

News box

Students in TN risk lives to clear block in RWH system on school roof

TIRUPPUR. District school education department officials on Monday ordered an inquiry after photos of four students of a government school in Periyakumarapalayam carrying out plumbing work on top of the school building at the behest of some teachers went viral.

Sources said four Class 8 students of the government middle school functioning in Periyakumarapalayam village were seen climbing on to the concrete surface of their school building using a ladder to clear block in the rainwater harvesting pipeline. Seeing this, some villagers took photos and posted them on social media. Subsequently, the Kundadam police conducted an investigation.

A police officer said, "As rainwater was stagnant on the surface of the school building, students climbed up the building to drain the water and remove the blockage in the pipeline. The School Education Department officials conducted an inquiry and have told us that they will send a report to the higher officials in this regard. However, the photos clearly show that the students were cutting the rainwater pipe using a steel blade."

R Prabhakaran, a social activist, said, "Students go to schools to gain knowledge and it is a mistake to involve them in the school's infrastructural works. Such complaints often arise in government schools. It is clear that the students were working without any safety measures. If either of the students fall from the building, who will be responsible? Therefore appropriate action should be taken against the concerned individuals. Instead of students, it is the responsibility of government officials to inspect the school buildings during monsoon."

YouTuber in soup for posting video of wife's delivery in Chennai hospital

CHENNAI. The Directorate of Medical and Rural Health Services is considering filing a police complaint against YouTuber Mohammed Irfan for releasing a video of him cutting the umbilical cord of his newborn girl child in an operation theatre of a private hospital in Chennai.

Irfan shot the video of his wife's delivery and released it on his YouTube channel on October 19. The video was shot in July, covering his wife's hospital stay, and subsequent caesarean section. After the baby was born, the doctor was seen handing over the surgical scissors to the YouTuber who then went on to cut the umbilical cord.

Speaking to , Director of Medical and Rural Health Services Dr J Rajamoorthy said allowing him inside the operation theatre with a camera was a violation of medical ethics and that a show cause notice would be issued to the hospital and the YouTuber. He urged the Tamil Nadu Medical Council to take action against the doctor who conducted the caesarean delivery. "Since he is a third party we can only file a police complaint against him," he added.

The YouTuber in May posted a video in which he revealed the sex of his unborn child. The Directorate had then issued a show cause notice to Irfan for violating certain provisions of the Pre Conception and Pre Natal Diagnostic Techniques, Act 1994. He was let off after he tendered an apology.

Dr K Senthil, former President, of Tamil Nadu Medical Council said doctors should not fall prey to such gimmicks and unscientific requests by couples, mothers, YouTubers and other content creators, as far as medical procedures are concerned.

Cuttack Municipal Corporation braces for cyclone, 7K people to be evacuated

CUTTACK. Even as Cyclone Dana is expected to make a landfall on Thursday night, the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has identified around 81 rehabilitation centres in the city to shift around 7,280 people residing in low-lying slum areas.

This was announced by CMC mayor Subhas Singh during a cyclone preparedness meeting with corporators and officials of all line departments on Monday. He said around 14 sector officers including additional commissioners, joint commissioners and deputy commissioners along with around 500 personnel will monitor and manage the cyclone shelters which will be set up in 72 educational institutions and nine community centres and Kalyan Mandaps.

"We have identified 89 slums located in low-lying areas and planned evacuation of around 7,280 people. Arrangements are being made to provide relief including dry and cooked food at these facilities. This apart, around 16 junior engineers have been tasked with monitoring the dewatering process in waterlogged areas and provisions made to provide drinking water to people of all 59 wards," Singh said.

He said the civic body has a total of 283 pump sets including 15 Volvo pump sets. Besides, the Fire Services department will also be providing another 15 high-power pump sets to tackle the waterlogging situation. "Instructions have been given to start repositioning the pump sets and mobilise operators in low-lying areas prone to waterlogging," the mayor informed.

The meeting also decided to open the sluice gate at Matru Bhawan and Khannagar if necessary. Watco officials will use 94 diesel generator sets to supply drinking water. "NDRF, ODRAF and fire fighters will be deployed to clear roads after the cyclone," he added.

Bengaluru: IMD warns citizens against going out

In another incident, due to the wall of Chitrakoota Residency in Kodigehalli collapsing, water gushed into the cellar of the apartment from the adjacent drain, and was cleared with a pump.

BENGALURU. An orange alert (moderate to heavy rainfall) has been issued for Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, Ramanagara, Ballari and Chitradurga districts. The IMD had issued a yellow alert (light to moderate rain) for some of the districts falling under South Interior Karnataka which includes Bengaluru Urban and Bengaluru Rural districts, up to October 24. This has been upgraded to orange alert.

According to IMD automatic weather station, till 8:30pm Monday, Doddaballapura in Bengaluru Rural recorded 70mm rain. However, Bengaluru city recorded 6.5mm rain. The IMD has warned people from going out during heavy rain, and standing near trees and walls. Meanwhile, in Yelahanka, a 100-ft long section of the compound wall of GKVK campus collapsed, impacting movement at Judicial Layout in the evening.

In another incident, due to the wall of Chitrakoota Residency in Kodigehalli collapsing, water gushed into the cellar of the apartment from the adjacent drain, and was cleared with a pump. Water also reached the basement of Kaiser Residency in the same area, and was being pumped out. According to BBMP, nine houses near Basava Samiti, ten houses in Venkateshamappa Layout, eight houses in MS Palya and one house in Telecom Layout were flooded and officials were getting the water cleared.

61.99mm rain lashes city overnight from Sunday evening to early Monday morning. Bengaluru was flooded with a 61.99mm downpour, prompting Bengaluru Urban Deputy Commissioner to declare a holiday for schools as a precautionary measure. Areas such as Shanthinagar and Yeshwanthpur were particularly affected, with over 25 homes in



Malik Bazaar, Shanthinagar, being inundated due to a swollen stormwater drain.

Frustrated residents noted that during heavy rain, they are forced to pack their bike silencers with plastic covers to prevent water damage, while many park their cars away from their homes. They also alleged that when the area was flooded early in the morning, neither BBMP officials nor elected representatives reached the spot. Officials visited the area only after water receded. Shanthinagar MLA NA Haris, who is also Bengaluru Development

Authority (BDA) chairman, said he was not aware of the morning floods, and since it is a low-lying area, it is prone to flooding during heavy rain. He assured that intensive cleaning of drains is under way.

Residents alleged that only after water receded did the MLA and officials visit the flood-hit area. The situation was similar in Sai Baba Layout in KR Puram, which has been witnessing persistent floods in the past week.

Meanwhile, heavy rain caused recently repaired potholes to resurface, making roads unmotorable once again for pedestrians and motorists. Traffic was also slow in areas like Outer Ring Road, Marathahalli, Silk Board Junction, Hosur Road etc. On Mysuru Road, traffic police covered bad stretches with concrete to facilitate smooth

traffic. Recently, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had stated that road development works will be prioritised once the rainy season concludes.

SUDDEN RAIN HOLIDAY LEAVES SCHOOLS, PARENTS CONFUSED

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru district administration declaring a holiday for schools at the last minute, due to heavy rain on Monday morning, left school management, parents and students in confusion. By the time the announcement went public, many children had already left their homes and reached their schools.

It put parents and children to much inconvenience, as children whose schools start at 8 am had started their journey around 7 am. Also, the holiday declaration left schools in confusion, though some continued to operate as usual.

Cyclone Dana: 72 transit shelters readied in Bhubaneswar for rehabilitation

The civic body has also identified 10 temporary shelters for stray animals. Patil said all zonal deputy commissioners, officials of TPCODL and other line departments have been asked to keep the machinery ready.

BHUBANESWAR . With IMD forecasting landfall of Cyclone Dana on Thursday night, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) on Monday started its preparation to deal with the impact of the tropical storm in the capital city.

Chairing a preparatory meeting, municipal commissioner Rajesh Prabhakar Patil asked officials to keep the 72 transit shelters ready with essential services and adequate food stock for evacuation of people from the low-lying areas. "Dedicated staff will be deployed in these shelters and if needed, more temporary cyclone shelters will be made functional in the city," Patil said. Keeping in view the forecast of heavy rainfall, he asked the drainage wing to keep safety measures

in place and commission pump sets in advance to check waterlogging and urban flooding. A 24x7 control room with helpline number 1929 and 78098



96621 has been made functional, Patil added. The civic body has also identified 10 temporary shelters for stray animals. Patil said all zonal deputy commissioners, officials of TPCODL

and other line departments have been asked to keep the machinery ready. The Watco has also been asked to put measures in place to prevent any disruption in supply of drinking water during the critical period, while health establishments and other essential service providers were also directed to be on alert.

"Puja committees that have not yet dismantled the Durga Puja pandals from the mandaps have been asked to do so in the next two days," the BMC commissioner said. One ODRAF team is on standby in the city for rescue and relief operations, if needed. "We are also in touch with OSDMA in case there is a need to dispatch more rescue teams," a senior BMC official said.

5k contract lecturers await regularisation in Andhra

VIJAYAWADA. Nearly 5,000 contract lecturers, who have been seeking regularisation for over 24 years, continue to face delays despite the passage of the Contract Employees Regularisation Act, 2023. Although the Act was passed in the Assembly on September 27, 2023, and gazetted on October 20, 2023, the regularisation process has been stalled due to the enforcement of the General Election Code.

Under Government Order (GO) MS No. 114, the State government outlined guidelines to regularise contract employees in line with Act 30/2023. Of the 13,671 contract employees identified across 117 government departments, 10,117 were deemed eligible for regularisation. However, over 5,000 contract lecturers serving in junior, degree, and polytechnic colleges are still awaiting their regularisation, which has been delayed by the election restrictions. These lecturers have worked under the contract system since 2000, following GO 142 and 143, and have



been advocating for permanent employment for over two decades. Despite their continuous efforts, only minimal progress has been made, with 3,000 employees from other departments already regularised. Among the lecturers still waiting are 3,618 junior lecturers.

The contract system was officially abolished in 2016, but the State government committed to regularising employees who were in service as of June 2, 2014. The Nidhi Portal under the Finance Department was set up to collect data on eligible employees, but the process for the lecturers remains incomplete. Chairman of the Contract

Lecturers Joint Action Committee (JAC), Kumarakunta Suresh, expressed disappointment over the delay and urged the government to resume the regularisation process.

He mentioned the lecturers' trust in Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who had promised to address this issue during the Prajagalam in Kurnool. The lecturers hope that the new government, which has been in office for five months, will expedite the process. Kalluri Srinivas, Co-Chairman of the JAC, highlighted that HRD Minister N Lokesh has been briefed on the issue, and the file is currently under review by the Advocate General for legal advice. These lecturers have worked under the contract system since 2000, following GO 142 and 143, and have been advocating for permanent employment for over two decades. Despite their continuous efforts, only minimal progress has been made, with 3,000 employees from other departments already regularised. Among the lecturers still waiting are 3,618 junior lecturers.

25 years on, cyclone reignites horrors of devastating storm in Odisha's Gadaharishpur panchayat

One of the worst natural disasters to have hit the country in recent memory, the Super Cyclone had officially claimed close to 10,000 lives and left behind a trail of devastation.

JAGATSINGHPUR. It has almost been 25 years but Narayan Mandal's loss was so profound that the calamitous day flashes in front of his eyes like yesterday. The 58-year-old native of Garia village in Gadaharishpur panchayat had lost 11 of his family members to one giant wave that changed his life forever.

The impending cyclone has only reignited his fears and also of those who survived the 1999 Super Cyclone, particularly in the worst-hit Erasama block.

One of the worst natural disasters to have hit the country in recent memory, the Super Cyclone had officially claimed close to 10,000 lives and left behind a trail of devastation and human misery way beyond description. Mandal survived by tying himself to a tree. His family, which included his



parents, wife, children, and brother's family, had sought refuge on the roof of their asbestos house when a tidal wave hit the dwelling. The house collapsed under the pressure, and everyone

was swept away into oblivion.

Though eligible for a compensation of Rs 75,000 per victim, Narayan received Rs 4.5 lakh for his six deceased family members. After greasing the palms of officials and sharing half of the amount with his sister, he was left with just Rs 2 lakh with which he built a small asbestos house. Now remarried with four children, Mandal's family still struggles to secure a proper home and fears every time a cyclone approaches. His repeated pleas for a house under Indra Awas Yojana have gone unanswered. "The government promised housing and loan assistance 25 years back but the assurances remain unfulfilled," he lamented. In Garia village alone, nearly 110 people died during the 1999 Super Cyclone. Villages like Suakana, Asia and Garia, located

just one km from the sea, still lack cyclone shelters, leaving their 1,200 residents vulnerable to storms. In addition to absence of shelters, the villages suffer from poor road communication and inadequate drinking water facility. Parbati Gudia, sarpanch of Gadaharishpur panchayat, said while nearly 1,000 families are eligible for housing assistance out of 2,700 households, only 300 received the benefit. Several survivors like Mandal have not applied for housing schemes online, leading to their exclusion from government benefits.

Another survivor, 55-year-old Madhusudan Jena of Kankan in Ambiki panchayat lost all his 12 family members. The storm claimed the lives of his parents, wife and children and his home was washed away.

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News box

Trucks with smuggled liquor seized, 2 held

Gurgaon. Police intercepted two trucks at Sohna and Baslambi and seized around 529 cartons of liquor worth Rs 20 lakh being smuggled to Gujarat on Saturday night. Drivers of both trucks were arrested. Crime branch sleuth from Palam Vihar acted on a tip-off provided by an informant and seized a truck loaded with illegal liquor at Sancholi village near Sohna around 10 pm on Saturday. "The crime Branch team seized 240 cartons of liquor from the possession of the accused. A suo motu case was registered under the Excise Act on the complaint of the Crime Branch officials at Sadar Sohna police station on Saturday," said Gurgaon police spokesperson Sandeep. During interrogation, Arif told cops he was tasked with bringing the truck to Gujarat. "An associate of Arif handed over the truck loaded with liquor to him at Sohna. Shortly afterwards, he was arrested in the Sancholi area. We are interrogating the accused to find out the details of others involved in the interstate liquor smuggling racket," an officer said.

Man opens fire at lover's kin, but injures his driver

Gurgaon. A man opened fire at his lover's relative and the bullet hit the latter's driver in Anjana Colony area on Sunday night. The victim's condition is stable, according to police. Accused Kapil, who hails from Motla Khurd area near Najafgarh in Delhi, is on the run. Police said Kapil was in love with a woman from Gurgaon. Her brother-in-law Vicky, who came to know about the affair, "sternly advised his sister-in-law to stay away from Kapil," they said. "As his lover stopped communicating with him, Kapil made personal enquiries and found out that pressure from Vicky was the reason," a Sector 10 official said. "Enraged with Vicky for becoming a hurdle in his love affair, Kapil went to the latter's house in Anjana Colony on Sunday night at around 10.30 pm along with two other associates in a car. Kapil spotted two men standing near Vicky's house and enquired with them about the whereabouts of Vicky," police said. The two men standing outside the house were Vicky's brother, Dinesh alias Monu, and Vicky's driver Amit. "When Kapil asked for Vicky, Monu introduced himself as Vicky's brother and asked Kapil what he wanted from him," police spokesperson Sandeep said, adding, Kapil, who was in the driver's seat of a car, suddenly pulled out a firearm and opened fire at Monu. "Kapil fired five rounds and one of them hit Amit, who was standing next to Monu, who remained unharmed. After firing multiple rounds, the accused sped away," police said. Monu rushed Amit to a nearby private hospital for medical treatment. "The bullet hit Amit's leg. He is undergoing treatment," ACP West Shiv Archan said.

Internal roads to waste management: MLA tells MCG to improve civic infra

Gurgaon. Newly elected Gurgaon MLA Mukesh Sharma laid out his plan to improve civic amenities in the city over the next 100 days in a meeting with MCG officials on Monday. He directed officials to prioritise works to improve sewer lines, roads, water supply, and sanitation. Encroachments from across the city need to be removed, he said, adding that contractors would be held accountable for the lack of adequate manpower and machinery to ensure sanitation. "To make Gurgaon developed, clean, green, beautiful, and better, we all must work like a family. It is crucial that we focus on delivering results rather than seeking recognition," he said during the meeting. Officials must ensure daily garbage collection from colonies and regular cleaning of streets and public spaces, he said. "Making the city clean is my priority. Officials concerned must ensure that garbage is collected daily. A campaign will be launched to raise public awareness about the importance of proper waste segregation," he said. The MLA also pulled up officials over the poor condition of roads, especially in sector 4, 45, 56, and directed them to carry out repairs at the earliest. Future road construction tenders must also include provisions for contractors to maintain them for at least five years after they are made, he said.

Gurudit Singh, 21, Creates History

New Delhi: It is a proud moment not only for Dronacharya Bhupender Dhawan and the team Dronacharya The Gym but also for our country India to note that Gurdit Singh, 21 year old, 1st year student of N.C.P.E pursuing B.P.Ed., has created a history by winning a total of 4 Gold Medals at London Power Challenge UK IPL Qualifier in Junior and in Open Category held on 19-20 October, 2024 in London. With a body weight of 120 kg., Gurdit played in 125 wt. category and lifted a total of 665 kg. and won the best powerlifter in both. Mr.



