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Will study US "chargesheet reports", act on it: Andhra CM

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Nov. 22: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said the state government is in possession of



the "chargesheet reports" filed in the US related to the alleged bribery scam involving the previous YSRCP government and the Adani Group, and "promised" to act on the irregularities. Business tycoon and Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani has been charged by the US Department of Justice over his role in an alleged years-long scheme to pay USD 250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for

solar power contracts, an allegation refuted by the Indian conglomerate. The previous YSRCP regime is embroiled in the alleged scam with claims that government officials received bribes from the Adani Group. Addressing the Assembly, the Chief Minister said his government will study those charges and act on them. "I have all the chargesheet reports filed there (US). It is in the public domain. Will study it (the allegations and indictment). Will act on it and inform you," said Naidu. He noted that over the past five months, the TDP-led government has been discussing the alleged corruption that took place between 2019 and 2024. The YSRCP had on Thursday dismissed the allegations made against the government headed by it and said there was no direct agreement with the Adani group. Highlighting that the allegations involving the YSRCP regime and Adani group, have hurt the prestige and brand image of the southern state, Naidu termed it as a "very sad development".

India never moved ahead with expansionist mindset: PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Nov. 22: India has never moved forward with the expansionist mindset and always stayed away from the feeling of grabbing others' resources, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday. The prime minister's comments during an address at a special session of the Parliament of Guyana came amid growing global concerns over China's expansionist behaviour as well as conflicts arising out of territorial disputes. Modi, referring to geopolitical tensions, said it is time to identify the conditions leading to conflicts and remove them. "Today, there are so many challenges like terrorism, drugs, cybercrime, that only by fighting them, we will be able to shape the future of our coming generations," he said. "And this is possible only when we give centre stage to democracy first - humanity first. India has always spoken based on principles, trust and transparency," Modi said. "If even one country, even one region is left behind, then our global goals will never be achieved. That is why India says - every nation matters," he added. Showcasing India's foreign policy approach, Modi noted that India has never moved forward with selfishness. "We have

never moved forward with the feeling of expansionism. We have always stayed away from the feeling of occupying resources, grabbing resources," he said. "I believe, be it space or sea, these should not be



subjects of universal conflict but cooperation. This is not the time for conflict for the world either," he said. The prime minister said, "This is the time to identify the conditions that create conflict and remove them". Highlighting India's priority to ensure the welfare of the developing nations, Modi said a unit-

ed voice of the Global South is crucial. "This is the time for the awakening of the Global South," he said, adding democracy is in "India's DNA, in our vision and our conduct". Modi said India stands in favour of global development in every way. "With this spirit, today India has also become the voice of the Global South. India believes the Global South has suffered a lot in the past," he said. "In the past, we progressed by protecting nature according to our nature and culture. But many countries developed by harming the environment. Today, the countries of the Global South are paying the biggest price of climate change," he added. Modi asserted it is very important to get the world out of "this imbalance". "Whether it is India or Guyana, we have aspirations of development, dreams of giving a better life to our people. For this, a united voice of the Global South is very important," he said. "This is the time for the awakening of the countries of the Global South. This time is allowing us to come together and create a new global order. And I see a big role of all you representatives of Guyana in this," he said. Delving into various issues, Modi said the world of the 21st century faces different kinds of challenges. "Today both our countries are strengthening democracy in the world.

US charges against Adani, 7 others could lead to arrest warrants

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Nov. 22: With the US filing civil and criminal charges against billionaire Gautam Adani and seven others over a multi-million-dollar bribery scheme, a prominent attorney here has said that the case could escalate significantly, potentially leading to arrest warrants and even extradition attempts. Adani, India's second-richest man, and seven others, including his nephew Sagar Adani, have been charged by the US Department of Justice with paying bribes to unidentified officials of state governments in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha to buy expensive solar power, potentially earning more than USD 2 billion in profit over 20 years. Adani Group, however, denied the charges saying the allegations by US prosecutors are "baseless" and the conglomerate is "compliant with all laws". "US Attorney Breon Peace has the right to get arrest warrants issued against Adani and seven others indicted and serve them on the nations where they reside," Indian-American attorney Ravi Batra told PTI on Thursday. He

further said, "If that nation, as India does, has an extradition treaty then according to the bilateral contract between sovereign nations, the resident nation must turn over the person extradited by



the United States. There is a process that the resident nation must comply with, consistent with its laws." Batra noted that ultimately, extradition occurs "absent the rarest of circumstances", as in the case of former Chilean presi-

dent Augusto Pinochet. The United Kingdom did not extradite him solely on humanitarian grounds. "It's hard to see the Pinochet precedent apply to this case involving Adani and seven others," he said. The India-US Extradition Treaty was signed in 1997. Peace, the US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, has announced a five-count criminal indictment against 62-year-old Adani, his nephew Sagar, an executive director at the conglomerate's renewable energy arm Adani Green Energy Ltd, and its former CEO Vneet S Jaain. The indictment charged them with conspiracies to commit securities and wire fraud and substantive securities fraud for their roles in a multi-billion-dollar scheme to obtain funds from US investors and global financial institutions based on false and misleading statements. The indictment also charged Ranjit Gupta and Rupesh Agarwal, respectively a former CEO and former chief strategy and commercial officer of Azure Power Global, and Cyril Cabanes, Saurabh Agarwal and Deepak Malhotra, former employees of a Canadian institutional investor, with conspiracy to violate the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

Kejriwal kicks off 'Revdi Par Charcha' campaign ahead of Delhi polls

New Delhi, Nov. 22: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal launched a 'Revdi Par Charcha' campaign on Friday with an eye on the Delhi Assembly elections due to be held in February next year. Launching



the campaign, Kejriwal said the party's district and booth-level office bearers will reach out to voters, distributing pamphlets about the free facilities ('revdis') provided by the AAP government. "Our workers will hold 65,000 meetings across Delhi to make people understand what these free facilities

mean and how only AAP can provide these," the former chief minister said. He said the government is providing free electricity, water, healthcare, education, bus rides for women, and pilgrimage for the elderly. "Another 'revdi' - a monthly Rs 1,000 assistance for women in Delhi - will be started soon," the AAP supremo said. He alleged that the BJP wants to stop all the free facilities in the national capital. "The BJP is in power in 20 states and not even in a single state do they provide any of these free 'revdis'. This is because they don't have the intention; only AAP knows how to provide these facilities," Kejriwal said. He further said that AAP workers will ask the voters what the BJP has done for Delhi in the last 10 years since "the national capital is a half-state and the central government has as many powers as we do". All the BJP has done in the past decade is to halt the AAP government's developmental works, Kejriwal added.

MVA to keep all its newly-elected MLAs under one roof after poll results: Raut

ST Correspondent

Mumbai, Nov. 22: The Maha Vikas Aghadi constituents have decided to house all its newly-elected MLAs together in Mumbai after the Maharashtra election results, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut said on Friday, a move aimed at preventing poaching ahead of government formation. Talking to reporters here, Raut said MVA leaders, including himself, his party colleague Anil Desai, NCP (SP) state president Jayant Patil and Congress leaders Satej Patil and Balasaheb Thorat met on Thursday and carried out an assessment of every seat. "We have decided to bring all newly-elected MLAs to Mumbai. New MLAs have no provision to stay in Mumbai. So we have decided to make their residential



arrangements together," he said. The counting of votes for the November 20 Maharashtra assembly polls will take place on Saturday. Raut expressed confidence that the MVA would win 160 seats in the elections. Some independents, who have strong chances of victory, have expressed their desire to support the opposition bloc, the Rajya Sabha member said. "There is no formula for the CM's post. Everyone will choose the leader of the government," Raut said. Senior Congress leaders have to come to Mumbai with a mandate on the CM's post as NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray are in Mumbai. He also asserted that no power can stop the MVA from forming the next government in Maharashtra and that the decision on the top post will be taken only in Maharashtra. Fissures have emerged within the opposition MVA as well as the ruling Mahayuti on who will head the next government with constituents in both camps laying claim over the chief minister's post. While state Congress chief Nana Patole asserted that a MVA government will be formed in Maharashtra under the leadership of his party, Raut on Thursday insisted the CM face will be decided by all alliance partners jointly. Raut expressed fear that the BJP will try to obstruct the MVA through the governor's office in forming the government despite the opposition having the majority.

TMC leaders arrested after Mamata Banerjee's warning

Kolkata, Nov. 22: A police inspector was suspended and two local Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders arrested in separate cases in Bengal's West Burdwan district on Thursday evening hours after chief minister Mamata Banerjee ordered a crackdown on criminal elements. "Manoranjan Mondal, the officer-in-charge of Barabani police station was suspended on Thursday evening for allegedly neglecting his duty and indulging in activities not related to police work," said a district police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity. The action comes after a video, showing Mondal celebrating the birthday of a local TMC leader inside his police station, emerged on October 30. In another case, Aurobindo Nandy, a former Trinamool Congress (TMC) councillor and Rintu Panja, a former TMC community block unit vice-president, were arrested from Durgapur on charges of stealing iron and steel from a factory that closed down years ago. "Nandy and Panja were produced before a local court on Friday. The judge remanded them in police custody for three days. They have been accused of stealing goods from the premises of a factory," Rahul Deb Mukherjee, the lawyer of the two TMC leaders, said. "A police officer asked me to drop in at the police station for 10 minutes, saying he had something to discuss.

Nadda's letter to Kharge full of falsehoods

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Nov. 22: The Congress on Friday hit back at BJP president J P Nadda over his allegation that the opposition party was pushing a politically motivated narrative on the issue of Manipur, saying his letter to Mallikarjun Kharge is a "4D exercise - denial, distortion, distraction, and defamation". Nadda on Friday accused the Congress of pushing an "incorrect, false and politically" motivated narrative on the issue of Manipur unrest, as he hit back at Kharge for seeking President Droupadi Murmu's intervention and alleging the Centre's complete failure in defusing the crisis. In a rejoinder to Kharge, Nadda claimed the repercussions of the Congress's "abject failure" in dealing with local issues in Manipur when it was in power are being felt even today. Hitting back at Nadda, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "Congress President Kharge ji wrote to the President of India on

Manipur. Apparently to counter that letter, the BJP President has now written to the Congress President." "Naddaji's letter is, not



surprisingly, full of falsehoods and is a 4D exercise - denial, distortion, distraction, and defamation," he said in a post on X. The people of Manipur are yearning for normalcy, peace, and harmony to return to the state at the earliest, Ramesh said. "Towards this end they are asking four simple questions: When will the PM visit the state? How much longer

will the CM continue to be inflicted on the state, when a majority of MLAs are not in his support? When will a full-time Governor for the state be appointed? When will the Union Home Minister take responsibility for his abject failures in Manipur?" Ramesh said. In his letter, Nadda told Kharge what is shocking is how repeated attempts are being made by the Congress party to sensationalise the situation in Manipur, he told Kharge. He said Kharge seemed to have forgotten that not only did his government legitimise the illegal migration of foreign militants to India, the then home minister P Chidambaram had signed treaties with them. The Congress has been attacking the prime minister for not visiting Manipur, besides slamming the Centre for its handling of the situation in the ethnic strife-torn northeastern state. More than 220 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

Who will be next Maharashtra CM? Mahayuti, MVA constituents drop different names

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Mumbai, Nov. 22: Even before the first votes are counted in Maharashtra, fissures have emerged within the ruling Mahayuti and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on who will head the next government with constituents in both camps laying claim over the chief minister's post. After polling for the 288-member assembly ended on Wednesday evening, the ruling as well as opposition fronts have started claiming that mandate will be in their favour when votes are counted on November 23. Soon after polling, state Congress chief Nana Patole asserted an MVA government would be formed in Maharashtra under the leadership of his party. Voting trends suggest the Congress will get the maximum number of seats in the new assembly, he said. His remarks did not go down well with ally Shiv Sena (UBT), whose leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday insisted the chief ministerial face will be decided by all alliance partners jointly once the MVA

secures majority. The Rajya Sabha MP said if the Congress high command has told Patole that he will be the CM face then the national party's president Mallikarjun Kharge, and its top leaders Rahul Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra should announce the same. The MVA, consisting of the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and NCP (SP) and the Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP, have expressed confidence that their respective alliance will form the next government after votes are counted on Saturday. While a majority of exit polls have predicted that Mahayuti will retain power, a few have favoured the MVA. On the Mahayuti side, Shiv Sena MLA and party spokesperson Sanjay Shirsat said the assembly elections were contested with

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde as the face. "Voters have shown their preference for Shinde through voting. I think it is Shinde's



right (to be the next CM) and we are confident that he will be the next CM," Shirsat said. BJP leader Pravin Darekar batted for Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis for the top post. "I think if anyone from the BJP is becoming the CM then it will be Devendra Fadnis," he said. NCP leader Amol Mitkari pushed the name of his party chief and

Deputy CM Ajit Pawar for the coveted job. "Whatever the results, the NCP will be the kingmaker," Mitkari said. Asked about the CM face, Fadnis maintained all three Mahayuti parties will sit together and take a "good decision". Speaking to reporters separately, BJP leader Darekar claimed the Mahayuti will form the next government, dismissing the possibility of the MVA coming to power, and said the opposition bloc was plagued by "internal rifts". "The people of Maharashtra have given a clear mandate. The Chief Minister will be from the Mahayuti, not the MVA, and certainly not the Congress," he asserted. Highlighting divisions within the MVA, Darekar said, "Congress MP Praniti Shinde and her father and former CM Sushilkumar Shinde supported an independent candidate against Uddhav Thackeray's nominee in a constituency in Solapur district.

News box

Karnataka country's second largest milk producer, claims CM Siddaramaiah

BENGALURU: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who was on a visit to New Delhi on Thursday, declared that Karnataka has emerged as the second-largest milk producer in India, after Gujarat. "The state's 16 milk unions produce about 1 crore litres of milk daily. Karnataka has started supplying 2.5 lakh litres of milk daily to New Delhi, with plans to increase this to 5 lakh litres in six months. Creating a strong market for milk products is crucial for the growth of the dairy industry and wellbeing of farmers," he said.

Speaking at the launch of Nandini milk variants, organised by the Karnataka Milk Producers' Federation (KMF) and Mandya District Cooperative Milk Union, he credited the state's success to the strong support given to the dairy sector. "We formed milk producers' associations to ensure farmers got fair prices and a permanent market for their produce," he said. He elaborated as the state produces 92-93 lakh litres of milk on a daily basis, out of which 2.5 lakh litres are sent to Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. Through the Ksheeradhare Scheme, milk is purchased at Rs 32 per litre, with an additional Rs 5 per litre incentive given by the government, he added. "When I became CM, I increased this incentive to Rs 5 per litre, the highest so far. The state spends Rs 5 crore every day on these incentives," he claimed.

Guntur GGH performs 90 heart surgeries in past five months

GUNTUR: Guntur Government General Hospital (GGH) has marked a significant achievement by performing more than 90 heart bypass and open-heart surgeries over the past five months. On Thursday, three patients who underwent bypass surgeries were discharged, highlighting the success of these life-saving procedures. The hospital plans to perform 30-40 bypass and open-heart surgeries each month, along with keyhole heart surgeries, pending State government approval. GGH Superintendent Dr SSV Ramana revealed that the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Department, under the NTR Vaidya Seva scheme, successfully carried out 90 surgeries, including aortic and mitral valve replacements, all at no cost to the patients.

Dr Ramana noted that the hospital has also become a preferred destination for patients seeking high-quality treatment, with many travelling from private hospitals. Dr Hari Krishna Murthy, head of the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Department, explained that the hospital had previously struggled with a lack of essential equipment for open-heart surgeries. However, thanks to the support of the State government and Dr Alla Gopalakrishna Gokhale, founder of the Sahrudaya Trust, the hospital was provided with equipment worth Rs 20 lakh, significantly improving the success rate of surgeries. The skilled nursing and medical staff have also played a key role in these successful outcomes.

Heart bypass surgeries at GGH began in 2016 through a partnership with Sahrudaya Trust, which supplied equipment and expertise. However, after the MoU ended in 2019, followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the surgeries were temporarily halted due to staff shortages. The Sahrudaya Trust resumed its support after requests from the health department.

Plan to levy EMC on Papikondalu boats from December 1

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM: The Forest Department is set to launch the Clean Papikondalu National Park mission, introducing Environment Maintenance Charges (EMC) to curb pollution and fund conservation efforts. Checkposts will be set up at strategic locations within Papikondalu National Park to collect these charges, in line with Supreme Court guidelines and National Green Tribunal (NGT) directives. Conservator of Forests for the Rajamahendravaram circle, BNN Murthy, confirmed that EMC collection will begin on December 1. Speaking to TNIE, he emphasised the necessity of the initiative, citing environmental degradation caused by unchecked waste disposal. He said boat entry charges will be based on seating capacity in the Eluru, Rampachodavaram, and Chintur forest divisions. A fee of ₹2,500 will be charged per boat trip for seats counts below 50, ₹4,000 for boats carrying fewer than 100 passengers, and ₹6,000 for boats ferrying 100 passengers or more. Additionally, digital and professional cameras will incur a charge of ₹500. Of the 40 boats operating in the area, including two tourist vessels, each will pay EMC based on its capacity.

Road traffic will also be subject to fees, with light vehicles charged ₹50 and heavy vehicles ₹100. Checkposts for fee collection are being set up at Mareduhilli, Tulasipakala, and Darapalli on land, and at Gandipochamma temple and Pochavaram boating points along the river. To tackle waste accumulation, the department plans to recruit 50 'Swachh Sevaks' and fire watchers. Their duties will include removing plastic waste, liquor bottles, and other garbage from the Godavari riverbanks and areas surrounding Perantallapalli within the park. Murthy highlighted the urgency of the mission, saying, "As the manager of this protected area, I have to safeguard Papikondalu.

