to shift to the double-bedroom (2BHK) houses allotted by the government at Chanchalguda, Saidabad or other places.

Most of the evictees are daily-wagers, eking out a livelihood as domestic workers, vendors, construction workers, mechanics etc. Expressing her anguish over losing her home, 40-year-old Hameeda Begum of Shankarnagar nostalgically recalled that she was the third generation of her family who have lived in the area.

2BHKs leave evictees with mixed feelings. Stating that the eviction was unprecedented,



Hameeda told TNIE, "Most of us are less educated daily-wagers who have never heard of FTL or buffer zone in our lives. One day, the surveyors came for marking and asked us to vacate the house the next day itself. We could have been given at least a month's time to make arrangements. Most of us are daily wagers and have to focus on our livelihood as well."

Noting that the whole area was a forest during her childhood, Hameeda asked, "Why was

the land legalised by the government to build houses and why were the houses registered?"

Sara Khatun, a tailor who has been residing in the locality for nearly 20 years, went to Chanchalguda to the allotted 2BHK. However, the visit was not to her expectation. "The 2BHK allotted to me is on the ninth floor and due to breathing issues I could not climb stairs. The lift was not working. I have not seen my flat so far," she lamented. Echoing her words, Hameeda claimed that the facility at Chanchalguda lacks even basic amenities. "The rooms there are very small and there is no proper arrangement of water or lift. We do not want to interfere in politics but when politicians can come to seek votes, why are they not here when we are facing such hardships?" she asked.

An official from the GHMC's Town Planning wing told TNIE that of the 141 2BHK units,

132 have been allotted as of Tuesday. He said that the GHMC is providing vehicles for the oustees to shift their belongings and is also assisting the Revenue and Housing departments who are overseeing the evictions. According to an independent survey carried by members of Civil Society, a total of 106 houses face demolition in Vinayaka Veedhi (Musanagar), Shankarnagar and Shiva Shankar Nagar.

Meanwhile, some residents complain that they have not yet been allotted 2BHK units. "Everybody in this lane has been allotted a house except me and my family. The authorities made us vacate our houses but when we asked them for our 2BHK unit, they said it will be given later. I have all the necessary documents as proof of ownership of this house," said Mohammed Khaja Quraishi of Wahednagar. He has been living in a rented accommodation nearby paying Rs 10,000 per month.

## NHAI mulls linking service roads along bypass from Madhavaram to Irumbuliyur

**CHENNAI.** The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has said it will explore the feasibility of connecting service roads on either side of the 31km Chennai bypass from Madhavaram to Irumbuliyur. The connectivity is expected to decongest arterial roads in outskirts of the city.

A memorandum including this was given by State Highways Minister E V Velu to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi on Monday. The minister also requested completion of several pending highway projects in the state, linkage of existing service roads, and the provision of new connections in areas lacking service roads.

The 31 km Chennai bypass begins at Irumbuliyur and ends at Madhavaram, passing through Kundrathur, Porur, Maduravoyal, Ambattur, and Pattaravakkam. Currently, the service

road starts near the Tambaram Road flyover on the Chennai-Trichy NH and ends at the Kundrathur-Pallavaram road near the Adyar River. Another segment of the service road begins at



Sadanandapuram, along Adyar River banks, and ends at Mangadu Road. The Porur Link Road starts at Mount-Poonamallee Road and ends at Ambattur Industrial Estate. However, there is a discontinuity between Ambattur Industrial Estate and Pattaravakkam. There is no service road on

one side from Madhavaram till Tambaram, except for a few km near Nalambur. As a result, two-wheelers use the main carriageway to travel from the northern parts of the city to Maduravoyal, Tambaram. NHAI officials noted that there is no service road on the 5 km stretch from Adyar River and Porur Lake.

Additionally, a service road could not be built on the stretch from Porur to Tambaram due to the passage of Veeranam pipeline. "Once the minister's representation is received, we will appoint a consultant to explore options for connecting the missing service road links. Constructing a bridge over the Adyar River is feasible," said an official. The six-lane, 32-km access-controlled Chennai bypass became operational in 2009 and now carries about 1.3 lakh vehicles daily.

## Hyderabad police ban DJ systems, firecrackers during religious processions

Anand highlighted a growing trend among procession organisers to use loud DJ systems, which has led to a rise in public noise complaints.

**HYDERABAD.** Hyderabad Commissioner of Police CV Anand on Tuesday issued orders prohibiting the use of DJ sound systems and firecrackers during religious processions within the Hyderabad commissionerate limits. The decision follows a recent round table discussion with various stakeholders addressing noise pollution concerns during such events.

The prohibition extends to DJ sound mixers, amplifiers, and other high-sound equipment. Anand highlighted a growing trend among procession organisers to use loud DJ systems, which has led to a rise in public noise complaints. He noted that excessive noise can negatively impact the health of the elderly and disrupt



children's education. To manage sound levels, the notification allows sound systems within specific decibel limits: 55 dB in residential areas during the day, 45 dB at night; 65 dB in commercial areas during the day, 55 dB at night; and 75 dB

in industrial areas during the day, 70 dB at night. Use of loudspeakers or DJ systems is prohibited from 10 PM to 6 AM. Police clearance is required for hiring sound equipment.

"A loud speaker or a public address system or a DJ system shall not be used during the nights from 10 pm to 6 am," the order said. Police clearance will be required for those hiring the equipment and those supplying the sound system.

The CP said that violations will lead to penal action under the relevant laws including Hyderabad City Police Act, BNS, BNSS, Environment Protection Act, Noise Pollution Rules, and Hyderabad City Loudspeakers (Regulation of use and Licensing) Rules.

## Microlight aircraft owners grounded without insurance

It is not safe to fly an aircraft which has been idle for so long.

**BENGALURU.** Owners of small aircraft in Bengaluru are reeling with their two-seater microlight aircraft or powered hang-gliders grounded this financial year as they have been denied airworthiness certification by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA). But while the aviation regulator has made it mandatory for the aircraft to be insured before handing over this certificate, most insurance companies refuse to insure them with just one willing to do it for Rs 20 lakh per annum.

The microlight or glider is priced between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 75 lakh. This single-engine aircraft, a two-seater, is flown mostly as a hobby by flying enthusiasts or deployed for training purposes.

Captain Arvind Sharma, the country's first micro-light licence-holder and founder of Jakkur-based Agni Aero Sports Adventure Academy Pvt Ltd, has filed a case in the High Court against the DGCA over the issue and the hearing is still on.

BG Kumar Swamy, owner of Bangalore Aviation and Sports Enterprises, told TNIE, "Bengaluru being the aviation hub of the



country has 12 small aircraft, including microlights and gliders. I own both. A DGCA rule stating that insurance is required has existed for decades. But it is only this year that their officials are insisting that it must be produced for certification. I have tried multiple insurance firms over the last six months, but I've have drawn a blank."

Vinitha Mariappa, who owns a microlight, said, "I tried to get my DGCA certification in March. I could not find anyone to insure it

and it is November now. These are serviceable, fit aircraft and not running the engines for six months will damage it. It is not safe to fly an aircraft which has been idle for so long. Students are waiting to learn on them, but we cannot operate them."

Vishal Shroff, a flying hobbyist, said, "My powered hang glider, which I purchased for Rs 40 lakh in 2021, is presently languishing at Jakkur. I am paying Rs 15,000 a month as parking fee. I have flown such gliders in Australia, New Zealand, Philippines, Thailand, Dubai, Canada and the US. Nowhere have I faced this issue."

Proprietor of Pune-based Max Link is unable to collect two of his brand new aircraft for the last two years from the Bengaluru-based Albatross Flying Systems despite all obtaining all certificates and making the payments. "I am unable to fly them from Bengaluru to Pune without an airworthiness certificate which requires an insurance policy. They are just sitting in the hangar of the firm for the last two years. Nowhere in the world does this happen."

Explaining that he paid Rs 52 lakh per piece,



## Kerala: Assembly session unlikely to take up private universities bill

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** The much-anticipated private universities bill is unlikely to be tabled in the upcoming assembly session that begins on Friday. The provisions of the proposed bill, which allows private universities to function in the state, will also ensure these varsities adhere to the strict regulations of the government.

Highly-placed sources said the draft of the Bill, being vetted by the law department, has not reached the higher education department to be placed in the cabinet for approval on Thursday. The cabinet meeting this week will primarily decide the priority of various bills to be introduced in the upcoming session. Marking a major policy shift of the LDF government, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had voiced the government's support to the proposal to allow private universities in the state last year.

Higher Education Minister R Bindu had announced

that a bill to this effect would be introduced soon. However, the minister asserted that only those private institutions that have the potential to grow and attain the standards of universities will be allowed in the state.

Sources in the legislature secretariat said as many as seven bills have been lined up for tabling in the upcoming assembly session of which six may be presented. The introduction of the bill related to temporary arrangements in the Senate and Syndicate of Calicut University has been put on hold reportedly following opposition from the Raj Bhavan. The bill proposes to take away from the governor (chancellor) the powers to form temporary syndicate in Calicut University.

Earlier, the President had withheld assent to bills passed by the state legislature that envisaged divesting the governor from the position of chancellor of various state universities.

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News box

4 deaths in hit & run: Tractor driver held

**Noida.** A day after four persons lost their lives, and a fifth was injured, when their car collided with a tractor in Sector 11, the tractor's driver was arrested from Morna bus stand on Tuesday morning. According to the SHO of Sector 24 police station, Dhruv Bhusan Dubey, the accused was identified as 22-year-old Javed, a resident of Hapur. "During investigation, he revealed that on Monday, when he was transporting garbage to a factory in Sector 6 Noida from Ghazipur in Delhi, the car driven at high speed collided head-on with his tractor," the SHO said. Javed had fled the scene right after the incident, leaving his vehicle behind.

An FIR has been registered against the accused under BNS sections 106(1) (causing death by negligence), 125 (act endangering life or personal safety of others), and 281 (rash driving or riding on a public way) at Sector 24 police station. Around 2am on Monday, five people were travelling back to their residence in Delhi when the car they were in collided head-on with a tractor near a private hospital in Sector 11. Three of the youths died on the spot when another succumbed to his injuries during treatment.

From fogging to spraying, Noida drive soon to tackle dengue

**Noida.** With dengue and malaria cases on the rise, the district malaria officer (DMO) asked members of Federation of Noida Residents Welfare Associations (FONRWA) to begin fogging and spraying anti-larva medicines in residential complexes.

Between mid-Aug and Sept 30, 45 malaria and 104 dengue cases were reported. Last year, the season's tally was recorded at 117 and 993, respectively.

This year, several measures will be taken during a drive from Oct 1 to 31, such as fogging, spraying anti-larva medicines, and a special communicable disease control campaign, under which, Asha workers will visit houses between Oct 11 and 31, and apprise people of measures, symptoms, and treatment facilities. They will make a list of people with symptoms of dengue, filariasis, malaria, brain fever, tuberculosis, and leprosy for their examination and treatment.

"A meeting was conducted by DMO Dr Shruti Verma and Dr Bhojraj with member RWAs today at the FONRWA office to discuss the measures and suggestions that would help curb the spread of malaria and dengue in the city," said KK Jain, secretary general of FONRWA. Dr Verma said the district health department is deploying teams to visit dengue and malaria-prone areas. While FONRWA general secretary KK Jain met Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M to discuss fogging sprays and spreading anti-larva medicines in the city, the CEO assured that necessary steps will be taken to prevent the spread of these diseases.

Wrong-side driving: Two bikes collide, lawyer dies & 1 injured

**Ghaziabad.** A 34-year-old man died while another man was left in a critical condition after their bikes collided head-on at the Arthala u-turn on Monday evening.

According to police, the deceased was identified as Rajkumar, an advocate who lives in the city. The injured man was identified as Rajveer (28), a native of Meerut. Initial investigation revealed Rajveer was riding on the wrong side, likely to save time, when the incident occurred, police said. ACP (Sahibabad) Rajnesh Upadhyay told TOI that the incident occurred around 6pm on Monday. "Further investigation revealed that both motorcycles were travelling at high speeds at the time," he said. Passersby informed cops about the incident following which a police team arrived at the scene and brought the injured man to a nearby hospital for treatment. Both vehicles involved in the incident were confiscated and the bikers' family members were informed, police said. Rajkumar, the lawyer, succumbed to his injuries while Rajveer's condition has deteriorated significantly, hospital staff told police on Tuesday morning. Autopsy reports are awaited, police said, adding that they have not received any complaint in the matter yet. Wrong-side driving is a menace rampant on many stretches across the district. In several cases, traffic police have even given up issuing challans, as commuters do not leave any chance to take shortcuts. Such stretches include Vijay Nagar on NH-9, Chhijarsi, Hindon bridge, GT road, etc. From Jan to April this year, traffic cops issued 71,083 challans for driving on the wrong side. In 2023, around 40,354 wrong-side driving challans were issued during the same period.

Oct 5 will end BJP's misrule, says Sachin Pilot

**Gurgaon.** Campaigning for Congress's Badshapur candidate Vardhan Yadav, former Rajasthan deputy CM Sachin Pilot said at a rally on Tuesday that the Oct 5 election would mark the end of BJP's "misrule" and start a new chapter for Haryana. Pilot, who was accompanied by former Youth Congress president BV Srinivas, criticised the BJP govt in Haryana for failing to provide employment and crushing dissent. He said that both the state and country have seen prosperity vanish under BJP's rule. "People have had enough of BJP's false promises and must now rise to show their strength... This time, Congress must form the govt in Haryana to ensure real progress," Pilot said in his rally at Diwan Palace in Badshapur. The Congress MLA from Tonk added that his party's manifesto for Haryana polls focuses on welfare of youth, women and the elderly. With folded hands, Pilot spoke of the contribution of the youth in Badshapur. "Youth are the backbone of the country, and they have the power to bring about transformative change," he said. Congress has promised MSP legal protection, caste survey, subsidized gas cylinders, Rs 2,000 monthly contribution for women, pension for the elderly and disabled, two lakh permanent govt jobs and 300 units of free electricity.

Greater Noida has 9 pollution hotspots, 8 of them are from last year

**Noida.** Gaur Chowk, Ek Murti Chowk, Pari Chowk, Kasna, Greater Noida West and Surajpur industrial site — among the stretches identified as Greater Noida's pollution hotspots last year continued to record alarmingly high levels of pollution and listed as the city's dust bowls yet again. The pollution control board, which released its action plan to mitigate pollution before the winter smog kicks in, said authorities failed to implement effective measures to mitigate pollution levels in these areas, leading to "persistent and unimproved" situation. It also listed construction activities, road dust, and traffic congestion as the primary sources kicking up particulate matter in the city's air. The new list adds just one new area as a pollution hotspot — the road from Surajpur to Phase 2 — to the previous year's list. It also includes the entire Surajpur industrial sector site C and Greater Noida West as hotspots due to excessive industrial emissions, ongoing construction activities and traffic



congestion. The other areas are the main roundabouts in the city that remain chock-a-block during the rush hours. The stretch from Police Lines to Kisan Chowk, among the nine pollution hotspots listed by the pollution control board in 2023, was removed from the list this time. UPPCB regional officer (Greater Noida) DK Gupta said the DM and GNIDA will have to implement a list of measures focusing on real-time monitoring of pollution, deploying special task forces and putting into action emergency measures, such as mechanised sweeping of roads and deploying anti-smog guns, to mitigate air pollution in

these areas. Greater Noida recorded the worst air quality in the country in Nov last year with the Air Quality Index (AQI) grazing past the 'severe-plus' (over 450) category. Last month, the city recorded at least five 'poor' air days — Sept 16, 17, 23, 24 and 25. Noida: Gaur Chowk, Ek Murti Chowk, Pari Chowk, Kasna, Greater Noida West and Surajpur industrial site — among the stretches identified as Greater Noida's pollution hotspots last year continued to record alarmingly high levels of pollution and listed as the city's dust bowls yet again. The pollution control board, which released its action plan to mitigate pollution before the winter smog kicks in, said authorities failed to implement effective measures to mitigate pollution levels in these areas, leading to "persistent and unimproved" situation. It also listed construction activities, road dust, and traffic congestion as the primary sources kicking up particulate matter in the city's air. The new list adds just one new area as a pollution hotspot — the road from

Surajpur to Phase 2 — to the previous year's list. It also includes the entire Surajpur industrial sector site C and Greater Noida West as hotspots due to excessive industrial emissions, ongoing construction activities and traffic congestion. The other areas are the main roundabouts in the city that remain chock-a-block during the rush hours.

