

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

The Sikh Times National Daily

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

Vol. 16 No. 169 RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465 New Delhi, Wednesday, 30 October 2024 sikhtimesindia@gmail.com 9654077232 12 pages ₹ 3

EC rejects Congress's allegations of irregularities in Haryana poll

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Oct 29: The Election Commission on Tuesday rejected allegations levelled by the Congress over irregularities in the just-held



Haryana assembly polls, saying the party was raising "the smoke of a generic doubt" about the credibility of an entire electoral outcome like it did in the past.

will remain committed towards timely grievance redressal," it said in a letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge. The poll authority said that "once again", it was compelled to note that with "no evidence whatsoever" of any statutory electoral step being compromised, the Congress has "once again raised the smoke of a generic doubt" about the credibility of an entire electoral outcome "exactly in a similar manner as it has done in recent past".

Govt creating system that gives opportunity to every youngster: PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Oct 29: Asserting that it is his government's commitment to providing employment to a maximum number of youngsters, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that a system is being created that gives opportunity to every youth and allows them to fulfil their aspirations.

employment opportunities would be difficult. "We began work to rid the country of this old mindset of earlier governments," Modi said, adding that poli-



and airports underway in the country. Water and gas pipelines are being laid, and schools and universities are being opened, he said, asserting that development works are not only giving facilities to people but also creating employment opportunities.

he said, while also pointing to the paid internship programme for youngsters which seeks to induct over one crore youth over the next five years. India, Modi said, has entered into agreements with 21 countries to facilitate immigration and employment for Indian youths.

TMC MP on why he smashed glass bottle in Waqf Bill meeting

ST Correspondent New Delhi, Oct 29: Exactly a week after he injured himself when he smashed a glass bottle during a meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Waqf Bill, Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee revealed why he reacted in such a manner.



Sabha member of the ruling party. "When Gangopadhyay raised his voice, I questioned him. He used abusive language against me and my kin. I reacted but he continued to use foul language," the MP from West Bengal's Serampore, recalled.

TMC MP on violent conduct in JPC meet, & more

Mumbai, Oct 29: NCP(SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday accused his nephew, Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, of breaking their family for the latter's political ambitions.

Noida man arrested for death threat to Salman Khan, Zeeshan Siddique

Navdeep Singh Sahni Mumbai, Oct 29: The Mumbai police have arrested a 20-year-old man from Noida in Uttar Pradesh for allegedly issuing a death threat to Bollywood actor Salman Khan and NCP leader Zeeshan Siddique, an official said on Tuesday.

Baba Siddique (66), a three-time MLA and former state minister, was shot dead outside his son's office in Bandra on October



12. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang, which claimed responsibility for the NCP leader's killing, citing the politician's close ties with Salman as one of the reasons why he was killed. The ruling Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) led by Ajit Pawar has fielded Zeeshan from the Bandra East constituency in Mumbai in the next month's Assembly

elections. Zeeshan recently mentioned in an interview that after the death of his father, who was also a close friend of actor Salman Khan, the Bollywood actor was extremely worried about his well-being.

CM launches water sports activities in GobindSagar in Bilaspur

Shimla, Oct 29: To give a boost to tourism activities, the Himachal government has launched water sports activities, including cruises, shikara rides, houseboats, hi-tech motorboats, jet skis and water scooters in GobindSagar Lake in Mandi Bharari area of Bilaspur.

Monopoly Bachao Syndicate: Rahul alleges 'nexus' among Adani Group

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Oct 29: The Congress on Tuesday levelled fresh conflict of interest charges against SEBI chief Madhubi Puri Buch, with Rahul Gandhi claiming a "Monopoly Bachao Syndicate" was at work, at the core of which was a "dangerous nexus" among the Adani Group, key regulatory bodies, and the BJP.

ing a whole time member of SEBI. The party further pointed out that Jacesa Investments Limited, which is based out of

Congress' media and publicity department head Pawan Kherra also alleged that Ananth Narayan Gopalkrishnan, who became a whole time member at SEBI on October 10, 2022, also rented out his property in Mumbai to a stockbroker hired by a brokerage firm called IMC India Securities, which is regulated by SEBI, and received Rs 64.8 lakhs in rent. Simultaneously, the third in a series featuring Gandhi and Kherra, in which the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha talks about how the Adani Defence website allegedly reveals how the company profits by "merely rebranding" foreign-made weapons.



St Vincent and The Grenadines and invested in Predible Health Private Limited, is listed in offshore leaks by Paradise Papers shared by ICIJ. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, the

the video, Gandhi said, "The rot in India's institutional framework has reached alarming depths with the rise of a 'Monopoly Bachao Syndicate'. At the core of this syndicate is a dangerous nexus

between Adani, key regulatory bodies, and the Modi-led BJP." The Adani Defence website reveals how the company profits by merely rebranding foreign-made weapons, while crucial funds meant for training, pensions and the welfare of young soldiers and their families are diverted through schemes like Agniweer, he alleged. "This betrayal compromises national security and jeopardises our youth's future," Gandhi said. "Previously, we exposed how the 'Adani Bachao Syndicate' thrives through the complicity of institutions like SEBI under Madhubi Buch, who is accused of manipulating the system to protect Adani's inflated valuations," he said. Gandhi said Buch's role raises serious questions about regulatory capture and the erosion of institutional integrity in favour of corporate interests. "The Congress party has consistently raised alarms about this growing syndicate, exposing how Buch and others are consolidating power in the hands of a few, serving those in authority.

Shiv Sena's Milind Deora on Aaditya Thackeray

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, Oct 29: Rajya Sabha MP and Shiv Sena candidate from Worli Assembly seat Milind Deora on Tuesday asserted that his only aim is to deliver justice to the voters With Maharashtra assembly polls less than a month away, Rajya Sabha MP and Shiv Sena candidate from Worli Assembly seat Milind Deora on Tuesday asserted that his only aim is to deliver justice to the voters of the constituency, highlighting that his fight is a political one, not personal. Milind Deora will file his nomination from the Worli Assembly seat today, where he is up against sitting MLA from Shiv Sena (UBT) Aaditya Thackeray. "This is not a personal fight; it is a political fight. Our aim is only one: we have to deliver justice to the voters of Worli. We have to take Mumbai and Maharashtra forward. Unfortunately, the way a fake narrative has been spread against the government in the last 2-3 years, we have to bust that narrative...Chief Minister Eknath Shinde is very enthusiastic about solving the problems of the people of Worli," Deora told. On the performance of Shiv Sena (UBT)

leader Aaditya Thackeray as Worli MLA. Deora said that he had a lot of expectations from junior Thackeray, adding that he failed to



live up to those expectations. "I don't want to make it negative, but I certainly see that there are a lot of opportunities and a lot of shortcomings in the last five years. There was a lot of hype and a lot of expectations. I had a lot of hype and expectations from him five years ago when he became an MLA from South Mumbai. Unfortunately, he's failed to live up to those expectations, not just for me but for

the people of Worli as well. So we'll encounter those along the way in the next three weeks," the Rajya Sabha MP said. "The Maharashtra government has performed very well, whether it's social welfare or infrastructure. And therefore people will re-elect this government," he added. The Worli candidate from Shiv Sena further said that Chief Minister Eknath Shinde's objective is to make the constituency move ahead. He said, "We are trying our best to ensure that Worli, which is one of the most cosmopolitan constituencies in Mumbai, which has all communities living there, all people living from slums to high rises, take their issues, concerns, and aspirations to the Chief Minister. That is our objective. The Chief Minister has one objective. He wants Worli to move ahead. And therefore, we are fighting this battle to give people justice." "I want to serve the people. If I get an opportunity to serve the people through Parliament, if I get an opportunity to serve the people through assembly, to me, service is service. The objective is how do you empower people, how do you help them to do better, so that is my objective, Deora added.

19 Maoists arrested by joint team of security forces in Sukma

BASTAR, Oct 29: A Sukma police statement said 14 of the 19 arrests were made from areas under the Jagargunda police station According to a statement by Sukma police, 14 Maoists were appre-



hended from the Jagargunda police station area, while five were arrested from the Bheji police station area which comes under Konta area committee of the CPI (Maoist). Security forces also seized three gelatin rods, 300 gm of gunpowder, cordex wire, detonators, electric

wire and batteries from the 14 Maoists. "Joint teams of the District Reserve Guard (DRG), 219th and 150th battalions of the Central Reserve Police Force and 201st battalion of CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action, an elite unit of CRPF) were out for anti-naxal operations in various parts of the district on Tuesday and arrested these Maoists from different places," the statement said. "Of the 14 men, aged between 18 to 40 years, held in Jagargunda, three carried a bounty of ₹1 lakh each. The trio included Barse Hadma (25), a militia commander, and Barse Nagesh (20) and Hemla Jitu (18), who were working with CNM (Chetna Natya Mandli, a frontal wing of Maoists)," the statement added. The five Maoists arrested from Bheji were allegedly involved in the murder of a villager in Bhandarpadar in September and an electrician engaged in laying a power transmission line in the same village in February this year.



Stalled for years, project now has a co-developer to complete flats

Noida. The Noida Authority has appointed Nimbus Projects Ltd as a co-developer to resume work on the long-stalled The Grand Arista housing project in Sector 168, which was originally allocated to Sunworld Residency Pvt Ltd. Both Sunworld and Nimbus will now jointly clear dues that were recalculated after the original developer opted for a zero-period waiver under the state govt's rehabilitation policy for stalled projects. It was in Sept that Noida Authority's chief executive officer, Lokesh M, approved Nimbus as the co-developer following a request from Sunworld. The formal approval was granted by the Authority board on Saturday, offering a relief to buyers who have been waiting for their flats for years. Apart from clearing dues, Nimbus will also be responsible for completing the project in time along with Sunworld. According to Sunworld's agreement with Nimbus, the co-developer will complete the remaining towers in Phase 2, develop common areas, clubhouse and other amenities. Nimbus also has the authority to manage, sell and transfer all Phase 2 flats, with Sunworld providing land access and assistance with required documentation. "Nimbus has accepted

responsibility for setting dues within a stipulated period. According to its deal with Sunworld, Nimbus will complete construction in keeping with the approved plan and bear sole responsibility for the completion, handover and saleable area management of Phase 2 of the project. All risks or disputes related to Phase 2 will fall on Nimbus, excluding Sunworld from any liability," an official said. If the project is delayed, a 20% penalty on dues will apply after a three-year extension. The Authority will also be liable to intervene and take steps to complete the project. Within 15 days, Nimbus will have to apply with the Authority to become the co-developer, making both responsible for dues and project completion. "The approval of Nimbus as the co-developer underscores the Authority's strategy to revitalise delayed projects, protect homebuyers' interests, and enforce accountability. By bringing in third-party developers, the Authority aims to address financial and operational setbacks that often impede disputes related to Phase 2 will fall on Nimbus, excluding Sunworld from any liability," an official said. If the project is delayed, a 20% penalty on dues will apply after a three-year extension.

sion. The Authority will also be liable to intervene and take steps to complete the project. Within 15 days, Nimbus will have to apply with large housing projects," the official said. Since 2010, The Grand Arista project has changed multiple hands. Initially, 40,221sqm was allotted to Boulevard Infrastructure Pvt Ltd for Rs 94.9 crore, but later transferred to Sunworld Residency in 2012. Set for completion by 2017, the project only had seven of 10 proposed towers ready while occupancy certificates were issued for 400 of 972 flats by July 2019. With mounting dues, the Authority sealed the three incomplete towers on March 31 last year. After Sunworld opted for the govt's rehabilitation policy, the Authority asked the company to pay 25% of its outstanding dues of Rs 42.3 crore within 60 days. Sunworld deposited Rs 10.3 crore, and proposed appointing Nimbus Projects as the co-developer. It also committed to jointly pay the remaining Rs 32 crore.

NAME CHANGE

I, Manish Yadav R/o 50/95, Patel Nagar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Minor Son Name Ayush Yadav To Ayushh Rao For All Future Purpose

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Hitherto Known as Mamata Khatun D/o Ismail Mondal R/o D 2/142, First Floor, Jeevan Park, Utam Nagar, PO: DK Mohan Garden, Dist. West Delhi, Delhi -110059, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced Hinduism and renounced ISLAM with effect from 21.07.2024

NAME CHANGE

I, No-15813423A Rank-LNK Name-SUNEEL KUMAR VEMULAPATI residing at 7-1-263, YADAVA STREET, VILL-RANGANAYAKULA PETA, POTIKKANA TELEGRAM, TEH-NELLORE, DIST-NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH-524001 have changed my wife's name from SARANYA PODALI to PUSALI SARANYA for all future purposes and in my service records my wife's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 20/06/1997 instead of her correct date of birth as 20/06/1998 vide Affidavit dated 29/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, No-15813423A Rank-LNK Name-SUNEEL KUMAR VEMULAPATI residing at 7-1-263, YADAVA STREET, VILL-RANGANAYAKULA PETA, POTIKKANA TELEGRAM, TEH-NELLORE, DIST-NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH-524001 have changed my mother's name from SVLUCHANAMMA to VEMULAPATI SULOCHANA for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/07/1976 instead of her correct date of birth as 15/05/1966 vide Affidavit dated 29/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, VENKATRAM REDDY Father of No. 16123632P Rank-NK Name-SRIDHAR REDDY R/O 1-19, VILL-POTHIREDDY PALLY, TEH-KOSGI, DIST-MAHABUBNAGAR, TELANGANA-509339, have changed my name from VENKATRAM REDDY to PULLAMGARI VENKAT RAMREDDY for all future purposes, and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/05/1971 instead of my correct date of birth as 12/10/1968 vide Affidavit dated 29/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, No-15813423A Rank-LNK Name-SUNEEL KUMAR VEMULAPATI residing at 7-1-263, YADAVA STREET, VILL-RANGANAYAKULA PETA, POTIKKANA TELEGRAM, TEH-NELLORE, DIST-NELLORE, ANDHRA PRADESH-524001 have changed my father's name from V SUDHAKAR to VEMULAPATI SUDHAKAR for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 14/04/1977 instead of his correct date of birth as 14/04/1964 vide Affidavit dated 29/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by Mrs. Preeti Dubey that The Sale Deed dated 08.07.2016 registered as Doc. No. 9744 executed by Mrs. Neelam in favour of Mrs. Preeti Dubey for HOUSE No. 261/22, ADMEASURING 50.6 SQ. YDS. MU. KILLA No. 25/7/2 (3-0), SITUATED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE KADIPUR, HALL COLONY, GANDHI NAGAR, GURGAON, HARYANA has been lost/Misplaced. Further Mrs. Preeti Dubey will be taking financial assistance from ANAND RATHI GLOBAL FINANCE LTD. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person. If anybody found these document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, contact person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Amiya Bhattacharya purchasing Freehold Residential Flat No. B-1G-3, on Ground floor, area measuring 375 sq. ft., part of Plot No. B-1, out of Kharsa No. 1076/5/2/257, Situated at Dilshad Extension No.1, in the area of village Jhilmil Tahirpur, Ilaqa Shahdara, Delhi. Heirs of Late Shri. Narayan, legal heirs of Late Shri. Kumar Harendra Narayan were died & and he was purchased said property, vide Sale Deed dated 14/08/2000. Our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, which is to be financed by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: NSP Delhi. If any person(s) has any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and/or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client M/s Siwas Infra through its partners Mr. Manoj Kumar Siwas is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot No. A-1, area measuring 400 sq. yds., & Plot No. A, area measuring 360 sq. yds., out of Khata No. 00128, Kharsa No. 360, Situated Village Sarfabad Pargana & Tehsil Badli Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar U.P. By virtue of Sale Deed dated 21.07.2022 duly registered in the office of SR, I, Noida, as Doc No. 4639, Book No. 01, Vol No. 11399, Page Nos. 283-304, & Sale Deed dated 18.03.2024 as Doc No. 2906, Vol. No. 12607, Page Nos. 251-270. Dated 18.03.2024, SRO I Noida, in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. (1) Probate order of Registered Will dated 3.01.2020 & (2) Original Sale Deed dated 22.05.2018 executed by Mr. Shishpal Singh Yadav S/o Mr. Rishal Singh Yadav as attorney of Mr. Brahm Pal S/o Mr. Daryav in favour of Mr. Tarun Yadav S/o Mr. Rajveer Yadav as Doc No. 4152, Vol. No. 6290, Page Nos. 307-356, Dated 22.05.2018, SRO I Noida now our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been financed by ICICI Home Finance Co. Ltd., Branch: Noida Uttar Pradesh. If any person is having objection right of claim against the said property, contact to undersigned along with supporting documents within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and/or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate

F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 0995871432

[ASHWANJ KUMAR] Advocate

Chamber No. 122, Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

Table with 7 columns: Spt. Train No., Station From, Dept. Time, Station to, Arr. Time, Accomodation, Stoppages. It lists East Bound Festival Special Trains-2024 for Wednesdays and Thursdays, including train numbers, routes, and stoppages.

