

PUBLISHED FROM Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal and Jammu

The Sikh Times National Daily

VISIT: www.thesikhtimes.in Email:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Vol. 16 No. 143 RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465 New Delhi, Friday, 4 October 2024 sikhtimesindia@gmail.com 9654077232 12 pages ₹ 3

1984 riots: Pul Bangash victim's wife deposes against Tytler

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Oct 3: The wife of a victim in north Delhi's Pul Bangash Gurdwara case related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots on Thursday deposed



before a Delhi court against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler. Special Judge Rakesh Syal recorded the statement of Lakhwinder Kaur, the wife of Badal Singh who was one of the three men killed by a mob that torched the gurdwara during the riots. In her statement, Kaur said an eyewitness told her that Tytler had come to the place of the incident in a vehicle and incited a

mob. Kaur told the court that she met Surrender Singh, who worked as a granthi in the gurdwara in 2008, who described the incident to her. "Surrender Singh told me that he saw the incident from the roof of the gurdwara. He told me that he saw my husband Badal Singh exiting from the gurdwara and saw him being attacked by a mob who took out the kirpan of my husband and stabbed him to death using it. He also told me that Tytler had come to the place of the incident in a vehicle and that he had gathered everyone," she told the court. She added that Surrender Singh told her that the mob engaged in violence upon the incitement of Tytler and her husband's body was put in a cart after he was killed and burnt by placing burning tyres on top of him. She, thereafter, approached the court for investigation, Kaur said. Tytler's counsel opposed the deposition stating that the account of the granthi was hearsay and not admissible as evidence.

70% dip in violence in J&K, Northeast and Naxalism-affected areas in 10 years: Shah

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Oct. 3: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday claimed that incidents of violence have decreased by as much as 70 per cent in the three "hotspots" of Kashmir, the Northeast, and regions affected by Naxalism in the last ten years.

The number of deaths due to such incidents in these areas too has fallen by 72 per cent, he said, speaking after inaugurating the new office building of the Ahmedabad police commissioner and Joint Interrogation Centre (JIC) in Shahibaug area here. Shah, on a two-day Gujarat visit, also claimed that once the infrastructure needed for the implementation of the three new criminal laws is in place, people will get justice in three years from the point of registration of First Information Report to a hearing in the apex court. Strong determination, permanent and effective solutions as well as pro-development approach of the Narendra Modi government has brought about a transformation in Kashmir and

other places where violence was rife, the senior BJP leader said. "In ten years, people witnessed a huge change in the internal security landscape of

those days that such incidents were not even covered in the news," he said. "However, thanks to the efforts of the Centre under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, incidents of violence have decreased 70 per cent and deaths due to such incidents also went down by 72 per cent in the last ten years in these three hotspots. It shows that India is on the path of becoming a nation free of terrorism and Naxalism," the Union minister further said. Talking about the new criminal laws (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam), Shah said minute details were taken into consideration while drafting them. "We kept in mind which new technology will be in practice even after 100 years while defining various sections of these laws. This will ensure there will be no need to change the laws for the next 100 years," he said. "Once all the required infrastructure for the implementation of these laws is created, our justice system will become the most advanced in the world and people will get justice within three years starting from the registration of FIR till the hearing in the Supreme Court," the home minister averred.



the country. A decade ago, bomb blasts used to happen at regular intervals in these three hotspots - Kashmir, Northeast, as well as the Left Wing Extremism-affected regions. It was so common in

Those speaking ill about Bengal are insulting their own birthplace: Mamata Banerjee

Naresh Malhotra

Kolkata, Oct. 3: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday asserted that those who speak ill of the state are essentially insulting the land of their birth. While inaugurating a Durga Puja at Hindustan Road, Banerjee said, "Let's appeal to Maa Durga so that Bengal regains its glory." Her comments appeared to address recent criticism and protests following the R G Kar incident, as well as allegations regarding the collapse of law and order in Bengal. "Those who malign our state are, in fact, insulting Bangla Maa," she said, adding, "My appeal to the deity is to help Bengal regain its glory. Please wake up and dispel all negativity." In response to calls from certain groups to refrain from participating in Durga Puja, she emphasised at another inauguration at Barisha Club in Behala, "Puja can never stop. Festivals can never come to a

halt." She expressed solidarity with members of other communities, stating that the state supports the celebration of their upcoming festivals, like Chhat. At both Barisha Club and Hindustan Road, Banerjee reiterated her government's commitment to sending relief mate-



rials to flood-hit areas during the festive season. "The suffering of those affected by the floods should not be overlooked during festival days," she urged, noting that many communities are still recovering from recent

floods. The Chief Minister said she had dispatched as many relief items as possible to flood-hit regions in both south and north Bengal, including essentials such as rice, dal, potatoes, soybeans, and mustard oil. She mentioned that, according to the meteorological department, showers are expected over the next two days, followed by scattered rain and sunny weather during the four days of the festival, starting from Sasthi. Earlier in the day, Banerjee inaugurated several Durga Pujas across the city, including those at Tala Prattoy in north Kolkata, 25 Pally in Khidderpore, Alipore Sarbojonin, Kolahol, Notun Dal, Barisha Club, Bosepukur Sitala Mandir, Bosepukur Talbagh, 21 Pally, and Kalighat Milan Sangha. At Kolahol and 21 Pally, she engaged in vibrant artistic expression, painting bright orange and red hues on canvas while tribal musicians performed in the background. Banerjee noted that she had virtually inaugurated 350 pujas in various districts and plans to inaugurate 400 more district pujas on Tiritiya, October 6. The CM is likely to inaugurate around 1,200 pujas in the districts by the beginning of the festival.

Why court held Sanjay Raut guilty of defaming Medha Somaiya?

New Delhi, Oct 3: The allegation of involvement in a ₹100 crore 'scam' by Sanjay Raut 'shattered the image' of and caused 'mental agony' to Medha Somaiya, according to a magistrate court that has already convicted the Shiv Sena



(UBT) leader in the defamation case filed by Somaiya. On September 26, judicial magistrate (first class) Aarti Kulkarni held Raut guilty of defaming Medha, wife of BJP's Kirit Somaiya. The detailed order was made available on Thursday, reported The Indian Express. Raut was handed a 15-day simple imprisonment for

the offence. However, he was granted bail the same day and the sentence was suspended for a month to allow him to approach a higher court. Meanwhile, the judicial magistrate wrote in the order that even though the Sena (UBT) member 'had no intention' to defame Medha, he knew her reputation would be 'harmed' by the allegation. "The complainant is a well-qualified and reputed personality. Due to the defamation, her image was shattered and she has suffered mental agony. The accused is a Member of Parliament. Therefore, a high degree of responsibility is cast upon him while expressing in front of the public at large especially while making statements," the order read. It added that the senior politician made the statements without 'due care and caution' and directed him to pay ₹25,000 as compensation to the petitioner. Further, the court stated Raut did not produce any documents in his defence and only submitted photocopies, which, it said, cannot be accepted as evidence. Also, it rejected his argument that as the Executive Editor of 'Saamana,' he was not responsible under the Press and Registration of Books Act.

SIMI could be behind 2008 Malegaon blast: Pragya Thakur's lawyer

Mumbai, Oct 3: The 2008 Malegaon blast could have been carried out by the banned Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), the lawyer of prime accused and BJP leader Pragya Thakur argued before a special court here on Thursday. Local people prevented police from reaching the site immediately after the blast and it could have been done to shield the accused, said Thakur's lawyer JP Mishra. The defence is currently making final arguments in the case in the court of AK Lahoti, a special judge for the National Investigation Agency cases. Six people were killed and over 100 injured when an explosive device strapped to a motorcycle went off near a mosque in Malegaon, a town about 200 km from Mumbai in north Maharashtra, on September 29, 2008. Whenever there is an incident such as this, people help the police. However, in this case, immediately after the incident a huge number of people gathered at the spot and pelted police with stones, preventing them from reaching the blast site, advocate Mishra claimed. This could have been done to protect 'their people' (belonging to SIMI), he said. A SIMI office was located near the blast site where bombs were allegedly made, and they could be transporting explosives using the two-wheeler when there was an accidental explosion, the lawyer argued.

Air India employees raise privacy, fatigue concern on new room sharing policy

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Oct 3: The policy is prevalent at Air India Express and Vistara - this will be the first time it will be introduced at the Tata Group-owned loss-making Air India. Several employees of Air India have raised privacy and fatigue concerns after the company proposed to introduce new room sharing policy from December 1 for its cabin crew members, reported The Hindu on Wednesday. In an email to CEO Campbell Wilson and its Chief Human Resource Officer Ravindra Kumar, employees have said the new policy will impact their rest requirements leading to impacts on their health and performance. Employees stressed the need for personal space to rest and privacy, especially after ultra-long flight hours and irregular shifts of up to 18 hours. Their representation to the company highlighted that crew members have varying

flight schedules, thus requiring different sleep and rest cycles. Responding to these concerns, an airline spokesperson



told The Hindu that there is a need to harmonise the employee policies of Air India and Vistara post-merger. The spokesperson said these policies were part of compensation and benefits announced which are "competitive and benchmarked to industry standards."

Arun Kapur, former safety and emergency procedures instructor for cabin crew training at Air India said the new proposed policy is neither safe nor kind. "Different people like to wind down after work in their own way. Someone may like to watch television, another person may want to read," he explained adding that cabin crew members on the same flight might have different rest requirements. According to the new policy, cabin crew and cabin seniors will be assigned rooms on twin sharing basis. In flight cabin managers and executives, with 8 to 9 years of experience, will continue to be allotted single rooms. Sources in the airline told PTI that the allowances for cabin crew of international flights will be increased from USD 75-125 bracket to USD 85-135 bracket. There is no change in the allowance of ₹1,000 per night for the cabin crew of domestic flights.

Congress leader's 'beef-eating' claim for Savarkar

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Oct 3: A shortlist of the biggest headlines, recommended stories, and a special collection of news items you should check out. A political storm erupted on Thursday after Karnataka health minister Dinesh Gundu Rao's controversial remarks about Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, where he suggested that Savarkar, a Chitpavan Brahmin, consumed meat and possibly beef. Dig deeper Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, whose retirement is next month, said on Thursday he was 'still in charge' though it was for a 'short time.' The CJI made the statement as he pulled up a lawyer for having 'cross-checked' about the details of an earlier order passed by the Chief Justice. BJP accuses Congress of cartel ties: 'Rahul Gandhi's mohabbat ki dukaan selling drugs.' Dig deeper Mumbai businessman jumps to death from Atal Setu; second 'suicide' in 2 days. Dig deeper Donald Trump faces fresh 10 damning charges in Jack Smith's new brief, calls it 'election interference.' Dig deeper Watch how Letcher County Sheriff shot Kentucky judge point blank. Dig deeper Harmanpreet Kaur has labelled it 'our best ever team at a T20 World Cup', and it's hard to argue with the India Women captain. Twelve members of the 15-strong squad at the T20 World Cup beginning on Thursday (October 3) have played in a World Cup previously, including the skipper herself. Dig deeper In an exclusive interview, actor Ananya Panday discusses her recent trilogy of projects that warn against new-age issues like social media and data leak. Dig deeper An Indian man's hilarious exchange with former US president Donald Trump on X has left users amused. In a post, Trump's official X account tagged the man, posting a message to him asking him to vote in the upcoming US elections in November.

Who is Telangana minister Konda Surekha and what did she say on Samantha Prabhu's divorce?

New Delhi, Oct 3: Telangana minister Konda Surekha has faced severe backlash from the Telugu film industry for linking BRS's KT Rama Rao to actor Samantha's divorce. Konda Surekha, a Congress leader and Telangana cabinet minister, found herself in hot water after she linked Bharatiya Rashtra Samiti (BRS) politician KT Rama Rao to the divorce of actors Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Naga Chaitanya. She also said KTR was the reason why many actresses left movies and married early, or were blackmailed due to the influence of drugs. Also Read: Samantha Ruth Prabhu slams Telangana minister for calling her divorce conspiracy: Keep my name out of political battle However, Konda Surekha's comments did not go down well with the Telugu film industry, with senior actors such as Chiranjeevi, Junior NTR, Amala Akkineni coming out in support of the two actors and slamming the politician for her remarks.

Centre opposes in Supreme Court pleas to criminalise marital rape

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct 3: The Centre on Thursday opposed before the Supreme Court petitions challenging a criminal law provision that treated 'marital rape' as an exception to rape even as it asserted that a woman's consent was not obliterated by marriage and its violation should result in penal consequences. In an affidavit filed in the top court, the Centre said, "That a husband certainly does not have any fundamental right to violate the consent of the wife, however, attracting the crime in the nature 'rape' as recognised in India to the institution of marriage can be arguably considered to be excessively harsh and, therefore, disproportionate." Maintaining "that the act colloquially referred to as 'marital rape' ought to be illegal and criminalised, it said the consequences of such violations within marriage differ from those outside it. The Centre said Parliament has provided different remedies, including those in criminal laws and the Protection of Women

from Domestic Violence Act, 2005, to protect consent within marriage and to ensure serious penal consequences for such violations. It said that striking down the exception to rape that protected husbands will have a far-reaching effect on the institution of marriage



if sexual intercourse or sexual acts by a man with his wife was made punishable as 'rape'. "It may severely impact the conjugal relationship and may lead to serious disturbances in the institution of marriage. In the fast-grow-

ing and ever-changing social and family structure, misuse of the amended provisions can also not be ruled out, as it would be difficult and challenging for a person to prove whether consent was there or not, the Centre stated. Parliament has chosen to retain the provision that treated 'marital rape' as an exception to rape, the affidavit said, adding that its discretion should be respected and "ought not to be interfered by the courts exercising the power of judicial review". Describing it as "more of a social issue rather than a legal one", it said the same cannot be decided without proper consultation with all the stakeholders or taking the views of all the states into consideration as the outcome "will have a larger impact on society, especially considering the concept of marriage in India, which creates social and legal rights on the part of both individuals and others in the family." It said, "The Government attaches highest importance to ending all kinds of

violence and offences causing physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and economic abuse including domestic violence against women." Currently, a man enjoys immunity from prosecution for rape, if he forces his wife, who is not a minor, to have sex. As the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) - which replaced the colonial era IPC on July 1 - failed to criminalise marital rape, a PIL in the Supreme Court has challenged the validity of the provision that treats marital rape as an exception to rape. Acting on a petition filed by All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) seeking to criminalise marital rape, a Bench led by CJI Chandrachud had on May 17 asked the Centre to spell out its stand on the contentious issue. AIDWA contended that the marital rape exception went against Article 19(1) (a) (right to freedom of speech and expression) and Article 21 (right to life and liberty) of the Constitution as it took away a married woman's rights to bodily integrity, decisional autonomy, and dignity.

## News box

## Promised share in profits, man scammed out of 81L

Ahmedabad. A 28-year-old resident of Vasna area on Tuesday filed a complaint with Navrangpura police alleging that three men, including one from Navrangpura, cheated him of Rs 81.32 lakh in an investment fraud between May 2020 and June 2024. Jignesh Karmur, a resident of Dungarshinagar near Anjali Crossroads, stated in his FIR that he worked in a private firm with a man from Surat named Ketan Solanki. After Karmur lost his job in 2020 during the Covid-19 pandemic, Solanki allegedly told him that he had opened a firm in Surat with Hiren Jogani and Deepak Shah as CMD and MD. Karmur said that the three told him that they operated various firms of transportation and green energy and had been awarded a project to set up a convention centre in Goa. They also told him that their transportation firm had received a contract from a milk cooperative giant. They allegedly promised Karmur a huge share in their profits if he invested for six months. Over the past four years, Karmur said he invested Rs 31.32 lakh through online payments and Rs 50 lakh in cash. After initially receiving Rs 8 lakh, he continued to invest more. There were no returns for a long time after which Karmur went to the office of the accused on Ashram Road only to find it locked. He came to know that Solanki, Shah and Jogani had fled with the money and had duped many others in a similar way. Navrangpura police registered a complaint of breach of trust, cheating and criminal conspiracy under IPC and the Gujarat Protection of Interest of Depositors Act against Shah, Jogani and Solanki.

## 'Gandhi's life message for mankind'

Gandhinagar. Paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at his birthplace in Porbandar on Wednesday to mark the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, chief minister Bhupendra Patel said that the life message of Mahatma Gandhi is eternal and will always be a guide for humankind.

The CM also said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has adopted the concept of sarvodaya (welfare for all) through antyodaya (uplifting the poor), furthering the journey of growth to achieve the goal of a developed country by 2047. CM Patel, Union minister and Porbandar MP Mansukh Mandaviya and others attended an all-faith prayer meeting at Kirti Mandir, a small museum at the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi, after which they participated in a cleanliness drive under "Swachhta Hi Seva" campaign on the Sudama Mandir premises. "India should become a developed and advanced nation by following the ideals of self-reliance, welfare of the poor and environmental practices of Mahatma Gandhi. PM Modi is working on these ideals," Patel said.

"Pujya Babu's life is the message of non-violence to the world. Mahatma Gandhi gave the idea of village upliftment by assimilating people from the social periphery. People from around the globe visit Kirti Mandir and get new strength through the all-faith prayer.

His message of life is eternal, which will always be a guide for mankind," the CM said, adding that the Swachh Bharat Mission, launched 10 years ago by PM Modi, has now become a nation-wide movement.

The chief minister bought khadi from a khadi bhandar in Thaltej on Wednesday to mark the occasion. "Salutations to Mahatma Gandhi on his birth anniversary.

## Vibe check: Ahmedabad set to dance under the stars

Ahmedabad. Shopping for attire and jewellery — check! Salon visits — check! Obtaining passes — check! With the nine nights of feisty celebrations and dance revelry kicking off today, Ahmedabad and Gujarat are abuzz with excitement. The state gov't's decision to remove the curb on garba timings has further fuelled the enthusiasm among revellers.

"I am visiting Ahmedabad especially for Navratri festivities and am really hoping that the rain stays at bay during these days. It is sheer joy to witness the festive spirit come alive here," said Anand Desai, an IT professional. Ahmedabad city is expected to



host around 80 commercial-scale garba events this year, while Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar districts will have 70 and 12 events respectively, said police officials. In all, the region will witness approximately 162 garba events. Organisers and revellers are optimistic about the festivities, as the absence of rain is a significant boon. "No rain means no inconvenience for organisers or participants," said a garba organiser from Ahmedabad. All in all, Navratri promises brisk business for all organisers this time around. The cost of passes for one day ranges anywhere between Rs 800 to Rs 10,000 per night, according to industry sources, with the average rate settling at Rs 2,000 per night.

## Rs 4 crore project fails to rid water of foul odour in Chennai's Arunthathiyar Nagar

The project, initiated in August 2023 to address long-standing contamination issues, has yet to provide the expected relief.

CHENNAI. Residents of Arunthathiyar Nagar in Thiruvika Nagar have raised concerns over potential sewage contamination in their drinking water, despite a Rs 4-crore project by the Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board to install new pipelines.

The project, initiated in August 2023 to address long-standing contamination issues, has yet to provide the expected relief. Metro water officials conducted an inspection on Wednesday following complaints of a sewage-like odour in the water.

The funds were allocated after repeated appeals from the community, predominantly daily wage workers who rely on metro water supplied through hand

pumps for their drinking needs. Although pipeline installation is nearly complete across 16 streets, with only one street pending, residents in at least six streets—including Kandhan, Rangappan, Bangaru, Elegan, Periyapalayathu Amman Kovil Streets, and Periyapalayathu Amman Sandhu—report that the water still emits a foul odour and contains small black particles, raising concerns of ongoing contamination. "For the past five days, the odour has been at its strongest.

We suspect there might be a leak in the drainage line that's contaminating the water, as the odour comes whenever there's blockage in drainage system," said Saravanan NG, a resident.

Some residents have also reported health issues, including fever, after receiving water from the new connections. C B Paranthaman, a resident and activist, expressed frustration, "After years of struggle and protests, the government finally allocated funds for the project. Facing water contamination issues again is unacceptable.

During the installation of the pipelines, I witnessed workers damaging nearby drainage lines by mistake."

A metro water official told, "During our inspection, we observed that there was no chlorine in the water in at least four streets, which is likely causing the odour." He added that the issue will be rectified.



## Efforts to tackle wastewater crisis at Varkala Cliff gain momentum

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. To protect the rapidly eroding Varkala Cliff—the iconic red laterite cliff—the Varkala Municipality and the tourism stakeholders are gearing up to introduce comprehensive solutions to manage the wastewater crisis faced by the tourism destination. Lack of wastewater management has accelerated the erosion of the Varkala Cliff, a major tourist attraction that draws scores of tourists from all over the world to Kerala.

