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India engaged in proactive diplomacy for Ukraine, West Asia solution: Jaishankar

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Nov 03: S Jaishankar said wars in Ukraine and West Asia are worrying situations, as instability anywhere in a globalised world has implications everywhere. India is engaged in efforts to find a peaceful resolution to the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts through diplomacy as it is



among the few countries that can speak to the warring sides in both situations, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said on Sunday. External affairs minister S Jaishankar with Panama foreign minister Javier Martínez-Acha Vásquez on the Panama National Day on Sunday. (S Jaishankar-X) External affairs minister S Jaishankar with Panama foreign

minister Javier Martínez-Acha Vásquez on the Panama National Day on Sunday. (S Jaishankar-X) Jaishankar said at an interaction with the Indian community in the Australian city of Brisbane that both conflicts have caused concern because of their wide-spread fallout. "In different ways, we are trying to do something in both," he said while responding to a question from the audience. There has to be a serious effort to return to diplomacy in the Russia-Ukraine conflict as 125 countries of the Global South are feeling the distress and pain of this war. Pointing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's involvement in efforts to find a peaceful resolution, Jaishankar said Modi had travelled to Russia in July and to Ukraine in August. Modi also met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in June and again in September, and held talks again with President Vladimir Putin in the Russian city of Kazan in October. "It is a situation which does call for some degree of...proactive diplomacy. We are trying to do that," Jaishankar said. He added: "We feel that the rest of the world should not throw up its hands and say, 'Ok, let's wait for them to slug it out and one day they'll get tired and something will happen.' Because every day there is a cost to the world, apart from the cost to these countries and to the region."

Civil defence volunteers to be re-engaged for anti-pollution measures from this week: Delhi CM

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 03: New Delhi, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Sunday announced

that the deployment of 10,000 civil defence volunteers removed as bus marshals last year will begin in the next 2-4 days to assist various agencies fighting air pollution. A detailed proposal for their permanent engagement will also be sent for approval of the Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena within a week, she said at a press conference here. The announcements come a day after the LG wrote to Atishi, saying despite his order to immediately reappoint the civil defence volunteers, he was yet to receive a proposal in this regard. "Of course, you and your party leaders may continue to do politics of taking credit for their reinstatement, but any more delay in the welfare of these economically weaker and helpless people is not right in any way," Saxena said in his letter. Around 10,000

CDVs working as marshals in public buses in Delhi were removed from their posts in November last year after objections were raised by the revenue and finance depart-



ments. At the press meet, the Delhi chief minister said that in a meeting last week, the CDVs were already assigned for implementation of various anti-pollution measures undertaken by different agencies. "Their call out

will begin in next 2-4 days," she said. Atishi slammed the BJP, saying it should stop its "dirty politics" over the issue. She claimed the saffron party would make efforts to block the A government's proposal to the LG for the permanent engagement of CDVs. She hit out at the BJP whose Delhi unit president Virendra Sachdeva warned that the party would 'gherao' the chief minister if a proposal for the re-appointment of bus marshals was not sent to the LG by Sunday evening. "I want to ask the BJP leaders to stop their dirty politics on the bus marshal issue. First, their salaries were stopped in April last year and finally they were removed in October, 2023 due to BJP's conspiracy," she charged. However, the Aam Aadmi Party leaders extended full support to the CDVs after their salaries were stopped and they were ultimately removed from their jobs, she claimed. This article was generated from an automated news agency feed without modifications to text.

'Consider Muslim sentiments': Jamiat to TDP, JD(U) on Waqf (Amendment) Bill

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Nov 03: Jamiat chief Maulana Arshad Madani warned that if the legislation passes, the "two crutches" supporting the BJP-led government will face accountability. It also warned that if the legislation is passed, the "two crutches" supporting the BJP-led government at the Centre will not be able to evade responsibility. Jamiat chief Maulana Arshad Madani made this statement at the 'Save Constitution Convention' organised by the prominent Muslim group at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. Madani said that the people of the country defeated the BJP by rejecting their policies. He mentioned that the government depends on two crutches, one is Chandrababu Naidu, and the



other is Nitish Kumar from Bihar. Madani claimed that he had invited Naidu, who declined but sent his party's vice president, Nawab Jan. He expressed a positive view, believing that Jan would convey the sentiments of the large gathering of Jamiat functionaries and supporters present. "If the Waqf Bill is passed ignoring the emotions of the Muslims - it would be as much a responsibility of the crutches as it would be of other powers at the Centre," PTI quoted Madani as saying. The Jamiat has announced plans to organise a gathering of approximately five lakh Muslims in Chandrababu Naidu's constituency by the end of this month or in December, where they will present the concerns and sentiments of the Muslim community in detail. "If this bill is passed, the crutches on which the government is dependent would not be able to escape responsibility for it," he reiterated. Madani said the Waqf is established by "our ancestors and is a part of Allah's ownership, with mosques built on it." "You (government) should protect them because we live in this country and we have not come from outside. If a Hindu is a Gujjar, a Muslim is also a Gujjar...Hindus are Jats, Muslims are also Jats - They chant slogans saying that Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs are separate, but we say that 'Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians sab hai bhai bhai,'" the Jamiat chief said. Madani said there are many mosques in Delhi, some of which are 400 to 500 years old.

Delhi's air quality continues to deteriorate, AQI above 400

New Delhi, Nov 03: Delhi's air quality continued to deteriorate on Sunday, with thick smog engulfing the city's skies. Air quality at Anand Vihar reached "severe" levels, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) reading 424 as of 9 p.m., as per the Sameer mobile app. Several locations in the city continued to witness higher air pollution post-Diwali. Fifteen monitoring stations recorded air quality levels in the 'severe' zone, having AQI readings over 400, reported news agency. Monitoring stations that reported air pollution in the "severe zone" were from Ashok Vihar, Bawana, Dwarka, Jahangirpuri, Mundka, NSIT Dwarka, Najafgarh, Nehru Nagar, Okhla Phase 2, Patparganj, Punjabi Bagh, Rohini, Wazirpur, and Vivek Vihar. The city's 24-hour average AQI, recorded at 4 pm daily, stood at 382, worsening from 316 the previous day. A temporary respite from pollution, with help from the winds, was short-lived, as air quality continued to worsen post-Diwali festivities when a complete cracker ban was widely flouted. The national capital also recorded its lowest nighttime temperature so far, as thick smog and haze make sunlight penetration almost impossible during the day. According to the weather department, Sunday's minimum temperature was 16.5 degrees Celsius, 1.2 degrees above normal, and the maximum temperature was 33.2 degrees Celsius, 2.7 degrees above normal.

Nawab Malik predicts this leader will be 'kingmaker' in Maharashtra after polls

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Mumbai, Nov 03: Nawab Malik was

arrested in a money laundering case in 2022. He was granted medical bail in August 2023 on medical grounds. Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Nawab Malik on Sunday predicted that Maharashtra deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar will emerge as a 'kingmaker' in the next government formation in the state after assembly elections. "It is a neck-and-neck fight in Maharashtra. We can't be certain about who will get a clear majority. One or two parties will not form the government. There are multiple parties in both alliances. However, it is certain that no government can be formed without considering Ajit Pawar," the former Maharashtra minister told. In another interview with PTI, Malik claimed that there are speculations about NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Eknath Shinde joining hands. "There is politics of Aaya Ram gaya

Raam (the dynamics are shifting) with Congress leaders moving to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and BJP



leaders joining Congress. Those who were in the BJP have joined the NCP," he told. ALSO READ: Mahayuti faces Maha challenge as BJP opposes NCP's candidate Nawab Malik days before

Maharashtra election In Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar, Malik is pitted against Samajwadi Party nominee and MVA-backed sitting MLA Abu Azmi and Shiv Sena's Suresh Patil. "You can't win the assembly elections with 28,000 votes. It's true that Mahayuti has put up a candidate (Sena's Suresh Patil) there, but I'm not in the fray out of my own will but that of the people. I am confident that I will be elected," PTI quoted Malik as saying. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, allies of NCP in the ruling Mahayuti alliance, have opposed Nawab Malik's candidature. "We have already clarified our position. We will not campaign for him at any cost," Maharashtra deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said. Malik was arrested in a money laundering case and is also accused of having links with people close to fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim.

'No UCC for tribals': What Amit Shah, BJP's Jharkhand election manifesto promised

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 03: BJP's Jharkhand

assembly election manifesto: The BJP also promised that all lands occupied by the "infiltrators" will be returned to the tribal communities. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in Jharkhand and drive out "infiltrators from Bangladesh", union home minister Amit Shah promised on Sunday while releasing the BJP's assembly election manifesto. He, however, said that the tribal community will be kept out of the ambit of the proposed code. "Hemant Babu, a Uniform Civil Code will certainly be implemented in Jharkhand, but the identity and heritage of the tribal communities will be fully preserved. Uniform Civil Code will be introduced in Jharkhand but the tribal community will be kept out of the ambit of the UCC," he

said. The BJP also promised that all lands occupied by "infiltrators" will be returned to the tribal community. "The BJP government is being formed in Jharkhand and



we will drive out these infiltrators. We will bring the law and return the land taken away from women. Hemant Soren, you have failed to provide security to the women of Jharkhand," he added. Amit

Shah promised that if elected, the BJP would provide ₹2,100 per month to every woman of Jharkhand. He said free LPG gas cylinders will be provided to women on Diwali and Raksha Bandhan festivals. He promised 5 lakh employment opportunities to the youths of the state. "Under the 'Gogo Didi scheme', women will be given ₹2100 every month. Free LPG gas cylinders will be given on Diwali and Raksha Bandhan and the cylinders will be given for ₹500. 5 lakh employment opportunities will be created for the youth of Jharkhand," Shah said. He said the BJP government would provide homes to 21 lakh families. He said the party's government will provide a ₹2000 per month stipend to youths for two years. "To support youth in their careers, the BJP in its manifesto promises to provide a monthly stipend of ₹2000 for two years," the party said. The

BJP promised to create 287,000 government jobs and offer 500,000 self-employment opportunities to combat unemployment. The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill was a proposal to establish uniform rules for personal matters for all citizens. These matters include marriage, divorce, inheritance, and property rights. The BJP has promised the implementation of the UCC across the country in its general election manifesto. JMM leader Mahua Maji, meanwhile, rejected the BJP's manifesto. "No one will believe this manifesto because the public has seen their governments, neither Jharkhand nor Ranchi developed during their time. Trafficking of women was at its peak during the BJP's tenure...The central government has not yet given the coal royalty to the state government," she added. The Jharkhand assembly election will be conducted in two phases on November 13 and November 20. The counting of votes is scheduled on November 23.

Rahul Gandhi takes swipe at PM Narendra Modi in Wayanad

Naresh Malhotra

Waynad, Nov 03: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, who was in Kerala's Wayanad on Sunday to campaign for his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, said that he wouldn't dwell on Prime Minister Narendra Modi because "we are bored of him". Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is the Congress party's candidate in Wayanad. The Kerala seat was vacated in June by Rahul Gandhi, who chose to retain the Rae Bareilly Lok Sabha constituency. Addressing a gathering, Rahul Gandhi pointed out that Priyanka Gandhi had spoken about PM Modi already. "And, anyway, she has already mentioned Mr. Modi and we are all bored of him... then why mention him twice," Rahul Gandhi said during the meeting. Priyanka Gandhi had accused PM Modi of favouring big business- over the well-being of the people of the

country. "In this meeting, I have a choice in front of me to either give a political message or a speech I would give to my family members. I would rather speak to you like I



been a campaigner. She never stood for election. That should tell you something about her character," Gandhi added. Sharing their memories of childhood, Rahul Gandhi said he would compete with his sister on who would take better photographs from the camera their father had gifted them. "I still don't remember who won the competition... ok.. she (Priyanka) is now saying that I won," he added. He said Priyanka had travelled a long distance from the little girl who used to take photographs. "She understands that the beauty is that everyone has millions and millions of labels, every single person is unique, everything is unique - someone might see weakness, she'll see strength - that is my sister," the Leader of Opposition said. Last month, Rahul Gandhi said that Priyanka Gandhi took care of their mother, Sonia Gandhi, after the tragic death of their father, Rajiv Gandhi. She was just 17 years old at that time, he added.

Omar Abdullah's first reaction to Srinagar grenade attack

Jammu, Nov 03: Reacting to the Srinagar grenade attack on Sunday, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah pointed out that the headlines in the union territory have lately been dominated by



attacks and encounters. Omar Abdullah further said there can't be any justification for targeting innocent civilians. He exhorted the security apparatus to end "this spurt of attacks". "The last few days have been dominated by headlines of attacks & encounters in parts of the valley. Today's news of a

grenade attack on innocent shoppers at the 'Sunday market' in Srinagar is deeply disturbing. There can be no justification for targeting innocent civilians. The security apparatus must do everything possible to end this spurt of attacks at the earliest so that people can go about their lives without any fear," he wrote on X. At least 12 people were injured in a grenade attack near a busy market in Srinagar on Sunday. The explosion took place opposite the Tourist Reception Centre in Jammu and Kashmir's capital city. Jammu and Kashmir Congress leader Ravinder Sharma, meanwhile, alleged that the attack was part of a conspiracy. "This is a conspiracy to disturb the atmosphere here. Such incidents have increased ever since elections have been held and the new government has been formed... The Sunday market is mostly crowded. I will pray for the well-being of those injured in the attack... This proves that militancy is still there in the valley... the Central government has the entire law and order and security apparatus in its hand. We call for strict action," he said.

News box

Special grievance meetings for PwDs to resume soon, say Vellore dist officials

VELLORE: District administration officials responsible for conducting special grievance redressal meetings told TNE that such meetings for persons with disabilities (PwDs) would resume soon – bimonthly under the collector and monthly under the deputy collector or revenue divisional officer. Since June, these meetings have been halted, leading to a backlog of issues, concerns over which were expressed by Tamil Nadu Association for the Rights of All Types of Differently Aabled and Caregivers (TARADAC) district vice-president G Rajendran a few weeks ago. Rajendran listed several pending grievances, including the members not getting Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) ration cards, the unavailability of jobs for the PwDs under the MGNREGS, and delays in the distribution of medical kits to people with spinal cord injuries, assistive devices and pensions. He said, "For over a year now, 6,800 PwDs in the district have not received the Rs 1,500 pension from the Department of Welfare of Differently Aabled Persons and 873 severely disabled individuals have not received the Rs 2,000 pension via the District Differently Aabled Rehabilitation Office (DDRO)."

Though the state releases these funds, he said, the district administration could compile such grievances and forward them to the state for a quicker resolution. Several members of the association have reported difficulties in effectively conveying their issues during the weekly grievance redressal meetings, with the collector having to attend to scores of petitions simultaneously.

AIADMK stages protest against UT govt, seeks distribution of rice, essential items via PDS shops

PUDUCHERRY: AIADMK cadre organised a protest on Saturday near the Anna Statue in Puducherry, condemning the ruling AINRC-BJP alliance for not fulfilling their promises of providing free rice and sugar, and other essential items at a subsidised rate through PDS shops. Leading the protest, AIADMK Puducherry state secretary A Anbazhagan said, "The ruling government is cheating people even during the festival season, failing to fulfil their promises. Chief Minister N Rangasamy had announced 10 kg of rice and two kg of sugar for each ration card, along with 10 essential items at a subsidized price of Rs 500. He claimed these would be distributed through ration shops, but many of the shops were not opened."

Further, he alleged that free rice and sugar were distributed only in the constituencies of the CM, ministers, Assembly Speaker and the leader of the opposition. "They think people only live in those constituencies. Nothing has been distributed to the people in 20 constituencies, including Orleanpet, Muthialpet and Mudalirapet," he said, adding that people, with bags in their hands, are still looking for PDS shops providing the essential items.

Further, he alleged that it has become the norm for the CM to make welfare announcements that never reach the people. "The leaders say one thing, but officials act differently, leaving the public disappointed. Though these promises were made ahead of the festival, they are yet to be fulfilled, even after the festival ended," he said, urging immediate action.

Senior AIADMK leaders, including presidium chairman Anbanandham, treasurer Ravi Pandurangan, town secretary A Anbazhagan Udayar, and hundreds of cadre, participated in the protest.

No change in Polavaram height, says Nimmala Rama Naidu

VIJAYAWADA: The war of words between Water Resources Minister Nimmala Rama Naidu and former minister Ambati Rambabu has intensified as both accused each other of speaking lies on the status of Polavaram Irrigation Project. On Saturday, Nimmala asserted that there was no change in the height of Polavaram, and demanded that YSRC leaders come up with evidence while making allegations against the TDP-led NDA government. "Ambati is known for his expertise in spewing lies. He does it though aware of facts only to be in the good books of his leader," Nimmala charged. In the wake of recent posts of YSRC chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and Ambati alleging that the NDA government did not oppose the Centre's decision to reduce Polavaram height from 45.72 to 41.15 metres, Nimmala lashed out at the YSRC. Ambati demanded that did Nimmala get official confirmation from either the Prime Minister or the Jal Shakti Minister on the original height of Polavaram. Taking serious exception to Ambati's comments, Nimmala said, "One can wake up a person who is sleeping, but cannot wake up a person who is acting sleeping. Who told you that the height of Polavaram is being reduced? If you have evidence, disclose it."

Mocking the claims of Ambati, Nimmala questioned the sanity of the former minister. He also dared him to show evidence to the claim that '2,384 crore was diverted. "My sincere advice to Ambati and co. Give up your diversion politics," he said.

Stakeholders push for swift action in Amaravati's development

Stakeholders also advocated for strengthening the Competent Authority Offices to address grievances effectively and efficiently.

VIJAYAWADA: In a multi-stakeholder consultation hosted at Tulluru in Guntur, the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) underscored the urgent need to expedite support for Amaravati's growth. This initiative, attended by diverse stakeholders, emphasised the importance of collaboration and resource allocation to transform the city into a regional economic hub. Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) Commissioner Katamaneni Bhaskar stressed that Amaravati's future hinges on swift, cohesive action, as local farmers, landowners, and community members await tangible economic progress. The session facilitated a deep dive into the draft Environment and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA), a key document prepared by World Bank-ADB experts that outlines environmental and social considerations in the development plans for Amaravati.

A cross-section of attendees, including



farmers, landless individuals, women, industry representatives, educational institutions, and voluntary organisations, expressed strong support for initiatives that would boost employment, skill development, and economic opportunity. They urged the CRDA to expedite the completion of land pooling and registration of returnable plots and called for prompt

disbursement of annuity payments and pensions. Stakeholders also advocated for strengthening the Competent Authority Offices to address grievances effectively and efficiently.

Amaravati Development Corporation Ltd (ADCL) Managing Director Lakshmi Parthasarathy Bhaskar highlighted Amaravati's potential as an economic

engine for Andhra Pradesh, envisioning it as a centre for employment, education, and innovation.

The establishment of national research institutions and Central government offices in the city, stakeholders argued, would solidify Amaravati's position as a vital administrative and economic hub. Representatives from both the World Bank and ADB, including specialists like Warren Paul Mayes and Gerald Paul Ollivier, engaged directly with stakeholders, addressing specific concerns and exploring possible solutions. CRDA and ADCL officials reiterated their commitment to Amaravati's development, with Additional Commissioner Praveen Chand outlining future collaborative initiatives. The meeting concluded with a commitment to hold a follow-up session in New Delhi on November 11, with both banks pledging to release funds for the first and second phases of the project by December 17.

