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Salman Khan should apologise to Bishnoi community: Tikait

Sanjay Kumar Prayagraj, Oct 28: Amid reports of a threat to Bollywood star Salman Khan's life from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, Bharatiya Kisan



Union (BKU) leader Rakesh Tikait on Sunday said the actor should apologise to the Bishnoi community because if a dispute is resolved by apologising, then there is nothing wrong in it. Tikait, who was here to take part in a farmers' 'Mahapanchayat', said this while replying to a reporter's question on jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. "If any dispute ends by apologising to

the Bishnoi community, then what is wrong in it? If a mistake has been made knowingly or unknowingly, then what does Salman Khan lose in apologising," the farmer leader asked. He also alleged that the Uttar Pradesh Government, which had promised free electricity to farmers, had started installing meters in their fields. "We do not know how free electricity will come from the meters," he said while talking to reporters after the "Kisan Mahapanchayat" held at Mundera here. "If meters are to be installed, then they (BJP) will have to bring it in their manifesto before the 2027 (UP) Assembly polls. Otherwise, a meter will not be installed in a farmer's field," Tikait said. He alleged that the crop was being procured from farmers in Jaunpur, Mirzapur and Ballia at Rs 1,200 per quintal. "The same is the case with maize. In Bihar alone, farmers have suffered a loss of Rs 1 lakh crore by selling crops at low prices," Tikait said.

PM Modi Launches C-295 Aircraft Facility In Gujarat

Simmi Kaur Babbar Vadodara, Oct. 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday jointly inaugurated the TATA Aircraft Complex for manufacturing C-295 aircraft with his Spanish counterpart Pedro Sanchez in Gujarat's Vadodara. A total of 56 aircraft are there under the C-295 programme of which 16 are being delivered directly by the aircraft manufacturing company Airbus from Spain, and the remaining 40 will be built at the facility, which is the first private sector Final Assembly Line (FAL) for military aircraft in India. It will involve the full development of a complete ecosystem from the manufacture to assembly, test and qualification, to delivery and maintenance of the complete lifecycle of the aircraft. The Ministry of Defence in 2021 signed a Rs 21,935-crore contract with Airbus Defense and Space SA, Spain for the supply of 56 aircraft. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, PM Modi said the aircraft manufactured at the Vadodara facility will also be exported in the future. "The Tata-Airbus manufacturing facility will strengthen the India-Spain relations and the 'Make in India, Make for the World' mission," PM Modi, who laid the foundation stone of the

FAL plant of C-295 aircraft in Vadodara in at the age of 86 earlier this month. At the event,



October 2022, said. He also paid tribute to former Tata Sons chairman Ratan Tata, who is said to be the brains behind the project. Mr Tata died Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran said the project was originally conceived by Ratan Tata in 2012.

Bihar MP writes to Amit Shah, claims to have been threatened by Bishnoi gang

ST Correspondent Patna, Oct 28: Maverick Bihar MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav has shot off a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking enhanced security in view of a "threatening call from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang". The Purnea MP shared with the media his two-page letter to Shah, copies of which have been marked to the Chief Minister of Bihar and other top officials in the state. The letter, dated October 21, was made public on Monday when a section of the media also played an audio clip of the call from a purported aide of



Bishnoi "made from a Dubai number". Besides seeking upgradation of his 'Y' security cover to 'Z', Yadav also demanded "police escort" at all functions he attends across Bihar, warning "if I get murdered, the blame shall fall upon the Centre as well as the state government". Meanwhile, Purnea SP Kartikeya Sharma said, "We have come to know about the MP's charge through the media. We are looking into it, and also ensuring that arrangements are made for his safety in accordance with his 'Y plus' security cover". Yadav, a gangster-turned-politician, claimed that the caller was upset over his social media outbursts against Bishnoi, who is lodged in a Gujarat jail.

Opposition members walk out of Waqf panel meet

New Delhi, Oct 28: AAP member Sanjay Singh, DMK's Mohammed Abdulla, Congress' Naseer Hussain and Mohamed Jawed among others walked out of the meeting. Video grab/X Several opposition members walked out of the meeting of the Joint Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill on Monday, protesting against the presentation made by the Delhi Waqf board. Opposition members claimed that the Delhi Waqf Board administrator, who had appeared before the Committee, made changes to the presentation without the knowledge of the Delhi government. AAP member Sanjay Singh, DMK's Mohammed Abdulla, Congress' Naseer Hussain and Mohamed Jawed among others walked out of the meeting. Opposition members alleged that MCD Commissioner and Delhi Waqf Board Administrator Ashwini Kumar has completely altered the initial report of the Waqf Board without the chief minister's approval.

ED conducts fresh searches in Karnataka MUDA case

Bengaluru, Oct 28: ED has filed an enforcement case information report (ECIR) under PMLA to book CM Siddaramaiah and others taking cognisance of a Lokayukta FIR. File photo The Enforcement Directorate on Monday undertook fresh searches in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) linked money laundering case in which it has booked Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, official sources said. About seven-eight premises in Bengaluru and Mysuru are being covered, the sources said. The federal agency had conducted the first round of raids in this case on October 18 when it searched the MUDA office in Mysuru and some other locations. It also questioned some lower-rank officials of the MUDA at its Bengaluru zonal office last week. The ED has filed an enforcement case information report (ECIR) under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to book the CM and others taking cognisance of a Lokayukta FIR. Siddaramaiah is facing Lokayukta and ED probes into alleged irregularities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the MUDA. Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi B M, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, Devaraju - from whom Mallikarjuna Swamy purchased land and gifted it to Parvathi - and others are named as other accused in the case by the two probe agencies.

Congress slams action against UP leader for slapping BJP worker over 'rape threats'

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, Oct 28: Congress leaders

Alka Lamba and Vinesh Phogat address a press conference at AICC Headquarters, in New Delhi on Monday. Tribune photo: Manas Ranjan The Congress on Monday slammed the action taken against Indian Youth Congress leader Roshni Kushal Jaiswal and her family. Roshni had allegedly slapped a BJP worker in Varanasi over "rape threats" issued by him to her on social media. "What kind of justice is this, where the victim is being harassed?" All India Mahila Congress chief Alka Lamba said during a press conference here. Lamba, who was accompanied by Haryana MIA Vinesh Phogat, questioned the decision to jail Jaiswal's husband and brother. Lamba said the actions exposed the hollowness of the slogan "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" given by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi. "Roshni Jaiswal is facing injustice in Modi's own constituency, Varanasi," Lamba pointed out. Following Jaiswal and



her family's altercation with BJP worker Rajesh Singh on September 15, the latter's wife filed a police complaint over the alleged assault. The BJP said the law treats everyone equally and no one had the right to take the law into their hands. Jaiswal's property was attached following a court order in view of her absence from the pro-

ceedings, the BJP said. "Does the police administration want a woman to silently bear the threat of rape?" Lamba asked, sharing a video of Jaiswal in which she recounted her experience of facing online threats and the subsequent action by authorities in the case. In the video, Jaiswal said, "I am the same Roshni Kushal Jaiswal who slapped Rajesh Singh, a BJP supporter, who had threatened to rape me on September 15." After this, a case was registered against her under several sections, including 307, after which she had been missing for 40 days, her husband and brother have been in jail and a court has ordered her property to be attached, she said. "Was it so wrong to slap the person who threatened to rape that my family was destroyed?" she asked in the video. "I want to request every woman with folded hands that if you are facing rape threats, do not raise your voice. Tell your husband and family members to wear bangles.

Census likely from early 2025, no decision on caste census yet

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct 28: The much-delayed decadal census exercise and the work to update the National Population Register (NPR) are likely to begin early 2025 and the data will be declared by 2026, thus changing future census cycles completely, official sources said. However, no decision has been taken yet on whether caste census will also be carried out along with the general census. The country's population count has been conducted every 10 years since 1951, but the census work in 2021 could not be carried out due to the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, no formal announcement has been made on its next schedule. "In all probability, the work for the census and the NPR will begin early next year and the population data will be announced by 2026. With this, the census cycle is likely to be changed. So, it will be 2025-2035 and then 2035-2045 and so on in future," sources privy to the thinking

of the government said. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner had prepared 31 questions to be asked to the citizens during the census exercise. These questions include whether the head of the household



belongs to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe and other family members as asked in the previous census. Opposition Congress and the RJD are among the political parties which have been demand-

ing a caste census so that the total OBC population in the country is known. "The government has not yet taken any decision on caste census," a source said. It is to be seen whether the government will go ahead with the delimitation exercise, which is due in 2026, after the census data is published. Several political leaders from Southern states have expressed their apprehensions over the possibility of their states losing out on Lok Sabha seats and thereby their political clout as they have been successful in population control, unlike the Northern states. They feel that the southern states may get less number of Parliamentary seats than the existing number of constituencies if the delimitation is carried out with the new data. On the other hand, the Article 82 of the Constitution states: "Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the

year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust the allocation of seats in the House of the People to the States as readjusted on the basis of the 1971 census." It means if census is conducted in 2025 and data published in 2026, delimitation exercise cannot be carried out based on 2025 census data. If it happens, then the Article 82 has to be amended. "All these factors will have to look into before any decision is taken on delimitation," a source said. The 31 questions to be asked to each family under the census exercise include the total number of persons normally residing in the household, whether the head of the household is a woman, the number of dwelling rooms exclusively in possession of the household, the number of married couple(s) living in the household among others. The questions also include whether a family has telephone, internet connection, mobile or smartphone, bicycle, scooter or motorcycle or moped, and whether they own a car, jeep or a van.

CM Eknath Shinde files papers from Kopri-Pachpakhadi constituency

Naresh Malhotra

Thane, Oct 28: Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde filed his nomination papers on Monday from the Kopri-Pachpakhadi Assembly constituency for the Maharashtra Assembly elections. The CM was accompanied by union minister Ramdas Athawale, MP Shrikant Shinde, MP Naresh Mhaske, MLA Pratap Sarnaik, former MLA Ravindra Phatak, his wife Lata Shinde, daughter-in-law Vrishali Shinde and grandson Rudransh. Notably, Tuesday is the last date for filing nominations for the Maharashtra Assembly elections. Earlier today, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP chief Ajit Pawar filed his nomination papers from the Baramati Assembly seat. Notably, Ajit Pawar's nephew and grandson of Sharad Pawar, Yugendra Pawar, is contesting from the same constituency as the NCP-SP candidate. Nationalist Congress Party chief Sharad Pawar said on Monday that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) would form the government in Maharashtra in the



interest of the people. "Our Alliance will work to resolve issues like inflation, unemployment, various questions of farmers, women, adivasis and the poor," he said, adding that: "We want to change the government in Maharashtra as there are a lot of pending issues that the people in power have failed to resolve. We will take all the issues in front of the people of Maharashtra and prepare them for change in the state." Further criticising

the Ladi Behna Yojna of the government, he said people only remembered the scheme because it was announced recently. "The government only remembered to announce these schemes in the run-up to the elections, in the last three-four months...people will not accept this and will teach them a lesson in these polls as they did in the Lok Sabha elections," he said. Both the ruling Mahayuti alliance and the opposition MVA - comprising the Shiv Sena (UBT), NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) and Congress - have left no stone unturned to secure victory in the upcoming Assembly elections in the state. The BJP is part of the ruling Mahayuti alliance, alongside the Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction) and Ajit Pawar-led NCP. The Maharashtra Assembly elections are scheduled for November 20, with counting for all 288 constituencies set for November 23. In the 2019 Assembly elections, the BJP won 105 seats, the Shiv Sena 56, and the Congress 44. In 2014, the BJP secured 122 seats, the Shiv Sena 63, and the Congress 42.

PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti dissolves entire party structure

Srinagar, Oct.28: Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has announced the dissolution of the party's entire structure with immediate effect. According to sources, the new office bear-



ers, along with various wings and bodies, will be formed after discussions with senior leaders. Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti has announced the dissolution of the party's entire structure with immediate effect. According to sources, the new office bearers, along with

various wings and bodies, will be formed after discussions with senior leaders. The announcement was made at the JKPPD headquarters in Srinagar. The fresh development comes after the party this week reviewed its dismal performance in the Assembly elections, where it was able to bag only three seats. "New office bearers, different wings and bodies will be framed after consultation with senior party leaders in the near future," the party statement said on Saturday. In the recently held Assembly elections, PDP won the three seats of Pulwama, Tral and Kupwara - all in the Valley - which was its worst performance since its inception. In 2014, the PDP had emerged as the single largest party, when it won 28 seats. Earlier this week, the party had said that it will draft detailed proposals to strengthen "its grassroots presence and reconnect with the public." "The party aims to highlight its achievements and reaffirm itself as a viable democratic alternative," the spokesperson said on Thursday.

News box

Stalin underscores importance of oratory skills

CHENNAI: Underscoring the key role played by oratorical skills of past and present leaders and functionaries of the DMK in shaping up the party over many decades, Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin on Sunday welcomed 182 young orators chosen from over 17,000 contestants in various rounds of oratorical tests. He directed the district units of the DMK to engage the 182 orators who have taken part in the final rounds of oratorical tests in public meetings as well as in party functions since they are the future of the Dravidian movement. Speaking at a function held at the DMK headquarters for presenting prizes to top three winners of oratorical competitions, the CM said DMK was known for its oratorical skills and there is a notion that the party came to power through its oratory. "We did not talk just rhetoric. We spoke about history or revolutions across the globe. We spoke about the history of scholars and the atrocities in the society. We spoke against false beliefs; reactionary thoughts etc," he added. Stalin directed the youth wing to hike the prize money given to the top three winners of the oratorical competitions since they rose above 17,000 competitors. Obeying the orders of the party chief, DMK youth wing secretary and Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin hiked the prize amounts to those who won the first three prizes: '3 lakh, '2 lakh and 'one lakh.

Disposal of stale 'aravana' progressing at Sabarimala

PATHANAMTHITTA: The stockpile of stale 'aravana' at the Sabarimala Ayyappa Temple, totalling 6.65 lakh cans, is being moved out to be disposed of scientifically. According to Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president P S Prasanth, the cans are being transported from the hill shrine using tractors and trailer trucks, amounting to around 300 tractor-loads of material. TDB officials have been present in Pamba since Saturday to speed up the process and to overview the preparedness ahead of the main pilgrimage season, he said. A Rs 1.16-crore contract for the disposal of 'aravana' has been given to the Indian Centrifuge Engineering Solutions. 'Aravana', made with rice and jaggery, is one of the major sources of income for the hill shrine. The cans will be transported to Ettumanur, where they will be checked by the TDB officials.

Subsequently, the material will be sent to Hyderabad to be dried and processed into animal feed and manure. Prepared for the 2022-23 pilgrimage season, the 'aravana' that has gone stale was worth Rs 5 crore. Its sale has been restrained by a Kerala High Court order which was issued after the Government Analyst's Laboratory and the Spices Board Laboratory found that the cardamom used in the preparation contained pesticide levels above the permissible limit. Though there was another verdict from the apex court favouring the use of the 'aravana', by then, it had already decayed.

Congress wary of dissidents playing spoilsport in Chelakkara

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A section within the Congress camp is apprehensive of their own party workers' votes going in favour of the BJP candidate in Chelakkara. If the party leadership has been facing dissident moves in Palakkad by-election against the candidature of Rahul Mamkootathil, the local dissident leaders have not yet come out in the open against Ramya Haridas' candidature in Chelakkara. This has cast a shadow on Ramya's prospects in Chelakkara as the BJP camp is upbeat about defeating the Congress candidate. From day one, the local Congress leaders were against the candidature of Rahul and Ramya in Palakkad and Chelakkara respectively. If Palakkad witnessed a few dissident leaders emerging against the leadership, the local leaders in Chelakkara were tight-lipped against the candidature of Ramya. KPCC vice-president V P Sajeendran and general secretary P M Niyas were sent to Chelakkara three months ahead of the by-election announcement to thwart moves against Ramya. They have been able to address the internal party squabbles pertaining to the constituency to a large extent. But a senior Congress leader told TNIE that still there is apprehension about grassroots-level leaders showing their displeasure against Ramya when Chelakkara goes to polls on November 13. "It's been more than a week since the candidature has been announced. Still the party is being berated on Ramya and Rahul's candidature. The issue with Ramya started ahead of the Alathur Lok Sabha election which saw her tasting defeat. Now the party's top brass has issued a strict directive to work united in Chelakkara and Palakkad. Only time will tell whether cross-voting will happen in these two constituencies or not," said a senior Congress leader.

