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Yogi Adityanath declares 'The Sabarmati Report' tax-free in UP

Sanjay Kumar

Lucknow, Nov 21: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday announced that the film 'The Sabarmati Report', based on the Godhra train burn-



ing incident, will be tax-free in the state. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath with Bollywood actors Vikrant Massey and Raashii Khanna at a cinema hall to watch the film 'The Sabarmati Report' in Lucknow, Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024. Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath with Bollywood actors Vikrant Massey and Raashii Khanna at a cinema hall to watch the film 'The Sabarmati Report' in Lucknow, The announcement

Congress chief Kharge demands JPC probe after US indicts Gautam Adani

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 21: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge demanded a comprehensive Joint Parliament Committee (JPC) probe into all aspects of the Adani group's functioning, including its foreign investments, to investigate and dismantle the alleged nexus of billionaires, bureaucrats and 'certain politicians'. Kharge's demand comes after US federal prosecutors alleged that Adani Green bribed government officials in Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, and possibly Tamil Nadu, Chhattisgarh, and Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), to get their power distribution companies (discoms) to commit to purchasing solar power at above market rates. Also read: Decoding Gautam Adani indictment Kharge said the alleged indictment of a "top-ranking Indian businessman by a foreign country" tarnishes India's image on the global stage. He also linked the charges as the result of the central government's alleged

policy of creating monopolies. "The Indian National Congress has been continuously objecting to unethical business practices

investigation into the "nexus involving cronies, compromised bureaucrats and certain politicians" allegedly created by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani. "This nexus severely hurts our people - poor and middle class, aspiring entrepreneurs, MSMEs, Startups and crores of small and medium retail investors, for it widens inequalities by snatching savings and opportunities," Kharge added. He also echoed Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's call that the investigation should begin with the group's founder, Gautam Adani. "A comprehensive JPC, which not only investigates every aspect of the working of the Adani Group, the deliberate institutional erosion of the SEBI, SECI and government bodies, and the deals of Adani Group in foreign countries is the need of the hour," Kharge's post read. The Congress leader added that only such steps could reduce economic inequalities and enable a conducive environment for a free market economy that ignites the "spirit entrepreneurship for all".



which profiteer and promote certain individuals by implementing Modi Govt's policy of creating monopolies in key sectors and concentrating wealth in the hands of few by giving undue favours," wrote Kharge in a post on X. The Congress president also called for an

Israel eyes 10,000 Indian tourists in 2024 despite unrest, plans e-visa facility

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Nov. 21: Amid ongoing conflict in the Middle East, Israel is hoping that the number of Indian tourists will reach 10,000 in 2024 and is planning to launch an e-visa programme for the Indian market early next year to encourage travel to the West Asian country, an official said on Thursday. According to the Israel Ministry of Tourism (IMOT) India Director of Marketing, Amruta Bangera, around 8,500 Indian tourists visited the West Asian country till October this year. "In 2018, the country hosted 70,800 Indian visitors, marking a record. Although the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global travel, Indian arrivals began recovering in 2022, reaching 30,900 despite minimal promotional campaigns. The momentum continued in 2023 with 41,800 Indian visitors. In 2024, 8,500 Indians travelled to Israel during the January-October period," she told. "We hope that by the end of this year, the number of Indian tourists travelling to Israel will reach around 10,000," she said. Speaking about the impact of the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict, which has kept West Asia on edge, Bangera claimed, "Israel is safe for tourists, and the conflict is confined to the bordering areas, where tourists

are not allowed to venture." "Yes, the conflict and the news emanating from the region have impact-



ed tourist inflow. But we hope the situation will improve next year," she said. The IMOT is optimistic about the Indian market's potential and is actively engaging with Indian travel agencies to promote Israel as a preferred tourist destination,

she said. "We are planning to launch an e-visa programme early next year to attract more tourists from India," she said. Bangera stated that despite ongoing geopolitical challenges in the Middle East, Israel has witnessed a steady recovery in global tourism. The country recorded a peak of 4.9 million international visitors in 2019. While the pandemic brought travel to a near halt, Israel welcomed over 2.6 million tourists in 2022 and 3.1 million in 2023. "In 2024, the number of international tourists to Israel was 920,000 between January and October," she said. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East intensified dramatically after the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a large-scale assault on Israel from Gaza on October 7, 2023, killing approximately 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting around 250. Hezbollah began attacking Israel from Lebanon on October 8 in solidarity with Hamas, prompting Israel to launch extensive military campaigns in both Gaza and southern Lebanon. Over 43,800 Palestinians, including many women and children, have reportedly been killed in Gaza, while more than 3,400 people have died in Lebanon due to Israeli bombardments, with 80 per cent of these casualties occurring in the past month.

BJP-led Mahayuti alliance to sweep Maharashtra, predicts Axis My India exit poll

Mumbai, Nov 21: The Bharatiya Janata Party-led Mahayuti alliance will sweep the Maharashtra assembly elections, predicted Pradeep Gupta's Axis My India exit polls. The ruling combine is projected to win 178-200

vote share of 45 per cent. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi is projected to bag the remaining 14 seats. In Vidarbha, the Mahayuti is predicted to win 39 out of 62 seats while the MVA may bag 20 seats. In the Konkan and Thane region, the exit poll projected Mahayuti to win 24 out of 39 seats while the MVA might bag 13. The exit poll has predicted that the BJP-led alliance will win 30 out of 46 seats while the MVA is projected to bag 15. The Mahayuti is projected to have a vote share of 45 per cent against the opposition alliance's 38 per cent. The Shiv Sena-BJP-NCP combine is projected to sweep the North Maharashtra region, winning 38 out of 47 seats against MVA's tally of seven. The Maha Vikas Aghadi may perform slightly better in Western Maharashtra where it could win 21 out of 58 seats, but Mahayuti is predicted to grab a lion's share of 36 seats. Most exit polls also predicted that Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) would put up a strong show in polls but is unlikely to cross the majority mark in the 288-member assembly.



seats in the 288-member assembly. The Maha Vikas Aghadi comprising Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and Sharad Pawar's NCP (SP) would be restricted to anywhere between 82-102 seats, the pollster predicted. The ruling alliance is predicted to bag a vote share of 48 per cent against opposition bloc's 37 per cent. According to the Axis My India projections, the Mahayuti alliance is predicted to win 22 out of 36 seats in the Mumbai region with a

Adani Group reacts to US 'bribery' charges against Gautam Adani

New Delhi, Nov 21: Adani Group rejected charges made by US prosecutors that Gautam Adani had paid more than \$250 million in bribes to secure lucrative government contracts. Gautam Adani charged in US: The Adani Group on Thursday rejected charges made by United States prosecutors that its chairman Gautam Adani had paid more than \$250 million in bribes to secure lucrative government contracts. "The allegations made by the US Department of Justice and the US Securities and Exchange Commission against directors of Adani Green are baseless and denied," the Adani conglomerate said in a statement. US prosecutors have charged billionaire Gautam Adani for allegedly being part of a scheme to pay over USD 250 million (about ₹2,100 crore) bribe to Indian officials in exchange of favourable terms for solar power contracts. Commenting on the development, the Adani group spokesperson pointed to US Department of Justice statement said "the charges in the indictment are allegations and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty". "The Adani Group has always upheld and is steadfastly committed to maintaining the highest standards of governance, transparency and regulatory compliance across all jurisdictions of its operations.

Supreme Court on Yasin Malik's case: 'Even Ajmal Kasab was given fair trial'

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Nov 21: The SC said that it could order for the trial to take place inside the premises of the Tihar Jail and ask the judge to travel to Delhi for the proceedings. The Supreme Court on Thursday indicated it might set up a courtroom inside Delhi's Tihar jail for Jammu and Kashmir separatist leader Yasin Malik in a kidnapping case. The top court also remarked that "Even Ajmal Kasab was given a fair trial in our country." The top court bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih was hearing a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) plea against a September 2022 order of a Jammu-based Special TADA court. Malik is currently serving a life term in Tihar jail. He was directed to be produced before the trial court in person for cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses in the 1989 kidnapping case of then Union home minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed's daughter, Rubaiya Sayeed.

Rubaiya was abducted near Lal Ded Hospital in Srinagar on December 8, 1989 and freed five days later after the then BJP-



backed V P Singh government at the Centre released five terrorists in exchange. "How will cross-examination be done online? There is hardly any connectivity in Jammu... In our country, a fair trial was given even to Ajmal Kasab and legal assistance was given to him in the high court," PTI quoted the bench as saying.

Elevate your leadership potential with University of Massachusetts Global MBA Program Enroll Now The top court told the CBI counsel, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, to take instructions on the total number of witnesses in this case. During the hearing, the solicitor general highlighted security concerns and said that Malik could not be taken to Jammu for trial, the PTI report added. He accused Malik of "playing tricks" for having asked to appear personally and not engaging a lawyer. He also showed a purported photograph of Malik with 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks mastermind Hafiz Saeed. The top court said it could order trial to take place inside the jail besides asking the judge to come to the national capital for the proceedings. The bench, however, noted all the accused persons in the matter had to be heard before it passes an order. Mehta said Malik physically appearing in the Supreme Court had raised security concerns previously.

Maharashtra polls: MVA will win 160-165 seats: Sanjay Raut

ST Correspondent

Mumbai, Nov 21: A day after the Maharashtra assembly polls, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Thursday claimed the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) will win 160 to 165 seats out of the total 288 and provide a stable government in the state. The Rajya Sabha member also said the MVA leaders will be meeting on Thursday, ahead of the counting of votes which will take place on Saturday. After the polling concluded on Wednesday, most exit polls predicted victory for the BJP-led alliance in Maharashtra while some gave an edge to the MVA coalition in the western state. "We and our allies, including smaller parties like the PWP, Samajwadi Party, the Left parties are crossing the majority mark. We are winning 160-165 seats. There will be a stable government in the state. I can say it very confidently," Raut told reporters. While the Mahayuti alliance is making a determined bid to retain power, the opposition MVA coalition is hoping to continue its good showing in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls in the state. An estimated 65 per cent voter turnout was recorded in the Maharashtra assembly elections on Wednesday, as per the provisional figures, compared to 61.74 per cent in the 2019 state polls.



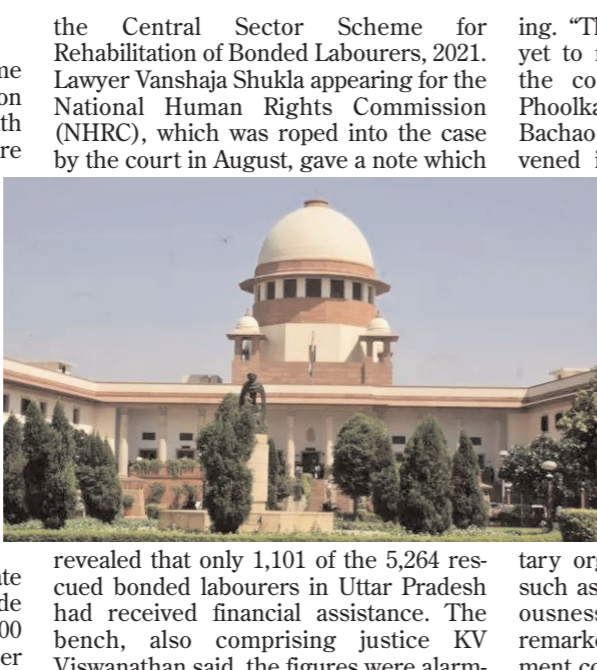
Opposition members demand more time for Waqf panel to submit report

Mumbai, Nov. 21: Opposition members on Thursday demanded extension of the tenure of the Joint Committee on Waqf Amendment Bill, contending that they need more time to study the changes to the draft legislation. At a huddle of the committee, Chairman and BJP member Jagdambika Pal announced that Thursday's meeting would be the last sitting of the panel and a draft report would be circulated to the members shortly. This led to protests by the Opposition members who resorted to sloganeering and some of them called Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and sought his intervention in the matter. The committee has been asked by the Lok Sabha to submit its report on the last day of the first week of the winter session of Parliament beginning Monday. The government has already listed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill for consideration and passage in the Winter session "after the report of the joint committee is presented to the Lok Sabha". In the past too, opposition members on the panel have accused Pal, a BJP MP, of doing the government's bidding.

