

AIUDF attacks Himanta Biswa Sarma over Karimganj renaming

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Nov 20: AIUDF general secretary Rafiqul Islam on Wednesday attacked Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma over the renaming of the Karimganj district, hinting that the name



was changed because it was linked to Islam. "They only see Muslims in Karim," Rafiqul Islam added. Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday stated that the Karimganj district will be renamed to Sribhumi. "Over 100 years ago, Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore had described modern-day Karimganj District in Assam as 'Sribhumi'—the land of Maa Lakshmi. Today the #AssamCabinet has fulfilled

this long-standing demand of our people," he wrote on X. Referring to Himanta Biswa Sarma steering the BJP's election campaign in Jharkhand, Islam said it is difficult to say that he is the chief minister of Assam. "The CM has nothing to do right now. He stayed in Jharkhand for a month. It is difficult to say that he is the chief minister of Assam," he said. Reacting to Himanta Biswa Sarma's remark on Tuesday that there was no meaning of Karimganj in Assamese and Bengali dictionaries, the MLA said it was a historical name. "Karimganj is a historical name. So if those who are saying that the names that are not in the dictionary, which are not meaningful, will change it, then thousands of names in Assam will have to be changed," he added. "When India-Pakistan was divided, at the time of the referendum, some people came together to split this district into two pieces and took the piece of Sylhet with Pakistan. But it remained in Assam. We speak in pride that our ancestors made efforts to keep Karimganj with India during partition," he added.

50% Delhi government employees to work from home due to air pollution: Gopal Rai

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Nov 20: Delhi air pollution: Half of the staff in Delhi government offices will work from home in view of the deteriorating air quality in the national capital, environment minister Gopal Rai announced on Wednesday. Women walk on a road near India Gate as the sky is enveloped with smog after Delhi's air quality worsened due to air pollution, in New Delhi, India, on Tuesday. Women walk on a road near India Gate as the sky is enveloped with smog after Delhi's air quality worsened due to air pollution, in New Delhi, "To reduce pollution, Delhi government has decided to implement work from home in government offices. 50% of the staff in government offices will work from home," Rai wrote on X. Earlier, the Delhi government announced staggered office timings for its offices and the MCD. The timings of Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) offices were

fixed from 8.30 am to 5 pm, while that of Delhi government offices were 10 am to 6.30 pm. The air quality in Delhi and the



National Capital Region (NCR) remains in "alarmingly high" levels, prompting concerns about health and safety. Delhi logged a 24-hour average air quality index (AQI) of 460 at 4pm on Tuesday, lower than the record 494 clocked on Monday, but still in

the "severe-plus" classification. An AQI between 401 and 450 is classified as "severe" and 451 and 500 as "severe-plus". The scale is capped at 500. Experts stressed that such levels of pollutants expose people of all ages to a range of short- and long-term ailments. The city's AQI has been severe on six of the past seven days, as per the data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). It was 441 on Sunday, 417 on Monday, 396 on November 15, 424 on November 14 and 418 on November 13. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) invoked stricter pollution control measures for the Delhi-NCR under Stage 4 of the Graded Response Action Plan, or GRAP, that ban all constructions and allow schools to call off classes for most students. Weather forecasters said there would be little respite for the city over at least the next three days, with surface-level winds unlikely to get stronger and disperse any of the accumulated pollutants that have gripped Delhi's air for days now.

Election Commission takes action against policemen after Akhilesh Yadav

Naresh Malhotra Lucknow, Nov 20: The Election Commission of India (EC) on Wednesday ordered the suspension of two police personnel for violating its guidelines on checking of voters and stopping them from casting votes in the Uttar Pradesh bypolls. The action came after Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav raised the issue, urging the poll panel to act on video evidence showing police personnel hindering voters. Following the directive, district election officers and superintendents of police verified the complaints and suspended the accused personnel for their misconduct. Bypolls are currently underway in the nine assembly seats of Ghaziabad, Katohari, Khair, Kundarki, Karhal, Majhawan, Meerapur, Phulpur and Sisamau. Taking serious note of social media reports by the Samajwadi Party alleging that certain communities were being barred from voting, chief election commissioner Rajiv Kumar directed



Uttar Pradesh election officials to ensure a fair and impartial voting process. They were told to take immediate cognisance of all complaints, and take prompt action and inform the com-

plete compliance with the election process." In a post on X, Akhilesh Yadav had said that voters were being stopped from voting by the police administration. He appealed to the Supreme Court and the poll body to take immediate cognisance of the matter and said, "All the police officers who are checking voter cards and Aadhaar IDs should be immediately suspended on the basis of the video. Police has no right to check Aadhaar ID cards or identity cards." After EC took cognisance of Yadav's complaints, the former UP chief minister took to X and said voters who cops earlier stopped should once again go and cast their votes. "The Election Commission has also become alert and now it is giving assurance that those who have been stopped from voting should go and cast their vote once again. Now no malpractice will be allowed," he said. Yadav further wrote, "If anyone stops you again, then inform the Election Commission officials or people from political parties present there or complain directly to the Election Commission."

Delhi HC questions forest official over plea for transplantation of trees from deemed forest

New Delhi, Nov.20: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday pulled up a forest department official for filing a plea seeking permission to transplant three trees from a "deemed forest" for the construction of a flyover. Justice Jasmeet



Singh asked the Deputy Conservator of Forest (DCF) concerned to file an affidavit explaining if the aspect of the area being a "deemed forest" was considered by him before filing the application for removal of the trees. In the application, the DCF said that the PWD had sought the transplantation of three trees for the construc-

tion of a flyover between Anand Vihar and Dilshad Garden and the removal of trees was necessary in that area to facilitate smooth flow of traffic. The amicus curiae, lawyer Gautam Narayan, and the counsel for the petitioner, lawyer Aditya N Prasad, submitted that the stretch in question was a deemed forest, as disclosed in an affidavit filed by the city authorities in the Supreme Court, and the felling of trees, therefore, cannot be permitted there. As the counsel for the applicant DCF sought the court's permission to withdraw the application, the court asked the authority to first file an affidavit in the matter. "You file an affidavit. I am not permitting you to withdraw today. How can you move an application for cutting trees in a deemed forest? First check, tell me was this inquiry done," Justice Singh asked. "Let a clarification be filed on affidavit indicating whether this aspect was considered by the applicant before filing the application," the judge ordered. In August 2023, the court had ordered that no permission for felling of trees would be granted, while noting that the authorities were recklessly granting permission for cutting trees and there was total non-application of mind.

Chandrababu Naidu should continue as Andhra CM for another decade

ST Correspondent Ranchi, Nov. 20: Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan on Wednesday wished for TDP supremo N Chandrababu Naidu to continue as the chief minister of the state for another decade, considering his experience, guidance and visionary foresight for achieving USD 1 trillion GSDP. Asserting that he has 'complete' faith in Naidu, especially after seeing his governance over the first 150 days of the new NDA regime, the deputy CM highlighted that the southern state will become a USD 1 trillion economy 'soon'. "I am telling the chief minister (Naidu), not just five years, you have to continue as the CM of this state for a decade. You have to continue this spirit," said Kalyan while addressing the assembly and added that USD 1 trillion amounts to Rs 7.65 lakh crore. At a time when the erstwhile YSRCP government had allegedly devastated Andhra Pradesh and 'took back the state government in all fields', the actor-politician said that Naidu is needed for the state to 'race' towards achieving the USD 1 trillion economy. Calling on his Cabinet colleagues to work towards fulfilling the CM's vision and dreams in their respective portfolios, Kalyan appealed to Naidu to issue orders as to what they should do at all times. Further, he thanked the CM wholeheartedly for his speech on the first 150 days of the government and noted that it instilled immense encouragement and faith in him for the future.

Delhi HC stays trial court proceedings against P.Chidambaram

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, Nov 20: The Delhi high court on Wednesday stayed the trial court proceedings against former Union minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram in the Aircel-Maxis case lodged by the Enforcement Directorate. The Delhi High Court also issued notice to the Enforcement Directorate and sought its response on P Chidambaram's petition challenging the trial court's order taking cognisance of the charge sheet filed by the probe agency against him and his son Karti Chidambaram in the money laundering case. "Notice issued. Till the next date of hearing, the proceedings against the petitioner shall remain stayed. List on January 22," Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri said, adding that he will pass a detailed order later, news agency Senior advocate N Hariharan and lawyers Arshdeep Singh Khurana and Akshat Gupta, representing P Chidambaram, contended that the special judge took cognisance of the charge sheet

for the alleged offence of money laundering in the absence of any sanction for prosecution of the former Union minister who was a



public servant when the offence was allegedly committed. The ED raised a preliminary objection regarding the maintainability of P Chidambaram's petition, asserting that no sanction for prosecution was required as the allegations were unrelated to his official duties. As interim relief, P Chidambaram has sought a stay on trial court proceedings,

which are currently at the stage of charge consideration. The trial court had taken cognizance of charge sheets filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation and ED in the Aircel-Maxis case on November 27, 2021, and summoned Chidambaram and his son Karti. Chidambaram's counsel argued that under Section 197(1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), prior sanction for prosecution is mandatory when allegations pertain to acts performed in an official capacity. They claimed that the ED had failed to secure this sanction, rendering the proceedings improper. The plea requested quashing the special judge's order, which took cognizance of offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) without the necessary sanction. The ED and CBI alleged that Chidambaram, as Union finance minister in 2006, approved the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) clearance for the Aircel-Maxis deal beyond his authority, benefiting certain individuals and receiving kickbacks.

Investments worth Rs 85,000 cr cleared to create 34,000 jobs in state

New Delhi, Nov. 20: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday said that the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) has cleared investments worth Rs 85,000 to create 34,000 jobs. Addressing the assembly, the chief minister noted that these investments were cleared in the first SIPB meeting held on November 19. "Cleared over Rs 85,000 crore investments in the SIPB (meeting), which will generate 34,000 jobs," said Naidu, and added that the government will offer more incentives to companies which create more jobs. As many as 10 investments were cleared, which includes Rs 61,780-crore joint venture between Arcelormittal & Nippon Steel at Bangarayapeta near Nakkapalli to set up an integrated steel plant with a captive power. A Rs 5,001-crore investment by LG Electronics India Pvt Ltd, Kalyani Strategy Systems Ltd (Rs 1,430 crore), Tafe Faurecia India Pvt Ltd (Rs 76 crore), Phillips Carbon Black (Rs 3,798 crore) and Azad India Mobility India Ltd (Rs 1,046 crore), among others. According to the CM, there is fierce competition among states over investments in the country and called on officials to handle this competition carefully to attract investments into Andhra Pradesh.

BJP alleges 'scam' done on directions of Rahul, Sonia Gandhi

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Nov 20: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday intensified its attack on NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule and Congress' Nana Patole over allegations of their involvement in the alleged Bitcoin scam. The two leaders are accused of using Bitcoin proceeds to fund Maharashtra elections by former IPS officer Ravindranath Patil. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which quickly latched onto the allegation, has also released purported voice notes, which they claim involve Sule and Patole in a conspiracy to encash Bitcoins to influence the electoral process. Supriya Sule and Nana Patole have denied the allegations and accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of being behind it. Addressing a press conference, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra claimed that the alleged misappropriation was done as per the directions of Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. Patra also rejected



the Opposition's claim that his party was behind the "conspiracy" to target Sule and Patole. He claimed that the alleged cryptocur-

rency scam occurred years ago, and the Opposition's Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance used the money in previous elections as well. Patra claimed that about 2235 crore was involved in the alleged scam. "...There are 4 such audios of Supriya Sule... Today Supriya Sule is saying that this is AI generated, this is not my voice whereas her own brother (Ajit Pawar) is saying that this is her voice. So very clearly we can hear what instructions Supriya Sule is giving and not only Supriya Sule, you can also see Nana Patole how he is giving instructions to Amitabh Gupta who is the commissioner..." Patra was quoted as saying by ANI. "In the chat that has taken place in the chat box, in Signal app, apart from Supriya Sule and Nana Patole, there are some other big players. If there is any biggest player in this game of loot and corruption in this country, then it is Sonia ji and Rahul ji. And the way these things are happening allegedly and crores of rupees are involved in it, 235 crores rupees which we are hearing... We would like Rahul ji to hold a press conference on this and also give clarification from his side that did he not give instructions to Nana Patole?" he added. On her part, Sule has denied the allegations by accusing the BJP of resorting to "cheap politics".

Bitcoin row: BJP targets Sule, Patole

New Delhi, Nov.20: The BJP on Wednesday intensified its attack on Maharashtra opposition leaders Supriya Sule and Nana Patole for their alleged involvement in using Bitcoins illegally to fund elections, and claimed their roles will surface during the probe. BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra also targeted Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, and asked the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha to hold a press conference on the issue. In a press conference, Patra rejected the opposition's claim that the BJP was behind the "conspiracy" to target them amid the Maharashtra polls as he claimed that the suspected crypto currency fraud occurred years back and the opposition alliance used the money in previous elections as well. It appears that the money involved so far in this scam is Rs 235 crore, he claimed. Sule has rejected the charges, including the audio records purportedly featuring her voice, as fake and said she has filed complaint with the Election Commission and the Maharashtra Police. "Familiar tactics of

spreading false information to manipulate the righteous voters," she said. She said on X, "The intent and mala fide actors behind it are amply evident, condemn-worthy that such practices are taking place in a healthy democracy guided by the Constitution of India." Patra claimed that the matter came to light as Gaurav Mehta, a person involved in crypto currency trade and an alleged link to this case, decided to go public because he feared danger to his life after he encashed the Bitcoins to help opposition leaders. The BJP leader claimed that the matter has its roots in a crypto currency fraud in 2018, and a former IPS officer Ravindranath Patil, who had joined private sector and was tapped as an expert to help the investigation, ended up getting arrested for misappropriating a crypto currency wallet. Citing Patil's comments, Patra claimed two other IPS officers were involved in the missing wallet. Mehta had then given evidence against Patil and shared the alleged voice records of Sule and Patole, he noted.

News box

Vizag police arrest four youths in gang-rape case

VISAKHAPATNAM: Within hours after receiving the complaint, the Visakhapatnam city police arrested four individuals on charges of gang-rape of a woman on Tuesday. The accused were identified as Batha Vamsi (27), a final-year LLB student and worked part-time as a Swiggy delivery agent, Boddu Jagadish (27), a fellow final-year LLB student, also worked as a Swiggy delivery agent, Polipalli Anand (28), worked part-time as a cashier and the fourth accused, Davulapalli Rajesh (23), a final-year LLB student from Cheralupada, was engaged in rod-bending works. According to police, the victim, a third-year LLB student, had been in a relationship with Vamsi for over a year. He allegedly lured her into a room at Krishna Gardens on August 13, 2024. While the victim and Vamsi were in the room, Jagadish secretly filmed them through a window and later shared the video with Vamsi, Anand and Rajesh. The four accused used the video to threaten the victim and coerce her into sexual acts. The assault continued later that day in the same room. In another instance, Vamsi, Jagadish, and Rajesh took the victim to Thotlakonda, where they again threatened her with the video and sexually assaulted her in a secluded area. Unable to endure the repeated assaults and threats, the victim attempted suicide on November 18 at her house in Pedagantayada. She was saved by her father, to whom she disclosed the incidents. They subsequently filed a police complaint, leading to the arrests. A case was registered at the II Town Police Station under Crime Number 287/2024. The charges include sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) Act-2023 and the Information Technology (IT) Act. Visakhapatnam Commissioner of Police (CP) Shankabrat Bagchi confirmed the arrests.

Andhra: NTR Sports Stadium to undergo major revamp

GUNTUR: In a significant move to rejuvenate sports infrastructure, officials from the Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) have announced plans to transform the Nandamuri Taraka Rama (NTR) Municipal Sports Stadium into a state-of-the-art facility. Located in Brindavan Gardens, the stadium is Guntur city's sole sports hub and attracts 4,000 to 6,000 visitors daily, including athletes and walkers. However, years of neglect have left its courts, walking tracks, and other amenities in disrepair. GMC Commissioner P Srinivasulu, accompanied by Guntur West MLA Galla Madhavi and senior officials, recently inspected the stadium. They identified key issues, such as a damaged indoor stadium ceiling, leaks in structural slabs, a worn-out shuttle court and tennis court, and malfunctioning gym equipment. The swimming pool requires filter repairs, and new changing rooms for athletes are planned.

Following the inspection, the official held a meeting with members of the NTR Stadium Sports Complex and Swimming Pool Society. Srinivasulu announced a probe into the allocation and use of funds for the gymnasium's construction and revealed that elections would be conducted to form a new committee to oversee the stadium's management. MLA Galla Madhavi underscored the importance of developing the stadium as a training center to nurture talent and position Guntur as a key sports hub.

Telangana HC strikes down GO 16 regularising contract jobs

HYDERABAD: In a landmark judgment, the High Court on Tuesday declared Section 10-A of the Telangana (Regulation of Appointments to Public Services and Rationalisation of Staff Pattern and Pay Structure) Act, 1994 unconstitutional while making it clear that the services of contractual employees who have already been regularised would not be terminated.

A bench of Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Namavarapu Rajeshwar Rao was hearing a clutch of writ petitions filed by A Venkatram Reddy and others challenging the decision to regularise contract lecturers through Government Order (GO) 16 dated February 26, 2016. The GO amended the 1994 Act by introducing Section 10-A, allowing the state to regularise the services of contract lecturers who met specific criteria. The petitioners argued that the regularisation violated the principles of fair recruitment under Articles 14, 16, and 21 of the Constitution and Supreme Court precedents, particularly the Constitution Bench ruling in State of Karnataka v. Umadevi. They contended that the contractual appointments were made without following a transparent selection process and deprived eligible candidates of a fair chance.

GO 16 outcome of unique challenges faced by Telangana, state tells HC

The petitioners pointed out that over 5,540 lecturer posts in junior, degree and vocational colleges were regularised without advertising the vacancies. They argued that the move was arbitrary, contrary to public policy, and violative of the 1994 Act's objectives.

Remittances from Kerala make North's rural pockets rich

PERUMBAVOOR: It's a hot Sunday afternoon at the Gandhi market in Perumbavoor, a town which is home to a large migrant population, mostly from West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Odisha. Hundreds of migrant workers, who work in and around this small town near Kochi, have thronged the market to spend their weekly holiday - purchasing cheap dresses, recharging their mobile phones, shopping groceries for the new week, or just catch up with their friends and relatives. But, perhaps the biggest business in the market is something else - cash transfers. Tucked in a corner of the market's entrance is 'Mijanur Travels', an ordinary-looking shop run by Mijanur Rahman, in his 40s. Sunday is the busiest day in the week for Rahman, who hails from Murshidabad, West Bengal. People come here with the cash earned during the week gone by, and send it to their spouses or relatives back home in Guwahati, Nagaon, Bhubaneswar or Murshidabad.

"On a Sunday, I transfer anything between Rs 2-3 lakh for customers. There are some Sundays when Rs 4 lakh or more is transferred," he says. The remittances range from Rs 1,500 to 5,000, and even Rs 10,000 in some cases, and the small size of transactions means there could be as many as 100-150 such money transfers on a Sunday.



Rahman charges Rs 12 per Rs 1,000 remittances - Rs 8 for the services provider (Pay World, BharatPe, Paytm. etc) and Rs 4 as commission.