Dayle Longford - President UKIPL had all praise for this young sports man. Indeed, it is the result of 'Khelo India' programme, initiated by our worthy PM Mr. Narendra Modi, to revive the sports culture in India which focuses on developing sports facilities for athletes to help them achieve their full potential. The golden performance by Gurdit Singh is certainly going to inspire the youngsters to come forward and create a sense of self-confidence in them to build their future career in sports. National and International BodyBuilding and Powerlifting Coach Dronacharya Bhupender Dhawan applauded the performance of Gurdit Singh and blessed him to meet success in his future competitions. He also called upon the youth of India to adopt sports as their career as there is a huge scope in it.

Fire at Bandhwari landfill again, smoke engulfs areas off GCR, SPR

Gurgaon. Thick smoke engulfed areas off Faridabad Road and residential colonies on Golf Course Road (GCR) and Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) on Monday as a fire broke out in Bandhwari landfill, the second in the last 10 days. Three fire engines rushed in to tackle the blaze, which raged on for nearly seven hours. Eleven fires have been reported from the landfill this year, the previous one on Oct 12 when the fire raged on for nearly 48 hours. The civic corporation ascribed the frequent fires to the combustion of methane gas emanating from decomposing waste. "Heat generated during waste processing produces methane that in turn leads to fires. We are actively cutting the methane gas and have stationed fire engines on-site to quickly douse any fires that occur," municipal commissioner Narhari Bangar told TOI. After the Oct 12 fire, MCG had deployed staffers — three shifts of 8 hours each — for the site's round-the-clock surveillance. Additional commissioner Balpreet Singh had then said that the staff



members would be penalised if there were any more fires. Residents of several nearby villages including Bandhwari, Mangar, Dera, Mandi, Gwal Pahari, Baliawas, Kadarpur, Behrampur and Ghata, meanwhile, complained about irritation in eyes, nose and throat, nausea, and other respiratory difficulties due to the toxic haze. "The recurrent fires at Bandhwari make life in these villages miserable. Villagers, young and old, have been grappling with respiratory problems due to the proximity to the landfill. There is a pressing need to

enhance waste management practices. Meticulous segregation of waste at source and efficient processing is pivotal in preventing such fires," Bandhwari sarpanch Harbir Harsana said. A recent affidavit, submitted by the MGC to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), revealed nearly 9.6 lakh metric tonnes of waste in the landfill are lying unprocessed. Additionally, 2,200 tonnes of waste are transported daily from Gurgaon and Faridabad and dumped at the site. In the three months, between June and Aug, the MCG's waste processing agency managed to treat approximately 4,000 metric tonnes (MT) of waste daily, compared to 8,000 MT in May. Environmentalists have advocated for measures such as segregation of waste at source, efficient waste processing and alternative waste management facilities to alleviate the burden on the landfill. Green activist Vaishali Rana suggested a drone survey and ground truthing of garbage mounds to evaluate the magnitude of the problem.

HC upholds Rs157cr fine on 24 units for flouting pollution rules

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 peaaHC upholds Rs157cr fine on 24 units for flouting pollution rules 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.

7 homes sealed in Gurgaon's DLF-1 for illegal construction

Gurgaon. A DTPE team sealed seven houses in DLF-1 during a crackdown on illegal constructions. The operation, led by DTPE Manish Yadav, took place in A-Block Extension and B-Block, where multiple residential properties reportedly carried out unauthorised modifications after obtaining occupancy certificates. The sealing drive covered four houses in Lane A-48, two in Lane A-27 and one in B-Block. These properties were under scrutiny following numerous complaints from local residents. "This action is part of an ongoing effort to curb illegal constructions across the city. More inspections and enforcements have been planned for the near future," Yadav said. The complaints highlighted illegal construction activities, including filling cut-out areas, violating zoning regulations by installing grills and building rooms for domestic staffers in stilt parking areas. A resident from DLF Phase 1, Rajiv Mehra, said, "We have been complaining about these violations for months. These illegal constructions not only spoil the aesthetics of the area but also create safety hazards. It's high time the authorities took action." Before the sealing, the property owners were served with show-cause notices and restoration orders, giving them ample time to remove the illegal constructions. However, none of the owners complied with the orders, leading to the enforcement action on Monday. The sealed structures extended beyond the permissible limits, with illegal rooms and modifications that violated the town planning guidelines. Another resident, Neha Batra,

Industry for Narbir and revenue for Goel: NCR MLAs get key portfolios

Gurgaon. South Haryana MLAs have been allotted major portfolios, including revenue, health, environment, forest, urban local bodies and industries, in the Saini-led BJP govt. The region, which has remained a BJP fortress since 2014, has six ministers in the cabinet — three from NCR and one each from Palwal, Mahendergarh and Bhiwani. While Badshapur MLA Rao Narbir Singh has been appointed the minister

contributes around 65% of the state's revenue, appointment of Narbir as industries and commerce minister is expected to alleviate concerns being flagged by industries on poor infrastructure and erratic power supply. "We will try to resolve problems of existing industries and invite new players to set up their base. For job creation, we need a network of industries," said Narbir while talking to TOI. Health minister Arti will mark her

work and initiate new projects to improve the health infrastructure." Faridabad MLA Vipul Goel has been assigned the departments of revenue and disaster management, urban local bodies and civil aviation. Shrutika Choudhary, MLA from Tosham, has been appointed the minister for women and child development, irrigation and water resources. Also, Rajesh Nagar and Gaurav Gautam have been appointed ministers of state with

Gzb MP files plaint against Cong rival for defamation

Ghaziabad. Ahead of bypolls to be announced for Ghaziabad assembly seat, BJP MP Atul Garg on Sunday filed a defamation case against Congress spokesperson Dolly Sharma, whom he had defeated in the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year, for allegations she had raised against him months ago. Garg said Sharma accused him of grabbing land and being part of an education mafia. Police said an FIR was registered at the Kavinagar police station against Sharma, a local journalist and an unidentified person under BNS sections 500 (defamation), 501 (printing defamatory material), 504 (intentional insult), and 120B (criminal conspiracy) and provisions of IT Act. The MP told TOI on Monday, "Never have I been subjected to accusations that were levelled against me by Dolly Sharma, who was contesting on a Congress ticket from the seat. I was called a land grabber and education mafia by Dolly Sharma in a press conference and on many occasions during campaigning."

NAME CHANGE: I, PRAKASH KAUR W/O SATVINDER SINGH residing at B-40, GALI NO-2, EAST WIND NAGAR, DELHI-110091. Declare that PRAKASH KAUR is only my given name and no any surname. NAME CHANGE: I, Harish Lal Sah S/o Banshi Lal Sah R/o G-1103, Haveli Valencia Homes, Near Bishrakh Square Sector - 1, Greater Noida West Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh have changed my name to Harish Sah for all future purposes. PUBLIC NOTICE: MY CLIENTS SANKAR LAL MAHNOT AND HIS WIFE MANJU DEVI MAHNOT BOTH R/O C-4224, PKT C-4, SECTOR-6, ROHINI, DELHI-110085, HAVE SEVERED ALL THEIR RELATIONS AND DEBAR THEIR SONS SANDEEP MAHNOT AND HIS WIFE AASTHA MAHNOT, ASHWIN MAHNOT AND HIS WIFE NISHIKA, ARIHANT MAHNOT FROM ALL THEIR MOVABLE-IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES DUE TO THEIR MISCONDUCT AND MISBEHAVIOUR. IF ANYBODY DEALING WITH THEM, HE/SHE/THEY WILL DO SO AT HIS/HER/THEIR OWN RISK AND CONSEQUENCES. MY CLIENTS WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ANY ACTS AND DEEDS IN FUTURE. NITIN CHAWLA ADVOCATE CHAMBER NO. 402, WESTERN WING, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI

NAME CHANGE: I, Aqueel Ahmed S/o Fateh Mohammad R/o H.No.B-588, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Aqeel Ahmed. NAME CHANGE: I, Davender Pal Singh S/o Gurcharan Singh R/o A-88, Preet Vihar, East Delhi, Delhi - 110092 have changed my name to Davinder Pal Singh for all future purposes. NAME CHANGE: I, Nawal Kishor S/o Chander Bhan R/o House No-320, Sector-31, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Nawal Kishor Sharma For All Future Purpose. NAME CHANGE: I, Sumitra Jena/Sumitra Rani Dhal/Sumita W/o Pradep Jena R/o 1270, 1st Floor, C2-Block, Near Blossoms School, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana-12017. Have Changed My Name To Sumitra Dhal For All Future Purpose. NAME CHANGE: It is for general information that I, D VAISHNAVI D/O DHARM BIR R/O E-205,206, KHYALA DDA COLONY PHASE-2, TILAK NAGAR, RAJOURI GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as DHARMVEER in my 10th and 12th class educational documents and Graduation certificate. The actual name of my father is DHARM BIR, which may be amended accordingly. NOTICE: Public at large is hereby informed that Smt. Mamta w/o Sh. Rakesh who is the owner of Freehold Residential Unit Bearing No. B-9 on Second Floor (Back RHS Portion), Having Super Area Measuring 700 Sq. Ft. Built-Up Property Bearing No. 96, Land Area Measuring 250 Sq. Yrds., Comprised in Kharsa No. 1151/3Min, Situated in Block B, Shaloom Apartment, in the Abadi of Lal Dora of Village Mehrauli, Tehsil Mehrauli New Delhi - 30. Vide Sale Deed executed by Mr. B. C. Rajwar s/o Mr. Nar Bahadur Chand in favour of Mrs. Mamta w/o Mr. Rakesh in respect of the said property. Regd. vide Doc. No. 3540, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 3426 on pages 54 to 64, Regd. on 25.08.2020 at SRO - V A, Hauz Khas. That original Sale Deed executed by Mr. Yogender Singh s/o Mr. Nar Bahadur Chand in favour of Mr. B. C. Rajwar s/o Mr. Nar Bahadur Chand in respect of the said property. Vide doc. No. 9452, Book No. 1, Vol. No. 10197 on pages 18 to 24, Regd. on 01.06.2010 at SRO - V A, Hauz Khas. Was lost on 01/01/2023 duly reported to police as per police complaint dated 22/10/2024 in the police station Crime Branch, Delhi bearing LR No: 2233854/2024. If anyone found the same may return to undersigned and if the same is misused shall be at his/her own risk. That my client intends to sell the said property to intending purchaser who shall mortgage the said immovable property for her bonafide requirements to Aadhar Housing Finance Ltd. Whosoever is having any objection to the said mortgage or anyone has claim or right or interest in the property shall contact the undersigned with the objection within 07 days failing which it shall be presumed that there stands no objections. NEW DELHI DATE: 22/10/2024 PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE Enrl. No. D/721/02 Office: L-27,GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48 Mob.: 9968006418

NAME CHANGE: I, SAVITA W/O MAHENDER SINGH R/o M.C.D. Flat-73, Rohini, Sector-3, Near Balmeek Mandir, Rohini, North West Delhi-110085, declare that name of my husband and my minor daughter have been wrongly written as MAHINDER RANA and PARI RANA in my minor daughter PARI DHILLOD aged 14 years in her School Record. The actual name of my husband and my minor daughter are MAHENDER SINGH and PARI DHILLOD respectively. NAME CHANGE: I, Gaurav S/o Sarvjeet Singh R/o Shed No-100B, Phase-6, Near Water Tank, Sector-37, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001. Have Changed My Name To Gaurav Singh For All Future Purpose. PUBLIC NOTICE: It is for general information that I, Mohan Lal S/o KISHAN SWROOP VERMA R/O H. No. -C-2, Block -A-3, Hari Enclave, Part -1, Kirari Suleman Nagar, PO: Sultampur C Block, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi - 110086 declared the name of mine has been wrongly written as MOHAN LAL VERMA in my minor daughter NOMIKA aged 15 year in her school record the actual name of mine is MOHAN LAL respectively which may be amended accordingly. PUBLIC NOTICE: Be it know to all that my client Mr. Desraj S/o Madan Lal and Mrs. Beena W/o Desraj R/o RZ-A1-26B, Vijay Enclave, South West Delhi, Delhi, 110045 hereby debarred and disowned his son Sh. Vishal Singhal from his all moveable and immovable property as he is disrespectful, cruel and not obedient towards my client therefore he has severed with all relation with them. Anybody deals with them shall be at their/his/her own risks, costs and responsibility for which my client shall not be responsible. Now onwards he Cease to be his legal heir for all purposes whatsoever. SANJA SHARMA, ADVOCATE E-mail: vanya2914@gmail.com Phone 93548 16896 PUBLIC NOTICE: It is for general information that I, Ravinder kaur W/O: Jasmeet Singh R/O A-1148, Lajpat Nagar-1, Lajpat Nagar, Delhi-110024, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written Jasnoor Kaur in my minor daughter Harisamr Kaur aged 17 years in her 10th class educational document. The actual name of mine is Ravinder Kaur, which may be amended accordingly. PUBLIC NOTICE: This is to inform the general public that Smt. Raj Bal Sharma is the owner of Property Bearing No. 209 area measuring 3 Marie Out of Kharsa No. 820, 21 Situated at Waka Moja Gaurdi Tehsil-Balalagarh Dist. Faridabad Haryana through Sale Deed dated 28.12.1989 regd. as doc. No. 4678 executed by Sh. Bhopal & Sh. Brij pal through GPA Sh. Lalit Kumar in favour of Smt. Raj Bal Sharma. The above-said owner has misplaced the (1) Original GPA, ATS and Will dated 08.12.1989 executed by Sh. Bhopal & Sh. Brij pal in favour of Sh. Lalit Kumar in respect of the said Property, GPA regd. as Doc No. 5825, Application No.-132250032401137, also registered at P.S. Ballalagarh City, Faridabad. Anyone who finds the above-mentioned documents, kindly handover the same to the Manager of Tata Capital Ltd, F12, 1st Floor Dasmesh Niwasi Preet Vihar Vikas Marg New Delhi 110092. Smt. Raj Bal Sharma is in the process of mortgaging the said property with Tata Capital Ltd. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of my client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-18, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +91020-3101683; E-mail: accounts@vorth.in

सार्वजनिक सूचना

सर्वसाधारण को सूचित किया जाता है कि यमुना एक्सप्रेस-वे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण के एलएफ00डी परियोजना के अन्तर्गत आवंटित भवन / भूखण्ड सं 0-085, YAMUNA VIHAR PLOT AT JAYPEE GREEN SPORT CITY EAST, YEIDA, G.B.NAGAR, SECTOR-22, AREA-175 SQM जोकि MR. YOG RAJ MAHAJAN & MRS. SANTOSH MAHAJAN के नाम पर सबलौज डीड है। सबलैसो LATE MR. YOG RAJ MAHAJAN & LATE MRS. SANTOSH MAHAJAN को मृत्यु उपरान्त उक्त सम्पत्ति का सम्पूर्ण भाग को पुत्र MR. ANURAAG MAHAJAN के पक्ष में नामांतरण किये जाने हेतु प्राधिकरण में आवेदन किया गया है। अतः इस नामांतरण (Death Mutation) के सम्बन्ध में किसी को कोई आपत्ति है तो प्रकाशन कि तिथि से 35 दिनों के भीतर अपनी लिखित आपत्ति प्राधिकरण कार्यालय में दर्ज कराने का कष्ट करें, अन्यथा निम्नाम्नसार प्राधिकरण अभिलेखों में MR. YOG RAJ MAHAJAN & MRS. SANTOSH MAHAJAN के सम्पूर्ण भाग को उनके पुत्र MR. ANURAAG MAHAJAN के नाम पर दर्ज कर दिया जायेगा। प्रबन्धक (सम्पत्ति) यमुना एक्सप्रेसवे औद्योगिक विकास प्राधिकरण प्रथम तल, कामेशिलक कामप्लेक्स, ब्लाक पी 2, सैक्टर ओमोंगा 1, ग्रेटर नोएडा, पिन कोड-201308, जिला- गौतमबुद्धनगर ३०३० दूरभाष नं. -0120-2395150

News box

Pak man kills mother, sister, 2 female relatives over their 'liberal' lifestyle

Karachi. A Pakistani man slaughtered four female members of his family, including his mother and sister, for their "liberal" lifestyle and using social media, police said here on Monday. Bilal Ahmed was arrested on Saturday and produced before a court on Monday which remanded him to police custody. During the hearing, Ahmed told the court that he slit the throats of his mother, sister, niece, and sister-in-law because their "liberal" lifestyle had damaged his marriage and also they used to always nag him. "It is an open and shut case of Bilal being mentally unstable and ultra-conservative," investigating police officer Shaikat Awan said. The bodies of the four women were found in their apartment in Karachi's old Soldier Bazar area on Saturday with their throats slit. "During the investigation, it came to light that Bilal used to have daily fights with the women and he used to blame them and their 'liberal' lifestyle for his wife leaving him as she was a religious person," Awan said. He said Bilal was upset at the four women for using social media. He was also upset with his sister and niece for posting pictures and videos of themselves on social media accounts. Bilal told police that he initially wanted to "teach his sister a lesson" but later realised that he couldn't leave any eye-witnesses so he slaughtered all the four women.

