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Ajay Yadav flags under-representation of OBCs in Haryana Cong, slams Babariaa

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Oct 21: Congress leader Capt Ajay Singh Yadav (retd) on Monday raised concerns about under-representation of OBCs in the



party's Haryana unit and top bodies, such as the Congress Working Committee and the Central Election Committee, while also lashing out at AICC incharge of state Deepak Babaria over the poor Assembly poll performance. Yadav, who took a U-turn after resigning, said he would remain a Congressman "till his last breath" and that he had an "offer" from the BJP post-election, but he

did not take it as his family had a 70-year-old relationship with the Congress. "I am not going to the BJP though many have gone. I have spent my entire life here. My son is a secretary (in the AICC). We have 70 years of ties with the party. I have worked with Rajiv ji, Sonia ji and was given respect. She made me CLP, minister. So, one has to respect that," he said at a press conference here. Yadav, whose son Chiranjeev Rao lost from Rewari in the recently concluded Assembly poll, said the party could not effectively micro manage the poll. "AICC Haryana incharge) Babaria ji was in hospital. Now, he is offering resignation, why didn't he do it earlier? If he was unwell, he should have resigned. Our PCC chief was himself busy fighting an election," the chairman of the Congress OBC department said. In the J&K elections, OBC people were not given ticket, and in Haryana also, they did not get the kind of importance they should have.

Haryana polls strengthened expression of stability: PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Oct 21: Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserted on Monday that the Haryana poll result has reinforced people's message of stability that was visible in his government's return to power for the third straight term at the Centre, comments which came as he prepares to spearhead the BJP's campaign in the Maharashtra and Jharkhand assembly polls. Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, Modi said his government in its third term is working at an unprecedented speed and scale and that India has become a source of hope for the world plagued by numerous upheavals, including ongoing conflicts. India has "double AI" advantage and when the power of 'aspirational India' and 'artificial intelligence' combines then it is natural for development to take place at a fast pace, he said, citing several figures. He said the world sees in India a friend in times of crisis as he cited the country's decision to send vaccines to scores of nations during the Covid pandemic. India's progress does not trigger envy but the world rejoices in its growth, he said. "India does not believe in 'taken for granted'

relations. Its relations are built on trust and reliability. When India moves forward there is no jealousy but world feels happy about it as its progress bene-



fits the world," he said. "India had been a force of global growth in history but suffered from slavery and was not able to take advantage of industrial revolutions. Now, this is the time of Industry 4.0. We are not enslaved anymore and are ready for it. The country is working on building the skill-set and

infrastructure needed for Industry 4.0," Modi said. India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) is often a source of discussions in international summits, he said, stressing the role his government played in democratising technology. He said the country has shown that digital innovation and democratic values can co-exist and that technology can be a tool for inclusion, transparency and empowerment and not for control and division. He mentioned technology-powered platforms like UPI, PM Gati Shakti and ONDC to make his point. He said India is a developing country and also a rising power. "We understand the challenges of poverty and also know how to build path for progress. Our government is making policies and taking decisions at a quick pace and is undertaking new reforms," he said. Several rating agencies have revised India's growth forecast due to the speed of work in his government's third term, he added. India is moving ahead with a forward-looking approach and the resolution of a Viksit Bharat by 2047 highlights this mindset, Modi said. The concept of 'Viksit Bharat' has become a part of public consciousness, and the "Jan Shakti" is powering the "Rashtra Shakti", he said.

Bring original records of decision blocking 2023 BBC documentary on Gujrat riots: SC to Centre

ST Correspondent New Delhi, Oct 21: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Centre to produce within three weeks the original records relating to its decision to block a 2023 two-part BBC documentary series on the 2002 Gujarat riots. A bench of Justices Sanjay Khanna and Sanjay Kumar directed the Centre to file its response on the pleas filed by veteran journalist N Ram, Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, activist lawyer Prashant Bhushan and lawyer M L Sharma challenging the government's decision. The bench allowed the rejoinder affidavit to be filed by petitioners in two weeks thereafter and posted the matter for final hearing in January, 2025. "This matter requires consideration. It cannot be disposed of in 10 minutes," the bench said, asking the Centre to comply with its February 2023 direction for



producing the original records of the decision. Solicitor General Tushar Mehta said the government hadn't filed a response and required another two weeks for the same. Senior advocate C U Singh, appearing for the petitioners objected to Mehta's plea and said the government was aware that it had to file a reply but hadn't done it still. Singh submitted it was an executive decision and the court could proceed even without the Centre filing its reply. Justice Khanna, however, said the court needs to see the Centre's response in the matter. On February 3, 2023, the top court had directed the Central government to produce the original records relating to its decision and issued a notice on the batch of pleas. Singh then submitted the government had invoked emergency powers under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021 to block the documentary. One of the petitioners alleged the ban on the documentary titled "India: The Modi question" was "malafide, arbitrary and unconstitutional". Ram and others, in their pleas, have sought a direction to restrain the government from curbing their right to "receive and disseminate information" on the documentary.

Anil Vij inspects Ambala Cantonment bus stand, orders suspension of superintendent

Ambala/Karnal, Oct 21: Haryana transport minister Anil Vij on Monday inspected the Ambala Cantonment bus stand and pulled up the officials for poor sanitation and encroachment by shop keepers. He also issued directions to suspend the bus stand superintendent for poor conditions and sought a complete record of the people running various shops at the bus stand. Vij, who reached here in a Haryana Roadways bus, inquired about the facilities. He also visited various shops being run at the bus stand. The minister pulled up the roadways officials after seeing the encroachment by the shopkeepers. "This is public money, and the public demands accountability. Irregularities will not be tolerated. "The government has given transport department to me so I came here to see the situation so that before doing anything I know what was happening. There is lack of space for passengers because the shopkeepers have encroached the area in convenience with the officials. Appropriate action will be taken. I will also get the quality of food checked. The toilet was in poor situation. I have been told that the sewerage was not working. I have suspended the bus stand superintendent," Vij said.

CM Mamata, junior doctors hold 2-hour talks amid ongoing R G Kar protests

Navdeep Singh Sahni Kolkata, Oct 21: Junior doctors leave 'Nabanna' (State Secretariat) after a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee regarding the ongoing impasse following the alleged rape-murder of a woman medic at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Howrah on Monday. The meeting between West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and agitating junior doctors on Monday lasted nearly two hours, discussing various demands of the medics, including the prevailing "threat culture" in the state's hospitals, to resolve the impasse stemming from the rape and murder of a doctor at RG Kar hospital in August. During the talks, held on the 17th day of a fast-unto-death by some protesting doctors, which was streamed

Live for the first time from the state secretariat-Nabanna, Banerjee urged the junior doctors to end their fast, stating



that most of their demands had been addressed, while rejecting the one on removing the state health secretary. Although both sides agreed on the prevailing threat culture, they differed on the underlying premises, forces, and sit-

uations that promote it. "At RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, several junior doctors and medical students were suspended without following proper procedures and rules. How can these students or resident doctors be suspended just on the basis of complaints? Who gave the college authorities the right to take such a step without informing the state government? Isn't this a threat culture?" the chief minister said. Following this, Aniket Mahato, an agitating doctor who had to be hospitalised after five days of fasting, countered Banerjee by saying those who were suspended "have been very much part of the threat culture and don't deserve to be doctors". "If needed, the state government can assess their performance and then decide. The atmosphere of the medical college campus has been vitiated by these goons under the guise of students.

Back to 2020 situation: India, China reach pact on patrolling along LAC in eastern Ladakh

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Oct 21: India on Monday announced that the issue of patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh had been resolved with China. A "patrolling arrangement" has been worked out and the "situation has gone back to the one in 2020" in terms of disengagement of the troops along the LAC. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri announced the development at separate events on Monday. Speaking in New Delhi, Jaishankar said, "We have reached an agreement with China on patrolling. With this disengagement, we have gone back to the 2020 situation. We can say that the disengagement process with China has been completed." On patrolling, Jaishankar said, "There are areas, which for various reasons after 2020, (China) had blocked... We had also blocked (some

areas). We have reached an understanding that would allow patrolling."



Jaishankar said, "Obviously, we had to opt for counter-deployments, but along with it, we had been negotiating since September 2020." He said, "Hopefully, we will be able to come back to peace and tranquillity with this development. We

have always said that if you (China) disturb peace and tranquillity, how do you expect the rest of the relationship to go forward." Earlier in the day, addressing the media ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia for the BRICS summit, Misri said, "An agreement has been reached on patrolling arrangements along the LAC in the India-China border leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had risen in the areas in 2020." Misri said Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators had remained in close contact. Answering a question, Misri said, "We have reached an agreement... and this will eventually lead to resolution of issues." The armies of the two sides are

locked in a stand-off since April 2020. There have been a few clashes, including the one at Galwan in June 2020 when the Indian Army lost 20 soldiers and China lost a unspecified number of soldiers. Though Misri did not specify which patrolling points at the LAC were part of the "arrangement", sources said the pending issues included the unhindered right of the Indian troops to patrol points 10, 11, 12 and 13. These are the routes going eastwards of the "bottleneck" — a geographical feature — on the 972-sq km Depsang plateau in eastern Ladakh. The second is the buildup at Charding La nullah (also termed Demchok nullah). The Chinese approach the Charding La — a 19,120-foot-high pass from its southern approach. The peak is on the LAC and is patrolled by the Indian Army along the nullah. The Chinese army has to use the route, which the Indian Army had been blocking.

Maharashtra polls: MVA has reached consensus on 210 seats: Sanjay Raut

Nareish Malhotra Mumbai, Oct 21: Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Monday said the Maha Vikas Aghadi had arrived on a consensus on 210 of the 288 Maharashtra Assembly seats, while the state's Congress chief Nana Patole claimed discussions had been completed on his party's 96 seats. Both, however, were united in claiming the Bharatiya Janata Party was spreading misinformation in the run-up to the polls, which are to be held in a single phase on November 20. The results will be declared on November 23. The Shiv Sena (UBT) and the Congress are constituents of the Maha Vikas Aghadi along with Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP). The aim was to ensure the defeat of forces looting Maharashtra, Raut said in a swipe at the ruling alliance comprising Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena, the BJP and Ajit Pawar-led NCP. "We have arrived at a consensus on 210 seats. It is a significant achieve-

ment. We aim to contest polls as a joint force, and we will defeat the forces looting Maharashtra," said Raut, a Rajya Sabha MP and key strategist for the Shiv Sena (UBT).



Speaking to reporters in Delhi, Patole asserted there are no disagreements within the MVA, adding that discussions on seat-sharing were underway and would conclude soon. "So far, discussions on 96 seats for Congress have

been completed. Tomorrow, further talks will be held with Nationalist Congress Party (SP) president Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena chief Uddhav Thackeray. After these discussions, we will try to announce the list of candidates tomorrow itself," he said. Patole and other state leaders of the Congress are in Delhi to finalise seats and candidates for the assembly polls. Raut's comments came amid a flurry of news channel reports that the Uddhav Thackeray-led party may break away from the MVA and contest all 288 seats on its own. The past few days have seen hectic parleys among the three main opposition parties to finalise a seat-sharing deal, with speculation doing the rounds of the Congress and Shiv Sena (UBT) not being on the same page. The statement from Raut also comes amid speculation that Union Home Minister Amit Shah had a phone conversation with him, hinting at the Shiv Sena (UBT) and BJP, which were allies for decades before going their separate ways in 2019, getting back together.

EAM Jaishankar slams Canada for its 'double standards'

New Delhi, Oct 21: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday hit out at Canada for its "double standards" as the ties between New Delhi and Ottawa came under severe strain over the killing of Sikh sepa-

Stewart Wheeler and five other diplomats following Ottawa's fresh allegations of the Indian government's involvement in Nijjar's killing in British Columbia. India also recalled its high commissioner and five more diplomats, who are on their way back to India. The Canadian government had said the Indian diplomats were expelled from the country. "I think there are some very specific issues. Canada asked us to subject our high commissioner to a police inquiry and we chose to withdraw the high commissioner and diplomats," Jaishankar said at the NDTV World Summit. "They seem to have a problem if Indian diplomats are even trying to make efforts to find out what is happening in Canada on matters which directly pertain to their welfare and security. "But look what happens in India. Canadian diplomats have no problem going around collecting information on our military, police, profiling people, targeting people to be stopped in Canada," he said. "So apparently, the licence that they give themselves is totally different from the kind of restrictions that they impose on diplomats in Canada.



ratist Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Canadian soil last year. "Double standards is a very mild word for it," Jaishankar said while explaining how Canada treats other diplomats and the "licence" their diplomats try to use while in India. Last week, New Delhi expelled Canadian Charge d'Affaires

News box

MUDA: ED takes away 800 pages of papers, hard disk

MYSURU: Directorate of Enforcement (ED) officials, probing the MUDA site allotment scam, involving Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi BM, concluded their two-day raid and took away 800 pages of documents and a hard disk from the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA). The officers carried out searches till 2.30 am on Sunday and sought documents related to sites allotted under the 50:50 ratio. MUDA Commissioner AN Raghunandan and other officers furnished all the correspondence related to 3 acres 18 guntas of land in Kesare owned by Parvathi and 24 sites allotted to her by MUDA in the upmarket Vijayanagar. The ED officials took both soft and hard copies and got them photocopied. The seized documents were packed and moved under police security.

During the 41-hour raid, the ED officials camped in the MUDA office with round-the-clock protection from around 20 armed CRPF personnel along with local police.

Raghunandan told reporters that MUDA officials completely cooperated with ED officials during the investigation. "MUDA will resume its normal operations from Monday," he said. The Lokayukta police, meanwhile, who are also probing the MUDA site scam, interrogated former deputy commissioner and Raichur MP Kumar Naik, who had served in Mysuru and denotified the land in Kesare.

Three flights in Karnataka receive hoax bomb threats

BENGALURU: Two flights — one arriving at Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) and one departing — received hoax threat calls on Sunday, said sources. Security checks were carried out and calls were declared a hoax. According to an informed source, one of them was an Alliance Air flight (AI 528) that departed from Vidyanagar (Jindal Vijayanagara Airport) in Toranagallu. "We received news around 1.15 pm from the Bengaluru airport about a bomb being placed on AI 528. The flight with 46 passengers was just about to land at KIA," the source added. Soon after it landed at Terminal 2 of KIA, dog squad and bomb squad personnel were pressed into service. "All security protocols were followed. We confirmed it as hoax. The flight had to return to Vidyanagar and it departed quite late," the source added.

Airport sources in Bengaluru confirmed the incident. A top police official also said that an IndiGo flight taking off from Bengaluru to Delhi too received a hoax call. "The airline authorities assessed the impact and decided it was a non-specific call and not a serious one. They told us they preferred not to file a complaint," the police said. Meanwhile, an FIR has been registered at the KIA police station on a complaint filed by KIA Duty Manager of Akasa Air, Haribabu Bandi, on a threat the airline received through platform 'X' about explosives placed onboard a flight (QP 1373) that departed from Bagdogra airport in Siliguri and landed in Bengaluru on October 15.

Centuries-old pottery tradition in Visakhapatnam on brink of extinction?

VISAKHAPATNAM: Deepavali is fast approaching, but for the potters of Adavivaram in Simbahalam, this year brings an unfamiliar struggle. For generations, these artisans crafted earthen diyas and festive items, but roof-widening work last year claimed part of their homes, leaving many displaced.

Unable to work as they once did, the potters were forced to purchase diyas from traders for the first time in centuries. Now, they sell what little they can from the streets outside their partially demolished houses, marking a painful shift in their time-honoured way of life. "Our families have lived here for generations. This is the first time we could not make diyas for Deepavali. We do not have space to store clay, produce diyas, or bake them in kilns. After last year's road work, half of our houses were torn down," explained G Ravi, a potter from the community.

"We haven't received any compensation, nor were we offered land elsewhere. They said they'd give us plots in residential areas, but who will allow potters there when our work involves mud and baking?" he questioned. There are around 15 families involved in pottery, either fully or partially. Some have moved to rented houses, continuing their work in their half-demolished homes, while others remain in these unsafe structures. The number of active potters has declined due to age, a shift to other professions, and the fact that pottery no longer generates enough income to support a family.

Although the government has provided free pottery wheels to some artisans in Narsipatnam, Parawada, and Vemulapudi, the Adavivaram potters are still waiting for theirs. Rising cost of clay, transportation, unexpected rainfall, and dwindling demand have further strained their livelihood.

GVMC chief promises to resolve issue of potters

"Despite everything, we continue to work out of passion. We requested small sheds by the roadside to store our goods, but we were denied permission. Irrespective of incessant rain or scorching heat, we sit on the roadside and sell what we can. If nothing is done soon, our houses could collapse completely in heavy rain," Ravi added, highlighting the vulnerability they face daily. Sharing concerns for the future, another potter expressed, "Pottery is physically demanding, but the returns are meagre."

Pineapple farmers in Kerala hit sweet spot as price spike prolongs

Prices have remained robust at Rs 57-60/kg for 12-18 months due to rise in demand, especially in north Indian markets

KOCHI: Pineapple farmers are enjoying the fruit of their labour. They have not had it this good in a long time, especially in Vazhakulam, near Muvattupuzha, considered the hub of the tropical plant's cultivation in the country. The farm gate price of pineapple, which is grown mostly in Idukki, Pathanamthitta, Kottayam and Ernakulam districts, has been hovering around a robust Rs 57-60/kg for the last 12-18 months. This is a far cry from 2016 when prices plunged to as low as Rs 10/kg, pushing many farmers into distress. The healthy price has encouraged more and more farmers to return to pineapple cultivation by leasing large tracts of land, and in many instances getting rid of rubber trees. The area in the state under pineapple cultivation, which declined from 12,775 hectares in 2005-06 to 7,911 hectares in 2015-16, has risen to anywhere in the region of 22,000 and 23,000 hectares now, reckons James George Thottumariyil, president of the All Kerala Pineapple Farmers' Association (AKPFA).

"The higher price is due to rise in demand, especially in north Indian markets such as Delhi and Mumbai. The market for pineapple has also expanded significantly over the last few years. Additionally, due to the harsh summers, people are consuming more of the fruit," James says. "Luckily for farmers, there has not been any disruption in demand from north Indian markets in the last one-two years. The 2018 and 2019 floods and the Covid pandemic affected transportation of the fruit," points out Thomas Varghese, president of the Vazhakulam Merchants' Association.

On a daily average, Vazhakulam sees around 1,200 tonnes loaded onto trucks headed for the northern states. This jumps to 1,500 tonnes during the summer months.

Rocketing output

Kerala's pineapple production soared from 1.09 lakh tonnes in 2005-06 to 5.5 lakh tonnes in 2023. In 2024, it is expected to

touch 6.5 lakh tonnes, based on AKPFA's calculation. Production had declined to 88,033 tonnes in 2019-20 when prices nosedived.

An acre can produce up to 12-14 tonnes, which translates into earnings of Rs 7-8 lakh for the farmer. "The cost of farming averages about Rs 3.5 lakh/acre. This means a profit of at least Rs 3 lakh per acre after deducting all sundry expenses. This is good," stresses James. According to Thomas, many farmers who gave up pineapple farming after prices hit rock bottom during the pandemic — at Rs 19 to Rs 40/kg — have made a comeback, bolstered by healthy prices. "Pineapple farmers are raking in the moolah. But, I don't think this has attracted many new players. For a new entrant, planting would cost as high as Rs 4-4.5 lakh per acre as the price of seedlings has also risen in recent months," says Thomas, who has leased land to farm the fruit.

Inflation boost



M C Saju, a farmer in Ernakulam district's Koothattukulam, says a major reason for the steady high prices of pineapple can be attributed to the rise in food inflation. "If you look at other fruits, they are all trading above Rs 100/kg. Pineapple is a cheap alternative," he says.