The stretch from Police Lines to Kisan Chowk, among the nine pollution hotspots listed by the pollution control board in 2023, was removed from the list this time. UPPCB regional officer (Greater Noida) DK Gupta said the DM and GNIDA will have to implement a list of measures focusing on real-time monitoring of pollution, deploying special task forces and putting into action emergency measures, such as mechanised sweeping of roads and deploying anti-smog guns, to mitigate air pollution in these areas. Greater Noida recorded the worst air quality in the country in Nov last year with the Air Quality Index (AQI) grazing past the 'severe-plus' (over 450) category.

Haryana Assembly Polls: 100% webcasting monitoring at polling stations, says chief electoral officer

**NEW DELHI.** Haryana's chief electoral officer, Pankaj Agarwal, announced measures to monitor the upcoming Assembly elections through webcasting at polling stations. During a video conference with officials, Agarwal reviewed election preparations and noted that the Election Commission of India will also supervise the process.



Haryana will hold Assembly elections on October 5 to elect 90 members, with voting counting set for October 8.

Agarwal emphasized that polling agents can only engage in authorized activities on election day. He warned of strict legal action for involvement in prohibited activities and mentioned that detailed guidelines have been issued. Agarwal called for vigilant checkpoints to curb illegal

transportation of liquor, narcotics, cash, and weapons during the election. District monitoring teams were urged to intensify their efforts. He instructed that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) be stored securely before polling and transported with adequate security measures afterward. EVM-carrying vehicles must not stop during transit and should have GPS for security. Agarwal stated, "Husbands of

women employees deployed inside polling booths are not permitted to remain in the polling station. Similarly, husbands of female voters are strictly prohibited from entering the voting compartment." For accessibility, polling stations will provide wheelchairs for voters with disabilities. Arrangements for water, electricity, and seating will be made for the elderly, disabled individuals, and women in long queues.

Officials were directed to submit daily reports on home voting by those over 85 years old and disabled individuals, postal ballots by employees on duty, and the Electronic Transmitted Postal Ballot System used by service voters. With three days left before voting, Agarwal stressed increasing voter awareness.

Congress debutant seeks to make mark with accountability vow

**Gurgaon.** On a hot afternoon in Jharsa, a large crowd of villagers gathered under a makeshift canopy, waving Congress banners as they waited for the party's Badshapur candidate, Vardhan Yadav (33). Women shared their frustrations over crumbling infrastructure, unemployment, and lack of basic amenities like clean water and electricity. Yadav, visibly energised by the crowd, began his speech by calling for a "new era of accountability" and development in Badshapur. "BJP has neglected you for a decade. The roads are in ruins, there are constant power cuts, and our youth have no jobs. This is not the Badshapur we deserve," he said, his voice rising to meet the growing chants of support. "Congress will fix this, but we need your support to bring about real change." Pitched against veteran Rao Narbir Singh of BJP, Yadav — one of the youngest candidates in the state poll fray this time — is hopeful of making a mark in his debut in the political arena. The son of a farmer, Yadav belongs to the Ahir community, which comprises a large chunk of voters in the constituency. Yadav's campaign has focused on bridging



the divide between Badshapur's rural and urban voters, both of whom face different sets of challenges. While the rural parts of the constituency struggle with issues like lack of irrigation, poor road connectivity and erratic power supply, urban areas closer to Gurgaon face housing shortages, lack of healthcare, and safety concerns. In a recent rally, Yadav lashed out at BJP for "catering only to the wealthy" while neglecting the needs of farmers, workers, and the underprivileged. "Badshapur is not just about the urban elite. We need development that works for everyone — farmers, women, and the youth. Congress will deliver on this,"

Yadav said. Yadav has focused on grassroots efforts, holding small community meetings and engaging with voters directly in Jharsa, Sirhau, Palda, New Palam Vihar, Om Vihar, Gadauli Khurd, Bhawani Enclave, Dhankot, Orchid Island, South City and Uniworld Garden. His promise of job creation, improved infrastructure, and transparency has resonated with some sections of the electorate, particularly the youth and those frustrated with the current state of development. But to win, Yadav will need to not only highlight BJP's shortcomings but also convince voters that he can deliver on the promises of the Congress manifesto. Yadav's debut faces significant hurdles — three-time MLA and cabinet minister Rao Narbir Singh, a dominant figure in the Ahir community, has maintained a strong grip on Badshapur for years. Narbir was Badshapur MLA in 2014-19. He was denied a BJP ticket in 2019.

Lack of civic infra, health & public transport on Pataudi voters' minds

**Gurgaon:** The Pataudi assembly constituency, with a voter base of 2.5 lakh, is among the 17 constituencies in Haryana reserved for a scheduled caste (SC) candidate. Although Yadavs form a significant portion of the population, the demographic landscape of Pataudi has undergone changes in recent years, primarily due to the development of new sectors. In the past, issues related to agriculture and farming were the primary concerns for voters in this constituency. With the emergence of new sectors and urban areas, however, development of civic infrastructure has also become a priority for the electorate.

Considered a stronghold of Gurgaon MP Rao Inderjit Singh, largely due to the presence of a substantial number of Ahir voters, the constituency is now set to witness a fierce competition between two major candidates — BJP's Bimla Chaudhary and Pearl Chaudhary of Congress. While Bimla served as the MLA of Pataudi from 2014 to 2019, Pearl's father Bhupinder Chaudhary held the position from 2005 to 2009. In 2005, Pearl's father Bhupinder won the elections by defeating INLD's Ganga Ram by a slender margin of 8,516 votes. Ram, however, won the elections in 2009 by defeating Bhupinder by a margin of 24,747 votes. In the 2014 assembly polls, Bimla won by a margin of 38,963 votes.

BJP's Satya Prakash Jrawta won the previous assembly elections in Pataudi, securing around 44% votes (60,633). He defeated Independent Narender Singh Pahari, who secured 24,054 votes. Bimla was given the saffron party's ticket this time to combat anti-incumbency rumours. Ahead of the polls, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini on Aug 10 laid the foundation stones of 87 projects amounting to Rs 187 crore in Pataudi. The projects included a polytechnic college in Majri village, which will be built at a cost of Rs 3.5 crore. He also allocated Rs 2.5 crore for improving roads falling under the public works department.

Urban voters said they just want basic civic amenities and infrastructure. "Residents of new sectors in Pataudi are grappling with inadequate infrastructure and basic amenities. Builders collected internal and external development charges (IDC and EDC) but failed to develop the necessary infrastructure, particularly for electricity supply. Roads are in a deplorable condition. The absence of even a single dispensary in the new sectors is a significant concern for the residents, who are left without access to basic healthcare facilities," said Lokesh Yadav, a resident of Sector 83.

YEIDA master plan for aerotropolis, biz district gets town planner's nod

**Noida:** Nearly two months after it sought a report on zone regulations for data centres and green spaces, the UP Town and Country Planning Department approved on Tuesday the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority's (YEIDA) draft master plan 2041. A blueprint for the next 18 years for developing over 3,000 sq km in six districts under its jurisdiction, the draft plan focuses on boosting industrial development along the Noida International Airport, Heritage City in Mathura and other urban areas in GB Nagar and Bulandshahr. The draft, cleared by the Authority's board in Jan, was submitted to UP govt in July. However, the town planning department sent it back seeking details on data centres, green spaces, healthcare facilities, research centres, transport infrastructure and flood zones, among others. YEIDA CEO Arun Vir Singh said all the points were addressed in a letter dated Aug 30 and now the draft plan will be sent to UP cabinet for final approval. While YEIDA's notified area covers approximately 3,352 sq km across six districts — GB Nagar, Bulandshahr, Aligarh, Hathras, Mathura, and Agra — the phase 1 of the Master Plan 2041 will focus on 759 sq km in Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahr. The plan includes several major projects, including a medical device park, a semiconductor park, an electronic city, and a film city. It includes an aerotropolis — a multimodal commercial zone having corporate suites for business meetings, support services, retail, airline services and hotels under one roof — that is proposed to be developed on 6,554 hectares around the Noida International Airport. A central business district (CBD) of over 480 hectares is also planned to support business and shopping facilities. An Olympic Park, designed to host international sporting events and provide extensive sports facilities and accommodations for athletes, is also proposed under it. According to the blueprint,

**NAME CHANGE**  
I. No-2609678Y Rank- HAV Name-A KRISHNAN Father of K RUPIKA Residing at VILL&PO-KANAKKA NKUPPAM, TEH-GINGEE, DIST-VILLUPURAM, TAMIL NADU-604151 have changed my minor daughter's name from K RUPIKA to RUPIKA K for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, K SANGEETHA Daughter of KRISHNAN Rank-HAV Name-A KRISHNAN Residing at VILL&PO-KANAKKANKUPPAM, TEH-GINGEE, DIST-VILLUPURAM, TAMIL NADU-604151 have changed my name from K SANGEETHA to SANGEETHA K for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as MUSKAN D/o RAJEEV GUPTA W/o VISHOR AGARWAL residing at 164/3, Thapar Nagar, Uttari Patel Nagar, Meerut, Meerut Cantt, Uttar Pradesh - 250001 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUSKAN AGARWAL.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BALI DEVI Mother of No. 18003277Y Rank-HAV Name-BABLU KUMAR R/O VILL-AAMKHERI, PO-MUND, LANA, TEHSIL-ROORKEE, DIST-HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND-247656 have changed my name from BALI DEVI to BALA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/04/1964 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1950 vide Affidavit dated 02/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I Dilsah Ahmed S/O Abul Hassan R/O E-12/22, Gulshan Madarsa, Hauz Rani, VTC: Hauz Rani PO: Malviya Nagar, Hauz Khas, South Delhi, Delhi, 110017, declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as ABDUL Hussain in my 10th class educational document. The actual name of my father is ABUL HASSAN, which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I Sunder Lal Rathaur S/O Machle Prasad Rathaur, R/O H-1/301, SULTANPURI, Sultanpuri C Block, North West Delhi, Delhi, 110086 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as Sunder Lal Rathaur in my minor daughter Garima Rathaur aged 14 years in her school records. The actual name of mine is Sunder Lal Rathaur, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Jaswant/Jaswant Singh S/o Pratap Singh R/O G-863, 2nd Floor, Suncity, Near G Block Park, Sector-54, Gurgaon, Haryana-122011 have changed my Name To Jaswant Singh Rathav For All Future Purpose

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I Anand Bansal S/O Jagat Narain Gupta, R/O-9 177, Mianwali Nagar, VTC: Paschim Vihar, PO: Sunder Vihar, District: West Delhi, State: Delhi-110087, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Jagat Narain in Pan card no AAHP3096L and Pass PORT no- Z 738150. The actual name of my father is Jagat Narain, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, HUKAM SINGH Father of No. 18003277Y Rank-HAV Name-BABLU KUMAR R/O VILL-AAMKHERI, PO-MUNDLANA, TEHSIL-ROORKEE, DIST-HARIDWAR, UTTARAKHAND-247656 have changed my name from HUKAM SINGH to HUKAMA for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 02/02/1980 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1949 vide Affidavit dated 02/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**LOST & FOUND**  
I, Madhu Mittal W/O Sh. Vinod Kumar Mittal, R/o DDA Lig Flat No. 120-A, Ground Floor, Pocket A-3, Kondli Charoli, Mayapuri Vihar Phase-3, Delhi-110096, hereby in general inform that my original Allotment Letter, Demand Letter and Possession Slip issued DDA vide File No. L045(2501) 90/KG/NP have been lost somewhere in Delhi and reported vide No. 2168902/2024 dt. 01.10.2024. If found by someone, please return to the above mentioned address. M.# 9818290127.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I Soharai Saw R/O Sukhal Saw R/O Permanent Address-93, KUSMA BASDIHA, KUSAMA BASADIHA, AJURANGABAD, PARARIYA, AJURANGABAD, BIHAR-824111 Present address B 20 ambedkar city Unnati vihar, sector-123, hindon village field Dist Gaziabad uttar pradesh-201004, declare that the name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Swaraj Gupta and Sukh Lal Gupta in my aadhar card no 5357 3016 8547. The actual name of mine and my father are SOHARAI SAW and SUKHLAL SAW which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I Vishnu Thapa W/O THARK BAHADUR THAPA, R/O HOUSE NO-258, CHHURVA MOHALLA, TEKHAND VILLAGE, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-1, PO: Okhla Industrial Estate, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi-110020, declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as Vishnu in my minor son Naveen Thapa aged 16 years in his 10th class educational document. The actual name of mine is Vishnu Thapa, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, NISHA THAKUR W/o VINOD KUMAR residing at 173 -A/3, Third Floor, Ryhaan Residency, Opposite Nand Apartment -2, Ward No. 1-3, Mehrauli, South Delhi, Delhi 110030 have changed the name of my minor Son NEVAAN VINOD PARIHAR alias NEVAAN THAKUR aged 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as NEVAAN THAKUR.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, NOSHAD ALI S/O BUNYAD ALI R/O H NO. C-12/541, YAMUNA VIHAR, BHAJANPURA, NORTH EAST, DELHI 110093 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME NAUSHAD ALI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Geeta W/O: Rajniet Verma, C-297, Budh Nagar Indraprastha, P.O: P.O: 110012, declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as Geeta Verma and Rajniet Verma in my minor son Abhi Patel aged 14 in his school record. The actual name of mine and my husband are Geeta and Ram Jeet, which may be amended accordingly.

News box

France's Macron slams Iran's attacks on Israel, urges Hezbollah to stop violence

UPDATED French President Emmanuel Macron said he strongly condemns Iran's new attacks on Israel, adding that, in a sign of its commitment to Israel's security it has mobilised its military resources in the Middle East on Wednesday.

Macron also wished for Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity to be reinstated in strict compliance with United Nations Security Council resolutions, the presidency statement added.

Kamala Harris calls Iran 'dangerous, destabilising' force after attack on Israel

Washington. US Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic presidential candidate, said on Tuesday that Iran was a "dangerous" and "destabilising" force in the Middle East and Washington was committed to Israel's security.

Tim Walz clears air on Tiananmen Square 'visit': I'm a knucklehead, misspoke

New Delhi. Democratic vice presidential nominee Tim Walz found himself in a tough spot during a debate with Donald Trump's running mate and Republican Senator JD Vance after questions arose about the timeline of a trip he took to China in 1989.

A former football coach, Walz said, "As a young teacher my first year out, I got the opportunity in the summer of 1989 to travel to China, thirty-five years ago. I came back home and then started a programme to take young people there.

The controversy surrounding Walz's trip is rooted in comments he made during a 2014 congressional hearing commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre.

US's 'ironclad' support for Israel: How they jointly planned to thwart Iran



Two US Navy destroyers fired interceptors at the Iranian missiles launched towards Israel on Tuesday. Top US officials in Washington coordinated with Israeli authorities

World Iran launched nearly 200 missiles at Israel late Tuesday, prompting residents in several Israeli cities to take shelter. However, Israel said that many of the missiles were intercepted, with assistance from US agencies and missile destroyers, preventing any casualties.



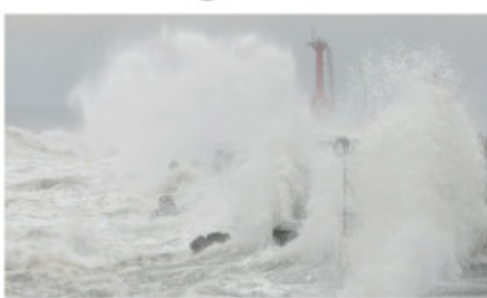
"minute by minute," emphasising that "there will be severe consequences for this attack". "This is a significant escalation by Iran. Equally significant is that the US was able to step up with Israel to create a situation in which no one was killed."