Wings of woe! Bird species decline in north and south Kerala, shows survey

KOCHI: Whither are our winged friends headed? The Wings survey, held simultaneously in Kochi, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram and adjoining interior areas, has thrown up worrying fact: There has been a drop in the number of individual birds in some parts of the state. Though no new species were discovered, birders in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode noted a decrease in the observed species count in their regions, while Kochi registered a slight increase. Last year, when the survey was called the Bird Race, Kozhikode, Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi counted 212, 193 and 187 bird species, respectively. This year, Kozhikode and Thiruvananthapuram saw a drop in the number of species, with just 201 and 183 counted, while Kochi region witnessed a jump with 192 species identified. Sivakumar AK, a birder from Thiruvananthapuram told TNIE, "The count cannot be termed foolproof, as it was carried out in inclement weather conditions. Rain and the presence of wild elephants prevented us from venturing out into some areas. Such areas might have



had at least four or five species of birds." According to Vishunpriya Kartha K, secretary of the Cochin Natural History Society (CNHS), the survey and the interactive meet-up have been conducted in Kerala since 2007, with the exception being during covid-19. "It is usually conducted on or around the birth anniversary of legendary ornithologist Dr Salim Ali. The exhaustive process sees the participation of several institutions and organisations in Kerala, with over 500 people participating annually," he said. "Participants range from students to

retired professionals and housewives, teachers, scientists, advocates and people from various other fields. In Kochi and central Kerala region, CNHS coordinates the event in collaboration with the College of Forestry — Kerala Agricultural University," said Kartha. Speaking about the process, Sathyan Meppayur, a birder from Kozhikode, said, "Participants form groups of three to five, led by an expert or senior birder, and explore a wide range of sites and habitats in and around every venue. This adds up to over 100 locations across the state. The teams then upload the checklists onto the eBird app, which helps compile the data."

The programme is coordinated at the pan-India level by Mumbai-based Sunjoy Monga, with the passionate support of local birders, he added. Meppayur said, "Of the bird species found in north Kerala, 54 are migratory while 14 are found only in the Western Ghats. In Kozhikode district, the census took the birders to Sarovaram Biopark, Mavoor wetlands, Kappad, Cherandathoor, and Vanaparvam Biodiversity Park. Birders also

surveyed Madayipara, Chembalikkundu, Ezhome, Cheruthazham Vayal in Kannur; Kadappuram, near Ponnani and Kakkadampoyil in Malappuram; and Manikunnumala in Wayanad. The Malabar Natural History Society, headquartered in Kozhikode, conducted the survey in the northern region in collaboration with Wings. "There has been a significant decrease in bird species in and around Kadalundi. Survey teams assessed a worrying decline in the number of white-bellied sea hawks in the Malabar region. It also came to light that previous havens for migratory birds such as Madayipara are no longer bird-friendly. The presence of tourists was found to affect the presence of birds. The team concluded that the situation is similar in Kadalundi and that the presence of fishing vessels in these places has adversely affected the arrival of migratory birds," he added. "Survey locations in Thiruvananthapuram included Panchakkari wetlands, Cityscape (paddy fields of Kesavadasapuram and Museum & Zoo premises, etc.)

Downpour continues in Ramnad, low-lying areas inundated

RAMANATHAPURAM: For the second consecutive day, rain lashed parts of Ramanathapuram, especially the coastal areas, on Thursday. Though the water has drained off from most parts, some of the low-lying areas are still inundated in Mandabam, Pamban and Rameswaram, which endured a massive cloud burst on Wednesday. District Collector Simranjeet Singh Kahlon inspected the rain-affected places and advised officials to intensify relief operations. According to the IMD reports, the district on Wednesday received an average of 114.6 mm rainfall, while the coastal areas witnessed a major cloud burst (200-400 mm rainfall). On Thursday, the district received an average of 17.92 mm of rainfall, notably the coastal areas, including Mandabam, Thangachimadam



and Rameswaram, witnessed 30-50 mm rainfall. The showers receded after 2 pm. The heavy showers on Wednesday led to severe water logging in many residential areas in Mandabam, Rameswaram and Pamban. While the water from areas situated close to the sea got drained off, other low-lying areas remain inundated leaving the residents to face hardships. "About a foot-deep water flooded the residential areas in Mandabam. We had

made some preparations, but the rain intensity was so fierce that the water breached into houses. We hope the authorities concerned will take measures to drain off the stagnant water," Jesu Backiyam, a fisherman from Thangachimadam, said.

On the flip side, M Ramar, a farmer from Korampallam, expressed unbridled happiness as his crops which were on the verge of withering due to lack of irrigation, have now received a new lease of life with the copious downpour. Other farmers in the southern blocks of the district are also a happy lot. District Collector Kahlon inspected the ongoing relief works and interacted with residents. He said that about 150 affected people were accommodated in three special camps and provided with basic amenities and food. Measures are also underway to clear off the water on the NH bridge.

Waqf Board issue of marriage certificates on hold, says Karnataka HC

BENGALURU: The Karnataka High Court on Thursday kept in abeyance till the next date of hearing, the order passed by the state government on August 30, 2023, authorising the Karnataka State Waqf Board to issue marriage certificates to Muslim applicants. It is difficult to perceive that marriage certificates issued by the Waqf Board (WB) and its officers could be used for any official purpose, the court added. The division bench of Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice K V Aravind passed the detailed interim order after hearing a public interest litigation filed by Alam Pasha, founder of The Helping Citizen and People's Court, a non-government organisation, questioning the legality of the impugned order issued by the state government in 2023, conferring powers to the Waqf Board to register Muslim marriages. Further hearing is adjourned to January 7. The court noted that prima facie reading of the provisions of the WB Act, the Board



does not have the power to issue marriage certificates. The impugned order, although operative for long, is clearly beyond the powers and amounts to usurping of powers which are not available under law, much less under the Waqf Act. Prima facie, it is difficult to justify the issue of marriage certificates by the Board. The impugned order is not backed by provisions of the Act. In view of this, important issues raised in the petition require consideration and are necessary to secure a reply and stand of

the WB, and the state of Karnataka is also duty-bound to justify how the order was issued, the court said. The court observed that issuance of marriage certificates is neither a matter connected with the WB nor incidental to the administration of the Board. Applicants are to be facilitated with marriage certificates by the Board, to alleviate difficulties faced by them is no ground to justify the Board to issue marriage certificates when the Waqf Act and its provisions do not confer such powers. The petitioner contended that the impugned order dated August 30, 2023, was issued by the Minority, Waqf and Haj department, conferring powers to the Board for marriage registration under the WB Act, 1995, despite the Karnataka Marriages (Registration and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976, which provides a uniform law for the registration of marriages and certain other matters.

273 local bodies in Kerala critical zones of human-wildlife conflicts, reveals study

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A comprehensive study by the forest department on human-wildlife conflicts has identified around 273 local bodies in the state as critical zones. Of them, 30 have been flagged as major hotspots. And of these 30, nine — seven of them in Wayanad alone — have been identified as highly critical, having reported a high number of conflicts and deaths. The state government is preparing a comprehensive master plan to mitigate the growing human-wild animal conflicts in Kerala, Forest Minister A K Saseendran said on Thursday. The forest department study looked at the human-wildlife conflicts over the past 10 years. As many as 840 people died in these conflicts. So far this year, wildlife attacks have claimed 39 lives. "A master plan with specific mitigation measures for respective hotspots will be drawn up to address the crisis," Saseendran said. As the first step, Kerala has been divided into 12 landscapes



based on conflict-prone regions. The plan is to devise landscape-level master plans, by devising solutions specific to the region, and consolidate them into a state-level action plan. On the occasion, Saseendran also launched the website of 'Safe Habitat Hack' — a hackathon being organised by the forest department in collaboration with K-DISC (Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council) to generate innovative ideas for mitigating human-wildlife conflicts. The plan is to invite

startups, agencies working in the field, researchers and other experts and come up with strategies for the master plan. Among other things, the hackathon aims to address inefficiencies in solar fencing and barriers, lack of advanced real-time monitoring devices, and practical challenges in implementing these technologies in forest areas. It will also look to find solutions for habitat degradation, and creating region-specific mitigation strategies. Participants can submit ideas and concepts until December 20. The shortlisted ideas will be featured at an event to be held on February 15, 2025, in Thiruvananthapuram.

Mission Fencing 2024

One of the key projects that would be taken up under the master plan is Mission Fencing 2024, which aims to repair and upgrade existing solar fences stretching 1,400-km across the state. The forest department will launch a month-long campaign to assess the present condition of

the fences and raise funds for their repair

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News box

Minimum temp in Gurgaon rises to 11°C, but likely to drop by 2-4°C

Gurgaon: As the city woke up to a sunny day with light fog, the maximum temperature on Thursday reached 26.4 degrees Celsius, 1.2 degrees higher than Wednesday. The minimum temperature also increased slightly, settling at 11 degrees Celsius. It was recorded at 10.8 degrees Celsius the previous day. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) withdrew its 'yellow' alert for 'dense' to 'very dense' fog in the region. According to IMD's forecast, the minimum temperature may plummet by 2-4 degrees Celsius over the next two days.

However, temperatures across the northern plains remain above the usual levels for this time of year, and this trend is expected to continue for the next fortnight, after which temperatures are predicted to decrease gradually. Meanwhile, Delhi recorded the coldest morning of the season on Thursday. The minimum temperature dipped to 10.2 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, at Safdarjung, which is the city's base station. As north-westerly winds, which bring cold air, are prevailing in the region, the minimum is likely to remain around 10 degrees on Friday. Some stations saw a lower minimum temperature than Safdarjung. The North Delhi Ridge was the coldest with a minimum temperature dropping to 8.1 degrees Celsius, five notches below normal. It was followed by Lodhi Road, where the minimum settled at 9.2 degrees Celsius, two degrees below normal. IMD's data shows that since Monday, when the minimum temperature was recorded at 16.2 degrees Celsius, the mercury dipped by six degrees. Apart from north-westerly winds, the minimum temperature is witnessing a dip due to radiational cooling.

11 held for posing as tech support staff to cheat foreigners

Noida: Police have busted a sham call centre, operating out of Sector 117, that would hack computers, mostly of foreign nationals, by sending them viruses through pop-up messages and then offering to fix the glitch. Cops acted on a tip-off and rounded up 11 people, most of them in their 20s, working at the centre on Thursday even as the mastermind remained on the run. Police also seized 19 laptops, 20 mobile phones, 5 SIM cards and other computer peripherals from the centre.

The accused would usually send pop-up messages to a victim's computer. If people clicked on them, it would cause their system to crash. One of the accused would then connect with the victims posing as a Microsoft service team and offer to fix the glitch. Instead, they would hack the computers and wipe out their bank accounts. The money, police said, would be routed to their accounts through hawala channels. DCP Rambadan Singh said the mastermind is also wanted in a similar case registered in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. An FIR under BNS sections 3(5), 318 (4), 316 (2), 317 (5) and Section 66 of the IT Act has been registered at Sector 113 police station. In Aug, 15 people were arrested from a call centre operating out of Sector 59. The accused used a similar modus operandi to dupe US nationals.

Illegal health supplement mfg unit busted in Loni, 8 samples sent for testing

Ghaziabad: An illegal health supplements manufacturing unit, operating from the ground floor of a house in Loni, was busted by a police team on Wednesday. The manufacturing unit's owner did not have a licence for the factory. A total of eight samples of raw materials weighing over 100kg and 41 cans of finished products weighing 500gm each, used in the production of health supplements, were seized. According to assistant commissioner (Food) 2, Dr Arvind Yadav, the raid was carried out following a tip-off from local police.

The raid revealed that health supplements, particularly protein powder, were being manufactured in a room on the ground floor of the residence. The owner of the unit, Himanshu Bhardwaj, was questioned about the requisite licence for the food business. "Bhardwaj



admitted to not possessing one. As per rules, health supplements are regulated as food by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and an FSSAI licence is mandatory for the manufacturing and sale of such products," said Dr Yadav. Officials found 41 cans of a mixture of muscle recovery and electrolytes, weighing 500gm each, which were being stored beyond their expiry date. "These were being used at the manufacturing unit to process protein powders using other raw materials. These were confiscated and have been sent for laboratory tests. Once their report is received, further action will be taken against the manufacturer under the Food Safety and Standards Act," Dr Yadav added.

He added that the manufacturer could not produce any records of where the raw material was sourced from. "During inquiry, it was also found that the protein powder was being processed and packaged here in Ghaziabad and transported to a seller in Delhi where the labelling was done for retail sale. Further investigation is underway," said Dr Yadav.

AQI improves to 'poor' after 8 days

Noida: The region witnessed an improvement in air quality on Thursday, as wind speeds increased and AQI dropped to the 'poor' category in both Noida and Ghaziabad. Noida recorded an AQI of 253, a notable drop from Wednesday's 304 (very poor). Greater Noida recorded an even larger drop, recording an AQI of 212, against 304 the day before. In neighbouring Ghaziabad, AQI stood at 291, down from 328 the day before. Air monitoring stations in both districts recorded varying AQI levels — ranging from 'moderate' to 'severe' across the two districts. In Noida, the Sector 62 air quality monitoring station — which covers the industrial and commercial areas off the DME — recorded 'very poor' air quality. At 4pm, the average AQI at the station was 320. The Sector 116 and Sector 125 stations, however, recorded AQI in the 'poor' category at 231 and 262 respectively. At 199 in the 'moderate' category, the Sector 1 station recorded the best air quality in the city. In Greater Noida, the Knowledge Park 3 and 5 stations recorded air quality in the 'poor' category with AQI recorded at 202 and 223, respectively. Ghaziabad's Loni recorded the worst air quality at 402 in the 'severe' category on Thursday, followed by Vasundhara (303) in the 'very poor' category and Sanjay Nagar (258) in the



'poor' category. Indrapuram recorded the best air quality in the district on Thursday at 200 (moderate). According to weather analysts, chances of smog formation will be slightly less due to dry westerly winds; however, the air quality may not see substantial improvement either. "The winds may catch up marginally, the city will see westerly winds which are dry so the moisture levels will remain low. Thus, smog formation may drop as well. However, due to the drop in the temperatures, dispersion of pollution would be marginal as well," said Mahesh Palwat, Vice Chairman, Climate Change and Meteorology, Skymet. IITM forecast

predicted that air quality is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category from Nov 21 to Nov 24. As a haze of pollution blanketed the region, schools across NCR have been closed and classes turned to online mode for many. Offices have also turned to implementing work from home so employees can avoid stepping out under these circumstances. The district administrations of both Noida and Ghaziabad districts have issued an advisory for staggered timings at govt offices. On Nov 20, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) introduced a revised Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for the NCR and

adjoining areas, incorporating Clause 12 under Stage-3 of GRAP. Following this directive, on Nov 21, both the Noida and Ghaziabad administrations implemented immediate changes to office timings. While this is in effect, in GB Nagar, state govt offices shall operate from 10am to 5pm, while industrial development authorities in the region — Noida, GNIDA, YEIDA, UPSIDA — shall operate between the hours of 9am to 6pm. Nagar Palika Parishad/panchayat offices shall work from 8am to 4pm. In Ghaziabad, the state govt offices shall operate from 10am to 5.30pm, while the municipal corporation and all municipalities, excluding field staff, shall operate from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

Staggered office work timings in Ggn too. After schools suspended physical classes, colleges and offices in NCR districts of Haryana are set to go online as forecasts indicate another drop in air quality over the next few days. The district administration on Wednesday issued an advisory, asking corporate offices to consider staggered timings. "All private institutions and corporate offices of district Gurgaon are advised to consider having staggered office timings for their employees and, by doing so, assist in the effective implementation of GRAP measures," the advisory read.

Minor kills milkman over 'inappropriate' behaviour with mom, held Unused for 3 years, Noida wants to use bus terminal bldg as hosp, hotel

Agra: A 17-year-old boy was arrested on Wednesday for killing a milkman with an axe, angered by what he perceived as inappropriate behavior towards his mother. The body of the victim, identified as Pankaj (25), was found near milestone 115 of the Yamuna Expressway in the Mahavan police station area. SSP Shailesh Kumar Pandey said on Thursday that the milkman, a resident of Nagla Dhanua village in Raya and nephew of the local village head, had been having an affair with the boy's mother. "The minor had previously warned the



milkman against visiting their home and misbehaving with his mother. However, the milkman continued to meet her, leading to escalating

tensions between him and the boy," he added. On Nov 16, the two drank alcohol together and then left on separate motorcycles. During the journey, the minor attacked Pankaj with an axe, striking his head and neck fatally. The postmortem report confirmed death due to sharp weapon injuries to head and neck, said police. "The accused confessed during interrogation, revealing the details of the crime. The murder weapon has been recovered, and further legal proceedings are underway. The next step is to present him before the juvenile magistrate," the SSP added.

Noida: The city bus terminal in Sector 82, constructed on a sprawling 30,643sqm, offers an array of amenities — office spaces, restrooms, food court and parking facilities — across its eight storeys. Yet, since its construction in 2021, Noida Authority has found it hard to find takers for the commercial space. The terminal itself has not seen much footfall either. Only five Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRTC) buses operate from the terminal on routes like Dadri, Pari Chowk, and Bulandshahr among others. To use its commercial space better, Noida Authority recently issued an expression of interest (EOI) to find an agency that can lease the facility for



commercial purposes, such as a hospital or hotel. The ground floor, however, will continue to serve its original function — as a bus terminal. This move follows a decision made during the Authority's board meeting in Oct when the underutilisation of the terminal was taken up. Constructed for Rs 157.9 crore, the terminal was intended to be a transportation hub. The terminal, which spans 30,643sqm across eight storeys, offers significant amenities, including parking space for 522 cars in the basement, capacity for 40 buses on the ground floor, and an additional 100 taxis. Other features include office spaces, restrooms, a food court, kiosks, a restaurant, and a passenger accommodation. Sandeep Dhumar, president of the Noida Bus Association, criticized the project for lacking proper consultation with stakeholders.