Abhijul Islam of Assam Mobile Shop, a native of Nagaon, has been running a similar money transfer outlet inside the market for nearly three years. He says Assamese workers, who mostly work at plywood factories in the region, deposit the cash on a weekly basis while the Bengali workers, who are engaged in daily wage jobs in construction field, farms or other low-skilled works, deposit the money once in two or three days. Explains Lijin J, who runs a train and air-ticket booking shop in Perumbavoor: "For the migrant workers, who stay along with three or four persons in a room, it's not safe to keep the cash in the room. So, whenever they save Rs 3,000 or more, they immediately transfer

the money back home."

There could be at least 30 shops in Perumbavoor engaged in money transfers. The business is booming, thanks to the high daily wages in Kerala and the shortage of workers in almost every sector that requires unskilled or semi-skilled workers. A 2021 study on 'In-migration, Informal Employment and Urbanisation in Kerala' by Dr Jajati Keshari Parida of Department of Economic Studies, Central University of Punjab, and Dr K Ravi Raman, member, Kerala State Planning Board, found that about Rs 7,500 crore is going out of Kerala annually as remittance to other states.

Binooy Peter, executive director of Perumbavoor-based Centre for Migration and Inclusive Development (CMID), reckons this figure is a gross underestimation. "As per our conservative estimates, the migrant population in Kerala could be remitting at least Rs 17,000 crore per annum to their home states," he says. According to CMID's calculation, there are over 35 lakh migrant workers in Kerala, who are earning a total of Rs 49,000 crore here. "On a conservative basis, we have to assume that a migrant worker is earning Rs 700 per day, 20 days per month, for 10 months," he explains. Dr D Narayana, economist and former member of the Kerala Public Expenditure Review Committee, was involved in the first

comprehensive study on migrant population in the state, in 2012.

His report found that there was a 25-lakh strong migrant population during that time, growing at 8% per year. "The migrant population in Kerala could be at least 48 lakh now," he says. There are no sectors where migrant workers are not present in Kerala, from construction to plantation, hotels to resorts, fisheries to grocery stores, and barber shops to high-end saloons. "Many sectors in Kerala would come to a standstill if migrant workers stop working," Dr Narayana says. Adds Planning Board member Raviraman: "While they are in Kerala, they become integral to what I would call 'right making/state making' process." According to Benoy, the resilience shown by rural India is due to the remittances by the migrant population, not just in Kerala, but also in other states. Significantly, the robustness of the informal Kerala economy is mainly due to the spending power of the migrant population on local goods and services here. "While most of the Kerala households now depend on shopping malls or use e-commerce websites like Amazon and Flipkart for their purchases, and commute through Uber or their private vehicles, the small grocery shops, hotels, the private buses and autorickshaws largely survive on the spending by the migrant population here," he says.

Parties deploy backroom mgrs, booth-level workers to ensure maximum turnout, avert thin margin wins

Mumbai: The campaign for assembly polls ended on Monday evening, but for this multi-cornered contest, political parties spent Tuesday focusing on getting their voters out in full strength on Wednesday. Political observers said the worry of thin margin wins or losses put the focus on voter turnout, as parties geared to get supporters to vote. They pointed out that compared with 2019, when there were only two prominent Congress-NCP and Shiv Sena-BJP alliances in the fray, this time there are six to seven major parties along with smaller parties fighting the polls. They said booth-level workers and backroom managers and their performance could make a difference between winning and losing. "This makes it a multi-party contest, and margins are expected to be thin. In Lok Sabha, Shiv Sena's Ravindra Waikar won from Mumbai North West by just 48 votes, so this time candidates and poll managers don't want to take any

chances. Voter turnout and the party's voting machinery will be equally important as the popularity of the candidate or netas. All parties in Mumbai are now in backroom operations to get core voters out," said a political observer. Most netas and candidates were carrying out backroom operations, doing last-minute checks on booth management, and ensuring that their core voters come to the booths.

"After the tumultuous campaigning for the assembly elections ended, I spoke to BJP netas, booth chiefs, and booth workers from my South-West Nagpur constituency over the phone and took a detailed review of tomorrow's preparations. I also wished everyone a successful celebration of democracy," said BJP's Devendra Fadnis in a post on X. A political analyst said with parties such as MNS and Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA) fighting over 200 seats, their vote-splitting ability will be tested.

"These candidates who are not in Mahayuti or MVA will make things more difficult for the bigger parties. After the split in the Shiv Sena and NCP, and one faction with each alliance, whose votes will be split because of the smaller parties and independents is very difficult to guess. So, the only way to counter this is to ensure maximum voting among core groups and supporters. Usually, enthusiasm among voters is lower in assembly polls compared to Lok Sabha polls, so it will be a challenge. The last day, last-minute voting machinery may prove to be pivotal," the analyst said. Rebels threatened to become a headache for the two major alliances. Close to 150 politicians from across parties filed nominations in defiance of their party's or multi-party alliance's official candidates. Later, many of them withdrew their nominations, and those who didn't were suspended or sacked by their parties.

Colleges in Telangana under five universities shut doors over unpaid dues

HYDERABAD: The dispute over long-pending dues to private degree colleges has re-emerged with colleges affiliated to five universities remaining shut on Tuesday, even as semester exams are scheduled in the week ahead. The college owners had called a statewide strike last month, but called it off following assurances by senior officials. On Tuesday, undergraduate and postgraduate colleges affiliated with Mahatma Gandhi University, Kakatiya University, Satavahana University, Palamuru University, and Telangana University remained closed, disrupting semester exams and impacting over seven lakh students from 1,048 colleges. The Telangana Private Degree & PG College Management Association (TPDPMA) is demanding the release of at least half of



the Rs 1,300 crore dues, pending for more than three years.

College owners say they are in no position to relent

The association stated that no meaningful progress has been made since their last meeting with officials in October. While colleges under Osmania University

continued with their scheduled exams, other universities have postponed the tests until November 26. TPDPMA president Bojja Suryanarayana Reddy, pointing to the gravity of the situation, told TNIE: "We will not relent until the government releases the dues. The financial crisis has worsened, especially since 2018, and we have been struggling to sustain operations." He said that Rs 600 crore - Rs 450 crore for private colleges and Rs 150 crore for government colleges - was urgently needed.

Tokens for approximately Rs 1,200 crore were reportedly issued over the last 18 months, but the dues remain unpaid, Suryanarayana Reddy revealed. According to the association, 20% of dues for 2021-22, 70% for 2022-23, and 100% for the current academic year were still pending.

Thiruvambady Devaswom's actions during Pooram suspicious, CDB in Kerala HC

KOCHI: The Cochin Devaswom Board (CDB) has told the Kerala High Court that certain actions of the Thiruvambady Devaswom during the Thrissur pooram had given rise to suspicions that they were aimed at aiding certain political parties to influence the Lok Sabha elections. Giving credence to the CPI's claim of a concerted effort to disrupt the pooram, the CDB, in a report submitted to the HC, said a series of incidents that occurred during a one-year period ahead of the prestigious event supported the allegation of a conspiracy to undermine the festival. "The Thiruvambady Devaswom's dubious actions included disrupting the pooram by involving in discussions individuals who had no connection to it or the festival. The involvement of BJP leaders B Gopalakrishnan and district president K K Anishkumar and RSS leader from Kannur Valsan Thillankeri has further strengthened these suspicions," the report



said. Adding to the controversy, Suresh Gopi, who was then BJP's candidate from Thrissur, openly intervened in the issue. "Despite it being a no-traffic zone, he broke the law by using a Seva Bharathi ambulance, allegedly to provoke anger that could force a stop to the festival midway, which could further his electoral interests. He also spread false information through channels and social media, claiming that the pooram was in disarray," the report said.

It also stated that Gopi had spread the news that issues had been settled following his intervention. Public accusations and counter-allegations aired on channels and in newspapers by office-bearers have brought disgrace to the public discourse. "These incidents confirm suspicions about the Thrissur Pooram conspiracy," stated the report. According to the CDB report, one glaring example of the conspiracy is the delay of the fireworks display, which was scheduled for 3 am but was postponed until 7.15 am.

Pooram: Call to set up high-powered committee

"This delay should be viewed as an unethical pressure tactic by the Thiruvambady Devaswom," it said. A list of 160 individuals - comprising 85 workers and 65 committee members - was submitted by Paramekkavu Devaswom seeking permission to stand on the highly regulated pooram ground during the fireworks. However, the Thiruvambady Devaswom

initially refused to provide a similar list, the report said. Eventually, they agreed to participate in the fireworks display only on the condition that all individuals they nominated be allowed on the ground.

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Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 965407232, 9971359517
Website : www.sikhimes.in
Email : sikhimesindia@gmail.com

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Legal Advisors:

Advocate Mohd. Sajid
Advocate Dr. A.P. Singh
Advocate Manish Sharma
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

News box

Muck piles up on roads, residents protest

Noida: Residents of Sector 105 in Noida have raised complaints about sewage being dumped near the sector gate for several days. On Tuesday, they staged a protest against this illegal dumping and demanded immediate action from the civic body. "There is a commercial property located to the right of our gate number 3, where sewage waste is being dumped. Several complaints have been made to the Noida Authority, but there has been no resolution, even under GRAP Stage 4, implemented to curb pollution. The accumulated sewage waste has now spread over an area of up to 1 km. More than 9,000 residents of Sector 105 are being forced to endure the foul stench caused by the dumping of sewage and garbage near the sector gate," said Deepak Sharma, RWA president of Sector 105. Residents further alleged that when they wrote to the CEO of the Noida Authority, an attempt was made to cover the waste with soil. Rajeev Dubish, the RWA general secretary, added, "As per pollution regulations, the intersoil used should be non-biodegradable, but the sewage waste being dumped here is biodegradable. It is rotting and spreading a terrible stench. The smell persists as no permanent solution has been implemented. Many residents are already complaining of breathing issues due to pollution, and this foul smell is making the situation worse." Unable to find a permanent solution, residents of the sector organised a protest near the dumping site on Tuesday. A response from the Noida Authority is still awaited.

52 nabbed for cyber frauds in 4 months, 9 crore recovered

Noida: As many as 52 people were arrested by Noida police from various states in connection with cases of cyber fraud over the past four months. The cops also managed to recover Rs 9 crore that the accused had taken from targets. Apart from these, raids in five sham call centres led to the arrest of 71 people over a period of time. Officials said they had tracked down the accused cyber frauds to states such as Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Delhi, apart from UP, recovering Rs 9.4 crore in total. According to the officials, 23 of these cases were successfully prosecuted during this period. Noida police commissioner Laxmi Singh said police were regularly carrying out drives to raise awareness among people about cybercrime. "We've intensified our efforts to alert residents about various cyber frauds, such as digital arrests, share trading, investment schemes, and utility bill-related crimes. Our outreach extends to RWAs in various sectors and educational institutions as well," she added. Cyber cops have also set up a dedicated WhatsApp group with RWA representatives to share real-time updates about emerging threats and scams. Of late, they also conducted interactive sessions for university students in collaboration with Adobe. "Our initiatives included lectures at cyber security school and expert-led sessions," Singh said, adding, "the team participated on Cyber Security Day organised by Noida Industries' Association and maintained a presence at Greater Noida Expo to promote cyber safety." Police have also conducted extensive training sessions with major banking institutions, such as SBI, PNB, ICICI, HDFC, Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, and Bandhan Bank. These sessions emphasised on the importance of thorough customer verification processes and transaction monitoring to prevent large-scale frauds.

Revamp of 2 key junctions: NHAI seeks Rs 100 crore for shifting utilities

Gurgaon: NHAI requested GMDA to accelerate the payment of Rs 100.5 crore for relocating utilities as part of the renovation project at Hero Honda Chowk and Umang Bharadwaj Chowk last week. The development work covers a 2.2 km segment of the Gurgaon-Pataudi-Rewari portion of NH-352W and are being carried out by NHAI, while GMDA is funding the project. According to estimates, shifting of a water supply pipeline will cost Rs 33.11 crore, while relocating sewer and stormwater drainages falling along this road will cost Rs 23.75 crore. Additionally, an estimate of Rs 43.63 crore has been prepared for the relocation of high-tension electrical lines. An NHAI official said that they have to start the shifting works before the construction begins. "Since it is a busy stretch, we have to prepare a traffic diversion plan and service road so that there is minimal disruption during construction," the official added. Meanwhile, a GMDA official said a partial amount of the project cost was transferred to NHAI. This project was part of a broader plan, first approved in 2017, to widen and improve the 5.6 km stretch between Hero Honda Chowk and Dwarka Expressway. While GMDA completed its work on the 3 km section between Umang Bharadwaj Chowk and Dwarka Expressway and NHAI operationalised the underpass on the expressway, the works on the 2.2 km stretch between Hero Honda Chowk and Umang Bharadwaj are yet to take off. The project was originally financed by GMDA, while HSNVP was responsible for handing over the land required for the revamp of the 2.2 km stretch. The revamp plan underwent several revisions over the years. Initially, NHAI proposed to widen the road into six lanes with a flyover at Umang Bharadwaj Chowk, and the work for this was originally supposed to start in 2019. But later, it was decided that the project would be merged with the Gurgaon-Pataudi-Rewari Highway, pushing the start date to Nov 2021 and the deadline to Nov 2023. Later in 2022, Gurgaon MP and Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh insisted on the construction of an elevated road between Hero Honda and Umang Bharadwaj Chowk, citing demand from RWAs and industrial associations. The approval of metro expansion works cast a shadow of doubt on the project.

Man killed sister-in-law, infant niece as brother refused him 25k to fly to Dubai

Ghaziabad: A 24-year-old man who allegedly strangled his sister-in-law and her infant daughter in their house in Bamheta village on Monday was upset after his dream to work in Dubai was cut short when his brother refused to lend him Rs 25,000, allegedly on the insistence of his wife, to get a flight ticket. Mohamad Zeeshan was arrested early on Tuesday, barely hours after he sneaked back into the house, this time, to attack his brother to extract a "final revenge". DCP (rural) Surendra Nath Tiwari said the accused was hoping to start a job as a welder in Dubai and had paid an agent, Sanjar, Rs 1.30 lakh — an amount he had saved up from his job in Pune — for a passport, visa and ticket. While the agent had given him a passport, Zeeshan was to get the ticket and visa from the agent's Noida office and take a flight on Nov 9, the officer said. Once in NCR, Zeeshan went to stay with his brother in Ghaziabad. When he went to get his documents from the agent's Noida office, he was told that the flight was cancelled and was asked to pay up more money. Zeeshan asked his



brother Mohamad Burhaan to lend him Rs 25,000 after reaching the latter's house in Ghaziabad on Nov 7. Burhaan initially agreed to help but apparently went back on his words after his wife, Shaheen Parveen, refused to give him the money. Zeeshan blamed his brother and sister-in-law for missing out on his dream job," the DCP said. Zeeshan, police said, also

nursed a grudge against his sister-in-law as her cousin, Afroz, had insulted him over some argument barely two months ago. It was Afroz who had later introduced Zeeshan to Sanjar. Police believe that Zeeshan blamed the trio, along with his brother, when his plan to get to Dubai did not work out and he lost his savings. "On Monday, when Burhaan left for work and

his two sons, Ayan and Anam, went to school, Zeeshan strangled his Parveen with a scarf around 10.15 am. He then turned to his three-year-old niece and tried to grab hold of her, but the child managed to escape. He then strangled the three-month-old infant, lying on a cot, with his bare hands. After killing the two, Zeeshan stuffed his clothes in a bag and fled," the DCP said. During interrogation, the accused told cops that he went straight to the travel agency's office in Noida. "We found that he misbehaved with the employees there and snatched the receptionist's mobile and fled. Zeeshan used this phone number to make multiple calls to Burhaan. He allegedly threatened his brother, saying he wouldn't spare him either. Zeeshan claimed he returned to his brother's home later that night as he wanted to "teach him a lesson" too, but didn't find Burhaan as he had left for the burial ground," he said. Zeeshan was arrested for murder (BNS Section 103) early on Tuesday from the Lal Kuan area by a team of cops from Wave City PS and sent to judicial custody.

Survey of land to be acquired for New Noida starts

Noida: The Noida Authority has started a survey of the land set to be acquired for the development of the Dabri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region (DNGIR) — commonly referred to as New Noida. The Noida Authority CEO, along with other officials, carried out a preliminary survey on Monday in Bulandshahr before the land acquisition begins. Noida CEO Lokesh M said, "We inspected the proposed land in the Sikandrabad area of Bulandshahr. We also inspected the land in Jokhabad village for a temporary office of the Noida Authority, which will supervise the land acquisition and development works in the area. The officials have been directed to start the land acquisition process. Soon, we will hold meetings with the local

landowners, village residents, and gram pradhans to get their consent for land acquisition." Land measuring 209.11 sqkm across 80 villages from the Gautam Budh Nagar and Bulandshahr districts has been notified for this. Of these 80 villages falling under the DNGIR area, 63 are in Bulandshahr while the remaining 17 are in GB Nagar. The Authority plans to develop the area in four phases — 3,165 hectares will be acquired in Phase 1 by 2027, 3,798 hectares in Phase 2 by 2032, 5,908 hectares in Phase 3 by 2037, and 8,230 hectares in Phase 4 by 2041. In Oct, the state govt approved the Authority's Master Plan 2041. Under this, the Authority has earmarked 40% of the acquired land for industrial purposes, 13% for residential purposes, 18% for green

and recreational areas, 4% for commercial use, 8% for public institutions, and the remaining for other development projects. According to officials, the DNGIR area has been identified as one of the key proposed investment regions in the first phase of the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). This area has excellent connectivity through road and rail links to the rest of the state as well as the country. It will have Noida, Greater Noida, YEIDA area, and also the Noida International Airport in its vicinity. These adjoining urban areas have a well-evolved road network, state-of-the-art physical and social infrastructure along with some of the best residential, commercial, institutional, and entertainment areas, officials added.