However, KPCC general secretary K Jayanth refuted the claims of the senior Congress leader. Jayanth exuded confidence that Ramya will emerge victorious in the by-election. "There was only a difference of 4,000 votes in Chelakkara assembly constituency when Ramya contested from Alathur Lok Sabha seat recently. In order to address the internal issues in Chelakkara, Sajeendran and Niyas were deputed to the constituency months ahead of the by-election. All 177 booth committees were constituted in Chelakkara and the entire party machinery has been working like a well-oiled machine," said Jayanth.

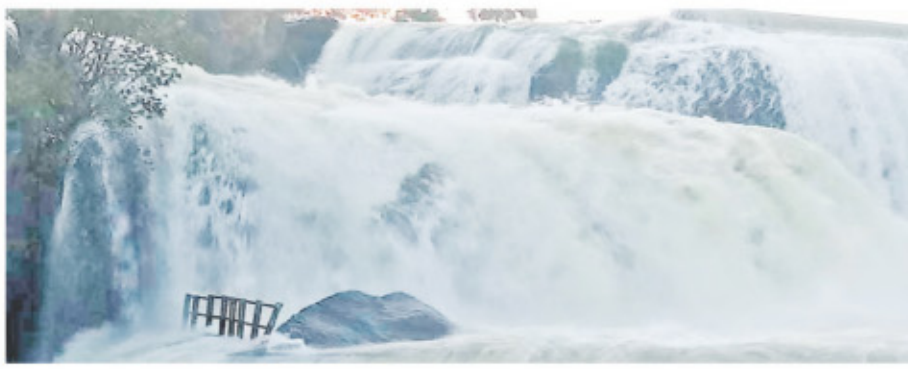
Water recedes from streets, normalcy returns to Madurai city

Meanwhile, the corporation took safety measures for the well-being of people in inundated areas, while ministers inspected relief works.

MADURAI: Although water stagnation was noted in some areas, rainwater has receded in most parts of Madurai city after relief measures were taken by the water resources department and the city corporation. As sporadic rainfall battered Madurai district for the last two days, several areas were inundated after water from Panthalkudi Canal, Kusakulam Canal and other waterbodies overflowed, leading to severe waterlogging in various parts of the city.

With no rain on Sunday, stagnant water was drained away in most areas and the WRD and the corporation took measures to ensure that the surplus water was diverted into the Vaigai. Meanwhile, the corporation took safety measures for the well-being of people in inundated areas, while ministers inspected relief works.

Inspecting the ongoing works in Madurai, Municipal Administration Minister KN Nehru said that the action was taken by the concerned departments as per Chief Minister MK Stalin's orders and the flood



situation has been addressed. To reduce the amount of water overflowing from the Sellur second leg canal, digging works for a new canal were carried out immediately.

As a result, rainwater from residential areas has been drained completely. The situation in low-lying areas hit by heavy rain returned to normalcy within 24 hours due to the intensive rehabilitation work undertaken by the district administration, Nehru said, and assured that a permanent solution will be

worked upon.

A senior corporation official said that given the flood situation, and considering the health issues of the people stuck in low-lying areas, the corporation conducted special camps in the city.

4,708 people were tested at a fever camp on Sunday, of which 16 showed symptoms of flu. Medicines will be provided and 100 fever camps will be organised on Monday, he added. The corporation has provided

bleaching powder to 15,000 houses to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Politicos, including MLA Sellur Raju and NTK leader Seeman, inspected rain-affected areas.

Moderate rainfall in Kumari, several huts damaged

Light to moderate showers were recorded at various places in Kanniyakumari district between late Saturday and Sunday morning. For the last 24 hours, Mylady recorded 72.2 mm rain and 64.6 mm in Thuckalay. While 13 rainfall stations recorded moderate rainfall, 11 rainfall stations recorded light rainfall. Rain receded in the early hours on Sunday.

Nine huts and one pucca house were partially damaged in the district, as per government reports. Pechiparai and Perunchani dams received more than 3,000 cusecs inflow, while Chittar-I and Chittar-II dams received 179 cusecs and 134 cusecs, respectively. Also, bathing was banned at the Tirparappu Falls.

Maharashtra tiger relocated to Odisha's Similipal Tiger Reserve to boost big cat gene pool

BHUBANESWAR: Odisha on Sunday set the ball rolling for the ambitious tiger relocation project in Similipal landscape with arrival of the first big cat from Maharashtra. "The female tiger has been brought from Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve (TATR). The translocation project to supplement the existing tiger population in Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) is a significant step towards conservation of big cats in Odisha," said Forest and Environment minister Ganesh Ram Singhkhuntia. After being tranquillised on Saturday, the big cat from TATR travelled around 900 km in a special transport vehicle to reach Similipal. Two teams comprising officials and staff of Similipal and members of rapid response team escorted the vehicle. Sources said the tiger was supposed to be brought by October 23. However, the plan was delayed due to multiple reasons including cyclone Dana. "The tiger will remain in observation for the night. It will be soft-released to the special enclosure created in the core area of the tiger reserve on Monday," said PCCF (wildlife)



Susanta Nanda, Nanda, also the Chief Wildlife Warden, said the two-hectare enclosure in the core of Similipal south division and free from any kind of human intervention, will be the place where the big cat will be kept for next one to two weeks before being released into the tiger reserve.

During its stay in the enclosure, the female tiger will be radio-collared for monitoring its movement. A six-member team comprising forest frontline staff of Similipal and a GIS expert have undergone training at Nawegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve (NNTR) in Maharashtra to track the radio-collar and assist STR

authorities in monitoring activities. The translocation is considered significant as it is the first big cat relocation project in the state since suspension of a similar programme between Odisha and Madhya Pradesh in 2019. Forest officials said following the approval of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), the Maharashtra government agreed to give two female tigers from TATR to Odisha for the big cat supplementation programme in Similipal.

The second female tiger will also be brought from TATR soon. The Forest department has also received nod from the NTCA to introduce three more tigers, two male and a female, in Debrigarh Wildlife Sanctuary from Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The state has also got green signal to resume the suspended tiger relocation programme in Satkosia subject to compliance to certain conditions including voluntary relocation of villages, creation of more inviolate space and enhanced protection measures.

Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Telangana to be a human-free zone

HYDERABAD: The state government is taking measures to transform the Amrabad Tiger Reserve into a human-free zone soon. As part of this initiative, the government has begun the process of relocating villages within the reserve and in a significant first step, residents of four villages have agreed to relocate. The Amrabad Tiger Reserve covers a total area of 2,611.39 sq.km, with 2,166.37 sq.km designated as the core area. Surrounding forest areas, spanning 445.02 sq.km, constitute the buffer zone.

Within the core area, there are 45 villages classified as critical tiger habitat. Currently, four villages—Sarlapally, Kudichintala Bailu, Thatigundal Penta and Kollampenta—are proposed for voluntary relocation. These villagers have lived in the core area for the past 75 years. Out of 417 families, with a population of 956



individuals, 310 families are non-tribals and 107 are tribals. The state government has identified a relocation site in Bacharam Forest Block, outside the Amrabad Tiger Reserve in Nagarkurnool district. The Hyderabad-based NGO, Hyderabad Tiger Conservation Society, is assisting the villagers in the relocation process. To support this process, the government plans to provide Rs 15 lakh per family and provide houses through the Indramma Housing Scheme. The estimated cost for relocating these four villages is Rs 62.55 crore.

An official noted that the villagers rely heavily on the forests for livelihood, including collecting non-timber forest products, cattle grazing, making bamboo-based products and farming. He added: "They face numerous challenges in these remote areas, lacking proper health facilities and basic amenities like education and roads. As a result they have voluntarily expressed their willingness to relocate outside the core area of the reserve." The government is planning to relocate additional villages in the future. "We aim to make Amrabad Tiger Reserve completely human-free as soon as possible," the official stated.

Odisha government fixes hefty penalty for release of vehicles seized in illegal mining cases

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has decided to impose hefty penalty for release of vehicles, equipment and excavators seized for illegal extraction or transportation of minor minerals in consonance with the guidelines of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). As per a recent notification issued by the Steel and Mines department, the highest penalty of Rs 4 lakh will be imposed for release of vehicles/equipment/excavators with showroom value of more than Rs 25 lakh and less than five-year-old. The seized minor minerals will be released after realisation of the penalty amount as stipulated. The realisation cost of the seized minor minerals as per the prevailing rules will be decided taking into account the basic rate of materials stipulated in the latest schedule of rate (SOR) published by the Works department which is in force. The state government has also prepared a standard operating procedure for realisation of compensation towards environmental and ecological damage for



illegal mining. "The compensation towards environmental and ecological damage for illegal extraction and transportation will be recovered for the seized minor minerals. The compensation amount will be determined at 3.33 times the value of seized minor minerals. The value of the minerals will be decided as per latest SOR for all minor minerals including sand," the notification stated. The fine amount has been fixed at Rs 3 lakh to get the seized vehicles/equipment with

showroom value of more than Rs 25 lakh and more than five years but less than 10 years old, released. A fine of Rs 2.5 lakh will be imposed on vehicles or equipment with showroom value of Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh and less than five-year-old. Similarly, the penalty amount is Rs 2 lakh for vehicles or equipment with showroom value of more than Rs 25 lakh and over 10-year-old or value of Rs 10 lakh to Rs 25 lakh and more than five-year-old or value of less than Rs 10 lakh and less than five years.

A fine ranging between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 50,000 has been fixed on vehicles/equipment or excavators depending on their cost and year of purchase. The NGT had earlier recommended recovery of Rs 42.45 crore penalty and environmental compensation of Rs 1.2 crore from a private construction company for illegal extraction of morrum and laterite for construction of earth bed for the third line railway track from Bhadrak to Nirgundi.

NDPS, excise cases against KT Rama Rao's kin after midnight raid in his farmhouse

HYDERABAD: Cases under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act were registered on Sunday against Raj Pakala, brother-in-law of BRS working president KT Rama Rao, for organising a party in which one of the guests, Vijay Madduri, allegedly tested positive for cocaine. The Cyberabad Special Operations Team (SOT) and Excise officials raided a farmhouse in Janwada after receiving credible information about the consumption of prohibited drugs and foreign liquor at a party on the intervening night of Saturday and Sunday. Meanwhile, BRS president and former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao contacted DGP Dr Jithender to question how the raids could be conducted without a search warrant. The farmhouse is owned by Pakala Rajendra Prasad, alias Raj Pakala, owner of ETG software company located at Nanakramguda. Vijay is the CEO of ETG and owner of Fusion AIX software company. The FIR said, "Vijay stated during interrogation, in the presence of a mediator, that he and Raj would occasionally meet for

weekend gatherings where they used to consume drugs and gamble using poker chips. They had had a close relationship for five years. As a result, Raj invited Vijay to a Deepavali party at his newly built house. Raj Pakala asked him (Vijay) to consume cocaine, which he had with him, and Vijay agreed and consumed cocaine."

A case was registered under Sections 25, 27 and 29 of the NDPS Act, along with Sections 3 and 4 of the Telangana Gaming Act, at Mokila police station against Madduri and Pakala. Additionally, the Excise department's Task Force filed a case under Section 34-A and Section 34(1) r/w 9 of the Excise Act against Pakala for serving alcohol without a licence. According to the FIR, after receiving a tip-off, the SOT and Excise officials arrived at Pakala's farmhouse around 11.30 pm and found 16 women and 22 men socialising in separate groups. The police seized seven bottles of foreign liquor, 10 loose Indian liquor bottles and items related to gambling.

Female guests did not cooperate: FIR Three aluminium briefcases containing playing cards were also confiscated.



Meanwhile, the FIR also stated that female guests did not cooperate when officials attempted to conduct drug tests using female

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News box

Law student spills water on senior at party, thrashed

Ghaziabad: A first-year law student was allegedly assaulted by his seniors, days after a spat at a fresher's party in a private college earlier this month.

According to the complaint, Om - who took admission in a BA LLB course at the college - attended the fresher's party on Oct 19. He accidentally spilled water on Bhati, his senior at the college, leading to a heated argument between them.

Despite the apology, Om was accosted by his seniors while he was on his way home with a friend from college. Led by Bhati, the group of 18 students allegedly abused Om outside the college gate.

Garbage piles up in Greater Noida, clogged drains wait to be cleaned

Noida: Heaps of garbage and lack of sanitation have become a bane for residents of several Greater Noida sectors including Beta 1 and 2, Alpha 2, Gamma 2, Delta 2, Omicron etc.

While Subhash Bhati complained about the unkempt main road of Sector Alpha 2, Ashish Sharma from Sector Gamma 2 spoke about damaged green spaces, traffic snarls.

This road to NH-9 is now a dumpsite, trucks unload trash here

Ghaziabad: A new dumpsite has emerged along a service road connecting NH-9 with Siddharth Vihar. Garbage trucks can be seen unloading their contents at this spot, creating an unsightly and unhygienic environment, residents said.



has been littered with construction and demolition waste for an extended period, and it remains unaddressed. The lane, frequently used by numerous residents, has received minimal cleaning attention.

Punjab & Haryana lost 64.6bn cubic metres of groundwater in 17 years: Study

Gurgaon: Punjab and Haryana have lost a staggering 64.6 billion cubic metres of groundwater in the 17 years between 2003 to 2020, a study has found.



soil quality. This will have societal implications for an agriculture-dominated state," Manabendra Saharia, assistant professor in the department of civil engineering at IIT-Delhi, said.

study. Asked how Haryana could slow down this plunder, Saharia said rainwater harvesting and precision agriculture were key to recharge aquifers.

Data showed that groundwater level declined 8-10% in Punjab and Haryana from 2000 to 2015. In the two states, the growth rate of factories was 69% in FY 2004-2005 and this went up to 170% in FY 2018-2019.

8k Gr Noida flats registered under UP gov't rehab policy, 8k more likely by March next yr

Noida: A total of 8,106 flats were registered in Greater Noida since Feb this year after developers came forward to adopt UP gov't policy aimed at reviving stalled real estate projects in the state.

policy. The registration of flats this year has yielded GNIDA around Rs 547 crore, with an additional Rs 1,300 crore expected through next year.

Earlier, the three authorities formed a committee to prepare a standard operating procedure (SOP) with input from finance controllers and general managers.

Will map Hindon floodplains by July next yr, UP tells NGT

Ghaziabad: The UP gov't has sought time till July next year to demarcate Hindon floodplains in Ghaziabad and GB Nagar. In a reply submitted before the National Green Tribunal on Oct 17, the irrigation department said six teams, equipped with drones, are expected to complete surveying an 850 sq km area along the river in the two districts over the next two months under the supervision of the Survey of India.

official said. Used in digital cartography and geographic information systems (GIS), DEM and DSM are the most common basis for representing a terrain.

to encroach - Karhera, Ator-Nagla and Kanawani villages in particular. Rampant encroachment of the floodplains was among the key reasons behind the 2023 floods that led to significant loss of life and property in both districts.

Air turns 'very poor', official blames Pakistan for farm fires

Noida: Air quality dipped to 'very poor' in the NCR cities of Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad on Sunday, prompting a senior pollution board official to blame Pakistan for the plummeting levels.



burning have been sending toxic smoke across the border," said DK Gupta, regional officer of the UP pollution control board in Greater Noida.

According to a bulletin by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), air quality is likely to be in the 'very poor' category from Oct 28 to Oct 30.

Mom-son duo among 4 held for snatchings

Noida: Four people, including a mother-son duo, were arrested in connection with several chain snatching cases in the city on Saturday. The accused, all from Ghaziabad, were identified as Aditya (27), Zoheb (20), Sunny (23) and the latter's mother, Mamta.

official said. Used in digital cartography and geographic information systems (GIS), DEM and DSM are the most common basis for representing a terrain.