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News box

China Faces Stormy Future As Confidence In President Xi Jinping Crumbles

Beijing: Recently circulating on social media was a photo of a Chinese soldier wedding his bride. Behind them, an enormous slogan was emblazoned: "Listen to Chairman Xi's command; Be responsible to Chairman Xi; Let Chairman Xi rest assured." These were the kinds of slogans prevalent during the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s, promoting a personality cult for Mao Zedong. There can be no questioning the centrality of Xi in China but as the country's economy increasingly struggles, many are questioning the direction Chairman Xi Jinping has taken China. One who is critical of Xi is Desmond Shum, a Hong Kong-raised businessman who was once married to billionaire businesswoman Duan Weihong. Witnessing the direction Xi was taking China, Shum departed China in 2015 and, six years later, wrote *Red Roulette*, a book that describes corruption within the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). In mid-October, he posted public criticism of Xi on social media, saying, "Xi is systematically dismantling the most valuable asset of the CCP: public trust. Over the past few weeks, we've witnessed the wreckage of Xi's financial policies unfolding in real-time."

Shum continued: "To me, the more pressing issue isn't merely the financial mishaps but how Xi is eroding the longstanding trust and confidence the Chinese people once had in CCP governance. While this is probably unintentional on his part, it is definitely systematic and far-reaching." He said previous Chinese leaders like Deng Xiaoping, Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao were generally pragmatic.

Nepal Ready To Fight India? New Currency Note Set To Test New Delhi's Patience - Analysis

World. Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli's inclination towards China is not hidden from anyone. Such is his desire to bond with China that the Nepal government is taking steps that could prove detrimental to Kathmandu's relations with New Delhi. For those uninitiated, Nepal had staked a claim on three Indian territories in 2020 - Limpiyadhura-Kalapani-Lipulekh. The disputed area, a 370-square-kilometer stretch situated in the northwestern corner of the country, has been administered by India for many years. While Nepal added these regions to its map via constitutional amendment in 2020, the areas have been under Indian control for over 200 years. Nepal shares a border of over 1,800 km with five Indian states- Sikkim, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. India had maintained that unilateral decisions on paper cannot change ground reality. Now, recently, the Oli cabinet approved the inclusion of its new map with these three Indian territories on its currency note of Nepali Rs 100. The printing of the new notes will test Kathmandu's relations with India. Notably, Nepal has awarded the contract of printing its new currency notes to China Banknote Printing and Minting Corporation.

US Presidential Election 2024: Trump And Harris Present Dueling Visions Of America In Final Campaign Stretch

World. US Presidential Elections 2024: Uncertainty reigns entering the final week of the 2024 campaign with Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump locked in a fiercely competitive presidential contest. What happens in the coming days will be pivotal in deciding the winner of next week's election. Trump on Sunday held a rally at Madison Square Garden where several speakers made racist and crude remarks, including comedian Tony Hinchcliffe, who described Puerto Rico as "a floating island of garbage." Shortly after those remarks, Puerto Rican reggaeton artist Bad Bunny endorsed Harris. Trump is holding a rally in Atlanta on Monday evening while Harris is making several campaign stops in Michigan, including a rally with singer-songwriter Maggie Rogers. Harris told young voters: "You are rightly impatient for change." Harris urged young voters Monday in Ann Arbor, Michigan, to take the baton from "generations of Americans" who preserved freedom and back her over Trump. The pitch urged young voters, many of whom were in the audience from the nearby University of Michigan, to seize the power they want and protect a series of rights.

Harris specifically called out abortion rights, a key issue for younger voters. "Generations of Americans before us fought for freedom and now the baton is in our hands," Harris said. "I love your generation," Harris told the young audience.

Trump claimed that the US towns are being 'invaded and conquered' by 'blood-thirsty criminals'. Trump described the U.S. as an occupied nation due to illegal immigration, claiming undocumented migrants were more invasive and dangerous than a hostile occupying military. "I will rescue every city and town that has been invaded and conquered," Trump said. "You know, they have been invaded," Trump said of towns across the country, "just as though a foreign enemy was invading, a military was invading, and probably just as vicious or more vicious," the former president said.

Washington Post loses 2 lakh subscribers amid Harris endorsement row: Report

World. The Washington Post has lost over 2 lakh subscribers in the wake of the newspaper's billionaire owner and Amazon founder, Jeff Bezos, deciding not to endorse any of the two candidates for the November 5 US presidential elections, according to media reports. On Monday, Bezos defended the Washington Post's decision, saying that it "right" and "principled", and it was taken internally, not influenced by either Donald Trump or Kamala Harris. The newspaper's editorial staff were prepared to endorse Democratic nominee Harris, but publisher Will Lewis said on October 25 that the decision to choose a candidate relied on "our readers' ability to make up their own minds".

In a report citing sources, the NPR media outlet said that over 2 lakh people had cancelled their digital subscriptions of the Washington Post by Monday afternoon. Monday's cancellations represented about 8 per cent of over 2 million paid subscribers, which also include for the newspaper's print edition. Not all the cancellations took effect immediately. Speaking to NPR, Marcus Brauchli, a former Washington Post



Executive Editor, said the cancellations were "colossal" and the subscribers did not even know why the no-endorsement decision was taken. Marty Baron, another former Washington Post Executive Editor, expressed apprehensions about the move that came just weeks before the high-stakes elections.

"There was no substantive serious deliberation

with the editorial board of the paper. It was clearly made for other reasons, not for reasons of high principle," he told NPR.

JEFF BEZOS DEFENDS DECISION

The Washington Post published a "note from our owner" on Monday evening, in which Bezos said, "Presidential endorsements do nothing to tip the scales of an election. What presidential endorsements actually do

create a perception of bias. A perception of non-independence. Ending them is a principled decision, and it's the right one."

The billionaire businessman wrote that he wished the newspaper would end the tradition of endorsing presidential candidates "in a moment further from the election and the emotions around it. That was inadequate planning, and not some intentional strategy".

"I would also like to be clear that no quid pro quo of any kind is at work here. Neither campaign nor candidate was consulted or informed at any level or in any way about this decision. It was made entirely internally," he said in the note.

Bezos further said that there was no connection between the decision and a meeting between Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump and Blue Origin CEO, Dave Limp, on October 25. "I didn't know about the meeting beforehand... The meeting was scheduled quickly that morning. There is no connection between it and our decision on presidential endorsements, and any suggestion otherwise is false," he noted.

Bangladesh ex-PM Sheikh Hasina's palace to be converted into revolution museum

Dhaka. The once luxurious palace of Bangladesh's autocratic ex-leader Sheikh Hasina will become a museum to honour the revolution that ousted her, the leader of the caretaker government said Monday. "The museum should preserve memories of her misuse and the people's anger when they removed her from power," Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus said as he toured the battered Ganabhaban palace, the former official residence of the prime minister. The 84-year-old microfinance pioneer was appointed the country's "chief advisor" after the student-led uprising that forced Hasina to flee by helicopter to India on August 5. Hasina's 15-year rule saw widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killings of her political opponents, and a Bangladeshi court this month issued an arrest warrant for her



arrest. More than 700 people were killed, many in a brutal police crackdown, before Hasina's fall.

As she fled, thousands stormed her former residence, which the government said was a "symbol of repression". The walls of the palace, looted and damaged in the chaos after Hasina escaped, are daubed with graffiti condemning her fallen regime. The museum will include a replica of the

notorious "House of Mirrors" Aynagar detention centre operated by Hasina's regime -- given its name because its detainees were never supposed to see any other person besides themselves.

"The Aynagar should remind visitors of the torture endured by secret prisoners," Yunus said. Hasina's overthrow resulted in at least two days of chaos, which included the looting of a museum at the home of her father, Bangladesh's first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Apurba Jahangir, a press official in the office of Yunus, said construction would start by December. "The museum construction hasn't begun yet, but it will start soon," Apurba told AFP.

Hasina has not been seen in public since fleeing Bangladesh. The 77-year-old's last official whereabouts was a military airbase near India's capital New Delhi.

China Continues Military Activity Near Taiwan: 6 Aircraft, 9 Vessels Detected

World. Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence (MND) reported Chinese military activity near the island on Tuesday and said that by 6 am (local time), six Chinese aircraft and nine naval vessels were detected in the region. The MND further reported that four of these aircraft crossed the median line, entering Taiwan's northern and southwestern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). Sharing a post on X, Taiwan MND said, "6 PLA aircraft and 9 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 4 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly."

Earlier, twenty-two Chinese aircraft and seven naval vessels were detected in the region, out of which sixteen crossed the median line. "22 PLA aircraft and 7 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 17 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, central, southwestern and eastern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly," Taiwan MND said on X. Recently, Taiwan President Lai Ching-te held a high-level national security meeting in which he reassured the public of the government's dedication to defending Taiwan's democracy and national security following China's

large-scale military exercises around the island. He made his remarks in response to the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) announcement of military drills, named "Joint Sword-2024B," in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding areas, which were described as a "stern warning" to advocates of Taiwan independence, according to the Taipei Times. Notably, the latest Chinese military action is part of tensions between Taiwan and China, with frequent military activity by Beijing around the island. Taiwan has been governed independently since 1949. However, China considers Taiwan part of its territory and insists on eventual reunification, by force if necessary.

Joe Biden, who dropped out of race in July, casts early ballot for Kamala Harris

US President Joe Biden, who dropped his reelection bid in July after massive concerns about his health, cast an early ballot in his home state of Delaware.

New Castle, Delaware. President Joe Biden has cast an early ballot in the 2024 general election. It's a bittersweet moment for Biden, who decided to end his reelection campaign in July because of growing concerns about his health and Democrats' worries about his chances of defeating former President Donald Trump. Biden voted on Monday at

the state of Delaware Department of Elections, not far from his home outside Wilmington, Delaware at an early voting site, where voters were lined up down the street to cast ballots. Biden chatted with voters as he waited in line to cast his ballot, and helped push an older woman in a wheelchair who was ahead of him. The president waited in line for about 40 minutes before he cast his ballot.

He handed his identification to the election worker, who had him sign a form and announced, "Joseph Biden now voting." As the president cast his ballot behind a black drape, some first-time voters were announced and the room erupted in cheers for them. Outside the polling place, Biden was asked if he thought Democrats - including Vice President Kamala Harris - would win. "I think we will," he said. For all but a few years since 1970, Biden has either held office or been running for one during election season. But this year, his hopes lie with a newer generation of Democrats, including three on



the Delaware ballot looking to make history. Harris, whom Biden endorsed after dropping out, is vying to become the first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to serve as president. State Senator Sarah McBride is looking to become the first openly transgender member of the US House. McBride, a longtime friend of the Biden family, had served as an aide in then-President Barack Obama's administration

and on the campaigns in 2006 and 2010 for the president's late son Beau Biden's runs for Delaware attorney general. She also worked for former Delaware Governor Jack Markell.

McBride hopes to succeed Democratic Representative Lisa Blunt Rochester, who wants to become Delaware's first Black woman to serve in the US Senate. She has served as Delaware's lone representative in the House since 2017. On Monday, Biden had breakfast Blunt Rochester. He's known her family for decades, and campaigned with her father, Theodore "Ted" Blunt, who served on the Wilmington City Council for almost a quarter century, including as president. Biden on Sunday evening formally endorsed Blunt Rochester, cutting a video for her campaign in which he called her "Delaware through and through". Blunt Rochester is vying to succeed Senator Tom Carper, who has held the seat since 2001 in the solidly Democratic state. He is retiring. Early voting in Delaware began on Saturday (October 26).

Ballot boxes burnt in US's Washington and Oregon, cops suspect arson

Washington. Police believe three suspected arsons at ballot drop boxes in the northwestern US states of Washington and Oregon are linked, and have identified what they believe is a suspect vehicle in Oregon, officials said on Monday.

Two separate blazes erupted on Monday in Portland, Oregon, damaging three ballots, and Vancouver, Washington, destroying hundreds, officials said. They said the two blazes resembled a third fire at a Vancouver ballot box on October 8 that did not succeed in damaging any ballots. "We don't know the motive," Amanda McMillan, assistant chief of the Portland Police Department, told a news conference on Monday. "But we do know that acts like this are targeted and intentional." Potential charges for the suspect include possession of a destructive device and illegal acts related to voting machines,

among others, a Portland Police official said.

