

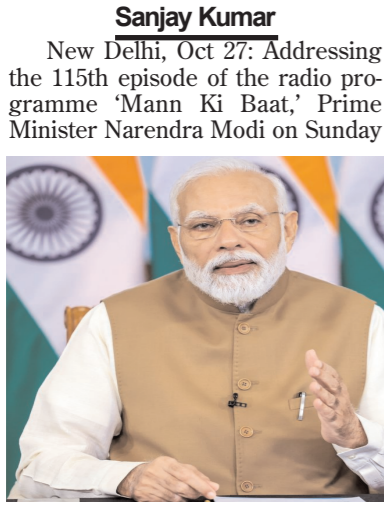
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Not to panic is key to foil cyber fraud attempts: PM Modi



Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Oct 27: Addressing the 115th episode of the radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat,' Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday

should be aware that no investigation agency inquires like this through a phone or video call. He also mentioned Sardar Patel and Birsa Munda highlighting their far-sightedness. As the year marks their 150th anniversary, PM Modi said, "The country has decided to celebrate their birth anniversary," and added, "both these great souls faced different challenges but their vision was the same: unity of the country."

Bandra station stampede latest example of India's crumbling infrastructure: Rahul

Simmi Kaur Babbar Mumbai, Oct. 27: Hitting out at the BJP, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said Sunday's stampede at Mumbai's Bandra railway station was the latest example of India's crumbling infrastructure. He also asserted that inaugurations and publicity were acceptable only when the foundation behind them was about working for public good.



ribbon cutting, it is a matter of serious concern," he said. The Bandra station stampede is the latest example of India's crumbling infrastructure, the former

the intention was only publicity - there was neither respect for Shivaji Maharaj nor concern for public safety, Gandhi said. "Today, the country needs international-class infrastructure that also takes care of the local needs of the poor - that makes business easy, travel convenient and people safe," he added.

Cricketer Ishan Kishan's father Pranav Pandey joins JD(U)

Patna, Oct 27: Janata Dal (United) national working president Sanjay Jha presents membership slip to cricketer Ishan Kishan's father Pranav Kumar Pandey as he joins JD(U), in Patna on October 27, 2024.

Kanpur woman's body found months after disappearance linked to gym trainer

Navdeep Singh Sahni Lucknow, Oct 27 In Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur, a woman was allegedly murdered and her body was retrieved from near the Kanpur District Magistrate's bungalow. The body of the victim, who was a prominent businessman's wife, was found four months after she was allegedly killed.



The accused, who is a resident of Kanpur's Raipurwa locality, told the investigators officials about the spot from where the body was found after digging the ground. DCP (North Kanpur) Shrawan Kumar Singh told the media that the woman was allegedly upset over the trainer's wedding getting finalised.

On the day of the crime, she had come to the gym after 20 days and the duo had gone into the car to have a conversation. An argument broke out between the two during which he punched the woman in the neck, following which she fainted. The trainer then murdered her and buried her body, NDTV further reported.

For Hindu unity: RSS backs Yogi's batenge toh katenge call to counter 'divisive' forces

ST Correspondent New Delhi, Oct 27: The RSS on Saturday firmly backed Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath's "batenge toh katenge (divided, we will fall)" line to stress the unity of Hindu society and cautioning against "multiple forces out undermine Hindu unity".



Peace can be established in Bengal only when cross-border infiltration stops: Amit Shah

Tejinder Kaur Babbar Petrapole/Kolkata, Oct 27: Asserting that peace can be established in West Bengal only when cross-border infiltration stops, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday exhorted the people of the state to bring in change in the 2026 Assembly elections.



of the country...There can be peace in Bengal only when infiltration stops." Land ports play an important role in improving connectivity and relations among neighbouring countries, Shah said.

ple of Bengal are deprived of the benefits given in the health sector. This deprivation will cease from 2026," he claimed. He slammed the TMC government in the state over the issue of "corruption".

Shah said that the Land Port Authority of India (LPAI) has taken steps to improve ties with neighbours of the country. "Under the prime minister's leadership, the four Ps (prosperity, peace, partnership and progress) are given importance across the borders. This modernised land port will start a new era of friendship and also stop smuggling.

end of a two-day Sangh national executive committee meeting. To a specific question on what the Sangh thought of the slogan "batenge toh katenge" - which Yogi gave after Sheikh Hasina was ousted in Bangladesh - Hosabale said: "Slogan can be anything but the spirit is one of the urge for unity. History shows that whenever Hindus get divided, they suffer. What is the issue? The spirit is the same, one of unity and harmony of society. If we allow the distinctions of caste, language, forward and backward to divide us, we will suffer (toh hum katenge)."

9 injured in stampede amid festive rush at Mumbai's Bandra railway station

Naresh Malhotra Mumbai, Oct 27: Nine persons were injured in a stampede after rush for boarding a Gorakhpur-bound train at Bandra railway station in Mumbai on Sunday, civic and disaster control officials here said.



platform. "During this time, some passengers on the platform attempted to board the moving train, leading to an accident where two persons were injured in an accident where

Ravindra Prasad Prajapati (29), Sanjay Tilakram Kangay (27), Divyanshu Yogendra Yadav (18), Mohammad Shareef

official said. The Western Railway urged the passengers not to board or alight a moving train, as it is dangerous. The WR is operating more than 130 festival special trains for various destinations, especially to Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, in view of the upcoming Diwali and Chhath festivals, it said in the statement.

Rashid may return to Tihar today

New Delhi, Oct 27: The Member of Parliament from Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, alias Engineer Rashid, is set to return to the Tihar jail on October 28, the day the tenure of his interim bail ends in connection with a 2017 terror funding case.



## News box

**Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah says more teeth to civic agencies to stop illegal constructions**

**BENGALURU:** Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that more powers will be granted to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA), and Bangalore Metropolitan Region Development Authority (BMRDA) to prevent accidents caused by unauthorised constructions. Addressing a joint press conference with the CM, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar said the drive to demolish unauthorised and substandard quality buildings was continuing in Bengaluru. "The previous government had curtailed the powers of officials to take action against unauthorised construction but our government has decided to give powers to the BBMP, BDA and BMRDA. Besides, the registration of unauthorised properties will also be halted," he said.

Further, the CM directed officials to clear encroachments of stormwater drains in Bengaluru on priority. Speaking to the reporter, he said that during his last tenure as CM, he had directed officials to clear encroachments, which was not carried out, thus resulting in mishaps whenever it rains heavily in the city. He highlighted that Bengaluru received 275 mm rainfall in October, the third highest for the month in a century. The World Bank has committed Rs 2000 crore to construct retaining walls for 173 km of stormwater drains and strengthen 80 km of drains. "We held discussions with World Bank officials who visited Bengaluru. They agreed to give Rs 5000 crore, of which Rs 3500 crore will be spent for Bengaluru," he said. Further, he assured that the project estimate will be cleared in the cabinet and tender process for the same will commence soon. Besides, a Rs 669 crore proposal for road improvements in the city is under review, he added.

**Relocated tribes cultivate community, culture in Telangana's Nirmal district**

**ADILABAD:** After relocating from the Kawal Tiger Reserve to Maddipadaga village in Kadam mandal, the tribal communities from Rampur and Maisampet have transformed their way of life. With improved access to resources and new income opportunities, these villagers in Nirmal district are now thriving and inspiring nearby farmers with their success. The villagers, who rent surrounding lands for cultivation, have become a vital part of the local agricultural landscape. Embracing a balance between tradition and progress, they have maintained their cultural practices, including the vibrant Gussadi dance that celebrates Dhandari. Held annually around Deepavali, the 10-day festival is marked by prayers, dances and elaborate rituals using traditional instruments like the peacock feather drum, tudum, tappalparre, vette and gumela. On the festival's last day, all Gussadi troupes gather in front of the Padmalpuri Khaku deity and taking a holy bath in the Godavari river at Gudirevu in Dhandapelli mandal, Mancherla district. Surrounding villages, once plagued by a shortage of labour, are also benefiting from the relocation. With the new community members available for work, local agricultural operations are seeing much-needed support, and the sense of community between these villages has deepened. Speaking to TNIE, village youth leader Kova Praveen shares, "This is the first time we're celebrating Gussadi in our new village. Life has changed a lot here. We're sending our children to school regularly, something that wasn't always possible before." In their new village, the community has access to steady work and higher earnings, with daily wages for agricultural work ranging from Rs 500 to Rs 1,500, much higher than before. "In the old village, we didn't have enough work."

**Kaleshwaram project inquiry: Are you a rubber stamp? Panel asks CE for signing certificates**

**HYDERABAD:** "Are you a rubber stamp?" Ramagundam Chief Engineer K Sudhakar Reddy was bluntly asked by PC Ghose, chairman of the Commission of Inquiry on the Kaleshwaram project. The question was in response to Sudhakar Reddy's admission that he signed the substantial completion certificate without verifying the records.

Sudhakar Reddy, who worked as superintendent engineer for the Kaleshwaram project earlier, deposed before the Commission for cross-examination at BRKR Bhavan on Saturday. When asked whether completion certificates were issued about Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla, he disclosed that the substantial completion certificate was issued for Medigadda barrage and completion certificates for Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

The chief engineer admitted that the executive engineer (EE) issued the substantial completion certificate for Medigadda and he, as a superintendent engineer, countersigned it. The Commission then asked whether he verified records before countersigning the certificate, and Sudhakar Reddy said "no." Justice Ghose then asked Sudhakar Reddy: "I am putting to you that the completion certificate which was issued by you during your tenure, cannot be acceptable since you have not checked whether the works were completed or not. You signed it without properly checking the work done by them (agency). What do you say?" Sudhakar Reddy replied: "I only countersigned the substantial certificate."

**Major highway intersection in Coimbatore widened to ease traffic**

**The Chinthamanipur junction is a vital junction in the district where two of the major National Highway roads including NH 544 and 81 intersect with each other.**

**COIMBATORE:** As people are forced to wait in traffic signals for a long duration on the Chinthamanipur junction near the Neelambur (L&T) highway road, the State Highways Department officials have widened the road as a temporary measure. The Chinthamanipur junction is a vital junction in the district where two of the major National Highway roads including NH 544 and 81 intersect with each other. Lately, as the junction has been witnessing a staggering amount of traffic congestion, motorists are forced to wait for long durations at the signals, leading to people demanding a bridge on Neelambur Highways Road. Though the road safety wing of the highways department along with the police department, and district administration introduced a roundabout at the junction, several months ago to reduce traffic congestion, the trial run failed as long vehicles such as container trucks and 16-wheel trucks were unable to turn in the



roundabout.

Hence, the officials removed the temporary structure and resumed with traffic signals. As the traffic congestion at the junction was rising at a staggering pace, people were forced to wait for a long time in the signals. Given this, officials widened the carriageway of the Coimbatore-Trichy NH

Road (Nh81). G Manuneethi, Divisional Engineer of the State Highways Department (Road Safety), told TNIE, "We have now widened the carriageway of the Coimbatore-Trichy NH Road by four metres after demolishing the traffic islands. With this, the main carriageway has now been widened from 7 metres to 11 metres.

Earlier, motorists were waiting in the signals on two lanes and as a result, they were forced to wait in two signals back-to-back. However, now after the widening works, vehicles are waiting in three lanes and vehicles proceed quickly after the green signal. This change at the junction has received a good response from the people as well as the police who manage the traffic."

He added that they are planning on introducing 2 roundabouts on the Neelambur NH Road, with each roundabout measuring 30 metres in diameter. "Earlier, we had one big roundabout which failed. Now, we are planning on two small roundabouts, one towards Palakkad and another towards Salem Road. There is a culvert on the Palakkad Road which needs to be widened using precast structures. We are planning on getting CSR funds and executing the project. Once we get the nod from the district collector, we shall start our work," he further added.

**Several houses inundated in Madurai, relief camps set up**

**MADURAI:** Continuous, unprecedented rainfall has left large parts of Madurai submerged, particularly in the eastern and northern sections of the city, with severe waterlogging reported on Friday. Many residents were forced to remain indoors as knee-deep water inundated several low-lying areas, hampering daily life and essential activities. According to the meteorological department, Madurai recorded over 100mm of rainfall within 24 hours from 6 am Friday to 6 am Saturday, with Chittampatti receiving the highest at 108.4mm. Areas including Madurai North, Tallakulam, Periyapatti, Chittampatti, Kallandhiri, and Idlayapatti witnessed intense downpours exceeding 50mm. The overflow of Panagadi and Naganankulam kannois further exacerbated flooding in Sellur and Athikulam, causing water to rush into homes. Several low-lying areas such as Athikulam, BB Kulam, Mullai Nagar,



Kadachanenthal, LBT Nagar, Tamukkam, Tallakulam, Goripalayam, and Simakkal were significantly impacted by knee-deep water and widespread power interruptions. "There were complaints of inundation in as many as 12 locations under Zone 1 and 6 under Zone 2. I was there when it rained heavily on Friday evening in Sellur.

Now the water has receded by one foot and we hope it will be drained completely soon," Madurai Corporation Commissioner C Dinesh Kumar said. A Tangedco official

told The New Indian Express that four electric poles were damaged in Sellur due to strong winds, resulting in power outages for over four hours.

"An emergency team was deployed, and power was fully restored in Madurai's interior areas by Friday night," the official confirmed. In Kanniyakumari, though rainfall eased by Friday night, light to moderate showers continued into Saturday, averaging 48.54mm in the past 24 hours. The rain partially damaged six houses and fully damaged three others across the district.

A DIPR release later stated that 20 locations in Madurai experienced severe inundation, with water entering 374 homes in areas like Sellur, Vilangudi, and Anaiyur. Relief measures were swiftly enacted, providing shelter for 161 people across five relief camps. Additionally, 74 medical camps and 44 veterinary camps were set up to address immediate health needs.

**BLIS portal show encroachment, contamination of lakes in Bengaluru: Report**

**BENGALURU:** As per records, Agara Lake is spread across 142.73 acres. But in reality, the lake's area has shrunk by 36.43 acres because of encroachment. Buildings have been constructed in the buffer and even within the lake boundary. Not just that, untreated sewage continues to flow into the lake -- situated in the Koramangala-Challaghatta valley in southeast Bengaluru, while a large area of the lake is covered with macrophyte. The water body, which is managed by the Lake Development Authority, falls under E Category (as per Central Pollution Control Board norms), meaning its water is not fit for consumption. It can only be used for irrigation, industrial cooling and controlled water disposal. This is not the only lake in the city that has been encroached. Similar is the case with Ulsoor Lake and Sankey Tank, to name a few. These are some of the findings uploaded on the Bangalore Lakes Information System (BLIS) portal created by researchers from the Energy and Wetlands Research Group, Centre for

Ecological Sciences, IISc. The portal was launched on a trial basis four months ago and since then, 2,728 citizens have viewed the website, downloaded and utilised the data. "But none of them are government agencies or officials. This is similar to the Bangalore Urban Information System portal which was launched on January 22, 2024. The documents uploaded on BLIS have been compiled by extensive field research, using remote sensing technology and government base maps," said Prof TV Ramachandra from CES, IISc.