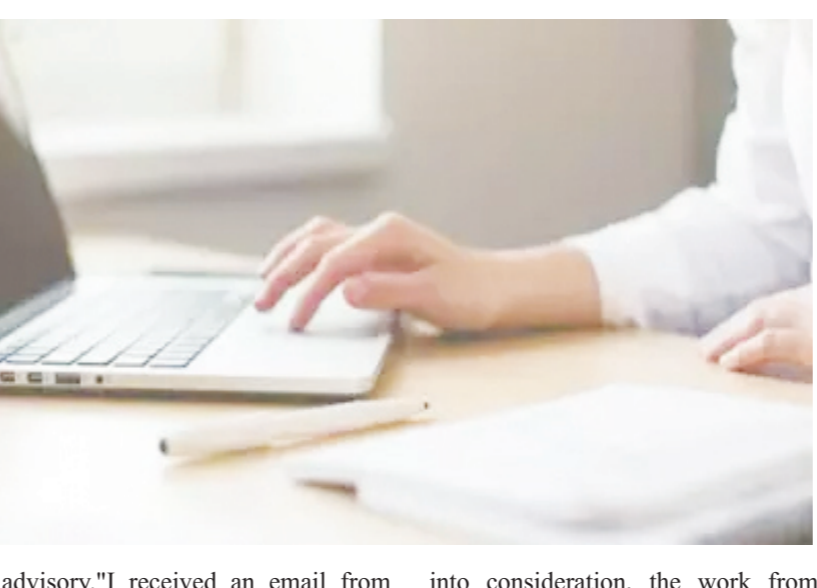
17 injured as 3 vehicles pile up on EPE on foggy morning

Noida: At least 17 persons were injured after multiple vehicles piled up on the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) as visibility reduced to only a few metres on a foggy Tuesday morning. The spate of accidents, police said, occurred around 5.15 am near Dadpur village under the Ecotech 1 police station. "Three vehicles were involved in the pileup — two trucks and a bus. A team was rushed to the spot after passersby informed us about the accident. Seventeen people were injured and were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment. Dense fog early in the day caused the series of accidents," said Anuj Kumar, the SHO of Ecotech-1 police station. Preliminary investigation revealed that a truck travelling from Kasna to Faridabad crashed into another from behind. Subsequently, a bus carrying passengers to Mathura from Panipat rammed the second truck, leaving many of its passengers injured. "After sending the injured passengers to hospital, our primary task was to remove the damaged vehicles from the busy EPE. All the passengers suffered minor injuries and were discharged from hospital after treatment," Kumar said. With visibility a concern during winter, administrations in various districts of NCR come out with advisories with reduced speed limits on expressways and other major highways. Through this week, IMD has predicted foggy conditions for Noida and Ghaziabad. On Monday, the Noida administration issued a comprehensive road safety advisory to reduce the risk of accidents on speedways. "The measures include ensuring vehicles are equipped with functional fog lamps and wipers. Damaged wipers or fog lamps should be repaired immediately or installed if they are missing. These are essential for navigation in low-visibility conditions," states the advisory by district magistrate Manish Kumar Verma.

The advisory also warns drivers against using emergency indicators during fog as it can obstruct the use of turn signals and raise the risk of collisions. They should, instead, rely on headlights, it says. "For enhanced visibility,

After online classes order, DC asks offices to consider WFH for staffers

Gurgaon: A day after suspending physical classes for all schools, the district administration issued an advisory for private institutions and corporate offices to consider asking their employees to work from home from Wednesday until further orders. The advisory, issued by deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar, referred to the GRAP IV notice of Commission for Air Quality Management, which stated that administrations in NCR districts may take a call on allowing public, municipal, and private offices to operate at 50% strength, with the rest working from home. "In view of the above, all private institutions and corporate offices in Gurgaon are advised to guide their employees to work from home from Nov 20 until further notice and, by doing so, assist in directing customers to shops where crackers are least likely to be found. "I was asked to visit a tent house in Raj Nagar Extension to get crackers for my children. One of my friends got them from a paan stall. But this time, they have increased their rates by almost 25%," a Raj Nagar resident said. Dinesh P Kumar, additional CP, said no permits were handed out to cracker



advisory. "I received an email from the DC regarding the work from home advisory, into consideration, the work from

<p>NAME CHANGE I, FARAH DEEBA ANSARI W/O SHAMSUR RAHMAN residing at K-38/T F, BATLA HOUSE, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, DELHI-110025 have changed my name to FARAH DEEBA for all future purpose.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SARASWATI SAMANTA D/O NISHIKANT SAMANTA R/O 64-B, SID-DARTH NAGAR, E-BLOCK, ASHRAM, DELHI-110014, have changed my name from SARASWATI TO SARASWATI SAMANTA for all future purpose.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SAAMI SHAMSUR RAHMAN S/O SHAMSUR RAHMAN residing at K-38/T F, BATLA HOUSE, JAMIA NAGAR, OKHLA, DELHI-110025 have changed my name to SAAMI SHAMSUR RAHMAN for all future purpose.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, USHA mother of BORKAR MANGESH MADHUKAR presently residing at VTC-SILODHA, DIST-AKOLA, MAHARASHTRA-444001, have changed my name from USHA TO USHABAI MADHUKAR BORKAR for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 03/05/1973 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1971. Affidavit dated 20/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SARASWATI SAMANTA D/O NISHIKANT SAMANTA R/O 64-B, SID-DARTH NAGAR, E-BLOCK, ASHRAM, DELHI-110014, have changed my name from SARASWATI TO SARASWATI SAMANTA for all future purpose.</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE I, SARASWATI SAMANTA D/O NISHIKANT SAMANTA R/O 64-B, SID-DARTH NAGAR, E-BLOCK, ASHRAM, DELHI-110014, have changed my name from SARASWATI TO SARASWATI SAMANTA for all future purpose.</p>
<p>NAME CHANGE I, IZHITO known as CHANCHAL alias NISHA D/O KHUSHI RAM W/O JAI SINGH R/O A-62-1, GOLDEN ENCLAVE, RANA ENCLAVE PART-1, NAJAFGARH, SOUTH WEST DELHI-110043 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NISHA.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SARASWATI SAMANTA D/O NISHIKANT SAMANTA R/O 64-B, SID-DARTH NAGAR, E-BLOCK, ASHRAM, DELHI-110014, have changed my name from SARASWATI TO SARASWATI SAMANTA for all future purpose.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SARASWATI SAMANTA D/O NISHIKANT SAMANTA R/O 64-B, SID-DARTH NAGAR, E-BLOCK, ASHRAM, DELHI-110014, have changed my name from SARASWATI TO SARASWATI SAMANTA for all future purpose.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SARASWATI SAMANTA D/O NISHIKANT SAMANTA R/O 64-B, SID-DARTH NAGAR, E-BLOCK, ASHRAM, DELHI-110014, have changed my name from SARASWATI TO SARASWATI SAMANTA for all future purpose.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SARASWATI SAMANTA D/O NISHIKANT SAMANTA R/O 64-B, SID-DARTH NAGAR, E-BLOCK, ASHRAM, DELHI-110014, have changed my name from SARASWATI TO SARASWATI SAMANTA for all future purpose.</p>	<p>NAME CHANGE I, SARASWATI SAMANTA D/O NISHIKANT SAMANTA R/O 64-B, SID-DARTH NAGAR, E-BLOCK, ASHRAM, DELHI-110014, have changed my name from SARASWATI TO SARASWATI SAMANTA for all future purpose.</p>

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Vikas Verma is the owner of Plot No. 15, area measuring 92*200=292.4 sq. yards, out of Kharsa No. 15/2/1 & 15/15/1 situated in the Revenue Estate of village Satapur Khurd, colony known as Sainik Enclave, Sec-V, Mohan Garden, Utam Nagar, New Delhi-110044, through Sale Deed dated 10.04.2024 regd. as doc. No. 2024/25/19759 executed by Mr. Prem Kumar Jain in favour of M/s Virat Developers through its partners Mr. Rajesh Gupta in respect of said Plot. M/s Virat Developers intends to transfer the ownership of the above mentioned property vide Sale Deed dated 04.10.2022 (Doc. No.7235) executed by Mr. Naresh Kumar Goyal and same to be finance & mortgage by Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd., having its Branch at Shalimar Garden, U.P. That Original Sale Deed dated 03.06.2013 (Vide Doc. No.2675) executed by Mr. Sumesh Chadha and Mr. Sunil Kumar in favour of Mr. Naresh Kumar Goyal has lost/misplaced and FIR of the same lodged. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/BFC, we give this public notice that if any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest/creating mortgage over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Advocate Abhishek Singh
A-2/367, Nand Nagri,
Near GTE Enclave,
SDM Court Nand Nagri, Delhi-110093
Mobile: 7706007066
Email: advabhishekn993@gmail.com

NEWS BOX

Donald Trump chooses 'Dr Oz' to head US public health insurance programme



World. Donald Trump announced on Tuesday that he was appointing Mehmet Oz, a former surgeon and TV celebrity known as "Dr Oz," to lead the US's massive public health insurance programme. The 64-year-old heart surgeon was championed on daytime television by Oprah Winfrey before he entered politics with an unsuccessful bid for a Senate seat in 2022. Oz is the latest of Trump's eye-catching nominations to key positions, including Fox News host Pete Hegseth to be defence secretary, vaccine skeptic Robert F Kennedy Jr as health secretary and billionaire Elon Musk to head a government cost-cutting unit.

"America is facing a Healthcare Crisis and there may be no Physician more qualified and capable than Dr. Oz to Make America Healthy Again," the president-elect posted on his Truth Social platform.

The appointment puts a man whose health recommendations—especially on Covid and weight loss—have often been ridiculed by the medical community at the helm of the United States' Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). As CMS administrator, Oz will be in charge of a federal agency that provides health coverage to more than 160 million Americans—almost half the country's population. It employs about 6,700 people, had outlays of USD1.48 trillion last year and is one of the largest purchasers of healthcare services in the world. A son of Turkish immigrants, Oz has never held public office before, but has been a steadfast ally of Trump, who backed him in his unsuccessful Senate run in Pennsylvania.

Netanyahu makes rare Gaza visit, says ' Hamas will never rule again'



World. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, during a visit to Gaza on Tuesday, declared that Hamas would no longer govern the Palestinian enclave once the war concludes, asserting that Israel has destroyed the militant group's military capabilities. Netanyahu affirmed that efforts to locate the remaining 101 hostages believed to be in Gaza were ongoing and announced a \$5 million reward for the safe return of each individual. "Anyone who dares to harm our hostages will have blood on their hands. We will hunt you down and bring you to justice," Netanyahu stated.

He added, "Whoever brings us a hostage will secure a safe passage, for themselves and their family, out of harm's way. The choice is yours, but the outcome will be the same. We will bring all our hostages home."

The remarks were made in a video message recorded during Netanyahu's visit to Gaza alongside Israel's defence minister and the army chief, where he received a briefing on ongoing operations.

What would Robert F. Kennedy junior mean for American health?

World. AS IN MOST marriages of convenience, Donald Trump and Robert F. Kennedy junior make unusual bedfellows. One enjoys junk food, hates exercise and loves oil. The other talks of clean food, getting America moving again and wanting to eliminate oils of all sorts (from seed oil to Mr Trump's beloved "liquid gold"). One has called the COVID-19 vaccine a "miracle", and the other is a long-term vaccine sceptic. Yet on November 14th Mr Trump announced that Mr Kennedy was his pick for secretary of health and human services (HHS).

Public-health leaders have responded with horror and disbelief. "Robert F. Kennedy junior is not remotely qualified for the role," said Dr Peter Lurie, president of the Centre for Science in Public Interest, a public-health watchdog, in a statement, adding that "nominating an anti-vaxxer like Kennedy to HHS is like putting a Flat Earther at the head of NASA." Industry types are similarly worried. Shares in vaccine-makers, such as Moderna and Pfizer, and biotech firms fell in response to the news.

The panic is understandable. Mr Kennedy has a long history of promoting debunked health theories and claims about vaccines, most damagingly about the risks of inoculating children. He has said that "there's no vaccine that is safe and effective" and has advised parents not to follow guidance by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one of the health agencies that could soon fall under his direction. He is a proponent of several unproven alternatives to mainstream medicine, ranging from the kooky but harmless to the actively dangerous. And he has promised to dismantle large parts of America's core public-health agencies—including the CDC, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—and purge them of the "smothering cloud of corporate capture". If he does make it into the job (he will have to survive confirmation by the Senate), what might that mean in practice? His Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement, which the Trump campaign embraced in the final phase of the election, gives clues to some of his public-health priorities.

Republicans move to bar first transgender Congress member from women's bathroom

➔ In a bill aimed specifically at Democrat Sarah McBride, the first transgender person in Congress, Republican Nancy Mace proposed prohibiting any lawmakers from "using single-sex facilities other than those corresponding to their biological sex".

Washington. House Speaker Mike Johnson signalled support Tuesday for a Republican effort to ban Democrat Sarah McBride—the first transgender person to be elected to Congress—from using women's restrooms in the Capitol once she's sworn

into office next year. "We're not going to have men in women's bathrooms," Johnson told The Associated Press. "I've been consistent about that with anyone I've talked to about this." Johnson earlier in the day emphasized the need to "treat all persons with dignity and respect," adding, "This is an issue that Congress has never had to address before, and we're going to do that in deliberate fashion with member consensus on it."

MCBRIDE'S SAMAN: REPUBLICAN LEADER

A resolution proposed Monday by GOP Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina would prohibit any lawmakers and House employees from "using single-sex facilities other than those corresponding to their biological sex." Mace said the bill is aimed specifically at McBride, who was elected to the House this month from Delaware.

The debate over whether transgender people should be allowed to use the bathrooms that align with their gender identity has been



congresswoman added that Johnson assured her the bathroom provision would be included in any changes to House rules for the next Congress. "If it's not," she said. "I'll be ready to pick up the mantle."

MCBRIDE CALLS OUT 'BULLYING' Democrats, including McBride, denounced the GOP effort as "bullying" and a "distraction." "This is a blatant attempt from far right-wing extremists to distract from the fact that they have no real solutions to what Americans are facing," McBride said. "We should be focused on bringing down the cost of housing, health care, and child care, not manufacturing culture wars." Rep. Katherine Clark, the No. 2 Democrat in the House, quipped that House Republicans are already "off to a great start." "What are they talking about there, on day one, is where one member out of 435 is going, where she is going to use the bathroom?" the Massachusetts lawmaker said during a press conference Tuesday. "That is their focus?"

prevalent across the U.S. and was a focal point of President-elect Donald Trump's campaign. At least 11 states have adopted laws barring transgender girls and women from girls and women's bathrooms at public schools, and in some cases other government facilities.

"I'm absolutely, 100% gonna stand in the way of any man who wants to be in a women's restroom, in our locker rooms, in our changing rooms," Mace said told reporters Tuesday. The second-term

Prince William and Kate Middleton's security breach exposes how 'ineffective' Royal Security is

World. Prince William and Kate Middleton are prioritizing their children's safety following a security breach at the Windsor Castle estate, where the family resides. The incident has raised concerns about royal security as masked burglars broke into a farm building near Adelaide Cottage, the Prince and Princess of Wales' home with their three children: Prince George, Princess Charlotte, and Prince Louis. The break-in reportedly occurred just five minutes from cottage, the family's home since 2022.

The break-in, which occurred late on October 13, involved the theft of a black Isuzu pickup and a red quad bike. Thames Valley Police confirmed the incident, stating, "At around 11:45 p.m. on Sunday 13 October, we received a

report of burglary at a property on Crown Estate land near to the A308 in Windsor... No arrests have been made at this stage, and an investigation is ongoing."

Windsor Castle grounds is 'quite scary'

Royal expert Kinsey Schofield, host of the To Di For Daily podcast, remarked, "It is quite scary for the people that live within the Windsor Castle grounds... It's disappointing to discover how ineffective [security measures] have been." "The ease with which the perpetrators breached the security perimeter underscores vulnerabilities that could... be exploited for more sinister purposes," Jonathan Sacerdoti, a British broadcaster, told Fox News Digital and flagged it as "a troubling

reminder" of potential threats.

Prince William wants to 'keep this under wraps'

A source told Fox News Digital that only Prince George was made aware of the situation. "William was very keen to keep this under wraps until the situation was concluded as he didn't want to cause any alarm," said royal commentator Neil Sean. "Police have not ruled out that this could've been an inside job... [The burglars] knew exactly where to find the stolen equipment." Notably, both Kate and King Charles III faced health issues, with Kate undergoing chemotherapy earlier this year. Prince William described 2024 as "the hardest year of my life" during a recent trip to South Africa.

Thousands of British farmers protest against tax on inheritance

World. With banners, bullhorns, and toy tractors, thousands of British farmers gathered outside Parliament on Tuesday to protest against a tax hike they claim will deal a "hammer blow" to struggling family farms. British farmers, typically less militant than their European counterparts, have refrained from staging large-scale demonstrations like those seen in France and elsewhere in Europe. However, they now warn they will escalate their actions if the government fails to respond. At the centre of the discontent is the government's decision to abolish a longstanding tax break from the 1990s that exempts agricultural property from inheritance tax. Under the new rules, farms valued at over £1 million will face a 20% tax when transferred to the next generation upon the owner's death, effective from April 2026.

"Everyone's furious," said Olly Harrison, co-organiser of the protest, which saw demonstrators flood the streets near Prime Minister Keir Starmer's Downing Street office. Harrison said many farmers are ready "to block roads and go full French." Protest organisers urged participants not to bring heavy machinery into central London, but a



few tractors adorned with banners reading "the final straw" and "no farmers, no food" rolled past Downing Street. The demonstration, estimated by police to have drawn 13,000 participants, saw protesters holding signs such as "Stand with a farmer, not Starmer." Children on toy tractors circled Parliament Square following speeches, including one by former Top Gear presenter and celebrity farmer Jeremy Clarkson. Inside Parliament, 1,800 farmers joined a "mass lobby" organised by the National Farmers' Union (NFU). NFU President Tom Bradshaw criticised the policy as "simply unacceptable," saying, "It undermines British food security at a time when we need it most."

The tax change adds to mounting challenges for farmers, including volatile weather worsened by climate

change, global instability, and the impact of Brexit. Many view the tax hike as the final straw in a series of setbacks. Starmer's Labour government argues that the majority of farms—around 75%—will remain unaffected by the tax, with various exemptions allowing farming couples to pass estates worth up to £3 million tax-free. The 20% levy is half the 40% inheritance tax applied to other property. Camilla Marshall, a spokesperson for Starmer, acknowledged the decision was "difficult" but confirmed it would not be reconsidered. Proponents of the tax argue it will target wealthy individuals who have purchased farmland as an investment, driving up costs and pricing out younger farmers. "High land prices are robbing young farmers of the dream of owning their own farm," wrote Environment Secretary Steve Reed in *The Daily Telegraph*.

However, the NFU contends that more than 60% of working farms could be affected, noting that while farms may appear valuable on paper, profits are often modest. Government data shows that average farm incomes declined last year, with grazing livestock farmers earning around £17,000 and specialist poultry farms generating £143,000.

Amid Souring Ties With India, Canada's Latest Move Inconveniences Fliers

World. Amid growing tension between New Delhi and Ottawa, passengers travelling from Canada to India are being subjected to extra security screening now. This decision was announced by Canada's Transport Minister Anita Anand late on Monday evening, as part of new temporary protocols, implemented "out of an abundance of caution." "Transport Canada has implemented temporary additional security screening measures," for travellers to India, Ms Anand was quoted as saying by Canadian broadcaster CBC. Passengers "may experience some screening delays while these measures are in place," she said. The enhanced security protocols will be implemented by the Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA), the agency responsible for screening passengers and their baggage before entering the restricted areas of Canadian airports.

In view of the new protocols, Air Canada has warned



passengers bound for Indian destinations of longer security wait times and asked them to reach airports at least four hours before their scheduled departure. "Due to heightened security mandates by Transport Canada for all passengers travelling to India, security wait times are expected to be longer than anticipated for your upcoming flight," Hindustan Times reported citing a notification sent by Air Canada to fliers. "To minimise any disruption to your travel plans, we recommend you arrive 4 hours prior to your flight's departure. We appreciate your patience and understanding," the notification added. The move to enhance security protocols for travellers to India came a month after the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) claimed it had evidence of involvement of "agents", acting on behalf of the Indian government, involved in "organised" crimes in Canada including extortion, intimidation, coercion and harassment.

India has denied the RCMP's allegations and said they were "simply not true". India also withdrew its High Commissioner in Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma after dismissing Ottawa's allegations. Since then, both countries have expelled each other's top diplomats. India-Canada ties remain deeply troubled over the North American country's alleged support to Khalistani separatists and its accusation of India's involvement in the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Canadian citizen who has been designated a terrorist by India.