"One pineapple weighs nearly 2.5kg, and costs around Rs 135-150," Saju explains, adding that

contract farmers are now ready to lease land for pineapple cultivation for six years, offering Rs 1 lakh a year. "They are also ready to pay five years' money in advance. This is unprecedented," Saju adds. It also helps that pineapple is not very seasonal. "Output is generally high between end-October and January. It slows down after that," says James, adding, "Most farmers eye the month of Ramadan. Farmers need to flower the plant by October-end to ensure that it bears fruit after six months," he said. "One advantage of pineapple farming is that it takes only 12 months to decide the return on the crop. This is significant, as far as farmers are concerned," he adds.

"Further, the entire return is considered agricultural income and is not taxed," points out Saju. There is also an abundant number of labourers from the northern states, such as Bengal, who are available for farm work in pineapple fields, he says.

TN man misses interest payment, Nellai 'loanshark' beats his mother to death

TIRUNELVELI: A 61-year-old woman died after allegedly being brutally beaten by a moneylender and his relative on Saturday, as her son was unable to pay the exorbitant monthly interest on a loan of Rs 1 lakh. Both of them were arrested the same day by Tirunelveli city police, who are also searching for a third suspect. According to police, the deceased has been identified as S Savithri of CN Village, a roadside vegetable vendor near Tirunelveli Junction. Her son Kannan (35) is employed as a loadman at the Nainarkulam market. "Kannan had borrowed Rs 1 lakh from one Kaliraj (42) from the same area to cover his mother's medical expenses. He had been paying around Rs 10,000 as monthly interest. However, last month, he could not make the payment, leading to Kaliraj (42) and his relative Anandraj (42) confronting Savithri at her home," said

sources. Following this, Savithri lodged a complaint with the Tirunelveli Junction police against the duo. Angered by this, Kaliraj and Anandraj allegedly attacked Kannan with a knife at Nainarkulam



market two days ago. Kannan was admitted to the Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital (TVMCH) for treatment, sources said.

"Subsequently, on Saturday, Kaliraj and Anandraj went to Savithri's house again

and brutally beat her with an iron rod. Her neighbours rushed her to TvMCH, where she succumbed to her severe injuries," police said.

Mom claimed son was drunk, ended life

Consequently, the family members conspired to kill Sivakumar, police said. "Sivakumar was unmarried and became an alcoholic following the death of his brothers. From December 2023 to July 2024 he underwent treatment at a drug rehabilitation centre in Avinashi. However, his time in the rehab seemed to have little effect on his alcoholism," police said. "As per their plan, on the night of October 17, Moorthi's friends R Jeevanandham, (22) and R Mayandi (24) drank with Sivakumar. Once he was in an inebriated state, Jeevanandham and Mayandi attacked Sivakumar and pushed him into the farm well. On October 18, Ponnuthai informed the police that her son was missing.

District administration plans to revive Surangas to tackle water scarcity in Kasaragod

KASARAGOD: As part of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), the district administration is planning to rehabilitate water sources by reviving Surangas or tunnel wells to raise the groundwater level in Kasaragod. By incorporating Suranga restoration into the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the district administration seeks to promote water conservation, improve livelihoods, and foster women's leadership in community development through the "Nari Shakti Se Jal Shakti" campaign.

District Collector Inbasekar K said, "Our primary objective is to turn the status of Kasaragod block panchayat from critical groundwater category to semi-critical and later to safe groundwater category. At present, four blocks are in the safe category, except Manjeshwar and Kasaragod. Surangas are the traditional



water source, and reviving them will help increase the groundwater level. "Surangas were traditionally used by farmers, as many of the tunnels provided water during the summer. A Suranga is essentially a tunnel carved into a laterite hill that allows water to seep through and collect at the other end. Kasaragod is one of the districts in the

state that faces acute water shortage in the summer.

A groundwater department officer said, "We will collect the number of surangas in Kasaragod with the help of Kudumbashree and renovate them through MGNREGS. We are planning to execute the project as part of JSA. In the initial phase, we plan to conduct a survey to determine the number of Surangas in the district. Kasaragod is divided into six blocks, of which Kasaragod block is considered a critical block as the majority of the recharged water is used and Manjeshwar block is considered a semi-critical block." The 2023 Central Groundwater Department report shows a decline in the district's groundwater development from 79.64% in 2017 and 76.40% in 2020 to the current level of 72.75%, which is classified as semi-critical.

Andhra Pradesh government aims to make Amaravati drone capital of India

Sleuths of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) continued their raid on the MUDA office for the second day on October 19.

VIJAYAWADA. The government aims to position the State as the drone capital of the country, emphasised Andhra Pradesh Drone Corporation Managing Director Dinesh Kumar. Highlighting the Amaravati Drone Summit-2024, the AP Drone Corporation MD explained that they had taken necessary measures to ensure the smooth conduct of drone show and cultural events at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada on the evening of October 22. In an interview with K Kalyan Krishna Kumar, Dinesh Kumar revealed that over 1,000 delegates, speakers and exhibitors had registered for the two-day summit and Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu would inaugurate the summit at 10 am at CK Conventions in Mangalagiri on October 22.

What is the main goal of the

Amaravati Drone Summit-2024?

The State government is striving to position the State as a drone capital of India by hosting the prestigious Amaravati Drone Summit-2024 on October 22 and 23. The summit aims to attract investments and start-ups in drone manufacturing and also creates a platform to foster discussions on the future of drone technology and its applications across various domains of industries.

Who are the participants expected at the summit and what can they expect from the exhibitors?

The two-day national summit will bring together the officials of the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation, representatives from the defence sector, professors from premier IITs, research scholars, drone manufacturers, software

developers, and industry regulators among others. Apart from them, all enthusiasts are welcome to attend the event as the entry is free for all attendees, encouraging enthusiasts to explore the latest solutions and innovations of the drone industry. The summit will feature 40 exhibitors and companies, showcasing diverse applications of drone technology.

What are the key areas of discussion at the summit?

Discussions will focus on the current state of drone technology, future implications, regulatory reforms, and strategies for building a drone ecosystem through innovation hubs, certification agencies, and incentives to attract investments.

What is the role of the State government in the drone sector and its plans to nurture the

**drone ecosystem?**

In line with the directions of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, the State government is actively involved in the development of a complete drone ecosystem, including manufacturing incentives, regulatory frameworks, innovation hubs and certification agencies and partnerships to position Andhra Pradesh as investors destination. The government intends to provide support to attract the big players of this particular sector

and significant investments. How are drones utilised currently and what role do they have in the future?

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News box

DTCP asks 11 markets to remove encroachments in a week

Gurgaon. The department of town and country planning (DTCP) has issued a notice to 11 upscale markets, including DLF 1 shopping mall, Galleria market in DLF 4, and Vyapar Kendra in Sushant Lok 1, to remove encroachments within a week. Demolitions will be carried out and penalties imposed if the markets fail to comply. The move came after the deputy commissioner's directive to free common areas of markets and malls from encroachments ahead of the festive season. After a recent meeting with officials from various departments, including the DTCP, GMDA, HUDA, and MCG, DTCP's team inspected several commercial complexes across New Gurgaon on Oct 16. They identified illegal structures, such as kiosks, stalls, and temporary installations in common areas and walkways, that obstruct pedestrian movement. DTCP enforcement officer Manish Yadav emphasised the seriousness of the campaign. "This encroachment drive is part of our larger efforts to ensure the smooth functioning of public spaces in licensed colonies. After seven days, we will reinstate these markets. If encroachments persist, we will initiate action as per the law, which could involve demolishing unauthorised structures." Rakesh Mehta, a resident of DLF Phase 4, said, "We've been asking for these encroachments to be removed for a long time. It's become impossible to walk in the common areas." Shweta Anand, a resident who visits the Galleria Market frequently, said: "These temporary stalls block the entire corridor. It's chaotic during peak hours. Clearing them will make shopping much more comfortable."

S+4 floor policy: Architects issuing OCs in 'violation' of rules to get a hearing

Gurgaon. The department of town and country planning (DTCP) in Haryana has decided to offer architects, who issued occupation certificates (OCs) for four-storey buildings with stilt parking in violation of regulations, a chance to be heard. The director of the department, who took the decision, proposed imposing a fine of ₹2 lakh for each violation. Senior town planners (STPs) have been directed to conduct hearings for 18 architects involved in the issuance of illegal OCs.

After these hearings, it will be determined whether their registrations will remain cancelled or if they will be allowed to continue by paying the penalty.

STP, Gurgaon, Renuka Singh confirmed that "all legal procedures and investigations will be completed before any action is taken". On Feb 23, 2023, the Haryana govt imposed a ban on the construction of four-storey buildings with stilt parking. However, several buildings in the city managed to bypass this regulation.

These structures initially had plans approved for two or three floors but went ahead to construct four floors. With the connivance of certain architects, occupation certificates were issued for these illegal constructions.

AQI improves, but is likely to slip back to 'poor' soon with change in wind direction

Gurgaon. Two traffic home guards were attacked with sticks and rods by a biker and his friends after he was stopped for not wearing a helmet and asked to show papers at Kanhai Chowk on Saturday evening. Around 6.30pm on Saturday, ASI Suresh Kumar led a team of four home guards—Sumit, Sunil, Jitendra, and Mahesh—to regulate traffic at the key junction as signals were not functioning. They stopped a KTM bike coming from Kanhai side as the rider did not wear a helmet. "Sunil asked the rider to produce his licence and papers for the bike. As the rider claimed he did not have any documents, Sunil called me. The biker identified himself as Ilyas, a resident of a slum on Sector 44. He asked me to let him go after issuing an online challan," ASI Kumar said. When the cops insisted that they needed to impound the bike, Ilyas called his friend Raqib, who said he was somewhere nearby. "Raqib asked us not to trouble his friend, saying he was an accused in 10 criminal cases. But we chose to ignore the threats and continued with the process of seizing the bike. All of a sudden, six to seven youths came to the spot, armed with sticks and rods, and attacked Sumit and Jitendra," Kumar said. The two home guards suffered grievous injuries. The attackers, however, fled with the bike when the ASI and other cops intervened. Sumit and Jitendra were taken to civil hospital in Sector 10 for treatment.

1 more banker held for links with cyber cons; 21st arrest this year

Gurgaon. A UCO Bank staffer and his associate were arrested on Saturday by the cyber police in connection with a Rs 24-lakh investment fraud case registered at Cyber West police station in July 2024. Since Feb this year, police have arrested 21 bankers for helping cons open bank accounts to park defrauded money. The accused—identified as Ram Avtar, a resident of Kusum Vihar in Jaipur, and Kanishka Vijay Vargiya of Mangrol—were nabbed from Rajasthan, said cybercrime ACP Priyanshu Diwan. In July 2024, a victim of cyber fraud had approached Cyber West Police, alleging that he was duped of Rs 24.6 lakh by unknown fraudsters who lured him to invest in the stock market via them to get huge profits. "After the victim transferred the amount to a bank account as per their instructions, the accused showed him 'profits' he made virtually, on a webpage created by them. But when he said he wanted to withdraw the amount, the accused stopped all communication with him and the webpage also became inaccessible," said police. A case of cheating was registered. "Kanishka Vijay Vargiya told us that the account was opened using fake documents by UCO Bank's deputy manager Ram Avtar. We arrested Ram Avtar based on this confession," police spokesperson Sandeep said. Ram Avtar worked at the bank's Mansarovar branch in Jaipur. "Details of the bank account fraudulently opened were provided to cyber fraudsters by Kanishka. Both the accused used to get Rs 7,000 each for providing bank accounts to cyber fraudsters," he added.

UP approves 'New Noida' plan, first phase to be ready in 3 yrs

Noida. UP govt approved two master plans listing development projects to be carried out by Noida Authority and Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) over the next 15 years. The Noida master plan 2041 focuses primarily on the expansion of the Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region (DNGIR), commonly referred to as New Noida. The project will involve acquiring land from 80 villages across Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahr districts. It was in Aug last year that the Authority board approved the plan. After public feedback, it was submitted with the state govt, which granted its final approval last week. New Noida will come up in four phases—the first one across 3,165 hectares by 2027. Between 2027 and 2032, another 3,798 hectares will be developed, followed by 5,908 hectares by 2037 and 8,230 hectares by 2041. The Authority has so far allocated around Rs 1,000 crore for land acquisition. Of the total land, 40% is designated for industries, 13% for residential development, and 18% for green areas and recreational spaces. The new city,



designed to accommodate around 6 lakh residents, will also have commercial zones covering 4% of the total area and institutional areas spanning over 8% of the land. YEIDA's master plan will include 55 villages of Bulandshahr, taking the total area to be covered by it to 226–131 of them from GB Nagar. The area covered by phase 1 of the project has been increased from 583sqkm initially to 769sqkm. As a result of this expansion,

the population in the YEIDA region is expected to reach 37 lakh by 2041. A major highlight of this master plan is the expansion of the aviation hub around Noida airport in Jewar, with the total area dedicated to the airport increasing from 5,000 to 6,286.7 hectares. Apart from expansion of the airport, industrial units related to aviation, such as those involved in aircraft engine manufacturing, will be established in the region. The plan also

introduces two new land-use categories—multiple use hospitality and multiple use industrial, both of which will be developed near the airport. These areas will combine residential and industrial zones, providing housing for workers and space for industries. To prevent illegal constructions around the airport, land will be acquired for industrial sectors 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, and multi-use sectors 7, 8, and 31B. Additionally, land has already been allocated for hospitality sectors like 23G, 23I, and 23E. The master plan area has been extended up to the Delhi-Howrah route, with a proposal for direct railway connectivity, and a logistics hub spanning 1,500 hectares adjacent to Chola station near the airport railway line. The plan will include provision for an Olympic Park in sectors 22F and 23B, where Olympic-level sports infrastructure will be developed. Furthermore, two new sectors—Sector 4A (365 hectares) and Sector 5A (395 hectares)—are planned for multiple land-use industries, with proposals for the development of a Korean City in Sector 4A and a Japanese City in Sector 5A.

Malaria cases on rise in Hry; tally 168 now, double last year's count

Gurgaon: Haryana has recorded a spike in the tally of malaria cases, which has reached 168 so far this year, nearly twice the number reported in 2023. NCR districts have been the most severely affected, with Sonapat reporting 35, followed by Jhajjar 26, Faridabad 25 and Charkhi Dadri 8. This significant increase is in sharp contrast to the numbers recorded in the past few years, with 85 cases in 2023, 52 in 2022, 54 in 2021 and 111 in 2020. Health officials have observed that the peak risk period for malaria in Haryana usually extends from Feb to Sept. However, recent patterns suggest a slight change, with the state reporting cases in Oct also. Residents have been urged to take preventive measures, such as using insect repellent and eliminating standing water where mosquitoes breed. Apart from NCR, Panchkula and Hisar have each reported 21 malaria cases so far. The



alarming increase in malaria cases has prompted health officials to intensify their efforts in controlling spread of the disease. Public health campaigns focusing on mosquito control and awareness about prevention strategies are being strengthened across the state. The department has also geo-tagged all positive cases to create a database of hotspots over the past two years. "This facilitates comparison with previous surveys to identify intersections and outbreaks across various districts," said a senior health department official

in Chandigarh. This year, Gurgaon has recorded two cases so far. The city reported no malaria cases in 2023, and a district can be declared "malaria-free" if it maintains a case-free status for three consecutive years. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines vector-borne diseases as "human illnesses caused by parasites, viruses, and bacteria transmitted by vectors." CMO Virender Yadav expressed concern about the changing pattern of malaria cases, stating, "The period of greatest risk earlier in the state has been between Feb and Sept. Cleanliness is essential for preventing infections, especially in moisture-prone areas like feet and between fingers. Regular hand washing, drying off properly, and using protective powders or lotions are simple but effective practices. It's also important to keep our surroundings clean, regularly clean air conditioners, and use disinfectants to reduce infection risks."

Drop in mercury and low wind speed turn city air 'poor' again

Gurgaon. The city's air quality deteriorated significantly on Sunday to the "poor" level (219) from the previous day's "moderate" level of 176. The highest air quality index (AQI) was recorded at Teri Gram (253), followed by Vikas Sadan (195) and Sector 51 (192). The System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (Safar) has predicted that weather conditions will be highly unfavourable for dispersion of pollutants starting from Oct 20. Gurgaon last recorded "poor" air on Friday. "The predominant surface wind, according to SAFAR, is likely to be coming from the northeast or southeast with speed up to 8 kmph and there will also be fog. The maximum mixing depth is likely to be between 600 m2/s and 3,500 m2/s in the region. A ventilation index lower than 6,000 m2/s with an average wind speed of less than 10 kmph is unfavourable for the dispersion of pollutants," it stated. Experts said the AQI is likely to worsen in the coming days. Shubhansh Tiwari, a research associate at the Centre for Science and Environment, attributed the deterioration of air quality to the region entering the winter cycle, which leads to thermal inversion, making pollutants heavy. He also pointed out that local emissions such as vehicular

Thieves on prowl in trans-Hindon: 10 bikes & 4 chains stolen in 3 days

Ghaziabad. Trans-Hindon areas saw a significant rise in street crimes over the past few days, with 10 bike thefts reported in Indirapuram and Kaushambi over the last three days. Four chains and two mobile phone snatching cases were also logged in the two areas within the same period. A bike owned by Dharmendra Kumar, a channel manager at RBL Bank in Indirapuram, was stolen on Aug 3. "Around 10am, I parked my grey TVS Radeon bike at RBL Bank in Aditya Mall and went for a briefing. When I returned, I didn't find the bike where I had parked it. I parked my bike with other colleagues, but only mine was missing. I called the police, who came to investigate. Indirapuram police lodged an FIR in the matter on Thursday evening," he said. Kaushambi police registered another FIR on Thursday regarding the theft of a Blinkit delivery executive's bike. Indirapuram resident Khadimul Byapari reported he parked his bike outside the Blinkit store in front of Cloud 9, Sector 1 in Vaishali, around 7.30pm on Aug 25. "When I returned after ten minutes, I couldn't find my black Hero Splendor BS6. I dialed 112 and cops reached the spot. They advised me to register a complaint through UP COP. A person I know typed my complaint in English in the app as I did not find an option for Hindi," he said. Varsha Saxena (29), a resident of Lajpat Nagar in Sahibabad, was a victim of mobile phone snatching while traveling in an auto-rickshaw on Aug 3. Another woman received minor injuries on her neck after two boys on a scooter snatched the gold chain she was wearing when she was crossing Rajbagh Metro Station with her eight-year-old daughter. Her father, Bishwajit Sharma, filed a complaint on Aug 31. "The incident occurred around 2pm. After snatching Julie's chain, the two fled towards Sunday Bazaar Road in Shalimar Garden," he said. Nimish Patil, DCP Trans-Hindon, said the criminals flee to Delhi after committing crimes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUMIT KUMAR S/O SOM PRAKASH VERMA residing at H NO-C/946 YAMUNA VIHAR DELHI-110053 have changed my name to SUMIT KUMAR VERMA all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, KAVITA W/O SUMIT KUMAR VERMA residing at H NO-C/946 YAMUNA VIHAR DELHI-110053 have changed my name to KAVITA VERMA all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, TARUN S/O GM PRAKASH BATRA residing at WARD NO-10, FERROZPUR, JHRKA, MEWAT NUH, HARYANA-122104 have changed my name to TARUN BATRA all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Niyampal Singh father of Jc-471793L Rank-SUB, Name-LOKESH KUMAR R/O VILL-DHAKROLY, PO-KHANPUR, TEH-SAYANA, DIST-BULANDSHAHR, UTTAR PRADESH-245405 have changed my name NIYAMPAL SINGH to NAIPAL for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 21/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I DHUNOO VISHWAKRMA S/O BADKU VISHWAKRMA, R/o E-3/35, BLOCK-E, GALI NO-3, SONIA VIHAR, PUSTA NO-4, I T O, BADAR PUR KHADAR, NEW DELHI-110094 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as DHANOO VISHWA KARMA and BADKU VISHWA KARMA in my Voter Id Card No-CZF/1266251 and Bank Account No-947283888. The actual name of mine and my father are DHUNOO VISHWAKRMA and BADKU VISHWAKRMA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that Mrs. Renu Gupta intends to purchase the Upper Ground Floor, built up portion of freshhold property bearing No. 45/1, with a land area measuring 84 sq. yards, situated in the colony popularity known as Sri Nagar, in the Shakur Basti area, North-West Delhi, from Mr. Yashul Ahuja. The entire property was purchased by (1) Mr. Suman Kant Ahuja, (2) Mr. Suresh Chand Ahuja, and (3) Mr. Manmohan Ahuja from Mr. Madhus Doss Ahuja through a Sale Deed dated 22.01.2003. Thereafter, they executed a Deed of Partition dated 06.02.2003 and divided the property. Mr. Suresh Chand Ahuja passed away on 14.05.2021, and his wife, Mrs. Kamlesh Ahuja, had already passed away on 21.01.2019. His mother, Mrs. Nimla Devi, also expired on 09.04.2020, leaving behind the following legal heirs: (1) Mrs. Anshu Sharma (daughter) and (2) Mr. Yashul Ahuja (son). Subsequently, Mrs. Anshu Sharma released her share in the entire property in favor of Mr. Yashul Ahuja through a Relinquishment Deed dated 16.07.2021. The same floor/portion is being offered for sale by RBL Bank, Branch GP 3, UGF Pampura Road, Delhi-110034. If any person's objection regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per affidavit shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