Beyond virtual booking, 10k more pilgrims to be allowed into Sabarimala

The minister added centres will be set up at Pampa, Nilackal, and Erumely for document verification of devotees arriving without virtual queue bookings.

KOTTAYAM: Amid criticism from various quarters over its decision to discontinue spot booking for darshan at the Sabarimala temple, the state government on Saturday announced that 10,000 pilgrims will be allowed entry into the shrine, in addition to those booked through the virtual queue. Devaswom Minister V N Vasavan said that to accommodate these pilgrims, daily virtual queue bookings have been reduced from 80,000 to 70,000. Vasavan also announced that all pilgrims visiting the temple during the upcoming Mandala-Makaravilakku pilgrimage season will get free insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh. In case of a death, the Travancore Devaswom Board which has introduced the insurance scheme will ensure transportation of the pilgrim's body back home, he said. Addressing reporters following the



final preparatory meeting of the Sabarimala pilgrimage season, Vasavan said: "Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had announced in the assembly that no devotee arriving in Sabarimala will have to go back without darshan. This will be ensured strictly. "If devotees arrive without a virtual booking, the government and devaswom board will provide them with

necessary facilities for darshan after verifying their documents, such as aadhar card or other identity cards. Rest assured, no devotee will be turned away without getting darshan," he said. The minister added centres will be set up at Pampa, Nilackal, and Erumely for document verification of devotees arriving without virtual queue bookings. Vasavan added that all necessary preparations have been made to ensure a smooth pilgrimage experience during the Mandala-Makaravilakku season.

13,600 cops to control crowd

"Inspections have been completed across key midway shelters (edathavalam) and the road maintenance is scheduled to be completed by November 10. A team of 1,000 Vishudhi Sena personnel will be trained and deployed for sanitation duties," said Vasavan.

Telangana government approves 116.4 km expansion for metro phase 2

HYDERABAD: Phase 2 of the Hyderabad Metro Rail project will be 116.4 km, as per the orders issued on Saturday, according to administrative sanction for the project. It will have two parts Part A will have six corridors a cumulative length of 76.4 km which will cost Rs 24,269 crore and Part B will have one corridor of 40 km, the cost of which is being worked out. In his orders, Municipal Administration and Urban Development Principal Secretary M Dana Kishore said that among identified corridors for Phase-2, alignment, other features, cost estimate etc. for the 40-km long Corridor 9 (Shamshabad RGIA - Fourth City) are being worked out and presently field



surveys are in progress. The remaining five corridors for a length of about 76.4 km will cost an estimated Rs 24,269 crore. The project will be a 50:50 Joint Venture (JV) between the state and Union governments. The state government's share would be Rs 7,313 crore (30%), the Centre will pump

in Rs 4,230 crore (18%) and loans from institutions like JICA, ADB, NDB etc would be Rs 11,693 crore (48%). The remaining 4% (1,033 crore) of the cost would come from the PPP component.

The orders said: "In the light of the experience of Phase-I, the government reviewed the earlier approved Phase-II proposals and reworked them. The main objective of this exercise is to cater to the needs of different sections of the society and to spur equitable growth in all parts of the city. Based on updated traffic studies and several rounds of discussions, six new corridors have been identified for the Phase-II expansion project".

Phase - 2 of the Metro Rail project has two parts. Part A consists of five corridors and Part B has one corridor.



that Madhava Reddy gave his land to two contractors, Chandrasekhar and Koteswar Rao, for the purpose of development but they split the land into plots and sold them.

The victims appealed to the commissioner to register cases against the people who cheated them and also provide compensation. They explained that the officials were saying the permissions given by the village panchayat officials for the construction of villas had been revoked in the past and the contractors had hidden this matter from them. The victims said that the commissioner has assured that officials will conduct a re-survey in Patelguda and if found that the villas were actually built on private land, the said land would be returned to them. Meanwhile, the victims of Venkataramana Colony who bought plots behind the Pedda Cheruvu said that they fear losing due to the closure of the outlet of the Pedda Cheruvu in Aminpur mandal. They alleged that some politically influential leaders had closed the outlet to prevent water from flowing down into the Bandi Kunta pond. The victims demanded that an investigation be conducted on these lands as well, and complained that large apartments are being constructed in the park land.

'Bava', who transformed Jacobite Church, remembered fondly

PUTHENCURUZ: Thousands of devotees and members of the clergy gathered at the Mor Athanasius Cathedral, in Puthencruz, to bid farewell to Aboon Mor Baselios Thomas I, a revered leader whose passing leaves a void that the Malankara Jacobite Syrian Church will find difficult to bridge. His social and political influence, forged through decades of navigating the church's crises, has inspired countless. The church's growth and resilience are testament to his remarkable leadership.

As mourners from across the state converged to pay their last respects to their beloved 'Bava', many reflected on his transformative impact. His visionary guidance helped the church overcome numerous challenges, earning him a special place in their hearts. For the faithful, Mor Baselios Thomas I is an irreplaceable leader. No one can replace our beloved Catholicos, said Jacob, from Idukki. "Our community will never have a leader like him again. He was socially and politically significant. The crisis our community went



through when he was a priest and then the Catholicos helped in his growth. Moreover, his interventions and qualities helped the Church flourish," he said, recounting an incident when the government stepped in right away when the Catholicos chose to go on strike over the church dispute. "He was skilled at handling crises and had a strong relationship with

politicians and leaders of other communities. It helped solve several issues," Jacob emphasised.

People from the length and breadth of the state arrived at the headquarters of the Jacobite Church on Saturday to pay their tributes. "I shared a personal connection with Bava and attended the meetings he held with religious and political representatives. He was a leader

who fought for the Jacobite community and advocated for the resolution of conflicts with the Orthodox faction.

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News box

Bus driver, conductor refuse to pay 'hafta', thrashed with rods

Gurgaon. A group of seven men allegedly assaulted the driver and conductor of a private bus after they refused to pay them protection money on Diwali eve. The gang attacked the duo with sticks and rods and forced them to pay up Rs 32,000 they had saved for changing tyres of the bus. Police said they were probing if the attackers were linked to any gang or were operating independently. Most gangs in Haryana — like those owing allegiance to jailed gangsters Lawrence Bishnoi and Kaushal — thrive on extortion from businessmen and other influential people. Police sources admitted such complaints of extortion usually increased during festivals and other important events. According to sources, this could well be the first instance of extortion from a bus operator in recent years.

On Oct 30, Narveer was ferrying a few passengers in his bus from Rewari to Pataudi with his nephew Ishu when the gang stopped them near Rewari Mor. "The group of seven youths was being led by a man named Kala Khod. They asked for 'hafta (protection money)' and threatened to stop the bus service on our route if we didn't pay up. When we pleaded inability to pay, they attacked us with sticks and rods. Before leaving, they took away Rs 32,000 that I had in my pocket. We had kept that money aside to fix the bus tyres," Narveer said in his complaint. The bus driver and conductor were given first-aid at a nearby hospital. Following a complaint, a case was registered under sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 126 (wrongful restraint), 190 (unlawful assembly), 191(2) (rioting), and 351(2) (criminal intimidation) of BNS. Police said they had initiated an investigation. "We are scanning CCTV footage and trying to identify the accused. We hope to make arrests soon," said a police official. The incident has, however, sparked concern among transporters. Several bus operators said they were feeling apprehensive about increasing extortion threats in the future. They urged the authorities to take swift and strict action against the culprits and ensure their safety.

Man leaves for office on bike, dies in hit and run

Gurgaon. A 26-year-old factory worker who was on his way to the office on a bike died in a hit-and-run in the Bilaspur area on Friday evening. Satyaprakash Srivastava, originally from Ballia in Uttar Pradesh, was on his way to his office in Binola when an unidentified vehicle hit him. The driver fled the scene after the accident, said an official on Saturday.

Locals alerted the police and rushed him to the nearest hospital, but he was declared dead on arrival by the doctors. "A police team investigated the accident site and recorded statements from witnesses. The deceased's body, which remained unidentified until late Saturday, was sent for a post-mortem examination," added the official.

Satyaprakash lived in a rented accommodation in Fazilwas village with his brother, Girija Shankar.

Girija told the police that Satyaprakash, who had a night shift, left their apartment around 6pm on Friday. When he did not return home by the next morning and the office informed him that Satyaprakash had not reported for work on Friday, Girija began searching for him. Later on Saturday, Satyaprakash's colleague informed the family about the fatal accident. A case was registered against the unknown vehicle driver at the Bilaspur police station under sections 106 (causing death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving) of the BNS. "We are examining CCTV footage from the area to identify the vehicle and its driver. The investigation is currently underway to trace the accused who fled the scene after the accident," said Sandeep Kumar, spokesperson for the Gurgaon police.

According to official data, more than 400 people die in road accidents in Gurgaon every year. Around 35% of those who die in road accidents in Gurgaon are bikers, while pedestrians account for 31%. More than 30% of fatal accidents occur on NH-48.

Running 3 years late, Bhangal Elevated Road is likely to be ready by Jan next yr

Noida. Bhangal Elevated Road — a six-lane, 5.5km stretch linking Agahpur with NSEZ on the Dadi-Surajpur-Chhalera (DSC) Road — is set for completion by the end of Jan next year, a month late from its original deadline.

According to officials, nearly 90% of the work was complete. This road aims at easing traffic on one of the city's busiest routes connecting Noida with Surajpur, Dadi, and Greater Noida. It passes through densely populated villages like Sadarpur, Chhalera, Agahpur, Barola, Salarpur, and Bhangal, as well as key sectors including 40, 41, 43, 47, 48, 49, 82, 88, 101, 106, 107, and 110. Officials said all necessary approvals had been secured, including those from IIT-Roorkee that endorsed adjustments to the road's alignment.

Two buildings are coming in the way of the Agahpur to Bhangal alignment, for which a 90m section (from piers 121 to 124) will be narrowed down by half a metre, with balcony adjustments for further clearance. UP State Bridge Corporation Ltd (UPSBC), which is overseeing the construction, has faced difficulties completing pier-cap work in the area because of these buildings. Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M confirmed that the elevated road would be ready in a couple of months. "We are hoping the carriageway can be opened for public in Feb next year," he added.

Sandeep Gupta, the bridge corporation joint managing director, said, "During a meeting headed by chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh in Aug this year, we were asked to ensure the work was ready by Jan next year. We are working in keeping with the schedule. At one section, some high-tension wires needed to be shifted. That has been done. Funds are an issue at times. As of now, Noida Authority is required to release over Rs 100 crore. We are managing the work, but if funds are hindered, the project might be delayed."

The project is already running three years late. Envisaged in 2013, the elevated road project was launched in June 2020 with a budget of Rs 468.3 crore. The bridge corporation was then given a deadline of Dec 2022. It received multiple extensions since then. Initially, an extension was granted till Dec 2023, but that too was missed. Subsequently, the target was shifted to Dec 31, 2024.

Winds drive quick AQI recovery in Gurgaon after Diwali, but it's unlikely to stay for long

Gurgaon. A day after touching 309 and falling in 'very poor' category post-Diwali, Air Quality Index (AQI) in city was 'poor' at 209 on Saturday. This improvement was attributed to dispersal of pollutants by a strong surface wind. The prevailing east-northeast winds, maintaining speeds between 8-10 kmph throughout the day, contributed to the better air conditions. At three out of the four monitoring stations AQI was in the 'poor' range, with Gwalpahari recording a reading of 223, Sector 51 of 201, and Vikas Sadan of 205. Teri Gram showed better air quality with an AQI of 197, categorised as 'moderate'. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) classifies AQI between 0-50 as 'good', between 51 and 100 as 'satisfactory', between 101 and 200 as 'moderate', between 201 and 300 as 'poor', between 301 and 400 as 'very poor', and over 400 as 'severe'. According to the central govt's System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (Safar), the air quality is likely to be in the 'very poor' category during the next six days. "Meteorological conditions are likely to be extremely unfavourable for the dispersion of pollutants," it



stated. Weather experts, too, cautioned that a dip in wind speed in the coming days might adversely affect pollution levels.

Sachin Panwar, an independent air quality expert, suggested that this reprieve may be short-lived and conditions will soon worsen with shifts in wind direction and low winds persisting after Nov 4, affecting the dispersal of pollutants. "Strong winds allowed the effective dispersal of pollutants. However, the situation will change with the change in

wind directions and calmer winds thereafter. Air quality might reach 'severe' levels after Nov 7," Panwar said.

Meanwhile, measures to bring down pollution levels in the city continue to be implemented. These include regular water sprinkling on roads, strict monitoring of construction activities, and enforcement of dust control measures at various sites. "Heavy vehicles will be diverted to the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway to prevent them from entering the city, which should help

reduce both congestion and emissions in urban areas," said Vijay Choudhary, regional officer of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board.

"We are also identifying pollution hotspots where traffic congestion and dust are present in abundance, and these areas will be given priority for repairs. Additionally, anti-smog guns will be installed at ten high-rise residential locations along major routes such as Southern Peripheral Road, Sohna Road, and Golf Course Extension Road. These measures aim to bring down particulate matter levels, especially near densely populated areas where residents are most affected by poor air quality," he added.

The minimum temperature in the city dropped to 17.4 degrees Celsius on Saturday from the previous day's 19 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature was recorded at 33.9 degrees Celsius. According to IMD forecast, the upcoming days will see mainly clear skies, and mornings will be misty. The minimum temperature is expected to hover around 16-17 degrees Celsius, while the maximum temperature will be around 32-33 degrees during the next week.

Govt plans multilevel parking at Udyog Vihar-4 to ease snarls in the corporate

Gurgaon. In an effort to tackle traffic and parking issues, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) is planning to construct a multilevel parking at Udyog Vihar-4. The parking lot will accommodate up to 500 cars and come up on 1.5 acres of land near Bihari Market. HSIIDC is in the process of finalising a consultant to conduct a technical and financial assessment for the project, which is estimated to cost around Rs 50 crore. This proposal now awaits final approval from the HSIIDC headquarters. "We prepared a proposal for a dedicated parking facility at Udyog Vihar. We have received an in-principle approval from the authority and have done a preliminary study. Now we'll engage a consultant. Once we get the approval, it will evaluate all aspects of the project, ensuring a self-



sustaining model for the facility. This multi-level parking project will be designed to relieve roadside parking congestion and improve traffic flow," said Arun Garg, deputy general manager, HSIIDC. Udyog Vihar currently has around 8-10 parking sites spread across its five phases. However, these are not enough for the daily footfall the area receives in the form of

corporate employees, visitors, and commercial traffic. The lack of an organised parking system here has led to roadsides becoming ad-hoc parking zones, causing frequent traffic snarls, especially during peak hours.

This is not HSIIDC's first attempt at solving the parking crisis in Udyog Vihar. In 2004, former chief minister Om Prakash Chautala laid the foundation stone for a multilevel parking facility designed to house 4,000 cars on a 4-acre plot in Vanija Kunj. However, despite its launch, the plan never progressed. The plot was ultimately auctioned in 2018 for Rs 1,496 crore from an 11-acre parcel that included the original parking site. Numerous other similar plans have been proposed over the years since then, but have remained largely on paper.

Sohna emerging as key residential market, 16k homes planned in next 3 years

Gurgaon. Once known for affordable housing, Sohna is fast developing as a prominent residential market in Gurgaon. Homebuyers, among them techies and marketing professionals, are being drawn to Sohna as the area has made strides in improving infrastructure and competitive pricing.

Real estate consultant Square Yards said that the number of housing units built in Sohna since 2020 exceeds its total from the decade before (2010-20). The average inventory age in the area is less than four years, a report released by the firm said on Monday. "As of 2024, 2BHK units make up 65% of the market's new supply, while 3BHK units account for 26%. Notably, properties priced above Rs 1 crore now constitute 34% of new supply, more than doubling from 15% in 2019," the report added. Developers and homebuyers said that projects such as the Sohna highway and the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC) have made it more accessible and attractive to investors.

Ravi Kapoor, a software engineer in his mid-thirties, was house-hunting in Gurgaon for over a year. After being priced out of prime locations like Golf Course Extension Road and Dwarka Expressway, he decided to explore Sohna, where he found a three-bedroom apartment in a recently launched project within his budget. "Sohna's connectivity has improved tremendously, and with new infrastructure like DMIC and the highway, it's a good deal for a salaried person like me and also a promising investment," Kapoor said. Seema Rajput, a marketing professional, said she used to think of Sohna as an area with only affordable housing projects. "But I visited the area and realised its potential. Connectivity improvements make it a viable option," Rajput, who has booked a 2BHK in a Sohna project, said. Developers are also pivoting towards Sohna. Pradeep Aggarwal, founder and chairman of Signature Global, said, "Sohna has emerged as one of the most sought-after real estate destinations for both homebuyers and investors. The area is now seamlessly connected to Gurgaon's established Central Business Districts (CBDs) and other key locations, as well as to major national highway corridors like the Delhi-Mumbai route." Signature Global, Ganga Realty, Central Park Group, Silverglades, Ashiana and other realtors plan to build 16,000 housing units over the next three years in Sohna. Rajat Likhani, principal partner at Square Yards Consulting, said demand for houses has surged in the area. "Property prices increased 13% in 2024 from the previous year," Likhani said, adding that costs are between Rs 7,500 and Rs 8,500 per sq ft. Vikas Garg, joint managing director of Ganga Realty, said Sohna was poised to become one of Gurgaon's most 'sought-after addresses'. Enhanced connectivity to Delhi

Dance, music, yoga: Stage set for a cultural fest at correctional homes

Noida. It is a usual day at the girls' correction home in Sector 62. Except it is not. The 20 minors at the home are busy preparing for a cultural carnival in the days leading to Children's Day in between their daily vocational training and counselling sessions. From skits to dances, sports to music competitions — the children will take part in an array of programmes that will be held over 10 days, starting Nov 10. Ninety-four juveniles housed at the boys' correction home in Phase 2 too are practising for a similar set of events over the week. A Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) official told TOI the carnival will be a break from routine activities. It will nurture creative talents and boost the morale of the children in conflict law housed here.

Many of these juveniles were sent to correctional homes in theft and assault cases. A few of them were brought in under the Narcotic Drugs

workouts, and recreational activities and counselling sessions later in the day. Family members are allowed to meet them once a week for up to 1 hour. On Sundays, they are allowed one phone call each. The legal intent of the homes is to aid in the children's rehabilitation and reintegration into society. "Such programmes are a transformative opportunity for these children, allowing them to learn, express, and aspire towards brighter futures within a supportive environment.

These activities are designed to foster a sense of accomplishment and self-worth among the children," a JJB official said. JJB (GB Nagar) principal magistrate Aakriti told TOI that the JJB officials have arranged for teachers who are training the children in dance, music and drama for the past few weeks. The opening day will feature skits and plays highlighting the lives of historical

The next day will see an array of sports competitions — cricket, hockey, football, badminton, carrom, chess, ludo, tennis, table tennis, kabaddi and kho-kho. Music and dance competitions will be held across Nov 12. "Children will perform patriotic and Bollywood songs. On Nov 13, we have organised a painting competition. Art is an excellent opportunity to open up, express yourself creatively and self-reflect," a JJB official said.

