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AAP opens account in Jammu and Kashmir election

Sanjay Kumar

Srinagar, Oct 8: The Arvind Kejriwal-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has made a major stride in Jammu and Kashmir by winning the Doda assembly



constituency, with AAP candidate Mehraj Malik defeating BJP's Gajay Singh Rana. Known for being an outspoken leader, Malik campaigned vigorously, taking on the Bharatiya Janata Party, Congress, and National Conference. As an elected District Development Councilor (DDC), he became popular for his strong criticism of the administration under the Lieutenant Governor. At 36, Malik sought votes on the promise of providing basic amenities to the people of his

mountainous constituency. His campaign gained further traction after AAP Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh held a rally in Doda, adding momentum to Malik's successful canvassing efforts in the region. Jammu and Kashmir's first assembly elections since 2014 unfolded in three phases. The initial phase held on September 18 saw voting for 24 seats, followed by the second phase on September 25, covering 26 seats. Polling in the region remained peaceful with no untoward incidents reported, unlike in past elections where violence was witnessed. The Union Territory saw a voter turnout of 63.45 percent, slightly lower than the 65.52 percent recorded in the 2014 assembly elections. Exit polls have predicted that the National Conference (NC)-Congress alliance would have an advantage over the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the region. CVoter projected the BJP was expected to get 27-32 seats out of 43 in the Jammu region while NC-Congress 11-15, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) 0-2, others 0-1.

PM Modi, Amit Shah hail BJP's historic victory in Haryana

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Oct 8: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the people of Haryana and BJP workers on the party's third consecutive victory in the state assembly elections. PM Modi tweeted, "This is the victory of the politics of development and good governance. I assure the people of Haryana that we will leave no stone unturned to fulfil their aspirations." Amit Shah attributed the win to the unwavering faith of farmers, poor, backward, soldiers, and youth in the BJP government led by PM Modi. "The people of 'Veerbhoomi' have rejected the negative and divisive politics of the Congress, choosing BJP's 10-year track record of development and poor welfare." Shah also took a veiled dig at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, saying, "The land of farmers and soldiers has taught a lesson to those who go abroad and insult the country for their vote bank." He thanked the people of Haryana for giving BJP the opportunity to serve the state for the third consecutive time. Shah asserted that the people

have shown unshakable faith in BJP's politics of performance, rejecting the Congress' "false and empty promises". In a surprising turn of events,

win only 2 seats, improving its tally from the last assembly election. BJP's victory was evident from the start of the vote counting. Vipul Goel won the Faridabad seat with a significant margin of 48,388 votes over Congress' Lakhman Kumar Singla. Similarly, Rajesh Nagar of BJP comfortably won the Tigaon segment. Notable winners include Satish Kumar Fagna, who defeated experienced Congress MLA Neeraj Sharma by a margin of 33,217 votes in the NIT segment. Mool Chand Sharma, a sitting MLA and Cabinet Minister, secured a hat-trick from the Ballabgarh seat. In Palwal, BJP's Gaurav Gautam won with a margin of 33,605 votes, while Harinder Singh defeated Uday Bhan, president of Haryana Pradesh Congress Committee, by a slender margin of 2,595 votes. Mohammed Israil of Congress managed to win from the Hathin segment. BJP's victory is a significant achievement, considering the party had expelled 8 leaders from Haryana for contesting as Independents.



BJP has retained its hold in Faridabad and Palwal, winning 7 out of 9 seats in the southernmost districts of Haryana. Despite reports of anti-incumbency, BJP's main rival, the Congress, managed to

J&K election: Omar Abdullah, 'set to be new CM'

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Srinagar, Oct 8: Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said many attempts were made to destroy the National Conference over the last five years by creating new outfits which have been decimated in the Jammu and Kashmir assembly election 2024. The former chief minister of J&K won Ganderbal and Budgam seats, defeating his nearest rivals from the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) by more than 10,000 votes and 18,000 votes, respectively. "There were attempts to destroy the National Conference over the last five years. So many parties were created here, whose only aim was to destroy the NC. But, God's grace has been on us and those who tried to destroy us, have been decimated in the

process," news agency PTI quoted Omar Abdullah as saying, after

the voters in Budgam for voting for me, making me successful and



receiving his winning certificate from the returning officer for the Budgam seat. "I am thankful to

giving me an opportunity to serve the people of Jammu and Kashmir once again," the NC vice-presi-

dent said. Omar Abdullah, who is set to be the new chief minister of the Union territory, said the verdict has increased the party's responsibilities. National Conference chief and former Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah said people have given their mandate in the assembly elections and that Omar Abdullah will become the next chief minister. "People have given their mandate, they have proven that they don't accept the decision that was taken on August 5... Omar Abdullah will be the chief minister," the senior Abdullah told reporters. Speaking to reporters here, Farooq said, "We want to tackle issues of unemployment, inflation and others. I am grateful to everybody for casting their votes. Omar Abdullah will be the chief minister."

IAF seeks loitering UAV system to protect vital installations from attacks by long range swarm drones

Chandigarh, Oct 8: With drones playing an increasingly dominate role in warfare, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has asked

grammed to operate autonomously to carry out surveillance of attack missions. There can be any number of drones in a swarm and these are considered to be force multipliers. In the second edition of Acing Development of Innovative Technologies with Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), released by defence minister Rajnath Singh on October 7, the IAF has listed out its requirements for a counter swarm drone system that can be carried and launched through multiple domains, such as individuals, vehicles, tubes, aerostats or balloons. Pointing out that long range swarm drones are a threat to vital installations and the interception of these drones will require large infrastructure and high per weapon cost, the document adds that swarm drones carry distributed intelligence with some drones programmed for communication, warhead, dummy, navigation systems, etc.



the industry to develop a multi-domain aerial system that can loiter overhead a sensitive installation and protect it against an attack by hostile swarm drones. Swarm drones are unmanned aerial vehicles designed to operate together as a single group controlled remotely or pre-pro-

President honours Mithun, others at National Film Awards

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Oct 8: President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday presented veteran star Mithun Chakraborty the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Award and honoured other winners of the 70th National Film Awards, including music composer AR Rahman, actors Rishab Shetty, Nithya Menen and Manasi Parekh. The National Film Awards were announced in August honouring the best in cinema for the year 2022. At the ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan here, Murmu said the Indian cinema is the world's largest film industry as it produces movies in "several languages and regions". "There are around 85 people who have received awards today but there are only 15 women in them...I believe more efforts can be made towards women-led development in the film industry. I believe films and social media are a great tool to bring a change in society," she added. Murmu also congratulated Chakraborty for receiving the Dadasaheb Phalke Award. Chakraborty, who was wearing an arm brace in his right hand, received the award amid loud applause from the spectators who gave

him a standing ovation as he walked to the stage along with an aid. "I have come on this stage once again thanks to your blessings...Nothing was handed to me on a platter, I struggled a lot. But today, after receiving this award, I have stopped complaining. Thank you God, you gave me everything back and with interest," Chakraborty, 74, said in his speech. "Our country has many talented people, but what they don't have is money. I'd like to tell them that you may not have money, but don't lose hope. Keep dreaming. Sleep but don't let your dreams sleep." Malayalam film 'Aattam: The Play' won the top prize for the best feature film, along with wins in screenplay and editing categories. Sooraj R Barjatya was adjudged the best director for the Hindi movie 'Uunchai'. Neena Gupta won her second best supporting actress award for the same film. Pawan Malhotra was named the best supporting actor for the Haryanvi film 'Fouja'. The award for the best actor went to Rishab Shetty for the Kannada hit 'Kantara', which also took home the prize for best popular film award for providing wholesome entertainment. Nithya Menen (Tamil film 'Thiruchitrabalam') and Manasi

Parekh (Gujarati movie 'Kutch Express') shared the best actress hon-



our. Music composer AR Rahman won the National Film Award for best background music for his work in Mani Ratnam's 'Ponnyin Selvan - I', which was also named the best Tamil film. This is the seventh National Award for both Rahman and Ratnam. Rahman said he is happy that his seventh National Award has come for a film with Ratnam, who gave Rahman a break with 'Roja'.

Haryana result raises serious questions about integrity of democratic process: Jairam Ramesh

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Oct 8: Alleging a conspiracy, the Congress on Tuesday said it would not accept the Haryana Assembly poll result as it raises "serious questions" about the integrity of the instruments of the democratic system. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Haryana result is a victory of manipulations, and subverting the will of people. He also alleged that it is a defeat of the transparent and democratic processes. Ramesh claimed there were "serious issues" with the counting process and the functioning of the electronic voting machines (EVMs) in 14 constituencies and that the Congress would take up the matter with the Election Commission soon. "Results in Haryana are totally unexpected

and surprising. They go against ground reality and the sentiment of the people which was for change," Ramesh said at a press conference with Congress's media and publicity



department head Pawan Kherra. "Under these circumstances, it is not possible for us to accept these results (in Haryana)...there are serious

issues raised by our candidates which we will raise with the EC," Ramesh said. "Victory has been snatched from us in Haryana...the results are against the sentiment of the people which was for change. The Congress has been made to lose in Haryana and the chapter is not closed," Ramesh said. On the Jammu and Kashmir results, Ramesh said the people had defeated the "mischievous designs" of the BJP to muster a majority somehow. "People have given a befitting reply to those who trampled upon J-K's respect by taking away its statehood. The NC-Congress government will make all efforts for the restoration of J-K's statehood," Ramesh said.

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News box

Don't panic, there's no hurry to get e-khata

BENGALURU. There is no deadline for property owners in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits to register for e-khata, clarified Revenue Minister Krishna Byregowda, adding that there is no need for the public to panic, as helpdesks are being set up at Bengaluru One centres across the city.

After a meeting with BBMP officials on Monday, and discussing the prevailing confusion regarding e-khata, the minister said, "In some areas, middlemen have created confusion and extorted people by claiming the government has set a time limit to get e-khata. However, the government has not fixed any time-frame. The public can get e-khata without panicking and hurrying. Don't listen to speculation and get worried."

He added that the e-khata system has been implemented to prevent fake registration. "E-khata is mandatory only in cases where properties are sold or purchased. Also, on the instructions of Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister DK Shivakumar, discussions were held with the special commissioner of the corporation on appropriate steps to simplify the process, he informed. He added that there is no need for the public to visit offices to get the e-khata. Instead, they can download the e-khata from home, he said.

"Bengaluru has 21 lakh plots. BBMP has already uploaded details of these locations on its website. Property owners can get a permanent e-khata from home without going to any office by looking at the dropdown menu and attaching the necessary documents on the website," he said. "Help desks have been opened in all Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO Office) offices under BBMP with immediate effect so that property owners can easily get e-khata without any confusion."

BJP trying to usurp credit for Naveen's projects: Rohit Pujari

BHUBANESWAR. The BJD on Monday came down heavily on the BJP government for trying to take credit for the projects completed during the tenure of Naveen Patnaik, by affixing posters and banners of Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Former minister Rohit Pujari alleged posters with photograph of the CM have suddenly come up in front of the Samaleswari temple in Sambalpur. Similar posters and banners have been affixed at many places between Nelson Mandela and Chaurpur squares claiming credit for the bridge over Mahanadi at Chaurpur. Pujari said renovation of Samaleswari temple was completed when Naveen Patnaik was the CM. The Chaurpur bridge was also completed by the BJD government. "It seems to have become a pattern for the BJP government to claim credit for the work completed by Naveen Patnaik," he said.

He said more than three months have elapsed since the BJP government assumed office but no work has been initiated to resolve issues pending since years. Referring to the establishment of a bench of Orissa High Court in western Odisha, Pujari said the government should at least initiate the process to fulfil the long-standing demand of people.

The demand for transforming Sambalpur university as a central university, Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology at Burla to an IIT and resolution of Mahanadi river water dispute are pending, he added.

Acharya trying to safeguard his position in BJD, says BJP

BHUBANESWAR. Stung by the statement of BJD's deputy leader in the Assembly and former minister Prasanna Acharya that four persons are running the government in the state, the BJP on Monday said the leader of the regional party is yet to digest its defeat in the elections. Former president of state BJP Samir Mohanty told reporters here that the BJD is yet to accept the verdict of people. "Acharya seems to have forgotten that the BJD was not very keen to give him a ticket to contest the last election. I think his statement on the BJP government is to keep his party leader Naveen Patnaik in good humour and an attempt to safeguard his position within BJD," Mohanty said. The BJP leader further said, "It does not sound good when Acharya said the BJD government was run by Naveen and he was the only decision-making authority. People of the state knew well who was controlling the BJD and the government. He is well aware about the condition of previous BJD ministers, MLAs and leaders in the party." "On Acharya's claim about the undiminished popularity of Naveen, Mohanty questioned, "Why did the former chief minister lose Kantabanji seat to the BJD candidate by a margin of 16,344 votes, if he is so popular?" He said Naveen lost the trust of the people for cheating them over the years. People voted BJD out of power as it failed to keep its promises in the last 24 years. "The BJD's internal conflicts are quite evident after it lost the election. Leaders of the party should introspect before making statements. As the BJP government has fulfilled its promises within 100 days of coming to power, the concerns of BJD leaders to the growing popularity of BJP are natural," Mohanty added.

63 houses to get Rs 10k each after flooding

BENGALURU. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath informed that the heavy rain on Saturday and Sunday flooded 63 houses in Mahalakshmi Layout apart from the Kendriya Vihar apartment complex in Yelahanka zone. As more damages have been reported at Mahalakshmi Layout, the zonal commissioner has been instructed to pay compensation to the affected houses.

Speaking to reporters on Monday, the Palike chief also mentioned that nearly 800 potholes have appeared in the city following the rain, and the BBMP will fix them soon.

Though Mahadevapura and Bommanahalli zones recorded low rainfall, they faced serious traffic issues. In Hampi Nagar in West zone, 108.2 mm of rainfall was recorded in 2.5 hours on Saturday evening. Similarly, surrounding areas like Nandini Layout, Yelahanka and others recorded heavy rainfall, he said.

"The apartment complex at Kendriya Vihar came up outside



the Yelahanka lake bund. The wall that protected the complex from flooding collapsed and hence it was flooded. We have deployed people to pump out water. In the West zone, heavy rainfall for an hour flooded 63 homes in

Mahalakshmi Layout. I have directed the zonal commissioner to compensate the houses that were damaged," he said.

The chief commissioner also informed that in Binny Pet, the wall that had collapsed was on

private property and there was no injury and no flooding. The Palike also cleared about 20 trees that were uprooted in the rain.

Asked about the possibility of encroachments that could be a reason for the flooding of the

apartment complex in Yelahanka, he clarified that Kendriya Vihar is situated below the tank bund. "Although we constructed a stormwater drain, during heavy rain, the area is prone to flooding. We cannot say if there is any encroachment in the area. In the past, the place was shown as an irrigation canal and did not have much width. And slowly houses started to come up. It was outside the planning area earlier and was added only recently. There will always be problems, but we will try to solve them. We will see if we have to make another canal," Girinath said.

On the compensation for houses that were flooded, he said the Palike is giving Rs 10,000 for each house under the direct benefit transfer from its fund. He also mentioned that during his night rounds during the rain, he found water stagnation at Hebbal service road only.

Jury rejects appeals challenging boat race result



ALAPPUZHA. The jury of appeal constituted by the Nehru Trophy Boat Race (NTBR) Society decided not to change the result of the finals of the boat race held at Punnamada in Alappuzha on September 28.

The jury led by district collector Alex Varghese announced the decision after conducting a hearing of other boat clubs

which challenged the result of the event.

Meanwhile, the representatives of the Village Boat Club (VBC) Kainakari and Kumarakom Town Boat Club (KTBC) which were runners-up in the event decided to approach the court challenging the result. The jury of appeal including collector Alex Varghese, ADM Asha C Abraham, district government

pleader Adv Venu, district law officer Adv Anil Kumar, NTBR executive committee members C K Sadasivan and R K Kurup, were appointed after the VBC and KTBC filed a petition to the collector declaring them joint winners of the event. Controversy erupted after the judging committee declared Karichal Chundan rowed by Pallathurthy Boat Club as winners after considering the difference of 0.005 microseconds with the Veeyapuram Chundan of VBC.

Karichal crossed the finish line in 4:29.785 minutes, just ahead of Veeyapuram, which clocked 4:29.790 minutes. KTBC finished third with 4:30.13 minutes.

Later VBC and KTBC filed petitions to declare them joint winners. Based on the petition collector appointed the jury of appeals.

UDF set to turn up storm against Kerala CM

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The Opposition is set to raise the chief minister's remark on Malappuram again in the assembly in an adjournment motion on Tuesday, albeit via a similar issue of topical interest. Having lost an opportunity to discuss the controversial topic on Monday after the LDF government agreed to discuss the related adjournment motion at noon, the Opposition is expected to show their strength inside and outside the assembly, demanding the resignation of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The war of words between the chief minister and the opposition leader came as a blessing in disguise for the LDF government as they did not have to defend Pinarayi's controversial remarks on Malappuram in an interview he gave to a leading English daily. If the UDF had moved the



adjournment motion on the Malappuram row and the allied issues, they wanted to show their disapproval in removing 49 starred questions. Satheesan told reporters outside the assembly that the chief minister cut a sorry figure before the people as he was seen to see that the session was adjourned.

"There has been a conspiracy between the speaker's office and the chief minister's office. Pinarayi has been trying to emulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi. When the speaker removed my speech, he did not bother to remove the words of the chief minister and the parliamentary affairs minister from the records of the assembly.

The opposition is not going to be cowed down by the pressure from the part of the LDF government. Pinarayi should see his own reflection in the mirror if he wants to see a substandard person," said an agitated Satheesan.

On Tuesday, the UDF is expected to be prepared to raise a slew of issues ranging from the disruption of the Thrissur Pooram festival and the meeting between former ADGP (Law and Order) M R Ajith Kumar and the RSS leadership.

Anganwadis call for boosting ICDS

The proposal includes the formation of a committee by October 30 this year, comprising all stakeholders, to draft the bill and oversee its implementation.



BENGALURU. As Anganwadi centres in Karnataka marked their 50th anniversary on October 2, a set of proposals aimed at addressing key challenges and ensuring the long-term success of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme was submitted to the state government. The proposals were outlined and discussed during a two-day seminar held by 'Save Children Forum,' which concluded here on Monday.

Anganwadi centres are currently facing several obstacles due to the absence of a legal framework. To resolve these issues, members of these centres proposed that a draft bill be introduced during the winter session in 2024 to provide legal backing to the ICDS scheme, ensuring the coverage of care, nutrition and pre-primary education.