HOW US HELPED ISRAEL'S DEFENCE US President Joe Biden directed the US military

to aid Israel's defence against Iranian attacks and shoot down missiles targeting Israel, the White House said. Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were monitoring the attack from the White House situation room and receiving regular updates.

Taiwan braces for Typhoon Krathon, cancels hundreds of flights, closes schools

Kaohsiung Taiwan shut down on Wednesday with hundreds of flights cancelled and offices, schools and financial markets closed ahead of the arrival of a weakening Typhoon Krathon, which is forecast to bring storm surges along the coast and torrential rain.



capital Taipei, the Central Weather Administration (CWA) said. All cities and counties in Taiwan declared a day off on Wednesday, shutting financial markets.

towards Taiwan's coast, the weather administration said. Because of Typhoon Gaemi being quite severe earlier this year, everyone is more cautious and prepared this time around.

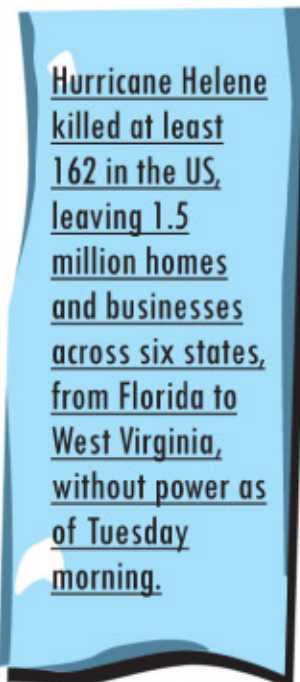
Iran fires nearly 200 missiles into Israel; US, Israel warn of 'severe consequences'

JERUSALEM. The United States said it was discussing a joint response after Iran fired a barrage of missiles at Israel, warning Tehran of "severe consequences".

what the response towards Iran would be, Biden replied: "That's in active discussion right now."

further retaliation". The Revolutionary Guards earlier said the attack was in response to Israel's killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah last week as well as the death of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in a Tehran bombing widely blamed on Israel.

Hurricane Helene kills 162 in US, over 1 million homes, businesses without power



Claudia Sheinbaum sworn in as Mexico's 1st female president: It's time for women

Claudia Sheinbaum, a 62-year-old scientist and former mayor of Mexico City, took the oath of office and received the presidential sash in a boisterous ceremony in Mexico's Congress.

Mexico City. Claudia Sheinbaum was sworn in as Mexico's first woman president on Tuesday, vowing to bolster women's rights and ensure Latin America's number 2 economy remains a secure destination for international investment.

mother, a grandmother, a scientist and a woman of faith, and from today, by the will of the Mexican people, the president," she said.



key institutions will be key to preserving market sentiment and sovereign debt ratings," Ramos said, emphasising the importance of heavily-indebted state oil company Pemex.

presidential elections in the United States, Mexico's largest trading partner, could add to market volatility, especially if former President Donald Trump, who has vowed to increase tariffs on Mexican goods, wins.

News box

**MLA P V Anvar releases complaint lodged with CPM secretary against Sasi**

**MALAPPURAM.** Nilambur MLA P V Anvar continued his attack on the CPM on Tuesday by releasing the complaint he had lodged with the party secretary against the chief minister's political secretary P Sasi.

In the complaint, Anvar alleged that Sasi receives a share of the money obtained by former Malappuram SP Sujith Das and ADGP M R Ajith Kumar through activities related to gold smuggling. "The police team under Sujith Das takes a portion of the gold seized from gold carriers arriving at Kozhikode airport for their personal gain, surrendering only the remaining portion to the court," Anvar said in the complaint.

"In the second method of making money using gold carriers, the police team threatens the carriers and confiscates the entire amount of gold from them.

This is done with the backing of ADGP M R Ajith Kumar. Sasi also receives a portion of the financial proceeds earned by the team that includes Sujith Das and Ajith Kumar," he said. Anvar also alleged in his complaint that CPM leaders are unable to communicate directly due to Sasi's interference. Furthermore, Anvar claimed that Sasi collects the phone numbers of women who lodge complaints with the chief minister's office and flirts with them.

Regarding Chief Minister Vijayan's alleged statement linking gold smuggling in Malappuram to anti-national activities, Anvar said the CM's remarks were based on CPM state leadership's assessment that the party lost the last election due to its stance on Muslim appeasement.

"The LDF lost the election because the police imposed fines on poor people. Based on the state leadership's report, the CPM leaders are now trying to appease the RSS," Anvar added. Meanwhile, the CPM has decided to hold a public meeting at Chandakunnu near Nilambur next Monday. Politburo member A Vijayaraghavan will inaugurate the meeting, where the party will present its position to the people of Nilambur.

**Doctor instructs nurses via video call to treat patients, clinic sealed in Tamil Nadu**

**TIRUNELVELI.** After a doctor was found issuing instructions to nurses and treating patients via video calls, health and revenue department officials sealed a private clinic in Vikramasingapuram on Monday.

"Ambasamudram Tahsildar Sabari Mallika was conducting regular inspections in Vaikalpalam of Vikramasingapuram recently.

During the inspection, she discovered that nurses were treating patients at a private clinic owned by Dr Chandrasekaran. Further inquiry by health officials revealed that Dr Chandrasekaran had not been visiting his clinic for the past few months.

On Monday, Dr Latha, Joint Director of Health Services, Tirunelveli, sealed the clinic in the presence of Mallika, Chief Medical Officer of Ambasamudram Government Hospital Dr Shanmuga Sankari and Village Administrative Officer Kuthalingam and Vikramasingapuram police," said sources.

When contacted by TNE, Latha said that based on her complaint, the police registered a case against Chandrasekaran. "Instead of attending to patients in person, Chandrasekaran issued instructions to the nurses on how to treat the patients, through video call.

The nurses were performing intravenous cannulation and administering IV fluids based on his instructions," she said, adding action would be initiated against the clinic under The Clinical Establishment (Registration and Regulation) Act.

**Telangana adopts Karnataka's model for Digital Family Cards**

**HYDERABAD.** A day before the launch of the door-to-door field survey for the pilot phase of Digital Family Cards, officials were making last-minute changes to the survey forms on Tuesday.

These forms would be used to collect details from citizens as part of the pilot project. According to sources, the officials prepared three formats after conducting studies in states like Karnataka, Haryana, UP, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Sources said that after Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy made some suggestions, the officials made changes in the format. They said that the chief minister instructed the officials to concentrate only on collecting demographic data.

The government has decided to adopt the format used by the Karnataka government, those familiar with the matter said. The format used by Karnataka has seven columns — name of the family members; relationship with family head; gender; date of birth; age; Aadhaar number and mobile number.

For remaining details, the government would synchronise the data with that of ration card, pension, SHGs, Rythu Bharosa, crop loan waiver scheme, insurance, AarogyaSri and Kanti Velugu.

**'Karipur gold smuggling, Malappuram hawala seizure facts,' says CM Pinarayi Vijayan**

**CM emphasised that his opposition to communalism, including minority communalism, should not be equated with opposition to any particular group or community.**

**KOZHIKODE/T'PURAM .** A day after Opposition UDF and estranged LDF MLA P V Anvar tried to corner the chief minister over the controversial Malappuram mention, CM Pinarayi Vijayan distanced himself from the Malappuram row. Coming under fire for trying to project Malappuram as a crime hotspot in a recent interview, Pinarayi clarified that the controversial remarks were wrongly attributed to him.

Speaking at the inauguration of the AKG Auditorium in Kozhikode on Tuesday, Pinarayi said he has not mentioned any specific district or community in the interview. The CM, however, pointed out that gold smuggling through Karipur airport and seizure of hawala money from Malappuram district were factual occurrences, and questioned why some were alarmed by these revelations. Pinarayi further emphasised that his opposition to communalism, including minority communalism, should not be equated with opposition to any particular group or community.

Earlier in the day, the CMO said the controversial remarks do not reflect the CM's views and the state government's stance on these matters. Later the publication too clarified that the portion



disowned by the CMO were given by a PR agency. Curiously, the chief minister had mentioned about gold smuggling and hawala seizure in Malappuram district at his press conference on September 21.

Even as the chief minister came out with an open clarification, Opposition Congress and the Muslim League targeted the CM for using the PR agency. While senior IUML leader P K Kunhalikutty said if the controversial information was given by a PR agency, that makes it all the more serious. IUML general secretary P M A Salam said what was voiced through the PR agency reflected the RSS agenda. Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan questioned the delay in clarification and also sought to know why the chief minister maintained links with such PR agencies. BJP state chief K Surendran,

meanwhile, criticised the CM for making a U-turn in the issue. Pinarayi changed his stance as he was scared of Muslim League and P V Anvar, alleged Surendran.

In a detailed speech in Kozhikode, the chief minister said that his comments were willfully misinterpreted. He further said that a letter was sent from his office seeking explanations from the newspaper that later went on to rectify the mistake that had been earlier published. But despite this rectification, the incorrect part of the news is still being looked at and circulated by vested interests," he added. The factual mentions of gold smuggling and hawala money seizures at Karipur and Malappuram were now being distorted for political gains, Pinarayi said. He called for an end to the propagation of misinformation and highlighted the need for integrity in public discourse. He also accused the RSS and BJP of aligning with the Zionist agenda to appease the United States, stressing that his stance was not meant to favour any group. He further criticised the promotion of communal agendas and urged people to reject attempts to sow seeds of division among them.

**Man gets death penalty for rape, murder of eight-year-old girl in Odisha**

**SAMBALPUR.** The special POCSO court in Sambalpur on Tuesday awarded death sentence to a man for raping and murdering an eight-year-old girl at Kasada village within Jamankira police limits in 2022.

Special Judge (POCSO) Abhilash Senapati also imposed a fine of Rs 1 lakh on the 40-year-old convict, Prasanta Baghar. The crime had taken place on March 25, 2022. According to reports, the minor had gone to a field near Kasada village to answer nature's call when Baghar reached the spot and forcibly took her away to a secluded place.

After raping the girl, the convict beheaded her with an axe. He returned to the village with the severed head and roamed around holding it in one hand and the axe in the other. Baghar even walked up to a tube-well and washed the head.

On seeing the ghastly scenes, villagers went inside their homes in fear. However, Baghar's wife confronted him for the heinous act which led to a scuffle between the couple. During the fight, the convict scared off his wife by showing her the axe before falling unconscious near the tube well.

Subsequently, villagers informed police who reached Kasada and arrested Baghar. Later, the deceased girl's father complained with the police based on which a case was registered and an investigation launched.

Police filed the chargesheet under sections 302 and 376 of the IPC besides section 6 of POCSO Act. During the trial, the court examined 25 witnesses and found Baghar guilty of all offences. Considering the heinous nature of the crime, the court ordered the convict to be hanged till death.

**New excise policy to come into force from Oct 12**

**The period of licence for selling IMFL and FL by shops shall be from October 12, 2024 to September 30, 2026.**

**VIJAYAWADA.** The Government of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday notified a new excise policy, allowing private retailers to sell liquor on the lines of Haryana and other States. A revenue of Rs 5,500 crore is expected from retail outlets. In a complete overhaul of the excise policy based on best practices from other States, the government allowed retail sale of liquor through 3,736 notified private shops across AP.

The new policy will come into force from October 12, 2024 and the permission to sell IMFL (Indian made foreign liquor) and FL (foreign liquor) will be granted to private persons or entities through a selection process, according to a GO issued on September 30. The period of licence for selling IMFL and FL by shops shall be from October 12, 2024 to September 30, 2026. According to the

GO, out of the total number of shops to be licensed in 2024-26, as many as 3,396 will be in the open category, while 340 shops will be reserved for 'Geetha Kulalu' (toddy tapping communities) with a view to empower them and promote equity and social justice.

"The selection process for granting licence will be through a draw of lots and an applicant can apply for more than one shop. Applicants have to deposit a non-refundable fee of Rs 2 lakh for each shop. As per the notification, the retail excise tax (RET) ranges from Rs 50 lakh for a locality with a population of 10,000 to Rs 85 lakh per annum for a municipality or municipal corporation having a population above 5 lakh during the fiscal 2024-25. It will be increased by 10% for 2025-26," the GO read.

The overall exercise is expected to fetch Rs 5,500 crore revenue to the government. In order to provide an enhanced and high-end retail experience, a total of 12 premium store licences shall be granted as a separate category. These premium stores shall be strategically located across major municipal corporations namely Vijayawada, Visakhapatnam, Rajamahendravaram, Kakinada, Guntur, Nellore, Kurnool, Kadapa and Anantapur or any other city as notified by the government from time to time. The Cabinet Sub-Committee had studied the Excise policies of States such as Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh and also took extensive feedback from key stakeholders for framing the policy.

**Former techie takes paddy farming to next level in Kerala**

**ALAPPUZHA.** In 2018, Sameer P quit his job as IT manager in Saudi Arabia's Jeddah to live with family in his hometown Mannar in Alappuzha. When his family faced financial issues, Sameer went to Chennai and launched an IT startup. However, Covid hit and his business tanked.

Sameer then took up electrical works and petty contracts under government projects, including CCTV camera installation in Mittayi Theruvu in Kozhikode. In 2020, he received a small contract to construct a motor base (motor thara) in Kuttanad under Budhanoor panchayat. While the construction was going on, Sameer came to know about around 20 acres of barren paddy land nearby. That piece of information proved a turning point in his life. "It inspired me to begin paddy cultivation. I leased the land and started cultivating paddy. The first season harvest



was good and I made reasonable profit. I then searched for more paddy fields to lease," says Sameer, 36. Now, Sameer says he is cultivating paddy on 670 acres in Mannar, Chennithala and different parts of Cherthala taluk in Alappuzha.

What sets his venture apart is the fact that he

uses a combination of modern machinery and labourers for cultivation. His arsenal includes six modern drones, costing Rs 10 lakh each, and a Rs 16-lakh transplanter, which is used to sow seeds.

"Manpower shortage forced me to depend on drones initially. I searched for labourers to spray pesticides and manure. However, few are willing to do the job. The labour charge was also very high. So, I decided to depend on drones," says Sameer.

His choice of manure is also different. "Back then, manure like urea, factafos, potash and others were costly and their price is increasing every year. At the same time, many companies launched nano fertilisers that are cheaper and can be easily sprayed using a drone.

If one acre needs 25 to 35kg urea or another fertiliser, only 250ml of nano urea, costing around Rs 250, is needed. So, we can save production cost," says Sameer.

**Siddaramaiah's family alleges conspiracy amid MUDA scam**

**Raghu said Siddaramaiah has not entertained any family member on any request since he entered politics in 1983.**

**MYSURU.** Even as the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) sites scam has hit headlines, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's extended family members are upset and accuse a larger conspiracy by BJP and JDS to unseat Siddaramaiah.

Raghu, son of Siddaramaiah's brother Rame Gowda, on Tuesday said the decision of his aunt (Doddamma) Parvathi BM Siddaramaiah's wife, to return 14 sites to the Mysore Urban Development Authority was right. She wrote a letter to the MUDA commissioner on Monday, asking the Authority to take back the site even as the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), earlier in the day, registered an FIR against Siddaramaiah, her and others over in the MUDA site allotment issue. The Lokayukta too has taken up the investigation into alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites in upmarket Vijayanagar area by MUDA to Parvathi, in lieu of her three acres and 16 guntas of land acquired by the Authority.

Raghu said Siddaramaiah has not entertained any family member on any request since he entered politics in 1983. "We have not gone asking for anything. If we had done that, we could have led a life of luxury. I did not have to buy a motorbike on loan," he added. He said his aunt is upset over the developments in the MUDA issue and that was the reason she surrendered the sites. "She does not interfere in anything," he added.