SC orders Centre on assistance for bonded labourers

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 21: The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the union labour secretary to hold a meeting with his counterparts in the states to ensure that bonded labourers who are rescued receive immediate financial assistance for their timely rehabilitation. NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) also intervened in the court proceedings, noting that many of the rescued bonded labourers were children NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) also intervened in the court proceedings, noting that many of the rescued bonded labourers were children The order was passed by a bench headed by justice Bhushan R Gavai during a hearing on a 2022 petition that called for surveys by states to identify bonded labourers in line with the top court's decision in PUCL v. State of Tamil Nadu (2013) and to provide immediate financial assistance of ₹30,000 to the rescued bonded labourers under



revealed that only 1,101 of the 5,264 rescued bonded labourers in Uttar Pradesh had received financial assistance. The bench, also comprising justice KV Viswanathan said, the figures were alarm-

ing. "There are 4,167 bonded labourers yet to receive any financial assistance," the court said. Senior advocate HS Phoolka representing the NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA), which has intervened in these proceedings, said from 2017 till March 2024, about 11,057 children have been rescued from bonded labour in 19 states. Of these states, he added, Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi were represented before the court. Yet, the NHRC informed the court that the Bihar government rescued some 467 children. Of them, 245 were child labourers and the remaining 222 were rescued from human trafficking by voluntary organisations from different places such as railway stations. Noting the seriousness of the situation, the bench remarked, "Why can't the Union government come out with a uniform formula to

be followed by all states." "In order to address the problem of inter-state trafficking of persons...we direct the secretary, ministry of labour and employment to have a meeting with counterparts in all states and union territories and come out with a proposal to tackle inter-state trafficking and grant of release certificate," the court said. Advocate Abhishek Jeebaraj appearing for the petitioner, Surendra Manjhi, told the court that the rescued persons need to be provided with immediate financial assistance to ensure they get rehabilitated and are not trafficked again. He added that a difficulty arises in cases where the labourers from one state are rescued from another state. Granting six weeks for this exercise to be completed, the bench further directed, "The proposal shall contain a simplified procedure that will benefit immediate payment of financial assistance." Advocate Durga Dutt who appeared for the Union government agreed to comply with the court's directions.

NEWS BOX

50 Boko Haram terrorists dead, 7 Nigerian officers missing in convoy attack



Abuja. At least 50 Boko Haram terrorists were killed on Tuesday and seven members of Nigeria's infrastructure security force were missing following an ambush on a convoy monitoring the country's power grid installations, a spokesperson said. Boko Haram, which has waged an insurgency for 15 years mainly in the northeast, has been weakened by the military and internal fighting but remains a threat as it makes deadly attacks against civilians and government targets. Babawale Afolabi, spokesperson for the Nigerian Civil Defence Corp, a government agency set up to protect infrastructure, said security operations were ambushed by about 200 Boko Haram terrorists during the patrol mission.

Afolabi said more than 50 terrorists were killed in the fighting, but seven operatives were missing, adding that efforts are underway to find them in the bush. He said "a few others" of the security force were wounded.

Although Boko Haram mainly operates in the northeast, Nigerian authorities say the group has cells in the largely Muslim Niger state, where they have previously carried out attacks against the military and civilians. In a separate attack in northeast Borno state, a military spokesperson said five soldiers were killed by suspected terrorists last Saturday.

China takes part in joint anti-terrorism exercise with Pakistan

World. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Western Theatre Command Special Forces Commandos will take part in a joint exercise 'Warrior-VIII' with Pakistan. The 20-day-long joint anti-terrorism exercise in Pakistan was announced by the Chinese Defence Ministry on Tuesday, and will be held from November 20 to December 11. According to the Chinese Defence Ministry, the exercise follows an



annual schedule and reflects agreements reached by the militaries of both nations. The Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Western Theatre Command Special Forces Commandos will take part in a joint exercise 'Warrior-VIII' with Pakistan. The 20-day-long joint anti-terrorism exercise in Pakistan was announced by the Chinese Defence Ministry on Tuesday, and will be held from November 20 to December 11. According to the Chinese Defence Ministry, the exercise follows an annual schedule and reflects agreements reached by the militaries of both nations.

Hamas Says No Hostage-For-Prisoner Swap With Israel Unless Gaza War Ends

Cairo. Hamas' acting Gaza chief Khalil al-Hayya said in an interview with Al-Aqsa TV released on Wednesday that there would be no hostages-for-prisoners swap deal with Israel unless the war in the Palestinian enclave ended. "Without an end to the war, there can be no prisoner swap," Hayya said in a televised interview with the group's Al-Aqsa television channel, reiterating the group's position on how to bring the war to an end.

"If the aggression is not ended, why would the resistance and in particular Hamas, return the prisoners (hostages)?" he said. "How would a sane or an insane person lose a strong card he owns while the war is continuing?" Hayya, who led the group's negotiating team in talks with Qatari and Egyptian mediators, blamed the lack of progress on Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who in turn holds the Islamist group responsible for the stalled talks. "There are contacts under way with some countries and mediators to revive this file (negotiation). We are ready to continue with those efforts but it is more important to see a real will on the side of the occupation to end the aggression," said Hayya. "The reality proves that Netanyahu is the one who undermines it (negotiations)," he added. Speaking during a visit to Gaza on Tuesday, Netanyahu said that Hamas would not rule the Palestinian enclave after the war had ended and that Israel had destroyed the Islamist group's military capabilities. Netanyahu also said Israel had not given up trying to locate the 101 remaining hostages believed to be still in the enclave, and he offered a \$5 million reward for the return of each one. Hamas wants a deal that ends the war and sees the release of Israeli and foreign hostages held captive in Gaza as well as Palestinians jailed by Israel, while Netanyahu vowed the war can only end once Hamas is eradicated.

US shuts Kyiv embassy amid strike threat after Ukraine missile attack in Russia

Kyiv. The US shut its embassy in Kyiv on Wednesday morning due to what it called the threat of a significant air attack, a day after Ukraine used American missiles to hit a target inside Russia in what Moscow described as an escalation in the war. Later, after an air raid siren in the early afternoon jangled nerves in the capital, Ukraine's military spy agency said Russia was trying to sow panic by circulating fake online messages about a massive looming missile and drone attack. The enemy, unable to subdue Ukrainians by force, resorts to measures of intimidation and psychological pressure on society. We ask you to be vigilant and steadfast," it said. A US government source said the embassy closure was "related to ongoing threats of air attacks". The Italian and Greek embassies said they too had closed their doors. The French embassy remained open but urged its citizens to be cautious. The US State Department later said it expected the Kyiv embassy to resume normal operations on Thursday. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy,



said that "panic-inducing messages circulated today only help Russia", but warned Ukrainians to pay close attention to air raid alerts. "However many brutal and treacherous attacks by Russia we have endured... it is always important to pay attention to air raid warnings," he said in his nightly video address. "We have a neighbour that is insane." Zelenskyy also expressed thanks for a new \$275 million US military aid package announced by the State Department focusing on ammunition, drones and missiles. Ukraine on Tuesday used US ATACMS missiles to attack an

arms depot inside Russia, making use of newly granted permission from the outgoing administration of US President Joe Biden on the 1,000th day of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Russia has been signalling to the US and its allies for weeks that if they give permission to Ukraine to strike deep into Russian territory with Western-supplied missiles then Moscow will consider it a major escalation. "Out of an abundance of caution, the embassy will be closed, and embassy employees are being instructed to shelter in place," the US Department of State Consular Affairs said in a statement on the embassy's website. "The US Embassy recommends US citizens be prepared to immediately shelter in the event an air alert is announced." The Kremlin said it had no comment. Russian foreign intelligence chief Sergei Naryshkin said in an interview published on Wednesday that Moscow would retaliate against Nato countries that facilitate long-range Ukrainian missile strikes against Russian territory.

PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATION In the early afternoon, the Ukrainian air force told people to seek shelter because of a missile threat. Senior officials told people not to ignore the alert. That came shortly before Kyiv's top military spy agency GUR issued a warning about a Russian psychological operation it said involved fake messages claiming to have been sent by the agency. "A message is being spread via messengers and social networks ... about the threat of a 'particularly massive' missile and bomb strike on Ukrainian cities today," GUR said in a statement. Two Ukrainian military personnel told Reuters they received messages informing them that Russia would launch more than 300 drones and also use warships, warplanes and ground-based systems to fire missiles en masse. Reuters could not immediately determine how the messages were sent. One soldier said he received one from a friend. The war is at a volatile juncture, with nearly a fifth of Ukrainian territory in Russian hands, North Korean troops.

UK Parliament Approves Bill To Renationalise Rail Services

London. Legislation put forward by the UK's new Labour government to renationalise the country's rail services, most of which are privately owned, was on Wednesday given the go-ahead by parliament. The bill will bring rail operators into public ownership when the private companies' contracts expire -- or sooner in the event of poor management -- and will be managed by "Great British Railways". The TSSA rail union hailed the law as a "landmark" after an attempt by the opposition Conservatives to amend the legislation was defeated in the House of Lords, the upper house of parliament, by 213 votes to 210. "This really is a landmark



moment paving the way for our railways to return to public hands, where they belong, as a vital service," said TSSA General Secretary Maryam Eslamdoost. Labour triumphed over the Conservative party in elections on July 4, re-entering Downing Street after 14

years in opposition with promises to fix the country's ailing transport services. The government has said it will be able to avoid having to pay compensation fees to rail operators, with all the current contracts set to expire by 2027. The privatisation of rail operations took place in the mid-1990s under the Conservative prime minister John Major, but the rail network remained public, run by Network Rail. Four of 14 operators in England have been taken over by the state in recent years because of poor performance, but this was meant to be a temporary fix before a return to the private sector.

Thai Woman Gets Death Sentence After Poisoning 14 Friends With Cyanide

Authorities have since linked Sararat to a series of cyanide poisonings dating back to 2015.



her victims and later killed them to fund her gambling habit.

Cairo. A Thai woman, accused of being one of the country's most prolific serial killers, has been sentenced to death for poisoning a friend with cyanide. This is the first of 14 murder trials involving Sararat Rangsiwuthaporn, 36, whose alleged crimes have shocked the nation, according to The Guardian. Sararat, described as an online gambling addict, is accused of swindling large sums of money from her victims before killing them with cyanide. Thai media reports that she borrowed thousands of dollars from

On Wednesday, a court in Bangkok convicted Sararat for the murder of her friend, Siriporn Khanwong. The two met near Bangkok in April 2022 to participate in a Buddhist ritual of releasing fish into the Mae Klong River. Shortly after the ritual, Siriporn collapsed and died. Investigators later found traces of cyanide in her body.

Authorities have since linked Sararat to a series of cyanide poisonings dating back to 2015. "The court's decision is just," said Siriporn's mother, Tongpin Kiatchanasiri, following the verdict. "I

want to tell my daughter that I miss her deeply and justice has been done for her today." Police revealed that Sararat borrowed as much as 300,000 baht from some victims, stealing their jewellery and mobile phones after killing them. She reportedly lured 15 people, of whom only one survived, to consume poisoned "herb capsules." Deputy National Police Chief Surachate Hakpam explained Sararat's motives: "She asked people she knows for money because she has a lot of credit card debt ... and if they asked her for their money back, she started killing them." Sararat faces charges for 13 additional murders and has been accused of around 80 offences in total. Her ex-husband, a police lieutenant-colonel, was sentenced to 16 months in prison, while her former lawyer received a two-year sentence for complicity in Siriporn's murder. Thailand has witnessed several high-profile poisoning cases in the past, but Sararat's alleged crimes stand out for their scale and severity.

state news agency Xinhua reported. He also called for "a ceasefire and an end to the war at an early date" in Gaza, the agency said. On Ukraine, the China-Brazil roadmap for mediating peace has been endorsed by Kyiv and its Western backers. The Chinese president's appeal for a halt to fighting in Gaza -- where Israel is pressing an offensive against Hamas -- echoed one he and the other G20 leaders made during a summit held Monday and Tuesday in Rio. That summit's joint statement called for a "comprehensive" ceasefire in both Gaza and Lebanon, where Israel is also waging an offensive against the Iran-backed Hezbollah group. On Wednesday, the UN Security Council held a vote on a resolution calling for "an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire" in Gaza, but it was vetoed by Israel's ally the United States.

China filling 'vacuum' Xi's state visit to Brasilia showcased closer relations between the biggest economies in Asia and Latin America, which analysts said also reflected shrinking US influence. The two leaders signed 35 cooperation accords on areas including agriculture, trade, technology and environmental protection. Xi said China-Brazil relations "are at their best in history" and the two countries are now "reliable friends," according to Xinhua. Lula said he believed the growing Brazil-China ties "will exceed all expectations and pave the way for a new phase of bilateral relations." He added that he looked forward to welcoming Xi to Brazil again next July for a BRICS summit. The Chinese leader figured prominently at the G20 summit, and at an APEC one held last week in Peru -- in contrast with outgoing US President Joe Biden, who cut a spectral figure.