The proposal includes the formation of a committee by October 30 this year, comprising all stakeholders, to draft the bill and oversee its implementation. Additionally, it calls for increasing the ICDS budget to keep up with inflation, removing GST on supplementary nutrition provided to Anganwadi centres and establishing a separate ICDS Project Directorate for better supervision.

The proposal also emphasises the need for an immediate salary increase for Anganwadi workers, which has not been revised since September, with a recommended minimum salary of Rs 26,000.

Guidelines out for selection of PS & OSD to ministers

The guidelines assume importance as there was no clarity on appointment of private secretaries and OSDs during the previous regime.

BHUBANESWAR. In a bid to bring transparency in selection of officers attached to ministers and ensure their integrity, the state government on Monday issued guidelines for appointment of private secretary and officer on special duty (OSD) for them.

The guidelines assume importance as there was no clarity on appointment of private secretaries and OSDs during the previous regime. The BJP government, however, has sought to streamline the process, and focus on performance of the officers who are required to play vital role in ensuring effective functioning of the ministers. The guidelines have accorded top priority to clean career record and honesty of the officer concerned. As per the norms, while processing appointments of officials



as private secretary or OSD, it should be ensured that no disciplinary proceeding is pending against him or her.

Besides, no Vigilance or criminal proceedings should have been registered and pending against the officer nor adverse remarks have been recorded in the

confidential character roll (CCR) and performance appraisal report.

The guidelines stipulate that he/she must have been rated "very good" or "outstanding" for at least 36 of the preceding 60 months of CCR/PAR. However, any rating recorded as NRC (no remarks certificate) within the past 60-month assessment period, will be excluded from consideration.

For periods, where an NRC rating has been recorded, the individual's performance evaluation from the immediately preceding period (prior to the 60-month window) will be considered for assessment purposes, it added. Appointment to the post of PS to ministers will have to be made from among the officers in the rank of additional secretary

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News box

Won't tolerate derogatory remarks against any religion; can't allow violence too: Yogi

Lucknow: Days after controversial statements were made by Dasna temple chief priest Yati Narsinghanand, chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said the govt would not tolerate any derogatory remarks against deities, revered figures, or saints of any caste, religion, or sect. However, he also warned that any protests against such remarks that may lead to anarchy, violence, or any kind of disruption would not be tolerated either. Reviewing the law and order situation in the state ahead of the festival season, the CM said there was a need to respect the beliefs of all sects and that action should be taken against anyone who showed disrespect to any faith. Without naming anyone or referring to any particular incident, Yogi said: "Every citizen should have a sense of gratitude towards great figures, but nobody can be forced to follow this nor should this be imposed on anyone. Anyone who tampers with faith or makes derogatory remarks against great men, deities, or sects will be dealt with strictly under the law and punished. People of all religions and sects must show mutual respect for each other's faiths." chief secretary, DGP, additional chief secretary home and other senior officials were present in the meeting that was held at the CM's residence in Lucknow. He also outlined that govt would not tolerate anarchy, vandalism, or arson in the name of protests, issuing a warning that anyone attempting such actions would face consequences. During the meeting, Yogi directed the police department and heads of other departments to ensure that Navratri and Vijaydashami festivals were celebrated in an atmosphere of joy, peace, and harmony. He directed the police and administration to identify those who sought to disrupt law and order and to take strict action against them. While discussing women's security, the CM said that there was a need to increase patrolling by foot and regular rounds by PVR 112 in crowded areas. He emphasised that the safety and convenience of women and girls must be a priority for govt, and all departments should work together to achieve this goal.

Discom team of 244 for checks before festivities

Noida. Around 244 officials, including engineers, have been deployed across the state by UPPCL's Lucknow headquarters to oversee and ensure seamless power supply during festivals. In Noida, the team is expected to visit later this week. They will inspect the power distribution section, workshop, storage house, festive preparations as well as upcoming summer preparations. Field reports, along with photographs of the inspection of the allotted distribution block and storage center/workshops, will be prepared by the teams. They have been given a deadline of Oct 23 for submitting reports to the discom. According to the chief zonal engineer Noida power department, Harish Bansal, a 4-member team, including executive engineers Shobit Kuril, Krishna Kumar Bhargav, Ravi Kumar, and Mukesh Kumar, has been deployed. In Ghaziabad, a 9-member team, including superintendent engineer Ravi Shankar and executive engineer Rishabh Dev, have been deployed for the Ghaziabad city, while superintendent engineers Rahul Nanda (Modinagar) and Ashok Kaim, Shishir Kumar Shahi, Sanjiv Kumar Verma, Rajnikant Mishra, and Anil Kumar Tyagi, along with executive engineer Dhirendra Kumar, have been deployed for Muradnagar. Further, 62 officers of Purvanchal Vidut Vitran Nigam and 60 officers of Madhyanchal Vidut Vitran Nigam have been put on duty.

Run-up to 50: Elevated roads to skywalk, infra to get push

Noida. Several infrastructure and beautification projects across the city are set to be expedited in the run-up to Noida turning 50 in 2026. At a press conference on Monday, Noida CEO Lokesh M told said projects to be fast-tracked include the Bhangal Elevated Road, Chilla Elevated Road, Golf Course in Sector 151A, and a Skywalk connecting sectors 51 and 52 metro stations. Work on the much-awaited 5.3km six-lane Chilla Elevated Road project is set to begin in a month, with an updated cost of Rs 787.31 crore, the CEO said. The Authority and UP govt are sharing the project cost equally. The CEO also said that 70% of the work on the 420-metre Skywalk, which will connect the Aqua Line's Sector 51 station to the Blue Line's Sector 52 station has been completed. Initiated in Jan 2023 at a cost of Rs 25 crore, the Skywalk project aims to be completed by Dec 2024. At the conference, the Noida CEO also addressed the frequent traffic congestion from Film City Loop to Mahamaya Flyover, noting that an additional lane will be added to the loop soon. Meanwhile, plans are in motion to rent out the upper floors of the multi-storey City Bus terminal building in Sector 82 for commercial use, possibly as a hospital or hotel. The ground floor of the building, which was developed at a cost of Rs 157.9 crore, will continue to function as a terminal. The CEO also gave updates on the Golf Course project in Sector 151A, which spans 113.9 acres and has a projected cost of Rs 140 crore. Work on the project began in July 2021, but faced delays due to funds. The Authority has since decided to finance the project from its own funds, with 64% of the work completed and a target completion date of June 2025. Work on the Authority's new office in Sector 96, encompassing 5.9 acres, is 73% complete and projected to be ready by Jan 2025 at a cost of Rs 304 crore. The 4.5km six-lane Bhangal Elevated Road, being built at a cost of Rs 608 crore, is 84% complete and is expected to be ready by Jan as well. Plans are also underway to develop two underpasses on the Noida Expressway. The first underpass, to be built at a cost of Rs 131 crore, will be 800m long and benefit residents of sectors 151, 153, 154, and 156. Its construction will commence in Dec this year. The second underpass, with a cost of Rs 106 crore, will be 731m long and ease commutes for residents of sectors 104, 105, 106, 107, 128, and 129. All these endeavours aim to enhance Noida's infrastructure and its aesthetic appeal as it approaches its 50th anniversary.

Overwhelmed to get a flat in which I invested life's savings'

Noida. After waiting for years, even a decade, 51 buyers of Amrapali Dream Valley Enchante in Greater Noida West finally received the keys to their apartments on Sunday. The National Buildings Construction Corporation (NBCC) began the handover process, four years after it was given charge of completing the stalled project. The remaining 800 homebuyers of this Amrapali project are likely to be handed over possession of their flats soon. Shailendra Bhadauri (56), a single parent, had booked his 2BHK flat in 2013 for Rs 38 lakh. He took a loan of Rs 12 lakh to pay for it and currently gives Rs 18,000 as monthly installment to the bank. Employed in the public sector, Bhadauri fortunately has a govt accommodation in Delhi but would need to vacate it when he retires in three years. On Monday, the 56-year-old said he was "overwhelmed" that he would finally get the flat he had invested in. "Purchasing this flat took nearly all of my life savings and I still continue to pay loan installments for it. As an Amrapali buyer, I also found it difficult to get a loan because banks demanded an official letter from a court

or NBCC. From protests at Jantar Mantar to approaching the Supreme Court, our path was far from easy. The emotional and financial toll of this struggle has left an indelible mark on our lives. But at least now, there's a glimmer of hope," Bhadauri said. The Amrapali Dream Valley project in Greater Noida West was initiated in 2010, and it was supposed to be developed in three phases. Construction for Dream Valley Enchante, the third phase, began in 2014, with a promise by the developer to hand over flats in 36 months. But the developer had just excavated the site when construction was halted due to bankruptcy. The Supreme Court in 2019 assigned NBCC as the project management consultant for cash-strapped Amrapali projects. The company's responsibility was to finish construction of the developer's remaining 38,159 units and common facilities within the societies. NBCC in 2020 gave the tender for construction of Dream Valley Enchante to a private firm, but this company was blacklisted in 2022 due to construction delays and non-performance. The same year, NBCC



roped in another firm, Gautam Builders, to complete work at the society. Of the five towers at the society, two towers - H5 and H6 - with 300 flats are complete, and the remaining three towers are in final stages of completion. All flats are 2BHKs. Anuj Maurya, who works in the financial sector, was another homebuyer to get the keys to his apartment on Sunday. He too dealt with the financial burden of paying back a loan of Rs 15 lakh, and has been living on rent in Ghaziabad's Vaishali all these years. Just months before, he completed all payments for his Rs 33-lakh flat.

"I had booked my flat in 2015, and by 2018, I thought I would never be able to get it. It was after I saw the determination of other homebuyers that my perspective shifted. I joined their protests and their support and camaraderie helped me persevere through these challenging times. Still, this wasn't an easy journey. The financial burden and lack of stability took their toll on me," Maurya said. Dipankar Kumar, among those spearheading the homebuyers' cause, said the "long battle is now bearing fruits". Kumar is one of the Dream Valley Enchante homebuyers who is yet to get possession of his flat. NBCC is currently handling 14 unfinished Amrapali projects in Noida. These include Sapphire 2, Crystal Homes, Golf Homes, Centurion Park 2, and the other two phases of Dream Valley. In its 2019 order, the apex court held Amrapali Group and its directors accountable for misappropriating homebuyers' funds for their own benefit and cancelled its licence under the RERA Act.

A drain runs through it: Panel to probe what's killing Surajpur trees

Noida. The Greater Noida authority has set up a panel to probe how untreated industrial effluents were making way into the Surajpur wetland, where numerous trees died earlier this year. The committee, comprising three senior officials from the Greater Noida authority, with representatives from the district forest office, irrigation department, and pollution department, will investigate and submit a comprehensive report on the wetland's status by the end of this week. The complainant, Vikrant Tongad, said, "I already sent two complaints regarding the matter. Despite the formation of a joint inspection team, there has been no action on the ground. No steps have been taken against those discharging untreated water into the wetland and causing loss of vegetation." Environmentalist Vikrant Tongad claimed there are about 100 industrial units near the wetland and most of them were discharging untreated water into the wetland. "We have already lost more than dozens of trees and many more will be destroyed if this continues," he said. According to the Provisions of Environment

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as KM. BEENA RANI alias BEENA TOMAR W/O NARESH CHANDRA DIO SARDAR SINGH R/O FLAT NO-E-403, ANTRIKSH APARTMENTS PLOT NO-26, DWARKA SECTOR-4, DWARKA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110078 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BEENA TOMAR.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GURCHARANJEET KAUR alias GURCHARAN KAUR DIO SANTOKH SINGH W/O J. S. SOBTHI R/O M-24-B, Mahiyva Nagar, Mahiyva Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110017 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GURCHARAN KAUR.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANITA W/O PARVEEN KUMAR, residing at House No. 179 G/1, Basant Nagar, Javat Mohalla, Vasant Vihar, South West Delhi, Delhi-110057, have changed the name of my minor son NIKHIL, aged 15 years and he shall be hereafter known as NIKHIL KUMAR, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, NAZRIN W/O ZULFIQAR residing at H NO-2065, GALI QUTUBUDDIN, KALI MASJID, TURKMAN GATE, DELHI-110006 have changed my name to NAZREEN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, PRITI KAUR DIO SURINDER SINGH BHAN-DARI W/O TARUN BAHADUR SINGH R/O C-98223, POCKET-9 SECTOR-3, VASANT KUNJ, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110070 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PRITI JAGGI in my father PPO NO. C015251992. The actual name of mine is PRITI KAUR, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, POONAM DEVI W/O Shri Ravinder resident of P-44-B, Shankar Vihar, New Delhi-110010, declare that my correct actual name POONAM DEVI is inadvertently mentioned in the school records & Board Documents of my son's (ARUNAY SINGH GAHLAWAT) school record & 10th class Marksheet as POONAM. That the Correction duly supported by public documents i.e. AADHAR CARD bearing No. 819454769347 and PASSPORT bearing No. S1696614

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, RAVINDER MATHUR S/O P. L. MATHUR R/O HOUSE NO-J-2, 30FEET ROAD, CHANKYA PLACE PART-1, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059, declare that name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as RAVINDER MATHUR and DIVYANSHI MATHUR in my minor son ADITYA MATHUR aged 15 years in his Birth certificate-MCDOLR09004262. The actual name of mine and my minor son are RAVINDER MATHUR and ADITYA MATHUR, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, NARESH CHANDRA S/O MAHENDRA SINGH R/O FLAT NO-E-403, ANTRIKSH APARTMENTS PLOT NO-26, DWARKA SECTOR-4, DWARKA, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110078, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NARESH CHAND in my Birth Certificate. The actual name of mine is NARESH CHANDRA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ayesha D/o Mohd Zulfiqar R/o 2178, Gali Ranji Dass Pahadi Bhogla Turkman Gate Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Ayesha Bano.

NAME CHANGE

I, KAMAL S/O GANGA RAM, R/O 20/32, Gali No. 20 Kalyan Puri, Chilla Saroda Khadar, Patparganj, East Delhi, Delhi-110091, have changed the name of my minor son AMAN aged 14 years and he shall be hereafter known as AMAN CHAUHAN. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, AZAD KUMAR S/O JAGDEV PRASAD R/O 169 VINDHA PURI, LAJPAT NAGAR-II, LAJPAT NAGAR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110024, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as KUSUMILATA in my minor son LAKSHYA KUMAR aged 16 years in his 10th class education documents. The actual name of my wife is LATA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, KAMAL KISHORE RATHORE S/O BHIKA RAM RATHORE R/O PLOT NO-115/B, LAXMI VIHAR, GALI NO-7, BHAGWATI GARDEN EXTN, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as KAMAL KISHORE in my minor daughter SONI RATHORE aged 15 years in her school records. The actual name of mine is KAMAL KISHORE RATHORE, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MOHD HANIF S/O LATE SHRI FATEH MOHD R/O RZ-53, Nihal Vihar, Nanngoli, WEST DELHI, DELHI- 110041 declare that name of mine, my father and my wife have been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD HANIF, FATEH MOHD and ANNA BEGAM in my school record and name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD HANIF and FATEH MOHAMMAD in my Pan card No AEBPH8457D. The actual name of mine, my father and my wife are MOHD HANIF, FATEH MOHD and ANNA BEGUM respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MANOJ KUMAR GUPTA S/O KALI CHARAN GUPTA, R/O Flat No. A-0003, Ground Floor, Tower A, Hemes-121, Flat No. GH-01, Sector-121, Near Partha Chok, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh-201303, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as SUSHMA GUPTA in my minor son LAKSHAY KUMAR GUPTA aged 16 years in his CBSE 10th class Educational Documents, and also name of my wife has been wrongly written as SUSHMA DEVI in his Birth Certificate Registration No. 2891. The actual name of my wife is SUSHAMA DEVI, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Neha Kapoor D/O Varun Verma R/O K-262, Swami Dayanand Colony Padam Nagar, Mayapuri, South Delhi, Delhi-110017, have changed my name to Neha Verma

NAME CHANGE

I, Ajay Krishan Srivastava S/O Sh. Gorakh Prasad Srivastava, R/O Flat No. 2343 Tower-11, Purvanchal Royal City, Sector Chiv-I, Greater Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201310, have changed my minor son's name from Adhrit Srivastava to Ram Srivastava. Henceforth he would be known by the name of RAM SRIVASTAVA in future for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I Gagan Goswami declare that I am changing the name of my younger daughter from 'Riya Gagan Goswami' to 'Riya Goswami'. H. No. 8650, 2nd floor Near DCM School Mang Gausaha Road Karol Bagh Delhi - 110005 .