Footage from Vancouver news outlet KATU on Monday showed smoke pouring out of a ballot box in that city with multiple ballots appearing to be in flames. Local officials said voters who put their ballots in the box after 3.30 pm PDT on Saturday should contact election officials. The Vancouver Police Department said it responded to an arson attack at 4 am PDT on Monday and removed a "suspicious device" located next to the ballot box. Earlier on Monday morning, police responded to a similar incident at a ballot box in Portland, Oregon, just across the Columbia River, caused by an incendiary device. Multnomah County's election director said only three ballots were damaged in that fire, and that those voters will be contacted to fill out replacement



ballots. Fire suppressant installed inside the boxes mitigated the damage in Portland and the first Vancouver fire, but did not function in Monday's fire in Vancouver. The Washington Secretary of State's office urged voters to check the status of their ballots

online and to request a replacement if theirs was unaccounted for. "I strongly denounce any acts of terror that aim to disrupt lawful and fair elections in Washington state," Secretary of State Steve Hobbs said in a statement. "Despite this incident, I have complete confidence in our county elections officials' ability to keep Washington's elections safe and secure for all voters." The Vancouver boxes were located in the state's 3rd District, the site of one of the most competitive US House of Representatives races, featuring Democratic Representative Marie Gluesenkamp Perez and Republican challenger Joe Kent. Gluesenkamp Perez called for overnight law enforcement monitoring of ballot boxes in the district. The 36-year-old car mechanic won her race in 2022 by fewer than 3,000 votes. In Phoenix, a man was arrested.

## News box

## Girl taking selfie falls into 15-ft gorge, rescued after 20 hours

**TUMAKURU:** None including her parents and rescuers believed that Hamsa S. Gowda (20) would come out alive after sliding into a 15-foot gorge at the sluice of Mydala tank near here and being stuck there overnight. It was a rebirth for Hamsa, who is studying in her 3rd semester of chemical engineering at Siddaganga Institute of Technology. Around 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, Hamsa and her schoolmate Keerthana visited Mandaragiri Hills, a picnic spot. The waterfall at the sluice of the tank attracted them. While taking a selfie, Hamsa slipped and was washed away. Keerthana called Hamsa's parents, who then informed the police.

A police team, led by DySP Chandrashekar and Kyathsandra PSI Chethan Kumar, along with the fire brigade, launched the operation. However, they could not trace Hamsa until 7 p.m. The operation resumed at 8 a.m. on Monday. They restricted the water flow by placing sandbags and then could hear Hamsa's screams. Though Hamsa had suffered some bruises, she was able to wave from the crevice. She was pulled out by noon, after spending nearly 20 hours in the dark space. She was shifted to the hospital, and her condition is stable. Hamsa said, "I gathered courage by praying to God and my parents. I had faith, as I had seen such rescue operations being successful on TV. I am grateful to the rescuers. I appeal to everyone not to be obsessed with selfies."

## Minister N Lokesh to meet 'suspended' RTC driver soon

**VIJAYAWADA:** In a surprising turn of events, HRD and IT Minister N Lokesh has come to the rescue of an RTC driver, who was recently suspended for dancing to a song from a film-Devara. The incident occurred two days ago when an RTC bus driver, Lovaraju, from Tuni bus depot stopped his bus near Koduru as the narrow road was blocked by a tractor. The bus, ferrying students from Rowthulapudi was forced to stop, and in a moment of spontaneity, Lovaraju stepped out of the bus, dancing to a popular song from Devara. The students captured the dance video and soon it became viral in social media. While the video brought smiles on many faces, the less impressed RTC higher ups reportedly suspended Lovaraju, citing a breach in conduct.

In a surprising turn of events, a video of an RTC bus driver dancing to a hit song from the film 'Devara' went viral, leading to his suspension. However, HRD Minister Nara Lokesh, currently on an official visit to the United States, has promised to stand by the driver and ensure his reinstatement. When the IT minister came across the incident through social media, he gathered the details from RTC officials and learnt that the road was blocked by a tractor. Lokesh questioned the need for such harsh action against the driver. Talking to social media platform 'X', Lokesh assured that the suspension will be revoked and he would be taken into the work immediately. "The suspension orders will be revoked, and he will be taken back to work immediately. I will meet him personally when I come back," said the minister, who is currently on a US tour.

## Telangana govt to conduct caste survey with 52 queries

**HYDERABAD:** The state government is learnt to have prepared a questionnaire with some 52 questions to conduct the Kula Ganana (caste census), the comprehensive survey enumerating the socio, economic, educational, employment, political and caste aspects of households across the state.

According to sources, the government is planning to conduct the survey manually with enumerators visiting households to collect details. The questionnaire aims to find out social inequalities, educational barriers, economic opportunities and the effectiveness of government policies aimed at improving the living conditions of marginalised groups, sources added. The questionnaire includes the details pertaining to name, relationship with the head of the family, gender (duly recognizing the third gender), religion, caste (dividing into SC/ST/BC/OC), sub-caste, age, mother tongue, Aadhaar and voted ID numbers, whether handicapped, marital status, age at the time of marriage, whether children joined school before the age of six years, nature of school, educational qualification, school dropouts from age between six to 16, reasons for not continuing studies between 17 to 40 years, reasons in case of illiterates, nature of employment, in case self-employed - details thereof, in case unorganised sector workers - details thereof and details of caste occupation, if applicable. The queries are included those related to annual income, details of bank account, whether income tax assessee, whether suffering from any caste occupation related diseases, details of benefits obtained through reservations in terms of education and employment, whether obtained a caste certificate in case of SCs, STs, BCs, EBCs, whether belongs to nomadic community, political background in terms of currently holding post, number of terms of holding the post, number of years working as a people's representative, whether a member of nominated or corporation.

## Panchayat president grabbed lands using forged documents, say TN's Keela Arasadi villagers

**The villagers alleged that the panchayat president and two others had been trying to encroach upon government poramboke land in Vellapatti village by creating bogus documents.**

**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 Emakulam 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 burn 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 wageer. 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.

## PT teacher held for assaulting student in Hosur

**KRISHNAGIRI:** The physical education teacher of a government-aided school in Hosur was arrested on Monday for assaulting a class 9 girl. The suspect M Thiyagarajan (35) of Dharmapuri is working in a government-aided school at Hosur. He was booked under sections of 115 the BNS Act, section 4 of The Prohibition of Harassment of Women Act, and Section 75 of the Juvenile Justice Act. Based on a complaint from the girl's parent, Bagalur police arrested the teacher. A school education department officer told TNIE, "On October 23, 16 students and two teachers went to a private school near Bagalur for a sports event. Post-event, a private school teacher went to the restroom. He removed her wristwatch placed it outside and left without taking it. The class 9 student who saw the watch tried to give it to him, but since the students were in a hurry to catch the bus, she kept it with her. Meanwhile, the teacher told Thiyagarajan that she had



lost her watch and that students from his school were near the restroom. When he enquired, the class 9 girl handed it over to him and told what happened." The official added, "The teacher assaulted the girl and informed her mother over the phone. The mother allegedly asked the teacher to

beat her more. Then he brutally assaulted the girl on the road in front of the private school." The video of the assault went viral on social media, following which Krishnagiri Chief Education Officer A Muniraj (in-charge) directed District Education Officer (DEO) RV Ramavathy to hold an inquiry in the aided school and another DEO Gopalappa (Matriculation) to inquire in the private school. Muniraj told TNIE, "A video seems to be out from a private school and notice will be served to both schools. That's why the issue was not reported to the school education department earlier. Also, the physical education teacher was suspended on Monday." Krishnagiri District Child Protection Officer D Saravanan told TNIE, "A counsellor and a case worker spoke to the girl and her mother. Also, capacity building programmes will be conducted for both private and government school teachers on how to handle child-related issues at school."

## Telangana CSO warns TGSP cops, kin against posting provocative social media messages

**HYDERABAD:** State Chief Security Officer (CSO) T Gangaram on Monday asked the Telangana Special Police (TGSP) personnel to refrain from posting provocative messages on social media or participate in protests. "If you or your family members participate in agitation, it will be troublesome for you. Do not post any provocative messages on social media platforms. If such an action comes to our notice, then a departmental action will follow," stated a circular issued by the CSO. The directive comes as 10 TGSP personnel were dismissed from service as per orders issued by the DGP late on Sunday. The police department also suspended 39 personnel. Meanwhile, the CSO also asked the personnel to exit the social media groups where provocative items are being posted about the TGSP and senior police officers while noting that the department is continuously monitoring

their actions. He cautioned that their actions could adversely affect every police official in the TGSP. Additionally, he reminded the TGSP personnel of how the imposition of Section 144 in Hyderabad on Monday prohibits them from staging protests. Meanwhile, personnel of 7th Battalion, TGSP, took out a rally at their Battalion in Dichpally, Nizamabad, and submitted a representation to the commandment to revoke the suspension of their colleagues.

Several personnel were also detained during the 'Chalo Secretariat' protest at Dharma Chowk in Hyderabad on Monday. While the TGSP personnel staged protests across the state on Saturday, their family members and relatives had been over the past several days demanding 'One Police' policy similar to that of Tamil Nadu.

It would allow them to be drafted for regular law enforcement roles, granting access to

the same benefits and career advancements as their counterparts. TGSP personnel were previously allowed leaves after every 15 days but a new manual extended this interval to 26 days.

### 21 cops booked for indiscipline

Two cases were registered at Domalguda police station against 21 TGSP personnel on Monday for defying Section 163 BNSS (earlier Section 144 IPC) and participating in a protest at Dharma Chowk earlier in the day, stated a release from ADG, TGSP, Sanjay Kumar Jain.

All the personnel were issued show cause notices as well. The cases were registered under BNS Sections 223, 126(2), Section 3 of the Police (Incitement to Disaffection) Act, 1922, and Section 4 of the Police Forces (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1966, citing violations that include incitement to disaffection and acts of insubordination within a disciplined force.

## DCM orders Rs10 crore for Bengaluru roads, omits Jayanagar

**BENGALURU:** The latest order allocating Rs 10 crore for the development of roads in each assembly constituency of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) region by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar has provided fodder for the principal opposition party, the BJP. The Jayanagar assembly segment, represented by a BJP MLA, has been left out of this allocation. The BJP has criticized the ruling Congress, claiming that the government's actions amount to vendetta politics, punishing citizens for not voting for Congress. "The DCM speaks about Brand Bengaluru. Does his Brand Bengaluru dream



exclude Jayanagar?" questioned Jayanagar MLA CK Ramamurthy. He added that his constituency also requires funds to maintain parks, roads, and drains. This matter has been escalated to state BJP President BY Vijayendra, who stated that the BJP will highlight the Congress government's vendetta politics. According to the order issued by the DCM using his discretionary powers, each assembly constituency in Bengaluru will receive Rs 10 crore, while Anekal, which is part of the Bengaluru Urban district, has been allocated Rs 5 crore. In total, Rs 265 crore has been allocated.

A senior BBMP official clarified the order, stating that there is some confusion and that funds will be allocated without discrimination. "In the order, Yelahanka assembly has been mentioned twice, which I believe is due to oversight. The DCM aims to develop Bengaluru and will not discriminate. A revised order without errors is likely to be issued shortly," the official added.

The decision to release funds was made due to the poor condition of roads in Bengaluru, which worsened after last week's record rainfall that severely impacted normal life, especially in North Bengaluru and the IT belts of Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli, and Sarjapura Road. The heavy rain caused thousands of potholes to resurface, creating significant inconvenience for motorists.

## CM N Chandrababu Naidu orders Rs 5 lakh fine for liquor MRP violation

**VIJAYAWADA:** During a review meeting on Monday, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu assessed liquor prices and directed officials to impose a fine of Rs 5 lakh on any seller charging above the MRP for the first offence. He further instructed that the shop's licence should be cancelled if the violation is repeated. The Chief Minister emphasised the sale of liquor strictly at MRP. Taking a firm stance against "belt shops" (unauthorised liquor outlets), Naidu instructed officials to take strict action against sellers who supply liquor to these outlets. He recommended a Rs 5 lakh fine and licence cancellation if the offence is repeated. Naidu also directed officials to tackle incidents of non-duty-paid liquor (NDPL) firmly and take stringent measures against illicitly distilled liquor. Furthermore, the Chief Minister tasked officials with installing CCTV cameras in liquor shops and setting up a toll-free number for complaints related to liquor. He also

instructed them to establish a central monitoring system for oversight. Every shop should display liquor prices prominently, and surprise raids should be conducted to prevent illegal liquor storage.



Emphasising the need to make sand readily available to the people of the State, Naidu stressed the importance of curbing inter-State sand smuggling. He warned officials that they would face consequences for any irregularities in the free sand

policy. Reaffirming the State government's commitment to clear liquor and sand policies, Naidu asserted that the responsibility to implement these policies effectively at the field level rests with the officials.

### CM Meets Adani delegation

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu met with a delegation from Adani Group, led by Adani Exports Limited Managing Director Rajesh Adani and Adani Ports and SEZ Limited's Karan Adani, to discuss investment opportunities in the State. The discussions focused on key sectors and the development of Amaravati. In a post on X, the Chief Minister said, "Met with a delegation from the Adani Group led by the MD of Adani Exports Ltd., Mr Rajesh Adani, and the MD of Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd., Mr @AdaniKaran, to discuss a range of investment opportunities in Andhra Pradesh. Their presentation covered projects with the potential to drive comprehensive growth across the state in key sectors such as ports, mining, ring road, IT, tourism, and AI. They also expressed their commitment to rebuilding Amaravati, as well as our vision for Swarna Andhra Pradesh."

## Israel-Iran face-off adds fuel to West Asia fire

AFTER reaching an understanding with the Joe Biden administration, Israel despatched about 100 aircraft to bomb 20 select targets in Tehran, Khuzestan and Ilam provinces of Iran on October 26, reportedly including its air defence systems such as S-400, S-300, missile and drone manufacturing units and other military targets. The Israeli strike was in response to more than 180 missiles which Iran had fired at Israel on October 1 to damage its military bases. Since the US and its allies had insisted that Iran's nuclear installations and oil production facilities must not be attacked to prevent a wider war, the Israelis focused on making Iran 'defenceless', destroying its radar facilities for future strikes. Israel also decided not to attack the top Iranian leadership to avoid provoking the Iranian military to retaliate with a second strike on Israel. The Iranian Foreign Minister had told Arab governments earlier that Iran did not want a wider war and it could absorb an Israeli retaliatory strike if military sites were targeted rather than sensitive oil or nuclear facilities. The extent of the damage to Iranian military facilities is not clear as the Islamic regime has prohibited its people from revealing details in order to prevent a national uproar. The Ayatollah Khomeini international airport in Tehran was reopened for normal flights after the Israeli military announced that its overnight attacks on Iran had concluded. The US had warned Iran that if it decided to retaliate, it (US) would join the war on behalf of Israel and cause massive damage. Israel also bombed military targets in Syria and Iraq; there were reports of fire at several places. Iran's reaction so far has been restrained. It has stated that the Israeli strike had resulted in only 'limited' damage and it would humiliate Israel again. But Iran is not talking about taking any punitive action against Israel immediately. Iran needs time to rebuild its proxies like Hezbollah, Hamas and others which have been dealt a devastating blow by Israel. President Biden monitored the progress of the Israeli strikes from his office. The 'controlled and limited' conflict allowed both Israel and Iran to save face domestically without triggering a wider conflict which could damage their economies and those of other countries. A full-blown regional war would have carried significant repercussions for US domestic politics as Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris is in a close race against Republican nominee Donald Trump in the upcoming presidential elections. Harris has called for de-escalation of this conflict to attract the support of Black, Arab, Muslim and Hispanic voters. What are the lessons from the Iran-Israel conflict? First, Iran has buttressed its comprehensive national power by mastering the nuclear fuel cycle and manufacturing advanced weapons. After this round, it is likely that Iran would augment its security by taking remaining steps to build a nuclear weapon. Iran has reportedly reached an agreement with Russia to begin manufacturing the advanced Sukhoi-35 fighter aircraft in exchange for setting up similar facilities in Russia to manufacture various missiles. It is already building drones, autonomous vehicles, submarines and other advanced weapons. Iran is also likely to seek more advanced air defence systems such as S-400 from Russia to protect its sensitive installations. With its revolutionary Islamic ideology strongly guiding its foreign policy, Iran would continue to play the role of a disruptor in any reorientation of the political or economic framework of the region. Second, though the US continues to wield predominant influence in West Asia, it can't impose a solution of its choice anymore in the region. The Great Powers' rivalry has intensified, with Russia and China actively supporting Iran, Syria and others. It will become more difficult for the US to impose sanctions against the sale of oil by Iran in future as many BRICS countries are now keen to transact oil purchases in local currencies, bypassing Western mechanisms.