Trump's lawyers seek dismissal of hush money case against US President-elect

WORLD. Donald Trump's lawyers told a judge that the Republican's conviction for illegally covering up hush money payments to a porn star should be dismissed because he won the US presidential election and sentencing would threaten government stability. In a letter filed on Tuesday and made public on Wednesday, the Republican president-elect's lawyers asked New York State Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan for permission to file a formal motion laying out their arguments by December 20. "Just as a sitting president is immune from any criminal process, so too is President Trump as President-elect," the lawyers wrote. Trump, 78, had been scheduled to be sentenced on November 26, but Merchan last week put all proceedings in the case on pause at the request of Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office. Bragg's office has said it will oppose Trump's bid to dismiss the case and suggested it should be paused until Trump completes his four-year



presidential term beginning on January 20, though it stopped short of explicitly endorsing that option. Trump, president from 2017-2021, is hoping to enter office for a second term unencumbered by any of the four criminal cases he has faced and which some opponents had predicted would derail his 2024 candidacy to return to the White House.

The Republican Trump was convicted in May of falsifying business records to cover up a \$130,000 payment his former lawyer

Michael Cohen made to adult film actress Stormy Daniels for her silence before the 2016 election about a sexual encounter she says she had with Trump, who denies it. It was the first time a US president - former or sitting - had been convicted of or charged with a criminal offence. Trump pleaded not guilty in the case, which he has long portrayed as a politically motivated attempt by Bragg, a Democrat, to interfere with his campaign. In their letter on Tuesday, Trump's lawyers said continuing the case after his election victory would be "uniquely destabilising" and threaten to "hamstring the operation of the whole governmental apparatus." Falsification of business records is punishable by up to four years in prison. Before he was elected, experts said it was unlikely - but not impossible - that Trump would face time behind bars, with punishments such as a fine or probation seen as more likely. Trump's victory over Democratic

Vice President Kamala Harris in the November 5 election made the prospect of imposing a sentence of jail or probation even more politically fraught and impractical, given that a sentence could have impeded his ability to conduct the duties of the presidency. Trump was charged in three additional state and federal cases in 2023, one involving classified documents he kept after leaving office and two others involving his efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss. A Florida-based federal judge in July dismissed the documents case. The Justice Department is now evaluating how to wind down the federal election-related case. Trump also faces state criminal charges in Georgia over his bid to reverse his 2020 loss in that state, but the case remains in limbo. As president, Trump would have no power to shut down the New York or Georgia cases because they were filed in state courts. His Justice Department may close the federal cases.

News box

Maharashtra polls: In a first, names in EVM appear in Kannada

BELAGAVI: Time and again, political leaders from Maharashtra rake up language and border issues during elections to woo Marathi speakers along the Karnataka-Maharashtra border villages in Belagavi. But the truth is there are lakhs of Kannada speakers in Maharashtra border villages as well, whose voice was suppressed for decades. Now for the first time, the Election Commission in Maharashtra has included the names of candidates in Kannada as well as Marathi in EVM machines in 15 Assembly constituencies for the polls in the neighbouring state. In these 15 Assembly constituencies, including Latur, Mangalwed, Akalkot, Jatt and south Solapur, Kannada speakers are in the majority. There are at least 50 to 60 lakh Kannada speakers in these constituencies of Maharashtra, most belonging to the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community.

Realising the importance of this block, candidates of various parties had invited prominent Kannadiga leaders from Karnataka as star campaigners in this election. The Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES), recently met with political parties in Maharashtra and asked them to include the issue of resolving the Karnataka-Maharashtra boundary row in their manifesto. Interestingly, in what can be seen as a snub to the MES, no party or candidate raised the border issue in their election speeches. Instead, they printed posters and handbills in Kannada to reach out to Kannada voters. In many Maharashtra border villages, Kannada speakers had launched a movement to condemn the apathy of the government towards them and even passed resolutions in panchayats expressing their desire to merge their villages with Karnataka.

APSCPCR orders probe after two girls attempted suicide at Sattenapalli hostel

GUNTUR: The Andhra Pradesh State Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (AP SCPCR) has taken suo-moto cognizance of the attempted suicide by two students at the Sattenapalli SC Welfare Girls Hostel and directed district authorities to investigate. The students, Saritha (19) and Akhila (16) reportedly consumed sleeping pills on Sunday, citing harassment by the hostel warden, whom they accused of retaliating after they complained about poor living conditions. During a surprise inspection on Tuesday, Commission member Bathula Padmavathi expressed shock at the appalling state of the hostel. Over 250 students are forced to share a single functioning bathroom, leading to severe inconvenience. Stale food, unsanitary conditions, and stray animals, including dogs and pigs, roaming the premises were among the numerous health hazards identified. She assured parents that urgent action would be taken to address the students' grievances. She instructed officials to record written complaints from the students and take steps to improve living conditions. Measures include weekly medical camps, better sanitation, and enhanced basic amenities.

Man, uncle drink pesticide mistaking it for water, die in Odisha

JAGATSIINGHPUR: A 42-year-old man and his uncle died after allegedly consuming pesticide, mistaking it for water, at Sirasata village in Jagatsinghpur's Tirtol area on Tuesday night. The deceased were identified as Bibhuti Samal, a betel shop owner and his uncle, 75-year-old Gopinath Samal. The uncle-nephew duo consumed alcohol together in the evening. The duo was to attend a meeting but had to return home as they felt uneasy due to excess drinking. Police said, later in the night Gopinath went to Bibhuti's house and since both were thirsty, they drank from a bottle kept nearby mistaking it for water, unaware that it was pesticide meant for mushroom crops. Bibhuti apparently had kept the pesticide in the bottle but had forgotten about it. Shortly after consuming the liquid, the duo complained of severe stomach ache and uneasiness following which their families rushed them to Pattamundai Community Health Centre. As their condition deteriorated, they were shifted to the Kendrapara district headquarters hospital (DHH) where doctors declared them dead on arrival, police said.

Gopinath's son Nutan later lodged an FIR with Kendrapada Sadar police in this connection following which an unnatural death case was registered and the bodies sent for postmortem. Jagatsinghpur SP Bhabani Shankar Udgata said Tirtol police too, are investigating the case. "Kendrapada Sadar police registered the UD case as the deaths occurred at Kendrapara DHH. As per preliminary investigation, the victims consumed pesticide from a bottle mistaking it for water. The bottle has been seized for forensic analysis. Further investigation is underway to ascertain the exact cause of their death," he added. Meanwhile, locals alleged the uncle-nephew duo died due to consumption of spurious liquor. They complained that illicit liquor was being sold openly in their locality and urged police to crack down on the illegal trade.

44.7 per cent Muslim families have at least one member abroad

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: More people from Muslim households in Kerala opt to migrate abroad. Among migrant families – those having at least one member abroad – Muslims comprise the majority (44.7%) followed by Hindus (38.2%) and Christians (17%), says a new research on Kerala's migration and standard of living. Among non-migrant families, Hindu households form the majority (63%) followed by Christian (21.2%) and Muslim (15.6%) households. Among Muslim households themselves, around 43% have at least one member in a foreign country. The study also showed that a substantial portion of Kerala households without migrants fall below the poverty line (BPL). Around 42.38% of non-migrant families are in the BPL category, much higher than the state average of 38%. The research, based on the Centre for Development Studies (CDS) 2018 migration study, was carried out by three researchers from the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai - Afsal Kalaganad, Muhammad Thalil, and Reshmi Ramachandran Sukumari. Published in September, it revolves around "the pivotal role played by international remittances in fostering upward income mobility among



migrant households, leading to tangible transformations in their living standards".

It shows marked disparities among households with and without migrants across different dimensions like poverty indicators, housing quality, asset ownership and consumer durables. Almost 95% of the households, irrespective of their migration status, possessed valid ration cards. Going by the findings, migrant households not only surpass non-migrant ones in land ownership but also allocate more resources to house construction, positioning a higher proportion of them above the poverty line. When it comes to the standard of living, 42.1% of migrant families have significantly 'high' living standards, while 35.7%

fall under the category of 'middle' living standards. Among non-migrant families, it is 28.9% and 31.9% respectively. The low-category of living standards is significantly high among non-migrants (39.2%), compared to migrant families (22.2%). The study revealed that 16.3% migrant families reside in houses categorised as 'luxurious', while 38.7% live in 'very good' houses. In non-migrant households, it is 10.4% and 27.8%, respectively. A higher proportion of non-migrants live in houses classified as 'poor' (17.8%) and 5.2% of families live in low-cost traditional houses constructed with mud, bamboo or corrugated sheets. However, in migrant families, only 8.2 per cent live in houses classified as 'poor' and 0.7 per cent live in low-cost traditional houses. As much as 4% of migrant families and 5% of non-migrant families live in rented houses. A substantial proportion (14.7%) of non-migrant families constructed houses that cost less than Rs 1 lakh and 30.3% spent between Rs 1-Rs 5 lakh on house construction. However, migrant families allocated a larger house construction budget exceeding Rs 5 lakh. When it comes to possessing land, 74.2% of migrants and 69.7% of non-migrants own properties.

Tiruppur animal husbandry department bats for aid to farmers for goats killed by dogs

TIRUPPUR: The department of animal husbandry has stated that 195 goats have died due to stray dog attacks in Tiruppur district till September this year. The department has written to the District Collector to take steps to get compensation to the affected farmers. S. Pugazhenthil, joint director of the animal husbandry department of Tiruppur, in his letter to the District Collector, stated, "Animal husbandry is one of the main occupations of farmers in rural areas. In this, goats continue to die due to stray dogs in various rural areas of Tiruppur district. This has affected



the farmers severely. This year, 195 goats have died due to stray dog bites till September. Steps should be taken to get due compensation from the government to the affected farmers. Officials from the district administration said a detailed letter has been sent to the government by the district administration regarding compensation.

Amidst this, a section of farmers have announced a protest in Tiruppur on Saturday seeking steps to prevent the death of livestock due to stray dogs. P. Velusamy, President of PAP Vellakoil Branch Canal Water Conservation Movement, said, "So far this year more than 1,000 goats have been killed by stray dogs in the district. However the animal husbandry department has taken into account only the goats that have undergone post-mortem. The government should take a policy decision on this matter. Relief should be given to all goats that died. We will stage a protest on Saturday to emphasize this."

CCMC to survey illegal advertisement hoardings, punish violators

COIMBATORE: The Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation (CCMC) has removed illegal hoardings and banners along the Kavundampalayam flyover on Mettupalayam Road and in other parts of the city several times in the past. But they have resurfaced, leaving motorists worried about safety. CCMC Commissioner M Sivaguru Prabakaran said the civic body will crack down on violators on Thursday. Motorists say advertisement hoardings, placed atop iron railings erected on the buildings alongside the Kavundampalayam flyover pose significant risks, especially at night. "The banners are not just an eyesore; they are dangerous distractions for motorists. When driving on a flyover, any visual



disruption can lead to accidents," said R Parthiban, a motorist from Urundampalayam who regularly uses the route. "Authorities must prioritise safety and penalise those responsible for allowing this," he added. Natarajan, an activist, echoed similar view emphasising the need for stricter enforcement. "Despite

clear guidelines and previous action, the illegal installations continue to appear. Building owners must be held accountable. The railings should be removed entirely to prevent further misuse. While on the one hand the flyover is shrouded in darkness due to the absence of street lights, on the other hand officials allow illegal banners," he said. In the past, CCMC conducted multiple drives to remove unauthorised banners and hoardings. However, their resurgence points to gaps in enforcement and the absence of sustained deterrents. Besides posing a safety threat, the banners raise questions about compliance with the High Court orders on unauthorised advertisements in public spaces. Activists argue that such violations reflect poorly on

the city's governance and overall urban planning. "The recurring nature of this problem indicates negligence on multiple fronts.

This cannot be allowed to continue," Natarajan added. Speaking to, CCMC Commissioner M Sivaguru Prabakaran said, "I held a meeting with officials on Tuesday with regard to the illegal flex banners and hoardings installed across the city. The officials suggested taking an assessment of the total number of illegal advertisement banners and then take necessary action. However, I've instructed the officials not to wait for assessment and take immediate action. We will regularise hoardings and remove illegal ones simultaneously."