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-481165X Rank-NK Name-JAGTAP RAHUL, FAKIRA residing at VPO-HISWAL BK, MANDEGAN, DISTT. NAGARK, MAHARASHTRA-423106 have changed my minor son's name from RUDRA to JAGTAP RUDRA RAHUL for all future purposes, vide affidavit dated 08/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as AKANSHA GUPTA D/o ANIL KUMAR GUPTA, and W/o VIRU GOYAL R/O 307, 3rd Floor Yamuna Sports Complex, Ashoka Niketan, Anand Vihar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AAKANISHA GOYAL, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, VIMALA DEVI Spouse of JC-470816P HONEY SUBHAJ K/SD/ YOGENDRA SINGH, R/O VILL-TEJAPUR, PO-NAUBATPUR, TEH-CHANDLAUDI, DIST-CHANDLAUDI (UTTAR PRADESH)-232110, have changed my name from VIMALA DEVI to VIMALA DEVI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 08/10/2024, before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, JIDUGU PUNNA RAO Father of No. 16119579X Rank-NK Name-JIDUGU MANOJHAR BABU Presently residing at VPO-ETUMKURU, TEH-DIST-GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH-522017 have changed my name from JIDUGU PUNNA RAO to JIDUGU PUNNARAO for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD IMRAN/MOHD IMRAN S/O AHMED HASAN residing at 446, GALI NO-20, JAFRABAD, DELHI-110053 have changed my name to IMRAN HASAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-1611874W Rank-NV Name-GNANESHWAR CHAVAN R/O C/62 13TH CROSS, HUBLI NAVANAGAR, HUBLI DHARWAD, KARNATAKA-580025 have changed my minor daughter's name from SHRISHTI to SHRISHTI G CHAVAN for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 08/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ANKUSH GUPTA D/o ANIL KUMAR GUPTA, and W/o VIRU GOYAL R/O 307, 3rd Floor Yamuna Sports Complex, Ashoka Niketan, Anand Vihar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AAKANISHA GOYAL, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-15235653W Rank-NK Name-NIJUN KARAYI R/O KUNNUMMAL HOUSE, VATTIPROM, PO-MANGAT-TIDION, TEH-THALASSERY, DIST-RANNI, MY KERALA-670643, have changed my minor daughter's name from NIVANSHI to NIVANSHI KARAYI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 08/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RANGITA PATRA Mother of JC-707041Y RANK SUBJL Name-SOMESWAR PATRA Resident of VPO-DESHRA, PS-KOTULPUR, TEH-BISHNUPUR, DIST-BANKURA, WESTBENGAL-722144 have changed my name from RANGITA PATRA to PRATIMA PATRA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD IMRAN/MOHD IMRAN S/O AHMED HASAN residing at 446, GALI NO-20, JAFRABAD, DELHI-110053 have changed my name to IMRAN HASAN for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I RAMESH KUMAR AND MY WIFE GURMEET BOTH ARE R/O 285/9 AMRIT PURI -B, GARIH, NEW DELHI 110065. HERE BY DECLARE THAT WE HAVE DISOWNED/ DEBARRED OUR SON RAM SWAROOP ARORA, FROM ALL OUR MOVEABLE/ IMMOVABLE, PROPERTIES, ASSET, AND SEVERED RELATIONS, AND WE SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACT DONE BY HIM IN FUTURE, AT ANY POINT OF TIME

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD SAAD S/O ARSHAD KONDLI MAYUR VIHAR PHASE-III, DELHI-110096, through their moveable/immovable properties in all manners due to his disobedience, misconduct and misbehavior, my client shall not be responsible for his any acts whatsoever in future.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANGITA mother of NO-2809355A RANK-SEP Name- CHOEBHE MANOJ DADABHAU R/O PLOT NO-49, VILL-KEDGAON, RAJENDRANAGAR, DIST-AHMENAGAR, MAHARASHTRA-44005 have changed my name from SANGITA to SANGITA DADABHAU CHOEBHE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 08/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE. Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work: 1. Name of Work with its location : Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 25 KV OHE Modification work required under ROBs/FoBs in connection with Running of DSDC Trains over Delhi Division. 2. Approx. Cost of work : Rs. 2,37,26,550.00/- 3. Earnest Money Deposit : Rs. 2,68,600/- 4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period : 16.10.2024 (00.00 Hrs.) to 30.10.2024 (15.00 Hrs.) 5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time : 30.10.2024 (15.00 Hrs.) 6. Fund Allocation : Capital 7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen : www.ireps.gov.in No.: 31-TRD-NDLS-2024-25 Date: 07.10.2024 3080/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAME CHANGE

I, FATIMA W/O ARSHAD JAMAL residing at A-66, 1ST FLOOR, JOSHI COLONY, STREET NO-2, I P EXTENSION, PAT-PARGAN, DELHI-110092 have changed my name to ARSHI FATIMA for all future purposes.

Religion change

I, Mujeeb Ali S/O Rehmat Ali R/O 15/94-85, Trikotpuri, Chilla Saroda Khadar, East Delhi, Delhi-110091, have changed my Religion Muslim to Hindu from dated 10/09/2024 and Changed my name from Mujeeb Ali to Rachit

NORTHERN RAILWAY (GATI SHAKTI UNIT) TENDER NOTICE

Subj: NIT no. 19-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25 The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti Unit/Delhi, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055 invites e-tender for the under noted work, hence it has been uploaded to IREPS website on date 09.10.2024

NAME CHANGE

I, DADABHAU father of NO-2809355A RANK-SEP Name- CHOEBHE MANOJ DADABHAU R/O PLOT NO-49, VILL-KEDGAON, RAJENDRANAGAR, DIST-AHMENAGAR, MAHARASHTRA-44005 have changed my name from DADABHAU DADABHAU GIRAJU CHOEBHE for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 08/10/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BABLI WALLIA alias RAVINDER WALLIA W/O B. S. WALLIA R/O HOUSE NO-4104, DLF PHASE-4, GALLERIA DLF-IV, GURGAON, HARYANA-122009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAVINDER WALLIA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as BABLI WALLIA alias RAVINDER WALLIA W/O B. S. WALLIA R/O HOUSE NO-4104, DLF PHASE-4, GALLERIA DLF-IV, GURGAON, HARYANA-122009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAVINDER WALLIA.

NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that our client Mr.Devendra is the owner of Property area measuring -203 sq. yds. i.e. 169.72 sq. mtrs., out of Kharsa No. 111, 112 & 113, Situated at Wake in the area of Village Ilahabans, Tehsil Dabri & Distt. Gauraha Budh Nagar, Vide Sales Deed dated 20.06.2022 executed by Mr. Rajveer Singh in favour of Mr. Devendra in respect of the said property. Initially Jamabandi/Intkal/Khatoni issued by Concerned Patwari in favour of Mr. Rajveer duly endorsed in favour of Mr. Devendra. Finally, Sales Deed dated 20.06.2022 executed in favour of our above mentioned client who intends to mortgage said property for his bonafide requirements with Fedbank Financial Services Ltd. Whosoever is having any objection to the said mortgage or acquisition or anyone has claim or right or interest in the property shall contact the undersigned within 07 days failing which it shall be presumed that there stands no objections. NEW DELHI DATE: 08/10/2024 PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE Enrl. No. D/721/02 Office: L-27, GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48 Mob.: 9968006418

NAME CHANGE

1. Name of work and location: Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of 20 Passengers Elevator with 2 stop & 2 opening, travel from ground floor to 1st floor complete as per RDSO Specifications at PWL, BVH, FDN, PTRD, MSZ, NRW, JMD, ROJ, BGZ, SNP, NUR, SZM, SMGL, MDNR, GHNA & TKJ (16) Railway stations of Delhi Division in connection with Amrit Station Scheme. 2. Tender Notice No. 19-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25 3. Earnest Money amount (to be deposited online) Now Rs. 11,10,000.00/- 4. Approximate cost earlier Rs. 19,20,00,000.00/- 5. Date & Time for submission of tender: Tenders uploaded on date 09.10.2024 on IREPS website i.e., www.ireps.gov.in. The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 hrs on 04.11.2024 6. Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document: The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e., www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in and tender document is available on www.ireps.gov.in. Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e., www.ireps.gov.in from 15.10.2024 to 04.11.2024. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office. No. 19-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-24-25 Dated : 04.10.2024 3087/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Sushant & Mr. Sumant Ram who are the owner of First Floor built on Property No.10, A, situated at B.S.A, Vijay Nagar, Delhi vide Relinquishment Deed dated 09.12.2020 registered as doc no. 12126, registered in SRO VI A and intend to get the financial assistance from AAVAS FINANCINGS LIMITED. If any person(s)/Institution has/hasn't any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever. Khaitan & Khaitan A-38 Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048, Ph. No: 011-49774545

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Pawan Kumar Sagar is purchasing the Built Up Third Floor with roof rights, of Property No. 1-67B, measuring 60 sq. yds. part of Kharsa/Rect No. 63, Killa No. 21 & 22, Situated in the Abadi of Garhwali Mohalla, Laxmi Nagar, in the area of Village Khureji Khass Illaha Shadaha, Delhi-110092 from Mrs. Daljeet Kaur who is the owner of the property by the virtue of Sale Deed dated 22.08.2016 registered as doc no. 5054 and intend to get the financial assistance from Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited which provide the financial assistance. If any person(s)/Institution has/hasn't any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever. Khaitan and Khaitan A-38 Kailash Colony, New Delhi-110048, Ph. No: 011-49774545

News box

Upset at not being allowed to marry boyfriend, Pak girl poisons 13 family members

Karachi. A girl was arrested on Sunday in Pakistan's Sindh province after 13 members of her family died due to the mixing of poison in their food as they were not ready to let her marry according to her choice, police said. The deaths took place on August 19 in Haibat Khan Brohi village near Khairpur. The girl got angry after her family did not allow her to marry the boy of her choice. She then conspired with her boyfriend to poison the family members, including her parents. All of the 13 members fell ill after having their food and were rushed to a hospital where all of them died. When the post-mortem was done it emerged that these people had died from poisonous food, senior police officer Inayat Shah said from Khairpur. He said when the police conducted a thorough investigation it was found out that the daughter and her boyfriend had put poison in the wheat used to make rotis in the house. Following the discovery, the police arrested her on Sunday. She was angry because, despite her efforts, her family was not ready to let her marry the boy of her choice, Shah said. The girl confessed to mixing poison in the wheat with the help of her boyfriend, he added.

Nobel Prize in medicine honors 2 scientists for their discovery of microRNA

STOCKHOLM. Two scientists won the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine on Monday for their discovery of microRNA, tiny bits of genetic material that serve as on and off switches inside cells that help control what the cells do and when they do it. If scientists can better understand how they work and how to manipulate them, it could one day lead to powerful treatments for diseases like cancer. The work by Americans Victor Ambros and Gary Ruvkun is "proving to be fundamentally important for how organisms develop and function," according to a panel that awarded the prize in Stockholm. Ambros and Ruvkun were initially interested in genes that control the timing of different genetic developments, ensuring that cell types develop at the right time. Their discovery ultimately "revealed a new dimension to gene regulation, essential for all complex life forms," the panel said. What is the Nobel Prize for? RNA is best known for carrying instructions for how to make proteins from DNA in the nucleus of the cell to tiny cellular factories that actually build the proteins. MicroRNA does not make proteins, but helps to control what cells are doing, including switching on and off critical genes that make proteins. Last year's Nobel for medicine went to scientists who discovered how to manipulate one of those types of RNA, known as messenger RNA or mRNA, now used to make vaccines for COVID-19. Ambros' and Ruvkun's revolutionary discovery was initially made in worms; they set out to identify why some kinds of cells didn't develop in two mutant strains of worms commonly used as a research model in science.

A Multi-Front War': Hezbollah Rains Rockets Overnight Across Israel, Iran Denies Blast In Isfahan

Jerusalem, Israel A year after the Hamas attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war, Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets at Israel's third-largest city, Haifa, as the Jewish country poised to expand its offensive into Lebanon on Monday. This attack on Israelis came as the country held ceremonies and protests to mark the first anniversary of the Oct. 7 attack as the Gaza conflict has spread across West Asia and raised fears of a regional war. A MULTI-FRONT WAR' Amid escalating tensions in the region, reports emerged about an explosion near Iran's Isfahan. However, Iranian officials from the Khatam al-Anbiya Air Defense Base denied, in the early hours of Tuesday morning, reports of explosions. Ynet reported. "Tomorrow marks a year since Hezbollah dragged the region into a multi-front war and began their constant attacks on Israeli civilians. Less than an hour until October 8, Hezbollah launched a number of projectiles toward central Israel," the Israeli Defence Forces said in a post on X. FADI 1 MISSILES' Iran-backed Hezbollah, an ally in Lebanon of the Palestinian militant group Hamas in Gaza, said it targeted a military base south of Haifa with "Fadi 1" missiles and launched another strike on Tiberias, 65 km away. The armed group later said it also targeted areas north of Haifa with missiles. Israel's military said around 190 projectiles had entered Israeli territory on Monday.

Lore Segal, esteemed Austrian American writer who fled the Nazis as a child, dies at

NEW YORK. Lore Segal, an esteemed Viennese American author and translator whose gift for words helped her family escape from the Nazis and who later drew upon her experiences as a Jewish refugee and immigrant for such fiction as "Other People's Houses" and "Her First American," died Monday at 96. Segal, a longtime resident of Manhattan's Upper West Side, died in her apartment after a brief illness, her publisher Melville House said in a statement. After settling in the US in 1951, Segal wrote novels, short stories, essays and children's books and translated the Bible and Grimm's fairy tales, which featured illustrations by her friend Maurice Sendak. Her life — filtered through memory and imagination — was her greatest muse. "Other People's Houses," released in 1964 and originally serialized in the New Yorker, closely followed her childhood in Austria, her years in foster care in London during World War II and her arrival in New York, where the growing familiarity with the city's sights and sounds — "charged thus upon the air" — makes the "alien into a citizen."

"Her First American" continued her early experiences in the US, while "Lucinella" was a comic novella inspired by her time in the 1970s at the Yaddo artist retreat in upstate New York. Segal, who taught at Columbia University, Princeton University and several other schools, satirized academic life in "Shakespeare's Kitchen." In 2019, she compiled her fiction and nonfiction in the anthology "The Journal I Did Not Keep," in which she summarized the importance and imperfection of recapturing the past. "I believe that the act of remembering and telling the story of what we remember will always be to some extent fatal to the thing remembered," she wrote. "So what really happened?" Her many admirers included such author-critics as Cynthia Ozick, Vivian Gornick and Alfred Kazin. In 2008, she won a Pulitzer Prize finalist for her novel "Shakespeare's Kitchen." The American Academy of Arts and Letters inducted her in 2023. Gornick would cite her "ironic intelligence" and "gift for detachment." In her fiction, Segal set a tone that was even, objective and occasionally cutting, like her

description of an artist in "Lucinella" who "tends to mumble her words inside her mouth, so as to keep the option of eating them." She could also be intimate and familiar, with such recurring characters as her alter ego Ilka, a Viennese refugee; and Carter Bayoux, a Black intellectual with whom Ilka has an affair in "Her First American." Her narratives were often sustained through passages of overheard conversation, whether at a literary cocktail party in Harlem or a gathering of faculty members in Connecticut. Several stories in her 2023 collection "Ladies' Lunch" were structured around the midday meals of friends in advanced old age who share memories, regrets, fears and everyday concerns. "I like writing dialogue," she told the online publication The Millions in 2019. "I like it better than explaining. I'd rather have a character develop and express him or herself through dialogue than explaining what they're thinking. It's a preference. I like how we discover and uncover ourselves through dialogue. I tell my students, you see any two people together, walk behind them,

listen, get the tone of their voice." Besides her books, Segal wrote for The New York Times, The New Republic, the Forward and other publications. The children's story "When Mole Lost His Glasses," with drawings by Sergio Ruzizier, was adapted into an educational video featuring Spike Lee and then-New York Knick Stephen Marbury. Segal married the literary editor David Segal in 1961 and had two children. Her husband died of a heart attack in 1970. She was born Lore Groszmann in Vienna in 1928, and grew up in a prosperous neighborhood until the Nazis annexed the country a decade later and antisemitism drove her family to ship her off on the Kindertransport to London, a time Segal and her mother would discuss in Mark Jonathan Harris' Academy Award-winning documentary "Into the Arms of Strangers." Separation somehow empowered her. Inquisitive and often impulsive, she wrote so many letters to British authorities that they granted her parents the rare privilege of letting them join her in London, where they worked as domestic servants.

US urges Bangladesh to protect rights of Hindus as Durga Puja celebrations begin

The statement from the US comes in the wake of increasing attacks on the minority Hindu community in Bangladesh following the resignation of then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her escape to India in August.



Bangladesh following the resignation of then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her escape to India in August. Muhammad Yunus is the head of the current caretaker government of the country. Of course, we want to see the rights of minorities protected in Bangladesh as also is true all around the world," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference. Of course, we want to see the rights of minorities protected in Bangladesh as also is true all around the world," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told

reporters at his daily news conference. Of course, we want to see the rights of minorities protected in Bangladesh as also is true all around the world," State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller told reporters at his daily news conference. Miller was responding to a question about the threat being posed to the Hindu community by some religious fundamentalists as they celebrate their largest festival, Durga Puja. India has urged the interim Bangladesh government to ensure peaceful religious events for the Hindu community in the South Asian country. More than 600 people, including Hindus, were killed during violent protests in Bangladesh culminating in the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, according to a UN report.

Zakir Naik slams Pak airlines for not waiving extra baggage charge, gets trolled

World Controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik has slammed Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) for not waiving charges for extra baggage while he was travelling to the country from Malaysia, and instead offering him a 50 per cent discount. However, Naik, who is wanted in India on charges of hate speech and inciting communal disharmony, said a situation like this would never occur in his home country. Naik arrived in Pakistan on October 1 and is scheduled to stay till October 28. He made these remarks while addressing supporters in Karachi. "While I was coming to Pakistan, our baggage weighed about 1,000 kg. I spoke to the CEO of PIA. The station manager assured me that he would do anything for me. When I told him that I had 500 to 600 kg of extra luggage, with some six people travelling with me, he offered me a 50 per cent discount. I told him that I would bring four more people since it would get even cheaper. I asked him to give it for free or leave it. I rejected the discount," he said. The Mumbai-born preacher further claimed that when a non-Muslim sees him in India, they would let him go for free. "This is India, where people see Dr Zakir Naik and readily waive 1,000 kg to 2,000 kg extra baggage. But in Pakistan, I am a guest of the government and state guest is written on my visa. And your (PIA) CEO is offering me 50 per cent discount?" he queried. The controversial preacher also complained that the airlines charged him 101 Malaysian ringgit (Rs 2,137 approximately) for every 1 kg of extra baggage. "I was so hurt that the PIA could not even allow me to carry 300 kg of extra baggage as a state guest," he lamented. "I don't want your discount. I am saddened to speak the truth, but this is the state of affairs in Pakistan. In India, even when a Hindu sees me, they say 'Dr Naik will always speak the truth'. In today's date, India is not wrong, (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi is.

Hamas chief Yahya Sinwar, presumed killed in Israeli strike, is alive: Report

World Hamas leader Sinwar is alive and has secretly established contact with Qatar, Israeli media outlet The Jerusalem Post reported on Monday. The development came days after it was reported that Israel was investigating the possibility of Sinwar's killing in a rocket strike that hit a school sheltering displaced Palestinians in Gaza City. However, a senior Qatari diplomat, exclusively told the Jerusalem Post, that reports of direct contact were false. According to the diplomat, contact was established through Khalil al-Hayah, a senior Hamas figure. It further maintained that Qatari officials also previously stated that they believed Sinwar surrounded himself with hostages before going silent. Sinwar was



presumed to be killed in the September 21 Israeli strikes in Gaza, because he had not established contact with official channels for a long time. The Israeli military said the attack targeted a Hamas command centre, but Palestinian health authorities said that women and children were among the 22 people killed in the strike. In a report on September 22, the

Times of Israel said that officials were investigating the possibility that Sinwar was dead, following up on military intelligence, as reported by Israeli journalist Ben Caspit. Yahya Sinwar, the mastermind behind the October 7 attacks on Israel, succeeded as Hamas chief in August this year, after his predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, was assassinated in an explosion in Iran. Born in 1962, Sinwar was an early member of Hamas, which was formed in 1987. He led the security arm of the militant group, which worked to get rid of the Israeli spies from the organisation. He was arrested by Israel in the late 1980s and admitted to killing 12 suspected collaborators, a role that earned him the nickname.

Commander of Hezbollah headquarters killed in Beirut strikes: Israeli military

In a social media post, the IDF claimed that Hezbollah's logistics unit head Suhail Hussein Hussein was killed following a strike on a compound in Beirut. There was no immediate comment from Hezbollah.