'Plot hatched by a few upset with guarantees'

Raghu alleged that a few politicians who are upset with the implementation of the guarantee schemes for the poor have hatched a plot to corner Siddaramaiah.

Siddaramu, who is Chief Minister's cousin, said Siddaramaiah has had a clean public life for the last four decades and someone hatched the plot to besmirch the CM's reputation. He said, "Pravathamma has not made any mistake, but they have projected her as a culprit and it has pained the family." Recalling that the 14 sites were allotted when the BJP government was in power, he said family members spoke to Parvathi many times. "We are confident that Doddamma and Doddappa will come out clean in the MUDA scam," he added. Women in Siddaramana Hundi, from where Siddaramaiah hails, are also upset with the entire episode. The villagers recently visited the Male Mahadeshwara Hill temple and offered puja to ward off any evil aimed at Siddaramaiah.

**Tamil Nadu to get above normal northeast monsoon**

**CHENNAI.** The northeast monsoon will make its onset in the third week of October, and Tamil Nadu, especially the northern parts including Chennai, is likely to receive above-normal rains.

S Balachandran, Additional Director General of Meteorology at Regional Meteorological Centre, said as per the Long Range Forecast, north Tamil Nadu will receive above normal rain and southern districts will receive normal to below normal rain during the monsoon.

The state and other parts of south peninsular India are expected to receive above-normal rain, which is defined as more than 112% of the Long Period Average (LPA) during this period. The northeast monsoon is vital for Tamil Nadu as it receives nearly 48% of its annual rainfall during this season, playing a critical role in replenishing water reservoirs, supporting agriculture, and addressing the drinking water needs.

Balachandran said global climatic factors such as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation



(ENSO) and Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) will play a role in the monsoon dynamics. Currently, neutral ENSO conditions are being observed in the Pacific ocean, with a higher chance of La Niña developing during the post-monsoon season.

This is favourable for the northeast monsoon in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, above-average sea surface temperatures are noted across the Indian Ocean, with neutral IOD conditions expected to continue.

Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Kerala, Mahe and south interior Karnataka are expected to benefit from this increased rainfall.

The IMD has also highlighted potential temperature trends for October. Above-normal maximum temperatures are likely over most parts of the country, except in central India and the southern peninsula, where normal to below-normal temperatures are expected. Above-normal minimum temperatures are predicted for most regions, including Tamil Nadu, which could lead to warmer nights.

For the next five days, several districts in Tamil Nadu are likely to receive heavy rain due to a cyclonic circulation over the Comorin area that runs from north interior Karnataka across interior Tamil Nadu.

On Wednesday, ghat areas of Coimbatore, Nilgiris, Erode, Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri, Salem and Tirupattur will receive heavy rain and the following day, Ramanathapuram, Sivagangai, Pudukkottai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Cuddalore, Theni, Dindigul, Kallakurichi, Vellore, Ranipet, Tiruvannamalai and Tiruchy will join the party.

## Kamala's stars & Trump's Silicon stripes

HE highly respected Scientific American magazine did not do Kamala Harris a favour by announcing its support for her. Readers of that journal felt it was unbecoming of an impartial purveyor of science to enter partisan politics of earthlings instead of reporting, for instance, on Mars calling Venus, or how stars burst to life. Kamala, wisely, kept quiet about this endorsement. She had other stars to think about.

Pop singer Taylor Swift is one such star. After the Presidential debate, she came out blazing blinding white light in support of Kamala Harris. This endorsement could move the needle as Swift has 550 million followers across social media. When Travis Kelce, the football hero, started dating her, his Instagram following jumped by three million. A lift like this would be Kamala's dream especially as the contest is so close. Soon after Swift's endorsement of Kamala Harris, as many as 4,05,999 users visited the site vote.gov that instructs one about how to get registered in the electoral rolls and vote. If, as surveys suggest, more than half the adults in the USA are Swift fans, her backing of Kamala Harris is good news for the Democrats. If Travis Kelce could get a boost because of Swift, Kamala Harris deserves one too.

The problem is that more than half of Swift's fans belong to Generation Z — they are between 18 and 26 years old. This age group, repeated surveys show, is most reluctant to get out and vote. In America's most recent election, the 2022 midterms, only 25.5 per cent of 18-to-29-year olds cast a ballot whereas 63.1 per cent of those above age 60 did. The young go to concerts and stage protests, but voting is not their thing; it's not their thing. Kamala Harris has enjoyed a two-week post-debate fizz and now she and Donald Trump are both running flat out. Trump's supporters have dusted themselves off from the debate debacle. This has made the race more or less even. Kamala has clearly more celebrities on her side — Swift, for one — but how reliable is that? In India, we have seen film stars come and go out of politics without creating much of a ripple. Star support can certainly be very newsworthy. American TV, too, gushes about celebrities crowning for Kamala. Hillary Clinton also had Hollywood at her feet, singing her song, but still lost. Donald Trump won with a scantier cast and in this election, too, his celebrity endorsement is nowhere near that of Kamala Harris. She probably has many more stars in her pocket than even what Hilary Clinton had during her campaign. Still, remember that Hilary lost and this should be a cautionary tale for those exulting in Kamala's celebrity troupe. Besides Swift, there's a long list of catch-me-before-I-swoon heartthrobs like George Clooney, Julia Roberts and Meryl Streep. This might even harm Kamala as it makes credible Trump's charge that Democrats are elitist; they think of organics and climate change but not of kitchen sink issues.

The muscle-shirted Hulk Hogan is the one real star with Trump. Surprisingly, given the widely alleged, and unconfirmed, links Trump has with White supremacists, quite a few celebrity Blacks are on his side. Among them is Amber Rose, who once called Trump a racist, as well as rappers like Sexxy Red, Kodak Black and Lil Wayne. Earlier, Trump had favoured the last two with Presidential pardons for crimes that meant longish jail terms. Though none of these figures come anywhere near Taylor Swift or Oprah Winfrey in terms of followers or fans, together, they count for a substantial number. Millions, particularly Blacks, stamp and sway to rap music which boasts of "banging" metaphors and "bad man" imageries. Through them, and their lawyers, the racist charge against Trump is challenged as he is now hailed by this section as an advocate of American Blacks.

There is another elite grouping which is money-wise more powerful but lacks popular charisma. It comprises tech billionaires of the Silicon Valley who cheer for Trump as they are ideologically convinced that Kamala Harris is a dangerous Marxist. In fact, Trump's running mate JD Vance is the nominee of the Silicon Valley heavies. They chose Vance in the belief that he can carry their heft to counter Kamala's left. On her part, Kamala is doing her best to douse her radical image and has said:

## How Manipur CM has skewed the national security debate

By turning a blind eye to the collusion of the armed groups with Arambai Tenggol and the state police in attacking the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar villages, the CM and his Security Adviser have lost their credibility.

IN an unusual display of cooperation and coordination between the Manipur Chief Minister's Office and its Security Adviser, who is also the head of the Unified Security Command of the state, the former sent an intelligence 'input' to the latter and two high-ranking officials of the state on September 16, 2024. The 'input' forewarned a veritable doomsday for the Meitei community. It said 'over 900 Kuki militants' who reportedly infiltrated into Manipur were set to 'launch multiple coordinated attacks on Meitei villages around 28 September.' To amplify the 'threat' perception, this 'input', signed by N Geoffrey, Secretary to the CM, was framed in the language of 'national security threat' best understood by policy mandarins in New Delhi. It was remarkably pointed and precise in its details. It stated that these militants 'newly trained in use of drone-based bombs, projectiles, missiles and jungle warfare [are] grouped in units of 30 members each....'

Coming within a fortnight of the unverified and sensational claim by CM Biren Singh and the state police that the Kuki militants used sophisticated drone bombs and rocket-propelled guns (RPGs) to attack Meitei settlements in Koutruk village and Bishnupur just across the 'buffer zone', this intelligence input whipped up a communal frenzy and brought full circle the hyperbole debate on 'threats' to India's national security.

The blanket vilification and selective targeting of the Kukis as 'terrorists' and as the singular source of 'threat' to national security could not have come into sharper relief. A deeper probe into the immediate context, however, suggests that the CM was desperately in need of a sensational news item to deflect increasing public scrutiny on his integrity in light of two of his recent outlandish claims: firstly, his alleged self-incriminating claim in a leaked tape — run by an online news portal in August 2024 — that he advocated the secret use of 'bombs' and violence against the Kukis to protect Meitei identity and dignity; and secondly, his claim that the Kukis used drone bombs and RPGs to attack Meitei settlements was contested by, among others, Lt-Gen PC Nair, former Director-General of Assam Rifles, on the grounds that they were not corroborated by the Indian Army and by 'substantive evidences' on the ground.

Seen against this backdrop, the intelligence input was far from being a genuine concern for 'national security'. It was driven by a self-goal to salvage the CM's dented image on the one hand and a convenient scapegoat to launch a series of 'combing operations' to pre-emptively strike the Kuki 'militants' on the other hand. This point is alluded to by Kuldip Singh, the Security Adviser, during his press brief on September 20.

What is, however, baffling is the manner in which Kuldip



Singh pliantly submitted to and cooperated with this intelligence bluster. Without bothering to establish its credibility, he affirmed that the 'input' was '100 per cent correct' until proven otherwise. This also suggests that the de facto lever of security control in the state has always been wielded by the CM. Interestingly, the CM's longstanding grievance is that he has been rendered powerless after being substituted by Kuldip Singh as the head of the Unified Security Command in May last year. That neither Kuldip Singh nor the high-ranking military and police officials who attended the security group meeting, which was convened by Singh two days after he received this input, ever bothered to establish its credibility is a telling commentary on the tenuous civil-military relations in the state. A premeditated misinformation campaign such as this is unlikely to yield sub-optimal 'national security' outcomes.

In game theory, overcoming collective action problem and obtaining optimal outcomes demand that players coordinate under a rule-based institutionalised framework where information inputs are credible, transparent and not distorted. Security protocol also demands that 'immediate' and 'secret' information of such kind be put under meticulous scrutiny and not be shared with the public before credible and actionable strategies are chalked out and potential threats neutralised. The Spear Corps plausibly kept this in mind when it demanded details and proper scrutiny of the intelligence 'input' in its tweet immediately after the Security Adviser briefed the media. However, in an insurgent space where the powers-that-be have for long operated with impunity under the shadow of a compromised institutional ecosystem and where they expect pliant actors to fall in line, any contrarian position is not tolerated. This explains why the Spear Corps' tweet was immediately taken down.

Had the CMO's concern been genuine, the large-scale 'infiltration' of proscribed Meitei armed organisations into the valley areas from Myanmar and their

involvement in perpetrating violence against the tribal Kuki-Zomi-Hmar communities would have merited attention and coordinated response of the political and security establishments by now. By turning a blind eye to the reported involvement and collusion of the armed groups like the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) and Kanglei Yawol Kanba Lup (KYKL) with Arambai Tenggol and the state police in attacking the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar villages across the 'buffer zones', the CM and his Security Adviser have lost their credibility. They have also compromised their constitutional oath and commitments and made their positions untenable.

This selective amnesia implies that the 'national security' gains obtained by the security forces in the aftermath of 'Operation All Clear' in 2004 — which flushed out proscribed Meitei armed organisations from Sajik Tampak and the valley areas — have been neutralised under the nose of the current political dispensation.

Genuine commitment to national security interest will also be equally mindful of the unrivalled access that the UNLF and other Meitei proscribed armed militants have to sophisticated weapons and armoury within and across the Indo-Myanmar border. This point is underscored by the UNLF's extensive use of IEDs in Phraw district in 2005-06 where many tribals were trapped and killed.

Another instance highlights the same point: the People Liberation Army (PLA), another proscribed Meitei armed group, ambushed with ease the Assam Rifles convoy in November 2021 just a couple of kilometres away from the Indo-Myanmar border. They killed with impunity five Assam Rifles' personnel, Col Viplav Tripathy, his wife and son. It shows that the source of national security threat lies somewhere else across the Indo-Myanmar border. The recovery of a large cache of 'arms and ammunition with war-like stores' from 12 KYKL cadres apprehended by the Spear Corps at Itham village in East Imphal district on June 24, 2023 demonstrated beyond doubt the real source of danger to India's national security.

As the 'doomsday' forecast passed off as a mere 'bluster' and Manipur's CM's office got away with this unacceptable misinformation campaign, the verdict was on the Indian state and its democratic culture of impunity. It is about time the Indian state priorities its national security focus and fixes political accountability. Instead of spending over Rs 31,000 crore on a clichéd idea which seeks to erect border fencing along selected pockets of the over 1,600-km Indo-Myanmar border, it should invest in modernising the intelligence network and upskilling the security forces.

## Well done, J&K

Poll campaigning ends on a positive note

THE conclusion of the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) poll campaigning marks a significant milestone, underscoring the successful efforts of both the administration and security forces. As the region navigated a high-stakes election after a decade, the seamless coordination between election officials, security agencies and local authorities ensured that the campaigning ended on a peaceful note. In this first Assembly election since the abrogation of Article 370, political parties freely campaigned across both Jammu and the Valley, a testament to the tight security that kept terrorism at bay. The key poll issues include the abrogation of Article 370, with debates on the restoration of statehood, and the focus on development in the region. Parties like the BJP emphasised the benefits of Article 370's removal, citing peace and integration, while the Congress and regional parties like the NC and the PDP rallied for statehood restoration and protection of local identity.

With 40 seats up for grabs in the final phase, the



competitive spirit between major players — the BJP, Congress, NC and PDP — is palpable. And what has stood out is the high voter enthusiasm and turnout, encouraged by the election arrangements, enabling widespread public participation. The Election Commission, in tandem with the police and armed forces, managed to maintain order and ensure safety despite the looming threats from across the border. Areas near the Line of Control and the International Border, usually vulnerable to disruptions, remained calm, with polling stations set up in even the most sensitive regions. Kashmir Zone IGP VK Birdi praised the coordination and intelligence-gathering by local officers, which helped prevent any law-and-order breakdown.

This successful election campaign has not only fortified faith in the region's governance but also shown the world that democracy can thrive in J&K against all odds. A well-deserved pat on the back is due to all those involved.

## India must fortify its digital defences

The importance of Aatmanirbharta is magnified in domains impacting national security

ON September 17, hundreds of pagers used by Hezbollah members exploded nearly simultaneously across various locations in Lebanon and Syria, killing at least 12 people, including two children, and injuring at least 2,000. A second wave of attacks followed when dozens of two-way radios blew up, killing at least 20 people and wounding more than 450. Many believe that Israeli intelligence, particularly Unit 8200 — Israel's cyber warfare division — masterminded the attacks. The motive appears clear: to paralyse Hezbollah's communication infrastructure and instil widespread fear. Wary of mobile phone vulnerabilities, Hezbollah had recently shifted to using pagers as their primary means of communication.

According to reports, a small amount of explosives hidden in the pagers was triggered by a remote signal. The procurement chain of the pagers traces back to a Taiwanese company, Gold Apollo, which initially manufactured the AR-924 model pagers. However, the Hezbollah pagers were not directly sold by Gold Apollo but distributed by BAC Consulting, a Budapest-based company that held a licensing agreement with Gold Apollo. The New York Times reported that Israeli intelligence operated BAC Consulting and had created two unnamed shell corporations to obscure its involvement. Headlines following the attack have talked of terrifying implications for the future, a new chapter in cyber warfare and the weaponisation of everyday objects. While the Israeli attack was brilliantly planned and executed, its success should not surprise anyone familiar with state-sponsored cyber espionage. The modification of both hardware and software to gather intelligence or sabotage critical infrastructure is not a new phenomenon. Edward Snowden revealed in June 2013 the existence of the PRISM programme, under which the US National Security Agency (NSA)

collected data from Internet communications. The programme's scale was staggering and included planting backdoors and spyware in electronic devices. According to a report in Der Spiegel, the NSA had planted backdoors to access computers, hard drives, routers and other devices from companies such as Cisco, Dell, Western Digital, Seagate, Maxtor, Samsung and Huawei. More NSA documents, released in Glenn Greenwald's book No Place to Hide, detailed a specific instance of how NSA employees intercepted Cisco routers intended for organisations targeted for surveillance and implanted them with backdoors before shipping them on. Cisco publicly distanced itself from these actions, but the incident raised concerns about the vulnerability of global supply chains for tech hardware. America is one of many countries that use these practices. A 2018 Bloomberg report alleged that Chinese intelligence agents had placed tiny microchips on server motherboards manufactured by Supermicro. These servers were sold to major US tech companies, including Amazon and Apple. The chips allegedly allowed for remote backdoor access.