The report -- Bangalore Lakes Information System (BLIS) for Sustainable Management, was also published as a journal and released on Friday (October 25, 2024). The researchers have assessed 175 lakes in the city since 2013 and noted that 92% of them are encroached. The portal provides geo-visualisation of information about lakes in Hebbal-Nagavara, Koramangala-Challaghatta and Vrishabhavathi watersheds of Bengaluru, till 2023. Temporal land use reveals that Bengaluru's landscape has transitioned

from a porous landscape (with 68% vegetation cover, 274 lakes/wetlands, and less than 8% built-up area) to a paved contiguous surface (less than 3% vegetation cover, 193 lakes, 86% paved surface) with the loss of vegetation cover (88%) and water cover (79%). Unplanned developmental activities post-2000s, due to concentrated construction for IT parks and Special Economic Zones in the city, have given impetus to rapid urbanisation with drastic and unrealistic land use changes. This has led to decline in the groundwater table, causing urban flooding, stated the report. The BLIS is designed with information on water quality, biodiversity (microalgae, zooplankton, ichthyofauna, macrophytes, and birds), threats (encroachments, inflow of untreated sewage, etc.) and ecosystem services of lakes in Bengaluru. The portal and report empower decision-making through knowledge of lake distribution in terms of physical, chemical and biological aspects and the value of ecosystem services, which is crucial.

Moreover, the KC(M) is facing challenges in putting pressure in the coalition, as both UDF and LDF have taken a unified stand on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill and the assembly passed a unanimous resolution against the Bill, making it difficult for the KC(M) to influence the decision-making process. As a result, no decision was reached during the steering committee meeting regarding the matter at hand.

The meeting, which was organised as part of kickstarting the preparations for the local body elections, also resolved to strengthen the party organisationally ahead of the polls. "To ensure the party is fully prepared for the upcoming elections to the local self-governing bodies, extensive worker conventions will be held from ward to district level. Ward conventions are scheduled for November and December, constituency conventions for January and February, and district conventions for April. Following these events, the KC(M) will host a grand conference in Kottayam," said Jose K Mani MP, party chairman.

In celebration of the Kerala Congress Party's 60th anniversary, a decision was made at the state camp to construct 60 houses (Karunya Bhavans) for those in need throughout the state.

**Freeing the mind, from behind bars**

**KOCHI:** Once consumed by guilt, Rani is now on the path of reform. In 2013, she was convicted for the brutal murder of her four-year-old daughter, who she viewed as an obstacle to a future with her lover. Her life sentence left her within the cold, dark walls of a prison cell, but she found a glimmer of hope in the shadows. In 2020, Rani enrolled for a certificate course in food and nutrition through the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), finding solace in an otherwise bleak existence. Rani's journey is not an isolated one. Interestingly, 184 murder convicts signed up for educational courses between 2020 to 2024 in the state.

According to information obtained by TNIE through a right to information (RTI) application with the prisons and correctional services department, 135 inmates across the state are currently pursuing various educational courses through both regular and distance-learning modes. These range from certificate courses in food and nutrition, Arabic, and functional English to higher academic pursuits such as LLB, postgraduate degrees in English and commerce, and bachelor's programmes in political science. An inmate is even pursuing a PG diploma in criminal justice. Besides, two murder convicts are doing their LLB

with the permission of the Kerala High Court. The numbers are expected to rise as the registration figures for the current academic year are still being updated in several jails. The RTI information reveals that in 2023 alone, 234 inmates enrolled for educational programmes, showing a growing trend in using education as a tool for rehabilitation. According to Sai Pooja, a criminal lawyer with Kerala High Court, one of the main objectives of the Kerala Prisons Act, 2014, is the correction, reformation, welfare and rehabilitation of prisoners.

"The fact that these prisoners are diverting their energies for learning itself is a sign that they are getting reformed. They offer them hope, despite their dark past and lack of freedom in prisons. Interactions with fellow prisoners who have taken to learning seem to have inspired many. I have also noticed that in our society, many become habitual criminals due to poor economic conditions. Learning and obtaining degrees would mean that once they come out of prison, their likelihood of gaining employment is far better than their situation before they got into prison," she said. "Through learning, they are telling society that they deserve a second chance. It is a loud message to which

the rest of us can't shut our ears," Sai Pooja added. In the latest example of this evolving system, two terror case convicts are also pursuing education. Ameer Ali, who is lodged in Viyyur high-security prison and is



an accused in a case being probed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), was informed by the superintendent that inmates who have passed 10th grade have the opportunity to enrol for IGNOU courses. He obtained permission from the NIA special court,

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Tweaks in plan to escalate cost, GMDA wants NHAI to share funds for elevated road project

Gurgaon. GMDA has urged NHAI to share the financial burden of Hero Honda Chowk-Umang Bharadwaj Chowk stretch after changes in the redevelopment plan have led to an increase of around Rs 140 crore in the project cost.

of around Rs 140 crore is what led to GMDA proposing NHAI partially fund it. The proposal will be submitted to the state govt, which will take it up with the ministry of road transport and highways (MoRTH) for final approval, a GMDA official said.

explore "an alternative land" for the construction of a control room for a substation, which currently lies in the project's alignment. This project was part of a broader plan, first approved in 2017, to

widen and improve the 5.6 km stretch between Hero Honda Chowk and Dwarka Expressway. While GMDA completed its work on the 3-km sect 2.2-kilometre stretch and the construction of a single

flyover at Umang Bharadwaj Chowk — was initially pegged at Rs 138 crore, fully funded by GMDA. The flyover with three lanes at the intersection, as proposed earlier, included three spans of

30m, 20m and 20m with ramps around 450m in each direction. However, a revised plan now calls for a fully elevated six-lane corridor, pushing the total cost to Rs 280 crore. This ion between

Umang Bharadwaj Chowk and Dwarka Expressway and NHAI operationalised the underpass on the expressway, the work on the 2.2-km stretch between Hero Honda Chowk and Umang

Bharadwaj is yet to take off. The project was originally financed by GMDA, while HSPV was responsible for handing over the land required for the revamp of the 2.2-km stretch.

NAME CHANGE I hitherto known as YOGESH KUMAR GANDAS alias YOGESH KUMAR S/O RAM KISHAN R/O 42-D/9 Kishangarh, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YOGESH KUMAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE I hitherto known as NARESH KUMAR GANDAS alias NARESH KUMAR S/O RAM KISHAN R/O 42-D/9 Kishangarh Village, Vasant Kunj, South West Delhi, Delhi-110070, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NARESH KUMAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE It is for general information that I, SANJEEV KUMAR S/O SURAJ SINGH R/O WZ-423, Gali No. 19, Sant Garh, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as MANYA in my minor daughter MANYA RAJPUT aged 15 years in her School Record. The actual name of my minor daughter is MANYA RAJPUT, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, Ram Babu aged about 54 yr. S/o Siva Ram R/O D-398 Nawada Housing Complex, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, declared that name of my son has been wrongly written as Dipanshu Chaudhary in my office record. The actual name of my son is Piyush Chaudhary. Which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, Shashi Bhushan Tyagi S/O Brahm Prakash Tyagi R/O H.No-686, Urban Estate, Sector-7, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Shashi Bhushan Tyagi S/O Brahm Prakash Tyagi For All Future Purpose

NAME CHANGE I, BADRUDDUJA S/O ZUBAIR AHMED residing at H NO-398, MATIA MAHAL, JAMA MASJID, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to BADARUDDUJA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE I, Anas Hasin Saifi S/o Mohammed Hasin R/O T-510, Saifi House, Main Chamelian Road, Sadar Bazar, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Anas Hasin for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE I, MOHAMMAD HAIDER ALI S/O ZAHEEN UDDIN R/O H NO. P-184, THIRD FLOOR, FLAT NO-A-8, BATLA HOUSE, JAMIA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110025, declare that the name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as ZAHEEN UDDIN and TABASSUM in my passport. The actual name of my father ZAHEEN UDDIN and mother TABASSUM ZAHEEN, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, NO-06498720M Rank-HAV Name-MANOJ KUMAR YADAV R/O VILL-BAID MISRAUVALI, PO-DUMARI (BATANI), TEH-SAILENPUR, DIST-DEORAI, UTTAR PRADESH-224701 have changed my minor son's name from PRIYANSHU to PRIYANSHU YADAV for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 26/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NO-14851181W Rank-NK Name-HEMLA LAL residing at VILL-DEWKOT, PO-KANWAR, TEH-GURUR, DIST-BALOD, CHHATISHGARH-491227 have changed my father's name from GIRDHARI and GIRADHARI LAL YADAV for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 26/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NO-14849955P Rank-NK Name-TAYADE YOGESH PRAKASH RAO R/O VILL-HIRPUR PURNA, PO-HIRPUR PURNA, TEH-CHANDUR BAZAR, DIST-AMRAVATI, MAHARASHTRA have changed my name from TAYADE YOGESH PRAKASH RAO and YOGESH PRAKASH RAO TAYADE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 26/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I,RENU KUMARI W/O HARINDER SINGH R/O Flat No. 257, Sanskriti Apartment, opp. OPG World School, Dwarka Sector 19B, P.O. Dwarka Sec.6, District South West Delhi Delhi-110075 have changed my name from RENU KUMARI to RENU KADIAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE I, SAKET KUMAR KARN is son of No. GS-165208L Rank- OFFICE SUPER-INTENDENT, Name- SHUBH CHANDRA LAL ARYA R/O WARD NO-10 VILLAGE KACHHARA BASBARIYA, PO-BENIPATI, KACHHARA MADHUBANI (BIHAR)-847223 have changed my date of birth from 01/01/1993 to 01/01/1995 for all purposes. Vide affidavit dated 24.10.2024 before sub divisional magistrate Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I hitherto known as PREM LATA alias PREM LATA GUPTA W/o LATE SHY NARAYAN GUPTA R/O House No. E-515, Preet Vihar, Nirman Vihar, Laxmi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PREM LATA GUPTA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE I hitherto known as KRISHAN PAL S/O SINGH RAM R/O SRS-161, Nasir Pur Village, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KRISHAN KUMAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE It is for general information that I, RAJ KUMARI ANAND, W/o RAM ANAND R/O A-150, Defence Colony New Delhi, South Delhi, Delhi-110024, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAJANI ANAND in my Aadhar Card No. 7251 0489 4412. The actual name of mine is RAJ KUMARI ANAND, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, Shashi Bhushan Tyagi S/O Brahm Prakash Tyagi R/O H.No-686, Urban Estate, Sector-7, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To Shashi Bhushan Tyagi S/O Brahm Prakash Tyagi For All Future Purpose

NAME CHANGE I, Mahender Kumar S/O Shri Ram Parsad R/O H.No -310, Nagin Lake apartment, Paschim Vihar, Delhi-110087 Have Changed my minor daughter name from Yashika to Yashika Thakral

NAME CHANGE I, K. HARIHARAN, Father of No. 15715772N LNK SANTHOSH H.R., Presently residing at VILL-VOORAKKAL, PO-PEYAD, TEH-THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DIST-THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA-695573 have change my name from K. HARIHARAN to K. HARIHARAN NAIR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 30/09/2024 before Notary Public, Kerala.

NAME CHANGE I Vijay Goel S/O: Babu Ram Goel, R/O 1589, 1st Floor, Rani Bagh, Saraswati Vihar, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi, 110034 have changed the name of my minor son Rhythm Goel aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as RIDHAM GOYAL.

NAME CHANGE I, NO-14881010Y Rank-SEP Name-VINAY BASAVARAJ KALLUR residing at VILL-SANIKOPPA, PO-SAMP-GAON, TEH-BAILHONGAL, DIST-BELGAVI, KARNATKA-591125 have changed my father's name from BASAVARAJ and BASAVARAJ KALLUR for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 26/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NO-14851181W Rank-NK Name-HEMLA LAL residing at VILL-DEWKOT, PO-KANWAR, TEH-GURUR, DIST-BALOD, CHHATISHGARH-491227 have changed my mother's name from KAMLA and KAMLA BAI YADAV for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 26/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, NO-14892503A Rank-SEP Name-SUSHIL KUMAR residing at VILL-KAKRAI URF SAHIBAD, PO-KAKRAI, TEH-ANOOPSAHER, DIST-BULAND-SHAHER, UTTAR PRADESH-203394 have changed my father's name from SEORAJ SINGH and SHYORAJ SINGH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 26/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE Our client mohammad Asad S/o Late Hussain Ali, and Sultana Anjum, both resident of Alwatan Apartment, K-96, IIIrd Floor, Thokar No. 5, Abul Fazal Enclave, Part-1, Jamia Nagar, Okhla, Delhi 110025, has severed all her relations and disowned/Debarred her son Mohd Asif S/o Mohammad Asad., his wife Afsa Parveen, from all her moveable, immovable properties, our client's shall not be responsible for their acts and conducts in future. ARJUN SINGH Advocate Ch. No.645-A, Saket Court New Delhi-17

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I Satish Rana S/O Raje Ram R/O HOUSE NO-138, POCKET- 8 SECTOR-24 ROHINI, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Raja Ram in his driving Licence no - 819980061719. The actual name of my father is Raje Ram, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as NONIKA SINGH alias NONIKA KHANEJA D/O JARNAIL SINGH PUNEJIA W/O TARUN KHANEJA R/O 1621, OUT RAM LINES, NEAR GTB NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NONIKA KHANEJA.

EAST BOUND FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS-2024

In order to clear extra rush of passengers during Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Festival Special Trains from 28.10.2024 to 30.10.2024 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 28.10.2024 (MONDAY)

Table with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Accomodation, Stoppages. Lists train schedules for Monday, 28.10.2024.

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 29.10.2024 (TUESDAY)

Table with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Accomodation, Stoppages. Lists train schedules for Tuesday, 29.10.2024.

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 30.10.2024 (WEDNESDAY)

Table with columns: Spl. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Accomodation, Stoppages. Lists train schedules for Wednesday, 30.10.2024.

During the Rail journey never travel with inflammable objects like Crackers, Petrol, Kerosene, Gas Cylinder etc.

For any kind of information, such as seat availability and time-table etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.



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## News box

## Storm Trami makes landfall in Vietnam, four airports temporarily shut

**Hanoi, Vietnam.** Storm Trami is making landfall in central Vietnam on Sunday as the authorities warn the heavy rains it triggers could cause dangerous floods. The Southeast Asian country, with a long coastline, is prone to storms and floods that often cause heavy casualties and property damage. Rainfall in several parts of provinces from Quang Binh to Quang Nam is forecast to reach 60 cm (23.62 inches) on Sunday and Monday, according to the national weather forecast agency.