Naval helicopter 'Saaras' finds new home in Vizag

VISAKHAPATNAM: The Indian Navy's UH-3H helicopter, retired in June 2024 after 17 years of service, was officially installed on RK Beach Road on Wednesday. The helicopter joins an impressive lineup of naval assets on display, including an anti-submarine aircraft and a Sea Harrier fighter plane, as part of the TU-142 Aircraft Museum in Visakhapatnam. Speaking to TNIE, Visakhapatnam Metropolitan Region Development Authority (VMRDA) Commissioner KS Viswanathan stated, "The estimated cost of the project is around Rs 3 crore. With this project, we aim to offer tourists what it feels like to be inside a UH-3H helicopter. We are also in contact with the Navy to include additional features, such as exhibits detailing the helicopter's components and history." The project is expected to be completed in three months, he added. The UH-3H helicopter named



'Saaras' was inducted into the Indian Navy on March 24, 2009, at Indian Naval Ship (INS) Dega under Indian naval air squadron (INAS) 350. The name is derived from the Indian crane (Saras crane), symbolising strength, grace, and vigilance. Over its service period, it played a pivotal role in special operations, search-and-rescue (SAR) missions, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations. Its advanced SAR capabilities proved invaluable during natural disasters, contributing to

numerous rescue efforts under challenging circumstances. Brought to India in 2007 along with INS Jalashwa, the Saaras became a symbol of 'Strength, Valour, and Perseverance,' as represented by the squadron's crest. It actively contributed to offshore security, logistical support, and safeguarding India's maritime boundaries. The de-induction ceremony, held on June 28, 2024, at INS Dega, marked the end of its distinguished chapter in Indian Naval Aviation. During the event, Vice-Admiral Sameer Saxena, Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, presented a commemorative plaque to the State government, received by District Joint Collector K Mayur Ashok. The installation of the UH-3H helicopter at RK Beach will be a notable attraction for tourists and an educational highlight, showcasing the history and contributions of the Indian Navy's aerial assets.

'Hair dryer' shipped to neighbour bursts, Bengaluru woman loses fingers



BAGALKOT: Receiving a parcel containing a hair dryer proved painfully costly for the widow of a deceased soldier in Ilkal city of Bagalkot district on Wednesday. Basamma Yaranal, the wife of Papanna, a soldier who was killed in a short-circuit accident in Jammu and Kashmir in 2017, ended up grievously injuring her fingers, forearms and face after the hair dryer exploded in her hands. Basamma had received a courier addressed to a neighbour, Shashikala, the widow of another deceased soldier. The parcel also bore Shashikala's name and mobile number. However, since she was out of town when it arrived, Shashikala requested Basamma to receive it on her behalf and check its contents. Basamma did as requested, and opened the parcel to find a hair dryer inside. She then tried to demonstrate the device in front of other neighbours by switching it on, when it suddenly exploded with a loud bang, resulting in Basamma losing nine of her fingers, while also severely wounding her forearms and face.

Neighbour didn't order hair dryer, reveals probe

The explosion was so intense that it caused the victim's blood to splatter across her home, leaving neighbours in a state of shock. She was immediately rushed to the hospital for treatment. Soon, the Ilkal police launched an investigation, which apparently revealed that Shshikala had never ordered a hair dryer, making the situation murkier, and raising questions about the parcel's origins. Accordingly, the police are now probing how the hair dryer, reportedly manufactured in Visakhapatnam, reached Bagalkot, before being couriered to Shashikala. They are also trying to investigate if there was any foul play, while also tracing the order and payment details to determine the source of the alleged explosive device.

Palakkad couple on overlanding mission to plant one lakh trees in five years

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: If one happens to spot a rugged 4x4 camper somewhere in the remote areas of the country, it must probably be Sangeeth, Kavya and their pet dog Drogo planting the seeds of tomorrow's forests. When most people prioritise luxury and leisure, this couple from Palakkad has chosen to overland across India in their modified 4x4 SUV with a mission – to plant one lakh trees in five years. Their journey 'Mission Mother Tree' is a project towards sustainability, adventure and making a difference. It started as a simple plan – leave a living memory in the form of trees across places they visit. It quickly became a full-scale drive. They left the security of their corporate jobs to pursue a life closer to nature. Sangeeth, who was previously a sales and marketing officer, and Kavya, a professional in dairy technology now pursuing research, packed up their lives, outfitted their vehicle and set off on a path that would take them to some of India's most remote regions. Their goal is to explore responsibly and give back to the earth. "Over the past two years, we have covered 45,000 kilometres across the country. Our travels aren't just the thrill of overlanding but driven by a sense of

purpose. We have successfully planted over 10,000 native saplings across the remote regions of India, with the help of a



growing community of 4,000 volunteers who joined through social media and the acquaintances between travels," Sangeeth told. Their Instagram page 'lifeonroads' is where they document their journey, and it has crossed over 2.4 lakh followers. To keep their journey sustainable and affordable, Sangeeth and Kavya transformed their Force Gurkha SUV into a camper, all for just Rs 20,000. All the work on the camper was

completed by their IT friends group. The couple prepare their meals on the road, sharing their experiences with their companion, Drogo, who is as much a part of the adventure as they are. The couple relies on locally sourced seed balls, which they gather with the help of volunteers from the areas they visit. This ensures that the plants are suited to the local soil and climate, increasing the chances of survival. Their saplings span ten varieties of native trees, and they have achieved a 60% survival rate. For Kavya, the journey is about creating something lasting. "One lakh trees may seem like a drop in the bucket against climate change, but we're doing the best we can to build a community that values life on this planet," Kavya said. Not only do they plant these saplings but also keep track of their growth through an application, Tree Tag. Each sapling they plant is tagged and tracked using GPS coordinates via the app Tree Tag. Like a live report card, volunteers across the country too regularly update the couple on the progress of these plants. "We note down the GPS coordinates of each tree we plant and track it through Tree Tag. It is a collective effort that wouldn't have been possible without the support."

The true state of being

This incident clearly depicts how Duryodhana made a mountain out of a molehill.



How do we increase our 'state of being'? The Bhagavad Gita highlights three key aspects for this: Ananda Lahari (waves of joy), Prema Lahari (waves of love), and Soundarya Lahari (waves of beauty). We should approach this understanding with ananda, or joy. If we do not fully understand it, our happiness should not depend on achieving that understanding. Instead, we should set our consciousness free. Our happiness should not be dependent on success or failure. This freedom leads to awakening: if your happiness is not tied to success or failure, you transcend them both. This is awakening, or jnanam jagrata.

Why should our happiness depend on success or failure? It will depend on them only when there is a flaw in our consciousness. Therefore, whatever we do should be accompanied by Ananda Lahari, which leads to a different 'state of being'.

We can delve into the situations of life, state of mind, and state of being, which are three essential pointers in the Bhagavad Gita. How do we change our state of mind? If our state of mind needs to change, our samskaras must change. This means our patterns should transform. A Hindu is traditionally required to go through sixteen samskaras over the course of life.

Duryodhana followed a bad pattern. When he visited Indraprastha, he encountered the pride of the city—the palace of illusions. As Duryodhana entered, he felt an air of mystery. An entourage of maidservants appeared through a wall and lined up before the guests.

The courtyard was divided into two sections: one part had a surface that appeared to ripple like the surface of a lake, while the other seemed as solid as granite flooring. Duryodhana stepped onto the seemingly solid part and found himself waist-deep in water, drenched.

Draupadi, observing from the balcony, burst into laughter, though she later felt embarrassed, as she had not intended to insult her guest. However, Duryodhana felt deeply humiliated that Draupadi and her maids had witnessed his plight. In revenge, he swore that Draupadi would one day pay for this embarrassment.

This incident clearly depicts how Duryodhana made a mountain out of a molehill. It was the beginning of what led to the war at Kurukshetra, resulting in widespread bloodshed—all because of a single laugh from Draupadi! This happened because Duryodhana's mind did not follow the right path. There is another story in the Mahabharata: Jarasandha intensely disliked Lord Krishna, as Krishna had killed Kamsa, the husband of his two daughters, Asti and Prapti.

As a result, Jarasandha repeatedly attacked Mathura. However, Lord Krishna's adaptability led him to move to Dwarka to establish peace. Jarasandha's ego kept mounting, and he failed to learn from his defeats. He allied with Kalayavana, a powerful warrior who had performed tapas to gain strength. Kalayavana had received a boon from Lord Shiva that he would not die at the hands of a man or a woman, would not perish in heaven or on earth, and could not be killed by anyone born in this yuga, the Dvapara Yuga. Knowing about Muchukunda, who was sleeping in a cave, Lord Krishna lured Kalayavana into the cave by pretending to flee.

Putting women at centre of global climate action

Women bear the brunt of climate change much more than men. On the other hand, they are more effective in working at climate solutions. Yet, centuries of patriarchy has curbed their access to resources and decision-making.

The COP29 climate summit going on in Baku has scheduled November 21 as 'gender day' to focus on women's participation in global climate action. But are they adequately represented at the COP high table? Only eight of the 78 world leaders participating in COP29 are women; the 2023 COP summit featured 15 women among a total of 133.

This is not to say that women's voices are not being heard. The UN claims that more than four-fifths of the parties at COP have looked closely at gender in their latest nationally determined contributions and adaptation plans. There is good reason for that. It has long been established that women—especially those in developing nations—bear the brunt of climate change more than men. Different reports, including quite a few from various UN offices, have highlighted this over the years.

As far back as 2009, a UN report noted, "Women are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change than men—primarily as they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change." It pointed out that women don't have many of the freedoms they require to adapt to climate crises due to persistent social, economic and political setbacks.

Then, as recently as last year, a report by UN Women estimated climate change would plunge at least 158 million women and girls into poverty by 2050, which is 16 million more than men and boys. Displacement due to extreme weather events like ravaging floods, storms, heatwaves, cyclones and droughts adds to the challenge. Researchers say women and children are 14 times more likely to die due to climate-change-induced disasters than men. For instance, 70 percent of the 230,000 people killed in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami were women.

The social turmoil that follows such events tends to push up violence on women too. The Sixth assessment report of UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change also established the link between

the climate crisis and gender vulnerabilities. For instance, forced marriages and human trafficking witnessed a rise in Bangladesh during and after Cyclone Roanu and other storms.

Lancet Planetary Health, in a 2022 report titled 'Extreme events and gender-based violence: a mixed-methods systematic review', also revealed links between extreme weather and climate disasters with an increase in gender-based violence against women across the world. The study underlined the causes—"economic instability, food insecurity,

caused mostly due to exposure to bad ambient air, especially the fine particles present in it. It concluded, "Suboptimal air quality contributes to a considerable fraction of total pregnancy loss in South Asia." The 2023 UN report corroborates it and adds it isn't a worry only in India, "Climate change poses an existential threat to all of us, but pregnant women, babies, and children face some of the gravest consequences of all."

Then there are the patriarchal norms and rights that come in the way. For instance, women constitute 50-80 percent of the world's food production workforce; however, they own less than 10 percent of the land. Hence their decision-making powers including those to tackle climate's vagaries are curbed.

Hence, it is crucial to increase all attempts aimed at involving women in climate action at global, national, local and hyper-local levels. The primary reason is that women are more vulnerable to climate disasters. Hence, the success of the global fight against them would depend on the participation of more women and their commitment to the net-zero targets.

But it's also imperative to include more women in climate action because their intervention is often more effective. Women's participation is seen to galvanise climate action. A 2005 research found that nations with higher proportions of women in parliament were more prone to ratify environmental treaties than other nations. Moreover, women are often the first responders to the climate change crisis at the community level.

Women-led action yields far better results in climate solutions. For instance, women are known to have increased agricultural yields by 20-30 percent when given the same access to resources as men. Women are known to have produced even better results when given proper training, resources and technology to engage in sustainable farming. This would reduce the climate-induced production troubles and the resultant food insecurity that worries almost every major agricultural producer now.

The conclusion is clear: empowering women to mitigate and adapt to the climate change crisis means stronger and more climate-resilient action.



Next gen taking T20 Cricket to next level

Since Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja bid adieu to the shortest format after the T20 World Cup, the next generation has taken to international cricket like fish to water.

And just like that, India have racked up another T20 international series win—this time against South Africa in South Africa. It's their fourth successive series victory since being crowned the T20 World Champions in Barbados in June. While the results may not be as surprising, the manner in which it happened tells the story of the 'IPL generation' of cricketers.

Since Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja bid adieu to the shortest format after the T20 World Cup, the next generation has taken to international cricket like fish to water. These players grew up watching sixes hit for fun in the IPL. Their comfort with the new coaching manual for big-hitting has made them run-scoring machines. With the old generation giving way to the new, the scoring rate has increased exponentially. Scoring 100s in 40-plus balls has become a norm. Openers Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma are giving starts that India could have only dreamt



of a decade ago. Tilak Varma is striking sweet and fast. It is only natural that the leading run-scorers since the World Cup final have strike rates past 170—Sanju Samson (180.91 SR), Tilak Varma (198.58) and Abhishek Sharma

(171.81). Then there is Yashasvi Jaiswal (170), Rinku Singh (143.8) and Nitish K Reddy (180).

This generation grew up by and large playing T20s, and so it has become their second nature to bat the way they have so far. To do it in a league like IPL, where each team has some uncapped bowlers to target, is one thing; but to replicate such hitting against South Africa stamps their class. India, for the longest time, were perceived as a team lagging in batting in the shortest format.