In 2020, The Wall Street Journal quoted US officials as saying that Huawei was covertly accessing mobile networks via backdoors meant for law enforcement use, prompting several nations to ban the company's products. Similarly, Chinese surveillance equipment makers Hikvision and Dahua have been blacklisted over concerns of sending sensitive data back to Beijing. Despite the Snowden revelations of 2013, those responsible for cybersecurity in India were slow to react. Foreign hardware and software continued to be procured for critical military and civilian communication networks. It wasn't until 2020, after the Chinese incursions in Ladakh, that the Indian government restricted Chinese telecom equipment. Yet, by then, more than half of the state-owned BSNL's mobile



network was based on equipment from ZTE and Huawei. Private telecom operators like Airtel and Vodafone also remain heavily dependent on Chinese equipment. In March 2021, Bharti Airtel awarded a telecom infrastructure expansion contract worth around Rs 300 crore to Huawei. Efforts to reduce dependency on China and promote indigenisation have not yielded adequate results. As per a report by the Global Trade Research Initiative, China and Hong Kong accounted for an overwhelming 56 per cent of India's total imports in electronics, telecom and electrical products in the 2023-24 financial year. In July 2022, the Department of Telecom banned the use of non-trusted telecom gear for the expansion of communication networks in the country. However, this alone cannot prevent the poisoning of supply chains. Cisco, which has a significant presence in India, including in military communication networks, has received approval as a 'trusted source'. According to data provided by the Voice of Indian Communication Technology Enterprises (VoICE), Cisco is the largest importer of equipment such as access points and switches from China. The Indian Army recently adopted a secure mobile ecosystem called SAMBHAV (Secure Army

Mobile Bharat Vision). However, the system does not address the fundamental vulnerability as it is based on a foreign handset and rides on commercial networks seeded with foreign equipment. It could end up providing a false sense of security. It is well understood that foreign dependencies cannot be eradicated overnight, but there is a visible lack of a national strategy to work in this direction. We have been hearing about a new cybersecurity strategy since 2020, but it is yet to be promulgated. One essential element of this strategy must be replacing foreign hardware and software in critical systems. In 2019, the US enacted the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act, which mandates that US network operators remove network equipment from Chinese vendors Huawei and ZTE. This initiative, often referred to as the 'rip and replace' programme, provides federal funding to network operators.

The fact that the programme is facing delays shows the depth of Chinese gear in the networks, but the US intent and direction are clear. Mirroring the US move, the Chinese government recently ordered 'rip and replace' for US-made chips in its telecommunication networks by 2027. This follows a 2023 order banning government agencies from using iPhones and foreign-branded smartphones for work. Aatmanirbharta is not just a goal; it is a strategic imperative. Its importance is magnified in domains directly impacting national security, where dependency is a vulnerability. One such domain is cybersecurity, where safeguarding the nation from state-sponsored cyber threats must be a top priority. We must fortify our digital defences, enhance indigenous capabilities and eliminate reliance on foreign technology that could be weaponised against us.



9 reasons why you're

# Constantly Worn out

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



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

**No Exercise**

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

**Lack of sleep**

Recent research shows many of us survive on so-called 'junk sleep' — the kind when we wake up frequently throughout the night. It doesn't replenish our energy levels as well as long stretches of continuous sleep do.

Remedy: Develop good sleep hygiene. Go to bed on time, avoid staring at screens an hour before bed time. If sleep evades you, have a relaxing bath and a cup of warm milk. Throw in some easy reading, as that helps.

**Caffeine addiction**

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

**Iron deficiency**

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

citrus fruit high in vitamin C.

**Dehydration**

Losing even as little as 2 per cent of your body's normal water content can take its toll on your energy levels. As we get older we lose our thirst reflex. Also, working in an air-conditioned office, going for a long walk can lead to depleted fluid levels. This causes blood pressure to drop and not enough blood gets to the brain or muscles. It results in headaches, fatigue and loss of concentration. Remedy: Try to drink water every two hours. If you need encouragement, add mint, basil, lemon or cucumber to liven its flavour.

**Sugar Overdose**

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

**Missing out on protein**

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

**Storing on stress**

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

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

**Healthiest Alcohol Drinks**

**Vodka Soda**

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

**Healthiest Alcohol Drinks**

**Bellini**

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

**Healthiest Alcohol Drinks**

**Red wine**

Indians have opened up to drinking wine. It is no longer associated with just the Italians and the French. From rosy cheeks to a happy heart, wine was and is a popular beverage. Red wine is considered the fountain of youth by many thanks to the high level of antioxidants. A great accompaniment for romantic dinners, wine will boost your body's defenses, build bones and balance blood sugar levels. Red wine can also increase women's libido too.

**White wine**

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

**Guinness**

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



## Top 5 healthiest alcohol Drinks

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



# Monsoon caused above normal rainfall in most parts of India, says weather body

**New Delhi:** The Southwest monsoon season, which lasts from June to September, brought above-normal rainfall to most parts of India, with the country's overall rainfall reaching 108 per cent of the Long Period Average (LPA), the India Meteorological Department said. Notably, LPA is the average rainfall recorded over a specific region over a given time interval. While central India, northwest India and the southern peninsula received record rainfall during this period, reaching 106 per cent of their LPAs, east and north-east India received less rainfall, which was below normal levels, amounting to just 86 per cent of the LPA. The monsoon was particularly generous during the latter half of the season, with August and September breaking records at 114 per cent of the LPA, the weather body said. The monsoon core zone, encompassing several key central regions, witnessed an impressive 122 per cent of its LPA in rainfall, critical for the Kharif cropping season. Despite a drier-than-usual June,



which saw rainfall at 89 per cent of the LPA, the months of July, August, and September over compensated with above-average precipitation. Out of the 36 meteorological subdivisions across the country, only three, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh, reported deficient rainfall. Other regions either met or exceeded the expected norms, ensuring overall satisfactory conditions. This widespread rainfall has significant implications for water reservoirs, crop yields, and hydrological balance, promising a good year for most regions.

The Southwest Monsoon season this year has been marked by substantial meteorological activity, featuring the formation of six monsoon depressions, with one of these intensifying into cyclonic storm "ASNA."

The onset of the monsoon was delayed over the Indo-Gangetic plains in June, which contributed to a rainfall deficiency in this region. However, the overall monsoon activity picked up pace significantly in subsequent months. In July, three low-pressure systems developed, leading to widespread heavy rainfall across various parts of the country. This trend of enhanced rainfall continued into August, which was bolstered by the development of six new systems, including cyclonic storm ASNA. These consistent weather systems ensured above normal rainfall during these two crucial monsoon months. September was equally eventful, with three low-pressure systems emerging and moving west and north-westwards, collectively bringing excess rainfall.

**While central India, northwest India and the southern peninsula received record rainfall during the monsoon, east and north-east India received less rainfall, which was below normal levels.**

## Cure Within Reach But More Studies Needed: Indian Experts on World's First Stem Cell Reversal of Type 1 Diabetes

**A young woman from China, suffering from type 1 diabetes, was operated upon in June 2023 using her own stem cells to create insulin-producing beta cells that were inserted into her body.**

**New Delhi:** In the world's first development, stem cells have reversed type 1 diabetes in a 25-year-old woman, making her body produce its own insulin. While researchers have been working for the past two decades to develop a breakthrough treatment using stem cells, recent studies are bringing hope for billions of diabetics around the world for a possible cure.

In an interview published in the science journal Nature, the young lady - who is the first person to be treated using cells extracted from her own body - said, "I can eat sugar now." Her body started producing its own insulin in less than three months after the transplant of 'reprogrammed stem cells'. Many others like her have been undergoing experimental stem cell therapies to treat diabetes type I and II. While researchers have been experimenting using stem cells for the last two decades, one of the other challenge stalls the big breakthrough. "This time, we are close," said Dr Ambrish Mithal, chairman and head, endocrinology and diabetes at Max Healthcare. If the development proves true, it could be a boon for India - the country which is known as the 'diabetes capital of the world'. According to a study by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), India now has 101 million diabetics, with a further 136 million pre-diabetic individuals in need of prevention. While experts are excited, they also urge caution, having seen many promising therapies emerge only to fizzle out later. There are two types of diabetes - type 1 and type 2 and both stem from different causes. In type 1 diabetes, the pancreas fails to produce insulin because the body's immune system attacks its own insulin-producing islet cells. In type 2 diabetes, the pancreas produces less insulin and the body becomes resistant to insulin's effects. In India, more than 80 per cent of people suffer from Type-2 diabetes. I am incredibly excited about this approach as with patient own cells they won't be rejected and no immune suppression will be needed," James Shapiro, a transplant surgeon and researcher at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada, told News18.

"This is certainly true for patients with Type 2 diabetes. For autoimmune (Type 1) some additional little tweaks will likely be needed to stop autoimmunity from coming back," he added. Shapiro believes this is a fantastic start to a new era in stem cell potential cures for diabetes which are "much needed for the millions of sufferers worldwide, and especially in India."

### How the woman is being treated & what remains unanswered

The young woman from China, suffering from type 1 diabetes, was operated upon in June 2023 using her own stem cells to create insulin-producing beta cells that were inserted into her body. She stopped requiring insulin injections within 75 days and remained so at one year of follow-up.

## Chief Justice warns against repeated mentioning of case: Credibility at stake

**NEW DELHI:** Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud expressed strong disapproval on Tuesday over the growing practice of repeated case mentions by different advocates. He called this tactic, used to seek favourable hearing dates, inappropriate and a threat to the judiciary's integrity. "This is a new practice," the CJI remarked, visibly displeased. "Different counsels mention the same case for listing and once a judge blinks, you get some date. This is the practice which is emerging. A little bit of discretion which I have as the CJI will never be exercised in your favour. You cannot take the court for a ride. My personal credibility is at stake. I have to follow standard rules for everyone," he added.

The CJI's stern observation followed a request to mention a mining lease matter, which had already been mentioned the previous day. He further urged advocates to stop the practice of repeatedly mentioning cases, saying, "All of you are just trying to take a chance." Since assuming office in November 2022, Chief Justice Chandrachud has introduced several reforms aimed at improving the efficiency of the Supreme Court. These include streamlining case listings, improving the registry's functioning, and introducing new technological solutions. In April, the Supreme Court launched an initiative to enhance access to justice by integrating WhatsApp messages with its IT services. This system allows advocates to receive automated updates on case filings. The CJI also shared the official WhatsApp number of the Supreme Court as part of this initiative.

## Air Marshal Surat Singh takes charge of Eastern Air Command

**New Delhi:** Air Marshal Surat Singh assumed command as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Air Command, Indian Air Force, on Monday. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, he was commissioned into the Fighter Stream of the IAF on December 6, 1986. Over his distinguished career, Air Marshal Singh has flown multiple fighter aircraft, including various versions of the MiG-21, MiG-29, and Su-30 MKI, accumulating over 2,900 hours of flying experience.

His academic credentials include graduation from the Command and Staff College in Australia and the National Defence College in Bangladesh. His vast



experience encompasses operational flying, training, and several high-level staff assignments.

He has commanded a MiG-29 squadron, the Tactics and Air Combat Development Establishment (TACDE), an air defence node, and a fighter station. In staff roles, he has held prominent positions at Air Headquarters, including Director at the Directorate of Air Staff Inspection, Air-I at South-Western Air Command, Principal Director at the Directorates of Personnel (Officers) and Operations (Offensive), and Assistant Chief of Air Staff Operations (Space). Prior to his current role, he served as Director General Air Operations at Air Headquarters.

In recognition of his exceptional service, Air Marshal Singh has been honoured with several prestigious awards: the Vayu Sena Medal (2006), the Vishisht Seva Medal (2011), and the Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (2015).

## 'Ladki Bahin' scheme aid could be raised to Rs 3,000 with women's support, says CM Eknath Shinde

**The Maharashtra Chief minister criticised the opposition for criticising the government over the Ladki Bahin scheme and asked why was it getting jealous**

**Kolhapur:** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said the financial assistance under the 'Ladki Bahin' scheme could even be raised to Rs 3,000 if women in the state support his government. Shinde also wondered why the opposition was jealous over his government's welfare initiatives and exuded confidence that the ruling Mahayuti alliance of the Shiv Sena, BJP and NCP will retain power in the upcoming state elections. He was speaking on Tuesday at a congregation of seers at the Kanheri Math in Kolhapur on the occasion of the 'dharma dhvaj' inauguration.

Under the Mahayuti government's flagship welfare scheme 'Mukhyamantri Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana', introduced ahead of the state polls, married, divorced, and destitute women aged 21-65 are receiving Rs 1,500 per month as stipend with the annual family income of beneficiaries

capped at Rs 2.5 lakh. Shinde criticised the opposition for criticising the government over the Ladki Bahin scheme and asked why was it getting jealous.

"If the dear sisters give strength to the government, it will even surpass Rs 1,500, it will make it to Rs 2,000 and even take it to Rs 3,000," he said. Shinde termed the government's move to declare desi cows 'Rajyamata-Gomata' as a historic decision.

"Had we not formed government, which the common man was longing for two years, we would not have given the 'Rajyamata' status to cows, we would not have done the work we could do in these two years," he said. The CM also said the ruling Mahayuti will win the state assembly polls, expected to be held next month.

We will go among the people with our

development record, welfare schemes and the investments we have brought to the state in the last over two years. Our dear sisters (women), dear brothers and dear farmers will acknowledge our work and Mahayuti will return to power with a huge mandate," Shinde later told reporters. In June 2022, Shinde and several other Shiv Sena MLAs revolted against the party leadership. This led to a split in the Shiv Sena and collapse of the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government. Shinde subsequently joined hands with the BJP to form government. Earlier, at the event, Shinde said after the Mahayuti came to power, the "fortune tellers" (opposition) predicted the government will collapse soon.

"But because of the blessings of seers like you, the government not only survived, but did solid work in the last two years," he said.

## His Ideals Continue To Inspire': PM Modi, Other Leaders Pay Homage On Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Congress leader and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other leaders commemorated Mahatma Gandhi on his 155th birth anniversary on Wednesday. Several leaders visited Rajghat and paid floral tributes to the Father of the Nation. Stressing the relevance of Gandhi's ideals, PM Modi stated, "On behalf of all countrymen, salutations to Pujya Babu on his birth anniversary. His life and ideals based on truth, harmony and equality will always remain an inspiration for the countrymen."

In her message to the nation, President Droupadi Murmu stated, "On behalf of all citizens, I pay my humble tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on his 155th birth anniversary. The life of

Bapu - an ardent follower of truth and nonviolence - is a unique message for the entire humanity. He inspired us to follow the path of peace and cooperation. Gandhiji took up the missions to eradicate untouchability, illiteracy, lack of sanitation and other social evils, and championed the cause of women empowerment relentlessly."

"Gandhiji epitomised eternal moral principles and preached for ethics-based conduct. His struggle was centered around strengthening the weakest and the most vulnerable. His ideas influenced many great personalities of the world, who adopted Gandhiji's ideals into their methods. On this auspicious occasion, let us resolve to imbibe the values of truth, non-violence, love and purity and, with the idea of the India of Gandhiji's dreams,



strive to continuously advance the development of the country and society," she added.

**Leaders visit Rajghat, State Secretariats**  
The Prime Minister visited Rajghat to pay tribute to the political ethicist who

employed nonviolent resistance to lead the successful campaign for India's independence from British Rule.