NAME CHANGE I, DUDIKA ANKAMA RAO Father of No-15178784A Rank-HAV(DS), Name-DUDIKA SRINIVASA RAO Presently residing at VILL-MEDIKONDUR, POST-MEDIKONDUR, TEH-MEDIKONDUR, DIST-CANTTUR, STATE-ANDHRA PRADESH-522438 have changed my name from DUDIKA ANKAMA RAO to DUDIKA ANKAMMA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Ashok Mittal who is Purchasing the Built-Up Property No. RZ- G-52, land area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 82/21, situated in the revenue Estate of Village Palam, Delhi Estate and colony known as Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi - 110045 from Mrs. Jansamma Philip who is the owner of the said property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 14.09.2024 and intend to get the financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. will provide the financial assistance. If any person(s) Institution has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Reetesh Kumar who is Purchasing the Residential Plot area measuring 45 Sq.Yds., Kharsa No. 237m, Village Sadapur, Pargana & Tehsil Dadril, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar from Mrs. Sunita Rani who is the owner of the said property vide Sale Deed dated 26.06.2009 and intend to get the financial assistance from Pirmal Capital & Housing Finance Limited will provide the financial assistance. If any person(s) Institution has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Anjali Bhati D/O DHARMENDER SINGH BHATI R/o 72, 2, Near New Krishna Public School, New Sahapur Gurran, Karawal Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as DHAR, MENDERA SINGH BHATI in my OBC Certificate No. 9050000501986. The actual name of my father is DHAR, MENDER SINGH BHATI, which may be amended accordingly.

Advocate Abhishek Singh A-2/367, Nand Nagri Near GTS Enclave, SDM Court Nand Nagri, Delhi-110093 Mobile: 776067066 Email: advabhishek1993@gmail.com

NAME CHANGE I, Anjali W/o Sanjay Khatri R/o D-2004, Gurgaon One, Alpha Corp, Sector-84, Shil, Gurgaon, Haryana-122004, Have Changed My Name To Anjali Khatri For All Future Purpose

NAME CHANGE I, ANUSHKA YADAV Daughter of No-14437426H, Rank-HAV, Name-DINESH KUMAR residing at VILL-DAKHORA, PO-DAKHORA, DISTT-REWARI, HARYANA-123401 have changed my name from ANUSHKA YADAV to ANUSHKA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/10/2024 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, BABU LAL S/O MANGARU R/O S-313R-13, EAST MEHRAM NAGAR, IGI AIRPORT, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110037, have changed my name from BABU LAL to BABU LAL PAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE I, SUMAN RANI Wife of No-14437426H, Rank-HAV, Name-DINESH KUMAR residing at VILL-DAKHORA, PO-DAKHORA, DISTT-REWARI, HARYANA-123401 have changed my name from SUMAN RANI YADAV for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/10/2024 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, ANUSHKA YADAV Daughter of No-14437426H, Rank-HAV, Name-DINESH KUMAR residing at VILL-DAKHORA, PO-DAKHORA, DISTT-REWARI, HARYANA-123401 have changed my name from ANUSHKA YADAV to ANUSHKA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/10/2024 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, ANKIT KUMAR S/O AKHILESH KUMAR YADAV R/O D-84, Madhu vihar, west Delhi - 110059 have changed my name from Ankit Kumar to Ankit Kumar Yadav for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, KULDEEP KAUR W/O GURPREET SINGH R/o 8313, Gali No.04, Mulfani Ohanda, Pahar Ganj, Delhi-110055 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as KARMEET KAUR, in my Aadhaar Card No.504924290162. The Actual name of mine is KULDEEP KAUR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE It is for general information that I, ANJALI BHATI D/O DHARMENDER SINGH BHATI R/o 72, 2, Near New Krishna Public School, New Sahapur Gurran, Karawal Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as DHAR, MENDERA SINGH BHATI in my OBC Certificate No. 9050000501986. The actual name of my father is DHAR, MENDER SINGH BHATI, which may be amended accordingly.

News box

12 Nagai fishers held by Sri Lankan Navy

NAGAPATTINAM: Around 12 fishermen from Nagapattinam district fishing near Kodiyakarai on Saturday night were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy for allegedly crossing IMBL. According to sources, 10 of the arrested fishers hail from Akkaraipettai and two are from Pushpavanam. The group was fishing amongst a cluster of boats around 12 nautical miles southeast from Kodiyakarai around 11.30 pm. Suddenly, a group of personnel from Sri Lanka's Northern Naval Command intercepted the



fishing boat in their fast-attack craft. The Lankan Navy apprehended the fishers and seized their boat and fishing gear. They also seized hundreds of kilograms of fish catch. The mechanised boat belonging to an Akkaraipettai resident named S Silambuselvan was also impounded.

According to the Lankan Navy, their personnel have seized 62 Indian fishing boats and arrested 462 fishermen so far in 2024. In a statement on Sunday, the Navy said it continues to conduct operations to curb "illegal fishing by foreign boats", taking into account the impact of those practices on the livelihood of local fishermen.

Hurt by blast, Zamra convention centre in Kochi still battling for business

KOCHI: October 29, 2023, will be remembered as a day that changed the lives of many — and not for the better. One casualty of the twin blasts at the Jehovah's Witnesses prayer meeting, which left eight dead and several injured, has been the Zamra International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kalamassery. Since the blast, the event venue, which saw good business year-round, has seen a drop in revenue. The tragic incident has blighted its reputation. Speaking to TNIE, Nisha, manager of the convention centre, said, "People hesitate to hold auspicious functions here." In the immediate aftermath of the blast, 26 bookings were cancelled. "We lost around Rs 80 lakh in revenue. Ramadan used to be followed by plenty of bookings for various functions. That too has stopped," he added. The months from October used to be a packed schedule for the convention centre.

A further hit has been the drying up of meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) bookings from companies based in Infopark. "We used to get a lot of such bookings. But, now the companies are giving us a wide berth. And we can't blame them. Nearly all IT companies have their head offices in the US, the UK or other European countries. Once they find out what happened at the centre, they issue a stern no," said Nisha. He points out that despite the drop in bookings, expenditure remains high. "The convention centre is seven to eight years old and we have to carry out maintenance work. Then there are the salaries of employees." But, Nisha adds, "Things are slowly picking up. Since August, we have been receiving bookings for wedding ceremonies and parties. For December, we have around eight bookings. We hope the tide will change and things will turn around in 2025."

Residents of Balasore's cyclone-hit areas allege inadequate relief despite receding floodwaters

BALASORE: Even as the water level of Budhabalanga river has started receding, residents of low-lying areas are worried about damage to their property and inadequate relief. Sources said Budhabalanga river is flowing at 7.40 metre near Gobindpur against its danger level of 8.13 metres. Similarly, Jalaka river is flowing at 5.06 metre, below its danger level of 6.40 metre. However, those residing in low-lying areas of Remuna, Basta, Balasore Sadar, Khantapada, Oupada and Nilagiri blocks alleged they have not been provided adequate relief. The affected residents were given cooked food and other essential items when they were accommodated at cyclone shelters. The residents said they were given flattened rice, jaggery and drinking water which will last a few days.

Bikartan Khilar and Debasmita So of Kasmila village in Hariapur panchayat of Remuna block alleged they were not given any relief. Around 20,000 people in the block were affected by the cyclone. They said no official, be it from the block or the district headquarters visited the affected areas to assess the damage to property and standing crops. The affected people said owing to poor drainage, low-lying areas of the cyclone-hit blocks are now waterlogged due to the ingress of excess water from Sono river at Kaptipada and Simlipal Tiger Reserve in Mayurbhanj district. "We requested the district administration and field-level officers to visit the waterlogged areas of Sadar block and arrange free kitchen and relief for the affected people.

Kerala: Kalamassery blast survivor yearns for promised aid, normal life

On the eve of the first anniversary of the Kalamassery twin blasts that claimed the lives of eight people, TNIE revisits the tragedy and examines the impact it has had on people and places.

KOCHI: When Moly Cyriac left her home in Adimali at the break of dawn on October 29, 2023, all she hoped to do was attend the baptism of her cousin's daughter and whet her curiosity for the rituals of Jehovah's Witnesses. Never in her wildest dreams did she expect her life to be upended over the next few hours. As the scars and the mental trauma wrought by the blasts at the Zamra International Convention and Exhibition Centre in Kalamassery, where the baptism was to be held on the day of the convention, refuse to recede, the 59-year-old survivor is having difficulty leading a normal life. She still shuttles between Adimali and the Ernakulam Medical Centre (EMC) hospital for regular follow-up treatment and check-ups.

A Roman Catholic, Moly was invited to attend the baptism of her beloved Venus. "I did not want to miss the ceremony for the world. I don't belong to the community and had not attended any of the sect's events. However, since that fateful day, life has been a constant struggle." Moly sustained more than 50%

burns and was admitted to the intensive care unit of EMC. "I was under treatment for more than two months. My recovery was a distant hope. Despite the extensive treatment, I am still not able to



walk or sleep properly. There are burns wounds all over my body, hands, and thighs. I can only sleep on my stomach due to the injuries on my back. Even now I experience pain, itching, and other difficulties. We appointed a home nurse for a brief time. It was financially impossible for us to continue," she said. She travels to Kochi to consult her doctor once every month. "The doctor said he wants to see me for further treatment. I

take a taxi from Adimali. I have spent around Rs 16 lakh for my treatment in the last one year," she said, adding that most of the expenses were met by the Jehovah's Witnesses. Venus was also injured in the blast and was admitted to a private hospital in Kochi. "She made a quick recovery and left the hospital after 37 days," said Moly.

As many as 52 people were admitted to various hospitals in Ernakulam following the twin blasts. Moly said that many of the survivors have still not been provided financial assistance by the state government. "The chief minister, governor, and other ministers were among those who visited us in the following days with promises of financial and other assistance. However, I have not received any assistance. I tried to apply for aid by submitting my hospital bills. However, there has been no update," says Moly, a daily wage. She has two daughters. The eldest is married and lives with her family in Peerumedu, while the youngest is in between jobs in Dubai. Moly is a single mother, having separated from her husband when her younger daughter was three years old.

Building illegal, but BBMP babus allowed it, says complainant

BENGALURU: A woman, to save her 15x20 sqft home from an illegal construction next to her house, had in 2022 approached the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike chief engineer, assistant executive engineer, assistant director of town planning (ADTP), BBMP and assistant engineer of town planning. The woman alleged that instead of taking action, the engineers helped the violator put up a six-storeyed multi-dwelling unit on Gosaiah Street in Akkithimmanahalli at Shanti Nagar, hardly a few hundred metres from the BBMP head office. The complainant, Berta Albert Thomas, charged that when she filed the complaint, the ADTP also asked her to bring her husband or children to the office. With the recent building collapse at Babusapalya, the family is spending sleepless nights, she added. "In 2022, I approached the BBMP engineers, but they kept ignoring me. In June 2024, I again met Zonal Commissioner Snehal R and on the same day, I approached ADTP Liaqat and AE of Town Planning Suresh. The zonal commissioner gave false assurance of action, while ADTP got upset for repeatedly coming to his office and asked me to bring my husband or children to his office. AE Suresh came to the spot and instead of taking action, he spent over one hour at the violator's home. At that time, the building had about four floors. Because of the BBMP negligence, the owner added two more floors," she claimed and added that the illegal building has 16 units. The woman alleged that ward AEE Savithri also deliberately ignored her complaint.

Health department of Coimbatore to focus on private ambulance fitness

COIMBATORE: The health department officials of the district plan to request the Road Transport Officials (RTOs) to conduct thorough checks on the fitness of private ambulances that have been discontinued from production. The request comes after an incident where a private ambulance, using a vehicle which was no longer in production, experienced multiple breakdowns while admitting a heart patient to a private hospital on Mettupalayam Road in the city recently.



Director of Medical and Rural Health Services of Coimbatore district NN Rajasekaran said using such vehicles as ambulances is highly risky. "A few private ambulance services and some private hospitals have been

using such discontinued vehicles as ambulances. Due to its compact size, the operators prefer these vehicles to pass easily even during heavy traffic. However, since they are discontinued, maintaining them is a challenge. As they are not officially in production, the spare parts for these vehicles might not be original. Therefore, they cannot be maintained with quality spare parts and proper service provided by the manufacturer. Deploying such vehicles to save the lives of the patients is a risk.

Therefore, we decided to insist the road transport officials to test their performance and provide a fitness certificate," said Rajasekaran. "These ambulances often face problems due to lack of maintenance and service due to non-availability of original spare parts. Following the incident, we decided to ask road transport officials to tighten the fitness checking for such vehicles," added Rajasekaran.

NGT registers plea for enforcement of ban on firecrackers in seven cities of Odisha

CUTTACK: The National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s East Zone bench has registered a petition seeking intervention against alleged inaction of the government on the orders of the Supreme Court and NGT imposing complete ban on firecrackers in the seven "non-attainment cities" of the state. According to the petition, all Indian cities under the National Clean Air Plan (NCAP) have to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The plan to counter growing air pollution was made operational in 2018. Of the 102 non-attainment cities identified by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), seven from Odisha are Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Angul, Talcher, Balasore, Kalinganagar and Rourkela. In these cities, the ambient air

quality does not meet NAAQS with respect to PM10 and PM2.5. The petition has also called for ban on use of firecrackers during rituals of the Lord Jagannath in Puri, citing the major mishap during Chandan Yatra on May 29 this year. The blast of illegal and banned firecrackers had resulted in death of 15 people and caused severe injury to over 22 people, the petition alleged.

The petition filed by Aska-based environmental activist Sanjay Kumar Nayak through advocate Sankar Prasad Pani sought direction to the DGP and chief secretary to submit the records of action taken to enforce the direction of Supreme Court issued on October 29, 2021. The chief administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple at Puri should also

submit a report on steps taken to prohibit use of crackers during rituals, Nayak pleaded. The NGT had also banned the use of firecrackers in all non-attainment cities on December 1, 2020 to prevent further deterioration of the air quality in all such cities. Even after the orders by NGT and Supreme Court, the situation has apparently changed little, the petition alleged.

Manufacturing of hazardous and harmful banned firecrackers in the garb of green crackers has continued within the state. Apart from Diwali there is rampant use of firecrackers in every occasion from Christmas to Zero Night and New Year eve, and marriage procession to immersion processions of Lord Ganesh, etc., the petition further alleged.

Hyderabad metro rail phase-II works to complete within four years

This phase will cover 76.4 km across five corridors at a cost of Rs 24,269 crore.

HYDERABAD: The state government announced plans to complete the second phase of Metro rail in Hyderabad within four years. This phase will cover 76.4 km across five corridors.

Following the state cabinet's approval of the detailed project report (DPR) for these corridors, officials have begun the process of submitting the DPR to the Union government for approval. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs 24,269 crore. Of this, the state government will bear Rs 7,313 crore (30%), while it expects the Centre to provide Rs 4,230 crore (18%).

Additionally, Rs 11,693 crore (48%) will be sourced through loans from multilateral agencies such as JICA, ADB, NDB, backed by the Centre's sovereign guarantee. The remaining Rs 1,033 crore

(4%) will be raised through a public-private partnership (PPP) model. Initially, the state government planned to construct a



metro line spanning a total of 116.4 km across six corridors. So far, the DPR for five corridors has been prepared and feasibility tests for the remaining corridor, from the Airport to Fourth City, are ongoing. In the first phase, previous

governments constructed a metro network covering 69 km across three corridors through a PPP model at a cost of Rs 22,000 crore. Currently, about 5 lakh passengers use the Metro daily. Once the second phase is completed, the total length of the Metro line Hyderabad will extend to 115.4 km, with the second phase expected to accommodate an additional 8 lakh passengers daily. Officials said that the previous government neglected the extension of the Metro in the city. They stated: "Initially, Hyderabad metro stood at second place, after Delhi. However, due to the expansion of Metro in other cities, Hyderabad has fallen to 9th place in terms of length. Cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, Nagpur and Ahmedabad now have more extensive Metro networks. Therefore, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy intends to expand the Metro network in Hyderabad."