## India, China must overcome trust deficit

Return to pre-Galwan patrolling protocols is a prerequisite for satisfactory disengagement

THE most significant takeaway from the 16th BRICS Summit hosted by Russian President Vladimir Putin in Kazan was the brief meeting between the leaders of India and China. It may be interpreted as the beginning of a nascent thaw in the troubled bilateral relationship that had been vitiated by the 2020 Galwan incident. Chinese troops violated the peace and tranquillity agreement of 1993 when they transgressed the Line of Actual Control (LAC). Soldiers were killed on both sides in the ensuing clash. Chinese troops occupied five sectors beyond the LAC — Galwan, Gogra Hot Springs, Pangong Lake, Depsang and Demchok — and prevented Indian soldiers from patrolling these points as per the earlier protocols. Since then, there has been no high-level contact between the two Asian giants. In the run-up to the BRICS Summit, India stated on October 21 that an 'agreement' had been reached between the two nations, "leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020". This tentative rapprochement enabled the leaders to engage in a meeting. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping on October 23 on the sidelines of the Kazan event. This was the first proper meeting between the two leaders since 2019. It should be welcomed cautiously. Suggestions about a breakthrough would be invalid, for there was no joint communiqué regarding the meeting, let alone about any 'agreement' as regards the border issue. While Xi noted that China and India should manage their differences properly, Modi asserted that mutual trust, respect and sensitivity would guide bilateral relations. It is instructive that while the statement by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) was forthcoming about an 'agreement', the Chinese Foreign Ministry was reticent and opaque about the Kazan meeting. The Indian statement noted: "Welcoming the recent agreement for complete disengagement and resolution of issues that arose in 2020 in the India-China border areas, Prime Minister Modi underscored the importance of properly handling differences and disputes and not allowing them to disturb peace and tranquility." It added that the two leaders agreed that the SRs (Special Representatives) on the India-China boundary question would meet at an early date and explore a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the boundary question. On the Chinese

side, official news agency Xinhua reported: "The two leaders commended the important progress the two sides had recently made through intensive communication on resolving the relevant issues in the border areas. Modi made suggestions on improving and developing the relationship, which Xi agreed to in principle." India has sought a return to the pre-Galwan status quo and at this stage, it is not evident if China has agreed to this formulation. Furthermore, what has dismayed India is the manner in which Beijing chose to violate previous agreements. They include the 1993 peace and



tranquillity agreement and the 1996 military confidence-building agreement. These agreements are now in tatters and the challenge for India is to restore the sanctity of these pacts, the first of which was shepherded by then PM Narasimha Rao and President Jiang Zemin.

The fine print of how the disengagement along the LAC will proceed and the patrolling by India as per the pre-Galwan pattern in all sectors will be restored will have to be verified on the ground. The latest reports indicate that the process of disengagement of troops has begun in the Depsang plains and Demchok. While they have a legacy (they predate Galwan), disengagement there would be important in reaching a final settlement. Depsang remains a contentious area, and a consensual patrolling arrangement there could pave the way for moving towards de-escalation. The Army Chief, Gen Uday Kumar Singh, has dwelt on the need to 'build trust' in the first instance; this prudence is not misplaced. Whether China has disengaged, as sought by India, will be more evident next summer, when more robust patrolling would be possible.

Dwivedi has added that the two sides "need to reassure each other that we are not creeping into buffer zones that are created and build trust before tackling disengagement, de-escalation, and de-induction phases". The buffer-zone concept along the LAC came into existence after the Galwan clash; it referred to a demilitarised area at the five friction points where India and China agreed to a limited disengagement. These zones were stabilised by September 2022, and the implication was that Indian troops were not allowed to access areas they had patrolled in the pre-Galwan period. Thus, the erasure of the buffer zone in all contested sectors and a verified return to the pre-Galwan patrolling protocols along the LAC would be a prerequisite for a satisfactory disengagement, which could lead to de-escalation and de-induction. These complex tactical issues call for strategic patience and prudence on both sides.

Speaking about the Kazan summit, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi noted on October 25 that the BRICS nations had a shared pursuit. He added that China had called for joint efforts "to build BRICS into a primary channel for strengthening solidarity and cooperation among Global South nations" and emerge as a vanguard for advancing global governance reform. The current US-led global system has been less than effective in dealing with the challenges that threaten peace and security across the world. The wars in Ukraine and West Asia, climate change and nuclear sabre-rattling are bleak examples of such ineptitude. However, the aspiration for BRICS to become a more credible grouping cannot be realised unless there is a major review and rearrangement of the India-China relationship. The received wisdom based on China's actions in relation to India is that it seeks multipolarity at the global level (to reduce US primacy), but wants to impose Chinese unipolarity in Asia. This is a conundrum that the guardians of the Middle Kingdom will have to grapple with. Whether the Kazan meeting will lead to such objective introspection in Beijing is a moot point.

For India, in the context of the LAC, the desirable policy option would be to trust and verify, while proceeding slowly. Finally, a comprehensive white paper on the Galwan setback would help illuminate many strands of the bilateral relationship that remain shrouded in unwarranted secrecy.

## Tit-for-tat strike

Israel keeps West Asia on the boil

ITCHING to retaliate against the October 1 Iranian attack, Israel struck missile manufacturing facilities and other military targets in Iran on Saturday. Though Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claimed that the barrage "achieved all its goals", it would be naïve of him to assume that Tehran will not respond militarily sooner or later. The fact that the strike took place more than three weeks after the ballistic missile attack by Tehran indicates that Tel Aviv preferred to wait and watch before taking action. Nevertheless, this is a grave provocation that can push West Asia deeper into the mire.

Israel has dismissed reports that it avoided hitting Iranian gas and oil facilities because of US pressure, but it is apparent that Tel Aviv is reluctant to start a full-blown war against Iran. Already grappling with Hamas and Hezbollah, Israel has intended to send out a strong message to Iran's Supreme Leader and military commanders.



However, even the presumably limited scope of the Israeli operations is enough to infuriate Iran. If Israel has the

right to self-defence, so does Iran. If this vicious cycle of retaliation and counter-retaliation continues, regional tensions are bound to escalate.

American President Joe Biden is hopeful that the Israeli strike would mark the end of the confrontation. His optimism is clearly misplaced as Iran is keen to keep Israel on tenterhooks, either directly or through its military proxies. Exercising restraint is alien to both nations, but they do need to carefully consider the ramifications of this destructive course not only for West Asia but also the world at large. Warmongers such as Israeli Minister of National Security Itamar Ben-Gvir, who called the October 26 strike "a good beginning in order to target Iran's strategic assets, which needs to be the next phase", must not be given free rein by the Netanyahu government.

## Hoax bomb threats reveal gaps in aviation security

With stringent SOPs in place, the only viable solution and decisive action is the rapid arrest, prosecution and punishment of those indulging in hoaxes.

A SURGE in bomb threats has targeted hospitals, malls, colleges and other institutions across the country, but with over 100 hoax calls in a few days and their multi-dimensional effects, the aviation sector is the most vulnerable to disruption.

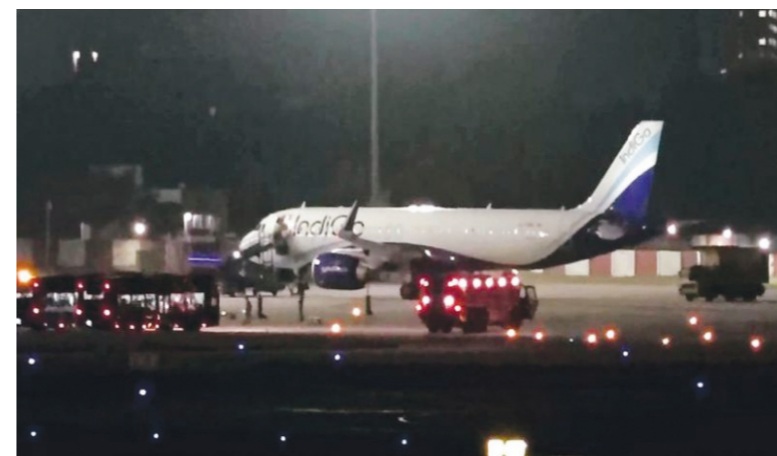
These hoaxes impose enormous indirect costs on society, disrupting operations, inciting fear and diverting crucial resources. They have created mayhem in the aviation sector, with estimates indicating that the economic cost of a single hoax ranges from lakhs of rupees in the domestic sector to as much as Rs 15-20 crore on international routes.

These threats create a ripple effect of consequences, including stress and anxiety for passengers, unexpected delays and disruptions in tourism and business activities. Additionally, Indian carriers face a competitive disadvantage. Security and intelligence resources are strained and diverted from genuine terrorist threats, which can have disastrous consequences. The consistency of the hoaxes and the sophistication and planning involved suggest the involvement of a non-state actor or a deep state influence in the attacks.

Hoaxers and terrorist groups employ anonymising tools and networks to evade detection, such as the Tor network and VPNs, which mask their IP addresses and encrypt communications. They use end-to-end encrypted services and operate on the dark web to ensure that their messages are unreadable to outsiders. Caller ID and email spoofing complicates traceability. They route communications through multiple proxy servers and relay chains, use public wi-fi and compromised devices to avoid detection and rely on burner phones and disposable email accounts, botnets for distributed and automated attacks, making it challenging to pinpoint the source of threats.

Investigations into recent hoaxes conducted by security agencies reveal a pattern in which threats are communicated via social media or phone calls, often followed by a surge of similar threats occurring in a short time frame. The investigations have traced the originating IP addresses to locations in London and Germany, where users are employing VPNs to conceal their online identities and send tweets from remote servers. Dealing with such acts is a challenging proposition. Along with strict adherence to the standard operating procedures, comprehensive response plans and modernisation of rapid response teams through regular simulation drills are essential. Public awareness campaigns should be encouraged to educate citizens about the seriousness of threats and the legal consequences of such acts. Technological advancements should be fine-tuned, including the development of AI and machine-learning algorithms that analyse threat communications to identify patterns indicating hoaxes versus credible threats. These algorithms can analyse communication patterns, detect anomalies and identify potential bomb threats in real time, enabling prioritisation for immediate response. Additionally, integrating data from various sources, such as social media, past incidents and intelligence reports, allows for a rapid assessment of threat credibility. Communication interception and analysis tools are also crucial as they trace the origins of emails and phone calls — even those using anonymisation techniques — and help identify perpetrators swiftly. Furthermore, sentiment analysis can detect the tone and urgency of threats, assisting in distinguishing serious threats from likely hoaxes.

FIRs have been registered under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 3(1)(d) of the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982, in connection with the recent hoax bomb threats. The BNS enforces strict penalties to discourage hoax calls. Section 353 addresses public mischief, penalising those who



intentionally spread false information that incites fear or disorder, with false bomb threats punishable with up to three years of imprisonment. Section 351 pertains to criminal intimidation through anonymous communication. Additionally, Section 113 of the BNS covers terrorism, targeting anyone who threatens economic security with the intent to instil terror. This section should be revised to encompass hoaxes that qualify as terror acts in a broader context. The authorities should not hesitate from applying stringent provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, whenever necessary.

Besides putting hoaxers on the no-fly list, the Centre should collaborate with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Law and the ministries responsible for civil aviation, information and broadcasting, and information technology to enact deterrent legal amendments. It should also examine the anti-hoax provisions of other countries to establish stricter regulations that specifically address hoaxes, thereby creating a robust deterrent against such acts.

International cooperation is essential in addressing bomb hoaxes and it should focus on creating joint global task forces that unite law enforcement, military, intelligence agencies and cybersecurity experts. This collaboration enables effective identification, tracking and neutralisation of hoaxes through shared resources and expertise. Additionally, fostering public-private partnerships with entities like telecommunications companies can enhance efforts to trace the origins of bomb threats. Legal measures must include harmonised legislation across countries for consistent prosecution of hoaxers and stronger extradition treaties to ensure that offenders are held accountable, regardless of their location.

Meanwhile, no information should be taken lightly. In 1988, Pan Am Flight 103 was destroyed by a bomb over Lockerbie, resulting in over 250 deaths. The US government received a specific threat regarding a planned attack on the flight. Despite heightened security measures, including a passenger surcharge and public warnings, the bombing occurred. The warning, along with a pile of papers, was found in the airport after the attack.

# 5 signs you need to quit your job NOW

## Significant signs you need to quit your job

While many employees in toxic work cultures may find constant stress and burnout all too familiar, it doesn't have to be this way. You shouldn't feel overworked, lack a work-life balance, or feel guilty for taking a well-deserved rest day. The right job should make you feel safe, secure, happy, and productive. If you're experiencing the opposite, it might be a sign you're in the wrong place. With this in mind, here are 5 major signs that tell you it's time to quit your job now.

### Feeling anxious about work

Feeling anxious about work is a strong sign something is wrong. It could be due to an overwhelming workload, fear of failure, or toxic colleague relationships. Not having control over your job, dealing with job insecurity, or having no work-life balance can also fuel this anxiety. If these feelings persist, it might be time to rethink your job situation for your mental well-being.

### Constant exhaustion

When you feel physically and mentally drained, it's time to think that this job is taking much from you. Major burnout is not only going to negatively affect your productivity, but can also hurt your health, relationships, and overall happiness. If exhaustion becomes constant and not an exception, then it is high time to immediately consider quitting.