Fondly remembered as the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi is known to have inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the world. Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, October 2, is not only commemorated in India as Gandhi Jayanti, a national holiday, but is celebrated worldwide as the International Day of Nonviolence. Gandhi influences a number of important leaders and political movements across the world. Leaders of civil rights movements in the United States, including Martin Luther King Jr, James Lawson, and James Bevel, drew from the writings of Gandhi in the development of their own theories about nonviolence.

## After Sonam Wangchuk Detained In Delhi, Supporters Blockade NH1 Near Leh

**Sonam Wangchuk and his supporters were walking to Delhi to urge the government to resume dialogue over demands that include listing Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.**

**New Delhi:** Delhi Police's detention of climate activist Sonam Wangchuk - at the Singhu border Monday night, while his supporters and he were marching to the national capital - has led to tension in the Union Territory of Ladakh, where he is leading a fight to safeguard the local ecology. This morning nearly two dozen protesters mounted crude blockades - including sticks mounted across upturned traffic cones - on National Highway 1, about six km from the town of Fiang. The blockades have reportedly trapped tourists, including those from abroad. The situation in-between these blockades is understood to be tense but calm, for now. Visuals show at least protesters gathered behind a blockade, with about 100 cars and 50 trucks parked behind them. We are stuck on NH1 (due to protests) by supporters of the activist Sonam

Wangchuk... they have placed various blockades on the highway. They are not letting anyone pass... around 200-300



people stuck," Phillip Geelhand, a tourist stuck on the highway, told via a phone call. Mr Geelhand said a group of 20-30 foreign tourists, who had visited the monastery in Fiang this morning, had to walk back to Leh, which is about 15 km away, because the vehicles were not allowed to pass. The

tourists also had to leave some of their bags and belongings in the cars. "The mood is currently calm but tense. You feel that a small spark can deteriorate the situation in no time..." Mr Geelhand said, noting that commercial vehicles had been blocked too.

He said the number of vehicles stuck at the blockade point has not increased as cars and trucks were being stopped at earlier checkpoints. "Only military vehicles are allowed to cross," he said. "It's quiet but tenses each time a vehicle approaches," Mr Geelhand told.

**Sonam Wangchuk Detained**  
More than 100 people, including Mr Wangchuk, were walking to Delhi to urge the government to resume dialogue over demands that include listing Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, which provides protection and autonomy to certain tribal areas that helps better manage resources.





Unusual tips to keep your

# Eyes

## in perfect Condition

**Often ignored, the health of your eyes is greatly vital to your physical wellbeing. Here are some unusual tips that will help keep them in perfect condition**

**SMELL YOUR MASCARA**

Eye make-up that's past its best could cause eye infections or irritation. "The warm, dark environment of a mascara tube is a haven for bacteria to thrive," says optometrist Francesca Marchetti. "Try sniffing your mascara and if it smells at all bad, ditch it. Bin a new mascara after three months. And always remove your eye make-up at night or you may develop blepharitis, an eyelid irritation."

**USE EYE DROPS**

Dry, irritated eyes can be caused by everything from computer use to cigarette smoke or windy weather. Plus certain drugs such as the Pill, antihistamines, beta-blockers and even the preservatives in some eye drops can contribute to DRY EYES. "Keeping your eyes well lubricated is key," says Francesca.

**BLINK MORE**

Blinking cleans the surface of your eye, helping to prevent infection. It also flushes fresh tears and nutrients over its surface to keep it healthy. When we're concentrating - especially on computers or smartphone screens - we don't blink enough. "Normally, we'll blink about 24 times a minute but when we're staring at a computer, this drops to about nine times a minute," says Francesca. "Use the 20:20:20 rule - every 20 minutes, look 20 ft away for at least 20 seconds and blink 20 times."

**STOP SMOKING**

"Smokers are four times as likely as non-smokers to develop macular degeneration (a leading cause of vision loss) and twice as likely to develop cataracts," says Francesca. "It's best to quit but if you find it too difficult, try an eye vitamin and mineral supplement which contains antioxidants to help combat damaging free radicals in cigarette chemicals."

**BEAT THE BUGS**

"If you use contact lenses, remove them before swimming, showering or using a hot tub. Wearing them increases the risk of contracting an infection from acanthamoeba - parasites that live in water," says Dr Blakeney.

**DO EYE EXERCISES**

A common symptom of age-related macular degeneration is

noticing that straight lines start to appear wavy - or that there are patches missing from your vision. "When monitoring patients diagnosed with AMD, we typically provide them with a small grid to look at with each eye individually to detect early or sudden changes in vision vertically and horizontally," says Saj Khan, consultant ophthalmologist at the London Eye Hospital. "For patients who are not in formal regular monitoring, we recommend looking at the same point on a tiled wall or at both the horizontal and vertical parts of a door frame in order to achieve the same result."

**TAKE A 20-MINUTE WALK**

Studies have shown that exercise can reduce intraocular pressure (inside the eye which can cause glaucoma). "The benefit is seen with regular gentle to moderate exercise - try brisk walking for at least 20 minutes, four to five times per week," says Mr Khan.

**GET OUTSIDE**

Studies indicate people who spend more time outdoors are far less likely to develop shortsightedness than those who spend most of their time indoors. It's thought it may be to do with the fact that dopamine is released in the retina by daylight.



Oils that prevent

# Heart Attack



**C**ardiovascular diseases, including heart disease and stroke, are the world's number one killers, claiming 17.5 million lives a year globally. In an exclusive with Dr. Manoj Kumar, Associate Director and Head- Cardiac Cath Lab, Max Super Specialty Hospital, we find out about cooking oils and common mistakes. What are the best oils to use for cooking and which is the safest variety to use? According to the National Institute of Nutrition India, our diet should consist of 15-30 percent fats. One must remember that not all oils are suitable for high-temperature Indian cooking. Using oils such as olive oil (especially extra-virgin) are not recommended for deep frying food items such as samosas and pakodas. The reason for this is that on over-heating these oils lose their nutritional qualities and produce harmful by-products. Alternatively when used in salads as a dressing, the oil does wonders in helping protect the heart. Similarly, sunflower, coconut, mustard oil all have a good heat endurance and can be used for deep-frying. So the choice of oil must be customized for the food you are looking at cooking. Different oils are suitable for different cooking conditions and people for instance: Sunflower oil though a good source of monounsaturated (MUFA) and polyunsaturated (PUFA) fatty acids is not recommended for diabetic patients since it may increase sugar levels. Canola, avocado, and almond oil

are considered good for the heart because they contain healthy fats. However, combining different oils in one's diet is ideal. What are the common oil mistakes that people in India make? The first thing a large section of people are unaware of is that most oils are not meant to be used for cooking at high temperatures. Over-heating oil causes oxidation that leads to the formation of carcinogens, an unhealthy compound. It also demolishes the good nutritional qualities of the oil. The best way to avoid this is to watch the color of the oil. The change in the color of the oil is a crucial sign that indicates that it has started to degrade due to the heat. For instance, extra virgin olive oil is not suitable for deep frying or cooking any food product. It should solely be used for dressing or making dips. Most are unaware about this fact and continue to use oils that seem healthier for normal high heat Indian cooking thereby causing more harm than good. Another mistake that people often make is that they try and eliminate fats completely from their diet. An ideal diet should consist of 15-30 percent fats, and edible oils are one of the major contributors of dietary fats. Instead of



eliminating oil completely from one's diet, smart oil choices must be made. In addition to this, people must get out of the habit of reusing cooking oil. Reusing oil can create free radicals, which cause ailments in the long run. These free radicals can be carcinogenic i.e. can cause cancer and also atherosclerosis that can lead to an increase in bad cholesterol levels, blocking the arteries. If one must re-use oil, then they must make sure the leftover oil from cooking or frying is cooled down and then transferred into an airtight container through a strainer/cheesecloth. This will remove any food particles in the oil as they spoil the oil much sooner than expected. In addition to this, the color and thickness of the oil must be checked. If the oil is dark in color and is greasy/sticky then it must not be re-used. People must also be aware that oil can get spoilt. If upon heating the oil is smoky much before than expected, the time has come to discard it as it may have accumulated HNE which is a toxic substance that has been associated with a number of diseases including Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, stroke, liver disease, etc. A sample of a healthy diet to protect the heart? Consuming certain foods can double your heart disease risks, and it is often tough to change one's eating habits. It

is important to control your portion size, a small plate or bowl can help control the portions one consumes. Consuming larger portions of low-calorie and nutrient-rich foods like, fruits and vegetables and reducing the quantity of food items which are high in trans fat, sodium and sugar content can go a long way in protecting the heart. One must understand the difference between good fat and bad fat to minimize the risks of heart disease. A few heart friendly diet practices include: - Eating more fruits and vegetables as they are low in calories and rich in dietary fibers - Reducing the consumption of red meat is important for heart patients - Opting for a sodium and sweet controlled diet since diabetes and hypertension both lead to coronary heart disease - Low calorie and high nutrient food must be consumed to keep obesity under check. Obesity is again a major influencer in early incidence of heart disease - People must limit the consumption of pre-packaged and canned food as they contain high levels of trans fats and salt content - Whole grain products are regarded as a great source of fiber that plays a major role in regulating blood pressure and heart health. One can easily increase the amount of whole grains in their diet by making simple substitutions for refined grain products. - A lucid way to add healthy fat and fiber to your diet is by consuming ground flaxseed. Flaxseeds are high in fiber and omega-3 fatty acids, it also aids in lowering cholesterol in some people. - Vanaspati ghee - a partially hydrogenated vegetable oil used widely as a cheaper substitute for ghee in India must be consumed with caution given its high trans fat levels. - A combination of heart-healthy oils such as olive, canola, vegetable and nut oil must be consumed - Alcohol intake should be reduced as it can further increase heart disease risks

### GST collection growth weakens further; September saw 6.5% growth

**NEW DELHI.** The growth in monthly GST collections has further weakened as gross collection in September grew by only 6.5% as against 10% rise in the previous month. The gross collections during the month was Rs 1.73 lakh crore compared to Rs 1.62 lakh crore in the same month the previous year. In July 2024, revenue had grown by 10.3%. Year-to-date gross revenue have risen by 9.5% to Rs 10.87 lakh crore.

Fall in GST collection ahead of the meeting of Group of Ministers (GoM) on rate rationalisation on October 19-20 may influence the decisions of the GoM. As per Vivek Jalan, partner, Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP, with nominal GDP growth of 11% so far in FY25, GST growth at 9.1%, a tax buoyancy of less than 1 may concern the GST Council. "Three GoMs are working simultaneously on real estate, rate rationalisation and insurance. With tax buoyancy moving southwards, it is expected that the next GST Council meet should see some far sighted measures on revenue enhancement," added Jalan. Net revenue growth nearly halved to 3.9% in September against 6.5% in August as refunds grew 31% in September. IGST refunds, accounted for 70% of refunds, grew 40% during the month.

"Major rise in GST refunds, especially IGST export refunds, depicts efforts of the tax authorities in expediting refunds and the policy makers in simplifying refund process," says MS Mani, Partner, Deloitte India. Most large states saw low single-digit growth with some even showing fall. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu showed 5% growth in gross collection, Gujarat showed nil growth, Uttar Pradesh 3%, Rajasthan 2% and Karnataka saw 8% growth.

### Ola Electric logs its lowest monthly sales

**NEW DELHI.** Ola Electric clocked its lowest monthly sales this year in September as it faces serious competition from legacy players amid rumours that its e-scooters are facing consumer complaints in large numbers. Ola Electric, which made its stock market debut about two months ago, sold 23,965 vehicles in September, as per government data. The Bhavish Aggarwal-led company also continued to see a fall in its market share in the electric two-wheeler market. Its market share has come down to 27% in September 2024 from 47% in September 2023. The company's share prices have slumped about 35% from its all-time high. On Tuesday, the shares closed at Rs 102.60 a piece while its 52-week is reported at Rs 157.40. Meanwhile, Pune-based Bajaj Auto sold 18,933 EVs last month as against 16,650 units in August this year. On an annual basis, Bajaj's EV sales grew by 166% and the company for the first time overtook TVS Motor in monthly EV sales.

### Apple may turn to China as fire halts ops at Tamil Nadu iPhone plant: Report

**New Delhi.** Extensive damage from a fire at Tata Group's Apple iPhone component plant in Tamil Nadu could hamper production ahead of a festive season sales surge, an industry watcher and a source said, forcing the US firm's suppliers to arrange critical parts from China or elsewhere.

The weekend blaze has caused an indefinite production halt at Tata's Hosur plant in Tamil Nadu, the only Indian supplier of iPhone back panels and some other parts for both contract manufacturer Foxconn in the country and its own iPhone assembly at another plant.

Hong Kong-based Counterpoint Research told Reuters it estimates local sales of 1.5 million units of iPhone 14 and 15 models during the Indian festive season which runs from late October to early November, with Apple struggling to fulfil as much as 15 per cent of that demand due to the fire.

"There will be a 10-15 per cent impact on production of older iPhone models from India. Apple could offset that impact by importing more components, and by re-routing more export inventory towards India," said Neil Shah, a co-founder of Counterpoint, which has for years tracked Apple's global shipments. Apart from local sales, Tata, one of India's biggest conglomerates, also exported iPhones to the Netherlands and United States as well as some parts to China, worth more than USD 250 million overall, in the year to August 31, commercially available customs data shows.

### KRN Heat Exchanger IPO: GMP falls post allotment, can it still be multibagger

**New Delhi.** The allotment of shares for the initial public offering (IPO) of KRN Heat Exchanger and Refrigeration was finalised on September 30.

However, following the allotment, the grey market premium (GMP) of the company's stock has experienced a decline. This has lowered expectations for the listing day gains that investors had hoped for. Despite this, there is still potential for the stock to perform well in the market. The company's shares are scheduled to be listed on Thursday, October 3. The GMP for KRN Heat Exchanger, as of the latest update, stands at Rs 240 per share. This indicates that investors can expect a listing gain of just over 110% on the issue price.

However, prior to the announcement of the allotment status, the GMP was at Rs 270 per share, suggesting an even higher listing gain of around 125%. The correction in the grey market premium has tempered expectations but has not eliminated the possibility of a strong debut. KRN Heat Exchanger and Refrigeration Limited (KHERL) managed to attract huge interest from investors during the bidding process.

According to Sagar Shetty, a research analyst at StoxBox, the company is well-positioned in its sector and could benefit from long-term market trends. He advises investors who received shares in the allotment to consider booking profits on listing day but notes that future recommendations will depend on the company's financial performance.

# India's economy hits speed bump. Can festive spending jumpstart growth

**NEW DELHI.** India's economic pulse has slowed just as the festive season approaches, leaving experts to wonder if this annual shopping frenzy can breathe new life into a cooling economy. For months, the country experienced strong momentum, but recent data has painted a more subdued picture. Manufacturing activity has dropped, GST collections have lost steam, and domestic car sales continue to skid. Yet, there's still a glimmer of hope that the festive season's spending spree will offset the slowdown and spark a much-needed recovery. The dip became clearer in September when GST collections rose by a modest 6.5%, far below the double-digit growth seen earlier in the fiscal year. Manufacturing followed suit, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) hitting an eight-month low of 56.5. It was the third straight month of declining car sales, despite dealership rolling out deep discounts. Even power consumption, often a good measure of industrial activity, barely budged, up just 0.6% from

the previous year. Pranjal Bhandari, Chief India Economist at HSBC, highlighted how the manufacturing sector's momentum had significantly weakened after a strong summer. Core infrastructure industries also felt the chill, contracting by 1.8% in August, the first such decline in four years.