Hamas to be led by Doha-based committee, no chief to succeed Yahya Sinwar: Report

World A five-member Hamas committee based in Doha, which was formed in August following the assassination of former political chief Ismail Haniyeh, will "take over leadership" of the Palestinian militant group, a media report citing sources said. Hamas decided to appoint the committee instead of choosing a single leader to succeed Yahya Sinwar, the group's former chief who was killed by Israeli troops in Gaza last week, a source told AFP. In 2017, Sinwar was named the Hamas chief in Gaza. The mastermind of the October 2023 Hamas attack against Israel, he became the group's overall leader after Haniyeh's death. Iran and Hamas have blamed Israel for killing Haniyeh in Tehran on July 31, but there has been no comment or confirmation from the Jewish nation. The Hamas leadership did not want to appoint anyone to succeed the former chief, at least until the group's next elections scheduled to be held in March 2025 "if conditions permit", the source said. The committee, which also took important decisions in the wake of Sinwar going into hiding before his death, comprises representatives Khalil al-Haya for Gaza, Zaher Jabarin for the West Bank, and Khaled Mashaal for Palestinians abroad. It also includes the head of Hamas's Shura advisory council Mohammed Darwish and the secretary of the political bureau, who is never identified for security reasons, the source told AFP. All the five members are currently based in Qatar. The committee has been "tasked with governing the movement during the war and exceptional circumstances, as well as its future plans", the source said, adding that it is also authorised to "make strategic decisions".

Confirming Sinwar's death, Hamas official Khalil al-Haya said in a video statement on October 18 that the militant group was

Five found dead in shooting at home in Washington, teen in custody: Police



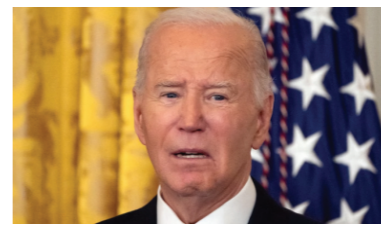
FALL CITY. Five people of a family were killed in a shooting inside a home in southeast of Seattle on Monday morning and took a teenager into custody, police said. Upon information on a shooting in Fall City, Washington, King County, police went to the spot and took a teen into custody while another teenager who had been hurt was taken to a Seattle hospital, Sheriff's Office spokesperson Mike Mellis said at a media briefing on Monday afternoon. Out of the five deceased, two were adults and three were young teenagers. Meanwhile, Police have not released the names of the deceased and the accused. "The shooting appears to involve members of a family, but we are yet to find out the relation between them. I have no reason to think that there will be any additional arrests," Mike Mellis said. A neighbour told KING-TV that a couple and their five children lived in the home. "I'm just in total shock, I keep bursting into tears, Lynne Trowern, told the media outlet. Another neighbour Sheriff Patricia Cole-Tindall told the media persons that she was very sad, very disturbed to learn about the shooting.

Biden concerned over illegal release of classified documents on Israel attack plan

The Biden administration is still not certain if the classified information was leaked or hacked, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said, adding that officials don't have any indication at this point of "additional documents like this finding their way into the public domain".

Washington. US President Joe Biden is "deeply concerned" about the unauthorised release of classified documents on Israel's preparation for a potential retaliatory attack on Iran, a White House spokesman said on Monday. The Biden administration is still not certain if the classified information was leaked or hacked, White House national security spokesman John Kirby said. Officials don't have any indication at this point of "additional documents like this finding their way into the public domain", he said. Kirby added that the Pentagon is investigating. US officials on Saturday had confirmed an investigation by the administration. "We're deeply concerned, and the President remains deeply concerned about any leakage of classified information into the public domain. That is not supposed to happen, and it's unacceptable when it does," Kirby said. The documents are attributed to the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

and National Security Agency, and note that Israel was still moving military assets in place to conduct a military strike in response to Iran's blistering ballistic missile attack on October 1. They were sharable within the "Five Eyes", an intelligence alliance comprised of the US, Great Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia. Marked top secret, the documents first appeared online Friday on the Telegram messaging app and quickly spread among Telegram channels popular with Iranians. Analysts at the SITE Intelligence Group, a consultancy that monitors and analyses online threats from extremist groups, tracked the release of the documents to a Telegram channel popular with Iran-backed militias. The channel contained posts from an anonymous user with a long history of posting other supposedly top-secret content who said they had access to the leaked documents. The user also wrote that they had sold some of the material and provided it to the Iranian military.



The release comes at a pivotal time in the Middle East, as Israel considers its response to Iran's attack. "The smallest item -- even something like the leak of this relatively innocuous document -- could move things in new directions," said Rita Katz, SITE's co-founder and executive director. Rep. Mike Turner of Ohio, the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said the unauthorised release of the information was concerning, especially given the "high stakes of what's going on in the Middle East right now". While it remains possible the information was obtained through hacking, "if this has been a leak, it is criminal,

and it is certainly espionage", Turner said Monday on the BBC. The Telegram channel identifies itself as being based in Tehran, Iran's capital. It previously published memes featuring Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and material in support of Tehran's self-described "Axis of Resistance", which includes Middle East militant groups armed by the Islamic Republic. One of the two documents resembled the style of other material from the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency leaked by Jack Teixeira, an Air National Guardsman who pleaded guilty in March to leaking highly classified military documents about Russia's war on Ukraine and other national security secrets. The US has urged Israel to take advantage of its elimination of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar and press for a ceasefire in Gaza and has likewise urgently cautioned Israel not to further expand military operations in the north of Lebanon and risk a wider regional war.

Liam Payne had 'pink cocaine' in his system at time of death: Toxicology report

Los Angeles. Pop star Liam Payne had multiple drugs including crack cocaine and methamphetamine in his system when he fell to his death from a hotel balcony in Argentina, according to initial toxicology reports cited by US media on Monday.



The British singer and former One Direction member died last week at the age of 31, after plunging from a third-floor hotel room in Buenos Aires. ABC News and TMZ said a cocktail of drugs called "pink cocaine" -- containing methamphetamine, ketamine and MDMA -- had been found during a partial autopsy, citing anonymous sources familiar with the preliminary tests. Crack cocaine and benzodiazepine were also listed. An "improvised aluminium pipe to ingest drugs" was also found in the room, ABC reported. Payne -- who was found

dead after staff called emergency services twice to report a guest "overwhelmed by drugs and alcohol" was "destroying" a hotel room -- had spoken publicly about struggles with substance abuse and coping with fame from an early age. Post-mortem results indicated that he was alone at the time of the fall and "was going through an episode of substance abuse", prosecutors had previously said. The singer suffered "multiple traumas" and

"internal and external haemorrhaging", they said. The Clarin newspaper published photos last week of what it said was the interior of Payne's room, with white powder visible on a table next to a piece of aluminium foil and a lighter. The pictures also showed a television with a broken screen. The prosecutor's office said substances that appeared to be "narcotics and alcoholic beverages" had been found in the room, amid pieces of broken furniture and other objects. A hotel employee suspected of providing Payne with drugs on the day he died has been interviewed by officials, but not arrested or charged, local police told ABC News. Payne was a member of One Direction, the hugely successful pop group whose fame began in 2010 on the British television talent contest "The X Factor".

Peru ex-President Toledo convicted of corruption, sentenced to 20 years in jail

Lima Peruvian former President Alejandro Toledo was convicted of taking bribes from Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht and sentenced to 20 years and six months in prison on Monday. The verdict marks Peru's first high-profile conviction related to Brazil's continent-spanning Lava Jato corruption scandal. Toledo, a 78-year-old economist who holds a doctorate from Stanford University, governed the Andean nation between 2001 and 2006. He was convicted of taking \$35 million in bribes from the company formerly known as Odebrecht, according to prosecutors, in exchange for letting it win a contract to build the road that now connects Peru's



southern coast with an Amazonian area in western Brazil. During the year-long trial, Toledo denied the money-laundering and collusion charges. Odebrecht, now known as Novonor, was at the centre of Latin America's largest graft scandal, after admitting in 2016 that it bribed officials in a dozen countries to secure public works contracts. Last week, Toledo asked the court to let him serve his sentence at home as he battles cancer. "Please let me heal or die at home," he said. The sentence was announced in a room set up in a small Lima prison where Toledo has been detained since last year. Former President Pedro Castillo is also being held there as he faces allegations of "rebellion" after trying to dissolve Congress in 2022. Two other ex-presidents, Pedro Pablo Kuczynski and Ollanta Humala, are also being investigated in the Odebrecht case. Toledo, who famously shined shoes as a child, was arrested in the US in 2019 after officials in Peru requested his extradition. Prosecutors relied on testimony from former Odebrecht executive Jorge Barata as well as Toledo's ex-collaborator Josef Maiman, who said Toledo received bribes. The former president signed the contract with Odebrecht for the construction of the road, though building it took place over two subsequent administrations.

US elections 2024: Indian American Republican leaders slam Kamala Harris on policy issues

After keeping a low profile and initially being on the other side of the Trump campaign, Jindal is now back in action supporting former president Bobby Jindal on his policies.



WASHINGTON. Three Indian American Republican leaders -- Bobby Jindal, Nikki Haley and Vivek Ramaswamy -- have slammed Vice President Kamala Harris, who is running for president on the Democratic ticket, over her allegedly flawed immigration, economic and foreign policies. Former Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal in a video, which is being run as an advertisement on social media, has claimed that Harris' Medicare plan will give 12 million illegal immigrants "gold-plated" healthcare. "It will flood the US with more illegal immigrants," Jindal said in a video released by America First Policy Institute, a political action committee. "Don't let your families and friends fall for the lies."

Jindal, 53, was the Louisiana Governor from 2008 to 2016. In 2016 he unsuccessfully tried his luck in the Republican presidential race. After keeping a low profile and initially being on the other side of the Trump campaign, Jindal is now back in action supporting former president Bobby Jindal on his policies. Besides Jindal, former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley and businessman-turned-politician Vivek Ramaswamy have run for the presidency. Jindal ran in 2016 and the other two in the 2024 election cycle. Now all three have endorsed Trump for the presidency. Ramaswamy has emerged as the close confidant of Trump and has been campaigning in his favour. In an interview

with Fox News on Monday, Haley said, "When I look at the issues and the differences between the two candidates, there is no question that I want to see Donald Trump win this election." "We cannot have Kamala Harris and Tim Walz. All you have to do is to look at what Kamala Harris has said. She does not think illegal immigrants are illegal. She thinks that we should give them free education, free place to live, free healthcare," she said. Haley claimed that Harris and her running mate Walz does not have foreign policy experience. "The experience that they do have is expanding the Iran deal and giving more money to a terrorist organization that says death to America. There are a lot of differences there...we need to hope that Donald Trump wins this election," she said. In a newly launched podcast on SiriusXM, Haley said the current presidential poll is "shaping up to be the tightest election this century". However, of the three Indian American leaders, Ramaswamy has emerged as the harshest critic of Harris. He has been campaigning in favour of Trump across the country.

Antony Blinken in Israel to revive Gaza ceasefire talks after Yahya Sinwar's death

Blinken's latest trip -- his 11th to the region since Palestinian Hamas militants attacked southern Israel on October 7 triggering the Gaza war -- comes as the Israeli military has intensified its campaign in the Palestinian enclave as well as in Lebanon against Iran-aligned Hezbollah militia.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken arrives in Israel on Tuesday, the first stop of a wider Middle East tour aimed at reviving Gaza ceasefire talks and discussing the enclave's future following the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, but any breakthrough ahead of the looming US election looks elusive. The top US diplomat's latest trip -- his 11th to the region since Palestinian Hamas militants attacked southern Israel on October 7 triggering the Gaza war -- comes as the Israeli military has intensified its campaign in the Palestinian enclave as well as in

Lebanon against Iran-aligned Hezbollah militia. Blinken's planned week-long trip, which will include a stop in Jordan on Wednesday and Doha, also comes as the region braces for Israel's response to Iran's October 1 ballistic missile attack on Israel. The retaliation could disrupt oil markets and risks igniting a full-blown war between the arch-enemies. On Gaza, Blinken will focus discussions on how to end the war, plans for the enclave after the fighting ends and how to improve humanitarian assistance, said a senior State Department official,

speaking on condition of anonymity. Last week, Blinken and US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin wrote to Israeli officials demanding concrete measures to address the worsening situation in Gaza, or face potential restrictions on US military aid. The official said that in his meetings with Israel and Arab countries, Blinken will drill down on "day after" issues, particularly security, governance and reconstruction. Having detailed plans for each of these has been seen as prerequisite for achieving any lasting resolution to the conflict. The Secretary of State

will also discuss with Israel and other countries how to secure a diplomatic resolution to the conflict with Hezbollah, and will continue Washington's conversation with the Israelis about their expected response to Iran's missile attack, said the official. **BREAKTHROUGH "HARD TO IMAGINE"** Experts say Hamas and Israel remain deeply at odds and are unlikely to make significant concessions before the November 5 US presidential election, which could upend US policy.

China holds live-fire drills opposite Taiwan, week after large-scale exercise

TAIPEI. China is holding live-fire drills off the coast of its southern Fujian province facing Taiwan, just a week after a massive air-and-sea drill it called punishment for Taiwan's president rejecting Beijing's claims of sovereignty. The live fire drills were being held near the Pingtan islands off Fujian province from 9am to 1pm, according to a notice from the Maritime Safety Administration. It warned ships to avoid the area. It did not offer additional details. Taiwan's defense ministry said China's drills were part of an annual exercise and was tracking them. "It cannot be ruled out that it is one of the ways to expand the deterrent effect in line with the dynamics in the Taiwan Strait," the statement added. Taiwan is a self-ruled island that Beijing claims is part of China. Tensions around the issue has flared in recent years. China has increased its presence in the waters

and skies around Taiwan. It now increasingly sends large amounts of warplanes and navy vessels in military exercises near Taiwan and its coast guard carries out patrols. Last week, China held a one-day military exercise aimed at practicing the "sealing off of key ports and key areas." Taiwan counted a record one-day total of 153 aircraft, 14 navy vessels, and 12 Chinese government ships. In response to Chinese moves, the US has continued to host what it calls "freedom of navigation" transits through the Taiwan Strait. On Sunday, the destroyer USS Higgins and the Canadian frigate HMCS Vancouver transited the narrow band of ocean that separates China and Taiwan. Germany sent two warships through the Taiwan Strait last month as it seeks to increase its defense engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.



News box

Cong leadership stands by Patole as he takes on UBT

Mumbai. Contrary to Congress culture and style, 62-year-old Nana Patole has emerged as a new firebrand leader within the party. Ever since MVA's meetings on seat-sharing began a month ago, most Congress leaders maintained a low profile. But MPCC president Nana Patole proved an exception when he took on UBT Sena MP Sanjay Raut over the seat-sharing formula, particularly over seats in the Vidarbha region and a few seats in Mumbai.

Unexpectedly, Patole warned Raut "not to consider himself as Uddhav Thackeray." This was followed by a tit-for-tat between Patole and Raut. It was toned down following the intervention of AICC general secretary Ramesh Chennithala, who knocked at the doors of Uddhav Thackeray and NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar.

For most of his political career, Patole kept a low profile, but he shot into the limelight when he took on PM Modi at a meeting of BJP MPs. Patole, as BJP MP, launched an attack against the BJP for its "anti-farmer" policies. For him the biggest distinction was that in the 2014 LS elections, he defeated Praful Patel from the Bhandara-Gondia seat.

Following his differences with the BJP leadership, he quit LS and rejoined the Congress. For a brief period, he was speaker of assembly; he later resigned, but his dream of becoming cabinet member did not materialise. Later he was appointed MPCC president. Despite attempts to remove him, he managed to stay owing to the party's success in a series of elections. Congress also won elections to the graduates constituency from Amravati and Nagpur and the Pune assembly by-election. For Patole, his biggest achievement so far has been that while he has taken a stand against UBT Sena, the AICC has stood by him.

Blackmailed into paying 1cr over 30 yrs, banker ends life

Ahmedabad. After paying Rs 1 crore for 30 years to a woman who threatened to falsely accuse him of rape, a 72-year-old retired banker killed himself by consuming poison at his home on Oct 15, said Chandkheda police on Sunday.

The deceased's son, who is also a banker, said in his FIR that his father retired around 15 years ago, while his mother retired around 10 years ago. "On the morning of Oct 15, the complainant's mother telephoned him, saying his father had locked himself in his room and was not saying anything. The complainant and his wife rushed to his father's house and forced the door open. He found that his father unconscious and rushed the latter to a private hospital where he was declared dead," stated the complainant.