Rohit and the then head coach Rahul Dravid ensured that it changed, and they signed off with a global title to remember. The next generation under Suryakumar Yadav is taking that legacy forward. It is only fitting that Yadav is leading India into the future, for he has been a pioneer of explosive T20 batting irrespective of the circumstances. With these next-gen superstars to assist him, it would be fair to say that Indian cricket is in safe hands.

The impact of Trump 2.0 on India's security

The priority for Indo-US relations during Trump's second stint is likely to be the strategic partnership driven by shared concerns about China. Iran could be a tougher test.

The second coming of Donald Trump as POTUS is likely to have a significant impact on the world and on India too. At least three characteristics of his last incumbency project his style and focus, which could have a bearing in the future.

The first is his propensity to use his position to criticise perceived adversaries in the media, foreign officials, personalities in both political parties, and even foreign heads of state. Not one to take much advice, the conventional style of diplomacy followed by the state department, for example, doesn't gel with him. In four years, he had nine officials serve with him as secretaries of state and defence, and as national security adviser—all key appointments. Consistency and ability to get along aren't Trump's high marks, although he advocates peace at most times.

Second, his willingness to challenge norms was a hallmark of his presidency. He was willing to overturn past customs and expectations of presidential behaviour. His obsession with America First and Make America Great Again may not necessarily allow rational decision making because he could be restricted in thinking to first order effects of decisions.

Third, his outspoken nature was a trait that defined his presidency. His morning tweets sometimes seemed to reflect the subject and strategy of his dreams. Yet, to think Trump is not capable and his decisions always border on a maverick's would be entirely incorrect; because over four years, he could bring his influence to almost every area of US interest.

The above were some important observations from the American media to begin with while attempting to analyse the coming of President Trump 2.0. There is no special relationship with India that he looks at, but apparently the attitude and approach towards India was and will be positive.

The priority for the Indo-US relationship under his presidency is likely to be strategic partnership, driven by shared concerns about China's growing influence in Asia. His view on India's proximity to Russia is expected to be pragmatic. The last time, it will be recalled that the Indo-Russia S-400 deal worth \$5 billion had all the potential to scuttle much in Indo-US relations due to India's continued insistence about its strategic autonomy. Yet, the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act was not applied to India.

His administration will likely continue to encourage India to reduce its dependence on Russian military equipment, citing Russia's increasing international isolation due to its actions in Ukraine. Trump may focus on strengthening defence cooperation with India, potentially offering alternative military equipment and technology. Yet, a lot will depend upon the fate of the war in Ukraine and the status of US-Russia relations, which probably will see some improvement. Stopping hostilities in Ukraine would give Russia a chance to deliver to India more on its promises as it seeks continuity in its long-standing defence relationship. If sanctions were to be diluted or lifted altogether, India would find it easier to do business with Russia from whom it has purchased weapons and equipment worth over \$60 billion in the last many years.

Trump is apparently far more comfortable with India's strategic autonomy and independent decision-making than the Democrats were. Therefore, should the Ukraine situation improve, India and Russia may be back in defence business, with due emphasis on manufacturing in India. However, there is always the potential of something different happening too. If



Russian President Vladimir Putin does not play ball even under Trump's supposed friendly coercion, the consequences could be quite unpredictable.

The Biden administration had looked at India's equidistance from Ukraine and Russia as an issue of interest in the larger build-up to possible negotiations. Whether Trump 2.0 will follow that with any interest may be doubtful as he perhaps perceives he knows the Russian president best and can handle this himself. The reported possibility that Florida Senator Marco Rubio is likely to be named secretary of state may be music to the ears of some strategic circles in India. He is a known hardliner on China and is likely to aim to foster a strong India-US partnership to counterbalance China's expanding influence. He has been among the most outspoken senators on the need for the US to be more aggressive on China. For that, he may expect India to be a ready partner. India's recent agreement on patrolling rights and reducing tension at the Line of Actual Control has

been a positive development almost five years after China attempted shades of coercion in Ladakh to apparently temper our and the world's perception of India's rise. The challenge before India will therefore be on how to balance the improvement of its relations with China with the more aggressive designs the Trump administration could bring to bear in the approach towards China. India's strategic decisions regarding its border dispute with China are guided by its national interests, and the US respects that sovereignty. The US-India partnership will then need to build on promoting regional stability, security and economic cooperation, rather than perpetuating confrontation. Trump's West Asia policy will be watched with much interest. It's in his time that the Western Quad

was mooted and the US, UAE, India and Israel established the special equation. An end to the Gaza and Lebanon conflicts will allow this and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor to rise to expectations. It's only Trump who can effectively ensure an end to Israeli intransigence and take initiatives with the Arab states to seek ways of achieving Palestinian aspirations without Hamas. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's focused approach on West Asia has provided ample scope and opportunity to expand India's ties with that region. This can be realised to a higher potential by a major Trump approach to peace and stability in the area. Unfortunately, the Iran factor will continue to dog the region's peace potential. It will take much of Trump's decision making to either opt for a conciliatory or a confrontational approach with Iran. The relationship with Iran is likely to prove a greater test for Trump 2.0 than perhaps the one with even China.

How to know if your

child

is deficient in these

5 essential vitamins



Ensuring that your child gets the right proportion of nutrients will ensure proper growth, development, and well-being. While most parents are eager to see to it that their children eat enough food at each given chance, vitamin deficiencies slip through cracks leading to long-term health issues. Such vitamins include vitamin D, which play important roles in immune function, bone health, and cognitive development. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to know early signs of deficiency. The following are the five most essential vitamins and how to identify when your child may be deficient in them.

1. Vitamin D: Essential for bone health

Vitamin D is one of the notable requirements for the growth and immune system of your child. It also facilitates an easy intake of calcium for your body, which serves as an enhancement for the growth of firm bones. You may observe that your child is low in vitamin D by traits that include bone pain and weakness in the muscles, or even poor growth and development. If your child often falls ill or is prone to infections, this might be a signal that she/he might not be getting enough vitamin D. Sources that provide good amounts of vitamin D include exposure to sunlight and foods such as fortified milk and eggs, though in some children, supplements may be the best way of ensuring they get adequate amounts. According to the National Institutes of Health, deficiency in vitamin D is common in children who spend most of their time indoors.

2. Vitamin A: For healthy vision and skin Vitamin A acts similarly and plays a critical role in healthy vision, skin, and immune function. A deficiency can cause night blindness, dry skin, and even recurring infections. If your child usually complains of difficulty seeing in dim light or has dry, rough skin, it could be a sign of vitamin A deficiency. This vitamin is found in food staples such as carrots, sweet potatoes, and spinach. These nutrients will be sufficiently supplemented through continued consumption of these food items, but a severe deficiency may need supplementation. As per the study published in Frontiers, The clinical manifestations of vitamin A deficiency (VAD) involve night blindness, bitot's spots, corneal xerosis, and corneal scars. It is the most important cause of preventable childhood blindness among



children and causes morbidity and mortality

3. Vitamin C: Boosting immunity Vitamin C is an antioxidant in the body that fights infections and helps heal wounds. Deficiency in vitamin C may manifest as bleeding gums, dry skin, or slow healing of wounds. In extreme cases, it leads to scurvy, which will be accompanied by aching joints and lack of energy, perhaps drowsiness. Good sources include orange, strawberry, and bell peppers. These foodstuffs will make sure that your child gets the nutrients to keep them in a healthy condition about their immunity. Such diets are

also favoured in children by the World Health Organization that keeps common illnesses at bay.

4. Vitamin B12: For cognitive function

Vitamin B12 is vital for brain development and the production of red blood cells. Lack of B12 leads to frequent bouts of weakness, lassitude, poor concentration, pale skin, or even neurological issues. Vegetarians and children who have a limited diet may be at higher risk for B12 deficiency. Foods rich in vitamin B12 are generally sources of meat, dairy, and fortified breakfast cereals. If your child shows signs of tiredness or cannot concentrate, you may need to check your child's B12 level.

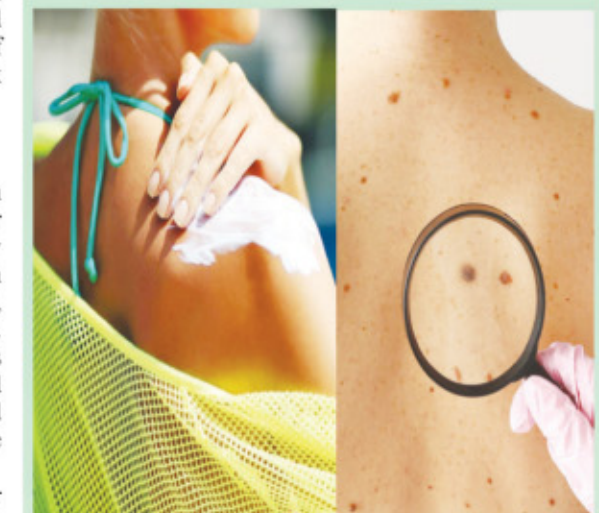
5. Folate: For healthy cell growth

Folate, or vitamin B9, is essential for healthy cell growth and development. A lack of folate can cause poor growth, fatigue, and irritability. It's particularly important during times of rapid growth, such as in infancy and adolescence. Foods like leafy greens, beans, and fortified cereals are good sources of folate. Research from the National Institutes of Health links folate deficiency with developmental delays and increased risk of anemia in children. If your child shows signs of low energy or growth delays, it could be a sign of a folate deficiency.

When to see a doctor In case you notice symptoms similar to those of vitamin deficiency, see a pediatrician. A pediatrician can easily determine whether your child is deficient in any of the essential vitamins by simply conducting a blood test. Then again, your child's diet may also be adjusted for a proper round-up of nutrients. They can help monitor your child regularly to detect any forms of deficiencies early before they cause long-term health issues. Your child requires the right mix of vitamins for growth and development. If any deficiency is suspected, then keep an eye out on symptoms such as fatigue, skin issues, or slow growth. Provide a nutrient-rich diet to your child and supplement them as required to help support your child's health to grow robustly and healthily.



Applying sunscreen to prevent skin cancer? 6 habits you should strictly follow



Every day, people cover huge portions of their bodies with sunscreen. As a basic rule, sunscreen should be applied 20 minutes before venturing outside in order to maximize its advantages. Sunscreen use lowers the incidence of melanoma and squamous cell skin cancers, according to a number of well-conducted, long-term follow-up randomized controlled trials by the National Library of Medicine.

Commercial sunscreens use chemical or physical components to guard against UV radiation's detrimental effects on the skin. As part of a comprehensive photoprotection strategy, the Canadian Dermatology Association advises most adults and children to use a sufficient amount of a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a UV protection factor of at least 30. Besides using sunscreen, here are 6 simple yet effective habits that help us prevent skin cancer:

Avoid sun in peak hours

According to Dr. Akshay Tiwari, Senior Director, Musculoskeletal Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, "There are many other ways to avoid exposure to sunlight, such as avoiding exposure to sun in peak hours from 10 am to 4 pm, especially during summers. Use of long-sleeved shirts, pants instead of shorts, use of wide hats, and sunglasses are some of these."

Prevent direct heat to body

Avoid habits that expose the skin of a particular area to repeated injury; for example, prolonged exposure to heat by using heating devices (like Kangri) continuously over one particular area for months or years is known to cause skin cancer. Keep the source of heat indirect, give intermittent periods of relief, and keep changing the area exposed.

Get regular checkups of scars

Persons having old scars (like old burns or extensive scars from old injuries) may develop skin cancer in the scarred area. Regular self-/medical examination should be done for these scars; any new ulcer that doesn't heal in 2-3 weeks should be examined by a specialist, who will biopsy it if needed.

Always keep your weight in check

Keeping a check on weight is essential, as the increased belly fat can be a gateway to many serious health complications. Maintaining a healthy weight and a healthy diet rich in vegetables, fruits, nuts, and antioxidants is also recommended, as with other cancers.

Get a biopsy

Take a look at your body and skin for any significant changes. Any ulcer or new skin lesion that doesn't heal in 2-3 weeks should be subjected to a biopsy to rule out skin cancer.

Delhi Air Quality Improves, But Still "Very Poor"; Flights, Trains Delayed

Court asks Himachal to close 18 state-run hotels: Burden on exchequer

A single-judge bench of Justice Ajay Mohan Goel ordered the corporation to shut down the properties by November 25. The corporation's managing director was asked to ensure the enforcement of the order.