"The risks of floods are high at urban areas from Ha Tinh to Binh Dinh provinces," the agency said. Heavy rains are also expected to hit the Central Highlands, the country's key coffee growing area, according to the agency. Trami, with wind speeds of up to 88 kph, was 65 kilometres northeast of Danang at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday. The storm has forced four airports in central Vietnam to temporarily close, according to the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam. Among them, the international airport in Danang City will be closed from 6:00 a.m. on Sunday until 4:00 a.m. on Monday. State media reports said Trami's strong winds downed trees and advertisement boards in Danang. Last month, typhoon Yagi and the floods it triggered killed more than 300 people and caused property damage of more than \$3.3 billion in northern Vietnam.

## Japan election to test PM Ishiba's coalition amid funding scandal, inflation

**Tokyo.** Japan's voters decide the fate of Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's government on Sunday in an election expected to punish his coalition over a funding scandal and inflation, potentially ending a decade of dominance for his Liberal Democratic Party. The LDP and its longtime partner Komeito will suffer a drubbing from voters, with the coalition possibly losing its parliamentary majority, opinion polls suggest, as Japan struggles with rising costs of living and increasingly tense relations with neighbouring China. Losing the majority in the lower house would force Ishiba, in office just a month, into power-sharing negotiations with smaller parties, bringing uncertainty in some policy areas, although no polls forecast the LDP being ejected from power.

Political wrangling could roil markets and be a headache for the Bank of Japan, if Ishiba chooses a partner that favours maintaining near-zero interest rates when the central bank wants to gradually raise them. "He'll be considerably weakened as a leader, his party will be weakened in the policies that it particularly wants to focus on, because bringing in a coalition partner will cause them to have to make certain compromises with that party, whatever party it may be," said Jeffrey Hall, an expert on Japanese politics at the Kanda University of International Studies.

The LDP could lose as many as 50 of its 247 seats in the lower house and Komeito could slip below 30, giving the coalition fewer than the 233 needed for a majority, a survey by the Asahi newspaper suggested last week.

## Michelle Obama challenges men to support Kamala Harris: Take our lives seriously

**Michigan.** Michelle Obama challenged men to support Kamala Harris' bid to be America's first female president, warning at a rally in Michigan on Saturday that women's lives would be at risk if Donald Trump returned to the White House. The former first lady described the assault on abortion rights as the harbinger of dangerous limitations on healthcare for women. Some men may be tempted to vote for Trump because of their anger at the slow pace of progress, Obama said, but "your rage does not exist in a vacuum." "If we don't get this election right, your wife, your daughter, your mother, we as women will become collateral damage to your rage," Obama said. "So are you as men prepared to look into the eyes of the women and children you love and tell them you supported this assault on our safety?"

The rally in Kalamazoo was Obama's first appearance on the campaign trail since she spoke at the Democratic National Convention over the summer, and her remarks were searing and passionate in their support of Harris. "By every measure, she has demonstrated that she's ready," the former first lady said. "The real question is, as a country, are we ready for this moment?"

Obama added, "Do not buy into the lies that we do not know who Kamala is or what she stands for. This is somebody who understands you, all of you." Although Obama has been a reluctant campaigner over the years, she showed no hesitation on Saturday as her speech stretched from the political to the personal. Obama said she fears for the country and struggles to understand why the presidential race remains close. "I lay awake at night wondering, 'What in the world is going on?'" she said. Her voice vibrating with emotion, Obama talked about the struggle for women to understand and care for their own bodies, whether it's their menstrual cycles or menopause.

## Israel strikes Iranian missile fuel-mixing complex, show satellite images: Report

**Washington.** Commercial satellite imagery showed that Israeli airstrikes hit buildings during an attack on Saturday that Iran used for mixing solid fuel for ballistic missiles, according to separate assessments by two American researchers. The judgements were reached by David Albright, a former UN weapons inspector who heads the Institute for Science and International Security research group, and Decker Eveleth, an associate research analyst at CNA, a Washington think tank. They told Reuters separately that Israel struck Parchin, a massive military complex near Tehran. Israel also hit Khojir, according to Eveleth, a sprawling missile production site near Tehran.

Reuters reported in July that Khojir was undergoing massive expansion. Eveleth said the Israeli strikes may have "significantly hampered Iran's ability to mass produce missiles." The Israeli military said three waves of Israeli jets struck missile factories

and other sites near Tehran and in western Iran early on Saturday in retaliation for Tehran's October 1 barrage of more than 200 missiles against Israel. Iran's military said the Israeli warplanes used "very light warheads" to strike border radar systems in the provinces of Ilam, Khuzestan and around Tehran. Eveleth said that an image from Planet Labs, a commercial satellite firm, showed that an Israeli strike destroyed two buildings in Khojir where solid fuel for ballistic missiles was mixed. The buildings were enclosed by high dirt berms, according to the image reviewed by Reuters. Such structures are associated with missile production and are designed to stop a blast in one building from detonating combustible materials in nearby structures. Planet Labs imagery of Parchin showed that Israel destroyed three ballistic missile solid fuel mixing buildings and a warehouse, he



said. Albright said he reviewed low-resolution commercial satellite imagery of Parchin that appeared to show that an Israeli strike damaged three buildings, including two in which solid fuel for ballistic missiles was mixed. He did not identify the commercial firm from which he obtained the images. He said, he is located about 350 yards from a facility once involved in what the UN nuclear watchdog,

the International Atomic Energy Agency, and US intelligence say was a comprehensive nuclear weapons development program that Iran shuttered in 2003. Iran denies having such a program.

"Israel says they targeted buildings housing solid-fuel mixers," Eveleth said. "These industrial mixers are hard to make and export-controlled. Iran imported many over the years at great expense, and will likely have a hard time replacing them." With a limited operation, he said, Israel may have struck a significant blow against Iran's ability to mass-produce missiles and made it more difficult for any future Iranian missile attack to pierce Israel's missile defences. Iran has the Middle East's largest missile arsenal and supplied missiles to Russia for use against Ukraine, and to Yemen's Houthi rebels and the Lebanese militia Hezbollah, according to US officials.

## Biden apologises for 'sin' of 150-year Native American boarding school policy

**LaVen Village, Arizona.** President Joe Biden on Friday formally apologised to Native Americans for the "sin" of a government-run boarding school system that for decades forcibly separated children from their parents, calling it a "blot on American history" in his first presidential visit to Indian Country. "It's a sin on our soul," said Biden, his voice full of anger and emotion. "Quite frankly, there's no excuse that this apology took 50 years to make." It was a moment of both contrition and frustration as the president sought to recognise one of the "most horrific chapters" in the national story. Biden spoke of the abuses and deaths of Native children that resulted from the federal government's policies, noting that "while darkness can hide much, it erases nothing" and that great nations "must know the good, the bad, the truth of who we are."

"I formally apologise as President of the United States of America for what we did," Biden said. The government's

removal of children from their Native American community for boarding schools "will always be a significant mark



of shame, a blot on American history. For too long, this all happened with virtually no public attention, not written about in our history books, not taught in our schools." Democrats hope Biden's visit to the Gila River Indian Community's land on the outskirts of Phoenix's metro area will also provide a boost to Vice President Kamala Harris' turnout effort in a key

battleground state. The moment gave Biden a fuller chance to spotlight his and Harris' support for tribal nations, a group that historically has favoured Democrats, in a state he won by just 10,000 votes in 2020.

The race between Harris and former President Donald Trump is expected to be similarly close, and both campaigns are doing whatever they can to improve turnout among bedrock supporters. "The race is now a turnout grab," said Mike O'Neil, a non-partisan pollster based in Arizona. "The trendlines throughout have been remarkably steady. The question is which candidate is going to be able to turn out their voters in a race that seems to be destined to be decided by narrow margins." Biden has been used sparingly on the campaign trail by Harris and other Democrats since he ended his reelection campaign in July. But analysts say Biden could help Harris in her appeal with Native American voters — a group that has trailed others in turnout rates.

## Pakistan lifts ban on ex-PM Imran Khan's meetings inside Rawalpindi jail

**Lahore.** Pakistan's Punjab government on Saturday lifted a ban on the meetings of former prime minister Imran Khan who has been incarcerated in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail for more than a year. A senior officer said that the Punjab government lifted the ban on the meetings of prisoners, including the 72-year-old Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader, which was imposed on October 4 because of security concerns.

The government had imposed the ban on Khan's meetings after the PTI gave a protest call on October 4 in Islamabad demanding his release and for the "independence of the judiciary." Earlier, he had said he is ready to spend his whole life in jail but will not compromise on his



struggle for "Haqiqi Azadi (real freedom)". The ministers say Khan's freedom is linked to his unconditional apology for the May 9, 2023, riots in which the PTI workers allegedly had attacked state and military installations. Khan, however, demand the constitution of a judicial commission to

probe the May 9 incidents. Last month, Khan had claimed that he is being kept in deplorable conditions in the prison. Khan said only three visitors are allowed to meet him in a week, whereas Nawaz Sharif used to meet with 40 people (when he was in jail). Earlier this week, a Pakistani court granted bail to Bushra Bibi, the wife of Khan, in the Toshakhana corruption case involving the alleged illegal sale of state gifts, nearly nine months after she was arrested.

Khan was arrested on August 5 last year after his conviction in the first Toshakhana corruption case filed by the Election Commission of Pakistan. Since then, he has been in jail in different cases.

## US judge blocks efforts to clear homeless camps before Taylor Swift concerts

**The effort to relocate about 75 people living in tents beneath an overpass near the Superdome began in the days leading up to pop star's shows, which could draw 150,000 visitors to the**

**Louisiana.** A judge in Louisiana has temporarily blocked further efforts by state officials to clear homeless encampments in New Orleans — stalling a push that came ahead of three Taylor Swift concerts in the city this weekend. The effort to relocate about 75 people living in tents beneath an overpass near the Superdome began in the days leading up to pop star's shows, which could draw 150,000 visitors to the stadium. Judge Lori Jupiter granted a

temporary restraining order on Friday, directing state law enforcement officials to not "destroy or dispose of the property of unhoused people without judicial process" and to notify people in the "state-sanctioned camp" that they are "free to leave."

The order is in effect until November 4. The judge's ruling came in response to a lawsuit filed by homeless people who were subject to the sweep. In legal filings, they argued that state troopers violated their constitutional rights by illegally searching, seizing and destroying their property, disposing of their prized possessions and "forcibly herding" them away. According to the lawsuit, a legal observer overheard state troopers saying "the governor wants you to move because of the Taylor Swift concert." State officials have said the residents were being moved to a new location about two blocks away, where



unhoused people living in the tourist-heavy French Quarter neighbourhood would also be moved. A spokesperson for Governor Jeff Landry has said that the effort was meant to address homelessness and safety issues, linking the push to the concerts and February's Super Bowl, which will take place in the city. As we prepare for the city to host Taylor Swift and Super Bowl LIX, we are committed to ensuring New Orleans puts its best foot forward when on the world

stage." Landry's communications director, Kate Kelly, said in a statement issued to local media. Advocates argue the effort disrupted the work of local officials to connect homeless people with social services and help them find more permanent housing solutions. Martha Kegel, executive director of Unity of Greater New Orleans, a nonprofit that seeks permanent housing for unhoused people, said the sweep was a needless and harmful endeavour and that many of those in the camp have mental illnesses and are distrustful of authorities and those trying to help them. "Some people were frightened and left, and that's not good," she said. "Because then all the work that we did to assess them and document their disabilities and, you know, work with them on their housing plan has now been wasted." Among those who made the move Wednesday was Terrence Cobbins. Taking a break from gathering his belongings, he said he was told to move because of the concerts.

## Ground report: Inside US polling booth as around 30 million cast early votes

**Fairfax.** With just days remaining before the United States presidential election, where Republican Donald Trump faces his Democratic rival Kamala Harris, nearly 30 million people have already cast their votes through early voting. The majority of the polling stations across the state are witnessing a steady flow of voters in what many believe to be a closely contested race.

Early voting allows citizens to vote before Election Day, either in person or by mail, aiming to provide greater convenience and reduce long lines on November 5. India Today visited early voting station in Virginia's Fairfax County, which witnessed a good voter turnout, as both Republicans and Democrats remain hopeful for a favourable outcome. "Most people say this is an important election and they are



definitely going to vote, with a few even saying you'd be crazy not to vote in this election," said a volunteer outside the polling booth.

Supporters of both Trump and Harris have set up booths outside polling stations, offering last-minute canvassing and guidance for

voters. Here, voters receive a sample ballot and an overview of the voting process before they enter the booth. In Fairfax County, a traditionally Democratic area, many residents remarked that this election feels particularly close. One Republican supporter, who voted for Donald Trump, shared that she believes he has the strength required to be commander-in-chief. "Kamala Harris isn't suited for this role; Trump is the one," she stated. She acknowledged the race is tight but claimed, "Overall, things are improving" for the Republican side.

According to her, the biggest issues in this election are inflation and immigration. "The cost of everything has gone up. Car insurance saw a 700 percent hike, and the prices of food, gasoline—everything has

increased. Another issue is immigration; people are scared. It feels like an invasion, with thousands of people entering without checks. It's frightening people," said the Republican supporter. Lee Jordy, who voted for Harris, also commented on the election, saying, "It's going to be a tight fight. I am really worried about the state of our union and want to preserve our democracy. I think Kamala Harris is compassionate and cares for every American, while Trump is focused on big business." Johny Xavier, another voter, also finds Kamala Harris a suitable candidate because "she has done a great job".

However, another voter expressed a different opinion, saying people may prefer the Republican candidates as they "know that when the government governs the least, the economy functions better, and there will be

## Elon Musk briefly worked illegally in US after quitting graduate studies: Report

**Washington.** The Washington Post reported on Saturday that South African-born billionaire businessman Elon Musk worked illegally in the United States during a brief period in the 1990s while building a startup company. The news outlet reported that Musk arrived in Palo Alto, California, in 1995 to attend Stanford University but never enrolled in his graduate studies programme there. Instead, he developed the software company Zip2, which sold in 1999 for around \$300 million, according to the outlet. Two immigration law experts quoted by the Post said Musk would have



needed to be enrolled in a full course of study in order to maintain a valid work authorisation as a student.

Musk did not respond to requests for comment sent to four of his companies - SpaceX, Tesla, the social media company X and The Boring Company - nor did Musk's lawyer Alex Spiro.

Musk in a 2020 podcast cited by the Post said: "I was legally there, but I was meant to be doing student work. I was allowed to do work sort of supporting whatever." The Washington Post cited two former Musk colleagues who recalled Musk receiving his US work authorisation in or around 1997.

Musk has endorsed Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump in the November 5 US election. Trump has for years portrayed migrants as invaders and criminals, and during his 2017-2021 presidency took stringent steps to curb legal and illegal migration.