Self-care, taking breaks: Entrepreneur shares mantra for mental well-being

Noida: "It's all about taking the right break when you need it," Kanika Aggarwal, co-founder of MindPeers, told a gathering of students at the second edition of Leaders on Campus, a Times of India initiative hosted at GNIOT Institute of Management Studies (GIMS). "One needs to be sure if the journey that they are going through is purposeful or not. No matter what society is saying or thinking about you, just do it if it's best for you," she said at the leadership talk on 'Redefining Success: Mental Well-being in the Age of Ambition'. Sharing her entrepreneurship journey, she said that some time back, she was diagnosed with alopecia and understood that its root cause was stress. "Stress doesn't have any on and off buttons. One needs to understand when, and where, to take time out for

they can talk their heart out. That probably solves half of their problems." After the session, Tulsu Gupta, a first-year student of PGDM said the event was insightful and interesting. "Being a regular reader of TOI, I have not only improved my general knowledge and communication skills but also improved my vocabulary and gained confidence. I am happy to get a chance to take part in such an informative talk." Another PGDM student, Tripti Dubey, said her father recently had a paralysis attack and was suffering from mental health issues. "I cannot express in words how insightful and helpful this talk by has been for me. Now I know how to address the issues in my personal life too," she added. Fear of stigma is one of the major issues that people in our country face. We have often heard that when feeling

a safe space to their children to talk about anything and everything without any fear, is very important. When you are taking maximum stress multiple times, the cortisol in the body stops production or lowers, and the body goes into a burnout phase. In this phase, a perpetual depression, anxiety, or attention-seeking phase occurs. For some people, we start taking precautions when the brain has already reached that stage. You don't have to wait for extreme things to happen to take care of your mental health. If behaviour is changing, and mental health is changing for a week or month, it is the right time to take steps to address it. Though companies come up with several measures, if the leaders don't understand that it is of no use. Mental well-being can be part of your culture only when the leaders, such as the

Six gangsters arrested in Gurugram after failed extortion bid

NEW DELHI: Six gangsters were arrested in Gurugram for allegedly plotting to carry out kidnapping and robbery at an earth movers company's premises over a failed extortion bid on it, police said on Thursday. All six are former members of the deceased gangster Ashok Rathi's gang but are currently associated with the Dheeraj Nakhdaula and Samudra Deshwal alias Rathi gang, they said. Acting on a complaint lodged by the company on Wednesday, police arrested Dheeraj Nakhdaula (40), Samudra Deshwal alias Rathi (21), Sagar (21), Manish (23), Vikas (28), and Anuj (24). ACP Crime Varun Dahiya said they wanted to establish the dominance of their gang in Gurugram. "They demanded extortion from the owner of the earth movers company, and when they got no response from the owner of the company, they all got together to teach him a lesson and plotted robbery and kidnapping." But police arrested them, and now we are questioning the accused," Dahiya said. According to the complainant, two youths came in an SUV on October 5 to a construction site at Sector 80, where the company was involved in digging work. They introduced themselves as members of the Samudra Deshwal Rathi and Dheeraj Nakhdaula gang. They threatened to kill them and stop all their work if they did not pay the extortion money.

NAME CHANGE
I, GEETA BANGAIN wife of JC-769516A Rank-SUB (MTECO) Name-VIRENDRA SINGH residing at VILL-PIPALI, PO-KUTTHA, TEHSIL-TEHRI, DIST-TEHRI GARHWAL, UTTARAKHAND-249001, have changed my name from GEETA BANGAIN to GEETA for all future purposes, vide Affidavit dated 22/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, ANCHAL daughter of JC-769516A Rank-SUB (MTECO) Name-VIRENDRA SINGH residing at VILL-PIPALI, PO-KUTTHA, TEHSIL-TEHRI, DIST-TEHRI GARHWAL, UTTARAKHAND-249001, have changed my name from ANCHAL to ANCHAL BANGAIN for all future purposes and in my father's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 18/01/2004 instead of my correct date of birth as 18/02/2004 vide Affidavit dated 22/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Administrative Officer/Const Northern Railway, Kashmir Gate, Delhi, for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Two Packet System of the under noted Work:-

1. Full Name of work: Appointment of authority Engineer for providing Project Management Services for Major Upgradation/Development/Re-Development of Meerut City Railway Station of Delhi Division of Northern Railway.
2. Approx. Cost of work: Rs. 45359276.89/-
3. Completion period of the work: 32 (Thirty Two) months
4. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 376800.00/-
5. Last date and time of opening of tender document: Tender documents will be available on IREPS web site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 21.11.2024 to 30.12.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
6. Pre-Bid Conference: 02.12.2024 at 12:00 hours at CAO/Office, N. Rly., Kashmir Gate, Delhi and through online VClinc.
7. Last date of receipt of pre-bid queries: 04.12.2024 upto 18:00 hrs
8. Authority response to queries: 13.12.2024 upto 18:00 hrs
9. Last date/Time of upload of tenders: 30.12.2024 upto 15:00 hours, Tender documents can be uploaded by the tenderer on IREPS web site w.e.f. 16.12.2024 to 30.12.2024
10. Date and time of opening of tender: 30.12.2024 at 15:00 hours. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

Tender Notice No 74-W-12-403-WA-CSB-II Dated: 21.11.2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3580/24

NAME CHANGE I, Amit Kumar Sarda R/o 1/7213 2nd floor Gali No. 1 Shivaji Park Shahdara Delhi 110032 claim that I have changed my minor daughter's name Yuvika to Yuvika Sarda for all future purposes	DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE I, SUBRANJAN KUMAR PARIDA permanent resident of VILL-USTAPALLI, PO-INGINATHI, DISTRICT-GANJAM, ODISHA-761140, in my service record my mother's (KUMARI PARIDA) date of birth wrongly mentioned as 05/03/1961 instead of her correct date of birth as 05/02/1963, vide Affidavit dated 22/11/2024 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.	NAME CHANGE I, AKASH son of JC-769516A Rank-SUB (MTECO) Name-VIRENDRA SINGH residing at VILL-PIPALI, PO-KUTTHA, TEHSIL-TEHRI, DIST-TEHRI GARHWAL, UTTARAKHAND-249001, have changed my name from AKASH to AKASH BANGAIN for all future purposes, vide Affidavit dated 22/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.	NAME CHANGE I, Mohd Usman Ghani R/o 1843 Gali Wazir Beg, Near Haj Manzil, Turkman Gate, Delhi G.P.O., North Delhi, Delhi-110006 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO Mohd Usman Ghani
NAME CHANGE I, Sajida Ansari W/O Saleem Ahmed R/o H.N.E. - 39 E Block, Gali No.4, Subhash Vihar, North Ghonda, Delhi-110053 have changed my name from Sajida Begam for all future purposes.	PUBLIC NOTICE It is informed to all the General public that my clients Mr. Satpal & Smt. Sunita W/O Sh. Satpal, R/o 180/12, Block-J-1, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-62, my clients have no control upon their son namely Akash S/O Sh. Satpal. Hence, my clients have debarred/disown'd their son Akash from their lives as well as from their movable / immovable property w.e.f 03.11.2024. Now my clients will not be liable / responsible for any act of him in future as my clients have no concern or relation with him since 03.11.2024. Kapil Kumar (Advocate) Ch. No. 819 Saket Court Complex New Delhi 110017	PUBLIC NOTICE BE IT KNOWN TO THE PUBLIC IN GENERAL THAT MY CLIENTS PARTAP SINGH SON OF SHRI KUNDAN LAI MAYA DEVI WIFE OF SHRI PARTAP SINGH BOTH RESIDENT OF D-15 RAJEEV NAGAR BEGUMPUR DELHI HAVE SEVERED THEIR ALL RELATION WITH HIS WIFE SWATI LOVELY AND HIS WIFE SWATI AND ALSO DISOWNED FROM THEIR MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTY RIGHT NOW. FURTHER, ANY PERSON DEALING WITH THEM IN ANY MANNER WHATSOEVER SHALL BE THE SOLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES IN THE EVENT THE SAME GOES AGAINST ONE AND VICE-VERSA. MY CLIENTS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE TRANSACTION WITH THEM IN ANY MANNER. Adv. MOHIT BHARDWAJ Ch.No. 02, Near District Magistrate (North-West) Office, 100 Ft. Road, Kanjhawala, Delhi-110081	PUBLIC NOTICE We, Ramesh Thakur S/O Mr. Babu Lal Thakur and Mrs. Pramila Devi W/O Mr. Ramesh Thakur R/o 438, First Floor (Left Side) Old No. 672, Gali Chandī Wali, Pahar Ganj, Delhi-110006, in our full senses, on our free will disown our son Yogesh Thakur and his family i.e. wife Aarthkuman N from all our movable and immovable properties and in future we shall not be responsible for his deeds and conduct.

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecommunication)/Northern Railway/Lucknow division, Lucknow, for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-Tenders in Single packet system for the under noted work:-

Tender No.	106-Sig-Tender-18-2024-25
Name of Work	"Interlocking of LC gates having TVU greater than 30000 in LKO-SLN-ZBD-BSB-MGS section of LKO Division of Northern Railways."
Approximate Cost	Rs.41927436.05
Cost of tender form	NIL
Earnest Money	Rs.359600.00
Completion Period	720 Days
Last date and time of submission of tender document	16.12.2024 15.30 Hrs

Website particulars and notice board location where complete details of tender can be seen: "http://www.ireps.gov.in" Office of the Sr.DSTE, DRM office Complex/Northern Railway, Lucknow

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. "http://www.ireps.gov.in" for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.
- Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable online through net banking or payment gateway only.

T. Notice No. 106-Sig-Tender/18/24-25 Dated: 22.11.2024 3605/2024
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NEWS BOX

UN Calls Use Of New Russian Missile In Ukraine "Worrying"

United Nations, United States.Russia's use of a new medium-range ballistic missile to strike Ukraine was a "worrying development," the spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Thursday. "This is yet another concerning and worrying development. All of this (is) going in the wrong direction," said Stephane Dujarric, calling on all parties to de-escalate the conflict. He repeated UN chief Antonio Guterres's call for an end to the war in compliance with international law, and urged both sides "to protect civilians, not hit civilian targets or critical civilian infrastructure." Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that his country's forces



had hit Ukraine with a new mid-range hypersonic ballistic missile, dubbed the "Oreshnik," in a "non-nuclear" configuration. Russia struck the central Ukrainian city of Dnipro with a barrage of missiles early Thursday. This week, the United States further ramped up aid to its Ukrainian ally by authorizing the supply of anti-personnel landmines, a major policy shift slammed by rights groups.

Asked about the US decision, Dujarric reiterated the UN's opposition to the use of those weapons. "Our stand against the use of mines anywhere in the world remains the same," he said.

Trump Pick Matt Gaetz Withdraws As Nominee For US Attorney General

Washington. Scandal-plagued Matt Gaetz, who was nominated by President-elect Donald Trump to be US attorney general, on Thursday pulled out of the confirmation process in an early setback for the incoming administration. Gaetz was one of Trump's several eye-catching selections, including Fox News host Pete Hegseth as defense secretary, vaccine skeptic Robert F. Kennedy Jr. as health secretary and billionaire Elon Musk to head a government cost-cutting unit. A congressional panel had been investigating alleged illegal activity by Gaetz, including sexual misconduct with a 17-year-old girl -- which he denies -- as well as drug use and misappropriating campaign funds. He was facing an uphill battle to win confirmation in the Senate for the top legal role of attorney general due to widespread opposition, including from within his own Republican Party.

I had excellent meetings with Senators yesterday. I appreciate their thoughtful feedback -- and the incredible support of so many," Gaetz said on X. "While the momentum was strong, it is clear that my confirmation was unfairly becoming a distraction to the critical work of the Trump/Vance Transition." Gaetz was first elected to the US House of Representatives in 2016 and won reelection this month, but he resigned as a congressman shortly after Trump picked him to be attorney general. "Matt has a wonderful future, and I look forward to watching all of the great things he will do," Trump said in response to his withdrawal. Several of Trump's nominations have triggered criticism, and the latest transition turmoil came as new lurid details emerged about Defense nominee Hegseth.

North Korea's Kim Accuses US Of Escalating Tensions, Warns Of Nuclear War

Seoul. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has accused the United States of ramping up tension and provocations, saying the Korean peninsula has never faced such risks of nuclear war as now, state media KCNA said on Friday. In a speech at a military exhibition on Thursday in Pyongyang, Kim said his previous experience of negotiations with Washington only highlighted its "aggressive and hostile" policy against Pyongyang, KCNA said. "Never before have the warring parties on the Korean peninsula faced such a dangerous and acute confrontation that it could escalate into the most destructive thermonuclear war," Kim said, according to KCNA. "We have already gone as far as we can on negotiating with the United States, but what we became certain of from the result is not the superpower's willingness to coexist, but its thorough stance of power and aggressive and hostile policy toward us that can never change."

During US President-elect Donald Trump's first term, he and Kim held three unprecedented meetings in Singapore, Hanoi, and at the Korean border in 2018 and 2019. But their diplomacy failed to achieve any concrete outcome due to differences between US calls for North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons and Kim's demands for sanctions relief.

Trump has long touted his ties with Kim, saying last month that the two countries "would've had a nuclear war with millions of people killed" but he stopped it thanks to their relationship. North Korean state media has not yet publicly mentioned Trump's reelection. Kim, in the speech, called for developing and upgrading weaponry into "ultra-modern ones" and vowed to continue advancing defence capabilities to bolster the country's strategic position, KCNA said. The event, called the Defence Development Exhibition, featured strategic and tactical weapons.

Elon Musk Fuels Conspiracy Theory Linking Ellen DeGeneres To Sean 'Diddy' Combs After US Departure

Musk posted a conspiracy theory alleging that DeGeneres had left the country as she was involved with Sean 'Diddy' Combs.

World. SpaceX founder Elon Musk has taken a jibe at former talk show host, Ellen DeGeneres, after she alongside her wife, Portia de Rossi left the United States owing to Donald Trump's presidential

election win. Mr Musk quote posted a conspiracy theory alleging that Ms DeGeneres had left the country as she was involved with Sean 'Diddy' Combs, who is currently in jail for his alleged 'freak-off' parties.

The billionaire was referring to an original post made by Ms DeGeneres in 2016 when she wished happy birthday to P Diddy by calling him 'Cuddle McSnugglestuff.' "Happy birthday, P Diddy, Puff Daddy, Sean Combs, or as I call him, Cuddle McSnugglestuff. You don't need to know why. @iamdiddy," read the post. A user posted the screenshot of the said message and captioned it as saying, "That It makes sense why she fled the country after the election", which was amplified by Mr Musk who posted an 'eyebrow-raising' emoji without further elaboration. One of the users under the Tesla CEO's post



said: "If that is what she calls him - I wonder what he calls her. Actually - no no I don't - I really don't want to know," while another added: "Ellen literally fled the country before Donald Trump could release the Jeffrey Epstein client list." A third commented: "Ellen DeGeneres is part of their club. Does she know that the UK has an extradition treaty with America? She can run but can't

hide." While Mr Musk mocked Ms DeGeneres, court documents have revealed that a fund linked to Diddy invested money to help the billionaire buy X (erstwhile Twitter) for \$44 billion in 2022. However, he later expressed surprise at the extent of the allegations against him, stating on the platform, "I wonder how many people knew about this."

DeGeneres leaves US

DeGeneres and her actress wife have moved to the Cotswolds in southwest England, after putting up their Montecito Estate in California for sale, according to reports. She had endorsed Democrat nominee Kamala Harris for the presidential job.

DeGeneres had a successful talk show programme that officially ended in 2022 after 19 seasons when several of her staff members, and even some guests accused her of promoting a toxic work environment.

Wall Street Top Regulator To Quit After Trump Takes Office. Here's Why

New York. US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Gary Gensler will step down as Wall Street's top regulator at the end of the Joe Biden administration, he said. "Gensler has been coy about when he planned to leave the SEC but was expected to depart before President-elect Donald Trump is sworn into office. He will serve through noon on January 20, when Trump is set to become President," reported The Wall Street Journal on Thursday about the move. "Gensler's decision to remain until the very end of the Biden administration probably disappoints some Republicans who wanted to see him leave sooner. It



means he could try to push through some additional measures since Democrats will retain a majority on the five-member SEC as long as he stays," it noted. Gensler presided over a hyperactive period in SEC rulemaking, Xinhua news agency reported. Wall

Street groups challenged many of the regulations he pushed through including a rule that would have imposed new transparency requirements on private equity managers. A court also rejected a regulation that Gensler backed that tried to overhaul how companies do stock buybacks. Gensler previously worked for Goldman Sachs and has led the Biden-Harris transition's Federal Reserve, Banking, and Securities Regulators agency review team. Prior to his appointment, he was a professor of Practice of Global Economics and Management at the Sloan School of Management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Israel Strikes Kill 52 In Lebanon As Hezbollah Targets South Israel

Beirut. Lebanon said Israeli strikes Thursday on the country's east and south killed 52 people, as raids also hit south Beirut and Hezbollah claimed its deepest attack on Israel in over a year. More than 11 months of cross-border fire between Israel and Hezbollah over the Gaza conflict escalated into all-out war in September, with Israel conducting an extensive bombing campaign, primarily targeting Hezbollah strongholds, and sending ground troops into southern Lebanon. "Israeli enemy strikes that targeted the Baalbek district" in east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley left "40 dead and 52 wounded", a health ministry statement said, listing tolls for 10 different locations. Lebanon's official National News Agency (NNA) said a couple and their four children were killed in a strike on a house in the village of Maqneh, while another couple and their young daughter were among 11 people killed in a raid on nearby Nabha.



country's north. In Beirut's southern suburbs, the NNA reported at least 12 strikes throughout Thursday, after relative calm while US envoy Amos Hochstein visited earlier this week, seeking to broker an end to the Israel-Hezbollah war. Israeli army spokesman Avichay Adraee on social media platform X issued several rounds of evacuation warnings for Beirut's southern suburbs, as well as areas in and around the southern coastal city of Tyre, but none for east Lebanon. AFP TV footage showed columns of smoke rising from the southern suburbs, usually a densely populated residential district but now largely emptied.

Khiam Adraee said on X that the Israeli military

"targeted a weapons depot, a command headquarters and terrorist infrastructure" belonging to Hezbollah in south Beirut. Amid a series of attack claims, Hezbollah said its fighters targeted "the Hatzor air base" near Israel's southern city of Ashdod, around 150 kilometres (90 miles) from Lebanon's southern border, "with a missile salvo" -- its deepest target in more than a year of hostilities.

In 10 separate statements, Iran-backed Hezbollah said its fighters also targeted Israeli troops in and near the south Lebanon town of Khiam, including with artillery, rockets and drones. The NNA said "the enemy army" was "blowing up homes and residential buildings during its incursion into the town". Lebanon's official news agency and Hezbollah have reported fighting and air strikes in the Khiam area ever since Israeli ground troops first entered Lebanon on September 30. Earlier Thursday, United Nations special coordinator for Lebanon Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert visited Baalbek's UNESCO-listed archaeological area, after the UN's cultural body this week granted more than 30 heritage sites in Lebanon "provisional enhanced protection" amid the war.

"Outrageous": Joe Biden Slams World Court's Arrest Warrant For Israel's Netanyahu

Washington. US President Joe Biden called the International Criminal Court's arrest warrants for top Israeli leaders "outrageous" in a statement Thursday. "Whatever the ICC might imply, there is no equivalence -- none -- between Israel and Hamas," Biden said after the international tribunal issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former defense minister Yoav Gallant on suspicion of war crimes and crimes against humanity. "We will always stand with Israel against threats to its security," the president added. In an earlier statement, the White House said it "fundamentally rejects" the calls for arrests. "We remain deeply concerned by the



prosecutor's rush to seek arrest warrants and the troubling process errors that led to this decision. The United States has been clear that the ICC does not have jurisdiction over this matter," a National Security Council spokesperson said.