NEW DELHI: The Himachal Pradesh High Court ordered the closure of 18 hotels run by Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC), pointing to the financial losses suffered by these properties, which the court considered an unsupportable burden on the state exchequer. A single-judge bench of Justice Ajay Mohan Goel ordered the corporation to shut down the properties by November 25. The corporation's managing director was asked to ensure the enforcement of the order. Criticising the corporation's ability to turn these properties profitable, the court said, "The continuation of the functioning of these properties but natural is nothing but a burden on the exchequer of the state, and the court can take judicial notice of the fact that there is a financial crunch, which is daily being propagated by the state in the matters being listed before the court involving finances."

"Calling the properties 'white elephants', the court said, "To ensure that public resources are not wasted by the Tourism Development Corporation on the upkeep of these white elephants, it is hereby ordered that the following properties of the Tourism Development Corporation shall be closed forthwith."

"The Palace Hotel (Chail), Hotel Geetanjali (Dalhousie), Hotel Baghal (Darlaghat); Hotel Dhauladhar, Hotel Kunal Dharamshala, and Hotel Kashmir House (Dharamshala); Hotel Apple Blossom (Fagu), Hotel Chandrabhaga (Keylong), Hotel Devdar (Khajjar), Hotel Giriganga (Kharapatthar), Hotel Meghdoot (Kiarighat), Hotel Sarvan (Kullu); Hotel Log Huts, Hotel Hadimba Cottage, and Hotel Kunzum (Manali); Hotel Lihaga (McLeodganj), The Castle (Naggur), and Hotel Shivalik (Parwanoo) will be closed by this Monday, as per the order, news agency PTI reported. The corporation submitted occupancy figures for the past three years for its 56 hotels, following the court's previous order. On Tuesday, the court said keeping these properties operational is a burden on the state exchequer. It noted the state is facing a financial crunch, as reflected in cases related to finances brought before the court.

Delhi Police directed social media and e-commerce platforms to immediately cease the online sale of firecrackers within the National Capital Territory

New Delhi: A blanket of smog continued to envelop Delhi and NCR on Thursday, even though the air quality improved to the 'very poor' category after remaining 'severe' for

most part of the past eight days. According to the data of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded in Delhi was 379, categorised as 'very poor', as of 8 am. The Air Quality Index remains in the 'severe' category in Anand Vihar at 405, Ashok Vihar at 414, Bawana at 418, Dwarka Sector-8 at 401, Mundka at 413 and Wazirpur at 436. The AQI measured at Chandni Chowk is 338, IGI Airport (T3) is 370, ITO is 355, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium is 354, RK Puram is 387, Okhla Phase 2 is 370, Patparganj is 381, Sonia Vihar is 394 and Aya Nagar is 359, categorized as 'very poor'. Some flights were delayed since morning, as per FlightRadar24, while ANI reported several trains either getting late or rescheduled.

The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) activated Stage-IV of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), imposing restrictions like bans on



truck entry and a halt to public construction projects. The Delhi government announced that all government offices functioning under the Delhi Government and Municipal Corporation of Delhi will operate with 50 per cent of the staff strength and the remaining 50 per cent of staff will work from home. Further, a per revised GRAP guidelines, it will now be mandatory for NCR states to discontinue physical classes up to Class V under GRAP Stage III and up

to Class XII under GRAP Stage IV. Under GRAP Stage IV, a "mask advisory" has been introduced, urging individuals to wear masks when stepping outdoors during periods of hazardous air quality. The revisions come even as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast moderate to dense fog over Delhi-NCR in the coming days, potentially exacerbating the pollution crisis. Earlier on Wednesday, Delhi Police directed social media and e-commerce platforms to immediately cease the online sale and delivery of firecrackers within the National Capital Territory (NCT) amid rising air pollution levels.

Meanwhile, toxic foam was seen floating on the Yamuna River in Kalindi Kunj and Okhla Barrage. Visuals also showed fog covering the Taj Mahal amid 'moderate' air quality in Agra. An AQI is considered "poor" between '200 and 300', "very poor" at '301 and 400', "severe" at '401-450', and 450 and above is "severe plus."

Baba Bageshwar Calls For 'Vande Mataram' In Temples And Mosques To Identify True Patriots

New Delhi: Acharya Dharendra Krishna Shastri, the Peethadhishwar of Bageshwar Dham, on Thursday proposed that the national song "Vande Mataram" be sung after the Aarti in both temples and mosques. He believes this practice would help identify true patriots and differentiate them from anti-nationals.

"In temples and even in mosques, Vande Mataram should be sung. If this is implemented, it will clearly show who are true patriots and who are anti-nationals," he told to ANI. Shastri further added that this initiative would not only instil patriotism but also bring clarity to the intentions and loyalties of people. Shastri said that such steps could foster national unity and strengthen bonds among citizens, transcending religious barriers. "This Hindu spirit is growing and becoming a unique identity. There is a surge of fervent Hindus, reminiscent of the atmosphere during the time of independence. The current environment is one of Hindu unity. People are excited and participating enthusiastically. We feel truly revitalised," he added. Addressing the issue of religious conversions among Adivasis, Acharya rejected the term "Adivasi" and suggested referring to them as "Anadiwasi" to highlight their timeless connection to Indian culture. "We want to give them a new identity. They are not just Adivasis; they are Anadiwasi—eternal members of this land who have always been with us. They stood with Bhagwan Shri Ram and are from Mata Sabari's lineage. These are remarkable people, and they must be honoured and included," he said, ANI reported.

No shelter for homeless as Winter Action Plan falls flat in Delhi

NEW DELHI: Despite the Delhi government's recent launch of a winter action plan aimed at supporting the homeless, significant gaps in infrastructure persist, particularly in areas around AIIMS. A daily occupancy report by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) listed 35 tents with a combined capacity of 350 people near AIIMS. However, a spot check on Wednesday revealed that none of these tents had been erected, leaving many homeless individuals exposed to the cold and dangerous air pollution. The area around AIIMS is already a hub for families of outstation patients who are seeking medical treatment but are unable to afford nearby accommodations. As a result, many people end up sleeping on footpaths, under flyovers, or in other open spaces. A representative from the agency responsible for the tents mentioned that about 10-12 tents, with a total capacity of 800, would be set up the next day. "Our total capacity will not be enough to accommodate the thousands of people in need of shelter around the hospital, but we lack proper space to set up additional tents," he said.

During the pandemic, a permanent shelter structure in the area had provided accommodation for up to 250 homeless individuals, but it has since been removed. In the absence of adequate shelter, individuals are forced to endure harsh conditions. Night-time temperatures have dropped to as low as 11°C, and the already dangerous air quality, worsened by traffic congestion and dust on the main roads, poses a significant health risk to those sleeping outdoors. The government's winter action plan to support the homeless includes setting up 200-250 waterproof, fire-retardant pagoda tents to accommodate around 2,000 people.

Ground reality: Noble ideas, no action plan

The government's winter action plan to support the homeless includes setting up 200-250 waterproof, fire-retardant pagoda tents to accommodate around 2,000 people. This is supposed to supplement the 197 shelters already operated by the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board, which currently house 7,092 individuals.

The initiative is backed by a Rs 3 crore budget and runs from November 15, 2024, to March 15, 2025. Additionally, 16 teams are to be formed to operate between 10 pm and 4 am, rescuing homeless citizens from open spaces and transporting them to shelters or hospitals.

Over 17,000 WhatsApp accounts blocked in crackdown on digital arrest fraud

NEW DELHI: In a crackdown on digital arrest frauds, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has blocked over 17,000 WhatsApp accounts. According to sources, most of these accounts were traced to countries like Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand, where they were allegedly being used for cyber fraud. This action, taken by the Home Ministry's cybercrime coordination centre, is based on complaints filed by victims through online platforms. The Home Ministry reviewed the complaints, flagged suspicious accounts, and directed WhatsApp to block these numbers. The development comes after an investigation by India Today exposed fraudulent call centres operating out of Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos. The fraudsters mostly operate from call centres situated in Chinese casinos in Cambodia. The investigation has also revealed how human traffickers are luring Indian citizens to Cambodia with the



promise of jobs, and then they are forced to carry out online financial scams and cyber crimes. Digital arrest involves fraudsters impersonating law enforcement officials to deceive gullible people and pressuring them to transfer large sums of money. The scammers, posing as CBI agents, income tax officers, or customs agents, intimidate the victims by falsely accusing them of illegal activities. Recently, Prime Minister

Modi also issued a warning to the public regarding this scam, urging them to report any such incidents to the cyber helpline. Sources in the Home Ministry's cyber wing said scammers were siphoning off around Rs 6 crore every day through digital arrest frauds. In the first 10 months of this year alone, scammers have siphoned off Rs 2,140 crore. Till October, the cyber wing has reported 92,334 cases related.

Even Ajmal Kasab got fair trial: Supreme Court to CBI in Yasin Malik's case

The CBI has challenged Jammu court's order, arguing that Yasin Malik's physical appearance could disturb the situation in Jammu and Kashmir and put witnesses at risk.

NEW DELHI: Even 26/11 Mumbai attack terrorist Ajmal Kasab was given a fair trial, the Supreme Court observed while hearing an appeal by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) challenging a Jammu court order asking Kashmiri separatist leader Yasin Malik to appear in person. Yasin Malik is the main accused in the killing of four Indian Air Force personnel near Srinagar in 1990 and the 1989 kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed, the daughter of then Union Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed. The court asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to explore the possibility of holding proceedings inside Tihar Jail, where Yasin Malik is currently held.



the bench that Malik had insisted on appearing in person and refused to engage a lawyer.

Mehta also presented a photograph of Malik sharing a stage with Hafiz Saeed, the founder of Lashkar-e-Taiba, and argued that Malik was not an ordinary accused. The bench raised concerns about conducting cross-examinations online, noting, "How

will cross-examination be done online? Connectivity in Jammu is hardly reliable. The court remarked, "In our country, a fair trial was given even to Ajmal Kasab," and asked the Solicitor General to provide details on the number of witnesses in the trial. Yasin Malik is serving a life sentence in Delhi's Tihar Jail for a terror funding case. In 2022, a court handling Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act cases directed Malik to appear in person. The court scheduled the next hearing for November 28 and allowed the CBI to amend its petition to include all accused as respondents.

The CBI argued that under Section 268 of the Criminal Procedure Code, a state order can restrict a prisoner from being removed from prison to attend court. It claimed the Additional Sessions Judge committed a serious error in allowing Malik's physical appearance despite this provision.

Chief Of Defence Staff Anil Chauhan Highlights 3 Key Trends In Modern Warfare

New Delhi: General Anil Chauhan, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), addressed an audience at the International Centre on Wednesday, highlighting the transformative changes in modern warfare driven by technological advancements. Speaking at the C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, he elaborated on the evolving nature of warfare and India's preparedness for future conflicts.

CDS Chauhan identified three major technological trends reshaping future warfare: robotics and automation, celerity (speed and velocity), and the intelligentisation of warfare. "Warfare has always been a contest between humans. One may be better armed, equipped with superior body armour, a sword, a lance, or a modern rifle, or possess better mobility. Yet, at its core, combat has always been between human beings," he explained. He warned of an impending shift to human-machine warfare, stating, "We are at the cusp of a new era. While combat today remains between humans, tomorrow it

could involve humans versus machines or even machines versus machines." Discussing the second trend, 'celerity,' he noted advancements in hypersonics, drones, and orbital defence systems. "The second trend I've identified is celerity, which relates to velocity and speed. This is being driven by technologies like hypersonics—glide and cruise—fractional orbital systems capable of circling the globe, and stealth technologies. Small cross-section drones, often deployed in swarm formations, are becoming armed, invisible, inaudible, and undetectable—making them untargetable," he said. He further highlighted the third trend of "intelligentisation," focusing on the digitisation of the battlefield through artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies. "The third change is the intelligentisation of warfare,



encompassing artificial intelligence, machine learning, big data, large language models, supercomputing, and edge computing. The result is the pervasive digitisation of the battlefield," he said. Stressing the need for adaptability, he called for a "resilient and layered defence" system. "You could be targeted anywhere in the world, creating what can

be termed as ultimate non-linearity in warfare. This paradigm shift demands a resilient, layered defence, particularly in air defence," he added. CDS Chauhan also emphasised the importance of breaking away from the "catch-up game" with advanced militaries.

We aim to enter the third revolution in military affairs alongside the world's advanced militaries. Achieving this will require a shift in mindset and new thinking within the armed forces," he stated. He concluded by highlighting the shift from "net-centric warfare" to "data-centric warfare." "What we are witnessing is a gradual transition from net-centric warfare, which focused on information superiority, to data-centric warfare, where cognitive superiority in decision-making is paramount. The Chinese have described this as a move from information warfare to intelligent warfare, and from net-centric warfare to data-centric warfare," he said.

7 mini-workouts

to shrink belly fat quickly



There is a plethora of information on the internet on how to lose those extra kilos. Belly fat remains a pain point, as no matter what you do, it is difficult to get rid of. While many somehow manage to lose weight, the stubborn belly fat often refuses to budge.