### Toxic environment

A toxic workplace environment, in which there is gossiping, bullying, or playing politics in the office, can significantly impact your mental health as well as your productivity and efficiency. When you face conflict and backstabbing, office politics, and leadership without support, it's toxic. You should not be working for a place that is constantly stressing you out, taking away your peace of mind.

### No work-life balance

If your job takes up all your time, leaving little to no time for personal activities, relationships, or having fun, this imbalance can lead to major burnout, frustration, and overwhelming feelings. Constantly working long hours or being expected to be available outside of work

hours isn't sustainable and can negatively impact your mental and physical health.

### Feeling undervalued

When your hard work becomes regularly ignored or you are not paid fairly, it's easy to feel that one is not appreciated. When your contribution is not considered, you end up

being overlooked for numerous promotions while being overworked, and the salary you receive does not match your work, then it is a major sign for you to consider quitting. It is of utmost importance to get the respect and consideration you deserve for your work and the efforts you are putting in.

Anyone can become angry, that is easy. But to be angry with the right person, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose, and in the right way - this is not easy". - Aristotle, The Nicomachean Ethics

Say, a car cuts dangerously close to you as you are driving on the freeway, or another person broke the queue in the bank you were waiting so long, or your spouse didn't arrive at the time he promised for a dinner date...

What will be your first reaction? Is it the immense trajectory of anger, rage and disgust, followed by more thoughts of outrage and revenge? Or contrary to the above, you pause for a sensible consideration and try to reason out for the behaviour. The driver who cut you off could be having some medical emergency, the person who broke the queue may be having something very urgent, or my spouse can't keep me waiting unnecessarily; something very urgent must have required his attention for the moment. The research findings clearly state that for more than 50 per cent of the population, an outburst of rage is the immediate reaction, causing serious impairment to both body and mind. There is scientific evidence across the world showing that even momentary anger results in worsened muscle's ability to pump blood, a catalyst in escalating high blood

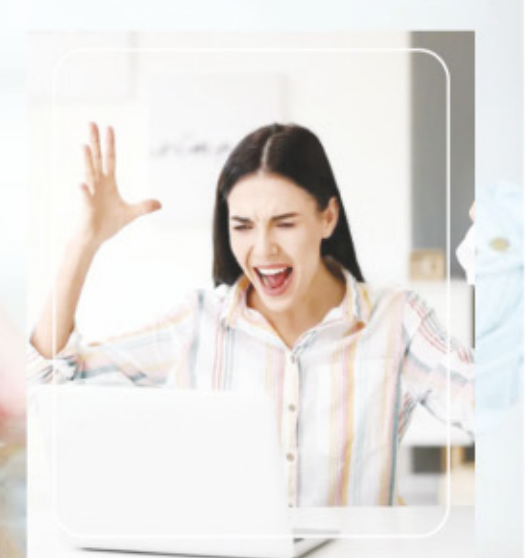
pressure and subsequent complications (heart diseases, heart attacks, stroke and metabolic syndromes). In a study done in the USA, researchers found that people have a twofold increase in heart attacks within two hours after an anger outburst. Anger can hinder digestion; and sleep patterns and induce emotional disorders like anxiety and depression. With the available studies of anger related to poor health (both physical and mental), still a very large proportion of the population is prone to anger. What could be the probable reason for the same? Primarily, it could be its seductive, exhilarating, energising and persuasive nature. However, the careful studies done by Dolf Zillmann, a psychologist at the University of Alabama testifies that the universal trigger for anger is the sense of being endangered. This endangerment could be a straight outright physical threat and/ or as in more often the

## How to control

# Anger

before it controls you

case, a systematic threat to self-esteem or dignity. The very feeling of being treated unjustly or rudely, being insulted or demeaned, being unable in pursuing an important goal could be the reason for venting out the rage. But what about the individual who rages on even at the drop of a pin? There it does not seem to be any threat, be it physical or otherwise. Then what could be the probable cause for the anger of such an individual? In the above-mentioned example, the individual is not facing any direct threat but his perception of an endangerment to his authority, a question about his mental block of being morally correct, being ignored and unheard could be trigger points for his self-esteem. As rightly marked by Dr. Wayne Dyer, "If you change the way you look at things, the things you look at change". In that case individual's own cocoon of mental fixedness make him a propellant of rage.



# Delhi HC to hear BJP's plea on CAG reports

## HC orders DUSU candidates to clean up campaign mess

**▶ The petition asserts that despite repeated requests from the LG, the reports have not been forwarded to him for submission before the Assembly.**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court on Monday scheduled a hearing for October 29 on a plea filed by BJP MLAs seeking an order to compel the Delhi government to send 12 pending Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports on critical issues like liquor duty, pollution and financial management to the lieutenant governor (LG) for presentation before the Delhi Assembly. A bench led by Chief Justice Manmohan, along with Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, listed the plea after it was brought up for urgent consideration by a senior counsel representing the petitioners. "Tomorrow (Tuesday)," responded the bench, agreeing to expedite the matter. Leader of Opposition Vijender Gupta, along with fellow BJP legislators Mohan Singh Bisht, Om Prakash Sharma, Ajay Kumar Mahawar, Abhay Verma, Anil Kumar Bajpai, and Jitendra Mahajan, filed the petition on Saturday. They contend that the reports, which span from the fiscal years 2017-18 to 2021-22, have remained pending with Delhi's Chief Minister Atishi, who also oversees the finance



portfolio. The petition asserts that despite repeated requests from the LG, the reports have not been forwarded to him for submission before the Assembly. Filed by advocates Neeraj and Satya Ranjan Swain, the plea claims BJP MLAs had approached various officials, including the chief minister, the chief secretary, and the assembly speaker, yet no steps were taken to release the reports. This deliberate withholding of critical information undermines democratic transparency and accountability, obstructing a thorough review of government expenditures and actions," the petition argues. The petition

further seeks a court directive mandating the Delhi finance department to follow established procedures for presenting the reports to the LG, allowing him to fulfil his duties under Article 151(2) of the Constitution, the 2007 Regulations on Audit and Accounts, and Section 48 of the Government of National Capital Territory Act, 1991.

In August, L-G VK Saxena flagged the inordinate delay in tabling of 11 CAG reports in the Delhi Assembly, a few pending since 2022, to Speaker Ram Niwas Goel on Friday, Raj Niwas said. In a letter to Goel, the L-G pointed out that the "lapse" by the Delhi government in laying the pending CAG reports before the assembly amounted to "gross dereliction of their constitutional obligations". The speaker, however, questioned the relevance of the L-G's letter. As per media reports, the L-G also wrote to then Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal in February regarding the pendency of these reports and requested him to "advise the finance minister to expeditiously lay them before the assembly."

**In consideration of their student status, the court refrained from ordering FIRs against the candidates, instead offering them a chance to participate in campus restoration.**

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court, on Monday, directed candidates from the recent Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections to submit an undertaking promising not to deface public property in the future. This decision was part of an effort to hold the candidates accountable for the mess created during election campaigns and grant them additional time to clean up the university campuses. The bench, comprising Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, instructed candidates who showed "remorse" to file affidavits accompanied by photographs as proof of their cleanup efforts across Delhi University's North and South campuses. "Candidates are required to submit affidavits with photographs demonstrating the



removal of posters, banners, graffiti, and any other defacement they contributed to," the court directed, adding that they must pledge not to harm public property going forward.

Previously, the court had paused the vote count due to alarming campaign videos that showed vehicles blocking roads and even one car "drag racing" through a street. The court highlighted the importance of the Lyngdoh Committee guidelines, which set limits on election expenses and conduct during student elections, underscoring the need for Delhi University to enforce these standards strictly. In consideration of their student status, the court refrained from ordering FIRs against the candidates, instead offering them a chance to participate in campus restoration. The bench urged candidates to be role models, stating, "You should be setting a positive example for other students, not creating chaos on campus."

The court had also summoned 16 students, all DUSU candidates in the 2024-25 elections held on September 27, to participate in the hearing. All but one attended on Monday. Addressing the candidates, the court remarked, "You do not have the right to deface university walls or private property. Imagine how you would feel if someone spray-painted slogans on your home."

Interestingly, the court noted that many candidates were enrolled in the Buddhist Studies program, suggesting that students might be joining this course as a way to contest elections.

## Five PWD engineers to be prosecuted for Rs 200 crore scam at hospitals

NEW DELHI: Delhi Lieutenant Governor (L-G) VK Saxena on Monday gave his approval to the prosecution sanction of five Public Works Department (PWD) engineers for an alleged scam of Rs 200 crore, Raj Niwas officials said on Monday. The permission has been granted to the Anti-Corruption Bureau to investigate two assistant engineers (AEs) and three junior engineers (JEs) of the electrical division in PWD,



they added. Now, under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption (POC) Act, 1988 (amended in 2018), the ACB will initiate a probe against these five engineers: Subhash Chandra Das (AE), Subhash Chand (AE), Abhinav (JE), Raghuraj Solanki (JE) and Rajesh Aggarwal (JE) of Health Zone. As per the complaints, these engineers have been accused of helping in awarding tenders to different companies, favorable to them in the name of emergent works at various hospitals under the Delhi government, officials said.

### Hospitals targeted by the accused

The hospitals where the two assistant engineers and three junior engineers allegedly used their links for the scam include Lok Nayak Hospital, Maulana Azad Institute of Dental Science, GB Pant Hospital and Maulana Azad Medical College.

## Jamia SHO assaulted by youth for stopping bike with modified silencer

NEW DELHI: The station house officer of the Jamia Nagar police station was "punched" in his face after he stopped a man for riding a bike with an illegally modified silencer. According to an officer, the incident occurred Saturday evening, following which two people, including the accused bike rider and his father, were arrested. "At about 8.45 pm, when the SHO along with the patrolling staff reached Batla House in Jamia Nagar, he noticed a Royal Enfield motorcycle, heading from Kabristan Chowk towards Zakir Nagar market, creating loud noise," a senior police officer said. A video, too, surfaced on social media, showing SHO Narpal Singh asking the man to rev his motorcycle to check the exhaust. Certain types are banned in the city for noise pollution. The argument escalated, the man



called his father, and both got into a scuffle with the policemen in the crowded southeast Delhi locality. The officer said they are collecting footage from CCTVs and mobile phones to know what transpired before the fight. The father and son were later pushed into a police van. This act, too, was recorded in a video that turned up on social media. Police said the biker, identified as 24-year-old Asif, and his father, Riyazuddin, have both been arrested. The officer said Riyazuddin asked the policeman to "settle the matter" and threatened the SHO before the fight. He alleged Asif punched SHO Narpal Singh near the eye while Riyazuddin held him from behind. The SHO and Constable Ramkesh were taken to a nearby Holy Family hospital for treatment later. "We have registered an FIR against accused Asif and his father for obstructing a public servant from performing his duties and physically assaulting the SHO and other police officers on duty," the officer said.

# Delhi Police under scrutiny over 6-month delay in lodging FIR in missing boy case

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police is facing scrutiny following revelations of a six-month delay in filing a kidnapping FIR for a boy missing since January 10 from the Bhajanpura area. Despite the boy's mother's repeated pleas to authorities, the police registered the FIR only on June 29 under Section 365 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which pertains to kidnapping or abduction.



The issue surfaced during a habeas corpus petition hearing in the Delhi High Court, where the boy's mother, represented by Advocate Foziya Rahman, sought intervention in the case.

The bench, comprising Justices Prathiba M Singh and Amit Sharma expressed concerns over procedural

delays and lapses in responsiveness. In a recent status report, Delhi Police detailed their investigative efforts. Initially, they

allegedly linked to the missing boy. A further status report was submitted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Legal Division, highlighting the complexities involved in tracking digital footprints and the challenges faced in collaborating with social media platforms for real-time probe. Standing Counsel Sanjay Lao, representing the state, confirmed that a response had finally been received, but it remains under review. In previous rulings, the HC has emphasised the importance of prompt action, especially within the first 24 hours of a missing person's report, to increase the likelihood of safe recovery. The current case has reignited calls for improved protocols and more streamlined communication between law enforcement agencies and digital service providers.

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## 10K bus marshals to be roped in to fight Delhi pollution, says CM

**▶ Their duty will be to ensure that no vehicle receives a pollution certificate through improper means, Atishi said, while giving details about their duties.**

NEW DELHI: Delhi's 10,000 bus marshals and civil defense volunteers (CDVs), whose services were terminated last year, are set to make return within a week and their services will be utilised in on ground zero in the fight against pollution, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi announced on Monday. These marshals and CDVs will reinforce pollution checks, border inspections and awareness campaigns. Delhi CM Atishi, in a press conference alongside Environment Minister Gopal Rai, said that to ensure women's safety on buses, the government deployed bus marshals in 2017-18. These marshals worked in about three shifts to address any issues women might face on public transport. CM Atishi noted that for the past year, these bus marshals and CDVs have been tirelessly fighting on the streets, fully backed by the Delhi government, its ministers, and AAP MLAs. Whether it meant facing police resistance or enduring physical confrontation, Delhi's ministers and MLAs



stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the marshals in their struggle, she highlighted. "Finally, their efforts bore fruit, and the central government had to relent, agreeing to the Delhi government's long-standing demand to reinstate the bus marshals." Recently, we announced that these 10,000 bus marshals and civil defense volunteers will now be deployed in Delhi's ongoing battle against pollution," asserted the chief minister. CM Atishi shared that some bus marshals will be assigned to the Transport Department, which

oversees approximately 1,000 pollution inspection centers across Delhi where vehicle emissions are tested. Their duty will be to ensure that no vehicle receives a pollution certificate through improper means, Atishi said, while giving details about their duties. The Delhi CM stated that with the implementation of GRAP restrictions III and IV, there are also limitations on the types of vehicles that can enter Delhi. Therefore, these bus marshals will be deployed at the borders to assist the transport department's enforcement teams in checking compliance, she added.

She noted that there are 13 pollution hotspots and 27 additional locations in Delhi where pollution levels are elevated and require monitoring. Bus marshals will be stationed at these areas in coordination with the MCD's deputy commissioners. "Additionally, bus marshals and Civil Defence Volunteers will support the MCD's inspection teams, which are actively monitoring construction and demolition waste...", said CM Atishi.

# "Can't Be So Helpless": Court To MLA Seeking Direction To Repair Flyover

The High Court was hearing a petition by BJP MLA Jitendra Mahajan, who sought direction to the Delhi government to repair and reopen a flyover near Nathu Colony Chowk.