Many parts of the cliff have started collapsing in recent times posing a threat to the visitors and the local community. The Varkala Tourism Development Authority (VTDA) has come up with a comprehensive solution to address the growing wastewater and sewage crisis at the destination. The plan is to introduce a compact containerised system that can convert grey water into

reusable water. It is learned that there are around 180 tourist establishments including resorts, and restaurants on the



South Cliff. The plan is to install a facility that can treat around 1.5 lakh litres of wastewater per day. On Tuesday, following a directive from the district collector, the Varkala Municipality authorities convened a meeting with the

tourism stakeholders. "We presented the project and the stakeholders are ready to invest in the facility and the meeting was very positive. Varkala is one of the most visited destinations in the state and addressing these issues is key to developing a sustainable and environmentally friendly destination," said Sanjay Sahadevan, advisor to VTDA.

The VTDA is in talks with a private agency -- Bhouma Envirotech Pvt Ltd for setting up the plant. "We have private land and there are no legal hurdles involved.

The project is estimated to cost around Rs 1.5 crore and the stakeholder establishments are ready to chip in," he added. The plan is to set up the facilities in shipping containers which are compact and movable. "We will be able to complete the project within one or two months. The preliminary works will take off immediately.

## Sole toilet facility on NH66 near Madavana shut down

KOCHI. For years, the toilet complexes set up by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) between Kumbalam and Madavana junctions, one on either side, were the only such facilities on the NH66 bypass stretch depended on by hundreds of motorists. Unlike similar facilities elsewhere, they were well-maintained with the contractor even creating a WhatsApp Group to which the sanitation workers were required to upload the pictures of the toilet complexes after cleaning them on a daily basis. But the free highway toilets, constructed under the Swachh Bharat Mission, have been locked for the past few weeks, making it difficult for commuters to answer nature's call.

The reason: the nine-year tenure of the Kochi-Aroor Tollways, which was entrusted with the operation, maintenance, and toll collection with



regard to the 17-km Edappally-Aroor bypass stretch, ended on September 5. And the NHAI is yet to appoint another agency.

"NHAI has been collecting the toll at the Kumbalam plaza directly after September 5. However, we've no idea about the maintenance of the facilities

and the flowering plants along the median. We'll again participate in the competitive bidding once the NHAI floats the tenders," said Kochi-Aroor Tollways CEO Sahadevan Nambiar. "The toilets were spick and span. It's unfortunate that the facility was closed. For daily long-distance commuters, there is no other highway facility in the region. The authorities have also closed down the 'Take A Break' facility at Kuthiathode.

The travelling time has also considerably gone up due to the elevated highway construction on the Aroor-Thuravoor stretch. They should have taken measures to continue extending the basic facilities to hundreds of highway commuters," said Arun Vijayan, a resident of Alappuzha, who travels daily to Ernakulam in his vehicle.

## 'Impossible to kill ideas of Gandhi': Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah

The CM, DyCM and others took a pledge for a clean and green Bengaluru as part of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's initiative to mark the celebration.

BENGALURU. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said it is impossible to kill the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi, and called upon people to defeat the BJP's conspiracy to turn the Mahatma's India into Godse's India.

At a 'Gandhi Bharat' programme organised at the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee office on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, the CM attacked the opposition BJP, saying Nathuram Godse is the standard-bearer of the saffron party.

"Gandhi is the soul of India. The consciousness of India. Godse should not be allowed to grow here. Society should not be allowed to be divided in the name of religion or caste," he said, stressing that communal forces should be defeated.

In the Belagavi session, Gandhi gave a message emphasising on Hindu-Muslim unity, Swaraj and Sarvodaya, the CM said adding that these are the principles and programme of the Congress.

Slamming the BJP, Siddaramaiah said, "We implemented the guarantees for the prosperity of all castes, races and religions, but the BJP is spreading misinformation against these populist programmes, and insulting the beneficiaries." Meanwhile, at the Gandhi Jayanti celebration at Vidhana



Soudha, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said Gandhi was a champion of peace and a great leader who taught the mantra of peace to the entire world.

The CM, DyCM and others took a pledge for a clean and green Bengaluru as part of Bruhat

Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's initiative to mark the celebration. Around 800 students also took pledges with the state leaders at Vidhana Soudha. Shivakumar also carried a torch and took part in 'Gandhi Nadige', a walk on Queen's Road and MG Road to

## Online power bill payments in Bengaluru to be affected from October 4 to 7

BENGALURU. The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM) will undertake upgrade of its IT infrastructure from October 4 to October 7.

During this period, though the electricity supply will not be affected, consumers will be unable to make online bill payments, use mobile applications and the consumer portal. Store transactions will also not be available, the energy department said on Wednesday.

An official release said BESCOM will undertake upgrade of restructured accelerated power development and reforms programme of its IT applications as part of the IPDS IT Phase-2 project. The Phase-1 upgrade was completed on March 20, 2024.



BESCOM Managing Director Mahantesh Bilagi said, "BESCOM is the nodal agency for the implementation of the IT

project for all ESCOMs in Karnataka, covering towns with a population of over 30,000. We assure our consumers and stakeholders that the new applications will enhance efficiency and improve user experience once operational."

"Training of field officers has been completed to ensure a smooth transition, and additional sessions are ongoing for other ESCOM officials," the official added. During the downtime, consumers will be unable to use the services for processing new connections, name and tariff changes, name transfers and temporary connections.

Places to be affected are: Bengaluru, Shiddlaghatta, Chikkaballapur, Kolar, Chintamani, Kanakapura, Ramanagara, Davanagere, Chitradurga, Tumakuru, Sira, Channarayana, Anekal, Mulabagilu, Bangarapet, Hosakote, Doddaballapur, KGF, Challakere, Kunigal, Harappanahalli, Harihara, Hiriyur, Tiptur and Gauribidanur.

spread Gandhi's ideas.

## THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published Owned by Simmi Babbar N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar Delhi-110009

Printed at Quami Patrika Printing Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City (Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office: 5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Press Area, ITO, New Delhi

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

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

## Legal Advisors:

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

News box

Unemployment, crimes on rise, countdown begins for BJP: Deepender steps up attack on state govt

Gurgaon. Accusing BJP of stalling development and creating a state with the "highest rates of unemployment, crime and corruption", Congress MP Deepender Hooda said on Wednesday that the countdown for the BJP govt in Haryana has begun. Hooda said that a "Congress-led govt would repeal the Agnipath scheme", push for the formation of the Ahir Regiment, and submit a proposal to the central govt during its first cabinet meeting. Addressing a massive election rally at Tau Devi Lal Stadium in Sohna constituency in support of Congress candidate Rohtash Khatana, Hooda said, "The BJP govt has only five days left and the people of Haryana are set to deliver a historic mandate in favour of the Congress." The Congress MP from Rohtak said under the BJP's rule, secure govt jobs were converted into temporary contracts through initiatives like the Agnipath scheme and Skill Corporation. "When Congress returns to office, we will create policies to regularise these contractual employees," Hooda said. He also promised significant infrastructure improvements, including the expansion of the metro in the region. The Congress leader vowed to "resolve unemployment issues" by restoring two lakh permanent jobs and revamping social welfare schemes, including the Mahalakshmi Yojana, which will offer women Rs 2000 and LPG cylinders at Rs 500. His other promises included "reinstating the Old Pension Scheme, free 300 units of electricity, and providing Rs 25 lakh worth of free medical coverage per family". Additionally, farmers would benefit from guaranteed MSP and immediate compensation for crop damages, he said. Former Rajasthan deputy chief minister Sachin Pilot, who too addressed the rally, echoed similar sentiments about BJP's governance.

Man (38) bludgeoned friend to death, held

Gurgaon. A 38-year-old man with criminal cases was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly bludgeoning his friend to death over a monetary dispute in Bhimgarh Kheri, police said. The dispute stemmed from the amount spent on their bail in a 2022 assault case. The accused, Haria, a labourer, killed his friend Pradeep (33), an employee of a private company, both residents of Bhimgarh Kheri. According to police, on Monday night, Haria called Pradeep to his house and later took him to an open plot where an argument over the bail money ensued. Haria then struck Pradeep on the head with a stick, causing him to collapse. Haria fled the scene immediately. At around 6am on Tuesday, locals alerted Sector 5 police about the body. A forensic team collected evidence from the site, and Pradeep was declared dead at Civil Hospital in Sector 10, with the body sent for autopsy. "Based on Pradeep's brother's complaint, a murder case was registered, and Haria was arrested from Bhimgarh Kheri that night," police said. A preliminary investigation revealed that both men were arrested in 2022 for assault, with Pradeep covering the bail costs for both. "Haria couldn't repay the amount, and after continued harassment from Pradeep, he killed him," said Gurgaon police spokesperson Sandeep Kumar.

Rahul in Haryana only as tourist: Saini

Hisar. Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini, while addressing an election rally in Hisar on Wednesday, said "Rahul Gandhi has come to Haryana only as a tourist." "Haryana is a very good place from the tourism point of view, as we (BJP govt) have developed the infrastructure," he quipped. During the rally, CM Saini said that the people of Haryana want to ask some questions to Rahul Gandhi, which Bhpender Singh Hooda has not been able to answer. "Rahul Gandhi goes to a foreign country and talks about ending Dalit reservation, we would like to question him... With what face have you come here now?" The CM also claimed that the Congress party will be admitted to Delhi AIIMS on the day votes are counted. "Congress leader Bhpender Singh Hooda makes fun of my announcements, but he should know that these announcements are just a trailer, the real movie will start after Oct 8," Saini said. "In just 56 days, we have taken 126 big decisions in the interest of Haryana," Saini added.

66k cops & 225 CAPF companies to be deployed for Haryana polls

Gurgaon. More than Rs 60 crore cash, liquor, drugs, and precious metals have been seized ahead of the assembly elections scheduled on Oct 5, Haryana DGP Shatruej Kapoor said on Wednesday. To ensure free and fair polls, the DGP said 80,000 cops and paramilitary personnel across the state. The DGP, who is in the city to take stock of poll preparedness, said, "We have deployed 225 companies of central paramilitary force, 30,000 state police personnel, 25,000 home guards, and 11,000 special police officers across the state." Additionally, 218 interstate police check-posts, 500 flying squads, and 462 surveillance teams have been put in place. Among 20,690 polling booths in Haryana, 3,740 have been flagged as vulnerable booths across the state and 252 in Gurgaon. All polling booths have CCTV cameras installed and the live feed from them will be monitored at the district election officer's control room. Wireless communication has been set up at all such control rooms for effective coordination between the returning officers and the police," the DGP said. In Nuh, 13 companies of central paramilitary forces along with Haryana Armed Police personnel and Reserve Police Battalions will be deployed in addition to the local police. "In accordance with the election commissioner's directives to prevent the supply of freebies to lure voters, we have been conducting checks across the state. So far, over Rs 60 crore cash, liquor, drugs, and valuable metals like gold and silver have been seized in the state. The maximum seizures are in Faridabad, Gurgaon, and Ambala, among other districts." The DGP said, adding that the numbers are likely to rise in the coming days, despite the security checks.

Nuh wants development and jobs but lamentations, 'no one seems to be interested'

Nuh. Cups of chai in hand, Ghanshyam Bagri (69) and Shabir Ali (52) were having an intense discussion on the elections and their expectations from the new MLA at a tea shop in Nuh on Wednesday. Friends for decades, they agreed that what Nuh needs at present is a university, a multi-specialty hospital, and industries for employment opportunities. "The healthcare facilities in the medical college and hospital are inadequate, lacking crucial departments such as cardiology and neurology. The absence of a university compels our youth to relocate to other cities," said Ali, a resident of Nuh. "Authorities are not interested in development. We don't have a single designated area for leisure or recreation either," lamented Bagri. Nuh has three assembly constituencies — Nuh, Ferozpur Jhirka, and Punhana — which altogether have a voter base of 6.6 lakh. In Nuh's Kherli Kankar village, locals were waiting for outgoing MLA Aftab Ahmed, who is also the Congress' candidate for the Nuh constituency, to address them. They said Nuh has seen no development in the

last decade but blamed the Centre for this, as "MLAs are powerful only when they are in the cabinet". "Congress has raised our issues regarding a university, education, health facilities and sports. But since the party is the opposition, their requests were not heard. It is not their fault. There has been no progress in the last 10 years," said 32-year-old Azam Khan. On the communal violence that happened last year, many said it strained the relationship between the two communities. "The unrest in Nuh was not caused by locals. Outsiders disrupted harmony. But there are some people who accuse people of cow slaughter without any proof. Our MLA has promised to introduce a law against lynching in the name of cow protection. There should be no rift between Hindus and Muslims," said Wasim Khan, another villager. Another voter, Shabir Khan, said: "There is no fear of cow vigilantism, but such acts create a rift. The Nuh riots have strained relationships." When approached, the outgoing MLA told TOI he will execute development works which have been

stopped by BJP in the last decade. "We will also re-introduce the schemes of the Congress-led govt. We have said in our manifesto that we will establish a university here," Ahmed said. He added, "Some anti-social elements take the law into their own hands. We will introduce an anti-lynching law to protect people." Shabir Ahmed, 49, who runs a pharmacy in Nuh, said the current govt has not worked to improve Nuh's infrastructure. "Our National Highway 248A is the only NH in the entire country which doesn't have multi-lane carriageways. The last Congress-led govt had given us Nalhar medical college, which has now become a referral hospital — it only refers people to other hospitals," he said. Wasim also pointed out that the govt hasn't built any sports infrastructure: "We want a sports ground or stadium in Nuh where our youth can practice." Akhil Khan (22), a resident of Gohana village in Ferozpur Jhirka, has shifted to Faridabad because he works in a govt hospital there and could not get a job in Nuh. "Had I got a job here, I wouldn't have to leave my

family and go to another city," he said. Meanwhile, at the BJP office in Nuh's Anaj Mandi, around two dozen people were preparing for BJP candidate Sanjay Singh's political gathering in Kira village on Wednesday. "In the past decade, the BJP-led govt has worked on education, health infrastructure, roads and cleanliness. A university is Nuh's demand, and BJP will give it to the people of Nuh," said Satish Kumar, a party worker. While those present at the office admitted that it is difficult for BJP to win the seat, they said they are still trying and campaigning for Singh. Also in the fray is Rabia Kidwai (34), the first woman candidate to contest the assembly polls in Nuh. According to Rabia, today's Nuh is the same as it was two decades ago, when she would accompany her grandfather — Akhlaq Ur Rehman Kidwai, the 13th Governor of Haryana — on his trips. "All the educational institutions here — the engineering, medical and girls colleges and the ITI — everything was built by my grandfather. Nobody has done anything else.

Fbd highway chase-murder a case of mistaken identity

GURGAON. Aryan, his family said, was good friends with Harshit, their landlord's son. On the night of Aug 23, the two decided on a sleepover. Around 10pm on Aug 23, Harshit, his brother Shanky, their mother and their neighbour Kriti Sharma planned to go to Vardhaman Mall and have noodles. Aryan tagged along. "They had noodles at a stall near the mall and were on their way back home in their Duster around 1.30am. On the way, a Swift started tailing the Duster, blowing the horn occasionally," said an officer at NIT police station. Shanky, who is an accused in an attempt to murder case, thought they were being chased either by cops in civvies or members of a family he had attacked earlier. "He asked his brother Harshit to step on the accelerator. As the Duster sped, the Swift kept up the chase," the officer added. The two cars took the Delhi-Agra highway via Badkhal road and continued for almost 20km. At one point, there was a barrage of bullets from the Swift. As one of them hit Aryan in the head, Harshit pulled the car over near Gadpur toll plaza. Anil and the others, according to sources, got off the Swift and walked up to the Duster's window where Aryan was seated. They fired at him again — this time directly in the neck from close range. "They took a close look at Aryan and fled, probably realising it was a mistaken identity. Plus, there were women seated behind," a police officer said. The deceased, Aryan was rushed to SSB Hospital in Faridabad, where he succumbed to his injuries on Aug 24 afternoon. Siya Nand — who once was attacked to bike taxi aggregators but is currently unemployed — said his landlord Keval Krishna woke him up around 3.30am, saying Aryan had suffered a bullet injury somewhere in Palwal. They rushed to SSB Hospital at the break of dawn, when Aryan was critical. In his initial complaint, Siya Nand alleged the attackers probably planned to kill Shanky, who already had a criminal case against him for attempted murder. Based on his complaint, a case was registered under Sections 103 (1) (murder), 190 (unlawful assembly), and 191 (3) (rioting armed with deadly weapons) of BNS and Section 25 of the Arms Act against two persons known to the Gulati family, said an official. A team of cops and crime branch sleuths searched the houses of the two persons initially thought to have orchestrated the attack, but ruled out their involvement after a few rounds of questioning. ACP (crime) Aman Yadav said they made the arrests after CCTV footage showed Anil and his aides Varun, Krishan, Adesh, and Saurabh — all of whom are from Faridabad. After the arrests last week, the accused were remanded in judicial custody. According to Yadav, they had admitted before interrogators that the attack on Aryan was a case of "mistaken identity".

last decade but blamed the Centre for this, as "MLAs are powerful only when they are in the cabinet". "Congress has raised our issues regarding a university, education, health facilities and sports. But since the party is the opposition, their requests were not heard. It is not their fault. There has been no progress in the last 10 years," said 32-year-old Azam Khan. On the communal violence that happened last year, many said it strained the relationship between the two communities. "The unrest in Nuh was not caused by locals. Outsiders disrupted harmony. But there are some people who accuse people of cow slaughter without any proof. Our MLA has promised to introduce a law against lynching in the name of cow protection. There should be no rift between Hindus and Muslims," said Wasim Khan, another villager. Another voter, Shabir Khan, said: "There is no fear of cow vigilantism, but such acts create a rift. The Nuh riots have strained relationships." When approached, the outgoing MLA told TOI he will execute development works which have been

NAME CHANGE I, MOHD ABID KHAN S/O MOHD ZAHID KHAN, R/O 1922, GALLI NO-5A, ZAKIR NAGAR, JAMIA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110025, have changed the name of my minor daughter ARIHA FATIMA alias MAHIUM aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as MAHAM NOOR.

NAME CHANGE I, Rohitash Kumar Yadav S/O Dharam Singh Yadav R/O H.No-5, Block-D, Gali No-1, Prasad Nagar, New Delhi-110043, Have Changed My Name To Rohitash For All Future Purposes

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as TARA MEHRA W/O CHANDAN SINGH R/O HOUSE NO-2, ROAD NO-71, PUNJABI BAGH, WEST PUNJABI BAGH, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110026 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as TARA DEVI.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, Harinder Kumar Singh R/O J-1/197, DDA Flats, Kalkaji, New Delhi-110019, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Harinder Kumar in my minor Son namely Jaswinder Singh aged 14 years in his School record. The actual name of mine is Harinder Kaur

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I MAMTA JAIN W/O AMIT JAIN R/O H.No-1915, Cell no. 2, Near Jain Mandir, Kalkaji, Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi - 110031 declared the name of my minor daughter have been wrongly written as PARIDHI JAIN aged 14 year in his school record the actual name of my minor daughter is PRAGYA JAIN respectively which may be amended accordingly

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, SAMPATI KUMAR YADAV S/O PATROO YADAV R/O 160-B, MUNIRKA VILLAGE, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110067 declare that name of my minor daughter have been wrongly written as SHYAMPAT and ANITA and VAISHNAVI in my minor daughter namely VAISHNAVI YADAV aged 15 year in her birth certificate No. 572. The actual name of mine and my wife and minor daughter namely SAMPATI KUMAR YADAV and ANITA YADAV and VAISHNAVI YADAV respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, Hitesh Kumar S/O DEEPAK KUMAR CHATURVEDI alias DEEPAK CHATURVEDI S/O RAMESH CHANDRA CHATURVEDI R/O C-402, TRUVE FRIENDS COHS LTD, PLOT NO.28, SECTOR-6, DWARKA, NEW DELHI, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DEEPAK CHATURVEDI.

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the general public that my client, Ms. Vimmi Kumar, wife of Late Narendar Kumar, residing at House Number 70, Staff Quarters, Safdarjung Hospital, Raj Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, South West Delhi, Delhi - 110029 (Phone No.: 9868793324) has disowned and debarred her son, Sahil Kumar, from all movable and immovable properties, whether self-acquired or ancestral, located all over India, due to his misconduct, disobedience, and misbehavior. My client shall not be held responsible for any actions or conduct of Sahil Kumar in the future.