Mounting Aarogyasri dues leave pvt hospitals in Telangana under financial crisis

HYDERABAD: Many private hospitals empanelled in the Aarogyasri Healthcare Scheme are facing severe financial difficulties due to outstanding reimbursements from the government, some of which have been pending for over a year. These delayed payments are prompting several hospitals to consider de-empaneling themselves from the scheme. Additionally, the Employee Health Services (EHS) dues are also reported to be overdue. According to the official website of the Aarogyasri HealthCare Trust, there are 327 corporate hospitals empanelled, with 54 located in Hyderabad. However, many hospitals are withdrawing from the scheme due to financial strain. One recognised multispecialty hospital, still listed on the Rajiv Aarogyasri Healthcare Trust website, told TNIE that it ceased to provide healthcare services under Aarogyasri and refused to disclose the reasons.

The Telangana Aarogyasri Network Hospitals Association (TANHA) said that dues have been outstanding for over a year. They submitted a representation to the health minister in April, who assured them that all dues would be cleared soon.

Vaddiraju Rakesh, president of TANHA, told TNIE, "Private hospitals are willing to extend the Aarogyasri services to beneficiaries, but it should not jeopardise their financial viability. For the past decade, we have been urging the government to revise package rates by 7% to account for inflation, as the current rates make it challenging to provide services. We also seek the release of old dues, a redraft of the MoU, and adjustments to miscellaneous deductions and cancellations."

As outlined in the Aarogyasri MoU, reimbursements are supposed to be processed within 40 days of treatment, but this has not been adhered to, leading to significant delays, Rakesh added. Notably, in August, the government announced an extension of Aarogyasri insurance coverage from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh, along with the addition of 163 new procedures, bringing the total to 1835 under the health scheme. "If the government plans to implement changes to the scheme, it must communicate with service providers about its intentions and how to effectively implement the proposals. Network hospitals were not invited for any discussions, and we currently lack clarity on the new procedures and enhanced packages. Given the challenging circumstances we are facing, how can we accommodate these changes?" Rakesh added. Aarogyasri officials denied these claims, stating that dues have been paid monthly since the new government took office. RV Karnam, director of the Aarogyasri Healthcare Trust, told TNIE, "The trust is prioritising payments, clearing dues first for dialysis centres, NIMS, private hospitals, and lastly government hospitals."

IAF transport fleet & loads of memories

Military courier flights serve as an air bridge between the operational areas and the communication centres or administrative bases located in the hinterland for transportation of personnel and stores. The reduction in travel time also affords an opportunity to troops to avail shorter stints of leave without jeopardising operational readiness levels. Courier flights mostly comprise the transport fleet of the Indian Air Force; however, commercial flights are also commonly used. My first experience of couriers was as a Second Lieutenant deployed in Sri Lanka, as a part of the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF). With only six days of leave sanctioned to attend a wedding, my ability to do so was shrouded in doubt considering the distance to be traversed. My hopes were pinned on allotment of vacancies on courier flights to Chennai and onwards to New Delhi.

The allotment process appeared to be quite a mystery for someone at the bottom of the pecking order. The grapevine, without a shred of evidence, was about out-of-proportion cornering of vacancies by the headquarter staff vis a vis the forward troops. An unscheduled courier had arrived at Trincomalee, and an early morning ringing of the telephone in the tent that I shared with my Company Commander announced the allotment of that elusive vacancy. I had just enough time to throw in a couple of clothes into a rucksack. I slowly absorbed the commercial flight courier — the comfortable seats, array of switches overhead and, of course, the elegantly dressed air-hostesses in the midst of a sea of combat uniforms. Despite the short duration of the flight, breakfast was served. Seeing my untouched food, my co-passenger indicated the overhead button. I sheepishly requested for toothpaste and the air-hostess was kind enough to hand me one from her vanity bag. Thanking her profusely, I freshened up and savoured the breakfast, a memorable one indeed.

The Chennai to New Delhi courier flight was a service aircraft and I was told that my name did not feature in the manifest list cleared for boarding. Buying an air ticket at such short notice would have burnt a huge hole in my pocket. My more experienced coursemates advised me to wait it out as the Air Force pilots rarely left anyone stranded, especially young officers. Lady luck smiled and I was permitted to board in the last batch (compassionate cases). The colossal size of the newly-acquired IL-76 was awe-inspiring and the arrangements much at variance from the morning flight, starting from the boarding ramp instead of steps, the rugged steel benches for seating, luggage and empty ration cartons piled up in the aisle and, of course, the absence of refreshments and air-hostesses.

Another time, while proceeding on an officers' course to India from Sri Lanka, the course detailment was received at the last moment and there were no courier vacancies. The parachute regiment coursemates, who enjoyed an excellent rapport with transport aircraft pilots by virtue of the jumps they undertook, came to our rescue. This was an AN-32 aircraft, much smaller than an IL-76, and the airfield was Palaly, a major logistic base for IPKF in Jaffna. Of a batch of three, two officers managed to get manifested and we requested that the third be tucked in behind empty ration cartons in the aisle, surreptitiously. The naivety of this exercise dawned on us much later.

In another case, an officer deployed in the forward areas was to proceed on posting and had kept his pet dog with him. With the area snowbound, the only way out was via couriers and pets were of course not permitted. So, a special breathable box was created, the dog was sedated and the box was passed off as stores, though its loading was monitored by the officer himself.

I can't recall a single incident of not being accommodated on requesting for a courier seat, however late the request may have been put in.

How birds are woven into the fabric of beliefs and rituals

In many ancient cultures, mythology and nature are deeply entwined. Ancient people followed what is today known as Paganism. They worshipped the elements which were strange and inexplicable to them to calm natural occurrences beyond their understanding. In Indian mythology,...

In many ancient cultures, mythology and nature are deeply entwined. Ancient people followed what is today known as Paganism. They worshipped the elements which were strange and inexplicable to them to calm natural occurrences beyond their understanding. In Indian mythology, trees, animals and birds are intrinsically woven into the fabric of beliefs, rituals and worship. Birds, especially, have been associated with several Indian gods and goddesses, holding a position of importance in religious and cultural practices. Feeding crows during the period of Shraadh is a common practice in many regions in India. It is believed that crows are messengers connecting the world of the living with that of their departed ancestors. Garuda, an eagle-like creature, is closely associated with Lord Vishnu as his vahana, symbolising courage, strength, speed and loyalty. Laxmi, the goddess of fortune and wealth, is seen riding a Barn Owl named Uluka. In many cultures, owls symbolise wisdom and the ability to discern hidden truths, attributes required to acquire great wealth. The Indian Peacock is a bird of great beauty and symbolic significance. The peacock is associated with deities like Goddesses Laxmi and Saraswati, besides Lord Kartikeya. Lord Krishna wore a peacock feather in his hair. As a symbol of such grace and elegance, this iconically beautiful bird holds a unique place in Indian mythology, culture and art. Peacocks were feted by royals, and continue to be depicted in Indian art and architecture and in temples and textiles.

Today, the peacock has become synonymous with India. Interestingly, there are three species of peacocks in the world. One is endemic to the Congo in Africa, while the other two are found in India. Despite being a common sight, the beauty of the Indian Peacock never ceases to amaze. It is believed that the bird's iridescent colours have a divine origin and were bestowed upon the peacock by Lord Indra himself out of gratitude for saving his life. Scientifically, the peacock gets its earthy rust and brown colours from the presence of melanin in the feathers. The iridescent colours, however, are a result of (structural colouration) the way light interacts with the feathers. Simplistically speaking, peacock feathers are made up of barbules coated with keratin. When light falls on the feathers, it refracts and reflects off the barbules, resulting in the



shimmering hues of blue, green and violet — reminiscent of the magic pencil box of our childhood, which would change colour when moved at different angles. The peacock dancing to the rhythm of raindrops is a sight to behold! With a bevy of females looking on, he launches into his dance of love. Its beautiful long train with the hypnotic ocelli (eye-like patterns) come to life as it sways and shivers, mesmerising potential mates. Though the peahen is rather drab, it supports a beautiful crest like the peacock. There is a purpose to nature's ways. Peahens lay their eggs in a shallow dugout on the ground. The dull-coloured feathers help in camouflaging the bird while it incubates the eggs. The peachicks are nidifugous. Like hatchlings of other ground-nesting species, they are born with fine feathers covering their bodies. They are up and running as soon as they hatch. Like all species of fowls, a peacock lives with a harem of several breeding females. It is unfortunate that in spite of our ancestors venerating birds to the extent of giving them godlike status, the modern world does not accord them the same reverence. Several wild

species of birds are persecuted in the name of the very rituals for which they are worshipped. During religious festivals, many owl species — Barn Owls, Eagle Owls, Scops Owls — are trapped and sacrificed in the belief that having lost her vahana, Goddess Laxmi (wealth) will continue to be in their homes. Similarly, the demand for the peacock's train feathers also escalates during this time. Peacocks molt their old train once the mating season is over. These feathers can be gathered ethically as they lie scattered on the ground. Unfortunately, there is no deterrent to greed. The demand for these feathers is so great that illegal poaching of the bird becomes a grave threat to its existence.

In 1963, Indian Peacock was officially selected as the National Bird of India over the Great Indian Bustard while replacing the Indian Vulture. The peacock became a symbol of beauty and cultural heritage. This status accorded the bird protection from hunting and poaching. The Great Indian Bustard was a loser in every respect. Today, its habitat is taken over by wind farms, its numbers are sadly depleted and it depends on captivity breeding.

Maharashtra battle

Alliances look to get seat-sharing formula right

MAHA Vikas Aghadi (MVA) vs Mahayuti — the big battle is between two alliances in poll-bound Maharashtra, but there are some small battles being fought within both camps. The prolonged deliberations on seat-sharing among the MVA constituents — the Congress, the NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) — have seen each of them vigorously seeking a bigger piece of the pie. A compromise formula of 85-85-85 for 255 of the 288 constituencies has been worked out, with some of the remaining seats set to be allocated to smaller allies such as the Samajwadi Party, AAP and Left parties. It is evident that the Congress and Uddhav's Shiv Sena have moderated their ambitions and settled for contesting less than 100 seats each. Their climbdown has helped in resolving the stalemate days ahead of the deadline for the filing of nominations. This augurs well for the MVA, which is looking to upstage the ruling Mahayuti alliance comprising the BJP, the Shiv Sena



(Eknath Shinde faction) and Ajit Pawar-led NCP. The Congress, whose impressive performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in Maharashtra had cemented its position as the MVA's leading player, has lost much of its

bargaining power after its shock defeat in Haryana. The lesson drawn by the MVA, which won 31 of the 48 Lok Sabha seats in Maharashtra earlier this year, is that overconfidence can be self-destructive when the opponent is quite good at handling rebellion and factionalism. Setting aside their differences, the allies have to put up a united front against the BJP-led front in the Assembly polls. Despite being the senior constituent of Mahayuti, the BJP has allowed the Shinde faction to have the CM's chair. The saffron party is banking heavily on its kingmaker strategy, especially because Ajit Pawar's NCP is considered to be the weak link of the alliance. Having played a key role in splitting both the Shiv Sena and the NCP, the challenge for the BJP now is to keep the Mahayuti flock together.

Touchstones: Weed out hatred, sow love

Immigration is now a lively topic of sociological and political discussion and at the centre of theories about voting patterns and important policy considerations. Even advanced democracies such as the US, France, Canada and Britain have identified vote banks just.

Immigration is now a lively topic of sociological and political discussion and at the centre of theories about voting patterns and important policy considerations. Even advanced democracies such as the US, France, Canada and Britain have identified vote banks just as our own political parties have done over the years. However, remember that communities that have been displaced from their native lands may leave their natal territories, but that territory never leaves their hearts and minds. Think of all the people who are forced to move elsewhere to earn a better life or are victims of political unrest in their own country, and you will understand that while many Indians may have left India, India never leaves them. The same is true of Jews, Parsis, Africans, Pakistanis and countless others. Their pain becomes especially poignant when there is a celebration or bereavement in the family and they are unable to go to participate in their family's rituals. Another occasion is festivals. No matter how much you may enjoy Halloween, Thanksgiving or Christmas and Easter, name me one Indian who doesn't yearn to eat the special food that was once made on festive occasions 'back home', and the joy of bursting crackers and lighting diyas at Diwali. Some years ago, when visiting my son and his Brazilian wife and children around Dasehra-Diwali, I asked if we could place a few lighted candles at their doorstep. Sorry, I was told, the apartment building would consider that a fire hazard. So, can I at least paint a few feet inviting Laxmi in? Permission was granted and my little granddaughter, Lila, squatted next to me, eagerly watching me do the traditional ritual. She asked me many questions and I told her that the goddess of wealth, Laxmi, steps in wherever she sees these inviting footprints. 'Who is Laxmi?'

she asked next. So I explained that she is a beautiful goddess who has four arms (her eyes opened wide in disbelief at that), she blesses her worshippers with gold coins and stands on a lotus. By now, Lila could take no more. 'She stands on a lotus?' she repeated slowly. Then came her clincher, 'So how come she doesn't drown?'

I have to confess, I had no answer.

Myths, rituals and superstition can never really stand 'woke' scrutiny, but it appears harder for this new generation of de-racinated Indians to believe so wholeheartedly that our gods came in many shapes and forms, could perform superhuman feats and yet were as dear to us as a beloved aunt or uncle. Children particularly, and those who never went to school, are the most ardent believers in miracles and acts of divine valour because they accept uncritically whatever their grandmothers tell them. Every religion has this quotient of unbelievable myths: Jesus being born to a Virgin Mother, the Prophet flying on a divine horse to heaven or Moses guiding the Jews out of Egypt by parting the seas. As for the fantastic tales that form the religious beliefs of Aboriginal tribes or nature worshippers whose gods are the primal forces of Nature, their wisdom and respect for the natural world goes far beyond the scientific explanations for climate change.

Science has its own place in the modern world, but can we allow individual beliefs, rituals and myths their own place too? The culture that arises from the

practice of religious rituals is what has bound the communities of this country together. The most wonderful fact about India was that we all participated joyfully in each other's festivals. So, whether it was Diwali, Eid, Holi, Baisakhi or Christmas, no one really objected to noise and



pollution beyond a point. This is why the violence that has now become a routine backlash from 'outraged' communities over food or religious processions, and the provocative slogans that are raised to evoke a reaction from another community are utterly incomprehensible to someone of my

generation, where respect for all religious celebrations was promoted and appreciated. The hostile binaries that define what can and cannot be done must be condemned by every Indian who bemoans the decline of social harmony. Our brand of secularism taught us to respect all religions; it emphasised religious tolerance. How I wish our political leaders would foster brotherhood and respect for individual food habits and ways of worship. Alas, each political party is now guilty of creating discord and rather than practising the kind of bhakti that did not pit the temple against the mosque or the pandit against the maulvi, we have a firm political divide between us and them.

The hardening of religious dogmatic beliefs and the resulting political unrest has destroyed vast swathes of Asia. We need only to look at the pitiful condition of Gaza and the blind promotion of violence against innocent citizens there to understand how religious bigotry begins an unending cycle of hatred and revenge. Is this what we want our country to imitate instead of the non-violence so ardently propagated by our forefathers? I recall a prayer attributed to St Francis of Assisi that Mother Teresa adopted and urge all of you to look it up and ingest that wisdom. It's too long to quote here but here is how it opens: 'Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love.'

Shraddha Kapoor

Wins Internet With Sweet Gesture Towards A Female Fan



Shraddha Kapoor has once again set the internet on fire with her sweet gesture. The actress was recently papped at an event when she was seen clicking photos with her fan. The video in no time went viral. Fans were seen reacting to it and dropping heart emojis. In the video, shared by Filmygyan, we can see Shraddha Kapoor leaving from the event when she heard a female fan shouting. She immediately called her and hugged. Shraddha took photos and also pose for the camera. As soon as the video was shared, fans reacted. Many called her down to earth. Some also praised her sweet gesture.

Recently, she was spotted arriving at the Mumbai airport. As she made her way to the airport, a fan approached her for a selfie. What's interesting is that he looked strikingly similar to Shraddha's Aashiqui 2 co-star Aditya Roy Kapur! The video shared by paparazzi shows Shraddha Kapoor making her way to the gate of the airport. The actress posed and smiled for the paps. Much to her surprise, a fan approached her for a selfie, and his resemblance to Aditya Roy Kapur was uncanny! Shraddha politely obliged for the selfie, and soon after it was clicked, she turned around and did a double take. She seemed momentarily amused as she stared at the fan, clearly caught off guard by the similarity. The actress smiled at him, before making her way inside the airport.