## News box

## Exploitation of brick kiln workers in Telangana goes unchecked

**PEDDAPALLI:** The rescue of 13 brick kiln workers from the Raghavapur area on the outskirts of Peddapalli on Friday has brought to light the grim reality of exploitation of the poor mostly from Odisha. These people from far off places come here to work in brick kilns in the hope of making some money, but end up in inhuman conditions. Peddapalli district has become a hub for brick kiln operations, with over 100 kilns producing clay bricks. The area has become a breeding ground for labour exploitation, as revealed in a past Crime Investigation Department (CID) investigation. In the last season, 146 workers from Odisha were rescued from various kilns in Peddapalli. According to CID reports, about 20,000 workers from Balangir, Bargarh, Khordha and Sambalpur districts in Odisha are employed in brick kilns in Peddapalli and Jagtial districts. The Labour department has struggled to maintain records or enforce agreements between workers and owners of kilns. District Collector Koya Sree Harsha has instructed officials to create awareness among brick kiln owners about the Labour Act, ensure compliance and provide adequate facilities for workers. "Most of these labourers come from Odisha," said Peddapalli tahsildar Raj Kumar. As the season is set to begin in November, authorities have focused on the need to monitor these kilns, citing frequent cases of physical and sexual harassment of labourers by kiln owners.

## Justice League: Permission mandatory for erecting compound wall

**Telangana.** Making it clear that courts cannot override municipal authority via writ petitions, the Telangana High Court has ruled that municipal approval is mandatory for constructing compound walls, whether permanent or temporary. Justice K Lakshman was hearing a petition filed by K Uma Maheswaramma, wife of former YSRC MLA Katsani Rambhoopal Reddy from Panyam in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh. He petitioner challenged the recent demolition of a compound wall and sheds on her nine-acre agricultural property in Ameenpur, near Patancheru on the outskirts of Hyderabad by HYDRAA. The agency demolished these structures around 45 days ago, citing that they were within the full tank level (FTL) limits of Ameenpur Lake. Maheswaramma's counsel, Vedula Srinivas, sought court permission to construct a temporary compound wall around the property. However, the court declined the request, reaffirming that no construction could be undertaken without the necessary approvals from the municipality. Justice Lakshman emphasised the responsibility of local authorities to verify land status before granting construction permissions.

**Act on illegal buildings in Asifnagar, GHMC told**  
The Telangana High Court has directed the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner to inspect and take strict action against illegal and unauthorised constructions in Kummariwadi, Asifnagar. Justice K Lakshman, issuing these orders on Friday, instructed the GHMC to submit a compliance report to the Registrar (Judicial) of the High Court within four weeks. The court was addressing two petitions filed by Mohammed Abdul Mubeen and another individual from Kummariwadi, who contested the show-cause notices served by the GHMC over constructions.

## Farmers seek assessment of crop loss and compensation

**JAGATSIKINGPUR:** Heavy rainfall and strong winds caused by Cyclone Dana have damaged paddy, millet, and other vegetable crops across Jagatsinghpur district, leaving farmers distressed about their losses. Although the district administration maintains that the crops can recover once the rainwater is discharged from the fields, farmers remain unconvinced and are calling for a proper assessment of crop loss.

Sources indicate that strong winds of up to 50 to 60 km/h have impacted paddy fields across several hectares in Harishpur, Gopalpur, Bidyadharpur, Chapda, Gokulpur, Eradanga, Deulishai, Ramchandrapur, Purnabasant, Redhua, Kotakona, Adheikula, Sanathada, and other villages in Raghunathpur, as well as in blocks such as Kujang, Erasama, Biridi, Balikuda, and Naugaon. The paddy crops, which were in their panicle stage, were flattened by the storm, while millet crops in the Biridi area, also nearing harvest, suffered significant damage. Vegetable crops were similarly affected. The district administration reported a loss of paddy crops on over 2,498 hectares but later stated that the damage was not permanent and that recovery was possible after water is drained from the fields.

However, farmers are urging immediate discharge of excess water from their lands. They have further requested the district administration to conduct a thorough survey to assess the actual damage caused to their crops.

With nearly 60 percent of the local population relying on agriculture for their livelihood, farmers who had taken loans from cooperative societies and other sources are now spending sleepless nights worrying about incurring severe losses.

## New rule permitting only legal guardians to attend disability meets draws ire in TN

However, some of the associations view aspects of the order as beneficial, though they called for further clarification from the government.

**CHENNAI:** A directive issued by the commissionerate of revenue administration (CRA) limiting participation in special grievance meetings only to disabled persons and their legal guardians, has sparked controversy among disability rights activists in Tamil Nadu. Activists argue that in many places, particularly rural areas, disabled individuals often attend these meetings with volunteers, and the new rule could create unnecessary trouble for them if enforced strictly. The directive, which came to light after the Thanjavur collector issued an order to sub-collectors in this regard, also states that non-disabled members of disability associations be barred from attending these meetings. According to the CRA, only disabled individuals and their legal guardians—appointed under the Appointment of Limited Guardian rule, as per the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Rules—are eligible to participate. A 2018 Government Order requires the CRA to conduct special grievance meetings led

by sub-collectors every month, district-level meetings led by collectors every two months and state-level meetings



every three months. "Whenever I attend these grievance meetings, I am accompanied by friends or family members who assist me. Requiring only legal guardians to accompany us would

make things difficult," said K Vijayakumar, a person with a locomotor disability from Erode. S Namburajan, state vice-president of the Tamil Nadu Association for the Rights of All Types of Differently Abled and Caregivers (TARATDAC), noted that various orders from different departments affect disabled persons. "With low literacy rates among the disabled community, it is unfair to expect them to stay informed of all these orders. The order should be scrapped entirely," he stated. However, some of the associations view aspects of the order as beneficial, though they called for further clarification from the government.

It contradicts the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act to say that persons other than disabled persons themselves and their legal guardians can't participate in the meetings. The government must clarify this point. However, I believe that disability associations should have disabled individuals as office-bearers who represent these associations in meetings," said Professor Deepak Nathan of the December 3 Movement.

## Kerala: Sarin tenders apology for Krishnadas' remarks

**PALAKKAD/KOTTAYAM:** LDF candidate in Palakkad constituency, P Sarin, on Saturday, stated that he was unaware of the harsh comments made by CPM state committee member and former MP N N Krishnadas against journalists. Sarin expressed an apology to the media if Krishnadas actually made such remarks. "It is unacceptable for anyone to refer to journalists as 'dogs waiting outside a meat shop.' Journalists in Kerala are dedicated to maintaining high standards in their work," Sarin told reporters in Kottayam. CPM state secretary M V Govindan also echoed a similar sentiment, stating that using respectful language is always preferable for effective criticism. However, he added that the remarks that media personnel receive are often a response to their own actions. Meanwhile, CPM leader A K Balan defended Krishnadas saying that the media provoked Krishnadas.

Balan emphasised that the media has been continuously criticising the Left, which led Krishnadas to react in that manner. T Puram: The CPM secretariat has come down heavily against its state committee member from Palakkad, N N Krishnadas for his controversial remarks against the media. In an online meeting held on Saturday, the leaders criticised Krishnadas for his nature of remarks, especially when the assembly bypoll is around the corner. The members also pointed out that the remarks should have been avoided and asserting his view again would go against the party's interest in Palakkad.

## University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru to host annual Krishi Mela from November 14

**BENGALURU:** To spotlight cutting-edge practices in sustainable farming, the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) is set to host its annual Krishi Mela from November 14 to 17, at Gandhi Krishi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK). This year's event, organised jointly with key Karnataka government departments, will be hosted under the theme 'Climate Smart Digital Agriculture' and will showcase four newly developed crop varieties, demonstrations, and expert insights to support climate-resilient agriculture. Vice Chancellor of UAS Suresh SV, highlighted that the university will unveil high-yield maize hybrid MAH-15-84, a single hybrid with a 14.2% higher yield than its predecessor, the disease resistant alasande variety KBC-12, the sunflower crossbreed KBSH-90, with a 26% higher oil yield, and the Bajra Napier hybrid PBN-342, which offers enhanced green fodder yield and quality. Each variety is specifically designed for cultivation across zones 5 and 6 in Karnataka.



The agriculture fair will feature 700 stalls, showcasing organic farming, soilless agriculture, advanced irrigation, and integrated pest management. Special exhibitions on

horticulture, precision agriculture, medicinal plants, and watershed management will provide farmers with hands-on insights into sustainable practices.

The four-day long event will also recognise farmers across different categories. It will honour top-performing farmers, and 146 farmers at district and taluk levels, including young farmers under 35.

## Agri programme for specially challenged

As the annual Krishi Mela draws massive crowds each year, it is challenging for differently abled individuals to be part of the event. Therefore, a separate programme has been arranged by the UAS to ensure inclusivity. The event 'A day with special minds in an agricultural environment' will be held today (Sunday) from 9 am. The event will be inaugurated by the Agriculture Minister N Chaluvayaswamy, at the University's campus and will feature guided tours, cultural programmes, and quizzes around agriculture.

## Coimbatore corporation retrieves OSR land worth Rs 1.5 cr after 59 years

**COIMBATORE:** The Town Planning Department officials of the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC) have retrieved about 11 cents of land worth Rs 1.5 crore after 59 years, from encroachers in Shanthi Nagar at Avarampalayam in the city, on Saturday.

A few miscreants had illegally encroached the land and rented it out to other individuals, who were running a bakery and a vehicle washing unit on the land. The encroachment removal drive took place after a complaint was filed by S P Thiagarajan, a social activist and the secretary of the Tamil Nadu Reserve Site Protection Committee. The activist had filed a complaint against these



encroachments in May this year. Thiagarajan said, "The Town Planning Department had given approval for a total of 55 plots on 5.4 acres of land at Shanthi Nagar in Avarampalayam of Ward 27 in the North Zone of the city in 1965. For these plots and a 10% public allotment (54 cents of land), lands were

allotted in three places and all of them were encroached by miscreants. Out of these, only two were removed in accordance with the judgment of the Supreme Court. In the remaining 9.35 cents, an encroachment covering a portion of 2,834 sqft (6.4 cents) was recovered on Saturday."

As per sources, a team of CCMC officials led by Town Planning Officer S Kumar along with North Zone ATPO K Sathya and other officials conducted the encroachment removal drive on Saturday, with the help of Peelamedu police. A total of 6.39 cents of OSR land worth about 1.5 crore was retrieved by officials after 59 years. After this, officials fenced the property and placed a board stating that the property belongs to CCMC, sources added.

## Lakshadweep to get enhanced high-speed broadband connectivity

The first of the series of 4G cell towers of the BSNL being upgraded in the tropical archipelago started functioning on October 26.

**KOCHI:** The long wait of Lakshadweep natives for an enhanced high-speed wireline broadband connectivity is finally set to end, with the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) setting up a total of 18 indigenously-made 4G cell towers besides initiating an upgradation drive covering 50 existing cell towers. "While the 4G connectivity was there from April 2023, the same couldn't be provided to a large area due to insufficient 4G mobile towers. Now we are setting up 18 new towers with home-grown equipment under the Atmanirbhar Bharat, besides upgrading 50 existing towers to 4G. Our target is to set up one lakh such indigenous towers before March 31 next year," said a senior BSNL official posted at Agatti. While the 4G connectivity was there from April 2023, the islanders couldn't enjoy the high-speed internet facilities. "Though 4G connectivity was introduced last year, the same has been provided using 3G-spectrum. Now the new and the upgraded towers are using the 4G-spectrum, which would enable them to enjoy high-speed broadband connectivity, the official explained. The first of the series of 4G cell towers of the BSNL being upgraded in the

tropical archipelago started functioning on Saturday. "We're upgrading a total of 50 BSNL towers in the union territory which will enable the islanders to get 4G coverage and enjoy high speed data services. The first of the towers upgraded at Kalpeni GH will go functional tomorrow (Saturday)," said an official of Zentix Telecommunications Pvt Ltd, a partner of TCS. Earlier, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) placed a Rs 24,500 crore order to Tata Group companies TCS and Tejas Networks for rolling out 4G network for several government-funded projects in several regions, including in Lakshadweep.

The work is part of the ongoing Kochi-Lakshadweep Islands Submarine Optical Fiber Connection (KLI-SOFC) project. Earlier, the only means of communication with the islands was through the satellite medium, which had limited bandwidth capacity and was unable to meet the growing bandwidth demand. Now, high-speed broadband will be delivered through Fiber-to-the-Home (FTTH) and 5G/4G mobile networks.

"We're upgrading the 2G/3G mobile towers of the BSNL, mainly by changing the

modules and cables. Nearly 80 per cent of the population here uses the BSNL network, and could not even use smart phones, as most smartphones now do not support 3G technology.

Hence this project is crucial for the islanders. In the first phase, we will cover Kalpeni and Minicoy and the work in these two islands is expected to be over in another 10 days," the official pointed out. The 4G coverage will also improve facilities like government services, medical treatment, education, and digital banking. Airtel has already set up 4G towers in the islands of Bangaram, Kavaratti, and Agatti.

However, only a few 4G cell towers are there in each of these islands, which are grossly inadequate," he said. Under the Kochi-Lakshadweep Submarine OFC Project (KLI project), a high capacity submarine cable link is being laid from the Kochi mainland.

The total distance covered by the undersea cable is 1,868 kilometers. The project will provide connectivity from the mainland (Kochi) to eleven Lakshadweep Islands, namely Kavaratti, Agatti, Amindi, Kadmat, Chetlet, Kalpeni, Minicoy, Androth, Kiltan, Bangaram, and Bitra.

## India can lead in global climate action: Experts

Speakers at the Beckn Node Zero 2024 conference highlighted India's capability to reduce its climate impact while offering scalable solutions to the world.

**BENGALURU:** India stands prepared to lead in global climate action through technology and open networks, emphasised experts at the inaugural edition of the Beckn Node Zero 2024 conference. Organised by FIDE and Sattva Knowledge Institute, the event gathered industry leaders to discuss India's role in combating climate challenges. Speakers highlighted India's capability to reduce its climate impact while offering scalable solutions to the world. In his keynote, Infosys Non-Executive Chairman and FIDE co-founder Nandan Nilekani underscored the urgency of rapid, large-scale action. "The world has moved into an execution mode on the



global climate crisis, and it is time for us to step up," he said. Nilekani proposed leveraging India's Direct Benefit Transfer system to incentivise climate action, linking behavioural change to financial support. Further, he also highlighted the concept of 'Fineternet', a decentralised system to tokenise assets for climate finance. "We have the technology and capability to make this work," he said, stressing that while data to predict climate extremes exist, high coordination costs hinder its accessibility—a challenge he argued can be resolved through open networks. He pointed out that in the circular economy, only 7% of materials are recycled, which open networks could help improve by reducing logistical complexities. During the event, a panel discussion examined whether India's technological capability matches its climate goals. Panelists noted that for open networks to truly impact the ecosystem, they must be implemented with contextual understanding. Dr Pramod Varma, FIDE co-founder, highlighted open networks' potential to tackle climate issues through transparency, collaboration, and efficiency and urged a shift towards a sustainable economy that integrates nature's value, emphasising that solutions must evolve from user-centric thinking to foster trust and lower coordination costs.