Israel Seizes Weapons Found Beneath Lebanese Schoolyard

Israeli soldiers seized weapons from a Hezbollah facility in southern Lebanon, while Netanyahu vows to prevent Hezbollah's strengthening.

WORLD. Israeli soldiers seized a weapons cache located beneath a schoolyard in southern Lebanon, the Israel Defense Forces disclosed on Tuesday. The weapons were found in an underground Hezbollah facility tens of meters long. Rockets, explosive charges, rocket-propelled grenades and other weapons were seized. The army added that soldiers also captured rocket launchers, anti-tank missiles, military equipment, and intelligence documents in a nearby building. On Monday night, Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu vowed not to allow the Iran-backed Hezbollah return to its pre-war strength. "We will be required, in order to ensure our security in the north, to systematically carry out operations—not only against Hezbollah's attacks, which could come. Even if there is a ceasefire, nobody can guarantee it will hold. So it's not only our reaction, a preventive reaction, a reaction in the wake of attack but also the capacity to prevent Hezbollah from strengthening," said Netanyahu during an address to the Knesset.

Sarit Zahavi, president and founder of the Alma Research Center, told The Press Service of Israel in August that Hezbollah doctrine makes extensive use of civilian areas, where many more weapons, including ballistic missiles, are kept. "Hezbollah stores their weapons everywhere, both between villages and within the villages themselves," she said. "By and large, every third house in the Shi'ite



villages of south Lebanon is used in some way by Hezbollah for military purposes, be it weapons storage, the entrance of a tunnel, or a launchpad for shooting rockets at Israel," she explained. Soldiers have even found cruise missiles inside homes ready for launch. After the Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, Hezbollah began launching rockets and launching drones at

northern Israel communities daily. More than 68,000 residents of northern Israel are displaced from their homes. Hezbollah leaders have repeatedly said they would continue the attacks to prevent Israelis from returning to their homes. According to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 Second Lebanon War, Hezbollah is forbidden from operating in southern Lebanon south of the Litani River. At least 1,200 people were killed, and 252 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on October 7. Of the 97 remaining hostages, more than 30 have been declared dead. Hamas has also been holding captive two Israeli civilians since 2014 and 2015, and the bodies of two soldiers killed in 2014.

News box

Health Secretary Supriya Sahu urges DCGI to ban online sale of addictive drugs like tapentadol

CHENNAI: Health Secretary Supriya Sahu wrote to the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) requesting his intervention to ban websites that sell habit-forming (addictive) drugs, particularly tapentadol, in violation of existing laws. In her letter, Sahu pointed out the state police and the drugs control department have reported a worrisome trend of offenders procuring the drugs through online platforms. She said states have not been empowered to block such websites under current provisions of law, hampering its efforts to combat the menace effectively. In the letter dated November 12 to DCGI Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Sahu said the situation undermines the state's ongoing initiatives aimed at preventing drug abuse among students and the public.

The sale of Schedule H and HI medicines without a prescription from a registered medical practitioner and without the supervision is a clear violation of Section 18(c) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 read with rules 65(9)(a) and 65(2) of the Drugs Rules, 1945 respectively. The lack of transparency regarding the sellers' licence further exacerbates the issue, making it difficult to trace and monitor illegal transactions, Sahu added. She said the officers face considerable challenges in controlling the flow of these substances through online channels, which often evade regulatory scrutiny. "As the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 is a Central Act, I urge you to expedite the formulation of regulations governing the online sale of pharmaceuticals."

Former CM YS Jagan flayed for Rushikonda splurge

VIJAYAWADA: A heated debate unfolded in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council between members of the ruling NDA government and the opposition YSRC over the buildings constructed at Rushikonda during the previous YSRC regime. The treasury benches criticised the previous government for demolishing the Haritha Resorts, accusing them of misusing over Rs 420 crore of public funds to build "palatial structures" for the Chief Minister's camp office. Meanwhile, YSRC leaders countered the claims, asserting that the buildings were constructed for official government use, not personal use by former CM YS Jagan. Leader of the Opposition in the Council, Botcha Satyanarayana, challenged the government to conduct an inquiry if they suspected irregularities in the construction process. On the same issue, Tourism and Culture Minister Kandula Durgesh accused the previous government of demolishing Haritha Resorts, which reportedly generated an annual income of Rs 16 crore, promising to replace them with superior facilities. Instead, he alleged, the YSRC regime constructed seven blocks and repurposed them as luxurious camp offices for the CM under the guise of improving infrastructure. Durgesh faced strong objections from YSRC MLAs as he made these statements.

CM Revanth Reddy dedicates Kaloji Kalakshetram to Telangana people

HANAMKONDA: Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday inaugurated the Kaloji Kalakshetram in Hanamkonda, fulfilling a long-cherished dream of the people and artists of the region. Stating that Kalakshetram is a fitting tribute to poet, freedom fighter and Telangana activist Kaloji Narayana Rao, the chief minister



alleged that the previous BRS government ignored his contribution to Telangana society. "It is a shame that the KCR government completely ignored the contributions and legacy of Kaloji Narayana Rao during its 10-year rule," he said. Stating that the Kaloji Foundation and Kaloji Mitra Mandal members have now realised the dream of having a Kalakshetram in his name, he said: "The Praja Palana government of Congress ensured that the Kalakshetram is completed in six months and dedicated it to the North Telangana people."

"An additional amount of Rs 30 crore was released to complete the pending works and inaugurate Kalakshetram as per the wish of the artists," he added. After the inauguration ceremony, Revanth Reddy visited an art gallery located on the ground floor of the Kalakshetram. The gallery showcases rare photographs, personal belongings and awards of Kaloji Narayana Rao.

Kaloji Foundation representatives VR Vidyarthi and Potlapalli Srinivas Rao explained to the CM how the exhibits depict Kaloji's life and his literature. Later in the day, the CM watched a short film on Kaloji's life and his contributions to Telangana's culture and literature.

Fruit bats destroy Rudraksha yield, Kerala farmer sues forest dept

KOCHI: Fruit bats causing damage to crops is nothing new. But a farmer suing the forest department seeking a huge compensation for the loss he incurred owing to the flying mammals is not something common. C D Adarsh Kumar, whose main source of income were two Rudraksha trees in his orchard, was a successful farmer until recently. He said he earned a handsome Rs 1 crore per year from his four-acre land until a few years back. He used to sell quality Rudraksha beads from the two trees.



However, a colony of bats that feed on unripe fruits have left him devastated. The resident of Kallekulam, Poonjar, has been unable to earn a penny from the farmland in the past three years, and landed in a debt trap. Facing recovery proceedings from banks, Adarsh has moved the Pala sub-court seeking a compensation of Rs 2.25 crore from the forest department. However, can the forest department be held responsible for the crop loss caused by fruit bats? Adarsh says the custodian of forest is responsible for the loss caused by protected wild animals that intrude into farmlands outside the forest. "I developed a biodiversity park on my

four-acre farmland over the past 35 years, where I grow rare and exotic fruit trees. The fruit bats started attacking the trees since 2015-16, and I have not been able to earn even a penny in the past three years. I had to sell some trees to meet my family's expenses in the past couple of years. The Poonjar Cooperative Bank and Kerala Bank have initiated recovery proceedings against me for loan default," Adarsh said in his petition filed on November 14. Adarsh said he used to get beads with four to 20 faces from the Rudraksha trees.

Forest dept has to pay me compensation

"Some beads like Gauri-Shankar fetch fancy prices. Beads with five faces are common and are sold for 10 per piece. However, I can grow four saplings from a bead which I sell for 100 each. Besides, there are fruits like Durian,

Filosan, Borneo avocado and Rambutan in my orchard which provided me steady income. However, for the past three years, I haven't been able to harvest the yield as a big colony of bats is feeding on my crops regularly," he said. He said he has a liability of 1.67 crore with the Poonjar bank and a little over 1 crore with the Poonjar branch of Kerala Bank. "I also took a loan of 4 lakh in my wife's name. The banks will attach my property and my family will be on the streets soon. The fruit bats have devastated my life and the forest department has to pay me compensation," said Adarsh. Kerala Independent Farmers Association (KIFA) legal consultant advocate Jose J Cheruvil said fruit bats are a protected species categorised under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. "If farmers kill them or fire gunshots to scare them, it will be considered an offence. However, wild animals should be restricted in the forest and as custodian of forests, the forest department has to be held accountable for the devastation caused by animals. As per the strict liability principle, the department is liable to pay compensation if wild animals stray into the property of farmers and destroy crops."

BJP leader Muraleedharan's remarks about Wayanad landslides draw flak

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Senior BJP leader V Muraleedharan on Tuesday courted a controversy after he claimed only three local body wards were washed away in the Wayanad landslides, not an entire region. "It is not right to say a region was washed away in the landslides. Only three wards in two panchayats were destroyed. Money can be sanctioned only according to the law," Muraleedharan had told reporters in response to questions over the delay in central aid to rehabilitate the victims of the July 30 calamity. Maintaining that the Union government had not said additional assistance won't be given to Wayanad, Muraleedharan accused political parties of using the disaster for political gains. He also termed the joint LDF-UDF hartal in Wayanad against the Centre's stand, "a drama to prevent BJP's victory in the bypolls." He also said there was no point in having emotional talks on the issue. "The state government asked for Rs 214 crore from the Centre for rehabilitation. It is, however, not spending the Rs 788 crore it has in its possession for disaster relief," he said. His remarks stirred up a controversy with the CPM and Congress accusing him of trivialising the tragedy. Kalpetta MLA T Siddique accused Muraleedharan of insulting the victims, while Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas, in a Facebook post, termed Muraleedharan a "disaster of a severe nature."

CPI state secretary Binoy Viswam said the former union minister's remarks could not be pardoned. "There are a lot of victims in Wayanad who do not have any information about their kin. Muraleedharan spoke against them. It is unpardonable," he said. LDF convener T P Ramakrishnan said Muraleedharan's analysis of the disaster was unrealistic.

Protests across district

Kalpetta: Wayanad saw a slew of protests on Tuesday against BJP leader V Muraleedharan for his remarks on Wayanad landslide. The UDF workers burned the former Union minister in effigy at Chungam near Sultan Bathery. MLA T Siddique said with this statement, the BJP's true face has come out once again.

Pilot project on government school timings change from Wednesday

VIJAYAWADA: The State government's latest education reform to extend school hours sparked a heated debate among stakeholders. While parents have largely welcomed the move, teachers warn it could increase the burden on students, especially those in rural and tribal areas. Starting Wednesday, a 10-day pilot project will be launched in one high school or high school plus per mandal across the State. The project, ending on November 30, aims to gather feedback from stakeholders before deciding on permanent implementation. Under the proposed schedule, school timings will be extended by an hour, shifting from 9 am-4 pm to 9 am-5 pm. The assembly period will increase by 10 minutes, each of the



eight periods will be extended by five minutes, and two short breaks will be lengthened by five minutes each. The adjustment, designed to provide more time for syllabus coverage, keeps the current workload intact.

Rama Raju told that the reform addresses parents' concerns about student safety and aligns with private school schedules. "If the feedback is positive, the new timings will be implemented. If not, the current timings will continue," he assured. Parents, like M Sundara Venkatesam from Vijayawada, said, "The extended hours not only enhance academic engagement but also provide a safe space for children until working parents return home," he said. However, teachers have voiced strong opposition, emphasising the potential stress on students' mental and physical well-being. They argue that longer hours could rob children of personal time and opportunities for community interaction.

Comparisons with neighbouring States such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka, where school hours range between five and six hours, add fuel to the debate. Teachers also point to logistical challenges in tribal regions, where limited transportation facilities could make the extended hours impractical. State President of the Municipal Teachers Federation, S Ramakrishna, highlighted that AP already has some of the longest school hours in the country. He urged a balanced approach that prioritises co-curricular activities and mental health over longer classroom hours. The outcome will play a critical role in shaping the future of the State's education system.

Kuttaiyur villagers urge government to build bridge over Palar river for better connectivity

ERODE: With no bridge on the Palar river connecting the main land, the villagers of Kuttaiyur are a worried lot. They said their trouble reaches its peak when the river floods during the monsoon. Home to 900 people, the hill village is located on the border of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Speaking to TNIE, P Veerapathran, president of Hill Dweller Pedakampada Lingayat Welfare Association, said, "To reach Kuttaiyur village, we have to walk for nearly four kilometres from Jallipalayam near Karkegandi, in Karnataka, on Anthiyur-Mysore road, crossing Tamil Nadu-Karnataka border. To buy essentials, we have to go to Karnataka by crossing the Palar river." He said when the river floods during the monsoon, the villagers have to wait indefinitely even to



reach the hospital. Claiming that students are also affected due to the lack of bridge, Veerapathran urged the government to take immediate steps to construct a bridge on the river. Not just the villagers of Kuttaiyur, the bridge will also help people of adjacent Velampatti and Metalwadi villages. If there is no plan to build a bridge, a proper road should be laid so that the villagers

can go to Bargur and Kadambur through the state forest area." Anthiyur MLA AG Venkatachalam said the authorities have requested necessary land from the forest department to build a bridge on the river. "For this, double the required land will be handed over to the forest by the revenue department. It is under process. We are also taking steps to construct a road from Makkambalayam, in Kadambur hills, to the village. After the road is laid, the villagers of Kuttaiyur will not have to cross the Karnataka border." Erode DFO KVA Naidu said an application seeking NOC to construct a road from Makkambalayam to Kuttaiyur is under scrutiny. "Application for construction of the bridge on the Palar is yet to come," he added.

Panels formed to ensure smooth winter session at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha in Belagavi

He said all government departments should work in tandem to ensure that the session was conducted successfully.

BELAGAVI: The government has officially announced the schedule for the winter session of the State Legislature, which will be held at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha for 10 days, starting from December 9. Recently, Assembly Speaker UT Khadar and Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti had visited the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha and reviewed arrangements ahead of the upcoming session. The Opposition is expected to raise several contentious issues in the upcoming session related to the five guarantees, which reportedly made the government to divert funds meant for various development initiatives. Even as the MUDA site allotment issue is dying down, it may be raised by the Opposition during the session, according to sources. On Tuesday, Belagavi Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Roshan said the district administration and Belagavi Police would make elaborate arrangements to conduct the winter session effectively.

He said various committees had been formed to arrange transport, accommodation, food, maintenance of Suvarna Vidhana Soudha, etc., in an effective manner. He said all government departments should work in tandem to ensure that the session was conducted successfully. Most of the hotels, resorts, lodges and guest houses in and around Belagavi will be booked for 10 days to accommodate guests who will arrive for the session.

Centenary of 1924 Session

The DC said the government would also be holding events on December 26 and 27 to mark the centenary celebrations of the 1924 Congress Plenary, which was presided over by Mahatma Gandhi in Belagavi. The district administration would be taking steps to develop and beautify Veerasoudha, a memorial constructed at Tilakwadi, on the site where the Congress Plenary was conducted 100 years ago. He said the administration would also be holding a series of events at Veerasoudha and other venues in Belagavi during the year-long celebrations, which would end on October 2, next year. The memorial of freedom fighter late Gangadhar Rao Deshpande at Kanabargi in Belagavi would also be developed. Deshpande, who hailed from Belagavi, had taken a lead to hold the Congress Plenary in 1924.

Millers delay payments, tillers fear domino effect in Telangana

NALGONDA: Farmers in Nalgonda district are agitated by the delay in payment for their produce by millers. Millers, who are supposed to pay farmers within three to seven days after buying superfine variety paddy, are now saying they will make payments within a month from the date of purchase. As a result, rice mill managers are issuing stamped bills to the farmers. Farmers claim that the state government is yet to provide the Rythu Bharosa payment for this Kharif season. Additionally, as millers have not paid for the grain, farmers are now struggling to secure the necessary funds to plant crops for the Rabi season, which begins in the last week of November and the first week of December. While the Union government has set the MSP for fine rice at Rs 2,320 at IKP centres and the state government has announced an additional bonus of Rs 500, many farmers are being forced to sell their rice at lower prices due to moisture content exceeding 17% and the lack of proper facilities for drying paddy. Additionally, with the high demand for fine rice sales and a



large number of arrivals at the mills, farmers are complaining of delayed payments for the grain they have sold. Yaragani Somaiah, a farmer from Tippiarty mandal told: The Rabi season begins in the last week of November and first week of December. However, the government has not yet released the Rythu Bharosa payment for the Kharif season and there is no indication of when it may be provided for the Rabi season. I own five acres of land and the cost of cultivating each acre is Rs 15,000. I am forced to borrow money at high interest rates to fund the next season's crops." Upon requests from farmers to

district officials to ensure that millers make payments for the grain they have purchased, the collector instructed millers to pay farmers within a week, but in vain. Many fear that if the situation persists, it could lead to an increase in farmer suicides, as has happened in previous seasons. In Nalgonda, fine rice was cultivated on about 3 lakh acres, yielding about 4 lakh metric tonnes. While civil supplies officials had expected 2.80 lakh metric tonnes to be delivered to IKP centres, only 650 metric tonnes had reached the 80 IKP centres set up in the district. Speaking to over the delay in payments, a miller stated: "Farmers were not being pressured to sell their produce to them. We also informed them that if any miller pays them within one month, they can send their produce to them only. Additionally, farmers who sold their paddy 10 days ago had received payment in less than three days or a week, but due to financial constraints, we have extended the payment deadline to a month." District Civil Supplies Officer V Venkateswarlu told TNIE that he has once again instructed millers to expedite payments to farmers.

Western immigration curbs to affect remittances

Migration of the workforce from India to various countries has increased since the mid-1990s, making the Indian diaspora the largest in the world. This has also resulted in the rise of remittances back to India, making it one of the highest recipients. The recent changes in immigration policies in Canada and potential changes in the USA are likely to affect India, especially the states from where emigration is taking place in large numbers. These states include Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

In India's remarkable economic performance, the role of liberation, privatisation and globalisation (1991) is mentioned by many economists and global institutions. In this endeavour, the economic policy changes were accompanied by realignment of India's relationship with G7 countries. This was extended through India's effective participation in the G20 meetings. This has enabled India to attract a large amount of foreign capital, along with a high rate of domestic savings and investment. At the G20 meeting in Delhi last year, it was decided to build a rail link to Europe through Middle East countries as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

A large number of educated Indian skilled and semi-skilled workers have also found jobs abroad. These developments have given a fillip to the Indian diaspora's expanding numbers, making it the largest and highest contributor to domestic remittances in the world in recent years. This has happened due to a balance in the economic policy and country's international engagements.