The complainant said that his father had left a suicide note in which he accused a woman from Adalaj and her family members of extorting money from him. "He stated in the suicide note that the woman had been blackmailing him for the past 30 years by threatening to implicate him in a rape case. According to the note, he had paid at least Rs 1 crore to her and her family during this period," the complainant told police.

The complainant's father also mentioned details of the bank accounts belonging to the woman and her family members into which he had paid the money. The deceased's suicide note also stated that the woman and her family had abused and harassed him to the extent that he was being forced to end his life. Chandkheda police registered a case of abetment to suicide and abetment against the woman and her five family members.

62-year-old woman dies during PCB raid in Amraiwadi

Ahmedabad. A 62-year-old woman living in the Shivanandnagar locality of the Amraiwadi area of the city died due to a possible cardiac arrest following an alleged scuffle with cops from the Prevention of Crime Branch (PCB) during a raid on Monday.

The Amraiwadi police registered a case of accidental death and began an inquiry into the case. The PCB is a unit that directly comes under police commissioner G S Malik. Amraiwadi police inspector D V Hadat said that the deceased was identified as Ramila Darbar, whose house was raided during the early hours of Monday.

"PCB cops got a tip-off that a resident of Shivanandnagar named Hitesh Darbar was allegedly selling liquor from his house. They came to know that a huge stock of liquor had been unloaded at his home, following which a team raided Hitesh's house," said Hadat. He said that the PCB did not find anything during the raid, but Hitesh's mother, Ramila, was allegedly traumatised.

"When the cops were at her house, she suffered severe chest pain and collapsed. She was rushed to a hospital where she was declared brought dead," said Hadat. He said that Hitesh was caught in connection to prohibition cases twice and was also booked under the Prevention of Anti-Social Activities (PASA) Act around five months ago. On the protest over Ramila's death, Hadat said, "Her family had made a representation against police excesses, but the issue was sorted out. They cremated her body on Monday afternoon." CCTV footage around Hitesh's house showed four PCB cops entering the dwelling and searching for liquor.

Is HR&CE empowered to interfere in Podhu Dikshitar panel affairs: Madras High Court

Justice M Dhandapani raised the question while hearing a petition filed by one of the Dikshitar, Nadaraja Dikshitar, regarding his suspension from the committee.



CHENNAI. Madras High Court on Monday questioned whether the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department is empowered to interfere in the affairs of the Podhu Dikshitar Committee of Chidambaram Natarajar Temple in Cuddalore district.

Justice M Dhandapani raised the question while hearing a petition filed by one of the Dikshitar, Nadaraja Dikshitar, regarding his suspension from the committee.

The committee suspended Nadaraja Dikshitar in 2022 on the allegations of

causing disturbances in the temple, following which he approached the HR&CE department. The joint commissioner of the department issued an order revoking the suspension but the committee did not accept it. Seeking orders for his reinstatement, he approached the court. When the counsel for secretary of Podhu Dikshitar Committee, advocate Harishankar, pointed that the department lacked powers to interfere with the affairs of the committee because it represents their community, the judge asked the special government pleader for HR&CE NRR Arun Natarajan of the source of power for interfering with the Committee's affair.

He replied that under section 56 of the HR&CE Act, the department is empowered to interfere. But Harishankar contended that the section is not applicable to the committee. However, the judge said the question on the powers of the department is left open as a similar matter is pending with a special division bench for temple-related cases.

The judge closed the petition filed by Nadaraja Dikshitar since the one year period of suspension had lapsed.

Feeder bus service from SBR parking complex inaugurated

Ahmedabad. A foot overbridge on Airport Road and a feeder bus service from the multi-level parking complex on Sindhu Bhavan Road were inaugurated on Tuesday.

In the morning, chief minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the feeder bus service that starts from the Sindhu Bhavan Road multilevel parking



complex, passes through Thaltej Metro Station and Pakwan Circle and goes up to Mansi Tower. Meanwhile, Mayor Pratibha Jain inaugurated the foot overbridge near the gate of Hanuman

Camp Temple on Airport Road. This overbridge heads towards Airport Circle from Shahibaug Dafnala and was inaugurated in the evening. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation constructed the foot overbridge on Airport Road at a cost of Rs 2.35 crore. It is equipped with stairs and elevators on both sides.

Saptak organises 29th Sangeet Sankalp Saptah

Ahmedabad. The Saptak School of Music organised the 29th Sangeet Sankalp Saptah from Oct 18 to 27. This year's event is a tribute to Vidushi Manju Mehta, a sitarist and co-founder of Saptak, and Dr Mukesh Garg, the founder director of the Delhi-based Sangeet Sankalp, both of whom passed away earlier this year. This year's event will have 31 sessions featuring more than 70 artists, said the organisers. The event, held at Lions Hall at Mithakhali, is organised as a platform to discover and promote new music talents, said the organisers.

Rs 11k crore HUDCO loan for Amaravati from Housing and Urban Development Corporation



VIJAYAWADA. Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) has sanctioned a loan of Rs 11,000 crore to the State government for carrying out works in the Amaravati capital city.

The decision was announced following a meeting between Municipal Administration and Urban Development (MAUD) Minister P Narayana and HUDCO CMD Sanjay Kulshrestha in New Delhi on Monday. Narayana elaborated on the State government's action plan to develop Amaravati and requested the loan. Impressed by the plan, Sanjay agreed to sanction the loan. The

Minister explained that the estimated cost for constructing buildings, roads, drainage, and setting up drinking water facilities in the capital city is around Rs 50,000 crore. Of the total, Rs 26,000 crore is needed for phase one works.

Highlighting that the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have agreed to jointly provide Rs 15,000 crore, he said HUDCO is extending the remaining amount. Special Chief Secretary Anil Singhal, HUDCO Vijayawada Regional Chief BSN Murthy and others were also present during the meeting.

Special Chief Secretary Anil Singhal, HUDCO Vijayawada Regional Chief BSN Murthy and others were also present during the meeting.

Karnataka: Legislators to urge CM Siddaramaiah to write to Centre on SC quota

BENGALURU. At a meeting of Congress legislators belonging to the Scheduled Castes (SC), chaired by Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara here on Monday, it was decided that the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah government be suggested to write to the Centre, seeking its intervention in what data on the caste census should be taken into account, while implementing the classification of the SC quota.

In its verdict on August 1, the Supreme Court had said the states have power to implement the quota within quota but also issued a rider that it should be based on verifiable empirical data. The meeting discussed this issue and felt that implementing the classification of SC quota, without getting clarity from the Centre, would prove counterproductive as anyone can move court and get the order stayed. Hence, it

has been decided that the government



the H Kantharaju Commission. The Justice A J Sadashiva Commission's report on the classification of SC quota has its own flaws, as it had mentioned that over six lakh SC people did not mention their sub-castes and the previous Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government had rejected it. The cabinet sub-committee, headed by then law minister J C Madhuswamy, gave a report, based on which the cabinet decided to classify the quota, but that also was not factual, the Congress leaders said at the meeting.

Ahead of Siddaramaiah

convening the cabinet meeting on October 28, the SC legislators are likely to hold another round of talks. All the 23 SC legislators attended Monday's meeting.

Tamil Nadu reservoirs 64 per cent full

Storage stood only at 35.58% during the same period last year

CHENNAI. Tamil Nadu's 90 reservoirs hold 143.804 tmcft of water which is 64.11% of their total capacity of 224.297 tmcft as of Monday. This is significantly higher compared to the same period last year when the storage level was just 79.514 tmcft (35.58%).

According to data from the Water Resources Department (WRD), storage in Mettur reservoir reached 62,140 million cubic feet (mcf) on Monday which is 384% higher than the storage the same time last year. Similarly, Bhavanisagar reservoir recorded storage of 21,141 mcf, also showing a 210% increase from the previous year. These reservoirs play a key role in irrigation in the region.

A senior official told, "Compared to last year, rainfall and inflow from Karnataka have been much higher. As per the Supreme Court's order, Karnataka was supposed to release 134.2284 tmcft of water between June and October 17. However, due to heavy rain in the Cauvery river's catchment areas, Karnataka released

221.1125 tmcft, which is 86.8842 tmcft more. Last year, Tamil Nadu received only 53.7209 tmcft in this period."

Expressing optimism over the northeast monsoon, the official said, "We expect additional water, and this should make it easier to meet drinking water needs



during summer next year." Officials will continuously monitor the reservoirs and will plan for the controlled release of water through surplus channels to keep adequate storage as a precaution for flood mitigation. Meanwhile, farmers have urged the state

government to ensure water release for agricultural activities during summer months. KV Elankeeran, president of the Federation of Cauvery Delta Farmers Association, highlighted the challenges faced by farmers in the delta region. He said, "Farmers usually cultivate only two seasons out of three every year due to lack of water. During summer, there is usually no water, and farming activities drop significantly." However, this year, storage levels in reservoirs are better. With the IMD predicting good rainfall during the northeast monsoon, Elankeeran suggested that the government plan water release during the summer. This would help farmers grow short-term crops like blackgram.

K Raguraman, a farmer from Mannargudi, said, "Even though we have received more rainfall, storing the extra water is not possible because there are no links between the irrigation tanks and reservoirs." He urged the government to create links to ensure storage and to meet future needs effectively.

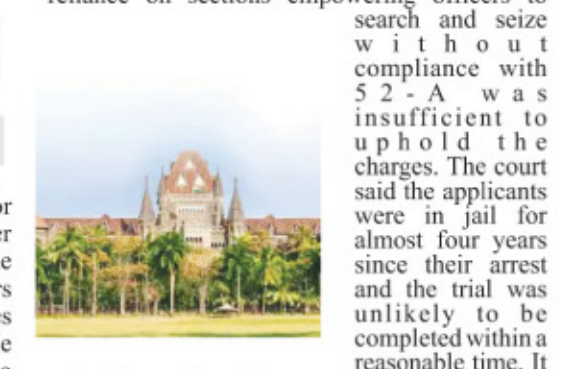
Bail for 8 of 13 accused linked to drug kingpin Lalit Patil

Mumbai. The Bombay High Court has granted bail to eight of the 13 accused allegedly involved in the drug manufacturing racket linked to notorious racketeer Lalit Patil. The decision, made on Oct 14, was based on non-compliance with mandatory legal procedures.

The accused - Kiran Kale, Rishikesh Mishra, Afzal Sunara, Manoj Palande, Parshuram Jogle, Ram Gurbani, Kuldeep Indalkar, and Rakesh Khaniwadekar, who are among the 13 including Patil - were in jail for nearly four years since their arrest in Oct 2020. Justice Gauri Godse, who presided over the case, highlighted the improper handling of the chemical analysis process, specifically the non-adherence to Section 52-A of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

This section mandates that samples of psychotropic substances must be drawn and certified by a magistrate, which was not followed in this case. "The chemical analysis reports of samples collected without following the mandatory procedure under Section 52-A of the NDPS Act cannot be accepted as reliable material against the applicants," remarked Justice Godse.

The court further emphasised that the prosecution's reliance on sections empowering officers to search and seize



without compliance with 52-A was insufficient to uphold the charges. The court said the applicants were in jail for almost four years since their arrest and the trial was unlikely to be completed within a reasonable time. It

rejected special public prosecutor Shishir Hiray's plea for a stay on bail order tonable the prosecution to move the supreme court. Advocate Sana Raees Khan, representing one of the accused, argued that her client was arrested on Oct 15, 2020, though the chargesheet mentioned the arrest date as Oct 16. She further argued that the recovery of Rs 25 lakh from her client's residence on Oct 17, after his arrest, cannot be used as evidence to implicate him in the drug manufacturing activities. Khan also contended that non-compliance with Section 52-A of the NDPS Act undermined the prosecution's claims of seizure of commercial quantities, making conviction unlikely.

Additionally, Khan pointed out that the allegations were based on vague statements from workers at Sanyog Biotech, where the contraband was allegedly manufactured. These witnesses were not made co-accused, raising questions about the credibility of their testimony. Furthermore, Khan said the Call Detail Record (CDR) failed to show any link between her client and the other co-accused. Bail applications were filed on behalf of the accused by legal representatives, including advocates Sandeep Bali, Bhavesh Thakur, Kanishk Jayant, Khan, Aayaz Khan, Hrishikesh Mundargi, and Raviraj Parmane.

How Canada's US complex is straining its ties with India

I covered Canada for almost 15 years as a foreign correspondent. Canadians have a complex about their neighbour, the United States. They are unable to get over this complex, that they are an inferior cousin of their next-door superpower, although the superior cousin offers the former protection and security through treaties and alliances.

The prosperity of both the US and Canada is inextricably tied to their mutual cooperation and deep economic collaboration. Yet, it constantly troubles the Canadians that the entire world treats the US and Canada differently. They want to be equals, which they are not. It is similar to the inferiority complex that some South Asian neighbours have about a mightier, richer India with global influence.

In the current spat over the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, this is an important psychological input that the India has not taken into account in its dealings with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and his fellow Liberal politicians. It has rankled many Canadians since the start of the Nijjar episode, that India has treated the US allegations about an alleged murder plot against Gurpatwant Singh Pannun quite differently from the killing outside the Surrey gurdwara. It is counter-productive to impress upon Ottawa that the US has supplied evidence to India while Canada has not.

This inferiority complex about the US became apparent from the moment I walked into Canada's embassy in the US to get my work visa for Ottawa, while I was a resident in Washington. The consular official told me that my work visa for Canada would be co-terminus with my US media visa. Weird, I thought. The second time I applied for a Canadian visa, another official told me — out of the blue — that Canada is a sovereign country and that the duration of my US visa would have no bearing on Canada. I was granted a five-year work visa, much longer than the validity of my US media visa. Looking back, the two incidents are indicative of how Ottawa has tied itself up in knots over its stand on the Nijjar killing and the spiralling descent in bilateral relations.

I have met numerous people across Canada — from British Columbia on the Pacific coast to Newfoundland on the Atlantic coast — who want to live in the US. It is a safe assumption that for a huge number of Canadians, the other side of the American border is the promised land. However, unlike Mexicans, who flood the US border or sneak across it, Canadians simply don't behave in the same way because they are far richer. The compulsions which persuade Mexicans to risk their lives simply don't exist in Canada. Yet, the desire remains and is all-pervasive, which adds to the Canadian complex about the US.

Even Canadians who ought to know better do not think better. A Canadian diplomat in Washington once told me that the US had permitted only a dozen Canadian consulates to open in the US, compared to 50 Mexican consulates. To suggest that the Americans treat Mexico better than Canada is the height of this complex. It does not help that for Indian students, the US remains the first choice for higher studies, barring very few universities of excellence, like McGill in Montreal. Thousands of H-1-B visa-holders have become permanent residents of Canada only to abandon it and move to the US once they get their green cards. Canada's immigration planners feel cheated when these qualified Indians migrate, because Canada does have a population shortage. Canada obviously doesn't like it when potential immigrants use it only as a stop-gap until they can permanently move across to the border. Walking along the beautiful riverfront of Windsor, Ontario, I have watched Canadian citizens — including my European relatives who have lived in Windsor for half a century — look wistfully at the seedy areas across the Detroit river with regret writ large on their faces. Former US President Donald Trump recently disparaged Detroit as a 'Third World' city, but that is where my Euro-

Hamas leader Sinwar's death won't end Gaza war

Sadly, Israelis have no obvious long-term strategy when it comes to Gaza.

Israelis celebrating the death of Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar, the man they say was responsible for the worst Jewish massacre since the Holocaust, are also aware that his demise does not mean the end of the conflict with the Palestinians. For years, Israelis used to complain about how Palestinian families ritually handed out baklava sweets on the streets as a way of celebrating the murder of every Jew in any terrorist attack. These celebrations were denounced as an example of how Arabs glorified terrorism and violence against their Jewish neighbours. The irony is that many Israelis today have endorsed the very same practices they once used to abhor. Now, following last October's Hamas-led invasion that resulted in the deaths and injuries of thousands, a growing number of Israelis find it hard to hold back their own jubilation every time a Hamas official is killed. In fact, scenes of Israelis handing out baklava sweets and greeting each other with smiles and laughter have become part of TV talk shows and different social media platforms. So, it was no surprise on Thursday (October 17), when a lifeguard on one of Tel Aviv's largest beaches used his loudspeaker to break the news that "arch terrorist Yahya Sinwar has been eliminated", bikini-clad swimmers and sunbathers responded to his announcement by breaking into spontaneous clapping, cheers and whistles. For the first time in more than a year, all of Israel is now engulfed in a kind of joyful euphoria that has not been seen before. Some Israelis have even gone as far as comparing Sinwar's death with the capture and subsequent execution of Nazi commander Adolf Eichmann. He was kidnapped from Argentina and brought to Israel, where he was tried and executed in 1962. Others compare Sinwar's passing with the capture and killing of Osama bin Laden, whose unmarked body was dumped by the Americans in the middle of the sea. Hence, suggestions have been made to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem that Sinwar's body, too, should be disposed of either in the ocean or burnt and dispersed in an unknown location. For its part, the Israeli government has removed Sinwar's body from Tal-Sultan, a suburb of the Gaza city of Rafah, and is

holding it in a secret location, pending a final decision about what to do with his remains. The joy at Sinwar's death, however, is marred by concerns about the fate of the 101 Israeli hostages — many of whom are believed to be dead — still held in various locations by Hamas and other Palestinian factions as well as ordinary, non-combatant families who view any Jewish hostage as an asset. One of the declared objectives of the Israeli



government was always to secure the liberation of all hostages. More than 100 were released late last year in a deal between Israel and Hamas in return for hundreds of Palestinians in Israeli prisons. Since then, only a handful of hostages — dead or alive — have been rescued in what Israelis describe as 'daring' and 'heroic' commando operations. When he confirmed the death of Sinwar, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made a rare and unprecedented offer to the hostage-takers, telling them, "This war can end tomorrow if Hamas lays down its arms and returns our hostages...and Israel will guarantee the safety of all those who return our hostages." Netanyahu's offer shows the Israeli public's continuing anguish about the fate of their loved ones who remain in captivity somewhere in the tunnels of Gaza. Without their release, there can

never be an end to what has turned out to be the longest running war in Israel's history. Yet, he hopes that their Hamas captors would respond positively to Netanyahu's offer have proven to be elusive. Even worse, Sinwar's deputy Khalil al-Hayya has proven to be as defiant as any of his militant colleagues, telling the Israeli public in a televised address, "The hostages will not be released until the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip comes to an end."