The statement made no mention of an ICC arrest warrant also issued for Mohammed Deif, the military chief of Hamas. Mike Waltz, the incoming national security advisor under US president-elect Donald Trump's administration, defended Israel and promised a "strong response to the antisemitic bias of the ICC & UN come January." "The ICC has no credibility and these allegations have been refuted by the US government," Waltz said on social media platform X.

His comments reflected a wider outrage among Republicans, with some calling for the US Senate to sanction the ICC, which counts 124 national members who are in theory obliged to arrest individuals subject to warrants. Neither the United States nor Israel is a member of the ICC and both have rejected its jurisdiction. The Hague-based court said Thursday that the warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant were issued "for crimes against humanity and war crimes committed from at least 8 October 2023 until at least 20 May 2024." A warrant was also issued for Deif, whom Israel claimed was killed in an air strike in Gaza in July. Hamas has not confirmed his death.

After World Court's Arrest Warrant, Netanyahu Invokes 1894 Dreyfus Trial

WORLD. Denouncing the International Criminal Court (ICC), Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu likened the court's arrest warrant against him to the infamous Dreyfus trial of 1894. The Dreyfus trial, which began in 1894, involved a Jewish French army officer falsely accused of treason based on fabricated evidence. The ICC's move accuses Netanyahu and former Israeli defence minister Yoav Gallant of war crimes in the ongoing Gaza conflict, a decision Netanyahu lambasted as "anti-Semitic" and reflective of a "modern-day Dreyfus trial." "The anti-Semitic decision of the International Criminal Court is comparable to a modern-day Dreyfus trial - and it will end in the same way," Netanyahu declared, referring to the wrongful conviction of Alfred Dreyfus, a



Jewish French army officer, in a landmark case that exposed deep anti-Semitism in late 19th-century France. The Dreyfus Affair was one of the most controversial legal scandals of 19th-century France, marked by anti-Semitism and judicial corruption. Alfred Dreyfus, a French Jewish army captain, was wrongfully convicted of treason in 1894 based on

fabricated evidence. Stripped of his rank in a humiliating public ceremony and exiled to Devil's Island, a former penal colony in French Guayana, Dreyfus's plight became a symbol of systemic injustice and anti-Semitism. French authorities accused Dreyfus of leaking military secrets based on a scrap of handwriting vaguely resembling his own. The trial, fueled by rampant anti-Semitism, resulted in a conviction despite evidence pointing to another officer, Ferdinand Esterhazy, as the true culprit. The case divided France, with prominent intellectuals like Émile Zola denouncing the injustice in his famous open letter, 'J'accuse...!' The ICC has issued warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza following Hamas's brutal October 7 attacks on Israel. These attacks, which left over 1,400 Israelis dead and led to the

kidnapping of hundreds, triggered a massive Israeli military response, resulting in immense loss of life and devastation in Gaza. The warrants mark the first time an Israeli head of state has been targeted by the court. Netanyahu rejected the ICC's actions as "absurd and false," accusing Chief Prosecutor Karim Khan of corruption and alleging the decision was an attempt to distract from accusations of sexual harassment against Khan - charges Khan has denied. Israeli President Isaac Herzog described the ICC's move as a "dark day for justice," while Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said the court had "lost all legitimacy." Human rights group B'Tselem, however, welcomed the ICC's actions, urging international enforcement of the warrants. The group called the warrants "a critical step toward accountability for leaders responsible for crimes committed in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

News box

21 get life term for killing Dalit woman 14 years ago

TUMAKURU : A local court here on Thursday sentenced 21 people, including two women, to life imprisonment for murdering a Dalit woman 14 years ago. Judge Nageeruddy also ordered them to pay a fine of Rs 5,000 each. They murdered 'Dhaba' Honnamma, 45, at Gopalapura village in Chikkanayakanahalli taluk on June 28, 2010. The convicted are Ranganath GS, Majula, Raju alias Devaraju, Srinivasa, Swamy alias Anandaswamy, Venkataswamy, Venkatesh, Nagaraju, Rajappa alias Ramaiah, Meese Hanumanthaiiah, Gangadhara alias Ganganna, Satyappa alias Satisha, Nanjundaiah, Chandrashekar alias Chandraiah, Ranganna alias Ramaiah, Umesha, Bulle Hanumanthaiiah, Channamma alias Chinnamma, Jayanna alias Jayakumar alias Narasingaiah, KG Manju and Swamy. Six of the accused died when the trial was on. Tiptur DySP Shivarudraswamy investigated the case and filed the chargesheet against 27 accused. Honnamma had filed a complaint with Handanake police against some of the accused for allegedly smuggling the logs she had collected to build her dhaba. She ran the dhaba along with her live-in partner. She had also unsuccessfully contested gram panchayat elections twice. She was an office-bearer of Chikkanayakanahalli taluk unit of BJP.

AP Legislative Assembly resolves to provide 33 per cent BC quota

VIJAYAWADA: The AP Legislative Assembly on Thursday resolved to provide 33% reservation to Backward Classes (BCs) in the legislative bodies. In the afternoon session of the Assembly, Minister for BC Welfare S Savitha introduced the resolution. Elaborating on the importance of 33% reservation for BCs, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said the TDP has been most supportive of BCs since its inception, and advocated their political empowerment. "It was our party founder NT Rama Rao, who emphasised social justice, had reserved 25% of seats in local bodies for BCs, which was enhanced to 33% when I became the Chief Minister," Naidu said. Elaborating on how the TDP has been following the policy of political empowerment of BCs within the party, he said several stalwarts like K Yerran Naidu, KE Krishnamurthy and Devender Goud were given priority. He further said though they did social engineering and ensured BCs were given party tickets during the recent elections, much more needs to be done. "We should understand that BCs are dependent on traditional occupations for their economic survival. With traditional occupations slowly becoming wane, economic support is needed for such people. The government is making every effort to help out these sections," he asserted. However, Naidu opined that justice can be done to BCs only when they have political representation by their population strength. Hence, the AP Assembly has resolved to provide 33% reservation to BCs in the legislative bodies. "We will also advocate similar reservation at the national level," he added.

Andhra Minister Lokesh tweet alerts officials to rescue child beggars

KURNOOL: Kurnool district authorities launched a swift operation to combat child begging after HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh responded to a viral video showing a child in a dazed state at Dress Circle in Kurnool city. The video, shared by netizen Santhosh Kumar, triggered public outrage and prompted the Minister's immediate intervention on the platform X (formerly Twitter). Expressing his concern, Minister Lokesh wrote, "This is heartbreaking. Every child deserves safety, love, and dignity. We will locate this child and ensure they receive protection and care. Those responsible will be held accountable." He also pledged to work with authorities to prevent such incidents and promote safe and nurturing environments for children. Responding to the Lokesh's remarks, the district administration conducted a citywide drive to identify and rescue children involved in begging. Several children were traced and presented before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) for assistance. Under the Juvenile Justice Act, the rescued children were placed in Child Care Institutes for rehabilitation, where they will receive necessary support and education.

CWC Chairperson S Zubaida Begum emphasised the importance of shielding vulnerable children from exploitation. "Our focus is on ensuring these children have a secure environment and opportunities for a better future," she said. She also appealed to parents to prioritise education over sending children to beg, highlighting that over 70% of child beggars belong to economically distressed families. As part of the operation, district officials counselled parents to understand the long-term harm of child begging and stressed the importance of education. Authorities pledged to intensify their crackdown on the issue while focusing on providing food, shelter, and access to schooling for affected children.

Three years after G.O, advisory panel in schools to curb sexual harassment non-functional

CHENNAI: Though the state's school education department issued a government order (G.O.) in June 2021 outlining safety guidelines to protect students from sexual harassment, the measures laid out in the order have largely remained on paper. The G.O. was issued after the schools in the state became the focus of the #MeToo movement, especially after allegations of sexual harassment against a commerce teacher in PSBB School.

In a recent incident, a physical education teacher of a private school in Thoothukudi was accused of spiking soft drinks with alcohol to harass female students. Interestingly, the state government swiftly issued a statement highlighting 'proactive measures' such as the formation of Student Safeguarding Advisory Committees mandated by the 2021 G.O. However, headmasters of both government and private schools spoke to said these committees are non-functional. The G.O. established a high-level committee, initially headed by the now-defunct post of school education commissioner, with members including the school education director, police officers from the cybercrime and crimes against women and children wings, two educationists, and two psychologists. It is the committee that



mandated the formation of school-level committees with principal, two teachers, parents, a management representative, non-teaching staff, and optionally, an external person as members. The principal is a permanent member and half the committee members must be replaced annually. The guidelines designate November 15 to 22 as Child Abuse Prevention Week. This week was chosen to align with November 19, observed as the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse. When introduced in 2021, the initiative was actively led by School Education Minister Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi. In 2022, the directors of Elementary Schools and SCERT issued a circular instructing schools to observe the week with awareness programmes. However, no such circular was issued in 2023, and the initiative appears to have been forgotten this year as well.

Similarly, schools are mandated to conduct annual orientation programmes on sexual offences under Pocco Act, submit compliance reports to the government and carry out safety audits.

Yet, these critical measures are largely neglected. At least 10 headmasters of higher secondary government schools said Student Safeguarding Advisory Committees, formed around 2021-22, are not being reconstituted regularly. "The department issues circulars to form various committees. The guidelines are not clear on who should conduct the annual orientation programmes for the teachers. Most committees are largely dysfunctional as we didn't receive any instructions to reconstitute them for the past two years," said a member of a government school headmasters' association. Activists criticised the lack of implementation of multiple G.O.s meant to ensure student safety and called for a holistic plan to prevent sexual harassment incidents in schools. Meanwhile, school education department said they have asked the officials to ensure the G.O. issued in 2021 is implemented. On the conduct of awareness week, they said they would conduct it in December as the students have examinations at present.

Kerala MPs to raise lack of Centre aid for Wayanad landslide rehabilitation



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: MPs from Kerala on Thursday unanimously decided to raise the lack of central assistance to survivors and relatives of the July 30 Wayanad landslides, as well as the demand to declare the disaster as L3 category, in the Parliament. An L3 disaster is a nearly catastrophic or very large-scale disaster that overwhelms state and district authorities. The decision was taken at the meeting called by the state government ahead of the start of the winter session of the Parliament on Monday. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who chaired the meeting, told the MPs that not a single penny had been allotted to the state as aid even 100 days after the PM visited the disaster-struck areas. At the meeting, opposition MPs flayed the state government for making an unnecessary demand — to declare the landslides a national disaster — in its representation and memorandum submitted to the Centre. RSP MP N K Premachandran asked the rationale behind the government's demand when there was no provision to declare a disaster as such. The CM said since the state government had declared the landslides as a calamity of severe nature, all the MPs from Kerala could donate up to Rs 25 lakh from their MPLADS fund towards relief. None of the MPs responded to his statement.

Waterbodies brim across western Tamil Nadu, arrival of migratory birds dip in Coimbatore

COIMBATORE: According to the Coimbatore Nature Society (CNS), which conducted a study of wetlands in the district, the arrival of migratory bird species in Coimbatore is sharply declining. Experts say most waterbodies in western TN, due to rainfall, have a widespread availability of prey, which could be a reason for the birds not to converge at a single place. The study was conducted from November 12 - 17 by a team of 35 members from the society, and it was coordinated by senior bird watcher A Pavendhan. The study has revealed that only 25 migratory bird species were present in wetlands of Coimbatore compared to 47 species observed in January this year. According to the study,

migratory bird count declined to 1,060 individual birds from 2,816 recorded during January. Among 25 migratory bird species, eight are water birds and the remaining 17 are terrestrial birds. "Migratory waterfowl species are missing in most of the wetlands. In fact, Northern Shoveler was the only migrant duck species recorded during the study. Even waders like Sandpipers, plovers are missing or very low in number. Warblers are the ones who are usually the first ones to arrive but are largely missing and very few. Migratory raptors like Booted eagles, Greater Spotted eagles, Ospreys and Marsh Harriers are missing in most wetlands. Even resident birds like Pelicans, Eurasian Spoonbills, Ibises, storks are



very few in number," said G Prakash, a senior bird watcher in CNS. This year, we have experienced very good rainfall and almost all the wetlands are filled with water. This is not just true of Coimbatore, but our neighbouring districts as well. In a year of good rainfall, migratory birds have no reason to congregate in one place and tend to spread out. This could be one reason for less

migratory birds. Upcoming January migratory bird estimate is expected to validate this," said A Pavendhan.

He added "Due to recent tank desilting work carried out in various tanks, the natural vegetation has been removed from lot of tank bunds. So, the gradual gradient in tanks have been replaced by a steep gradient. This makes wetlands unsuitable for wading birds like sandpipers and migratory raptors like Booted eagles, Ospreys, Greater spotted eagles and Marsh Harriers." The study also revealed how the flow of untreated domestic sewage and industrial sewage into the wetlands has resulted in a decline in fish populations and kept off birds which feed on them.

Rs 26 crore assets detected in raid on four officials in Karnataka

BENGALURU: The Lokayukta police raided 25 places of four state government officials on Thursday and found assets worth Rs 26.66 crore disproportionate to their known sources of income. Among them, Krishnaveni MC, senior geologist, Mangaluru, against whom a case was registered by Chikkaballapura Lokayukta police, was allegedly found owning assets worth Rs 11.93 crore. This includes three sites valued at Rs 10.41 crore, one flat at Yelahanka in Bengaluru, one commercial complex under construction, 26 acres of coffee estate and movable assets of Rs 1.51 crore, including Rs 56,450 cash, ornaments worth Rs 66.71 lakh, vehicles valued at Rs 60 lakh and household articles valued at Rs 24.40 lakh. Mahesh, MD of Kaveri Neeravari



Nigama Niyamitha, Bengaluru, was allegedly found possessing assets worth Rs 6.89 crore. They included 25 sites, one house and 25 acres of agricultural land worth Rs 4.76 crore and movable assets of Rs 1.82 lakh in cash, ornaments worth Rs 15 lakh, vehicles valued at Rs 25 lakh and household articles worth Rs 1.71 crore.

Excise official 'owning' assets worth Rs

4.37 crore

Mohan K, superintendent of excise, office of the Commissioner of Excise, Bengaluru South, allegedly owned assets worth Rs 4.37 crore. They included three sites, two houses and two acres and 25 guntas of agricultural land worth Rs 3.22 crore. In addition, he owned movable assets worth Rs 1.15 crore, including Rs 1.17 lakh cash, Rs 44.58 lakh worth ornaments, vehicles valued at Rs 35 lakh and Rs 35 lakh bank deposits. Thippeswamy NK, director, Town and Country Planning, Bengaluru, allegedly owned assets worth Rs 3.38 crore. They included one site, two houses, seven acres and five guntas of agricultural land worth Rs 2.55 crore and movable assets worth Rs 87.98 lakh, including Rs 8 lakh cash, ornaments valued at Rs 58.73 lakh, vehicles valued at Rs 29.

Keep away please!

Theyyam lovers unhappy with vloggers, call for curbs

KANNUR: Theyyam, the iconic ritual art form of north Kerala, has mesmerised people worldwide, thanks to social media. However, the increasing influx of vloggers, eager to capture the art form's vivid grandeur, is creating challenges for temple administrators. Sacred kavus (groves) now see crowds of 'influencers' vying for the perfect shot, often encroaching close to performers. The growing obsession with filming the vibrant art form has disrupted the sanctity of the ritual and left temple authorities struggling to control the crowd and maintain order. As the popularity of Theyyam continues to grow globally, enthusiasts and temple authorities are voicing concerns about the intrusive behaviour of vloggers and amateur videographers during these sacred rituals. Many are now calling for restrictions on close-range videography to preserve the sanctity of the art form. "It is true that social media has brought worldwide recognition to Theyyam. Earlier, only dedicated enthusiasts would visit the kavus to witness the art form. Now, with social media, people from across the globe can view performances being held even in the remote corners of Kannur," said Prabhakaran Kooor, a Theyyam enthusiast and admin of the Theyyam Calendar WhatsApp group. He also acknowledges the weak side of the exposure. "Issues are cropping up with the rise of vloggers. Everyone, from visitors to casual spectators, carries a phone to record the rituals. Some even enter makeup rooms to capture the artists getting ready for their performances. Others get dangerously close to the Theyya kolams, disrupting the rituals. We are not asking for a total ban, but there should be restrictions to prevent such interruptions," he expressed.

Photographer and vlogger Priyesh M B, who has been documenting rare Theyyam performances for 13 years now, echoes similar sentiments. "When I started Theyyam photography, only a few photographers visited kavus, and they respected the rituals and traditions. Now, anyone with a phone is a vlogger. They encroach on performance areas and even run alongside Theyyams for close-up shots," Priyesh shared.

He further warned of the dangers posed by such ignorance. "Some of these Theyyams are aggressive. Approaching them sans caution can trigger an unexpected reaction, creating panic among spectators. The only viable solution is to establish boundaries around the performance area to prevent vloggers from getting too close," Priyesh suggested. Temple authorities also face challenges in managing the growing issue. "It is nearly impossible to enforce restrictions with barricades or ropes, as they might worsen the situation. In nearby kavus, volunteers manage the crowd, including photographers. Since these vloggers often come from other districts, it is nearly impossible to take direct action against them," said Sumithran V P, secretary of Kadannapally Muchilottukavu.

No surge in vector-borne diseases in Telangana, says DPH

HYDERABAD: Clearing the air regarding the advisory issued by the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in November for travellers returning from Telangana, the Health department on Thursday said that most of the chikungunya (a vector-borne disease) cases in the state were reported in August and September. The Director of Public Health & Family Welfare (DPH) said that most cases were reported during August and September and there was a sharp decline in the number after October. The DPH also made it clear that no chikungunya deaths were reported in the state so far. The DPH also said that the Health department took proactive measures well ahead of the monsoon season to prevent any outbreak of seasonal diseases.

These included state and district level convergence meetings with line departments, issuing timely health advisories, door-to-door fever survey in high risk areas, close monitoring of the situation, intensified surveillance and



reporting network, intensified integrated vector control measures like fogging/spraying and source reduction activities.