The number of Indian immigrants has risen from 79 lakh in 2000 to 189 lakh in 2023. Indian immigrants send remittances back home, raising consumption standards of their families, as well as investment in housing and businesses. Their contribution to India's foreign exchange earnings is notable. The largest number of Indian immigrants are in the USA (44.60 lakh). The combined number of immigrants from the four close US allies is 86.49 lakh — Australia (4.96 lakh), Canada (16.89 lakh), New Zealand (2.40 lakh) and UK (17.64 lakh). This number rises to 189 lakh if immigrants to Europe are added. Another region which has a large Indian presence is the Middle East countries. The UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar have 85.77 lakh Indian immigrants. There is a major difference in the immigration policy of these two regions. The Western countries allow the immigrants to settle permanently and grant them citizenship. The Gulf countries do not allow this. This makes Western countries the most preferred destination for immigrants. The USA and its four close allies accounted for more than 35 per cent of the remittances received by India in 2023. The USA alone contributed 23 per cent followed by UK (6.8 per cent), Canada (2.4 per cent), Australia (1.9 per cent) and New Zealand (less than one per cent) of India's total \$120 billion remittances. The combined contribution of Western countries (including Europe) is slightly more than that from Gulf countries, whose share in Indian remittances stands at 42 per cent of the total. These two regions contribute more than 85 per cent of total Indian remittances, which help the country meet massive foreign trade deficits. State-wise data of remittances shows that Kerala tops the list, followed by Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Despite a large number of immigrants to various countries, Punjab still lags behind these states. This is due to the fact that Punjabi emigrants are largely concentrated in the UK, Canada, the USA, Australia and other countries where they have settled permanently, and over time the flow of remittances has declined. Immigrants from Kerala are mostly based in the UAE and other Arab countries where they cannot settle permanently. This has ensured a high flow of remittances back home. Emigration to other countries has helped India in reducing the burden of unemployment among the educated and the skilled workforce. India's immigrants are not only a source of massive foreign exchange earnings but also promote Indian culture and goodwill abroad. They also create a demand for traditional goods abroad.

India's policy change towards Taliban pragmatic

India's hopes of controlling movement of weapons and drugs from Afghanistan into Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab via Pakistan and Iran hinge on improved relations with Taliban.

In late January 2024, Chinese President Xi Jinping received credentials from the envoy of Taliban regime raising eyebrows of other countries, which had avoided giving it diplomatic recognition in view of its refusal to allow women to receive higher education, respect human rights and broad-base its government. A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman subsequently clarified that China was merely engaging the new Taliban government to provide humanitarian aid and foster economic cooperation and by receiving the Ambassador, it had not given the diplomatic recognition to the new government. Following the same approach, India has made a few changes in its policy towards the Taliban regime. First, some India-based personnel of its embassy in Afghanistan returned to Kabul in June 2022 as a "technical team" to monitor the delivery of its humanitarian assistance for the Afghan people. Second, India allowed the Taliban to take de facto control of its diplomatic missions in India in November 2023 and the Ambassador posted by the earlier Afghan government left India.

Earlier this month, a senior official of India's External Affairs Ministry, JP Singh, Head of Pakistan-Afghanistan Division, met Taliban Defence Minister Mohammad Yaqub Mujahid and Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul to discuss ways to expand bilateral relations and accelerate the delivery of humanitarian assistance using the Chabahar port, now being operated by an Indian company. India is also considering the request of the Taliban government to appoint a Second Secretary Ikramuddin Kamil in its Consulate in Mumbai.

There are a number of reasons for change in India's policy towards the Taliban regime. First, despite a policy of application of economic sanctions and withholding of recognition, the Taliban have not relented on providing higher education for women or respecting other human rights. There is a tussle between the ISIS and the Al Qaeda (an associate of Taliban) on the declaration of the Caliphate, with the ISIS declaring itself as the Caliphate in the territory seized by the group in Iraq and Syria in 2014. Taliban's leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada described the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEOA) as the 'first legitimate emirate' since the fall of the Ottoman caliphate in 1924. Al Qaeda has pledged loyalty to IEOA accepting Akhundzada as

the "Commander of the Believers". Second, the Taliban rule over 40 million Afghans and its government hosts 18 foreign embassies and maintains the same number of foreign embassies abroad. Most regional countries such as Pakistan, China, Russia, Central Asian states, Iran and others are maintaining resident embassies in Kabul and Taliban missions in their capitals. The earlier fear of the Taliban regime not being able to control the terror groups on its soil has proven exaggerated as it has successfully relocated various terror groups from the border to other areas, or has placed their



fighters among its units to control them. Only the Tehreek-e-Taliban poses some problems as it has considerable followers and independent support in the Pashtun areas bordering Pakistan. In that sense, its control of the territory of Afghanistan has improved. Third, its relations with Pakistan have worsened. The Pakistani terror groups no longer have uncontrolled access in the Afghan territory. Though, there have been isolated reports of movement of some terrorists, weapons and equipment left over by the Americans and drugs from Afghanistan into Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab via both Pakistan and Iran, our hopes of controlling these are better with improved relations with Taliban. India was working earlier on about 500 projects in road construction, supply of drinking water and medical facilities besides providing humanitarian assistance. These can be executed better with improved presence in Afghanistan.

During meetings with the Indian officials, Taliban

ministers have expressed interest in "stronger bilateral political and economic ties and easier visas for Afghan businessmen to travel to India". They are also keen to reduce their dependence on Pakistan for economic, transport and other assistance. Its Deputy PM for Economic Affairs, Mullah Baradar, paid a visit to the Chabahar port in November 2023 and expressed interest in boosting trade with India via this port. Afghanistan is suffering extreme humanitarian crisis due to contraction of its economy by 27 per cent in 2021 following Taliban's takeover. The economy grew by 2.7 per cent in 2023-24 with growth in agriculture, industry, and services contributing to the recovery. The humanitarian aid, inward remittances and custom duties provided the main revenues. The improvement in long-term economic prospects depend on internal policy reforms and resumption of external aid.

The Taliban leadership prefer to maintain their conservative orthodox policies as a result of which the western donors have not agreed to resume aid. The regime wants external investments and development of infrastructure, particularly roads, railways, drinking water, irrigation, agriculture and health but the lack of infrastructure facilities poses a major constraint. For the first time after coming into power, the Taliban sent a delegation to the ongoing UN climate change talks in Azerbaijan to get some support from the international community to deal with extreme weather like erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts and flash floods. The Afghan delegation said it had prepared a national action plan to deal with climate change and it was ready to talk to the USA and other countries to discuss their mitigation and adaptation proposals. Though the security situation has improved with fewer attacks by the ISIS in the last two years, it has still not provided enough confidence to investors from other countries such as China to construct new roads, rail lines and exploit rich mineral resources in the country. While the western sanctions have eased with the grant of US exemptions in some cases, it is hard for foreign investors to get loans for building the infrastructure in Afghanistan. Still, many countries have concluded that it is better to engage the Taliban patiently rather than ostracise them to resolve the many problems they are facing.

Tragedy on wheels

Accountability starts at home

RECENT tragic accidents in Tengpora (Jammu and Kashmir) and Dehradun (Uttarakhand) underline a troubling issue: underage driving continues to claim young lives. These incidents are a grim reminder of the shared responsibility parents bear in ensuring that their minor children do not drive. India's roads are among the deadliest in the world, with traffic accidents surging from 3,68,828 in 2020 to 4,22,659 in 2021. Shockingly, 9.6 per cent of fatalities involve individuals below 18, many of whom are underage drivers. In the Tengpora tragedy, two 17-year-olds lost their lives when their SUV collided with a truck, while in Dehradun, a high-speed car crash claimed six lives. Both accidents were preventable.

The law is unambiguous — under the Motor Vehicles Act, no one under 18 can drive. Yet, lax enforcement and parental neglect allow such dangerous practices to persist. Parents often indulge their children, giving them access to vehicles



without considering the dire consequences. When minors drive, the law holds guardians accountable under Section

199A of the Act, which includes penalties of up to three years in jail, a fine of Rs 25,000 and cancellation of the vehicle's registration. Equally troubling is the society's failure to instil a culture of road safety. Schools, communities and law enforcement must collaborate to address this crisis. Educating children on the risks of reckless driving is essential. As the first gatekeepers, parents must take the lead and say 'no' to their children's demands for vehicles and emphasise responsibility over privilege.

The devastating aftermath of these accidents should galvanise stricter law enforcement. Traffic violations, particularly involving minors, must face zero tolerance. Regular awareness campaigns can reinforce the dangers of underage driving. Parents must recognise that withholding a car key today could save a life tomorrow.

Money power trumps human values

The rich minority must listen to the poor majority to make the world a better place

THE election of Donald Trump as the US President a second time has stunned liberal democrats in the US and around the world. He says the US democratic system is rigged by his opponents. He claims that the liberal, elite establishment is against common, working people. He has risen again, lifted by forces of disenchantment that have been brewing for decades. A New York Times/Sienna College poll in October 2024 reveals that 45 per cent of the Americans believe that American democracy does not do a good job of representing the people. As many as 76 per cent believe American democracy is under threat from internal corruption (not Russian or Chinese interference). It is ironic that the US, the self-appointed defender of democracy around the world, is using its formidable military power and hegemonic control of the global financial system to undemocratically force Russia, China, Iran and Venezuela, which it claims are not democratic countries, into submission. There is no democracy today in international relations. Not even within the US, its citizens say. The world is trembling. Liberals seem unable to understand how their policies and beliefs have caused the rise of authoritarianism. A wider lens is required to analyse the beliefs that have shaped 21st-century economic and social institutions. It reveals the excessive power of money to control institutions of governance at global and national levels. The concept of 'institutions' is commonly limited to formal 'organisations', such as the executive government, courts, and elected assemblies, and checks and balances between them. This limited view misses the beliefs and 'unwritten rules' that shape the formation and behaviour of formal institutions. A 'system' encompasses norms, written and unwritten rules of conduct, and all actors within the system whose interactions form its behaviour. Economists Douglass North and Amartya Sen, and systems thinkers in other fields, take this wider, systemic view of institutions. A systemic analysis of institutions explains the behaviour of systems at three levels. On the

top are the visible phenomena about which data is easy to obtain. Beneath these are the interacting institutions that produce the phenomena. Deeper below are the beliefs and norms that shape and guide the institutions. Systems scientists use the picture of an iceberg to explain forces within a system. Visible phenomena are represented in the smaller portion above the waterline. Deeper forces that cause those phenomena are in the larger portion underwater. Systems thinkers delve beneath the waterline to analyse these forces. Consider climate change. The consequences of climate change are visible in the unexpected heatwaves, hurricanes, floods and droughts being experienced around the world with greater severity. The proximate causes of global climate change are changes in the physics and chemistry of the environment — the accumulation of carbon in the atmosphere, reduction of green cover, pollution of rivers and oceans, etc. — which climate scientists' model to predict global temperature changes. The causes of these material changes are patterns of human activities with more material consumption and greater use of non-renewable energy. These increase the productivity and size of economies but create unsustainable pressure on the earth's limited resources. The ultimate cause of unmitigated climate change is the pursuit of economic growth as the goal of human progress, and limited, mathematical models of economies disassociated from social forces. Neither climate scientists nor economists, with their limited models, can provide systemic solutions for climate change. We must go deeper into root causes, in beliefs and values embedded in these models. Changes in three interconnected systems — systems of society, the economy, and governance — have caused the rise of



authoritarian governments around the world. They have also disabled global governance. The 'privatisation' of economics, a thesis of the Washington Consensus which ruled the world after the collapse of the socialist Soviet Union in 1991, has given enormous power to large private sector institutions in the financial and business sectors. Money power controls the economy and the governance of societies. Financial investors have the right to sue democratically elected governments at international tribunals for infringement of their rights to make profits even when their contracts impinge on the rights of the country's own citizens. The G7 cabal of rich countries, with less than 10

per cent of the world's population, has been controlling the agenda of the global economy and setting the rules. These countries, led by the US, control the IMF and the WTO. The US, the leader of the Washington Consensus, also dominates the UN Security Council. It is holding COPs — the global climate summits — hostage: it is the global cop bullying the world into submission. He who pays the piper calls the tune in politics, the media, policy think tanks and even in academic institutions. Systems' analysis reveals why citizens, having lost faith in systems of electoral democracy, are electing authoritarian, 'undemocratic' leaders, even in the US. All three systems — of the economy, society and governance — are infected with money. Money rules the economy. The 21st-century ideology of economic governance is minimum government. Private is good and public is bad. Flows of money and trade across national borders must not be restricted. The value of human lives in societies is measured by how much money an individual can earn; the worthiness of a nation by its GDP. Money power has infected governance systems too. Competing candidates need money to pay for expensive election campaigns. Over \$16 billion was spent in the recent US presidential elections. Elon Musk, the world's richest man, gave the most money to support Trump. The latter has tasked him with reducing the size of the US government. Musk will assist the President in increasing the influence of the US abroad, cutting business deals with Russia and China, and keep US businesses, especially its powerful defence and tech industries, in control of global policies.

Chorao Island

The island life in

Goa

you need to experience



Chorao Island is not a hidden gem, and we say that because it's literally an island that's located just 11 km away from the capital city of Panjim. But even though it is so close to the bustling Panjim, Chorao has managed to keep the serene vibe about it. For those who can't do without sightseeing, Chorao Island is the place for them.

Here's what makes Chorao Island unique and popular – the stunning mix of natural beauty, vibrant wildlife, traditional Goan roots and a slower pace of life. It's the latter that we find the most intriguing about Chorao Island.

Beautiful offbeat destinations in Western Ghats for a perfect getaway

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When compared to the hustle and bustle of Panjim and the nearby places, with their beaches and nightlife, Chorao

Island is where you come to drop all that, embrace the minimal and really soak in all the nature that's around you.

The silence here is beautiful.

One can reach Chorao Island by taking the ferry from Ribandar. The ferry ride is a very simple yet exciting one.

If you have a four-wheeler with you, you will only need to pay INR 10 for the vehicle only. For people and two-wheelers, the ferry ride is free of cost. The 10-minute ferry ride on the Mandovi River takes you through the lush mangroves. Feel free to climb the stairs up to the observation deck on the ferry. It will not give you a bird's eye view of the place but it's just a fun thing to do.

The real fun, however, begins once you get off the ferry. Right at the mouth of the ferry point, is the entrance to

the very famous Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, named after the very important Bird Man of India – Dr. Salim Ali.

For those who are unaware, Dr. Salim Ali was a noted ornithologist and one of the most influential citizen scientists India has ever seen. Thanks to him, today we know about avian diversity in India, and we have so many bird sanctuaries where we can visit and truly appreciate nature, especially birds, as they should be.

The sanctuary boasts a captivating variety of bird species, including kingfishers, eagles, herons, and so many species of migratory birds. Birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts from all over India and the world come to experience this avian wonderland. Here, you can observe the birds in their natural habitat and at the same time, explore and learn more about the mangroves and the backwaters. This bird sanctuary will let you have a good start to your Chorao experiences.

From here on, you will start to notice that there is practically no crowd, no traffic hold-ups, no busy streets. The roads here are quieter and the surroundings are greener as compared to other parts of Goa.

Most people visiting Goa tend to hire either a car or a scooty to go around town. If you are on a scooty, you are going to love the ride on this island.

Yes, the roads are narrow, but they are also pretty isolated and quiet. But that, in no way, means that you will throw caution to the wind. Ride slowly and enjoy the scenery and the greenery,

these are things that are so hard to come by these days, especially for those outstation visitors.

You will be passing through small villages on the way, and these are some of the best ways to experience the traditions and culture of the locals.

Scattered along the way are also small local eateries where they serve traditional Goan cuisine. At these eateries, you will find from hot cups of tea and plates of fried veggie fritters to delectable local seafood items.

When in Chorao, take some time out to explore some more. Just an hour and a half away inland is Goa's hinterlands. Chorla Ghats is where one gets to experience the best of the Western Ghats in Goa. From Arvalem Falls and Pandava Caves to the ancient Tambdi Surla Temple and Dudhsagar Waterfalls, these jewels of the Chorla Ghats are great addition to your Chorao Island itinerary.

Chorao Island in Goa is what we call perfect slow-living. It's the relaxed pace of life that we find the most attractive here in Chorao Island.

How can I reach Chorao Island in Goa?

To reach Chorao Island, fly to Goa International Airport, then take a taxi to the nearest ferry point (Ribandar) and hop on a short ferry ride to the island.

What are the main attractions on Chorao Island?

Chorao Island's highlights include the Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary, serene beaches, historical sites, and scenic cycling trails.

Are there accommodations on Chorao Island?

Accommodations on Chorao Island are limited, so many visitors choose to stay in nearby areas and visit for day trips. Booking in advance is recommended during peak seasons.

CHORAO ISLAND

Goa



Places to experience the best of Parsi heritage in India



society, but have also maintained their rich culture and heritage. Here are some of the best places in India, where you can experience the beautiful Parsi culture and heritage.

Udvada

Udvada is a coastal town situated in Pardi in Valsad district, Gujarat. It is also one of the most important places for the Parsis. The town is home to the Zoroastrian temple, Udvada Atash Behram. The Atash Bahram fire temple is the most sacred of all Zoroastrian temples in India. The holy fire has been continuously burning for centuries now, making it one of the oldest continuously burning fire temples in the world.

Baroda

Baroda is located in Sayajigunj in Baroda, Gujarat. The city is home to Parsi Ajiary, the first Parsi temple in Baroda (1923). The temple was built by the then state contractor for the Baroda state, Faramji Contractor, for the Parsi community living in the city. The temple is managed by the members of the family only. Parsi Ajiary is a great way to get to understand the local architecture style mixed with the Parsi elements.

Pune

When you are in Pune, you can't really miss MG Road, which is also one of the largest Parsi hubs in the city. It is a great place to experience Parsi food, especially the Camp area. Back in the day, Camp was a very popular landmark. In present times, Sharbatwala Chowk is probably one of the most well-preserved in terms of Parsi culture and heritage.

Bahrot caves

Bahrot Caves near Dahanu, Maharashtra, are the only Zoroastrian cave temples in India. Located approximately 25 km from Sanjan, Bahrot Caves once gave shelter to the Parsis when Sanjan was invaded by Alaf Khan, a general of Muhammad bin Tughluq in 1393. According to history, they hid in the caves for 13 years. When the Parsis moved to Bahrot, they also brought with them the holy fire



– Iranshah Flame. This fire is now burning in the Atash Behram in Udvada.

Dadar Parsi Colony

Dadar Parsi Colony is the largest Parsi colony in Mumbai, and is probably the best. It's a posh colony, where you will see art deco buildings. The colony is also home to the famous Five Gardens created by Mancherji Joshi, the founder of the Dadar Parsi Colony.

Places to experience the best of Parsi heritage in India According to old records, the Parsis first arrived in India in the 8th-10th century and Sanjan was the first place where they set foot. Sanjan town is situated in Umargam taluka in Valsad district, Gujarat. Being the first settlement of Parsis in India, Gujarat, by default, is also an important heritage destination for the Parsis. Over time, the Parsis moved to Maharashtra, especially Mumbai, which has the largest number of Parsis in India.