#### Festive cheer could change the game

Despite these challenges, the slowdown might be short-lived. Economists are optimistic, citing a favorable monsoon and the upcoming festival period as key drivers for a potential rebound. Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist at Bank of Baroda, told The Economic Times that rural demand is expected to pick up in the second half of the year, boosting overall consumption. He remains confident that India is still on track for more than 7% growth, with consumer goods looking particularly strong. It is worth noting that the India Meteorological Department reported 7.6% more rainfall than usual during the June-September monsoon season, which has been a boon for



agriculture but may have dampened other sectors. Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at Ica, noted that the heavy rainfall could be behind September's lower GST collections. However, she remains hopeful, predicting that the festive season will drive higher volumes and stronger revenue collections. Sonal Badhan, Economist at Bank of Baroda, echoed these sentiments. She noted that several international organisations, including Moody's and S&P, have revised their India GDP forecasts upward, with Moody's now expecting 7.2% growth for the current fiscal year. "Festive demand

will also help sustain the current momentum. Urban demand, reflected in air passenger movement (~97.5mn in Q2FY25 versus 99.8mn in Q1) and services PMI (60 in Q2 versus 60.5 in Q1) are also holding ground. We are thus more optimistic than most organisations on FY25 growth (7.3-7.4%," she added. The festive season is traditionally a time for indulgence, and this year is no different. Local Circles conducted a survey that revealed urban households are expected to spend around Rs 1.85 lakh crore during the 2024 festivities. There's a strong interest in home decor, beauty, and fashion, and although e-commerce has grown, 70% of urban households still prefer in-store shopping.

Luxury spending is also on the rise, with consumers ready to splurge on high-end brands and experiences. From vacations to premium products, this shift toward discretionary spending is a sign that consumer confidence is making a comeback.

### Experts propose fewer TDS, TCS provisions, simpler tax law

**NEW DELHI.** Ahead of pre-budget consultations, experts suggest various changes in the Income Tax Act to make it simpler and minimize disputes.



According to sources, a recent stakeholder consultation meeting chaired by Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra brought together government officials and tax experts to discuss potential changes to the income tax law. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in Budget this year had announced the formation of a committee for review of the Income Tax Act. One of the key changes tax experts suggest is the need to revamp the TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) and TCS (Tax Collected at Source) provisions. According to Vivek Jalan, Partner at Tax Connect Advisory Services LLP, there are over 120 provisions related to TDS/TCS in the Income Tax Act, and the complexity arising from these numerous provisions creates confusion and increases litigation. He suggests a simplified rate structure similar to GST. He advises categorizing TDS

rates into five distinct brackets—0.1%, 1%, 2%, 5%, and 10%. Amit Rana, tax partner, PwC India, highlights the need to prevent proliferating disputes between taxpayers and the tax department.

He advocates establishment of a mediation or arbitration process, wherein an independent third party could objectively resolve disagreements. Rana bats for a robust advance ruling process that is both efficient and objective.

To ensure impartiality, he suggests involving independent officers, such as retired judges, to issue rulings in a timely manner. "...to increase accountability of the tax department,

the interest rate on refunds to taxpayers should be raised to 12%. This may put a check on any arbitrary action such as high-pitched assessment," Rana stated.

One of the key suggestions put forth by experts is the need for a mechanism within the Income Tax Act, 1961, to address tax proceedings involving 'corporate debtors' that occur prior to the approval of their resolution plan under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016.

Currently, the tax department continues to initiate or persist with tax proceedings for the pre-IBC period, despite clear provisions in the IBC and various judicial rulings stating that no such actions should be undertaken. To rectify this situation, Sanjay Sanghvi, Partner at Khaitan & Co advocate for the introduction of specific provisions within the Income Tax Act that would explicitly prohibit the initiation of tax proceedings for the pre-IBC period and allow for the dismissal of any ongoing proceedings against corporate debtors who have undergone the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process.

### Sebi's 6 new rules for F&O trading: What it means for retail investors

**New Delhi.** In a move aimed at safeguarding small investors and enhancing market stability, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has unveiled a series of new measures to strengthen the index derivatives framework.

This increase aims to ensure that investors take on appropriate risks while participating in the derivatives market. Sebi has stated that the contract value will be adjusted to fall between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 20 lakh in the future.



With the introduction of these rules, the landscape of equity derivatives trading in India is set to undergo notable changes, particularly for retail participants. Here's a comprehensive look at the key changes and what they mean for investors. Reduction of weekly expiries: Starting November 20, 2024, Sebi will reduce the number of weekly expiries for index derivative contracts to one per benchmark index per exchange. This means that exchanges will now offer only six weekly contracts each month instead of the current 18. The goal is to curb speculative trading and limit the risks associated with uncovered or naked option selling. Increased contract sizes: The minimum trading amount for derivatives will rise from the current range of Rs 5-10 lakh to Rs 15 lakh.

Higher margin requirements: To address the high volatility observed on expiry days, Sebi will implement an additional extreme loss margin (ELM) of 2% for all open short options on the day of expiry. This measure is intended to protect investors from extreme market fluctuations, particularly during high-volume trading sessions. Upfront collection of premiums: Effective February 1, 2025, brokers will be required to collect

option premiums upfront. This shift is aimed at discouraging excessive intraday leverage among investors and ensuring that they have sufficient collateral to cover their positions.

Removal of calendar spread benefits: The long-standing practice of calendar spreads—offsetting positions across different expiries—will be eliminated for contracts expiring on the same day. This change is intended to reduce the potential for speculative trading that has been rampant on expiry days.

Intraday monitoring of position limits: From April 1, 2025, stock exchanges will begin intraday monitoring of position limits for equity index derivatives. This means that position limits will be checked multiple times throughout the trading day, reducing the risk of traders exceeding permissible limits unnoticed. What does it mean for retail investors?

These changes are particularly significant for retail investors who often engage in derivatives trading. Here's how these new measures will impact them:

### Chinese garlic glut in market worry Karnataka farmers

**MANGALURU/UDUPI (Karnataka).** The Chinese-grown garlic has flooded the tier-two cities and smaller towns and cities in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada districts, worrying farmers in the region.

On Tuesday, the traders and growers had expressed dismay over the Chinese garlic flooding the markets in Shivamogga.

Following the complaints by the traders, Udupi Municipal Commissioner, B Rayappa has raided a wholesaler and confiscated five quintals of Chinese garlic from the Agricultural Produce & Livestock Market Committee (APMC) yard in Adi Udupi. He assured the traders that only after ensuring the legitimacy of the Chinese garlic he would release the produce in the



market. Traders said while Indian varieties of garlic are priced at Rs 250 per kg, the Chinese garlic is sold at Rs 50-60 per kg. They added that the customers prefer Chinese garlic as it is bigger and easy to peel and crush. According to APMC officials in Mangaluru, the Chinese garlic has arrived in the market under a trade licence held by the wholesalers. They also said retail traders do not need a special trading license to trade in Chinese garlic. A bulk trader in the old port area, Mohammad Ishaq told PTI that Chinese garlic makes its appearance in the Indian market every now and then. However, according to him, it balances the price level in the market.

Due to the influx of Chinese garlic, the prices of Indian garlic, which is trading at Rs 200-225 per kg, will level off at Rs 175 to 150 per kg, Ishaq added.

# Mahatma Gandhi wasn't 1st choice for India's currency. Here's what happened

**New Delhi.** Can you imagine opening your wallet and not seeing Mahatma Gandhi's face on India's currency notes? Today, it's hard to think of the Indian currency without his image. But did you know that Mahatma Gandhi wasn't the first choice for our banknotes after independence? Just like how the US dollar has George Washington or Pakistan's rupee features Mohammad Ali Jinnah, we associate Gandhi's image with our money. However, his photo wasn't the original plan. A nation's currency often tells the story of its history and culture through symbols and images. Across the world, many countries honour their national leaders on their currency, and India has done the same with Mahatma Gandhi. But surprisingly, after India gained independence in 1947, Mahatma Gandhi's image wasn't the first choice for the currency notes.

on the notes. However, things didn't go that way. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) narrates how the visuals on currency notes were chosen. The transition of currency management from colonial to independent India was a reasonably smooth affair," the RBI website says. "Midnight, August 14, 1947 heralded Indian independence from colonial rule. The Republic, however, was established on 26th January, 1950. During the interregnum, the Reserve Bank continued to issue the extant notes. The Government of India brought out the new design Re. 1 note in 1949. Symbols for independent India had to be chosen. At the outset, it was felt that the King's portrait be replaced by a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi. Designs were prepared to that effect. In the final analysis, the consensus moved to the choice of the Lion Capital at Sarnath in lieu of the Gandhi Portrait. The new design of notes were largely along earlier lines," it added. Early designs of India's banknotes For many years, the



notes celebrated India's rich cultural heritage and economic progress. The currency notes from the 1950s and 60s featured images of animals like tigers and deer, along with symbols of India's development, such as the Hirakud Dam, the Aryabhata satellite, and the Brihadeeswara Temple. These designs reflected India's focus on growth and modernisation, along with its cultural pride. It wasn't until 1969, during the 100th anniversary of Gandhi's birth, that his image first appeared on a currency

note. This special note showed Mahatma Gandhi sitting, with his Sevagram Ashram in the background. Mahatma Gandhi's portrait started becoming a regular feature on Indian notes only in 1987. His face was included on the Rs 500 note when the government, led by Rajiv Gandhi, introduced this new high-value note. This came nine years after the demonetisation carried out by the Janata Party government in 1978. By the mid-1990s, in 1996, the RBI introduced a new series of notes called the Mahatma Gandhi Series. These notes came with enhanced security features like watermarks and security threads, and Gandhi's portrait became a permanent part of all denominations. This was a major moment in India's currency history, as Mahatma Gandhi became the iconic figure on Indian money, replacing the various images used earlier. Since then, his image has remained on all Indian notes.

NEWS BOX

**Champions League: Kai Havertz, Saka on target as Arsenal beat PSG 2-0**

New Delhi Arsenal secured a vital 2-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) in their Champions League group stage clash on Tuesday, with Kai Havertz again finding the back of the net. The German forward's first-half header helped kick-start Arsenal's campaign after a draw in their opening match against Atalanta. Havertz opened the scoring in the 20th minute, heading home a precise cross from Leandro Trossard to register his fifth goal of the season. Arsenal doubled their lead 15 minutes later when Bukayo Saka's free kick, intended as a cross, found its way into the PSG net. PSG, who came into the match off a win against Girona, struck the woodwork twice, with Nuno Mendes hitting the post in the first half. Despite playing more urgently in the second half, PSG could not break through Arsenal's solid defense and had no complaints about the final scoreline. The win pushes Arsenal into the top eight of the new 36-team Champions League format. Their next match will be at home against Shakhtar Donetsk after the international



break, while PSG will look to rebound at home against PSV Eindhoven. Arsenal's confidence was evident throughout the match, with an early chance almost coming from a long clearance by goalkeeper David Raya, which Gabriel Martinelli nearly turned into an opening goal. PSG's defense struggled, and Arsenal took full advantage. Havertz's goal extended PSG's poor record of failing to keep a clean sheet in away Champions League matches—a streak that has now stretched to 20 games. PSG's defense faltered again in the 35th minute, as Saka's free-kick evaded everyone, leaving goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma helpless. PSG's efforts to launch a comeback were hampered by the absence of forward Ousmane Dembélé, who was omitted from the squad for disciplinary reasons. Arsenal continued to create chances, with Martinelli forcing a save from Donnarumma and Havertz heading straight at the keeper. Late on, PSG came close to pulling a goal back when Joao Neves's effort from a corner hit the crossbar, and Raya blocked a shot from Lee Kang-in. However, Arsenal saw out the game with composure, delivering a strong statement in their European campaign.

**Babar Azam trolled after quitting captaincy again: Resignations 2, Trophies 0**

New Delhi. Pakistan captain Babar Azam drew criticism from fans after he decided to quit as the white-ball captain of the Pakistan team. Babar took to Twitter late on Tuesday evening, October 1 and revealed his decision to the fans. Babar said that he wanted to prioritise his performance and shrug off the additional workload that captaincy brings. A section of the cricket fans on social media mocked Babar, pointing out that he was yet to win an ICC trophy, but had already resigned twice from his position as the Pakistan captain. Babar Azam has had a tumultuous last one and a half years. Under his leadership, Pakistan were knocked out in the group stages of the ODI and T20 World Cups. Babar's form took a massive dip in all



three formats of the game and the batter was slammed for his approach in T20 cricket. Babar Azam quits captaincy. Cricket fans from Pakistan mocked Babar for his decision and pointed fingers at his poor performance in ICC tournaments. Babar guided Pakistan to semi-final in the 2021 T20 World Cup and finished as the runner-up in the 2022 edition of the same tournament. But since the second-place finish in 2022, Pakistan cricket has been in a spiral, both home and away. WHOAFTER BABARAZAM? Pakistan do not have a lot of options to work with. Neither do they have enough time as their ODI series in Australia starts on November 4 with the T20Is from November 14. From the current lot, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shadab Khan, and Mohammad Rizwan are the possible options Pakistan could look into for captaining the national team in the shorter formats. Shaheen had replaced Babar last year as the T20I skipper after tasting success with the Lahore Qalandars in the Pakistan Super League (PSL).

**Rohit walked the talk with that aggressive knock: Ashwin**

**The captain's pep talk changed it all for India as they not only won the second Test at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur but also set quite a few batting records.**

KANPUR: After bowling out Bangladesh in the first innings on Monday, skipper Rohit Sharma told teammates that they would bat aggressively in their first essay to force a result in the match. By then, more than two days of play had already been lost and a draw was looming large. The captain's pep talk, however, changed it all for India as they not only won the second Test at the Green Park Stadium in Kanpur but also set quite a few batting records in the longest format of the game. "Once we bowled them out for the first innings, Rohit was very clear that we needed to at least bowl 80 overs at them. Because I think we bowled them out for 70 overs or something in the first one," R Ashwin told journalists at the post-match press conference on Tuesday. Elaborating further, Ashwin said, "So having that surplus 10 overs was always going to



help because they can defend and the pitch is pretty good. The moment he said that on the field, I thought maybe we will battle one hour after the start of play today. But when we gathered inside for a small talk, he did mention that we are going to go hammer and tongs. And then if in that bargain we are going to get bowled out for less than 200, it's still okay. Because we have made a game of it." He was also all praise for the India skipper saying he left others with no choice other than playing fearless cricket. "Saying that is one and obviously when he said that, we know how Yashasvi (Jaiswal) is going to

play. But Rohit walked out and just tonked the first ball for a six. So when you walk the talk, I think obviously the dressing room doesn't have any other choice but to follow that same pattern. And we have 50 runs out of three overs there was no looking back up." The match might be remembered for the approach adopted by the Indian batters but their bowlers played their role to perfection to make that win possible. Ashwin agreed to it. "Look, I think when you play first class cricket, very often than not, the fine-tuning of a bowler or any cricketer is about harping on the basics. And each one of those bowlers that bowl along with me, alongside me, have

the ability to hold on to a game, bowl with discipline and yet produce wicket-taking goals. When we talk about things like this, we have to be able to understand the finer nuances of the game to be able to get what I am saying. He added, "It is not just their ability alone, it is also the belief of the entire team. When Rohit says that you make 400, try and make a game out of it, it tells you that the captain believes the bowlers will get the job done. I believe in my bowlers. These bowlers have done it day in and day out. And they have the ability to pick 20 wickets. So, having that as one, you will encounter situations where batters do dominate against our bowling attack as well. It is only given in this game. But the bowling attack is quite special. And I really do hope that this legacy of bowling is taken forward." It was the young Yashasvi Jaiswal who gave India a flying start with the skipper. Ashwin held Yashasvi as a special talent. "Look, I think Yashasvi is a special talent, plays freely. He started his international career so extraordinarily. Still, I would say both of them (he along with Shubman Gill) are in the formative years of playing Test cricket. But both of them are special, we all know that. It's just that they need to be able to encounter more and more newer experiences and be able to identify for themselves about what they need to work on. Whether you ask me the raw material is there, I think it's evident for everyone that both of them are high-quality players."