New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Monday said a member of the legislative assembly (MLA) approaching it to resolve an issue with the public authorities was not a good reflection on the government. A bench of Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela made the observation while hearing a PIL by MLA Jitendra Mahajan seeking a direction to the Delhi government and its departments to repair and reopen a flyover near Nathu Colony Chowk in the national capital. "If MLAs start coming to court, what will happen? He should raise the issue in the legislative assembly... The man has to know how to raise an issue. He has to get everyone's work done," it remarked. The court granted time to the counsel for the authorities to seek instructions on the plea,



but remarked the MLA should raise the issue in the assembly or explore other alternatives. He can't be so helpless. People come to him with a lot of expectations. You have many options. Raise it in the house. It is not a good reflection on the system; it is not a good reflection on this state government if

the MLAs start coming to court," said the bench. Senior advocate Kirti Uppal, appearing for the lawmaker from Rohtas Nagar assembly constituency, urged the court to see his "frustration" and said despite raising the issue with the authorities, no action had been taken. "We can't help him. He can raise the issue in public that money is not being spent... It is showing the system is not working," said the bench. The counsel representing the authorities said the matter was pending in an arbitration proceeding but the bench orally remarked the authorities should repair the bridge and claim the expenses in the proceedings. "You can't allow the bridge to collapse," it said. The PIL filed through lawyers Neeraj, Satya Ranjan and K K Mishra, the lawmaker said a tender was floated by the Delhi Tourism

and Transportation Development Corporation for a "road over bridge" and a "road under bridge" near Nathu Colony Chowk and the project was handed over in 2016. However, defects were noted in the construction and the public works department and the corporation were yet to rectify it, the plea argued.

The petitioner lamented the closing of the flyover for heavy vehicles for the last two years saying it had inconvenienced the public. "The defects in the flyover were visible since 2015 and both respondents 3 and 4 (corporation and the builder) were made aware of the defects. However, there is an inordinate delay in rectifying these defects and till date no action has been taken to ensure the safety of the public at large," the petition claimed. The PIL, therefore, sought repair and reopening of the flyover. The matter would be heard next in November.



# 5 lessons to learn from people who quickly get promoted at work



Within the competitive world of career advancement, a few stand out for their speedy climb on the corporate ladder. These speedy ascensions that professionals show, some form of uncanny knack for gaining promotions and performing well in their jobs. What is the difference between this individual and others? Luck and opportunity both play their part, but certain traits and behaviours rather contribute significantly to their speedy climb. By learning and implementing these secrets, one can change the dynamics of success at work. Here are six key takeaways from consistent promotion winners and highly successful career performers. Be proactive and take initiative.

A common characteristic that appears among fast-moving promoted individuals is their proactive nature. Such professionals do not wait for tasks to be given to them; they identify opportunities and take the initiative to address such opportunities. This ranges from suggesting improvements, volunteering for challenging projects, to solving problems before they escalate. These offer significant leadership potential and a guarantee of success in the organisation. This forward-thinking approach not only portrays your skills but also gives your organisation an opportunity to grow as a reliable and innovative contributor.

### Developing strong communication skills

Good communication is a critical requirement of any work environment, and the ones able to communicate well end up on the fast track. They can voice their ideas clearly; they are a good listener; they help develop friendly relationships, both in terms of colleagues and superiors; and are otherwise good in handling the tough conversations and constructive feedback while talking about the work. Communication skills enhance your ability to have an influence over people, resolve conflicts, and also build a network of supporters within your organization.

### Demonstrate adaptability and resilience

Adaptability and resilience are in ever-increasing demand in the highly dynamic work environment. Professionals who quickly get promoted often show an amazing ability for

adjustment to change and the capacity to bounce back from setbacks. They embrace new technologies, processes, and ideas with an open mind. They stay positive, focused on finding solutions, if problems happen. Resilience will tell that you have the ability to handle pressure and thrive in a landscape that changes day by day, thereby making you more valuable to your organization.

### Building a strong network



Networking is a great way of advancing your career. People who are promoted very quickly know that building and leveraging a strong network of mentors, peers, and industry contacts is key. They connect with other people, share knowledge with others, and collaborate on projects. By being able to nurture these relationships, you will have access to important advice, help, and opportunities that can help drive your career. Networking keeps the company abreast of industry happenings.

### Keep your manager informed

Make sure your contributions and aspirations are known to your manager for promotion or advancement. Do regular updates, feedback, and goal discussions with your manager. This way, you keep them in your mind for future opportunities and develop an even better working relationship, keeping the lines of communication open.

Through keeping your manager updated, you can show that you are on top of things, reliable, and proactive about your future among other necessary characteristics someone in a position for promotion should have in the workplace.

In today's fast-paced, always-on corporate world, the concept of work-life balance sparks plenty of debate. Recent reports of overworked employees facing extreme stress—even fatal consequences—have raised important questions: Is building stronger boundaries between work and life the answer? While some business leaders, like the late philanthropist and businessman Ratan Tata, favour work-life integration, others have said it is a constant juggling act.

Everyone's reality is different, but one thing holds for most employees: Their emotional well-being is closely tied to their work performance. When you feel good, you work better, and when work starts to take over, leading to stress and burnout, emotional health takes a hit.

The million-dollar question now is how to feel good at work. While career milestones, like promotions and raises, are great, their positive effects are fleeting. Focusing on your mental health and embracing rest and self-care can keep you feeling good for the long haul.

When employees have space to disconnect from work, they can bring their best selves to the table. But how exactly does work-life balance influence emotional health? And what can both individuals and organizations do to nurture equilibrium? The impact of work-life balance on emotional well-being

A 2023 study by the American Psychological Association found that 92% of employees say it's important for them to work for companies that prioritize their emotional and psychological well-being. However, 77% still report high levels of work-related stress. When work constantly overshadows personal life, stress can quickly snowball into anxiety, burnout, and strained relationships, eventually affecting not only your overall happiness but also your job performance.

But employees who make time for balance—whether it's by setting boundaries or adding wellbeing practices, like mindfulness, into their day—report higher productivity, greater job satisfaction, and a better ability to manage pressure. Balance isn't just a nice thing to have—it's the key to thriving both personally and professionally. The perks of prioritizing balance

It's no secret that a healthy mind and a healthy body are inextricably linked. Achieving balance gives you more space to nurture relationships with family and friends, which creates emotional support systems that help you stay resilient through challenging times. Solutions like the Roundglass Living app integrate neuroscience practices and behavioural science tools to help employees in the practice of holistic well-being, offering stress relief and a way to regain focus. Just a few minutes of mindfulness or breathwork can make a huge difference in how you handle the ups and downs of the workday. For employers, supporting work-life balance also boosts productivity.



Consider a 2022 trial of a four-day workweek: 97% of participants wanted to stick with the shorter week, reporting better productivity and improved balance. Another study shows a direct link between employee satisfaction and a 13% rise in productivity. When employees are happy and balanced, everyone wins. Reimagining your life beyond work. Achieving work-life balance isn't just a personal responsibility; it's a shared effort between employees and employers. Yes, you should take steps to protect your emotional health by setting boundaries, practising self-care, and incorporating mindfulness into your day.

But businesses also need to step up by offering flexibility, support, and effective workplace wellbeing tools. The time to reclaim your well-being is now. Start by disconnecting from work when needed and practising mindfulness to protect your mental health. Whether you're leading a team or taking charge of your own

# How work-life balance enhances both health and

workday, remember that a balanced, emotionally healthy workforce is critical to success for everyone.



Author: Prakriti Poddar, who is a mental health expert and the global head of mental wellbeing for Roundglass Living, the Wholistic Wellbeing app.

## Gold, silver price: Precious metals record hike on MCX

New Delhi. Both gold and silver prices recorded a hike on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Tuesday, October 29, 2024. Gold futures, maturing on December 5, 2024, stood at Rs 78,840 per 10 grams on the MCX, after recording a jump of Rs 274 or 0.35 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 78,566. Meanwhile, silver futures, maturing on December 5, 2024, witnessed a marginal hike of Rs 426 or 0.44 per cent and were retailing at Rs 97,850 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 97,424. The gold and silver prices in India depend on several factors, including the value of the rupee against the dollar. Global demand also plays a key role in determining the trends observed in the rate of precious metals.

### GOLD, SILVER PRICES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Gold prices lingered near record highs on Tuesday, supported by uncertainty surrounding the upcoming U.S. presidential election, while investors awaited key economic data for clues on the Federal Reserve's interest rate trajectory, news agency Reuters reported. According to the latest metal report, spot gold gained 0.5 per cent at \$2,755.42 per ounce by 0266 GMT, while, U.S. gold futures rose 0.4 per cent to \$2,768.10.

## Swiggy sets IPO price at Rs 390; issue to open after Nov 6

BENGALURU. Foodtech company Swiggy has set the price for its upcoming initial public offering (IPO) at Rs 390 at the upper end of the band, sources told this newspaper. Also, the IPO issue might open for subscription after November 6. The SoftBank-backed company's valuation will stand at 11.3 billion dollars at the upper end of the price band. Last week, TNIE reported that the food delivery platform, which was earlier targeting a 15 billion dollars valuation, planned to cut its valuation target to 12.5 billion-13.5 billion dollars due to market volatility. In September, the company filed its updated DRHP (draft red herring prospectus) and according to that, the proposed IPO will comprise a fresh issue of equity shares valued at Rs 3,750 crore and the sale of 18.52 crore existing shareholders' equity shares and this will be through an offer-for-sale. Kotak Mahindra Capital Company, Jefferies India Private Ltd, Avendus Capital and Citigroup Global Markets India are the book-running lead managers. Earlier this month, US asset manager Invesco raised Swiggy's valuation to about 13.3 billion dollars. In its disclosure with the US SEC (Securities Exchange Commission), Invesco's Developing Markets Fund said it valued 28,844 shares at 237 million dollars as of July 2024. Invesco holds a 2 per cent stake in the company.

In 2021, its competitor Zomato launched its IPO at Rs 9,375 crore. Swiggy's annual revenue as on March 31, 2024, stood at Rs 11,600 crore. In July this year, it announced the fifth ESOP (employee stock ownership plan) liquidity programme.

This is the fifth liquidity event for Swiggy since 2018, and the third consecutive event after July 2022 and 2023. So far, the company has cumulatively enabled over Rs 1,000 crore of ESOPs liquidity over the five events, benefitting over 3,200 employees, the company said.

Last week, the food delivery platform introduced "Swiggy Seal", an initiative aimed at raising hygiene and food quality standards across lakhs of restaurant partners on its platform. Currently live in Pune, Swiggy said it will be gradually scaled up over November, eventually covering over 650 cities.

## Maruti Suzuki share price slumps over 5% as Q2 profit declines 17%



NEW DELHI. Maruti Suzuki shares fell over 5% in early trading on Tuesday after the company reported weaker-than-expected Q2 results. At 1:45 pm, shares of India's largest passenger car manufacturer were trading 5.54% lower at Rs 10,846.30 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

The company posted a 17% drop in standalone net profit for the September quarter, which came in at Rs 3,069 crore, down from Rs 3,716.5 crore a year earlier. This missed the Street's expectations, as analysts had estimated a net profit of around Rs 3,525 crore. The company's revenue from operations remained nearly unchanged year-over-year, recording Rs 35,589 crore for the quarter versus Rs 35,535 crore in the same period last year. While revenue saw a marginal increase of 0.15%, it fell short of the market's projected figure, with analysts anticipating a higher contribution from Maruti's sales amid strong consumer demand. A major factor impacting Maruti's Q2 net profit was a rise in deferred tax expenses, which surged to Rs 1,017 crore from Rs 83 crore in the year-ago period. This increase weighed heavily on the company's bottom line, reducing overall profitability.

Maruti's EBITDA (Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation, and Amortisation) for the quarter was Rs 4,417 crore, lower than analysts' estimates of Rs 4,690 crore. This reflects a year-on-year decline of 7.7%.

The EBITDA margin also contracted by 100 basis points to 11.9% compared to 12.9% in the same quarter last year, further underscoring the impact of higher expenses and lower-than-expected revenue.

# Can Diwali week light up Dalal Street amid volatility and FII

**As the festive spirit of Diwali fills the air, market watchers are left wondering: Can Diwali week bring sustained cheer to Dalal Street amid shifting investor sentiments?**

New Delhi. As Diwali week begins, a sense of optimism is returning to Dalal Street. After a tough six-day losing streak, the Nifty index made a surprising comeback with a 158-point rally. The lift has many investors feeling hopeful, despite foreign institutional investors (FIIs) selling off a significant Rs 3,228 crore in shares, which outweighed domestic institutional purchases of Rs 1,401 crore.

Despite today's dip on Dalal Street, market experts remain optimistic about the

outlook for investors, highlighting several positive developments. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, suggested that Monday's rally shows resilience in the market. He pointed out that while FII selling has eased somewhat, concerns about India's high valuations and economic growth for FY25 may keep some pressure on the market. An interesting feature of yesterday's 158 point rally in the Nifty is that the up move happened despite the FII sell number at Rs 3,228 crore being higher than the DII buy number of Rs 1,401 crore. The implication of this change in trend, despite the persistence of FII selling, is that the retail investors are back in buying mode," he said.

"The decline in the intensity of FII selling bodes well for the market but FIIs may continue to sell since the premium valuations of the Indian market is being questioned now in the context of concerns regarding FY25 growth and weakness in urban consumption," he added. However, he noted a positive trend as some



previously overvalued stocks, particularly in defence and railways, have corrected. This could open the door for more quality investments, especially in private-sector financials.

"A positive trend in the market is that some froth in valuations has been removed as evidenced by the sharp correction in the overvalued defence-related stocks and Railways stocks. The shift to quality observable in the accumulation of quality private sector financials is a healthy trend that can sustain," Vijayakumar explained. Adding to the good news, oil prices have

dropped below \$68 per barrel as tensions in the Middle East eased. This is another boost for investors in the Nifty. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP of Research at Mehta Equities, said, "This Diwali week brings optimism to Dalal Street as Nifty traders celebrate a significant drop in oil prices, now below \$68 a barrel, following reports that Israeli airstrikes did not target critical Iranian facilities." He highlighted that banking stocks played a key role in the market's lift, driven by strong quarterly earnings from ICICI Bank, Bandhan Bank, Indian Bank, and Bank of Baroda. "Banking stocks led the charge in yesterday's trade, with ICICI Bank, Bandhan Bank, Indian Bank, and Bank of Baroda all posting robust Q2 earnings," he noted. "However, caution prevails due to upcoming US jobs data and the presidential election, alongside heavy FII outflows. As for trades, Nifty and Bank Nifty remain bullish, with strong upside potential in stocks like HCL Tech, Bank of Baroda, and Berger Paints," Tapse added.