Over the years, the Parsis have not only managed to integrate into the Indian

Lokmanthan 2024: largest celebration of Bharatiya culture to begin in Hyderabad on November 21

NEW DELHI: The fourth edition of "Lokmanthan 2024," an international conference and cultural festival, is set to begin in Hyderabad on November 21 at Bhagyanagar. The event will continue until November 24 as the country's largest celebration of the "oneness" of Bharatiya culture. Lokmanthan is a biennial national colloquium of nationalist thinkers and practitioners. It serves as a platform where artists, intellectuals, and academicians from across the country come together to brainstorm on societal issues, with the aim of reshaping narratives and preparing the nation to play its civilizational role. Union Minister Kishan Reddy, at a media briefing on Tuesday, stated that the 4th edition of this international conclave is being organized by Pragna Pravah, New Delhi, and Pragna Bharati, Telangana, along with their associated organizations across the country. These include Itihaas Sankalan Samiti, Sanskara Bharati, Vijnana Bharati, Adhivakta Parishad, Akhil Bharatiya Sahitya Parishad, and Bharatiya Sikshana



Mandal. The main program will be held at Shilpa Kala Vedika, while an exhibition and cultural festival will take place at the adjacent Shilparamam. Previous editions of Lokmanthan were held in Bhopal, Ranchi, and Guwahati, focusing on themes such as decolonization and lok parampara. The theme for Lokmanthan 2024 is "Lok Avalokan. Lok Vichar—Lok Vyavahar Lok Vyavastha." Reddy, who is the Chairman of the Reception Committee for the event,

further mentioned that the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, will inaugurate Lokmanthan 2024 on November 22, while former Vice President Venkiah Naidu has consented to open the exhibition and cultural festival on November 21 at Shilpa Kala Vedika. Kishan Reddy, as Chairman of the Reception Committee of Lokmanthan 2024, which includes more than 120 people from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, stated that more than 1,500 artists from across the

country and the world would be participating. He said the Bhagyanagar edition of Lokmanthan 2024 will feature conferences, art performances, audio-video pavilions, exhibitions, and food courts. The event is expected to host around 2,500 delegates from around the world and attract over 100,000 visitors per day to view exhibitions and pavilions. Approximately 100 art forms will be showcased, and 400 rare traditional musical instruments will be exhibited. Pavilions from the state governments of Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Telangana will be set up. The pavilions will feature North-East culture, traditional food, traditional healing systems, literature, Samvaad (discussions and debates), culture (dance, music, drama, and plays), crafts and paintings, traditional games, and a photo exhibition on Vanavasi culture, lifestyles, and festivals from across the country.

Despair deepens among daily wage earners in Delhi

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi soared to an alarming 488 on Tuesday, placing it firmly in the "severe-plus" category.



NEW DELHI: With Delhi-NCR battling hazardous air pollution levels, daily wage laborers in the construction sector are bearing the brunt of restrictions imposed under Stage IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). The ban on construction and demolition activities, aimed at curbing pollution, has plunged workers into a financial crisis, leaving many struggling to provide for their families. For Suman, a 45-year-old mother of two, the ban has dashed all hopes of survival. "If we sit at home, what will we eat? What will we feed our children?" she asked with despair etched on her face. Despite renewing her labour card in hopes of government aid, she claims no help has materialised. "We live on daily earnings. Without work, we have nothing," she said.

The Air Quality Index (AQI) in Delhi soared to an alarming 488 on Tuesday, placing it firmly in the "severe-plus" category. This led authorities to enact stringent measures, including halting construction, banning truck entries except for essential supplies, and closing schools. While these steps aim to combat pollution, they have upended the lives of thousands of workers dependent on daily earnings. For 63-year-old Babu Ram, the situation is catastrophic. As the sole breadwinner for his family of six and burdened with a Rs 3 lakh debt, the lack of work has deepened his despair. "There's no pension for people like me. Government schemes are riddled with corruption; middlemen take everything," he lamented. Similarly, Rajesh Kumar, a 42-year-old labourer, said that his family in his village in Bihar depends on the money he sends home. "I have not married yet because I have several responsibilities, including my sister's wedding, which has left me with a debt of Rs 6 lakh," he said. "This happens every year, pollution cripples Delhi, but instead of solving the problem, the government creates more hurdles for people like us," Kumar added.

Supreme Court questions delay in delimitation process for 4 Northeastern states

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has questioned the delay in carrying out the delimitation exercise in the Northeastern states of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Assam despite the President's 2020 order rescinding the earlier deferment orders. On Tuesday, a bench led by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna questioned the Centre on what was done to "set the ball rolling" to conduct the exercise, considering that it had been 4 years since the presidential order, which it observed was enough to proceed with the process. The court told Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj, appearing for the Centre, that the delimitation exercise was a statutory mandate and had to be done.

It asked him to take instructions regarding the issue granting him further time to do the same and accordingly adjourned the case to January 2025. The counsel for the petitioner told the court that while delimitation took place in Assam last year, the exercise was yet to begin in the three other states.

In response, the Additional Solicitor General said consultation is ongoing for Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, but the situation in Manipur might not be conducive in the wake of the ethnic violence in the state. It was submitted on behalf of the Election Commission to begin delimitation. Directions from the Centre are required under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, referring to Assam where such directions were issued. The court was considering a petition filed seeking immediate implementation of the delimitation exercise in these states.

Buffaloes Chase Away Lioness In Gujarat



New Delhi: In an unusual case from Gujarat, a group of buffaloes chased away a lioness in Gujarat. Lioness, known for her strength and taking down targets twice her size, fell prey to her victim. In a nearly 30-second-long video, a lioness is seen jumping off a heap of straw, inside a farmhouse. Without a second thought, a herd of buffaloes jumps into action. They attack the lone lioness from all sides.

As the lioness looks out of the small window, a buffalo hits her from behind, making her run away for her life. The date and time stamp on the viral video suggests it is from the last week, November 16.

The incident has been reported from a farmhouse in Ghatwad village of Kodinar town in Gujarat. Of late, buffaloes have been making headlines. Last week, the buffalo named Anmol, valued at ₹ 23 crore, made news for her luxurious lifestyle.

Valued at ₹ 23 crore, Anmol weighs 1,500 kg. Its owner, Gill, spends around ₹ 1,500 daily on the buffalo's diet, which includes a mix of dry fruits and high-calorie foods to maintain Anmol's health and strength. The menu has 250 grams of almonds, 30 bananas, 4 kg of pomegranates, 5 kg of milk and 20 eggs. It also enjoys oil cake, green fodder, ghee, soybeans and corn. This specialised diet ensures that Anmol is always prepared for exhibitions and breeding.

Earlier in July, a buffalo solved a problem that a village panchayat couldn't. In Uttar Pradesh's Pratapgarh, when police couldn't decide the ownership of a buffalo that had gone missing from its owner's home, they left it unattended on the road. The buffalo walked to the home of its owner, solving the matter in minutes.

No Baba Siddique, Son Zeeshan Shares First Voting Experience Without Him

Baba Siddique, a prominent NCP leader and former minister, was gunned down on October 12 near his son's office by attackers allegedly linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.



Mumbai: Zeeshan Siddique, the NCP candidate from Bandra East, voted today in the Maharashtra Assembly elections and said that it was the first time he came to a polling booth without his father Baba Siddique. Mr Siddique, a prominent NCP leader and former minister, was gunned down on October 12 near his son's office by attackers allegedly linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

"For the first time, I have come alone to vote. My father is no more. This is different but this will have to be done. I know that my father is with me. I started my day by visiting the graveyard in the morning...I think everyone must vote," Zeeshan Siddique said. The 32-year-old former Congress leader faces Varun Sardesai, Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Uddhav Thackeray's nephew, in a high-stakes battle in Bandra East. Zeeshan Siddique joined the Ajit Pawar-led faction of the NCP in October. Mr Siddique will defend the

Bandra East seat he won in the 2019 election when he was with the Congress.

Maharashtra's single-phase assembly elections saw polling begin at 7 am across 288 constituencies, with voting set to conclude at 6 pm. Over 9.7 crore voters are registered to choose among 4,136 candidates contesting this year, marking a 28 per cent rise from 2019's 3,239 candidates.

The BJP-led Mahayuti alliance and the Congress-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) are vying for control of the assembly. The Mahayuti includes the BJP, Shiv Sena (Eknath Shinde faction), and NCP (Ajit Pawar faction), while the MVA brings together the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (Sharad Pawar faction). Key figures in the elections include Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, contesting from Baramati against his nephew Yugendra Pawar, marking another compelling electoral contest.

Delhi's toxic air puts children at risk of lifelong lung damage

The situation is especially dire for children with pre-existing conditions like allergies or those prone to pneumonia during smog season.

NEW DELHI: As air pollution levels soar to hazardous levels, health experts are raising alarms over its devastating effects on children's lung development. With young lungs at a critical growth stage, prolonged exposure to Delhi's toxic air is leaving an entire generation vulnerable to chronic respiratory diseases and lung damage.

In Delhi, a city plagued by alarming concentrations of particulate matter (PM2.5), nitrogen dioxide, and other harmful pollutants, doctors are witnessing the dire consequences firsthand. "If possible, send younger children to a relative's house in a less-polluted area," advised Dr. Sumit Chakravarty, Associate Director of Paediatrics at Asian Hospital.

The situation is especially dire for children with pre-existing conditions like allergies or



those prone to pneumonia during smog season. "Each ICU admission costs a child not just physical strength but also lung capacity," Dr Chakravarty warned.

We see children who are admitted every year to ICU as they suffer from Pneumonia. A child can lose up to 10 per cent of his body weight in a single ICU admission. Imagine the plight of those who go through this

every year," the doctor said. "Besides, each admission cost their lungs heavily. In the long term, their capacity and breathing power decreases. Working out becomes difficult for them and they may also invite chronic respiratory diseases," he added. Former AAIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria echoed these concerns, comparing living in polluted areas to smoking cigarettes daily. He pointed to studies that reveal stunted lung development, reduced capacity, and heightened susceptibility to chronic illnesses like asthma among children exposed to high pollution levels.

"For children living in a place with high levels of air pollution, it is like making them smoke cigarettes every day. Recent studies have shown a correlation between the functioning of the lungs and the air quality inhaled," Guleria said.

Vice-president Dhankhar emphasises inclusion and empowerment at Special Olympics

NEW DELHI: Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar has said, "Our civilization is unique in the world, more than 5,000 years old. It reflects our belief in seeing divinity, sublimity, and spirituality in Divyangjan." Speaking as the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics Asia Pacific Bocce and Bowling Competition at Thyagraj Stadium in New Delhi on Tuesday, Dhankhar further stated, "Through these games, we are celebrating something very important inclusion and dignity for specially-abled persons across the Asia-Pacific region. This reflects India's cultural ethos. Special Olympics represents our commitment to universal inclusion." Expressing concern over the growing digital obsession among the youth of the country, he said, "On this occasion, I would like to flag a serious concern for the entire society, and this is very critical. It is becoming alarmingly worrisome. In today's fast-paced digital



world, our youth and children are increasingly consumed by small plastic screens—the mobile! They are being pushed into digital playgrounds, away from real ones." Emphasising the role of parents, he added, "I urge every parent to ensure their children are not deprived of real playgrounds because of this small plastic screen. Let us make sure this digital obsession does not rob the younger generation of the thrill, spirit, and enlightenment that come from real

playgrounds." Highlighting the challenges faced by specially-abled athletes, Dhankhar remarked, "You are champions not only on the field but also in the game of life, where you triumph over challenges that many of us can only imagine. It is easy to admire your performance, but we must reflect on the depth of your struggles. You face these challenges 24x7, yet your vigor, energy, and enthusiasm remain unmatched." Underlining the indomitable human spirit, the Vice-President said, "History proves that disability has not tamed the human spirit. The human spirit is untameable. It always surfaces, no matter the enormity or extremity of challenges. This spirit is irrepressible."

Stressing the importance of sports in life, Dhankhar stated, "Sports is a language beyond dialects. It is a language beyond lexicons. Sports is universal, breaking all barriers and limitations defined by humanity. When it involves specially-

abled individuals, it generates a new light of hope." Highlighting the role of Divyangjan in nation-building and the emergence of an enabling ecosystem, Dhankhar said, "Specially-abled individuals play a crucial role in nation-building. Bharat, the world's largest and most vibrant democracy, home to one-sixth of humanity, has embraced inclusivity in governance by ensuring and celebrating the participation of Divyangjan in the democratic process." He added, "Bharat is a nation that extends a helping hand to generate hope, ensuring everyone leads a meaningful life."

Referring to affirmative steps taken under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Dhankhar noted, "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, passed in 2016, and initiatives such as special queues, voting from home, Braille features on EVMs, and enhanced reservation from 3% to 5% in education are commendable steps in empowering Divyangjan."



Indulge in a post-festive detox at

hotels

with the best

Pools



After the whirlwind of festive celebrations, there's nothing more comforting than unwinding in a pool and sipping on a drink or two, especially if it comes with a generous side of views. From mountain hugging plunge pools in the Himalayas to secluded getaways in the Indian Ocean, let's dive into the list of hotels where extraordinary pools and breathtaking views combine to create the ultimate post-celebration escape.

Detox in style in Krabi

After weeks of festive frenzy, it's time to slow down on the white sands of Krabi in Thailand. Check into the Reserve

villa with a private pool at Phulay Bay, a Ritz-Carlton Reserve. After relaxing laps, lounge on the sundeck enjoying the Andaman Sea view. You can also swim in the infinity pool by the Phang Nga Bay. Take the healing a notch higher by learning Batik painting and lotus flower folding at this 3-Michelin Keys resort. Love Thai food? Take a cooking class and learn the ropes. Come home not just rejuvenated but with enriching skills.

Insider tip for the ultimate detox: Take a guided session with resident yoga master and mallakhamb expert Himani Pal against the stunning limestone mountains and the Andaman Sea as backdrops. If you are at the property on December 1-4, you can join a series of group sessions and exclusive private classes with Daria Gudkova, a spiritual wellness expert who specialises in sound therapy, crystal meditation sessions, and chakra activation.

Valley views from Bhutan's finest

Tucked in the Punakha Valley of Bhutan, Pemako Punakha is a place where time stands still. Indulge in tranquillity in one of the 21 luxury tented villas that are crafted to immerse you in some R&R. Each villa here has a private temperature-controlled pool that overlooks the river and the rolling hills below. It is the ideal spot to indulge in a hearty floating breakfast in the AM or a sneaky dip with your partner in the PM. Inside, Serge Ferrari fabrics and copper fixtures, including a vintage copper tub in the bathroom that meets the Bhutanese aesthetic in all ways, await.

Insider tip for the ultimate detox: Hike along an off the beaten path under the shade of pine trees on the way to Jiligang Monastery. The sight of the meandering river below complimented by the chirping of different birds and earthy scents will fade away your tiredness the moment you catch the first glimpse of the monastery.

Sandy retreats in Seychelles

Waldorf Astoria, Platte Island is a serene sanctuary in Seychelles surrounded by nothing but the ocean and is designed for privacy and comfort. Your days are spent looking out for hawksbill turtles, reef sharks and stingrays or cycling across the island's airstrip which is also the best place to view the Milky Way on a clear night! Each of the 50 villas here have pools under towering palm trees and direct access to paradise. Inside, they have a nautical theme going on with materials like wood, rope and mosaic tiles used, and the furniture is further accented with blue and green décor that reflect the ocean and surrounding vegetation. In the expansive outdoor hideaway sip on locally crafted beverages in your pool as you are serenaded by the ocean ahead of you.

Insider tip for the ultimate detox: Retreat from the

everyday and unwind with contemporary and traditional services in one of their six treatments and indulge in a session of Ayur-Abhyanga. This ancient therapy uses medicated herbal oils that are applied to the entire body using rhythmic strokes that stimulate energy points and relieve fatigue and stress and balances the body and mind.

Gulf views to cure your holiday blues

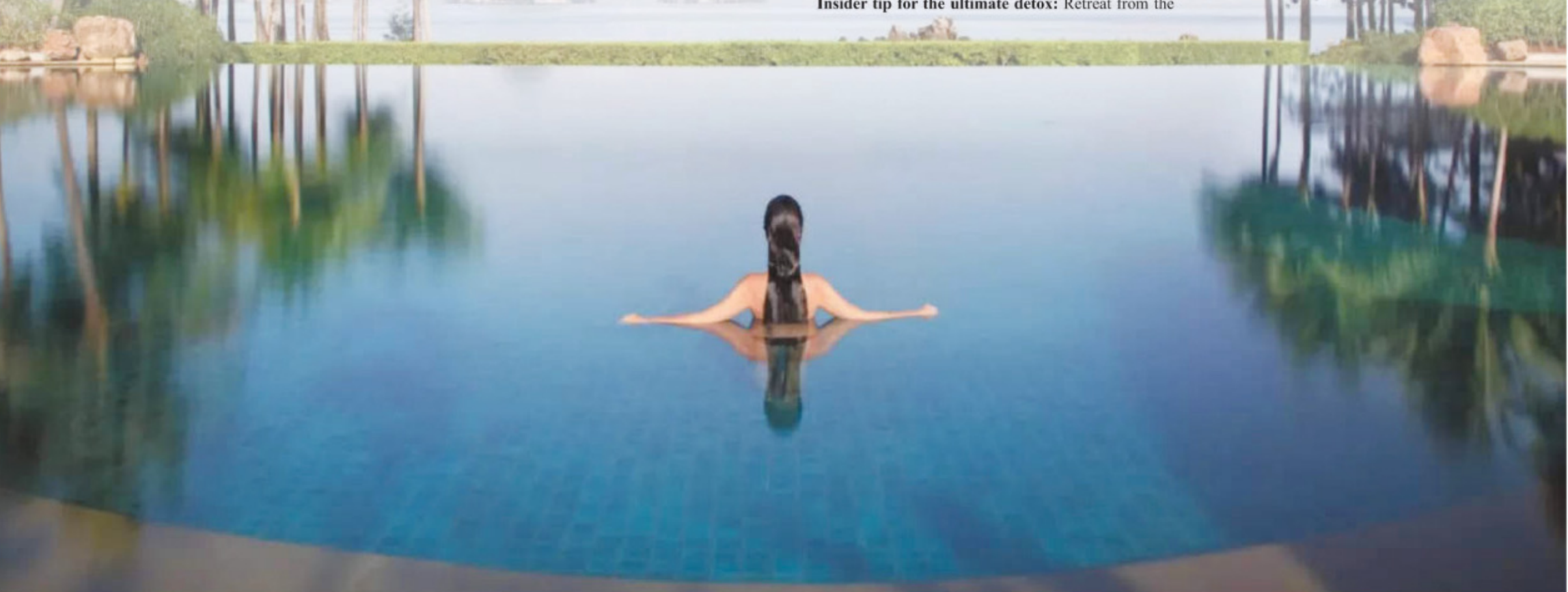
Looking for a short-haul beach getaway to wash off post-festive blues? Ras Al Khaimah is the spot. Located on Al Marjan Island and opening out to the shimmering waters of the Arabian Gulf, the beachfront chalet at Mövenpick Resort Al Marjan Island is ideal. Kick back and relax in your private pool hidden behind lush greens and overlooking the Gulf.

Insider tip for the ultimate detox: Enjoy a brunch or few at Ula, a restaurant that makes you feel right at home. Think long lunches, shimmering sunsets, and if you are up for it then late-night house beats – a place that transports you to where you need to be.

Design meets zen in Sri Lanka

With private gardens, plunge pools, and more, this brag-worthy suite in Lunuganga is made with a love of design and architecture. The Geoffrey Bawa Suite is furnished with a rare collection of original artworks as well as Bawa's library, making it the best escape to unwind and relax under the hues of greens with a book or two. The suite opens out to a charming private courtyard with a sitting area and a tropical plunge pool under tall palm trees, perfect for those looking for seclusion and privacy.

Insider tip for the ultimate detox: Find your zen moment as you explore the whimsical gardens on a guided tour of Lunuganga's gardens. Learn about Geoffrey Bawa and his extraordinary work as you meander through this living masterpiece – it's an escape that will clear your mind and spark fresh inspiration.