Hosseini, the head of the Hezbollah terrorist organisation's headquarters. Yesterday, under the precise direction of the Intelligence Division, Air Force fighter jets targeted the Beirut area and killed Sohil Hossein Hosseini, the head of the Hezbollah terrorist organisation's headquarters," IAD said in a post on X. Earlier on October 3, the IAF also announced the killing of three senior leaders of the Palestinian terror outfit Hamas, including their Gaza government head Rawhi Mushtaha. The IDF said that a strike on an underground compound in northern Gaza killed Rawhi Mushtaha and two other Hamas commanders, Sameh Siraj and Sameh Oudeh. In September this year, in a "precision strike" in Lebanon's Beirut, Israel also killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah, giving a major blow to the Iran-backed terror group. The Middle East has been witnessing a tumultuous security



situation for nearly one year after Hamas launched an unprecedented attack on Israel, killing about 1,200 people and taking

2023 driest year for global rivers in over three decades: WMO report

World According to the State of Global Water Resource report, the year 2023 marked the driest year for global rivers in over three decades, according to a new report coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which signalled critical changes in water availability in an era of growing demand. Currently, 3.6 billion people face inadequate access to water at least a month per year and this is expected to increase to more than 5 billion by 2050, according to UN Water, and the world is far off track Sustainable Development Goal 6 on water and sanitation. The last five consecutive years have recorded widespread below-normal conditions for river flows, with reservoir inflows following a similar pattern. This reduces the amount of water available for communities, agriculture and ecosystems, further stressing global water supplies, says the Report. Glaciers suffered the largest mass loss ever registered in the last five decades. 2023 is the second consecutive year in which all regions in



the world with glaciers reported ice loss. With 2023 being the hottest year on record, elevated temperatures and widespread dry conditions contributed to prolonged droughts. But there were also a significant number of floods around the world. The extreme hydrological events were influenced by naturally occurring climate conditions — the transition from La Niña

to El Niño in mid-2023 — as well as human induced climate change. "Water is the canary in the coalmine of climate change," said WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo. "We receive distress signals in the form of increasingly extreme rainfall, floods and droughts which wreak a heavy toll on lives, ecosystems and economies. Melting ice and glaciers threaten long-term water security for many millions of people. And yet we are not taking the necessary urgent action," she further said. Human induced climate change resulted in rising temperatures which accelerated the hydrological cycle. It becomes more erratic and unpredictable, as it causes either too much or too little rain. "A warmer atmosphere holds more moisture which is conducive to heavy rainfall. More rapid evaporation and drying of soils worsen drought conditions," she said. The State of Global Water Resources report based on input from dozens of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and other organizations and experts.

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News box

Long wait near bus station for hubby who never came in TN

CHENNAI. Sivaranjini, the wife of Karthikeyan (34) who was among the five persons died at the Marina after the Indian Airforce's air show, had to wait for nearly two hours along with her three-year-old child near Muthamizh Arignar bus station at Anna Square, waiting for her husband who never turned up.

Speaking about the horror on Sunday, she said the three of them started early from the Marina, and Karthikeyan asked her to wait near the bus station before going to take the bike, parked near Napier Bridge.

"I kept calling him, but couldn't reach him due to poor signal. Around 3.20 pm, someone answered the call and told me that he had fainted," she said. The passerby also sent her the location of where he was found. With the help of the police, she rushed to the spot and Karthikeyan was taken to Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital, where he was declared dead after 15 minutes.

Karthikeyan's family members and friends who were at the hospital said his life could have been saved had the phones were reachable and he was taken to the hospital on time. "He fainted on the way to take his bike. The ambulance also got stuck in the crowd and arrived at the spot late," they said, urging the government to provide a job to his wife so that she can manage the family.

They also added that the doctors indicated that he could have died of dehydration or food poisoning and the report will take two weeks. The family of Karthikeyan initially refused to receive his body from Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital. However, they accepted it after officials spoke to them.

Teen dies after falling from train, run over by another train in Vellore

VELLORE. A 17-year-old student at Nettur Technical Training Foundation (NTTF) in Vellore, died after allegedly falling off a train heading from Chennai to Mysore around 4 pm on Sunday. The victim, R Hashwanth from Tiruvallur was returning to college from his hometown.

According to the railway police, Hashwanth met with the accident some 3 kilometres away from Katpadi Railway Station where he slipped and fell, landed on the adjacent track, and was run over by another train travelling in the opposite direction. A co-passenger alerted the Katpadi Railway police and handed over Hashwanth's bag as well. By the time the police arrived at the spot, Hashwanth was dead. Following a post-mortem at Adukkamparai government hospital, his body was handed over to relatives, police said.

"No one offered help" Meanwhile, a viral post on X, featuring images from a Reddit post, claimed that students from a nearby university had witnessed the boy falling from the train and that he was still alive afterwards.

The post also claimed that the students had approached hostel wardens and guards for help but they were unwilling to assist. It further mentioned that there was enough time before the second train arrived.

However, when inquired about the incident none of the students were available for comment. The post suggested that had timely help been provided, the boy's life might have been saved. Despite repeated requests from TNIE, the university's public relations officer also did not respond to the issue till time of publication.

Traffic jams set to mar puja revelry

BHUBANESWAR. As the Durga Puja revelry begins, residents of the state capital are bracing up for traffic snarls, a usual phenomenon during the festive season.

Commuters are already experiencing traffic jams on most of the major routes like Cuttack-Puri Road, Kalpana, Rasulgarh, Vani Vihar, Saheed Nagar, Janpath, Acharya Vihar, Jaydev Vihar, Chandrasekharpur and others. As major pandals including the ones at Baramunda, Nayapalli, Saheed Nagar, Rasulgarh and Bomikhal are located on the side of main roads, the traffic woes will only deteriorate in the coming days.

Alok Patra, a citizen, said, "It took me more than 30 minutes to reach Kalpana Square from Saheed Nagar via Satya Nagar on Monday afternoon. Usually, it takes less than 15 minutes to cover the same distance." He alleged that there is no traffic management in the city with the cops hardly making any effort to address the issue, especially during the evenings.

Another route which witnesses major traffic congestion is the Jaydev Vihar-Nandankanan road. Long queues of vehicles moving at a snail's pace has become a regular affair on the road. A major cause of concern is the abrupt halting of inter-city buses on the flyover in front of Institute of Minerals and Materials Technology (IMMT) at Acharya Vihar and on National Highway-16 near Satsang Vihar, Rasulgarh and Palasuni. This not only leads to traffic jams but also poses risk to commuters.

498 of 920 Hyderabad lakes encroached: Dy CM Bhatti

He accused the opposition of creating confusion on HYDRAA and the Musi Riverfront Development Project by levelling false allegations against the government.



HYDERABAD. Out of a total of 920 water bodies in Hyderabad, 498 were partially or fully encroached upon till 2023, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka revealed on Monday. Speaking at a press conference at the Secretariat here, the deputy chief minister, using data based on satellite imagery, disclosed that 269 tanks were fully encroached. Of these, 44 were fully occupied after the formation of a separate state in 2014, he noted. A further 229 of the 920 water bodies have been partially encroached. Stating that the

government is committed to protecting lakes and government lands, Bhatti Vikramarka asked opposition parties to give suggestions in this regard.

He accused the opposition of creating confusion on HYDRAA and Musi Riverfront Development Project by levelling false allegations against the government. "Lakes in Hyderabad do not belong to me or Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy. They belong to people and they should be safely and carefully handed over to the future generations. This is our

government's agenda," the deputy chief minister asserted. Bhatti Vikramarka clarified that there was no scope for personal or vested agenda. Previous govts talked big, failed to protect water bodies: Bhatti

Previous governments failed miserably to keep their promise to clean up the Musi and protect the lakes located inside the Outer Ring Road from encroachments, he alleged and added: "Is it not a fact that former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, former ministers KT Rama Rao and T Harish Rao talked big on protecting lakes and that strict measures would be taken to prevent encroachments when they were in power? The Congress government has taken up the responsibility of protecting the lakes and handing over Hyderabad city to the future generations."

"Hyderabad city is known for its rocks, parks and lakes that enhance the charm of the city. But over a period of time, rocks have disappeared and parks have been encroached. The lakes built to provide drinking water to the residents of Hyderabad too disappeared, exposing the city to the danger of flooding whenever heavy rains lashed the city.

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VIMSAR house surgeons on strike after fest scuffle

SAMBALPUR. House surgeons and PG students of VIMSAR came to blows after argument over a trivial issue escalated during the annual fest of MBBS students on Sunday. At least three students were injured in the incident.



In the aftermath of the incident, the house surgeons launched a cease work protest on Monday morning, demanding action against the PG students involved in the altercation.

As per eyewitnesses, the altercation began over a minor disagreement and soon spiralled out of control. The house surgeons and PG students were seen arguing and it soon turned physical. As the brawl gained momentum, the college authorities along with local police, were called in to intervene. After several hours of tense

negotiations, the situation was brought under control late in the night. By then, the damage had already been done, with both sides harbouring grievances against each other. VIMSAR director, Bhabagrahi Rath said, officials reached the spot after getting information about the dispute and got to know that some students had called Burla police station. "Eventually, we sought help of police

to control the situation. The ruckus continued till the wee hours of Monday after which both the parties dispersed. However, the house surgeons informed us in the morning that they would refrain from joining their duties until their grievances are addressed," he added. Though house surgeons form a crucial part of the workforce engaged in

providing patient care, the director informed the functioning of the hospital was not affected much. Patient care was managed as usual by senior doctors and other hospital staff. Rath said, the scuffle broke out over some petty reason and as it intensified, it turned violent. However, no serious injury was caused to anyone. Some of the students sustained minor bruises. "We convened a meeting to hear the grievances of both the parties on the day and efforts are underway to mediate and settle their differences. We hope the situation will get back to normal by tomorrow," said Rath. Local police said a close watch is being kept on the situation. Burla SDPO Ambit Mohanty said, no complaint has been filed by any party. "We were called in after the dispute to control the situation. The authorities have assured of settling the issue on their own. However, we will take appropriate action if we receive any written complaint," he added.

Kerala: Aggressive Opposition, turbulent assembly

Congress legislators Mathew Kuzhalsadan and I C Balakrishnan stepped onto the dais, forcing the Watch and Ward to rush in to protect Speaker A N Shamseer.



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The Opposition on Monday took an uncharacteristically aggressive posturing in the assembly, as a few UDF MLAs stepped onto the speaker's dais, a first during the 15th Assembly.

Congress legislators Mathew Kuzhalsadan and I C Balakrishnan stepped onto the dais, forcing the Watch and Ward to rush in to protect Speaker A N Shamseer. They formed a cordon around the speaker's chair, and pushed back the MLAs from

approaching the chair. Soon woman legislator Uma Thomas joined the other two. MLAs Anwar Sadath and Eldose Kunnappally were also in the forefront of Opposition protests in the House. Though there were reports that the government may recommend action against the two UDF MLAs for entering dais, it is unlikely. While the LDF is considering whether to demand action, the speaker's position in this regard will be crucial. A section within the Left feels that suspending the MLAs for the short session, would only give the Opposition additional mileage. At the same time, the CM is not happy with the Opposition placing a banner in front of the speaker's dais, blocking his view. The speaker is likely to make his stand clear in the matter on Tuesday.

Kannur Medical College Hospital keeps hunger away from patients in need

Driven by the belief that hunger can be more serious than disease, Superintendent Dr K Sudeep launched the 'No to Hunger' project at the hospital aimed at feeding the needy.



KANNUR. It's been three years since a humanitarian initiative to feed the needy and the homeless at Kannur Government Medical College Hospital got underway. Driven by the belief that hunger can be more serious than disease, Superintendent Dr K Sudeep launched the 'No to Hunger' project at the hospital aimed at feeding the needy.

The initiative emerged when the community kitchen, which had been operating during the Covid lockdown, was discontinued. Hospital administrator Dr M V Bindu and Dr Sudeep, along with the wardens decided to do something to provide food for the poor.

They formed a WhatsApp group that included student volunteers, a health inspector, a representative from the Daya Charitable Society, and sociologists. Together, they organised the distribution of food to those in need.

Each day, food is brought from the girls' mess in the morning and the boys' mess in the evening. The responsibility for a week's food distribution rotates among students. Currently, the 2022 batch of students manage the task.

Steel tiffin boxes were donated by the Daya Charitable Society to assist in the effort. If food is unavailable from the mess, it is provided by Daya. Sociologists Mini and Shalini serve as coordinators. In the intensive care unit, food is delivered directly to patients without bystanders based on reports from ward nurses.

"During the COVID-19 lockdown, Kannur Medical College played a major role in providing free treatment to COVID-positive patients from northern Kerala. About 9,000 patients recovered under our care. During that time, a community kitchen provided free food to all patients, bystanders, and staff. Unfortunately, it was closed after the lockdown," said Dr Sudeep.

Jagatjit Palace and Sheesh Mahal for visitors at Bomikhal

The stunning pandal will be 80 feet in height and 120 feet wide. The height of Goddess Durga's idol will be around 20 feet.

BHUBANESWAR. In a spectacular blend of art and devotion, the Bomikhal Durga Puja Committee in the city is building a combined structure of Jagatjit Palace of Kapurthala (Punjab) and 'Sheesh Mahal' to welcome visitors to its pandal this year.



While exterior of the pandal is being designed drawing inspiration from the grand palace, the interior will resemble the royal 'Sheesh Mahal' and dazzle visitors with intricate mirror work.

"For the last two months, artists from West Bengal are busy giving shape to this artistic masterpiece in which nearly 10 quintal of glass and mirror beads will be used. Around 21 lakh is being spent on the design of the pandal this year," said vice-president of Bomikhal Durga Puja Committee Banti Jena.

Jena informed that tiny mirrors beads are being arranged meticulously across the walls, ceilings and columns to transform the interior of the pandal into a glittering marvel. "Once completed, the mirrors will reflect light in different directions, creating a stunning visual effect that mimics the

shimmering beauty of Sheesh Mahal," he said. The stunning pandal will be 80 feet in height and 120 feet wide. The height of Goddess Durga's idol will be around 20 feet.

Apart from the grand entrance, Jena said, decorative lights along the 2-km stretch of Rasulgarh-Bomikhal road will be another major attraction during the puja.

Organisers said a large number of volunteers will be engaged to manage the crowd from Saptami. A dozen of CCTV cameras will also be installed as part of security arrangements.

Cultural programmes including Bhajan Sandhyas will also be organised for visitors during the puja. Prasad will be distributed among visitors on the day of Ashtami.

Unshackling prisons from caste prejudice

PRISONS are a microcosm of society, reflecting the disparities that prevail in it. A parallel world exists in prisons. It operates on the basis of both written rules framed by the State in the prison manuals and unwritten codes of the inmates and the staff. In India, prison is a state subject and each state has framed its own rules and regulations. The colonial legacy in terms of the Prison Act of 1894 is reflected in the prison manuals. While dehumanising practices such as whipping, mentioned in the Prison Act, had been declared unconstitutional, derogatory practices related to the distribution of work on caste basis still persist in prison manuals.

The Supreme Court has, over the years, delivered significant judgments on prison-related matters that have ushered in reforms. It was in the Sunil Batra case in 1978 that the SC held for the first time that a person in prison does not become a 'non-person' and retains all human rights, except within the limitations of imprisonment. It was affirmed that the prisoners have a right to live with dignity. In its latest judgment in the case of Sukanya Shantha vs Union of India, the SC has directed the Union and state governments to ensure an end to the caste-based discrimination in prisons. Sukanya had highlighted how caste identities governed prison labour assignments, segregation in barracks and discriminatory treatment towards prisoners belonging to denotified tribes and habitual offenders. The apex court held that these provisions violate Articles 14, 15, 17, 21 and 23 of the Constitution. It declared that "the right to dignity is not forfeited upon incarceration". Caste-based bias within jails strips prisoners of their dignity.

Nearly 17 states will need to make the necessary changes in their manuals. The SC has asked the Centre to modify its Model Prisons Rules to address caste-based segregation. Prisoners come from multiple vulnerable groups, ranging from Dalits to tribals and religious and ethnic minorities. The discrimination and marginalisation are further perpetuated and even embedded inside the prison.

The SC held that the practice of assigning labour based on caste, where Dalits and members of denotified tribes were forced into menial tasks, such as cleaning toilets, must cease immediately. For instance, the Madhya Pradesh jail manual states that 'Mehtar prisoners' are responsible for handling human excreta in the toilets. Those who are at the bottom of the societal class pyramid would be required to do the menial work and those higher up would get other work, like legal documentation. While prisoners do get paid for the work, it is a paltry sum in many states. Remission is also earned by the convict inmates who work in the prison and the performance of maintenance work earns more remission. But who gets to do what work may be at the discretion of prison staff. The SC has declared that all labour assignments should be made on the basis of equality and non-discrimination.

"Prisons should not be spaces where historical wrongs are perpetuated. They must embody reform, rehabilitation and, most important, equality." The SC held that the provisions which allow for classification and segregation based on caste are unconstitutional. The states have been directed to do away with the provisions in prison manuals that perpetuate discrimination based on caste within three months and file compliance reports. The "caste" column and any references to the caste of jailed undertrials or convicted prisoners' registers inside the jails should be "deleted", it ordered. It is not for the first time that the right to equality has been found to be violated in various manuals and practices. It is a known fact that the highest class people get treated well everywhere, even in jail. Notably, the Punjab Jail Manual of 1996 made a distinction between 'better-class' and 'ordinary-class' prisoners on the basis of social status and education as well as whether the inmate was accustomed to a superior mode of living. 'Better-class' inmates got to stay in separate wards with furniture, had a separate kitchen and better diet and were not required to do menial tasks.

The growing threat of fake, substandard medicines

The Indian pharmaceutical industry is hampered by outdated regulations, weak penalties and slow prosecution.