NAME CHANGE I, SWATI GUPTA D/O SH. BIRENDER PRASAD GUPTA R/O H.NO-35, BLOCK-A-1, LAXMI VIHAR, NEAR DWARKA MOR, METRO STATION UTTAM NAGAR, D.K. MOHAN GARDEN, WEST DELHI-110059, declared that name has been wrongly written as BIRENDRA PRASAD GUPTA in my documents. That my father correct name is BIRENDER PRASAD GUPTA and BIRENDER PRASAD GUPTA both are one and the same person.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I Geeta W/O Ram Jeet C-297, Budh Nagar Indrapur, I.A.R.I., PO: I.A.R.I., DIST: Central Delhi, Delhi-110012, declare that name of mine and my husband has been wrongly written as Geeta Verma and Rajmjeet Verma in my minor son Abhi Patel aged 14 in his school record. The actual name of mine and my husband are Geeta and Ram Jeet, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, No. 2701849A Rank- HAV Name - SUNIL DUTT Serving with - LOAR, and resident of - VPO-RAMPUR, TEH- CHAUKHUTIA, DIST-ALMORA (UTTARAKHAND)-263656 have changed my name from MEENAKSHI UPRETI to MEENA DEVI for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 01/10/2024 Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, ZAHID S/O SHAHID IDREESI residing at R-14, FIRST FLOOR, GAFFAR MANZIL, JAMIA NAGAR PART-2, OKHLA, DELHI-110025 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD ZAHID for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE I, hitherto known as VEENU BHATIA alias VANDANA BHATIA W/O SANJEEV BHATIA R/O BU-17, SFS Flats Pitampura North West Delhi - 110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VEENU BHATIA

NAME CHANGE I, Daljeet Kaur W/O- Baljit Singh R/O 87 First floor, Sani Nagar East of Kailash, South Delhi - 110065 have changed my name from Daljeet Kaur to Daljeet Kaur for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE I, K VARALAKSHMI mother of No-20169971, Rank-SEP Name- KARANAM GANESH R/O VPO-DIMLI, TEH-RAMBILDI, DIST-VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-531061 have changed my name from K VARALAKSHMI to KARANAM VARALAKSHMI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 19/09/2024 before Notary Public, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

NAME CHANGE It is for general information that I, DALIP KUMAR S/O BHIM SINGH R/O H.NO-20, A-7, SECTOR-17, ROHINI SECTOR-15, S.O. NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110089, declare that name of mine and minor son has been wrongly written as DILIP KUMAR and JATIN BARGUJAR in my minor son JATIN aged 16 years in his school records. The actual name of mine and my minor son are DALIP KUMAR and JATIN, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, SAURAV SINGH S/O SH. SURENDRA SINGH R/O H.NO-B 101, 77 NO-23/4/2 BLOCK B PH-2, BHAGYA VIHAR, MUBARAKPUR DABAS, DELHI-110081 have changed my name from SAURAV to SAURAV SINGH for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE I, BALA DEVI Mother of No. 17024672K Rank-HAV Name-SUMIT Presently residing at VILL-AHULANA, PO-AHULANA, TEH- GOHANA, DIST- SONIPAT, STATE-HARYANA, PIN-131301 have changed my name from BALA DEVI to SAROJIBALA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 03/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NOTICE General Public is hereby informed that our client Mr. Rajender Singh S/o late Mr. Manbeer Singh is the owner of Property bearing NO.C-48, Plot NO.3, area measuring 200 sq. yds. i.e. 167.22 sq. mts. khsra no.792/686, 803/685 & 702/686, Situated at Village Saboli in the abadi of Gali No. 16, East Nathu Colony Mandoli Road Illaga Shahdara Delhi-110093. Vide Relinquishment Deed dated 01/03/2018 executed by (1) Ms. Krishna and (2) Ms. Seema in favour of Mr. Rajender Singh s/o late Mr. Manbeer Singh release share in respect of said property (Doc No.1146, Vol No.2633, age No.174-180, SR-IV A) Initially, Sale Deed dated 30/06/971 executed by Mr. Ghastia in favour of Mr. Mahesh Chand in respect of Property area measuring 1 Bigha 13 Biswas) (Doc No.11189, Vol No.414, Page No.98-99), later, Who executed GPA dated 08/01/1973 in favour of Mr. Gaj Raj Singhin respect of the said property, later, Who executed GPA dated 18/01/1975 in favour of Mrs. Shanti Devi in respect of the said property, later Who died on 17/09/2009 and her husband Mr. Manveer Singh died on 06/07/1996 leaving behind legal heirs Ms. Krishna, Ms. Seema and Mr. Rajender Singh, finally, Relinquishment Deed dated 01/03/2018 executed in favour of our abovementioned client who intends to mortgage said property for his bonafide requirements with Fedbank Financial Services Ltd. Whosoever is having any objection to the said mortgage or acquisition or anyone has claim or right or interest in the property shall contact the undersigned with the objection within 15 days falling which it shall be presumed that there stands no objections. NEW DELHI

NAME CHANGE I, NISHA THAKUR W/O VINOD KUMAR residing at 173 -A/3, Third Floor, Ryhaan Residency, Opposite Nand Apartment-2, Ward No.-3, Mehrauli, South Delhi, Delhi - 110030, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as NEVAAN VINOD PARIHAR in my minor son namely NEVAAN THAKUR aged 13 Years in his school record. The actual name of my minor Son is NEVAAN THAKUR, which may be amended accordingly.

PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE En. No. D77/102 Office: L-27, GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48 Mob.: 9968006418

NAME CHANGE It is for general information that I, NISHA THAKUR W/O VINOD KUMAR residing at 173 -A/3, Third Floor, Ryhaan Residency, Opposite Nand Apartment-2, Ward No.-3, Mehrauli, South Delhi, Delhi - 110030, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as NEVAAN VINOD PARIHAR in my minor son namely NEVAAN THAKUR aged 13 Years in his school record. The actual name of my minor Son is NEVAAN THAKUR, which may be amended accordingly.

PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE En. No. D77/102 Office: L-27, GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48 Mob.: 9968006418

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I LAXMI KANT RAY S/O RAMAKANT RAY R/O 4583A, 13 Upper Ground Floor, Jai Mata Market, Onkar Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110035 declared the name of my wife has been wrongly written as POORNIMA RAY in my minor son DIVYANSH RAY aged 13 year in his school record the actual name of my wife is KUMARI POORNIMA respectively which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE I, SWETA GAHATRAJ Wife of No-16022748K Rank-LNK Name-ASHISH GAHATRAJ Residing at VILL-LANKA-PARA TG, PO-LANKAPARA, HAT, TEHSIL-ALIPURDUAR, DIST-JALPAIGURI, WEST BENGAL-735228 have changed my name from SWETA GAHATRAJ to SWETA KHATIWARA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 03/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, RAM BETI Wife of JC-110710 Rank-SUB & LT. Name- LATE RAGHUNANDAN SINGH, residing at VILL-RAMNAGAR, POST- KAILA, DIST-ETAH, STATE-UTTAR PRADESH, PIN-207247 have changed my name from RAM BETI to RAM BATI for all future purposes, in my husband's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 17/02/1942 instead of my correct date of birth as 20/01/1941 vide Affidavit dated 03/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE The Deputy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer (Const./TKJ, Northern Railway, New Delhi) for and on behalf of the President of India invites by established and reliable tenders open e-tender under Single Packet System on the prescribed form for the following work: Mode of Tender: E-Tender (Single Packet) Tender Notice No.: 287-Sig/CTKJ/68/24 Full Name of work: "S&T work for Provision of Indoor and Outdoor signaling works with Centralized Electronic Interlocking System at Raisi station alongwith block working with adjoining station/sections in connection with Additional Directional UP/DN Loops on LKO-SRE section over Moradabad Division of Northern Railway." Approx. Cost: ₹3,74,79,340.25 (Rupees Three Crore Seventy Four Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Three Hundred Forty and Paise Twenty Five Only) Tender Document Cost: Zero Completion period: 10 (Ten) Months from the date of issue of LOA Bid Security (Cash/BG amount): ₹3,37,400/- (Rupees Three Lakh Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred only) Sale/availability of tender document on RfL Website: Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 03.10.2024 to 28.10.2024 upto 11:30 hrs. Last date/Time of upload of tenders: 28.10.2024 upto 11:30 hrs. Tender documents can be uploaded by the tender on IREPS website w.e.f. 14.10.2024 to 28.10.2024 Date and time of opening of tender: 28.10.2024 at 11:30 hrs (immediately after close of uploading of tender (D2). In case of two packet system, Financial bids of the eligible tenders would be opened subsequently on the date and time to be notified later on. No. 287/Sig/CTKJ/68/24 Dated: 03.10.2024 3059/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

RAMGARHIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD. Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, Pahar Ganj, New Delhi-110055 SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE SECTION 13(4) (For Immovable property) Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank Ltd. under Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice details given as below we had pasted the same notice on the property calling upon the Borrower/Guarantor/Borrower/ Co Borrower to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, respectively within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice. The borrower having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13(4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rule on this 3rd day of October of the year 2024.

Table with 6 columns: S.No, Name of the Borrower/ Guarantor/Borrower, Property Details, Date of issuing 13(2), Date of issuing 13(4), Amt as on 30/06/2024 + Intt. + Legal Charges. Row 1: S. Amardeep Singh (Prop. M/s Advance Engineering Group), Property bearing No. WZ-107/1B (Measuring 40Sq Yards), Sant Gari New Delhi - 110018, 19/07/2024, 25/09/2024, Rs. 18, 08, 222.98/- (Eighteen Lakhs Eight Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Two Rupees Ninety Eight Paise Only). Row 2: S. Gurvinder Singh (Prop. M/s J.K Traders), Property bearing No. WZ-139 A/4A, Ground Floor without Roof Rights, Plot No. 3 New Mahavir Nagar, New Delhi - 110018, 20/07/2024, 25/09/2024, Rs.9,96,164/- (Rupees Nine Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand One Hundred Sixty Four Only).

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Section 13(8) of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. Authorised Representative Phone: 011-40192447, 011-45595302 E-mail: rcbl ho@ramgarhiabank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform that Mrs. Deepika Shrivastava is the owner of a residential property measuring 28 sq. Yards, Kharsa No. 708, Ganga Enclave Extension, Village Baheta Hazipur, Pargana & Tehsil Loni, Distt. Ghaziabad, U.P. She purchased this property from Mrs. Pinki Rani Raghuvar through a sale deed dated January 4, 2023. The entire property was previously acquired by Mrs. Pinki Rani Raghuvar from Mr. Jitender Kumar Raghuvar through a sale deed dated July 9, 2012. Prior to this sale deed, Mrs. Sheela executed a registered will dated December 13, 2017, in favor of her son Mr. Jitender Kumar Raghuvar. Subsequently, Mrs. Sheela passed away on July 1, 2021, leaving behind only one legal heir, Mr. Jitender Kumar Raghuvar. Mrs. Sheela had purchased the entire property from Mr. Salag through a notarized general power of attorney, an agreement to sell, and a valid dated October 10, 1985. P. Praveen Kumar S/o Ram Kishan Gupta & Shakuntala Garg W/o Parveen Kumar R/o T115 Jan Colony Part -I Matiyala, South West Delhi, Delhi-110059, Whereas, I absolute owner of above said property & have four children's below mention:- Two Sons (Naveen & Deepanshu) and Two Daughter (Meenakshi & Neha) that our son Deepanshu Garg is disobedient and is not according to our temperaments and is beyond our control and supervision, so the dependents serve all relations with him & disown from his inheritance absolutely & forever heretofore. He is committing acts against the social norms of our family & was not Obedient to him. That our aforementioned son has no speaking terms with us and him act and conduct is not in consonance with the requirement of our family. And whosoever will deal with him, will be doing so at own risk & responsibility and the deponent and his family shall not be liable for any act of the above named Deepanshu son of the deponents. That the contents of the deed of disowning & debarred executed by the deponents be read as part of this para of the deed and those are deemed to depart parcel of this deed. That we have executed this deed of our free will, wish and desire without any influence or coercion.

[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P. DISOWNING DEED This deed of disowning made on this 01.10.2024 by us i.e. P. Praveen Kumar S/o Ram Kishan Gupta & Shakuntala Garg W/o Parveen Kumar R/o T115 Jan Colony Part -I Matiyala, South West Delhi, Delhi-110059, Whereas, I absolute owner of above said property & have four children's below mention:- Two Sons (Naveen & Deepanshu) and Two Daughter (Meenakshi & Neha) that our son Deepanshu Garg is disobedient and is not according to our temperaments and is beyond our control and supervision, so the dependents serve all relations with him & disown from his inheritance absolutely & forever heretofore. He is committing acts against the social norms of our family & was not Obedient to him. That our aforementioned son has no speaking terms with us and him act and conduct is not in consonance with the requirement of our family. And whosoever will deal with him, will be doing so at own risk & responsibility and the deponent and his family shall not be liable for any act of the above named Deepanshu son of the deponents. That the contents of the deed of disowning & debarred executed by the deponents be read as part of this para of the deed and those are deemed to depart parcel of this deed. That we have executed this deed of our free will, wish and desire without any influence or coercion. SANKALP JURIS LAW FIRM Game Moderator SUDHANSHU M. KUMAR Advocate 510B, Lawyer's Chamber Dwarika Court, Mobile No 9650815531

News box

Trump acknowledges pulling out of CBS interview, demands apology to reconsider

**World** Donald Trump on Wednesday acknowledged pulling out of the CBS news program 60 Minutes interview he had agreed to do as a part of the news channel's election coverage, and laid out his conditions for considering it again. Trump was asked about him pulling out of the interview by a reporter. "But first, I would like to get an apology because the last time I did an interview with them, if you remember, they challenged me on the computer. They said the laptop from hell was from Russia. And I said, it wasn't from Russia, it was from Hunter [Biden]. And I never got an apology, so I'm sort of waiting." Trump responded to the reporter. "I'd love to do 60 minutes." Trump added that he has asked the organisation for an apology but hasn't received one yet, and that he loves the 60 Minutes segment, noting he has done it in the past. It is unclear whether an interview with the former president will still take place as the country gears up for the fast-approaching presidential elections on November 5. Trump is currently involved in a tight race for the White House with US Vice President and the Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris, with both polling well in different states.

Trump has been busy in the last few days campaigning in the areas hit by Hurricane Helena and pointing fingers at the Biden administration for providing enough relief to those affected. Meanwhile, Trump's running mate, JD Vance, put in a shift at the first vice-presidential debate against Harris's running mate and Minnesota Governor Tim Walz.

Six migrants shot dead near Guatemalan border when Mexican army troops open fire

**MEXICO CITY.** Six international migrants are dead after Mexican soldiers opened fire on a truck carrying a group near the border with Guatemala, Mexico's Defense Department said Wednesday. The department said in a statement that soldiers claimed they heard shots as the trucks and two other vehicles approached their position late Tuesday in the southern state of Chiapas, near the town of Huixtla. Two soldiers opened fire on the truck, which was carrying migrants from Egypt, Nepal, Cuba, India, Pakistan and at least one other country. Soldiers then approached the truck and found four of the migrants dead, and 12 wounded. Two of the wounded later died of their injuries. There was no immediate information on the condition of the other 10. Local prosecutors confirmed all the victims died of gunshot wounds. The Defense Department did not say whether the migrants died as a result of army fire, or whether any weapons were found in the truck.

There were 17 other migrants in the truck who were unharmed. The vehicle was carrying a total of 33 migrants. The area is common route for smuggling migrants, who are often packed into crowded freight trucks.

The department said the two soldiers who opened fire were relieved of duty pending investigations. In Mexico, any incident involving civilians is subject to civilian prosecution, but soldiers can also face military courts martial for those offenses.

It is not the first time Mexican forces have opened fire on vehicles carrying migrants in the area, which is also the object of turf battles between warring drug cartels. In the same area in 2021, the quasi-military National Guard opened fire on a pickup truck carrying migrants, killing one and wounding four. Irineo Mujica, a migrant rights activist who has frequently accompanied caravans of migrants in that area of Chiapas, said he doubted the migrants or their smugglers opened fire.

An American bomb from WWII explodes at a Japanese airport, leaving a crater on the taxiway

**TOKYO.** An unexploded US bomb from World War II that had been buried at a Japanese airport exploded Wednesday, causing a large crater in a taxiway and the cancellation of more than 80 flights, Japanese officials said.

No one was hurt, and there were no aircraft nearby when the bomb exploded at Miyazaki Airport in southwestern Japan, Land and Transport Ministry officials said.

An investigation by the Self-Defense Forces and police confirmed the explosion was caused by a 500-pound US bomb and there was no further danger. Officials were determining what caused its sudden detonation. A video recorded by a nearby aviation school showed the blast spewing pieces of asphalt into the air like a fountain. Videos broadcast on Japanese television showed a crater in the taxiway reportedly about 7 meters (yards) in diameter and 1 meter (3 feet) deep. Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshimasa Hayashi said more than 80 flights had been canceled at the airport as of midafternoon Wednesday. The airport said the taxiway damage was repaired overnight and flights resumed Thursday morning.

100 newborns named Nasrallah in Iraq after Hezbollah chief's killing



**Hassan Nasrallah's death has sparked widespread anger and mourning in Iraq, particularly among the country's majority Shia population. Around 100 newborns in the country have been named "Nasrallah" as a tribute to the slain Hezbollah leader.**

**World** In the days following Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah's death in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut, Lebanon, Iraq has seen a surge of newborns named in his honour.

According to Iraq's health ministry, around 100 babies across the country were registered under the name "Nasrallah". Nasrallah, who had been at the helm of Hezbollah for over three decades, was seen by many as a symbol of resistance against Israeli and Western influence in many Arab nations. He commanded a significant following in Iraq, particularly among the country's majority Shia community. His assassination sparked anger across the country, triggering large-scale demonstrations in Baghdad and other cities. Protesters condemned Israel's actions and declared the killing a violation of international law.

Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani described Nasrallah as "a martyr on the path of the righteous." During a three-day state mourning, vigils were

held nationwide to honour the Hezbollah leader. Nasrallah's ties to Iraq run deep, rooted in both religion and political ideology. Born to humble beginnings in 1960, Nasrallah went on to study Islam at a Shia seminary in the Iraqi city of Najaf. It was here that his political views took shape as he joined the Dawa party, eventually setting him on a path that would define his militant career. He rose to prominence after joining Hezbollah in 1982, following Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Formed with the backing of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Hezbollah was initially a militia aimed at resisting Israeli forces. Nasrallah took the reins of Hezbollah in 1992 after the assassination of his predecessor and mentor, Abbas Musawi. Over the next three decades, he transformed the group into a regional powerhouse, influencing conflicts from Syria to Yemen and training Palestinian fighters in



Gaza. Under Nasrallah's leadership, Hezbollah's power grew, both militarily and politically. The organisation helped provide missiles and rockets to groups like Hamas and militias in Iraq and Yemen, all part of a broader 'Axis of Resistance' to Israel and its allies. Nasrallah was particularly popular among Iraqis critical of the US presence in Iraq following the 2003 invasion, solidifying his image as a symbol of resistance to Western intervention. However, his leadership was not without controversy. While revered by supporters, others saw the Hezbollah commander as an Iranian proxy, whose actions

deepened Lebanon's sectarian divides. Hezbollah's suspected involvement in the 2005 assassination of then Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri polarised Lebanon. The group's participation in the Syrian Civil War, fighting alongside Bashar al-Assad's forces, alienated many of Lebanon's Sunni population, sharpening sectarian tensions.

While Iran and its allies in Iraq and Syria have condemned Nasrallah's killing, other Arab nations, particularly those in the Gulf led by Saudi Arabia, have remained distant. This divide reflects the historical sectarian conflict between Sunni and Shia Muslims, as well as differing geopolitical priorities. Israel's decision to target Nasrallah appears to be a calculated move to disrupt Iran's influence in the region. However, the immediate outpouring of support for Nasrallah, particularly in Iraq, suggests that the legacy of resistance he embodied may persist beyond his death.

Japan airport closed down after World War 2-era bomb explodes near runway

**Tokyo.** A regional airport in southwest Japan was closed on Wednesday after a US bombshell, likely dropped during World War Two to stem "kamikaze" attacks, exploded near its runway, causing nearly 90 flight cancellations. Miyazaki Airport shut its runway after the explosion caused a crater seven metres (23 feet) wide and one metre (3.2 feet) deep in the middle of the taxiway next to the runway, according to a Japanese transport ministry official. A bomb disposal team from the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force later found that the cause of the explosion was an American bomb that had been buried beneath the land surface, probably dating to a wartime air raid, the official said. No injuries were reported but live cam footage showed an airplane had been taxiing nearby just two minutes before the explosion, according to



local broadcaster MRT. The runway shutdown has led to the grounding of 87 flights but there is no danger of any further explosions and repair works to fill the hole should be completed by Thursday morning, said Japan's top government spokesperson Yoshimasa Hayashi. The affected flights were operated by JAL,

ANA and other airlines connecting Miyazaki with cities such as Tokyo, Osaka and Fukuoka, according to the airport website. Located at the southeast end of Kyushu island, Miyazaki airport was formerly a Japanese navy base until the end of World War Two, from where hundreds of young "kamikaze" pilots set off on their final missions, according to the Miyazaki city website.