Shraddha Kapoor and Aditya Roy Kapur are best known for their roles as Aarohi and Rahul Jaykar in the superhit film Aashiqui 2, directed by Mohit Suri. They also shared screen space in the 2017 film OK Jaanu. On the professional front, Shraddha Kapoor's last film Stree 2 was a huge hit at the box office. The film, directed by Amar Kaushik, also featured Rajkummar Rao, Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee and Aparshakti Khurana in key roles. At a recent event, Shraddha confirmed that Stree 3 is in the works, and that the director has a story ready for the next installment.



Nayanthara Obliges And Poses With A Young Fan; Manages A Stage Malfunction At An Event In Mumbai



Apart from being an actor, Nayanthara is also an entrepreneur. She has co-founded a skincare brand, 9Skin. At a recent event where she promoted her brand, a young fan approached her to click a picture with her. The actor gladly obliged and her kind gesture is winning hearts on the internet. At an event in Mumbai, Nayanthara was approached by a child for a photograph. The Jawan actor agreed and patiently waited as the child set her phone and gave it to someone off-camera. She placed her hand on the child's shoulders and flashed a radiant smile. The young fan thanked her and told her how happy she was that she could get a photograph with her. Nayanthara made a classic statement at the event as she opted for a white t-shirt that she paired with a black leather skirt and layers of dainty gold necklaces.

At the same event, she also handled a stage malfunction. As she was walking off the stage, a stage prop was about to fall over. Nayanthara rushed to the spot and held the prop and avoided a mighty crash. The actor recently celebrated nine years of Naanum Rowdy Dhan where she shared the screen with Vijay Sethupathi. She took to her Instagram and penned a long note. This film also marked the beginning of her love story with her husband Vignesh Shivan. She wrote, "A film that came to bless my life and change it forever. 9 years ago on this day, Naanum Rowdy Dhan was released... Forever grateful to it for giving me a new love from people, new lessons as a performer, new experiences, new core memories, and new relationships. And of course have to thank my man @wikkiofficial for giving me NRD which gave me him. Sharing a collection of images that I've been carrying in my phone along with me all these years that constantly remind me of my special film." On the work front, Nayanthara was last seen in Annapoorani: The Goddess of Food. She will be next seen in Test and Mannangatti Since 1960. She is currently filming for Dear Students with Nivin Pauly.

Aaman Devgn And Rasha Thadani Celebrate Diwali With Abhishek Kapoor



Bollywood is abuzz with excitement as the team behind Abhishek Kapoor's highly anticipated action-adventure project gathered for a grand Diwali celebration, hosted by producer Ramesh Taurani. The festive evening brought glamour and anticipation as the film's lead stars, Aaman Devgn and Rasha Thadani, joined the celebration alongside other cast members, giving fans a tantalizing glimpse of the chemistry shared by these debutant actors. In the midst of Bollywood's Diwali festivities, the Tauranis' party brought the film's team together in a memorable event. Rasha Thadani, active on Instagram, shared candid moments with her co-star Aaman Devgn, showcasing the warm and effortless chemistry between them. The photos quickly went viral on social media, sparking fans' curiosity and heightening their excitement to see the duo's on-screen debut. Abhishek Kapoor, celebrated for his storytelling prowess in acclaimed films like Rock On!., Kai Po Che!., and Kedamath, has built major anticipation for this new project. With fans eagerly following the film's development, this Diwali celebration only added to the buzz surrounding Kapoor's latest cinematic endeavor. Making his Bollywood debut, Aaman Devgn—nephew of superstar Ajay Devgn—is already in the spotlight for his family legacy. Ajay Devgn, known for his powerful roles in Singham, Tanhaji, and Drishyam, is set to play a significant role in this film, bringing a layer of gravitas and excitement to the storyline. His involvement promises to add a thrilling dynamic to the project, leaving fans eager for more. Rasha Thadani, daughter of iconic actress Raveena Tandon, is also stepping into the Bollywood spotlight with this film. Following in her mother's footsteps—Raveena Tandon, celebrated for classics like Mohra, Andaz Apna Apna, and her recent acclaimed role in KGF Chapter 2—Rasha's debut has created a lot of buzz. Known for her elegance, Rasha turned heads at the Diwali celebration, hinting at the charisma and star power she's likely to bring to the big screen.

Janhvi Kapoor And Sidharth Malhotra

To Star In A Romantic Comedy Film Param Sundari



Janhvi Kapoor and Sidharth Malhotra are reportedly set to share the screen for the first time in an upcoming romantic comedy titled Param Sundari. The news has left all their fans super excited. Well, nothing has been made official till now. Mid-Day has reported that the shoot is likely to start in December this year. The film will be directed by Tushar Jalota.

Mid-Day quoted a source saying that the leading man essays a suave and rich business tycoon from Delhi. "Janhvi plays a modern artist with strong views and value system. Her character is a south Indian woman from Kerala. The film chronicles how the two fall in love despite having such contrasting personalities," added the source.

The makers are planning to take Param Sundari on floors in December. "The first schedule will kick off with Sidharth in Delhi. The team will then head for a stint in Kerala, following which the rest will be shot at specially constructed sets at a Mumbai studio. The production design team has been instructed to erect two elaborate sets in Mumbai, one reflecting a sprawling house as seen in Delhi and another reflecting the earthy interiors of traditional Kerala homes. If things go as planned, filming will wrap up by February 2025. Sheetal Sharma, who recently worked on Munjya and Stree 2, is serving as the costume designer on this project. The look tests of both actors were conducted recently."

On the work front, Janhvi made her Telugu debut with Devara Part 1 with Jr NTR and Saif Ali Khan. Despite solid box-office numbers, Devara has drawn mixed reviews from both critics and audiences. In a recent interview, the actor shared his thoughts on how viewers have become too judgmental and analytical when watching movies, preventing them from enjoying films purely for entertainment. She also has a film with Varun Dhawan. Shooting is going on currently. While, Sidharth Malhotra was last seen in Yodha. The actor has not announced new film till now. Reportedly, he will be seen in Race 4 but we are still waiting for an official announcement.



Bishnoi Gang's Rival Fires At Delhi Businessman's House, Leaves A Note

Centre to begin census from 2025, Lok Sabha seats delimitation by 2028: Sources

The government plans to begin the long-delayed Census in 2025, which will be followed by delimitation of Lok Sabha seats, sources said.

New Delhi: The government is expected to begin the census, an official survey of the country's population, in 2025 after a four-year-long delay, sources said on Monday. The process will begin in 2025 and is expected to continue until 2026. Following the Census, the delimitation of Lok Sabha seats will commence, and this exercise is likely to be completed by 2028, the sources added. This development comes amid demands from several opposition parties for a caste census. However, the government has not yet made a decision, and the details of the census process are yet to be made public.

However, sources indicate that next year's census may also include surveys of sub-sects within the General and SC-ST categories, in addition to the



usual categorisation by religion and social class, as well as counts of General, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes. Following the reports regarding the census, the discussion on the caste census has restarted. Congress leader Manickam Tagore, said that the central government's refusal to conduct a caste census constitutes a betrayal of OBC communities. He tweeted, Modi's refusal to conduct a Caste Census is a clear betrayal of OBC communities. Ignoring the voices demanding justice, he's denying our people their due representation—all because of political arrogance. Tagore said, also asking, "Will RSS, JDU, & TDP stand with the people or stay silent?" The census, typically conducted every ten years to update the National Population Register (NPR), was scheduled for 2021 but had to be postponed due to the Covid pandemic. Now, the census cycle is also expected to change. Hinting an immediate beginning of the much-delayed census processes, the central deputation of Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, currently serving as Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, has been extended recently till August 2026. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, on the probability of conducting the decadal census, had said in August that "it will be carried out at an appropriate time. Once decided, I will announce how it will be done."

New Delhi: Two men affiliated with the Bambiha Gang, the rival of the incarcerated gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, opened fire at the residence of a businessman in Delhi, police said today. The shooting occurred in North West Delhi's Rani Bagh around 8.40 am on Saturday and the two accused, who were on a bike, threw a chit on which 'Bambiha Gang' was written. At least six to seven rounds were fired outside the house, officials said. However, no call has so far been received regarding extortion.

Delhi has witnessed an increase in firing incidents as part of extortion attempts recently. Last month, three sensational incidents of firing occurred in the capital -- at a car showroom in Naraina in west Delhi, a hotel in southwest Delhi and the sweet shop, all were linked to extortion activities by gangsters. In the first incident, shots were fired at a second-hand car showroom called 'Car Street Mini' in southwest Delhi's Naraina,



barely a kilometre from the Naraina police station. Officials said at least 20 rounds were fired by three men who entered the showroom, causing panic in the area. The shooters left behind a slip, reading "Bhau Gang, Since 2020". The "Bhau Gang" mention was seen as a reference to wanted gangster Himanshu Bhau, who fled the country in 2022 and is currently believed to be in Portugal. He had also claimed responsibility for the murder of a

man at a food outlet in Delhi. In May, a similar shooting was carried out at a car showroom in West Delhi's Tilak Nagar and the same gang was suspected to be behind the attack. Sources ₹ 5 crore was demanded from the owners of the 'Fusion Cars' showroom. The second shooting took place in southwest Delhi's Mahipalpur when a bike-borne shooter fired at least 5-6 rounds at the Hotel Impress and damaged its glass gate. According to sources, the firing was done to extort money and take over the hotel. Last year, a man had threatened the hotel owner in the name of Canada-based gangster Goldie Brar. Brar, along with gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is currently lodged in a jail in Gujarat, are also accused of carrying out a shooting outside the Mumbai residence of Bollywood actor Salman Khan earlier this year.

The third incident took place in west Delhi's Nangloi where bullets were fired at a sweet shop. The police found a slip with the name of jailed gangster Deepak Boxer.

The shooting occurred in North West Delhi's Rani Bagh and the two accused, who were on a bike, threw a chit on which 'Bambiha Gang' was written.

Tirupati's ISKCON Temple Gets Bomb Threat, 4th Hoax Mail In 3 Days

New Delhi: Tirupati's ISKCON temple received a bomb threat on Sunday. Temple authorities registered a complaint with the police about receiving a threatening email, claiming ISIS terrorists would blow up the temple. Tirupati police initiated immediate action and conducted searches. The local police got bomb squads and dog units to check for any explosives. However, no explosives or any other objectionable items were



recovered from the temple premises. Circle Inspector Srinivasulu confirmed the news and assured that appropriate and necessary efforts were underway to identify those responsible for the threats. The police is suspecting it to be yet another hoax mail.

This is the fourth hoax mail the temple town of Tirupati received in the last three days. Earlier on Saturday, two hotels also received bomb threats, which were later confirmed as hoax threats. Before that, three other hotels in the town received bomb threats, heightening the anxiety among residents and devotees. The threat reportedly mentioned the alleged drug trafficking network kingpin Jaffer Sadiq, who was arrested in Tamil Nadu by the Narcotics Control Bureau and the Enforcement Directorate.

Biker, father held for injuring cops after being stopped for modified motorcycle silencer in Delhi

NEW DELHI: A police inspector and a constable have been injured after being allegedly attacked by a man and his 24-year-old son in southeast Delhi on Saturday night while initiating action against them for an unlawfully modified motorcycle silencer, officials said. The incident occurred when police personnel stopped the man, Asif, when his Royal Enfield motorcycle was making excess noise. An altercation ensued between the police and the accused when the latter attempted to initiate legal action over the matter, which led to a scuffle, injuring Inspector Narpal Singh and Constable Ramkesh.

"Around 8.45 pm, when the SHO along with the patrolling staff reached Batla House in Jamia Nagar, he



noticed a Royal Enfield motorcycle heading towards Zakir Nagar market from Kabristan Chowk, causing an excessive noise," a senior police officer said. The officer said that, during the inspection, it was found that the motorcycle's silencer had been "illegally" modified, enhancing noise beyond permissible limits and contravening the Motor Vehicles Act. The police officer instructed the staff to take legal action against bike rider Asif (24).

Meanwhile, Asif called his father Riyazuddin to the spot who allegedly tried to take the motorcycle along with him forcibly. When the inspector tried to stop them, Riyazuddin allegedly caught hold of the SHO while Asif punched him in the face close to the eyes. The father-son duo also attacked Constable Ramkesh and other police personnel, an official said. "Both the accused have been arrested and a case has been registered against them for obstructing a public servant from performing his duties and physically assaulting the SHO and other police officers on duty," he added. The injured cops have been admitted to the hospital, and are said to be in normal health condition.

Row over Delhi Waqf Board report, Chief Minister Atishi says it's 'null and void'

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Monday wrote a letter to Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) chairman BJP MP Jagdambika Pal, saying that the report submitted by Delhi Waqf Board must be treated as "null and void". The Chief Minister said that the report was submitted without getting the Delhi government's approval. "This report has been submitted by IAS Ashwini Kumar (administrator of the Delhi Waqf Board) without the approval of the government of the NCT of Delhi and therefore may be treated as ab initio null and void. Any presentation on the same may be cancelled till a report is submitted with the approval of the Government of NCT of Delhi," the letter reads.

Reiterating Chief Minister Atishi's remark, the opposition leaders claimed that the Delhi Waqf Board administrator made changes to the

presentation without the knowledge of the Delhi government, news agency PTI reported. AAP member Sanjay Singh, the DMK's Mohammed Abdulla, the Congress's Naseer Hussain, and Mohamed



Jawed, among others, walked out of the meeting. They claimed that the MCD Commissioner and the Delhi Waqf Board administrator have completely changed the initial report without taking the Chief Minister's nod. On August 8, the government introduced the Waqf (Amendment)

Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha, saying that the law was aimed to streamline the Waqf Board's work and ensure the efficient management of Waqf properties. It was immediately sent to a joint parliamentary committee after opposition parties and Muslim organisations expressed concerns, claiming that the bill was a targeted measure against the community and an infringement on its constitutional rights. The JPC had in August invited views and suggestions from the public, NGOs, experts, stakeholders, and institutions on the law that the NDA government had proposed to change the Waqf law. It gave a 15-day window for people to send in their feedback. The panel, in another meeting the same day, is scheduled to take oral evidence from the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board and Rajasthan Board of Muslim Waqf on the bill.

India-China border disengagement in final phase at 2 crucial Ladakh points: Sources

Days after a breakthrough in border talks with China, defence sources have confirmed that disengagement at Eastern Ladakh's Depsang and Demchok is in its final phase, with the first patrols set to resume by month's end.

New Delhi: Days after a recent breakthrough in border talks with China, defence sources have confirmed that disengagement in Eastern Ladakh's Depsang and Demchok areas is nearing completion. The first patrols along the Line of Actual Control (LAC)—where tensions have remained high since the 2020 Galwan Valley clash—are expected to resume by the end of the month, sources said. The disengagement process, now in its final phase, involves both sides dismantling temporary structures and fortifications built over the past four-and-a-half years in these contested areas after the border standoff in 2020, sources said. The temporary structures being dismantled include prefabricated sheds and tents used to house equipment, vehicles, and troops. Sources indicate that cross-verification of the dismantling is likely to be completed by tomorrow (October 29), a step required for official acknowledgment of the



disengagement. Once verification is finalised, both India and China will confirm the cessation of tensions in these areas. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced on Sunday (October 27) that India and China would soon resume patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh, restoring the arrangement as it was in April 2020, before the border

standoff began. After a key agreement between India and China, the two countries have begun troop disengagement at the two friction points in eastern Ladakh's Demchok and Depsang. The agreement was arrived at only for these two friction points, and "talks are still underway" for other areas.

GALWAN CLASH

The Galwan incident of June 15, 2020, described as a physical clash that did not involve the use of firearms, resulted in India losing 20 soldiers, including a Colonel. Although China has acknowledged only four casualties, it is estimated that as many as 40 PLA personnel died in the clash. The confrontation was the deadliest since the 1962 war and marked a significant deterioration in China-India ties, leading to profound shifts in the geopolitical and strategic calculus of both nations and with far-reaching implications on bilateral ties, regional stability and global geopolitics.