Children's Day (Nov 14) will feature a string of musical events and a drama. An exhibition of products handcrafted by the children during vocational training programmes will also be held on the sidelines. On Nov 20, the carnival will culminate with the release of a handbook and coffee table book, showcasing the achievements and stories of children who participated in skill development initiatives across the

Juvenile nabbed in fatal shooting of Delhi man, nephew

New Delhi: A juvenile was apprehended on Friday for his alleged involvement in the shooting incident in Shahdara's Farsh Bazar area on Diwali evening in which a man and his teenage nephew were killed while his 15-year-old son was injured, police said. According to police officials, the juvenile, a distant relative of the victim, claimed during interrogation that he had a dispute with Akash Sharma involving Rs 70,000 which led him to hatch a conspiracy to kill him. The accused, who is around 17, had hired a shooter to commit the crime, a police officer said. CCTV footage purportedly of the shooting incident that surfaced on social media on Friday showed one of the two accused touching Akash Sharma's feet before the other opened fire at him. The clip showed Akash along with his nephew Rishabh Sharma (16), and son Krish celebrating Diwali outside their house in Bihari Colony when around 8 pm the two accused came there on a Scooty. One of the bike riders touched Akash's feet while the other, wearing a mask and with a bottle in hand, stood nearby. Suddenly the masked man started firing, the footage from a CCTV camera showed. The shooter started running as he kept firing at Rishabh and Krish, who chased him. The three victims were taken to a hospital where Akash and Rishabh were declared dead while Krish was undergoing treatment, police said. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam said the juvenile accused, a distant relative of the victim, has been nabbed. "During interrogation, he said that he was having a financial dispute of Rs 70,000 with Akash. Investigations are still on and we are trying to nab the shooter," the DCP said. The officer said Akash had to return the money to the accused but was avoiding his calls and messages. According to the deceased's Bihari Colony when around 8 pm the two accused came there on a Scooty. One of the bike riders touched Akash's feet while the other, wearing a mask and with a bottle in hand, stood nearby. Suddenly the masked man started firing, the footage from a CCTV camera showed. The shooter started running as he kept firing at Rishabh and Krish, who chased him. The three victims were taken to a hospital where Akash and Rishabh were declared dead while Krish was undergoing treatment, police said. Deputy family, they had a rivalry with the accused and his kin over property and money. Akash's mother Shashi told reporters that they were getting threats for the past several days. "A day earlier, he came to our house with a packet of sweets. Since his family have an enmity with us, we avoided him," she said. "Because of that family, I lost my husband. Now my son and grandson have also been murdered," Shashi said. Another police officer said Akash used to run a cosmetics shop near his house and was booked several times in cases of gambling. The police said statements of the family members have been recorded and teams were formed to nab the shooter.

NAME CHANGE

I, JC-472604H Rank-SUB Name-RAJENDRA SINGH S/O GAJRAJ SINGH R/O VILL-KHAGA, TEH-KHAGA, DIST-FATEHPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-22855, have changed my minor daughter's name from ICHA SINGH to YASHASWI SINGH for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/11/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Rajendra Kumar Dwivedi S/O: Shiv Prasad Dwivedi R/O C-194 pocket T Kendriya vihar 2, sector-82, Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 201304, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Rajendra Kumar and Shive Prasad in my 10th class educational document and name of mine has been wrongly written as R K Dwivedi in my Pan card no AHFP07214F. The actual name of mine and my father are Rajendra Kumar Dwivedi and Shiv Prasad Dwivedi, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, WASHIM S/O DAJUD R/O UTTAWAR TEH HATHIN, HATHIN, Palwal, 121102, HARYANA, have changed my name to WASEEM

NAME CHANGE

I, PUNAM W/O PRASHANT R/O 3144, MAHINDRA PARK, RANI BAGH, NORTH WEST, DELHI-110034 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO POONAM KHURANA

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Rampati W/O Late Krishna Kumar R/O Permanent Address-Bachanpur, Kudwar, Kurwar, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh -228155, Present address HNO -10 B, DDA flats Anand Vihar delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sampati Devi

NAME CHANGE

I, AMIT KUMAR Son of JC-857085F, Rank-SUB, Name-SAGAR SINGH NITHARWAL residing at SEDU BABA KI DHANI, VILL-SITARAMI PURA, TEHSIL-CHIMLI, JALPAUR, RAJASTHAN-303712 have changed my name from AMIT KUMAR to AMIT KUMAR NITHARWAL for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 02/11/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, FIRDOS W/O NAFIS residing at HOUSE NO-13B-407 T HUTS NEW SEELAMPUR DELHI 110053 have changed my name to ANISA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, CHITTAR SINGH S/O JAL SINGH residing at H NO-93, SECTOR-17, NEAR BHANU COMPLEX, SUKHRALI, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001 have changed my name to CHITTAR SINGH for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Rampati W/O Krishna Kumar, Tiwari, R/O Permanent Address-Bachanpur, Kudwar, Kurwar, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh -228155, Present address HNO -10 B, DDA flats Anand Vihar delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sampati Devi

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as VENKATADRIAHARAM KESARY GOPAL alias GOPAL VENKATADRIAHARAM KESARY alias V K GOPAL S/O V G KESARY, R/O 66-C, DDA Flats, Phase-II, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash, South, Delhi, Delhi-110048, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as V K GOPAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for General information that I, SYEDA NIGHAT W/O SYED ABRAR, R/O HOUSE NO. H708, R/S, THIRD FLOOR, JAIPUR EXT, PART 2, BADARPUR, NEW DELHI 110044 declare that Name of My Father and my Mother have been Wrongly Written as NASEER AHMAD FIR and SALEEMA in my 10th AND GRADUATION CERTIFICATE/ Educational Documents. The Actual Name of My Father and my Mother are SYED NASEER AHMAD and SALEEMA BEGUM Respectively Which May be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, PRAVEEN KUMAR S/O NARENDRA SHARMA R/O A-41 D FLAT NO B4 GALI NO 3 EAST NAITTU COLONY, SHAHDARA NAND NAGRI, SHAH DAR, DELHI 110093, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRAVEEN KUMAR SHARMA for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I Parth C/O Indu gupta R/O 19/162 sarai rohila north delhi 110035, have changed my name to Parth Gupta

NAME CHANGE

I, Indu C/O Sumit Gupta R/O 19/162 sarai rohila north delhi 110035, have changed my name to Indu Gupta

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD YASEEN KHAN S/O SHABB DI KHAN, R/O HNB-533, MOHMAD ALI SHAHANPUR, UTTAR PRADESH-242001 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO YASEEN KHAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rupesh Chand Gour S/O Suresh Chand R/O E-30 Vidhyawati Niwas Jawahar Park Laxmi Nagar Delhi 110092 have changed my name to Rupesh Chand gour for all future purposes

NEWS BOX

Yoga, Indian classical dance gain popularity in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT. Indian movies, classical dances, yoga, and the Hindi language have gained considerable prominence across Uzbekistan, leading many local Uzbek women—from teenagers to adults as old as 72—to pursue learning these subjects at the Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture (LBSCIC) in Tashkent. BSCIC conducts over 40 weekly programmes showcasing Indian culture, which garners immense interest among the locals. "There are over 1,500 students enrolled in various courses, including Kathak, yoga, and Hindi. Everything Indian is much loved and appreciated here," Nigora, a translator at the Centre, told TNIE.

The Centre was established in 1995, three years after India established diplomatic ties with Uzbekistan. Initially known as the Indian Cultural Centre, it was renamed the Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture in March 2005. It is regarded as the largest Indian cultural centre in Central Asia. "The students are very enthusiastic about the Kathak classes I teach, and they rarely miss a session. My oldest student is 72, and she's just as skilled as the others. I also teach them other group dances, like garba," said Nikita, the Centre's dance instructor.

Yoga, too, has gained prominence in Uzbekistan, and many students regularly enrol in classes at the Centre. International Yoga Day was observed at the LBSCIC on June 21. The Centre also houses a well-equipped library with books on India in English, Hindi, Russian, and Uzbek, along with a reading room that stocks major Indian newspapers and magazines. In an effort to reach out to more Uzbek youth, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has established the 'India Chair' at the University of World Economy and Diplomacy in Tashkent.

Iran Vows 'Tooth-Breaking' Response To Israel As US Deploys B-52 Bombers In Middle East

World. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei promised a "teeth-breaking" response to Israel and the United States after Israel targeted Iranian military sites in retaliatory strikes late last month.

"The enemies, both the US and the Zionist regime (Israel), should know that they will definitely receive a teeth-breaking response for what they are doing against Iran and the resistance front," said Khamenei, referring to Iran-allied militant groups including Hamas and Hezbollah. He was speaking during a meeting with students on Saturday, ahead of the anniversary of the 1979 seizure of the US embassy in Tehran, Iran's state-run Press TV reported. "We are certainly doing everything necessary to prepare the Iranian nation to stand against arrogance, whether in terms of military readiness, armaments, or political actions, and thank God, our officials are currently engaged in this," he added. Also this week, Iran said it could increase the range of its missiles, according to a report in state-run media. "If the Islamic Republic of Iran faces an existential threat, we will inevitably change the policy of our military doctrine," the head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, Kamal Kharrazi, told Lebanon's al-Mayadeen TV on Friday, per Press TV. He also said Iran is capable of producing nuclear weapons but remains curbed by a mandate by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei against weapons of mass destruction, Press TV reported.

Khamenei's remarks come a week after Israel's latest round of strikes on Iran in response to the Islamic Republic's October 1 missile attack on the Jewish state, which itself was a response to the Israeli killing of leaders from Hamas and Hezbollah. For the first time, Israeli officials admitted hitting targets on Iranian soil in a significant escalation of tensions, although Israel stopped short of hitting Iranian energy or nuclear facilities.

Top Hezbollah Commander, Responsible For Rocket Attack On Children, Killed In Lebanon: Israel

The Israeli military on Sunday said that it eliminated top Hezbollah commander Jaafar Khader Faour, responsible for multiple rocket attacks in Israel since October last year, including the July 2024 attack that killed 12 children on a soccer field. Faour was the commander of Hezbollah's Nasser Brigade rocket unit in southern Lebanon. Hezbollah did not immediately comment or confirm Faour's death.

What did the IDF say about Faour's killing? "The Commander of the Hezbollah Nasser Unit's Missiles and Rockets Array, Jaafar Khader Faour, was eliminated in the area of Jouaiyya in southern Lebanon. Faour was responsible for multiple rocket attacks toward the Golan, including an attack that



resulted in the deaths of Israeli civilians from Kibbutz Ortal, an attack on Majdal Shams which killed 12 children and injured many and the rocket attack on Metula last Thursday, which resulted in the deaths of 5 civilians," IDF tweeted. Additionally, Faour was responsible for terrorist attacks carried out from eastern Lebanon, from which the first rocket launches toward Israeli territory were fired on October 8, under his command," it added. 12 children were killed in July this year as a rocket fired by Lebanon struck a soccer field in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights on Majdal Shams. This was the deadliest attack in Israel by Hezbollah since the escalation between the two began in October 2023, soon after Hamas launched a deadly attack in Israel on the 7th of the month, killing hundreds and taking over 200 people hostage.

Kamala Harris remembers her mother Shyamala Gopalan: Came from India alone at 19

Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris shared a childhood picture with her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris and said that her mother's 'courage and determination' inspired her.

World US Vice President and Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris said that her mother's "courage and determination" was the inspiration behind her achievements. Sharing a childhood picture with her mother, Shyamala Gopalan Harris, she said in a post on X, "My mother, Dr. Shyamala Gopalan Harris, came to the United States from India alone at the age of 19. Her courage and determination made me who I am today." Harris has talked about her mother, who was a scientist, in several of

her speeches. The anecdotes about her mother have helped Harris to talk about feminism and racism. Notably, during her rally in Washington this week, the person she mentioned the most, after Republican presidential candidate and former US president Donald Trump, was her mother, according to a report by news agency AFP. She also talks about her mother's American experience as a woman of colour, a concept she hardly ever discusses as it pertains to her own life. Harris refrains from mentioning that she would become the first female US president if elected, as well as the first Black woman and person of South Asian descent to be the president.

In her first speech as the party's official presidential nominee, Harris talked about the journey of her mother, who left India at 19 years to do a master's degree in California. Kamala's mother, Shyamala Gopalan, went on to become a breast cancer researcher, who contributed to the development of treatments for the disease. Gopalan met Jamaican immigrant Donald Harris in the 1960s at the University of California in Berkeley, where he had



come to study economics. Kamala Harris was born to them in 1964. After her parents divorced when she was five, Kamala and her sister Maya were mainly raised by Shyamala. "She taught us to never complain about injustice, but do something about it," Harris has said. Harris uses stories from her childhood to make a more personal connection with voters, and emphasise how she intends to work for middle-class



families that reflect her own upbringing. The US Vice President often talks about how her mother "worked long hours," and then sat late at night drinking tea with "a pile of bills in front of her." Harris also says that her mother kept a strict budget. She also talked about caring for her sick mother, preparing meals and choosing clothes that would not irritate her skin. Shyamala died in 2009 after a battle with colon cancer.

Cardi B slams Elon Musk over 'puppet' remark: I am a daughter of two immigrants



World. With two days left to go for the US elections, Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B slammed tech billionaire Elon Musk for calling her a "puppet" for the campaign of Democrat nominee Kamala Harris. Sharing the clip of Cardi B's speech on X, which he owns,

the self-proclaimed "dark gothic MAGA" said that the rapper is "another puppet who can't even talk without being fed the words." At a rally in Milwaukee, a video captured the "WAP" rapper supporting Democratic candidate Kamala Harris. During her

speech, a teleprompter glitch caused a brief delay until someone stepped in, handing her a phone with the necessary speech points. "The Kamala campaign has no authenticity or true empathy," Musk added.

To which Cardi B swiftly responded, "I'm not a puppet, Elon... I'm the daughter of two immigrant parents that had to work their a** off to provide for me. I'm a product of welfare; I'm a product of Section 8 (rental housing assistance); I'm a product of poverty; and I'm a product of what happens when the system is set against you. But you don't know anything about that. You don't know not one thing about the American struggle... PS, fix my algorithm," she added. Elon Musk was born in South Africa to affluent parents. His father, Errol Musk, reportedly held a partial stake in an emerald mine in Zambia.

For first time, Canada names India as 'adversary' in cyber threat report amid ongoing diplomatic crisis

CHANDIGARH. The Canadian government has, for the first time, labelled India as an "adversary" in its National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026, published by the country's Centre for Cyber Security. The report comes at a time when diplomatic relations between both countries have hit rock bottom, following Ottawa's repeated accusations of New Delhi's involvement in campaigns targeting Sikh separatists inside Canada. India has rejected Canada's allegations, calling them "absurd." In its report released earlier this week, under the section 'Cyber Threat from State Adversaries', India has been listed alongside China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. The report, in reference to India, states: "We assess that Indian state-sponsored cyber threat actors likely conduct cyber threat activity against Government of Canada networks for the purpose of espionage. We judge that official bilateral relations between Canada and India will very likely drive Indian state-sponsored cyber threat activity against Canada." The report continues: "India's



leadership almost certainly aspires to build a modernised cyber program with domestic cyber capabilities. India very likely uses its cyber program to advance its national security imperatives, including espionage, counterterrorism, and the country's efforts to promote its global status and counter narratives against India and the Indian government. We assess that India's cyber program likely leverages commercial cyber vendors to enhance its operations." At a recent press conference, Caroline Xavier, Chief of Canada's communications security establishment, had stated: "It is clear that we are seeing India as an emerging cyber threat actor." Meanwhile, the report also claimed that a hacktivist

group allegedly linked to India had conducted cyberattacks against Canadian websites following the onset of diplomatic tensions last year.

"Diplomatic tensions are also inspiring hacktivist activity. After Canada accused India of involvement in the killing of a Canadian citizen, a pro-India hacktivist group claimed to have defaced and conducted brief DDoS attacks against websites in Canada, including the public-facing website of the Canadian Armed Forces," the report stated in the section titled 'Geopolitically Inspired Non-State Actors are Creating Unpredictability'.

This was in reference to Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was shot dead in Vancouver on June 18, 2023. Four Indian nationals living in Canada have been charged with Nijjar's murder and are awaiting trial.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in September 2023 there were credible allegations that India's government had links to the killing. India denied the allegations at the time, calling them "absurd" and "motivated."

Israeli forces capture senior Hezbollah operative in north Lebanon, Israeli military official says

BATROUN. Israeli naval forces captured a senior Hezbollah operative in north Lebanon, an Israeli military official said Saturday. Earlier on Saturday, Lebanese authorities said it was investigating whether Israel was behind the capture of a Lebanese sea captain who was taken away by a group of armed men who had landed on the coast near the northern town of Batroun Friday. "The operative has been transferred to Israeli territory and is currently being investigated," the military official said, without providing the name of the person in detention. Two Lebanese military officials confirmed to the Associated Press that a naval force landed in Batroun, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) north of Beirut, and abducted a Lebanese citizen. Neither gave the man's identity or said whether he was thought to have links to Lebanon's Hezbollah group. They did not confirm whether the armed men were an Israeli force. Speaking to Lebanon's Al-Jadeed TV, Minister of Public Works and Transport Ali Hamie declined to go into details or answer questions about whether it was thought to be an Israeli operation. Three Lebanese judicial officials told AP the incident occurred at dawn Friday, adding that the captain might have links with Hezbollah. The officials said an investigation is looking into the man is linked to Hezbollah or working for an Israeli spy agency and an Israeli force came to rescue him. Both the military and judicial officials spoke on the condition of anonymity as they were unauthorized to share details about the incident or the ongoing investigation. Hezbollah issued a statement calling what happened a "Zionist aggression in the Batroun area." The statement did not give details or confirm whether one of Hezbollah's members was captured by Israel.

Israel has carried out in the past commando operations deep inside Lebanon to kidnap or kill Hezbollah and Palestinian officials. Residents of the apartment building where the man was seized said the armed group introduced themselves as state security. "We were terrified. They were breaking into the apartment next to ours," Hussein Delbani told The Associated Press near where the man was captured. "I thought a state agency was doing a security operation," said Delbani, who was displaced from south Lebanon a month ago when the Israel-Hezbollah war erupted. He said he saw from his balcony people down on the coast and they screamed again for him to go inside. Hamie told Al-Jadeed the man was a captain of civilian ships. He graduated in 2022 and in late September joined the Batroun's Maritime Sciences and Technology Institute for additional courses.

Still wrecked from past Israeli raids, northern Gaza hospitals face new attacks

JERUSALEM. They were built to be places of healing. But once again, three hospitals in northern Gaza are encircled by Israeli troops and under fire. Bombardment is pounding around them as Israel wages a new offensive against Hamas fighters that it says have regrouped nearby. As staff scramble to treat waves of wounded, they remain haunted by a war that has seen hospitals targeted with an intensity and overtone rarely seen in modern warfare. All three were besieged and raided by Israeli troops some 10 months ago. The Kamal Adwan, al-Awda and Indonesian hospitals still have not recovered from the damage, yet are the only hospitals even partially operational in the area. Medical facilities often come under fire in wars, but combatants usually depict such incidents as accidental or exceptional, since hospitals enjoy special protection under international law. In its yearlong campaign in Gaza, Israel has stood out by carrying out an open campaign on hospitals, besieging and raiding at least 10 of them across the Gaza Strip, some several times, as well as hitting multiple others in strikes. It has said this is a military necessity in its aim to destroy

Hamas after the militants' Oct. 7, 2023 attacks. It claims Hamas uses hospitals as "command and control bases" to plan attacks, to shelter fighters and to hide hostages. It argues that nullifies the protections for hospitals.