THERE have been several disturbing reports about the quality of some commonly used drugs. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), in its monthly report for August, declared more than 50 drugs as 'not of standard quality' (NSQ). They include the commonly used paracetamol, vitamins and calcium supplements, available over the counter. Medicines that failed the quality check also include anti-ulcer drug pantoprazole, anti-diabetic drug glimepiride, hypertension medication telmisartan and some life-saving antibiotics. Another five drugs were declared spurious, adulterated or misbranded. This raises safety concerns about the use of not only these drugs but also others. The CDSCO releases a list of drugs in the category of NSQ every month from amongst the drugs that are randomly checked in the pharmacies. In February 2023, as many as 1,251 drugs were checked and 59 were found to be NSQ. In March 2023, 48 of the 1,497 drugs tested were NSQ. Though it amounts to less than 0.05 per cent of all drugs tested, it is a serious matter for a country which claims to be the pharmacy to the world. India has the highest number of US-FDA-compliant plants outside of the USA and over 3,000 pharma companies, with a network of over 10,500 manufacturing facilities. The country is the largest manufacturer of generic drugs and vaccines in the world. Drug manufacturing, distribution and sale in India are regulated by the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The state drug regulatory bodies regulate the grant of licence, production, marketing and distribution of medicines while the central drug regulatory body is responsible for approving new drugs and clinical trials. From time to time, the Indian pharma industry has come under a cloud. A couple of years ago, there was international uproar over deaths in Africa following the ingestion of a cough syrup made in India. A similar episode had been reported in Uzbekistan. There was an instance of five deaths at PGI- Chandigarh due to the use of a substandard anaesthetic agent, propofol. About 15 years ago, Ranbaxy, a leading pharmaceutical company, was found by the US FDA to have falsified data and test reports at its manufacturing plants in India.

As per the CDSCO report, some drugs were found to be spurious, with the manufacturers claiming that they had not made them at their facilities. This raises the question of whether they have been made by some other

manufacturer and marketed under a renowned brand. This would amount to the drugs being fake. One can imagine what would happen if intravenous drugs were made spuriously. They would cause instant reaction, shock and, even, death. Drug-manufacturing in India is supposed to be well regulated, with each manufacturer required to have basic infrastructure, trained manpower

and their cost depends upon the actual concentration of the compound, an element of cost-versus-quality exists. Then, the finished product has to meet the standards laid down in the Indian Pharmacopoeia, which include drug assay, dissolution and tests for particulate matter and pathogens etc. It is the job of drug inspectors to check the manufacturing processes at each facility periodically. They also collect samples of drugs for analysis and enforce legal standards.

One of the main problems with ensuring the quality of drugs manufactured in India is the permissiveness in licensing drug-manufacturing units. The government gives licences to 15-20 companies to make the same drug from the same APIs. Many larger companies outsource some of their products to third-party manufacturers. Then, there are ghost manufacturers where the licensee may not have a manufacturing unit and gets the drugs made from another unit. The end result is a compromise on quality. To make matters worse, there are groups of chemists and doctors who set up their own units to make some fast-selling products. The recent directive of the government to prescribe generic medicines and the opening of Jan Aushadhi stores, which dispense cheaper generic medicines, has led to the mushrooming of small manufacturing units. This makes their regulation

difficult. The Indian pharmaceutical industry is hampered by outdated regulations, weak penalties and slow prosecution. Two years ago, the manufacturers of the substandard cough syrups were made to suspend manufacturing of only those drugs and allowed to continue with the rest of their activities. Earlier this year, the Drugs Controller General of India announced policy initiatives on three issues: recall guidelines, norms on good distribution practices and the use of similar brand names by pharma companies for their drugs. But the implementation of the remedial measures is tardy. The monthly alert report of the CDSCO is a positive initiative of the government, but a lot more is required to be done. There is an urgent need to make the raw material or the APIs in India. Currently, a majority of them are imported. At the ground level, a larger trained and skilled workforce is needed. The government should spare funds for technology for analysis and testing. Drug-unit licensing and regulations to run them should be more stringent. At the same time, stiffer penalties are required for defaulters.



and due licensing. However, getting a licence to start one's own production is not a difficult task. This is evidenced by the mushrooming of drug-making units like a cottage industry in many states.

At the same time, we have a category comprising state-of-the-art units of major companies which comply with the US FDA norms. They conduct periodic inspections and verifications. The second category of units adheres to WHO standards, with periodic checks. The third category is the one which is certified to be following good manufacturing practices (GMP). There is a gradient of quality in these three types of manufacturing.

The quality of drugs in India is dependent upon the sanctity of the manufacturing processes followed by the company. Certain MNCs would rather destroy the whole batch of a questionable product than bring it to the market. That is not the case with some smaller companies. For them, profit-making supersedes patient safety. This is exemplified by third-party manufacturing by many companies. The active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) in each drug has to meet the purity standards laid down. But since most APIs are imported

The Chagos handover

Why the UK still won't part with Diego Garcia

THE UK's decision to cede the sovereignty of Chagos Islands to Mauritius is prompted by geopolitical compulsions rather than diplomatic generosity. Had the UK been truly magnanimous, it would have also handed back the Diego Garcia military base to Mauritius, which it gave to the US as far back as 1966, via an "exchange of notes". It's clear now, just in case it wasn't to those wearing rose-tinted glasses, that the US-UK alliance will never give up control of this strategically important island, citing its "commitment to safeguarding global security" and "averting threats to peace" in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). All the rhetoric, however, cannot conceal the fact that the times when Britannia ruled the waves are long gone. According to the World Directory of Modern Military Warships, the British Royal Navy is ranked ninth on the global list of the strongest navies. Even the Indian Navy is placed higher in terms of the fighting strength. The table-topper is the US, with China breathing down its neck. Heavily dependent on America



in the seas, the UK just can't afford to upset its close ally by parting with Diego Garcia.

Britain's position had become untenable when the International Court of Justice said in 2019 that its continued administration of the Chagos Archipelago constituted 'a wrongful act entailing the international responsibility of that State'. Eager to be seen as a responsible Western power, the UK has come up with an agreement that suits it to a tee. The pact is also aimed at curbing the use of the Indian Ocean as an illegal migration route to the UK. Britain has tactfully put the onus on Mauritius to take responsibility for migrants who may arrive on Diego Garcia and make asylum claims. Wary of the growing Chinese assertiveness in the IOR, the UK is busy wooing Mauritius, which has close trade ties with Beijing. India, which has welcomed the Chagos development, would be well advised to prioritise its own strategic interests in the region to counter the Chinese

threat.

Despair, dread a year after Hamas attack

Justice for the Palestinians and security for Israel are more elusive than ever

THE first anniversary of the brutal and surprisingly effective attack by Hamas against Israel comes with a sense of despair and foreboding. October 7, 2023, witnessed the slaughter of young men and women at a music concert, of residents of Kibbutz Be'eri and Nir Oz, and Jews young and old taken hostage. But after that, it's been a year of searing images from Gaza, of over 42,000 dead, of dismembered toddlers and grieving families, of caravans of hapless refugees moving from one bombed-out location to the next, of flattened neighbourhoods and a dystopian landscape that defies imagination. It has also been a year that exposed the utter hypocrisy of Western sermons about the sanctity of international law, of a rules-based order. And it's been a long year that has demonstrated the utter impunity of the powerful and the abject misery of the dispossessed in equal measure. West Asia today is teetering on the edge of a full-scale regional war, while justice for the Palestinians and security for Israel are more elusive than ever. So much has happened on so many fronts that without unpacking some of the key strands, it is easy to miss the woods for the trees.

Let's start with Israel. After the shock of multiple military and intelligence failures on October 7, the Israeli Defence Forces, along with intelligence agencies Mossad and Shin Bet, clearly regained their mojo. From the exploding pagers in Lebanon to the assassination of Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran, from the targeting of a senior IRGC (Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps) commander at an Iranian embassy building in Damascus to the use of bunker-busting bombs that killed Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah in Beirut, Israel has once

again demonstrated its formidable intelligence, technical and military capacity. But the military successes have also given rise to a growing sense of hubris, with some influential Israelis openly advocating a "reset of the Middle East" that would include a regime change in Iran and possibly in Lebanon. Saner voices in Israel do bring up the lessons of history, pointing to the folly of building up Hamas to undermine the Palestine Liberation Organisation, to the painful invasion of Lebanon in 2006, to the deliberate scuppering of the Oslo Accords and more. Their voices, though, are lost in the clamour for retribution. In politics, machismo evidently works and Prime Minister Netanyahu's approval ratings have shot up in recent weeks. Iran was hoping for its own reset, having surprised many by electing the relatively moderate Masoud Pezeshkian as President in July with the hope of bringing a semblance of normalcy in the country's troubled ties with the West. Tehran displayed remarkable restraint after the affront of Haniyeh's assassination, but successive Israeli provocations have brought the hardliners back to the forefront. They see restraint as an abject surrender and they are baying for retaliation. The missile attack on October 1, 2024, was unleashed at least in part to assuage this lobby. Israel has vowed to respond and is reportedly looking at Iran's oil installations and nuclear facilities as possible targets. A major attack may well achieve the unintended objective of weakening a moderate government and strengthening the religious hardliners who are among Israel's most

implacable foes. Hezbollah under Nasrallah was Iran's most reliable and effective proxy in the region. Over the last two decades, its armed forces had grown to a point that it was virtually a state



within a state in Lebanon's fractured polity. The killing of Nasrallah and other top Hezbollah commanders by Israel in recent weeks is undoubtedly a blow to Iran and the influence that it had so assiduously cultivated in the region. But Israel's relentless aerial bombardment has already left over a thousand Lebanese dead, many of them innocent civilians. Relief over the emasculating of Hezbollah is offset by outrage over the impunity with which Israel is destroying civilian infrastructure as it targets Hezbollah facilities. The Houthis in Yemen, another of Iran's proxies in the region, have emerged as an unexpected actor in the wake of the October 7 Hamas attack. Their attacks on shipping in the Red Sea have affected global

supply chains and led to a costly detour around the Cape of Good Hope. This has raised freight and insurance costs and reduced Suez Canal revenues for the cash-strapped Egyptian economy by a quarter. Asserting their stout commitment to the Palestinian cause, they have also taken a few potshots at Israel and attracted their own share of disproportionate retaliation.

This brings us back to Palestine itself. The International Court of Justice in the Hague, by an overwhelming 14-1 majority, ruled that Israel's occupation of Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem was unlawful and must cease immediately. Israel's Knesset perversely passed a resolution opposing the formation of a Palestinian state. Proceedings on a second case accusing Israel of committing genocide in Gaza are underway. But that has neither curbed Israel from moderating its military campaign nor slowed down the runaway growth of illegal Jewish settlements in the Occupied West Bank that are now incentivised and protected by fanatics like National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, key members of Netanyahu's ultra-right-wing government. They are systematically executing their plans to control all of the land from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean Sea, thereby closing every possible pathway to a two-state solution where an independent Palestinian state can co-exist with a secure Israel. And they make no secret of their designs.

With so many things happening at work and in one's personal life, it is natural for us to get stressed out.



Get rid of Stress instantly at Work

listing down the way that you would want to go about the task.
 Take a walk: Sometimes the best way to relieve stress is to just walk it out. Pull yourself away from your work station and go out and get some fresh air. It clears your head and helps you think straight. Even a two-minute walk can work wonders.
Reward yourself: You can do this in many ways — treat yourself by going shopping, watch a movie or go out for a nice meal. Even planning a fun activity while at work for the end of the day can take the load off.
Get some chocolates: A lot of people binge when they are stressed out, but we are not encouraging that. You can perhaps have a piece of your favourite chocolate or an ice cream, which will distract you from your current situation instantly.
De-clutter your desk: More often than not, this provides a much-needed distraction when one is stressed out. Get rid of the unwanted things that you have been collecting over time. You will be amazed at how much this helps in keeping you calm.
Play a game: Take a break and play a game online or on your phone. Killing a few of those angry birds virtually will bring a smile on your face and take your attention off the problems at work.
Do a few stretches: Taking a few minutes off and doing some stretches will help loosen your muscles and drive the tension away. Massage your neck and shoulders lightly, and feel the difference instantly.
Drink water: Drinking water helps calm nerves. So, if you are on the verge of losing your cool at work, start drinking some ice cold water before you get into an argument or get ready to have a face-off.
 Signs that you are stressed out
 Sleep problems
 Hair fall, with dandruff
 Fatigue
 Muscle tension
 Upset stomach
 Memory loss
 Losing your appetite, or gaining weight
 Change in sex drive
 Reduced immunity

There are many ways of relieving stress, like getting a massage at the spa or unwinding in the bathtub, but these are time consuming. When you are at work, it helps to know some instant stress-busters that will take the edge off and help you maintain your cool. Here are

a few stress busters that work instantly.
Listen to music: Just play some music when you notice your stress level rising or feel that you are on the verge of losing your cool. Music is a good distraction, which reduces muscle tension and cuts the stress hormones. Maintain a groovy play list that will lift your mood

instantly at work.
Dial a friend: The quickest way to put a smile back on your face is by calling a loved one. This releases a feel-good hormone called oxytocin, which lifts your mood instantly. Keep your phone handy the next time you feel the stress

rising.
Scribble a note: When you feel overwhelmed, it helps to write down your thoughts. Make a note of the things that need to be done and adopt a step-by-step process,

Kids can cook too!

From assembling lasagna to creating fun salads and desserts, more children are taking over in the kitchen today



Parents usually shoo their tots out of the kitchen, but studies show that involving kids in the preparation of meals actually opens their minds and makes them likely to try new foods. They taste, touch, feel, smell and see, so the five senses get heightened. The whole experience can also build joy and act as a positive reinforcement. "The eating habits kids form in the first ten years of their life, lasts with them a lifetime; a great way to get kids connected with healthy food is to allow them to cook it," says food consultant Rushina Munshaw-Ghildiyal.
Not kidding!
 So what are kids cooking? "Practically everything," she says. "Today's kids are way ahead of us - they know their pepperoni from salami and parmesan from their mozzarella." Is there a gender difference in cooking choices? "Well, most girls lean toward baking, cupcakes etc, but boys are messier and they also make pasta and noodles and ready-to-



eat stuff. My son bakes bread too. What they cook also depends on their age - six-year-olds can't do fire-based cooking; for them, it's more assembly-style stuff. They can put together a lasagna, toss pasta and salad, roll out dough or make a sandwich. Older kids however, can do anything from a cookbook. They make schezwan potatoes or firecracker noodles (colourful noodles in a healthy schezwan sauce) and a 12-year-old can do a tasty biryani." Adds actress Tara Sharma, "My kids are quite little - two and four- but they really enjoy doing little things like making rotis and

rolling atta, helping me make cupcakes etc," says Tara, who feels that exposing her kids to cooking helps them get interested in food, although she doesn't let them near any of the more serious stuff. She also admits her kids are proud of what they prepare. "Cooking is good because even at a young age, they get confidence to do so. My granny makes pancakes and now they know how to do it themselves!" exclaims the proud mum.
Safety tips!
 Parents should encourage children as early as possible to begin using kitchen equipment safely. Use special starter's stools, work with a plastic knife or give children play kitchens and play food. All of that is a good pace to start with little kids. You can allow them to stir things or buy them scissors instead of a knife.
 -Let a child first use a plastic knife to get used to holding and using it right.
 -Keep a small fire extinguisher and first-aid kit handy.
 -Let kids chop on a non-slip surface.
 -Have them wear kid gloves, especially when using a hot oven or if they are near dish.

-Always tie long hair to prevent it from falling into the food or catching fire.
 -Wear an apron to protect the clothing.
 -Never leave any cooking unattended.
 Fantasy foods that jump out of books...
 -Hot scones with clotted cream and jam
 -Wobbly jellies
 -Treatle tarts
 -Crumpets
 -Peppermint toads
 -Butterbeer cake pops
 -Pumpkin pasties
 -Candyfloss cupeakes
 -Kidney pie
Advantages:
 -The bonding time apart, you are also imparting a culture when cooking with your child.
 -It makes kids develop a healthy attitude toward greens and other vegetables.
 -Cooking builds self-esteem.
 -Children know the difference between junk food and what has nutritional value.
 -It makes children willing to try new foods.

What does your Sleeping position say about you?

Whether sprawled sideways across the bed or curled into a ball, we all have our preferred position when drifting off into a peaceful slumber.



you: People who sleep in this position are social, easy-going and trusting. But they are also prone to gullibility.
Yearner: Sleeping on the side with both arms stretched out in front
 What this says about you: Known as having an open personality, people who sleep in this position are prone to suspicion and cynicism. They are slow at making decisions, but once a choice is made, they stick to it.
Soldier: Lying on the back with both arms stretched out at the sides
What this says about you: People who sleep like this are disciplined. They set high expectations for themselves and others, and are generally quiet and reserved.
Freefall: Lying on the stomach with head turned to the side and arms curled near the pillow
 What this says about you: This style of sleeping reflects that the person is social and brash. But they are also inwardly nervous and sensitive to criticism.
Starfish: Stretched

But is there more to this than just personal comfort? Our body language while we sleep can reveal several aspects of our personality. Find out what your sleeping position says about you...
Fetal position: Curled on to one side with legs bent
 What this says about you: Those who prefer sleeping in this position are known to have a tough exterior, but are actually shy and sensitive. Over time, they ultimately relax and become more social.
Log: Lying on the sides with legs stretched out and both arms resting on the sides
 What this says about



out on the back with legs stretched up and arms stretched up near the head
 What this says about you: These people make friendship a priority and dislike being the centre of attention. They prefer listening to the problems of others and go out of their way to assist those in need.

"Hate Breeds Enmity": Actress Madhura Naik Recalls Her Family's Encounter With Hamas Group

The actress, who is a Jew of Indian origin said that she lost her first cousin and her brother-in-law in a crossfire in Sderot during the attacks on Israel last year.

New Delhi: Television actor Madhura Naik, on the occasion of Israel marking the one-year anniversary of the October 7 attacks, recalled her family's harrowing encounter with terrorists last year in Israel and termed it as "the darkest day." The actress, who is a Jew of Indian origin said that she lost her first cousin and her brother-in-law in a crossfire in Sderot during the attacks on Israel last year. Speaking at an event in New Delhi organised by the Israeli Embassy, Naik said, "We follow Judaism but along with that we also have adapted to Hindu traditions, thus proving that the Jews were always open to cross-cultures and adapted very well to new environments. My grandmother being the 14th child, 13 of her brothers and sisters moved back to Israel in the 70s, where they flourished back in their homeland along with their fellow Jews. It was more than just a sense of belonging. It was home for them. But unfortunately, on October 7, it was the darkest day for my family. "They were the victims of October 7. I lost my first cousin and her husband in a crossfire in Sderot,



Israel. They were brutally murdered in front of their two daughters, six and three years old. The six-year-old, the last words before getting rescued by the Israeli police were, she said, 'Are you the Israeli police? Please save the kid next to me,' she added. The actress said that hatred breeds terrorism and it knows no religion, race or gender. "Imagine a six-year-old having to experience the murder of her very own mother and her father and still being aware that she had to save the three-year-old baby next to her. They were rescued by the Israeli police amidst a brutal crossfire that went on for a couple of hours. An Israeli

policeman was brutally injured during this rescue. The children were drenched in the blood of their own parents. This incident tore my family apart. And there are things that we could never change and things that we'll never be able to replace. Also during this crossfire, an Arab Muslim man tried to save my sister and the kids to drive them out of the crossfire. But to his fate, they killed him too, regardless of his religion, his race, and that he was very much one of them, an Arab Muslim man. So their terror knows no religion, or race, or gender, nor age," Naik said, recounting the agony faced by her family. "They now live under constant fear and threat of losing their lives, and we are under constant pressure to protect them. As far as I have seen in this long one year of struggle and war, hate breeds hatred. And hate breeds enmity. And hate breeds terrorism. And we must do everything in our power to stop this terrorism, once and for all. Enough of this terror and enough wars," she added.