## A strategic vision for India's ties with the Gulf

INDIA'S trade and economic relations with the US, the UK and other western nations get considerable attention. There is nothing wrong with that. What does not get equal attention, but should, is India's booming ties with countries in the Gulf region.

India does have a 'Neighbourhood First' policy, but there is still uncertainty and even controversy on how one defines the country's 'neighbourhood'. Many have often been satisfied with defining it as being the area between the Khyber Pass and the Bay of Bengal. The time may have come to include the six Arab countries across the Arabian Sea and in the Persian Gulf — the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain — as part of India's larger neighbourhood. These six Arab countries are politically, diplomatically, economically and strategically linked by way of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Formed in 1981, the GCC is a regional body that seeks to promote greater economic, political and military cooperation amongst its six member-states.

India has historically enjoyed strong ties with the GCC member-states, shaped by geographic proximity, historical trade links, energy security and the presence of a large Indian diaspora. Over 8.9 million Indians live and work in the GCC countries, making it one of the largest expatriate communities in the region. The UAE hosts the largest number of Indian nationals, totalling 3.5 million, followed by Saudi Arabia (2.6 million) and Kuwait (over 1.1 million). Oman has 7,79,000 Indians, Qatar 7,45,000 and Bahrain 3,23,000. This large and thriving expatriate population is a key source of remittances for India. In 2023-24, India received \$123 billion in remittances, with the Gulf Arab countries accounting for a major part of the inflows. The UAE alone accounted for 18 per cent of India's total remittances, making it the second largest sender of foreign remittances, after the US. With the Gulf countries supplying a substantial portion of India's crude oil and natural gas needs, the GCC is one of India's largest trading partners (surpassing even the European Union) and critical for our energy security. Given the crucial importance of the six Arab Gulf countries, India has necessarily to take forward the growth of bilateral relations with all members of the GCC, with particular attention on the UAE and Saudi Arabia. The Arab Gulf countries have historically had thriving two-way trade relations with ports on India's west coast, notably in Kerala. Incidentally, there are indications that the UAE and Saudi Arabia are in the process of arranging living facilities for a large number of new Indians who are expected to arrive for work. India has also been increasing its military ties with the GCC countries through joint exercises and security dialogues. The Gulf countries have tended to rely on the western powers. Notably, Qatar and other Arab countries across the Persian Gulf provide land and other facilities to the US military. Maritime support is extended by the Central Command of the US Fifth Fleet, with its headquarters located in Manama, Bahrain, together with the Royal Australian Navy. India can also play a role in ensuring maritime security of the Arab Gulf region. The Indian Navy has a wide variety of vessels that it could deploy for this purpose. India has two aircraft carriers, eight tank landing ships, 11 destroyers and 12 frigates, apart from 16 attack submarines, which it could utilise when needed. Following the escalation in attacks by the Houthis on shipping in the Red Sea, the Navy deployed at least a dozen warships in the Arabian Sea and areas east of the Red Sea, marking its largest deployment in the region. Moreover, New Delhi has constructed and commissioned two nuclear submarines — INS Arihant and INS Arighaat — which could be deployed for strengthening the security of the friendly countries in the region, when needed and requested. Such issues have to be carefully planned and taken forward in consultations with the friendly countries. India's naval forces are now receiving due consideration while determining the country's future role in regional security. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focus on the Gulf region and, in some cases, his strong personal equations with leaders of some countries in the region have helped add new dimensions to the relations. Modi has visited the UAE a record seven times as PM.

## How data sovereignty is redefining digital governance

The rising cross-border exchange of private data, coupled with cloud computing, has made data sovereignty a critical concern.

IN the 2010s, Edward Snowden revealed that the USA's National Security Agency was tapping into the servers of major internet firms using a surveillance programme called PRISM. After these revelations, countries across the world had grave concerns about who could access their national information and the possible consequences. It, thus, served as a spark for conversations about global data sovereignty. Furthermore, any material physically located in the US might be accessed by the government, regardless of its source, as per the US Patriot Act, which was enacted in 2001 after the 9/11 attacks. The concept of data sovereignty, thus, gained traction, and more than 100 nations have enacted a variety of data control and storage regulations, representing data sovereignty to some extent. Although sovereignty refers to an absolute and overarching juridical-political authority over a portion of geographic space, its purview has now expanded to include "data". These days, massive amounts of data are used to shape policies related to businesses, healthcare, government planning, sports, elections and practically everything else. The "new oil", "new gold" or "new currency" in today's uncertain and complex environment is frequently thought to be data.

There is little doubt that the internet, social media and various online activities constitute the primary sources of data generation in today's internet-driven society. The issue of internet regulation is its natural outcome. The questions of the first generation of internet law about who should regulate the internet, if anyone, have been decisively answered by governments — they all will. The second generation question to be addressed is not whether, but how, to control the internet. The concept of "data sovereignty" holds that information is governed by the legal framework and political systems of the countries concerned. It serves as a stronghold against international corporations and foreign states. Data can be kept in the nation where it was created or, in a situation known as "data residency", it can be kept in another nation while remaining unprocessed. An example of a normal cloud service provider would be one located in nation alpha, with sales, marketing, accounting and operations, all located there. Their call centre for customer service, though, might be located in nation beta, which needs certain personal information of accounts to contact clients and

provide support.

The rising cross-border exchange of private data, coupled with cloud computing, has made data sovereignty a critical concern. Data must be governed by the laws of the country in which it was generated as well as the country in which it resides. Different countries have varying legislations on this issue. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which unifies data protection laws for all members of the European Union, was enacted by the EU Parliament in 2016 and included the EU's own data sovereignty provisions. By



placing a high priority on safe data handling, privacy and algorithmic transparency, it gave the citizens of the EU countries significant control over their data by imposing strong laws on companies for data-handling.

A part of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) of 1978 of the USA was renewed in April 2024 through the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act. For reasons of national security, the law permits US corporations to give the US government access to communication data of international customers without a warrant. This impacts cloud services and overseas users as their data might be accessible to the US government without their knowledge or consent. As India is becoming a digitally empowered nation, data sovereignty has assumed relevance for the restructuring of data governance. It is crucial for protecting privacy, supporting national and economic security and fending off threats of global surveillance. Days after India banned 59 Chinese apps in 2020 due to worries about "sovereignty and security", the then Union Minister of Information Technology and Telecom Ravi Shankar Prasad declared that India should not compromise on data sovereignty.

The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023 — India's first cross-sectoral law on personal data protection — was passed in August 2023. It covers non-citizens residing in India whose data processing occurs "in connection with any activity related to offering of goods or services" outside of India as well as Indian residents and enterprises gathering data about Indian residents. The Act "lays down a foundation, where grievance redress, access to justice and protection of personal data will become highly democratised, with equal access available to those in far-flung areas and big cities," explained Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Communications, Electronics and Information Technology.

Undoubtedly, the regulations will evolve over time, making room for the fast-advancing technologies. For instance, in January 2019, industrialist Mukesh Ambani urged Prime Minister Modi to stop the rising trend of "data colonisation" by multinational firms, asserting that "Indian data should be owned by Indians." Earlier this month, Reliance Jio Infocomm Chairman Akash Ambani emphasised on the need for India to embrace AI, with focus on self-reliance and data sovereignty. In light of the technological challenges of today's world, the 2023 book edited by Anupam Chander and Haochen Sun, Data Sovereignty: From the Digital Silk Road to the Return of the State, discusses the theoretical aspects of the subject. It addresses the issue of territorial control over data flows and attempts by national and regional governments to impose restrictions on the movement of data across a global internet. It provides fresh viewpoints and provocative concepts regarding the nature and extent of data sovereignty by drawing on theories in political economy, international law, human rights and data protection, as well as by elucidating the national, regional and global legal frameworks. It also looks at the extent to which emerging technologies like AI, robotics, automation, e-commerce and sharing economy threaten data sovereignty. It offers potential solutions for these issues in relation to trade liberalisation, data localisation and human rights.

Many more significant issues are still pending. For example, can data sovereignty, AI and smart tech coexist? All stakeholders face significant challenges. Several interesting data treaties are likely to emerge. The concept of data sovereignty might also be redefined.

## Reign of piracy

Focus on stricter regulation, pricing models

A new study that puts the Indian entertainment industry's losses due to piracy in 2023 at a staggering Rs 22,400 crore does not come as a surprise. Neither does the revelation that every second consumer in the country accesses pirated content. It's a reflection of how the weak implementation of anti-piracy regulations has lent social sanction to the illegal activity. The ability to access content without paying the due amount is seen as an acquired skill, not any circumvention of law that would attract fine and punishment. A global survey on why people opt for pirated content perhaps best explains consumer behaviour. According to it, Indians account for the largest proportion of those who say they could have paid for the services, but pirating was easier, more convenient and because everyone does it.

According to the study, last year, Rs 13,700 crore was



generated from pirated content from movie theatres and Rs 8,700 crore from OTT platforms. Streaming is the

largest source of piracy at 63 per cent, followed by mobile apps at 16 per cent. Several underlying factors explain the hold of piracy despite a 150 per cent rise in subscription revenues after the pandemic. High fees and the hassle of multiple payments push many to pirated content. A lack of awareness about the perils of piracy, income disparity and inaccessible theatres are the other key reasons. Besides stringent regulations, content providers need to rethink their pricing models.

The lack of collaborative efforts to mitigate the risks of unauthorised copying and distribution or use of copyright material continues to badly hurt the entertainment industry. Piracy is particularly prevalent among audiences aged 19 to 34. They are bound to be receptive to correct messaging — that piracy infringes on the rights of the original creators.

## Amarinder stirs the Punjab pot

THE GREAT GAME: Even his worst detractors will concede that the ex-CM is still willing to call out a crisis

IT may be a bit of a stretch to compare senior BJP leader Capt Amarinder Singh with either Lenin or Napoleon, both of whom are variously supposed to have acknowledged that they became the leaders they did because they had seized the day.

Lenin, upon his return from London to St Petersburg in 1917, is famously believed to have commented that he found power lying on the streets of St Petersburg and all he did was to pick it up. The Russian Revolution, which changed the face of Russia and large parts of the world, followed. Just over a hundred years before, in 1815, while in exile in St Helena, Napoleon had remonstrated with his close confidant, Charles Tristan. "I have dethroned no one. I found the crown in the gutter. I picked it up and the people put it on my head."

The fact of the matter is that AAP may be in danger of becoming the focus of the farmers' ire.

It's not clear whether anyone in the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in Punjab or even in the Opposition Congress or Akali Dal or the BJP are conscious of the featherweight of history on their shoulders. And what they thought of Amarinder Singh letting the paddy grain filter through his fingers on Friday morning — as quintals of it lay in the open in Asia's largest granary, in Khanna — surrounded by ageless farmers patiently waiting for their crop to be procured by the government. The story of the unprocured paddy is at the heart of the political crisis in Punjab today. Because the state is dependent on its two-crop cycle and because the sowing, transplanting and threshing of the paddy crop has taken place in between the Lok Sabha polls in June, the Jalandhar West byelection in July, the panchayat polls earlier this October and four Assembly bypolls in the coming November, the politics of the state has been inexorably drawn in. Moreover, the ruling AAP in Punjab is midway through

its tenure. Some fatigue is naturally setting in. Rumours of large-scale corruption are rife. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has changed some of his innermost coterie, while advisers are being brought in to take charge of the government's failing finances. And then there's the election in Delhi, slated for February 2025, expected to be a do-or-die battle between AAP and the BJP. It's a no-brainer that Arvind Kejriwal & Co won't let anything in Punjab come in the way of undermining the battle for Delhi.

That's why the gathering farmer protests in Punjab are so important, even though several of them seem adept at cutting their nose to spite their face — or as the more evocative metaphor in Hindi, which invokes another body part, says, apne pair pe kulhaari maarna (hurting your own foot with the axe). In the last several days, farmers have taken over railway tracks, blocked roads and highways and are staging dharna in front of the houses of politicians.

Here's the irony, and here is why, midway through AAP's tenure in Punjab, the story may once again be in danger of turning. While Punjab's farmers may still be in no mood to forgive the BJP for the three farm laws it tried to impose upon them in 2020 — and have been punishing it by not even allowing BJP candidates to campaign in villages — the fact of the matter is that AAP may be in danger of becoming the focus of their ire. The politics is both predictable and wearying. AAP is accusing the BJP-ruled Centre of refusing to move last year's paddy out of Punjab, which is why the mandis are full

and the grain is overflowing on the streets; it says the Centre had promised 17 trains daily to lift the current crop and that not enough are coming. The BJP has responded by accusing Mann of lying. Worse, the AAP-BJP face-off over paddy procurement has come in the wake of several crises, some of them self-inflicted. Civic amenities in Punjab's biggest cities are in a shambles — an ongoing The Tribune series on

stubble, despite penalties and red entries; free power is, meanwhile, burning a hole in the state's pocket and deepening the water table. The exacerbating heroin addiction, colloquially known as 'chitta' or 'white powder', is made possible by a conniving network of Indian and Pakistani agents who fly in the drug via drones. The rising state deficit, with subsidies amounting to Rs 22,000 crore, is an open secret, as is a growing inability to pay it. Two-and-a-half years ago, Mann dethroned the mighty Congress, didn't allow the Akali Dal to regroup and prevented the BJP from gathering in. Punjab may not be willing to still vote in the BJP, but Punjab's astute politicians are keenly aware that the BJP vote increases in every election. Meanwhile, the Sukhbir Badal-led Akali Dal either refuses or is simply unable to fill in the widening political vacuum.

The impression that "Punjab bahut saare nashey main dooba hua hai" (Punjab is sinking under the morass of several addictions), and that its leadership is finding it difficult to cope, is growing.

That's why when the 82-year-old Amarinder Singh stirs the political pot, even if it's in a granary in far-off Khanna, it still matters. He may never become the chief minister again. He didn't campaign for his new party in the recent Lok Sabha polls. He is most likely guilty of several misdemeanours, including not living up to several of his own promises. But even his worst detractors, both in his former party, the Congress, as well as in his current party, the BJP, will concede the man is still willing to call out a crisis that is fast assuming enormous political implications.



garbage dumps, encroachments, open sewer lines, the unhealthy state of hospitals and lack of schoolteachers in government schools is depressing. The crisis continues in agriculture, whether relating to the healthy determination of farmers to burn the

# How to use kacchi haldi in your beauty routine



the market, but should start using raw turmeric in their everyday skincare routine. Having tons of skin-enhancing properties, it treats acne breakouts, delivers clear skin, improves the complexion, reduces dark circles, slows down the process of ageing, and acts as a natural moisturiser. Let's see how you can use raw turmeric in your skincare routine.

**Haldi mask for face**  
Turmeric mask Take two tablespoons of raw turmeric (kachchi haldi) powder, one tablespoon of sandalwood powder, 1 tablespoon of honey, 1 bowl, and some water.