Anti-terror agency boosts security at airports after 400 bomb threats in 2 weeks

NEW DELHI: In light of a significant rise in airline threat calls, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has intensified its security efforts across the nation. In the last two weeks alone, security agencies have reported receiving over 400 hoax calls, prompting widespread concern regarding the potential implications for passenger safety and national security. To address these growing threats, the NIA's cyber wing has launched a comprehensive analysis of these foreign threat calls. This investigation is focused on discerning the motives behind these calls and assessing their authenticity.

The goal is to effectively identify and eliminate any real threats before they can escalate, ensuring the safety of air travel. The NIA is not acting alone; it is working in close collaboration with various other security agencies. This inter-agency cooperation is crucial for conducting thorough investigations into threat calls and implementing enhanced security measures at airports. By pooling



resources and information, the agencies aim to create a robust response system capable of managing any potential threats in a timely manner. As part of these intensified security protocols, the NIA has deployed a Bomb Threat Assessment Committee (BTAC)

team at major airports. This specialised unit is equipped and trained to respond quickly to any reported threats or emergencies, further bolstering the safety infrastructure in place at airports. The recent spike in hoax calls is not only a logistical challenge for security agencies but also poses a serious

risk of diverting resources away from genuine threats. Therefore, measures are being taken to scrutinise the authenticity of each call rigorously. These precautions are essential to ensure that the focus remains on safeguarding passengers while minimising disruptions to airport operations. These heightened security measures send a clear message: the country is fully prepared to confront any security challenges. The proactive stance taken by the NIA and its partners demonstrates a commitment to protecting the public and maintaining the integrity of the nation's air travel system. A fresh bomb threat was issued to 27 flights on Friday, prompting heightened security measures at multiple airports. The flights affected include services by SpiceJet, IndiGo, Air India, and Vistara.

Six Air India flights, along with seven flights each from SpiceJet, IndiGo, and Vistara, were impacted by the threat. The threat on Friday came a day after 95 flights of IndiGo, Air India, Vistara, SpiceJet, Alliance Air and Akasa Air.



5 Simple kitchen ingredients that can clean grease and gunk in minutes

Keeping your kitchen clean can be a challenge, especially when it comes to stubborn grease and gunk. Well, if you too are planning to clean the kitchen before Diwali but don't know where to begin, then we have got your back with these easy-peasy solutions, which can be made by using kitchen ingredients. Here are some easily available kitchen ingredients that can help in effective pre-festive cleaning. So, follow us through these easy ideas and simplify your cooking process.

Baking soda

Baking soda is a versatile powerhouse in cleaning. Its mild abrasive properties make it perfect for scrubbing away grease without scratching surfaces. To use it, create a paste by mixing baking soda with a bit of water. Apply it to greasy areas, let it sit for a few minutes, then scrub and rinse. It's also excellent for deodorizing your fridge and trash cans!

Vinegar

Vinegar is a natural disinfectant known for its ability to cut through grease. Mix equal parts white vinegar and water in a spray bottle and apply it to greasy surfaces. Allow it to sit for a few minutes before wiping with a cloth. For a quick microwave cleaner, heat a bowl of vinegar and water to loosen grime, then simply wipe down the interior.

Lemon juice

Lemon juice's acidity makes it a powerful cleaning agent. It not only helps to break down grease but also leaves a fresh scent. For cutting boards, sprinkle salt on the surface and rub it with half a lemon. Let it sit for a few minutes, then rinse. Mixing lemon juice with baking soda creates an effective paste for tackling tough stains.

Dish Soap and salt

Dish soap is specifically formulated to cut through grease, making it an essential cleaning ingredient. For greasy pots and pans, fill your sink with hot, soapy salty water and let them soak. For stovetops, mix a few drops of dish soap with warm water in a spray bottle, apply it to the surface, and wipe away the grease easily.

Olive Oil

Surprisingly, olive oil can also serve as a cleaner. It's effective for polishing stainless steel appliances. Simply apply a small amount of olive oil to a cloth and buff the surface to remove fingerprints and smudges. For wooden furniture, mix olive oil with vinegar in a 2:1 ratio to create a natural wood polish that cleans and nourishes.



What are

Functional Teas

and their lesser-known benefits



Health-conscious consumers are more conscious of natural, functional foods and beverages, which increases the demand for such products. For instance, functional teas, which are caffeine-free blends of herbs, botanicals, and superfoods, can soothe and benefit in various health aspects. Such teas come with a host of health benefits, such as enhanced digestion, improved immunity, and better sleep. The growing popularity of functional teas can be gauged from the fact that their market is expected to increase from USD 8.13 billion in 2024 to USD 12.47 billion by 2032 due to the global propensity toward healthier living, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic.

What Are Functional Teas?

Functional teas are specifically blended to hold a

composition of herbs that have been established for holding some form of medicinal properties. Unlike their counterparts, the herbal compositions, in general, derive from roots, flowers, spices, and herbs that support one health need over the other. It goes from gut health, stress relief, or an immune system boost; these blends seem to get more popular as more people hear or read about holistic wellness and their search for natural solution remedies for everyday health issues.

Functional Teas for Digestion

Functional teas have been a natural remedy found to help alleviate some of the common digestive issues of bloating, gas, and nausea. For instance, peppermint tea relaxes muscles in the digestive tract, indigestion, and bloating



problems. Ginger tea stimulates saliva and bile production thereby aiding digestion while its anti-inflammatory properties soothe the stomach. Fennel reduces gas, bloating, and stomach cramps, while dandelion aids digestion with its antioxidants and anti-inflammatory benefits. Hibiscus tea, rich in antioxidants, helps calm upset stomachs and cumin tea promotes gut health. Herbal teas are a plant-based, scientifically-backed alternative to over-the-counter digestive aids, supporting overall gut balance naturally.

Boosting Immunity with Functional Teas

With many turning to natural remedies for immune support, boosting immunity through functional teas has become increasingly popular. Echinacea tea, for example, is quite popular for assisting people in enhancing their immune levels, and thus they have fewer chances of getting caught colds and infections. Elderberry tea, with a lot of antioxidants and vitamins, raises the immunity level and hence protects against colds, flu, and other viral infections. Both teas are great additions to a healthy diet since they present the body with natural immunity against many illnesses and infections, especially

during flu season. Their immune-boosting properties make them great allies in helping keep the body overall healthy.

Functional Teas for Better Sleep

With the accelerated pace of our lives, sleep is one of the most overlooked activities. This has led to an increasing interest in natural, functional teas that will help ensure better sleep. Chamomile and lavender teas are two popular options, because of their sleep-inducing properties. They have been widely used by people to reduce anxiety and have healthy sleep. Similarly, Valerian root tea is for sleeping especially by soothing the nervous system. L-theanine, being an amino acid in some teas, decreases stress and also relaxes one without drowsiness. These caffeine-free teas provide a natural and soothing alternative to traditional sleep aids, offering a gentle way to improve sleep and overall well-being.

Antioxidants and Gut Health

Many functional teas are also rich in antioxidants, which help protect the body from the harmful effects of free radicals. For example, hibiscus tea is known for its high antioxidant content, which not only helps boost the immune system but also supports overall health. Black tea, although caffeinated, has been shown to promote gut health by encouraging the growth of good bacteria in the digestive system. Black tea can help balance the gut microbiome, thus supporting both digestion and immunity.

Conclusion

Functional teas have thus emerged as the mainstream choice in search of healthy and organic lifestyles as the world becomes conscious about healthy lifestyle options. Whether it's improving digestion, boosting immunity, or getting a good sleep, there is a functional tea suited to your needs. With all the blends that include herbs like peppermint, ginger, chamomile, and echinacea, these caffeine-free drinks offer a comfortable experience with an array of health benefits, making them an integral part of modern wellness rituals.



Banks' unsecured loans grow at double-digit rate

NEW DELHI. Despite persistent concerns raised by the banking regulator, the unsecured retail loan portfolios of banks have been growing but at a calibrated rate, early second quarter bank results show.

HDFC Bank, the largest private sector bank, reported a 10% growth in the unsecured loan portfolio in the September quarter. ICICI Bank, the second largest private sector bank, posted 17% growth in personal loans while 28% growth in credit card loans. Kotak Mahindra Bank saw its personal and consumer durables loans grow at 17%, while credit card loans grew at 15%. Personal loan disbursal by Yes Bank contracted by 5% even though credit card loans surged by 48.6%. For Yes Bank, personal loans account for 15% of its total advances, while credit cards are just 6% of the loan portfolio.

HDFC Bank CFO Srinivasan Vaidyanathan, in an analyst call, said that in the recent year, the bank slowed the unsecured loan to a rate of growth of 10%. "In the recent time periods, 1 to 2 quarters this year, we slowed it down to between 9% and 10% rate of growth. And if you look at the year before, we grew at 19%..." he said. Ashok Vaswani, CEO, Kotak Mahindra Bank, said in an analyst call that the bank's unsecured retail business 'has dipped a little bit to a shy of over 11%. He admitted that in the credit card business, they have also seen some level of credit stress due to the overleveraging of certain kinds of customers. Among PSU banks, Bank of Baroda reported a 25% year-on-year growth in personal loan.

For the bank, personal loans account for around 13.8% of total advances in the second quarter, compared to 13.22% in the year-ago period. The third quarter may, however, see a strong growth in unsecured lending by banks due to the festive season. According to Arjun Chowdhry, group executive for retail lending, the festive months have not seen any signs of slowdown in spending. "We are seeing prudent spending remaining in place, particularly on cards. On the unsecured book, there is growth, but that remains calibrated, as you would have seen across the industry," said Chowdhry. Among PSU banks, Bank of Baroda reported a 25% year-on-year growth in personal loan. For the bank, personal loans account for around 13.8% of total advances in the second quarter, compared to 13.22% in the year-ago period.

2.16 lakh jobs recorded this festive season across e-commerce, logistics: Report

BENGALURU. Jobs and professional networking platform, apna.co, has reported 2.16 lakh job postings this festive season, a 20% increase compared to 1.8 lakh job postings reported last year.

This year's festive season saw a significant rise in hiring across key sectors like logistics, e-commerce, retail, and hospitality. Also, this year's festive season was particularly important for businesses looking to rebound after a slowdown in consumer spending during the summer and election periods, said the platform. The rapid expansion of the quick commerce industry contributed to this hiring momentum. Among the sectors, logistics and operations experienced the highest growth, with a 70% increase in job postings. Retail and e-commerce followed with a 30% rise, while the restaurant and hospitality sector grew by 25%.

Logistics and mobility leaders like Rapido, Delhivery, Ekart, and Shiprocket have posted over 30,000 openings for roles such as warehouse managers, logistics associates, inventory managers, and delivery drivers. The retail and e-commerce sector is also expanding, adding 18,000 roles, including Category Growth Managers, Sales Associates, and Customer Support Managers, to enhance the consumer experience. In hospitality, 14,000 jobs have opened for positions like restaurant managers, front office staff, and administrative personnel.

Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are also experiencing a significant rise in job opportunities. While tier-1 cities have seen a 20% increase in job postings, the demand in tier-2 and tier-3 cities is even more notable, it noted.

Karnataka's proposal will hit beer industry very hard: Brewers Association

BENGALURU. The Karnataka government's proposed amendments to reclassification of beer will hit the beer industry in the state very hard, said the Brewers Association of India (BAI), which represents the country's largest beer makers. Also, it has proposed a hike in the minimum beer price.

Last month, the Karnataka government proposed amendments to restructuring of taxes as well as reclassification of beer, asking manufacturers to declare the sugar content in the beer and limit the addition of sugar to 25% in beer.

Brewers in Karnataka have already objected to these proposals, and on Sunday, the BAI said the proposed amendments would work against both the government and the industry. Vinod Giri, the Director general of the BAI, said, "Beer has no sugar in it. There is a definition of beer set by the FSSAI which is followed by all

states, and we don't see the need to change them by one state." He said the larger concern is regarding putting it up on the label. "Beer labels are already cluttered with so much statutory information and warnings. Adding more information, especially when it is not even relevant, will just make them more cluttered and unappealing," he added. Also, on the proposed hike in the minimum price of beer, he said, if implemented, it would be the third increase in tax on beer in the last 15 months. The draft notification proposes to increase the excise duty on strong beer by 100% to Rs 20 per bulk litre and increases the minimum billing price for beer in the state to Rs 300 per case. In its letter to the government, the association states that the taxes on beer have already been increased twice in the last year.

This Diwali, secure your family's future

A no-frills insurance term plan will usually serve the objective of pure life insurance most cost-effectively. And for those that live in the big cities and towns especially, it is worth looking at a Critical Illness cover top-up too.

NEW DELHI. As one with an avid interest in investor psychology, it is interesting to note that even those that plan things meticulously often fail to plan for the only thing that is inevitable (death) after one is born in this world. Leave lone a clear-cut 'Will' that details the assets they hold and whom they wish to bequeath it to; most do not even have any life insurance. Those who have it rarely

bother to top-up their cover, thus allowing time to render their initial cover insignificant. As it is, life insurance penetration in India is dismally low, at less than 5%, and what is more disappointing is that more than half among those, are underinsured. A primary reason for underinsurance among the few that have life insurance is the Indian obsession with deriving 'returns' for any money expended. Many just cannot reconcile to the fact that after their term of Life Cover ends at a specified age, they will not get any pecuniary benefit or returns for the premium paid.

Now, if one starts looking at pure (term) life insurance as an 'investment', then the only way to maximise returns would be to hope to die soon after taking a policy, before the next premium becomes payable. The return on investment in such a case would be phenomenal!!!

On a more serious note, while many recognise the emotional turmoil and void left behind by a death in a family, most still prefer to turn a blind eye to the huge financial void too that it often also leaves



How one arrives at the figure of 'adequate' insurance to ensure that every dream one has for loved ones is met is not something that can be captured merely with an arithmetical calculation as many websites and 'experts' profess.

It requires a detailed evaluation session with one's advisor, who can take a holistic view of where exactly one stands with their current investments and what it would cost 'financially' to replace one in the event of an untimely exit.

A no-frills insurance term plan will usually serve the objective of pure life insurance most cost-effectively. And for those that live in the big cities and towns especially, it is worth looking at a critical illness cover top-up too. Rest assured, if one remains healthy and stays on after adequately insuring oneself, nobody will complain. But do not make the mistake of not insuring or underinsuring yourself. It could make all the difference to not just the lifestyle but also the dreams and aspirations of one's loved ones.

Sensex rises 900 points. What's behind the stock market rally

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices rebounded sharply on Monday after five days of losses, driven by strong gains in ICICI Bank following upbeat quarterly earnings. At around 11:28 am, the BSE Sensex climbed 827.37 points to 80,229.53, adding over Rs 3 lakh crore in market capitalisation. On the other hand, the Nifty50 rose 225.30 points to 24,406.10. It is worth noting that both the Sensex and Nifty50 index recently shed nearly 8% from record highs in late September, pressured by sustained foreign outflows and weaker corporate earnings. Investors have diverted funds to China, attracted by Beijing's stimulus and lower valuations. Weak earnings have also impacted sentiment, compounding selling pressure in recent weeks. BANK STOCKS POWER DALALSTREET RALLY

On the Sensex, ICICI Bank led the rally alongside M&M, JSW Steel, Adani Ports, IndusInd Bank, Nestle India and



HUL. It may be noted that IDFC First Bank fell 10% after reporting a 73% YoY profit drop to Rs 201 crore, while DLF shares rose over 4% on strong Q2 earnings from newly launched home sales. Sector-wise, the Nifty PSU Bank index surged 2%, with Bank of Baroda, SBI, and PNB leading gains. Nifty Financial Services, IT, Media, and Metal indices also opened higher, while mid- and small-cap indices remained flat. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said, "The trend of

flight to quality is likely to sustain given the good numbers from banking majors like HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank where valuations continue to be fair. Investors can profit from these polarised valuations. In Asia, stocks edged higher on Monday, with Japan's Nikkei 225 up 1.6% and South Korea's Kospi rising 0.6%, supported by a dip in the yen amid Japanese political uncertainty.