National Conference-Congress Alliance Takes Commanding Lead In J&K Election

New Delhi: The Congress-National Conference alliance is all but certain to form the next elected Jammu and Kashmir government, after battling to a commanding lead in the 2024 J&K Assembly poll - the first in the former state since Article 370 was scrapped and the first since the 2014 election. At 2 pm - in what was supposed to be a tight race - the Congress-NC was leading in 52 seats. The BJP was ahead in 27 and the People's Democratic Party of ex Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti - whose party allied with the former after 2014 but the two fell apart by 2018 - was leading in two. Independent candidates were in pole position in nine seats. Within the Congress-NC alliance, the former is leading in only eight of the 39 seats it is contesting. The big push is from the NC, which fielded candidates for 56 seats and is now ahead in 43. The results are a big positive change for the state party, which won only 15 in the last Assembly election in J&K. The big negative change is for the PDP, which won 28 seats in the 2014 poll. The Congress and the BJP are on course to just about match its past haul of 12 and 25.

J&K Assembly Election Confirmed Wins

The NC, the Congress, and the BJP have also had confirmed wins in this J&K election. The NC has eight confirmed wins at this time, including party boss Omar Abdullah from Budgam; this was one of two seats - the other was the family stronghold of Ganderbal - he was contesting. The 54-year-old Omar Abdullah is nearly 9,000 seats ahead in that race. He has also been confirmed by his father as the new Chief Minister of J&K, assuming the Congress-NC alliance will retain its lead.

Other confirmed wins at this time are 11 for the BJP, two for the Congress, and one for the PDP. Two independent candidates - Payare Lal Sharma, Dr Rameshwar Singh, and Choudhary Mohammed Akram - have won the Inderwal, Bani, and Surankote (which is reserved for Scheduled Tribes) seats.

Row Over 5 Nominated MLAs

The race to control the former state's 95 Assembly seats - of which five have been nominated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in a controversial move - was predicted to be a close one. Exit polls gave the Congress-NC alliance a slight edge. An aggregate of three indicates the Congress-NC will win 43 seats and the BJP 26, with the PDP winning between four and 12. Exit polls, therefore, predicted a hung Assembly; J&K has 90 elected seats with the majority set at 46. As things stand the Congress and the NC will have little problem in staking claim to form a first elected government in Jammu and Kashmir in a decade. However, should exit polls - and they are sometimes right - ring true, the PDP could be a 'kingmaker' for the Congress-NC, but not for the BJP, which will also need support from non-aligned lawmakers.

Study Identifies Reason Behind Long-Lasting Covid-19 Symptoms

New Delhi: A new study on Tuesday showed that damage to the brainstem -- the brain's 'control centre' -- is behind the long-lasting physical and psychiatric effects of severe COVID-19 infection. Researchers from the Universities of Cambridge and Oxford used ultra-high-resolution scanners that can see the living brain in fine detail to observe the damaging effects Covid in the brains of 30 people who had been admitted to the hospital with severe infection early in the pandemic.

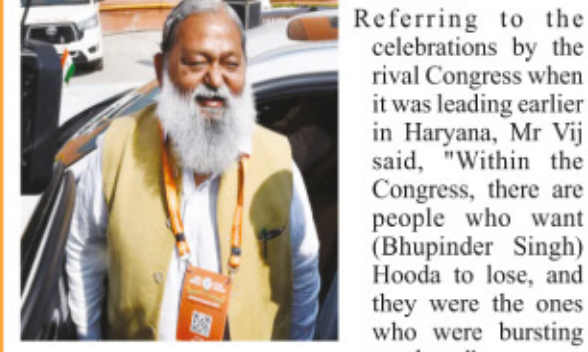
Their results, published in the journal *Brain*, revealed how SARS-CoV-2 affects brainstem regions associated with breathlessness, fatigue, and anxiety. The brainstem is the critical junction box between our conscious selves and what is happening in our bodies," said Professor James Rowe, from the Department of Clinical Neurosciences, who co-led the research.

"The ability to see and understand how the brainstem changes in response to Covid will help explain and treat the long-term effects more effectively," Rowe added. Fatigue, breathlessness, and chest pain were the troubling long-lasting symptoms among several patients admitted to the hospital early in the pandemic. The team hypothesised these symptoms were partly the result of damage to key brainstem nuclei, which persists long after the infection has passed. The study found that multiple regions of the brainstem -- the medulla oblongata, pons, and midbrain -- showed abnormalities consistent with a neuroinflammatory response. These appeared several weeks after hospital admission, and in brain regions responsible for controlling breathing. The changes in the brainstem were also linked with increased depression and anxiety among Covid survivors.

Anil Viji Sings This Rafi Classic As BJP Heads For Haryana Hat-Trick

Haryana Assembly Election Result 2024: The BJP is set to win the Haryana election with its biggest tally so far.

Delhi: As the BJP raced to its biggest victory in Haryana on Tuesday, one of its seniormost leaders in the state, Anil Viji, was struggling in his own constituency. That didn't stop him singing during an interaction with the media. In high spirits over the party's anticipated hat-trick, the former Haryana home minister sang the Mohammad Rafi classic from a 1961 Dev Anand film: "Mein zindagi ka saath nibhata chala gaya". Mr Viji was trailing by 1199 votes in the Ambala Cantt constituency at the time, behind Independent candidate Chitra Sarwara.



Referring to the celebrations by the rival Congress when it was leading earlier in Haryana, Mr Viji said, "Within the Congress, there are people who want (Bhupinder Singh) Hooda to lose, and they were the ones who were bursting crackers." The BJP is set to win the Haryana election with its biggest tally so far. The Congress, after premature celebrations in the state, sank to second spot and seemed unlikely to regain its lead. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) failed to open its account, per Election Commission figures. The Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir elections marked the first direct face-off between BJP and Congress since the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year, which saw an opposition resurgence despite the BJP scoring a third term. The outcome in Haryana will be a big boost for the BJP ahead of upcoming elections in Maharashtra, Jharkhand, and Delhi.

PM Modi completes 23 years in public office, BJP congratulates him

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 23 years in public office, the BJP on Monday hailed his journey from Gujarat to the Centre as a "living inspiration".

New Delhi: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi completed 23 years in public office, the BJP on Monday hailed his journey from Gujarat to the Centre as a "living inspiration", and said the country's progress and global prestige achieved "new dimensions" under his leadership.

Modi took oath as the chief minister of Gujarat for the first time on October 7, 2001, and continued in the post for 13 years before becoming the prime minister in 2014. He assumed charge as the prime minister for the third consecutive term in June this year.

"Today Prime Minister Narendra Modi has completed 23 years in his public life as Chief Minister and Prime Minister. This 23-year long journey of public service is a symbol of the



unique dedication of how a person can devote his entire life to the national interest and welfare of people," Union Home Minister Amit Shah said in a post on 'X' in Hindi. The home minister, who has been a constant companion of Modi in his political journey, said it was a matter of good fortune for him that he has been a witness to Modi's long public life. "Modi showed how to carry out

the work for the welfare of the poor, the country's development, security and strengthen India's global identity at the same time," he said. Instead of looking at the problems in fragments, Modi presented the vision of a holistic solution to the country, Shah said.

"I congratulate Modi, the nation builder, who is dedicated to the service of the nation and its people for 23 years uninterrupted, without getting tired, without caring for himself," he said.

BJP president J P Nadda congratulated Prime Minister Modi on the completion of 23 years in public office and said his commitment to the upliftment of the poor and deprived sections with the mantra of 'Antyodaya' is exemplary.

Infighting To Jat Focus: 5 Factors Behind Congress's Haryana Shock

New Delhi: Around 9 am, one hour into the counting of votes for the Haryana polls, the Congress had surged far ahead of the BJP. Jalebis and dhols marked celebrations at the Congress headquarters in Delhi, sharply contrasting with the deserted BJP office.

But an hour later, the tables turned and the BJP was back in the game. Two more hours later, the BJP was firmly ahead and appeared headed for its biggest win in Haryana, defying exit poll predictions by a wide margin. Now the BJP headquarters was abuzz, with laddoos, jalebis and the works. Congress leaders hoped against hope for a turnaround in what had initially been a see-saw battle. Several rounds of counting are still left, but the picture is unlikely to change a lot. Here are the five factors that contributed to the Congress setback.



Congress won 31 seats in Haryana in the 2019 election. If the current numbers hold, the party has not improved its performance substantially to enable a comeback.

One major factor is the party's infighting and its top leaders squabbling for power. Much before the election, Congress leaders had maintained that victory was a

foregone conclusion and had started jockeying for the Chief Minister post. The power tussle between Congress veteran Bhupinder Singh Hooda and senior leader Kumari Selja was out in the open, requiring much damage control behind the scenes. While the Congress struggled to project a united front in the run-up to the election, it was crystal clear that the main opposition was a divided house. Mr Hooda was given a free hand in deciding candidates or alliances. The results show this did not work. Regional Forces, Independents Ruin It For Opposition: While the Congress is marginally ahead of the BJP in the vote-share, the trends show it has not been very successful in converting this to seats. In several seats, the margin is very low, indicating that regional parties and Independents ate into the anti-incumbency votes in Haryana, benefiting the BJP. The regional parties, however,

failed to score in this election. The INLD and the BSP currently lead in one seat each and four Independents are ahead. Anti-Jat Consolidation: While the Congress, led by Mr Hooda, focused on Jat votes, there was apparently a counter consolidation of non-Jat votes in favour of the BJP. In the run-up to the election, NDTV had repeatedly heard a term - Jatshahi (meaning supremacy of Jats). A Congress victory would have pointed to a return of the influential community's heft in the state. Instead, other communities appear to have voted overwhelmingly in favour of the ruling party. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com

BJP's Backroom Work: Though poll analysts had written off the BJP in Haryana, silent work on the ground turned the tide in the ruling party's favour. Union minister and BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan was tasked with the party's campaign for the tough election.

Key constitution bench cases pending as Chief Justice nears retirement

With just 15 working days left before his retirement on November 8, Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud is set to deliver judgments on several constitution bench cases.

New Delh. With just 15 working days left before his retirement on November 8, Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud is set to deliver judgments on several constitution bench cases.

Minority status for Aligarh Muslim University

A seven-judge bench reserved judgment in February on whether Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) qualifies as a minority institution under Article 30 of the Indian Constitution. Article 30 of the Constitution provides that all minorities, whether based on religion or language, shall have the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice.

Can recruitment rules be amended after process begins?

A five-judge bench will decide if recruitment rules can be changed mid-process. The case, which pertains to recruitment changes in Rajasthan in 2013, was reserved in July 2023. The judgment could impact government job aspirants. The candidates who had already appeared for

a written examination and a viva-voce were informed that only candidates who would score at least 75 per cent in their examination would qualify for appointment. The verdict will have a wide impact on aspirants who appear for examinations to obtain government jobs of this nature.

Assam National Register of Citizens valid

The court will rule on petitions challenging Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955. This section relates to citizenship rights for those who entered Assam between 1966 and 1971 under the Assam Accord. A five-judge bench comprising CJI DY Chandrachud, Justices Suryakant, MM Sundresh, JB Pardiwala and Manoj Mishra reserved the order in December 2023. Section 6A is a special provision which was inserted into the 1955 Act in furtherance of a Memorandum of Settlement called the 'Assam Accord' signed on August 15, 1985 by the government with the leaders of the Assam Movement.

Who regulates industrial liquor?

A nine-judge bench is expected to rule on whether the regulation of industrial liquor falls under state or central jurisdiction. This verdict holds significant financial implications for both. The verdict assumes significance as it affects a significant source of revenue for both the Centre and for the states.

Wealth redistribution under Article 39(B)

A nine-judge bench will decide if the government has the authority to requisition and redistribute private property under Article 39(b) of the Constitution, which concerns resource distribution for the common good.

What is Article 39 (b) and 31 (c) of the Constitution?

Article 39(b) falls under the Directive Principles of State Policy of the Constitution, which provides that ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good. Article 31(c) protects laws giving effect to certain directive principles.

What makes men cheat? Dr Anjali Khurana, relationship counselor, dug through past research on male infidelity, and has even counseled couples and has arrived at the conclusion that most answers are from the wife's point of view. Here, some of his findings:

1. Disturbance in the marriage as the primary reason

When there are regular fights at home with his wife, which are left unresolved, a pattern sets in wherein he continues to be unhappy and 'disturbed'. In this kind of a scenario, either he can fight or he can flee. When he looks for an affair, he is looking to flee from dealing with the issues in the marriage, and be comfortable with that 'other person'. It is telling oneself that the problems do not affect anyone and life can continue in a better way with a parallel support.

2. Cheating men report boredom led to the affair

Some men may find the routine of a married life to be tedious and dull. These men find it easier to shift dominance or primacy to another relationship and feel the spark outside to be a thrilling option; instead of finding ways of changing their marriage. It becomes present moment for gratification versus the hard job that they will have to do in their marriage to resolve an issue.

The extra-marital relationship provides them with a readymade and fresh experience, which is appealing enough to take the risk.

3. Cheating men love to experiment sexually

Sex has always been and will always be an integral part of a marriage. While some men are quite content spending the rest of their lives having sex with the same wife for many years, others prefer to experiment more as a need, rather than as an option. They want to sleep with many women, many times, and therefore do not think twice before an extra-marital alliance. It perhaps makes them feel sexually powerful and more adept than others.

4. Cheating men are emotionally dissatisfied

When their wives are too busy with their own lives, working or bringing up children or even looking after in-laws and parents, emotionally, men are left high and dry. But men are emotionally driven beings too. They want their wives to show them that they're appreciated, and they want women to understand how hard they're trying to get things right. Most men consider it unmanly to ask for a pat on the back, which is why their emotional needs are often overlooked. Sometimes the couple may not be compatible so however much the wife may do, the man will always



There are reasons galore why men pull wool over the eyes of their wives. Oftentimes, it's out of spite and neglect, while the other times, it's because they feel they will never be caught.

find something to complain about.

It may also happen that the woman he cheats with is his co-worker or boss, someone who praises him, looks up to him, and compliments his efforts. That's another reason why it's so critical that he feel valued at home.

5. Cheating men have a history of EMR

Some men, in their childhood, may have witnessed cheating in their parent's marriage. This somewhere gives them a message that it is okay to cheat, even though deep inside they know this is wrong. All of us learn from our parents, so taking the risk is good enough. This acquired learning also happens through cheating resorts taken by elder siblings, neighbours, peer group and everybody who has been impacted. Sometimes as teenagers and young adults, some men have had multiple relationships, these men either intentionally or accidentally end up going back to their ex-girlfriends. The other lot goes back to their past style of having multiple relationships. It is well said, what a mind thinks, achieves. So there are females also who are either consciously or unconsciously looking for such men.

6. Cheating men have wives who cheat

Men also take revenge with their cheating wives, by having multiple relationships themselves. Even if their wives are guilty and come accept their extra-marital relationships, some men continue with their tricks. This is mostly done by

uses this phrase often, he is ready to have a family. Moreover, he may also talk about baby names he likes or what it would be like to have a baby at home. This means that he's already thought of having a kid. A guy who doesn't want to have a family will never mention anything about babies or kids.

3. He has a plan in mind

Having babies requires a lot of planning. If your husband or partner frequently says that he is planning to buy a bigger house or invest in a good car before having a baby, he is clearly interested in having a family. It is great that he is planning it well.

4. He talks to his parents about being grandparents

Notice what he says when he is around his parents of your parents. It is not normal for a guy who is not ready for a family to constantly talk about babies or about parents being grandparents when with parents. If he does discuss parenting and grand parenting, you two are definitely on the same page.

5. He often offers to babysit his nieces or nephews

Has he started practicing the skill to handle babies already? When he frequently asks to babysit, he may want to know what it is like spending a lot of time with babies. He may want to make sure whether this is something he really wants. This is a clear sign that he is thinking about his family.



Signs he is ready to have a **Baby**

You want to have a baby but you're not sure whether your husband is on the same page. Instead of asking him directly, check for these signs that will tell you whether he too wants to start a family

1. He is financially stable

What about his career? Is he settled in a good job? Is he ready to take the responsibility? Once he is in a good job and has it all going smooth, that's the time he starts thinking about kids. For a baby, it is very important for you to be financially stable as a couple. Bringing up babies is an expensive affair and before you plan one you have to make sure

you are capable of paying those bills. Once you are sure of financial stability, check for the signs given below.

2. He mentions 'when we have kids...' often

Do his day-to-day conversations include 'when we have kids...'? If he



8 Top reasons why men **Cheat**

men who don't want to forgive their spouses.

7. Cheating men think it to be 'divorce'

Some men are willfully adulterous and use it as a means for acquiring divorce. The law also considers adultery as a fair ground for the wife to seek a divorce. The man is cheating openly and is in a non-receptive mood, taking the wife's feelings of frustration to an all-time high. Although this percentage is less but it is there.

8. Cheating men need to be needed

When men feel that they are not needed by their wife anymore, they look out for some other woman, who can understand them and make them feel special. As an obvious outcome of a new relationship, they get that feeling from the other woman. And suddenly when they are showered with attention, which they haven't received in a very long time in their marriage, they toss their hands in the air and get deep into the new hot and happening relationship.



With other attractive options like television and laptops, the habit of reading often takes a backseat among children.

Here's how you can make reading fun for your kid.

Read out aloud

Studies show that regularly reading out loud to children not only helps them enjoy the book better but also produces significant gains in their reading

comprehension, vocabulary and decoding of words. Whether your children are preschoolers or preteens, it will increase their desire to read independently.

Surround kids with reading material

The reading material should be easily accessible in your house. If your child has a book lying around, he/she is more likely to pick it up and begin to read



5 winter **must do's for girls**

Winter is the time to enjoy and soak up in the sun. And especially women need to make most of the fun quotient that winter has in store for them.

Long drive

Road trips are really fun in winter. Whether it's that adrenaline pumping bike ride or a joyful car ride, long drives and lunch and snack stopovers are really fulfilled things one can really enjoy in a group.