**Step 1:** Take the bowl and put the turmeric and sandalwood powder together. **Step 2:** Add some honey to the powder mixture. **Step 3:** Add a sufficient amount of water and create a thick paste. **Step 4:** Now, mix it well. Apply the face mask for 15 minutes and rinse off with cold water, followed by a moisturiser.

**Turmeric cleanser**  
If you're dealing with acne, dark spots, and signs of ageing, then follow these steps. Take some milk, one tablespoon of original turmeric powder, and one tablespoon of chickpea powder.

**Step 1:** Mix both the powders in a bowl. **Step 2:** Mix them well and add a few drops of milk. **Step 3:** Create a watery consistency and apply it all over your face. Keep it on for 15 minutes and then rinse it off with cold water. It would kill the bacteria brewing in your facial cells and would give you an enhanced glowy finish. It will leave a yellow stain for a long period of time.

Raw turmeric might have harsh effects on sensitive skin. Therefore, if you're not allergic to it then you're good to go to use it. It is a natural ingredient thus it mainly does not cause any major side effects on the skin. But, it might leave a yellow stain on your face after use. Also, if you're undergoing any serious medication then consult the doctor before using turmeric.

Turmeric face packs should not be used for more than 15 minutes or it will leave a yellow stain for a long period of time.

**W**e all have heard about the skin-enhancing properties of raw turmeric or kacchi haldi from our grandmothers and mothers. But, have you ever had the chance to incorporate it into your skin routine? It is a fact that raw turmeric has been used for centuries in the medicinal and cosmetic fields. To get a natural and healthy glow, people used to put kacchi haldi

paste on their faces as it is known for its healing properties. Rich in a bioactive component called curcumin, turmeric is rich in anti-inflammatory and has skin and health benefits. Easily available in every Indian household, one should stop using the turmeric powder grated from

# The dawn of the Sleepmaxxer



**I**t had been months since health and fitness influencer Helen Leland had enjoyed a good night's sleep. She would wake up exhausted every morning, which increased her stress levels as the day wore on and resulted in setbacks in her personal and professional life. The reason turned out to be her habit of breathing through her mouth while sleeping which led to snoring. So, she began taping her mouth to enjoy a hassle-free sleep. "I used to be a mouth breather. It was apparent in the shape of my face and my tired energy level every morning. Then I started mouth taping in the night. Three years later, it is something I will never stop doing," she says.

Like Leland, numerous other influencers are extolling the virtues of practices believed to enhance one's sleep. Health and wellness coach Akshay Satija advocates taking magnesium supplements orally or applying it as a spray, oil or lotion. Dr Darshan Shah, a board-certified surgeon and founder of Next Health, recommends the use of a wearable sleep tracker device to monitor your sleep cycle, aiming for 7+ hours every night.

Though everyone aspires for a good night's sleep, these influencers and sleep aficionados are taking things up a notch with 'sleepmaxxing'. This trend, largely popularised on social media, encourages people to strive for perfect sleep by eliminating any potential distractions or obstacles. Driven by the belief that optimal rest is crucial for overall wellbeing, these people use avant garde products and practices to enhance sleep.

"Sleepmaxxing is a deliberate approach to optimising sleep. This trend has particularly captured the attention of high-performing individuals — executives, athletes, and professionals — who view optimal sleep as essential to achieving peak performance in both their personal and professional lives," explains Dr

Mukesh Batra, founder and chairman of Dr Batra's group.

Dr Batra points to research linking insufficient or poor-quality sleep to numerous health issues including cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, and weakened immune function.

Indians, in particular, fare poorly on a healthy sleep scale. According to a survey conducted by polling platform LocalCircles, 61 per cent of Indians sleep for fewer than six hours per night without interruption, with 23 per cent struggling to get even four hours of uninterrupted sleep. Further, fitness tracking company Fitbit's 2019 survey spanning 18 countries, concluded that Indians were the second-most sleep-deprived globally, with Japan leading the pack. Researchers at the

Centre for Consciousness Studies, NIMHANS found that one-third of Indians were victims of varied sleep disorders.

Tired of struggling to sleep well every night, Swati Gupta, founder of Esmé Luxury Silk turned to the bio-hacking community for a solution. Here, people DIY unconventional experimental biotechnology by using everyday items or recycled equipment to find solutions to problems. She found that many issues had to be addressed to maximise sleep quality.

Hence, she turned to silk to enhance her sleep as the fabric is known to regulate



body temperature, reduce wrinkles and hair tangles, and provide a hypoallergenic sleeping environment. Gupta explains, "For any new innovation or habit to work, an individual's lifestyle habits are important. Silk is antibacterial and has many beauty benefits that have stood the test of time."

Dr Sreeragh Haridas, the wellness director at Six Senses Fort Barwara points out that mouth tapes, chin straps and magnesium supplements are mere hacks which have no backing by major scientific studies or evidence. "All these may offer temporary relief, but they are not advisable as long-term consistent solutions."

Instead, he advocates following a healthy routine for better sleep quality, which includes an optimal workout, a balanced meal intake, proper work-life balance, avoiding excessive screen time, creating a healthy sleep environment at home, and leaving a gap of three hours between dinner and sleep to allow

the natural bio clock to work.

**Get Sleepmaxxing**

**Mouth Tape**

Strips of adhesive tape to be placed over the mouth to improve breathing, prevent snoring, stop mouth dryness and enhance the shape of the jawline.

**Magnesium Oil / Lotion / Spray / Supplements**  
Magnesium encourages deep and healthy sleep. It can be used in a variety of ways including as oral supplements or application-based lotions, sprays and oils.

**Sleep Tracker Devices**

Smart bands or rings that track the number of hours one sleeps at night, as well as the quality of the sleep.

**Chin Strap**

A cloth strap that is fastened around the head with a Velcro to hold the chin tight and mouth closed while sleeping. It reduces mouth snoring by stabilising the jaw and encouraging natural breathing through the nose.

**Sleep Mocktail**

A drink made to consume before bed containing magnesium or melatonin supplements, cherry juice and soda to enhance the flavour of the drink.

# Who motivated motivational writer Shiv Khera?

## 9 Injured In Stampede At Mumbai's Bandra Terminus Due To Diwali Rush

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the stampede occurred due to the festive rush before Diwali.

New Delhi: Nine people were injured today in a stampede at Bandra Terminus in Mumbai when passengers tried to board the train heading toward Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. The condition of seven people is stable while two have suffered critical injuries. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) said the stampede occurred due to the festive rush before Diwali. Train number 22921 from Bandra to Gorakhpur came at platform number 1 of the station and a large number of passengers gathered at the platform to board the rush. Sources told NDTV that the train the weekly train the Gorakhpur was re-scheduled and had to depart at 5:10 am. But after it was re-scheduled the train arrived late at the platform. Around 3 am, a huge rush was seen at the platform and passengers tried to board the



general compartment of the train which led to a stampede. The Gorakhpur Express is an unreserved train and over 1,000 passengers had arrived to board the 22-bogie train. Some passengers tried to board the coaches while the train was still in motion because of which two passengers were injured. Visuals showed blood on the floor and injured being taken on stretchers by Railway Police personnel and other passengers. A video showed a Railway cop taking an injured passenger on his shoulder. Another video showed two men lying on the floor with blood stains on their clothes. Two people came running with a stretcher and took the man out. There were over 50 police personnel present at Platform 1 to manage the crowd. In the background, five people were escorting an injured out of the station, with a large cloth acting as a stretcher. A man was also seen sitting on a bench, with his shirt torn off, and looked visibly in pain. The BMC said in an update said the situation is under control at the terminus and the injured have been taken to Bhabha Hospital. A passenger suffered a spinal fracture and a few passengers had fractures in their leg. Meanwhile, two injured have been discharged from the hospital, sources said.

While motivational speakers can motivate just about anyone, they can also hit roadblocks and need motivation. This moment came for Shiv Khera, the famous writer of 'You Can Win'. He met a man who gave him the purpose of life and motivated him when he was distressed.

New Delhi: Motivation is hard to find. But motivational books are everywhere. Each time you travel by train, right before you enter it, you will see a stall filled with books. 'You can win' by Shiv Khera will always be there. This book talks about building a positive attitude to life. It also asks readers to never lose motivation. But have you ever considered who motivates motivational speakers like Shiv Khera? Khera is the writer of several famous books: 'You Can Win', 'Freedom Is Not Free' and 'You Can Achieve More'. He is also famous for his motivational speeches. In 2021, Khera was one of the speakers at the Bhagavad Gita Summit for Gita Jayanti at Dallas, Texas, US, along with other notable speakers.

But before he made a name for himself. The motivational speaker had to find motivation. There is a story here. That was the time when Khera's daughter was born and he had sold his mother's last bit of jewellery to take care of his wife and the newborn. 'I wasn't highly educated and I did not have money. When my daughter was born, I sold all my mother's jewellery to take care of her. But after that, I did not even have Rs 10 to spend,' Shiv Khera told Aaj Tak Radio. Then, he tried three different jobs and failed in them. Finally, in 1975, he reached Toronto,

Canada. Here, he tried cleaning vehicles by going house to house. But he did not know that his life-changing moment was about to come.

### SELLING LIFE INSURANCE IN TORONTO, CANADA

He found a job where he would sell life insurance. "It is a very difficult job. If you sell



anything from a car to a house, people are able to see it and they will buy it. But in the case of life insurance, you get to sell nothing tangible. People get it after they die. This is one of the best things that happened to me. Trying to sell life insurance teaches you so much," Khera told Aaj Tak Radio. "90% of people leave in the first year. So when I started selling insurance,

something happened," he added. He was told that he hadn't done anything for three months, and he was being fired. "I said, brother, I wasn't well-read, I am not a doctor, lawyer or anything. I had third division in my graduation and had failed 10th standard. I have a handicap? How do you expect performance from me?" he man turned furious after he heard Khera's response.

"You don't have a handicap. You have an attitude problem. Your perspective on life isn't great. People like you ruin your family's life and your own," the man told Khera. When he was told that everyone had picked a field to be a doctor, lawyer, engineer and doctor, but Khera, who hadn't chosen a field for himself, had endless possibilities in front of him.

### THE MOTIVATOR WHO MOTIVATED SHIV KHERA ENTERS TAKES THE STAGE

Now, with nothing to lose, Khera decided to attend a talk in the evening. This would be the turning point in Khera's life. That talk was by Norman Vincent Peale, the writer of 'The Art of Positive Thinking'. The American author would become the motivator who motivated the motivational speaker Khera. Peale took the stage and told his audience that they looked quiet and content. He then followed up with a question: who all had a problem?

## Punjab Police seizes 105 kg of heroin in state's biggest smuggling bust

New Delhi: Punjab Police on Sunday said that it had dismantled a cross-border smuggling operation, seizing 105 kilograms of heroin in an intelligence-led operation. During the operation, authorities arrested Navjot Singh and Lovepreet Kumar, two individuals linked to a foreign-based drug smuggler. According to the police, the smugglers transported the drugs from Pakistan using waterways. Officers found large rubber tubes, suggesting the contraband was smuggled across the water. In addition to the heroin, police also recovered



five foreign-made pistols and one local-made firearm. Calling the operations as "biggest heroin seizure in Punjab," state's Director General of Police, Gaurav Yadav, on his official X handle, said, "In an intelligence-led operation, Punjab Police busts a cross-border smuggling racket and apprehends two associates of foreign-based drug smuggler Navpreet Singh @ Nav Bhullar and recovers 105 Kg Heroin, 31.93 Kg Caffeine Anhydrous, 17 Kg DMR, 5 foreign-made pistols & 1 desi katta." The police have filed an FIR, and probes are underway to trace connections that may lead to further arrests in the cartel, according to DGP Yadav.

## UP Woman Went Missing 4 Months Ago. Her Body Was Found In Kanpur's VVIP Area

New Delhi: A woman's body was retrieved from near the Kanpur District Magistrate's bungalow, four months after she was allegedly murdered. The accused Vimal Soni, a gym trainer in the Green Park area, confessed during questioning by the police that he had buried the body of the businessman's wife in an area which comprises bungalows allotted to government officials. The man, a resident of Kanpur's Raipurwa locality, informed the police about the spot from where the body



was found after digging the ground. The woman had gone missing on June 24 and subsequent probe had found that she was dead. DCP (North Kanpur) Shrawan Kumar Singh told reporters said that the woman was allegedly upset over the man's wedding getting finalised. On the day of the crime, she had come to the gym after 20 days and the duo had gone into the car to have a conversation. An argument ensued during which he punched her in the neck, following which she fainted. He then murdered her. Mr Singh said it was difficult to trace the man as he did not use a mobile phone. He added that teams were sent to Pune, Agra and Punjab for investigation. He added that they are yet to ascertain if he took the jewellery that the woman was wearing.

Legal action in the matter, registered at the Kotwali district police station, is being pursued after probing all possible angles in the case.

## Judges committed to work, can't goof up even during vacations: Chief Justice

Chief Justice DY Chandrachud defended the judiciary's dedication, highlighting that judges remain committed to their duties even during vacations, with workloads intensifying as they advance.

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud defended the judiciary's commitment on Saturday, asserting that judges remain dedicated to their work even during vacations. Responding to criticism of judicial "vacations," the Chief Justice explained that, unlike other fields, a judge's workload intensifies in both volume and complexity as they advance within the judiciary. Judges are not gallivanting or goofing off during vacations. They are deeply committed to their work, even on weekends, often attending functions, visiting High Courts, or engaging in legal aid work," Chandrachud said, noting his own effort to return home by Saturday to manage his workload.



Speaking on the collegium system during an interaction following his lecture for the Marathi daily Loksatta in Mumbai,

Chandrachud highlighted that the system requires a consultative dialogue among different government levels and the judiciary. He acknowledged the potential for institutional improvements but cautioned against viewing challenges as fundamental flaws.

To a question on the collegium system of appointment of Supreme Court and High Court judges, the CJI said it is a federal system where the responsibility has been given to different levels of

governments (both the Centre and the states) and the judiciary. "We must appreciate that these institutions, standing for over 75 years, reflect the resilience of our democratic governance, with the judiciary as a core component," he said, adding that objections to candidates are discussed with "great maturity" within the judiciary and governments.

Chief Justice Chandrachud also responded to the controversy stirred by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to his residence for Ganapati Puja. Addressing the criticism, he clarified that when heads of government—whether at the state or central level—meet with the Chief Justice of the High Court or Supreme Court, they adhere to principles of political maturity and avoid discussing any pending cases, reported Live Law.

## "Deeply Concerned By Evolving Escalation In West Asia": India

The ongoing hostilities are to nobody's benefit, even as innocent hostages and civilian populations continue to suffer. Our Missions in the region are in contact with the Indian community," the Ministry of External Affairs statement said.