This announcement by the best-known current Hamas leader is a reminder to the Israelis that their celebrations and expectations following Sinwar's death are premature. In other words, the war will continue, and this news is bad for both sides. Israel will sink even more deeply into the Gaza quagmire and the Palestinians will continue to face the same death and destruction that has seen their body count rise to more than 40,000. Sadly, Israelis have no obvious long-term strategy when it comes to Gaza. They are not bothered about humanitarian aid to the Palestinians and their daily suffering. Their only fixation is the hostages, who represent an open wound, and liquidating each and every one of those responsible for last October's attack. To try to understand the psychology of the Israeli society requires an understanding of the established norms and mindsets in a region where national dignity is all-important. The Hamas surprise was, accordingly, much more than just a military and intelligence setback for Israel. It was also an unparalleled humiliation for a proud society that has always prized its military and technological superiority over its Arab and Islamic rivals. Widely publicised pictures of helpless Israelis being picked up in their pyjamas from their bedrooms and kitchens as well as stories about the alleged sexual abuse of Jewish women continue to haunt Netanyahu and his countrymen. For them, their national self-respect has suffered a savage blow with unpredictable long-term consequences. Israelis, who look at themselves in the mirror every morning, have every reason to wonder how their enemies still mock them, perhaps, even rubbing their hands with satisfaction at the once invincible superpower that was briefly brought to its knees in October 2023.

Hooch disaster

It reflects a failure of Bihar's liquor ban

THE latest hooch tragedy in Bihar, claiming over 35 lives (unofficial reports put the figure at around 65) in Siwan, Saran and Gopalganj districts, exposes the stark inefficacy of the state's prohibition policy. Imposed in 2016, the liquor ban aimed to curb alcohol-related harm, but it has, instead, fuelled the rise of a thriving black market for illicit liquor, costing countless lives and leading to significant revenue loss. This tragedy is not an isolated incident. Bihar has repeatedly faced such fatal outcomes, with over 350 deaths linked to spurious liquor since prohibition began. The recurring nature of these incidents highlights the flawed implementation of the policy, where black-market operations exploit vulnerable communities, often targeting the poorest sections of society.



While law enforcement agencies have responded with

arrests and raids, seizing large quantities of illegal alcohol, the ground reality reveals a persistent availability of illicit liquor. The parallel economy that runs on this trade reportedly results in a revenue loss of Rs 20,000 crore to the state. Yet, there appears to be no significant impact on reducing the access or consumption of dangerous brews.

The state administration, despite its efforts, has failed to offer a sustainable solution. The dichotomy between the wealthy, who have access to safe alcohol despite the ban, and the poor, who fall prey to toxic alternatives, further reflects the socio-economic divide that prohibition has exacerbated. The Bihar Government must re-evaluate its approach. Either the liquor ban must be strictly enforced with a strengthened regulatory framework or a regulated market could offer a safer alternative. Until then, the lives lost in these tragedies will continue to be a tragic reminder of failed policy.

US voters quest for 'change'

MADE IN AMERICA: Concerns over AI, unemployment and immigration are driving a bitter electoral contest

ABOUT 400 years ago, a band of 104 pilgrims set foot at Plymouth in Boston in an attempt to 'change' their lives and seek a new future. In the process, they evolved into a country — the United States of America — which eventually became the most powerful economy in the world and arguably the most robust democracy. The people of that democracy once again seek 'change' as they prepare to vote in a few days from now. On display in the democratic marketplace are two products; the one tried and tested, the other on trial and yet to be tested. There are billboards exhorting people to vote in a democracy that doesn't boast of a very high percentage of voting. The polling percentage in 2020 was around 66 per cent; it steadily climbed from 58.6 per cent in 2012 to 60 per cent in 2016. Although a little higher at 61.6 per cent in 2008, it has generally been below 60 per cent for the last four decades. With about 100 countries representing half the world's population going to the polls in 2024, the US would, perhaps, be the last major country democratically electing its head of government in an era where democracy itself faces serious challenges globally.

What is the 'change' that people in the US seek? What are the issues concerning the voter? What does it forebode for democracy? The sense that one gets is that people are undecided as yet about who is capable of bringing about 'change' as Trump and Harris are locked in a bitter battle. According to opinion polls, immigration and the southern border are the top issues for the voters. Trump seems to be persuading workers to vote as they form a large part of his support base. He is hoping to count on their support amidst the overwhelming feeling that household wealth for college graduates has increased by 95 per

cent since 1989, while remaining stagnant for non-college graduates. The average household wealth index, when plotted from 1989, shows a disturbing trend of an increasing gap between those who have gone to college and those with a high school background or none. The average real wealth by education, as of 2021, for those with a college background was \$18,32,000 in comparison to \$4,52,000 with a high school background and \$1,85,000 with no high school education. Although the official data doesn't talk of an alarming level of unemployment, it is generally felt that the infusion of artificial intelligence in all spheres of business has created redundancies, causing retrenchment and layoffs. The unemployment rate in September 2024 was 4.10 per cent, marginally lower than the 4.20 per cent of the previous month but higher than the 3.80 per cent of September 2023. The long-term average unemployment rate is around 5.69 per cent as per the Bureau of Labour Statistics. This economic issue of the widening income gap and unemployment has inexorably got mixed with the political issue of immigration, which has polarised Americans.

Harris, on the other hand, is banking on the support of the large chunk of the immigrant population and women voters, besides traditional Democrat voters. Data indicates that the percentage of women voting far exceeds that of men, with almost a 10 per cent gap between the two. Reproductive healthcare has been an issue of major concern for women, especially after the US Supreme Court overturned the constitutional right to abortion by a 6-3 verdict in its decision in June 2022 in the Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization case, setting aside the right recognised by the landmark verdict in Roe vs Wade (1973) and



Planned Parenthood vs Casey (1992). Even as women have outnumbered men in voting, the million-dollar question is whether a country that swears by equal opportunity and liberal thinking is ready for a woman President. According to poll watchers, the swing factor could be influenced by occasional voters — not only those who are undecided but also those who generally don't vote. Recent polls show that while Harris' supporters are high on enthusiasm as compared to Trump's, the latter outdo the former in their belief that their candidate is more capable to deal with the economic issues facing the country, including inflation. It is a strange irony that the working-class population has found a champion in Trump, an unabashed capitalist. An expert at the Harvard Kennedy School left me with the impression that while voters don't want to vote for Trump, they are not yet convinced about Harris' ability to bring about the 'change' they are looking for. There is also a feeling that while Harris is not doing enough work in the field, Trump is seen as a

'happy warrior'. Amid this cliffhanger, the one depressing feature is the dilution of decency in public discourse, that has a striking similarity with the Indian election campaigning. The frequent use of coarse language, making unsubstantiated statements and hurling disparaging abuses have become par for the course. While such instances in India are behind us, it is depressing to see Harris being called 'mentally impaired' and 'mentally disabled'. Trump was particularly harsh against illegal immigrants, calling them 'monsters', 'stone-cold killers' and 'vile animals' and accusing some migrants of wanting to "rape, pillage, thief, plunder and kill the people of the United States of America".

JD Vance, Trump's vice-presidential pick, has been criticised for his comments about "childless cat ladies" running the world. Harris has faced racist and misogynistic attacks, being called a 'DEI hire' (a disparaging term that refers to quotas or targets for hiring racial and ethnic minorities, women and people with disabilities for positions of authority and/or power). Tim Walz, Harris' running mate, has been accused of stolen valour due to his military record being challenged. Trump has been rather liberal with profanities during his campaign speeches, including using terms like 'loser', 'jerks' and 'morons'. Here, too, people feel that the use of abusive language in politics contributes to a toxic political climate and is deleterious to democratic traditions, with or without a model code. There is also a view that the US poll, like elections in other countries this year, is an 'issueless' election, which means that democracy itself is undergoing a stress test.



Why we are better at Solving Friends Problems than our own

As expected, participants who thought about a friend's dilemma considered wiser strategies to be more useful than did the participants who thought about their own personal issues.

Have you noticed how quickly we come up with solutions when a friend or a neighbour brings up issues related to their romantic relations or tensions at work while we struggle to work through our own personal problems? This is because we approach our friends' problems with clear-eyed objectivity, suggests new research. But when it comes to finding a solution to our own problems, we

view them through a personal, flawed and emotional lens. The new research, published in the journal Psychological Science, showed that those who are motivated to pursue virtue and go beyond their personal perspective deploy wiser reasoning to solve personal problems. "Our findings suggest that people who value virtuous motives may be able to reason wisely for themselves and overcome personal biases

observed in previous research," said Alex Huynh of the University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. "This is in part due to their ability to recognise that their perspectives may not be enough to fully understand a situation, a concept referred to as intellectual humility," Huynh said. Previous research has typically focused on how situations can affect a person's level of wise reasoning, but these findings suggest that

personal motivations may also play a role. "To our knowledge, this is the first research that empirically ties this conceptualisation of virtue with wisdom," Huynh added. "These findings open up new avenues for future research to investigate how to increase a person's level of wisdom," Huynh said. The researchers recruited 267 university

students for this study. The participants reported the extent to which they were motivated to pursue virtue by rating their agreement with statements like "I would like to contribute to others or the surrounding world" and "I would like to do what I believe in".

Then, they were randomly assigned to think about either a personal conflict or a close friend's conflict, imagine that the conflict was still unresolved and describe how they felt about the situation. Finally, they rated how useful different wise reasoning strategies (for example, searching for compromise, adopting an outsider's perspective) would be in addressing the conflict in question. As expected, participants who thought about a friend's dilemma considered wiser strategies to be more useful than did the participants who thought about their own personal issues. But the motivation to pursue virtue seemed to close this gap – participants who thought about personal problems rated wise-reasoning strategies as more valuable as their motivation to pursue virtue increased. Further analyses revealed two specific components of wise reasoning that mattered most – considering other people's perspectives and intellectual humility.



Keep eyes shut, ears open to perceive others' emotions

Engaging in two different tasks of watching and listening simultaneously may confuse the listener and hurt the performance of both the tasks.



researchers noted. "Perhaps people are paying too much attention to the face, while the voice might have much of the content necessary to perceive others' internal states accurately," said Michael Kraus, Professor at the Yale University in Connecticut, US. "The findings suggest that we should be focusing more on studying vocalisations of emotion," Kraus added. For the study, published in the journal American Psychologist, the researchers studied over 1,800 participants with five set of series with experiments, whereby individuals were asked either to interact with another person or were presented with an interaction between two others. In some cases, participants were only able to listen and not look; in others, they were able to look but not listen; and some participants were allowed to both look and listen. The results revealed that individuals who only listened without observing were able to identify the emotions being experienced by others more accurately.

Do you want to feel empathetic towards others feelings? Paying attention by listening with your eyes closed may help, researchers say. The study stated that while listening to one must keep the ears open and eyes shut because facial expression can mask emotions. Moreover, engaging in two different tasks of watching and listening simultaneously may confuse the listener and hurt the performance of both the tasks, the

Men prefer kindness over attractiveness in women

This study aims to show the changing mindset and preferences among modern Indians and how they are approaching matchmaking and matrimony with much more clarity of their preferences. According to the findings of a survey, men believe kindness is the most desirable trait in a woman.

In the metro cities of India, men prefer women for their kindness factor rather than their attractive looks quotient, according to a survey. Banihal, a neuroscience-based recommendation engine for finding life partners, conducted a survey involving 10,000 users of the matchmaking site through Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. According to the findings, 27 per cent men believe kindness is the most desirable trait in a woman, while education is ranked as the most significant attribute by only 6 per cent of women. Only 8 per cent of men go for beauty. The study conducted by Banihal comprised of 60 per cent men and 40 per cent women. Men from Bengaluru prefer more independent girls as compared to those in Mumbai and Delhi with the ratio being 17:14:8 per cent respectively. When it comes to role models, fathers are the most admired for women in all three cities, while 12 per cent men in Bengaluru consider their sisters as their role models as compared to only 7 per cent in Delhi and Mumbai.



The study also throws light on the fact that 41 per cent women in Bengaluru consider a friend as their role model as opposed to 34 per cent women in Mumbai and Delhi. Ishdeep Sawhney, Co-founder and CEO at Banihal said, "This study clearly shows the changing mindset and preferences among

modern Indians and how they are approaching matchmaking and matrimony with much more clarity of their preferences. At Banihal, we pride ourselves on being able to use such data and insights to simplify the matchmaking process and find the perfect match for a person."

CRPF schools, including 2 in Delhi, get bomb threats via e-mail: Sources

Tuesday's development came just two days after a powerful blast ripped through a wall of a CRPF school in Delhi's Rohini area, as well as several Indian airlines getting more than 100 bomb threats in the past

New Delhi: Several CRPF schools across the nation, including two in Delhi and one in Hyderabad, received bomb threats via e-mail, sources said. This comes just two days after a powerful blast ripped through the wall of a CRPF school in Delhi's Rohini area, as well as several Indian airlines getting more than 100 bomb threats in the past one week. The sources said the e-mails were sent on Monday night to the school administration. According to Delhi Police, a CRPF school in Tamil Nadu was the first to get the threat following which an alert was sent out to all the affiliated schools in the country.

The Rohini district police said the threats were a hoax. The high-intensity blast on Sunday outside the CRPF school in Rohini's Prashant Vihar damaged nearby shops and vehicles, and also made a hole in the wall of the building. There were no reports of any casualties or injuries as a result. A pro-Khalistani group claimed responsibility for the blast on Telegram, prompting Delhi Police to



reach out to the social media app, requesting details about the channel from where the post originated.

BOMB THREATS TO INDIAN AIRLINES

Since last week, several Indian airlines operating on domestic and international routes have received bomb threats, significantly disrupting flight services across the nation. The targeted airlines include Air India, IndiGo, Vistara and

Akasa Air.

Between Monday night and Tuesday, at least 30 flights -- 10 IndiGo, 10 Vistara and 10 Air India -- received such threats. Most of these flights operated internationally. Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Monday announced that making hoax bomb threat calls to airlines would be made a cognisable offence and perpetrators will be placed on no-fly lists. Calling it a sensitive situation, Naidu said the Aviation Ministry is in contact with other ministries to strengthen the existing laws. Police have found some common lines and words used in these fake threats, like "bombs", "blood will spread everywhere", "explosive devices", "this is not a joke" and "you will all die" and "bomb rakhwa dia hai" (Hindi for bomb has been placed). A 17-year-old school dropout from Chhattisgarh was arrested earlier, and the investigation revealed that he was responsible for some of the calls. However, the origin of the majority of the threats is yet to be traced.

Bahraich violence: Supreme Court halts bulldozer action on accused for a day

The Uttar Pradesh government has issued demolition notices to three people involved in communal violence in Bahraich over music being played during a religious procession.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday paused the Uttar Pradesh government's action to demolish properties belonging to three accused in the Bahraich violence case till the next day of hearing. The matter will be heard on Wednesday. "You are aware of the orders passed by this court. If they (Uttar Pradesh government) want to take the risk of flouting these orders, that's their choice," Justice BR Gavai said. The Supreme Court has barred demolitions across the country without its permission, except in cases involving encroachments on public roads, footpaths, railway lines, or water bodies. On October 1, the top court reserved its judgement in a batch of petitions challenging unlawful bulldozer demolitions by government authorities.