**Champions League: Luis Enrique admits Paris St Germain were no match for Arsenal**

**Champions League: Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique acknowledged his team's poor performance after a 2-0 defeat to Arsenal in their clash on Tuesday.**



New Delhi. Paris Saint-Germain coach Luis Enrique conceded that his side was no match for Arsenal after suffering a 2-0 defeat in their UEFA Champions League clash on Tuesday. The result left Enrique uncertain about how long it would take to rebuild PSG into a European powerhouse, as his team struggled to compete against the dominant Gunners. Arsenal's Kai Havertz continued his fine form by scoring the opening goal 20 minutes into the match, his fifth of the season. Mikel Arteta's men pressed relentlessly, with Bukayo Saka adding a second goal 15 minutes later from a free kick that caught PSG off guard. The victory propelled

Arsenal to a crucial win after drawing their first match of the group stage against Atalanta. Despite PSG hitting the woodwork twice and showing glimpses of urgency after halftime, they couldn't challenge Arsenal's control. The Premier League side's defense was solid, neutralizing PSG's attack and denying them any significant momentum throughout the game. Luis Enrique, who left out Ousmane Dembélé due to disciplinary issues, accepted responsibility for the defeat but questioned his team's intensity and fight. "Today we were far away from the standards you need in this kind of match. Arsenal were much better in terms of pressure and intensity, they won every duel," Enrique

admitted post-match. The Spanish coach, who led PSG to the Champions League semi-finals last season, acknowledged Arsenal as a step up in quality compared to their earlier opponents, Girona. PSG still adapting to life without talisman Kylian Mbappe, who departed for Real Madrid in the summer, appeared in transition and lacked the cutting edge needed to handle the high-octane play from Arteta's side. This was our first big rival at a higher level. We knew from the first minute they would press us high and they did it aggressively, and we couldn't cope with that pressure," Enrique said. He praised Arsenal's organization, noting that Arteta's five-year tenure has allowed the Gunners to mature into a formidable unit. With PSG still atop Ligue 1 and eager to bounce back in their next group match against PSV Eindhoven, Enrique faces the challenge of reinvigorating his squad. While it's clear where he wants PSG to be, the Spaniard remains uncertain about the timeline for achieving those goals. "I have a clear idea where I want us to be, but I don't know how much time I will need," Enrique concluded.

**IND vs BAN: Yashasvi, Siraj pip Rohit Sharma to win Impact Fielder of Series medal**

New Delhi. Indian opener Yashasvi Jaiswal and pacer Mohammed Siraj piped captain Rohit Sharma to win the coveted "Impact Fielder of the Series" medal after India's clinical 2-0 Test series victory over Bangladesh. The honor was conferred after the traditional post-series medal ceremony led by India's fielding coach, T. Dilip, who praised the team's overall fielding performance. Dilip highlighted the importance of fielders turning half-chances into crucial moments that swung the momentum in India's favor throughout the series. Rohit, Jaiswal, and Siraj were shortlisted for their consistent contributions, with Dilip giving special mention to Rohit for being as "reliable as a Swiss watch" in the slip cordon. India's fielding in the series was a standout feature, with several brilliant efforts across both matches. Jaiswal, apart from scoring crucial runs, took some exceptional catches both in Kanpur and Chennai, while Siraj's



athleticism and anticipation helped cut off key runs and effect crucial dismissals. Rohit's one-handed catch in the slips was another highlight, underlining his sharp reflexes. Speaking to the Indian team in the dressing room, Dilip hailed the collective intent to remain sharp on the field, especially in testing conditions. He pointed to the tight slip cordon's success and singled out players like KL Rahul, Virat Kohli, and Siraj for their top-notch efforts at stopping boundaries and holding onto difficult catches. India capped off a dominant performance by dismissing Bangladesh for 146 in their second innings. With a modest target of 95 to chase, India comfortably reached 96/3 in just 17.2 overs, thanks to a solid 51 from Jaiswal and an unbeaten 29 by Virat Kohli. Earlier, India's bowlers Ravichandran Ashwin (3/50), Ravindra Jadeja (3/34), and Jasprit Bumrah (3/17) dismantled the Bangladesh batting line-up, restricting them to an overnight total of 26/2.

**Paris silver medalist Neeraj Chopra set to part ways with coach Klaus Bartonietz**

**Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and his coach Klaus Bartonietz are ending their five-year partnership. Bartonietz, citing age and family commitments, has decided to part ways with Chopra.**



New Delhi. The hugely successful partnership between star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra and his long-time coach Klaus Bartonietz of Germany is set to end after five years of working together. The 75-year-old Bartonietz has cited his age and

family commitments to part ways with Chopra. "He (Bartonietz) is 75 and he now wants to be with his family and does not want too much travel also," an official of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) told

PTI. "It is not that Neeraj wants to end the association, it is Bartonietz who has expressed his inability to continue as his (Neeraj's) coach," he added. The 26-year-old Chopra has been working with Bartonietz, who is a biomechanics expert but doubled up as Chopra's coach, since 2019. The German first came on board as a biomechanical expert and took over as Chopra's coach after Uwe Hohn fell out with the AFI and the Sports Authority of India. Under Bartonietz, Chopra won Tokyo Olympics gold, Paris Games silver, became world champion and Diamond League champion, besides becoming Asian Games gold medalist.

**How much-frowned T20s are breathing life back into Test cricket**

New Delhi. The Indian team, under the leadership of Rohit Sharma, displayed remarkable aggression in the Kanpur Test match against Bangladesh in September 2024. Despite two full days being washed out due to rain, Rohit's side managed to chase down Bangladesh and win the Test match with more than one and a half sessions remaining on the final day. To put things into context, all four innings of the match were played, and a total of 173 overs were bowled—less than two days' worth of bowling in Test cricket. And no, India did not scrape through; they won in the most dominant manner, finishing the game well before its scheduled closure. The win was set up by an unprecedented batting display from the Indian team. Rohit Sharma and his men unleashed a boundary-hitting barrage against Bangladesh, scoring runs at a rate of over 8 runs per over. Their style of play resembled modern-day T20 cricket more than traditional Tests, a tactic that purists might scoff at. IND vs BAN, Kanpur Test: Match Report With the ball, India was equally aggressive. There were barely any long spells handed to bowlers. Mohammed Siraj bowled just 4

overs on the final day and was never brought back. Rohit Sharma consistently searched for wicket-taking options, engineering breakthroughs rather than waiting for mistakes from the opposition—again, a tactic more typical of T20 cricket than Tests. T20 Approach Entertains It was quite ironic that a T20 approach once dubbed the death of Test cricket during the mid-2000s, would produce one of the most entertaining red-ball matches in recent times. This trend is not isolated to the India vs. Bangladesh Test; several teams worldwide have recently adopted fast, aggressive cricket in a bid to bring excitement back to the red-ball format. In the first Ashes Test of 2023, Ben Stokes' England declared on Day 1 after batting just 78 overs, scoring 393 runs—an extraordinary feat in Test cricket. Although England lost that match, it undoubtedly thrilled fans. England's much-fabled "Bazball" approach, under the coaching of Brendon McCullum, exemplifies how modern-day Test cricket has merged with an aggressive T20 mindset. Since taking over the English side, McCullum and Stokes have



aimed to inject a fresh attitude into red-ball cricket. Rather than defending for three days, England has sought to play attacking cricket, regardless of the risks. "Let's think that we're in the entertainment business rather than the sporting business. There's a reason why 20,000 people came out to watch us at Trent Bridge, so I set a challenge to the team to be even more fearless, positive, and aggressive than that," Stokes told The Guardian back in 2022 after their first Test series under McCullum. Tests Become Aggressive After 2007 T20 cricket became a household name after

the inaugural 2007 World Cup in South Africa. With India winning the tournament, the 20-over format captured the fans' imagination. Following the World Cup, the Indian Premier League emerged, fundamentally changing the sport. However, the World Cup also significantly impacted Test cricket. Players who grew up watching or playing T20 began adopting a more aggressive approach. As a result, Tests—once at risk of becoming drab due to the prevalence of draws—became more result-oriented. Historically, teams have drawn 1 match in every 2 Tests. This trend placed the format in jeopardy, as teams were increasingly unwilling to pursue victories and were content with sharing the spoils after five days of play. Since the T20 World Cup, that figure has dropped significantly. After 2007, only 1 in 5 Tests ended in a draw. This trend became even more pronounced after the introduction of the World Test Championship (WTC) in 2019. Following the WTC's establishment, only 1 in 11 Tests have ended in draws.

# Shweta Tiwari's

## Red Flowy Gown Can Make Anyone Green With Envy

Shweta Tiwari, a known figure in the television industry often sets the internet ablaze with her hot and glamorous posts. Regardless of the outfit, her timeless charm and beauty never ceases to amaze fans. Keeping her reputation, Shweta's recent picture shoot certainly does not disappoint. Dressed in a fiery red gown, the actress looked stunning and once again, she strengthened her position among the most beautiful television actresses ever. In the series of pictures, the Kasautii Zindagii Kay star was seen wearing a red floor-length gown that featured an empire waist accentuating her hourglass figure, deep V neckline and voluminous and billowy full sleeves. Additionally, her ensemble also featured a high slit, giving a sneak peek of her perfectly toned legs.

Talking about the look, she kept her golden brown hair open and went with subtle makeup. The actress ditched heavy jewellery to let her dress take centre stage. As soon as the pictures were posted online, the comment section



was flooded with reactions from fans. An Instagram user commented, "Can't believe that you're a mommy of two." Another user wrote, "Your smile is so dangerous that if I had a heart, I would have fallen for your smile." One of the users commented, "You look soo pretty." In the captions, Shweta dropped red rose emoticons and gave credit to her makeup artist and stylist.

Shweta has been a part of several big TV shows including Kasautii Zindagii Kay, Jaane Kya Baat Hui, Parvarish: Kuchh Khattee Kuchh Meethi, Rangoli, Mere Dad Ki Dulhan and others.

She also emerged as the winner of the controversial reality show Bigg Boss 4, in which The Great Khali was the first runner-up. She was last seen in the web series Indian Police Force. Helmed by Rohit Shetty, the series featured Sidharth Malhotra, Vivek Oberoi and Shilpa Shetty Kundra in lead roles and premiered on the OTT platform Amazon Prime Video earlier this year. Shweta Tiwari will be next seen in director Rohit Shetty's highly-anticipated film Singham Again in a significant role. The film features a stellar lineup of actors including Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Deepika Padukone, Arjun Kapoor, Tiger Shroff, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh and Jackie Shroff.

Singham Again is all set to hit the theatres on the occasion of Diwali 2024 and will face a big Bollywood clash with Kartik Aaryan's much-awaited horror-comedy Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3.

# Rashmika Mandanna

## Spreads Positivity With On-Point Mirror Selfie, Don't Miss The Post-It Notes

Rashmika Mandanna often delights fans with her social media posts. Sometimes she documents her travel experiences, while at other times the actress shares her upcoming film updates. On Monday (September 30), Rashmika Mandanna decided to spread some positivity through her Instagram Story entry. She dropped a mirror selfie on the photo-sharing application, seemingly trying to impart the stay-positive mantra to her followers. In the picture, the Varisu actress can be seen wearing a yellow tank top and denim jeans. She flashed a smile while clicking the photo. But the real highlight of the snap was the colourful sticky notes, pasted on the mirror, with positive affirmations written on them. One of the notes came with the message, "This too shall pass". Another read, "Kindness above all". The words "A smile can change someone's world. So, smile" were written in the



third one. In the last pink-hued sticky note, Rashmika Mandanna revealed that yellow was her favourite colour "because it stands for happiness." The bright top she was wearing appeared to stand as a testament to the fact. Along with the post, Rashmika captioned, "Some kind reminders to get you through the day (monkey and purple heart emoji)." She hashtagged the post as "Notes from RM".

Previously Rashmika Mandanna offered social media users a glimpse into some of her "life essentials". It comprised reading a good book,

indulging in a scrumptious feast, sleeping well, enjoying sweet treats and travelling to her heart's content. Other well-being things on the list were sipping on coffee, having fun, spending time with her pet dog Aura and of course working hard. Rashmika dropped a carousel of pictures on Instagram that captured her engaged in these activities. A part of her caption read, "These are just some of the things I can't do without in my life right now. (I wish I could include all but only 10 can go up no, so part 2 soon) and as much as people see the actor side of me. My friends and family see only and only this side of me."



### Jigra: Vasun Bala Was Upset That Karan Johar Sent The Script To Alia Bhatt, Said 'Why Did You...'



Alia Bhatt and Vedang Raina are set to impress audiences in their action-packed film, Jigra, which has quickly become one of the most talked about films since its announcement. Ahead of its big screen release on October 11, Vasun Bala revealed that he was not happy with how Karan Johar had sent the film's script to Alia Bhatt. Speaking to Tied and Refused Productions, Vasun Bala said, "I had written a very kachha pakka email, stream of consciousness thoughts... sent it to Karan and 6-7 hours later, he called saying that I have already sent it to Alia and I was really not happy with it."

I was like I would have at least done some spell check, grammar check, hygiene, written some very nice hero entry... That email was sent and I asked Karan 'Why did you do this?' He said 'No, no this is how it works. Then he said we'll meet in a couple of days,' he recalled. Alia mentioned that she liked the film from the first half itself. In the upcoming movie, Alia and Vedang play siblings, and their chemistry is already getting praise from the audience. Soon after Alia shared the trailer on her Instagram handle, fans, her industry friends and family, flooded the comment section with positive reactions, including her mother-in-law and actress, Neetu Kapoor, along with Bollywood diva Janhvi Kapoor, who called the actress, 'Lady Bachchan'.

In an earlier interview with The Indian Express, Alia Bhatt shared her reason behind choosing Jigra, where she's on a mission to free her brother, played by Vedang Raina, while he's stuck in a foreign jail. She said, "When Jigra came to me, I was going through my most tigress, protective phase. It is possibly why I went mad about the material. It really, really spoke to me. Maybe it would have spoken to me prior as well, but it spoke to me very differently. It hit a different chord. Maybe something else must have come out of that. It is not like I can measure or mould that, but motherhood does make a difference."

### Aditya Roy Kapoor, Anil Kapoor And Sobhita Dhulipala Celebrate The Night Manager's Emmy Nomination



Aditya Roy Kapoor, Anil Kapoor and Sobhita Dhulipala's The Night Manager has earned a nomination for the International Emmy Awards. This Disney+Hotstar crime thriller will face off against Les Gouttes de Dieu (France), The Newsreader-Season 2 (Australia) and Iosi, El Espia Arrepentido-Season 2 (Argentina) for the accolade. The 2024 International Emmy Awards ceremony is set to take place on November 25 in New York, with comedian Vir Das as the host. The thrilled cast and crew of The Night Manager celebrated this achievement in style. Social media was abuzz with videos showcasing the lead cast — Aditya, Anil and Sobhita — alongside their director, Sandeep Modi, as they posed together. Anil Kapoor, known for his suave style, looked effortlessly chic in a black T-shirt and pants, layered with a grey shirt. His look was completed with a classy watch, a sleek chain and polished black shoes. Aditya opted for a relaxed vibe in a grey T-shirt and jeans, paired with stylish sneakers.

Sobhita made a striking entrance in a multi-coloured midi dress that added a splash of brightness. The dress featured an asymmetrical hem and a cinched waist, perfectly complementing her minimal makeup, allowing her outfit to take centre stage. Other cast members of The Night Manager were also spotted, adding to the festive atmosphere of the success celebration.

Anil Kapoor, who plays the antagonist Shailendra Rungta, an arms dealer, in The Night Manager, shared his excitement on the Emmy nomination. "I just couldn't believe it. I called Sandeep and the entire team. We were messaging each other," said the actor while speaking to NDTV. An elated director of The Night Manager also shared an Instagram Story on the day of the announcement, expressing his happiness and thanking God for this milestone achievement. Apart from Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapoor and Sobhita Dhulipala, Saswata Chatterjee, Tillotama Shome, Ravi Behl and Rukhsar Rehman are also part of The Night Manager. This crime thriller is a remake of the 2016 British series of the same name, led by Tom Hiddleston, which is based on a spy novel by John Le Carré. The show received a nomination for the 2024 International Emmy Award in the drama series category on September 20.