PUBLIC NOTICE
All concerned are hereby informed through this Public Notice that my client namely Sh. Bhim Singh s/o Mohar Singh R/O Plot No-450/22 (Pole No-457) Balraki Basti, Vijay Bijwasan, South west, Delhi-110061. Has debarred and disowned his Daughter namely ISHIKA (NIRKKI) D/o BHIM SINGH aged 20 years, from his social life and all his moveable and immovable property and cancelled all his relations with him as the aforesaid Daughter love marriage with some one and used to harass, abuse and quarrel with my client. My client shall not be held liable with any of his acts, deeds and things in any manner and if anyone deals with him shall be deal as per his/her own risk, cost and consequences.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, CHANDER BATI mother of Jc-471793L Rank-SUB, Name-LOKESH KUMAR R/O VILL-DHAKROLY, PO-KHANPUR, TEH-SAYANA, DIST-BULANDSHAHR, UTTAR PRADESH-245405 have changed my name from CHANDER BATI to CHANDER for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 21/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mr. MOH AAMEEN S/O YAMIN R/O OONCHA NEW BASTI, CHHIBRAMAU, PO: CHHIBRAMAU, DIST: KANNAUJ, U.P. - 209721, and his wife MRS. SHMSHUN BEGUM have disowned and debarred his son Mr. MOHD. TALIB S/O MOH AAMEEN R/O OONCHA NEW BASTI, CHHIBRAMAU, PO: CHHIBRAMAU, DIST: KANNAUJ, U.P. - 209721, and his wife and extended family from all his moveable and immovable properties due to his bad habits. Anybody dealing with Mr. MOHD TALIB and his extended family will do so at their own risk. Henceforth my client has no concern/ relation with Mr. MOHD TALIB in his life time.
Razia Khatoun (Advocate)
Enrol no.- D/11408/2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, HARSHIL UPADHYAY aged 04 years and we shall hereafter be known as MAMTA and HARSHIL SHARMA respectively.

NAME CHANGE
I, Saayam Kumar Mehroliya S/o Shri Sudhir Kumar, residing at House No.1, Block-116, Sector-1, Pustak Vihar New Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Saayam Kumar Duggal for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Lokesh Sharma S/O: Ganpat Sharma, R/O 330, gali no- 2, chhalera, sector-44, Sector-1, Pustak Vihar New Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Lokesh Sharma for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, RASHMI W/O TARUN BATRA residing at WARD NO-10, FERROZPUR, JHRKA, MEWAT NUH, HARYANA-122104 have changed my name to RASHMI BATRA all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Kirandeep Singh W/O BALPREET SINGH residing at H NO-616, STREET NO-12, SBS COLONY, KARAWAL NAGAR, DELHI-110094 have changed my name to KIRANDEEP KAUR all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, KIRANDEEP SINGH W/O BALPREET SINGH residing at H NO-616, STREET NO-12, SBS COLONY, KARAWAL NAGAR, DELHI-110094 have changed my name to KIRANDEEP KAUR all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client Mohd. Usman S/O Mohd. Zameer, R/O House No. 355/22, Zakir Nagar, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, South Delhi, Delhi-110025 has severed all relations & connections with his son Mohd. Imran and his wife Nargis and disowned them from his all moveable, immovable properties due to misconduct, misbehaviour. My client shall not be responsible for their acts.
AJIT SINGH TOMAR Advocate
E-27, Sarita Vihar New Delhi-110076

NAME CHANGE
I, SHARAWAN KUMAR S/O BHOPAL DIXIT residing at B-10, EAST BALDEV PARK, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051 have changed my name to SHARWAN DIXIT all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Itherto known as JAVED alias JAVED AHMAD S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD R/O G-79, UPPER GROUND FLOOR, RIGHT SIDE, JUMEIRAH APARTMENT, THOKAR NO.4, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE-1, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, NEW DELHI-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JAVED AHMAD for all purpose in future.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I SUJIT VISHWANATH S/O VISHWANATH R/O 1-1405, MANTRI TRANQUIL, Tughlakabad Extension ARI, South Delhi, Delhi - 110019 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as SUJIT VISHWANATHAN in my 10th and 12th class education document. The actual name of mine is SUJIT VISHWANATH respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, CHANDER BATI mother of Jc-471793L Rank-SUB, Name-LOKESH KUMAR R/O VILL-DHAKROLY, PO-KHANPUR, TEH-SAYANA, DIST-BULANDSHAHR, UTTAR PRADESH-245405 have changed my name from CHANDER BATI to CHANDER for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 21/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Itherto known as RAJ KUMARI W/O NARENDRA SINGH, permanent R/o Nagala Baghat Jasabant Pur, Daleepur, Kailai, Mainpur, Uttar Pradesh-205267, and currently residing at Flat No. 103, Plot No. 126, Jain Colony Part-II, Matiala Delhi, Uttar Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAM KAUR DEVI for all future purposes.

COURT NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF
SH. ABHITOSH PRATAP SINGH,
ADJ SOUTH DISTRICT,
SAKET COURTS, DELHI
CS DJ 635/2022
IN THE MATTER OF:-
RAVI SHARMA
...PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
MAHIM MITTAL & ANR.
...DEFENDANTS

NAME CHANGE
I, Kavita W/O Sumit Kumar Verma residing at H NO-C/946 Yamuna Vihar Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Kavita Verma all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Niyampal Singh father of Jc-471793L Rank-SUB, Name-LOKESH KUMAR R/O VILL-DHAKROLY, PO-KHANPUR, TEH-SAYANA, DIST-BULANDSHAHR, UTTAR PRADESH-245405 have changed my name NIYAMPAL SINGH to NAIPAL for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 21/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

COURT NOTICE
SH. RAVI SHARMA
S/O SH. HARI MOHAN SHARMA
R/O 1-1405, MANTRI TRANQUIL,
GUBBALALA POST,
SUBRAMANYAPURA,
BANGALORE-560061.
THROUGH IT'S ATTORNEY
SH. YOGESH BANDHU
S/O SH. KRISHAN KANT SHARMA
R/O FLAT NO. D-801, STELLER
MIL LEGACY, NEAR PURVANCHAL
HEIGHT, SECTOR-ZETA-1,
GREATER NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDH
NAGAR, U. P.
...PLAINTIFF
VERSUS
1. SH. MAHIM MITTAL
2. SHIV KALA CHARMS, BY GOLF
COURSE SARKARI AVAS SAMITI
LTD, PLOT NO. 7, SECTOR-P11,
GREATER NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDH
NAGAR, U. P.
...DEFENDANTS

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Const./RSP/NR Baroda House New Delhi for and behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Single Packet System for the under noted work:

Preparation of the Joint Feasibility Report (JFR), Final Location Surveys (FLS) including drone surveys, conducting detailed field investigations (including geotechnical assessments), and developing the Conceptual Alignment Plan (CAP), Topographical Plan (TP), General Arrangement Drawings (GAD), Detailed Design and Drawings (D&D), and launching schemes for girders, preparation of tender documents, including Detailed Estimates (DE), Bill of Quantities (BOQ), and other necessary documents as advised by the Railways, alongside obtaining requisite approvals from relevant authorities for all construction of ROB/RUB in Jurisdiction of Road Safety Project Unit (RSPU), Northern Railway, covering five divisions: Delhi (DLI), Moradabad (MB), Ambala (UMB), Ferozpur (FZR), and Lucknow (LKO), within the jurisdiction of CAO/C/RSP, Northern Railway

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| Approx. Cost of money to be deposited | ₹ 412200/- (Four lakh twenty thousand and two hundred only) | Completion period of work | 06 Months |
| Site availability of tender document on Rly. Website | Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 20.10.2024 to 12.11.2024 upto 11:30hrs. | | |
| Last date/Time of upload of tenders | Tender document can be uploaded on IREPS website upto 12.11.2024, 11:30hrs. | | |
| Date and time of opening of tender | Anytime after 12.11.2024 at 11.30 hrs. | | |

No.: 06/W/09/2024/WA/Dy.CE/C/RSP Dated : 19.10.2024 3255/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

News box

Hezbollah deputy Naim Qassem flees to Iran fearing assassination bid: Report

World Hezbollah's second-in-command and deputy secretary general Naim Qassem has fled from Lebanon to Iran amid Israel's attacks on Lebanon, according to a report in UAE-based Erem News. The report quoted an Iranian source as saying that Qassem left Beirut on October 5 in an aircraft used by Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi for a state visit to Lebanon and Syria. His transfer was ordered by top leaders of the Islamic Republic due to fear of assassination by Israel, the source was quoted as saying. Qassem delivered three speeches since the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah by Israel on September 27, one from Beirut and the other two from Tehran, the report said. Notably, Israel has killed several Hezbollah leaders since the beginning of the war with Hamas.

One of the founding members of Hezbollah, Naim Qassem, has taken a more public role since Nasrallah's death. Qassem's political activism began with the Lebanese Shi'ite Amal Movement. He left the group in 1979 in the wake of Iran's Islamic Revolution. He took part in meetings that led to the formation of Hezbollah, established with the backing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards after Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, news agency Reuters reported.

Israel says it will target Hezbollah's financial arm and announces imminent strikes in Lebanon

DEIR AL-BALAH. Israel's military announced Sunday it will now take aim at the Lebanon-based Hezbollah's financial arm and plans to attack a "large number of targets" in the coming hours in Beirut and elsewhere. Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said they will issue evacuation warnings for people in parts of Beirut, and "anyone who will be near the sites used to finance Hezbollah's terrorist activity is required to stay away from them immediately." The strikes will target al-Qard al-Hassan "all over Lebanon," a senior Israeli intelligence official said. Al-Qard al-Hassan is a unit in Hezbollah that's used to pay operatives of the Iran-backed militant group and help buy arms, the official added, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with army regulations. The registered nonprofit, sanctioned by both the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, provides financial services and is also used by ordinary Lebanese. A year of escalating tensions between Israel and Hezbollah over the war in Gaza turned into all-out war last month, and Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon early this month.

Israel's announcement came a day after U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin called civilian casualties in Lebanon "far too high" in the Israel-Hezbollah war, and urged Israel to scale back some strikes, especially in and around Beirut. Iran supports the Lebanon-based Hezbollah, and the United States is investigating an unauthorized release of classified documents indicating that Israel was moving military assets into place for a military strike in response to Iran's ballistic missile attack on Oct. 1, according to three U.S. officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

Trump makes fries at McDonald's, says 'worked 15 minutes more than Kamala Harris'

World Donald Trump, the Republican candidate for the US presidential election, briefly took on the role of a fry cook at a McDonald's outlet in Pennsylvania on Sunday. While there, he took a job at his Democratic rival, Kamala Harris, quipping that he "worked 15 minutes more than Kamala" at the fast food chain. The former US President stopped by a McDonald's in Feasterville-Trevose, Pennsylvania, in an apparent challenge to his Democratic rival Kamala Harris's claims of having a "middle-class background". Harris has frequently referenced her time working at McDonald's in her campaign ads and speeches. At the McDonald's stop, Trump took off his suit jacket, put on a black and yellow apron, and cooked batches of french fries, as one employee demonstrated him how to dunk baskets of fries into the fryer, salt them, and use a scoop to place the fries into boxes. The Republican candidate joked it was something he had "wanted to do all my life". Harris, the present US Vice President, had mentioned that she worked at the McDonald's fast-food chain during her college years in California in the 1980s.

However, Trump has repeatedly claimed that Harris never worked at McDonald's. "It was a big part of her resume that she worked at McDonald's -- how tough a job it was," Trump said at the restaurant in Feasterville, Pennsylvania. "She ã€œmade the french fries, and she talked about the heat: 'It was so tough.' She's never worked at McDonald's".

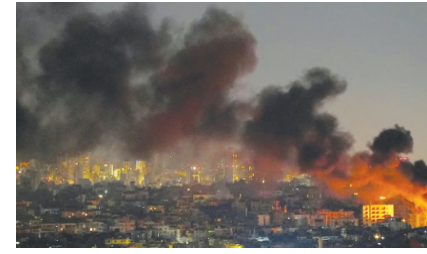
Beirut sees mass evacuations as Israel prepares to attack Hezbollah sites



Beirut/Cairo Hundreds of Beirut residents fled their homes late on Sunday after Israel said it was preparing attacks on sites linked to the financial operations of Lebanon's Hezbollah group and told people to leave those areas immediately. Soon after the Israeli warning, several blasts were heard, and a large fire was seen in Beirut's southern suburbs. There was no immediate information on what caused the explosions, or details of any casualties. Panicked crowds clogged the streets and caused traffic jams in some parts of Beirut as they tried to get to neighbourhoods thought to be safer, witnesses said. "Residents of Lebanon, the IDF (Israeli military) will begin attacking infrastructure belonging to the Hezbollah Al-Qard Al-Hassan Association - get away from it immediately," the Israeli military's spokesperson said in a statement on X. Al-Qard al-Hassan - which the US has said is used by Iran-backed Hezbollah to manage its finances - has more than 30

branches across Lebanon including 15 in densely populated parts of central Beirut and its suburbs. There was no immediate statement from the organisation, Hezbollah or the Lebanese government. Asked by journalists whether the branches could be considered military targets, a senior Israeli intelligence official said: "The purpose of this strike is to target the ability of Hezbollah economic function both during the war but also afterwards to rebuild and to rearm ... on the day after." Cross-border fighting between Israel and Hezbollah erupted a year ago when the group began launching rockets in support of Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza. At the start of October, Israel launched a ground assault inside Lebanon in an attempt to stabilise the border region for its citizens who had fled rocket attacks in northern Israel.

ESCALATED ATTACKS Israel has intensified its military campaigns both in Gaza and Lebanon, days after the killing of



Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar raised hopes of an opening for ceasefire negotiations to end more than a year of conflict. With US elections approaching, officials, diplomats and other sources in the region say Israel is seeking through military operations to try to shield its borders and ensure its rivals cannot regroup. Israel is also preparing to retaliate for an Iranian missile barrage earlier this month, though Washington has pressed it not to strike Iranian energy facilities or nuclear sites. Earlier on Sunday, Israel said it hit Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters and an underground weapons workshop in

Beirut. Fighter jets killed three Hezbollah commanders, the Israeli military said. Hezbollah made no immediate comment on those strikes, but said it had fired missiles at Israeli forces in Lebanon and at a base in northern Israel. A 41-year-old Israeli colonel was killed, and another officer was wounded in combat in northern Gaza on Sunday, the Israeli military said. Israel's Channel 12 and public broadcaster Kan reported an explosive device had gone off under a tank. Officials said rescuers were still recovering people from the rubble after an Israeli attack on the northern Gaza city of Beit Lahiya that left 87 people dead or missing on Saturday, according to the health ministry - one of the highest death tolls for months from a single attack. The strike came two weeks into a major assault around Jabalia, just south of Beit Lahiya, where Israel says its troops have been trying to rout remaining Hamas fighters.

Brazil's Lula cancels Russia visit for BRICS Summit due to minor brain haemorrhage

Brasilia. Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Sunday cancelled his trip to Russia for the BRICS Summit, following medical advice to temporarily avoid long-haul flights after a head injury at home that caused a minor brain haemorrhage.

In a statement, the presidential office said Lula, 78, will now participate in the BRICS meeting via videoconference. He was initially scheduled to depart at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Lula's doctor, Roberto Kalil, said in an interview with GloboNews TV channel that the president suffered a fall that caused "great" trauma to the back of his head, requiring stitches for the injury and resulting in a "small brain haemorrhage" in the temporal-frontal region. "It's a condition that will require



repeat tests throughout the week. Any brain haemorrhage, theoretically, can worsen in the following days, so observation is important," he said. Kalil added that Lula is doing well and can engage in normal activities. According to a medical report issued earlier on Sunday by the Sirio Libanes Hospital in Brasilia, Lula suffered a laceration to the "occipital

region" in the back of his head on Saturday. The report said Lula "was advised to avoid long-distance air travel but is otherwise able to carry out his regular duties." The government said in a post on X that Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira has been designated to lead the Brazilian delegation in the BRICS Summit, departing later on Sunday.

The diplomatic forum founded 15 years ago by major emerging markets Brazil, Russia, India, China has since expanded to include South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates. Congresswoman Gleisi Hoffmann, president of Lula's Workers Party, posted on social media that she had spoken with the president and that "he is doing very well, just avoiding a long trip."

Thousands protest against over-tourism in Spain's Canary Islands

Gran Canaria. Thousands of people protested in holiday resorts in Spain's Canary Islands on Sunday against over-tourism which they say prices local people out of the housing market. Under the slogan Canary Islands has a limit, residents demonstrated simultaneously in Gran Canaria, Tenerife, La Palma, Fuerteventura, Lanzarote and El Hierro and called for a change in the tourism model for the islands. In the Playa de las Americas in Tenerife, protesters appeared on the beach while tourists were sunbathing and chanted "This beach is ours." Activists claim the arrival of millions of visitors every year depletes limited natural resources like water and damages the environment. At least 8,000 people took part, the Spanish government said. Between January and September, 9.9 million tourists visited the Canary Islands, according to the Spanish National Statistics Institute, 10.3% more than in the same period in 2023. The islands' population was 2.2 million last year. "We need a change in the tourist



model so it leaves richness here, a change so it values what this land has because it is beautiful," Sara Lopez, 32, told Reuters in Gran Canaria on Sunday. Tourism-dependent Spain has seen a series of protests against over-tourism this year in Barcelona, and other popular holiday destinations like Mallorca and Malaga. The Canary Islands regional government drafted a law which is expected to pass this year to toughen the rules on short lets following complaints from locals priced out of the housing market. Newly built properties will be barred from the short-let market and property owners with a permit will have five years to comply with requirements that include granting neighbours the right to object to these permits.

The Canary Islands decided to crack down on tourist rents after the number of private renters exploded in recent years. On Saturday, hundreds of protesters took to the streets of Valencia to call for more affordable housing, saying tourist flats push up prices.

US, Canadian warships sail through Taiwan Strait amid tensions with China

A US and a Canadian warship sailed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait together on Sunday, less than a week after China conducted a new round of war games around the island, with Beijing denouncing the mission as "disruptive".



Taipei. A US and a Canadian warship sailed through the sensitive Taiwan Strait together on Sunday, less than a week after China conducted a new round of war games around the island, with Beijing denouncing the mission as "disruptive". The US navy, occasionally accompanied by ships from allied countries, transits the strait around once a month. China, which claims Taiwan as its own territory, also

says the strategic waterway belongs to it. The US Navy's 7th Fleet said on Monday that the destroyer USS Higgins and the Canadian frigate HMCS Vancouver made a "routine" transit on Sunday "through waters where high-seas freedom of navigation and overflight apply in accordance with international law". The transit demonstrated the United States' and Canada's commitment to upholding freedom of navigation for all countries, it said in a statement.