Last week, the Public Works Department (PWD) issued demolition notices to three people involved in communal violence in a village in Bahraich district over music being played during a religious procession. One person, Ram Gopal Mishra (22), died of gunshot injuries. The petitioners claimed that the said properties were 10-70 years old and alleged that the proposed demolition action was punitive. They said the government's claim of "unauthorised construction" was merely a ruse to illegally overcome the Supreme Court's stay order on demolitions. On Tuesday, senior advocate CU Singh, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that one of the applicant's father and brother had surrendered and notices were purportedly issued on October 17 and pasted on October 18 evening. "There is a clear violation of your lordship's orders. The PWD has issued notices for demolition within three days," advocate CU Singh said. Additional Solicitor General KM Nataraj, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, said the Allahabad High Court was hearing the matter and has given 15 days' time to respond to the notice. However, advocate CU Singh said no protection had been granted by the High Court. The Supreme Court then asked the government not to take any action till Wednesday and posted the matter for hearing.

Tribunal upholds government takeover of Delhi Gymkhana Club management

New Delhi: The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has upheld an order permitting a committee appointed by the Central Government to take over the management of the Delhi Gymkhana Club, which is facing allegations of financial irregularities. The Tribunal directed the existing committee to conclude remedial actions and hold elections. The NCLAT, the final appellate authority for corporate matters, set aside the petition filed by former management members against the order passed by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in April 2022, which established a 15-member committee to replace the Club's General Council. The committee appointed by the Central Government has been instructed to expedite the completion of remedial actions to address the raised issues, with a deadline set for March 31, 2025. Additionally, it has been mandated to conduct elections for the President and General Council members within three months following the March 2025 deadline, facilitating the installation of a duly elected General Council.

After the election, the new General Council will take over the management of the club, conducting its affairs in accordance with the club's status. The Delhi Gymkhana Club, located in Safdarjung, is one of the oldest and most exclusive clubs in the country, with its history dating back to the British colonial era.

Army to resume patrolling along LAC in eastern Ladakh after disengagement talks

New Delhi: A day after the government announced a breakthrough agreement between India and China to resume patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, the Army is set to restart patrols in key areas such as the Depsang plains and Demchok, marking a significant step towards troop disengagement. According to the agreement, the Army will begin patrolling key areas in eastern Ladakh following the resolution reached during discussions between the two nations. Sources reveal that the groundwork for this agreement has been in progress for over a year.

Over the past several months, both countries have engaged in multiple levels of meetings, from battalion commanders to division commanders, aimed at reinstating the pre-May 2020 status along the LAC. Diplomatic efforts have also been in full swing behind the scenes to ensure a peaceful resolution. The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in an eyeball-to-eyeball stand-off since May 2020. Top officials from the Indian Army and the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) are now working to implement the agreement on the ground.

Earlier, China had signalled progress in disengagement talks, including in key areas like the Galwan Valley, following high-level negotiations between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in St. Petersburg. Both sides agreed to expedite efforts to resolve the remaining border disputes and improve bilateral relations. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning remarked, "The China-India border situation is generally stable and under control," emphasising the recent progress in troop disengagement. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also stated that 75 per cent of the issues in the region have been addressed, expressing optimism for a full resolution in the near future. The recent disengagement marks a positive step towards stabilizing relations between the two nations, easing tensions along the contested border.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Monday announced that India and China had arrived at an agreement to resume patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh "leading to disengagement". "Over the last several weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums. As a result of the discussions that have taken place over the last several weeks, an agreement has been arrived at on patrolling arrangements along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China border area and this is leading to disengagement and eventually a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said.

IT industry in Andhra Pradesh to create 2 million jobs: Nara Lokesh

Nara Lokesh outlined the Andhra Pradesh government's efforts to transform the state into an electronics hub, leveraging the favourable environment available.

New Delhi: Andhra Pradesh Minister Nara Lokesh said the IT and electronics industry will play a crucial role in the state over the next five years, with the potential to provide two million jobs. He added that the Chandrababu Naidu-led government is competing not only with other states but also with countries excelling in this sector. Addressing a meeting with representatives from the Indian Cellular and Electronics Association (ICEA) in Delhi on Monday, Lokesh outlined the Andhra government's efforts to transform the southern into an electronics hub, leveraging the favourable environment available. He mentioned that the state government has established a task force

with prominent industrialists to regularly address the challenges faced by industries and devise solutions.



Highlighting the state's commitment to an industry-friendly approach, Lokesh noted that Andhra Pradesh is making progress under the "Speed-of-Doing Business" initiative.

Andhra Pradesh is advancing rapidly under the able leadership of N Chandrababu Naidu, who is serving as

Chief Minister for the fourth term. We are ready to extend all kinds of incentives to anyone who comes forward with proper proposals to set up industries," Lokesh said. He also mentioned that a decision had been made to develop Visakhapatnam as the IT powerhouse and the capital of Artificial Intelligence (AI). "We are seeking the cooperation of industrialists to achieve this goal," he added. Furthermore, Lokesh announced plans to develop

Anantapur and Kurnool districts as centers for the automobile and electronics industries, and the state aims to develop Amaravati to resemble Washington D.C.

Disengagement after we return to 2020 situation: Army Chief on India-China deal

The remarks come a day after India said it had reached an agreement with China to resume patrolling in disputed areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

New Delhi: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi said India would be looking at disengagement and de-escalation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) with China after a return to the 2020 situation. In an interview with India Today, the Army Chief, however, said it was important to see that buffer zones that have been created were not being encroached upon. The remarks come a day after the External Affairs Ministry said India and China had reached an agreement to resume patrolling in disputed areas along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, ending a four-year military standoff. India has accused China of occupying about 1,000 sq km of Indian territory in Ladakh since May 2020. In his first remarks on the deal, General Dwivedi said, "We want to go back to the status quo of April 2020. Then, we will be looking for disengagement and de-escalation. We are trying to restore trust by

seeing each other." "We have to see that the buffer zones that have



been created are not being crept in. As the patrolling starts, we will see the building of trust," the Army Chief further said. China also said it had reached an agreement with India to end the standoff, which was first

announced by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri during a briefing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia for the Brics Summit. Later, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also said Indian and Chinese soldiers would be able to resume patrolling in the way they had been doing before the border face-off began.

The troops of both nations had previously disengaged from four places, including the Galwan Valley, where a deadly clash in June 2020 left 20 Indian soldiers and several Chinese troops dead. The new agreement will facilitate patrolling in the Depsang and Demchok areas. On modernisation of the armed forces, the Army Chief said the culture of research and development was not there in India previously. "We have the Army Design Bureau. DRDO restructuring is taking place. We have carried out tests related to quantum technology. We have reached a particular stage, but it is a long way to go," he said.

Taslima Nasreen thanks Amit Shah day after SOS over residency permit

New Delhi: Indicating positive news on the renewal of her India residency permit, Bangladeshi author and activist Taslima Nasreen on Tuesday profusely thanked Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Nasreen, who fled to India 20 years ago, had on Monday requested Shah for the extension of her residence permit in India. The renewal request came even as the caretaker Bangladesh government seemed to be accommodating extremist and radical elements. Nasreen has been in exile for three decades due to threats from Islamist radicals in Bangladesh. "A world of thanks," posted Taslima Nasreen on X. The post was peppered with folded-hands emoji, indicating her gratefulness to Shah. She posted a frantic message on Monday, revealing her worry over the issue, and calling India her "second home". "Dear Amit Shah ji Namaskar. I live in India because I love this great country. It has been my second home for the last 20 years. But the Ministry of Home Affairs has not been extending my

residence permit since July 22," Taslima Nasreen wrote on X on Monday. "I'm so worried. I would be so grateful to you if you let me stay. Warm regards," she added.

Taslima's worry is genuine. The author-activist has been hounded by Islamists in Bangladesh. A fatwa was issued against her in 1993. Since the fall of the government of Sheikh Hasina on August 5, the caretaker government of Muhammad Yunus, backed by the military, has been accommodating Islamists. The ban on Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh was lifted, and there have been incidents of targeted violence against Hindus, a minority community.

Nasreen has voiced her opposition to the Yunus dispensation, calling it "illegal". "Sheikh Hasina did not resign from her prime Minister post, and she is still alive. Therefore, Yunus government is illegal," Nasreen said in a post on Tuesday. On August 5, when violent



protests dislodged Sheikh Hasina, ending her 15-year rule, she fled to India. Taslima Nasreen has been vocal for decades and documented the violence against the minority communities in Bangladesh in her books, including Lajja (Shame) and Nirbachita Kalam. The fatwa of 1993 was issued against her for Lajja, in which she wrote about the persecution of a Hindu family in Bangladesh. The threats against her

forced her into exile. She has previously lived in Kolkata and Jaipur, and then settled in Delhi. She has been residing in India since 2011.

Nasreen holds Swedish citizenship, and has been granted long-term residence permit by India. The Bangladeshi author had previously too voiced her concerns over the lack of communication from government officials regarding the status of her residence permit. In September, she told AajTak Bangla, India Today's sister channel, that her application status online shows "updating", which she described as unprecedented.

That is why Taslima Nasreen posted an SOS, requesting Amit Shah on Monday. Indicating a big relief on the long-term residence permit, she thanked Shah on Tuesday. Seems India will remain home to the exiled Bangladeshi writer for some more time.

If you are a working mother, you already know the struggles of juggling between a career and kids (and home, husbands, in-laws and so many more things). It can get really tough and overwhelming. Rushing out of an important meeting on the pretext of getting some papers to call the daycare to check on the safe arrival of kids or missing out on a crucial doctor's appointment in the middle of the week to give that dreaded presentation to the boss. We all have been there, done that.

At professional front, a lot of us have witnessed or undergone 'motherhood penalty'. In one experiment, sociology professors Shelley Correll, Stephen Benard, and In Paik at Harvard questioned college students to rate a pair of job applicants offering them their resumes along with notes from screening interviews. Once they picked all the qualified professionals, they were told that one was a mother. As part of the experiment, it was found that mothers stood lesser chances to be recommended for hire. And if they were, they were offered less in starting salary over childless women.

According to Dr. Simrat Kaur, Doctorate in Neuro Psychology and presently working as a Consultant Neuro Psychologist with Doctor Insta, "The 'motherhood penalty' at workplace is quite worrisome. What many don't realize is that the brightest side of becoming a mother is that you learn patience, which is an extremely essential trait to function better in day to day life, especially at a workplace. Motherhood makes you wiser, more adept to handle stress and the ability to maintain a healthy balance in your life."

Yet people often stay conflicted about the positives of having a working mother as an employee. They may give you a significant cut on your appraisal because you were away on your maternity for three months or talk behind your back for leaving office on time; mind you, if working mums unite, they can change the power structure of the world. Here's how:

WORKING MOTHERS CAN MULTITASK

Undeniably so, they are doing a lot at once. The fact that she handles a child back home along with the umpteen tasks that she handles at work in itself shows her prowess to handle multiple things at one go. She could be researching about her presentation, shooting urgent mails to the support staff, replying to the kid's teacher over Whatsapp and also pouring herself a cup of green tea - all at once.

WORKING MOTHERS HAVE BRILLIANT PEOPLE MANAGEMENT SKILLS

A working mother handles the ungodly tantrums of her little one back home, yet resists every urge to give up and strike back. Motherhood teaches her brilliant people management skills. And this wisdom enters with her at the workplace too. She is adept at handling tough colleagues and is often the best person to go if you are in dire need of



Why Indian working Mothers

Make the best professionals

some sensible advice. Clearly so, she barely has time for office politics and tries to keep her surroundings clear of it.

WORKING MOTHERS WILL NEVER DELAY WORK

Yes, she likes to leave office in time but that's also why she finishes her work well in time. She is very well aware that delaying work would mean staying back in office till late or completing work assignment at home. A single delay at work can cause mayhem back home and she will never let that happen. Thus, she gives her best in her

working hours.

WORKING MOTHERS ARE ORGANISED

A woman who is basically nurturing another life (and family) knows darn well the importance of staying organized. What's more? She is always more focused on practical solutions to ensure that there is balance in everyday life, both at work and back home.

WORKING MOTHERS WILL NEVER COMMIT

A working mother knows her limitation and

she will never over commit at the workplace. "Whatever she will says, she will mean it," adds Dr Kaur. The underlying insight remains that motherhood is the most trying roles and also the greatest learning experience ever.

MOM SPEAKS

Shalini Vij, director and founder, Hangout Being a working mom can be challenging especially with children who are of a tender age. I will agree I have had to cut back on family vacation time as last few years, the expansion projects have kept me busy but I have tried to compensate by taking them along on my business trips. Mixing work with family was fun. It did take a lot of effort and hard work. I will be honest, I use to work till late and be up at 6 am to send my little one Shiven to school. I worked after their bed times, because I didn't want to take away from their time. I juggled with time and work on tight schedules. My team members often comment on the times they receive my e-mails and know I handle all my mail and correspondence work at night, after their bed time. I do all on-site work and go to office, while they are in school

and then take time out to teach them and help them with their studies. I have a nuclear family set-up as my in-laws are in the States and I need to take care of my three men, which means household chores too. My family and friends know I have a set schedule and are understanding of my time restraint. It's all about time management and multitasking, I believe time management and multi tasking are the key and my speciality.

Aditi Gokhale, Co-Founder, All Things Organic

Being a working mom can be very challenging since your child needs love and attention and at the same time you need to attend to work. One of the most challenging aspects of being a working mother is not being able to spend quality time with my child. I feel guilty at times for not being able to give the required attention in my daughter's crucial foundation laying years. My experiences as an entrepreneur have been very fulfilling; while the last few months undoubtedly have been very challenging, the satisfaction of seeing your dreams take baby steps every day, more than compensates for the long hours.

Study links job problems to parenting



Parents, take note! If your kids have problems at work, you may be responsible to some extent for the trouble, according to a new study which found a link between parenting styles and workplace behaviour.

"It really is about both parents, but because mothers are typically the primary caregivers of the children, they usually have more influence on their children," said Peter Harms from University of

Alabama in the US. Researchers studied manager-employee relationships in the workplace and found a link between parenting styles and workplace behaviour.

Their research was based on the work of John Bowlby, an early psychoanalyst, who argued that the way parents treat their offspring could have long-term implications for how their children approach relationships.

In particular, the work focused on

how parents acted when their infants cried out for help.

Babies learn over time that they can either count on their parent to come to their rescue right away or they need to escalate to high levels of distress in order to get attention. Or, if babies learn that parents are not a reliable source of comfort, they stop making over appeals for help. Individuals with reliable parents view others as potential sources of support.

These people are often categorised as

having anxious or avoidant attachment depending on the style they adopted to cope with distress.

"Your boss is sort of like your parent," said Harms. The findings showed that when anxious followers were paired with supportive leaders, they were perfectly fine. But when they were paired with distant, unsupportive leaders, the anxiously attached employees reported higher levels of stress and lower levels of performance.

How to get your kid excited about School

It is a difficult task for most parents to make their kids go to school following a weekend break.

Now, after a month-long summer holiday, it is going to be even more of a challenge. Here are a few tips you can use to help your children get back to the school routine:

Get them involved

By now, you would have bought the necessities for the coming academic year (books, notebooks, uniforms, etc). Get your kid involved in getting these things organised — like covering the books and notebooks, labeling them, getting the uniforms pressed, and so on.

Buy new things

Buy at least one new item for your child as this will motivate them. It could either be a school bag, lunch bag, pencil box, water bottle or even stationery. If your

child is an ardent fan of comic heroes like Spiderman, Superman or Chota Bheem, buy stuff that has these characters.

Throw a party

You can arrange a get-together and invite your kid's school friends home. Meeting



friends will make him/her look forward to school. You could also get them excited about the new friends they would be making this year.

Give them a preview

Just sit and talk with your kid the way you usually explain things to them. Talk about the thrill of getting back to school and meeting teachers and classmates after a long time. You could even talk about some of the exciting topics that they are going to learn this year and give them a peek into these topics.

FPIs Take Out Rs 58,711 Crore From Equities In October On Geopolitical Crisis, Strong Chinese Stocks

NEW DELHI. Foreign investors turned net sellers in October, withdrawing shares worth Rs 58,711 crore in the month so far owing to the escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices, and the strong performance of the Chinese market.

The outflow came following a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore in September. Since June, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have consistently bought equities, after withdrawing Rs 34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, and May, data with the depositories showed.

Looking ahead, global factors such as geopolitical developments and the future direction of interest rates will play a crucial role in determining the flow of foreign investments into the Indian equity markets, Himanshu Srivastava, Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said. According to the data, FPIs made a net withdrawal of Rs 58,711 crore from equities between October 1 and 11. "Escalating conflicts, particularly in the Middle East between Israel and Iran, have increased market uncertainty, leading to risk aversion among global investors. FPIs have become cautious and pulling out money from emerging markets," Vinit Bolinjkar, Head of research at Ventura Securities, said.

The geopolitical crisis has also led to a sharp rise in Brent crude oil prices from USD 69 per barrel on Sep 10 to USD 79 per barrel on Oct 10, which poses inflationary risks and increases the fiscal burden for India, he added.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, believes that FPIs have been following a strategy of "Sell India, Buy China" after the Chinese authorities announced monetary and fiscal measures to stimulate the slowing Chinese economy. FPI money has been moving to Chinese stocks, which are cheap even now. Together, these developments have created a temporary barrier in Indian equities, reflected in FPI outflow in both debt and equity segments. It is anticipated these trends will stabilise around the time of the US polls, Pankaj Singh, smallcase Manager and Founder & Principal Researcher at Smartwealth.ai, said. In the debt markets, FPIs pulled out Rs 1,635 crore through the General Limit and invested Rs 952 crore via Voluntary Retention Route (VRR) during the period under review.