Multiple unexploded bombs have previously been found at Miyazaki airport, the transport ministry official said. More than 79 years since the end of the war, unexploded bombs from the intense airstrikes are still found across Japan today. A total of 2,348 bombs weighing 37.5 tonnes were disposed of during fiscal year 2023, the Self-Defense Forces have said.

US citizen killed in Israeli strike in Lebanon while helping elderly

**World** A US citizen was killed in an Israeli strike in Lebanon's Beirut while helping elderly and injured near a hospital, according to his daughter and a Congresswoman representing his constituency, news agency Reuters reported.

The man, identified as Kamel Ahmad Jawad from Michigan's Dearborn, was killed in the Israeli strikes in Lebanon, Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib's office said on Thursday. According to Jawad's daughter, he died in an Israeli strike in Lebanon on Tuesday "while trying to save innocent lives". She said her father was living near a hospital to help the elderly and disabled when he came under the fire of Israeli attacks. The White House expressed its condolences to Jawad's family, terming the incident a "tragedy". "We are deeply saddened by the death of Kamel Ahmad Jawad and our hearts go out to his family and friends. His death is a tragedy, as are the deaths of many civilians in Lebanon," a White House spokesperson said in a statement. According to US-based Detroit News, Jawad was in Lebanon taking care of his elderly mother. His friends called him "one of the kindest and most generous humans". The already volatile Middle East witnessed a dramatic escalation in tensions earlier this week after Iran attacked Israel with 181 ballistic missiles. The attacks were in response to a massive Israeli strike on Hezbollah's headquarters in Beirut, which killed the chief of the Iran-backed group, Hassan Nasrallah.

The US has faced criticism for its support of its ally Israel, which is also waging a war in Gaza in which over 41,000 people have been killed and over 2.3 million displaced. Dearborn, where Jawad was from, has a large Arab-American population.

More than 1,900 people have been killed and over 9,000 wounded in Lebanon in almost a year of cross-border fighting, with most of the deaths occurring in the past two weeks, according to Lebanese government statistics.

US couple unable to sue Uber after life-altering crash due to Uber Eats order

**World** A New Jersey court has ruled that a married couple that were in a life-altering car accident during an Uber ride, can't sue the company as they and their daughter agreed to arbitration when they accepted the terms of service for a separate Uber Eats order. According to court documents, John and Georgia McGinty, a couple from Mercer County, suffered "serious physical, psychological, and financial damage" when the Uber they were riding in crashed into another car. Almost a year later, in February 2023, they filed a lawsuit against the ride-hailing company. Georgia sustained several fractures throughout her body, including cervical, lumbar, spine and rib fractures and other physical injuries in the car crash

that required surgery and other procedures, and was unable to return to her job until 2023, NPR reported. Meanwhile, her husband John suffered a fractured sternum and severe fractures to his left arm and wrist.

As a result, the couple tried taking Uber to court to get compensation for their financial losses, including medical and child care expenses. However, an appellate court recently ruled they can't because they previously agreed to Uber's updated terms and conditions requiring arbitration, which are the same in the Uber Eats and Uber ride app, CNN reported. The McGintys retaliated, claiming that their daughter, who was and is still a minor, was the one who had most

recently consented to the terms when she placed an order through Uber Eats using Georgia's phone. They claimed that they never had the "opportunity to see the pop-up", and their daughter agreed to it knowingly or unknowingly while tracking the food order.

A lower court had previously sided with the couple, saying that Uber's arbitration clause wasn't enforceable because the pop-up with the terms of service "fail[ed] to clearly and unambiguously inform plaintiff of her waiver of the right to pursue her claims in a judicial forum".

The appellate court reversed the decision, saying the company's terms are "valid and enforceable". "We are horrified at what the court's decision suggests.

Israel 'plans' to hit Iran's nukes, Biden says response should be proportionate



**World** US President Joe Biden on Wednesday (local time) said he was against Israel over its reported plan to strike Iran's nuclear facilities in response to Tehran's missile attacks on the Jewish nation and stressed that Tel Aviv should act "proportionately". Reacting to reports on Israel's plan to strike Iran's nuclear facilities and oil rigs in response to Tuesday's attacks on the Jewish nation, Biden said that Israel had a right to defend itself, but it should do so "proportionately". The Times of Israel reported. He also spoke to G7 leaders over the possibility of imposing new sanctions on Tehran. Following the G7 meeting that was held over a phone call, the White House said Biden had coordinated the multilateral rollout of the new sanctions against Iran. The G7 leaders, including Biden, "unequivocally condemned Iran's attack against Israel", which marked a dramatic escalation of tensions in

LATEST ON ISRAEL-IRAN CONFLICT:

Biden said more sanctions would be imposed on Iran over Tuesday's attacks on Israel and that he would speak soon with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. When asked for a response over Israel planning to hit Iran's nuclear and oil sites, Biden said, "The answer is no." According to analysts, Israel's response would be more severe than when Iran launched missiles and drones at the Jewish nation in April, suggesting that it could target Tehran's nuclear or oil facilities this time. Other experts were of the view that the US should attempt to moderate Israel's response in a bid to avoid a regional war in the Middle East. Biden said he would speak to Israel, including Netanyahu, over its plans to strike Iran, while asserting that Tehran has gone "way off course". He said, "We'll be discussing with the Israelis



what they're going to do, but all seven of us (G7 nations) agree that they have a right to respond but they should respond proportionally."

Meanwhile, Israeli officials told their US counterparts that they were still finalising targets and timing for a response to Iran's missile attacks, said a person in Washington familiar with the discussions, news agency Reuters reported.

Iran's missile attack coupled with Israel's offensive on Hezbollah in Lebanon have escalated tensions in the Middle East, where the Biden administration has been rushing to broker a ceasefire deal in the nearly

year-old Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, as the threat looms over the possibility of a full-blown war in the region. According to Israeli officials, Israel is likely to attack Iran's strategic infrastructure, including gas and oil rigs, or nuclear facilities. Attacks on Iran's air defence systems and targeted killings could also be possible responses, Axios reported. If such a plan goes ahead, it could mark another round of confrontation between the two countries, while also severely crippling Iranian economy.

Meanwhile, six people were killed in an Israeli airstrike in central Beirut early on Thursday as the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said it had carried out a "targeted" attack in the Lebanese capital. The strike hit an apartment building in Bashoura neighbourhood, which is close to the Lebanese parliament, the nearest Israeli strikes have come to the country's seat of government.

Elon Musk funded right-wing political group years before endorsing Trump: Report

**Two of the people familiar with the donations told Reuters that Musk's contributions to the organisation, Building America's Future, had started by 2022.**

**Washington.** Elon Musk secretly funded a conservative political group in recent years, according to four people familiar with his donations, illustrating quiet financial support for right-wing causes even before the billionaire entrepreneur in July endorsed former President Donald Trump's bid for re-election.

Two of the people familiar with the donations told Reuters that Musk's contributions to the

organisation, Building America's Future, had started by 2022. One of those people and a third source said the donations amounted to millions of dollars, significantly boosting a group whose advertisements and social media campaigns have criticised the Biden administration and progressive political platforms of the sort that Musk himself has increasingly denounced. Reuters was unable to determine a precise amount and timeline for the contributions or identify documentation linking the organization's finances to Musk. Earlier on Wednesday, The Wall Street Journal reported that Musk had financed other pro-Republican groups.

Musk didn't respond to emails seeking comment. A spokesperson for Building America's Future didn't respond, either. The magnate behind ventures including carmaker Tesla, space contractor SpaceX

and the social media platform X, Musk for many years was careful to avoid suggestions that he favoured either major US political party. As recently as March, months before he publicly backed Trump and announced plans to finance a political action committee to work against Democrats, he wrote on social media: "Just to be super clear, I am not donating money to either candidate for US President." Donations to Building America's Future, however, would show he was already using his vast resources to fund right-wing causes. As a non-profit 501(c)(4) group, the organisation isn't required by federal law to disclose its financial backers.

Although such groups aren't allowed to finance candidates' political campaigns, they can espouse political causes. As such, they are commonly referred to as "dark money" groups - used by political operatives,

Democrats and Republicans alike, to hide the financial origins of influence campaigns. In Musk's case, the four people familiar with his donations told Reuters, the contributions to Building America's Future remained closely guarded. Three of the people were briefed on the donations by executives at or linked to the organization and the fourth was consulted on the matter by a Musk aide. All spoke with Reuters on the condition that they not be identified by name.

**"STOP CACKLING KAMALA"** Revenues at Building America's Future, according to government data, climbed from some \$11 million in 2021 to about \$53 million in 2022, the year two of the people said Musk had already started his donations. The figures are the most recent available from the Internal Revenue Service, which requires tax-exempt organisations to

News box

Investigation into rape survivor and lawyer over alleged settlement demand

KOCHI. Police have started a probe against a rape survivor and her lawyer for allegedly demanding money from the wife of the accused to settle the case. The move by the Cheranalloor police came on the directions of Ernakulam Chief Judicial Magistrate Court, which registered a case and started an investigation. It was in April this year that the husband of a woman hailing from Malappuram district was arrested by Ernakulam North Police in a rape case. The rape survivor sent messages to the wife of the accused person and informed her about the rape incident and the arrest. Her picture with the husband of the woman was also shared by the survivor. Though their marital relationship was not cordial, she reached Kochi and managed to secure bail for her husband.

However, after her husband was released on bail, the rape survivor allegedly contacted the wife of the accused person and indicated willingness to withdraw her complaint if she would be paid Rs 5 lakh. The wife was allegedly asked to contact her lawyer to fix a deal. However, later she and her lawyer allegedly demanded 10 lakh for withdrawing the complaint.

Following this, the woman approached the police with a complaint but they refused to investigate the matter. Thus she filed a petition before the Ernakulam Chief Judicial Magistrate court seeking a police investigation. She also submitted audio clips containing a telephone conversation with the rape survivor and her lawyer.

The court recently ordered Cheranalloor police to register a case and conduct an investigation. Cheranalloor police said that they have registered an FIR in the incident as directed by the court. A detailed statement of the complainant will be recorded soon.

Opposition leader V D Satheesan alleges bulk elimination of key questions in Kerala assembly

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. With two days remaining for the 12th session of the 15th Kerala Legislative Assembly, Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan has filed a complaint with the Speaker citing that the Legislature Secretariat has deliberately eliminated 49 starred questions in bulk given by Opposition legislators. The questions are related to controversial issues like ADGP - RSS leadership meet, Thrissur Pooram and Kafir screen shot.

This is not the first time that Satheesan has raised such an allegation before the Speaker. In September 2022, Satheesan had approached then speaker M B Rajesh complaining that the questions raised against the chief minister in the Legislative Assembly were being changed in favour of the ruling bench.

But this time, 49 starred notices pertaining to ADGP - RSS meeting, Thrissur Pooram and Kafir screen shot issues which should have seen the chief minister himself directly replying to the questions raised by the Opposition were removed in bulk. In the letter addressed to the Speaker, Satheesan highlighted that the move by the Legislature Secretariat is against his directives and earlier rulings. "The Legislature Secretariat should examine the question notices given by the Opposition as per Rules 38 and 39 and depending on its relevance it should be included as starred questions. This move has caused anguish among the public as the notices raised by the Opposition deserve to be heard in the Assembly."

36-year-old autorickshaw driver arrested for allegedly flashing woman in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. A 36-year-old autorickshaw driver was arrested by the Magadi Road police, after he allegedly flashed in front of a woman, while she was heading home. The accused, Ashok Kumar, is a resident of Malleswaram. The police said the incident occurred on September 18 afternoon when the woman, a beautician, was walking home. Ashok followed her near Rajajinagar 6th Block, stopped the vehicle and allegedly flashed. Based on the woman's complaint, the police traced the accused by going through CCTV footage and arrested him on Tuesday.

Auto driver harassment

In another incident, a 24-year-old woman was allegedly harassed by an auto driver near Silk Board after they quarrelled over the fare, early on Sunday morning.

The victim, Neha (name changed), told TNIE that she was travelling from Chennai and got down at Silk Board. As no cab arrived, an auto driver approached her and offered to drop her for the same price of Rs 270, but he asked her to go in another auto. But as they travelled from BTM to Bannerghatta Road, the victim noticed the meter, which showed the fare of Rs 340 for about 5-6 km travelled.

Excessive silt formation: SWTD drops plan to operate Ernakulam-Arookutty boat services

It takes only 45 minutes for commuters to reach Ernakulam by boat.

KOCHI. There is no respite in sight in the near future for commuters travelling to Kochi from neighbouring Alappuzha district from the traffic congestion due to the ongoing elevated highway construction on the Aroor-Thuravoor stretch. To make matters worse, the Kerala State Water Transport Department (KSSTD) has dropped its plans to operate boat services on the Ernakulam-Arookutty section after a test ride through the proposed route resulted in its boat getting stuck at multiple locations.

Earlier, Transport Minister K B Ganesh Kumar had asked the department to consider operating boat services to provide relief to commuters coming from border areas of Alappuzha district. It takes only 45 minutes for commuters to reach Ernakulam by boat.

"The deposit of silt over the years post the 2018 floods has made the route unnavigable. During the trial runs conducted on multiple occasions earlier this week, the steel boat got stuck at a couple of places," said a senior SWTD official. After the department couldn't operate from Arookutty, it mulled deploying the boats from Panangad boat jetty, located on the other side of the Kaithapuzha-Vembanad Lake. "We

conducted a trial run to Panangad, but the boat got stuck at the section near the Panangad boat jetty. Unless the Irrigation department acts on a war-footing and conducts dredging at the problem areas,



we cannot operate the services," the official pointed out.

Also, the department will have to deploy three boats upon commencing the service. "We can only spare a single boat now."

Earlier, Aroor MLA Daleema had submitted a memorandum to Ganesh Kumar, requesting boat services, citing that the same would be a relief to commuters affected by the severe traffic congestions in Aroor and near-by areas due to the ongoing construction activities of the National Highway Authority of India

(NHAI). "Certain services, currently being operated from Perumbalam, could be extended to Ernakulam via Arookutty Ferry. It would cater to the heavy rush of commuters during the morning and evening peak hours. The construction of a boat jetty at Arookutty was completed several years ago, but the department has yet to operate services through the route. Also, the tourism potential of the interior areas should be explored," the memorandum read.

The minister, in turn, directed the SWTD to explore the possibility of operating the inter-district boat services. The SWTD had earlier operated 'Vega 120' from

Vaikom to Ernakulam via Panavally. However, the services were discontinued after Covid. But the SWTD sources said, the services could be operated again only if the depth at certain points along the route is increased to make it navigable. The department also has plans to operate tourist services to Kakkathuruthu island in Vembanad Lake, which was listed in National Geographic's 'Around the World in 24 hours'.

Cashless travel is set to launch in KSRTC buses in November following delays

BENGALURU. After a long-delay, cashless travel in all Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) buses is all set to commence in November. Initially scheduled to be introduced in June, it was delayed as the existing contract with the ticket vending handheld devices ends only in October. The cashless machines will be deployed after this deadline.

"The new handheld electronic ticket machines (ETMs) have already been implemented in Depot 4. With the introduction of this new machine passengers will have the flexibility to choose their preferred payment method - UPI, credit or debit cards in over 8,000 KSRTC buses. This will eliminate the anxiety of tendering exact change during travel," said a senior KSRTC official.

Explaining the delay, the official said "Pilot project is going on and we do not want to hurry up. We are waiting for the contract of the current handheld devices to end and post that all the KSRTC buses will have ETMs. Our staff will be trained to use these devices."

Explaining the procedure, an officer said passengers will have to inform the conductor of their destination and he will input this information and the number of passengers into the ETM. It will then generate the code with the ticket fare, which should be scanned for payment. Once the payment is successful, the ticket will be printed. He added that the device comes with a camera for validating passes and can last upto 72 hours on a single charge.

Swachh initiative a big success at Vijayawada railway division

Railway officials, staff, Bharat Scouts and Guides, students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jack n Jill, NGOs, and other groups took part in the programme.

VIJAYAWADA: To commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 155th birth anniversary, the Vijayawada Division of South Central Railway (SCR) celebrated Swachh Bharat Diwas with a grand event on Wednesday. A large-scale cleanliness drive was organised at Vijayawada Station, focusing on over 20 designated cleanliness targets. Approximately 20 teams, each with 25 members, participated, ensuring the success of this Swachh Bharat initiative.

Railway officials, staff, Bharat Scouts and Guides, students from Kendriya Vidyalaya, Jack n Jill, NGOs, and other groups took part in the programme. Before the drive, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Narendra A Patil, alongside branch officers, paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at the Clock Tower, East Main



Entrance of the station. Leading by example, the DRM and his team tackled the challenging task of cleaning the garbage-filled Caltex office near

the RMS office, a site neglected for seven years. In just two hours, they cleared the area behind the Bapu Waiting Hall, collecting nearly 500 bags of waste, which were then transported away. Addressing the media, the DRM credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Swachhata Hi Seva' initiative for inspiring millions to work toward a cleaner India. He emphasised the importance of Swachhata Pakhwada, launched a decade ago, in achieving environmental and cleanliness goals. Over the past 15 days, 1,000 cleanliness targets were addressed, resulting in the collection of over 5 tonnes of garbage. The DRM urged everyone to dedicate 100 hours annually to the Swachh Bharat Mission and commended the participants for their hard work.

Northeast monsoon likely to hit Kerala by October 17, says IMD

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The state is expected to receive above-normal rainfall during the northeast monsoon, which will set in over Kerala in October, according to a long-range forecast from the India Meteorological Department (IMD), which was released on Monday.

However, rainfall activity is anticipated to be low in the first two weeks of the month. Mrutyunjay Mohapatra, Director General of Meteorology, India Meteorological Department, said that the onset of northeast monsoon is likely to take place around October 17 with the strengthening of rainfall activities.

The IMD's probability forecast suggests a higher likelihood of La Niña conditions developing, which could be favourable for the monsoon this season.

Rajeevan Erikkulam, a meteorologist with



the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, noted that southwest monsoon winds are expected to retreat by mid-October, making way for the northeast monsoon. "The number of rainy days will

depend on the formation of favourable cyclonic systems during this period. Early signs suggest that we may see the formation of more systems during this season." On an average, the state receives about 303 mm of rainfall from October to December, with the central and southern districts typically experiencing more precipitation.

The IMD has also predicted a rise in temperatures during the season. Despite forecasts of above-normal rainfall for the southwest monsoon (June to October), the state recorded a 13% deficit, with most districts, except Kannur and Thiruvananthapuram, experiencing reduced rainfall. Last year's excess rainfall during the northeast monsoon helped replenish reservoirs following a 34% deficit in the southwest monsoon.

Officials honour Bapu's legacy with cleanliness in Vijayawada

The event saw active participation from students, citizens, and officials, including Additional Commissioner Chandrasekhar and Chief Medical Health Officer Dr P Ratnavali.

VIJAYAWADA. On Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary, Vijayawada's Mayor Rayana Bhagyalakshmi and Commissioner Dhyanaachandra exemplified Gandhi's principles by personally cleaning the Vijayawada Municipal Corporation (VMC) office. Their actions highlighted the significance of cleanliness in honouring his legacy.

At the VMC headquarters, they paid floral tributes to Gandhi and discussed ongoing efforts to enhance the city's cleanliness.

"Gandhi's vision of cleanliness is being embraced nationwide," said Mayor Bhagyalakshmi, crediting the success of the "Swachhata Hi Seva" campaign, launched on September 17, for improving the city's standing in the Swachh Survekshan rankings. She attributed this progress to the collaborative efforts of



sanitation workers and citizens. The VMC chief encouraged everyone to take personal responsibility for cleanliness. "To advocate for cleanliness, one must first pick up a broom and lead by example," he

stated, urging citizens to help Vijayawada achieve the top spot in national cleanliness rankings.

As part of the drive, both leaders took part in a Cyclothon event at Eat Street to raise awareness about cleanliness and pollution reduction. The Mayor emphasised cleanliness extends beyond clean surroundings to include creating a pollution-free environment.