"If we intend to take down the military infrastructure in the north, we have to take down the philosophy of (using) the hospitals," Israeli military spokesman Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari said of Hamas during an interview with The Associated Press in January after the first round of hospital raids. Most prominently, Israel twice raided Gaza City's Shifa Hospital, the biggest medical facility in the strip, producing a video animation depicting it as a major Hamas base, though the evidence it presented remains disputed. But the focus on Shifa has overshadowed raids on other facilities. The AP spent months gathering accounts of the raids on al-Awda, Indonesian and Kamal Adwan Hospitals, interviewing more than three dozen patients, witnesses and medical and humanitarian workers as well as Israeli officials. It found that Israel has presented little or even no evidence of a significant Hamas presence in those cases. The AP presented a dossier listing the

incidents reported by those it interviewed to the Israeli military spokesman's office. The office said it could not comment on specific events. Al-Awda Hospital: "A death sentence" The Israeli military has never made any claims of a Hamas presence at al-Awda. When asked what intelligence led troops to besiege and raid the hospital last year, the military spokesman's office did not reply. In recent weeks, the hospital has been paralyzed once again, with Israeli troops fighting in nearby Jabalia refugee camp and no food, water or medical supplies entering areas of northern Gaza. Its director Mohammed Salha said last month that the facility was surrounded by troops and was unable to evacuate six critical patients. Staff were down to eating one meal a day, usually just a flat bread or a bit of rice, he said. As war-wounded poured in, exhausted surgeons were struggling to treat them. No vascular surgeons or neurosurgeons remain north of Gaza City, so the doctors often resort to amputating shrapnel-shattered limbs to save lives. "We are reliving the nightmares of November and December of last year, but worse," Salha said. "We have fewer supplies, fewer doctors and less hope that anything will

be done to stop this." The military, which did not respond to a specific request for comment on al-Awda hospital, says it takes all possible precautions to prevent civilian casualties. Last year, fighting was raging around al-Awda when, on Nov. 21, a shell exploded in the facility's operating room. Dr. Mahmoud Abu Nujaila, two other doctors and a patient's uncle died almost instantly, according to international charity Doctors Without Borders, which said it had informed the Israeli military of its coordinates. Dr. Mohammed Obeid, Abu Nujaila's colleague, recalled dodging shellfire inside the hospital complex. Israeli sniper fire killed a nurse and two janitors and wounded a surgeon, hospital officials said. By Dec. 5, al-Awda was surrounded. For 18 days, coming or going became "a death sentence," Obeid said. Survivors and hospital administrators recounted at least four occasions when Israeli drones or snipers killed or badly wounded Palestinians trying to enter. Two women about to give birth were shot and bled to death in the street, staff said. Salha, the administrator, watched gunfire kill his cousin, Souma, and her 6-year-old.

News box

Dalit, adivasi organisations to seek law against sub-categorisation of SC/ST list

KOCHI: A national conclave of dalit and adivasi organisations will be convened during the first week of February next year, demanding a law to nullify a Supreme Court judgment allowing the sub-categorisation of scheduled castes/ scheduled tribes in the quota system. "A coordination committee was formed to facilitate the same during the south Indian conclave held in Kottayam on



October 13, 14. A two-day workshop, focusing on the various topics to be discussed during the national conclave, will be held at Kaloore Renewal Centre on November 23 and 24," said K Ambujakshan, general convener. On August 1, a 7-judge Constitutional bench of the apex court upheld the validity of sub-classifications within the SC and ST categories. "99 per cent of the nearly 1,800 communities of SC/ST had not demanded the sub-classifications. The political parties are maintaining silence regarding the sub-classification issue," he added.

Mission to test human endurance in harsh space conditions takes off in Leh

KURNOOL: A rally was held on Saturday with the slogan of 'Save Kappatralla' by people from 10 villages in Devanakonda mandal in protest against the Centre's approval for uranium exploration in the Reserve Forest area. The rally was taken out by the villagers with the support of Left parties, civil organisations and students demanding the immediate stoppage of drilling in the forest area. The Centre has granted permission to drill 68 boreholes in the area to assess uranium reserves, a decision that has alarmed Kappatralla villagers, who fear that mining operations could devastate their communities and farmland. The Director of Atomic Minerals has permitted the exploration activities, and the State forest department is cooperating with the project. However, local people continue to voice their concerns, having already approached the district collector last Monday to seek intervention. Local farmers fear that their agriculture land might lose the fertility. Villagers from Kappatralla, P Kotakonda, Bethapalli, Chellela Chelimala, Madapuram, Gundlakonda, and other neighbouring areas attended meeting at the Koulutla Chennakesava Swamy temple to express their solidarity with the stir. According to Kappatralla village Sarpanch Chenama Naidu, the area in question encompasses 468.25 hectares of land in the Pathikonda Section of Adoni Forest Range.

Telangana HC rejects plea by son of ex-MLA on order allowing probe into hit-and-run case

HYDERABAD: Upholding the order by the XVII Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in a hit-and-run case involving Mohammad Raheel Aamir, son of former MLA Mohammad Shakil Aamir, Justice K. Sujana of the Telangana High Court has permitted further investigation in case CC No. 3592 of 2022. The court's decision followed a thorough examination of the material facts. It noted that the respondents had filed a memo in the trial court requesting permission to conduct additional investigations, citing the absence of crucial evidence. The judge pointed out that since the trial had not yet commenced, allowing further investigation would not prejudice the accused. Citing Section 173(8) of the Cr.PC, the judge reiterated that the filing of a chargesheet does not prevent the police from conducting further inquiries. Counsel for Raheel argued that the order violated legal principles outlined in Section 173(8), asserting that the case was at the witness examination stage, and that further investigations would constitute an abuse of process. Counsel also claimed that the police's decision to modify the charge to one under Section 304(II) of the IPC was illegal and infringed upon Articles 14 and 21 of the Constitution. In response, the Government Pleader (Home) defended the magistrate's decision, stating that the order was lawful and justified. He referenced a counter-affidavit from the deputy commissioner of police, which highlighted shortcomings in the initial investigation and called for a dedicated team to reassess the case. After reviewing both sides, the High Court found no illegality in the magistrate's order and allowed the prosecution to continue with its investigation.

Odisha govt to bolster emergency centres to tackle natural calamities

BHUBANESWAR: The Odisha government has decided to strengthen the state emergency operation centre (SEOC) and the district emergency units to respond to calamities and other emergencies more efficiently in the future. Officials in the Odisha State Disaster Management Authority (OSDMA) said the project will be implemented as one of the components of the World Bank-funded Odisha State Capability and Resilient Growth Programme (OSCRGP) in the state. Under the programme, the government plans to equip the SEOC with hotline service, a point-to-point direct communication link set up for its use in emergencies, for effective disaster management. This apart, it also plans a cell broadcasting system for the entire state to reach out to the population in specific zones or locations with early warning dissemination through the emergency operation centres. "The operation centres play a critical role during disasters for which it is essential to equip them in utilising early warning information to respond to emergencies more efficiently," said OSDMA executive director Kamal Lochan Mishra. These centres will be equipped with adequate tools and technology to enable them to have ready access to information. The SEOC serves as a



central command and control facility for coordinating disaster response and recovery efforts during emergencies. It also serves as a hub where information is gathered, decisions are made and resources allocated during emergencies such as cyclones, floods or any other natural or manmade disasters. The emergency units set up in all 30 district headquarters also play an important role in effective multi-agency coordination and inter-governmental responses to disaster events on the ground. Considering their importance, six of the units have been made functional in the coastal belt of the state round-the-clock. OSDMA sources said strengthening of the SEOC and district emergency units will help in integrating impact-based forecast and risk-based early warning information to carry out seamless operations. Mishra said the project will be implemented with the help of Odisha Computer Application Centre (OCAC) within a year. "The GIS Cell of OSDMA that provides technical support to the EOCs will also be strengthened with the help of OCAC," he added.

Newly married woman killed in group clash near Udangudi in Tamil Nadu

THOOTHUKUDI: A 20-year-old newly married woman was killed in the backdrop of a group clash, which involved her brother, at Satharakonvilai near Udangudi on Saturday. Sources said that Govindan (21), son of Sivan of Satharakonvilai, had stopped one Sakthikumar of Padukapathu and asked him to slow down while driving in the street on Tuesday. However, this turned into an argument, and Sakthikumar went to Govindan's house on the same day, with a group of 20 persons but he was not home. Sources further said that Sakthikumar came to the village for peace talks with one Manikandan, who was the son of a temple 'dharmakartha'. However, Govindan and his father Sivan refused to budge, as Manikandan threatened them to be quiet. Govindan allegedly assaulted Manikandan during the peace talk, which left the latter hospitalised. In connection with this, Govindan and his father surrendered at the Kulasekarapattinam police station, added sources. Meanwhile, Govindan's sister Muthulakshmi (20), wife of Veyilmuthu of Alagappapuram, was at her father Sivan's house to celebrate Deepavali, sources said. On Friday evening, she was distributing milk to nearby houses, when Manikandan's brother Subbiah Das allegedly stabbed her to avenge the attack on his brother Manikandan by Govindan. As she had multiple injuries, she was admitted to Thoothukudi Medical College Hospital, where she passed away late on Friday. Kulasekarapattinam police registered a case against Subbiah Das and launched a search for him.

DTPC proposes 'all-night spots' to boost nightlife

KOCHI: Ernakulam's District Tourism Promotion Council (DTPC) is planning to develop 'all-night spots' on the lines of the Manaveeyam Veedhi in the state capital. And the proposal has reinforced the growing demand to deploy open-roof double-decker buses that Transport Minister K B Ganesh Kumar had recently promised the city. "We're planning to develop 'cultural night spots' on the lines of the one in Thiruvananthapuram. The places under consideration are Munambam and Marine Drive. However, this would require GCDA (Greater Cochin Development Authority) to allot the required space," DTPC secretary Sathesh Miranda told TNIE. The minister had recently promised to introduce open-roof double-decker buses in Ernakulam for tourist operations, on the lines of the successful city tour rides in the state capital. "The plan is to convert the existing double-decker with Angamaly depot into an open-roof one after December 1, when the contract period for the adverts on the



bus ends. We're awaiting further orders as to its deployment. If the service is successful, then another double-decker, currently with Thalassery depot, could also be deployed," a senior KSRTC official said. There is constant demand to expand Kochi's already bustling nightlife. Many tea shops

and eateries now function late into the night. Apart from malls, areas like the Queens Walkway are also attracting visitors after dusk. "Domestic tourists come to the city to experience the malls and the backwater. It also frequently hosts important football matches, which attract youths from the northern districts in droves. Most of the long-distance trains leave depart from the city past midnight, and this leaves ample scope for double-decker services at night when the roads are relatively empty. We should follow the example of cities such as Hong Kong, Singapore and London, which operate successful double-decker night services," said Ramesh Mathew, a former journalist who returned from Doha a couple of years ago. "Nightlife is essential as far as a city is concerned. However, certain facilities must first be ensured, such as basic infrastructure, a change in cultural attitude, security and cleanliness. We're working on all that," mayor M Anilkumar said.

Clear stray dogs from Dharmapuri stadium, urge residents

When TNIE spoke to the staff managing the stadium, they said, "So far there have been no incidents caused by these dogs and most often even if we chase them away, they keep coming back."

DHARMAPURI: The residents and sports persons training at the Dharmapuri stadium are distressed by stray dogs loitering around here and disrupting their training and fitness routine. The Dharmapuri stadium is one of the key locations where school, college students, and elderly people gather for their daily fitness routines and aspiring athletes train for their competitions. However, the increasing number of stray dogs in the stadium interrupts them. Hence, residents sought the municipality to take steps to curb the dog population. S Muniraj, a resident of Pidamineri said, "The stadium is often visited by elderly people, youth, aspiring athletes, and



those aspiring to be in the uniformed services. On average, at least 200 people come here daily. However, for the past year, people coming here have been increasingly distressed by stray dogs as they either bark at them or chase the people walking here. It won't be long

before someone gets bit. The elderly people are the most distressed as they are not able to chase away these dogs." P Kadiresan, an athlete training here, said, "Many youths like me train here for various events like Kabadi, Volleyball, Sprint, and many others. Some are training for their state or nation levels and during training, if they get bitten, it will severely affect their performance. So, efforts must be taken to ensure that the athletes and others are not harmed." When TNIE spoke to the staff managing the stadium, they said, "So far there have been no incidents caused by these dogs and most often even if we chase them away, they keep coming back." When TNIE tried to contact municipal.

Andhra youth held for rape, murder of three-year-old girl

Condemning the incident, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday warned of stringent action against persons resorting to atrocities against women.

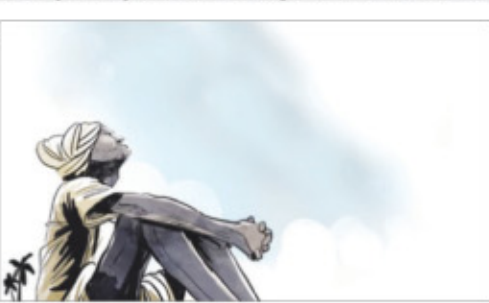
TIRUPATI: In a horrifying incident, a three-and-a-half-year-old girl was allegedly raped and murdered by a close relative at EM Puram in Vadamalapet mandal, Tirupati district. The suspect, identified as Nagaraj alias Sushanth (22), reportedly lured the minor girl with chocolates around 4.30 pm on Friday. He then took her to a secluded area and committed the crime. He allegedly buried her body at the scene. When the child was nowhere to be found, her parents questioned Sushanth as he was last seen with the girl. After he reportedly confessed to the crime, the girl's body was traced and sent to Puttur Government Hospital for a post-mortem. Police



Odisha: In parched Ganjam, fight over irrigation water claims a farmer's life

The bloody incident has come as an outcome of a poor monsoon for the district that not only impacted agriculture but has also hit irrigation.

BERHAMPUR: As Ganjam reels under poor rainfall and the spectre of hopelessness looms large for agricultural community, a 42-year-old farmer was allegedly murdered in what was believed to be escalation of a fight over irrigation water in a village within Dharkote police limits of the district. The incident took place in Kusarab village where Panchu Gouda was found dead near his farmland on Saturday morning. Sources said Panchu had left home last evening to irrigate his land. However, some other farmers who too wanted to irrigate their land reportedly had a fight with him which resulted in an attack that left the 42-year-old with critical injuries.



As he did not return, his family started a search but in vain. This morning, Panchu's body was found. His family lodged a complaint with the police and a scientific team reached the spot and began investigation. As probe into the alleged murder begins, the bloody incident has come as an outcome of a poor monsoon for the district that not only impacted agriculture but has also hit irrigation with most reservoirs holding very little water

worried because the farmlands with standing paddy have developed cracks and crops in uplands have turned dry. "If there is no rain soon, the district may face a drought-like situation," he said. According to irrigation office sources, the district receives 187.9 mm rain in October against which it received just 45.49 mm this year. As a result, the reservoirs also have water stock much less than their storage capacity. Data reveals Bhanjanagar reservoir's water storage is just 23.09 pc of its capacity, followed by Soroda (26.03 pc), Daha (13.88 pc), Baghua (11.16 pc) Ghodahada (10.12 pc), Ghatakeswar (8.86 pc), Baghalati (7.08 pc), Badanala (26.78 pc) and Harabhangi (11.32 pc) storage. Dhanei reservoir is the only exception with 87.46 pc storage. Despite scarcity, in emergency cases, water is being released through canals of barrages and diversion weirs to save the standing crop but much below than their capacity. While Gallery barrage is designed to discharge 18.40 cumecs, the actual discharge has been only 1.96 cumecs.

detrained Sushanth and booked a case under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act for rape and relevant sections of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) for murder. Condemning the incident, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday warned of stringent action against persons resorting to atrocities against women. **Register case against ex-MP under POCSO Act: Vasireddy** This is even more so in cases of minors who may find it extremely difficult to withstand social boycotts and mental harassment that usually follows such incidents, which may even scar them for life, she said. Further, she requested the CP to register an FIR against Madhav and the management of the TV news channel under the POCSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) Act. Stating that this was not the first time Madhav had demeaned women, she recalled, "In 2022, a video of the former MP talking to a woman on a video call naked had gone viral." Calling for strict action, she stressed that it was high time politicians like Madhav understand the repercussions of their actions and are held accountable so that it sent out a strong message that the safety and dignity of women is not to be treated frivolously.

We have learnt nothing from 1984

IT was early 1985, perhaps the end of February. I saw a notice somewhere that Khushwant Singh was going to speak about the final days of Indra Gandhi's rule and its aftermath. The venue was the Press Club of India. In those days, Delhi had not surrendered its beautiful spring weather to smog and breathlessness. When I reached the Press Club, its lawn was already packed. I spotted the last few empty chairs shining in the late afternoon sun at the grassy lawn's edge. Khushwant delivered his long lecture in a steady, scholarly voice. His column 'With Malice Towards One and All' and his jokes had given him a popular profile, but those who knew about his two-volume history of the Sikhs were aware of his erudition. That evening, he took the silent audience through all the details of the shipwreck Delhi and the country had experienced over the previous few months. He said Indra's decision to choose a military solution to the Golden Temple crisis was deeply flawed.

Everyone in the audience knew how close and loyal he had been to Indira. He and many others had suggested alternative ways to deal with the situation. The riots that followed her assassination across the country had laid bare the vulnerable state of India's democracy, he said. The violence against Sikhs was politically inspired and the mass killings were publicly instigated in Delhi and other cities. Three years later, when Raj Thapar, Managing Editor of Seminar (it closed last year), died, Khushwant wrote in his column that the riots triggered her cancer. I agree with him. Witnessing the Delhi massacre was an experience like none other. From my balcony in a South Delhi flat, I saw a young Sikh crouching behind the water tank on his house's roof, his arms stretched across his two young children, while a howling crowd beat on the door downstairs. The younger sister of my old Sikh friend, a Hindi teacher in Madhya Pradesh, was staying with us. I didn't want our maid to know that she was merely a friend, so I told my two-year-old son to call her 'bua'. And I told her not to appear at the balcony. My parents had witnessed the Partition. They chose not to tell me anything they had seen. Shall I do the same?

Schools were shut for a fortnight in early November. When they reopened, I remember sitting in a Grade-6 English class at Bal Bharati School on Lodhi Road. As a supervisor of BEd trainees, my job was to sit in classes and write advisory notes on their lesson plan book. My student did what English teachers routinely do: wrote a few words used in the text on the blackboard and asked children to use them in their own sentences. One of these words was 'arrive'. A boy who instantly raised his hand had made this sentence: "When a Sikh arrived in Delhi, Hindus killed him." My student looked perplexed. She knew that the government had issued strict orders to avoid any mention of the riots in classes. The sentence using 'arrive' was grammatically correct. The class I attended next was a civics lesson. That day, the topic was 'The Rights and Duties of Governors'. Our system encourages teachers to mind their own business, i.e. teach their own subject. An English teacher, therefore, focuses on grammar. Civics teachers would not be expected to discuss riots. When I narrated the English-class episode in my book Learning from Conflict (current edition: Education, Conflict and Peace), some readers said they were shocked.

A student asked me what the trainee teacher could do when the school authorities didn't want anything 'real' to be mentioned, let alone discussed, in a class. Decades have passed, and I still hear stories of principals harassing teachers who dare take a stand on anything. They are supposed to act like robots. And if they are soon replaced by robots, we shouldn't be surprised. India's social sphere continues to witness public horror — lynchings, riots, rapes — but the teacher is supposed to stay silent, concentrating on the subject and the prescribed textbook. The latest policy expectation from them is to enhance outcomes.