## CCPA to probe Ola Electric's complaint resolution claim

CHENNAI. The Department of Consumer Affairs is reviewing Ola Electric's claim of resolving 99% of over 10,000 complaints regarding its e-scooters, following a show-cause notice issued by the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) earlier this month. As per sources, the department is investigating the company's assertion and plans to reach out to customers to verify their experiences. Earlier, Ola Electric said it has a strong system for addressing customer complaints. "Of the 10,644 complaints received via the CCPA, 99.1% were resolved to the complete satisfaction of the customer, as per Ola Electric's robust redressal mechanism," the company claimed in a statement to the exchanges. The CCPA issued its show-cause notice to Ola Electric on October 7, accusing the company of violating consumer rights, misleading advertising, and unfair



trade practices. It had informed that over 10,000 consumer complaints were logged with the National Consumer Helpline, most of which were related to the company's after-sales service. Shortly after, the Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) involved the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) to verify if Ola Electric is meeting its warranty commitments and maintaining adequate service centers. The Ministry of Transport has also sought

an explanation from Ola Electric regarding the quality concerns raised by customers about its e-scooters. Last week, the CCPA, under Chief Commissioner Nidhi Khare, expressed concerns about Ola Electric's refund policy, which currently offers future ride coupons instead of cash refunds. The CCPA has instructed Ola to make its refund process more consumer-friendly. Mkt share, stock prices fall in last two months Ola Electric's after-sales service has faced ongoing criticism on social media, which has affected its market share and stock prices. The company's shares have dropped from Rs 157.4 to Rs 77 in past two months. Brokerage HSBC recently revised its target price for Ola Electric, lowering it from Rs 140 to Rs 110. HSBC noted the company is undergoing several initiatives to improve service quality.

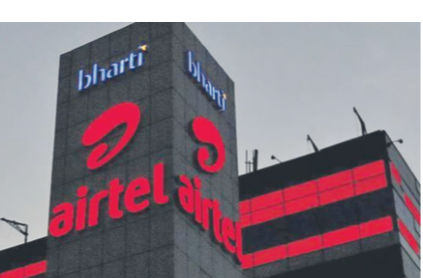
## Sensex, Nifty open lower as weak Q2 earnings dampen Diwali week

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Tuesday, following Monday's rally after six days of declines. Caution lingered amid an underwhelming earnings season and consistent foreign investor outflows. At 9:54 am, the NSE Nifty50 shed 109.60 points to 24,225.55 points, while the BSE Sensex fell 369.17 points to 79,635.87. The Nifty50 and Sensex saw gains on Monday, driven by ICICI Bank's stronger-than-expected quarterly results, but momentum stalled as eight of the 13 major sectors recorded losses. Information Technology (IT) and Auto sectors led the declines during early trade today. Small- and mid-cap indices, largely focused on the domestic market, remained mostly flat.

Investor sentiment was influenced by global factors, including upcoming US jobs data and uncertainties around the US presidential election. "Caution prevails due to a lackluster earnings season, ongoing foreign outflows, and premium valuations being questioned amid

## Airtel Q2 net profit rises 168 per cent to Rs 3,593 crore

NEW DELHI. Bharti Airtel on Monday reported a 168% rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 3,593 crore for the quarter ending September 2024, up from Rs 1,341 crore in the year-ago period. The company also improved its average revenue per user (ARPU) by 15% to Rs 233 in Q2FY25, compared to Rs 203 in Q2FY24. Its consolidated revenues for the quarter were Rs 41,473 crore, growing by 12.0% year-on-year and 7.7% quarter-on-quarter, driven by strong momentum in India and growth in constant currency in Africa. Airtel's mobile revenue grew 18.5% YoY, led by tariff hike by the company in July 2024. The telco's consolidated earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortisation (EBITDA) during the quarter were 22,021 crore, while the EBITDA margin was 53.1%. However, the company's customer base in India decreased by 2 million in the latest quarter, ending at 407 million as of September-end. "The flow thru of tariff repair is in-line with our expectation on ARPU increase and SIM consolidation. We reported industry leading ARPU of Rs 233. Our focus on winning quality customers and driving premiumisation has helped us add 4.2 million smartphone customers. We continue to expand our Wifi coverage with FWA offerings to over 2,000 cities. We continue to



invest in our digital businesses to diversify portfolio strength and drive long term growth," said Gopal Vittal, managing director of Bharti Airtel. Airtel's India revenues for the quarter were Rs 31,561 crore, up by

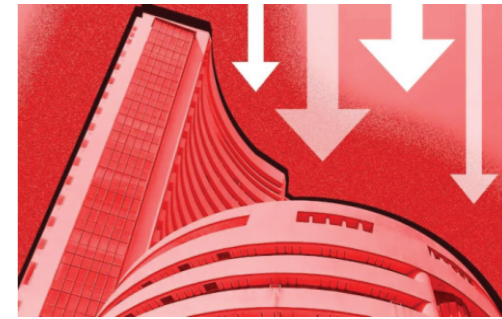
16.9% YoY. The company also added a net of 0.8 million postpaid subscribers in the quarter, reaching a customer base of 24.7 million. The telco rolled out nearly 5,000 towers and 15,200 mobile broadband stations during the quarter to enhance connectivity and provide a superior network experience.

Additionally, Airtel launched India's first network-based, AI-powered spam detection solution to combat the country's spam issues. The company added 583,000 FWA customers. Airtel prepaid 8,465 crore in September 2024 for deferred liabilities pertaining to spectrum acquired in 2016, which were at an interest rate of 9.3%.

## Fintech Slice finishes merger with NESFB

BENGALURU. Bengaluru-based fintech start-up Slice on Monday announced that it completed its merger with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB), effective from October 27. This merger unifies the operations, assets, and brand identities of both entities into a single, integrated banking institution. In August, the consumer payments and lending company received approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with

NESFB. The NCLT, Guwahati bench, had sanctioned the Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation involving Garagepreneurs Internet Private Limited, Quadrillion Finance Private Limited, among others. Rajan Bajaj, Founder & CEO, slice and Executive Director of the merged entity, said, "For over a year, the teams at slice and NESFB have worked tirelessly to make this merger a reality." By harnessing advanced technology and



concerns around FY25 growth," noted Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP of Research at Mehta Equities. The Nifty 50 has dropped about 7.4% since hitting record highs on September 27, as foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have been net sellers for 21 consecutive sessions, withdrawing \$10.6 billion in October alone—a record monthly outflow. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, highlighted that despite heavy FII selling, domestic retail investors are showing renewed buying interest, indicating a potential shift in sentiment. In stocks, Bharti Airtel lost 2% after posting lower-than-expected profits, while Indian Oil Corp also dropped 2% after a decline in quarterly profits. On the upside, Federal Bank surged 6.1%, leading the Nifty Bank index's 0.2% rise after reporting higher profits.

Optimism surrounds this Diwali week as oil prices dip below \$68 per barrel after Israeli airstrikes in the Middle East avoided critical Iranian sites, easing concerns about energy disruptions. Monday's gains in banking stocks, including ICICI Bank and Bandhan Bank, reflect market confidence, though traders remain vigilant amid FII selling pressures and global uncertainties.

# Federal Bank share price jumps over 8% after Q2 results: Should you buy

**Federal Bank's impressive Q2 results have investors buzzing as its shares jumped over 8% during Tuesday's trading session.**

New Delhi. Federal Bank shares soared by nearly 8% during intraday trading on Tuesday, following strong performance in Q2 FY25. The private lender reported a standalone net profit of Rs 1,056.69 crore, a 10.78% increase from Rs 953.82 crore in the same quarter last year. At 12:08 pm, shares of Federal Bank were up 8.36% at Rs 200.15 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The surge in profit was accompanied by a total income increase of 21.91% YoY, reaching Rs 7,541.23 crore for the quarter ending September 30, 2024. The operating profit before provisions and contingencies also saw a significant rise, totaling Rs 1,407.01 crore, up 9.87% YoY. Despite a

decrease in net interest margin (NIM) to 3.12% from 3.22% year-on-year, net interest income rose by 15.11% YoY to Rs 2,367.23 crore. Additionally, the bank's net worth increased by 19.49% YoY, reaching Rs 31,108.20 crore as of September 30, 2024. The Capital Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) stood at a healthy 15.20%, complying with Basel III guidelines. On the asset quality front, Federal Bank reported an increase in gross non-performing assets (GNPA) to Rs 4,884.49 crore, up 10.10% YoY. However, the GNPRA ratio improved to 2.09%, down from 2.26% the previous year. The net non-performing assets (Net NPA) also rose by 7.51% to Rs 1,322.29 crore, yet the net NPA ratio decreased to 0.57% from 0.64% YoY. The bank demonstrated strong growth in its loan book, with gross advances up by 19.31% YoY to Rs 2,33,820 crore and total deposits climbing by 15.56% YoY to Rs 2,32,868 crore. Retail advances increased by 17.24%, reaching Rs 72,701.75 crore, while corporate advances grew by 10.48% to Rs 77,953.84 crore. KVS Manian, MD & CEO of Federal Bank,

highlighted the strong performance: "Q2 has been robust for the Bank, driven by strong momentum across diverse operational verticals. This is clearly reflected in our consecutive surpassing of

provisions (credit cost at 30bps) kept Federal Bank's profitability strong with a return on assets (RoA) at 1.28%. Ahead, we expect the bank to deliver high-teen growth and generate a sustainable 1.2% RoA," the brokerage said in its analysis.



the 1000 Crore net profit milestone for two quarters in a row. Our deposits, now upgraded to AAA by CRISIL, signify a sturdy core of the franchise." **SHOULD YOU BUY, HOLD OR SELL?** Brokerage firm Anand Rathi maintains a positive outlook on Federal Bank, suggesting it is a good investment opportunity. "Steady operating profits and moderate

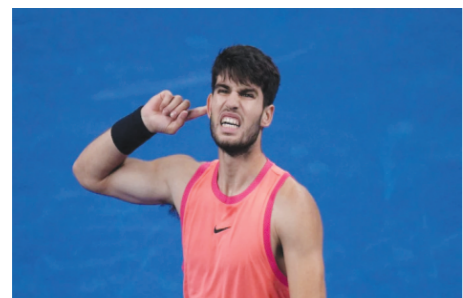
Anand Rathi's analysis highlighted that the asset quality remains stable, with slippages recorded at Rs 4.3 billion, which is 0.8% of loans—better than anticipated. The firm forecasts loan growth to remain in the high teens, particularly driven by strong retail and SME growth. "We have factored in ~18% credit growth for FY25-27, largely driven by strong traction in the retail portfolio," they added. Valuation-wise, Anand Rathi has set a target price (TP) of Rs 242, based on a sum-of-parts valuation. They noted, "Our TP comes from a 1.3x FY27e adjusted book value, indicating a favorable outlook for the bank." Given the bank's strong earnings and positive growth projections, investors may find Federal Bank an attractive addition to their portfolios.

## NEWS BOX

## Carlos Alcaraz reveals prize money attracted him to Saudi's Six Kings Slam

New Delhi. Spanish tennis star Carlos Alcaraz, currently ranked world No. 2, admitted that the record-breaking prize money offered at the Six Kings Slam in Saudi Arabia earlier this month was a strong motivation for his participation. Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Alcaraz reflected on his experience at the exhibition event in Riyadh, where he earned \$1.5 million over just four days. While Alcaraz insisted that his love for tennis often outweighs financial considerations, he acknowledged the allure of the prize money. "I love playing tennis. Most of the time, I don't think about the money; I just play for love or fun," Alcaraz shared with reporters. "But you have to be realistic. You have to think that you want to earn money, you know, and that's itâ€¦ in Arabia is the most highest prize money ever in the history, so that was a good motivation, at least for me."

In contrast, Italian rival and top-ten player



Jannik Sinner emphasized that financial rewards were not his motivation for competing in Saudi Arabia. Instead, Sinner described the event as an opportunity to take on high-caliber competition.

Alcaraz, who won both the French Open and Wimbledon titles this year, is now preparing to face Nicolas Pietrangeli of Chile in his opening match at the Paris Masters. Reflecting on his previous performances in Paris, Alcaraz admitted that the year-end tournament has posed challenges. "I haven't played good tennis here in this tournament," he said. "Probably at the end of the year, I have been tired, orâ€¦ as I said last year, I had to understand that the season is still going after September." With the Paris Masters underway, top seeds will begin their campaigns on Tuesday. Among Monday's early action, Greek 10th seed Stefanos Tsitsipas came from behind to defeat Spain's Roberto Carballes Baena 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, while France's Adrian Mannarino upset American 11th seed Tommy Paul 6-3, 7-5.

## 2028 Los Angeles Olympics cricket competition could be held at East Coast of US

New Delhi. Cricket competitions of the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games could take place on the East Coast of the United States in order to cater to the massive audience in India and also tap into the huge domestic market of the sport in the host country, according to the host committee chair Casey Wasserman. Cricket will be making a re-entry into the Olympic roster after 128 years in the T20 format and though the venues have yet to be confirmed, it is likely the men's and women's competitions will take place on the East Coast because of the more favourable time zone compared to the West Coast for Indian viewers. New York, on the East Coast, hosted several preliminary-round matches of the T20 World Cup earlier



this year, which it co-hosted with the West Indies.

The East Coast is nine-and-a-half hours behind India and the country's viewers can catch the action live, but Los Angeles is 12-and-a-half hours behind which could be detrimental from a viewership point. Wasserman said during a Business of Sports Summit in Austin, Texas, that the LA28 organisers would like to maximise cricket viewership in India, according to website 'sportico.com'. Wasserman, who headed the successful LA28 bid and became president of the Organizing Committee, wasn't specific about which venue on the East Coast could host cricket matches. Cricket is among six sports, along with baseball, softball, flag football, squash and lacrosse, added to the LA28 Olympic roster. It was in the Olympic Games once before, in 1900. It is likely that pre-existing infrastructure could be used to achieve "more than USD 150 million in savings and new revenue to help maintain a balanced budget (for the Olympics)," Wasserman said earlier this year, according to 'Sportico'.

# MS Dhoni recalls asking Sourav Ganguly to lead India in his farewell Test

MS Dhoni has recalled handing over the captaincy to Sourav Ganguly during his farewell Test against Australia in Nagpur in November 2008. The gesture was spontaneous and meant to honour Ganguly's legacy.

New Delhi. Former Indian captain MS Dhoni recalled the unforgettable moment he handed the captaincy of the Indian team to Sourav Ganguly during his farewell Test against Australia in Nagpur in November 2008. Ganguly, one of India's most influential captains, had announced that it would be the final international appearance of his illustrious career. During a recent promotional event, Dhoni shared the



heartfelt reasoning behind his decision, describing it as a spontaneous but deeply meaningful act to honor a player who had done so much for Indian cricket. Dhoni, speaking of that symbolic moment on the fifth day of the match, revealed that there was no pre-planning involved. "Being one of the greatest captains that India has ever produced, what better farewell can you give from your side?" Dhoni remarked. "Last

day (of his career), he is standing on a Test match field, playing the game. If he can say 'goodbye' leading for a while, then why not? It doesn't really change the result of the game. That was the reason behind it." As India's captain at the time, Dhoni took this opportunity to celebrate Ganguly's contribution to Indian cricket uniquely. "I don't know whether he enjoyed it or not because it came all of a sudden. It wasn't

planned, like 'this is what you should do.' I thought this was the best way for him to say farewell, leading on the field. Even if it is for 15-20 minutes, why not?" he added.