The event saw active participation from students, citizens, and officials, including Additional Commissioner Chandrasekhar and Chief Medical Health Officer Dr P Ratnavali.

At another campaign event near Benz Circle, NTR District Collector G Srujana underscored city's potential to set a global example in cleanliness initiatives.

Grand Dasara festivities begin in Mysuru with religious and traditional fervour

The 10-day event, like every year, is likely to showcase Karnataka's cultural heritage resplendent with folk art forms; it attracts large crowds and tourists, officials have said.

MYSURU. The famous 10-day Dasara celebrations commenced in this city palace on Thursday amid religious and traditional fervour, with renowned writer and scholar Hampa Nagarajaiah inaugurating the festivities.

Celebrated as 'Nada Habba' (state festival), the Dasara or 'Sharan Navaratri' festivities are expected to be a grand affair this year, depicting Karnataka's rich culture and traditions, coupled with reminiscences of royal pomp and glory.

Nagarajaiah inaugurated the festivities during the auspicious "Vrushchika Lagna" by showering flowers on the idol of Goddess Chamundeshwari, the presiding deity of Mysuru and its royals, amid chanting of vedic hymns, on the premises of Chamundeshwari temple atop the Chamundi Hills here.

Nagarajaiah was accompanied by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, several ministers in the state cabinet among others. Nagarajaiah along with the CM and other dignitaries also visited the Chamundeshwari temple and offered prayers to the goddess, who is referred to as the "Naada Devate" (state deity), ahead of the inaugural.

The 10-day event, like every year, is likely to showcase Karnataka's cultural heritage resplendent with folk art forms; it attracts large crowds and tourists, officials have said. Various programmes will be held during these auspicious days of Navratri, during which the palace, major streets, turnarounds or circles and buildings of Mysuru will be beautified by illuminating them with lights, fondly known as "Deepalankaara". Nearly 6,500 artists, including those from 508 troupes from across the state, will be performing in various cultural events during the Dasara this year at about 11 different platforms. Also, dozens of events that attract people, like food mela, flower show, cultural programmes, farmers' Dasara, women's Dasara, Yuva Dasara, children's Dasara, and poetry recitals are also conducted. However, cultural events in front of the illuminated Ambavilasa palace will be the main attraction, as it will be the main venue for performances by acclaimed artists from both state and national level. This is the very venue where the chief minister will confer the prestigious State Sangeetha Vidwan Award. Other than these events, the famous Dasara procession (Jumbo Sawari), Torch Light Parade, and Mysuru Dasara Exhibition are the ones that attract a large number of people, turning the city into a carnival of sorts, during the ten-day festivities.

## Why crop diversification has eluded Punjab

A CURSE necessarily hangs over all partisan electoral politics: good intentions are repeated ad nauseam, turning clichés before becoming policy. Crop diversification is exactly that. Pragmatic economics demands it, and the state wants it, but the interests of a politically dominant landowning class lie elsewhere, and the Centre isn't helping. It's been on the table for more than 40 years, first appearing in the Johl Committee Report of 1986, and then in 2002, followed by 2013, 2018, and, now, the 2023 policy initiatives.

Agriculture is one subject that brooks no delay when it comes to policy since factors involved include even God—otherwise spelt as rainfall, drought, heatwaves, cold spells, frost, snow, storms, floods, cyclones, pests, fungal/bacterial action and climate change. Still, our political leadership and bureaucracy have dilly-dallied on crop diversification files, often marked 'Urgent'. That 'urgency' cannot be overemphasised as we have reached a 'do-or-die' situation Punjab sensed fairly early that an effective way to mitigate some negative outcomes of wheat-paddy monocultures was crop diversification. Monoculture was not an autonomous choice; India needed food security. The input-responsive dwarf varieties ushered the Green Revolution and Punjab rose to the occasion with the consolidation of landholdings; infrastructure like tubewells, link roads and mandis; and institutions for credit, inputs, marketing and research and development. Punjab's farmers worked hard. India's rice production, a mere 23.54 million tonnes (mt) in 1949-50, jumped to 64.15 mt by 1985-86, while the wheat output during the same period recorded a seven times increase: from 6.39 mt. The country's total foodgrain production tripled, from 54.92 mt. By the early 1980s, we became self-reliant in food and even exported wheat for the first time in 1985. By this time, the FCI's procurement was declining, farm incomes had begun to slide as production costs kept rising. Consequent protests by farmers led to the constitution of a committee under Dr SS Johl to look into the foodgrain price and procurement policy. Its 1986 report recommended shifting 20% of the area under paddy/wheat to fruits, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds, green fodder for sustaining Punjab's resources. But in 1987, the monsoon in India failed. Rice production fell by 5.07 mt, wheat by 5.9 mt and total foodgrain production, expected at 154 mt, stopped at 138.97 mt. Foodgrain stocks, a reassuring 28.28 mt on July 1, 1986, had nosedived to 11.90 mt on July 1, 1988. That India had been able to feed its burgeoning population despite the drought ruining the kharif crop in 21 states was a matter of pride. But it also revived concerns about depleted stocks. Neither politicians nor policy formulators cared anymore for the Johl Committee's wisdom. Instead, Punjab focussed even more on paddy, again not an autonomous choice; India needed it.

The neoliberal agricultural policy regime of the 1990s meant greater deregulation of input prices. Also, since PDS became a target scheme as part of larger structural adjustment reforms, buffer stocks of foodgrain affected procurement levels. Add to it the near-freeze on the MSP for five years from 2000-01 to 2005-06 - Rs 610 to Rs 650 per quintal for wheat; Rs 540 to Rs 600 for paddy. We had a full-blown crisis on our hands. The high cost of production and the resultant squeeze in income led to farmers' indebtedness and the rise in farmer suicides. The only coping mechanism was the open-ended procurement of paddy and wheat at MSP. Politics responded with free power for agriculture in 1997, giving impetus to paddy cultivation. It was time for a new committee to look into the crisis. Dr SS Johl headed it again in 2002. Its report recommended shifting a million hectares under wheat and paddy to less water-guzzling, soil- and ecology-friendly crops like oilseeds and pulses. This involved cost.

## Undue focus on profit led to Boeing's fall from the sky

Boeing must go back to its original job of 'aircraft manufacturing', which made it the world leader. The marketing messiahs can never bring the company back to flight safety.

THE Seattle-born Boeing Aerospace has certainly fallen on bad days, thereby giving jitters to US defence, civil aviation and Wall Street investors. The iconic Boeing had been on a monopoly-like takeover spree of St Louis, Missouri headquartered McDonnell Douglas-MD (August 1997) since after the simultaneous demise of the USSR and First Cold War. Today, it faces an existential threat as it is afflicted by technology failure, quality and safety issues of product, high financial loss and, now, the unheard of labour trouble in the cradle of the world's capitalism. In fact, the latter arguably constitutes the gravest threat to the recovery of Boeing Company any time soon in the cut-throat competitive aviation market.

History shows that in the perilous industry of aviation, even the best of flying machines have crashed and corrective measures initiated subsequently. When the brand new Boeing 737-MAX crashed in 2018 and 2019 in quick succession, the bosses of the famed US manufacturer pooh-poohed it, trying to pass the blame for the fatal mishaps and the deaths of 346 persons aboard on to pilot error even before the accident inquiries had made their findings. The worst act was that many detected an unusual "nexus" between the behemoth Boeing Company and US government officials of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). An eerie feeling grew that not all was well with Boeing and someone somewhere was shielding some unpardonable wrongdoings of the manufacturer for the sake of profitability, corporate greed and monstrous money-making Wall Street stock market investors.

Nevertheless, when the failure and gross misdemeanour of the famed aeroplane-maker became too brazen to be hidden, Boeing capitulated owing to the sheer pressure of the enlightened American air transport passengers whose acquaintance with aviation is like the developing world's familiarity with the rickshaw and the rickety bus. Boeing had been caught red-handed and had to plead "guilty of criminal fraud" charge. In July 2024, the US Department of Justice determined that the company had violated an agreement that had protected it from prosecution for more than three years. Boeing's luck has run out and now it is penance time. Serious acts of omission and commission are tumbling out of the



cuPunjaboard. The latest is production stoppage owing to labour unrest on pay, perk, privilege and contract renewal terms. An additional salvo against Boeing was fired by the NTSB on September 27. It issued "urgent safety recommendations" for some B-737, including the embattled MAX line, warning that critical "flight controls could jam", especially when "applied during landing, or rollout, causing loss of control or departure from runway." The NTSB recommended that Boeing should urgently come up with an alternative solution and warn the pilots about it. The moot question today is: why and how an institution like Boeing, known for flight safety, tech quality and enduring long-haul comfortability, has come to such a sorry state of affairs. The answer, after going through the open source record of the last five decades, appears simple but deplorable and avoidable.

After the August 1997 MD and Boeing merger, the latter was elevated as the largest aerospace company in world, with 2,38,000 employees and backlog exceeding \$100 billion. Boeing's Phil Condit became the Chairman and CEO, and MD's Harry Stonecipher became the President. It, however, soon became a contrast of two biggies. Condit's psyche was that of a high-tech engineering company's rock-steady boss, harping on quality product automatically attracting customers in commercial aviation. Stonecipher, on other hand, was a high-profile marketing salesman passionate about

maximising profit, with an eye on the interests of Wall Street investors to pump up stock and multiplying money rather than maintaining machine quality on which depended hundreds of lives in air. It's a titanic contrast of cultures between a techie who is an integral part of the industry and that of a trader whose ethos and ethics banked on quick buying and selling to make billions of dollars.

From "courage, will, perseverance and skill" of the "Boeing family" of the "industrial house", the former MD boss tried to transform his new company to imbibe "teamwork" of a "trading house". Angry old-timers quipped: "When MD guys came in, they just went through them (old Boeing engineers) like a knife through butter" and appeared "hunter killer assassins and Boeing Boy Scouts."

Newcomer Stonecipher soon became the de facto number one. He inducted a former General Motors executive to handle Boeing's finance to make it a

"shareholder-friendly company" despite the conscientious protestors' reasoning: "Have you ever seen a bean-counter build an airplane?" Henceforth, Boeing aircraft had to follow "return on net assets" (RONA). The high-tech aircraft started turning into fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) in 1997. Twenty-seven years down the lane, the results are there for all to see. The FAA, NTSB and US Congress are all worried and use strong language owing to the meteoric descent of Boeing from its glorious flight path of 100-plus years. But the USA today is no longer the industrial powerhouse. It is a price-conscious, profiteering traders of glorious predecessors. No wonder, the US aviation industry's downhill as chicken has come home to roost.

The founder of the company, William E Boeing, is a forgotten hero. The man is known for perfection, accuracy, precision and intolerant of shoddy work in the workshop. The saying goes that the founder "exclaimed at the sight of a frayed cable on one of his planes that he would close shop rather than send out work of this kind." The successors of that great predecessor obviously cannot fit into his shoes as they are too big and broad for them. Hence, unless Boeing goes back to its original job of "aircraft manufacturing", which made it the world leader, the marketing messiahs can never bring the company back to flight safety, tech quality and product durability to win the trust, faith and confidence of the users of the Great Boeing of yore.

## Curb cyber slavery

Curb cyber slavery

THE lethal cocktail of human trafficking and cybercrime has taken its toll on tens of thousands of Indians, who are trapped in Southeast Asian countries and are being forced to commit cyber fraud and other illegal activities. No less alarming is the fact that these persons are luring their own compatriots into investing in dubious cryptocurrency schemes. Around 30,000 of the 73,000-odd Indians who travelled to Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam on a visitor visa from January 2022 to May 2024 are yet to return; more than half of these 'cyber slaves' are in the 20-39 age group, while Punjab tops the statewide list of missing persons, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The modus operandi of illegal recruitment agencies is rather simple: job-seekers from India are offered 'lucrative' posts of data entry and call centre operators; once they reach their destination, their passports are taken away and they have no option but to do



under duress what their employers want. The inter-ministerial panel set up by the Centre to look into the

matter has reportedly identified gaps in the banking, immigration and telecom sectors; thus, inter-departmental cooperation is the need of the hour to tackle this menace. At long last, the Union Ministry of Telecommunications has decided to disconnect around two crore mobile connections that were procured on the basis of forged documents or are being misused for cybercrime. Such is the audacity of cyber fraudsters that they managed to dupe renowned industrialist SP Oswal of Rs 7 crore. Crime control is vitally important, but it must go hand in hand with a reality check. The desperation of Indians to take up jobs in other developing countries runs counter to the country's reputation of being the world's fastest-growing major economy. The lofty goal of Viksit Bharat will remain a pipe dream if domestic job opportunities fail to meet the needs and aspirations of skilled young people.

## Centralised setup weighing down MEA

Ministry's work is so vast and complex that it requires several secretary-level officers to supervise it

THE BJP's bench strength in the realm of foreign affairs has been boosted by the entry of Bhaswati Mukherjee, who joined the party three weeks ago. Mukherjee specialised in European affairs and multilateral diplomacy during her distinguished diplomatic career. Two other leading former diplomats, Hardeep Puri and S Jaishankar, are Cabinet ministers. Jaishankar has been Prime Minister Narendra Modi's choice as External Affairs Minister (EAM) since 2019. Clearly, Modi has great confidence in Jaishankar's diplomatic abilities for he chose him as the Foreign Secretary (FS) when he was only a few days away from retirement in 2015. That led to the premature end of then FS Sujatha Singh's term. She adopted the honourable course of retiring and refused to accept any office. Puri's considerable talents and experience of multilateral and commercial diplomacy, including extraordinary expertise in World Trade Organisation matters, have not been consistently used, though he served for a while as the Minister of State in the Commerce Ministry. As a Cabinet minister, he has managed the portfolios of Urban Affairs and Petroleum; now, only the latter. Puri, Mukherjee and Jaishankar belong to the 1974, 1976 and 1977 batches, respectively, of the Indian Foreign Service.

Modi now has two persons in the party, apart from Jaishankar, with substantial diplomatic experience to take soundings on any foreign policy matter, should he want to do so. Many leaders look for fresh ideas and consult other knowledgeable persons in the government as well as the party on critical issues. This does not detract from the authority of the ministers concerned. Also, it is entirely Modi's prerogative as the Prime Minister to choose the Cabinet members and allot portfolios to ministers. As he is now heading a government in which the BJP does not enjoy a majority on its own, this, at

least, applies completely to his own party. For almost a decade, Jaishankar has had a substantial influence on India's foreign policy. Over the same period, he has had a decisive say in the complexion of the policymaking framework in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). In both areas, Jaishankar has followed Modi's instincts.

Two points would serve as illustrations. Modi places great emphasis on the value of personal rapport between leaders. In May 2015, while addressing the Indian community in Shanghai, he had referred to his relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Modi had said: "The heads of two states sharing such affinity, such closeness, such brotherhood! This is 'plus one' to what is traditionally discussed in world relations. And many will need time to understand this. I believe that India and China have a special responsibility towards the welfare of the humanity. Both India and China, in order to fulfil this responsibility, will need to prepare their own people and work hand in hand with each other."

Jaishankar was not among those who took time to understand the significance of this 'plus one' factor in inter-state relations. While delivering the IISS (International Institute of Strategic Studies) Fullerton lecture in Singapore two months after Modi's China visit, Jaishankar, then the FS, dwelt on India-China ties as well. He said, "That the two neighbours, whose parallel, if differential, rise offers a somewhat unique situation in world history, agreed on a constructive model of relationship is no small thing. Past precedents in global history have

been largely otherwise. This is not just a conceptual proposition. Those of you who would have watched the Modi-Xi interaction in Xian would have noted that this approach was reflected in their demeanour. The mood today allows for frank and direct



conversations between the leaderships. Their shared appearances — including the 'world's most powerful selfie' — and utterances would have been difficult to envisage a year ago." Jaishankar's imprint on the foreign policymaking setup in the MEA has a background. The ministry's work is so vast that it requires a number of secretary-level officers to supervise it. These MEA secretaries were traditionally led by the FS as the 'first among equals'. The FS had always been the MEA's administrative head and also coordinated work,

where required, but all secretaries were independent in terms of the work allotted to them. They reported and also directly advised the political leadership in matters relating to their charge. This balance was disturbed after Jaishankar became the FS.

It was often seen that he was present at the PM's meetings with foreign leaders, especially abroad, even if the leader belonged to a nation where another secretary was responsible for the bilateral engagement. In the past, only the secretary concerned was present to assist the PM during his interactions with such leaders. With Jaishankar as the FS being there too, the importance of the dealing secretary diminished in the eyes of the foreign interlocutors, both within the MEA and in other sections of the Indian bureaucracy.

With Jaishankar acting as a 'funnel' of information and the assessments on foreign policy issues being directly brought to Modi's attention, a greater element of 'centralisation' occurred in the MEA. This was contrary to what was needed because the work of the MEA — as in the Finance Ministry — is too complex to be handled by one secretary. Besides, it is the secretary handling an issue or a bilateral relationship continuously who has far greater knowledge of it than the FS. This process of undermining the role of other secretaries has continued even after Jaishankar became the EAM. This led to some of them preferring to accept the kind of ambassadorial assignments which, in the past, no secretary-level officer would have done.

Jaishankar, both as the FS and the EAM, has had a unique opportunity to decentralise and strengthen the functioning of the ministry. But that has not happened so far, and it is doubtful if it would happen in the future.

# 5 ways to Relax your Mind

**Worrying, controlling, trying to keep things together makes relaxation tougher. Here are 5 ways to help even the most wound worriers relax**

Are you going through life with body clenched, stress and tiredness doggedly following your every step? How long does it take you to relax and unwind every day? According to research, some people are so wound up in everyday stress they are unable to relax. According to relaxation coach Jane Jackson, constant connection to the internet contributes to distraction and stress. Screen time is also directly related to insomnia, which affects four in 10 people. Here's a to-do relaxation guide:

**Don't get too needy about relaxation:**

If you cannot relax, don't hit the stress button. Just remember there are 6-year-olds to 60-year-olds, who are trying their best to unwind, but can't. Don't try too

hard to relax. Just let go. Says BK Shivani, a member of the Bramhakumaris spiritual organisation, "Just loosen yourself up. Tell your kids to think nothing. Hug your worries. Make them your friend. Focus on breathing. Try to be at complete peace. If you are tense, let it be, allow the tension to settle in. Don't fight anything. It is this fighting that doesn't allow you to unwind. Feel every thought, there's nothing positive or negative."

**Relax your focus:**

Don't pay attention to anything in particular. Think about the abstract. Pay attention to nothing. According to mathematicians at Case Western Reserve University, stopping a thought burns more energy than thinking of stopping a truck on a downhill slope. Says Atul Vyas, a Jaipur-based yoga guru, "Yoga teaches you to focus on one point, but that can stress you more. So, just be. Try not to focus on any one point. Don't make any rules for the mind. Watch how it eases."

**Accept:**



## Finding it difficult to Concentrate?

**No matter how old you are, your ability to concentrate can take a hit due to a variety of reasons. We live in a world today where it is easy to get distracted — thanks to easy virtual access. Here are some of the most common reasons that could be making it difficult for you to concentrate...**

emails will cause the task you're currently doing, to suffer. If you stop to check and reply to each mail that you get, you'll never be able to work without getting distracted.

**Tip:** Unless you're in a job, which demands you constantly stay glued to your emails, there is no need to check your inbox more than twice or thrice a day at most.

- Your smartphone is called 'smart' for a reason. Apart from the plethora of tasks it can accomplish, it also has options for playing games, listening to music, surfing the web or even watching a movie. However, being stuck to your smartphone all the time will cause you to neglect other parts of your life not to mention, distract you from your chores.

**Tip:** Make a conscious effort to dedicate not more than a certain amount of time to your smartphone every day. While it might seem difficult at first, with patience and practice, you'll soon realise that you can do without your precious smartphone all the time.

- Gone are the days when there were just a handful of ways to get in touch with relatives and friends. Today, thanks to the incredible strides that technology has taken, smartphones allow us to constantly stay in touch with people in any part of the globe. While this has its benefits, it also distracts us. Those constant pings and alerts of instant messages more often than not break your line of concentration.

**Tip:** Mute those alerts and resist the urge to constantly check your phone.

- Social media has literally exploded in our lives. Almost everyone you know, irrespective of age, now has a social media account that they either use to update their day-to-day activities or keep a track of other people's escapades! This constant uploading or surfing on social media accounts can cause your concentration levels to literally go haywire.

**Tip:** If you absolutely cannot do without logging in to your social networking account daily, do it twice a day at most. And avoid logging on when you're working.- Constantly checking your emails because you're scared of missing an important mail or worse, a flash sale? Constantly logging in to check your



- While multitasking is a good thing, not everyone is good at it. And if you can't manage to do things simultaneously, you'll simply end up getting distracted and wasting more time completing your tasks.