Fun in the sun

A beach holiday with a bevy of young girls is also a nice idea. Put that sun screen on and enjoy the sun kissed beaches and the sparkling blue waters while on that perfect beach vacay.

Trekking

If you love adventure, then trekking is what you can do the best. Seek the company of experts in the field and have a field day.



Winter shopping

This needs the company of only your wallet. You can pick your favorite winter colours and make a splash by indulging in shopping fiesta. If you enjoy shopping in a group, it can be more fun.

Travelling

Winter is the ideal time to travel in India. Plan your trip. If you do not want to travel to far away places, choose a travel destination nearby. A heritage site visit in winter is also a good idea. You will come back home with a treasure trove of stories to tell your family and friends.



5 Ways to make reading fun for your **kid**

rather than reach out for the television remote.

Be a reading buddy

It is likely that your child will start reading if he/she sees you reading too. So, establish a daily 15 to 30 minute time when you grab a book and cozy up with your kid to read.

Encourage reading activities

Who says reading only means sitting in a corner with a book? Encourage your children to read on-the-go too. You could ask them to spell out hoardings on the road or read menu cards at restaurants.

Go shopping for books

Instead of bringing books home, involve your child while shopping for books. It will also help you understand the kind of books that the child likes.

ICICI Bank Partners With PhonePe To Offer Instant Credit On UPI; Get Credit Line On UPI For Up To Rs 2 Lakh

New Delhi. ICICI Bank on Tuesday announced that it has partnered with PhonePe to offer instant credit on UPI to its pre-approved customers on the app of the digital payments company. "The partnership enables millions of pre-approved customers of ICICI Bank to activate short term credit line instantly on the PhonePe app, and use it for UPI transactions in a seamless and secure manner. The Bank offers credit line on UPI for up to ₹2 lakh with a repayment period of 45 days," the bank said in a statement. "The facility is announced during the festive season to empower customers to purchase high ticket items like electronics, travel and hotel bookings, bill payments, and much more," it added. This credit line is interoperable across various UPI payment applications and provides customers the facility of transacting using any UPI payment app.

Global Tablet Market Up 15 Per Cent In Q2, Growth To Continue This Year: Report

New Delhi. Global tablet shipments grew 15 per cent (year-on-year) in the second quarter (Q2) this year, despite a slow period historically, a report said on Tuesday. The market witnessed a return to form in Q2 2024 as tech giant Apple and Samsung had new releases compared to none the previous year, while other market players also displayed strong numbers, according to Counterpoint Research's latest "Global Tablet Market Tracker". Research Associate Kevin Lee said the market leaders' return to normal model release schedules signals an optimistic outlook for 2024 and is an indication of recovering consumer sentiment, due to fresh releases from Apple and Samsung. Other than Apple and Samsung, Chinese original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Huawei and Xiaomi also added to growth momentum offering an increasingly diverse range of model offerings in the tablet market, further stimulating demand," Lee added. The worldwide tablet market shipments look promising for the rest of this year, stacked with releases of the new Apple iPad and Apple iPad Mini, on top of Samsung's flagship S series, both expected to be launched in the latter half of the year.

"As improving macroeconomic conditions continue to restore demand to healthy levels, we expect to see an increasing contribution from emerging market regions for 2024," said Associate Director Liz Lee, commenting on the immediate outlook of the tablet market. Huawei retained its position among the top three with continued model releases. Xiaomi almost doubled its shipments, led by growth in emerging markets, especially the APAC and MEA regions.

"The continued launches from Apple and Samsung will drive growth momentum in H2 (second half) 2024," the Counterpoint report mentioned.

Advisory issued for airlines using Boeing 737 aircraft

NEW DELHI. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued safety advisory to domestic carriers operating Boeing 737 aircraft regarding potential risks with the rudder control system. The advisory directs airlines to inform their flight crews about the risk of a jammed or restricted rudder control system and implement necessary mitigations. "Appropriate measures must be communicated to help crews identify and manage such situations," said DGCA. Airlines have also been instructed to conduct a risk assessment for their Boeing 737 fleets and address the rudder control issue. The advisory mandates the suspension of Category III B operations, which include low-visibility landings and autoland procedures, until further notice. The DGCA has asked airlines to hold discussions about potential rudder system issues as a part of crew training. The issue will be included in Instrument rating/proficiency checks (IR/PPC) and pre-simulator briefings, where crews will practice handling scenarios involving rudder malfunctions.

"Operators have been instructed to include specific exercises in recurrent training and IR/PPC that simulate scenarios involving a jammed or restricted rudder control system, including rollout procedures.

Appropriate flight crew responses and mitigations should be practised during these exercises." The advisory comes after the US National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) raised concerns over Boeing 737 planes fitted with Collins Aerospace SVO-730 Rudder Rollout Guidance Actuators.

Risk assessment

Advisory directs airlines to inform their flight crews about the risk of a jammed or restricted rudder control system and implement necessary mitigations

Advisory mandates

Advisory mandates the suspension of Category III B operations, which include low-visibility landings and autoland procedures, until further notice

Zepto to shift HQ to B'loru to begin ops from November 11

BENGALURU. Quick commerce start-up Zepto will move its headquarters from Mumbai to Total Mall on Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru, and will begin operations from November 11. Sources told this newspaper that about 2,000 employees will work from this new headquarters beginning November 11. "There are already close to 800 employees working from Bengaluru, and all these employees will move to this bigger facility. Another 600 employees from Mumbai will shift to the new office," added sources. In the past few months, Zepto has been recruiting many people (about 600). All these employees will also start working from the new place. The ground floor of the new facility will house a dark store (a distribution centre for online shopping). Leading quick commerce start-ups have been expanding their dark stores in recent months due to increasing demand for 10-15 minutes delivery.

Crude oil prices seem to stabilise as all-out war fears recede

New Delhi. Despite last week's crude oil price spiral, the situation seems to be stabilising with analysts expecting the market to cool off in the coming days. Tensions between Israel and Iran led to a 13 per cent spurt in Brent crude prices in the past seven days, with the benchmark crude hitting \$79.4 per barrel on October 7, up from \$70.2 just a week earlier. The Indian government is confident of shielding the country from any fallout in case of crude oil supplies being hit by an escalation in the tensions. "Today there is more oil available in the world than there is consumption", said Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas. "If some parties hold back on availability, there are new suppliers on the market also, in the short to medium term I do not see any shortage of oil in the world. There is enough oil available and we have enough choices to exercise," he added.

Currently India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil requirements from 39 countries, leaving it exposed to the vagrancies of the market. According to energy market

expert Narendra Taneja, the situation could get hairy for India only if tensions escalate in the Gulf. "If Israel attacks oil installations in Iran, the situation will get out of control", said Taneja in a conversation with Business Today. He added that Iran in turn could block the Straits of Hormuz and create a "massive disruption in supplies causing prices will go through the roof."

Softening of crude prices

If the geopolitical situation does not worsen in the coming days, crude prices are seen softening with experts of the opinion that Israel and Iran are likely to pull back from the precipice as neither can afford the results of an all-out war. "Benjamin Netanyahu has been very cautious about starting a war with Hezbollah", says Ian Bremmer, President and Founder, Eurasia Group, because Hezbollah is far better trained and armed than Hamas. He adds the likelihood of an all-out war is low.

"So, on one hand they want to get Hezbollah forces away from the Israeli border so that Israelis can come back to



their homes and schools, on the other hand the likelihood of an all-out war is pretty low. That's the reason oil prices haven't moved since August and markets also do not believe that it is coming", says Bremmer. Sara Vakhshouri, President, SVB Energy International says, "Looking at where the prices will go, definitely it depends on where the destruction would be and how much oil is going to be taken off the market. But historically, we have seen that geopolitical factors, if the impact is not in a larger scale and could be mitigated, is not huge."

Oil markets stabilising

The markets clearly reflect a sangfroid. Data from FactSet (in the table) shows Brent crude prices falling in the futures market. The trend displays the current tension bleeding off slowly in the next few months. A report by ANZ also helped cool down the market. Aside from stating that it did not see a drastic escalation in tensions with Iran, the report also flagged the possibility of enough supply buffers in the market, especially from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), to offset supply disruptions in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the Indian basket of crude oil, which comprises sour grade (Oman & Dubai average) and sweet grade (Brent dated) of crude oil processed in Indian refineries, averaged \$ 78.27 per barrel in August, down from \$ 84.15 per barrel the month before. Indian retail prices are calculated basis this basket. From April this year, when the price had hit a high of \$ 89.44 per barrel, the Indian basket has been on a declining trend.

Cognizant favoured H-1B holders over non-Indian workers, says US jury

Cognizant Technology Solutions has been found guilty of discriminating against non-Indian employees in favour of workers holding H-1B visas, a US jury has ruled, reported Bloomberg. The verdict, delivered in a Los Angeles court, found that the company engaged in unfair practices that harmed its non-Indian workers, leading to punitive damages for those affected.---This case dates back to 2017 when a class-action lawsuit was filed against the IT giant, accusing it of bias in its employment practices. The lawsuit was brought forward by three employees who identified as 'Caucasian' and claimed they were unfairly treated. The employees said they were benched for five weeks without being assigned work and were eventually replaced by workers from India who were ready to take on US-based assignments. The case had previously gone to trial, but the jury had failed to reach a verdict, resulting in a deadlocked jury. However, this time, the jury ruled in favour of the plaintiffs.



The court found that Cognizant had given preference to South Asian workers, many of whom were on H-1B visas, at the expense of non-Indian employees. Cognizant has expressed its disappointment with the jury's decision and plans to appeal the verdict.

In a statement, Jeff DeMarras, a spokesperson for the company, said, "We provide equal employment opportunities for all employees and have built a diverse and inclusive workplace that promotes a culture of belonging in which all employees feel valued, are engaged and have the

opportunity to develop and succeed." Cognizant, based in Teaneck, New Jersey, is one of the largest IT services companies in the US and has been a major player in the H-1B visa program. According to US Citizenship and Immigration Services, from 2013 to 2019, Cognizant had the highest number of H-1B visas among US employers. The H-1B visa program allows US companies to hire foreign workers for specialised roles, but it has also faced criticism for being used to replace local employees with lower-cost foreign labour.

The case in Los Angeles, titled Palmer v. Cognizant Tech. Solutions Corp., focused on claims that non-Indian employees were unfairly treated when it came to job assignments and promotions. The plaintiffs argued that Cognizant systematically favoured Indian and South Asian employees, many of whom were on H-1B visas, when filling roles within the company.

Israel-Iran conflict will not lead to oil shortage

NEW DELHI. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Iran will not lead to any oil shortage in the world, as there is more reserves available globally than there is consumption, said the Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Monday. Puri, speaking to the press, also mentioned that if any parties restrict availability, there are new suppliers in the market. For India, the minister noted that there are enough options to purchase from other countries. "Today, there is more oil available in the world than there is consumption. If some parties hold back on availability, there are new suppliers on the market. In the short to medium term, I don't foresee any shortage of oil globally. Currently, India is sourcing oil from 39 suppliers, up from 27. There is enough oil available, and we have sufficient choices to exercise. We can switch suppliers," said the minister. Crude oil prices in the international

There is enough oil available, and we have sufficient choices to exercise. We can switch suppliers," said the minister.

market increased sharply following a missile attack by Iran on Israel, raising investor concerns over potential retaliation by Israel.

Brent crude futures, which had been trading around \$70 a barrel for the past three weeks, rose to \$79.52 a barrel on Monday, while West Texas Intermediate also saw an increase, trading at \$75.99 a barrel at 5:48 PM IST (Indian Standard Time).

The minister acknowledged that if tensions escalate, there could be a rise in crude prices. However, Puri maintained that India is monitoring

the situation and is confident in its ability to navigate it as it has in the past. "We are watching the situation very closely. Energy availability can get affected if tensions escalate. I am very confident that we will be able to navigate the situation, as we have done so far," the minister added.

Regarding potential price cuts for petrol and diesel by oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the domestic market, the minister indicated that OMCs will determine the prices of petrol and diesel in the country. The last revision in fuel prices took place in March, with a Rs 2 per litre cut for both petrol and diesel.

Puri says country monitoring the situation. The minister acknowledged that if tensions escalate, there could be an increase in crude prices. However, Puri maintained that India is monitoring the situation and is confident in its ability to navigate it as it has in the past

Ashok Leyland plans to roll out first Hydrogen truck in 18-24 months

CHENNAI. Ashok Leyland, the flagship company of the Hinduja group, is planning to roll out the first Hydrogen truck in 18-24 months, according to Dr N Saravanan, chief technology officer Dr N Saravanan.

Speaking to reporters after flagging off delivery of electric trucks to Billion Electric Mobility (Member of Group BillionE), along with Shenu Agarwal, managing director and chief executive officer of Ashok Leyland, he said the hydrogen trucks are currently being tested. This comes after Reliance Industries and Ashok Leyland unveiled India's first Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engine powered heavy duty truck was unveiled last year. Ashok Leyland on Monday began delivery of electric trucks to Billion Electric Mobility after bagging a contract to supply 180 electric trucks worth Rs 150 crore, which would be operated on Chennai-Bengaluru,



Chennai-Vijayawada routes.

The first set of AVTR 55 tonne, BOSS 19 tonne and BOSS 14 tonne trucks were flagged off by Agarwal, Billion E-Mobility founder and CEO Kartikey Hariyani in presence of Saravanan, medium and heavy commercial vehicle president Sanjeev Kumar, among others. BOSS Electric is India's first electric truck in the ICV range and AVTR 55 tonne electric is the first 4x2 tractor to be commercially offered by an Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer. Agarwal claimed. He said the company has set up a flexible assembly line at its factory in Hosur to produce electric trucks and those trucks that would run on alternate fuels. Capacity of the plant will be 5,000 units a year.

Stock market reacts to China stimulus: Is there further dip in Sensex, Nifty

Despite some analysts hoping that foreign portfolio investment (FPI) outflows from India might reverse, further declines in Indian stocks cannot be dismissed, as per experts.

The news of China's anticipated stimulus measures has led to a significant 10% rise in Chinese shares, which is causing concerns about potential foreign outflows from Indian markets. As a result, Sensex and Nifty could face additional pressure in the coming days. Early indicators, including Gift Nifty futures, suggest a weak opening for the domestic market today, reflecting investor caution amidst global market movements. Foreign brokerages have become more optimistic about Chinese stocks. Goldman Sachs recently advised investors to trust the People's Bank of China (PBoC), which is implementing

significant and unconventional support for Chinese markets. They said that the current situation is different from past market responses, suggesting that investors are finally receiving the support they have been waiting for.

"The pullback risks may have risen after 30 per cent gains in 2 weeks, but policy (U-turn) provoked re-rating trades has seldom stopped there," said Goldman Sachs. Despite some analysts hoping that foreign portfolio investment (FPI) outflows from India might reverse, further declines in Indian stocks cannot be dismissed. This is partly due to rising crude oil prices driven by tensions in the Middle East, increases in US bond yields, and expected lower earnings growth from Indian companies. Additionally, the results of state elections today could impact how investors feel about the market. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services, said that Indian markets are currently in a consolidation phase, which may lead to



underperformance compared to other Asian markets. This phase is characterised by significant corrections in the broader market due to high valuations. He further said that many global investors are now shifting their portfolios, and recent outflows from foreign investors have added to the pressure. The ongoing geopolitical tensions and rising oil prices pose further challenges to India's economy in the short term. Investment firm CLSA has adjusted its model portfolio, increasing its focus on China to 5% overweight

while reducing its overweight on India from 20% to 10%. Similarly, Jefferies' analyst Chris Wood has decreased India's weight by 1% while boosting China's weight by 2%.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) in China is expected to announce a stimulus package today, with further announcements from the Ministry of Finance in the coming weeks. The focus is likely to be on supporting local government financing and recapitalising six major banks. There may also be some boost to consumer spending and social benefits.

Morgan Stanley believes that the size and timing of the Chinese stimulus will be well-received by investors, as it shows the government's commitment to economic recovery through targeted policy actions. They anticipate that a stimulus of around 2 trillion yuan could be on the way, and they expect the positive market reaction in China to continue.

NEWS BOX

T20 World Cup pitches not suiting Shafali Verma, Smriti Mandhana: Manjrekar

New Delhi. Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar believes that the pitches in the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 are not suiting India openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma. Manjrekar's comments come after the first two group-stage matches of India's campaign where they have not been able to dominate with the bat. Both openers Shafali and Smriti have not been able to play their aggressive brand of cricket. While Smriti Mandhana has been poor in both games getting dismissed for single digits, Shafali was able to score 32 off 35 against Pakistan. Speaking on ESPNcricinfo, Manjrekar said that India's batting has been underwhelming and that the lack of pace in the UAE wickets have not allowed India to bat in their natural



rhythm. "The batting has been slightly disappointing. I feel the fans will be slightly disappointed with the way they have batted. The batting was very bad against New Zealand. The problem is that the pitch in Dubai does not suit Shafali Verma and Smriti Mandhana," Sanjay Manjrekar said on Star Sports.

"Mithali Raj mentioned in the pitch report that it will have spongy bounce, so the ball comes slightly slower. That's not an ideal surface for Shafali Verma and Mandhana because they want pace and score through boundaries. Shafali Verma scored a few runs but she shouldn't think only about fours and sixes in the first five or six overs. This applies to Smriti Mandhana as well," Manjrekar further added.

India's chances of qualification for the semi-finals is hanging by a thread. India are yet to play Australia and Sri Lanka in their group. Not only do they have to win both matches, but they will be depending on other results as well to secure a qualification spot.

India ki shaan Suryakumar: Hosts get traditional punjabi welcome in Delhi

New Delhi. The Indian cricket team received a grand welcome as they reached Delhi ahead of the second T20I against Bangladesh on October 7, Monday. India are currently leading the series 1-0 after their commanding win in Gwalior on Sunday, October 6. The hosts will have a chance to seal the series on Wednesday if they can beat Bangladesh at the Arun Jaitley stadium. The BCCI shared the video of the team making the trip from Gwalior to Delhi. The squad, led by captain Suryakumar Yadav and coach Gautam Gambhir, looked to be in high spirits ahead of the second T20I. The players were seen cracking a few jokes and sharing some laughs as they made their way to Delhi. Upon reaching the capital city, fans came out in



numbers and were on the roads to get a glimpse of their favourite stars.

Upon reaching the hotel, the Indian team were welcomed with dhol and the band had special chants for each player. Rinku Singh was welcomed with the chant "oh Rinku" and a few beats of the drums which left the southpaw visibly happy. When it came to the captain Suryakumar, the band would go one step further and called him the pride of the nation. "India ki shaan, Suryakumar. (India's pride Suryakumar)," said the band.