Eating fibre and protein-rich food and cutting high-fat and sugary treats is often recommended for fat loss, but it's always a good idea to include some exercises in your routine. In case you have a busy schedule, mini-workouts can be extremely helpful. A new research has highlighted the importance of micro walks, deeming them even more beneficial than longer walks. This small study published in Proceedings of the Royal Society B involved 10 participants who walked for varying lengths of time, including short bursts with breaks lasting several minutes, and walking longer durations of up to four minutes. Researchers from the University of Milan discovered that when people walked in stints of 10 to 30 seconds, taking in breaks, they used more energy and burned more calories than continuously walking the same distance. There are several types of workouts that can help with weight loss, including aerobic exercise (brisk walking, biking, swimming, and dancing) high-intensity interval training (HIIT), strength training using weights, resistance bands, spinning, yoga, pilates, jumping jacks, mountain climbers, burpees, rowing, jumping rope, cross training, and kickboxing. The number of calories you burn depends on the exercise you do, how hard you work, and other factors as well. However, there are a certain type of exercises that help one lose the belly-fat faster. Though spot reduction is not possible, while losing weight, you can certainly incorporate some exercises that help tone abdominal muscles and thus gradually reduce fat around the belly.

sets of mini workouts can fit easily into your everyday routine. Let's get ready to burn those stubborn belly fat, tone that core, and feel great! Grab some water, find a mat, and a towel. Let's begin the fitness journey!

Burpees

Burpees are the best way to work out your entire body. All the jumping action will help you to burn the overall fat. Burpees work well on your belly fat, however, the trick is in the consistency.

Cardio Blast

Cardio exercises are the quintessential way to fat loss. It is best to incorporate 15 minutes of cardio into your everyday workout routine. If you are a gym person, you can use the cardio machines. Outdoor exercise lovers can go for running, cycling, or dancing. Make sure to maintain the high-intensity activity for 15 minutes.

Crunches

The classic go-to exercise for toned belly is crunches. Crunches are the most effective workout for burning abdominal fat. By performing crunches regularly, you can engage your core, strengthen your midsection, and increase your overall calorie burn.

Mountain climbers

To burn the stubborn belly fat, you need to engage your core muscles. Mountain climbers target belly fat. This exercise works on your whole body, by engaging multiple muscle groups, including your core, arms, and legs. Mountain climbers also improve cardiovascular fitness.

Russian twists

Yes, yes, Russian twists might seem a bit too much, but trust us, this exercise works like

magic. This exercise enhances your obliques and muscle definition. Though it might take a few days to get the hang of it, Russian twists are great for core strengthening. You can elevate the Russian twists with medicinal balls or weight plates.

Inclined Running

Running has its own benefits, but when burning belly fat is your goal, go for an inclined run. Running helps with improving your cardiovascular health. You can choose to go on a run, either on the treadmill or on a trek.

Plank

No matter how easy it might sound, planks are not so simple. They work on your whole body. Hold the plank position anywhere between 30 seconds to 1 minute. The only thing to keep in mind is to ensure your body is in a straight line. Remember that in any kind of weight loss, the 80/20 rule is applicable. 80 percent constitutes your diet, and 20 percent your exercise. Excess sugar intake is a major cause of weight gain in many people. Cutting processed

sugar in your diet can be beneficial in achieving a toned belly. A healthy lifestyle comprising of a clean diet and lifestyle choices can help you in getting those washboard abs.



From right shoes to warming up right

5 safety rules

to follow while



Walking is one of the simplest and most beneficial exercises we can do daily, but like any physical activity, it's very much important to prioritise safety. A safe, effective walk isn't just about moving your legs; it's about choosing the right shoes, warming up properly, and being careful of your stride and form. Here's a guide on 5 essential safety rules to make our walk a healthier, safer experience.

Choose the right shoes

Your shoes are the foundation of a safe walk, and not all footwear is created equal for walking. Look for shoes that provide proper arch support, cushioning, and stability. Walking shoes should be slightly flexible at the ball of the foot to allow natural movement but not overly loose, as they could cause ankle strain. Avoid flat, unsupportive shoes or shoes with high heels; these can lead to joint discomfort or even injury over time. Also, consider trying on shoes later in the day when your feet are more swollen to ensure a true fit.

Don't skip the warm-up

A quick warm-up before walking can prepare your muscles and joints for the activity, reducing the risk of injuries like pulled muscles or cramps. Try starting with



some gentle ankle rolls, calf stretches, or even a minute or two of brisk marching in place. Focus on activating your legs, hips, and lower back muscles to improve flexibility and circulation. This short warm-up will prepare the body for increased movement, making each step feel smoother and more comfortable.

walking

Maintain the right stride

An overly long stride helps us walk faster, but it can actually put more strain on our muscles and joints. The key to a safe, effective stride is to keep your steps at a natural, comfortable length. Focus on landing your foot underneath your body rather than reaching out too far with each step. Shorter strides reduce the impact on your joints and make it easier to maintain a steady, comfortable pace, preventing unnecessary stress on your knees and hips.

Pay attention to your walking angle

Walking posture plays a huge role in avoiding strain and injuries. Ideally, your head should be up, shoulders relaxed, and your gaze should be about 10 to 20 feet ahead. Avoid slouching or leaning too far forward, as this can create tension in the neck, shoulders, and lower back. Instead, keep a slight forward lean from your ankles—not from your waist—to help move you forward naturally.

Stay aware of the surroundings

Safety during walking isn't just about physical form; it's also about being alert to your surroundings. Whether you're in a busy urban area or a quiet park, pay attention to obstacles like uneven sidewalks, puddles, or cyclists. Avoid distractions like checking your phone or wearing both earbuds if you're on a busy street. Staying mindful of what's around you helps you react quickly to any unexpected situations, making your walk both safe and enjoyable.

Flare-up in tension between Russia, Ukraine pushes up gold prices

MUMBAI: Gold has reversed the losing streak it saw after the conclusive win that Donald Trump made in the recent US presidential polls, after the flare-up in the 1,000-day-old war that Russia has been waging on Ukraine. The immediate trigger for the rally in gold price is the fear in the Western capitals that Kiev firing long-range US-made ballistic missiles deep into a Russian military base on November 19 may force Moscow to use nuclear weapons on Ukraine. The Ukrainian attack came on the same day President Vladimir Putin lowered Russia's threshold for the use of nuclear weapons in case Nato-supplied more tactical weapons were used against the Kremlin or its close ally Belarus, which could be eligible for a nuclear strike back from Russia. In the run-up to the US polls, gold had scaled to record high of over 2,750/ounce dollar but as soon it became clear that Trump was on his way to a second office in White House, price crashed and lost over 6% since then. But the Russian-Ukraine war flare up has already reversed half of that. Back home, this wedding season is one of the biggest with 18 most auspicious days and as many as 4.8 million marriages are set for this season, up from 3.5 million last year, which are going to see spendings to the tune of Rs 6 lakh crore, up from 4.25 lakh crore last year. Of the total spending, 15% are likely to be on jewellery alone. "Gold prices have seen a shift towards safe-haven demand following a significant weekly decline and a six-day losing streak amid rising geopolitical tensions. This was further supported by declining US treasury bond yields, which prompted profit-taking in the dollar, benefiting gold," S Abdul Nazar, a national director at All India Gem and Jewellery Domestic Council, told.

Advent International Eyes Controlling Stake In VIP Industries, Promoters Revive Sale Talks

NEW DELHI: Global private equity firm Advent International is reportedly in advanced discussions to acquire a controlling stake in VIP Industries, a listed luggage and travel accessories manufacturer. According to a report by Mint, this development revives sale discussions initiated nearly a year ago by the Dilip Piramal-led promoter group.



"The deal has been revived, and Advent is the front-runner," the report quoted a source, noting that negotiations remain inconclusive and could still fall through. The promoters, holding a 51.74% stake in VIP Industries, have

reportedly put their entire stake up for sale. This move could trigger an open offer, as mandated by regulatory guidelines. As of the September 2024 quarter, the promoter stake is valued at approximately Rs 3,379 crore, based on the company's market capitalisation of Rs 6,531.91 crore. The transaction is expected to include a 10-15% premium over the current market price of Rs 459.95 per share on the NSE.

'No Salary For First Year, Pay Rs 20 Lakh': Zomato CEO Lays Out Criteria For Chief Of Staff Job

New Delhi: Zomato founder and chief executive officer Deepinder Goyal is on the lookout for a Chief of Staff position, he said in a social media post on Wednesday. Goyal shared a detailed job description, laying out some unconventional instructions that state the candidate will not be paid a salary for the first year but will instead have to donate Rs 20 lakhs for charity. "Update: I am looking for a chief of staff for myself," his tweet read. In the notice, Goyal also specified that the chief of staff is required for the Gurugram headquarters, followed by other ideas on the job description, details and application procedure.

To begin with, the post mentioned that the candidate must be "hungry, have a lot of common sense, empathy, should be down to earth, and have zero entitlement" followed by Grade A communication skills, a learning mindset, and will to do the right thing. While the job requires the candidate to do "anything and everything" to build the future of Zomato, in return, it will offer 10 times more learning experience and the chance to work closely with Goyal and some of the smartest people in consumer tech. The most interesting part is the salary details. "There is no salary for this role for the first year. You will have to, in fact, pay Rs 20 lakhs for this opportunity. 100 per cent of this fee will be paid in the form of a donation directly to Feeding India," it said further adding that Zomato will also contribute Rs 50 lakhs to a charity of the candidate's choice. Ultimately, the candidate will start receiving the usual salary from the second year, which Goyal specified to be more than 50 lakhs. However, salary discussions will only begin at the start of Year 2.

Explaining the logic behind paying such a huge amount for a job, the notice states that people should take it as a learning opportunity or a fast-track learning programme. Interested ones can simply write a cover letter of 200 words, without the need to send any resume, it mentions at the end.

The unconventional job opportunity has already triggered a mix of praise and criticism from social media users. While some praised the chance to learn directly from a leading entrepreneur, others argued that the high fee can be inaccessible for most of the candidates.

Adani Group stocks nosedive after US indictment over alleged bribery, investor fraud

MUMBAI: The Adani group counters plummeted over 22 per cent to hit lower circuits in early trade Thursday. This followed after New York federal prosecutors last night charged founder Gautam Adani along with six other key people of the group in an alleged USD 250-million bribery scheme to win solar power contracts. The collateral damage also has the lenders led by State Bank and the group's key investor GQP Partners also tanking. At 11:15 hrs, the stock mayhem is by the flagship Adani Enterprises, Adani Green Energy Adani Energy Solutions and Adani Ports losing as much as 9-22 per cent in the opening trade. While Adani Enterprises are locked in a lower circuit down by 21 per cent, Adani Green Energy is down by 19 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions tanked 20 per cent to hit the lower circuit at Rs 697.25 and Adani Ports tumbled by



19 per cent. Ambuja is down by 11 per cent, ACC cracked by 10 per cent.

Moody's Ratings in a quick commentary said, "The indictment is credit negative for the Adani group companies. Our main focus when assessing the group is on the ability of its companies to access capital to meet their liquidity requirements and on its governance practices." On Wednesday a New York federal court prosecutors charged Gautam Adani and

six other key officials with participating in an alleged USD 250 million bribery scheme to secure solar energy contracts in the country. The indictment, filed in Brooklyn, New York, accused Adani, along with Sagar Adani and Vinet Jaan and others of orchestrating an elaborate scheme involving false statements to US investors in violations of federal laws.

The allegations also include bids to obstruct justice by deleting electronic evidence and misleading the Justice Department, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and the FBI. In addition to the criminal charges, the SEC has filed a separate civil lawsuit. The indictment has hit Adani Group's international securities as well, with its dollar-denominated bonds falling sharply. On the other hand stocks of the lenders to the group also suffered sharp declines. Its key lenders include State Bank of India, ICICI Bank, Axis Bank,

Yes Bank, IndusInd Bank, IDFC First Bank, Bank of India, RBL Bank, Central Bank of India, Union Bank of India, IDBI Bank and REC. The shares of these lenders are trading 4-8 per cent down. After the Hindenburg report in January 2023, several domestic banks and financial institutions had publicly disclosed their exposure to the Adani Group. At the time, LIC revealed an exposure of Rs 35,920 crore, consisting of Rs 30,130 crore in equity and Rs 5,790 crore in debt. SBI has a total exposure of around Rs 27,000 crore to the conglomerate. Axis Bank has Rs 9,220 crore and PNB and REC have Rs 7,000 crore each. Another collateral damage is GQP Partners which fell by 10 per cent. The investor made good out of its billions of investment in Adani group after they were up for song following the Hindenburg allegations in January 2023. The airports and ports to the edible oil group have 10 listed companies including two cement makers which it bought out in 2022.