"The international community's navigational rights and freedoms in the Taiwan Strait should not be limited. The

United States rejects any assertion of sovereignty or jurisdiction that is inconsistent with freedoms of navigation, overflight, and other lawful uses of the sea and air," it said. China's Eastern Theatre Command said its forces monitored and warned the ships. "The actions of the United States and Canada caused trouble and are disruptive to peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," it added. China staged the war games last Monday it said were a warning to "separatist acts" and which drew condemnation from the Taiwanese and US governments.

The US and Canadian navies last sailed such a joint mission in November of last year. China says it alone has jurisdiction over the nearly 180km (110 miles) wide waterway that is a major passageway for international trade. Taiwan and the United States dispute that, saying the Taiwan Strait is an international waterway.

Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's sovereignty claims, saying only the island's people can decide their future.

Not A Shred Of Evidence': Before Departing, Top Indian Diplomat Says Canada's Claims Politically Motivated

"Nothing at all," High Commissioner Verma said when directly asked about any alleged connection to the Nijjar killing in an exclusive interview with CTV.

Ottawa, Canada Describing Canada's allegations as "politically motivated," India's top diplomat in the country has strongly rejected any role in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was shot and killed in British Columbia last year. High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma made these remarks before leaving Canada, as tensions between the two countries pushed diplomatic ties to their lowest point. "Nothing at all," Verma said when directly asked about any alleged connection to the killing in an exclusive interview with CTV, in which he added that

"no evidence has been presented" for the "politically motivated" claims. "Trump's Pennsylvania closing argument is literal junk. In a Pennsylvania rally speech his campaign team billed as 'the beginning of his closing argument in the final stretch,' Donald Trump focused on the issue most important to voters in this election: a deceased golfer's ã€œWhen asked if the Indian government has ever targeted individuals with the intent of causing their deaths, Verma replied, "Never." This statement aligns with the Indian government's earlier rebuke of Canada, where it said that

the Trudeau government's claims about the involvement of senior Indian diplomats in the Nijjar probe "serve the political agenda of the current regime." Strongly rejecting Canadian claims, it attributed the allegations to "the political agenda" of the Trudeau government that is "centred around vote bank politics." New Delhi has repeatedly criticised Ottawa for being soft on supporters of the Khalistan movement who live in Canada and promote anti-India activities in the country.

INDIA-CANADAROW High Commissioner Verma's latest

comments come just days after the Canadian government accused Indian diplomats in Canada of engaging in activities related to crimes, including homicides and extortion. Tensions between Canada and India escalated following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement last year about "credible allegations" linking Indian government agents to Nijjar's killing. In response to the allegations, Canada expelled six diplomats, including Verma, prompting India to reciprocate by expelling six Canadian diplomats. Meanwhile, New Delhi expelled.

Israeli Security Cabinet Probes 'New Ideas' For Hostage Deal After Drone Attack On Netanyahu's Home

Jerusalem, Israel A security cabinet meeting was held in Tel Aviv on Sunday during which "new ideas" regarding a deal to free Gaza hostages were discussed by high-level Israeli officials. The crucial meeting came as Israel is weighing a strong response to Iran following the missile attack and alleged attempt to assassinate Prime Minister Netanyahu's home.

In a statement, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesperson said discussions were held during a high-level security cabinet meeting, which has now wrapped up. The Times of Israel reported. "During the

meeting, new ideas were brought up to examine their feasibility for a hostage release proposal," the statement said. On Sunday, fighting raged on two fronts as Israel targeted what it said was a Hezbollah "command centre" in the Lebanese capital. Meanwhile, in Gaza rescuers reported 73 people killed in a single air strike. The strikes on Hezbollah's south Beirut stronghold came after Netanyahu accused the Iran-backed group of attempting to assassinate him by targeting his residence.

ISRAEL'S STRIKES Lebanon's official National News Agency



(NNA) said Israel's strikes on the capital hit a residential building in South Beirut's Haret Hreik area near a mosque and a hospital. The

Israeli military said it hit the "command centre of Hezbollah's intelligence headquarters" and underground weapons facility in Beirut and that it killed three Hezbollah militants in other strikes. On Saturday night the military had similarly reported striking weapons stores and a "Hezbollah intelligence headquarters" in South Beirut. About 70 projectiles were fired from Lebanon on Sunday and crossed into Israel within a matter of minutes, the military said, adding it intercepted some of them.

News box

Stray dog birth control campaign begins in Pollachi

COIMBATORE: Pollachi Municipal administration has begun the stray dog sterilization process and has planned to perform the Animal Birth Control (ABC) procedure on around 20 dogs a week. According to a survey to start ABC procedures, in all 36 wards of Pollachi Municipality, around 1,300 stray dogs were identified. However, due to shortage of manpower, it was delayed. After a sudden spike in dog bite cases (281 patients in July), TNIE carried news 'No vet, Animal birth control not performed in Pollachi for one year' on August 8. N. Shyamala, the municipal chairperson said that they could not carry out ABC for the past year due to the non-availability of a veterinarian and that had led to the increase in the stray dog population, increasing dog bites. She added, "We have roped an NGO from Tiruppur for temporary measure until we appoint a permanent veterinarian. As of now, the dogs will be taken to Tiruppur for sterilization and will be released back to Pollachi. We are planning to pay Rs 1,650 per dog. Simultaneously we are working for a permanent solution."

A senior official from Pollachi municipality, said, "With the help of volunteers from Tiruppur, the process has started. In the first phase, for the next six months, ABC will be performed on 500 dogs. After a week of sterilization, the dogs will be released to the same area from where they were captured. About 20 will be captured every week and will be taken to Tiruppur for vaccination and sterilization."

Coastal districts in Andhra Pradesh on alert as Cyclone Dana brews

VIJAYAWADA: Cyclone Dana, the season's first tropical storm, is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal by October 23. It may take the shape of a severe category storm and move in the northwest direction towards north Odisha and West Bengal coasts, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Sunday. Subsequently, administrations of all coastal districts in Andhra Pradesh have been put on alert. A low-pressure area is very likely to form over the East-central Bay of Bengal and adjoining north Andaman Sea over the next 24 hours. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression by Tuesday morning and into a cyclonic storm by October 23 over East Central Bay of Bengal. Heavy rains are likely at isolated places across the State on Monday.

Highest rainfall recorded in Nellore & Kadapa districts

Thunderstorms and lightning are likely across the State on Monday. Light to moderate rains are also forecast for some areas. In the 24 hours ending 8.30 am on Sunday, heavy rains were recorded in Nellore and Kadapa districts, with the highest rainfall of 10 cm at Udayagiri in Nellore district and 7 cm in Kondapuram in Kadapa districts.

Kadapa teenager set ablaze by youngster succumbs to injuries, accused arrested

KADAPA: The teenager, who was set ablaze by a youngster in Gopavaram mandal of YSR district on Saturday, succumbed to her injuries early on Sunday while undergoing treatment at RIMS Hospital, Kadapa. Police arrested the accused, identified as Vignesh Jakkala (19), a few hours after the incident. Police had formed four special teams and nabbed the accused soon after the incident came to light. Elaborating on the incident, Kadapa Superintendent of Police V Harshavardhan Raju said the horrific incident occurred on October 19 in a forest area near PPKunta in Gopavaram mandal.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim, a 16-year-old student of a private college in Badvel, was allegedly in a relationship with Vignesh, who had married another woman around six months ago. The accused lured the girl to the forest, where he assaulted her, set her on fire and fled the scene. During interrogation, Vignesh admitted that he committed the crime as the girl had been asking him to marry her.

With the help of police, the victim managed to reach Badvel Hospital and was later shifted to RIMS Kadapa. She suffered 80% burns. She breathed her last in the wee hours of Sunday. "Our teams acted swiftly and located the suspect. He was apprehended on the outskirts of Kadapa on Sunday," the SP said.

Vignesh meticulously planned the attack: SP

Sharing details on how they tracked the accused, SP Raju explained that police discovered critical forensic evidence, including CCTV footage from a petrol station that confirmed the suspect's presence on the day of the incident. The police also recovered the petrol bottle used in the crime and other forensic evidence from the scene. Badvel Rural Police launched a thorough investigation to gather solid evidence against the accused. Preliminary investigations revealed that Vignesh meticulously planned the attack, leaving his mobile phone at home and instead using his wife's phone to avoid getting caught. During interrogation, he admitted that he committed the crime as the girl had been asking him to marry her. On his way to meet her, he stopped at a petrol station near Alankhanpalli to refuel his bike. He filled a bottle with petrol and concealed it in his bag. After assaulting her, the duo had an argument.

Scrapping yet to pick up pace in Karnataka, only 3k vehicles reach facilities so far

BENGALURU: It has been nearly a year since two Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSF) became operational in the state. However, according to data from the RVSF dashboard of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, these facilities have not gained the momentum anticipated by the state transport department, with just over 3,000 vehicles (both government and private) scrapped till date. Many private vehicle users prefer to continue using their old vehicles which are over 15 years. As per Karnataka's Registered Vehicle Scrapping Policy 2022, all government vehicles that are 15 years old and private vehicles that have completed 15 years and have not passed the fitness test should be scrapped.

Commercial vehicles, which must get their fitness certificates renewed every year, are also subject to scrapping if they fail the test. The RVSF facilities are designed to conduct scrapping scientifically without causing any damage to the environment. Besides the scrapped materials are recycled. Additional Commissioner of Transport (Enforcement) C Mallikarjuna said that as per the data available with the state transport department, nearly 10,000 vehicles - both government and private vehicles have been scrapped so far. However, the numbers will take time to reflect on the MoRTH RVSF dashboard.



He emphasised that while scrapping of government vehicles which have completed 15 years is mandatory, private vehicle owners have the option to keep their vehicles if they pass the fitness test. "As long as the private vehicles pass the fitness test, we cannot compel them to scrap the old vehicles. If old vehicles are scrapped, they get a Certificate of Deposit, which offer a concession on motor vehicle tax," Mallikarjuna said. Meanwhile, people said that more

awareness should be created about vehicle scrapping policy for them to come forward and get their vehicles scrapped without polluting the environment. They urged the state transport department to take up mass campaigns by showing videos on how an old vehicle is scrapped scientifically and how this will help prevent pollution. Mallikarjuna said the department will intensify these efforts to encourage people to scrap old vehicles.

Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology issues cyclone advisory for farmers

BHUBANESWAR: Amid the India Meteorological Department (IMD) prediction of cyclone Dana hitting the state coast, the Odisha University of Agriculture and Technology on Sunday issued a detailed advisory on dos and don'ts for farmers. In its advisory, the directorate of extension education of OUAT has recommended a contingency plan for farmers to minimise damage and save their kharif crops and vegetables while advising them not to be panic.

As paddy dominated the cropped area during Kharif and is in the maturity stage, farmers are advised to harvest an early variety of paddy with 85 per cent maturity and keep it in a safe place. If possible, separate the paddy grains from the crop by threshing, else cover the harvested crops with polythene to keep it dry, said the advisory. In case of medium and long duration paddy crops, farmers were advised to drain out excess water by providing drainage channel at an interval of every three feet distance if lodged. The lodged plants should be straightened to avoid rotting of emerged panicles.

As heavy rainfall may aggravate the infestation of cut worms in late rice, the advisory recommended the use of plant protection measures by spraying chlorpyrifos at the rate of 2 ml per litre water. For pulses and oil seed crops, steps must be taken for draining out water from the field and pick matured pods instead of waiting for the total maturity of pods to avoid viviparous germination in the pod itself. "Pick the matured pod as soon as possible and dry and thresh the harvested pods for safe storage. Heavy rainfall may aggravate pest attacks on pre-rabi pulses. Go for plant protection measures as per the advice of the field staff of the Agriculture department or officials of Krishi Vigyan Kendras," the advisory said.

Group-I mains from October 21 in Telangana: 31,383 vie for 563 posts

HYDERABAD: Amid ongoing court cases, the Group-I mains examination will be conducted from Monday till October 27 for 563 posts in various government departments. A total of 31,383 candidates have qualified for the mains. This is the first time the much-awaited Group-I exams are being held in Telangana since its formation. The last time the exams were conducted was in 2011 in undivided Andhra Pradesh. The Telangana Public

Service Commission (TGPSC) is conducting the examination at 46 centres under tight security across three districts: Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri. For the first time, biometric attendance is being introduced for the candidates. During the BRS regime, the Group-I exams were announced but were plagued by paper leaks and controversies, leading to the cancellation of the prelims in 2022 and 2023. This

time, the candidates have been protesting against GO 29, demanding rescheduling of the examinations, alleging that SC, ST and BC students would suffer under its reservation provisions. A case has been filed in the Supreme Court regarding GO 29, and it is expected to be heard on Monday. Meanwhile, the Telangana High Court, which declined to postpone the Group-I mains, stated that the examination results would be subject to its final verdict

scheduled to be pronounced on November 20. Recently, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, asserting that the government is fully prepared to conduct the exams from Monday, had accused opposition leaders of provoking aspirants to stage protests. The chief minister explained that when the new notification for Group-I was issued in February, the government also issued GO 29, cancelling the previous GO 55.

Meanwhile, city police detained several aspirants who gathered at Ashok Nagar on Sunday to voice their concerns.

Work on Thirunelveli western bypass road to begin soon

TIRUNELVELI: The district administration announced on Sunday that work on the Thirunelveli western bypass road would begin soon, and tenders would be invited from November 11. The 31 km road would connect various roads leading towards Thirunelveli and ease congestion in the city. An official statement from the district administration said, "The project, which will run from NH-7 at Thalaiyoothu to NH-7 at Konganathanparai Vilakku, was announced by Chief Minister MK Stalin on September 8, 2022. The total length of the road will be 31.788 km. The bypass road will connect four important state highways from Thirunelveli-Rajapalayam-Sankarankovil-Tirunelveli road (SH-41), Tirunelveli-Shengottai-Kollam road (SH-39), Tirunelveli-Pottalpur road (SH-41A) and Tiruchendur-Palayamkottai-Ambasamudram-Courtallam-Shengottai



road (SH-40). "This new road will allow vehicles coming from towns such as Ambasamudram, Cheranmahadevi, Pottalpur, Sankarankovil, and Tenkasi to travel to Valliyoor, Nagercovil, Thoothukudi, Tiruchendur, and Madurai without entering Tirunelveli city, thereby reducing traffic congestion in the city. Both Tirunelveli residents and vehicle operators are expected to benefit greatly from this project," the statement added.

According to sources, road-laying work will be executed in three phases. The first phase will cover 12.2 km from Suthamalli (Tirunelveli-Pottalpur road) to Konganathanparai Vilakku. The land acquisition has been completed and administrative approval for Rs 180 crore under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme (CRIDP) scheme was granted on August 13, 2024. The tender process for this phase is set to take place on November 11, and work will begin soon after. The second phase will cover 12.2 km from Ramayanpatti (Rajapalayam-Sankarankovil-Tirunelveli road) to Suthamalli (Tirunelveli-Pottalpur road).

The estimate for this phase has been prepared and is currently under technical review. Government approval is expected soon, following which work will begin, sources added.

Australian citizen booked for 'unintentionally taking' brass bowl from Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple

The officer said Jha did not even know that the bowl belonged to the temple. He thought that it belonged to one of the devotees, who had helped him.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The Fort Police probing the loss of an antique brass bowl from the high-security zone of Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple in Thiruvananthapuram arrested an Australian citizen of Indian origin on Sunday and recovered the artifact from him. However, he was charged under "dishonest misappropriation of property" — a lighter section — after it was found that the bowl, which has antique value, was not stolen, but rather "inadvertently taken away" by Gangesh Jha during his visit to the temple along with his wife and a friend. Jha, 52, was taken into custody from Gurugram with the help of Haryana Police and brought to Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. His wife and their friend also came along though they were not arraigned in the case. Jha was later released as the section charged was bailable.

The police said during the interrogation it was revealed that Jha did not steal the brass bowl, which is used for purification rituals in the temple. The bowl reportedly dates back to the 15th century and had Tamil and Malayalam inscriptions on it. Police sources said when Jha was waiting in the queue for darshan on October 13 — Vijayadasami day — he collapsed and a tray he was carrying fell on the floor along with the pooja offerings in it. Seeing this, some of the devotees standing nearby helped him get up, collected the offerings from the ground, and put them in another bowl which was lying outside the place of darshan, the officer said.

The officer said Jha did not even know that the bowl belonged to the temple. He thought that it belonged to one of the devotees, who had helped him. Jha told the police that he considered the bowl as a gift from god and took it with him, the source said.

Jha considered the bowl as a gift from god: Police

"From the CCTV visuals, it was evident that he did not steal it. He was under the impression that the bowl was given to him by one of the persons who helped him. He had lost his tray and in return someone gave him the bowl. He considered it as a gift from god and took it with him," the officer said. The police identified Jha from the CCTV footage and later tracked him down to a posh hotel in Gurugram, where he was staying. Police sources said the three of them were Australian citizens and they set out for a month-long pilgrimage to various temples in the country to honour the wishes of Jha's late father who was a college professor. The police said the bowl was recovered from Jha as he had kept it with him, counting it as a souvenir. After Thiruvananthapuram, the trio visited Rameswaram and Trichy and returned to Delhi. "They were regularly travelling during this time and did not spare a thought about the bowl they were carrying," the police sources said.

Telangana AEOs on warpath over 'backbreaking' survey

Each AEO ordered to conduct a digital crop survey of 5,000 acres

NALGONDA: Agriculture Extension Officers (AEOs) have announced that they would launch an agitation to protest against the alleged increased workload and harassment by higher officials in the department. The decision comes after they were informed that the department was planning to suspend 170 AEOs for allegedly neglecting to conduct digital crop survey.



The AEOs accused the state authorities of not following the guidelines issued by the Union government regarding the crop survey. Citing guidelines, they said that they should do the survey with support from officials from other departments. "But, we are being asked to do the strenuous task all alone," they alleged. The Central government has brought the Digital Agri Mission scheme with the aim of creating Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the agriculture sector. As part of this, in the first phase, 12 states have been selected. The main purpose of the digital crop survey is to take pictures of every plot of land in those states along with latitude and longitude and make an online database of the crops.

"The Agriculture department has ordered the AEOs to conduct a digital survey in Telangana and download a mobile app to know the guidelines and targets. The survey will map the crops being cultivated in each area," the statement said. It added that the AEOs are directed to take selfies and photos from a distance of 20 metres upon visiting the fields and identify irrigation sources there.

Considering there are about 12,000 grama panchayats in the state, they have been divided into 2,604 clusters with one AEO appointed to each. The statement said with about 1.5 crore acres of agricultural land, each AEO has been ordered to conduct a digital survey of 5,000

acres. Association leaders of AEOs told TNIE that it is extremely difficult to conduct a single survey. "Our appeal to the authorities to provide additional workforce did not yield any result. We are already burdened with 49 different tasks like conducting soil tests, awareness camps for farmers, farmer insurance, loans and others," they lamented.

They also expressed dismay over having to walk in hilly areas every day for the survey. They said, "In some areas, we have to wait for long periods for the internet to upload pictures on the app. The state government has given us one SIM card with one GB internet limit which makes the survey more difficult."

Central guidelines

As per the guidelines from the Central government, the officials have been advised to take support from villagers and staff from various departments including Revenue, Panchayat Raj, Horticulture, Sericulture, Animal husbandry and AEOs. It is reported that around 14-20 thousand local youths in Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh are assisting in the conduct of the digital crop survey.

Legendary Admiral of the old school

It was December 18, 1961, off the coast of Goa. The communication console on the bridge of the anti-aircraft frigate INS Betwa crackled to life with a message from the Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS). It read, "Personal from CNS. Capture me a Portuguese frigate please." The captain of Betwa swung into action. The other ships patrolling in company — INS Beas and INS Cauvery — were told to join in. What followed was a battle in which Betwa's accurate gunfire crippled the Albuquerque and the frigate surrendered. Betwa's captain's message to the Naval Headquarters read, "Albuquerque has been destroyed and is now lying sunk in Goa harbour." A day later, the Governor-General surrendered, marking the end of over 450 years of Portuguese rule in Asia. The captain of Betwa was Commander Rustom Khushro Shapoorjee Ghandhi, Rusi to friends.