Oil prices fell by over \$3 per barrel as Israel's recent retaliatory strike on Iran avoided disrupting energy infrastructure, alleviating some Middle Eastern tension.

"The global market structure may turn favourable after the subdued Israeli strikes against Iran avoiding the Iranian oil fields which has resulted in a sharp drop in crude prices. The imminent US presidential elections and the uncertainty associated with that will continue to weigh on markets," Vijayakumar added.

How retirement planning is tough in India

NEW DELHI. It is that time of the year when you are in a spending mode. You are buying something for yourself or your loved ones. You care about your family and ensure you are with them to celebrate your time together. You do that year after year. At some point in your life, you would like your children or loved ones to do the same thing for you and their families. You need to do financial planning to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities from one generation to another. That must start when you are not the responsible one. When young and independent for the first time, you are keen to explore the world. There is barely any time to think about financial planning or retirement. A real estate firm Anarock survey for the industry body FICCI showed that the two younger generations, Gen Z and Millennials (people born after 1980), barely think about retirement planning. There is very little interest in the subject among the young. That is perhaps a systemic problem in India.

In the 80s and 90s or even 2000s, there were fewer people under the age of 30 or 40 who were wealthy. However, India today boasts the highest number of billionaires after the United States.

There is a surge in entrepreneurship and the gig economy that is putting money into the hands of people much earlier than the previous generations. Tax-friendly policies and easier tax compliance processes mean more people are filing returns and paying taxes than ever. The government's personal tax collection is higher than corporate taxes for the first time. More people are filing returns as professionals. Retirement planning among gig economy professionals like actors, creative support staff, or those employed in sports and related events is virtually nonexistent due to the lumpy nature of their income.

When you talk about retirement planning, a thumb rule is that you can withdraw 4% of your savings without affecting the future growth of their value. However, a study published earlier this year and quoted in the latest National Stock Exchange monthly bulletin shows that it is hard for Indian retirees. Considering inflation over 20 to 25 years and the conservative nature of retirement portfolios skewed towards fixed deposits, retirees in India can withdraw much less than 3.5% of their savings yearly. That means you need to do two things. You need to start

retirement planning early and ensure a meaningful asset allocation to ensure that you can beat inflation and have enough resources to pay for 20-25 years of retirement expenses. There is a lot of merit in making retirement planning a key focus area for the government. The current government schemes of defined benefits have fiscal implications and cannot be overextended. The National Pension Scheme's success and increased adoption show interest in defined contribution schemes that offer market returns. The government should consider making pension income tax-free for senior citizens. Everything that individuals take out as retirement is long gestation money. That money should not be taxed into the hands of the individual. Tax benefits should apply to retirement savings withdrawn 20 years or later. That would provide an incentive for everyone to start retirement planning early.

After the festive season, when you take stock of your financial situation, you must take steps for your life after work. Since India's population is primarily young, the government will take time to focus on retirement planning.



retained a buy recommendation but reduced its target price to Rs 5,200 from Rs 5,400, acknowledged IndiGo's challenges with aircraft groundings and seasonal factors. However, Kotak noted the strong demand trends and investments IndiGo is making to bolster future growth and profitability. Meanwhile, Nuvama downgraded IndiGo to a hold, setting a target price of Rs 4,415. The brokerage cited the near-term pressures of supply outpacing demand, affecting revenue per available seat kilometer (PRASK), and moderated its EBITDAR estimates for FY25 and FY26 by 14% and 7%, respectively, due to a softer yield outlook.

India's reliance on imported oil, natural gas grows as stagnant domestic production lags demand growth

Import dependency in the case of natural gas was 51.5 per cent in the first six months of FY25, up from 46.8 per cent a year ago and 47.1 per cent for the full FY24.

NEW DELHI. India's reliance on imported crude oil and natural gas grew further in the first half of the current financial year as the delta between consumption growth and the more or less stagnant domestic production continued to widen.

The country's oil import dependency in April-September (H1) was 88.2 per cent, up from 87.6 per cent in the year-ago period and 87.8 per cent for the full financial year 2023-24 (FY24), per latest data from the oil ministry's Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell (PPAC). Import dependency in the case of natural

gas was 51.5 per cent in the first six months of FY25, up from 46.8 per cent a year ago and 47.1 per cent for the full FY24. India's energy demand has been rising rapidly, leading to higher oil and gas imports. Reliance on imported oil has been growing continuously over the past few years, except in FY21, when demand was suppressed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The country's oil import dependency stood at 87.8 per cent in FY24, 87.4 per cent in FY23, 85.5 per cent in FY22, 84.4 per cent in FY21, 85 per cent in FY20, and 83.8 per cent in FY19. Heavy dependence on imported crude oil makes the Indian economy vulnerable to global oil price volatility, apart from having a bearing on the country's trade deficit, foreign exchange reserves, rupee's exchange rate, and inflation. The government wants to reduce India's reliance on imported crude oil but sluggish domestic oil output in the face of incessantly growing demand for petroleum products has been the biggest roadblock. In the case of natural gas, the government wants to increase its consumption and share in the country's primary energy mix to 15 per cent by 2030 from over 6 per cent currently. The rationale behind the push for natural gas, even though it

would lead to higher gas imports, is rather simple.

Festive offer
Natural gas is far less polluting than conventional hydrocarbons like crude oil and coal, and is usually cheaper than oil.



It is also seen as a key transition fuel. To be sure though, the government has also been pushing India's oil and gas companies to increase domestic production of natural gas in a bid to keep import dependency levels under check. India's crude oil imports rose to 120.5 million tonnes in H1 from 115.9 million in the year-ago period, while domestic production declined slightly to 14.4 million tonnes, per PPAC data. The country's gross oil import bill in the first

six months of FY25 rose nearly 12 per cent year-on-year to \$71.3 billion. Natural gas imports rose 23 per cent year-on-year to 18.98 billion cubic metres in H1, and cost \$7.7 billion against \$6.5 billion a year ago. In early 2015, the government had set a target to reduce reliance on oil imports to 67 per cent by 2022 from 77 per cent in 2013-14, but the dependency has only grown since. Cutting costly oil imports continues to be a key focus area for the government, which has taken a number of policy measures to incentivise investments in India's oil and gas exploration and production sector. Reducing oil imports is also one of the fundamental objectives of the government's push for electric mobility, biofuels, and other alternative fuels for transportation as well as industries. While there has been a pick-up in electric mobility adoption and blending of biofuels with conventional fuels, it is not enough to offset petroleum demand growth. Total domestic consumption of petroleum products in April-September was 117.7 million tonnes, of which just 13.8 million tonnes came from domestically produced crude oil, resulting in a self-sufficiency level of 11.8 per cent, per PPAC data.

NEWS BOX

Love how teams are playing Tests now: MS Dhoni backs result-oriented approach

New Delhi. Former India captain MS Dhoni has praised the aggressive, result-oriented approach, known as "Bazball," that teams are embracing in Test cricket today. This style, popularly known as "Bazball," coined after current England captain Brendon McCullum, emphasizes risk-taking and bold strategies to achieve a result rather than settling for a draw. Dhoni, known for his astute cricketing mind and calm demeanor on the field, emphasized how Test cricket has evolved to fit this era of aggression and positive results. "You can give cricket any term that you want to," Dhoni said. "What we have seen is cricket has evolved. The way people are playing cricket is very different. There was a time when in ODIs something was considered a safe score; now that score is not safe in T20s too." Reflecting on the days when he represented India in 90 Test matches, Dhoni revealed how he sometimes found it challenging to maintain motivation during matches that seemed destined for a draw. "For me, the most difficult time during a Test match was the fifth day when you knew that 100% it is going to be a draw," he noted. "I would still need to keep for nearly 2.5 sessions, and that was the most tiring part. You see there is no result happening; you are just going through the motions."

For Dhoni, this old-style Test cricket meant extended hours of physical and mental exertion with no reward, a sentiment shared by many players who understand the intensity of a five-day game. His endorsement of the aggressive approach stems from a desire to maintain fan engagement and ensure that the result speaks for itself, offering viewers a more dynamic experience. Dhoni has always been vocal about the entertainment value of cricket, and he believes the new approach addresses the lingering issue of inconclusive results in Test cricket. "Imagine telling someone who doesn't know much about cricket: we play over five days, and after all that, we don't get a result. That's not nice for the game," he said. The thrill of competitive action, and the challenge of swinging a match in four days or even after a weather delay, Dhoni said, speaks to the "beauty of Test cricket." The "Bazball" approach has not only increased the number of results but has also injected new life into Test matches, attracting fans who might otherwise prefer the high-octane excitement of limited-overs cricket.

Arsenal boss Mikel Arteta rues more injury additions after draw vs Liverpool

New Delhi. Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta praised his team's resilience after managing a 2-2 draw with Liverpool on Sunday but expressed frustration over a worsening injury crisis as the Gunners' push for the Premier League title faces mounting challenges. Despite the positive result, Arteta's squad saw two more defenders added to an already long injury list. The Gunners were missing several key players from the start, including captain Martin Odegaard and defender Riccardo Calafiori, both sidelined with injuries, while William Saliba was absent due to suspension. The defensive issues worsened when Gabriel Magalhães and Jurrien Timber were both forced off during the second half, leaving a depleted backline to handle the closing stages. After the match, Arteta praised his squad's tenacity but admitted the situation was difficult. "I'm very proud of the team, especially with the situation we're going through at the moment," he said, referring to the injuries. "We have to adapt, and we will continue to adapt. The courage they showed today was unbelievable."

Gabriel's injury seemed particularly worrying for Arteta, who admitted, "He could not run. I don't know if it's the knee joint or the ankle." Timber's condition also remains uncertain, adding to the defensive uncertainty. Despite the injuries, Arsenal took an early lead when Bukayo Saka, returning from injury, scored his 50th Premier League goal in the ninth minute. "I just had this game in my mind, that I would do everything I can to come back for it," Saka told Sky Sports, highlighting his determination to contribute in such a high-stakes clash.

The 2-2 draw leaves Arsenal in third place with 18 points, trailing behind Liverpool on 22 points and leaders Manchester City on 23. Arteta remained optimistic but conceded that he would rather be five points ahead of City than five behind. "The team is alive, the team wants it," he emphasized, underscoring Arsenal's ambition despite their injury setbacks. The Gunners hope for a quick recovery for Odegaard, who has been out since September. The Norwegian hinted in the matchday program that he's nearing a return, but Arteta cautioned, saying he's "still a bit far" from playing again. Reflecting on the challenging circumstances, Arteta remained determined. "This is football. Circumstances are going to make us better, they are making us better," he concluded, keeping a positive outlook as Arsenal look to navigate the season's physical demands.

Shikhar Dhawan backs Rohit Sharma: 'A good captain is not just about wins and losses'

Former opener Shikhar Dhawan, while speaking to IndiaToday.in has backed Rohit Sharma, saying that it is unfair to judge the Indian captain after just one Test series loss to New Zealand. Dhawan said that captaincy is not just about wins or losses.

New Delhi. Rohit Sharma may have become the first India captain to lose a home Test series in 12 years, but his friend and former opening partner Shikhar Dhawan does not see the New Zealand loss as a point of concern. The former opener reckons questioning Rohit after just one series loss is unfair, especially when he led India to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup title triumph just six months ago. "The pressure you all talk

about isn't something we feel. While there is pressure in the game, we don't dwell on losses or wins; that's part of the game," Dhawan told IndiaToday.in. "I feel that's neither a fair nor a practical approach toward anything," he added, defending his captain and close friend.

Rohit's captaincy came under the scanner during the first Test against New Zealand in Bengaluru, where he admitted to a significant misjudgement of pitch conditions. India suffered a historic collapse after Rohit decided to bat first in Bengaluru, bowled out for their lowest total (46) at home, and lost to New Zealand for the first time in 36 years. The series only grew more contentious when Rohit Sharma's cautious captaincy on Day 1 in Pune drew criticism from prominent voices in the cricketing world, including Sunil Gavaskar, Ravi Shastri, and Simon Doull.

'ROHIT IS A GREAT LEADER'

In Pune, the Indian captain's strategy of opening with spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Washington Sundar seemed sensible on the turn-friendly track, but defensive field placements allowed New Zealand's batters to capitalize. This misstep



mirrored India's struggles in Bengaluru, where New Zealand's pacers exploited the rain-affected pitch, taking 17 of the 20 Indian wickets and clinching an eight-wicket victory. Pune's slow-turner, intended to give India an edge, instead played into New Zealand's hands as Mitchell Santner, leading a spin attack, claimed a ten-wicket haul across both innings to secure a series win for the visitors. After India's first series loss on home turf since 2012, Rohit Sharma joins an unwanted list with Kapil Dev as the only Indian captain in 41 years to lose three home Tests in a single calendar year. The parallels with Dev's 1983 struggles against the West Indies have heightened the

criticism. Dhawan, however, insists on taking a broader view of Rohit Sharma's leadership qualities, emphasizing that the connection he fosters with the team holds immeasurable value. "As a cricketer, we don't think that way. And Rohit is a great leader; it's not just about winning and losing. There's a bond, the team's connection with its leader, and how much they look up to him," Dhawan added.

'INDIA TO DO WELL IN AUSTRALIA'

India's back-to-back losses to New Zealand have made their path to the World Test Championship (WTC) final steeper. To secure a place without relying on other results, India now need to win at least four of their remaining six Tests. This will be challenging as five of those matches are scheduled to take place in Australia, where the conditions favor the hosts. Further complicating matters, there is a strong possibility that captain Rohit Sharma may miss the opening one or two Tests of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy due to personal reasons. While the BCCI announced him as captain for the entire five-Test series, no official statement was made regarding his potential absence in the first Test.

Red Bull boss Christian Horner coy on Sergio Perez racing beyond Brazilian GP

New Delhi. Red Bull team principal Christian Horner declined to confirm whether Sergio Perez would complete the Formula One season with the team after a disappointing outing at Perez's home race in Mexico City. Starting 18th, Perez's race quickly unravelled as he incurred a penalty for a false start and was later involved in multiple incidents that left his car damaged and ultimately in last place on the track. Adding to Red Bull's woes, Ferrari overtook them for second place in the Constructors' Championship, despite Max Verstappen's strong lead in the drivers' standings. When pressed on Perez's future, Horner gave no assurances for the Mexican driver, who is under contract until 2025. Instead, Horner confirmed only that Perez would race in Brazil next weekend, the final leg of a triple-



header in the Americas, yet speculation at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez hinted a potential change for Red Bull's lineup could be on the horizon for the season's last three races. "You know, there comes a point in time that difficult decisions have to be made," said Horner. "We're now third in the constructors' championship."

Our determination is to try and get back into a

winning position but it's going to be a tall order over these next four races. Horner described Perez's weekend as "horrible," emphasizing that nothing went his way. "He knows Formula One is a results-based business and inevitably when you're not delivering then the spotlight is firmly on you." When questioned about Perez's seat security, Horner reiterated his statement, labeling the driver's recent performance as "under-performing" and noting that Red Bull continuously assesses team performance.

"As a team we need both cars scoring points and that's the nature of Formula One," he added. "We're working with him as hard as we can to try and support him. I think we've done everything that we can to support Checo and we'll continue to do so in Brazil next weekend." But there comes a point in time that you can only do so much.

The Brazilian GP will take place on November 3.

Formula One: Carlos Sainz wins Mexico GP as Max Verstappen gets penalised twice

New Delhi. Carlos Sainz clinched an emotional victory at the Mexico City Grand Prix, marking Ferrari's first win at the venue since 1990 and the fourth of his career. Meanwhile, Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who started on the front row with Sainz, encountered a challenging race. Verstappen received two 10-second penalties following aggressive encounters with McLaren's Lando Norris, who later criticised the Dutch driver as "dangerous" over team radio. Verstappen ultimately finished sixth, surrendering some ground in the championship, as Norris's second-place finish reduced Verstappen's lead to 47 points with just four races left. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc completed the podium, having initially run close to Sainz, but fell to third after Norris overtook him in the closing laps. Despite missing out on a Ferrari one-two, Leclerc secured an additional point for setting the fastest lap. The race saw Verstappen take the lead from Sainz on the long opening straight, but a safety car intervention after an opening-lap collision between Yuki Tsunoda and Alex Albon neutralised his advantage. Sainz reclaimed the lead soon after the restart, overtaking Verstappen with the help of DRS on lap nine. Verstappen's penalties, served on lap 27, pushed him back to 15th, forcing a fierce battle to recover places.