New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs on Saturday expressed its concern on the recent developments in West Asia after precision strike of Israel on Iran's military sites. In a statement, the MEA reiterated its call to return to dialogue and diplomacy. "We are deeply concerned by the evolving escalation in West Asia and its ramifications for peace and stability in the region and beyond. We reiterate our call to all concerned to exercise restraint and return to the path of dialogue and diplomacy," the statement said. "The ongoing hostilities are to nobody's benefit, even as innocent hostages and civilian populations continue to suffer. Our Missions in the region are in contact with the Indian community," the statement added. On Saturday morning, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) announced that its military had conducted "precise strikes" on Iranian military targets, around a month after Tehran launched around 200 ballistic missiles towards Israel. Israel's strike came weeks



after Iran launched a barrage of missiles toward Tel Aviv earlier this month. The Iranian strikes followed a nearly yearlong conflict between Israeli forces and Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon, including the deaths of senior leadership, and fighting in the Gaza Strip. Both sides traded cross-border strikes, including Hezbollah in support of its fellow proxy Hamas and Israel to clear the way for displaced settlers to

return to the border area. Israel has been standing against "the terror attacks from Iran and its proxies" and has "precisely targeted military bases" in the country, Israel Consul General Kobbi Shoshani said on Saturday and asserted that Israel can reach any place in the Middle East "in a very massive way". In an interview with ANI, Kobbi Shoshani spoke about the conflict in the Middle East and said they have some conditions which include Hamas not having any military capability and there should be safety zone in Lebanon where Hezbollah will leave the area and there will be Lebanon Army. "That bothers us very much... Some friends of Israel are negotiating with Hamas to find a solution. We are also looking forward to a solution. We have some conditions and one of them is that Hamas will not have any military capability... Secondly, in Lebanon, we want to create a safety zone where Hezbollah will leave the area and the army of Lebanon will be there," he said.

## Delhi Pollution: AQI Worsens Ahead Of Diwali, Residents Call It 'Suffocating'

NEW DELHI. With Diwali a few days ago, the air quality in the national capital has deteriorated. On Sunday, the Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 352, in the 'very poor' category, according to the System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR). This is worse than the average AQI recorded at 255 on Saturday, categorized as 'poor'. Moreover, AQI in the Anand Vihar area crossed the 400 mark, being recorded as 405 at 7 AM, categorized as 'severe', worse than the AQI of 367 recorded on Saturday. AQI at the Akshardham Temple deteriorated 261, whereas IGI airport recorded an AQI of 324, both categorized as 'very poor'. A layer of thick smog enveloped certain parts of the national capital.

suffocating due to pollution... The government should look into what can be done to reduce pollution," he told news agency ANI. Moreover, a cyclist in the city told ANI that they are facing a lot of problems with breathing. "We are from Delhi, and we (the cyclist group) cycle daily here, but with this situation of air pollution since the last few days, we are facing a lot of problems. We can't breathe properly; we get tired faster due to the pollution. We take precautions like wearing a bandana, but nothing is working because the pollution is increasing a lot," he said. He further said that the measures taken by the government don't seem effective enough, and the government should encourage the people to use public transport more. "The government did some work, like stopping construction and implementing odd-even, but it doesn't seem like it is working as this is increasing day by day. There should be constructive measures to encourage people to use public transport and carpool," he added.



In response to the increasing pollution and worsening air quality, the Delhi government has taken few steps to curb pollution. As the festival of lights nears, the Atishi Singh-led government in Delhi has banned fireworks till January 1. Moreover, toxic foam on the Yamuna river in the Kalindi Kunj area persisted. Earlier the pollution in the river was at the center of hot political debate between the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), with BJP leader

Shazia Ilmi criticizing the Delhi government for its handling of the city's worsening pollution crisis, highlighting the alarming presence of toxic foam in the River Yamuna and the resulting breathing difficulties for residents. "BJP leader Virendra Sachdeva has fallen ill. Two days ago, he took a dip in the Yamuna River. Today he is admitted to the hospital... This is an issue connected to the health of the public in Delhi. Where have the Rs 3000 crore meant for the public of Delhi and Yamuna River? The public of Delhi is not able to breathe... Toxic foam is floating on the Yamuna River," Ilmi told ANI. Notably, Delhi environment minister Gopal Rai slammed the saffron party and accused it of contributing to the increasing pollution in the national capital. "The BJP is the party that creates pollution and seems to believe that only drama can solve it. I think all governments and parties need to work together. I wish them good health, but stopping these theatrics alone won't reduce pollution."



# Truth bombs about nail extensions and nail salons



Well groomed nails signify a lot about you and currently we all know about the latest nail trends but do we also know that if not done properly, a botched case can lead to multiple problems. Read on as we decode the "real story" of nail salons and how to pick and choose the best one.

## 'Every second salon is a nail salon'

"Everybody wants a cheaper service. So customer will easily opt for a place that offers nail service at Rs 400. That does not necessarily mean it's efficient. Just to save few bucks the client of going to have problem in the long run. Just like picking a dentist, it's important to do your research before you pick a nail salon," starts off Nalini Ahlawat, Nail Industry Pioneer with 18 years of experience. Perhaps it's important to know about the salon and their services rather than just randomly picking any nail salon who's offering freebies or cheaper rates. #Truth bomb: Disinfection is a must! "As an international requirement it's a mandate to do 100% disinfection of all the tools and machinery. It's important for nail salons to maintain standards. All metallic tools after every client are put into the cidex solution. This solution is commissioned only from hospitals. This is a rapid process for disinfection. After this, all tools are

wrapped individually. This chemical is expensive hence some salons avoid but it's mandatory to get it done," explains Gurpreet Seble, International Nail Educator & Nail Expert, North America. To add to this, it's very important to clean the seats, tubs and tools or even the hand rest for that matter.

After disinfection comes sanitization. Many women don't bother to check on this important point at salons. It's important to ask and question the salon what sterilizers they are using to clean their tools. Lack of hygiene can cause serious health problems so beware. "It's very easy for cross-contamination to happen. Sometimes clients only see short term benefit and what looks good on the outside. It's important for staff and women customers to have efficient training at nail salons," says Nalini. #Truth bomb: Lack of knowledge What is important to know is that the technicians need to have the right credentials and knowledge to do nails. Cases in the past have emerged of nails getting damaged and becoming brittle due to mishandling. "Acrylic nails are a very technical field and only the well trained staff can do this. A wrong case can spoil your nail health. Proper license and certification need to be in place for the

salon and their team. These days people are watching and learning from YouTube without proper guidance from an educator and obtaining half knowledge which is even worse. Invest in your education to get best results," says Nalini. #Truth bomb: Beware: Fungal infections, HIV, Hepatitis! A fun fact about nails is that nails do not breathe. It's the cuticle and nail bed which breathes. So it's important that someone knowledgeable handle your nails with extra care. Early this year, a report in US stated that after a woman developed cancer after nail technician goes too rough! Worse cases of mishandling and bad hygiene practices can also lead of cross-contamination and spread of diseases like HIV, Hepatitis and even fungal infections from one customer to another! Bottom

line: Invest in you nails and a trusted salon just like you do for your health! Do nail extensions damage nails? "NO. Everything has its pros and cons. What is important is to go to a reputed salon that has quality products and a staff that is properly educated and trained by an international nail academy. If you want to get a service done, ensure you are getting the best quality products. Pricing should be the last thing to judge a salon so do your research well," explains Gurpreet Seble, International Nail Educator & Nail Expert North America.



# Emerald glow

## The allure of

# peridot



How about trekking as a rockhound after sunset? That sounds weird! In the dark. True, the miners of Egypt exactly did this to identify the beauty of the 'Evening Emeralds'. Any guess on the gem name? During rock hounding, we occasionally stumble upon larger narratives and unexplored stories. Let me take you through this gem known as PERIDOT. Here is a gemstone that the Ancient Egyptian rulers referred to as 'the gem of the sun' owing to its intense radiance emanating from within. These Peridots were considered not to be mined during daylight as their brightness would render them invisible, while in the dark they were distinguished as they gave off their light. Thus, the miners would mark the locations during the evening and return during the day to collect these stones. Does this statement make sense, that this gem keeps itself lustrous both during the day and night, even under artificial lightning? So, this could also be a reason to refer to them as "Evening Emeralds". This lively gemstone has a unique

history, mistaken identities, and exciting extra-terrestrial journeys. Peridot is a bright green August birthstone, bundled with the other two: 1) The Sardonyx with bands of white and reddish layers of sard creating a reddish-white banded appearance. 2) The Spinel looks identical to a ruby. Now, a little brainstorming before we move on. How do you pronounce the word Peridot? Do you like to call it "Pear-eh-doe" or "Pear-eh-dot"? Most jewellers and Gem collectors pronounce it as peri-doe, which follows the French way of pronunciation, where the letter t is silent, like depot or 'doe' as in a female deer. The American way is peri-dot. However, you pronounce it, our embedded relationship with the treasures is drawn towards the beauty of this lovely green ranging from bright to subtle green. During searching for the origin of Gemstones, we often unravel a much larger narrative about our natural relationship with the treasures of this physical world and how we choose to use them for metaphysical connection & understanding. Explore such exclusive rare Gems at our Crystal museum - Touchstone, at the Main Guard Cross Road. The Mistaken Identities Peridot has often been confused with other Gemstones. One Egyptian legend mentions that peridots were unearthed, for the royal treasury of the pharaoh, with miners working restlessly. Therefore, whispers amongst historians are that the famous emerald collection of Cleopatra was almost sure to have at least some Peridots, if not all, because of the abundance of Peridot deposits in Egypt. In

another case of mistaken identity, the Gems that adorn the shrine of the Three Holy Kings in Germany's Cologne Cathedral were Emeralds when they were Peridots. With an enhanced scientific approach, gemologists have developed ways to identify and distinguish Gemstones based on their scientific properties and chemical makeup, clearing all the misrepresentations. As with ancient times, visual appearance was the primary means of determining a stone type, leading to mistaken identities. Peridot is composed mainly of an olivine-rich rock known as peridotite, along with iron and magnesium, which give them their characteristic colour depending on the amount and type of iron present. Ferrous iron creates its envious colouration. The finest grade olivine contains more magnesium than iron. In certain rare cases, this extra-terrestrial gem has found its way to the earth via meteorites and has been verified against geological techniques to prove its outer-space origins. On Mother Earth, these geographic locations of peridot mines occur in Egypt, Myanmar, Arizona, Pakistan, China, Vietnam and Finland. Peridot is the only Gemstone to show, in only one colour - Olive Green. It is the most attractive feature. As an individual, flaunt a colour you love, from the gorgeous spectrum of bright green to green, with yellowish or brownish tints. Most customers desire light greens as they are beautiful on fairer complexions. However, many prefer a bright green for its rarity. Peridot is a gem, especially for the August-born and those celebrating their 16th anniversary.



NEWS BOX

**Fakhar Zaman loses Pakistan central contract after defending Babar Azam**

New Delhi. Pakistan cricketer Fakhar Zaman has been removed from their central contracts list after openly criticizing their national cricket board for resting Babar Azam midway through the England Test series. Notably, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) released the list of contracted players for 2024-25 season on Sunday, October 27. While several youngsters earned their maiden contract, names of a few veterans were found missing from the list. Among them was Fakhar Zaman, who was earlier a part of Category B in the central contracts for the previous season. His removal comes just a few weeks after he openly criticized the decision to rest Babar Azam on his X handle. The post didn't go down well with the PCB officials and the board issued him a 'show cause' notice for his post. In the aftermath of the incident, Zaman has now lost his central contract for the first time in eight years. The swashbuckling batter last played for his team during the T20 World Cup 2024 where Pakistan were knocked out of the tournament in the first stage itself after embarrassing losses against co-hosts



USA and India. Meanwhile, apart from Fakhar several big names were also missing in the new list of centrally contracted players namely Ifikhar Ahmed, Hassan Ali, Sarfaraz Ahmed and Imam-ul-Haq. Test captain Shan Masood has been promoted to Category D to Category B after Pakistan's historic 2-1 series win over Ben Stokes' England. Young fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi, who missed out on the last two Tests, has been demoted to category B. Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Khurram Shahzad, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Mohammad Ali, and Usman Khan are the new entrants in the contract list and are in Category D.

**Shan Masood promoted in Pakistan central contracts, Shaheen Afridi demoted**

**Pakistan have announced their central contracts for the men's team for the 2024-25 season. Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan are the ones in Category A while Shaheen Shah Afridi dropped to Category B.**

New Delhi. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) named the central contracts for the 2024-25 international seasons, effective from July 1, 2024. Shan Masood has been promoted to Category D to Category B after Pakistan's 2-1 series win over Ben Stokes' England. Young fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi, who missed out on the last two Tests, has been demoted to category B. The PCB also offered the same three-year contracts



that were agreed last year between the PCB and the cricketers. Last year, the Pakistan board gave its players their highest pay raises and also a share of the revenue from PCB's earnings from the International Cricket Council (ICC). The contracts have been issued based on the framework established last year in an agreement between the players and the PCB, covering a three-year period. Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Khurram Shahzad, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Mohammad Ali, and Usman Khan are the new entrants to the contract list and are in Category D. Saim Ayub, Abrar Ahmed, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Saud Shakeel have been placed in

category C. Fakhar Zaman, Imam-ul-Haq, Hasan Ali, Ifikhar Ahmed, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Ihsanullah and Mohammad Nawaz are among the ones who have been omitted from the national central contracts.

Fakhar missed out on central contracts for the first time in eight years. Recently, he got involved in a controversy with the board after criticising Babar Azam's omission from the Test squad for the England series. Haris Rauf has also dropped from Category B to C.

**List of centrally contracted players for Pakistan men's team**

Category A (2): Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan

Category B (3): Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Shan Masood

Category C (9): Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Noman Ali, Saim Ayub, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha, Saud Shakeel and Shadab Khan

Category D (11): Aamir Jamal, Haseebullah, Kamran Ghulam, Khurram Shahzad, Mir Hamza, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Hurraira, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Mohammad Wasim Jnr and Usman Khan

**Babar Azam rested for Zimbabwe tour, available for Australia series ODIs, T20Is**

New Delhi. Pakistan, on Sunday, named their squads for the ODI and T20I series on the tour of Australia and Zimbabwe. Babar Azam, Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah are available for the limited-overs matches in Australia, but have been rested for the tour of Zimbabwe. Babar, Shaheen and Naseem weren't a part of the two Tests that Pakistan won against England.