Hindustan Aeronautics Joins 'Maharatna' League, Becomes India's 14th PSU to Get Top Status

NEW DELHI. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been granted the prestigious status of Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE). The announcement was made on October 12 by the Department of Public Enterprises via a post on X, following approval from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

This upgrade was recommended by two high-level committees: the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC), chaired by the Finance Secretary, and the Apex Committee, led by the Cabinet Secretary. HAL, which operates under the Department of Defence Production (DoDP), reported a turnover of Rs 28,162 crore and a net profit of Rs 7,595 crore for the financial year 2023-24. With Maharatna's status, HAL will benefit from enhanced operational autonomy and greater financial power. The most recent company to be awarded the Maharatna status was Oil India, which received the designation in August 2023.

What Is Maharatna Status?

The Government of India classifies Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) into three categories—Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna—based on specific eligibility criteria. In India, Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) are categorised based on their non-financial objectives and are registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 (formerly Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956).

Poonawalla to acquire 50% in Dharma Productions for 1,000 crore



NEW DELHI. Adar Poonawalla-led Serene Productions announced that it will invest Rs 1,000 crore into Karan Johar's Dharma Productions and Dharmatic Entertainment. Serene

Productions will hold a 50% stake in Dharma, with Karan Johar retaining the remaining half.

The collaboration aims to transform content creation, distribution and audience engagement by integrating advanced technologies and pioneering production methods, a company statement said.

Johar as the executive chairman will spearhead the company's creative vision, while Apoorva Mehta, as CEO, will work with Johar in steering the strategic direction and overseeing the operational excellence of the organisation, a company statement said.

India's entertainment industry has experienced significant expansion, driven by surging digital penetration and a diverse audience seeking high-quality content across multiple platforms, with growing global relevance. This strategic partnership between Serene Productions and Dharma is designed to capitalise on these opportunities by combining Dharma's rich legacy in storytelling with Poonawalla's strategic acumen and resources.

By leveraging this synergy, Serene Productions and Dharma seek to meet the evolving demands of today's digitally savvy consumers, while pushing the boundaries of creative storytelling. Together, they aspire to shape the future of entertainment for digital-first generations, embracing new platforms and formats to deliver compelling narratives that entertain, inspire, and engage audiences worldwide.

Hyundai Motor India makes weak D-Street debut. Hold for long-term gains or sell now

New Delhi Hyundai Motor India's much-anticipated stock market debut fell short of investor expectations on Tuesday, with shares listing at a 1.5% discount to their issue price of Rs 1,960. The stock opened at Rs 1,931 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Rs 1,934 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), falling in line with analyst predictions but lower than the grey market premium had suggested. The lukewarm debut has left many investors questioning whether they should hold their positions for long-term gains or cut their losses early. The Rs 27,870 crore IPO was subscribed 2.3 times, achieving full subscription only on the last day, reflecting a cautious approach from retail investors. Retail participation was particularly weak, with only 50% of their allocated shares subscribed, marking one of the least enthusiastic responses among recent large IPOs. On the other hand, institutional buyers, particularly Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs), showed stronger support, subscribing seven times their allocation. This

institutional backing wasn't enough to prevent a muted listing, however, as broader market volatility and high valuations weighed on sentiment. One of the key factors behind the IPO's subdued performance is Hyundai's high valuation. The issue was fully priced, leaving little room for immediate upside, especially since the IPO was a complete offer for sale (OFS), meaning the company will not receive any proceeds from the offering. This has added to short-term concerns, with many investors seeing limited near-term catalysts for the stock's growth. Moreover, Hyundai's limited exposure to electric vehicles (EVs) and hybrid models—just 11% of its portfolio—has raised concerns about its ability to keep pace with the global shift towards EV adoption. With operational challenges such as constrained production capacity and a lack of new model launches, Hyundai's near-term



outlook appears less competitive compared to automakers with a stronger EV focus. In addition to valuation concerns, Hyundai operates in an intensely competitive Indian auto market, where price cuts and incentives are commonplace. Jaspreet Singh Arora, Chief Investment Officer at Equities, pointed out that the company faces stiff competition from both local and global players. Furthermore, regulatory requirements for promoters to reduce their stakes have created additional caution among investors, as such

mandates often put downward pressure on stock prices.

WHAT ANALYSTS SAY

Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd., noted that while Hyundai Motor India's IPO listed at a slight loss (Rs 1,934 against the issue price of Rs 1,960), the outcome was largely in line with expectations. The IPO witnessed moderate subscription, and the subdued grey market premium (GMP) ahead of the listing had already signaled limited enthusiasm for short-term gains.

"Despite the discounted listing, Hyundai Motor India's strong fundamentals, being the second-largest passenger vehicle manufacturer in India and its strategic focus on the SUV segment, continue to support its long-term growth prospects," Nyati said. "Investors who entered with a long-term perspective may consider holding the stock, as future performance will likely be driven by the company's competitive market position and product innovations."

India well positioned to capitalise on new growth opportunities: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

NEW YORK. The global economic environment may present challenges but India is well positioned to capitalise on new growth opportunities, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said, underlining that as nations re-evaluate their supply chains, India hopes to become a key partner for many countries seeking to diversify their sources of goods and services. Sitharaman made these remarks on Monday while delivering a special lecture on 'India's Economic Resilience and Prospects Amidst A Challenging and Uncertain Global Environment' at Columbia University.

She said that India is looking towards boosting domestic capacities, and building resilience against external shocks. While the past decades saw global growth led by broad multilateral trade, the coming years, I think, will likely be defined by strategic economic partnerships and India is very well poised to take advantage of this transition. She said that the global economic environment may present challenges, but India is well-positioned to capitalise on new growth opportunities.

The shift towards a more fragmented

global economy, characterised by redefined alliances and changing trade patterns, could in fact work to India's advantage. As nations re-evaluate their supply chains, India hopes to become a



key partner for many countries seeking to diversify their sources of goods and services, she said at the lecture organised by the Deepak and Neera Raj Center on Indian Economic Policies at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs. Sitharaman arrived in New York Sunday from Mexico where she had chaired the Tech Leaders Roundtable in Guadalajara. She had also visited the TCS headquarters in

Guadalajara. In New York, she addressed a Roundtable on 'Investment Opportunities in India' at the New York Stock Exchange and participated in a fireside chat on India's decadal economic reforms and economic growth with IBM Chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna. From New York, Sitharaman will head to Washington DC to participate in the Annual Meetings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the 4th G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governor (FMCBG) Meetings, besides the G20 Joint Meeting of FMCBGs, Environment Ministers, and Foreign Ministers; and G7 Africa Ministerial Roundtable.

Sitharaman noted that it may be an understatement that we are living through times of profound uncertainty, which is steadily rising before us.

The world today grapples with multiple challenges, such as the conflict in the Middle East and between Russia and Ukraine. There's also a possibility of other destabilising events such as the dollar liquidity shocks, increases in global tariffs due to trade wars and oil price shocks - all at the same time.

Dried softy ice-cream mix not dairy product, to be taxed at 18 per cent: Raj AAR

The ruling signifies a shift in the classification of the product, and the decision is expected to have major implications for manufacturers and distributors in the food industry.

NEW DELHI. It's one year since Hamas' October 7 attack on Israel's border communities. It's also one year since Israel's lethal invasion of Gaza. Both have been commemorated worldwide in different ways. The common thread is recognition of the horrific toll it has taken so far. Gaza has been flattened beyond recognition. Hamas killed 1,200 while the Israelis have killed over 40,000 Palestinian civilians, mostly women



and children. And we are still nowhere near a ceasefire. Three months into the war last year, we had speculated in

these columns on the cost of a widening West Asia conflict. The one-year milestone is indeed worse than anyone had imagined. The Gaza conflict first spilled over to the occupied West Bank; then followed the assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders, and now we are in the middle of Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

Even as we write this, the world is bracing for a possible Israeli attack on Iran in retaliation to the barrage of ballistic missiles Iran had let loose after the assassination of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrullah. The circle of conflict is expanding by the day. The toll so far beyond the human deaths and suffering, Gaza's economy has been bombed back to the stone age. A comprehensive UN Trade and Development (UoD Hope) Trigger happy.

Paytm showcases strong growth in revenue, delivers profit of Rs 930 crore in Q2

Paytm Q2 results: The quarter also witnessed a steady rise in revenue and contribution profit, reflecting the success of Paytm's strategy of scaling payments and expanding its financial services offerings.

New Delhi. Paytm has reported an impressive performance in Q2 FY25, achieving significant growth across multiple metrics. The company delivered a Profit After Tax (PAT) of Rs 930 crore, marking a milestone on its path to sustained profitability. The quarter also witnessed a steady rise in revenue and contribution profit, reflecting the success of Paytm's strategy of scaling payments and expanding its financial services

offerings. "Going forward, we remain committed to delivering PAT profitability," said Paytm in its earnings release for Q2FY25. Revenue grew by 11% quarter-over-quarter (QoQ), fueled by a 5% increase in Gross Merchandise Value (GMV) and improved device monetisation. The financial services segment emerged as a key contributor, with revenues increasing by 34% QoQ, driven by the distribution of merchant loans and improved collection efficiency. Paytm's net payment margin also saw a 21% rise to Rs 465 crore, highlighting the company's focus on enhancing payment processing efficiency and better device realisation. The company's contribution margin surged to 54% without UPI incentives, up 356bps QoQ. This achievement underscores Paytm's ability to optimise operational margins while maintaining its growth trajectory. Paytm also achieved a significant reduction in indirect costs, which fell by 17% to Rs 1,080 crore. The drop was primarily due to a 13% reduction in employee expenses,



streamlined marketing efforts, and the absence of certain costs incurred in the previous quarter. Paytm's merchant subscriber base for devices has reached 1.12 Cr as of September 2024, an increase of 3 Lakh QoQ. The company's subscription revenue growth was driven by a higher active subscriber base. To sustain growth, Paytm has adopted a strategy of retrieving and redeploying inactive devices to new merchants, reducing capital expenditure while expanding its active device base. This approach has helped the company boost subscription revenue and improve operating efficiency. The company is also starting with DLG on merchant loans. "There is increased interest and comfort

from existing as well as new lenders to expand the partnership due to better asset quality trends and higher demand from our merchants. Following the regulatory framework, and the emerging market practice, we see increased willingness from lenders to partner and allocate more capital in the Default Loss Guarantee (DLG) model. DLG model will help to increase disbursements with the existing partners and expand partnership with new lenders for the loan distribution," said the company in its earnings release. With these robust financial and operational results, Paytm remains confident about achieving positive EBITDA before ESOP costs by Q4 FY25, even after accounting for DLG expenses. The company's consistent growth, disciplined cost management, and expansion in financial services reaffirm its position as a leader in the digital payments and financial ecosystem in India. As Paytm continues to innovate and leverage opportunities across verticals, it is well-positioned to sustain its momentum and deliver long-term value.



New Delhi Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Tuesday helped by a rise in heavyweight financial and IT stocks. Hyundai Motor India's much awaited listing had a disappointing start on Tuesday, debuting at a 1.5% discount to its issue price of Rs 1,960. The stock opened at Rs 1,931 on the BSE and Rs 1,934 on the NSE, missing investor expectations due to market volatility and concerns over the company's valuation. Nanking major ICICI Bank led the gainers on Nifty50, advancing by 1.47%. Bharti Airtel showed positive momentum with a gain of 0.74%, while consumer goods giant Nestle India moved up by 0.57%. Technology stocks also made gains, with Tech Mahindra and

Infosys rising by 0.51% and 0.40% respectively. On the declining side, Tata Motors saw the steepest fall of 1.96%, followed by Tata Steel which dropped 1.88%. BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited) declined by 1.77%, while auto stocks faced pressure with both Maruti Suzuki and Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) falling by 1.61%. Broader market indices faced selling pressure with both mid and small-cap segments trading in negative territory. The Nifty Smallcap100 witnessed a decline, falling by 1.21%, while the Nifty Midcap100 decreased by 0.50%. The India VIX dropped by 4.92%.

Financial sectors showed strength with Nifty Financial Services leading the gainers, up 0.61%. Banking stocks performed well with Nifty Private Bank advancing 0.48% and Nifty Bank gaining 0.43%. The IT sector maintained positive momentum with Nifty IT climbing 0.47%. Nifty FMCG posted a modest gain of 0.18%, while Nifty Healthcare Index showed a slight uptick of 0.04%.

On the declining side, Nifty Realty faced the steepest fall of 2.06%, while Nifty Media and Nifty Metal both dropped 0.71%. The auto sector witnessed selling pressure with Nifty Auto declining 0.96%.

NEWS BOX

MI, KKR amongst five IPL franchises bidding for teams in The Hundred: Report

New Delhi. Mumbai Indians, Kolkata Knight Riders, Rajasthan Royals, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Lucknow Super Giants are among the IPL franchises that have submitted bids to acquire teams in the English Cricket Board-run The Hundred, according to a report.

The GMR Group, recently named the new owner of Hampshire, and Avram Glazer, co-owner of Manchester United Football Club, also submitted bids before the ECB's October 18 deadline for potential investors, reported ESPNcricinfo. The ECB has invited bids for a 49 percent stake in each of the eight franchises, with the board retaining majority control. "Expressions of interest could be for all eight teams, which would be culled to four in the next step, which will start in November when the investors get to meet the host counties of each Hundred franchise," stated the report. "Following that, investors would need to prune their wishlist to four teams, as part of the second stage, which will then come down to two teams of which they would need to make their final choice." The ECB is aiming to finalise investors by early 2025 but is committed to a deliberate approach to avoid "underselling



what it believes is a valuable product". ECB chairman Richard Thompson has also mentioned the possibility of a "hybrid" ownership model, where some teams remain under ECB control while others are sold to private investors. The report further says while several IPL franchises showed early interest, not all followed through with bids. "Punjab Kings opted out, while there has been no confirmation on whether five-times IPL champions Chennai Super Kings and equity major CVC Capital Partners, which owns Gujarat Titans, have submitted bids," it added. "Global sports investors INEOS, owned by Jim Ratcliffe, which owns a 27% stake in Manchester United and runs the football club's operations wing, have also opted out of bidding." One of the main concerns for IPL franchises was whether they would be "happy being passive

After Ramandeep, Ayush Badoni pulls off stunner in Emerging Asia Cup

New Delhi. Lucknow Super Giants' Ayush Badoni set the field on fire while playing in the Emerging Asia Cup on Monday, October 21. Fielding at long-off, Badoni pulled off a diving effort to dismiss UAE's Jawadullah in India's second group-stage game in the tournament. The incident happened in the 15th over of the game off Ramandeep Singh's bowling. The UAE batter had hit a strong shot down the wicket hoping that he could get a boundary. However, Badoni sprinted to his right and got both hands to the ball to pull off a sensational effort. The catch reminded the fans of Ramandeep's effort against Pakistan A which helped India win a nervy encounter. India A continued their winning streak in the Emerging Asia Cup with a dominant performance, securing a comprehensive victory over UAE by 7



wickets on October 21. The match, held at Al Amerat Cricket Ground, saw all-round brilliance from Abhishek Sharma, helping his side climb to the top spot of Group B, overtaking Pakistan with two wins from two games. Abhishek Sharma found his form, making key contributions with both bat and ball. It was his bowling, however, that first set the tone for India A's commanding performance. The 24-year-old delivered a crucial spell, picking up the wicket of UAE captain Basil Hameed, in what was a wicket- maiden over. India A's bowlers were relentless, restricting UAE to a modest total of 107. Rasikh Salam was particularly impressive, taking 3/15, while Ramandeep Singh also shone with a 2/7 spell.

Ramandeep's Catch from IND A vs PAK A India A's Ramandeep Singh produced a moment of brilliance to dismiss Pakistan A's Yasir Khan during their Emerging Asia Cup clash on October 19. The diving catch, which turned a certain boundary into a wicket, left spectators at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground in Oman awestruck. Ramandeep's athletic effort came at a crucial moment in Pakistan A's 183-run chase, effectively turning the game in India A's favour.