The bitter truth behind pretty-looking fruit

Good looks, dictated by what should be the perfect colour, curves in all the right places and a certain oomph, do matter. In our appearance-obsessed society where women, and some men, work tirelessly to conform to an impossible idea of...

Good looks, dictated by what should be the perfect colour, curves in all the right places and a certain oomph, do matter. In our appearance-obsessed society where women, and some men, work tirelessly to conform to an impossible idea of beauty, how can our fruit and vegetables be treated differently? How can we be seen eating or gifting a not-so-perfect apple or mango? The quest for the reddest apples or bright yellow bananas or mangoes, it seems, has almost been achieved. If you haven't noticed it already, something strange is happening to the fruit available in the market nowadays. Fruit stalls look bright and beautiful. However, consumers are becoming increasingly unsatisfied with the quality of the fruit they pick up from supermarkets or vendors. How often have you bought some beautiful apples only to find them tasteless and lacking in flavour or some of them developing a cottony texture within days? Discerning consumers have to search hard to find sweet and crunchy apples nowadays. The prettiest bananas are difficult to peel and tasteless to eat. Golden mangoes come with a strangely gooey core.

Meet ethephon, the hot new agro-pesticide in town that is doing much to enhance the looks of our fruit, even as its use affects their taste and flavour. Ever since the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) approved its use for ripening fruit in August 2018, it has seduced farmers and invaded fields and orchards. Last year, the FSSAI banned the use of calcium carbide, which releases acetylene gas, commonly called 'masala'. Instead, it permitted ethephon in limited quantity, to be used in sachets on the condition that it should not come in contact with the fruit. The chemical, an organophosphorus pesticide, which goes under the innocuous description of 'plant growth regulator', generates the natural hormone ethylene in fruit to advance their maturity. The FSSAI has permitted its use only in the powder form, and only to generate ethylene gas for the artificial ripening of fruit. The permissible quantity is not more than 0.5 gm for 10 kg of fruit. Fair enough. After all, fruit has to be transported over long distances and this is possible only if it is plucked when still unripe. It needs a little help to become soft and sweet during the journey.

But ethephon's wonder (mis) use, as farmers have

discovered, is that if sprayed on unripe fruit that is still on the branch, ethephon promotes a stunningly good colour and shine on the outside, even when the fruit pulp inside is still unripe. For instance, in Himachal Pradesh, hundreds of gallons of ethephon, manufactured by leading chemical companies, are bought in July and August to be sprayed directly on the still green apples on the branches, to prepare them for early marketing in the mandis. Ethephon



increases the rate of anthocyanin synthesis, the pigment which gives the red apples and other fruits their colour. But these good looks, which are prized in the market, come at a price because apples sprayed with ethephon are tasteless and deteriorate faster than usual, making it harder to store them.

Traders are happy to offer a better price for the uniformly red, shiny apples. Unsurprisingly, the buzz in the mandi and retailer circuits is that fruit from Himachal Pradesh is not sweet any more. Plums, apples, pears, pomegranates, all are mostly sprayed with ethephon before harvesting.

Everyone is in on this secret, except the consumer. But who cares? The supply chain knows that the average customer still goes for the best-looking fruit in the vain hope that it will be tasty. In August, HP Chief Minister, Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, drew attention towards the rising cancer cases in the state and urged the farmers to adopt chemical-free farming. A state which was once known to produce relatively clean and chemical-free vegetables and fruits no longer commands a spot in that space. Sukhu wants to expand natural farming in HP and has initiated steps for the certification, branding and marketing of

natural farming products. But all the power that he wields cannot beat the allure of market forces driving the premium on good-looking produce.

Some 10 years ago, Dr YS Parmar University of Horticulture and Forestry in HP approved the use of 1 ml/per litre of ethephon in its package of practices (PoP) for apples. It is an accepted low dose. Ethephon was subsequently taken off the university's PoP, but farmers didn't stop. They are now using it in far larger doses of 4-5 ml/per litre, sprayed a week or 10 days before the harvest. The state Horticulture Department lacks the resources to monitor and stop its use, and watches its rampant misuse helplessly. The Jammu and Kashmir Government banned the use of ethephon in 2017 due to its harmful effects on human and plant health. It is a highly corrosive acid, which can cause serious health issues if consumed, including damage to the upper respiratory tract, oesophagus burns, neurological problems and liver toxicity. The ban was based on recommendations from the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology, Kashmir, and the Law Enforcement Directorate. In January 2022, the Telangana High Court, after hearing a petition that sought a ban on ethephon in that state, went along with the FSSAI recommendations. It held that if the chemical is kept in small pouches to generate ethylene gas, there is no conflict of the statutory provisions as contained in the Insecticides Rules or the Food Safety and Standards Act. Last March, the FSSAI noted in a press release that despite these directions, traders and handlers were misusing the approved sources of ethylene gas (read ethephon) by dipping fruit in ripening agent solutions, making the fruit unsafe for human consumption. Bananas and mangoes are dunked in tubs of ethephon solution to make them pretty and soft. Scientists have reported that regular consumption of artificially ripened fruit may cause dizziness, weakness, skin ulcer and liver-related diseases. Fruits harvested at proper maturity release ethylene gas naturally that aids in their ripening. But nobody wants to wait; everyone is in a hurry to take the fruit to the market. The buck, however, stops at the consumer's door. The day consumer decides that he/she will not allow good looks to trump taste and flavour, we might go back to the days when the taste of fruit felt real and natural.

Senior citizens' care

Politics undermines public health scheme

THE recent expansion of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) to provide health coverage to citizens aged 70 and above is a significant move in India's public health landscape. However, the rollout on public health has sparked a public spat between the Centre and Opposition-led states, particularly Delhi and West Bengal. PM Narendra Modi has claimed that these state governments have opted out of the scheme due to "political interests". This tension raises a pressing question: should public health, especially for vulnerable senior citizens, be subject to political manoeuvring? Ayushman Bharat offers an annual coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family. It is a boon for many elderly individuals whose healthcare needs are often financially crippling. However, notably, this welfare measure differs from the ones prevailing in Western countries. Out-of-pocket expenses



in India remain quite high. The scheme's curative approach lags behind the preventive care systems seen in

the west, where comprehensive, tax-funded programmes prioritise proactive health interventions.

In contrast, Delhi's health model has garnered international praise for its accessibility and preventive care focus. However, by refusing Ayushman Bharat, states like Delhi may deny their elderly residents an additional safety net. For senior citizens facing health crises, any opportunity for comprehensive health coverage can be life-changing. The political impasse only undermines their wellbeing. Healthcare for seniors must transcend the political divide. A pragmatic approach could integrate elements from both the Delhi and Ayushman Bharat models, ensuring efficient, accountable and accessible healthcare across states. A national framework that reflects a commitment to all citizens, regardless of state politics, is needed.

Canada's charges are a grave diplomatic test

AS I write these lines, the government has not reacted to the truly unprecedented proceedings of the 126th meeting of the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security of October 29. The theme of the...

AS I write these lines, the government has not reacted to the truly unprecedented proceedings of the 126th meeting of the Canadian House of Commons Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security of October 29. The theme of the meeting was 'Electoral Interference and Criminal Activities in Canada of Agents of the Government of India'.

The officials who gave evidence before the committee, whose proceedings went on for over two hours, were the country's National Security and Intelligence Adviser Nathalie Drouin, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs David Morrison, Canadian Security and Intelligence Service Director Daniel Rogers, Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Department's Associate Deputy Minister Tricia Geddes and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commissioner Michael Duheme. A stronger panel of officials could not have been summoned to give an account on behalf of the Justin Trudeau government regarding its allegations against India.

In her opening statement, Nathalie Drouin gave a detailed account of Canada's version of the interaction between Canadian and Indian officials concerned after the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023 in Surrey, Canada. She alleged that India's "refusal to cooperate led us to where we are today." Drouin's statement went far beyond the Nijjar murder in seeking to paint a picture of Indian interference and promotion of criminal activities in Canada. Her statement, the responses of the officials to the questions posed to them and the comments of some MPs who participated in the committee's proceedings were very negative from the Indian standpoint. In all, they constitute a grave diplomatic challenge which cannot go without a credible

response. A muscular attitude that powerful states take extra-territorial action to defend their interests will not do because India has always projected itself, including during the tenure of the present dispensation, as a country which abides by international law. Further, it will no longer be sufficient to deny that Canada has not given evidence because the Canadian officials have emphatically stated that they had done so. Hence, India's diplomatic and security establishments will have to ensure that it shows that the material given to them by the Canadians was untenable. Drouin claimed that Canada had proceeded on two tracks: law enforcement and diplomatic. The former involved protecting Canadian nationals from Indian actions and the latter led to engaging India, which was Canada's significant international partner, with important people-to-people ties. However, Canada could not ignore attempts by the "agents of the Indian government" to promote coercion and violence and "undermine our democracy." She asserted that Canadian officials tried to keep the channels of communication open with their Indian counterparts and had held meetings in 2023 — August and September in Delhi, November in Dubai, December in Saudi Arabia — and 2024 — January in London and March in Dubai. Finally, a meeting was held on October 12 in Singapore. She said that her predecessor and other Canadian officials had met India's National Security Adviser on six occasions. She also met the Indian High Commissioner. She claimed that the Indian response was spreading the false narrative that Canada had shown them "no evidence and was ignoring its concerns on Khalistan." Drouin claimed that at the October 12th

meeting, the two decided to reconvene by video on the 14th, but on the 13th, stories appeared in the Indian media that Canada had given no evidence. She asserted that India was using its diplomats and consular officers or their proxies to gather information on select Canadian nationals and that this



information was passed on to India, where senior officials used it to target Canadians with violence through the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. As part of its media strategy, it went to an international news outlet (The Washington Post) to brief it on what, according to Canada, India was up to. An MP asked if they had informed the newspaper that the senior official involved in these Indian actions was the Indian Home Minister. It was Morrison who said that the newspaper asked him if the senior official they had not named in their briefing was the Home Minister and he confirmed that he was. The hearing became a bit partisan between the government parties and the opposition, but, significantly, no opposition MP

supported India, except one, who asked if criminals in Canada targeted India and the RCMP chief conceded that it could be so. Despite political differences, the opposition does not wish to be labelled as uncaring for public security because the entire thrust of the Canadian officials was that all that they had done was to protect their people from the threat posed by Indian actions. Canada's record of disregarding India's concerns on Khalistan is undeniable. Canada's entire handling of the Kanishka bombing was racist in nature. Its laws abuse the concept of 'free speech' to permit even the glorification of the violent killing of Indra Gandhi and the calls for the establishment of Khalistan through violence. Its approach on the question of giving visas to Indian officials is intrusive and offensive. At the same time, it has given visas to criminals. All this will, however, not help in meeting the diplomatic challenge posed by the committee hearing. India cannot allow allegations against a senior minister stand. It cannot also allow allegations which are no longer limited to the Nijjar murder case go unanswered. Mere statements will not do.

To begin with, India should be able to show that the material given to it is untenable per se and especially so in a court of law. It also has to take diplomatic action even if that causes trouble to the diaspora and hurts trade. The Canadians have challenged the country's honour and what is left if honour is not defended, even if a cost has to be paid? Diplomacy always requires a cool-headed approach. That does not mean meekness. The Canadian accusations cannot be dismissed as those that are routinely made by inimical neighbours. India must now use all its diplomatic arsenal to respond to the atrocious charges made by Canada which, significantly,

Girlfriend Recipe Competition

Spinach cheese Content-

2 cups spinach, 2 cups shredded cheese into square pieces, 1 cup tomato puree 1 tbsp ginger - garlic paste, 1/2 tea spoon cumin, 1/2 cup chopped onion, 2 tsp ghee, salt to taste, 1 T spoon garam masala, green chili paste 1 T spoon, 1/2 cup milk, 1/2 cup fresh cream. The first method grind boiled spinach. Ghee in a pan, add the cumin Ckaan now. Please add the onion is golden. Ginger - garlic paste and fry for pouring. Add the tomato puree and cook until the oil drop. Now add the milk and spinach puree. Salt, green chili paste and garam masala and cook for 10 minutes on low flame. When the sync is done, turn off the gas. Cover 2 minutes, add cheese. Garnish with fresh cream Serve hot.



Spinach With Corn Content-

50 grams spinach, 2 paste interest, 2-3 clove garlic paste, tomato puree, 1, 50 g cheese, red and yellow bell peppers, cut into square pieces, 50 grams of corn kernels, chopped green pepper, red pepper, salt to taste, garam masala, oil.

Method-

Wash the spinach thoroughly grind and keep aside. Oil in a pan, add the cheese and bell peppers (red, yellow) make fried mushrooms and bell pepper and keep aside. In another pan, add oil, onion, ginger and garlic paste Fry the

tomato puree and cook it longer. Now add the chopped green pepper and red pepper, salt and cook for a while. Grounded spinach, cheese and pour boiled corn kernels and cook 5 minutes. Add some water if the gravy and cook cab driver. Garnish with paprika, add garam masala over and serve hot.

Royal Cheese Balls in Green Gravy

Balls content:

150 g grated cheese, 20 g Kornflor, 1/2 cup chopped spinach, 1 green pepper, 1 tablespoon chopped coriander leaves, chopped 1 teaspoon ginger, salt to taste, oil for frying, roll semolina, 20 g chopped cashews, almonds, 1 large tablespoon, 1 large tablespoon raisins.

For gravy - 200 g spinach puree, grated 2 onions, 1/2 cup tomato puree, 1-inch piece ginger, garlic bud lane was 8 1/2 tea spoon turmeric powder, 1/2 tsp red chilli and coriander powder, 1 tsp garam masala, 1 tbsp cashew nut paste, 1 tablespoon cream.

Method-

Kornflor in cheese, spinach and salt together to shake. Raisins, cashews, almonds, coriander, green chillies and ginger together, prepare the filling. Make small balls of cheese mixture filling the filling slightly. Fry the semolina golden wrapping. Wash spinach puree cooked without water make. Heat 4 tablespoons oil in pan, add.



Onion, ginger, garlic, turmeric, chilli and coriander powder fry. Tomato puree and salt on low flame fry oil to escape. Cashew nut paste, garam masala, add spinach puree and run 2 minutes. Cook covered on low flame, add 2 cups water 5-6 minutes. Mix the cream off the heat. Cover and put cheese balls.



Daal Fry



1/2 cup toor daal
1 teaspoon asafoetida
3 tablespoon finely chopped garlic
3 clove



1 finely chopped onion
2 teaspoon Red chilli powder
1 teaspoon garam masala powder
1 tablespoon cumin seeds

3 sliced & slit green chilli
1 tablespoon lemon juice
2 tablespoon Refined oil
3 tablespoon ghee
2 tablespoon ginger paste
1 teaspoon pureed green chilli
1 finely chopped tomato
1/2 teaspoon powdered turmeric
2 tablespoon Refined oil
2 teaspoon Red chilli powder
2 tablespoon chopped coriander leaves

How to make Daal Fry

Step 1
Soak the dal for half an hour. Pressure cook with water, oil, asafoetida and salt.
Step 2
Let it cool. In a kadai, heat ghee and oil. Splutter cumin seeds and cloves. As it pops, add in and saute the garlic followed by ginger paste for 1 minute.
Step 3
Add in grated tomatoes. Saute for 2 minutes.
Step 4
Add red chili powder, turmeric powder, green chillies paste. Mix well.
Step 5
Now add boiled dal. Mix well. Add garam masala. If needed add water and mix well.
Step 6
For tempering: In a small vessel, heat oil. Splutter some cumin seeds. As soon as it pops fully, switch off the flame and add red chili powder and some slit chillies.
Step 7
Top the dal with this tempering. Garnish with chopped coriander.
Step 8
Serve hot with lemon and hot jeera rice. Enjoy!

Cream of Mushroom Soup

For 1-2 persons

Ingredients:

100 g sliced mushrooms, sliced 1 onion, 2 glasses of water, 2 cloves coarsely-out, 2-inch piece cinnamon coarsely occurred, Kornflor 4 T spoon, 1 cup milk, 4 T spoon of butter, salt and pepper to taste

Method:

1. Put the butter in a pan and heat. Add onion fry.
2. Mushrooms, water and spices wrapped in a cloth insert. Cook until the mushrooms does not melt.
3. Put mixture in blender and blend to remove the bundle of spices. (Save some mushrooms for decorating.)
4. Donate now to flame Blend milk into the mixture. Then coming to the boil 3/4 Kornflor Mix dissolved in water.

Add salt and pepper powder.
5. Stir and cook the kernels were becoming frequent. Garnish with sliced mushrooms, fresh cream and serve hot.



Chicken noodles soup

For 1-2 persons

Ingredients:

Vejtbl 2 tbspl oil 1 medium onion, chopped 1 medium carrot 1/4 inch pieces chopped 1 celery stick, sliced 2 long pieces, 50 g chicken breast, 250 ml. Chicken stock or low-sodium stock, 150 ml. Cold water or as needed, 4 Dndian of parsley, fresh thyme twig 3 or 1/2 tea spoon of dried thyme, 1 cassia, salt and ground black pepper to taste 2 cups steamed egg noodles, chopped parsley to decorate

Method:
1. Put all the ingredients in a saucepan boil on high heat for about 6 minutes.
2. Garnish with parsley and serve hot, add egg noodles.
Executive Chef Bharat different



Creamy Vegetable Dip

A delicious dip recipe made with hung curd, eggless mayonnaise, cheddar cheese, red pepper and capsicum, Creamy Vegetable Dip is a must try side dish. Ideal to pair it with nachos, fish fingers or potato wedges, this easy recipe can go with any appetizer of your choice.

1/4 cup hung curd
1/2 cup finely chopped red peppers
1/2 cup grated cucumber
4 leaves mint leaves
1 pinch salt
1 tablespoon eggless mayonnaise
1/2 cup finely chopped capsicum (green pepper)
1/2 cup grated carrot
1/4 cup cheese-cheddar

How to make Creamy Vegetable Dip

Step 1
Tie homemade fresh curd in a soft, muslin cloth

and squeeze all the water from it. Do this routine twice so that all the water is drained out.

Step 2

Pour it in a bowl and whisk it to make a smooth paste. Add mayonnaise, grated cheese and mix well. Add the finely chopped bell peppers.

Step 3

Squeeze out all the water from grated cucumber and carrot before adding them to the mixture. Mix all the ingredients. Chop the mint leaves and add to the mixture.

Step 4

Add some salt and garnish with coriander. Refrigerate for an hour at least.

Step 5

Serve the dip along with cheese straws, crackers or even potato or banana chips.



'Don't stop or interrupt therapy': Kin of patients with rare diseases appeal to govt

For patients with rare diseases, a Delhi High Court order with regard to smooth treatment and funding in October gave them hope -- a month on, nothing has changed.