In addition, an adequate number of testing kits and essential medicines were made available in all health facilities across

the state. Health Commissioner RV Karnan told TNE, "Instances of vector-borne diseases (VBD) reduced significantly in October and November in the state. We urge the public not to panic as all necessary measures are taken and the situation is effectively under control and there is no alarming situation as close monitoring through surveillance and availability of testing kits has been ensured by the government."

Meanwhile, doctors in Hyderabad said that there was a surge in respiratory tract infections related to the upper respiratory tract (URT), besides the post chikungunya arthritis, which comes with severe joint pains that can be experienced in patients for a duration of one to two months. Dr Shiva Raju K, head of the medicine department, KIMS Hospitals, told: "Post chikungunya, body pains are observed in all age groups including younger people, but older age groups find it more intense. We are also seeing other viral fevers and the cases are likely to rise as the cold increases."

Remember to take nothing personally

People often suffer more from their reactions and the negative emotions accompanying them than from others' behaviours that evoke these.



In the late 1990s, two Laotian men walked into a Los Angeles bar where an Asian singer performed. After occupying their seats, they felt like sitting more comfortably and spreading their legs but did not realise that their feet were pointing towards the singer. When the bar closed, she followed them to the parking lot and expressed displeasure. Instead of admitting their mistake and apologising, the tourists started quarrelling with her. As the altercation turned ugly, the singer took out her revolver and killed one of them.

Perhaps this tragedy could have been averted had the lady not taken the two men's behaviour so personally and left them after expressing her displeasure. Similarly, the two men could have said that they did not mean any insult to her and apologised to assuage her feelings of hurt, but they did not. Why? Like most people, the two men and the lady could not separate people from their unpleasant words or behaviours and took these personally.

People often suffer more from their reactions and the negative emotions accompanying them than from others' behaviours that evoke these. Shifting your focus from judging what others are doing to you to observing how you respond to it and not taking anything personally can avert many undesirable consequences.

There will undoubtedly be times when others may misperceive who we are, misunderstand our intentions or motives, and knowingly or unknowingly say and do things that hurt us. Unless we distance ourselves from our ideas, beliefs, and behaviours (and separate others from them) and train ourselves to take nothing personally, we will feel attacked whenever our opinions or ideas are contradicted.

Unfortunately, most people are like ghostly gramophones playing and replaying the records of unconscious habits. They are oblivious to their behaviour the way a sleeping infant is when he kicks in her mother's face while sleeping by her side. People's behaviour reflects how their unconscious mind is programmed and how they have learnt to interpret life's experiences and express, respond to, or fulfil a need. It says a lot about what they have gone through and what life has taught them, but nothing about you.

Most meaningful discussions are either not initiated, aborted midway, or end unpleasantly while adversely impacting relationships because we are too attached to and inflexibly sure of our views. We have an evolutionary need to win arguments and prove our views and opinions factually or morally more correct, even when they may be wrong or ill-informed. As a result, we fritter away most learning opportunities. Driving a wedge between us and our ideas, beliefs, or opinions (or whatever else we say after the words "my" or "our") and not taking anything personally is being kind to ourselves and others.

Cancer calls for a coherent health system response

As India shapes and strengthens its Ayushman Bharat programme, cancer care has to be firmly positioned amid its range of publicly financed healthcare services

Cardiovascular disease, manifesting principally as heart attacks and brain strokes, is the leading cause of death globally. In India too, it emerged in recent decades as the top cause of adult deaths. However, an international collaborative study of 2,00,000 people in 27 countries reported in 2019 that cancer recently overtook cardiovascular disease in high income countries. The study noted cardiovascular disease remained the leading cause of death in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

Cancer is growing as a major cause of disease, disability and death in LMICs too, though it trails cardiovascular disease in the list of killer diseases. The rise in cancer burden in these countries is both due to increasing incidence of new cancers and inability of health services to provide timely detection and treatment. Cancer cases are rising due to higher levels of population exposure to unhealthy diets, physical inactivity, air pollution, environmental toxins, tobacco products and alcoholic beverages. An Indian Council of Medical Research study projected a 12.8 percent increase in the incidence of cancer cases in India between 2020 and 2025. In 2022, India had 14.1 lakh new cancer cases and 9.1 lakh deaths due to cancer. These estimates are likely to be short of the real cancer burden.

Decline in cardiovascular mortality rates in high income countries over the past four decades happened not only due to better diets, less smoking and more exercise but also due to many life-saving treatments. Effective therapies emerged from basic and clinical research. They were widely applied, resulting in many deaths being averted. While many behavioural risk factors are common to cancer and cardiovascular disease, highly effective treatments were less visible and impactful in the cancer arena—till recently. However, the last decade has seen many advances in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Organ imaging as well as laboratory techniques in tissue histology and pathology have advanced greatly. Integration of clinical data with new molecular data (germ line genomics, tumour genomics, epigenomics, pharmacogenomics and circulating tumour DNA) greatly increased diagnostic precision and personalised approaches to treatment. Artificial intelligence is providing great support for enhancing these diagnostic capabilities. Novel treatments have emerged, through

development of targeted therapies and monoclonal antibodies. Some of these antibodies can destroy the outer wall of a cancer cell while others can block the connection between the cell and proteins that promote cell growth. CAR-T cell therapies are providing a pathway for customising cancer therapy by collecting T-lymphocytes from the patient's own immune system and training them to attack cancer cells. Surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy, targeted drug therapies and immunotherapy have now become the five pillars of cancer treatment.

Despite these remarkable advances, access to cancer diagnostics and treatments is still limited for patients in low and middle income countries and for poor people in high-income countries. While treatments for childhood cancers have been shown to be remarkably successful, they are not benefiting many

inadequate investigations, ineffective treatments and poor health outcomes.

All of these deficiencies are related to the design, resourcing and performance of the country's health system, which is a composite of public, private and voluntary healthcare providers. Central and state governments together provide the governance of this mixed health system. The central government shapes policy and states steer the services, with financial resources flowing from both.

From specialists in cancer diagnostics to frontline health workers and informal care providers, the range of people engaged in cancer care is large, while their numbers are short of need. Their geographic distribution is skewed across states and urban-rural divides. Inability to adopt a pluralistic approach to cancer care deprives the benefits that can accrue from some traditional systems of medicine. While a national programme for cancer control exists, it has not kept pace with diagnostic and therapeutic advances, nor has it scaled up financial and human resources to needed levels. Primary care services must provide the platform for prevention, early diagnosis, timely referral and continuity of follow-up care. District and medical college hospitals must provide different levels of advanced diagnostic and therapeutic facilities. Private sector's capacity and skills may be engaged as needed, to supplement the public sector's capabilities.

As India shapes and strengthens its Ayushman Bharat programme, cancer care has to be firmly positioned amidst its range of publicly financed healthcare services. Cancer-related diagnostics and treatments often become prohibitively expensive for patients and impoverishing for families. Much of the high cost is due to import of equipment, diagnostic reagents and drugs. Domestic capacity for their production has to be scaled up, including production of biosimilars of highly effective drugs. Pooled procurement of drugs can effectively reduce medicine costs. The National Cancer Grid, a network of over 250 cancer centres in India, piloted pooled procurement of 40 cancer drugs. Median savings of 82 percent were achieved (range: 23 to 99 percent), with an estimated cost saving of ₹13.2 billion. Such practices, if widely adopted, can greatly reduce the financial burden on governments, patients and families.



children in low and middle income countries. The World Health Organization reports that while over 80 percent of children with cancer are cured in high-income countries, less than 30 percent in developing countries benefit. Poor cancer care results from late detection, lack of capacity in primary health care facilities, delayed referrals to more advanced healthcare facilities, limited availability of well-trained personnel and well-equipped cancer care facilities, high cost of tests and treatments, and gaps in follow-up care for treated patients. Palliative care for terminally ill patients is not widely available. Amongst the general public, there is a considerable lack of awareness of the causes, clinical manifestations, facilities and options for care. This results in delayed self-referral for evaluation,

Skilled workforce, quality consciousness for manufacturing

India needs to spend big on creating more highly skilled manpower and foster a no-compromise-on-quality environment in the country.

Tata Electronics has agreed to buy a majority stake in Apple iPhone contract manufacturer Pegatron, a Taiwanese company. Earlier, the Tata Group company had bought the Karnataka plant of another iPhone contract manufacturer, Wistron. With these acquisitions, the Tatas have become a major manufacturer of iPhones in India along with Foxconn, which remains the biggest manufacturer of Apple's flagship product.

It is indeed a big leap for mobile manufacturing in India. However, it also comes as a big responsibility for the Tatas to prove their credibility globally as a manufacturer of high-end electronic products. iPhone manufacturing in India has taken off with exports posting a 37 per cent growth to \$10.5 billion in the first seven months of the current financial year over the same period last year. But so far, most of it has been manufactured by Indian subsidiaries of Taiwanese firms. The Tatas have now emerged as a major Indian player vying for the iPhone manufacturing pie. Currently, iPhone manufacturing in



the country is mostly limited to last-stage assembling, which accounts for around 15 percent of the product's value. The government aims to increase this to 40 percent. For that to happen, local manufacturers like Tatas need to up their game. Apple has big plans for India that go beyond manufacturing 50 million iPhones a year—the

world's largest consumer electronics company also sees the country hosting its entire production process from planning and designing to mass production. If the Tata Group can prove its credibility in precision engineering and high-end manufacturing, it could also open the market for more local players.

India, which is aspiring to be a global manufacturing hub focusing on semiconductors, mobile phones and defence equipment, would depend on these local companies to prove its dependability on the global stage. But to incentivise such manufacturing, only cash or tax incentives may not suffice. The country needs to spend big on creating more highly-skilled manpower, and foster a no-compromise-on-quality environment in the country. More and more countries are looking inwards while trying to revive local manufacturing. That is why developed countries are raising non-tariff barriers for goods from emerging markets. If India needs to get over these hurdles, it needs to think beyond incentives.

History of the ancient Pallava capital

Kanchipuram was the capital city of the Pallavas—an audacious race of seafarers and temple builders—even though the city existed much before the Pallava dynasty came to be.

I bought myself a Kamakshi Deepam last week after years of wanting one. This naturally led to thoughts of the Devi at Kanchipuram, and I remembered a nice story from the holy city's annals. Sometime in the 1960s, a poor bangle-seller wandered from place to place, selling his wares. One day, he wandered into the temple town of Kanchipuram. Somehow, nobody seemed interested in buying anything. Tired and dejected by late afternoon, he sat down at the doorway of the Kanchi Kamakoti Matham.

From deep within, the Kanchi Paramacharya, renowned for his frequently amazing omniscience, suddenly told an aide, "Give the bangle-seller at the gate food and buttermilk. Ask him to wait. Quietly tell the devotees who come for evening darshan to buy bangles for their womenfolk in Devi's honour." Of course, they did, and the bangle-seller went away feeling cherished and successful. Not everyone may be in a position to perform great deeds of service, but good thoughts and small, sweet acts of kindness could be the lamps we light.

But a little on Kanchipuram itself. As many know, it's located about a two hours' drive north of Chennai. But there is a larger, deeper context. As mentioned in an earlier column in this series, there are seven mokshapuri or salvation cities in India, namely Kashi or Varanasi, Avantika or Ujjain, Ayodhya, Haridwar, Mathura, Dwaraka and Kanchipuram. Out of these, Kanchipuram is the sole mokshapuri city present in South India.

The present Kamakshi temple is variously attributed to



the Pallavas and the Cholas, to well over a millennium ago but its site and structure, according to literature, was even more ancient. The central image of the goddess is considered swayambhu or self-manifested and of imponderable antiquity.

Kanchipuram was the capital city of the Pallavas—an audacious race of seafarers and temple builders—even though the city existed much before the Pallava dynasty came to be. The earliest known mention of Kanchipuram is by Panini, the Sanskrit grammarian, in about 300 BCE. It has even featured in numerous Tamil epics of the second century CE.

Some Ashokan edicts are said to refer to the kingdom of 'Satyaputta' or Satyaputra, besides those of the Chera, Chola and Pandya in the south. One of the several names borne by Kanchi city is 'Satyavaratakshetra' so Satyaputta is understood to mean Kanchipuram.

The old word kanchi literally means the gold girdle worn around the waist by women. In the northern texts of the Bhagavatam, the city is given the name, Kamakoshnipuri Kanchi.

In this salvation city, the Kamakshi temple is the physical hub. It is also one point of a Shakti energy-triangle encapsulated in the local prayer-phrase 'Kanchi Kamakshi, Madurai Meenakshi, Kashi Vishalakshi'. The gopuras or towers of almost all the important temples of the city, standing far and near, reportedly face the shrine of Kamakshi.

Three of the 63 Tamil Shaivite saints called Nayanmar—Tirunavukkarasar, Tirugnana-sambandar and Sundarar—have apparently referred to the Kamakottam in their devotional songs. Of them, Sambandar, has even spoken of 'Kanchi Kamakoti' or the locality of the Kamakshi temple.

Besides its glory as a 'mokshapuri' or salvation city, Kanchipuram is also revered as a shakti peetham, since this where the nabhi or navel of Sati Devi is believed to have fallen. There is a count of 51 shakti peethas across the subcontinent, marking where the dismembered body parts of Sati Devi fell after her corpse was cut down from a grieving Lord Shiva's shoulder by Lord Vishnu.

The northwestern-most shakti peetham is at Hinglaj

Mata in Balochistan, where Sati's brahmarandhra or crown of her head fell, and the easternmost one is her yoni at Kamakhya Devi in Guwahati (Kamakhya means Kamakshi). So Kamakshi's temple in Kanchipuram is the southernmost shakti peetham. Here, Parasakti, having Saraswathi and Parvathi as her eyes, rules Kanchi as goddess Kamakshi. The temple sits on an area of about five acres. The vimanam of the sanctum is gold-plated. Around the complex, one can see its sannidhis and mandapas, rich in its architectural splendour.

The outer prakaram houses the temple kulam (tank), and several mandapas. It also offers imposing views of the golden vimanam, pierced with four entrances on all four sides.

There is a gold-plated pillar inside the sanctum of the Kamakshi temple with a small hole in it to represent Sati Devi's navel. Childless couples come and touch it reverently to ask for the boon of a child, and Kamakshi's reputation of centuries is that she answers their prayers. She blesses those who love her and trust her with well-being, good health and trouble-free lives. Anyone who is heartsore, weary or troubled, can go to her without needing to observe rigorous fasts or perform complicated rituals. As Adi Shankara put it in the third verse of the Bhavani Ashtakam,

Na Jaanami Daanam Na Cha Dhyana-Yogam/Na Jaanami Tantram Na Cha Stotra-Mantram/Na Jaanami Pujaam Na Cha Nyasa-Yogam/Gatis-Tvam Gatis-Tvam Tvam-Ekaa Bhavani

This means, 'Neither am I able to practise great charity, nor am I proficient in meditation, I don't know spells, hymns and prayers, nor do I know the rules of worship nor am I an expert in yoga. You are my sole refuge, Mother Bhavani.' Indeed a comforting, un-transactional relationship for devotees.

10 tips on how to give a bright and playful look to your Home



Transforming your living space into a vibrant and cheerful haven is easier than you think. With a few thoughtful changes, you can create a home that radiates not only joy but equal parts playfulness. Here are ten tips to help you achieve a space that embraces your reflection in every corner.

Incorporate Bold Textiles

Introduce colourful cushions, throws, and rugs to add a burst of freshness to your living space. Choose handwoven, quilted, or printed fabrics in vivid hues and whimsical patterns.

Add Playful Wall Art

Decorate your walls with an array of playful and bright artwork. Framed prints, tapestries, hand-painted, crochet, macrame or simply wrought iron wall hangings can infuse a touch of creativity into your home. Attempts to instantly uplift the ambience.

Opt for Radiant Curtains

Swap out your neutral curtains with clever mixes of solids and prints – from rustic slub to earthy jute to soft linens, curtains have the power to dramatically change the mood of a room.



Artisanal Tableware

Refining aesthetics that breathes new life into the dining space – from an “everyday” to a Pinterest-worthy setup – nothing freshens up a table setting like artisanal tableware. From classic bone china to vibrant ceramics – the choices are endless, weaving together functionality with a contemporary aesthetic.

Old Glory

Incorporate a sense of nostalgia and whimsy into your home decor by featuring a rustic and contemporary charm. From wicker baskets to rattan furniture and jute rugs – these pieces not only add character but also contribute to a lively and spirited atmosphere.

Introduce Statement Furniture & Decor

Incorporating a statement piece of furniture can instantly elevate any space – from a fuchsia rug to a mustard armchair to a teal coffee table; colours can uplift any ambience. But not effortlessly because these are statement pieces – if not chosen correctly they can also suffocate the space.

Use Fun Floor Cushion

Add a relaxed and playful touch to your home with floor cushions in bright hues and fun patterns. Floor seating options can make your living space more inviting and cozier.

Refresh with Cheerful Bedding

Mundane to magnificent -- bedroom is a space that has room for your optimum creativity – whether you are someone who likes minimalism or someone who enjoys vibrant prints; the versatile choices have the ability to evoke a sense of tranquility and comfort. From comforting quilts and bedspreads to cloud like

pillows, there are endless possibilities to express your unique style.

Brighten Your Kitchen Accessories

Dazzle your kitchen space with vibrant accessories – from colourful aprons to hand-painted jars to cute canisters and artisanal spoons, give your cooking space a touch of fun and personality!

Greenery with a Twist

Infuse a sense of freshness and vitality with indoor

plants – be it tropical ferns or florals, they are perfect to add a touch of harmony into your home.

Bringing It All Together

Creating a bright and playful home is all about mixing and matching colours, patterns, and textures. With thoughtful choices, you can easily transform your living space into a vibrant and cheerful sanctuary.



Vastu

Tips for new born Baby rooms

When you want to see pure innocence, look into a newborn's eyes. When a newborn comes into life, many celebrations are held, sweets are distributed, and more. But do you know one more thing necessary for child growth? It is Vastu Shastra. Yes, Vastu Shastra, the ancient Shastra, involves the guidelines for designing a room for a newborn baby.

The room location and direction :

- For a newborn, the ideal location must be in the north or east direction of the house. These directions are considered auspicious as they allow natural light and also attract positive energy.
- Also, avoid baby rooms in the southwest direction, as it attracts high negative energy that can cause problems in the life of infants.

The crib's placement:

- Always place the crib with the baby's head towards the south or east direction. This direction is known for attracting positive energy and allowing it inside to allow proper sleep.
- Also, avoid having the crib under the beam as it can create a feeling of high pressure and disturbance.