Rusi Ghandhi had a long and distinguished career in public service. A Jabalpur boy, born on July 1, 1924, Rusi joined the Royal Indian Navy in January 1943. His 36-year career saw him rise to the rank of Vice Admiral, command ships in all major conflicts, win the Vir Chakra for gallantry, head both the Eastern and Western Fleets, and serve as Commander-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command. After retirement, he spent five years as the Chairman and Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India. Concurrently, Rusi was the Captain Commandant of the Executive Branch of the Navy, an honour conferred upon retired flag officers who serve as a 'Distinguished Elder'. From 1986 to 1990, he served as the Governor of Himachal Pradesh. Some years later, 1993 to 1996, he was a member of the minorities commission. The vast canvas and wide variety of assignments would testify to his ability, experience and acceptability.

Rusi was quite the destiny's child! He took part in World War II as a young trainee, saw action in Atlantic and Indian Oceans, and was on board the W-class destroyer HMS Wakeful at Tokyo Bay during the surrender of Japan, marking the end of hostilities of WW-II. During the Royal Indian Navy uprising in 1946, he was on the river-class frigate HMIS Shamsher, the only ship in Bombay which did not mutiny. Interestingly, Rusi, as the gunnery officer, wanted to bombard the Royal Bombay Yacht Club, seen as a symbol of British colonialism, and even advised his Commanding Officer to do so.

As the aide-de-camp (ADC) to the last Viceroy of India, Lord Louis Mountbatten, with whom he forged a lasting friendship, he was present at Rashtrapati Bhavan on August 15, 1947, when 'India awakened to life and freedom', and witnessed the swearing in of the first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Thus, even before he was 25, he had a ringside view to some of the most seminal events of the 20th century.

In the late 1950s, Rusi took over as the skipper of INS Cauvery, the first of his many command tenures. In 1960, he commissioned the Betwa as her first captain and a year later, achieved poetic justice in putting out of action a frigate named after the second Viceroy of Portuguese India and the first Duke of Goa, Alfonso de Albuquerque.

In the 1965 Indo-Pak war, he commanded the ASW frigate — INS Khukri — and was the Senior Officer (F14) of the 14th Frigate Squadron, which included INS Kirpan and INS Kuthar. Though continuously deployed, he experienced the frustration of the Indian fleet being assigned a defensive role and restrictions imposed on action against the enemy. When war broke out in 1971, Rusi as captain of the flagship of the Western Fleet, INS Mysore, was the de-facto chief adviser to the Fleet Commander, Rear Admiral EC Kuruvilla. The Western Fleet carried out the devastating missile boat attack on Karachi (Op Python) on December 8, undertook raids on the Makran coast, apprehended the Pakistani merchant vessel 'Madhumati', choked access to Pakistani ports and exercised control of North Arabian Sea. Rusi was awarded the Vir Chakra for "gallantry, leadership and devotion to duty of a high order"

The many facets of Chukar partridge, a Himalayan gem

Summers in Ladakh can be deceptively sultry, as I discovered one afternoon going back and forth along the Markha river looking for birds. There weren't many rewards for my toils, except dehydration from the thin air and lack of shade....

Summers in Ladakh can be deceptively sultry, as I discovered one afternoon going back and forth along the Markha river looking for birds. There weren't many rewards for my toils, except dehydration from the thin air and lack of shade. A pall of dejection hung over the evening, till the time a slow, delicate movement around the bend caught a corner of the eye. It was a Chukar partridge, a plump, medium-sized bird that is much venerated in popular culture and lore. The Chukar partridge (*Alectoris chukar*) is native to the arid mountainous regions of West and Central Asia, and the western and trans-Himalayan regions. In India, it can be found in high-altitude regions of Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The striking plumage makes it easy to spot in the field — black and white stripes run across a brownish upper body and creamy belly, the bright red beak and legs adding to the contrast. Ground-dwelling birds that are adept at navigating the rocky and rugged landscapes of their habitat, Chukars have short, rounded wings which make them strong flyers. They typically prefer to run swiftly to escape predators. Their diet primarily consists of seeds, grains and small insects.

Chukars play a vital role in the ecosystem by contributing to seed dispersal, promoting plant growth in otherwise barren areas. Their feeding habits also help control insect populations, indirectly benefiting agricultural activities. Additionally, as prey for larger predators such as eagles, hawks, and foxes, Chukars are an important part of the food chain in their mountainous habitats where resources for survival are scarce.

Their most discerning characteristic is their cultural symbolism, particularly in India. A representation of the bird gazing longingly towards the moon, yearning for it, is used to symbolise unattainable love, a metaphor for desiring something one can never possess. This imagery is found in poems, songs and paintings in many cultures across North India, from popular tales of unrequited love to the relentless pursuit of the unattainable divine in Sufism. The mythical bird Chakora in Hindu mythology is believed to be based on the Chukar, and also considered the etymological origin of the name. This fact is often debated though, with some theories positing the name's origin to Persian or Urdu, as the partridge holds symbolic meanings



across several West and Central Asian cultures, where it is idolised as a symbol of beauty and resilience. Since ancient times, the Chukar partridge has been prized as game, hunted for both meat and sport. Archaeological findings from the Byzantine era have revealed ornaments made from its bones, and visual depictions are also seen in church mosaics. It was widely introduced in parts of Europe, America and Australasia for this purpose in the late 19th and early 20th century. While the Chukar partridge is currently listed as a species of "Least Concern" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List, its population is declining in several regions. Despite its adaptability, the bird faces several threats in the wild.

Habitat loss is one of the most pressing challenges, as human population expands, and infrastructure projects encroach into previously undisturbed areas. Road construction, agricultural expansion, and tourism development in high-altitude areas lead to habitat degradation and fragmentation, limiting the availability of foraging grounds and nesting sites.

Hunting is another significant threat. While it has been a traditional practice in many regions, over-hunting and the illegal capture of wild populations for commercial breeding are serious concerns. In some areas, hunting has reduced local populations to dangerously low levels. Although laws exist to

regulate hunting, enforcement is often weak, owing to the remoteness of the regions the birds inhabit.

Climate change poses a more long-term threat, as the Chukar's high-altitude barren habitat is especially vulnerable to changing weather patterns. Rising temperatures, altered precipitation and changing vegetation can all impact the bird's ability to find food and nesting sites. As glaciers melt and water sources become scarcer, both wildlife and human populations face increased competition for dwindling resources, placing indirect pressure on the species. Efforts to conserve the Chukar must focus on protecting and restoring natural habitats. This includes regulating grazing, preventing habitat fragmentation and ensuring that infrastructure development projects consider their impact on local wildlife. Involving youth and local communities in birdwatching and eco-tourism initiatives could provide alternative sources of income and create incentives to protect wildlife.

The next morning, as we hiked out of the village, I finally saw the bird strike its quintessential pose, standing on a hillock and calling out into the sky, perhaps not a believer in the lunar lore as it was the middle of the afternoon with no moon in sight. A testament to nature's resilience, the Chukar reminds us that even in the harshest of environments, hope and beauty can endure. — The writer is a climate expert and outdoor enthusiast

Jaishankar in Pak

Ball now in Islamabad's court

THE go-ahead to the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in almost nine years was indication enough that behind-the-scenes diplomacy had been productive. Before going to Islamabad to attend a conclave of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, S Jaishankar had declared that India's Pakistan policy was not passive. New Delhi, the message went, was willing to respond to any positive gestures. In the Pakistani capital, he said activities characterised by the three evils of terrorism, extremism and separatism would not encourage trade, energy flows, connectivity and people-to-people exchanges. Strong words, but minus the hostility that matter-of-factly manifests itself in any forum that includes India and Pakistan. The resumption of dialogue may not be on the cards, but Jaishankar's informal interaction with his Pakistani counterpart Ishaq Dar raises hopes of ending the deep freeze in bilateral



relations. Sustaining even a limited engagement with Pakistan has remained a challenge for successive Indian governments.

Islamabad's, or rather Rawalpindi's, proclivity to betray trust adds to the scepticism. Having laid on the table its non-negotiable stance against terrorism, New Delhi must continue to explore options to engage with its rogue neighbour. Keeping the channels of communication open is critical. Cricket diplomacy may or may not come to Delhi's aid, as it has in the past, but in the larger scheme of things, it can serve as an ice-breaker.

The smooth completion of Jaishankar's visit is being viewed as a constructive takeaway — a baby step, but forward movement, nevertheless. The ball is now in Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's court. The track record of his brother, former PM Nawaz Sharif, in fomenting ties does not inspire any confidence. Before India, there's the Pakistan military the Sharifs have to deal with. New Delhi will be keenly watching the outcome.

Our pre-Diwali cleaning

We mark different points of the year with festivals and commemorations. Our calendar is packed with them and there seems to be a competition between those red-letter dates and ordinary days. On some, we go berserk, and on others, we...

We mark different points of the year with festivals and commemorations. Our calendar is packed with them and there seems to be a competition between those red-letter dates and ordinary days. On some, we go berserk, and on others, we mourn. On Diwali, we celebrate. Some of us settle for what this festival's tradition truly was — sharing and bringing light to our homes and neighbourhoods. More often than not, we send rockets whizzing in the air and burst crackers to scare off any and all animals and birds, that have never done us harm. We change air quality in our towns and then, cough, wheeze and complain in the days that follow. But before all this happens, we clean. And if we can, we clean with a vengeance.

Like many others, at home, we too are in the middle of the ritual called pre-Diwali cleaning. This is, supposedly the annual deep cleaning. Apart from getting rid of accumulated rubbish — though not in our minds and lives — this process is supposed to welcome good luck and wealth. This may well be true, as good luck and wealth disdain dirt. How one wishes that this was also true of the entire country, where rubbish does not spare high hilltops and once-pristine beaches. However, let's leave that tirade for another time and come back to the innards of domestic cleaning. Just about everything in the house is being turned upside down and inside out. Our backs are also being bent. Moans, groans and topical analgesics accompany the aches and pains that follow. Surprises spring from unseen corners and dust hidden for weeks, if not months, shames us and our supposed housekeeping. This time, one let ambition get the better of good sense and we entered the store. This is a place where things that cannot be thrown, but



should have been tossed out as quickly as possible, accumulate over months and years. It is like a grand convention of uneaten leftovers gathering in the fridge or elsewhere, and where the question is, 'should the item under question be thrown out now, or preserved for some weeks and only then be thrown?' Led by yours truly, into the store went the cleaners. There were piles to the left of us and piles to the right of us. We stood, then stared. Then, overwhelmed by the task before us, exited and locked the door. A council of war took place. It was now or never. Back we went. Why did we keep that tricycle used ages ago by our sons? Or that old swing? Things

that will never be used and the dust on them has smothered all traces of 'sentimental value'. That is not to say that the store does not have many things that, for now, will not be thrown or given away. Mustering courage that had more to do with the mind than what little brawn one possesses, I first took on the old chest of drawers. The top one is what I call my heart-break drawer. In this are bits of the past that have both roots and tentacles. It holds all the little things that I do not have in my heart to remove or banish. There is a pair of unfinished bright red gloves that my mother had started knitting for one of our sons and could not finish; illness and then death got in

the way of clicking needles. There is my father's shaving kit and his much-treasured Solingen cut-throat razor that I never saw him use. There are drawings made by the now-grown children. The same chest has a drawer which I may well call the 'good effort' compartment. This is beholden to the English language and is the embodiment of one of its most vacuous phrases, 'good effort', even 'good attempt'. The phrase does not explain much. It does not pin down if something is actually good or bad, or terrible or excellent. All it says is that we do not want to say anything. The 'good effort' drawer has various things. It has bits of embroidery once done by family members who were learning the fine art of the cross-stitch and left them at the stage of 'good attempt'. Worse, that drawer was also packed with the presumption of writings that I had done in school, college and later. These, even to me, would fall in the category of 'poor attempt'. Without further ado, these were collected and mercilessly tossed in the garbage bin. The elephant in the store was not in those drawers. That was in the reams of paper. Old letters, documents and publications. That's when the cleaning came to a standstill. Battle-hardened by the first skirmish, I opened one box of papers. That box has been taken out of the store and it is close to me as I type out this column. Some of what the box holds has come from friends and acquaintances of my parents. So far, I have read through the four issues of Harijan that was brought out by Gandhiji; these date back to 1940 and are in almost-pristine condition. There are sheets of Dawn, the paper started by Mohammed Ali Jinnah, and I've just finished reading its wobbly argument written in 1947.



Recipe Chicken satay with peanut sauce

Chicken is a rich source of lean protein and vitamin B6 and when clubbed with peanuts, is packed with nutrients, minerals and antioxidants, which make a healthy combo. So, try this delicious chicken satay with peanut sauce recipe, either as a snack, for lunch or dinner.

Ingredients

Marinade:

- 1 cup hung curd
- 1 tsp freshly grated ginger
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tbsp curry powder
- 750 gms skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into strips
- 20 wooden skewers, soaked in water for 30 minutes
- Vegetable oil, for grilling
- Butter lettuce leaves
- Fresh cilantro leaves

Peanut Sauce:

- 1 cup smooth peanut butter
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tsp red chili paste, 2 tbsp brown sugar
- 2 limes, juiced
- 1/2 cup hot water
- 1/4 cup chopped peanuts, for garnish

Directions

Combine the hung curd, ginger, garlic and curry powder in a shallow mixing bowl and stir to combine it all. Place the chicken strips in the yoghurt marinade and gently toss until well coated. Cover and let the chicken marinate in the refrigerator for up to two hours. Thread the chicken pieces onto the soaked skewers working the skewer in and out

of the meat, down the middle of the piece, so that it stays in place during grilling. Place a grill pan over medium heat and brush it with oil to prevent the meat from sticking. Grill the chicken satays for three to five minutes on each side, until cooked thoroughly. Serve the satays on a platter lined with lettuce leaves and cilantro; accompanied by a small bowl of peanut sauce on the side.

Sauce

Combine the peanut butter, soy sauce, red chili paste, brown sugar, and lime juice in a blender. Puree this. Pour the sauce into a nice serving bowl and garnish with the chopped peanuts. Serve with chicken satay.



Recipe Sugar cookies

Preparation time: 30 mins + cooling time
Cooking time: 10 mins

Recipe Ingredients:

- 400g flour
 - 1/2-teaspoon salt
 - 1-teaspoon baking soda
 - 225g unsalted butter, room temperature
 - 200 g granulated white sugar
 - 2 large eggs
 - 1-teaspoon vanilla extract
- Royal Icing:**
- 2 large egg whites
 - 2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
 - 3 cups icing sugar, sifted

Recipe Method:

Sieve together the flour, salt, and baking soda thrice. Beat the butter and sugar until light and fluffy (about 3 minutes) with an electric beater. Add the eggs and vanilla extract and beat until combined. Add the flour mixture and beat well until you have a smooth dough. Divide the dough in half and wrap each half in plastic wrap. Refrigerate for about one hour or until firm enough to roll.

Preheat oven to 180 degrees C and place rack in center of oven. Line two baking sheets with



parchment paper. Remove one half of the chilled dough from the refrigerator and, on a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to a thickness of 1 cm. Keep turning the dough as you roll, making sure the dough does not stick to the counter.

Cut out desired shapes using a lightly floured cookie cutter and transfer cookies to baking sheet. Place the baking sheets with the unbaked cookies in the refrigerator for about 15 minutes to chill the dough which prevents the cookies from spreading and losing their shape while baking. Bake cookies for about 8-10 minutes (depending on size) or until the edges are just starting to brown. Remove from oven and let cookies cool on baking sheet for a few minutes before transferring to a wire rack to finish cooling. Frost with royal icing, if desired. Be sure to let the royal icing dry completely before storing.

For Royal Icing with Egg Whites: In the bowl of your electric mixer (or with a hand mixer), beat the egg whites with the lemon juice. Add the sifted sugar and beat on low speed until smooth. If necessary, to get the right consistency, add more sugar or water. Add food coloring, if desired. The icing needs to be used immediately or put in an airtight container as it hardens when exposed to air. Sprinkle colored sprinklers onto wet icing if desired.

Restro review: Call of Bengal (Bengali)

A worthy attempt by foodie couple, Ondroneel and Sumita Ganguly, to bring back a slice of Bengal for 'Probashi' Bongs, and the fast-swelling numbers of Bengali food lovers in the City of Nizams.

Decor

Housed in a kiosk at the Same Place food court in Madhapur, Call of Bengal showcases its identity in a collage of B&W photos of Bengali stalwarts, like Ravi Shankar, Uttam Kumar, Suchitra Sen, Kishore Kumar, etc. The ambience is minimal but comfortable, with spray-mist fans.

Food

The menu has snacks (rolls, chops, champ), thalas (veg, egg, fish, prawn, chicken, mutton), and a la carte items, such as Kolkata Biryani (referred here as the Khushka Pulao in veg, egg, chicken and mutton versions). Breakfast (10 am to 12 pm) has two versions, Park Street Calling (continental) and College Street Calling (Bengali).

In snacks, tried-and-tested-and-declared excellent are Dimer Devil (₹60) and Moglai Chicken Paratha (₹120), especially the latter. The square-shaped paratha has a soft but crisp crust, with a delicious minced chicken filling, and is a meal in itself. Also good were the Fish Fry (₹40, large-sized piece served with Kasundi), Fish Chop and Chicken Egg Roll, although the Vegetable Cutlet and

Luchi-Aloo Torkari were mediocre. While the texture of the potato curry (slightly mashed thick gravy) was alright, it lacked salt, and served lukewarm; the luchis, however, were served hot and puffed up. Also tried Fish (Rohu Maccher Kalia, well-done) and Prawn (Chingri Maach Bhaape, prawns steamed in a mustard marinade and delectable) Thalas, on two different days, and common to both of them were rice, dal, jhuri bhaja, papod, salad, aam chutney, a vegetable dish (Panch Mishali Torkari, on one day and Dhokar Dalna on another) and dessert (mih daana and gulab jamun, both okay). While the Panch Mishali was wholesome with plenty of veggies, the Dhokar Dalna disappointed. The diamond-shaped dhokas were huge, but the gravy wasn't of the thick consistency one is



used to, and lacking both the taste of garam masala and ground ginger-cumin-coriander seeds, as well as potatoes, an aberration for most Bongs! One has also had better versions of Bhaja Moonger Dal and Masoor Dal, served on the thalas. My friend who tried the Mutton Khushka Biryani, however, vouched for its authenticity.

Plus & Minus

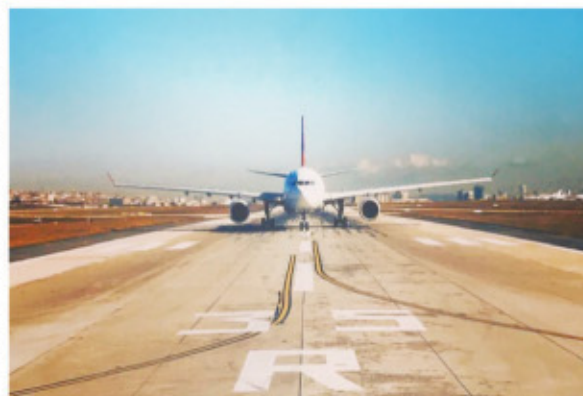
Pricing is a steal, especially for the generous portions. While most a la carte dishes are good, Call of Bengal needs to fine-tune their thalas; especially with vegetable dishes and add-ons, like dal, jhuri bhaja and papod (not crisp, on both days).

"Want To Put Culprits On No-Fly List": Aviation Minister On Hoax Bomb Calls

Ram Mohan Naidu said safety is the government's top priority and it is trying to minimise inconvenience.