**Tip:** Sometimes it is better to do one thing at a time instead of everything together.

- It often happens that when you don't have much to do, it results in boredom, which may lead to an inability to concentrate even on the most mundane of tasks.

**Tip:** Deal with this by telling yourself that once you focus and complete the task, you will reward yourself with something.

- Feeling anxious can also impair your ability to concentrate on things — this is because your mind is so caught up with that one particular subject, everything else pales in comparison and you may end up making mistakes in what you're attempting to do.

**Tip:** Calm yourself down — take a couple of deep breaths — clear your mind and then attempt your task. There's no point getting anxious over things beyond your control.

This is the 'miracle' way to relax. Whatever is happening around you, in your life — good or bad — just accept it. Says Ma Naina of Osho ashram, "Don't struggle or fight what is happening. You will exhaust yourself. Nobody can control what is happening around them."

**Don't chase perfection:**

Most people get exhausted by their wish-list and high expectations. Visual images from social media dictate the way we should live, that leaves us sad. Set your standards low, there will be less pain and disappointment. Says relaxation coach Mark Gibson, "Simplify your life goals, do some habit restructuring, be okay with not doing

well and having disappointments too. Conquer your emotional suffering by eliminating negative attitudes and limiting beliefs. Shift from fear to freedom."

**Hug uncertainty:**

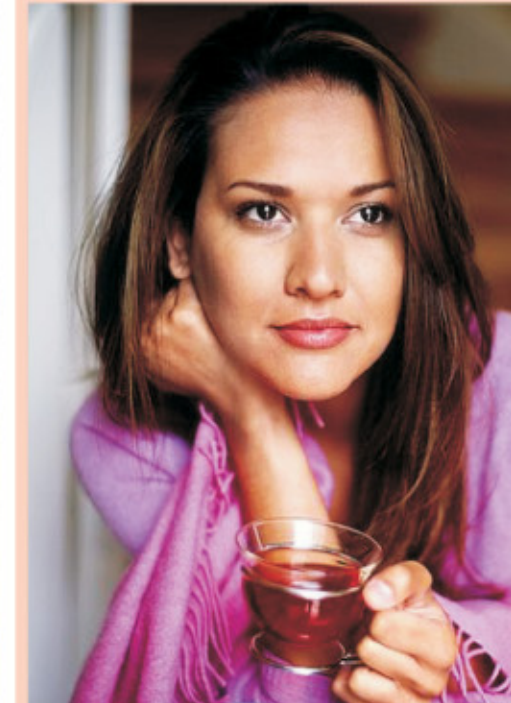
Don't try to control your life too tightly. Make uncertainty your best friend and learn how to deal with changed plans. Says spiritual coach Katja Rusanen, "Take life to be an unknown destination, with no guarantees. Loosen up to life's mystery. Be joyful in the journey."



Up your vitamins Common colds and winter flu do the rounds every year and although you can't completely avoid catching them, you can boost your body's immune system to make it a lot trickier for the bugs to take hold. Ask your dermatologist to pick an all-rounder tablet that has Omega-3 and vitamins. Vitamin C will help improve your resistance and the fish oils help keep skin inflammation at bay. Heal your hands Cold weather can wreak havoc on hands and nails, and although wrapping up in woolly mitts may keep them out of the chill, cracks on your skin and chipping nails aren't

## Make this season your healthiest with supplements

**Fight off the chills, the seasonal flu, cracked feet and chipped nails with healthcare products and simple tips.**



easy to get rid of. Prepare them for winter with a nourishing cream that has moisturisers and natural oils. These also smell lovely and if used daily, it'll keep your paws protected. Drink up Aside from combating dehydration and curbing cravings for snacking, drinking more water also works to improve skin and hair hydration. For an extra kick, have a hydrolysed collagen drink. This activates your collagen-producing cells to give your skin a plumper appearance. This could be the perfect prep for the party season.

## Home remedies for tummy aches

**A tummy ache is a common complaint and affects people of all ages. The causes could be several — indigestion, menstrual cramps, irritable bowel syndrome or even gastritis. Simple home remedies might not cure you of your ailment but will definitely ease your symptoms and give you temporary relief. Here's what can help...**

- When your tummy aches during your period, try sipping on a cup of hot chamomile tea. It will ease the cramps and lessen the spasms. Even a regular stomach ache can also be treated with chamomile tea. Its anti-inflammatory properties will relax the muscles of your upper digestive track so that

tract works properly by making digestion an easy process.

- Add a few drops of lemon juice in a glass of hot water and drink it. This will help improve the production of hydrochloric acid, known to break down the food you consume and

the contractions that thrust food in your system, will ease up and reduce cramps and soothe your stomach.

- A hot compress is also an effective way to treat a stomachache. Use a hot water bag or an electric heat pad that will relax your abdominal muscles and ease the discomfort.

- An old remedy but an effective one, drinking a cup of rice water will also help ease tummy aches. Instead of throwing away the water that is left after the rice is cooked, add some to a cup and sip on it. It is said to soothe inflammation and provide relief.

- A cup of warm peppermint tea is also said to work wonders when it comes to treating stomachaches. It ensures that your digestive

ensures easy digestion. - Ginger tea is another good option. Simply add some ginger bits to a cup of hot tea and drink it. The chemicals present in ginger relax the stomach muscles and relieve cramps. You could also add ginger bits to honey and warm water and drink it.



# New home finalised, Kejriwal likely to relocate in two days



**NEW DELHI.** AAP national convener and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had resigned from his post, will vacate his Flagstaff Road in Civil Lines residence in two days and move to a new house. According to sources, the new residence for the AAP supremo has been finalised and is located in his constituency, New Delhi area.

Sources within the party indicated that Kejriwal is likely to relocate to one of the two official bungalows allocated to AAP Rajya Sabha MPs on Feroz Shah Road near Mandi House. These bungalows are just a short distance from the AAP headquarters on Ravi Shankar Shukla Lane. "Kejriwal will leave the official CM residence in next 1-2

days, as a house has been finalised for him and family," the party said in a statement without disclosing location of the new accommodation. Sources said Kejriwal, who is the New Delhi constituency MLA, wanted to live in the area ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections to be held in a few months. "The house that he will move into is close to the party headquarters. It has been given to him and family by a supporter," the source added. Earlier, the AAP had written to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, asking that Kejriwal be allotted a house as he is the head of a national party. AAP sources said they have not heard back from the Union ministry yet. Kejriwal resigned from the Delhi chief minister's post last month, taking even party leaders by surprise. Since then, he has been campaigning in Haryana, where the AAP is contesting in 89 out of 90 seats in the Assembly elections. In Delhi, he visited areas where roads were broken, promising solutions within a few weeks.

**Earlier, the AAP had written to the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, asking that Kejriwal be allotted a house as he is the head of a national party.**

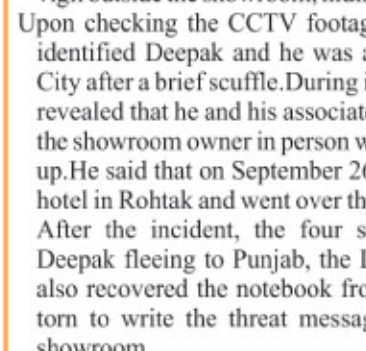
## Delhi Development Agency to sell Meghalaya's Lakadong turmeric variety soon



**NEW DELHI.** After its successful plantation on the banks of Yamuna, the Delhi Development Agency (DDA) will soon make Meghalaya's 'Lakadong turmeric' available to the city residents. The agency had experimented with the non-native turmeric species at Baansera and hit an 80 per cent success rate. The DDA officials said that they plan to replicate the plantation at other green areas of the city as well. "The DDA, on the initiative of L-G VK Saxena, has planted Lakadong turmeric under the thick bamboo groves over 2 acres of land at Baansera, which have shown excellent growth in the last 4 months. This variety will soon be available to people of Delhi through sale by DDA," the agency said. Lakadong turmeric is a rare and prized variety native to the Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya. It is known for its high curcumin content, which gives it a bright yellow colour, distinct aroma and earthy flavour.

## Gold-winning international kickboxer nabbed in Delhi car showroom firing case

**NEW DELHI.** The Delhi Police has nabbed an international kick-boxing player in connection with the firing at a high-end luxury car showroom in the Naraina area last month, an officer said on Thursday. The accused has been identified as Deepak, 26, who won international junior championship gold for three continuous years. "He got a job in the Indian Army in sports quota but later quit it. He is an accredited Wushu coach and runs a kick-boxing coaching centre in Rohtak city in Haryana," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Amit Goel said. Police on Thursday also nabbed 27-year-old Armaan Khan, another man involved in the firing, from northwest Delhi's Majra Dabas. On September 27, three people opened fire at a luxury car showroom in an extortion bid. One of them pointed his pistol at the head of the showroom manager, while the other two went on a shooting rampage, hitting several cars and TV screens inside the shop. Deepak, the fourth man, kept a vigil outside the showroom, hiding his face. Upon checking the CCTV footage in the area, Police identified Deepak and he was arrested from Rohtak City after a brief scuffle. During interrogation, Deepak revealed that he and his associates decided to threaten the showroom owner in person when he refused to pay up. He said that on September 26, all of them met at a hotel in Rohtak and went over the details of the attack. After the incident, the four separated ways, with Deepak fleeing to Punjab, the DCP said. Police have also recovered the notebook from which a page was torn to write the threat message left behind at the showroom.



## Ladakh activist Wangchuk says motive to reach Rajghat fulfilled

**NEW DELHI.** Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk, who, along with around 150 others, was detained at the Haryana-Delhi border late Monday, was released after nearly 48 hours of detention. Wangchuk, 58, is leading the 'Delhi Chalo Padyatra'—a month-long march that began in Leh. The march is being spearheaded by the Leh Apex Body and the Kargil Democratic Alliance. They were marching towards the national capital to demand sixth schedule status and statehood for Union Territory Ladakh. The climate activist was let off late on Tuesday but detained the next morning because they were adamant on marching towards central Delhi. On Wednesday evening, Wangchuk was again released and escorted to Rajghat where he paid obeisance to Mahatma Gandhi. Outside Rajghat when this newspaper asked him about his next move, Wangchuk said that a memorandum has been submitted to the government to secure Ladakh "within the constitutional provisions". The Ministry of Home Affairs has assured them of a meeting with the President and the Prime Minister in the coming days, following which they ended their hunger strike. "Our motive to reach Rajghat has been fulfilled," he said. On Tuesday, a PIL was submitted to the Delhi High Court seeking the release of Wangchuk and others from Ladakh who were detained at the Singhu border. The plea urges the court to revoke the Delhi Police's prohibitory order issued on September 30, which blocked the group from entering the capital.



## Green tribunal orders DJB to clarify role in South Delhi pond pollution

The directive was issued during a hearing after a confusion arose over which agency would be responsible for the malfunctioning sewage treatment plant (STP) at the site.

**NEW DELHI.** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has notified the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) in a matter relating to rising pollution in a south Delhi pond, Macchli Talab, located in Vasant Kunj. The directive was issued during a hearing after a confusion arose over which agency would be responsible for the malfunctioning sewage treatment plant (STP) at the site. Justice AK Tyagi and expert member Dr A Senthil Vel, presiding over the case, highlighted the need for the DJB to be included as a respondent, emphasising its critical role in resolving the environmental issue. The tribunal directed the DJB to submit its response and ensure its representation before the court on a hearing scheduled on November 20. "...In view of the environmental questions involved in the case, we



consider presence of DJB to be essential for just and proper adjudication thereof," read the order. The case originated when the green tribunal took suo-motu cognizance of a news report, which drew attention to the pond's deteriorating condition. The case concerns the improper functioning of a sewage treatment plant (STP) that was built to handle wastewater from surrounding areas. Despite its construction, the STP remains non-operational, causing untreated sewage and waste to flow directly into the pond. Macchli Talab,

spanning five acres, is listed as one of the 1,045 water bodies under the Delhi Wetland Authority but is now filled with contaminated water and plastic waste. As per the submissions made by DDA's counsel, an agreement between the DDA and DJB was initially in place for the STP's upkeep, but the DJB has recently denied any involvement in the maintenance, leading to a dispute over accountability. "...MOU was entered into between DDA and DJB whereby DJB was given two responsibilities for construction and maintenance of STP in Macchali Talab but as per communication dated 14.05.2024 sent to DPCC, DJB has claimed that the DJB has no role in the matters relating to Macchali Talab maintenance," noted the bench.

## 55-year-old drugged, raped in Safdarjung Enclave hotel, accused arrested

**NEW DELHI.** A 55-year-old woman was forced to drink alcohol and then sexually assaulted at a hotel in Safdarjung Enclave by a 35-year-old man, the police said on Wednesday. The accused, identified by the police as Sunil, has been arrested. DCP (Southwest) Rohit Meena said that a PCR call was received at the Safdarjung Enclave police station on Tuesday following which a police team rushed to the spot. "The 55-year-old woman, also the complainant, a resident of Laxmi Bai Nagar, was taken to hospital for medical exam and a DCW counsellor was engaged," Meena said. In her statement, she told the police that on January 1, she met with Sunil at Sai Baba Mandir, Lodhi Road, who offered her lift. "Sunil told her that he works as a driver in CGO Complex. The accused asked her to help him in finding a flat as he was new to the city. They exchanged numbers and started talking to each other," said the DCP. On June 20, Sunil called her in Safdarjung where he offered her drinks, she stated. "As the woman fell unconscious, Sunil took the woman to Gold Leaf hotel where he sexually assaulted her," the officer explained. A case under appropriate sections of the law was registered on Tuesday and the accused was arrested.

## Sops for scrapping old vehicles

**NEW DELHI.** The Delhi government on Wednesday announced a special scheme, under which residents can claim up to 20 per cent tax rebate on purchase of new vehicles by scrapping their old ones. The scheme will not only bring the much-needed relief to consumers amidst inflation concerns, but also reduce the load of old polluting vehicles from the city roads, by promoting the use of less-polluting vehicles built according to modern standards. Chief Minister Atishi has approved the new tax incentive scheme and will be notified soon, officials said. In order to avail the benefits under the scheme, the vehicle owner has to obtain a Certificate of Deposit while scrapping his or her old



vehicle at a registered scrapping facility. This certificate can be submitted during the registration of new commercial and non-commercial vehicles within three years from the date of issue to avail up to 20 per cent discount on the Motor Vehicle Tax. The Delhi government will offer 20 per cent tax incentive on the registration of new non-transport petrol, CNG and

LPG vehicles and a 15 per cent discount for diesel vehicles. Similarly, 15 per cent tax rebate will be provided on purchase of commercial petrol, CNG and LPG vehicles and 10 per cent discount for diesel vehicles. The government had, on July 26, announced that it is planning to provide concession in the Motor Vehicles Tax for the registration of new transport and non-transport vehicles, provided a certificate of deposit is submitted for an old vehicle handed over for scrapping at a Registered Vehicles Scrapping Facility. A proposal in this regard was also sent to the Lieutenant-Governor for approval. "This policy aims to encourage the scrapping of

old, polluting vehicles and promote the use of newer, cleaner vehicles. By offering tax concessions, we hope to make it easier for vehicle owners to transition to more environmentally friendly options," Delhi transport minister Kailash Gahlot had said. Last month, Union minister Nitin Gadkari had said that automobile industry can witness an 18 per cent rise in sales if vehicle scrapping policy is adopted. He added that vehicle sales in the US and Europe have seen 15 per cent increase in sales after adopting vehicle scrapping policy. Union Road Transport and Highways Secretary Anurag Jain had last month said the ministry is studying whether it can link the vehicle scrapping mandate to the pollution levels of vehicles instead of their age.

## City's PWD roads in disarray despite over 2000 complaints

**In mere two months of August and September, the department received over 2,000 complaints related to infrastructure issues with the roads.**

**NEW DELHI.** As the whole cabinet of the Delhi government is out in the street to find potholes on city roads, a revelation has come from government officials who said that most complaints of ill-maintained roads received from areas are maintained by the Public Works Department (PWD), surpassing the number of complaints filed for roads maintained by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). In mere two months of August and September, the department received over 2,000 complaints related to infrastructure issues with the roads. "2,055 complaints were received regarding potholes, cave-ins and other damages. This is higher compared to MCD-managed roads, with the number of complaints received by the civic agency being half of what PWD received," said a



senior official "Out of these complaints, 1,485 have been resolved, while the rest are pending," he added. The PWD is responsible for managing the 1,400-km-long road network in the city having a width of 60 feet and above. Officials attributed the

spike in complaints partly to the monsoon, which worsened road conditions due to waterlogging. "While lack of maintenance is a reason, the waterlogging exacerbated the deterioration of road quality," an official said. However, the officials also said that the PWD has planned to resolve these complaints with a special emphasis on potholes on war footing after strict compliance directions it received from the government. "Engineers have been ordered to repair potholes in their divisions. GPS and geo-tagging have been made mandatory to ascertain whether the complaints have actually been resolved or not. Orders have also been given to keep a watch on the agency that has been appointed to repair potholes," the official added.



# 7 exercises you need to Avoid

While some of these exercises aren't optimal for fitness, some others should be avoided as they can easily lead to injury. However, it is important to understand that they are not always unsafe or unproductive. Adopting or avoiding any exercise technique depends on an individual's personal fitness goals and objectives. Read on to know more about these common red flags...



**Spot reduction exercises:** An ineffective method of 'burning fat' followed by many people is spot reduction. The popularity of this belief can be largely attributed to the many exercise gimmicks that we often see in infomercials regarding localized weight reduction. But always keep in mind that weight loss can never be isolated to a particular area. Localized strengthening and toning exercises will only help to firm muscles but will have no effect on the fat content of the target area. A better alternative is to adopt a well-rounded full-body weight reduction program.

**Leg extensions (Seated):** A very popular exercise for working the anterior thigh muscles, seated leg extensions are actually one of the most dangerous exercises in the gym. This is because the exercise places an unhealthy amount of stress on the knee joint. According to a research published in the

"Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy", individuals who worked on the leg extension machines found no benefit during functional tests. This can be particularly dangerous for those who have any kind of knee problems. Safer alternatives are simple lunges and squats without any added weights.

**Leg press:** Another form of exercise that should be avoided is the leg press as this can place undue amount of stress on the lower back. This can thus predispose a person to low back injuries. Although, many claim that seated leg press exercises can train your hams, quadriceps and gluts, in reality, it does not engage these muscles at all. All it does is force the spine into a flexed position. Hence, instead of this, try working on body weight squats.

**Seated abduction or adduction:** Just like leg press, seated abduction/adduction movements can place great amounts of stress on your spine. Also, such movements only train these muscles as prime movers. But, in reality, during actual physical activity, they are used only as stabilizers and not as prime movers. An easy and effective alternative is lunges which can be used to train these muscles for their actual purpose of stabilizing.

**Leg curls:** According to strength and conditioning coach, Charlie Weingroff, exercises like deadlifts are more effective than leg curls. This is because the latter trains the hams only as knee flexors while, during activity, they are used mainly as hip extensors.

**Sit ups:** As per the recommendations by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), a person

Although it is true that there are no such things as "bad" exercises, certain faulty techniques can make an exercise useless and compromising.

should never apply more than 3400 newtons of force on his back at a time. Crossing this limit would place unnecessary stress on the back muscles leading to stress or injury. On an average, a regular sit-up program contributes around 3413 newtons of force on the back muscles. To avoid this, opt for short range crunch movements or tabletops.

**Lat pulldown exercises (behind the head):** This is a big "no-no" without proper form, as this may affect your shoulder joint functioning. Only those with extreme shoulder joint flexibility can opt for this exercise and that too, with extreme care for correct form. A better alternative for working your lats is by pulling the bar towards your chest and not behind the head. But, remember to keep your spine straight and abs pulled in while performing this.