First half slowdown behind us, private spends back in full swing: RBI bulletin

MUMBAI: Even as admitting that the global economy is lurching towards protectionism with Donald Trump getting back to White House with more radical plans. The in-house economists at the Reserve Bank believe that the domestic economy is insulated from all these headwinds and is on course for a strong growth this fiscal and that the slowdown seen in the first half of the fiscal are behind us.



The bulletin, at the same time, also warns against going soft on inflation saying this can scupper all the hard earned gains made in recent years saying uncontrolled price rise can undermine prospects of real economy if allowed to run unchecked. In an article edited by the deputy governor Michael Debabrata Patra and his team of economists as their personal views, and published in the RBI November

bulletin on Wednesday, they said "the slack in speed (of GDP growth) observed in the second quarter of FY25 is behind us as private consumption is back to being the driver of domestic demand with festival spending lighting up real activity in Q3. And that the medium-term outlook remains bullish as the innate strength of the macro fundamentals reasserts itself." The

bulletin also notes that domestic financial markets are seeing corrections with relentless hardening of the US dollar and equities being under pressure from persistent portfolio outflows on one hand on the other October saw a massive spike in inflation with food prices on the boil again. The article attributed the lacklustre private investment in the first half to subdued corporate earnings. "Yet moderation in staff cost growth and rise in non-operating income boosted net profit even after excluding the moribund oil & gas sector and the high performing financial services sector," they said. The authors go on to note that "private consumption is back to being the driver of domestic demand, although with mixed fortunes," with festival spending has lighted up real activity in the third quarter.

PLI disbursement negligible in Fy25

NEW DELHI: The disbursement of payments under the Production-linked Incentive Scheme (PLI) has been negligible in the current financial year, and the government is clueless about the reasons why companies are not claiming the benefits. Government sources told TNIE that there has been little change in the amount paid under the scheme till March 2024. Till last financial year, the government had paid nearly Rs 10,000 crore, and this year the disbursement has been less than Rs 1,000 crore. Most of the claims for incentive payment have been received from electronics manufacturers. "We have no idea why the companies are not claiming the benefits. In our meetings with them, no one has raised any issues as yet," said a government official on the condition of anonymity. The same official, however, said that the government is not bothered as the PLI scheme has been achieving its main targets of getting investments and employment



generation. According to government officials, total investments under the PLI scheme have crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore, while production/sales by PLI companies have reached Rs 13 lakh crore. The investment made under the scheme has led to the generation of 8 lakh employment.

An official said that though exports was not the main objective of the PLI scheme, it has actually resulted in Rs 4 lakh crore-worth of exports mostly electronics and smartphones. It is to be noted here that the government this year increased the frequency of

disbursement from annually to quarterly to reduce delays in processing of claims. However, sources say that even the quarterly disbursement has found not many takers. The government is now hoping that claims would come in the last quarter (January-March) of the year. Industry insiders attribute the reluctance to claim the incentives to the huge compliance burden. In one particular case, smartphone manufacturer Samsung received an incentive of Rs 500 crore for FY21 in December 2023. The claims were delayed due to discrepancies found in documents submitted by the South Korean electronic major. The company got the amount paid only after it revised the claimed amount. The government started the PLI scheme with an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore in 2021. The incentive is given to 14 manufacturing sectors. In the July Budget, the government increased the PLI allocation for FY25 by 33% to Rs 6,200 crore.

Zinka Logistics Solution share price: What does GMP suggest ahead of listing?

Zinka Logistics Solution listing: The IPO of Zinka Logistics Solution, held from November 13-18, offered shares at a price band of Rs 259-273 per share with a lot size of 54 shares.

New Delhi. Zinka Logistics Solution shares are set to make their market debut on Dalal Street amid volatility and cautious market sentiment. The last few IPOs that have listed on the stock exchanges have not been able to give investors strong listing gains and the public offering of Zinka Logistics Solution might also see a weak or decent debut. Founded in 2015, Zinka operates the BlackBuck App, a digital platform offering truck operators services like payments, telematics, a load marketplace, and vehicle financing. The IPO of Zinka Logistics Solution, held



from November 13-18, offered shares at a price band of Rs 259-273 per share with a lot size of 54 shares.

The company raised Rs 1,114.72 crore, comprising Rs 500 crore via fresh issue and Rs 564.72 crore through an offer-for-sale. The IPO saw an overall subscription of 1.86 times, with strong demand from employees (9.88 times) and QIBs (2.76 times). Retail investors subscribed 1.66 times, while the NII category lagged at

24%. **PRE-LISTING VIEW OF ZINKA LOGISTICS (BLACKBUCK IPO)** Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd said that while the IPO has received a decent subscription of 1.87 times, the current grey market premium (GMP) of 0% indicates a potential for a flat or even negative listing. "The company's strong network effects and position as a leading platform in the

logistics industry are positive factors. However, financial challenges, including ongoing losses and negative cash flow, raise concerns. Additionally, the company's legal challenges and recent employee layoffs indicate operational difficulties. The low promoter holding further adds to investor skepticism. Given the company's financial performance, operational challenges, and the lack of a clear valuation metric, investors are advised to exercise caution," she added.

LATEST GMP FOR ZINKA LOGISTICS IPO

The grey market premium (GMP) for Zinka Logistics has dropped to zero, signalling a weak listing for investors. Earlier, the GMP stood at Rs 24 before the IPO opened. Shares are scheduled to list on the NSE and BSE on Friday, November 22. (Disclaimer: The views, opinions, recommendations, and suggestions expressed by experts/brokers in this article are their own and do not reflect the views of the India Today Group. It is advisable to consult a qualified broker or financial advisor before making any actual investment or trading choices.)



Alia Bhatt's

Daughter Raha Adorably Interrupts Her Work, Screams 'Maa' As She Shoots A Video



Alia Bhatt's daughter Raha is winning the internet courtesy her adorable scream. Earlier this week, Alia gave a shoutout to ALT EFF aka ALT Environmental Film Festival and revealed that her production house, Eternal Sunshine Productions, is collaborating with the film festival. The shared a video featuring Alia talking about the upcoming event. Several fans noticed that Raha made a cameo with her little screamed out for her 'maa'. "Hi everyone, I'm so thrilled to announce that Eternal Sunshine Productions is once again partnering with the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival for its 2024 edition. This festival is truly special. It's a celebration of films that uplift, showcase nature's resilience and remind us. How beautiful it is to protect our planet. It's an opportunity for all of us to see and feel the real impact of environmental change through powerful storytelling. With over 100 screenings across India, Alt EFF brings together some of the most compelling stories about our climate, our planet and the future shaping together. So don't miss out," she said in the video.

Alia's fans noticed that Raha had called out for her while she was recording. A distant but clear call for 'Maa' by Raha was heard. Check out the video below: Raha has been winning hearts and how lately! She was recently seen having a fun time with her father, Ranbir Kapoor. The father-daughter duo was seen attending a gathering. Ranbir held Raha close as they entered the venue. The little one appeared to be in a naughty mood and flashed big smiles as she played with Ranbir. Raha was born in November 2022. Alia and Ranbir had introduced her to the world at the Kapoor family's Christmas gathering last year. She broke the internet.

Nayanthara

On Converting From Christianity And Her Wedding with Vignesh Shivan: 'I've Become A Hindu...'

Nayanthara and Vignesh Shivan had a grand wedding in 2022 after dating for years. Initially planned at the Tirupati temple, the venue was changed last minute due to logistical issues, and the couple tied the knot at Sheraton Grand Chennai Resort and Spa in Mahabalipuram, with all arrangements completed in just ten days. Shaadi Squad, known for managing weddings of stars like Virat Kohli-Anushka Sharma and Katrina Kaif-Vicky Kaushal, organised the ceremony. Speaking in Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairytale, planners revealed that despite the venue change, the couple insisted on keeping the same wedding date. The actress also shared her wish for a Hindu wedding after converting from Christianity to Hinduism. She said, "Because I am a born Christian, my mom always wanted to see me in that Christian attire - the wedding gown kind of a thing. But, since I have become a Hindu, and we have to do a Hindu wedding, I just thought it should be like a beautiful mix of both a Hindu and a Christian wedding. So we kept it a Hindu wedding with an English touch."



Born Diana Kurien, Nayanthara changed her name when she entered the film industry. Nayanthara's wedding was attended by many top names in Indian cinema, including Rajinikanth, Mani Ratnam, Shah Rukh Khan, Atlee, Suriya, and Jyotika. The couple visited the Tirupati temple for

blessings the day after their wedding. They are now parents of twin sons, Uyir and Ulag, born via surrogacy. Meanwhile, Nayanthara has publicly called out Dhanush for suing her over the use of a BTS video from the Naanum Rowdy Dhaan sets in her upcoming documentary, Nayanthara: Beyond The Fairytale. In an open letter, she accused Dhanush of ignoring her request for a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to include the footage in the film and levelled serious accusations at him.



Rajkumar Hirani Birthday: 3 Idiots To Dunki, Top Movies By The Filmmaker



Popular film producer, director and screenwriter Rajkumar Hirani has gifted Indian cinema timeless masterpieces that are cherished for their impactful dialogues, heartwarming storylines and unforgettable songs. His films masterfully blend emotions, laughter and love. From the iconic Jaadu Ki Jhappi in Munnabhai M.B.B.S. to the uplifting All Is Well in 3 Idiots and the thought-provoking narrative of PK, Hirani has carved a niche like no other. Rajkumar Hirani has won numerous awards throughout his career, including several National Film Awards. On his 62nd birthday today, let's revisit some of the blockbuster films that have cemented his legacy as one of Bollywood's most popular filmmakers.

3 Idiots
This story of friendship, starring Aamir Khan, R. Madhavan and Sharman Joshi, became a cultural phenomenon. Beyond its impactful storyline about chasing talent over success, its songs like All Izz Well, Give Me Some Sunshine and Behti Hawa Sa Tha Woh are unforgettable. 3 Idiots won three National Film Awards including Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.

Munna Bhai M.B.B.S.
This iconic Sanjay Dutt starrer was Rajkumar Hirani's directorial debut. Munna Bhai M.B.B.S. revolved around a lovable goon with a golden heart. Arshad Warsi, Boman Irani and Jimmy Shergill also played pivotal roles in the movie.

Lage Raho Munna Bhai
Building on the success of Munna Bhai M.B.B.S., Hirani brought us Lage Raho Munna Bhai and introduced the idea of "Gandhigiri". With Sanjay Dutt, Arshad Warsi, Vidya Balan and Boman Irani leading the cast, this movie is a classic example that proves truth is the foundation of meaningful life.

Kangana Ranaut REACTS Shah Rukh Khan's Son Aryan Khan's Debut As Writer-Director: 'Look Forward To His...'



Actress and MP Kangana Ranaut has shared her thoughts on Aryan Khan's much-anticipated debut as a writer-director with a Netflix series slated for a 2025 release. The series, produced by his mother, Gauri Khan, was officially announced at a star-studded Los Angeles event hosted by Netflix's Chief Content Officer, Bela Bajaria. Taking to Instagram Stories, Kangana expressed her enthusiasm for Aryan's unconventional choice of stepping behind the camera, commending him for not following the typical trajectory of star kids who often opt for acting. In her post, she praised Aryan for charting his own path while simultaneously slamming other star kids, accusing them of failing to bring substantial contributions to the industry. She wrote, "It is great that children from... film families are going beyond just wanting to wear make up, loose weight, doll and think they are actors. We should collectively uplift up the standards of Indian cinema, that is the need of the hour. and those who have resources often end up taking easiest roads. We need more people behind the cameras, good that Aryan Khan is taking road less travelled. Look forward to his debut as a writer and filmmaker. THIS 2025: NETFLIX AND RED CHILLIES ENTERTAINMENT COME TOGETHER FOR A ONE OF A KIND BOLLYWOOD SERIES PRODUCED BY GAURI KHAN, CREATED AND DIRECTED BY ARYAN KHAN. NETFLIX RED CHILLIES ENTERTAINMENT."

Meanwhile, Expressing his excitement about the project, Shah Rukh Khan shared, "We are excited to present this new series with Netflix that offers a refreshing look into the glamorous cinematic world and what it takes to succeed as an outsider. It's a unique narrative brought to life by Aryan, many passionate minds, and the team at Red Chillies Entertainment. This one's going to be all heart, all hustle, and a whole lot of entertainment." The project aims to offer a unique perspective on Bollywood, exploring themes of ambition, hustle and survival while maintaining a lighthearted tone. Fans of Shah Rukh Khan and Aryan Khan are eagerly anticipating this father-son collaboration.