Champions League: Lenglet joins Atletico Madrid injury list ahead of Lille tie

- Clément Lenglet suffers knee and ankle injuries, sidelined for a month
- The French defender joined Atletico Madrid on loan from Barcelona
- The La Liga side struggles with defensive crisis ahead of Lille match

New Delhi. Atletico Madrid have been dealt a significant blow ahead of their vital UEFA Champions League clash with Lille, as French defender Clément Lenglet has been added to the growing injury list. The 28-year-old, on loan from Barcelona, suffered a twisted left knee and ankle following a collision with teammate Axel Witsel during Atletico's 3-1 La Liga win over Leganés on Sunday. Initial concerns about potential ligament damage were alleviated following medical tests on Monday, which confirmed that Lenglet sustained a "grade 1 twist on the



internal ligament in his left knee and a grade 1-2 twist on the left ankle ligament," according to the club's official statement. Despite the relatively positive news, Lenglet is expected to be sidelined for around a

month, ruling him out of Wednesday's fixture. This injury adds to Atletico's defensive crisis, with key players Cesar Azpilicueta and Robin Le Normand already unavailable. Additionally, utility man

Marcos Llorente will miss the clash, while young midfielder Pablo Barrios remains doubtful after a suspected relapse of a previous muscle injury. Barrios had been out since September with a similar issue. With a depleted squad, Diego Simeone's men face an uphill task in their upcoming Champions League tie. Atletico need all three points against Lille at the Estadio Metropolitano following a humbling 4-0 defeat to Benfica in their last European outing. A win is essential for their chances of progressing from the group stage. This isn't the only challenge the club faces. Atletico Madrid was recently sanctioned by the Spanish Football Federation following an incident during their derby clash with Real Madrid. The club was fined €45,000 and handed a partial stadium closure after objects were thrown at Real Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois. The match was momentarily halted, with tensions boiling over following Courtois' celebration of Eder Militao's opening goal in a game that eventually ended 1-1. As Simeone navigates a challenging period with injuries and disciplinary issues, Atletico Madrid's squad depth and resolve will be put to the test in their upcoming European.

AUS vs IND: Michael Clarke backs Cameron Bancroft to open in Test series vs India

- Michael Clarke backs Cameron Bancroft's return to Australian Test side
- The five-Test series between Australia and India will begin next month
- Bancroft's performances in domestic cricket make him strong contender

Perth. Former Australian captain Michael Clarke has thrown his support behind Cameron Bancroft for a recall to the Test side, advocating for the 31-year-old to open the batting in Australia's upcoming five-Test series against India. Bancroft, who has been a standout performer in domestic cricket, is in the running for the opening spot alongside veteran Usman Khawaja, with Marcus Harris and young gun Sam Konstas also in contention. Bancroft's impressive form in the Sheffield Shield over the last two seasons, where he was the competition's leading run-scorer, had many expecting him



to be named as David Warner's replacement when Warner retired earlier this year. However, selectors opted for all-rounder Cameron Green at No. 4, with Steve Smith opening, leaving Bancroft overlooked. Despite those setbacks, Clarke believes Bancroft should still be ahead of his rivals. Speaking on Sky's Big Sports Breakfast, Clarke argued that experience and consistency should weigh in Bancroft's favor. "I don't think it's fair to pick someone on two games. This is also what I've said about Sam Konstas as well," Clarke said. "I think he's a very talented player and I love that he's started the season very well, but just because you get two hundreds doesn't

mean you jump someone that's scored 12 hundreds in the past four years, like Bancroft or Harris." Clarke acknowledged the potential of 20-year-old Konstas, who had made waves early in his career, but emphasized that players like Bancroft and Harris, who have been consistent performers in domestic cricket, deserve to be prioritized. "They've played first-class cricket for a long time, they've earned the right to be next in line," Clarke added. He suggested that Konstas' opportunity would likely come soon, particularly if Khawaja retires at the end of the series. Clarke also expressed confidence that Australian captain Pat Cummins and the selectors have already decided who will partner Khawaja at the top of the order, especially after Green was ruled out of the series. "I would be very disappointed if I was captain of the Australian cricket team and I didn't know who was opening the batting right now in that first Test match," Clarke said, dismissing speculation of a bat-off between the contenders during the Australia A vs India A matches. The highly anticipated five-Test series between Australia and India will begin next month at Perth's Optus Stadium.

Steve Smith out for 0, Marnus bowls medium pace as Australia prep for India Tests

New Delhi. Australia players are warming up for the Border Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25 by playing in the Sheffield Shield. Mitchell Starc, Scott Boland, Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne have been playing in their domestic red-ball tournament ahead of their flagship Test series against India. Smith, who has recently revealed that he will not open for Australia in the BGT 2024/25 did not have a good time playing against Victoria. The batter registered single-digit scores, coming out to bat at No. 3 behind Sam Konstas and Nic Maddison. This continued Smith's string of poor scores in the domestic arena where he averages 9 in the last 6 innings. Smith has scores of 0, 3, 9, 11, 0, 31 from the most recent innings in the Sheffield Shield. In his most recent innings, Smith was caught LBW by Scott Boland after shouldering his arms to the pacer. While the call looked a little harsh, Smith's decision to leave the ball on that line was questionable. While Smith's form might be poor, his understudy Marnus Labuschagne seems to have taken a new role. The No. 3 Test batter for Australia seems to be enjoying his time as a medium fast bowler.

The batter recently joked that he wants to bowl a bouncer to Virat Kohli in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Labuschagne, who is expected to be a crucial factor for the Australian batting line-up said that he would be keen to roll his arm over in the series. Speaking in an interview with Channel 7, Marnus said that he would be very keen to bowl fast-medium against Virat Kohli. Kohli, known to be a great puller of the ball, missed the majority of the Australia tour, the last time India went Down Under. Asked if the nation wants to see him bowl, Marnus said that he could crank up the heat till 135 kmph. This had the interviewers in split, who would not believe what Marnus had just claimed. "I think so. Yeah, I think so. Because they sink energy. You know, what are we going to get here? You know? Are you going to get the number three of Australia rolling in, bowling bouncers to Virat Kohli? People want to see that. You want to see, can you pass on his ego like, 'are you going to be ducking bouncers from Marnus?'" Marnus Labuschagne said in an interview. India will travel to Australia in November for their two-and-a-half-month-long Test series. They will play 5 Test matches and multiple tour games during that time. This will be India's last assignment in the World Test Championship 2025 cycle.



Ranji Trophy: Prithvi Shaw reacts after getting dropped from Mumbai squad

Mumbai batter Prithvi Shaw was dropped from the Mumbai side for Round 3 of the Ranji Trophy. Shaw, who won the tournament and the Irani Cup last season was reportedly 'rested' from the side due to disciplinary issues. The batter reacted to the development and posted a story on his Instagram page, stating that he was taking a break. The opener has played only 2 matches in the new season so far, hitting scores of 7, 12 vs Baroda and then 1, 39* vs Maharashtra. Media reports claim that Shaw was not regular in the Mumbai nets despite batting poorly in the last two matches. Shaw's issues with discipline are nothing new. The batter has been at the centre of multiple off-field controversies throughout his career. Prithvi Shaw, once hailed as one of the most promising young cricketers in India, has been embroiled in several off-field



controversies that have significantly impacted his career and public image. One of the most recent and notable controversies involves a selfie incident. In February 2023, Shaw was involved in a scuffle with fans who insisted on taking multiple selfies with him. The situation escalated when Shaw refused to comply with their demands, leading to an attack on his friend's car with

baseball bats. This incident, which took place in Mumbai, resulted in the police registering a case against eight individuals and highlighted Shaw's difficulties in managing his public interactions. Another significant controversy surrounds Shaw's doping ban. During the 2018-19 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, Shaw's sample tested positive for terbutaline, a substance banned by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Shaw claimed that he had accidentally consumed the substance through a cough syrup prescribed by his father to alleviate a cold and cough. This led to an 8-month ban from all forms of competitive cricket, which he served until November 2019. This incident not only harmed his reputation but also caused him to miss a significant portion of the domestic season.

Champions League: Mentality not enough to beat Real Madrid, says Dortmund coach

- Borussia Dortmund's head coach Nuri Sahin warns his team about the challenges of facing Real Madrid in the Champions League. Emphasizing a complete performance, Sahin reflects on his personal connection to the Bernabéu.

New Delhi. Borussia Dortmund head coach Nuri Sahin has cautioned that his team will need more than just a strong mentality to overcome Real Madrid in their Champions League clash on Tuesday. As the two clubs

meet again after last season's final, Sahin emphasized the importance of a complete performance if Dortmund hopes to succeed against the reigning European champions. Real Madrid claimed their record 15th European Cup in June with a 2-0 victory over Dortmund in the final at Wembley. Late goals from Dani Carvajal and Vinicius Jr. dashed Dortmund's hopes after the German side had dominated much of the match's first hour. Speaking in a press conference on Monday, Sahin stressed that facing Madrid in their fortress, the Santiago Bernabéu, required far more than just mental resilience. "Mentality only is not enough to survive against Real Madrid, especially in this stadium, against the champions of this competition," Sahin stated. "We need everything tomorrow: a lot of quality, a lot of self-confidence, mentality of course, and also, as we say in Germany, 'game luck.' The game has to go our way. Only mentality will



not be enough, but without mentality, we have absolutely no chance here." Dortmund started their Champions League campaign in fine form, with back-to-back wins that saw them demolish Celtic 7-1 at home, following a 3-0 away victory against Club Brugge. The Bundesliga side currently sits at the top of their group with six points and a staggering goal difference of nine. Sahin highlighted the importance of a

collective effort, stating, "It's only possible [to win] as a collective against this team. The lads know what we have planned for tomorrow. We want to be brave and build on the last two games in the Champions League." Tuesday's fixture will be particularly special for Sahin, as he returns to the Bernabéu for the first time as a coach. The Turkish former midfielder had a brief stint as a player at Real Madrid after joining them from Dortmund in 2011. Reflecting on his journey, Sahin expressed his personal connection to the stadium and the club. "(Being back at the Santiago Bernabéu) means a lot to me because it was always my dream to play one day for Real Madrid. My son was born in this beautiful city, and I have him with me here," Sahin said. "Even if it was not that long that I played for Real Madrid, it will always remain special for me. Not only for footballing reasons but also family-wise, it's a fantastic thing to be here."

Ramya Pandian

To Tie Knot With Yoga Instructor Lovel Dhawan? What We Know

Ramya Pandian is one of the popular names in the Tamil film industry. She debuted with the film Dummy Tappasu in 2015. She starred opposite Malayalam actor Praveen Prem in the film. Being the daughter of former film director Durai Pandian and niece of actor Arun Pandian, Ramya always carried the acting genes in her blood. Despite her acting talent, the actress garnered fame not only in films but reality shows as well. She participated in Cooku with Comali season 1. The actress competed fiercely to secure the third position in the show. She was also the third runner-up in Bigg Boss Tamil season 4. Often garnering the spotlight through her roles and performances, the actress is now ready to tie the knot with her long-time love partner, Lovel Dhawan next month.

According to reports, actress Ramya Pandian is set to marry yoga instructor Lovel Dhawan on November 8. The wedding ceremony is expected to take place in Rishikesh. As per the One India report, Lovel Dhawan is a teacher at the Art of Living Foundation in Bengaluru. He studied at the Christian Medical College and St. Thomas Senior Secondary School in Ludhiana. The couple's love story began during a yoga training program in Bengaluru last year. Their union has received blessings from the families of both the parties. Following the wedding, a grand reception will be held in Chennai on November 15. Although the speculations about her marriage are already on social media, there has been no official confirmation regarding the same from her or Lovel Dhawan's side.

Ramya Pandian started with a small-budget film in 2015. A year later, she bagged the film Joker which was directed by Raju Murugan. It starred Guru Somasundaram, Ramya Pandian and Gayatri Krishna in the lead roles. After gaining appreciation for her role in the film, the actress made her Malayalam debut with Nanpakal Nerathu Mayakkam. It was directed by Loji Jose Pellissery and written by S Hareesh. The film starred Mammooty, Ramya Sivi, Ramya Pandian and Ashokan in the lead roles. It was produced by Mammooty Kampany & Amen Movie Monastery. It received two Kerala State Film Awards including Best Film and Best Actor. It was released in 2023.



Saif Ali Khan Reveals Taimur's Stage Fear, Describes Acting as a 'Nightmare': 'Standing in Front Of 50,000 People..'



The recent season of Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives offered a glimpse into various aspects of the lives of Maheep Kapoor, Bhavana Pandey, Seema Sajdeh, and Neelam Kothari. All four have connections to the film industry, with their children also exploring careers in acting. In one episode, they discuss their children's aspirations with Saif Ali Khan. The Omkara star shares what his son Taimur thinks about pursuing acting. In the final episode of the third season of the Netflix series, Saif engages in a roundtable discussion with the seven women, including new additions from Delhi: Shalini Passi, Kalyani Chawla, and Riddhima Kapoor. During the conversation, Saif notes, "With all our children, there's a lot of interest in doing movies. It seems to be the only interest. None of them want to be character actors. They all want to be the number one movie star in India. That's high pressure."

Seema Sajdeh, formerly married to actor Sohail Khan, responds, "Everybody wants to be number one. And everyone cannot be number one." Recognizing Ananya's achievements in the film industry, Saif mentions to Bhavana Pandey, "You already, touch wood, have a wonderful, successful..." Bhavana interjects, adding, "But Sara and Ananya are very good friends." Saif responds, "And contemporaries."

Continuing the discussion, Saif reveals, "But my son, Taimur, he is seven, he said, 'The idea of standing up in front of 50,000 people and saying something is just a nightmare.'" Seema asks, "Oh did he say that?" Saif confirms, "Yeah, he said, 'I don't. I absolutely don't want to do it.'" In a separate interview with the camera, Maheep comments, "He (Taimur) is a gorgeous child. He's got a very strong personality. He's very reactive to the paps. So, people are obsessed with him." Earlier, in a conversation with India Today, Saif Ali Khan shared, "Two of the elder kids are already actors, or want to be... Tim, at one point, said that he can't bear the thought of getting up in front of people and saying lines, I would be petrified! I said that I completely understand. But now he tells me he's looking forward to his school play. The youngest one is a born performer, if you ever see him, and I know where that comes from."

Barun Sobti Reveals The Real Reason Behind His Departure From Television In 2017: 'It's A Capitalistic Medium...'



Barun Sobti became a household name when he essayed the role of Arnab Singh Raizada in Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon? alongside Sanaya Irani in 2011. He became one of the most hit actors on Indian television after this serial. However, he decided to quit television in 2017. In a recent interview, the actor opened up about why he left television all of a sudden.

In a conversation with Digital Commentary, Barun Sobti mentioned how television paid more priority to money rather than creativity. He talked about how he was dissatisfied with the quality of writing in television and how it was not in line with his long-term goals. The actor said, "I haven't done it in a long time."

TV is a very capitalistic medium. When capital goes ahead of creativity, then it becomes a little unsatisfactory. And the characters start overliving their span, and the quality of writing goes really down. I always wanted to invest in longevity. I do not believe in investing in the short term."

Sobti also talked about how he does not like social media much but he is only active because his agency asks him to promote his work online. The actor continued, "I don't do PR, I don't do anything. Whenever a show comes out, that is when I come out to promote it. My agency keeps nagging me about my Instagram. You just cannot hide something that is good. If you are good, people will see you."

The actor starred in Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon 3 in 2017. That was the last television show he worked on. After a stint in television series, Sobti made his way to movies and OTT. On OTT, he was seen in Netflix's Kohrra which went on to become his breakthrough OTT project. He was last seen in SonyLIV's Raat Jawaan Hai.

Maheep Kapoor

Says Shanaya Kapoor Was 'Traumatized' When Her Debut Dharma Film Was Shelved

Actor Sanjay Kapoor's daughter Shanaya Kapoor was all set to make her Bollywood debut with Karan Johar's Bedhadak. The film was announced in 2022 but it was, later, shelved by the makers. In the latest season of Fabulous Lives Vs Bollywood Wives, Shanaya's mother Maheep Kapoor revealed how her daughter was traumatized as the movie was shelved. Speaking to Karan Johar on Fabulous Lives Vs Bollywood Wives, Maheep Kapoor spoke about how shocked Shanaya Kapoor was when Bedhadak was shelved. She was also addressing the distance that had come up between her and Seema Sajdeh in the same conversation. She said, "Shanaya's film didn't start. She was traumatized. You had to intervene."

Maheep also addressed how COVID-19 impacted her and how she was also diagnosed with diabetes later. She continued, "I was going through my own madness in my head. I had exposed myself to my old parents, and Shanaya (after contracting COVID-19). We all fell like nine pins. Understand the trauma that I was going through after Rekha (Maheep's house help) had passed away when doctors were saying that my old mother needs to go into hospital."

The conversation took place when Karan invited Maheep and Seema to his house to address the misunderstanding that had come up between them. The two friends accused each other of not being there for each other. Presenting her side of the story, Seema said, "I didn't need her to be there for me at that point, please understand. I needed to be there for her, and she didn't allow it. That is my grouse with her."

In another episode, Maheep is seen with Shanaya, Khushi Kapoor, and her son Jahaan. At the dinner, Shanaya expressed how excited she was that she would start working on films again. Shanaya said, "I am grateful for Pablo (her pet dog). It is a fact. And I am looking forward to start a shoot again." Shanaya was all set to make her Bollywood debut with Karan's Bedhadak. Directed by Shashank Khaitaan, she was supposed to make her debut alongside Gurfateh Pirzada, and Lakshya. The movie was shelved. She will, now, make her debut alongside Mohanlal in the Telugu-Malayalam film, Vrushabha.