The colours and decor Choose a soothing colour



- You can use soft, soothing colours such as light blue, pale yellow, green, or the pastel shades of the walls or decor. These colours attract calmness and tranquility.
- Try to avoid dark and vibrant colours as they can create a bad atmosphere for unborn children.
- The furniture and layout:**
- Keep only the furniture that is absolutely required, and do not make the room overcrowded, as it can block positive energy flow.
- Keep the furniture rounded to ensure safety of the child, and promote a soft, gentle environment.
- The lighting:**
- Ensure that the room receives plenty of light during the day. Sunlight acts as a natural purifier and energizer.
- Also, try to use soft and warm lights in the evening. Avoid harsh or bright lights that can trouble the baby.
- The ventilation and air quality:**
- One should make the room well-ventilated to allow fresh air to circulate.
- One can also try to place purifying plants like aloe vera or spider plants in the room. But be cautious and keep them out of the baby's reach.
- Decorative elements**
- Decorate the space with symbols and images that convey happiness and optimism, such as depictions of peaceful deities, happy animals, or scenes from nature.
- Steer clear of sharp things and violent imagery in the space.
- Electronic devices**
- Keep electronic devices to a minimum in the baby's room. A device's electromagnetic fields (EMFs) can interfere with the baby's energy.
- Only keep electronic devices like baby monitors, and that too at a distance from the crib if necessary.
- The cleanliness and organization**
- Keep the room clean and clutter-free to ensure a smooth energy flow. Dust and vacuum the room regularly to maintain hygiene.
- Organize toys, clothes, and other items neatly after every playtime. A tidy room promotes a peaceful and organized mind.
- Natural elements**
- Wooden furniture is believed to bring warmth and natural energy into the space.
- Opt for natural fabrics like cotton for bedding and curtains to ensure comfort and breathability.

Implementing these Vastu guidelines can help you design a room for your newborn infant that is not only aesthetically beautiful but also beautifully in tune with the forces of nature. This well-balanced atmosphere will promote your baby's development, well-being, and happiness, giving them the ideal start in life.

Supreme Court Notice To Gujarat Government On Rape Convict Asaram's Plea

Jailed self-styled godman Asaram has filed a plea seeking suspension of the life sentence imposed on him by a trial court in a 2013 rape case.

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday sought a response from the Gujarat government on a plea filed by jailed self-styled godman Asaram seeking suspension of the life sentence imposed on him by a

trial court in a 2013 rape case. A bench of Justices M M Sundresh and Aravind Kumar told the counsel appearing for Asaram that it would examine the issue only if there are medical grounds. "We will issue notice, but we will consider only on medical conditions," the bench said while posting the matter for hearing on December 13.

The Gujarat High Court on August 29 had rejected Asaram's plea for the suspension of life imprisonment in the case by a Gandhinagar court in 2023. Refusing to suspend the sentence and grant him bail, the high court had observed that no case for relief was made out. The sessions court in January 2023 convicted Asaram in the 2013 rape case, filed by a woman who was living in his ashram near Gandhinagar at the time of the crime. Asaram is currently lodged in



Jodhpur jail in Rajasthan in another rape case.

The high court had noted that his contentions about possible delay in the disposal of his appeal, his age and the medical condition were not relevant to the grant of relief. The court had also considered the antecedents, including alleged murder of two boys at his

Sabramati ashram and attacks on witnesses and relatives of victims. "At this stage, considering the totality of the circumstances, the ground of possible delay in appeal and medical ailment, as well as ten years completion in jail, in our view, may not be relevant in considering the prayer of suspension of bail," the court had observed.

Asaram's plea had said he was the victim of a conspiracy, and the allegations of rape were false. The trial court committed an error while accepting the survivor's explanation for delay of 12 years in lodging the complaint, it submitted.

His appeal against the conviction in a rape case in Jodhpur is pending before the Rajasthan High Court. Asaram's application for suspension of sentence in that case was rejected by the Rajasthan High Court in January this year.

MCD clears encroachment on 53 km stretch

The removal of encroachments has restored several key stretches to their intended use, including improving access to densely populated and commercial areas.

NEW DELHI: The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has carried out a major anti-encroachment drive in parts of the capital, clearing a 53-kilometre-long stretch and seizing a total of 453 items in November so far.

The crackdown on unauthorised encroachments took place in the civic body's City SP Zone, covering key areas such as Shyama Prasad Mukherji Marg, Church Mission Road, Purani Delhi Railway Station, Khari Baoli, and Arya Samaj Road. In a significant move, five truckloads of items were seized during a recent drive. Five truckloads of items were seized during the drive, which was carried out with the support from the police. This included the removal of temporary structures and platforms that had occupied public spaces.

Deputy Commissioner of the City SP Zone, Abhishek Kumar Mishra, said that the MCD is committed to maintaining public spaces and ensuring community safety. "This initiative reflects our dedication to restoring public land for the benefit of the community. The operation has opened up vital public areas, promoting cleaner and safer spaces for residents," he said. The removal of encroachments has restored several key stretches to their intended use, including improving access to densely populated and commercial areas. Officials said that the operation is aimed at ensuring public land remains accessible to all and is not misused. Civic officials said that residents in the affected areas have reported a noticeable improvement in cleanliness and accessibility. The civic body has assured that monitoring efforts will continue to prevent future encroachments.

Illegal encroachments have long been a major problem for the civic body. Earlier this week, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) pulled up the corporation for its lack of transparency regarding encroachments at a public park in Hauz Khas. The green body was hearing a petition that raised concerns about illegal occupation and unauthorised constructions at Kaushalya Park in South Delhi. In May, the Delhi High Court instructed landowning bodies, including the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and the MCD, to formulate regulations for imposing charges on individuals occupying public land illegally. Currently, there is no mechanism to recover user charges or impose penalties for encroaching on public spaces. In its order dated May 27, Justice Rajnish Bhatnagar emphasized the need for accountability, stating, "Encroachers must be held liable for the extent of the illegal encroachment they commit." Encroachments over drains were one of the major causes that led to the flooding of a basement library in Rajendra Nagar on July 27 which led to the deaths of three IAS aspirants.

10 Naxals killed in encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma

New Delhi: At least 10 Naxals were killed in an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district today. The forces have also recovered several weapons, including an AK-47 rifle. The gunfight erupted early Friday morning in the forested area of Bhandarpadar when the security personnel



were conducting a search operation for Naxals. Inspector General Bastar, P Sundarraj confirmed that the search operation is still underway in the area and all 10 bodies have been recovered, reports news agency ANI. Besides the AK-47, the forces also recovered an INSAS and a Self-Loading Rifle among other weapons, he added.

OVER 200 NAXALS KILLED SO FAR IN 2024

At least 257 Naxals have been killed since January this year, while 861 were arrested and 789 others surrendered. The number of deaths has decreased by 90 per cent from the highest level of 1,005 in 2010 to 96 by September 2024. For the first time in 2022 after four decades, the number of deaths was less than 100. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had recently announced that Chhattisgarh would be completely free of Naxals by 2026. To meet this target, security forces have carried out simultaneous operations.

Flight Mode, WiFi: How Baba Siddique Murder Accused Contacted Anmol Bishnoi

New Delhi: Akashdeep Gill, arrested from Punjab for his involvement in NCP leader Baba Siddique's murder, revealed during interrogation that he used a farm labourer's hotspot to contact jailed gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's brother Anmol Bishnoi.

Using the mobile internet hotspot of a labourer named Balwinder working in his field, Gill used to also contact

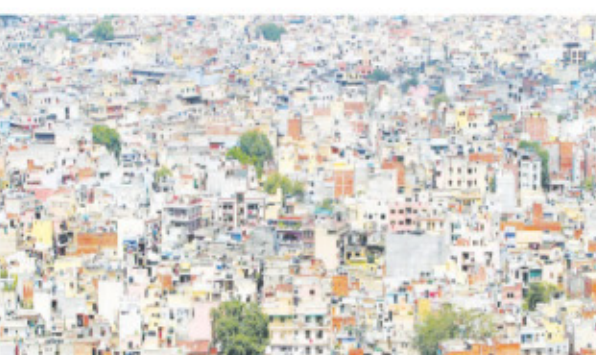


other accused in the case, including Shubham Lonkar, Zeeshan Akhtar and alleged main shooter Shiv Kumar Gautam. Usage of the labourer's hotspot would help him hide his location, Gill told the Crime Branch during his interrogation after he was arrested from Punjab's Fazilka on November 16. The accused used to keep his phone in flight mode and connect to the internet using Balwinder's hotspot.

The crime branch is currently searching for Gill's mobile phone, which may provide important clues in the case. Gill's arrest was the 24th in connection with Mr Siddique's murder. Police said he has provided logistic support in the shooting. Meanwhile, a Mumbai court had extended till November 23 the police custody of Gautam, after the police said he was not cooperating with the probe, and the weapon used in the shooting has not been recovered as yet. The four others - Anurag Kashyap, Gyan Prakash Tripathi, Akash Srivastava and Akhilendra Pratap Singh - were arrested for allegedly sheltering Gautam and helping him flee to Nepal.

2.5K RWAs flag 'glaring gaps', slam authorities over 'lack of measures' in Delhi

NEW DELHI: In the wake of growing disappointment among residents over the worsening pollution situation in the capital, the United Residents Joint Action (URJA) of Delhi, a consortium of over 2,500 Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), criticized the Centre for Air Quality Management (CAQM) and state authorities for lapses in enforcing the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). In a letter to the central body earlier this week, URJA highlighted the stark contrast between the efficient management during last year's G20 Summit and the current lackluster approach to tackling Delhi's severe air pollution. "This year, we are facing the worst of the health emergency, but CAQM actions seem in contravention of what is required on the ground. The government successfully managed traffic during the G20 Summit, ensuring smooth flow,



However, during GRAP-3 and 4 enforcements, no such measures are visible on the ground," URJA mentioned in its letter.

It further pointed out that despite the GRAP-3 ban on BS-3 petrol vehicles, these vehicles are still plying on roads unchecked, contributing to pollution. "The lack of effective enforcement by transport authorities and traffic police is alarming," it said.

The association also criticized the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the Public Works Department (PWD) for failing to

address visible garbage and construction dust, both major contributors to Delhi's deteriorating air quality.

"The drive to remove visible garbage and construction dust is not acted upon by MCD or PWD, contributing to pollution and health hazards. Effective waste management is crucial during GRAP-3 and GRAP-4 enforcement," the letter noted. URJA questioned the

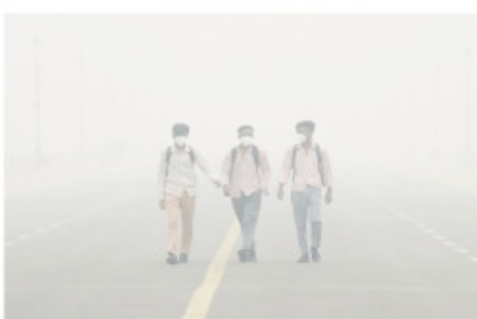
revenue department's oversight in implementing GRAP measures. "What stops the revenue department, responsible for implementation and monitoring of GRAP, from keeping a check on the use of various tools acquired by different agencies?" the association asked. The group called for a robust monitoring system to ensure effective deployment of air quality management tools. "Establishing a robust monitoring system will play a huge role in mitigating air pollution," it added.

Not Just Smog, Delhi Also Fighting "Walking Pneumonia" Cases This Season

The Delhi air crisis has led to hospitals in the capital seeing an increase in patients with respiratory ailments linked to severe air pollution in the city.

New Delhi: The air quality index (AQI) in Delhi has remained consistently in the 'severe-plus' category for the past few days, affecting healthy individuals and severely impacting those with pre-existing health conditions. The crisis has led to hospitals in the national capital seeing an increase in patients with respiratory ailments linked to severe air pollution in the city. There has also been a rise in cases of "walking pneumonia", a term that healthcare providers use to refer to an illness that is less severe than full-blown pneumonia. Bed rest or hospitalization are usually not needed, which is why it was nicknamed "walking pneumonia".

What Causes Walking Pneumonia Walking pneumonia is usually caused by a common bacterium called Mycoplasma pneumoniae. Infections caused by this bacteria are generally mild but can be severe in some cases. It is often diagnosed by a physical exam or an X-ray.



Symptoms Of Walking Pneumonia

Walking pneumonia has flu-like symptoms, including fever, sore throat and cough. A person with walking pneumonia also has some mild breathing difficulties that last longer than the standard three to five days of an acute respiratory infection.

How Walking Pneumonia Spreads

Walking pneumonia can spread when an infected person coughs or sneezes, and someone else breathes in those respiratory

droplets. It occurs most often in crowded settings, including schools and colleges.

Delhi Continues To Breathe Toxic Air

Delhi today woke up to another polluted morning with a thin layer of haze and smog engulfing the city. The air quality index (AQI), however, improved marginally but remained in the "very poor" category with particulate matter 2.5 (PM2.5) being the prominent pollutant, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

A thick layer of smog - a toxic blend of smoke and fog - has been enveloping the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) for the past few days. The AQI had plummeted to the "severe-plus" category earlier this week, forcing authorities to switch schools to online classes and invoke strict pollution control measures. An AQI between 0 and 50 is considered good, 51 and 100 satisfactory, 101 and 200 moderate, 201 and 300 poor, 301 and 400 very poor, 401 and 450 severe, and above 450 severe-plus.

BJP, Congress in letter vs letter spat over President's intervention in Manipur

New Delhi: A fresh war of words erupted between the BJP and Congress on Friday after the latter party's chief Mallikarjun Kharge wrote a letter seeking President Droupadi Murmu's intervention in Manipur due to the Centre and state government's "complete failure" in defusing the ethnic violence. Countering Kharge's allegations, BJP national president JP Nadda accused the Congress of pushing an "incorrect, false and politically motivated" narrative on the issue of the violence that erupted between the Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and tribal hills-based Kuki-Zo ethnic groups in May last year. In his two-page letter to the President on Thursday night, the Congress chief alleged that the people have lost faith in both the Central and Manipur governments, adding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "refusal" to visit the violence-hit state was "beyond anybody's understanding".



"I and my party strongly believe that the deliberate acts of omission and commission, as indeed inordinate inaction on the part of both the Central and state governments, have resulted in complete lawlessness, absence of rule of law, violations of human rights, compromise of national security and suppression of fundamental rights of citizens of our country," he said. Referring to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi's visits to the state, Kharge said that the "Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha has been in Manipur thrice in the last 18 months and I,

myself, have visited the state in this period". On Friday, in his letter to Kharge, BJP national president Nadda accused the "complete failure and ill-advised strategies" of the previous Congress governments at the Centre and in Manipur in dealing with similar issues in the past, whose repercussions are being felt even today. He also said the Congress chief seemed to have forgotten that "not only did your government legitimise the illegal migration of foreign militants to India, the then home minister P Chidambaram had signed treaties with them".

"These known militant leaders fleeing their country to avoid arrest were wholeheartedly endorsed and encouraged to carry on their destabilising efforts. This complete failure of India's security and administrative protocols under your government is one of the major reasons why militant and habitually violent organisations are

attempting to destroy the hard-won peace in Manipur and push it back several decades into the age of anarchy," the BJP chief said. Unlike the Congress, the BJP-led NDA government will not allow this to happen at any cost, he stressed, and added that the governments at the Centre and in Manipur have been working to stabilise the situation and protect people since the initial violence.

Further escalating the war of words, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said the BJP national president's letter was "full of falsehoods and is a 4D exercise - denial, distortion, distraction, and defamation". Ramesh tweeted that the people of Manipur yearning for normalcy, peace, and harmony are asking four simple questions: "When will the PM visit the state? How much longer will the CM continue to be inflicted on the state, when a majority of MLAs are not in his support? When will a full-time Governor for the state be appointed."

Impact of surface

Colour and design

On physical, mental, and social

Well-being



The colours and designs that surround us are more than just aesthetic choices, they have a profound impact on how we feel, behave, and connect with others. With the growing emphasis on health and wellness, interior surfaces play a transformative role in shaping our mental, physical, and social well-being. Surfaces such as laminates, with their diverse palette and unique textures, demonstrate how thoughtful design can elevate everyday spaces into havens of healing, creativity, and connection.

The tactile qualities of materials play a significant role in our physical experiences. Smooth, easy-to-clean surfaces contribute to improved hygiene and boost safety in our living environments. By integrating antimicrobial properties and ensuring durability, modern surface designs seamlessly blend form and function.

This balance not only makes spaces visually appealing but also supports physical health and well-being. Beyond their practical benefits, textures—whether they're soft and comforting or bold and stimulating -- can deeply influence our perception, turning ordinary spaces into places of comfort and vibrancy.

Colour psychology reveals how hues can subtly influence our emotions and state of mind. Where cool blue and green colours are recognised for their calming effect on the mind, facilitating focus and relaxation, vibrant yellow and orange tones sit in contrast to spark energy and foster a dynamic, uplifting environment. Additionally, surfaces featuring natural patterns and motifs, as a hallmark of biophilic design, blur the line between interiors and exteriors, easing stress and fostering a sense of mental well-being by reconnecting one with nature. These design choices craft environments that actively shape and enhance users' emotional experiences.

Surfaces play a pivotal role in shaping the sensory experience of a space, in addition to their aesthetic and functional benefits. The interaction of light and surface finishes, for instance, can significantly alter how a room feels—glossy surfaces reflect light, creating a sense of openness and energy, while matte finishes absorb light, fostering a more intimate, calming atmosphere. These subtle alterations in perception enable designers to manipulate spatial dynamics, creating settings that

either invigorate or relax, depending on the intended effect.

By taking these sensory aspects into account, surface design becomes a potent tool for influencing how spaces appear and how they are experienced on an emotional level. The choice of colours and textures used in a space not only influences individual comfort but also defines social dynamics.

Warm, inviting colours and engaging textures, for instance, can create a welcoming atmosphere that encourages interaction and fosters a sense of community. However, harsh or uninviting surfaces might inhibit social involvement and contribute to a feeling of isolation.

By thoughtfully selecting and designing surfaces, spaces can be designed to enhance social connectivity, support positive interactions, and promote overall well-being among occupants. In essence, surfaces are not just backdrops but are active participants in how we live, work, and connect.

The interplay between material, colour, and texture has the power to transform spaces from mere functional zones into environments that nurture mental, physical, and social well-being. Through creative surface design, we can reshape interiors and influence the lives lived within them.