New Delhi: From a seven-year-old in Srinagar to a 16-year-old in Delhi suffering from "rare diseases", a recent Delhi High Court verdict on ensuring uninterrupted treatment for patients like them came as a ray of hope. Since their diagnosis, patients of rare diseases — defined by WHO as a debilitating, lifelong condition that affects 1 or fewer people in 1,000 — and their kin faced challenges in accessing life-saving medication, whose cost runs into lakhs, and issues with its supply. A total of 104 petitions were finally moved in court, with over 100 patients seeking relief. On October 4, the Delhi High Court directed that the Centre establish a National Fund for Rare Diseases and allocate Rs 974 crore for 2024-25 and 2025-26. This was to be approved and transferred in 30 days. It also said "treatment for all eligible... patients, as per an AIIMS report dated July 21, who are before the court in these batches of petitions shall commence in 45 days as per the NRDC (National Rare Diseases Committee) recommendations." The court directed NRDC to hold its first meeting in the week beginning October 21, where directions were to be issued



about ensuring procurement of rare disease drugs at reasonable prices, etc. It said "on the said date, cases of all petitioners shall be placed before the NRDC for approval and commencement of treatment". However, a committee member, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the meeting has not been held yet with no notification issued for it. When contacted, Dr Madhulika Kabra, Professor, Division of Genetics, Department of Pediatrics at AIIMS New Delhi, who is part of the NRDC, said she would be unable to comment as she is on the panel. When the boy turned 10, his father noticed subtle changes in

how he walked — he would flail or fall over midway, and climbing a short flight of stairs became a task. The father then took him to AIIMS. In 2018, the boy was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD), a rare disease that causes muscle weakness and degeneration. "At the time, doctors at AIIMS Delhi said there was no cure, no medicines were available, and it could only be managed through physiotherapy, supplements, and steroids. We also went to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, where we were told the same thing," says the father, 39, a resident of Delhi's Patel Nagar. The boy went to school till Class IV before his ailment started taking over his life. Now wheel-chair bound, he cannot even lift a glass of water by himself, says his father. "Till Class IV, his school principal had made arrangements for him to attend classes on the ground floor but gradually, it became difficult..." Steroids prescribed for his treatment had side effects, making him gain weight and affecting his growth. His father rues that the drug that can help manage his son's muscle degradation is still under trial internationally.

Delhi Sisters Blow Horn Non-Stop, Ram Car Into Neighbours Who Called Cops

Earlier, in September, the sisters were charged in a case of wrongful confinement and causing hurt after they allegedly beat up a security guard

New Delhi: Two troublemaker sisters living at a residential complex in east Delhi's Vasundhara Enclave were arrested after high drama on Friday, during which they threatened an elderly man, locked themselves in for hours and then drove their car rashly inside the campus, injuring people and damaging vehicles. Bhavya Jain and Charvi Jain, who allegedly assaulted a security guard of Aneka Apartments a month back, were blowing their car horn non-stop late on Friday night. Ashok Sharma, a 70-year-old retired police officer living in the complex, asked them to stop. They responded by damaging Mr Sharma's flower pots. They then entered his home and threatened him with a knife.

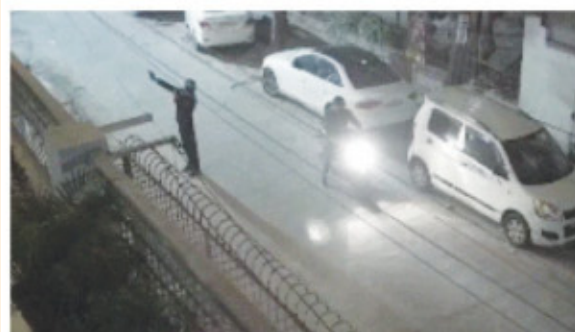
Police were called in and by the time, they arrived, the sisters locked them inside their flat for hours. When they came out, they got into their car and drove rashly inside the society, damaging parked vehicles and injuring people. They hit a police vehicle and broke through the barrier at the gates of the residential society. This started a chase as the cops followed the car. The sisters also hit a scooterist standing on the road outside the residential complex. While the rider escaped, the sisters in their car dragged the scooter for quite some distance. Police eventually intercepted them at Noida Sector 20 and took them into custody. Joginder, the scooterist, said he was standing with his scooter outside the apartment complex when the speeding car with the sisters in it hit the two-wheeler and dragged it. Pradeep Chaurasia, the electrician of Aneka Apartments, was among those injured. "One of the sisters looked at all of us, got into the car and started driving. They were at a very high speed. My hand was injured," he said.

The sisters' family stays elsewhere in Delhi. Earlier, in September, the sisters were charged in a case of wrongful confinement and causing hurt after they allegedly beat up a security guard working at the residential complex.

The sisters had asked guard Akhilesh Kumar to visit their place because of a tapwater issue. When he said he would send a plumber instead, they insisted that he visit. When he went, he was beaten up and also burnt using a steam iron, Akhilesh alleged. He said that the sisters suspected him of sharing information about them with their parents. Police had been called in but the sisters locked them up and did not let the cops enter their home. A case was subsequently registered.

CCTV shows rivals of Bishnoi gang's attack at Delhi's businessman home

New Delhi: The CCTV footage has surfaced from the October 26 shooting incident in Delhi's Rani Bagh, where two unidentified men, allegedly linked to the Bambhia gang, opened fire at a businessman's home. The attack, recorded on video, allegedly came after a Rs 15 crore extortion demand. The video revealed that two men on a motorcycle were approaching the businessman's residence. One of them is seen throwing a note inside, marked with "Bambhia Gang" and an international phone number. Moments later, the shooter fired multiple rounds, using his mobile torch to record the scene.



According to police sources, the footage was sent to Pawan Shokeen, a gangster based in the United States, who is believed to have ordered the attack at the behest of Kaushal Chaudhary. Chaudhary is currently lodged in the Gurugram jail and is also on the hit list of Lawrence Bishnoi. Chaudhary's gang is suspected of targeting businessmen in the Delhi-NCR area to fund their operations against Bishnoi's associates. Authorities stated that overseas gang leaders often recruit local shooters to carry out attacks, record them, and circulate the videos on social media. The Delhi Police Special Cell arrested both shooters two days later. Both shooters belonged to Uttar Pradesh. In an ongoing gang rivalry, Bishnoi has previously stated his intent to kill Chaudhary.

Delhiites face breathing difficulty, AQI at 364

NEW DELHI: A thin layer of smog engulfed parts of the national capital on Sunday, and the Air Quality Index (AQI) continues to be in the 'very poor' category. Most areas in the capital recorded an Air Quality Index (AQI) over 350, raising health concerns for residents. The AQI of Delhi was recorded at 364 at 7 AM on Sunday, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). At around 7.00 AM on Sunday, New Moti Bagh recorded an AQI of 352, RK Puram at 380, Vivek Vihar at 388, Dwarka Sector 8 at 385, and Lodhi Road at 330. All these areas reported 'very poor' air quality levels, posing significant health risks. The AQI in Nehru Nagar and Anand Vihar in the national capital remained in 'Severe' category on Sunday, with 431 and 427 AQI



recorded at 7.00 AM. In Burari, the AQI in the area stands at 385, categorised as 'Very Poor', as per the CPCB.

An AQI is considered as "poor" between '200 and 300', "very poor" at '301 and 400', "severe" at '401-450' and 450 and above, is "severe plus". Aditya, a resident of Delhi, said, "It is very difficult to breathe. This is not a time we can go out and do exercise; pollution is affecting our eyes." Meanwhile, Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai said that around 200 mobile anti-smog guns will be deployed across the national capital to combat dust pollution. Speaking to ANI on Saturday, Gopal Rai said that the Delhi government is continuously working on the ground to combat the rising pollution levels. "Whether it is dust pollution, vehicle pollution or biomass burning, our teams are continuously working on targeting these three on the ground," he said.

Man mowed down by speeding DJB tanker in Delhi's CR Park, residents stage protest

New Delhi: A 40-year-old man was mowed down allegedly by a speeding Delhi Jal Board (DJB) tanker while he was crossing the road in front of Alaknanda market at C R Park on Saturday. The driver of the tanker was arrested. The deceased was identified as Mukunda Hazra, a car cleaner and a resident of Govindpuri. "He was taken to the HAH Centenary Hospital where he was pronounced dead," DCP (South) Ankit Singh said. "The driver, Mukesh, was working for a contractor who runs his tankers for the DJB," an officer said. Amar, the brother-in-law of the deceased, said that Mukunda was coming to his colony to clean cars when the accident happened. "Around 7.30 am, he was crossing the road when the tanker hit him... His son had died two years ago on November 12... My sister is all alone now," he added. "Mukunda's mother lives in Kolkata... he used to



send her money. Now, we don't know how things will be managed," Amar said. Mukunda's wife Renuka, who works as a cook at nearby homes, was inconsolable. "I have lot everything..." she said. Residents of all pockets of Gangotri Enclave Colony organised a blockade in protest against the accident. Anita Majumdar, vice-president of Pocket B RWA, said, "The traffic light in front of Alaknanda market is covered with hoardings..." Following the protest, Anita said the

traffic police deployed a couple of personnel at the spot.

A traffic police officer said, "We have deployed personnel as of now to issue challans to offenders. As soon as we receive an official request for CCTV cameras, we will take it into consideration." A police officer said the traffic police have been requested to install cameras at the signal. In a statement on the accident, the Aam Aadmi Party said, "The Alaknanda

Market traffic light is an accident-prone spot... Local MLA Saurabh Bharadwaj has sent multiple letters to DCP Traffic, even met traffic officials along with residents for deputing constables as well as installing high-speed cameras so that vehicles jumping the red light can be challaned." Around three years ago, the traffic police had assured that they have initiated the tender process for the same, however, it is yet to be installed," it added.

ED chargesheet links Hong Kong, Thai scammers to cyber fraud racket in India

The chargesheet includes eight accused along with 24 related companies in connection with a digital arrest scam case, and cyber fraud involving proceeds worth Rs 159 crore.

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) found that individuals in Hong Kong and Thailand led a cyber fraud and money laundering scheme, with help from associates in India, in connection with the digital arrest scam case and cybercrime involving proceeds worth Rs 159 crore. These scammers worked with people in India to create digital signatures, set up shell companies, and act as dummy directors to open bank accounts, using fake documents sent through WhatsApp. The central probe agency filed a chargesheet on October 10, in the special court under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in Bengaluru. The special court in Bengaluru took note of the chargesheet on October 29.

The chargesheet includes eight accused — Charan Raj C, Kiran S K, Shahi Kumar M, Sachin M, Tamilarasan, Prakash R, Ajith R, and Aravindan — along with 24 related companies. All the accused are in judicial



custody. The ED probe followed multiple First Information Reports (FIRs) from various law enforcement agencies across the country, reporting schemes where cyber fraudsters allegedly tricked people with false stock market investments and fake digital arrests, leading victims to transfer funds to shell companies. The ED's findings show an organised cyber scam network in the nation, which reportedly used social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Telegram. Known as "pig-

butchering" scams, these schemes misled individuals with promises of high returns through fraudulent apps and stock market investments. Fake law enforcement scenarios were also used to coerce individuals into transferring money under false pretences. The central probe agency said that fraudsters created shell companies across states, including Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, primarily registered at co-working spaces without a real business presence. Fake documents were allegedly submitted to the Registrar of Companies.

Many companies were used as "mule" accounts to transfer funds, later converted into cryptocurrency and moved abroad. Key figures reportedly linked to the scam were connected with bank accounts and digital signatures used in shell companies. Searches at the residences of the accused led to the seizure of documents, chequebooks, and identification materials linked to these shell companies.

AAP, BJP clash over Chhath Puja ghat at Delhi's Greater Kailash park

New Delhi: An intense war of words unfolded on Saturday between the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in New Delhi over a dispute regarding the establishment of Chhath Puja ghats in South Delhi's Greater Kailash for the widely celebrated Purvanchali festival. AAP leaders accused the BJP of obstructing local's efforts to set up the ghat at a park managed by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in Chirag Delhi. In response, the BJP levied similar accusations against AAP, alleging that the ruling party was hindering the creation of the Chhath ghat. BJP leader Suraj Chauhan usually organises the Chhath Puja at this location each year, and preparations were set to begin after obtaining permission from the DDA. However, AAP workers also sought to perform the Chhath Puja at the same site and secured approval from the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), leading to a clash between the two parties.

As tensions escalated and leaders from both sides exchanged accusations, Delhi Chief Minister Atishi criticised the BJP for engaging in "cheap politics". She stated, "The BJP despises the people of Purvanchal. Their political tactics have degraded to the point of banning the Chhath Ghat in Greater Kailash through the DDA. Such despicable politics regarding Chhath, a revered festival of faith, will not be tolerated, and the BJP will face the repercussions". Saurabh Bharadwaj, AAP leader and Urban Development Minister, who also serves as the local MLA for Greater Kailash, visited the site to stage a sit-in protest. He alleged that the "BJP-controlled DDA" was obstructing Purvanchali residents from establishing the ghat, claiming that the BJP coerced the DDA to halt its



construction and had the Delhi Police lock down the eight-year-old Chhath Puja site. Bharadwaj further accused the BJP of being anti-Dalit, stating, "The Dalit community has used this 'Bhim Pulia' road for the past 300 years. Yet, for the last month, the BJP's DDA has closed this road, preventing people from celebrating Chhath Puja due to its anti-Dalit and anti-Purvanchali stance. Why are they doing

this?" A DDA official informed the news agency PTI that a 6,000-square-meter area at Satpula Lake has already been designated for the Chhath Puja. Countering AAP's claims, BJP leader Shikha Rai accused a group of locals who arrived at the Satpula DDA Park to clean the ghat site of being prevented from doing so by "Bharadwaj's men".

She alleged, "The AAP workers issued threats and pressured the residents and BJP members to leave." Rai added that in recent years, AAP workers had occupied the designated area days before the festival and imposed arbitrary conditions on its use. The Purvanchalis, who are Bhojpur-speaking individuals from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Jharkhand, represent a significant voting bloc in Delhi, accounting for 30 to 40 percent of the city's approximately 1.5 crore electorate.

5 low-cal recipes to try this weekend



Colourful Veggie Juice

Ingredients
 1 Carrot, cubed
 1/2 Beetroot, cubed
 1 tomato, cubed
 4-5 spinach leaves, chopped
 1/2 tsp lime juice
 1/2 tsp ginger juice
 1/4 tsp pepper powder
 1 indian goose berry, grated
 A pinch of black salt and chat masala
 2 c water

Method

In a blender, add chopped carrot, beetroot, tomato and spinach leaves.
 - Add lime juice, goose-berry, black salt, pepper powder and water and blend until smooth.
 - Add a pinch of chat masala and mix well.
 - You can spike it with some chilli powder.
 - Serve chilled or at room temperature.



Baked Kidney Beans and Oats Kebab

Ingredients
 1/2 c kidney beans, boiled and mashed
 1 c roasted oats
 3 tbsp olive oil
 A pinch of asafoetida
 1 tsp cumin seeds
 1 tsp garlic pste
 1 tsp ginger, finely chopped
 1 onion, grated
 1 c tomato puree
 2 tsp tomato ketchup
 1 tsp garam masala
 1 green chilli, finely chopped
 2-3 tsp coriander leaves, chopped
 1 tsp fat-free yoghurt, Chilli powder and salt to taste

Method

- In a non-stick pan, pour olive oil and add a pinch of asafoetida, cumin seeds, garlic

and ginger.
 - Then add onions and saute well.
 - Add the tomato puree, ketchup, chill powder, garam masala, green chillis and salt.
 - Once the masala starts to leaves sides add whipped yogurt, coriander and mashed kidney beans.
 - Cook for 5 minutes.
 - Let it cool for a while.
 - Add roasted oats to it and mix well, let it cool.
 - Now, make elongated kebabs from the mixture.
 - Pierce skewers into them and bake for 10 minutes.
 - Serve hot with green chutney.

Fruit Curd

Ingredients
 1 c hung curd
 2 tsp organic honey
 1/4 c strawberries, chopped
 1 kiwi, chopped
 1/4 c blueberries
 2-3 mint springs
 1/4 c apples
 1 tbsp walnut, raisins and almonds for garnishing

Method

- Whisk hung curd and organic honey.
 - When fluffy, add chopped strawberries kiwi, apples and blueberries. Mix well.



- Garnish with lots of walnuts, raisins and almonds and mint springs.
 - Serve fresh and chilled.

want to indulge in good food without adding on those extra inches? Try out these easy to make healthy recipes.

Sprouts and Corn chaat

Ingredients
 1 c sprouted green moong
 1/2 corn
 1 medium cucumber finely chopped
 1 large tomato, chopped
 1/2 tsp organic ghee
 1/2 tsp cumin seeds powder, roasted
 1/2 tsp pepper powder
 1 green chillies, chopped
 1 tsp coriander leaves, chopped

1/4 c water

Salt to taste

Method

- In a pressure cooker, add organic ghee.
 - To this, add sprouted moong and corn, pepper powder and stir for a minute.
 - Add 1/4 cup of water and pressure cook for one whistle.
 - Drain water and reserve it for soups. Toss into a serving bowl.
 - Add cumin seeds, chopped chillies, coriander and salt.
 - Mix well and serve.

Frothy Pineapple and Apple Smoothie

Ingredients

1 c pineapple pieces
 2 c apple pieces
 1 c yogurt
 1/4 c skimmed milk
 2 tsp honey
 1/2 tsp almond slivers

Method

- Put all the chopped fruits in a blender.
 - Add yoghurt, skimmed milk and honey and blend until smoothie and frothy.
 - Pour smoothie into a glass and sprinkle it with almond slivers. - Serve garnished with pineapple and apple pieces.

How to keep food fresh naturally

ndering why your fruits and veggies lose the freshness in just one day? Well, the problem must be in the way you are storing them. TOI gets you the solution...

- Never store apples with any other vegetables or fruits. Apples emit certain gases which make the other good items rot. Similarly, never store tomatoes and cucumber in the same compartment as even tomatoes emit gases which can make the cucumber rot.

- Always store items like eggs with the pointed side downward to keep them fresh longer.

- Store cheese with a few cubes of sugar in an air tight container as the cubes absorb the moisture from the cheese and help it stay fresh for a longer period of time.

- Keep a potato in your refrigerator. The potato absorbs bad smells from cooked food or even otherwise and also absorbs gases in the fridge, thus helping other things stay fresher. But you must change the potato every few days.

- Always store radish in a vessel with water to keep it crisp.



Powder Your food

Extract your 'pound' of nutrition with spoons full of exotic food powders.

Dusting icing sugar on brownies or topping your espresso with some hot chocolate? Nah... not in an age when you can sprinkle so much more goodness! The powder that sits on top of your food isn't just a topping or garnish anymore. It's a superfood elixir - empowering your food in unimaginable ways. From a purple berry grown in the Amazonian rainforests to a tea highly-favoured by Buddhist monks, a host of rare food items are being powdered to add benefits to our diets.

With an increased interest in well-being and the nutritional inadequacy of modern-day diets, it is now imperative to top our food intake with extra nutrition. Food powders work wonders in this area since they can be consumed without any major alteration to the taste, look or smell of the food. They slip in

conveniently into our food regime without much hullabaloo. Just grind it, dust it and consume it. Most 'superfoods' like flaxseeds, chia seeds, matcha tea and goji berries are foods with acquired tastes - so it's far easier to consume them in their powdered state. "These powders typically consist of a bulk, powdered version of a superfood(s) in a raw, natural state. You can mix the powder in water, smoothies, juices or any other beverage for consumption. Most are carefully processed, freeze-dried or cold temperature-processed to ensure that all

the whole food nutrients are kept intact and not denatured," says Manjari Chandra, consultant therapeutic nutritionist.

HEALTHY OF HEALTH

Who would imagine that a dash of powder in food could go reduce the risk of chronic age-related diseases such as cancer, heart disease and Type-II diabetes? Or that it could

actually help you overcome clinical depression... Of course, it won't happen overnight, but research proves that consistent intake of nutritionally-advanced food items can make you a healthier, saner version of yourself. "Chia seeds, for instance, help control blood sugar levels, prevent blood clots, reduce high blood pressure, reduce inflammation and improve digestion. Now, there are many ways to consume chia seeds - they are eaten raw with foods, made into a pudding or better still powdered and added to cereals, soups, and desserts. Grinding chia seeds is a convenient and wholesome way of eating them as the nutritional contents of the

seeds are retained when they are ground into a powder," maintains Chandra. Similarly, whole flaxseeds can be rather hard to chew, so ground flax is a better option. Just sprinkle it on your crunchy salad, dust it on a slice of tiramisu or add it to a homemade granola bar.