New Delhi: After nearly 100 flights received bomb threats in seven days since October 14, Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu has said safety is the government's top priority and rules are being amended to put people who make such calls on the no-fly list. Making such threats will also be made a cognisable offence, with provisions for punishment and fines. Addressing a press conference on Monday, Mr Naidu said even though the threats have turned out to be hoaxes, there is a strict protocol that is followed by his department and airlines. "It is a very sensitive situation when it comes to such threats, there is an international procedure that we have to follow," he said. The minister said multiple meetings have been held with stakeholders since the spate of calls began and amendments are being considered in the Aircraft (Security) Rules so that the people making such threats can be put on the no-fly list after they are identified. The other approach, Mr Naidu said, is amending

the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation (SUASCA) Act, 1982,



and consultations are being held with other ministries. "If you look at the last week, eight flights have been diverted. Each threat is assessed individually and our response has been efficient and dynamic. We are also not compromising on safety and security. Even though most of them are hoax threats, we

cannot take them lightly. The lives of passengers are important, the security situation is important and protocol is important. We have enhanced security at airports," the minister said.

Emphasising that the protocol is very rigid and strict procedures have to be followed, Mr Naidu said several meetings have been held with airlines and their opinion has been sought to minimise inconvenience to them as well as passengers.

We are all working towards a common goal. Even one plane getting diverted or delayed is not what we want... There has to be some kind of deterrent and that is what we are doing with our planned amendments to the rules and the Act. We are working with the Ministry of Home Affairs and state law enforcement agencies to speed up the investigations into the threats. The safety and security of passengers and their convenient travel is our utmost priority," he said. "With the collective efforts of everyone, we are going to see a much better picture in the coming days," the minister added.

"You Don't Want India To Be Secular?": Supreme Court On Preamble Petitions

The Supreme Court was hearing a PIL seeking the removal of the terms "socialist" and "secular" from the Preamble to the Constitution.

New Delhi: The terms "socialist" and "secular" are part of the Constitution's basic structure and the courts have repeatedly emphasised this in multiple judgments, the Supreme Court said today. The court made the remarks while hearing a Public Interest Litigation seeking the removal of the terms from the Preamble to the Constitution. Among the petitioners is BJP leader and former MP Subramanian Swamy.

Arguing before the bench of Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar, petitioner and advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain said the 42nd Amendment to the Constitution in 1976, which affected these changes, was never debated in Parliament. Justice Khanna responded that the matter has been debated at length. "Please see Mr Jain, the words have varied interpretation. Both words have different interpretations today. Even our courts have declared them, time and again, as part of the basic structure (of the Constitution)," he said.

"Socialism can also mean there has to be fair opportunity for all, the concept of equality. Let's not take it in the Western concept. It can have some different meaning as well. Same with the word secularism," he added. Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, also a petitioner, referred to the Emergency imposed by the Indira Gandhi government during which this amendment was affected. "I don't want to say much on what Justice HR Khanna did and saved us," Mr Upadhyay said.

The reference was to the Supreme Court's 1976 judgment that held that a person's right to not be unlawfully detained could be suspended in the interest of the State. Justice HR Khanna was the lone dissenting voice in the 4-1 judgment of the Constitution bench. Justice Sanjiv Khanna is Justice HR Khanna's nephew. Responding to the lawyers' arguments, Justice Khanna asked, "You don't want India to be secular?"

Advocate Jain responded, "We are not saying India is not secular. We are challenging this amendment." "If one looks at the right to equality and the word 'fraternity' used in (the) Constitution as well as the rights under Part III, there is a clear indication that secular has been held as the core feature of (the) Constitution. I can cite cases for you. When secularism was debated, there was only the French model. The Supreme Court has struck down statutes that go against secularism. You may look at Article 25. For socialism, we have not followed the Western concept and we are happy on it," Justice Khanna said.

Navy chief on 4-day UAE visit to strengthen defence cooperation

New Delhi: Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi will be on a four-day visit to the UAE from Monday, to strengthen the defence cooperation between the two countries. "This visit aims to strengthen the defence cooperation between the two countries, in line with the deepening Comprehensive Strategic Partnership across all sectors, and consolidate bilateral maritime relations between India and UAE, and to explore new avenues of cooperation between the two navies," the defence ministry said in a statement.

Admiral Tripathi will hold discussions with Commander of the UAE Naval Forces Rear Admiral Pilot Saeed Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan and other senior officials of the UAE. He is also scheduled to visit the National Defence College of the UAE, where he will interact with the trainee officers, the ministry said.

The Navy chief will also witness the third edition of the India-UAE Bilateral Naval Exercise. "The cooperative engagements between the Indian Navy and the UAE Navy include Operational interactions through Port Calls, Bilateral Naval Exercise & reciprocal visits, Navy-to-Navy Staff Talks, as well as Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC)," the ministry said.

Delhi Cops Seek Telegram Info On 'Justice League India' After Rohini Blast

New Delhi: A day after an explosion at a school in Rohini set off a multi-agency investigation, Delhi Police has written to authorities in the Telegram app, seeking information about a handle named 'Justice League India', sources have said. Last evening, the Telegram handle posted CCTV footage of the blast and claimed responsibility for it. According to police sources, they have yet to receive a response from Telegram to their query. No known terror organisation's name has emerged in the probe into the blast so far. At 7.47 am yesterday, a loud blast damaged the wall of the CRPF school in Rohini's Prashant Vihar area. While no one was injured, the explosion shattered windows of cars parked near the school and hoardings of shops in the area. A cloud of smoke was seen billowing after the blast.

Soon after the incident, police reached the spot. Fire engines and a bomb squad were called in. Later, sniffer dogs were pressed into action to look for clues. A forensic team examined the spot and collected samples, including a white powder-like substance. Anti-terror probe body National Investigation Agency and the National Security Guard joined the investigation too. A case has been registered under the Explosives Act and the area has been cordoned off.

The blast, police sources said, appears to have been caused by a crude bomb. Police are scanning CCTV footage in the area to identify who planted it. According to sources, police are not ruling out a conspiracy angle. The explosion has, meanwhile, triggered a political blame game. Delhi Chief Minister Atishi targeted the Centre, which controls Delhi Police, over the law and order situation in the national capital.

In a post on X, Ms Atishi said the blast had exposed Delhi's "crumbling" law and order system. "The responsibility to maintain law and order in Delhi is with BJP's central government. But BJP ignores this and uses its time to disrupt the work of Delhi's elected governments. This is why Delhi's situation is now that of Mumbai during the era of the Underworld. Bullets are being fired in the open, gangsters are extorting money and criminals are upbeat. The BJP neither has the intent nor the ability (to handle this)," she said. "If by mistake, Delhiites give them (BJP) charge of Delhi government, the condition of hospitals, power and water supply will become the same as the law and order situation in Delhi," the Chief Minister added. Hitting back, BJP's Shazia Ilmi told NDTV, "The puppet CM is known for this. If you make her speak on any topic, it is always about the Centre. Something very serious has happened. The situation is totally in control. Instead of expressing anxiety about the situation and (thinking) what should be done, a political blame game has begun. It is immature and irresponsible to always do politics on serious issues."

Kashmir will never become Pakistan: Farooq Abdullah after Ganderbal terror attack

Farooq Abdullah strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, which claimed the lives of a doctor and six migrant workers on Sunday.

New Delhi: Kashmir will never become Pakistan, said National Conference President Farooq Abdullah, strongly condemning the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Ganderbal district, which claimed the lives of a doctor and six migrant workers on Sunday (October 20). The attack took place at a construction site near an under-construction tunnel in the Sonamarg area. Talking to reporters about the incident, Abdullah stated, "It is a very painful tragedy. Several

Do they think this will turn Kashmir into Pakistan?" Abdullah said there can be no talks between India and Pakistan till the



poor labourers who came here to earn a living and send money to their families were mercilessly killed by these terrorists. Among the victims was also a doctor. What do these terrorists hope to gain?

neighbouring country stops killings in Jammu and Kashmir.

"How can there be talks? You kill our innocent people and then you call for talks. First stop the killings," Abdullah said. He added, "If Pakistan genuinely

wants friendship with India, they must stop this violence. Kashmir will never become Pakistan. Let us live with dignity and focus on development. How long will you continue to bring suffering to us? You started this in 1947, and in 75 years, Kashmir hasn't become Pakistan—so how will it happen now?" The former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister emphasised the need to eradicate poverty, stating that terrorism is not the solution. He stressed that it must come to an end, warning that the consequences would be severe if it continues.

After the incident, security forces cordoned off the area in Gaganger, Sonamarg, and Ganderbal and launched a search operation to neutralise the attackers.

In A First, 'Kanda Express' Brings Tonnes Of Onions To Delhi As Prices Soar

The special rake, equivalent to 56 trucks, departed from Maharashtra's Lasalgaon Railway Station and reached Delhi's Kishanganj Railway Station.

New Delhi: As onion prices soared ahead of the festive season, the Centre on Sunday transported 1,600 tonnes of buffer stock of the vegetable using a "Kanda express" train from Maharashtra to Delhi. The special rake, equivalent to 56 trucks, departed from Maharashtra's Lasalgaon Railway Station in Nashik and reached Delhi's Kishanganj Railway Station. The stocks will be released in Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), where onion prices have increased to 75 per kg in recent weeks. "This rail transport initiative marks a historic first," Consumer Affairs Secretary Nidhi Khare said last week, adding that similar arrangements will be extended to Lucknow,



Varanasi and northeastern states including Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.

She had said the move was a cost-effective and efficient measure as transporting one rake from Nashik to Delhi costs 70.20 lakh by rail, compared to 84 lakh by road. The government had

procured 4.7 lakh tons of rabi onion for the price stabilization buffer this year and started the release from September 5 through retail sale at 35 per kg. According to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, the average retail prices in Uttar Pradesh,

Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Jharkhand and Telangana have come down in recent days in comparison to the level in the first week of September. "Mandi prices in Lasalgaon also declined from the peak of 47 per kg on September 24 to 40 kg on October 15," the Ministry said last week. Speaking about tomatoes, the government said the recent surge in prices is because of "excess rains and high moisture level" in major tomato-producing areas of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. "The adverse weather conditions together with incidences of disease attack in certain pockets impacted the harvest and also the shelf life of tomatoes."

Supreme Court stays child rights panel order to close government-funded madrasas

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in September challenging the Allahabad High Court's decision to strike down the UP Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the recommendation of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) and subsequent actions taken by the Centre and states to close down government-funded madrasas for allegedly not complying with the Right to Education (RTE) Act. The Court also stayed recent orders by the Uttar Pradesh and Tripura governments, which directed the transfer of students from unrecognised madrasas, as well as non-Muslim students studying in government-aided madrasas, to government schools. The Supreme Court ordered the communications of the NCPCR issued on June 7 and June 25 this year should not be acted upon.

A plea challenging the Uttar Pradesh government's order was filed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, which argued that the

directive violated the rights of minorities to establish and manage their own educational institutions. The order in question was based on a letter from the child rights panel, the NCPCR. A bench of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, took note of the plea and issued notices to the Centre and all states, seeking a response within four weeks.

The Court further ruled that any consequential orders issued by the states shall also remain stayed until further



notice. Additionally, the Supreme Court granted Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind permission to include other states, beyond Uttar Pradesh and Tripura, as parties to the petition. The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)

filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court in September challenging the Allahabad High Court's decision to strike down the UP Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004. The commission argued that the education provided in madrasas is not comprehensive and violates the Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

In its affidavit, NCPCR claimed that madrasas are failing to meet the fundamental right of children to receive a proper education. "Madrasas are not providing the basic requirements for a good education. Children are deprived of not just suitable education, but also a healthy atmosphere and better growth opportunities," stated the affidavit.

What are kids Reading?



Geronimo Stilton, Captain Underpants, Wimpy Kid, Percy Jackson...kids today have much to choose from.

Pranksters George Beard and Harold Hutchins are terrorised by their principal, the mean Benjamin Krupp. They get back, and how! They turn him into a reluctant superhero who wears just briefs and a cape! If you are a 10-year-old, you would have got the story by now. This is the tale of Captain Underpants, a hot favourite among pre-teens. Then, there's the adorable mouse who publishes 'The Rodent's Gazette'. He scouts around for news instead of cheese and craves a vacation. That's Geronimo Stilton. He also has a sister, Thea Stilton, who has a separate series in her name. There's a big smile on kids' faces as they read the squiggly text that literally shivers when Geronimo is afraid.

Books for kids are big news now. There was a time when interest in books came down and technology turned temptress. But, authors such as J.K. Rowling hooked kids back to the page. Luckily, others rushed in to meet the demand.

Divya Chandran's sons Adhvik and Dhaman picked up the reading habit seeing their parents read. Today, her elder one reads National Geographic's NG Kids Magazine (for ages 6-14). There's also an NG Little Kids

Magazine (for ages 3-6).

"Adhvik loves reading about wildlife. So, I make it a point to pick up books on the subject. Dhaman likes The Berenstain Bears. When we let kids read books relating to the topics they are interested in, it keeps the reading habit alive," she says. But, yes, she does check if the books are age-appropriate.

Adventure is cool

J. Yashaswi finds Captain Underpants cool because it combines adventure, school life and an element of magic. His mother Nandini says she tries to ensure her son reads a mix of modern-day tales and vintage kids' books. So, Roald Dahl and Enid Blyton are a vital part of his reading list too.

Of late, parents and schools are encouraging children to read, if only to keep them off electronic gadgets. Book stores hold events for



Children

Online store Flipkart is working at initiatives such as book readings with famous children's authors, to draw in young readers, says Anil Goteti, director-retail. Niranjani Ramanathan, who runs JustBooks library in Coimbatore, says parents are keen on books that showcase Indian culture and tradition in an easy-to-read manner. Probably why, publications by Tulika Books, Karadi Tales and Amar Chitra Katha are very popular. "It helps that most new international titles are available here too." That way, children keep pace with what others in their age group are reading across the world.

Niranjani says that a library helps because when children visit it, they end up seeing and picking up books they would have never been exposed to otherwise.

Anu Vignesh's daughter Mayanka, a Class V student, is a huge fan of Enid Blyton. She loves horses too, and so, an encyclopaedia on horses is popular on her reading list. So are pre-teen books such as the St. Claire's series. Rema Giridhar's daughter Layanaya, 9, reads a lot of Amar Chitra Katha and Geronimo Stilton. "We allow her to read what she wants to. When she chooses a slightly higher read, we step in as censors, so that she reads the right books," she says.

Abhirami, 15, is a voracious reader. She grew up abroad and so also reads books that are unfamiliar here. Her mother Vasanthi, an avid reader herself, says she has always encouraged Abhirami to read. "We have gently nudged her to try books a little higher than her level. This has ensured she reads all books, not just those she is used to or is comfortable with," she says. Thanks to this, Abhirami reads Jane Austen, Charles Dickens, Jerome K Jerome and PG

Wodehouse. But, she also loves Asterix! Sometimes, children's reading habits rub off on adults. That's what happened with Vasanthi. "Abhirami tells me about the new authors she's reading. It's lovely because these are authors who were not around when I was a kid. At any age, it's nice to read kiddie books," she says, rushing off to read her daughter's copy of Jacqueline Wilson's Hetty Feather. "I've to return it tonight!"

What sells online

Anil Goteti of Flipkart says that Indian authors such as Ruskin Bond, R.K. Narayan and Sudha Murthy are amongst the most popular kids' authors. Adventure is a top seller, followed by the fantasy genre. And, despite the influx of new authors and titles, Enid Blyton and R.K. Narayan are still a hit.

Top-Sellers

Ages 5 to 7 Geronimo Stilton, Roald Dahl, Captain Underpants, Wimpy Kid, Dr. Seuss Ages 8-10 Wimpy Kid, Famous Five, Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew, Amar Chitra Katha, Percy Jackson and Narnia Ages 11-15 Lord of The Rings, The Hunger Games, Calvin and Hobbes, Artemis Fowl, Tintin and Twilight



All people lamenting how kids these days don't read much, wake up and smell the coffee. Kids are very much reading, and a lot, because parents today are making an effort to ensure their kids start early and get hooked to reading by the time they can read independently. And it's a habit that seems to stay, once they get going.

Mridula Charlu, a senior manager at an IT firm says it's been two years since their family of four took a library membership at their neighbourhood branch of Just Books "because we all love books. We used to go to the library once a week on Saturdays, now we are not so regular," she admits. She started reading books to her now nine-year-old daughter Arundhati when she was barely one. "And then while potty-training her, we gave

her books to read to keep her entertained while she sat...that's where it really started, she laughs. "By the time she was three, she was reading independently. Now, I have to tell her to stop reading, go out and play. My husband and I read a lot as well, so I guess she picked the habit from us." Arundhati has a group of about six other classmates, who exchange books between themselves and read. Her son Agastya, now a little over four years, and Arundhati read every night before they go to bed. Some classics are also downloaded on the iPad for them to read.

There may be other many encouraging factors too, apart from enthusiastic bookworm parents. The number of good libraries that allow books to be ordered from home and are delivered at the doorstep have

increased. So have activities around books — new book launches are accompanied by storytelling sessions for children. Many libraries conduct monthly activities for kids around a theme or book that could include painting, craft, making up their own stories — all of which lead kids towards more stories and more books.

Divya Purandar is a familiar figure in Bangalore's bloggers' circles as the one who blogs at One Story A Day. It all started for Divya and her then three-year-old son Abhay when they were in America. She was bowled over by the books and library system there. She started this habit of reading her son one story a day and it's become an inseparable part of their life over the last four years. "Now he's picked up reading on his own and

I get him books from early readers' series thrice a week," says Divya. She's a member of three libraries "just for him", and apart from borrowing, also buys him books every month. "He's not really a voracious reader and doesn't grab each and every thing I get him, but now I discover he's interested in reading books on adventure, cars, and mythology, especially Amar Chitra Katha."

But why then are so many rueing that kids don't read? Mridula points out that there are two kinds of children — those that read and those that don't. Umesh Malhotra, CEO of Hippocampus library, says there are two categories of parents — those who are educated and have always believed in the power of reading, and those who are schooled and focus mostly on academics and struggle to realise the importance of the reading habit in their children's lives. "The average starting age of reader in our place is about 3.5 years and we have upward of 3,000 members. Many mothers bring their kids to our library when they are as young as one, and we have seen them evolve as readers till they are about seven. Parents have taught children the alphabet by the time they are three, and they specially take time out to make them read," he observes.

Varsha Pillai, mother to Aadya, who's just a little over two, has been reading to her daughter since she was one. She started identifying things in books before she turned two. They graduated from hard board books, to touch and feel, to small stories like the Baby Einstein series. Books are also great company for children on long journeys, she's realised. Varsha believes there are many takeaways to children learning to read early. "She is able to identify and recognise things around her. Recently we went to the Mysore zoo and she recognised a Toucan because she'd seen it in a book." Apart from going to the library regularly, Varsha also buys second-hand books that can be rough-used, and come at a much lower cost than rather expensive children's books otherwise.

Taking baby reading

Steps



Wipro shares gain 1% in early trade. What investors need to know

NEW DELHI. Wipro shares rose over 1% in early trading on Monday, continuing their positive momentum following the company's Q2 FY25 earnings report last week. By 11:20 AM, Wipro shares were trading 0.87% higher at Rs 553.50 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The stock's rise comes after Wipro posted better-than-expected Q2 results, including a 21.3% year-on-year (YoY) increase in net profit to Rs 3,209 crore and the announcement of a 1:1 bonus issue. Despite the broader Nifty IT index trading lower, Wipro shares continued to gain, following a 4% jump in the previous session, where they hit an intra-day high of Rs 550.55. Wipro's Q2 performance surprised many, with the company securing large deals and its total contract value (TCV) rising by 8% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ). However, for Q3, the company expects revenue growth to range between -2% and 0%, citing seasonality and holiday-related furloughs. Analysts remain divided on Wipro's outlook. Nomura expects a 2.1% YoY decline in USD revenue for FY25, followed by a 5.2% rebound in FY26. The brokerage sees long-term margin improvements, forecasting EBIT margins to rise to 16.5% in FY25, and maintained a target price of Rs 670. On the other hand, Jefferies remains cautious with an underperform rating and a target price of Rs 465, citing broad-based revenue pressure and disappointing Q3 guidance. Citi has a sell rating with a target of Rs 500, noting weak forward indicators such as a 4.4% YoY decline in headcount and an 11% drop in trailing twelve months TCY.