Add mulch, make pebble trays: Protect

Plants

Amid heatwaves



As the capital continues to battle the summer heat, like you and your pets, your plants and terrace gardens need extra care and attention too. We ask Delhi-based plant care experts for some tips. "Plants may experience heat shocks in this weather. The heatwave is harsh on everyone. The hot air burn up the leaves, making them crisp. Low humidity levels add to the stress. Tropical houseplants suffer the most because they thrive best in humid areas. The current situation is causing browning of leaves, pre-mature shedding of flowers and stunted fruit growth. Plants may experience heat shock and fail to survive," says Aditi Khattar, an urban landscape designer and founder of The Greenish Affair.

Annu Sharma, a plant expert and content creator (@plantsjunkies), says, "This year, plants are either drying up or their leaves are getting burnt due to high temperatures and hot air. Just like humans, plants also experience garm-sard if water is given during the day, damaging their roots. Indoor

plants are also affected due to the excessive use of air conditioners that lower the humidity in the room. I suggest plant parents make DIY pebble trays, fill them with water, and let their plants sit on them to enjoy much-required humidity.

"While paying extra attention is crucial, some plants like money plant, monstera, areca palm, ZZ plant are still doing well indoors. Snake plant, syngonium, cactus, dragon fruit, jade, aloe vera are faring well outdoors in this weather," adds plant expert Varun Sharma.

Sanchaita, plantscape designer and owner of Baagh Bagicha in Noida, says, "Leaves are getting scorched in Delhi

summers even if they are kept in places that don't get direct sun. Plants like traveller's palms and ficus, which enjoy direct sun, are suffering too. I suggest moving plants to shaded places, to prevent them from drying out quickly. Adding cocopeat to your pots will help the soil retain moisture.

"Tending tips Check your watering schedule – water your plants in the early morning hours or late evening to ensure absorption. Mulch the soil with organic materials like husk and coco peat to help the soil retain moisture. You can add organic kitchen scrap, wood chips or dried neem leaves! If your plants are getting sunburns, shift

them to a shaded area! If you have a sun-facing balcony or a terrace garden, use a green net providing 75% shade. Keep humidity-loving plants huddled together. Keep plants on top of pebble trays filled with water or use affordable, electric humidifiers to help plants stay healthy. Spray water on plants in the evenings. Avoid repotting plants, until necessary.

Plants take time to adjust after repotting and they may experience shock too, so it is not advised to repot plants during peak summers. Prune dead branches and leaves regularly.

NTPC Green IPO booked 93% on Day 2

NEW DELHI: The initial public offer of NTPC Green Energy Ltd, the renewable energy arm of NTPC, got subscribed 93 per cent on the second day of bidding on Thursday. The share sale received bids for 54,96,35,370 shares compared to 59,31,67,575 shares on offer, as per NSE data.

The Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) category attracted 2.38 times subscription while the Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) part got subscribed 75%. The portion for non-institutional investors received 34% subscription. NTPC Green



Energy has mobilised Rs 3,960 crore from anchor investors. The Rs 10,000 crore initial share sale is entirely a fresh issuance of equity shares with no offer-for-sale (OFS) component. The issue has a price band of Rs 102-108 per share. Proceeds from the IPO to the tune of Rs 7,500 crore will be used to repay or prepay part or all of its subsidiary NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd's (NREL) outstanding loans and a portion will be utilised for general corporate purposes. NTPC Green Energy is a 'Maharatna' central public sector enterprise with a renewable energy portfolio, including solar and wind power assets. IDBI Capital Markets & Securities, HDFC Bank, IIFL Capital Services Ltd (formerly known as IIFL Securities Ltd) and Nuvama Wealth Management are the book-running lead managers to the issue.

CIL allows coal supplies beyond agreed quantity

NEW DELHI: In a bid to enhance coal availability for non-regulated sector (NRS) customers, Coal India Limited (CIL) has tweaked its policy to allow coal supplies beyond the annual contracted quantity (ACQ) during long-term linkage auctions. The decision, effective November 13, 2024, will be implemented starting with the upcoming Tranche VIII linkage auction, which will first cover the cement and captive power plant sub sectors.

"We have introduced a slew of customer-friendly initiatives recently to make increased availability of coal easier to our consumers and this is one such step" said a senior official of CIL.

This policy shift comes in response to requests from NRS customers who have sought coal supplies beyond the 85% capacity norm previously in place. Earlier, NRS customers could only obtain coal up to the quantity that would sustain operations at 85% of their plant's installed capacity for an entire year. Any requirement above this had to be procured through other means. With the latest change, customers in the NRS category can now access coal beyond their ACQ.

Zepto Raises 350 Million in Domestic Funding Round

New Delhi: Zepto on Friday announced a \$350 million fundraise in its latest round that the quick commerce company said marks the largest 100 per cent domestic fundraise within India's startup ecosystem. The round included investments from Indian HNIs, family offices, and leading financial institutions. The fundraise was led exclusively by Motilal Oswal's Private Wealth division. The fundraise saw participation from several family offices and investors including Motilal Oswal AMC and Raamdeo Agarwal, the Taparia Family Office, Mankind Pharma Family Office, Cello Family Office, Haldiram Snacks Family Office, Sekhsaria Family Office, Kalyan Family Office, Happy Forgings Family Office, Mothers Recipe Family Office (Desai Brothers) and notable individuals like Abhishek Amitabh Bachchan and



Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar, among others.

"This round reflected the growing commitment of Indian investors to back transformative startups", Zepto said. This "landmark funding" comes at a time when India's economy is accelerating its shift toward domestically driven growth, Zepto said.

"When we started this venture, the risk appetite among domestic investors was limited, especially to trust 18-year-olds with their money. Today, we are humbled to have reached a place in India's economic growth where we have not only fostered that trust but also spearheaded a fundraise of this magnitude, which will hopefully set a precedent for the startups that follow," Aadit Palicha, CEO and Co-founder of Zepto said.

Ashish Shanker, MD and CEO, Motilal Oswal Private Wealth, said Motilal Oswal is a strong believer in the future of digital businesses, particularly quick commerce players like Zepto, as potential free cash flow powerhouses. "India's biggest and marquee family office clients of Motilal Oswal Private Wealth share this excitement and have participated in this once-in-a-lifetime journey of value creation," Shanker said.

Silver Outshines Gold; ETFs Grow Over Four-Fold To Rs 12,331 Crore In October 2024

NEW DELHI: Silver sales witnessed a sharp spike in the recent weeks, especially ahead of Dhanteras this year. Investors not only bought it in physical form but also in the form of exchange-traded funds (ETF). Silver has given an impressive return of 20.25 per cent in the past six months, compared with gold's return of 10.29 per cent. Rating agency ICRA in its report said the total number of folios under silver ETFs increased by nearly 215 per cent to touch 4.47 lakh in October 2024, up from 1.42 lakh in the same period last year. Net inflows grew by 24 per cent at Rs 643.10 crore in October 2024, as against Rs 518.02 crore last year. Silver ETFs registered an unprecedented surge with the assets under management (AUM) growing by over four-fold to touch Rs 12,331 crore in October 2024, up



from Rs 2,844.76 crore in October 2023, it added. While gold ETFs have been in the market for quite some time now, silver ETFs were launched as recently as 2022. According to ICRA, the average returns for a 1-month, 3-months, 6-months and 1-year period was in the range of 7.57 per cent, 16.02 per cent, 20.25 per cent and 32.49 per cent respectively. This is in contrast to an average return of 5.32 per

cent, 14.29 per cent, 10.29 per cent and 28.07 per cent generated by Gold ETFs over 1-month, 3-months, 6-months and 1-year duration respectively.

Absolute returns for less than 1 year; compound annualised returns for greater than or equal to 1 year. Returns as on October 31, 2024. (Source: ICRA Analytics) Ashwini Kumar, senior vice-president and head (market data) at ICRA Analytics, said, "The number of silver ETFs, which stood at 8 in April 2023, has increased to 12 in August 2024. If domestic inflationary pressures and geopolitical instability continue to persist, then silver may continue to witness upbeat demand. The market may see the launch of more Silver ETFs in the coming months as its role in investor portfolio diversification, investment and

management becomes more crucial." Silver ETFs managed to garner the attention of the investors within a short period of time. It is being increasingly preferred over physical form as investing in physical silver is challenging due to storage-related issues, he added.

Silver prices are expected to remain attractive as the expectation is that the U.S. Federal Reserve will continue to cut interest rates in the coming months giving a boost to silver prices. Besides, geopolitical tensions may prompt risk-averse investors to invest in safe-haven assets like silver. Demand for silver is expected to remain upbeat due to its usage in electronics and green technologies. Moreover, investors often prefer investment in silver for portfolio diversification and it is often seen as a hedge against inflation. This apart, cut in customs duty and change in taxation structure has made silver investment more attractive," Kumar said.

Adani shares sink again after bribery charges in US against founder, top executives

MUMBAI: Shares in billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate sunk again Friday after US charges alleging the tycoon paid more than \$250 million in bribes to secure lucrative government contracts rattled investor confidence. Wednesday's bombshell indictment in New York accused Adani and multiple subordinates of deliberately misleading international investors as part of the bribery scheme. Adani, once the world's second-richest man, is seen as a close ally of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and critics have long accused him of improperly benefitting from their relationship. Shares in Adani Enterprises, his conglomerate's main listed unit, sank more than four percent in morning trade, with similar losses in its listed ports and power subsidiaries. Frenzied sell-offs on Thursday triggered



multiple trading halts and Adani Enterprises has now lost more than a quarter of its market capitalisation since the indictment was released. Adani Group issued a stiff denial of the charges against its directors on Thursday, describing them as "baseless" and announcing it would pursue "all possible legal recourse".

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi called for Adani's arrest after the indictment was announced, but said his relationship with Modi would shield him from scrutiny. "We demand that Adani be immediately arrested. But we know that won't happen as Modi is protecting him," Gandhi told reporters in New Delhi. Wednesday's indictment accuses Adani and multiple subordinates of paying bribes to Indian officials for solar energy supply contracts projected to generate more than \$2 billion in after-tax profits. None of the multiple defendants named in the case are in custody. Modi's government has yet to comment on the charges but a spokesman for his ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Amit Malviya, said the indictment appeared to implicate opposition parties rather than his own.

Sebi abolishes 1% security deposit rule with exchanges before public issue launches

NEW DELHI: Capital markets regulator Sebi on Thursday did away with the requirement of a mandatory security deposit with the exchanges before a public issue in a bid to facilitate ease of doing business for issuer companies.

This measure has been taken with the aim of facilitating ease of doing business for issuing companies. The new rule effective immediately. Earlier, a company looking to launch a public issue had to deposit with the stock exchanges an amount equal to 1% of issue size. The deposit would go back to the company after the issue. "In order to facilitate ease of doing business, the requirement to deposit 1% of the issue size available for subscription to the public with the stock exchange by the issuers under... Sebi (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018 (ICDR Regulations) has been dispensed with," Sebi said.

In February, the Securities and Exchange



Board of India floated a consultation paper proposing the requirement of 1% security deposit for public or rights issues should be done away with. Explaining the rationale behind the move, the regulator had stated that the requirement of 1% security deposit was put in place for public/rights issues so an issuer resolves investor complaints relating to transaction like for refund of application money, allotment of securities and dispatch of

certificates. However, considering various reforms and present framework for public or rights issues like application via ASBA (Application Supported by Blocked Amount) UPI mode of payment, mandatory allotment in demat, among others, the concerns relating to post-issue investor complaints regarding refund of application money, non-dispatch of physical certificates does not arise, it had added.

TCS, Infosys, HCLTech: Nifty IT Index Gains 2% On US Labor Market Data

A healthier US labor market is a positive signal for Indian IT firms, which generate a significant portion of their revenue from the US market.

New Delhi: The Nifty IT index jumped nearly 2 per cent on November 22, driven by strong US labor market data. Initial jobless claims in the US fell by 6,000 to a seasonally adjusted 213,000 for the week ending November 16, marking a seven-month low. This suggests a potential rebound in U.S. job growth for November, following a slowdown caused by hurricanes and strikes last month. A healthier US labor market is a positive signal for Indian IT firms, which generate a significant portion of their revenue from the US market. At 12:15 PM, the

Nifty IT index was up 1.42 per cent at 42,550, with TCS, Infosys, and HCLTech leading the gains. This marked the third consecutive day of gains for the index. After declines of 2 per cent in September and 3.7 per cent in October, the Nifty IT index has rebounded with a gain of over 5 per cent so far in November. All ten stocks in the IT index were trading higher, with individual gains ranging from 1 per cent to 2 per cent.

Shares of midcap IT firm Mphasis were the top gainers on the Nifty IT index, rising nearly 3 per cent in early trading. The surge followed the company's announcement as the "Official Digital Partner" of the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team. Haas Formula LLC, which operates as the MoneyGram Haas F1 Team, is a US-based Formula One team founded in April 2014 by Gene Haas, who also owns a NASCAR Cup Series team. Mphasis revealed it will collaborate with the team to develop innovative



solutions to enhance on-track performance and improve operational efficiency off the track. Shares of HCLTech also attracted attention after a recent report from Morgan Stanley highlighted that the company's US operations are well-positioned to mitigate risks from potential changes in US visa regulations, particularly if Donald Trump returns to the White

House. Around 80% of HCLTech's US-based employees are non-visa dependent, which strengthens the company's position.

In a November 19 research note, Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research stated that revenue growth for Indian IT companies has likely bottomed out and expects an acceleration to 8% YoY growth in FY26, compared to just 1% or 4% in FY24/FY25E. The expected growth is driven by improving demand trends, deal ramp-ups, and a recovery in the small deal pipeline. Key factors to watch, according to Goldman Sachs, include the revival of discretionary spending by enterprises, as reflected in the increase in the small deal pipeline, and the emerging monetizable opportunities from generative AI. However, the brokerage warned that prolonged macroeconomic weakness and the deflationary impact of generative AI could present risks for IT companies.

Zinka Logistics Solutions Lists At 2.9% Premium, Later Falls Into Red: Should You Hold, Sell Or Buy?

NEW DELHI: Zinka Logistics Solutions IPO Listing: Zinka Logistics Solutions Ltd (or BlackBuck Ltd) was on Friday saw a positive listing on major stock indices BSE and NSE. The shares were listed at Rs 280.90 apiece on the NSE, which is a 2.89 per cent premium over the IPO issue price of Rs 273. The shares later turned red falling up to 8.98 per cent to Rs 260.2 apiece, as compared to its day's high of Rs 285.9 apiece. On the BSE, the shares were listed at Rs 279.05 apiece, which is a 2.21 per cent profit over the issue price.

The IPO was originally listed on Thursday but was later postponed its listing to Friday. As per norms, a company is mandated to list its shares within three days of the IPO closing date (T+3). The listing gain comes after the GMP that had indicated a flat listing or negative listing for the IPO. The initial public offering of digital platform for truck operators Zinka Logistics Solutions Ltd was opened for subscription between November 13 and November 18. The Rs 1,100-crore IPO received a 1.87 times subscription garnering bids for 4,19,43,258 shares as against the 2,24,70,786 shares on offer.

Zinka Logistics Solutions IPO: What Should Investors Do?

Shivani Nyati, head of wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said, "While the positive listing is encouraging, it's crucial for investors to conduct thorough due diligence and assess the company's long-term growth prospects.... Investors should remain cautious due to the company's past financial challenges, including losses and negative cash flow, and the ongoing legal challenges."

The company's strong network effects and position as a leading platform in the logistics industry have likely contributed to the positive listing, she added.

Zinka Logistics Solutions IPO: More Details

Zinka Logistics Solutions had mobilised over Rs 501 crore from anchor investors, a day before its initial share-sale opening for public subscription.

The IPO is a combination of a fresh issue of shares worth Rs 550 crore and an offer of sale (OFS) of up to 2.06 crore shares. The OFS by promoters and investor selling shareholders is valued at Rs 565 crore at the upper end of the price band. A discount of Rs 25 per equity share was offered to eligible employees bidding in the employee reservation portion. Proceeds from the fresh issue to the extent of Rs 200 crore will be used for sales and marketing initiatives; Rs 140 crore for investment in BlackBuck Finserve for financing the supporting the capital base to meet future capital requirements; Rs 75 crore for funding of expenditure in relation to product development, and a portion will be used for general corporate purposes.

NEWS BOX

KL Rahul's controversial dismissal: Ex India cricketers fume at decision in Perth



New Delhi. India batter KL Rahul's dismissal on Day 1 of the 1st Test at Optus Stadium in Perth has sparked controversy. The cricketing world stand divided over the contentious call of giving Rahul out. However, many former India cricketers fumed over the third umpire's decision. Rahul, who looked solid while opening, was involved in a controversial decision. The incident happened during the 23rd over of India's batting when the team was already struggling, having lost three quick wickets. Rahul had scored a hard-fought 26 and was looking to tire the Australian bowlers, who were breathing fire on the pacy and bouncy pitch of Perth. Rahul looked to defend Mitchell Starc's delivery that angled across him. The ball went close past his bat and was caught by Alex Carey behind the wickets. The Australians appealed and the on-field umpires ruled it not out. The review showed a spike on Snicko, which indicated contact of the ball with the bat. However, it remained inconclusive if the noise came from the pad first or the bat. Despite ambiguity over the same, the third umpire gave Rahul out. Many argued that lack of a definitive front-on angle could have resulted in the benefit of doubt being given to the batter. Here is what the former India cricketers and experts had to say. Rahul eventually departed at 26 as India found themselves in further trouble.

Will face UFC light heavyweight champion Alex Pereira eventually: Carlos Ulberg

New Delhi. It is safe to say that Carlos Ulberg is a rising star in the UFC's light heavyweight division. With 11-1 record in his MMA career, the Black Jag has eyes firmly set on UFC gold and is making the climb up the ladder. However, Alex Pereira sits on top of the mountain at the moment and has been on a tear since winning the gold. Ulberg is all set to make his return to the octagon during the UFC Fight Night: Yan vs. Figueiredo event on November 23 and will be up against Volkan Oezdemir. The 34-year-old is entering the octagon for the first time since May this year and during this time, Pereira went on to defend his title twice. Ulberg has claimed that he has been watching Poatan for quite some time and during an exclusive interview with Indiatoday.in, went on to reveal that it is inevitable that he would lock horns with the Brazilian eventually.

In some of your old interviews, you mentioned Alex Pereira. You said you had been studying him for a while. What were you looking at, and do you feel you're the man to stop him in this division? Ulberg: Not necessarily studying him, like watching his every move, but he's been at the top, and when you're at the top, everyone wants to be the man. I've been keeping an eye on him.