MUST-TRY FOOD POWDERS

Maca: This native Peruvian plant from the radish family is now readily available in powder form. It is widely used and is believed to boost libido, increase endurance and balance hormones by experts. The best way to get maca into your daily diet is by adding the powder directly into juices and smoothies. The taste will barely be detectable, and yet you'll reap the goodness of this superfood. Matcha: It is a supercharged green tea with an antioxidant potential almost 100 times the amount of regular green tea. It is nutrient-dense. Buddhist monks have been drinking matcha for centuries when meditating since it is known to increase alertness and concentration. Add a heaped teaspoon of matcha green tea powder into your breakfast daily and see the difference it makes.



Marico net profit rises 20% to Rs 433 cr; revenue from ops up 7.6% to Rs 2,664 cr

NEW DELHI. Homegrown FMCG major Marico Ltd has reported an increase of 20.27% in consolidated net profit to Rs 433 crore for the September quarter. It had reported a net profit of Rs 360 crore in the same quarter a year ago, Marico said in a regulatory filing. Its consolidated revenue from operations rose 7.6% to Rs 2,664 crore during the quarter under review. It was at Rs 2,476 crore the previous year. Total expenses of Marico, which owns popular brands like Saffola, Parachute, Livon, etc, increased 7.65% in the September quarter to Rs 2,194 crore. Marico's total income, which includes other income, was up 9.22% to Rs 2,746 crore. Domestic revenue of the Harsh Mariwala-led company was up 8.02% to Rs 1,979 crore. Similarly, its revenue from the international



market was up 6.36% to Rs 685 crore. There is a "sequential uptick in growth in the domestic business" and the "international business continues robust show", said Marico in its earnings presentation. Shares of Marico Ltd on Tuesday settled at Rs 628.80 per scrip on the BSE, down 0.83 per cent from the previous close.

SBI Card net income declines 33% to Rs 404 crore

NEW DELHI. SBI Cards and Payment Services Ltd (SBI Card) on Tuesday reported a 33% decline in net profit to Rs 404 crore for the September quarter on increase in delinquency.

The pure-play credit card company, promoted by the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI), had reported a net profit of Rs 603 crore in the previous quarter a year earlier. However, the total income in the second quarter of the current fiscal year rose 8% to Rs 4,556 crore, from Rs 4,221 crore a year ago, SBI Card said in a regulatory filing. The interest income grew 20% to Rs 2,290 crore, while income from other sources declined 2% to Rs 2,131 crore. There was slight deterioration in the company's asset quality with the gross non-performing assets rising to 3.27% of the gross advances as of September, from 2.43% a year earlier. Net NPAs (bad loans) also rose to 1.19% from 0.89% in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Impairment losses and bad debts expenses increased 63% to Rs 1,212 crore in the September quarter as compared to Rs 742 crore a year earlier, it said. On capital adequacy, the company said the ratio fell to 22.1% from 23.3% at the end of September 2023.

Deepak Fertilisers profit soars 3-fold on robust sales

NEW DELHI. Deepak Fertilisers and Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd (DFPCL) reported a more than three-fold surge in second-quarter profit at Rs 214.07 crore on Tuesday, driven by strong sales growth across its business segments.

The fertiliser maker's consolidated net profit stood at Rs 63.45 crore in the same quarter in the previous fiscal year. Revenue from operations rose 12.7% to Rs 2,753.59 crore, while total expenses increased 5.5% to Rs 2,454.92 crore. Separately, the company said it has appointed Subhash Anand, currently serving as President (Strategy), as its new President and CFO effective December 1. Shares of DFPCL closed 11.1% higher at Rs 1,256.05 apiece on the BSE.

Voltas net profit rises more than two-fold to Rs 133 crore

NEW DELHI. Air-conditioning maker and engineering services provider Voltas Ltd on Tuesday reported more than two-fold jump in consolidated net profit to Rs 132.83 crore for the September quarter.

The increase was led by a 56% volume growth from its room AC business. It had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 35.65 crore in the period a year ago, the company said in a regulatory filing.

Revenue from operations was up 14.23% to Rs 2,619.11 crore during the quarter under review from Rs 2,292.75 crore in the year-ago period. Total expenses of Voltas rose 10.74% to Rs 2,486.89 crore in the September quarter. Total income, which includes other income, was up 16.53% in the September quarter to Rs 2,754.58 crore.

CPSE capex sees 11% fall during April-September

NEW DELHI. Capital expenditure by large public sector enterprises (with annual capex target of Rs 100 crore) has seen an 11% decline in the first six months of the current financial year. In the April-September period of the current financial year, large CPSEs have spent Rs 3.38 lakh crore in asset creation, which is 43.57% of the estimated expenditure of Rs 7.76 lakh crore for the full year.

In the same period FY24, these PSU companies had made Rs 3.79 lakh crore in capex. In FY24, these corporations spent Rs 8.05 lakh crore in capex, 109% of the budget target of Rs 7.41 lakh crore.

The slowdown in CPSE capex is in line with overall drop in central government's capex in the first year of FY25. The central government has spent Rs 4.14 lakh crore in capex against the full-year target of Rs 11.11 lakh crore. In the first six months of the current financial year, the government capex fell by 15%. As per ICRA, to meet the FY25 budget target for capex, the government needs to incur a capex of Rs 1.16 lakh crore a month during second half of the year, which entails a considerable expansion of 52% relative to previous year.

Who shrank India's middle class

It is significant the government has finally given up its ostrich-like posture, and is now conceding that indeed there is a crisis of falling consumption.

NEW DELHI. It was not that the warning signals were absent. Analysts have been saying it — that real incomes are shrinking; and consumption is slowing down. But it is when the big stakeholders get hit, it is time for everyone to wake up! Nestle India experienced its slowest quarterly growth in 8 years when, for the second quarter this year, it reported a mere 1.4 per cent revenue increase year-on-year and a 1 per cent volume shrinkage. Articulating the frustration of the FMCG sector, which had taken robust growth at all price points for granted, Nestle MD Suresh Narayanan blamed his woes on the "shrinking middle class".

In the most quoted of quotes in recent days, Narayanan said: "Premium consumption still continues to be fairly strong, but the middle segment, which used to be the segment that most FMCGs used to operate in, seems to be shrinking."

Another bellwether indicator, car buying, has been struggling after runaway growth in the post-COVID years. The Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) admitted in August that inventories at factories and dealerships had soared to an all-time high of over 7 lakh units, valued at Rs 73,000 crore. Even the fast-moving SUV segment has been slowing. Slowing consumption

It is significant the government has finally given up its ostrich-like posture, and is now conceding that indeed there is a crisis of falling consumption. The Ministry of Finance's latest monthly review acknowledged consumer demand was softening. It noted the sharp slowdown in FMCG sales and said there had been a 2.3 per cent contraction in automobile sales. The decline in housing sales and launches in the second quarter also finds mention.



Most of these FMCG and auto companies and realtors selling homes have hinged their business plans on this ephemeral 'middle-class', defined as those with substantial disposable income and a huge appetite to spend on the good things of life. Accounting and management firms, using questionable 'research', first banded rosy numbers in the early, heady days of liberalization. The magical figure then touted was a middle-class 450-million strong that would drive growth and consumption in India.

When the dust settled, everyone realized the 450-million middle class was wishful

thinking. Two decades later, the more realistic figure is about one-fifth the earlier estimate. The US-based Pew Research Centre projected the pre-Covid strength of the Indian 'middle class' — defined as those earning between USD 10-USD 20 a day or Rs 25,000-Rs 50,000 a month — at about 99 million.

How fragile the middle class's income and consumption is can be gauged from the Pew Research's data that said about one-third of this segment fell out of the 'middle class' during the Covid freeze, effectively reducing it to about 66 million. Those numbers that fell out have probably been restored and the 'middle class' is now over 100 million strong.

But the estimates continue to differ wildly. Ridham Desai, MD of Morgan Stanley says: "...a hundred million new households, which is 450 million people, which exceeds the population of US and the whole of Europe, are becoming middle class in the next 10 years."

Bangladesh unrest: Indian garment exporters reaping benefits

NEW DELHI. Indian garment export is reaping the benefits of unrest in neighbouring Bangladesh. Garments exports from India in the first six months of the current financial year have registered an 8.5% increase compared to a 15% decline in the same period the year before. In September alone, India recorded a 17.3% year-on-year increase in apparel exports.

The disruption caused by the political turmoil in Bangladesh has resulted in a fall in exports from the country, a hub for textile supply across the globe. Bangladesh's apparel exports to the US, its largest export destination, fell 11% to \$3.40 billion in January-June 2024 as against \$3.82 billion in the same period in 2023. Indian exporters seem to be benefiting from this disruption. Sabu Jacob, MD of Kerala-based Kite Garments, recently said unrest in Bangladesh has contributed to financial growth of not only the company but the entire garment industry in India. Kite Garments has



reported its highest-ever turnover and profitability. Net profit of the Kochi-based company, a manufacturer of infant garments, reached Rs 39.94 crore in Q2FY25, nearly tripling from Rs 13.21 crore in the corresponding period of the previous fiscal. Bengaluru-based Gokaldas Exports in its June quarter investors' presentation has cited the internal strife in Bangladesh as a long-term opportunity for the Indian garment industry. "Buyers seeking alternate production bases outside China, creating opportunities for major Asian suppliers like India. Bangladesh is

impacted by internal issues and Vietnam by high factor costs," it said in its investor presentation. As per Ajay Sahai, director general and CEO of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO), India's garment export sector has seen notable growth recently, benefiting from the political instability in Bangladesh, as a result many buyers have shifted to Indian manufacturers to meet demand, especially for time-sensitive orders.

"We expect that India could see a long-term increase of 10-20% in apparel export orders, potentially translating into an additional \$2-3 billion annually. This shift is expected to benefit India's established garment hubs," added Sahai. As per Ajay Srivastava, founder, Global Trade Research Initiatives (GTRI), international buyers have talked about moving 10-15% of their orders from Bangladesh to India, potentially adding \$300-400 million in monthly business for India.

Maruti Suzuki Shares Rises 4% Despite Q2 Numbers Miss Estimates; Buy, Sell Or Hold

NEW DELHI. The employment scenario in India is undergoing a significant shift towards flexible and hybrid workspace ecosystems driven by economic policies that are encouraging companies to decentralize operations in response to workforce preferences and the emergence of well-being as a central value. The popularity of flexible workspaces, such as managed and coworking spaces, is increasing as businesses recognise benefits such as agility, diverse experiences for employees, and modern amenities that create exceptional work environments.

With businesses exhibiting dynamism in recent times, especially in the metros, there is high demand for coworking spaces to cut capital expenditure and rationalize operations.

Rapid expansion of coworking sector Recent reports show an increasing inclination of medium-to-large-sized businesses to increase the proportion of flexible spaces in their overall office

plans over the next two years. Additionally, there is a projected 25 per cent increase in small businesses planning to incorporate flexible spaces into their office portfolio. Flexible workplaces are being driven by the technology sector and startups as well as large enterprises which are demonstrating high adoption rates. Interestingly, MSMEs from non-tech industries too are evincing interest in flexible spaces across metros as well as Tier 1 and Tier 2 cities. The market for flexible workspaces is growing due to factors such as adaptable office spaces, portfolio optimization, hub-and-spoke location strategies, financial advantages, strategic partnerships and new business models. This projected massive shift towards flexible office models is exhibiting a new era of employment in India and as demand for coworking and flexible offices grow along with expanding commercial real estate, prospects for both the white and blue-collar opportunities are growing

rapidly. A boost to local economies Given the expansion and profitability of the enterprises, coworking spaces are having a significant impact on local economies and communities. The expansion is ushering in a steady stream of professionals and entrepreneurs resulting in positive spinoffs for the neighborhood. As coworking spaces provide an affordable and flexible workspace option, it lowers the entry barrier for entrepreneurs, encouraging more people to launch their own businesses. Seeing a thriving coworking space can signal that a neighborhood is vibrant and has potential, encouraging economic investment and development. Coworking spaces create direct jobs, including roles in management, customer service, and facilities maintenance. They also indirectly support jobs by attracting businesses that need local services, such as IT support and



assets into liquid ones, providing an alternative source of funding. Investors in these instruments receive returns based on the performance of the underlying debt pool, and the risk is spread across multiple assets, offering potentially attractive returns. The current framework is based on Sebi's 2008 regulations, with updates from the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2021 directions on securitising standard assets. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) is now considering updates to the regulatory framework for securitized debt instruments and sought public comments till November 16 on the proposals. Regarding risk management, Sebi has proposed that originators retain a minimum risk retention of 10 per cent of the securitised pool or 5 per cent for receivables with a maturity of up to 24 months. A minimum holding period requirement will also be specified by Sebi for underlying receivables to ensure that originators maintain an interest in the underlying assets, the regulator said in a consultation paper.

NTPC Green Energy IPO: Opening Date, Size, Price, All You Need to Know

NTPC Green Energy Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, has already received final approval from markets regulator Sebi for its Rs 10,000-crore IPO.

NEW DELHI. Even as NTPC Green Energy Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited, has received final approval from markets regulator Sebi, its Rs 10,000-crore IPO is expected to hit the primary market soon. The IPO with a face value of Rs 10 per equity share will entirely be a fresh issue of equity shares. The company had filed its IPO papers with Sebi on September 18, 2024. The IPO also includes a reservation for a subscription by eligible employees and a discount is being offered to eligible employees bidding in the employee

reservation portion. NTPC Green Energy IPO: Opening Date

Though the official date has not been announced yet, the IPO is expected to be launched this month. The price of the IPO will also be announced in the upcoming days. The NTPC Green Energy IPO will also have a shareholders quota. So, those who have shares of NTPC as of the date of RHP, which will be filed later, can participate in the shareholders category in the IPO. NTPC Green Energy IPO: What Should Investors Do To Raise IPO Allotment Chance As the NTPC Green Energy IPO will also have a shareholders quota, investors can buy one NTPC shares now to be eligible for the shareholders category. It will raise their chances of IPO allotment. Those who have shares of NTPC as of the date of RHP, which will be filed later, can participate in the shareholders category in the IPO. NTPC Green Energy IPO: What Analysts Say ICICI Securities has given a 'buy' rating to the shares of NTPC. It said NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a 100 per cent subsidiary of NTPC, is looking to debut on exchanges as the company files its DRHP. "We analyse NGEL's business, look at its valuation metrics and evaluate key concerns. The



company has an operational capacity of 3.2GW, 12GW of contracted under-construction renewable energy (RE) projects and future development pipeline at 11GW. NGEL is not only looking to set up utility-scale RE projects, but also tie up with corporates and PSUs for their captive RE requirements. We expect the return ratios for captive to be higher than utility-scale projects." ICICI Securities said in a note. NTPC targets 60 gigawatts (GW) of renewable energy (RE) capacity by FY32. "We estimate revenue of Rs 117 billion (Rs 11,700 crore), EBITDA of Rs 95-100 billion (Rs 9,500-10,000 crore) for its portfolio. EV to EBITDA remains the best valuation metric to analyse NGEL's RE portfolio. Retain BUY and TP of Rs 495 on NTPC," ICICI Securities stated. "The IPO comes at a time when

thermal power-heavy NTPC is looking for other energy avenues to diversify into and bolster revenues," Kranthi Bathini, director of equity strategy at WealthMills Securities said, according to Reuters. "Considering the fact that green energy will remain in focus in the near future, investors would definitely want a slice of this pie," Bathini added. NTPC Green Energy IPO: More Details The proceeds from the fresh issue to the extent of Rs 7,500 crore will be used for investment in its wholly owned subsidiary, NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL) for repayment/prepayment, in full or in part of certain outstanding borrowings availed by NREL; and general corporate purposes. Promoted by NTPC Ltd, NTPC Green Energy is the largest renewable energy public sector enterprise (excluding hydro) in terms of operating capacity as of June 30, 2024 and power generation in Fiscal 2024, according to a CRISIL Report mentioned in the DRHP. As of June 30, 2024, NTPC Green's "Portfolio" consisted of 14,696 MWs including 2,925 MWs of operating projects and 11,771 MWs of contracted and awarded projects. Additionally, it has 10,975 MWs of "Capacity under Pipeline."

NEWS BOX

Mumbai Test: Ravindra Jadeja edges closer to Harbhajan with 10-wicket match haul

Mumbai. Ravindra Jadeja stormed back to form with a 10-wicket match haul in the third Test between India and New Zealand in Mumbai. Jadeja completed his second five-wicket haul in the match when he dismissed Ajaz Patel in the morning session on Day 3 of the series finale. Ravindra Jadeja took a 10-wicket haul for the third time in his career, rising above the elite list of bowlers with the most 10-wicket match hauls in the traditional format. Questions were asked about Jadeja's form after he went wicketless in an innings twice in four innings over the first two Tests. However, Jadeja showcased his class, picking up a five-wicket haul in each innings on a helpful pitch at the Wankhede Stadium. R Ashwin holds the record for most 10-wicket match hauls -- seven of them while Anil Kumble and Harbhajan Singh are next in the line with six and four 10-wicket



match hauls, respectively. Ravindra Jadeja went past Kapil Dev to pick up his third 10-wicket match haul on Sunday.

MOST 10-WICKET MATCH HAULS AT HOME FOR INDIA

1. Anil Kumble - 7 in 63 matches
2. R Ashwin - 6 in 65 matches
3. Harbhajan Singh - 4 in 55 matches
4. Ravindra Jadeja - 3 in 49 matches
5. Kapil Dev - 2 in 65 matches

Jadeja's five-wicket haul in the second innings helped India restrict New Zealand to 174 and limit the target to 147. Jadeja got the crucial wickets of Daryl Mitchell and Tom Blundell before wrapping up the tail-enders. In the first innings, Jadeja gained confidence after picking an early wicket. He built on it and went on to pick his 14th five-wicket haul, ending a rare lean patch in home Tests. Jadeja and R Ashwin's indifferent form was crucial to India losing a home Test series for the first time since 2012-13 season.

Ishan Kishan warned for arguing with umpire amid ball-tampering allegations in Australia

New Delhi. The final day of the unofficial Test match between India A and Australia A in Mackay was filled with drama. Wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan faced accusations of "inappropriate behaviour" amid ball-tampering allegations against the visiting Indian team. Tensions escalated before play began on Sunday, November 3, and Ishan could find himself in trouble if officials charge him with on-field "dissent." According to local media, Ishan Kishan may face sanctions due to his altercation with umpire Shawn Craig. The start of play at the Great Barrier Reef Arena on Day 4 was delayed when the umpires changed the ball, citing "scratch marks" on the previous one. Indian players were seen arguing with the umpires, and Craig was overheard on the stump mic stating that the tourists were responsible for the scratches. "You scratch it, we change the ball. There will be no more



discussion; let's play. This is not a discussion; you will be playing with that ball," umpire Shawn told the Indian players, as quoted by The Age. Ishan replied, calling the decision "very stupid," which further irritated the umpire. "Excuse me, you will be penalised for dissent. That is inappropriate behaviour; it is because of your actions that we changed the ball," umpire Shawn retorted. The seriousness of the ball-tampering allegations remains to be seen. If found guilty, players involved in altering the condition of the ball could face penalties, including potential bans, according to Cricket Australia's Code of Conduct. Eventually, play commenced on Sunday with the new ball, and Australia A secured a seven-wicket victory. They needed 86 runs to win on the final day after ending Day 3 at 139 for 3. Captain Nathan McSweeney excelled with an unbeaten 88, while Beau Webster contributed 61 to help Australia A clinch a comfortable win. India posted 312 in their second innings, showing marked improvement with Sai Sudharsan scoring a hundred and Devdutt Padikkal adding 88.