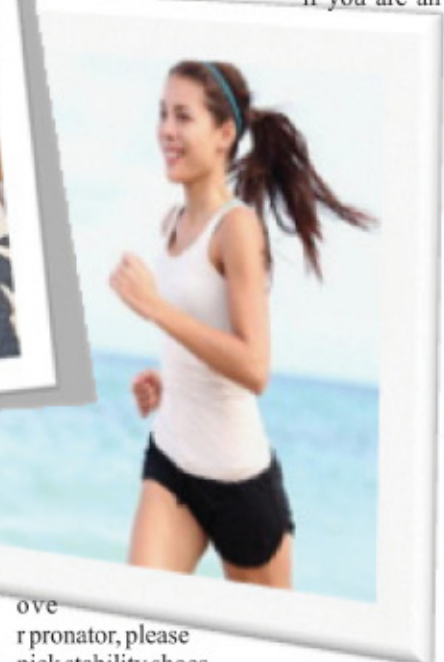
## Beginners' guide to Running

Plan to do a little bit of running after a long time to stay fit? Don't compete with anyone else around you and start with abby steps, says an expert. Adidas running expert Rajat Chauhan suggests how to go about it - Don't try to rush back to being how active or fit you were at a particular stage in life. You'll get there and beyond, but you first need to understand the current situation too. Also, don't compete with anyone else around you. Start slow, make a solid foundation so that you don't get hurt. - You'll notice that in running community everyone is too obsessed with numbers of all kinds. I suggest you don't worry about distance and speed for the first few months. Simply focus on 'time on feet'. - Start by alternating gentle walking for one to five minutes with brisk walking for one to five minutes. Repeat three to six times. For the first week or two, stick to this. - Once you get comfortable moving at brisk pace five to 10 minutes non-stop, then you can start jogging a little. Now start alternating one to five minute brisk walks with one to five minutes jogs. Repeat three to six times. - You need to have strength training to get the best out of your running. It'll help you run more efficiently. Strength training could be done at home or at gym, using



it for granted. Soon enough, when you start running, you'll get out of breath and start taking very shallow ineffective breaths. Practice breathing when you start walking by taking a long breath in, hold for a second or two and then breathe out. This will then come very naturally when you are even running at very fast speed.

- The only thing that you should listen to while running is your footsteps. If you can hear them, you are too loud. Be soft on your feet. - Initially your body will tell you to just stop because it's not going to be comfortable. I suggest for first three to four weeks follow the above advice, but if there is pain that persists for a couple of days, seek medical help. - For people who are just picking up running, I am not at all in favour of barefoot running. First learn how to run better and then do what you feel like but for now just pick up a decent running pair based on your needs. If you are a neutral runner, pick normal cushioned shoes, but if you are an



body weight or machines. - The more you resist, the more unnatural will it become and more mistakes you'll make. Start by relaxing your shoulders and just by jogging in one spot. Have an imaginary papadum (papad) between your thumb and index finger of both hands. Since you aren't supposed to break it, you need to hold it softly, in effect relaxing your shoulders and upper body. - Whether walking or running, you need to start working on your breathing. Don't take

over pronator, please pick stability shoes. - Have a sip or two of water every 10 to 15 minutes, but no more. Best is to have electrolyte mix and not plain water. Never run straight after meal. Give a break of at least two hours. After a run, it's important you have some proteins within 20 to 30 minutes.

## Use neem oil, garlic for mosquito-free home

As the national capital battles one of its worst dengue seasons, experts suggest natural methods like neem and coconut oil concoction or garlic to keep the mosquito-borne tropical disease at bay.

Neem oil acts as a great indoor mosquito-repellent owing to its smell that wards off mosquitoes. One can make an effective insecticide by mixing neem oil and coconut oil in equal proportion and rub it on the exposed parts of a body. - Another natural method to keep mosquitoes at bay is to plant Tulsi near the window panes. The plant has properties that do not allow mosquitoes to breed. - A mixture of lemon oil and eucalyptus oil is extremely effective in warding off mosquitoes naturally. Both have



the active component cineole in it carrying antiseptic and insect repellent properties, which makes them effective when applied to the skin. - Camphor is an easily available ingredient that kills mosquitoes in a house. Made from the extract of a tree, this compound has been found to have the longest mosquito repellent effect as compared to other natural products. Burning camphor in a closed room can be extremely effective in keeping mosquitoes at bay. - Garlic might smell bad, but that is exactly why mosquitoes stay away. All you need to do is crush a few pods of garlic, boil them in water and spray the liquid in the room.

## Home remedies to battle stomach pain

The most common reason for stomach pain is indigestion. If the food you have eaten is not digested properly, it produces gas and toxic mucus in the stomach. The half digested food also creates blockages in the bodily channels. In the long run, indigestion causes many health problems too. Dr. Smita Naram, Co-founder, Ayushakti shares some proven home remedies in Ayurveda which has helped lakhs of people to relieve pain, indigestion, gas, acidity, bloated stomach, etc. easily and stay healthy. - Low appetite, indigestion and pain - One pinch each of dry ginger, black pepper, pipali, hing - ½ teaspoon each of rock salt and black salt - Kokum liquid extracted from 3 kokum. - Mix all well and take it three times a day. Home remedies to battle stomach

pain Slice fresh ginger in to pieces; rub it in rock salt and lemon juice. Dry it in sun shade and keep bottled. Eat 1 piece each after every meal. This is the best remedy to improve the digestion, reduce pain and gas. Stomach pain due to acidity with gas - Black Raisins 20 Nos. - Jeshtimadhu Powder ½ Tsp. - Amla Powder 1 Tsp. - Cumin Seed Powder ½ Tsp. - Fennel Seed Powder ½ Tsp. - Dry Ginger Powder ½ Tsp. - Cardamom Powder ¼ Tsp. Mix them to the water, mentioned in (1) and drink twice a day. Acidity and burning 20 black resins soaked in 1 glass of water and smash it in the morning and drink on empty stomach. This reduces heat (pitta) and thus reduce acidity effectively. Pain with diarrhea and dysentery - 1 glass fresh buttermilk with 1 teaspoon of cumn seed powder.

- 1 cup pomegranate juice twice daily relieve from pain and also stops diarrhoea. How panchkarma helps in relieving irritant abdominal pain? Basti karma is medicated enema effectively bring down the Vayu (air movement) and removes accumulated toxins through stool, and you feel relieved from pain and bloating of stomach. Home remedies to battle stomach pain Applying Hing paste on the naval area effectively relieves abdominal pain. Home remedies to battle stomach pain If you have pain and constant constipation: 1 teaspoon triphala powder with warm water daily at night relieves constipation. Also improves digestion and in the long run help to relieve from gas, acidity, bloated stomach.

**Gold, silver price : Yellow metal records dip, silver trades higher on MCX**

New Delhi. Precious metals showed mixed trends in the Indian markets today. Gold is trading on the lower side of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) while silver prices have recorded a hike on Thursday, October 3. Gold futures, maturing on December 5, 2024, stood at Rs 76,125 per 10 grams, after recording a dip of Rs 265 or 0.35 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 76,390. Meanwhile, silver futures, due on December 5, 2024, witnessed a hike of Rs 382 or 0.42 per cent and were retailing at Rs 91,757 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 91,375. The price of gold varies for different regions in the country based on certain parameters such as the excise duty, making charges and the state taxes.

**GOLD, SILVER PRICES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET**

Gold prices were trading in a tight range on Thursday as traders remained on the sidelines ahead of a key U.S. economic data that may provide clues about the size of the Federal Reserve's interest rate cuts expected later this year, news agency Reuters reported. According to the latest metal report, spot gold was flat at \$2,655.03 per ounce by 0333 GMT, while, U.S. gold futures gained 0.2% to \$2,675.40.

**Crude rises as investors see retaliation from Israel**

NEW DELHI. Crude oil prices in the international market rose sharply on Wednesday following a missile attack by Iran on Israel. Brent crude futures, which had been trading near \$70 a barrel for the past three weeks, rose by 4% to \$75.96 a barrel at 4:30 PM IST.

West Texas Intermediate saw a rise of 3.57%, trading at \$72.32 a barrel. The major rise in global crude oil prices is driven by investor concerns over potential retaliation by Israel and its impact on global oil supply. Experts believe if tensions escalate further, crude prices could rise significantly in the coming days.

Another concern is that Iran borders the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow choke point through which OPEC+ members, including Saudi Arabia and the UAE, export energy. There is a chance of disrupting shipping through the strait if the conflict escalates. "Crude prices have risen owing to increase in geo-political risk premium as Israel may retaliate against Iran which may snowball into a larger conflict affecting other crude producers and important trade routes such as Strait of Hormuz. However, it is difficult to predict as to how this conflict pans out and accordingly the eventual impact on crude prices," said Prashant Vasisht, VP & co-head, corporate ratings, ICRA.

The attack on Israel was reportedly in response to the killing of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the powerful leader of Lebanon's militant group Hezbollah. Iran, a member of the OPEC+ group, is one of the world's top oil producers, with data showing it produced over 3.3 million barrels per day in August—the highest output in five years, as per the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The country exports about half of its production, which represents nearly 2% of global supply.

**Nike's quarterly sales and profits slump as it faces shoppers' sluggish demand for its products**

NEW YORK. Nike sales and profits slumped in its fiscal first quarter as the sportswear giant wrestles with shoppers' sluggish demand for new sneaker models and other products. The lackluster results Tuesday came after Nike announced last month that its CEO, John Donahoe, is stepping down on Oct. 13. Company veteran Elliott Hill is coming out of retirement to head up the company.

"A comeback at this scale takes time, but we see early wins — from momentum in key sports to accelerating our pace of newness and innovation," said Matthew



Friend, executive vice president and Nike's chief financial officer, in statement. "Our teams are energized as Elliott Hill returns to lead Nike's next stage of growth." Friend told analysts Tuesday that, given its CEO transition and with three quarters left in the fiscal year, Nike has withdrawn its full-year financial-performance guidance and intends to provide a quarterly outlook for the balance of the fiscal year. It also postponed its investor meeting that had been scheduled for Nov. 19. Nike has been known for its innovation but in recent years, analysts have said that it has lost its focus on coming up with cool products. Neil Saunders, managing director at GlobalData Retail, said that some of the sales decline was due to a weaker consumer economy that has shoppers buying fewer sneakers and not splurging on clothing as they once did. "Nike has done itself no favors with a lack of focus and oomph in a market where far more effort and exertion is needed to hold onto sales," he said. "There is a general sense that Nike has lost its edge and that the power of its innovation and the quality of its storytelling have both been faded." Saunders noted that at the same time, smaller rival brands have moved into Nike's territory and Nike posted net income of \$1.05 billion, or 70 cents per share, in the quarter that ended Aug. 31. That compares with \$1.45 billion, or 94 cents per share, in the year-ago period. Analysts were expecting earnings of 52 cents a share on sales of \$11.64 billion, according to FactSet. Shares of Nike Inc., which is based in Beaverton, Oregon, were down 5% in after-hours trading following the earnings report. They are down 18% so far this year, essentially connected with consumers in a way that Nike has failed to do.

**Amid W Asia conflict, logistics costs to surge, fear exporters**

**Market uncertainty to hit supply chain, hurting trade in oil, electronics, agri products**

New Delhi. The escalation of conflict in West Asia is expected to push already high logistics costs besides hurting trade in sectors such as oil, electronics and agri products, according to exporters. They said insurance costs for exports to the countries directly involved in the war could also go up, which would impact Indian exporters' working capital. Think tank Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) stated the conflict was already hurting India's trade with countries like Israel, Jordan and Lebanon.

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) said the Iran-Israel



conflict had the potential to significantly impact world trade and the global economy in several ways. "Iran is a key player in the oil market. Any escalation in the conflict could disrupt oil supplies, leading to higher prices, which would impact global economies, especially

those reliant on oil imports. Oil prices have already moved up by USD 4 per barrel," FIEO DG Ajay Sahai said.

He said increased tensions could destabilise West Asia, affecting trade routes like the Strait of Hormuz, through which a significant portion of the world's oil

passes. "Disruptions could lead to higher shipping costs and delays. Many global supply chains depend on the stability of West Asia. Conflict could disrupt transportation and logistics, affecting industries ranging from electronics to agriculture," Sahai said. Further, if the West would put sanctions or trade restrictions, it would further complicate the global trade dynamics, he said adding "overall, the conflict could lead to increased volatility in global markets". Hand Tool Association Chairman S C Ralhan said orders to these countries would be on hold and gradually it would become "very risky and difficult" to do trade in this region.

"Exports to Israel dropped sharply by 63.5 per cent, Jordan saw a 38.5 per cent decline due to spillover effects, and Lebanon experienced a 6.8 per cent decrease," GTRI Founder Ajay Srivastava said

**Iran-Israel conflict: Should stock market investors be worried**

New Delhi. As tensions flare in the Middle East, the Sensex has taken a sharp hit, dropping over 1,250 points in early trade. Naturally, retail investors are left wondering: is this the time to worry?

At around 11:30 am, the Sensex was down 1,251.97 points to 83,014.32 points, and the combined market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies declined by Rs 6 lakh crore. On the other hand, the NSE Nifty50 tanked 379.60 points to trade at 25,417.30. While the direct effects on global markets are still unfolding, one key concern is the surge in oil prices.

Iran's missile strikes on Israel have raised fears of potential disruptions to oil supplies, pushing Brent crude above \$75 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate has hit \$72. For an oil-importing nation like India, this spike could translate into increased inflationary pressures. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "If Israel targets oil installations in Iran, we could see a huge spike in crude



prices. This will be particularly damaging for oil importers like India."

Rising crude prices typically inflate costs for businesses, increase transport expenses, and potentially weaken corporate earnings—all of which can negatively affect the stock market.

What should investors do? Market experts suggest a more cautious approach during this period of uncertainty. Vijayakumar advises diversifying portfolios to defensive sectors like pharmaceuticals and FMCG, which tend to be less volatile during geopolitical crises.

Adding to the cautionary tone, Dr. Manoranjan Sharma, Chief

Economist at Infometrics Ratings, offered deeper insights into the broader implications of the conflict.

He noted, "Iran's missile strikes, and the potential for Israeli retaliation, mark another major flashpoint in the Middle East war scenario. With the US firmly backing Israel, we could see a sharp escalation.

Investors should brace for volatility, as these geopolitical tensions are likely to persist." In times like these, while the market reacts swiftly to news, long-term investors may benefit from holding their nerve and seeking safer sectors, but experts strongly believe that it is essential to stay informed on how the geopolitical landscape evolves.

Santosh Meena, Head of Research, Swastika Investmart, said, "For long-term investors, this correction offers a good buying opportunity in large-cap stocks, where valuations have become more attractive. We are observing sectoral rotation, with commodity-related stocks expected to perform well in the near term."

**Iran-Israel clash, oil price rise: Key factors behind Dalal Street bloodbath**

New Delhi. The ongoing clash between Israel and Iran triggered panic on Dalal Street on Thursday, with the Sensex tumbling as much as 1,250 points in early trade. At 11:02 am, Sensex was down 958.55 points at 83,307.74, while the NSE Nifty50 was trading 297.50 points lower at 25,499.40. All other broader market indices were also trading in negative territory.

A combination of geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, a rise in oil prices, and regulatory changes contributed to the significant downturn in the Indian stock market. Here's a closer look at the factors driving this meltdown.

Iran-Israel conflict escalates The ongoing hostilities between Iran and Israel have unsettled global markets, with concerns growing over potential disruptions to oil supplies from the Middle East.

Iran's recent missile strikes on Tel Aviv, followed by threats of Israeli retaliation, have stoked fears of a prolonged conflict that could have broader economic implications. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, highlighted the risks associated with these developments: "The situation will change if Israel attacks any oil installations in Iran, which will trigger a huge spike in crude. If it happens, it can turn out to be more damaging for oil importers like India." Brent crude prices have already surged past \$75 per barrel, while West Texas Intermediate touched \$72, with both benchmarks rising nearly 5% over the past few days. For India, which heavily relies on oil imports, this escalation in crude prices could exacerbate inflationary pressures and widen the fiscal deficit.

Oil price surge and Sebi's F&O measures In addition to rising oil prices, the Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi) recent decision to tighten rules in the futures and options (F&O) segment added to market uncertainty. The new regulations, which include limiting weekly expiries to one per exchange and increasing contract sizes, have raised concerns among retail investors and contributed to the broader market weakness.

Foreign fund outflows and Chinese market rally Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have also been net sellers, pulling out Rs 5,579 crore from Indian equities on Tuesday. Much of this outflow is attributed to the resurgence in Chinese markets following stimulus measures announced by the Chinese government. The SSE Composite Index rose 8% on Tuesday and has gained over 15% in the past week. Prashant Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities, explained the impact: "FIIs are withdrawing funds from Indian markets and reallocating them to Chinese stocks."

**Bank of America says outage nearly fixed after customers see \$0 account balance**

New Delhi. An apparent glitch hit Bank of America's services on Wednesday, October 2, with several customers reporting that they were unable to access their accounts or getting a zero balance.

In a statement, bank authorities said that services were restored after fixing the glitch. Reports of technical glitches spiked around 1 pm (US time) when about 20,266 outages were reported, according to Downdetector.

Many customers complained that they could not see their account balances. Some who could access their accounts were seeing a balance of \$0. "App not working and online banking shows yesterday's balance," one user said on Downdetector.

"Both the App and Browser access to BoA remain at least partially down for us," another user said. "Can now see some of our accounts, but not all of



them. And the transfer between accounts function remains non-functional for all accounts," another user said.

Some customers took to social media to air their grievances, stating that Bank of America had yet to alert them to the

issue and that they were getting little assistance from customer care.

After receiving the complaint, Bank of America officials acknowledged that "some clients are experiencing an issue accessing their accounts and balance information today," in a statement to CNN. These issues are being addressed and have largely been resolved," Bank of America officials were quoted as saying by the CNN.

"We apologise for any inconvenience," the officials added, while declining to specify what caused the problem. Meanwhile, it was not clear when all systems would be fully back to normal.

Earlier in August 2020, the Bank of America also faced a technical glitch where account balances displayed \$0 to bank customers.

**In India, warming climate pressures scientists to keep developing tougher seeds**

BENGALURU, India. Unpredictable rains and increasing heat aren't just making life more difficult for the people of Rayanpet, a village in India's arid south. They're also taking a toll on the thousands of acres of rice grown here.

"We used to know when it would rain and for how long and we sowed our seeds accordingly," said P Ravinder Reddy, a former soldier who turned to farming on his family's land 16 years ago. "Now it's so unpredictable and many times the seeds don't sprout either because there's too much rain or it's completely dry."

Fortunately for Reddy, agricultural research organizations in India have been working for years to engineer rice seeds that can better withstand the vagaries of climate. He's been experimenting with the new varieties for the past five years, and said they're giving better yields with less water and are more disease-resistant. "I have planted them across a quarter of my 25-acre field because there's still demand for older varieties but I think in a few years, we will use only these tougher seeds," Reddy said.

India is one of the world's largest producers and consumers of wheat and rice. Research organizations here, like their counterparts around the world, have long worked to produce seeds that increase yields, withstand drought or resist plant diseases. It's a growing need as a changing climate leads to more extreme and unpredictable weather. According to a United Nations report released earlier this year, more than 700 million people went hungry last year and over a third of the global population is unable to afford a healthy diet, thus increasing the urgency for resilient seeds that can produce food reliably. Apart from India, other programs including a United States government program and privately funded projects are helping develop climate-resilient crops in Africa, Central America and other Asian countries. India is among the countries most vulnerable to climate impacts, these new seeds are essential in ensuring it produces enough food for its people as well as for export. Defending against climate shocks



As climate change intensifies, India's nearly 120 million farmers — most with less than 5 acres of land — are seeing their livelihoods threatened by erratic rainfall patterns, rising temperatures and increased pest infestations. Some are taking to what is called natural farming — techniques like using natural fertilizers and planting crops alongside trees and other plants that can protect crops from wind, erosion and some extreme weather — to deal with climate change. But that can mean reduced yields, and India's federal government is also promoting the use of climate-resilient seeds that don't compromise yields. Increasing salinity in

groundwater, heavy rainfall over short periods, prolonged droughts and even increasing nighttime temperatures can affect rice seeds, experts say. "We really need these seeds to deal with these multiple issues created by global warming," said Ashok Kumar Singh, former director of New Delhi-based Indian Agriculture Research Institute and a scientist who specializes in plant genetics and breeding. Singh has overseen the creation of multiple successful rice varieties to withstand pests and various plant diseases. And his organization, with funding from the federal agriculture ministry, has released more than 2,000 climate-resilient seed varieties in the last decade. Earlier this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released 109 climate-resilient seeds across crops that included cereals, pulses and oilseeds like peanuts. India's federal government has announced plans to ensure at least 25% of land tilled for paddy in the country will be sowed with climate-resilient seeds in the coming "kharif" or winter crop season.

## NEWS BOX

## Delhi Capitals will 'definitely' retain Rishabh Pant: Co-owner spills the beans

New Delhi DC co-owner Parth Jindal said that they were definitely retaining captain Rishabh Pant ahead of the Indian Premier League 2025 auctions. In an interview with news agency IANS, Jindal said that DC had multiple good players that they would like to retain, but the final list will be made after discussions with their Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly. DC finished 6th in the previous season of the Indian Premier League. Despite not making it into the playoffs, the team had several top young performers, including Abhishek Porel, Tristan Stubbs and Jake Fraser-McGurk. Speaking to the media, Jindal hinted at the potential retentions, however stressed that apart from Rishabh Pant, none of the decisions were final. "Yes, we definitely have to retain. We have some very good players in our team. The rules have just come out, so after discussing with GMR and our director of cricket, Sourav Ganguly, decisions will be made," Parth Jindal told IANS in an interview.