Why non-bank lenders continue to come under regulatory axe

MUMBAI. Non-bank Financial Companies (NBFCs) have never been under so much regulatory fire like they are in 2024. To be factually correct, the Reserve Bank's axe has fallen on even large banks such as HDFC Bank, Bank of Baroda and Kotak Mahindra in recent times. What is more noteworthy is that all these are happening right under the watch of the present governor Shaktikanta Das, whose six-year stint on the 18th floor corner office of the Mint Road Headquarters is coming to end on December 10. Does this mean that the regulator has become hyper-active or is it that regulated entities have become less responsive to the regulatory demands? Or is it a mix of both, along with the fast-changing technological landscape that's sweeping the financial services industry?

Analysts are in unison in placing most of the blame on the regulated entities saying the number of black-sheep is growing as the pie is galloping—there are over 9,000 RBI-registered NBFCs and close to two dozens of them are systematically important upper tier NBFCs. "It's not a question of regulatory overreaching or that the monetary authority is over-zealous in applying its breaks. The present governor has been most considerate in getting the industry views along while framing regulations," the head of the BFSI vertical at a foreign brokerage told TNIE.

Reliance Infrastructure's Rs 6k cr fund raising plan gets shareholders' nod

NEW DELHI. Reliance Infrastructure on Sunday in a stock exchange filing said it plans to raise Rs 6,000 crore through preferential issue of shares and qualified institutional placement (QIP) route.

Both proposals have received shareholders approval, with over 98% voting in favour of the resolutions via postal ballot. Last month, the company's board had approved a Rs 6,000 crore fund raise plan. Of this, Rs 3,014 crore is to be raised through preferential allotment of shares or convertible warrants, while Rs 3,000 crore will be raised by QIP.

In the first phase, Reliance Infrastructure is launching Rs 3,014 crore preferential placement by issuing 12.56 crore equity shares or convertible warrants at an issue price of Rs 240 per share. Of this, Rs 1,104 crore will be invested by the promoters of Reliance Infrastructure through promoter company Risee Infinity Private Limited. Risee will subscribe to 4.60 crore shares.

The two other investors participating in the preferential issue are Mumbai-based Fortune Financial & Equities Services and Florintree Innovations LLP. Florintree is owned by former Blackstone executive Mathew Cyriac, while Fortune Financial is owned by Nimish Shah. Fortune Financial & Equities Services is going to invest Rs 1,058 crore by subscribing to 4.41 equity shares through preferential allotment, while Florintree Innovations will invest Rs 852 crore. The firm will be allotted 3.55 crore shares. Preferential issue will enhance Reliance Infra's network from Rs 9,000 crore to Rs 12,000 crore, with near zero debt.

Starbucks feels inflation heat; revenue grows at 2% in Q2

NEW DELHI. Tata Starbucks, a joint venture between Starbucks Coffee Company and Tata Consumer Products Limited, is facing the pinch of sluggish consumer spending in urban areas as revenue growth remained underwhelming in the current financial year.

Starbucks revenue in the September quarter grew at a subdued rate of 2%, which the company attributes to the overall slowness in the QSR segment. The revenue growth was 4% in the previous quarter. In the previous financial year (2023-24), Starbucks had posted a revenue growth of 12% at Rs 1,218 crore. Starbucks accounts for around 8% of Tata Consumer Products' consolidated revenue. Sunil A D'Souza, the CEO of Tata Consumer Products, says that the revenue growth from Starbucks is in line with what "we are hearing of across the overall QSR space." He says traffic has been an issue but not the ticket size. "Once the consumer enters, we do see spending," D'Souza said in an analysts' call. He added that the team has put together a range of initiatives to drive traffic including launching a new classic range across both food and coffee segments with key focus on the pricing. Further elaborating the sluggish revenue growth in Starbucks, D'Souza calls it an overall consumer spending issue, especially in urban areas.

RBL Bank shares crash 15% after Q2 results: What analysts are saying

RBL Bank share price: The private lender's shares plunged in intraday trading following the release of its Q2 FY25 earnings over the weekend.

NEW DELHI. Shares of RBL Bank declined sharply on Monday after the bank reported a sharp decline in its Q2 FY25 profit. At 1:10 pm, shares of the bank were down 14.21% to Rs 176.25 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). Earlier in the trading session, it hit a 52-week low of Rs 175.50.

The private lender posted a 24.33% year-on-year (YoY) drop in profit after tax (PAT), which came in at Rs 222.52 crore for the quarter ended September 30, 2024, compared to Rs 294.08 crore during the same period last year. Despite the significant decline in profit, RBL Bank reported some positive metrics. Its net interest income (NII) rose by 9% YoY to

Rs 1,615 crore, while net interest margins (NIMs) stood at 5.04%. Additionally, the bank's operating profit saw a 24% YoY growth, reaching Rs 910 crore for the quarter.

ANALYSTS ON RBL Q2 RESULTS

It may be noted that Centrum Broking has maintained a 'Buy' rating on RBL Bank with a target price of Rs 291, suggesting a potential upside of 65.81% from its current low. The brokerage acknowledged that the bank faced challenges during the quarter, particularly with asset quality issues affecting key profitability areas.

However, Centrum adjusted its credit growth estimate to a 16% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) for FY24-27, which is lower than the bank's projection of 18%. Centrum also revised its return on assets (RoA) forecast to an average of 1.1% for FY26 and FY27, falling short of RBL's management target of over 1.3%.

In light of these adjustments, Centrum has lowered its target price-to-adjusted book value (P/ABV) multiple from 1.25x to 1.0x, reflecting challenges in meeting the expected return profile and ongoing



valuation pressures in the broader banking sector. Despite the sharp fall in RBL's stock, Centrum believes that the concerns over growth, asset quality, and profitability are already reflected in the current share price. The brokerage highlighted that while the bank faces both internal and external challenges, its long-term strategy for diversified and sustainable growth is gradually taking shape. Centrum expects a steady improvement toward a 1.1% RoA, particularly with the potential for an interest rate cut cycle and recovery in

RBL's microfinance and credit card portfolios. With the stock currently trading at a low P/ABV multiple of 0.7x for the first half of FY27, Centrum sees this as an attractive buying opportunity. On the liabilities side, RBL Bank's total deposits grew by 20.3% YoY and 6.5% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ), with recurring deposits showing solid growth at 32% YoY and 4% QoQ. The bank's CASA (current account and savings account) ratio also improved, rising by 100 basis points to 33.6% from 32.6% in the previous quarter. This growth was attributed to the bank's initiatives to strengthen its liability franchise. While RBL's liquidity position remains strong with loan-to-deposit (LDR) and liquidity coverage (LCR) ratios at comfortable levels of 81% and 129%, respectively, the bank's margins were impacted by an interest income reversal of Rs 120 crore, driven by higher gross non-performing assets (GNPA) in the microfinance and credit card portfolios.

Sensex, Nifty open marginally lower dragged by FMCG stocks; HDFC Bank up 3%

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices opened marginally lower on Monday led by a decline in consumer goods stocks. The market also witnessed some profit booking which resulted in a slight fall.

The S&P BSE Sensex was down 70.87 points to 81,153.88, while the NSE Nifty50 lost 58.90 points to 24,795.15 as of 10:35 AM. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that with the US markets setting new record highs, the global stock market rally appears intact. The steady decline in crude and stability in the US bond yields impart resilience to the stock market despite the lingering tensions in the Middle East. "The hope raised by the Chinese stimulus and the cheap valuations of Chinese stocks have the potential to sustain the 'Sell India, Buy China' tactical trade for some more time. This



presents an opportunity for medium to long-term investors. Of the total FII AUM of \$930 billion about 28% is financials which are facing the brunt of FII selling. The sustained FII selling has rendered the valuations of financials attractive in an otherwise overvalued market. More importantly, the financial segment is doing well and

is in the pink of health. Q2 results of leading banking names like HDFC, Kotak and Axis indicate improving prospects," he added.

Kunal Kamble, Sr. Technical Research Analyst at Bonanza said that the Nifty Index has formed a piercing pattern at support, indicating a potential pause in the short-term negative trend. "For the index to continue its downward momentum, it must close below the low of 24,567. A move towards the 25,000 level, which has been acting as a magnet for the index, can be expected. Use dips as buying opportunities as long as the index holds above the 24,567 level, with an anticipated upward move towards 25,000, followed by 25,300," he added.

Hyundai share price expectation: Check latest gmp before D-Street debut

NEW DELHI. Shares of Hyundai Motors India will make its debut on the Dalal Street on Tuesday, with investors keeping a close watch on India's biggest IPO. The IPO, which opened on October 15, was initially met with hesitation from investors, but by the close on Thursday, October 17, 2024, it had been subscribed more than twice. Much of the demand came from Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs), although other investor categories remained cautious due to concerns over valuations and a falling grey market premium. By the end of the final day, Hyundai's IPO was subscribed 2.37 times overall. The retail category was subscribed 0.50 times, non-institutional investors (NIIs) subscribed 0.60 times, while QIBs led the charge with a subscription of 6.97 times, as of 5:15 PM on October 17, 2024. Jaspreet Singh Arora, Chief Investment Officer of Equentis, highlighted several concerns that could affect Hyundai's short to medium-term prospects. "While Hyundai is a major player in India's auto industry, there are several factors that might dampen its listing performance in the near future. The passenger vehicle (PV) industry is

expected to grow at a slower pace of 4.5%-6.5% over FY24-29, compared to 5% in the previous five years, according to CRISIL. Additionally, Hyundai's presence in electric vehicles (EVs), hybrids, and CNG cars is limited, making up just 11% of its portfolio. This is much lower than its



competitors, who are further ahead in adapting to the shift towards EVs," said Arora. He also pointed out that Hyundai operates in a highly competitive market where price cuts and incentives are common. Limited production capacity and a lack of new model launches add to the challenges the company faces in standing out from its peers. Another concern is Hyundai India's operational

structure, as it does not own Kia Motors, which operates independently but competes in a similar market segment. This could lead to conflicts of interest that may affect Hyundai's performance. Arora also said that historical trends of large IPOs, such as Paytm, Coal India, and LIC, have shown that stocks from such offerings tend to face challenges during the first 12 to 24 months after listing. "There is usually an overhang from large share floats and the need for promoters to reduce their stake below 75% to comply with Sebi regulations," he added.

GREY MARKET PREMIUM

The grey market premium (GMP), which indicates the potential listing price of a stock, has not been promising for Hyundai's IPO. As of October 21, 2024, at 11:30 AM, the GMP stood at Rs 75, indicating a nominal premium over the issue price. With a price band of Rs 1,960, the estimated listing price remains at Rs 2035, with a gain of 3.83%.

Adar Poonawalla acquires 50% stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions

NEW DELHI. Adar Poonawalla, the CEO of the Serum Institute of India, has announced an investment in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Dharmatic Entertainment through Serene Production. The deal, valued at Rs 1,000 crore, will see Poonawalla's Serene Production acquire a 50% stake in the renowned production house, with Johar retaining the remaining 50%.

Karan Johar, who has been at the helm of Dharma Productions for years, will continue in his role as Executive Chairman. Apoorva Mehta will also stay on as Chief Executive Officer, ensuring continuity in the company's leadership. India's entertainment industry has been rapidly growing, fuelled by increased digital access and a diverse audience that is seeking high-quality content on multiple platforms. Dharma's legacy in storytelling will be combined with Poonawalla's



strategic vision and resources to further grow the business, the company said in a press release.

The collaboration is expected to transform how content is created and delivered to audiences by integrating advanced technologies and innovative production methods. The goal is to engage audiences on a deeper level by producing content that reflects modern trends while still holding on to the emotional core that has made Dharma Productions a household name.

Expressing his excitement about the partnership, Adar Poonawalla said, "I am delighted to have the opportunity to partner with one of the most iconic production houses in our nation, along with my friend Karan Johar. We hope to build and grow Dharma and scale even greater heights in the years to come." The entertainment landscape in India is changing fast, with an increasingly digital-savvy audience demanding fresh content on platforms such as streaming services.

The alliance between Serene Productions and Dharma Productions is expected to address these needs while also pushing the boundaries of creative storytelling, reaching both domestic and international audiences. Karan Johar said.

Axis Bank shares dip slightly today after strong Q2 gains. Good time to buy

New Delhi Axis Bank shares saw a marginal decline in early trade on Monday, dropping by 0.23% to Rs 1,192.45 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) at 11:42 AM. This slight dip comes after the stock surged nearly 6% in the previous session following the release of its Q2 FY25 results, which showcased a robust 18% year-on-year (YoY) rise in net profit to Rs 6,918 crore, compared to Rs 5,864 crore in the same period last year. The bank's Q2 FY25 results exceeded market expectations in several areas. Net Interest Income (NII) grew by 9% YoY to Rs 13,483 crore, while the bank's Net Interest Margin (NIM) stood at 3.99%. Operating profit increased by 24% YoY and 6% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) to Rs 10,712 crore. Core operating profit, excluding trading income, saw a 10% YoY rise to Rs 9,601 crore. Commenting on the results, Axis Bank's MD & CEO Amitabh Chaudhry highlighted the balance between digital expansion and physical branch openings.

In Q2, the bank opened 150 new branches across both urban and rural areas, reinforcing its commitment to customer outreach.

WHAT BROKERAGES SAY

Despite a strong Q2, analysts are divided on Axis Bank's future prospects. Many brokerages have adjusted their target prices, reflecting a cautious outlook on the bank's near-term growth trajectory.

Bernstein maintained an 'Outperform' rating with a target price of Rs 1,250. While the results highlighted improvements in credit costs and operating expenses, the firm expressed concerns about weak loan growth and overall asset quality. Investec also maintained a 'Buy' rating but reduced its target price to Rs 1,298 from Rs 1,340, citing one-off factors driving the positive results. The brokerage noted that growth is expected to pick up gradually, though short-term momentum may be subdued. Macquarie reiterated its 'Outperform' rating with a higher target price of Rs 1,400. However, it flagged concerns about Axis Bank's loan and deposit growth, noting that tax write-backs and treasury gains buoyed the positive performance. Nomura raised its target price to Rs 1,380 from Rs 1,370, while maintaining a 'Buy' rating. It described Axis Bank's Q2 performance as steady, despite lower expectations for loan and deposit growth in the upcoming quarter.



OTHER BROKERAGES CAUTIOUS

Several other brokerages have expressed more tempered expectations for Axis Bank's near-term growth. IIFL lowered its target price to Rs 1,360 from Rs 1,380, citing slower NII growth and elevated credit costs due to buffer provisions. However, the firm maintained its 'Buy' rating, anticipating that Axis Bank's valuation gap with peers like ICICI and Kotak Mahindra Bank would narrow over time. Citi Research maintained its 'Neutral' rating, reducing its target price to Rs 1,290. The brokerage highlighted lower growth forecasts and concerns over the bank's muted earnings per share (EPS) projections for the coming quarters. Motilal Oswal Financial Services took a

cautious stance, maintaining its neutral rating with a target price of Rs 1,225. The brokerage raised its FY25 earnings estimates but flagged concerns about Axis Bank's high loan-to-deposit ratio of 92%, which may limit credit growth in the near term. Motilal Oswal also noted that continued re-pricing of deposits could keep NIMs under pressure, further constraining profitability.

LONG-TERM BET?

Despite mixed reviews, some analysts see long-term value in Axis Bank. Macquarie pointed out the bank's strong balance sheet and contingent buffers, while Motilal Oswal highlighted favorable risk-reward dynamics over the medium term. Nomura, Macquarie, and others are optimistic that the bank's focus on improving asset quality and cost management will yield results in the long run. In summary, while Axis Bank's Q2 FY25 results showcased resilience, the outlook for the coming quarters remains cautious. With challenges such as elevated credit costs and weak loan growth, investors are advised to weigh the bank's short-term hurdles against its long-term growth potential.

NEWS BOX

Mohammed Siraj vs Akash Deep: Should India rest Hyderabad pacer in Pune Test

New Delhi, India suffered an eight-wicket loss to New Zealand in the Bengaluru Test on Sunday, October 20. A rain-marred affair, India were outplayed by the visitors on Day 5 of the Test match despite overcast conditions and a pitch that was conducive to fast bowling. Despite Jasprit Bumrah's best efforts, the New Zealand batters Will Young and Rachin Ravindra were able to take New Zealand home comfortably in the morning session of Day 5. This was a rare instance of New Zealand winning a Test match in India. In fact, this was only the first time that New Zealand had won a Test match in the country in 36 years. Coming into Day 5 of the game, India knew that they were banking on their pacers to deliver in Bengaluru. It had rained overnight in the city and there was a fair amount of rain in the morning as well before the start of play. However, the dependence turned into a nightmare after only Jasprit Bumrah turned up for the team on the final day of the game. Mohammed Siraj, who was the second pacer in the side did not threaten the NZ batters consistently, despite the conditions being overwhelmingly favourable for fast bowling. This was in

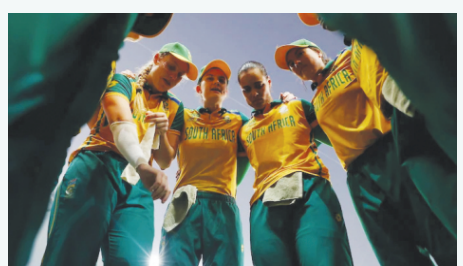


keeping with Siraj's performances at home this year.

The pacer has looked off colour more often than not in home Tests in 2024. If one would go back to the England Test series earlier this year, one would remember that Siraj was rested from the Test team after the first Test match at Hyderabad, having taken 0 wickets in the 1st Test against the Ben Stokes side. IND vs NZ, Bengaluru Test: Match Report Overall, Siraj has played 7 home Tests this season and has only 12 wickets at an average of 42.83. This is in sharp contrast to Jasprit Bumrah who has picked 33 wickets from 7 games at the same tenure. Speaking about Siraj after the Test match, former India cricketer Saba Karim said that the pacer seemed to be under pressure. The former selector suggested that India would do well to have a talk with Siraj and take a call on him for the second Test match. "I reckon that Mohammed Siraj may be under some kind of pressure and I'm sure they will have a discussion before they pick the XI for the next Test match."

South Africa players in tears as nation's heartbreak continues in World Cup Final

New Delhi In a heart-wrenching conclusion to the Women's T20 World Cup, South Africa fell short against New Zealand, losing by 32 runs and missing out on their first title. This marked another painful chapter for the team, following their runner-up finish in the previous edition of the tournament. The SA players were in tears after the conclusion of the game, which was a heartbreaking moment for the side. In a space of just a few months in 2024, South Africa have now lost the men's and women's T20 World Cup Final. The men's team lost against India at Barbados by a small margin of 6 runs, while



the women's team were outplayed in Dubai on Sunday, October 20. Despite a solid start, South Africa could only manage 126 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in their 20 overs. Captain Laura Wolvaardt, who top-scored with 33 runs off 27 balls, saw her team's promising opening partnership of 51 runs with Tazmin Brits dashed when Brits was dismissed by Fran Jonas in the seventh over. As the innings progressed, the pressure mounted. Wolvaardt and Anneke Bosch fell to the impressive Amelia Kerr in the same over, while Rosemary Mair took three wickets to further stifle South Africa's chances.

Women's T20 World Cup Final, NZ vs SA: Match Report

Earlier in the match, South Africa had chosen to bowl after winning the toss, but their plans were quickly derailed when Georgia Plimmer was dismissed for just nine runs in the second over. New Zealand capitalised on this early setback, posting a commendable total of 158 runs, the second-highest in a Women's T20 World Cup final, with a remarkable 73 runs scored in the final six overs. Suzie Bates, playing in a record 334th international match, led the White Ferns with 32 runs before being bowled by Nonkululeko Mlaba. Despite losing their captain Sophie Devine, Kerr (43 off 38) and Brooke Halliday (38) steadied.