This brought out a big smile on the star batter's face, who proceed to bring out some bhagra steps and danced to the beats of the dhol. You can see the full video below: India thrashed Bangladesh in Gwalior

The young Indian team delivered an all-round performance to completely outplay Bangladesh during the first T20I. On the back of fine bowling performances from Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakaravarty, who picked up 3 wickets each, the visitors were bundled out for just 127 runs.

India would chase down the target with 7 wickets remaining and 49 balls to spare as Hardik Pandya produced a thrilling knock of 39 off 16 balls.

Serie A: Como offer Napoli fans free beer to reward warm reception at Maradona

Como has announced that they will be offering Napoli fans free beer in February when they welcome Antonio Conte's side for the return match. The Como team and fans got a warm reception at the Maradona recently.



New Delhi. Como will be offering free beer to Napoli fans attending their Serie A match at the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia in February, as a gesture of gratitude for the warm reception they received in Naples last Friday. The recently promoted club, back in Serie A after a 21-year hiatus, expressed their appreciation for the kindness shown by Napoli supporters. In last Friday's fixture, Napoli made a fast start with Scott McTominay scoring just 25 seconds in.

Romelu Lukaku and David Neres added to the tally, sealing a 3-1 win over Como, who have secured only two victories in their seven matches this season. Despite the result, Como, under the leadership of Cesc F bregas, have already earned a reputation for creating an exciting match atmosphere. They were particularly well received by the Napoli fans, who warmly welcomed their return to the top flight. Taking to their official X account, Como thanked Napoli and its fans for their sportsmanship after the match and

also praised the atmosphere at the Maradona stadium. The club revealed that all the traveling Napoli fans will get a beer for the return match at the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia. "Como 1907 would like to extend sincere thanks to @sscnapoli and its fans for the beautiful display of sportsmanship following the match on Friday evening. The atmosphere at the Maradona stadium and reaction of both fans after the game was second to none. This is why Como 1907 will be buying a

beer for every travelling Napoli fan at the return leg at the Stadio Giuseppe Sinigaglia in February 2025.

When Sachin Tendulkar played in the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes tournament

NEW DELHI. Indian batting legend Sachin Tendulkar played in the Hong Kong Cricket Sixes Tournament in the 1990s. The tournament, known for its fast-paced, entertaining format, featured many prominent cricketers from around the world. Tendulkar, one of India's greatest cricket legends, represented India in some editions of the tournament in 1990s. The Hong Kong Sixes is a six-a-side cricket tournament with a unique set of rules designed for quick, high-scoring games, typically held in a round-robin format followed by knockouts. It allowed fans to see top-level international players in a more relaxed, fun atmosphere. Tendulkar's participation added star power to the event, even though it wasn't a major fixture in the international cricket calendar.

Sarfaraz Khan to miss Mumbai's Ranji Trophy opener, set for IND vs NZ series

Sarfaraz Khan is all set to be retained in the India squad for the New Zealand series and miss Mumbai opening match of the Ranji Trophy against Baroda, according to the latest reports.



New Delhi. After an 11-year wait, the Saint Lucia Kings claimed their first-ever Caribbean Premier League (CPL) title on September 6, defeating the defending champions, Guyana Amazon Warriors, in a thrilling final. The victory made Saint Lucia the fifth team to win the CPL, finally ending their run as the only original franchise yet to claim the title.

Formerly known as the St Lucia Zouks, the Kings had endured a long CPL history without success. In 2023, they finished third but were eliminated in the playoffs by the now-defunct Jamaica Tallawahs. However, this year, they rose to the occasion with a memorable performance to secure the

championship. The final was marked by a remarkable fifth-wicket partnership between Roston Chase (39*) and Aaron Jones (48*), whose 88-run stand powered the Kings to victory. Saint Lucia had earlier been in trouble at 51/4 after 9.5 overs, losing key players, including captain Faf du Plessis. With 66 runs needed off the final 30 balls, Chase and Jones took control,

accumulating 47 runs across the 16th and 17th overs to reduce the equation to 19 off 18 balls. They comfortably reached the target with 11 balls to spare, with the game ending anticlimactically on a wide bowled by Imran Tahir. Saint Lucia's bowling had set up the match well. After winning the toss and opting to bowl, the Kings restricted Guyana to 102/7 after 18 overs. However, the Warriors managed to add 36 runs in the last two overs to finish with 138, giving themselves a fighting chance. Post-match, captain du Plessis praised the team's resilience. "It has been special. We've been really consistent throughout the competition. At one stage, I thought it was time to pack our bags, but we always believed in the depth of our squad." Roston Chase was named Player of the Match for his crucial contribution, while the tournament's leading wicket-taker, Noor Ahmad, who took 22 wickets at an economy of 6.19, was named Player of the Series. The victory capped a remarkable campaign for the Kings, cementing their place in CPL history.

Confidence, trust, bit of luck: Sanath Jayasuriya's recipe for Sri Lanka revival

New Delhi. Sanath Jayasuriya has claimed that confidence, trust and a bit of luck has been the key reasons behind his success as coach of the Sri Lanka team after the former captain was given the full-time role on October 7, Monday. Jayasuriya took over as the interim coach of the side after the T20 World Cup, which saw Sri Lanka exit in the group stages. The former captain was able to see an overturn in fortunes, with the team scoring an ODI series win against India and Test wins against England and New Zealand. This prompted the Sri Lankan cricket board to give Jayasuriya the full-time role until March 2026. Speaking to the media after the announcement, the former captain said that he created confidence and trust around the team. Jayasuriya also believes that luck also played a part in the success.

"What I have always said is that it's all about confidence and trust. I created that around the team and that's very important," Jayasuriya said, as quoted by Cricinfo, on Monday, as he faced the media following the announcement



of his full-time appointment. "And I think there was a little bit of luck also. You may do a lot of work, but you need that luck sometimes."

I don't have favourites

Jayasuriya also said that being a local coach, it is easy for him to communicate with the players, and they can speak freely with him. The 55-year-old also said that he has no favourites and he would play the team that is best for Sri Lanka cricket. "It's easy for me to communicate first and foremost," he said. "Any issues they have they can speak with me freely, and it's easy to sort out. They have the confidence to do that. They also know what sort of cricket I played, so they know the value I bring." "But I have a responsibility as a local coach, I don't have favourites. I will always play the team that is best for Sri Lanka cricket. I know that after me, it's unlikely that a local coach will get this role. So there's a responsibility I have on that end as well," said Jayasuriya. Jayasuriya's first assignment as full-time Sri Lanka coach will be the white-ball series against West Indies.

Messi pens special message to Andres Iniesta on retirement: You're a phenomenon

New Delhi. Lionel Messi shared a heartfelt message for his former FC Barcelona teammate Andrés Iniesta, as the legendary Spanish midfielder announced his retirement from professional football. The duo, who created many unforgettable moments on the pitch together, remain close friends off the field, and Messi's tribute highlights the respect and admiration they share.



Iniesta revealed that he will retire at the end of the season with UAE club Emirates. On his Instagram story, Messi posted a picture of the two from their Barcelona days, praising Iniesta's brilliant career. The two legends formed a pivotal partnership during their time at Barcelona, and their chemistry was instrumental in the club's success. Messi's warm words reflect their enduring bond. "One of the teammates with the most magic and one of those I enjoyed playing with the most". The ball is going to miss you, and so will all of us... I wish you the best always. You're a phenomenon," Messi's story read.

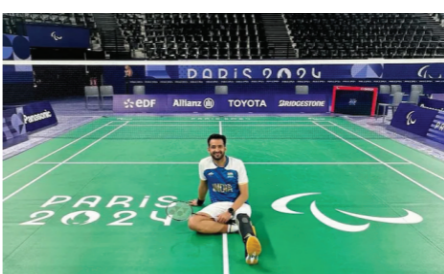
a move to Messi's current side, Inter Miami, where several other former Barcelona stars like Jordi Alba and Sergio Busquets had reunited. However, Iniesta opted for a new chapter in the UAE instead of Major League Soccer.

Iniesta's Iconic Career
Iniesta joined Barcelona's famed La Masia academy at age 12 in 1996 and quickly rose through the ranks. After breaking into the senior team in 2002, he became a key player alongside the likes of Carles Puyol, Xavi Hernández, and Messi. Together, they formed the backbone of one of the most dominant teams in football history. Over 16 years at Barcelona, Iniesta made nearly 700 appearances, winning nine LaLiga titles, four UEFA Champions League trophies, and a total of 32 major honors with the club. His brilliance extended beyond club football, as he became a Spanish national team hero, most notably scoring the winning goal in the 2010 FIFA World Cup final against the Netherlands, securing Spain's first-ever World Cup triumph.
After leaving Barcelona in 2018, Iniesta enjoyed success in Japan with Vissel Kobe before joining Emirates for the final chapter of his illustrious career.

Exclusive: Paralympic champion Nitesh Kumar demands transparency from badminton body

Indian badminton won a total of 5 medals at the Paris Paralympics. While the Badminton Association of India announced cash prizes for the medallists, gold medallist Nitesh Kumar says there is much to be desired from the BAI in terms of welfare of the athletes.

testament to his mental and physical strength, given he had a 0-9 record against Bethell before the match. Nitesh's medal was also a relief for India after their medal-less show in the Olympics just a few days back before the Paralympics began. Superstars Lakshya Sen, PV Sindhu, doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty returned without podium-finish from Paris, which was seen as a huge upset for this growing badminton nation. While 5 medals came from the Paris Paralympics, the reception from the Badminton Association of India was a quiet one. A spurned Nitesh Kumar - an IIT Mandi graduate and now a gold medallist - took to Twitter to vent his frustration, demanding the BAI to hand over the para-badminton administration to the Paralympic Committee of India. 14 days after Nitesh's public tweet, BAI took cognisance of the matter and announced cash prizes for all badminton medallists. BAI announced that the gold medal winner,



Nitesh, will receive a purse of INR 15 lakh, silver medallists, Suhas and Thulasimathi, INR 10 lakh each and bronze medallists, Manisha and Nithya, INR 7.5 lakh apiece. However, Nitesh was not happy. In an exclusive interview with India Today, gold medallist Nitesh Kumar made three demands to the BAI, asking for more transparency, better communication and improved administration from the board. Nitesh said that even the cash reward that the

players have got might be a result of his tweet which went viral on social media.

"After the tweet, they took some 20-25 days (14 days) and then the response we got was the announcement of the cash prize, but not about our concerns. Like we are still waiting to hear from BAI and waiting for them to, you know, try to get to know what our concerns are as a player and what issues we are facing," Nitesh Kumar told India Today in an exclusive interview.

NITESH KUMAR'S DEMANDS TO BAI
Asked about the demands that he would like to make to the BAI, Nitesh said that the first one was the most basic one that he could make - better administration. The player revealed that he is to play a tournament in Japan from October 22, for which he is yet to receive his travel details. "The first one is the basic, administration, so that, you know, we get things done on time. Now we have a tournament coming up in Tokyo from 22 October and.

Sharvari wagh

Is 'Obsessed' With Alpha Co-star Alia Bhatt's Jigra Song Tenu Sang Rakhna

Sharvari has had an outstanding year so far with back-to-back successful films. The actress is gearing up for the much-awaited project, Alpha alongside Alia Bhatt. The duo have been shooting for the film dedicatedly and have been seen bonding with each other as well. Recently, Sharvari was seen hyping up the release of Alia's upcoming film Jigra on her social media. The actress posted a cute reel with her pet dog featuring a soulful track from Jigra's music album. Sharvari uploaded an adorable video on Instagram of her pet dog



Miso having a fun Sunday afternoon. The video showed the duo's love for each other as they played together, enjoyed treats and more. The song Tenu Sang Rakhna from Jigra played in the background and Sharvari noted how obsessed she was with the song lately. "Obsessed & On loop #TenuSangRakhna with Miso because she's my #Jigra," she mentioned. Fans were quite in awe to see the clip and called Sharvari "The winner of this trend!" Another person stated, "Such a cutie! Animals love without strings attached." Alia Bhatt was moved by Sharvari's gesture and quickly reposted the video on her Instagram story, expressing her appreciation and admiration for her co-star. "Love This!!!" Alia wrote

along with her story. Alia Bhatt and Vedang Raina play siblings in Jigra. The trailer begins with Alia Bhatt's character getting a late night call alerting her that her brother, Ankur (played by Vedang Raina), has been arrested. Confused and concerned, she asks him if he has done anything wrong and whether his blood tests will be negative. Ankur is next seen in a courtroom in a foreign country, unable to grasp the language, after being brought into custody. Alia's character, determined to save her brother, embarks on a mission to free him. Directed by Vasan Bala, the film will release on October 11. Meanwhile, Yash Raj Films has officially announced the release date for Alia and Sharvari's Alpha, the highly anticipated action film. Alpha will be the first female-led film in the YRF Spy Universe.



Arbaaz Khan

Talks About 'Next Marriage Plans' After Wedding With Sshura Khan: 'Bus Ho Gaya...'

Arbaaz Khan is known for his wit and humour, especially while interacting with fans on social media. In a recent AMA on fans, he shared a hilarious reply when asked about his 'next marriage plans'. Arbaaz Khan got married for the second time in December 2023. The Bollywood actor-turned-producer married Sshura Khan, a makeup artist, in an intimate ceremony in Mumbai. A fan asked Arbaaz about his 'next marriage plans', and he replied, "Bus ho gaya bhai (It's done, brother)." Another fan mentioned that she wanted to marry Arbaaz's brother, superstar Salman Khan. Arbaaz wrote, "What do I say? Lage Raho Munnabhai!" Arbaaz's answers left his fans entertained. As for his marriage, Arbaaz married Sshura Khan in December last year. The intimate ceremony took place at Arpita Khan's residence in Mumbai. Arbaaz was previously married to Malaika Arora but found love again in

Sshura after his divorce. Arbaaz and Sshura first met on the sets of the recently released film Patna Shuklla, starring Raveena Tandon. While the Bollywood actor served as a producer for the film, Sshura was Raveena's makeup artist. The duo eventually fell in love and decided to keep their relationship private until they married. Arbaaz and Sshura exchanged vows at the actor's sister, Arpita Khan Sharma's home on December 24, 2023. Sshura, who is 25 years younger than Arbaaz, earlier opened up about the age gap between her and her husband during an AMA session on Instagram. She said, "Arbaaz is 5'10, and I am 5'1, and age is just a number." Previously, Arbaaz had also addressed the same and mentioned to Indian Express, "Though my wife is much younger than me, it is not like she is 16 years old. She knew what she wanted in her life, and I knew what I wanted in my life. It's not like we were not aware of it, or we hid it from each other. As a girl, she knew what she was getting into, and as a man, I knew what I was getting into."



Bigg Boss 18: Karanveer Mehra Opens Up About His Spat With Asim Riaz, Says 'All Of This Has No Value...'



Best known for his role as Aditya in Remix, actor Karanveer Mehra is now a part of Salman Khan's Bigg Boss 18. He recently made headlines when he won Rohit Shetty's Khatron Ke Khiladi 14. In a recent interview, the actor opened up and spoke about his online spat with Asim Riaz. In a conversation with Indian Express, Karanveer Mehra talked about his online controversy with Asim Riaz. For the uninitiated, the actors did not get along on Khatron Ke Khiladi 14. Their fight moved to the online platform after Riaz was ousted from the stunt-based show for his misbehaving with his co-contestants and the host Rohit Shetty. Speaking about their spat, Mehra spoke about how he thinks this is "futile." The actor said, "I am an 80s kid. We are used to breaking bones with a bat. I don't enjoy this war of words on Twitter. Just because you have gotten some money and hired a PR, people don't do it unnecessarily. It is all futile. Asim is not a bad guy, he is just living up to his image, but all of this has no value. If he had the guts, he wouldn't have waited this long. Salman Khan has guts. Nobody can dare tell him anything because you see that vibration coming from him. But with Asim, anybody can come, tell him things and leave." In the same conversation, Mehra talked about being nervous about being a part of the reality show. He spoke about how he knows the fame and the popularity of the show. He mentioned that he is willing to see the different shades of his personality come out on the show. The actor continued, "We all want to be like SRK, Salman, Aamir, and Amitabh Bachchan at some point. But in a house like Bigg Boss, we might realize that we may be a villain too. I don't know how will I react, it all depends on the co-contestants. I am also waiting to explore different sides of me which I am also scared of." With popular faces like Vivian Dsena, Alice Kaushik, Muskan Bamne, Rajat Dalal, and Shilpa Shirodkar among others, Bigg Boss 18 kickstarted on Sunday.

On Wajid Khan's 47th Birth Anniversary, A Look At Music Composer's Career



The COVID-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022 took away many lives with the whole world full of grief. One among many who lost their lives to the pandemic was music composer-singer Wajid Khan. Wajid Khan of the Sajid-Wajid duo passed away on June 1, 2020. Today marks the late musician's 47th birth anniversary and we provide a sneak peek into his career on the occasion. Wajid Khan, a celebrated composer, is fondly remembered not just for his soulful music but also for his close bond with Salman Khan. True to his name, Wajid consistently brought a fresh and unique touch to his compositions. Together with his brother Sajid, he became one of the most successful musical partnerships in Bollywood. Wajid's journey in the film industry began with Salman Khan's movie Pyaar Kiya To Darna Kya (1998), where he composed the memorable track Teri Jawani Badi Mast Mast Hai. Although it was his debut, the song left a lasting impression. Born on October 7, 1977, into a musically gifted family, Wajid's father, Sharafat Ali Khan, was a renowned tabla player, and his maternal grandfather, Ustad Faiyaz Ahmed Khan, a Padma Shri awardee, was a legendary classical vocalist. Music truly ran in his veins, and he continued the family legacy by leaving an indelible mark on Bollywood music. He had a deep passion for playing the guitar, which became a signature aspect of his music. Though introverted by nature, as his brother Sajid often fondly recalls, Wajid had a unique way of expressing himself through music, a trait his brother misses greatly. One touching incident often comes up in stories about Wajid. Early in his career, while working as a guitarist under the direction of a prominent music composer, Wajid faced an unjust moment. His fellow musician played a wrong tune, and when the composer asked who was responsible, the blame was placed on Wajid. Despite his innocence, Wajid quietly accepted the criticism, but it left him deeply disappointed. His father, the esteemed tabla player Sharafat Ali Khan, had been present and was equally affected, with tears in his eyes. This incident became a turning point. Wajid, with his brother Sajid by his side, resolved that day to compose their music, marking the beginning of their brilliant musical journey together. This determination led the Sajid-Wajid duo to create some of the most memorable tracks in Bollywood.