"Rishabh Pant will definitely be retained. We also have Axar Patel, who is excellent, Tristan Stubbs, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Kuldeep Yadav, Abhishek Porel, Mukesh Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, all very good



players in our team," he further added on the matter of retentions.

## IPL 2025 retention rules: Details

"We'll see what happens in the auction. But first, as per the rule, we can retain six players. After discussions, we will proceed with the auction and see what happens," Jindal concluded.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India made several rules prioritising Indian players. The rules are expected to help young Indian players fighting for a place in the playing XI of the IPL sides.

## LATEST IPL RETENTION RULES

The IPL franchises can retain a total of 6 players from their existing squad. This can be either via retention or by using the Right to Match (RTM) option.

It is at the discretion of the IPL franchise to choose their combination for Retentions and RTMs. The 6 retentions / RTM's can have a maximum of 5 capped players (Indian & Overseas) and a maximum of 2 uncapped players.

## Ashwin vs Jadeja battle portends positive signs for India ahead of Australia tour

New Delhi. The Indian team continued their dominating run in home Tests as they crushed Bangladesh by 2-0 and began a long Test season on a high. Like most of their previous series victories on home soil, India had their usual two big match winners in Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, bringing their A-game to the fore.

While Ashwin won his world-record equalling 11th Player of the Series award for scoring 114 runs and scalping 11 wickets, Jadeja also made a valuable contribution with his 94 runs and nine wickets across two Tests. The duo has been the two of the strongest pillars of the Indian Test team in the last 11 years helping India win 18 consecutive series at home.

However, as soon as the action shifts overseas, one has to make way for the other as two spinners don't fit in the team's combination. Hence, the battle for the number eight spot will be once again between the two all-



rounders with India touring Australia later this year in November.

## Jadeja pipped Ashwin in England

During the tour to South Africa earlier this year, Ashwin and Jadeja played one match each of the two match Test series. While Ashwin picked up one wicket and scored eight runs in India's loss by an innings and 32 runs in the first Test, Jadeja scored a duck and didn't bowl a single over in the team's seven-wicket win in the second Test. However, in the previous five-match Test series in England, Jadeja pipped Ashwin in playing XI and scored 287 runs from nine innings and also picked six wickets. The southpaw provides much-needed cushion to the turbulent Indian batting in SENA (South Africa, England, New Zealand, Australia) countries where even the seniors have been failing to bail the team out of trouble in recent times. Comparing Ashwin and Jadeja's batting and bowling numbers in SENA as far as their batting numbers go in SENA countries, Jadeja holds the edge over Ashwin having scored 932 runs from 21 matches (36 innings) at an average of 29.12 with one hundred and five fifties to his name. On the other hand, Ashwin has 854 runs from 25 matches (49 innings) at an average of 20.33 with two half-centuries (both in Sydney).

## Champions League: Lille shock Real Madrid, end team's 36-match unbeaten run

**French side Lille stunned defending champions Real Madrid with a 1-0 home victory in the Champions League group phase. This brought an end to Madrid's 36-match unbeaten streak in all competitions.**

New Delhi Lille stunned defending champions Real Madrid with a 1-0 home victory in the Champions League group phase on Wednesday, October 2, halting the 15-time European Cup winners' impressive 36-match unbeaten streak across all competitions. Jonathan David converted a penalty just before halftime, three minutes into stoppage time, marking Real's first defeat since January. The result also ended Madrid's remarkable 14-game unbeaten run in the Champions League. With this win, Ligue 1 side Lille now has three points from two matches in the revamped format of Europe's premier club competition, matching Real's points after they won their



opening game against VfB Stuttgart.

On his penalty, David remarked, "I try to focus, to keep calm to take a good shot, but I'm confident when it comes to taking penalties. It has not sunk in yet, but it's a memorable night." Real Madrid goalkeeper Andriy Lunin acknowledged the team's lack of usual

intensity. "It's difficult to analyse right after. We lacked aggression, creativity—what we always have," he stated. "In the second half, we showed more desire, but in the first half we were worse, that's obvious. We want to win because we know what colours we're playing in. But that's OK. Courage, keep

working and prepare for the next game." Carlo Ancelotti's squad saw Kylian Mbappe, who recently transferred from Ligue 1 champions Paris Saint-Germain, start on the bench due to a muscle injury sustained last week. Real's Vinicius Jr. had the first significant chance of the match with a low shot in the sixth minute, followed by a close-range attempt from Endrick that was blocked by Lille's Lucas Chevalier. Lille nearly broke the deadlock after 26 minutes when Lunin pulled off a stunning double save, first denying David's header and then parrying his follow-up shot.

The hosts finally found their breakthrough in stoppage time when Eduardo Camavinga handled Edon Zhegrovca's free kick. Following a VAR review, David confidently slotted home the resulting penalty.

In the second half, Lille maintained their pressure, refusing to retreat as Real Madrid enjoyed possession and attempted to cut off the supply to England midfielder Jude Bellingham. Ancelotti responded by introducing Mbappe and Luka Modric to replace Endrick and Eder Militao, but Lille held firm against a late onslaught from Real to secure the surprising victory.

## Virat Kohli flaunts fluent Bengali while endorsing Mehidy Hasan's bat

**Veteran batter Virat Kohli spoke fluent Bengali while endorsing Mehidy Hasan Miraz's bat. The Bangladesh all-rounder was pleasantly surprised by Kohli's quip in Bengali. Mehidy also gifted a bat to India captain Rohit Sharma.**

New Delhi. Superstar batter Virat Kohli showcased his linguistic skills by speaking fluent Bengali while endorsing a bat from Bangladesh all-rounder Mehidy Hasan Miraz. After the recently concluded two-Test series between India and Bangladesh, the two cricketers had a brief chat about a bat manufacturer. In a video widely shared on social media, Mehidy Hasan can be seen encouraging Virat Kohli to comment on the quality of the bat. Mehidy Hasan Miraz revealed that Virat Kohli had previously enjoyed using bats from the manufacturer. In response to Mehidy's revelation, Virat Kohli



made a Bengali quip: "MKS bat, Khoob Bhalo Achchi" (MKS bat, it is very good). Mehidy was pleasantly surprised when Kohli endorsed the bat in Bengali. "Very good bat, keep doing the good work. You make very good-quality bats. Continue this work and provide cricketers with quality bats," Kohli said, addressing the manufacturer. Mehidy Hasan Miraz's meeting with Virat Kohli coincided with his meeting with India captain Rohit Sharma, to whom he gifted a bat from the same manufacturer. Rohit wished Mehidy the best and shared that the Bangladesh all-rounder had started his own bat company with friends. "I've known Mehidy for a long time.

He is a very good cricketer, and I am proud of him for starting his own bat company with some friends. I wish him all the best; may God grant him success. I hope this company rises above the rest," Rohit said.

India defeated Bangladesh 2-0 in the Test series on Tuesday to inch closer to sealing a spot in the World Test Championship final. Despite losing two-and-a-half days of the Test match due to rain and wet outfield at Green Park in Kanpur, India hammered Bangladesh by seven wickets.

Rohit Sharma's men played fearless cricket, pushing the game forward on Day 4. India scored 285 in just 34.4 overs, breaking world records for the fastest team 50, 100, 150, 200 and 250. Bangladesh were comfortably outplayed in both the Tests -- Chennai and Pune. India and Bangladesh will meet in a three-match T20I series, starting Sunday, October 6. Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma will not be part of the assignment as the two cricketers retired from the shortest format of the game after the World Cup. Suryakumar Yadav will lead a strong 15-man squad against Bangladesh in the T20I series.

## Pakistan expected to name 3 separate captains after Babar's resignation: Reports

**Pakistan might appoint three separate captains in three formats after the resignation of Babar Azam from the position of white-ball captain. PTI reported that the choice might not be straightforward due to workload issues.**

New Delhi. Pakistan could have separate cricket captains in all three formats due to the heavy schedule and the pressure it could put on one white-ball skipper, according to sources. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) was expected to hand over Babar Azam the ODI captaincy for the upcoming white-ball matches, but the senior batter tendered his



resignation around midnight on Wednesday to focus on his batting.

Insiders suggest that appointing the next captain for the shorter formats will not be straightforward for white-ball head coach Gary Kirsten or the selection committee. "Mohammad Rizwan is the obvious choice for the white-ball captaincy given that, along with Babar, he is the only player who is an automatic selection in all formats of the game," said an insider.

## Babar Azam quits captaincy: Details

However, the hectic international calendar poses a worrying factor for red-ball coach Jason Gillespie, Kirsten, the PCB, and the selectors regarding Rizwan's workload. Rizwan, Babar, and Shaheen Shah Afridi are all-format players, making workload management a significant concern. Pakistan is scheduled to play 18 ODIs and T20Is in Australia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa between November and December, followed by a two-Test series in South Africa. After returning home in January, the team will engage in a two-Test series with the West Indies and an ODI tri-series with New Zealand and South Africa, leading up to the ICC Champions Trophy in February-March. After the ICC event, Pakistan will fly to New Zealand for a white-ball series before the PCB organises the Pakistan Super League.

## 'Aggressive' Rohit Sharma's captaincy mantra: Be calm, think wisely

New Delhi. India captain Rohit Sharma revealed how he marshalled his troops in the Kanpur Test match against Bangladesh. Speaking via a Board of Control for Cricket in India video on Wednesday, October 2, Sharma said that India's aggressive approach in Test cricket was a combined result of their bowling, batting and field positions. India beat Bangladesh in the Kanpur Test match by 7 wickets despite rain washing away more than two and a half days of play. On Day 4 of the Test match, when everyone thought that the game will meander towards a draw, India came out all guns blazing. Not only did the Indian team bowl out Bangladesh quickly, they also scored rapidly at a run-rate of 8+ and dismantled the Bangladesh side. "Aggression is all about your actions, not about my reactions. The kind of batting we do, the kind of field positioning we have, the kind of bowling we do, that to me is aggression," Rohit Sharma said in a BCCI video.

**IND vs BAN, Kanpur Test: Match Report**  
"When we lost two and a half days it was very easy for us to just drift away from the goal we have, which was to win the Test match.

We needed 7 wickets quickly on that day, and that is when it started," he further added.

Sharma lauded the bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah and Ravichandran Ashwin for setting the tone on Day 4 of the Test match.

"The bowlers came to the party first. They got the wickets that we needed. And then when we came inside, we had to take a little bit of risk to get a result. I know the result could have gone either way. But I was okay with it. So was the coach and the other players as well. Because you have to be brave enough to take those decisions and go and play that way," Rohit said in the video. "When things fall in place, everything looks good. And that is where it can change quickly when things don't fall in place. Everybody would have started criticising the decision that we took and all of that. But what matters is what we think inside this changing room. And that is what mattered and that is what we went with in this game. It was a clear plan that we want the result, how we can get the result. Everybody started finding answers for that. I think it was an exceptional series," he further added.

**ROHIT'S BRAND OF CAPTAINCY**



Speaking about his brand of captaincy, Rohit said that a captain needs to be adaptable and prepare every approach. Sharma said that it was important to recognise that not every decision was going to go his way but he needed to back his calls and trust on it.

"I think when you are playing at such a high level, you need to have a bit of everything. You need to be calm, to think wisely. There are a lot of decisions that you have to take on the field. Not every decision will go your way, but you have to back it and use your experience, use your knowledge. So that is what I do. I have been there enough to trust my judgement that I do take on the field, the decisions that I take on the field. I trust on it



The Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will be broadcasted on Star Sports Network in India. The live streaming of the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will be available on the Disney+ Hotstar app and website. Apart from a better focus on women's cricket, in a landmark move, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has decided that the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will have the same prize money as the men's tournament. This is the first time in the history of international cricket that both a women's and men's event will be offering identical prize money. As per the decision, the winners of the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 will receive USD 2.34 million—a massive 134 per cent increase from the USD 1 million awarded to Australia in the previous edition held in South Africa in 2023.

and then I go by it. Obviously there are players around me who are open to giving suggestions, but at the end of the day, I think I trust my mind and I trust my judgement. And that's all that matters," Rohit said about his captaincy. Sharma concluded the video by praising India's fielding effort in the Test match, where he thought that the team made incredible progress and which was the main difference-maker in the game.

"It may go unnoticed, but I was just informed that out of the 24 catches that came our way, we took 23 of them, which is a great result. Especially in the slips, you don't often see in India a ball carrying through the slips. But the guys who were standing behind were so sharp and to take those catches, it may look easy on television, but it is not. Trust me, because they are standing way ahead than they normally do. So all those catches that come their way, they are very hard to take. The reaction time is very less. And I have seen it, they put a lot of effort in getting those things right. And Dilip obviously is helping with the players. Some crucial catches as well, which actually turned the game around," Rohit concluded.



# Kareena Kapoor

Saif Ali Khan, Taimur Step Out in Style; Jeh Steals 'No Pics' Message To Paparazzi

Kareena Kapoor and Saif Ali Khan continue to be one of Bollywood's most beloved power couples, consistently catching the attention of both fans and paparazzi. Their kids, Taimur and Jeh, are equally adored, often causing a stir online. Recently, the Khan family was spotted out shopping, and it was Jeh's cheeky response to the paparazzi, saying "no pics," that had social media buzzing. On October 2, Kareena and Saif were seen out with their children, Taimur and Jeh, in the market. In a video shared by paparazzi, Kareena was captured holding Jeh's hand as she guided him into the car, while Saif was seen walking with Taimur. The family's coordinated outing turned heads, but it was Jeh's adorable moment that stole the show, as the little one politely told the photographers, "no pics."

The Khan family served up serious family goals, dressed in matching white and blue outfits. Kareena, Saif, and Taimur were all spotted in white t-shirts and blue jeans, while Jeh rocked an all-white ensemble. The father-son duo even sported matching red caps, adding to the charm of their twinning look. Taimur Ali Khan and Jeh Ali Khan, the adorable sons of Bollywood's power couple Kareena Kapoor Khan and Saif Ali Khan, are undoubtedly some of the most beloved star kids in the industry. From the moment Taimur was born in 2016, he became a media sensation, with his charming personality and chubby cheeks quickly winning over the internet. His younger brother, Jeh, born in 2021, has



followed suit, often stealing the spotlight with his playful antics and cute expressions. Taimur, often referred to as "Tim," is already a mini-celebrity, frequently spotted out and about with his parents, whether it's on vacations, family outings, or just playtime at home. Known for his mischievous yet endearing nature, Taimur has captured the hearts of fans with his confident strolls and sweet interactions with the paparazzi. Jeh, the younger of the two, has recently started to step into the public eye. Although still very young, his occasional "no pics" moments to the paparazzi have endeared him to fans, showcasing that he's got his own budding personality. While Jeh often follows his brother's lead during public appearances, he's already developing his own charm, making the Khan brothers a constant source of fascination.

# Anushka Sharma

Challenges Virat Kohli, Beats Him With a Hilarious Cricket Rulebook

Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli are the most loved couple in Bollywood. They never miss the chance to impress fans with their chemistry. Today, the actress shared a video on social media which immediately went viral. She was seen challenging Virat in cricket. Fans quickly reacted to the fun video. Taking to her Instagram handle, Anushka shared a video in which we can see she and Virat are playing cricket but there is a catch. Anushka mentions that the rule will be her to which Virat agrees. Both are seen having fun and Virat can also be heard saying Lassi shot. "Lulu balling, lassi shots & a lot more with @pumaindia," read the caption. One of the fans wrote, "Are cutieess". Another wrote, "Virushka ever".

Recently, Anushka Sharma attended a brand event in Mumbai where she opened up about inculcating the right habits in children



from a young age. She said she and her cricketer husband, Virat Kohli, have been trying to do the same with their kids, Vamika and Akaay. Speaking at Slurrp Farm's YES Moms & Dads event, the actress said, "I took her (Vamika) to an ice cream museum because she loves ice cream. Like loves, obsessed. So I took her to the ice cream museum and I'm like, 'You know what, eat as much as you want.' She didn't eat that much." During the same event, the actress also addressed the pressure parents face to be "perfect," sharing candid insights into her parenting approach with their children, Vamika and Akaay. "There is so much pressure to be this perfect parent," Anushka admitted. "But we're not perfect, and that's okay. We'll complain about things, and it's fine to admit it in front of our kids, so they know we're flawed." She emphasised that admitting to mistakes helps ease the pressure children feel, saying, "Imagine kids thinking, 'My parents are like this,' and having to live up to those expectations." On the professional front, Anushka was last seen in the film Zero (2018) with Shah Rukh Khan. She is now awaiting the release of Chakda Xpress, a biopic based on the life of Indian cricketer Jhulan Goswami.



Pooja Hegde To Team Up With Thalapathy Vijay Again After Beast, Next Film Tentatively Titled 'Thalapathy 69'



Actress Pooja Hegde, who has worked with Vijay in the 2022 film 'Beast', will once again be seen sharing screen space with the superstar in the upcoming tentatively titled film 'Thalapathy 69'. The banner KVN Productions took to X, formerly called Twitter, to make the announcement on Wednesday.

Along with a picture of Pooja, the post read, "Bringing the stunning duo back to the big screen once again We know you've already cracked it, but officially... Welcome onboard @hegdepooja #Thalapathy69CastReveal #Thalapathy @actorvijay sir #HVinoth @thedeol @anirudhofficial @Jagadishbliss @LohithNK01 #Thalapathy69." The film is directed by H. Vinoth, who made his directorial debut with "Sathuranga Vettai" in 2014. He then went on to make films such as 'Theeran Adhigaaram Ondru', 'Nerkonda Paarvai', 'Valimai' and 'Thunivu'. Talking about Pooja, she is currently busy with Suriya's tentatively titled film 'Suriya 44' helmed by 'Jigarhanda DoubleX' fame director Karthik Subbaraj. As for now, the filmmaker has kept all the information under wraps and fans are expecting a big update before Suriya's other big release titled 'Kanguva' helmed by director Siruthai Siva, which is all set for a grand release on November 14, 2024, on a huge pan-Indian level.

The film is directed by acclaimed Malayalam filmmaker Rosshan Andrews and produced by Siddharth Roy Kapur. 'Deva' is set to be released on February 14, 2025. Pooja will also feature in an action-thriller titled 'Sanki' opposite 'Tadap' fame actor Ahan Shetty, helmed by director duo Yasir Jah and Adnan A. Shaikh.

Priyanka Chopra Gives Boss Lady Vibes In Grey Pantsuit, Gets Papped At Trailblazers Event



Global icon Priyanka Chopra Jonas made heads turn once again with her impeccable style as she was spotted attending the Trailblazers event organised in London.

The actress was giving boss lady vibes in a chic grey pantsuit. The look instantly went viral, leaving fans in awe. Jerryxmimi took to their Instagram handle and shared a video in which we can see Priyanka posing and looking gorgeous. Her makeup game is also on point. Recently, Priyanka Chopra took the internet by storm after sharing throwback photos of her transformation from a 9-year-old to a 17-year-old. The global icon gave fans a nostalgic peek into her early years, highlighting changes in appearance, style, and personality.

Despite her hectic routine, she always finds time for her daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas. Recently, she gave fans a heartwarming glimpse of their Sunday together, where the two enjoyed some relaxed downtime. Taking to Instagram Stories, Priyanka posted a cosy selfie of her and Malti, where she was seen holding her daughter close. Dressed in comfortable loungewear, the actress radiated happiness as Malti focused on playing with a toy. Priyanka captioned the photo, "Sundays like these..." accompanied by a heart emoji.

Priyanka Chopra Jonas often treats her fans to candid glimpses of her life, and recently she shared a short clip on Instagram featuring some cherished moments from her camera roll. The video began with a stylish selfie of Priyanka dressed in a black bodycon dress, followed by a sweet selfie with her daughter, Malti.

She also included a memorable shot with her close friend Tamanna Dutt, taken during her brother Siddharth Chopra's engagement party.

The clip wrapped up with a family photo of Priyanka posing with her husband, Nick Jonas, their daughter, and his brothers, Kevin and Joe Jonas. The text on the clip read, "POV: you open my camera roll," giving fans a sneak peek into her personal memories. On the work front, Priyanka will next be seen in the web series, Citadel Season 2. She is also preparing to release Hollywood blockbusters such as The Bluff and Heads of State.