Cheteshwar Pujara overtakes Brian Lara in list of First Class hundreds

← Veteran India batter Cheteshwar Pujara has overtaken Brian Lara in the list of most first class hundreds. Pujara, while batting in the Ranji Trophy, hit his 66th FC hundred on

New Delhi, Cheteshwar Pujara, one of the most stalwart and disciplined batsmen in contemporary cricket, has once again etched his name in the annals of the sport with his 66th first-class century. This milestone, achieved on October 21, 2024, during round 2 of Ranji Trophy against Chhattisgarh, underscores Pujara's relentless dedication and unparalleled skill in the red ball format. With the century, Pujara overtook legendary Brian Lara in the list of most First-Class hundreds. The India batter, who is currently out of the Test team, also completed 21,000 runs while batting in the Round 2 of the Ranji Trophy match. Born on January 25, 1988, in Rajkot, Gujarat, Pujara was nurtured in a

cricketing family. His father, Arvind Pujara, and uncle, Bipin Pujara, were both Ranji Trophy players for Saurashtra, laying the foundation for Cheteshwar's future in the game. Pujara made his first-class debut for Saurashtra in December 2005, and since then, he has been a cornerstone of the team. Pujara's domestic career is replete with impressive feats. He has been the leading run-scorer for Saurashtra on multiple occasions, including the 2017-18 edition of the Ranji Trophy, where he scored 437 runs in just four matches. His ability to anchor the innings and score big hundreds has been instrumental in Saurashtra's success in domestic cricket. Notably, in the 2019-20 Ranji Trophy, Pujara achieved his 50th first-class century, a testament to his consistency and longevity. Pujara's international career began with his Test debut against Australia in Bangalore in October 2010. Since then, he has become an integral part of the Indian Test team, known for his patient and disciplined batting style. This approach, often described as a throwback to earlier eras of cricket, has allowed Pujara to thrive in the longest format of the game. With over 100 Test matches under his belt, Pujara has accumulated 7195 runs at an average of 43.60, including 19 centuries and 35 half-centuries. His



contributions have been pivotal in several key series, most notably India's historic Test series win in Australia during the 2018-19 tour. Pujara's third double-century in the third Test at Ranchi, which included a marathon 199-run partnership with Wriddhiman Saha, was a highlight of that series and earned him the Man of the Match award.

County Cricket and Global Recognition In addition to his domestic and international success, Pujara has also made a significant impact in county cricket. Playing for Sussex

in the County Championship, he has demonstrated his adaptability and skill in different conditions. In April 2022, Pujara and Tom Haines became the first batters to score double centuries in the same innings of a first-class match while following-on, a rare feat that showcases his endurance and batting prowess. Pujara's performance in county cricket has not gone unnoticed. He scored his fifth century of the 2022 county season as Sussex captain against Middlesex, further solidifying his reputation as a reliable and prolific run-scorer.

Enduring Influence and Legacy

Despite the evolving landscape of cricket, with younger players often preferring the more aggressive and counterattacking styles, Pujara remains a beacon of traditional batting values. His ability to grind down opposition bowling attacks and his fitness tailored for long innings have made him a role model for aspiring cricketers.

Former Australian coach Justin Langer has praised Pujara's concentration and batting technique, noting that his ability to watch the ball closely is unmatched, even by the likes of Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. This high praise underscores the respect Pujara commands within the cricketing fraternity.

A dream realised: Amelia recalls primary school essay after T20 World Cup triumph

← Women's T20 World Cup: Sophie Devine's New Zealand and Laura Wolvaardt's South Africa will be looking for glory they face each other in the summit clash on Super Sunday at the Dubai International Stadium.



New Delhi Dreams do come true, don't they? New Zealand's all-rounder Amelia Kerr reminisced about her primary school assignment after the White Ferns clinched their maiden T20 World Cup title, defeating South Africa in a one-sided final in Dubai on Sunday, October 20. In that assignment, Amelia wrote about the dream of winning a World Cup alongside her idols, New Zealand greats Sophie Devine and Suzie Bates. Remarkably, on Sunday, Amelia, 24, fulfilled her dream, lifting the World Cup and celebrating the triumph alongside her captain Devine and teammate Bates. Amelia delivered a sensational all-round performance, scoring 43 runs from 38 balls to help New Zealand set a competitive total of 158. She also took three wickets, showcasing her heroic skills on the field. I don't necessarily believe you deserve things

in sport, but if any two people do, it's Sophie and Suzie. I think back to myself as a kid, batting with Sophie and Suzie in the nets. When I was in primary school, I wrote about winning a World Cup with them. So to be here now, having done that, is probably why I'm so emotional out on the field. It's something so special when I think back to my younger self and to achieve this with two of New Zealand's best-ever players," she added. New Zealand's squad featured a strong blend of youth and experience. The calming presence of captain Sophie Devine, Suzie Bates, and Lea Tahuhu helped them navigate a challenging period leading up to the tournament. Having gone winless in ten

T20Is before the event, they gained momentum by beating pre-tournament favourites India in their opening match. Bates, 37, was the top scorer for New Zealand in the World Cup, amassing 150 runs, while Devine contributed 114 runs across six matches. Amelia scored 135 runs and topped the bowling charts with 15 wickets throughout the tournament.

Sophie Devine mentioned that the ODI World Cup triumph in 2000 inspired many current cricketers, and she hopes that their T20 World Cup success will do the same for future generations in New Zealand. Yeah, look, we've spoken about the 2000 World Cup-winning side and the motivation it provided to the likes of Melie, yourself, and me, as well as many young kids at that time. I'm really hopeful that tonight's victory can inspire the next generation—not just young girls, but young boys as well—to pick up a cricket bat and ball. "It still feels pretty surreal at the moment, and I hope the impact of what we achieved tonight will be long-lasting and far-reaching. Everyone loves a winner, don't they? So, it's going to be pretty cool for us to see the potential impact," she added.

Women's T20 World Cup: 'Grandmas' show the way for New Zealand in epic underdog story

New Delhi Suzie Bates had said before New Zealand's summit clash in the Women's T20 World Cup 2024, referring to her, Sophie Devine and Lea Tahuhu. Bates, Devine and Tahuhu are veterans, having served the White Ferns for plenty of years. Amongst them, Bates and Devine seemed to have played forever, having taken part in all nine editions of the mega event. The stage was perfectly set for a fairytale ending for them. Devine could not have expected for a better platform to finish her stint as the New Zealand T20I skipper. New Zealand vs South Africa, Women's T20 World Cup Final Highlights Bates had gone past Mithali Raj to become the most-capped player in women's internationals. There's a high probability that Bates, Devine and Tahuhu will not return for another edition of the tournament. From so many aspects, New Zealand had enough reasons to go all out in the grand finale, and they did not let their 'grandmas' down. At the same venue where the Kane Williamson-led Black Caps

fell short against Australia three years ago, the White Ferns made sure of going all the way. Not only did they beat South Africa, but hammered them by 32 runs in a relatively one-sided final at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. At no point in the high-voltage game did they look under pressure.

Rise like a phoenix from ashes

Before the World Cup hit the centre-stage, very few would have given New Zealand a chance to advance beyond the group stages, let alone lifting the cup. They lost 10 matches on the bounce and looked all over the place. But with less expectation on their shoulders, Devine's women put forth their A-game to bury the ghosts of 2009 and 2010 when they lost the finals to England and Australia. With India, Australia, England amongst the strong contenders, New Zealand needed something more than inspiring to go the distance. It needed their 'grandmas', their stalwarts to put their hands up and they passed the stiff test with

flying colours. Devine, Tahuhu and Bates showed that Old is 'indeed' gold. They brought forth all their experience to shoulder their team past the finish line.

Grandmas' inspire New Zealand

Devine set the tone for the White Ferns after her magical 57-run knock against Harmanpreet Kaur's India. It was their 58-run win over the 2020 runners-up that gave New Zealand belief that they could beat the best. It was the game that helped them get their acts together, after which they hardly looked back.

Women's T20 World Cup 2024 Full Coverage

Bates showed why she is the all-time leading run-scorer in Women's T20Is. Aged 38, Bates finished the World Cup as the joint-highest run-scorer for New Zealand along with her opening partner Georgia Plimmer. She saved her best for the last, getting her highest score of 32 in the final. The stunt that Devine pulled off by giving Bates the last over in the semis against

BAN vs SA: Kagiso Rabada becomes 3rd fastest South African to take 300 Test wickets

New Delhi Kagiso Rabada achieved a major milestone on Day 1 of the 1st Test between Bangladesh and South Africa at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Dhaka on Monday, October 21. Rabada became the sixth South African bowler to take 300 Test wickets, joining a league of legends, which includes Dale Steyn, Shaun Pollock and Allan Donald. Kagiso Rabada achieved the feat during his first spell on Monday morning, bowling a ripper to dismiss former Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim for 11. Rabada bowled a good length delivery that jagged back and shattered the stumps. Kagiso Rabada is also the third-fastest South African bowler after Dale Steyn and Allan Donald to take 300 wickets in the traditional format. While Rabada achieved the milestone in his 65th Test match, Steyn achieved it in 2013 in his 61st Test and Donald in his 63rd Test in 2000.

MOST TEST WICKETS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

Dale Steyn - 439 wickets in 93 matches



Shaun Pollock - 421 wickets in 108 matches
Makhaya Ntini - 390 wickets in 101 matches
Allan Donald - 330 wickets in 72 matches
Morne Morkel - 309 wickets in 86 matches
Kagiso Rabada - 300* wickets in 65 matches

Kagiso Rabada and Wiaan Mulder opened the bowling for South Africa after Bangladesh won the toss and opted to bat in the first of a two-match series. Mulder ran through the top-order, striking his in the first over to dismiss opener Shadman Islam. He struck in his second over, getting Mominul Haque and then in his third over to send back captain Najmul Hossain Shanto.

Rabada has been in good form in the Test season. He picked up 8 wickets in two matches against West Indies in West Indies in August.

Rabada, who made his debut against India in 2015, has evolved to become one of the leading pacers in Tests. Rabada made an immediate impact in Test cricket, showcasing his potential with impressive performances early in his career.

What do Manchester United need to get out of their slump Gary Neville explains

New Delhi Mumbai batter Shreyas Iyer is eager to return to the Indian Test squad, expressing confidence and determination following his recovery from back surgery. The 29-year-old recently celebrated his first red-ball century since his Test debut nearly three years ago during the Ranji Trophy second-round match against Maharashtra. His last first-class ton was in the Kanpur Test against New Zealand in November 2021. "It feels special, coming back after a very long time. Obviously, I was feeling a bit down with my injuries, but now, getting a century after a very long time, it's a great feeling overall," Iyer shared with reporters after the day's play. Iyer, who was dropped from the BCCI central contract list earlier this year, last played in the home Test series against England in February. While he participated in the ODI series against Sri Lanka in August, he has a strong desire to contribute to red-ball cricket. Absolutely (the drive is still to play

Tests). That's why I've been playing. I mean, or else I would have given a reason and sat out," he stated.

Ranji Trophy: Shreyas Iyer hits hundred

In his last five first-class games, including the Duleep Trophy, Irani Trophy, and Ranji Trophy, Iyer has made an impact with three fifties and a 40 in 10 innings. Reflecting on missing out on the Test team, he said, "I had addressed my feeling during the longer format and things didn't go my way. But I'm in a good space right now. I'm doing what I'm meant to do." Iyer noted that his recent matches have contributed to his fitness, stating, "This is my seventh match on the trot, and the body has taken a lot of load at the same time. So, we have to manage here and there and strategise how I play."

He emphasized the importance of listening to his body: "I need to see to it that my body is in the best shape possible, and I have to decide according to that. Based on my experience



over the years, I'll make the right decisions, and I hope my team will back me." Having made a comeback in the Asia Cup last year after his surgery, Iyer also played in the ODI World Cup. He was selected for the first two home Tests against England in early 2024 but was later omitted from the remaining matches. When asked if he fears a recurrence of his injury, he confidently replied, "Not anymore." He elaborated, "The surgery was

last year, and after that, I played the World Cup, Asia Cup, and many more matches. I trained hard to ensure I maintain optimum fitness, and my capacity has improved significantly." Iyer, who led the Kolkata Knight Riders to an IPL title earlier this year, discussed his post-surgery training regimen. "I improved my long-distance running and increased my patience for the longer format. I did intensive training, pushing my body to its limits with 400-800 meters of running." Teaming up with 17-year-old Ayush Mhatre, the duo built a 200-run partnership, helping Mumbai secure a considerable lead. "Nowadays, teams often set defensive fields right from the start, so I focused on taking my time, playing more balls than taking risks." "My plan was to play session by session and see how much my body can take," Iyer concluded, highlighting his commitment to making a successful return to Test cricket.

Rashmika Mandanna

Nails Airport Look In Comfy Oversized Shirt And Baggy Pants



South sensation Rashmika Mandanna arrived at Mumbai airport in style on Saturday. Channelling her inner fashionista, she opted for a simple yet striking outfit. For her latest airport look, she wore a white asymmetric oversized shirt, with one end tucked in. The actress paired it with pleated, flared grey trousers. A half-tied hairstyle secured with a black bow rubber band, a silver watch, a red sling bag for a pop of colour and beige pumps completed Rashmika Mandanna's elegant outfit of the day (OOTD). Don't overlook her stylish oversized sunglasses, which added a touch of glamour and drama to her look.

As Rashmika Mandanna exited the airport, she bumped into Bollywood heartthrob Kartik Aaryan. The two were seen sharing a warm hug before heading to their respective cars. Fans and followers were quick to chime into the comment section and shower her with admiration and love emoticons. "True beauty with Trademark smile," read a comment. Another wrote, "Rashmika looks wow." Declaring her crush on the actress, a user said, "Crushmika." "Looking like an angel," wrote a fan.

Rashmika Mandanna is undoubtedly one of the top actresses in India. She made her debut in the film industry with the 2016 Kannada film Kirik Party, but she skyrocketed to fame with Pushpa: The Rise in 2021. Fans and followers were quick to chime into the comment section and shower her with admiration and love emoticons. "True beauty with Trademark smile," read a comment. Another wrote, "Rashmika looks wow." Declaring her crush on the actress, a user said, "Crushmika." "Looking like an angel," wrote a fan.

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Regarding Rashmika Mandanna's upcoming projects, she will appear in the historical film Chhaava alongside Vicky Kaushal. In this film, Vicky portrays the challenging role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, while Rashmika plays his wife, Yesubai Bhonsale. The film wrapped up filming earlier this year and is set to release on December 6. Rashmika Mandanna will then reprise her role in the sequel Pushpa: The Rule, directed by Sukumar.



Twinkle Khanna

Left Akshay Kumar's Home Over Rumours With Priyanka Chopra: Director Suneel Darshan

Director Suneel Darshan shared a shocking revelation about Twinkle Khanna and Akshay Kumar's marriage. He revealed that the former actress, who married Akshay in 2001, walked out of their home over rumours about him and Priyanka Chopra. They also began filming for the 2005 film. However, rumours about Akshay and Priyanka made it to the gossip columns and it allegedly affected Akshay's relationship with Twinkle. Speaking with YouTube channel Friday Talkies, Suneel shared, "Akshay Kumar was the hero of Barsaat. As the film started, he faced some 'ajeeb sa problem' with his wife. Barsaat had already started shooting with Akshay Kumar and Priyanka Chopra. The film was supposed to be shot in one schedule and five days before the schedule. Akshay called me and asked me to meet."



When the duo met, Akshay informed him about a 'blunder' that has happened which resulted in his decision to step down from the film. "Kuch blunder aise ho chuke thay (He did some blunders). Some rumours about Priyanka Chopra and Akshay Kumar started doing the rounds and Twinkle had left his home. As an actor you have to be responsible.

If your wife has been an actress, she knows everything about the industry and she has also worked with all the big stars. She knew everything," the director shared. He clarified that he does not blame Priyanka for the situation. "I don't blame Priyanka Chopra for this. She was doing what was in her own interest," Suneel said. Akshay's exit opened the door for Bobby Deol. The filmmaker shared that Bobby had reached out to him with the interest to work with him. After Akshay's exit, Bobby was roped in for Barsaat. Bobby Deol shared the screen with Priyanka Chopra and Bipasha Basu in Barsaat. The film opened to mixed reviews and had an average box office collection.



Salman Khan's Sister Arpita Khan And Aayush Sharma Sell Bandra Home for Rs 22 Crore; Deets Inside



Salman Khan's sister, Arpita Khan, and her actor husband, Aayush Sharma, are among Bollywood's well-known couples. Recently, the duo made headlines by selling their famous party home in Bandra for a significant sum of Rs 22 crore. Reports suggest that they have now invested in a luxurious new residence in Worli. Their previous Bandra property, which Aayush and Arpita had purchased for Rs 10 crore in 2022, is situated in the upscale Khar West area of Mumbai, as reported by Hindustan Times. Located on the 12th floor of the Flying Carpet skyscraper by Satguru Developers, the Khar apartment spans 1,750 square feet and offers four dedicated parking spaces.

Records indicate that Arpita registered the property on February 4, 2024, paying a stamp duty of Rs 40 lakh, according to documents reviewed by Zapkey. The property, near Bombay Gymkhana, has rental rates ranging from Rs 1.75 lakh to Rs 2 lakh per month. In 2024, they sold their Khar residence for a notable Rs 22 crore, as revealed in a viral social media post. While details about their new Worli home remain under wraps, the couple has not yet made an official announcement. Arpita Khan Sharma and Aayush Sharma tied the knot in 2014 and share two children—son Ahil, born in 2016, and daughter Ayat, born in 2019.

On the work front, Aayush is gearing up for his role in Kwatha, co-starring Isabelle Kaif. The film is inspired by real-life events involving the Indian Army and is directed by Karan Lalit Butani. Aayush is known for his roles in Loveyatri, Antim, and Ruslaan, as well as for his appearances in popular music videos like Chumma Chumma, Manjha, Pehli Pehli Baarish, Tera Hoke Nachda Phira, and Galti. Meanwhile, Salman Khan is currently immersed in filming Sikandar, a project produced by Sajid Nadiadwala and directed by AR Murugadoss. The movie, featuring Rashmika Mandanna, Sharman Joshi, Sathyaraj, and Prateik Babbar, is set for an Eid 2025 theatrical release.

Nimrat Kaur Turns Heads In A Chic Black Gown With Golden Shawl At An Event



Nimrat Kaur is regarded as one of Bollywood's most talented actors, known for her captivating performance alongside Irrfan Khan in The Lunchbox. She has consistently showcased her versatility as an actress. Beyond her acting skills, Nimrat also frequently impresses her fans on social media with her impeccable fashion sense and love for travel, often making headlines. Recently, Nimrat turned heads with her stunning look at a high-profile event in Mumbai.

In a clip shared by the popular paparazzo account Sneha Zala, Nimrat Kaur is seen arriving at the event in a chic black sleeveless gown with a sleek, form-fitting design. She complemented her outfit with a matching black handbag and a traditional shawl adorned with intricate golden floral embroidery draped over one shoulder. Her loose waves and dangling earrings added an extra touch of elegance to her appearance. Nimrat's warm smile and poise as she posed on the red carpet exuded a blend of classic sophistication and contemporary charm. Meanwhile, after the success of the first two seasons of Manoj Bajpayee's The Family Man, fans are eagerly anticipating the third season. Jaideep Ahlawat is set to appear as the antagonist in the upcoming season, and according to a report by Bollywood Bubble, Nimrat Kaur has also joined the cast as a second antagonist. While details about the new villainous roles in The Family Man 3 are being kept under wraps, a source revealed that Bollywood Hungama that Jaideep Ahlawat has begun filming in Nagaland. The specifics of his character remain a mystery, adding to the intrigue surrounding the series.

Nimrat Kaur Turns Heads In A Chic Black Gown With Golden Shawl At An Event, Video Goes Viral; Watch Nimrat Kaur's performance in The Lunchbox garnered her widespread acclaim, paving the way for her roles in the American series Homeland and Wayward Pines. She further established herself with key roles in films like Airlift and Dasvi. In the upcoming season of The Family Man, Manoj Bajpayee's character, Srikanth, faces a significant threat to national security while juggling family duties and attempting to mend his relationship with his wife.