Mercedes drivers Lewis Hamilton and George Russell finished fourth and fifth, respectively, following a tense duel in the race's final stages. Kevin Magnussen of Haas achieved a solid seventh-place finish, followed by McLaren's Oscar Piastri in eighth and Haas teammate Nico Hulkenberg in ninth. Pierre Gasly of Alpine rounded out the top 10, bringing his team closer to seventh place in the Constructors' standings, currently held by Williams. Sergio Perez faced a disappointing home race. The Mexican Red Bull driver was penalised for a false start after lining up outside the designated grid box and ended up 17th after a series of on-track scuffles, including a collision with Liam Lawson that damaged his car. The crowd witnessed yet another captivating battle between Verstappen and Norris, as stewards took a strict stance after the previous weekend's controversies in Austin. The incident-packed race concluded with Sainz comfortably ahead of Norris by 4.7 seconds, while Leclerc trailed 34.3 seconds behind his Ferrari teammate. Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso was forced to retire on lap 15 due to cooling and brake issues in his milestone 400th Formula One race.

U23 World Championship: Chirag Chikkara becomes 2nd Indian male wrestler to win gold

New Delhi. Chirag Chikkara became only the third Indian to become Under-23 world champion as India capped a rich haul of nine medals, including a gold and silver each, at the age group tournament here. Chikkara, competing in the men's freestyle 57kg category, eked out a narrow 4-3 in the closing seconds of the final win over Abdymalik Karachov of Kyrgyzstan. He becomes the second Indian man, after Paris Olympics bronze medallist Aman Sehrawat, to win the gold at the U23 Championships.

Sehrawat had achieved the feat in the same category in the 2022 edition of the meet while Reetika Hooda had become the first Indian woman to bag a gold at the tournament when she won in the 76kg category last year. Ravi Kumar Dahiya had also won a silver in the U23 World Championships in 2018. Chikkara reached the final after a series of dominant performances, defeating Gaokoto Ozawa 6-1 in the pre-quarterfinals, Lunus Ilyabvator 12-2 in the last eight stage and Allan Oralbek 8-0 in the semifinals. India's medal haul in

the men's freestyle category also included two bronze medals, placing the nation fourth in the team standings with 82 points, trailing Iran (158), Japan (102), and Azerbaijan (100). India also won two more bronze in men's



freestyle taking the country's medal count in the category to four that secured the nation a fourth place in the team rankings. Iran topped the team rankings with 158 points followed by Japan (102), Azerbaijan (100) and Indonesia (82). Vicky defeated former U20 World

MotoGP championship leader Jorge Martin uses Ganesha-inspired helmet for Thai GP

Jorge Martin paid tribute to Lord Ganesha with a special helmet at the Thai GP, where he finished second after a fierce contest with Francesco Bagnaia.



New Delhi. MotoGP championship leader Jorge Martin used a Lord Ganesha-inspired helmet for the Thai GP, where he finished second behind eventual winner

Francesco Bagnaia. Martin had revealed his new helmet a few days ahead of the race. Martin said that he wanted to make a tribute to the Hindu god and also revealed that he has a tattoo of Lord Ganesha on his shoulder as



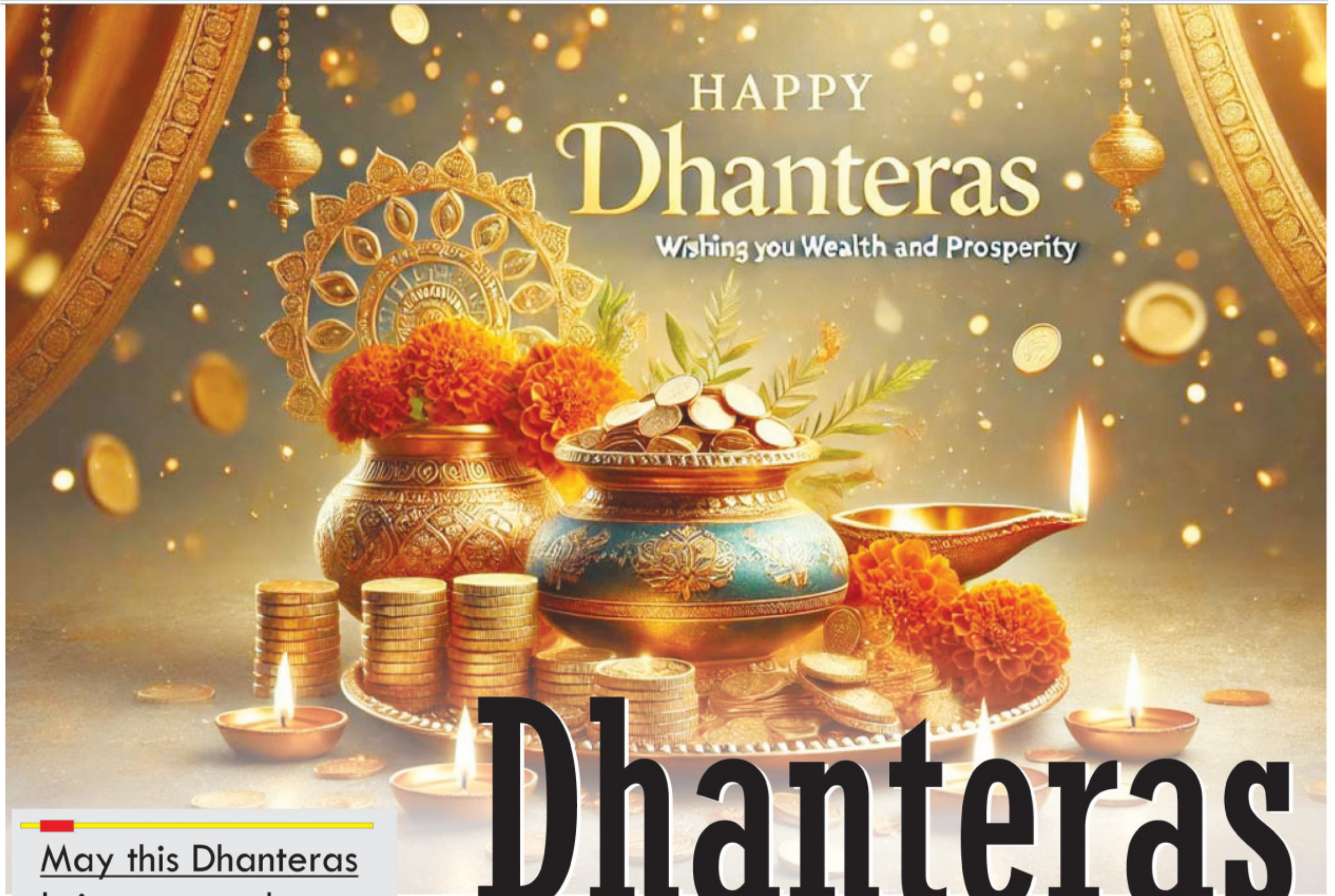
well. The Spanish racer had said that he is hoping the new helmet would help him during the weekend. "I wanted to make a tribute to Lord Ganesha, who is a Hindu god. I have a tattoo of him on my shoulder, I think it can help

me during the weekend," said Martin. On his Instagram profile, Martin would share a reel of the helmet with a caption reading, "Ganesha, is the god of wisdom, prosperity, luck, and the remover of obstacles. Here is my tribute," said Martin.

What happened in the Thai GP

In a masterful performance at a rain-soaked Buriram International Circuit, Ducati's Francesco Bagnaia triumphed at the Thailand Grand Prix, narrowing his championship deficit to Jorge Martin to just 17 points. The reigning champion capitalized on mistakes made by Pramac Racing's Martin and Marc Marquez of Gresini Racing, securing his ninth victory of the

season. Bagnaia started from pole position, but Martin surged ahead at the start, displaying his usual explosive acceleration into turn one. However, as the race progressed, Martin struggled with the slick track conditions, veering off course on lap five and relinquishing the lead to Bagnaia, who maintained a steady pace through the challenging conditions. Martin managed to recover to finish second, while rookie Pedro Acosta of GasGas Tech3 clinched an impressive third. Bagnaia's controlled ride in the wet kept him firmly in contention for the title, as he looks to close the gap in the final races of the season. Martin continues to lead the MotoGP standings, 17 points ahead of Bagnaia with the next race taking place in Malaysia from November 1-3.



May this Dhanteras bring you and your family an abundance of happiness, good health, and prosperity!

Dhanteras

Why Do We Purchase Gold On Dhanteras?



Dhanteras, also known as Dhantrayodashi, marks the beginning of the five-day Diwali festival and is one of the most auspicious days in the Hindu calendar. In 2024, Dhanteras will be celebrated on October 29. The day is dedicated to Lord Dhanvantari, the god of Ayurveda and health, and is also associated with wealth and prosperity. One of the most well-known traditions of Dhanteras is the purchase of gold. But why is this custom so significant?

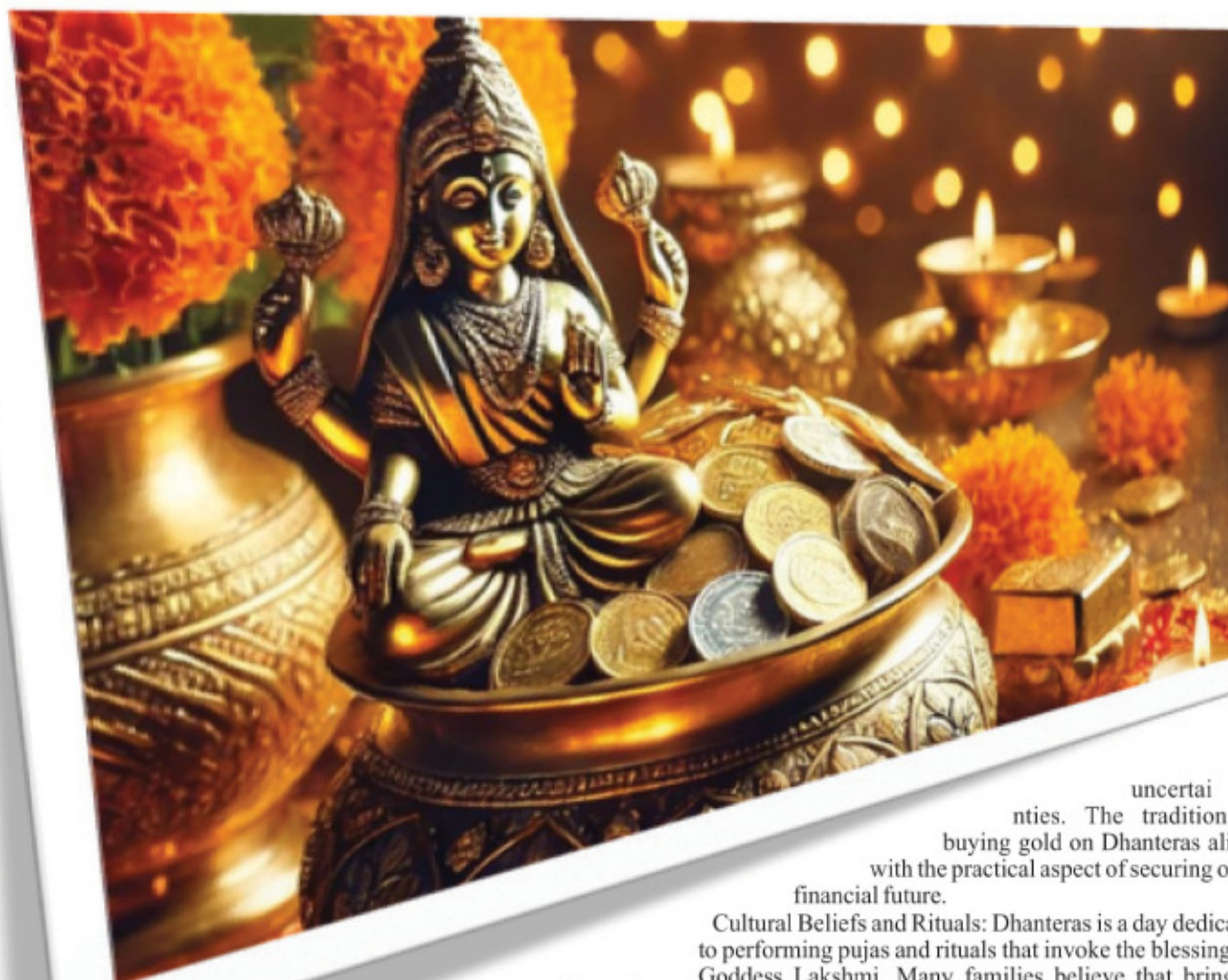
The Mythological Significance

The tradition of purchasing gold on Dhanteras has its roots in ancient mythology. According to legend, it was on this day that Lord Dhanvantari emerged from the ocean during the churning of the Milky Sea, known as Samudra Manthan, holding a pot of amrita (elixir) in one hand and the holy text of Ayurveda in the other. This event symbolizes the emergence of health and wealth from the depths of the ocean, making Dhanteras a day to celebrate both.

Another popular mythological tale is the story of King Hima's son, who was destined to die from a snake bite on the fourth day of his marriage. To prevent this, his wife kept him awake all night by lighting lamps and placing all her gold and silver ornaments in a heap near the entrance of their bedroom. The bright lights and dazzling gold are said to have blinded Yama, the god of death, when he arrived. Pleased with the devotion and wisdom of the young bride, Yama spared the prince's life. This legend emphasizes the protective and auspicious qualities of gold, reinforcing the tradition of buying gold to ward off ill fortune.

Cultural and Economic Significance

Symbol of Wealth and Prosperity: In Indian culture, gold is considered a symbol of wealth, purity, and prosperity. Purchasing gold on Dhanteras is believed to bring good fortune, financial stability, and



prosperity to the household. It is a way of invoking the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi, the deity of wealth. **Investment for the Future:** Gold has always been a preferred form of investment in India. It serves as a hedge against inflation and economic

In contemporary times, the essence of Dhanteras remains deeply rooted in tradition, but the ways of celebrating have evolved. While gold jewelry and coins continue to be popular purchases, many people also buy silver, new utensils, and electronics. The underlying belief is that new acquisitions on this auspicious day will bring luck and prosperity.

Markets and shops across India witness a significant surge in sales as people indulge in festive shopping. Jewelers offer attractive discounts and new collections to cater to the increased demand. The festive atmosphere, coupled with the anticipation of Diwali, adds to the excitement of the occasion.

Dhanteras is a celebration of health, wealth, and prosperity. The tradition of purchasing gold on this day is deeply embedded in Indian culture and mythology, symbolizing the hope for a prosperous future and the blessings of divine deities. As we prepare to celebrate Dhanteras in 2024, let us embrace the traditions with joy and reverence, ensuring that the spirit of prosperity and well-being touches every home.

Tips for Buying Gold on Dhanteras

Check Purity: Ensure that the gold you purchase is hallmarked and meets the required purity standards.

Compare Prices: Gold prices can vary across different jewelers. It's wise to compare prices before making a purchase.

Understand Making Charges: Different jewelers may have different making charges for gold jewelry. Clarify these charges beforehand.

Buy from Reputed Jewelers: Purchase gold from well-known and trusted jewelers to ensure authenticity and quality.

Consider Investment Options: If buying jewelry is not a priority, consider investing in gold coins or bars, which often have lower making charges.

Wishing you a prosperous and joyful Dhanteras!



uncertainties. The tradition of buying gold on Dhanteras aligns with the practical aspect of securing one's financial future.

Cultural Beliefs and Rituals: Dhanteras is a day dedicated to performing pujas and rituals that invoke the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi. Many families believe that bringing home gold on this day pleases the goddess, ensuring her blessings for the year ahead.

Family and Community Bonds: The act of purchasing gold and other valuables on Dhanteras often involves the entire family. It is a communal activity that strengthens family bonds and promotes a sense of unity and shared prosperity.

Modern-Day Celebrations