TAFE can use Massey Ferguson brand for now



CHENNAI: In a boost to Chennai-based tractor manufacturer -- Tractors and Farm EquipmWhile maintaining the status quo in favour of TAFE, the Court recognised TAFE's use of the brand for more than six decades. Tnt Limited (TAFE), a division Bench of the Madras High Court has ordered status quo on the use of Massey Ferguson brand by the company.TAFE had moved Madras High Court against US-based agricultural equipment maker AGCO Corporation for trying to wrest the Indian company's rights to use the Massey Ferguson brand in India.While maintaining the status quo in favour of TAFE, the Court recognised TAFE's use of the brand for more than six decades. The Court has directed that ownership and other related issues will be decided by the Single Judge of the Madras High Court before whom the Applications are pending.

"The present status quo is in continuation of the status quo granted to TAFE as early as in April 2024, and the latest of several judicial orders protecting TAFE's rights to the use of the Massey Ferguson brand," TAFE said in a press statement. TAFE is a strategic investor and the largest single shareholder in AGCO, holding 16.3% stake.

NTPC Green IPO retail portion Subscribed fully

NEW DELHI: Retail investors led the charge in the NTPC Green Energy Limited's (NGEL) initial public offering (IPO) subscription, with retail portion booking 1.33 times on the first day.Overall, the issue subscribed 33%. The public issue, which opened today, received bids for 19.48 crore shares against the total offer of 59.31 crore shares. The IPO will remain open for subscription until November 22, 2024, and is expected to list on both the BSE and the NSE on November 27.

The price band is set between Rs 102 and Rs 108 per equity share. Retail investors led the charge, with the retail portion subscribed 1.33 times on the first day. Non-Institutional Investors (NII) portion was subscribed 0.16 times, Reservation Portion and Employee Portion subscribed 0.57 times and 0.17 times, respectively. The qualified institutional buyer (QIB) portion is yet to gain traction.Ahead of the IPO, NGEL secured Rs 3,960 crore from anchor investors. The grey market premium (GMP) for NTPC Green Energy stands at Rs 1 per share.

Benchmarks ends seven-day decline

Sensex rebounded 239 points while Nifty ended its seven-day losing streak on Tuesday following value-buying in banking, IT and auto shares amid mixed global trends. Sensex climbed 239.37 points or 0.31% to settle at 77,578.38.

Direct Tax Collections Poised To Surpass Budget Target For 2024-25

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department expects to surpass the direct tax collection target of Rs 22.07 lakh crore fixed in the Union Budget for the current financial year, according to Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) chairman Ravi Agarwal. Agarwal told journalists collections from corporate and non-corporate taxes have risen and the Income Tax Department believes that it will cross the budget target for the second year in a row. This reflects the strong fiscal position of the country driven by robust economic growth.

India's net direct tax collections, comprising corporate tax and personal income tax, shot up by a robust 15.4



per cent to Rs 12.1 lakh crore, from April 1 to November 10 during the current financial year, according to the latest figures released by the CBDT.On a gross basis, direct taxes surged by over 21 per cent to Rs 15 lakh crore on a gross basis during the period. The government issued tax refunds of Rs 2.9 lakh crore which is a 53 per cent increase over the same period last year.The government's target to collect Rs 22.07 lakh crore during the current financial year comprises Rs 10.20 lakh crore from corporate tax and Rs 11.87 lakh from personal income tax, non-corporate tax and other taxes.

The net direct tax collections for the financial year 2023-24 had also clocked a double-digit growth to exceed the Union Budget Estimates (BE) by Rs 1.35 lakh crore or 7.4 per cent reflecting the strong fiscal position of the country driven by robust economic growth.The net direct tax collections, comprising corporate tax and personal income tax shot up to Rs 19.58 lakh crore in 2023-24, compared to Rs 16.64 lakh crore in the preceding financial year, representing a double-digit increase of 17.7 per cent. The target for direct collections was fixed at Rs 18.23 lakh crore in the Union Budget for 2023-24 and later increased to Rs 19.45 lakh crore in the Revised Estimates (RE). The provisional Direct Tax collections (net of the refunds) have exceeded the BE by 7.40 per cent and RE by 0.67 per cent, CBDT said.

Food prices in focus amid inflation, interest rate call

NEW DELHI: The sharp spike in retail inflation rate in October to a 14-month high of 6.2% has triggered a fresh debate about the country's inflation targeting framework and whether food prices should be excluded while setting interest rates. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman has called for more discussion on using interest rates to control food prices and asserted that govt was taking steps to control food supply side issues. Her comments came shortly after commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said targeting food prices through interest rates was an "absolutely flawed theory." Chief economic adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said that removing tomato, onion, potato, gold and silver from the calculation reveals a headline CPI rate of just 4.2% in October.Why are food prices in focus?Prices of tomato, onion and potato (TOP) have pushed the retail inflation higher and above the central bank's upper tolerance level of 6%. Supply side issues have been blamed for the price increase and there are expectations that the situation will reverse once supplies normalise. Food prices have led to



seasonal spikes, complicating the overall retail inflation situation. Economists say food inflation cannot be ignored as it has a high weight in the consumer price index (CPI) basket and persistent high food inflation raises inflationary expectations. Food inflation has remained high in the country over the past two years, complicating the policy choice.What is the Monetary Policy Framework?The RBI Act was amended in May 2016 for providing a statutory basis for rolling out the inflation targeting framework for five years. The Centre and RBI finalise the inflation target based on the consumer price index. It has set a 4% inflation target with the upper tolerance limit at 6% and the lower level at 2%. In March 2021, it

has retained the target and the tolerance for the next five years up to March 31, 2026.How Economic Survey's views on re-examining the inflation targeting framework sparked the debate?

The latest Economic Survey had suggested excluding food prices from the inflation targeting framework. It had argued that higher food prices are, more often, not demand-induced but supply-induced and short-run monetary policy tools are meant to counteract price pressures arising out of excess aggregate demand growth. "Deploying them to deal with inflation caused by supply constraints may be counterproductive. Therefore, it is worth exploring whether India's inflation targeting framework should target the inflation rate excluding food," said the document authored by Nageswaran.

It said that hardship caused by higher food prices for poor and low-income consumers can be handled through direct benefit transfers or coupons for specified purchases valid for appropriate durations. Why food inflation pressures cannot be ignored?RBI governor Shaktikanta Das in his monetary policy statement had said that the monetary policy committee's target is the headline inflation where food

& beverage inflation has a weight of around 46%. He had asserted that with this high share of food in the consumption basket, food inflation pressures cannot be ignored. Das had said that the public at large understands inflation more in terms of food inflation than the other components of headline inflation. "Therefore, we cannot and should not become complacent merely because core inflation (stripping out food and fuel) has fallen considerably," the governor had said.The governor had said that high food inflation adversely affects household inflation expectations, which have a significant impact on future trajectory of inflation. RBI is of the view that stubborn high food inflation and unanchored inflation expectations - if they materialise - could lead to spillovers to core inflation through pick-up in wages on cost-of-living considerations."The MPC may look through high food inflation if it is transitory; but in an environment of persisting high food inflation, as we are experiencing now, the MPC cannot afford to do so. It has to remain vigilant to prevent spillovers or second round effects from persistent food inflation and preserve the gains made so far in monetary policy credibility," Das had said.

India's GDP growth likely to slip at 6.5 per cent, maintains 7 per cent estimate for FY25: ICRA

MUMBAI: Domestic rating agency ICRA on Wednesday said India's real GDP growth for the September quarter is likely to decline to 6.5 per cent due to heavy rains and weaker corporate performance.The agency, however, maintained its FY25 growth estimate at 7 per cent on expectations of a pick up in economic activity in the second half of the fiscal.The estimates and commentary on the outlook come at a time when there are concerns around the growth slowdown on a slew of factors like slowing down urban demand.

The RBI is sticking to its estimate of 7.2 per cent growth for the fiscal, but a majority of watchers expect it to be under the 7 per cent figure and many have been revising down in the last few weeks.Official data for the Q2 economic activity is expected to be published on November 30. In Q1, the GDP expansion had come at 6.7 per cent. ICRA said the dip in Q2 will be due to factors like heavy rains and weak corporate margins."While government



spending and kharif sowing have shown positive trends, the industrial sector, particularly mining and electricity, is expected to slow down," it said.The services sector is projected to improve, and a back-ended recovery is anticipated, leading to a full-year GDP growth of 7 per cent, it added.

"Q2 FY2025 saw tailwinds in terms of a pick-up in capex after the Parliamentary Elections as well as healthy expansion in sowing of major kharif crops. Several sectors faced headwinds on account of heavy rainfall, which affected mining activity,

electricity demand and retail footfalls, and a contraction in merchandise exports," its chief economist Aditi Nayar said.She said benefits of the healthy monsoons lie ahead, with upbeat kharif output and replenished reservoirs likely to lead to a sustained improvement in rural sentiment.There is considerable headroom for the GoI's capital expenditure, which needs to expand by 52 per cent in Y-o-Y terms in H2 FY2025 to meet the budget

estimate for the full year, Nayar added."We are watchful of the impact of a slowdown in personal loan growth on private consumption as well as geopolitical developments on commodity prices and external demand," the chief economist said.In Q2, investment activity improved over Q1, while remaining sluggish amid slow execution of infra projects owing to surplus monsoon rains, the agency said, adding that new project announcements witnessed a healthy rebound to Rs 6.7 lakh crore in Q2.

Bitcoin hits record high, breaches 94,000 mark

New Delhi. Bitcoin, the world's largest cryptocurrency, reached a new record high, closing at \$94,078 in the latest trading session.Bitcoin was trading at \$92,355.44 as of 10:10 AM with a market cap of \$1.83 trillion as per coinmarketcap.com. The new milestone has been attributed to major developments in the cryptocurrency and financial sectors, including the introduction of options trading for BlackRock's iShares Bitcoin Trust and speculation around Donald Trump's media company exploring a potential acquisition of the crypto trading firm Bakkt.

The introduction of options trading for BlackRock's iShares Bitcoin Trust has been a game-changer for the cryptocurrency market. On its first trading day, the options recorded an impressive \$1.9 billion in trading volume, which contributed significantly to Bitcoin's price surge.

Edul Patel, Co-founder and CEO of Mudrex, said, "Bitcoin rallied to a fresh



all-time high of \$94,000, driven by the debut of the first Bitcoin ETF options. However, profit-taking following the peak has pulled BTC back to its current level of \$92,000. Bitcoin now faces resistance at \$94,600, with support holding steady at \$90,400."Adding to the excitement, reports emerged that Donald Trump's media company is considering acquiring Bakkt, a prominent crypto trading firm. This has sparked optimism among investors about a potentially crypto-friendly environment in the future."The introduction of options trading for BlackRock's iShares Bitcoin Trust

marks a turning point in Bitcoin's journey. It highlights growing institutional interest and provides investors with more ways to gain exposure to the asset. Bitcoin's recent rally signals a broader shift towards mainstream adoption," said Sumit Gupta, Co-founder of CoinDCX.

INSTITUTIONAL INTEREST DRIVES ADOPTION

The latest surge in Bitcoin prices also reflects growing institutional interest in the asset. MicroStrategy's Michael Saylor recently announced plans to propose Bitcoin as part of Microsoft's treasury strategy, citing its potential to improve financial stability and mitigate risk.Meanwhile, the altcoin market witnessed mixed trends. A brief rally in memecoins was overshadowed by market corrections following Bitcoin's pullback from its peak.The developments also align with rising tensions in global markets. Escalating geopolitical issues, such as the ongoing Ukraine-Russia conflict, have prompted investors to turn to Bitcoin as a hedge against uncertainty.

Suits, saree dealers under GST dept lens

NEW DELHI: As the wedding season approaches, Central GST authorities have intensified their crackdown on lehenga, suits and saree dealers in Delhi's iconic Chandni Chowk market. The dealers are under investigation for alleged GST evasion and other malpractices. Sources in the GST department claim many of these businesses conduct cash transactions during the year, which is at its peak in the high-demand wedding season, enabling them to evade GST on their outward supplies.Furthermore, it has been alleged that these dealers use fake invoices to claim input tax credits for transactions made through formal banking channels. The investigation has uncovered two primary methods of tax evasion -- evasion of GST on outward supplies and fraudulent availing of input tax credit.As per sources, many dealers accept cash payments for their goods but fail to report these transactions to evade GST liability. This practice is particularly rampant during the wedding season when sales volumes surge.For transactions made via cheques or other traceable payment modes, the dealers allegedly use fake invoices to claim input tax credits, reducing their overall GST liability.These practices not only result in significant revenue losses for the government but also create an uneven playing field for compliant businesses. GST authorities have been conducting search operations at many such businesses in last one month.Beyond tax evasion, the investigation has revealed troubling issues related to property disputes in Chandni Chowk and nearby areas such as Pusa Road. Several dealers, occupying rented premises, have allegedly refused to vacate the properties despite receiving legal eviction notices.These tenants are reported to pay a meager rent of as low as Rs 100 per month for properties valued in crores from where they do not even conduct businesses. Landlords have raised concerns about these dealers using intimidation tactics to retain possession of these shops.

Landlords have raised concerns about these dealers using intimidation tactics to retain possession of these shops. "Instances of property grabbing and threats have been reported, but fear of retaliation has deterred many from filing police complaints. This lack of action has allowed such individuals to operate with impunity, leading to the perception that these traders have little regard for the law. These dealers claim to be market giants and use their clout to blackmail landlords and continue possession to make windfall gains", said Abhishek A Rastogi, who is representing clients before the local police authorities and Delhi High Court for illegal possession of the property. The GST authorities are expected to take stringent actions against the defaulters to ensure compliance and deter future malpractices. However, addressing property-related grievances may require more comprehensive legal reforms and robust enforcement mechanisms, say sources.

Should you worry about IPOs not delivering listing day gains? 3 things to know

New Delhi.The IPO bonanza that defined early 2024 on Dalal Street seems to be losing its shine. What started as a golden period for retail investors, with nearly every IPO delivering stellar returns, has now entered a more sobering phase.The first eight months of 2024 were marked by unprecedented success. Companies like KRN Heat Exchanger, Gala Precision Engineering, Premier Energies, and Bajaj Housing Finance became money-spinning machines for investors. Some listings even doubled investors' wealth, making IPO investments appear like a guaranteed route to quick profits.

Recent weeks tell a different story, with high-profile listings stumbling at the start line. Even marquee names like Hyundai Motor India, Swiggy, and Afcons Infrastructure have failed to maintain the momentum. NTPC Green Energy's ambitious Rs 10,000



crore IPO's lukewarm response in the grey market signals growing investor fatigue.Gaurav Garg, Lemonn Markets Desk, points to the bigger picture: "Indian IPOs have had a notable year, raising approximately Rs 1.2 lakh crore, capitalising on favourable stock market conditions. However, recent trends reflect a shift in sentiment amid a market downturn and growing investor caution."So, what went wrong?According to Garg, the answer lies in ambitious

valuations."Many offerings were priced aggressively, relying on thematic market sentiment despite limited near-term earnings visibility," he explains. The initial excitement often fizzled out as "subsequent earnings reports revealed weaker business fundamentals."

BLAME BAD TIMING

The current market environment isn't helping either. A cocktail of disappointing Q2 earnings, stretched valuations, persistent inflation concerns, and global uncertainties has created headwinds for new listings."Broader market caution, driven by lacklustre Q2 earnings, has led investors to re-evaluate growth potential and valuation multiples. This has resulted in muted subscriptions and subdued listing gains for overpriced IPOs, signalling a more measured approach to IPO investing," Garg notes.

CAUTIOUS SENTIMENTS

A significant shift is occurring in investor behaviour. Tarun Singh, Founder and MD of Highbrow Securities, observes that investors are becoming more discerning amid Dalal Street's uncertainty. Gone are the days when hype alone could drive subscription numbers.

Ritin Agarwal, Managing Partner, Fundvice, points to another challenge: "There does seem to be IPO fatigue in the market. The rapid influx of public offerings has stretched investor focus and capital thin, resulting in many IPOs receiving lukewarm interest and weak support."

DON'T GO BY LISTING GAINS

However, the story isn't over. Experts maintain an optimistic outlook for the IPO market's future. Singh believes investor interest remains intact, though more measured. "With regulatory changes and cautious sentiment, the market is undergoing a correction rather than a decline," he maintains.

NEWS BOX

Brazil draw 1-1 vs Uruguay, Argentina beat Peru to close in on World Cup spot

New Delhi. Brazil and Uruguay battled to a 1-1 draw, while Argentina edged Peru 1-0 to strengthen their hold on the top of the standings in South American qualifiers for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. After the win, Argentina are on the brink of qualification, while Brazil faced mounting pressure in the race for a spot.

BRAZIL SHARE POINTS

Playing at home, Brazil had to settle for a draw against a resilient Uruguay side. Real Madrid midfielder Federico Valverde broke the deadlock in the 55th minute with a spectacular low drive from outside the box. The visitors looked poised to take all three points until Flamengo's Gerson equalized just seven minutes later. The midfielder capitalized on a defensive error with a stunning volley, marking his first international goal.

Brazil, the five-time World Cup champions, now sit fifth in the CONMEBOL standings with 18 points, trailing Colombia and Ecuador by a single point. Uruguay, on the other hand, remains second with 20 points, five behind Argentina. This was Brazil's second consecutive draw in the qualifiers, adding to concerns about their consistency heading into the crucial stages of qualification.

ARGENTINA BEAT PERU

In Buenos Aires, a second-half strike from Lautaro Martinez secured a narrow victory for Argentina over a struggling Peru side. Martinez found the net in the 55th minute, heading in a pinpoint cross from Lionel Messi. The goal brought Mart-nez level with Diego Maradona as Argentina's fifth-highest scorer in history. The win keeps Argentina firmly atop the standings with 25 points from 12 matches, five ahead of Uruguay. Peru, rooted at the bottom with just seven points, faces a steep climb to keep their World Cup hopes alive. Despite the victory, Messi's subdued performance mirrored his struggles in Argentina's previous 2-1 loss to Paraguay. Meanwhile, Julian Alvarez hit the post in the 21st minute, highlighting the hosts' inability to capitalize on more chances.

Elsewhere in CONMEBOL Qualifying:

Ecuador 1-0 Colombia: Enner Valencia's dazzling solo goal in the seventh minute secured a hard-fought win for Ecuador, who played with 10 men after Piero Hincapié's red card in the 34th minute. Bolivia 2-2 Paraguay: A thrilling contest saw Bolivia and Paraguay share the spoils, with both teams likely to battle for the playoff spot in seventh place. Chile 4-2 Venezuela: Chile displayed a revived spirit, with Eduardo Vargas, Lucas Cepeda, and an own goal from Tomás Rincón leading the charge. Venezuela's Jefferson Savarino and Ruben Ramirez scored in a losing effort.

Rafael Nadal's legacy will be eternal: Alcaraz's emotional tribute to retiring star

New Delhi. Carlos Alcaraz paid an emotional tribute to his 'idol' Rafael Nadal after the Spanish tennis great bid an emotional farewell to competitive tennis on Tuesday night in Malaga, closing the curtain on one of the sport's most illustrious careers. The 22-time Grand Slam champion and four-time Davis Cup winner could not secure a victory in his final match, falling 6-4, 6-4 to Dutchman Botanic van de Zandschulp in the Davis Cup quarter-finals. Alcaraz paid a heartfelt tribute to the retiring legend, underscoring the profound impact Nadal has had on his career and the sport as a whole. "Rafa is one of the best ambassadors of tennis; his legacy will be eternal for sports in general," Alcaraz said during the post-match press conference. "This moment is difficult for me; I feel I must continue the legacy he leaves us. I can only have good words for him and the career he has had."