Fast bowler Mohammad Hasnain returned to the ODI team after last playing against New Zealand back in January 2023. The young speedster was rewarded after he recently picked up 17 wickets in the Champions Cup at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad. Arafat Minhas, Omair Bin Yousuf, Sufiyan Muqem, Faisal Akram, Ahmed Daniyal and Jahandad Khan are amongst the new faces on the tours. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), in a statement, said that "it recognised standout domestic performers for the two tours as part

of their strategy to build towards the ICC Champions Trophy defence". Pakistan squad for Australia ODIs: Aamir Jamal, Abdullah Shafique, Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Haseebullah (WK), Kamran Ghulam, Mohammad Hasnain, Mohammad Rizwan (WK), Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Saim Ayub, Salman Ali Agha, Shaheen Shah Afridi. Pakistan squad for Australia T20Is: Arafat Minhas, Babar Azam,

and the PCB, covering a three-year period. Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Khurram Shahzad, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Mohammad Ali, and Usman Khan are the new entrants to the contract list and are in Category D. Saim Ayub, Abrar Ahmed, Noman Ali, Sajid Khan, Salman Ali Agha and Saud Shakeel have been placed in

**Cody Rhodes feud, WWE WrestleMania 41 main card: Bronson Reed on 2025 goals**

Since making his return to the WWE, Bronson Reed just seemed to be waiting to make a big splash on the main roster. The Australian superstar stood out from the rest because of his physique and deceptive in-ring prowess that had always caught the imagination of the WWE Universe. But then, on the August 5 episode of Monday Night RAW, Reed went on to make a statement and capture the spotlight by taking out Seth Rollins. The Aussie star delivered 6 devastating Tsunamis to the former World Champion and took him out of action. Since then, Reed has all been about making incredible moments and grabbing the spotlight. A feud with Braun Strowman saw Reed truly make himself a fan favourite with some chaotic moments and now is all set to take on Rollins at WWE Crown Jewel Premium Live Event on November 2, Saturday. Ahead of his big match, Reed talked to India Today in an exclusive interaction, where he opened up on



**Manika Batra's historic WTT Champions run ends in quarterfinals**

New Delhi. Manika Batra's historic journey at the WTT Champions in Montpellier, France, concluded on Saturday night after a quarterfinal loss to China's Qian Tianyi. Batra, ranked World No. 30, fell to Qian, the World No. 21, in straight games (8-11, 8-11, 10-12), ending her memorable campaign. Despite the defeat, Batra set a new benchmark for Indian table tennis, becoming the first Indian paddler to reach the quarterfinals of a WTT Champions event—a prestigious series featuring the top 32 male and female players globally, with substantial prize money and valuable ranking points. Her impressive run began with a convincing 3-0 (11-4, 11-8, 12-10) victory over USA's Lily Zhang. Batra then went on to stun eighth-seeded Bernadette Szocs, the World No. 14,



in a thrilling 3-1 match (11-9, 6-11, 13-11, 11-9). This win not only secured Batra's spot in the quarterfinals but also added to her list of victories against Szocs, whom she had previously defeated during India's 3-2 pre-quarterfinal win over Romania at the Paris Olympics. However, Batra struggled to replicate her earlier form against Qian, who had already caused a significant upset by defeating compatriot and World No. 3 Wang Yidi in the pre-quarterfinals. Unlike her composed performance against Szocs, Batra seemed unsettled against the aggressive Qian. Her usually reliable defense faltered, and her blocking shots lacked their usual sharpness, making it difficult to counter Qian's powerful smashes. Qian capitalized on these weaknesses, winning the match in just three games and marking the end of India's presence in the tournament. India's top-ranked paddler, World No. 25 Sreeja Akula, also faced a setback in Montpellier, exiting in the first round. She lost a hard-fought 3-2 match (6-11, 11-7, 11-1, 8-11, 11-8) to Puerto Rico's Adriana Diaz, ranked No. 13, after a competitive showdown.

**Harmanpreet Kaur returns for second ODI vs New Zealand, Priya Mishra makes debut**

New Delhi. India women's cricket team captain Harmanpreet Kaur returned into the team for the second ODI against New Zealand on Sunday, October 27 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad. Notably, Harmanpreet missed the first ODI of the series due to a niggles as Smriti Mandhan filled in her place as the team's skipper. The second ODI will mark the return for Harmanpreet after India's disappointing show in the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 where they were knocked out in the group stage itself. Apart from her, India handed debut cap to wrist spinner Priya Mishra who recently impressed with a five-wicket haul for India A on the tour to Australia.



She registered figures of 5/14 in five overs to help her team defend the score of 243/9 and win the match by 171 runs. The team management decided to bench Dayalan Hemalatha and Renuka Singh to

accommodate Harmanpreet and Priya in the playing XI. New Zealand also made a couple of changes to their playing XI as they brought in Fran Jonas and Lea Tahuhu in place of Melie Kerr and Molly Penfold. Kerr, who recently finished as the highest wicket taker of the Women's T20 World Cup with a record highest 15 wickets and was adjudged Player of the Tournament, suffered a quadriceps tear which has ruled her out for the entire series.

**India won first ODI by 59 runs**

The White Ferns didn't have a memorable start to the series as they lost the first ODI by 59 runs after failing to chase down the target of 228. Kerr was the shining star for the visitors with figures of 4/42 in nine overs with the ball and also scored an unbeaten 25\* (23). Meanwhile, New Zealand will be eager to bounce back in the series in the second ODI as captain Sophie Devine won the toss and elected to bat first. On the other hand, India will be eager to take an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series with another clinical victory. India Women (Playing XI): Shafali Verma, Smriti Mandhana, Yastika Bhatia(w), Harmanpreet Kaur(c), Jemimah Rodrigues, Tejal Hasabnis, Deepti Sharma, Radha Yadav, Arundhati Reddy, Saima Thakor, Priya Mishra. New Zealand Women (Playing XI): Suzie Bates, Georgia Plimmer, Lauren Down, Sophie Devine(c), Brooke Halliday, Maddy Green, Isabella Gaze(w), Jess Kerr, Lea Tahuhu, Eden Carson, Fran Jonas.

**David Warner's retirement U-turn for India series: Australia coach reacts**

**Australia coach Andrew McDonald dismisses the idea of David Warner returning for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India. Warner has shown interest in playing, but McDonald emphasizes no discussions have occurred.**

New Delhi. Australia coach Andrew McDonald has laughed off the suggestions of David Warner wanting to make a return to the Test team for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy against India

starting in November. Warner has expressed his willingness to play in the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against India if selected for the senior Australian men's team. Warner is also prepared to participate in the Sheffield Shield, Australia's top domestic red-ball competition, to be ready as an opening option for the much-anticipated five-Test series. Warner's availability comes as Australian selectors and team management seek a reliable partner for Usman Khawaja at the top of the order. This need follows selection committee head George Bailey's recent confirmation that Steve Smith would revert to his usual No. 4 spot, leaving an opener's position open. However, McDonald would brush off the suggestions. The Australia coach, while talking to ABC TV's Offsiders, said that Warner was retired and they didn't hold any



conversations with the former opener about a comeback. "His comments, a lot of people ran with," McDonald said. "David's retired and he had a magnificent send-off last year. We had no conversations about David coming back." The comments from McDonald come after captain Pat Cummins had also laughed off

suggestions from Warner about a comeback. **Best to move Steve Smith from opener's slot** McDonald commented on Smith's decision to move to No.4 and felt that the star batter wasn't 'sensitive' about the call after the Tests in New Zealand. The Aussie coach said that the best thing for the team was

to keep Smith away from the opening position. "On the back of New Zealand, we checked in around that opening position," the coach said.

"We believe that this challenge, moving forward against India, the best thing for the team is to move Steve away from that opening position." The Border-Gavaskar Trophy will start from November 22 and end with the final Test in Sydney, which will begin on January 3.

India's tour of Australia 2024-25 Schedule: First Test at Perth Stadium in Perth - November 22 to 26; Second Test at Adelaide Oval in Adelaide - December 6 to 10 (Day-Night); Third Test at The Gabba in Brisbane - December 14 to 18; Fourth Test at the MCG in Melbourne - December 26 to 30; Fifth Test at the SCG in Sydney - January 3 to January 7, 2025.



# Parineeti Chopra

Raghav Chadha Feel 'Deeply Thankful' As Swami Avimukteshwaranand Visits Their Home



It was a special day for Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra and her husband Raghav Chadha as they got the opportunity to seek blessings from Shankaracharya Shri Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji, who graced their residence in Delhi. The couple shared several glimpses from his visit on Instagram, expressing how blessed and grateful they feel. On Saturday, Parineeti Chopra took to her Instagram account to share a series of pictures that show her and Raghav receiving blessings from Shankaracharya Shri Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji. The joy and gratefulness on the couple's face is unmistakable. In her caption, the actress wrote that it was a divine privilege for the religious scholar to accept the invite, one they never imagined possible.

"This morning @raghavchadha88 and I feel especially blessed by divine grace; as Shankaracharya Shri Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati ji graced our humble home. For him to accept our invite is a divine privilege; one we never imagined possible. His divinity has brought us closer to the true essence of spirituality and the eternal teachings of Sanatan Dharma. We feel deeply thankful and grateful that he blessed us today. And we pray for his continued blessings upon our family.. #blessed #JaiShreeRam," read her caption. Check out her post below.

Meanwhile, Raghav Chadha also shared a video that shows Parineeti Chopra and him prepping for Swami Avimukteshwaranand's visit. The video also showed some glimpses of their meeting. In his caption, Raghav wrote in Hindi, "Oh, what fortune it is for us... The Lord Himself has graced my home. Today, Parineeti Chopra and I are overwhelmed with emotion; the doors of our fortune have opened, and we are all blessed. The knower of dharma and the highest representative of Sanatan culture, the revered Shankaracharya Shri Avimukteshwaranand Saraswati Ji, has graced our residence with his presence today."

Parineeti Chopra and Aam Aadmi Party MP Raghav Chadha tied the knot in September last year. On their first anniversary this year, the 'Chamkila' actress shared some romantic pictures from their vacay.

## Ananya Panday Reveals Shah Rukh Khan Is An 'Involved Parent' With His Kids, Recalls Fond Memories With 'SRK Uncle'



Ananya Panday is close friends with Shah Rukh Khan's children – Aryan and Suhana. In a latest interview, she spoke about how Shah Rukh was keenly involved in his kids' life despite having a packed schedule. She also mentioned that she did not realize how big a star he was until she was old enough. In a conversation with Mid Day, Ananya Panday recalled how she spent her childhood at Mannat with Aryan, Suhana, and Shah Rukh Khan. She mentioned how she always saw him as a 'father figure' and how she didn't realize how impactful his stardom was until she saw people wait outside Mannat to catch a glimpse of him. Ananya said, "Shah Rukh sir has come from the outside, and he's the king. I've seen how he's dealt with fame so normally. The way he was at home with all of us... We didn't even realize until he went and stood outside Mannat with thousands of people. For us, it was always like he's a father figure, who has taught us to run on sports days and practice for our taekwondo class."

Ananya also revealed that Shah Rukh always managed to take time out of his busy schedule to spend time with his kids. She continued, "He was a very involved and present parent. The way he is with Suhana, AbRam, and Aryan is amazing. Suhana always says that even though he shoots for 12-16 hours, he'll always come home and spend time with his children. He's involved in their college admissions and homework. I remember seeing him like that, and he's still like that, in all of our lives." In the same conversation, she also revealed that she calls him 'Shah Rukh uncle' or SRK in familial settings. Ananya's parents, Chunky and Bhavana, are close friends with Shah Rukh and Gauri Khan. On the work front, she was last seen in Vikramaditya Motwane's CTRL.

## Riddhima Kapoor Sahni's Daughter Samara Admires Ananya Panday: 'She's Her Idol'



Ananya Panday has won over fans with her recent roles in Kho Gaye Hum Kahan, Call Me Bae, and CTRL. In a new episode of Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives Season 3, Ranbir Kapoor's sister, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, shared that her daughter, Samara, is Ananya's biggest fan. Riddhima even introduced Samara to Ananya's parents, Bhavana and Chunky Panday, who were thrilled to hear about it. Chunky, known for his role in Housefull, proudly introduced himself as Ananya's father and expressed his happiness over his daughter's achievements. Ananya has grown her fan base recently, resonating particularly with young audiences like Riddhima's daughter Samara. Her roles—whether as a relatable young woman, a wealthy fashionista, or an influencer—have struck a chord with young girls. Samara was excited to meet Ananya's parents, and Bhavana and Chunky welcomed her warmly. As Chunky introduced himself as "Ananya's father," his wife, Bhavana, commented on how much she "loved" his proud introduction. Riddhima explained Samara's admiration, saying, "For Samara, Ananya Panday is her idol." The moment brought an emotional touch for Chunky, who admitted he hadn't enjoyed his own success as much as he's now celebrating his daughter's. With his usual humor, he joked that people now believe that if Ananya, the CTRL actress, can act, maybe her dad can too!

For those who may not know, Ananya faced initial criticism for her acting. However, her performances in CTRL, Call Me Bae, and Kho Gaye Hum Kahan have been praised by fans who see her growth and versatility on screen.

On the professional front, Ananya Panday was last seen in the Netflix thriller CTRL, a gripping narrative centred on the growing influence of AI in everyday life. In the series, she portrays Nella, starring opposite Vihaan Samat, who plays Joe. In the show, the duo play social media influencers. Their lives take a dark turn as AI begins to wreak havoc, especially in terms of data privacy. The actress's upcoming project is Shankara, where she'll star alongside Akshay Kumar and R. Madhavan. The film is a biopic centered on the life of lawyer Sankaran Nair, set during the British India era.



# Surbhi Jyoti

And Sumit Suri's Dreamy Pre-Wedding Shoot At Jim Corbett

Who says weddings can't have a wild side? Television star Surbhi Jyoti and her fiancé, actor Sumit Suri, are making headlines as they get ready to tie the knot, reportedly, amidst the lush greenery of Jim Corbett's Aahana Resort on October 27. After months, the couple finally announced the beginning of their wedding celebrations with a dash of romance and a sprinkle of nature's magic. In a beautiful pre-wedding reveal, Surbhi shared some enchanting snaps on Instagram, capturing the essence of their upcoming celebrations.

Sharing the mesmerising pictures, Surbhi wrote, "These roots run deep, carrying stories of sunshine and rain, resilience and grace. Sumit and I chose to begin our journey here, under nature's sacred canopy, honouring the trees that stand tall and the five elements that keep us whole." One shot showed Surbhi and Sumit holding a diya together. The couple looked stunning in perfectly coordinated light-green outfits—Surbhi wore a lime-green Patiala suit with delicate gold jewellery while Sumit rocked a chic embroidered kurta. Another pic showed them against a forest backdrop, with soft diya lighting the background. In a third, Surbhi sat by the diyas, looking beautiful.

As gathered by reports, this is no ordinary wedding. Rooted in their love for nature, Surbhi and Sumit have planned eco-friendly celebrations that pay homage to the elements—earth, water, fire, air and space. They're crafting each ritual with thoughtfulness, making sure their big day reflects not just their love but also their respect for the environment. The announcement has already stirred excitement among their celebrity friends. Actress Surbhi Chandra wished them saying, "Bohot bohot Mubarak meri koshish ek ahaanaa," while Aashka Goradia commented, "Congratulations, so so stunning." Fans and friends alike, from Sriti Jha to Aly Goni and Krystle Dsouza, flooded them with love and well wishes.