Ganguly's career spanned an impressive 113 Test matches, where he scored 7,212 runs at an average of 42.17, including 16 centuries and 35 half-centuries. His ODI career was equally remarkable, with 11,363 runs from 311 matches, featuring 22 centuries and 72 fifties.

Ganguly was not just a batsman but an inspiring captain who ignited a sense of competitiveness in Indian cricket, especially on foreign soil. His fearless approach and confidence in his players paved the way for talents like Dhoni, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Zaheer Khan, and Suresh Raina, who would become instrumental in India's successes in the years that followed. While Dhoni and Virat Kohli went on to surpass Ganguly in terms of the number of victories and ICC trophies, many argue that Ganguly laid the foundation for a winning culture in Indian cricket. Under Ganguly, India emerged as a powerful force not just at home but also in overseas conditions.

## Ballon d'Or 2024: Full list of winners as Rodri and Bonmati win top prizes

New Delhi. The highly anticipated Ballon d'Or 2024 ceremony, attended by the who's who of the football fraternity was successfully held on Monday, October 28 at Theatre du Chatelet in Paris. The glittering evening saw several top and emerging players get their due recognition for their marvellous exploits on the field in 2023. In the lead-up to the event, there was widespread discussion about who would win the prestigious Ballon d'Or award for being adjudged the best men's player. Manchester City midfielder Rodri took the honours leaving several people flabbergasted. On the other hand, Barcelona's Aitana Bonmati was bestowed with the Ballon d'Or Feminin for being adjudged as the best women's player for the second successive year. Young Spanish sensation Lamine Yamal was named the Kopa Trophy winner, the 17-year-old recently played a key role in Spain's UEFA



Euros 2024 triumph. Argentina's Emiliano Martnez was honoured with the Yashin Trophy for being best men's goalkeeper. England's Harry Kane and France's Kylian Mbappe were jointly awarded the Gerd Muller Trophy for finishing the 2023/24 season with 52 goals across all competitions. Carlo Ancelotti was named Coach of the Year after guiding Real Madrid to La Liga and Champions League triumph. Meanwhile,

the ceremony was also marred by a controversy as it was boycotted by all Real Madrid players as Vinicius Junior wasn't awarded the Ballon d'Or award despite being the front-runner for the coveted award. Ballon d'Or 2024 Awards | Complete List Of Winners Men's Ballon d'Or: Rodri (Spain, Manchester City)

Women's Ballon d'Or: Aitana Bonmati (Spain, FC Barcelona) Kopa Trophy: Lamine Yamal (Spain, FC Barcelona) Yashin Trophy: Emiliano Martinez (Argentina, Aston Villa)

Men's Coach of the Year: Carlo Ancelotti (Italy, Real Madrid) Women's Coach of the Year: Emma Hayes (England, Chelsea/USA) Men's Club of the Year: Real Madrid Women's Club of the Year: FC Barcelona Gerd Muller Trophy: Harry Kane (England, Bayern Munich); Kylian Mbappe (France, Paris Saint-Germain/Real Madrid) Socrates Award: Jenni Hermoso (Spain, Tigres UANL).

## Ramiz Raja backs Babar Azam to regain form with bizarre Viv Richards comparison

New Delhi. Former Pakistan cricketer and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman Ramiz Raja believes that star batter Babar Azam has a lot left to achieve in Test cricket. Notably, Babar was recently rested from the last two Tests of the series against England following a prolonged poor run in the longest format. The former Pakistan captain hadn't scored a half-century for 18 innings, and hence, the PCB decided to rest him to manage his workload. Commenting on Babar's performance in the longest format, Raja compared his performances in the white-ball formats and said that he needs to show the world that he's a big match player like legendary West Indies batter Viv Richards. "I feel Babar has to achieve a lot more in Test



cricket. He plays the white-ball format really well, has an average of 50-plus in both the formats (T20 and ODI)... There is so much potential in Babar Azam. Ab unko apne temperament se batana hai duniya mei ke woh ek Viv Richards hain (now he has to prove to the world with his temperament that he is Viv Richards). Bigger the contest,

bigger the innings Richards used to play," said Raja on his Youtube Channel.

Babar to make comeback on Australia tour

Meanwhile, Babar will be seen making a comeback to the Pakistan team in the upcoming tour of Australia where he's been named in both ODI and T20I squad. It will be Pakistan's first ODI since the World Cup 2023 where they failed to qualify for the semi final under Babar's captaincy finishing on the fifth spot. The right-handed batter was awarded ICC ODI Cricketer of the year back-to-back in 2021 and 2022 respectively and continues to sit on the top of the ICC ODI batters rankings. Babar will be eager to continue his good form in the format and regain confidence to make a stellar comeback in the Test format as well as Pakistan are set to tour South Africa and host West Indies for five Tests combined.



cricketer. He was getting me out all the time and that was annoying me as well," Paine said in a podcast of The Grade Cricketer. As Ashwin stood firm against the Australian bowlers, Paine made a sarcastic remark: "I can't wait to get you to the Gabba, Ash, we'll see you there, huh?"

India's historic win

This sledge was meant to remind Ashwin that Australia hadn't lost at The Gabba (Brisbane) since 1988, implying that India wouldn't stand a chance in the series decider. Ashwin, unfazed, responded with a sharp retort: "Just like we want to get you to India, that will be your last series." Paine said the sledge was aimed at the Indian spinner. "But no, that was purely directed straight at him and he pulled out of that Test match because of back spasm." "Did I had a great game in that match? No, but I fronted up. Actually day one of the Test match he (Ashwin) was jogging laps. Those back spasms couldn't have been that bad," he added. What followed at the Gabba was one of the most historic turnarounds in cricketing history.

## Glenn Maxwell recalls when Virat Kohli blocked him on Instagram in 2021

Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell recently revealed that Virat Kohli had blocked him on Instagram in 2021 as the former mocked the latter for his injury.

New Delhi. Australia all rounder Glenn Maxwell recently revealed that star India batter Virat Kohli had blocked him on Instagram. Notably, Maxwell joined Kohli's

IPL (Indian Premier League) team Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in 2021 as he was bought for a whopping INR 14.25 crore. After playing at RCB, over the years, Kohli and Maxwell built a strong bond but the duo also had a strained relationship in the past.

Recently in a podcast, the Australian star revealed how he was welcomed by the former RCB captain in 2021 after being bought by the franchise. He further revealed that after having a chat with Kohli at the RCB training camp, he went on social media to follow his skipper but couldn't find him on

social media. "When I knew that I was going to RCB, Virat was the first guy to message me and welcome me to the team. When I



turned up for the pre-IPL training camp, we obviously got chatting and spent a fair bit of time training together as you do. So I go to his social media, to follow him. Didn't even think about it

before that. Never really crossed my mind. I was like 'I can't find him,' Maxwell said on the LISTNR Sportpodcast.

Further ahead, the all rounder revealed that someone mentioned it to him that Kohli might've blocked him and hence he couldn't find him. "I'm sure he's on social media somewhere so I didn't think anything of it. Not really that maybe he wasn't savvy with Instagram. Didn't really understand why he wasn't coming up and then someone mentioned that he might have blocked you. That is the only way you're not able to find him. I was like surely not," he added.

Maxwell had mocked Kohli's injury in 2017 Maxwell finally confronted Kohli

who admitted to have blocked him as he mocked his shoulder injury during the third Test of the Border Gavaskar Trophy in Ranchi, 2017. "Then I went and asked him 'Have you blocked me on Instagram?' And he was like, 'Yeah probably.' It was when you mocked me during that Test match. I think I got the sh\*\*\* and decided to block you. I was like 'yeah, that's fair enough'. So yeah, he ended up unblocking me, and we became great friends after that," added Maxwell. Since then, the duo has played together for RCB for four seasons now and share great camaraderie with each other. It remains to be seen whether Kohli and Maxwell will continue to play for RCB in IPL 2025 as franchises are all set to release their list of retained players on October 31 ahead of the mega auction.



# Deepika Singh's

## Latest Dance Video With Co-star Arshiya Sharm Viral

Deepika Singh is a well-known name in the world of Indian television industry. She has acted in numerous TV serials that have gained significant TRP. She started her acting career with the film Kunwara alongside Govinda, Urmila Matondkar, Om Puri, Nagma and Johny Lever. She has gained significant prominence through the serial Diya Aur Baati Hum. Her acting was highly praised by the audience and the critics. Besides acting, she is also an active social media user and often shares glimpses of her professional and personal life which often creates buzz among the fans. Recently she posted another video that was widely shared by the audience. Deepika often shares dancing videos on her Instagram handle. Recently, she shared another reel in which the actress was seen dancing to the song Baby Doll. Her Mangal Lakshmi co-actress Arshiya Sharma also joined her. She captioned it, "Cham cham karke chamka." Deepika wore a red saree with a golden jari design while Arshiya was seen wearing a maroon colour salwar suit. In the serial, Deepika plays the titular role of Mangal while Arshiya plays the role of her daughter Ishana.



The video went viral soon after it was shared on social media and garnered more than 6 lakh views. It was liked by over 20,000 people. Several users commented on the post. One user commented, "Ishana will one day become a great actress. Her expressions are very good," while another user wrote, "Two stars of my favourite TV serial Mangal Lakshmi; You both are dancing very well ma'am." A third user wrote, "The on-screen mom and daughter dancing together. Looking just superb." Thousands of other users also commented with heart, fire and smiling face with heart-shaped eyes emojis to express their love for the actress.

In another video she posted recently, she was seen dancing to the song Ek Radha Ek Meera sung by Lata Mangeshkar. She was seen wearing an orange saree along with a matching blouse.

### Stree 2's Aaj Ki Raat Full Version Out On YouTube, Goes On Top In No Time



With over 500 million views on YouTube, Stree 2's song Aaj Ki Raat won a billion hearts with its infectious energy. Hailed for Tamannah Bhatia's sensational moves and Madhubanti's unique voice, fans watched the song on a loop. Following the massive success of the promotional version, Saregama Music released the full version of Aaj Ki Raat composed by Sachin-Jigar on October 24. And now Fans can't stop loving the extended version. They even predicted that it would break the record of the promotional version. As expected, the song is trending at number 1 on YouTube. The song was not just an ornamental piece but drove the story forward. Tamannah appeared in a cameo role as Shama in the movie. Reacting to the video, a fan said, "I had been waiting for this extended version, especially the 2 beginning lines from the first day I watched it in the theatres! WHAT A BANGER!" Predicting the success of the new version, a fan wrote, "500M in only 2 months, Record Breaker Confirmed." Another impressed user noted, "Wow, this is pure magic! Tamannah and Rajkumar light up the screen in 'Aaj Ki Raat.' The energy, the music—I'm obsessed." Many users praised Aaj Ki Raat's singer Madhubanti for lending her beautiful voice to the track. A user wrote, "Madhubanti is a top-class singer. Even if you don't see the video you fall in love with the song, Tamannah is also extraordinary." Most awaited extended song ever in the history of Indian Cinema," another noted. Meanwhile, Stree 2 featuring Rajkumar Rao and Shraddha Kapoor became the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time breaking the record of Shah Rukh Khan's Jawan and Pathaan, with Rs 896.98 crore at the global office, as per Sacnilk. It became the first film to collect Rs 600 crore in just 39 days. Apart from Rajkumar and Shraddha, Stree 2 featured a talented ensemble cast of Pankaj Tripathi, Abhishek Banerjee and Aparshakti Khurana.

### Kartik Aaryan Trolled For Dancing With Karisma Kapoor On A Salman Khan Song



Kartik Aaryan, Vidya Balan and Madhuri Dixit are busy with the promotional works of their upcoming film Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3. It is set to hit the theatres on November 1. Recently, Kartik Aaryan and Vidya Balan appeared on the dance reality show India's Best Dancer Season 4 as a part of the film's promotion. The cast were greeted by judges of the show, Karisma Kapoor, Terence Lewis and Geeta Kapur. Karthik Aryan also danced with Karisma Kapoor in several songs. Some of the songs from the list feature Salman Khan originally which created a massive stir among the actor's fans. A video of Kartik Aaryan and Karisma Kapoor's dance was



posted on Instagram by Sony Entertainment on their official handle as a part of promotion. In the clip, the duo was seen dancing to the song Pyar Dilon Ka Mela Hai from the film Dulhan Hum Le Jayenge. The original cast of the song was Salman Khan and Karisma Kapoor. Kartik danced fantastically to the tune, while finely mixing the steps of Salman Khan, along with some steps of his upcoming film. Actress Karisma Kapoor showcased some of her signature steps from the 90's. The other celebrities present on the stage enjoyed the performance. The dance has created a significant controversy. Some of Salman Khan's fans mentioned that Karthik is trying to copy the actor. Kartik Aaryan has faced significant trolling after the video went viral on social media. One user commented, "He is doing the steps wrong," while another user wrote, "No one can copy Salman Khan." A third user wrote, "Don't try to copy Salman Khan."

Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 is directed by Anees Bazmee, while the storyline is penned by Aakash Kaushik. The film also features Triptii Dimri, Vijay Raaz, Rajpal Naurang Yadav, Sanjay Mishra, Vineeth, Rajesh Sharma, Manish Wadhwa and Arun Kushwah in prominent roles. The trailer and teasers released by the makers have already created a significant craze among the fans.

# Diljit Dosanjh

## Chants Om Namah Shivay During Dil-Luminati Concert In Delhi

Diljit Dosanjh hosted a two-day concert in New Delhi over the weekend, kick-starting the India leg of his world tour of Dil-Luminati. Videos show the singer bringing the house down with several hit songs. However, a new video that is now doing the rounds online revealed Diljit was chanting Om Namah Shivay during the concert. It was earlier revealed that Diljit is a devotee of Lord Shiva. In a video shared on Instagram, Diljit was seen concluding a performance and chanting Om Namah Shivay. He seemingly offered a prayer to the almighty before he turned to fans and waved at them. The video has caught fans' attention. Check it out below:

Earlier this year, Crew actor Trupti Khamkar had revealed that Diljit would 'constantly chants Om Namah Shivay.' Speaking with Free Press Journal, Trupti said, "I would definitely like to work with Diljit again. He is the most God-like person I've ever met. He comes with the most amount of humility. He is a Shiv bhakt and he constantly chants Om Namah Shivay.



When you are around him, you feel like you are in a temple, near God. He is very spiritual." The film had released earlier this year. Meanwhile, at the concert, Diljit Dosanjh also mentioned his mother during the concert on Sunday. "When I was born my mother spoke in Punjabi. I learnt Punjabi

first. Our country has different languages and I respect them a lot, be it Gujarati, or Marathi. Some speak Kannada, Telugu, and Hindi, and I respect them very much. But because my mother speaks Punjabi, so I too speak Punjabi. So I say Punjabi Aa Gaye Delhi Oye," he said before he started singing Main Hoon Panjab from his film, Amar Singh Chamkila.