He's done a great job, and I respect what he's achieved as a champion. Eventually, I know we'll face each other. India Today: Realistically, how many fights do you think you need to win to face someone like Alex Pereira for the title? Ulberg: It could happen at any point. If we put on a great show this weekend, and the bosses are happy, things might fall into place. But I'd say I'm one or two fights away from a title shot. For now, I'm focused on Volkan. He's a tough, experienced fighter with power, so I need to be cautious.

Looking at your current fight against Volkan, your last fight was in May. You've had fights cancelled against Anthony Smith, Jamahal Hill, and Dominick Reyes due to injuries and other reasons. Coming off such a long gap, how do you prepare mentally and physically for this fight? Ulberg: Nothing really changes because anything can happen. I'm preparing for Volkan, but I also keep in mind that an opponent can change at the last minute. I've been doing the same work, going to the gym, and conditioning my body. We've also fine-tuned certain details specific to Volkan, but the main focus is just putting in the work.

Cricket Australia to honour Phillip Hughes on 10th anniversary of tragic death

Cricket Australia will observe a sombre tribute to mark the 10th anniversary of Phillip Hughes' tragic death. Flags will be flown at half-mast, and players will wear black armbands as a sign of respect and remembrance for the late cricketer.

New Delhi. A Cricket Australia (CA) has announced a series of tributes to honour the late Phillip Hughes, marking the 10-year anniversary of his tragic death. Flags will be flown at half-mast, and players will wear black armbands across all matches during

the upcoming Sheffield Shield round, which kicks off two weeks of commemorations for the beloved cricketer. Hughes, who passed away on November 27, 2014, after being struck on the neck by a bouncer during a domestic match at the SCG, was just days away from celebrating his 26th birthday. His death remains one of the darkest moments in Australian sport, and the 10th anniversary serves as an emotional milestone for those who knew him personally and professionally. As part of the commemorations, Hughes' former team, South Australia, will face Western Australia in Adelaide starting Saturday. Meanwhile, Hughes' childhood team, New South Wales (NSW), will play Tasmania at the SCG on Sunday, with Queensland taking on Victoria at the Gabba. In all three matches, players will wear black armbands and a moment of silence will be observed on the fourth day of play. For the Sydney and Brisbane matches, the final day of play will coincide with the exact anniversary of Hughes' passing.



Cricket Australia has also chosen to honour Hughes during the upcoming Adelaide Test between Australia and India, which begins on December 6. This match, nearly 10 years after the first Test following Hughes' death, will feature a special celebration of Hughes' life and career, with a documentary filmed in collaboration with his family. The documentary will be aired before play begins, offering a reflective tribute to the cricketer who made an indelible impact on the sport.

"We understand this will be a time of reflection for the many people who knew and admired Phillip Hughes," Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley said. "We wanted to ensure that the Hughes family, particularly, were comfortable with any commemorations and that we celebrate Phillip's life and incredible achievements appropriately."

"Hughes' sudden passing sent shockwaves through the cricketing world, and his death left a profound mark on the game. At the time, Hughes had been in line for a recall to the Australian team after a strong performance in domestic cricket."

His tragic death left the cricketing community grappling with how to move forward, but it also brought about significant changes to player safety, including improvements in head and neck protection. In a symbolic gesture, Hughes was posthumously named Australia's 13th man for the first Test following his death. At that match, a minute of applause was observed before play, marking the beginning of a long period of mourning and reflection within the cricketing world.

First since 2021 Gabba, India play Test without Ravindra Jadeja and R Ashwin

New Delhi. India's experienced spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja were benched in the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia in Perth. Their absence paves the way for Washington Sundar to play as the lone spinner, a decision confirmed by captain Jasprit Bumrah at the toss. "Washi is the lone spinner," Bumrah said after winning the toss, confirming his selection. The last time both Jadeja and Ashwin were absent from India's Test lineup was the iconic Gabba Test in January 2021. Jadeja missed the match due to a fractured thumb, while Ashwin was sidelined with back issues. It was in this match that Washington Sundar made his Test debut, delivering a memorable all-round performance. Sundar claimed four wickets and scored a vital half-century, forming a crucial partnership with Shardul Thakur to help India secure a historic victory at Brisbane, breaking



Australia's unbeaten streak at the Gabba. Since his debut, Sundar has played only a handful of Tests, but his adaptability to Australian conditions remains a significant factor. With a batting average of 42 in Australia and bowling spells that showcase control and consistency, Sundar's potential has made him a compelling choice. The absence of Ashwin and Jadeja is surprising for many Australian experts, given their consistent performances for India. Ashwin,

with 3,474 Test runs and over 470 wickets, and Jadeja, with 3,235 runs and 275 wickets, have been central to India's Test dominance over the years. Both players also offer significant depth to the batting lineup, making their exclusion notable. Former Australian cricketer Michael Hussey expressed surprise at the decision, noting, "Ashwin and Jadeja can help out with the bat as well. Their experience would have been valuable."

Sundar's selection reflects India's strategy to exploit Australia's left-handed-heavy batting lineup. Australia's top seven features five left-handers, including Usman Khawaja and Travis Head. Sundar's ability to turn the ball away from left-handers provides a tactical edge, especially on a track likely to assist spinners as the match progresses. Additionally, Sundar's recent domestic and international form has been promising.

Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Nitish Reddy, Harshit Rana make Test debuts in Perth

Perth. All-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy and pacer Harshit Rana made their Test debuts in the opening match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy starting in Perth on Friday. While Nitish made his India debut in the T20I series against Bangladesh, this is Harshit's maiden India cap. Rana, who impressed with his performances for the Kolkata Knight Riders in IPL 2024, earned a spot in the Indian team and will be part of India's playing XI in the series opener. Rana has experience in 10 first-class matches, where he has taken 43 wickets. In addition to his bowling, the right-arm pacer has contributed 469 runs, including one century and two fifties.

Nitish's milestone comes just a month after his impactful T20I debut, marking his rapid rise in international cricket. With Jasprit Bumrah leading India in Rohit Sharma's absence, Reddy's all-round capabilities will be vital against a formidable Australian attack. On the other hand, Harshit Rana, who will turn 23 next month, is a seamer in the Indian side. While Reddy's strength lies in batting,



Rana's forte is bowling. He can bowl fast, hit the deck hard, and has effective pace variations. His IPL franchise, Kolkata Knight Riders, recognised his talent even before his domestic side, Delhi. Rana was the joint fourth-highest wicket-taker in IPL 2024 and played a key role in KKR's title win. In first-class cricket, Rana has 43 wickets at an average of 24.00 and 469 runs at an average of 42.63. Notably, he scored an unbeaten 122 off just 86 balls, including nine sixes, though this remarkable knock came against a weaker North-East Zone side.

NO ROHIT SHARMA, SHUBMAN GILL

India's preparations for the series opener faced setbacks with Rohit Sharma ruled out following the birth of his second child and Shubman Gill sidelined due to a thumb fracture. These challenges left fans eager to see the replacements for such key players in a series pivotal to India's hopes of securing a spot in the World Test Championship Final. Nitish Kumar Reddy burst onto the scene with a stellar 2024 IPL season, earning the Emerging Player of the Year award after scoring 303 runs for Sunrisers Hyderabad at an impressive strike rate of 142.92.

His performances garnered national attention and led to his T20I debut against Bangladesh, where he impressed with a fiery 74-run knock, cementing his reputation as a promising all-rounder. Facing a lineup featuring Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood, skipper Pat Cummins, and veteran spinner Nathan Lyon, Reddy's inclusion adds a fresh dynamic to India's XI. The youngster will have the opportunity to make an immediate impact in what promises to be a high-stakes Test match.

Starc-Hazlewood remove Jaiswal-Padikkal, complete 400 wickets as Aussie new-ball pair

New Delhi. The pace duo of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood scripted history by becoming the first Australian new-ball attack to claim 400 Test wickets during Day 1 of the first Border-Gavaskar Trophy Test against India at Perth Stadium on Friday. The dynamic duo delivered early blows to India's top order, with Starc dismissing Yashasvi Jaiswal for a duck in the third over. Hazlewood followed up shortly after, removing debutant Devdutt Padikkal for a 23-ball nought. Their exploits left India reeling at the start of the high-stakes encounter. Starc, who debuted in 2011, now boasts an impressive 358 Test wickets at an average of 27.74. He ranks as Australia's fourth-highest wicket-taker in Tests and is second only to Glenn McGrath among pacers. Hazlewood, who began his Test journey in 2014, has amassed 273 wickets in 70 matches at an average of 24.82. Together, the pair have featured in 54 Tests, forming a formidable trio with skipper Pat Cummins. The triumvirate was instrumental in Australia's victory over India in the 2023



World Test Championship final, showcasing their ability to dominate high-pressure scenarios. India, batting first after stand-

captain Jasprit Bumrah won the toss, found themselves in trouble against Australia's relentless pace attack. Jaiswal's dismissal off

an inswinging delivery from Starc set the tone, while Hazlewood's probing line accounted for Padikkal. KL Rahul has been the steady force for India after early setbacks in the first Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy against Australia at Perth Stadium. Rahul witnessed both Yashasvi Jaiswal and debutant Devdutt Padikkal fall for ducks to the fiery pace of Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood. Starc struck first, dismissing Jaiswal with the first ball of his second over. Padikkal, filling in for the injured Shubman Gill at No. 3, battled for 23 deliveries but eventually fell to Starc without scoring. Rahul, who opened the innings alongside Jaiswal, was later joined by Virat Kohli as India looked to rebuild amid relentless pressure from Starc, Hazlewood, and Pat Cummins. Earlier in the day, India's stand-in captain Jasprit Bumrah won the toss and opted to bat first. In a surprising team selection, the visitors left out experienced spinners Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja, opting instead for Washington Sundar as the lone spinner.

IPL 2025 to begin on March 14, window for next three seasons announced: Sources

New Delhi. The Indian cricket board (BCCI) has confirmed the dates for the next three seasons of the Indian Premier League (IPL). The 2025 season will commence on March 14 and conclude with the final on May 25. The 2026 season will run from March 15 to May 31, while the 2027 season is scheduled from March 14 to May 30, India Today has learnt. The BCCI communicated the dates for the 2025, 2026, and 2027 seasons to the franchisees on Friday morning. This early announcement underscores the board's commitment to capitalising on the IPL's immense popularity. It also highlights IPL's pivotal position in the international cricket calendar and the priority it commands. Notably, this is a departure from



the organisers' past practice of delaying the release of schedules, offering a welcome change for stakeholders.

IPL WINDOW: 2025-2027

IPL 2025: March 14 - May 25.

IPL 2026: March 15 - May 31.

IPL 2027: March 14 - May 30.

Notably, all three finals fall on Sundays, allowing the IPL to give maximum visibility for the marquee match of each season.

The clarity regarding the IPL's scheduling for the next three years is likely to delight franchise owners, who are set to convene for the mega auction in Jeddah on Sunday and Monday, November 24 and 25. The clear definition of the window will also allow overseas players to prioritise their commitments and avoid last-minute withdrawals. The International Cricket Council has already been keen on not letting major bilateral series clash with the IPL. The BCCI had plans to increase the number of matches in the IPL to ensure that it runs for 10 and half weeks and looking at the windows set aside, it looks imminent that the league's game count will increase. The BCCI has also decided to include injury-prone England pacer Jofra Archer, Indian-born American pacer Saurabh Netravalkar and uncapped Mumbai-wicketkeeper-batter Hardik Tamore in the two-day mega players' auction to be held in Jeddah from Sunday, PTI news agency said

Shalini Passi

Says She's Against Plastic Surgery, Calls It 'Superficial': 'Some Sort Of Insecurity...'



Shalini Passi has said that she is against cosmetic surgery and anything superficial for her skin. When she made her debut on Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives, her flawless skin caught everyone's attention. Seema Sajdeh even asked her for her doctor's number. However, Shalini swears by her diet and routine for good skin. Shalini told the Hindustan Times, "My beauty skin mantra is that you are what you eat... I think having a very tight regime is so important. I think people who do go for drastic things, I mean, these getting cosmetic changes do come out of some sort of insecurity. Always look for other options like exercise. I mean, exercising can make you a really fit body. And I'm totally against superficial, another knife kind of a situation."

After a sensational debut, Shalini is in talks for more shows and is even open to movie offers. "I have been receiving a lot of shows... There's been a lot of interest for talk shows and as well as other things, but we are just in talks with all that and let's see what comes out of it. And will be definitely willing to take up offers for acting though I'm not an actress if the roles that the producers feel suit me would be happy to do that," she said. Shalini also addressed the positive feedback that has come her way and said, "I'm absolutely overwhelmed and really humbled by the response. I had expected some fame with the series as it's a very popular series and it's on Netflix which is such a huge platform. But what I had not anticipated was the love. The love that is pouring over the internet." She said, "People are calling me the pop-culture icon, the national sweetheart... The love is coming from everybody. It's little girls, grandmothers, women, men, everybody is just reaching out, and they're saying such affectionate things, which is heartwarming for me". "My husband hasn't seen the series yet, and my son watched it with his friends as I was in Mumbai. And he loved it, his friends loved it, and my son was very happy with the outcome and the love that has been showered on me," she concluded.



Mahesh Babu And Family Celebrate His Sister's Birthday And How



Often low-key about his personal life, Mahesh Babu leaves fans excited whenever he gets spotted with his loved ones. In one such rare appearance, the actor recently celebrated his sister Manjula Ghattamaneni's birthday. Manjula's special day, marked by an intimate get-together, had her close-knit family members in attendance. Besides the actor, the picture also featured his near and dear ones including his wife Namrata Shirodkar and their daughter Sitara Ghattamaneni. The caption attached to the post read, "Still feeling the birthday love! Here's another favourite moment from my special day—grateful for all the joy, laughter, and love. Cheers to making more memories!" Posing with his sisters for the family photo, the actor sported a rugged look, flaunting his beard which he has presumably kept for his anticipated project with SS Rajamouli, tentatively titled SSMB29. For the family get-together, the Telugu superstar was dressed in an olive green check shirt paired with matching solid pants and a cap for a stylish look.

Look closely and one can also spot Mahesh Babu's brother-in-law Sudheer Babu in the picture who also made sure to attend the gathering. Additionally, Mahesh's nephew Jayakrishna Ghattamaneni was also a part of the celebrations. Interestingly, Jayakrishna is all set to make his debut in films. Back in October, Namrata Shirodkar had also shared a picture of all three of her sisters-in-laws on her IG stories. Posing along with them, Namrata penned a heartfelt birthday note for her youngest sister-in-law Priyadarshini.

On the work front, Mahesh Babu has been in the news for his role in the highly anticipated film, tentatively titled SSMB29. The details of the film have been kept under wraps but the actor reportedly underwent intense training, ensuring that he gets into the skin of the character for the film perfectly. With the latest picture surfaced online, it can be speculated that Mahesh Babu will be seen in a rugged look in his upcoming film. While the shooting for the project is yet to begin, the actor appears to be spending quality time with family and loved ones.

The Raja Saab: Prabhas And Malavika Mohanan To Set The Screen Ablaze In A Romantic Song, Deets Inside



Malavika Mohanan, one of the most desirable actors in Indian cinema, is all set to make her Telugu debut in the much-anticipated film The Raja Saab. Paired opposite pan-India superstar and box office sensation Prabhas, Malavika is gearing up to dazzle audiences with her first venture into the Telugu film industry. With the pairing of these two powerhouses, fans are eagerly awaiting the sizzling on-screen chemistry they are expected to bring to the table. Adding to the excitement, a source close to the production has revealed that the duo will soon shoot a romantic song for the movie. "Malavika and Prabhas will be shooting a hot romantic song for The Raja Saab. The song's shooting will take place in Europe around January and February," the source disclosed. The anticipation for this sequence is already building, with fans expecting a visually stunning and emotionally charged moment.

The Raja Saab is shaping up to be one of the most talked-about films of the year. Directed by the acclaimed filmmaker Maruthi, the movie promises a unique blend of horror and comedy, a genre mix that has intrigued audiences. With Prabhas at the helm as the lead, the film is already being touted as a major release for 2024. Joining Malavika Mohanan and Prabhas in the cast is Nidhi Agerwal, who will play another key role. Together, the trio is expected to deliver a cinematic experience that blends humor, thrills, and romance. Malavika Mohanan has been steadily carving her niche in the Indian film industry with her exceptional performances across multiple regional cinemas. She began her journey with Pattam Pole (2013) in Malayalam and went on to deliver memorable roles in Tamil and Hindi cinema. Her recent films, including Christy (2023) and the much-awaited Thangalaan (2024), have established her as a versatile actor capable of taking on diverse characters.

Her Bollywood debut in Yudhra alongside Siddhant Chaturvedi further cemented her presence as a pan-India star. With The Raja Saab, Malavika is ready to expand her horizons and win over Telugu audiences. She's also slated to star alongside Karthi in the spy thriller Sardar 2, ensuring her presence across multiple high-profile projects in the coming year.

Priyanka Chopra

Flaunts Her Toned Tummy In Jacket She Stole From Nick Jonas



Bollywood-Hollywood actress Priyanka Chopra proudly flaunted a jacket she stole from Nick Jonas' wardrobe. The actress is currently in the UK, where she is filming for her upcoming series, Citadel Season 2. Amid takes, Priyanka took to her Instagram Stories and shared a mirror selfie wearing the singer's jacket. Priyanka was seen wearing a tube top underneath Nick's black jacket which she paired with workout pants. She flaunted her flat tummy as well in the photo. She shared the photo with the caption, "A husband jacket kind of morning." Check out the photo below:

The Barfi actress also shared a video from the sets of the shoot and revealed that they are shooting a scene under the rain. She revealed the Citadel team is recreating a rain scene and added, "Making it rain #MovieMagic." Over the days, Priyanka has revealed that her daughter, Malti Marie, has been with her on sets. She has been sharing adorable photos and videos of the little one to give fans update about their whereabouts. In one of the videos, she was heard speaking in Hindi with Nick Jonas.

While Priyanka is stationed in London, Nick has been visiting her often in the city. He joined her and Malti to celebrate Diwali and Halloween in London. Priyanka had shared pictures from their annual Diwali puja and halloween celebrations. Check them out below: Priyanka is filming the second season of Citadel. The Citadel franchise, helmed by the Russo Brothers and executive produced by Jennifer Salke, currently spans multiple spinoffs, including the Indian adaptation Citadel: Honey Bunny starring Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu, and the Italian version, Citadel: Diana, featuring Matilda De Angelis.