Premier League: Liverpool go top after shock defeat for Man City, Arsenal slip

Premier League: Liverpool went clear at the top of the league table after their come-from-behind win over Brighton and Hove Albion. Manchester City were shocked by Bournemouth while Arsenal lost 0-1 at Newcastle United on Saturday.



New Delhi. Arne Slot's Liverpool continued their dream start to the Premier League season, going two points clear at the top of the table after a sensational come-from-behind win over Brighton and Hove Albion on Saturday, November 2. Manchester City suffered a shock defeat while Arsenal's slump continued on a dramatic Saturday in the Premier League. Liverpool's ascent to the top of the table was also facilitated by Manchester City's unexpected loss to Bournemouth. Manchester City, who had been one of the top contenders for the title, suffered their first defeat in the league in 11 months. This loss, combined with Liverpool's win, gave the Reds a two-point cushion at the top of the table. The match against Brighton began on a challenging note

for Liverpool. Ferdi Kadioglu put the visitors ahead in the 14th minute with an impressive strike. Georginio Rutter came close to doubling Brighton's lead, but a crucial save by Liverpool goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher denied him. Despite the early setback, Liverpool managed to turn the game around in the second half. Cody Gakpo equalized in the 69th minute with a cross that fortuitously found the bottom corner of the net, evading Darwin Nunez in the process.

This goal marked a significant shift in momentum, and just three minutes later, Mohamed Salah sealed the victory with a trademark left-footed finish that curled beyond Brighton goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen.

CITY AND ARSENAL LOSE, FOREST IMPRESS

Meanwhile, Manchester City's 32-game unbeaten Premier League run came to an unexpected end with a 2-1 loss to AFC

Bournemouth on Saturday. Despite manager Pep Guardiola's insistence that injuries were not an excuse, the team's injury crisis significantly impacted their performance. Key players such as Jack Grealish, Rodri, Oscar Bobb, R'ben Dias, and John Stones were absent, while others like Kyle Walker and Kevin De Bruyne were returning from injuries. Bournemouth capitalised on City's lack of intensity, with goals from Antoine Semenyo and Evanilson securing the victory. Guardiola acknowledged that his team could not match Bournemouth's intensity, particularly in winning long balls and maintaining rhythm due to the injury issues. At St James' Park, Newcastle added to Arsenal's woes. Arsenal managed only one shot on target in the early kickoff while Newcastle striker Alexander Isak's early headed goal proved the difference between the sides. Meanwhile, Nottingham Forest won a third Premier League game in a row for the first time since 1999 as they took West Ham apart. In-form striker Chris Wood gave his side the lead against West Ham who were reduced to 10 men on the cusp of halftime as Edson Alvarez chopped down Anthony Elanga. Callum Hudson-Odoi doubled Forest's lead after the break before Ola Aina blasted in a third goal to send the City Ground fans into raptures.

Virat Kohli fails again in Mumbai Test, ends horror series with less than 100 runs

Virat Kohli failed once again in the Mumbai Test to bring his New Zealand series to an end in lacklustre fashion. Kohli was dismissed for just 1 run in the 2nd innings.



poor time at the Wankhede stadium as he was run-out in the first innings on Day 1 and was looking to change things around in the second one. India had started the day looking to finish off the New Zealand innings, and they did just that as Ravindra Jadeja completed a 10-wicket haul in the match. India needed 147 runs to win the match and the start was far from ideal. India would lose Rohit Sharma early as he went

for a rash shot and Shubman Gill soon followed to the pavilion. Kohli looked to be tentative and was slowly looking to get into his stride, but Ajaz Patel had other ideas. A superb delivery from the New Zealand spinner would force Kohli to edge the ball to slips. Kohli was dismissed with the score at 18 and India would further lose 2 more wickets and find themselves struggling to save the game at the moment.

Test Day 3 Live Updates

Kohli's disastrous time against New Zealand. Virat Kohli's total of five runs in the Mumbai Test is his lowest score in a match where he batted in both innings, while the 13 balls he faced is the fewest he has played in a Test where he appeared in both innings. Kohli has ended up scoring just 93 runs in 6 innings against the Blackcaps at an average of 15.50.

Mumbai Test: Rohit Sharma slammed for 'rash and needless' shot after another failure

New Delhi. India captain Rohit Sharma played an inexplicable shot to get out early in the final innings of the third Test against New Zealand in Mumbai on Sunday. Rohit was criticised by celebrated commentator Ian Smith for playing a 'rash, needless and reckless shot' when India needed their captain to show the way in a tricky chase of 147 on Day 3 of the Test match. Rohit Sharma lasted only 11 deliveries in the middle after walking out to open the batting with Shubman Gill in the first session. Rohit survived a rash shot earlier in his innings when he tried to hit fast bowler Matt Henry's bouncer into the stands. The top edge flew over the mid-on fielder. Rohit did not learn his lesson as he went for another pull shot in the third over against Matt Henry. The rub of green did not go the India captain's way as New Zealand star Glenn Phillips took the catch. "That was rash. Needless and outrageous. He had his warning when he mistimed his pull shot early on," Ian Smith said on air. "It was not that bad a delivery. It was short. As soon the catch was taken, Matt Henry



pointed to his captain and said 'our plan worked'," he added. Rohit Sharma has been more reckless than brave in the ongoing home Test season. The approach, which has

been heavily scrutinised, has seen him throw his wickets away, leading to a loss of control in crucial stages of the Test matches. Rohit ended the three-Test series with just 91 runs after six innings. India had more bad news on Sunday as they were reduced to 29 for 5, losing their big guns cheaply inside the first hour of the day's play. Virat Kohli was dismissed for 1 by Ajaz Patel while Shubman Gill saw his stumps uprooted after he shouldered arms.

Sarfraz Khan avoided a King Pair, but he hit a full-toss straight into the hands of the deep fine-leg fielder. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who was trying to survive the onslaught, was dismissed by off-spinner Glenn Phillips.



Bournemouth for the victory. "The 50-50 balls in the middle, the duels, they play this type of game. They are so aggressive. They had six-seven days to prepare. They have physicality and speed, but you have to win these types of situations. And they had chances. Ederson made a good save. We had real good moments at the start of the second half and after that it was difficult to swallow as we were good. After we scored we had momentum and chances but couldn't score [again]."

It is what it is: Guardiola on injuries. City have been crippled by a lot of injuries, with Guardiola saying after the League Cup loss to Tottenham that they had only 13 fit players in the squad. The City boss said he has a few players who are fit and match-ready, which has disrupted the balance of the side.

"It is what it is. We have few players with a lot of minutes and a lot of players with no minutes to the balance is a bit uncomfortable. We played good against Spurs but today we could not handle their intensity that they had and that's why we lost the game," said Guardiola.

Ball-tampering in India's tour game? Cricket Australia clarifies after heated scenes

India A tour of Australia: Contrary to a media report, Cricket Australia confirmed that there was no case of ball-tampering on Day 4 of the first unofficial Test between India A and Australia A in Mackay.



New Delhi. New Zealand coach Gary Stead is hoping that his side can make it to the World Test Championship final by winning their remaining matches, which would also mean they will have to whitewash India with a win in the Mumbai Test. New Zealand were the inaugural winners of the WTC title when they beat India in 2021. During that time, the Blackcaps faced a similar situation as they had to win their remaining 4 Tests and did so. New Zealand have the one match against India and 3 Tests against England remaining in their 2023-25 cycle. Stead is hoping that

his side can do to repeat of the 2021 heroics once again. Speaking to the New Zealand media, as quoted by Reuters, Stead said that his side will be looking to draw inspiration from their WTC run in 2021. "The first time we were in the situation of qualifying for the

first WTC final, we had to win four tests on the bounce and we managed to," said Stead. "Hopefully that's something we can lean on and say, 'we've done it before, here's an opportunity to perhaps do something very special again'." Also Read: How South

Africa's win in Bangladesh has hurt India's WTC final chances

Adapting to Mumbai pitch key for India series whitewash

New Zealand will have the chance to become the first team in 24 years to blank India in a home Test series after South Africa did it in 2000. Stead believes that his side would need to quickly adapt to the pitch conditions in Mumbai to pull off the feat. Stead emphasized the difficulty of adjusting to the red clay pitch at Wankhede Stadium, especially after their initial two wins on black soil surfaces. "A series win in itself is incredible, but what we want to do is keep trying to get better every game, and we're going to different circumstances now," Stead told New Zealand media. "The red clay is very different, so we're going to have to adapt quickly," he added. "Our next two trainings are going to be important but for the WTC itself, there's no doubt one more win would certainly help us."



Huma Qureshi

Shares Her Reaction To Shah Rukh Khan Painting Her Toenails During Ad Shoot: 'There Is God'

Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan has captivated fans globally, and he's also the favorite of many fellow actors. Recently, Huma Qureshi shared a memorable experience from an ad shoot with him, where she revealed he's her "all-time favorite." During the shoot, Shah Rukh went the extra mile by painting her toenails, leaving her so moved that she immediately called her mother, saying, "There is God." In a conversation with Mashable India, Huma Qureshi recounted her admiration for Shah Rukh Khan and her first meeting with him while filming an ad for a paint company. At that time, she was still new to the industry and hadn't made her film debut. She played Khan's pregnant wife in the ad, and in one poignant moment, he painted her toenails.



Reflecting on the experience, she said, "So that day I think I called my mother and said, there is a God. You know, and he listens to people's prayers because I got to work even on an ad shoot with my favorite actor in the world." Huma also shared her reaction to a cherished photo with King Khan, calling it 'such a lovely picture' and expressing how much she admires him as her 'most favorite actor in the whole wide world.' She explained that the photo was taken spontaneously when both their cars arrived at the same time for an event. With photographers nearby, they posed together, marking their first picture. The Double XL actress admitted that every time she meets Shah Rukh, she's too awestruck to ask for a photo, making this one all the more special. As Diwali approaches, Shah Rukh Khan is preparing to celebrate in style. His iconic Mumbai residence, Mannat, is now decked out in beautiful lights, adding a festive ambiance. A recent video shared by Pinkvilla on social media gives fans a peek at the dazzling Diwali setup at the Jawan actor's home, with lights illuminating every corner. This festive decoration may also hint at the grand celebration SRK is reportedly planning for his upcoming 59th birthday. According to India Today Digital, the Pathaan star is set to host a star-studded bash at Mannat on November 2.

Meenakshi Seshadri On Her Misunderstanding With Subhash Ghai: 'He Dropped Me For Other Actresses'



Meenakshi Seshadri, a cherished actress from the 90s, recently opened up about her unforgettable role in Subhash Ghai's Meri Jung (1985), a film that highlighted her impressive versatility. In a candid conversation with Friday Talkies, Meenakshi delved into the story behind her collaboration with Ghai, revealing how a miscommunication strained their professional relationship and impacted her career trajectory. Reflecting on her role, she shared, "The role in Meri Jung, Geeta and her sister, both were supposed to be one person. But Subhash ji wanted to cast me, give me a dance sequence. The other aspect (of the role) was where she was a doctor and had a court case against her as she gives poison to a patient."

Ghai's decision to split the character into two roles led to casting Meenakshi as the sister, while another actress took on the role of the doctor. This allowed Meenakshi to showcase her dance skills in a glamorous sequence. She recalled, "So he (Ghai) said that he'll cast someone else for it and give me the sister's role so I can get the glamour element also." Meenakshi credited Ghai's talent for weaving minor roles into the storyline, making them feel essential to the plot. "In reality, my role was not big in Meri Jung, but Subhash ji includes small roles so beautifully in the main story that people feel those characters are very important and valuable. That's also what happened with me," she explained.

Meri Jung solidified Meenakshi's image as a promising star, with fans and critics recognizing her potential shown in her debut film, Hero. However, a misunderstanding during the filming of Meri Jung proved to be a turning point in her career, leading to a premature end to her association with Ghai. She admitted, "While shooting (Meri Jung) I had a misunderstanding with Subhash ji. He had big dreams of giving me big roles, make bigger films and give song sequences, but that couldn't happen. I also handled the situation poorly."

Salman Khan Spotted At Mumbai Airport As He Jets Off For Sikandar Shoot Amid Heavy Security

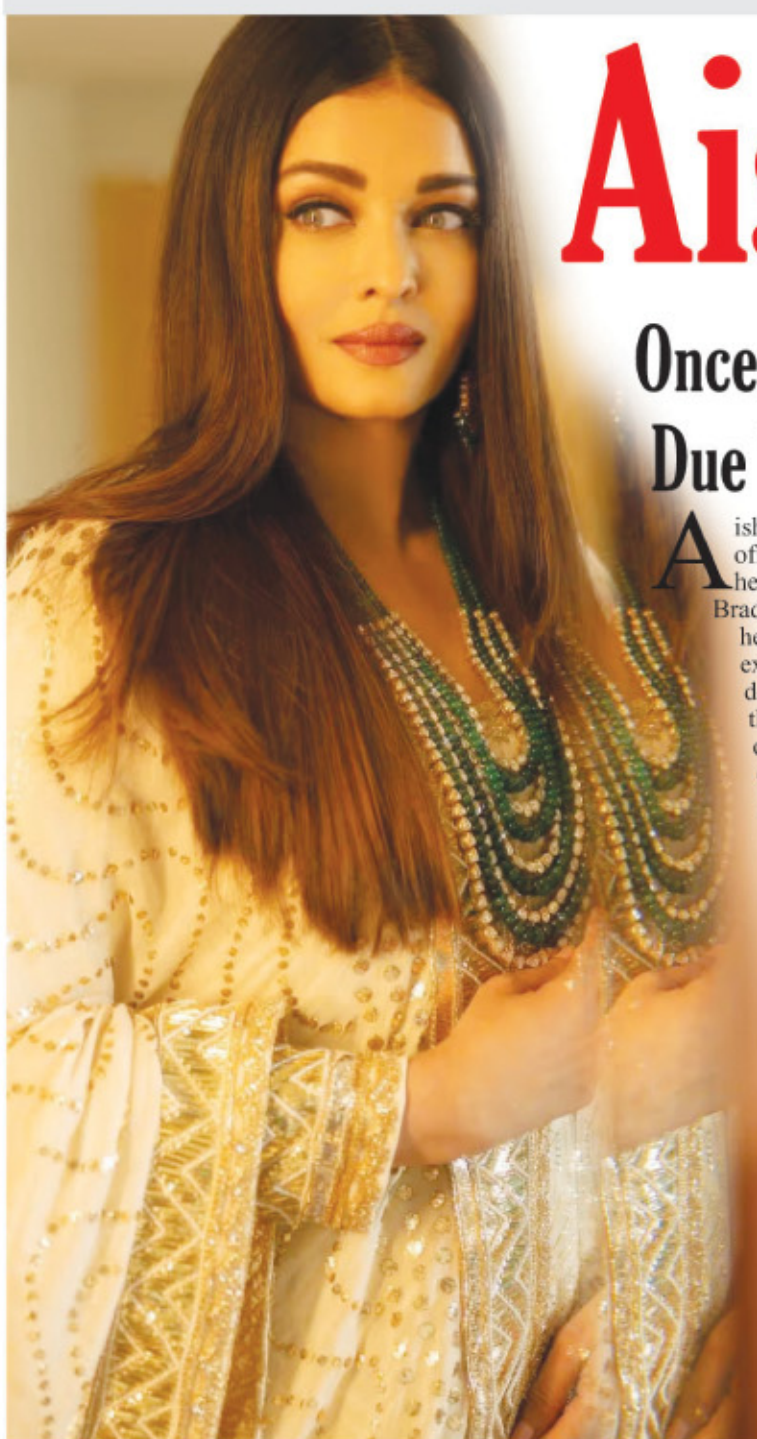


Bollywood superstar Salman Khan was spotted at the Kalina airport in Mumbai on Saturday afternoon. He reportedly left for the shooting of his upcoming actioner Sikandar, directed by A.R. Murugadoss. A few days ago, it was reported that Salman began the shoot of the film as scheduled, amid death threats issued by gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Now, the actor has fled out of Mumbai for the shoot, accompanied by heavy security. A video shared by paparazzo Manav Mangani shows Salman Khan getting out of the car, at Mumbai airport. He was seen rocking a casual look, and donned a sky-blue t-shirt with grey ripped jeans. He rounded off the look with black shoes, a black cap, and wore dark



sunglasses. He was flanked by his security personnel as he made his way into the airport. Fans expressed their excitement for Salman Khan's upcoming film Sikandar, and wrote that they can't wait for the film. Clearly, there's massive excitement for Salman Khan's Eid entertainer. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Sikandar is set to release on Eid 2025, and will see Salman Khan essaying the titular role of Sikandar. The star-studded cast also includes Rashmika Mandanna, Sathyaraj, Prateik Babbar, and Kajal Aggarwal. Sharman Joshi will also reportedly join the film.

On the work front, Salman Khan recently had a cameo appearance in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again. He reprised the role of Chulbul Pandey in this cop-actioner starring Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Arjun Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, among others. His cameo was a massive hit among fans, who were extremely thrilled to see the superstar on the big screen.



Aishwarya Rai

Once Turned Down Brad Pitt's Hollywood Film Due To THIS Reason: 'I Couldn't Just Kick...'

Aishwarya Rai was already a major star in India when she started receiving numerous international film offers. Hollywood took notice after her film Devdas was screened at the Cannes Film Festival, prompting her to explore career opportunities in the West. During this period, she was offered a prominent role in Brad Pitt's Troy. Although Aishwarya's part in the film wasn't particularly lengthy, the producers required her to commit 6-9 months to the project. In an earlier interview with SCREEN, Aishwarya recalled this experience, explaining that the filmmakers expected her to block off a large portion of her schedule despite the smaller role. "They wanted me to lock off 6-9 months because it was a huge film," she said. At the time, she hadn't realized that Hollywood often allocated extensive time commitments to ensure project stability and insurance for their films and actors.

Aishwarya went on to share that her role didn't justify such a large time commitment, especially since she had other obligations back in India. "Obviously, we have a way of looking at things like this is your part, lock off that kind of time. Of course, you understand the impact of largesse of that piece of cinema but to lock off that kind of time when you have that kind of albeit very small films here which I was committed to, I couldn't get myself to just kick that to the curb," she explained, adding, "It's exciting because there are huge offers. It's difficult because you know you are walking away from possibly..." Reflecting on this period, Aishwarya noted that many of her senior colleagues spoke of a "glass ceiling" in international cinema, yet she felt she was on the cusp of breaking through it. Despite turning down Troy, Aishwarya went on to act in several international projects during the early 2000s.



Years later, in 2012, Brad Pitt commented on the missed opportunity, stating that they "missed out" on casting Aishwarya in Troy. He told IANS, "Given a chance, I would like to work with Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, because she's a versatile actor. She is one of the most popular actresses of Bollywood, who has achieved huge acclaim in the west for her style, beauty, and acting. I think we missed an opportunity to be cast together for Troy." Ultimately, the role went to Rose Byrne.