He has been one of the players who helped elevate tennis to the highest level. He is a very important figure in my life. "Despite Nadal's best efforts to inspire from the sidelines, the Spanish team ultimately fell short. Alcaraz delivered a strong performance, defeating Tallon Griekspoor 7-6(0), 6-3 to level the tie. However, in the doubles match, Alcaraz and Marcel Granollers narrowly lost to Wesley Koolhof and Van de Zandschulp, sealing a 7-6(4), 7-6(3) victory for the Dutch and ending Spain's Davis Cup campaign.

Nadal struggled to contain his emotions as the Spanish anthem played before the tie. He was a constant presence courtside, willing his teammates on with the passion and determination that have defined his career. Reflecting on his relationship with Nadal, Alcaraz shared how much the legendary player has meant to him both as a mentor and inspiration.

"I will remember the passion with which Rafa lives for this sport, the passion with which he has experienced every second of this tournament. It's incredible," Alcaraz said. "I have been fortunate to have him close, train with him, share the locker room in important tournaments, but not as much as I would have liked."

I wish I had reached the circuit earlier. I have unforgettable moments with my idol, someone I have admired since I was young; thanks to him, I wanted to become a professional."

Ricky Ponting not happy with IPL auction clash with Perth Test: 'Worst scenario'

Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Ricky Ponting was unhappy with the scheduling clash between the IPL auction (Nov 24-25) and the first Test in Perth, forcing key personnel, including himself, to prioritise IPL commitments.



New Delhi. Australian great Ricky Ponting was disappointed over the scheduling clash between the IPL mega auction and the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy in Perth, and labelled the situation as "the worst possible case scenario." The timing has forced Ponting, Justin Langer, and key personnel like Australia's bowling coach Daniel Vettori to prioritize their IPL commitments over the crucial series-opener.

The Indian Premier League auction, scheduled for November 24 and 25 in Jeddah, Saudi

Arabia, will see Ponting (head coach of Punjab Kings), Langer (coach of Lucknow Super Giants), and Vettori (coach of Sunrisers Hyderabad) absent from significant portions of the Perth Test. Ponting and Langer will only be available for the opening day of commentary with Channel Seven before flying out for the auction. Ponting expressed his frustration with the timing, which disrupts the preparation and broadcast dynamics for one of cricket's most highly anticipated series.

"It's the worst possible case scenario for me and 'JL'," Ponting told this masthead. "We for the last couple of months felt that it was probably going to be in the gap between the Test matches. It takes all the pressure off the players from both teams, there's a lot of players in both teams in the auction. "So I always thought it would've been in that gap because it just seemed better for everybody. But I don't know why they've chosen the dates they have - it might have something to do with the game. The auction

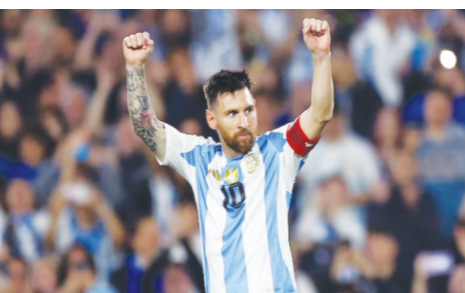
actually starts on air almost immediately after the end of play. So it might be something to do with broadcast." I'm calling the first day then flying out late Friday night to Jeddah. The auction is the 24th and 25th and then depending on how we're going through our auction, we'll see when I can return. Hopefully I'll get back for the end of Perth, and if not I'll be back on deck for the start of Adelaide.

"The IPL auction, held immediately after the first day's play, has raised questions about its scheduling, with Ponting speculating that broadcast considerations might have influenced the decision. Channel Seven confirmed that Ponting and Langer would return for the day-night Test in Adelaide starting December 6. Chris Jones, Seven's director of sport, defended their absence, highlighting their unique insights as IPL coaches.

"The IPL auction involves the world's best coaches and analysts, and both Ricky and Justin bring unrivalled insights to our coverage," Jones said. Meanwhile, Cricket Australia has made adjustments to accommodate the absence of Vettori, who will miss the entire first Test. Lachlan Stevens, head of Australia's under-19 program, will join the team, and head coach Andrew McDonald may assume Vettori's responsibilities temporarily.

Lionel Messi set to play in India next year as Kerala to host Argentina football team

New Delhi. Kerala Sports Minister V Aburahaman announced on Wednesday that the Argentina football team, featuring legendary Lionel Messi, will visit the state next year for an international match. During a press conference, the Kerala minister stated that the match would be held entirely under the supervision of the state government. "All the financial assistance for organising this high-profile football event will be provided by the merchants of the state," the minister said, expressing confidence in Kerala's ability to host the historic occasion. Messi last played in India in 2011, when Argentina faced Venezuela in an international friendly match at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata that ended in a goalless draw. As a global football icon, Messi enjoys an immense fan following in India, a country traditionally dominated by cricket. Among his Indian admirers, Kerala stands out as a hotspot for Messi mania, where football has long been a beloved sport. Messi's move to Major League Soccer (MLS) in 2023, after his high-profile tenure at Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), further broadened his appeal in North America.



Even from thousands of miles away, his performances in MLS have captivated Indian fans, many of whom stay up late to watch his matches. Messi's remarkable career has solidified his status as a beloved figure in the region, with fan clubs and gatherings dedicated to celebrating his achievements. Kerala's deep-rooted football culture has embraced Messi as one of its own.

MESSI EQUALS US GREAT'S RECORD In a recent qualifier, Messi equalled U.S. legend Landon Donovan's record for most assists in international football as Argentina edged past Peru 1-0. The decisive moment

came at a packed La Bombonera, where Messi delivered a perfectly timed assist to Lautaro Martinez, who scored the game's only goal. This victory solidified Argentina's top spot in South American qualifying, with 25 points from 12 matches, bringing them closer to securing a spot in the 2026 World Cup. The match-winning assist occurred in the 55th minute, showcasing Messi's brilliance as he weaved through a crowded Peruvian defence to set up Mart-nez. Messi achieved the pinnacle of his illustrious career in 2022 by leading Argentina to victory in the FIFA World Cup, securing the one major trophy that had eluded him.

Despite this historic achievement, the legendary forward shows no signs of stepping away from international football. Messi continues to be a pivotal figure for Argentina in their quest for qualification for the 2028 World Cup, set to be held in Los Angeles. An eight-time Ballon d'Or winner and the most decorated player in football history, Messi's legacy continues to grow, cementing his place amongst the sport's all-time greats.

IND vs AUS: Nitish Reddy needs to do a Shardul Thakur in Australia, says Ravi Shastri

New Delhi. Even as speculation is rife that Nitish Kumar Reddy is all set to make his Test debut in the opening match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, former head coach Ravi Shastri said the young all-rounder should try and do the role that Shardul Thakur did in their series win in 2020-21. Shastri backed the idea of fast-tracking the young fast-bowling all-rounder, adding that it will add balance to the team combination. All eyes are on India's team combination for the Perth Test, starting November 22, as the visitors have a few selection headaches in the absence of their captain Rohit Sharma. Star batter Shubman Gill is also not available to play the first Test after he fractured his finger during a training session earlier in the month. India will also not have their senior fast bowler Mohammed Shami, who is on the road to recovery after undergoing surgery to treat an ankle injury.

Nitish Reddy, if debuts, is likely to be the fourth seamer for the team in Perth. The pitch at the Optus Stadium wore a green look on Tuesday, November 20 and is expected to



offer good pace and bounce. Nitish Reddy will have to do a job like Shardul Thakur did as the fourth seamer," Shastri told the International Cricket Council. "He can bat a bit, give the bowlers a little bit of respite so that they can bowl in short spells. He should be someone who will have to be good for those eight to 10 overs that he bowls." Shardul played two Tests and took seven wickets, chipping in with the bat at crucial moments, including in the famous Gabba Test.

GANGULY BACKS NITISH FOR PERTH Nitish Reddy arrived in Australia early as he was part of the India A squad that played Australia A in two unofficial Tests in McKay

and Melbourne. The 21-year-old did not shine much, but got used to the conditions in Australia. He was reportedly impressive in the match simulation at the iconic WACA Stadium in Perth last week. Nitish made his debut in first-class cricket in 2020 as a teenager. He has the experience of playing 23 first-class matches, in which he has scored 779 runs and 56 wickets. Former India captain Sourav Ganguly also backed the inclusion of playing Nitish Reddy in the XI, adding that there is no scope of playing two spinners in pace-friendly Perth. "Look, there is absolutely no point in playing two specialist spinners either at Perth or at The Gabba," Ganguly told PTI. "You obviously need to find a way to play Reddy in these conditions. He is a good batter and coming in at lower middle order, it will lend proper balance to the side." Nitish made his India debut earlier in October in a T20I series against Bangladesh after a sensational Indian Premier League campaign for Sunrisers Hyderabad. Nitish impressed with his all-round ability in the three T20Is -- he hit 74 and picked up two wickets in Delhi.

Ind vs Aus: Marsh explains how he overcame fear of failure to revive Test career

New Delhi. Australian all-rounder Mitchell Marsh has explained how he overcame fear of failure and mental struggles to revive his Test career. Marsh's journey to Test success was anything but smooth. After making his debut in 2014, the talented West Australian was seen as a player of immense promise. However, his initial years in the Test arena were defined by inconsistency, with Marsh managing a modest batting average of 25.20 over 32 matches. His two centuries during the 2017/18 Ashes briefly elevated him to the vice-captaincy, but mounting pressure and scrutiny took a toll. The lowest point of his career came during the 2018 Boxing Day Test against India, where Marsh was booed by his home crowd at the MCG. "It was a tough moment," he admitted. "That kind of response from your own fans can shake your confidence to its core." Marsh's struggles culminated in being dropped during the 2019 Ashes in

England, a blow that led him to reevaluate his approach to the game. While Mitchell's older brother, Shaun, and father, Rod, enjoyed successful Test careers, he found himself grappling with self-doubt and external expectations. Yet, as fate would have it, a hamstring injury to Cameron Green during the 2023 Ashes in England opened the door for Marsh's return. This time, he was ready. In his comeback match at Headingley, Marsh silenced his critics with a scintillating century and key contributions with the ball, cementing his place at No. 6 in the Test lineup. Marsh credits his transformation to hard work on his mental fortitude. "The truthful answer is I'm human, and anytime I walk out to bat, I'm nervous," he told Fox Cricket. "But I've worked on focusing on my preparation and pre-ball routines. If I prepare well, I can handle failure and move forward." Since his return,

Marsh has been a standout performer, becoming Australia's leading Test run-scorer over the past year and contributing to a triumphant World Cup campaign in India. The MCG crowd, which once jeered him, offered rousing applause during his counterattacking 96 against Pakistan in the 2023 Boxing Day Test. In addition to his Test resurgence, Marsh has flourished in white-ball cricket, taking over as Australia's T20I captain and becoming a leader in the dressing room. Off the field, he recently embraced fatherhood, adding another joyful chapter to his life. Looking ahead, Marsh has rejoined the Australian squad for the upcoming Border-Gavaskar Trophy, where he is expected to resume bowling duties after a measured recovery. At 33, Marsh stands as a testament to resilience, proving that with determination and the right mindset, redemption is always within reach.





Kiara Advani's

Golden Toothbrush Sparks Debate; Fans Call It Glamorous, Trolls Say It's Show-Off

Some celebrities exude a down-to-earth charm, while others seem destined to shine as untouchable icons. But regardless of their aura, most stars today have one thing in common: they connect with fans through social media. Whether it's a glimpse of luxury or a relatable moment, their posts never fail to spark conversations. Yesterday, Bollywood star Kiara Advani gave fans a peek into her morning routine, sharing a photo of a golden toothbrush on her Instagram story.

The shiny toothbrush wasn't the only luxurious touch—golden taps in the background completed the scene as Kiara stood in her mirror-clad bathroom. She humorously captioned the image, "Tell me you're a Sindhi without telling me you're a Sindhi." While Sindhis are famously known for their love of all things glitzy, not everyone found her post amusing. Some fans appreciated the humor, but others were quick to criticize her for allegedly "showing off."

Comments poured in, ranging from lighthearted jabs to outright trolling. One user quipped, "Brush krte ho ya show off ke liye h," while another joked, "Toothbrush khud se karte hai ki koi employee h??" Some comments took a darker turn, with one user sarcastically saying, "Phir kal ko ye log film ke promotion ke liye bolenge ki inhone bhi struggle kiya." Another mocked, "Tell me you are showoff, with out telling me you are showoff." Amid the trolling, a few users speculated that Kiara's toothbrush might not even be her own. One netizen guessed, "Proud Sindhi at a 5-star hotel will take a toothbrush home just because it's golden," while another confidently declared, "Juthi, it's from the hotel she is staying in lol."

But Kiara's golden morning is far from her only headline-grabber. The actor is busy with several high-profile projects, including War 2, where she stars opposite Hrithik Roshan, with Jr NTR playing a negative role. Directed by Ayan Mukerji, the film has already created a buzz. Kiara is also set to appear alongside Ranveer Singh in Don 3, a much-anticipated sequel.

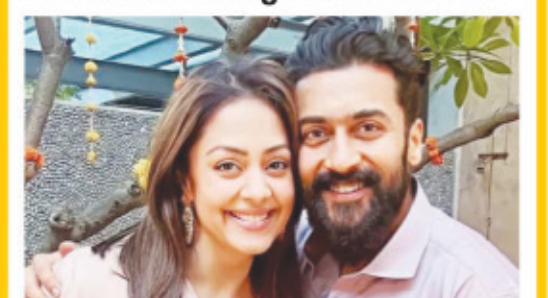
One of her most talked-about projects, Game Changer, co-starring Ram Charan, has fans particularly excited. Recently, the teaser for the film was unveiled, showcasing Ram Charan's intense transformation from a UPSC aspirant to a fearless IAS officer challenging corruption. His commanding declaration, "I am unpredictable," left a strong impression on viewers. While the teaser gave only a fleeting glimpse of Kiara's role, fans are eager to see her chemistry with Ram Charan on-screen again. The production of Game Changer has faced its share of challenges, but momentum has continued. The film's title was officially revealed in March 2023 to coincide with Ram Charan's birthday.

Nayanthara Makes FIRST Appearance After Slamming Dhanush, Spotted With Vignesh Shivan And Kids



Lady Superstar Nayanthara has been hitting the headlines after she shared a scathing letter addressed to actor-filmmaker Dhanush, over her Netflix documentary. The actress, who turned a year older yesterday, has been in Delhi with her husband Vignesh Shivan and their kids Uyir and Ulag. Now, on Tuesday, Nayanthara made her first public appearance post slamming Dhanush. She was spotted at the Delhi airport along with her hubby and their kids. Looks like Nayanthara's trip to Delhi with Vignesh Shivan and their kids has come to an end. The family kept it simple as they arrived at Delhi airport on Tuesday afternoon. In the video shared by paparazzo Pallav Paliwal, Nayanthara is seen rocking a pale yellow ethnic dress. She paired it with a grey-and-maroon coloured shawl. She tied her hair back in a ponytail, and was seen holding her son. Meanwhile, Vignesh Shivan sported a white tee with khaki coloured shorts and black sneakers. He held his son in his arms, as he made his way inside the airport. Nayanthara and Vignesh's twins Uyir and Ulag were seen in matching outfits. They wore a yellow printed tee with black shorts. Check out the video below! Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan fell in love on the sets of their film Naanum Rowdy Dhaan in 2015. They tied the knot in June 2022 in Mahabalipuram, in a private ceremony with just their family, close friends and co-stars in attendance. In October 2022, they announced the birth of their twin children Uyir and Ulgam via surrogacy. Meanwhile, just two days ago, the family made a surprise visit to Delhi's Qutub Minar. Several videos capturing their visit to the monument went viral on social media.

Jyotika Brutally Trolled After She Reveals She Helps Him Choose Films To Do Amid Kanguva's Failure



Tamil actress Jyotika is getting trolled after Suriya's Kanguva flopped. The actress, who had recently penned a lengthy note defending the film, has come under fire after she revealed she helps Suriya choose the films he should act in. In a video going viral, Jyotika was asked if she and Suriya intervene in each other's decision-making process while signing a film. Jyotika's response has a section of social media blaming her partly for Kanguva's failure. In an interview with Gallata India, Jyotika was asked if she and Suriya exchange notes on projects coming their way and if they help each other in deciding their projects. "I decide my projects and we both decide his," Jyotika said, with a hearty



laugh. The small portion of the interview has gone viral online, with many mocking Jyotika. "The reason why Actor #Suriya is not giving blockbuster movies nowadays," a comment read. "No wonder Surya is giving flops last 10 years," added another. "That's why both their movies are disasters," a third user trolled. Many also came to Jyotika's defense. "It was one bad movie, and y'all make it seem like all his movies are bad," a social media user said. "Even before his marriage he got flops it doesn't mean that it is because of JO, where u guys went when surarai potru & Jai Bheem got success in platform, have anyone came n applauded JO. None came right why such negative mafias in this industry #standwithjyotika," added another. Despite the mixed response, Kanguva is on track to surpass the Rs 150-crore mark in its first weekend. According to Studio Green, the film has already earned Rs 127.64 crore in just three days at the global box office. With its strong performance in the coming days, the movie is expected to exceed expectations and will reach the milestone soon.



Madhu Chopra

On Priyanka Chopra's Struggle In Film Industry: 'When We Came In, We Saw The Dirt'

Global icon Priyanka Chopra needs no introduction. After winning the Miss World title in 2000 at just 18 years old, she made her acting debut with the 2002 Tamil film Thamizhan. She later starred in major Bollywood hits such as Aitraaz, Fashion, Dostana, Don, and Mujhse Shaadi Karogi, among many others. With a background in medicine, Priyanka's journey to stardom is a testament to her hard work, talent, and unwavering dedication. Talking to Breaking Stereotypes, Priyanka's mother Madhu Chopra recently opened up about the challenges PeeCee faced during her initial days in the Indian film industry. "We came from another industry and the film industry was new to us and we had stars in our eyes. I didn't think it was a hellhole or such negative things didn't come to our head. But when we came in, then we saw the dirt in it and the bad part," Madhu Chopra said.

"Thodi bohot takleef to hoti thi starting mein (It was a little troubling in the beginning), then Priyanka sat us (Madhu and her late husband Ashok Chopra) down and told us 'Mom, you know me best. So why believe all rubbish'. After that everything became alright," she added.

The actress made her Bollywood debut with the film The Hero: Love Story of a Spy. Directed by Anil Sharma, the film also featured Sunny Deol, Preity Zinta and the late legendary actor Amrish Puri in the lead roles. She has received several awards for her acting performances including a National Film Award for her role in Madhur Bhandarkar's 2008 film Fashion and several Filmfare and IIFA Awards.

After making it big in the Bollywood industry, the actress made a mark for herself in Hollywood too. She made her Hollywood acting debut with the TV show Quantico in 2015 and later appeared in several films like We Can Be Heroes, The Matrix Resurrections, Love Again and the web series Citadel. PeeCee will be next seen in the film Heads of State alongside John Cena and Idris Elba. Apart from that she also has The Bluff and Citadel Season 2 in her kitty.

