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80,000 more people to get old-age pension in Delhi: Kejriwal

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Nov. 25: AAP supreme Arvind Kejriwal on Monday said an additional 80,000 people are now eligible for old-age pension in Delhi,



raising the total number of such beneficiaries to 5.3 lakh. Kejriwal said at a press conference that the Delhi government is committed to social welfare and highlighted that the decision to pay old-age pension to more people is being implemented following Cabinet approval on Sunday. On Sunday, the Delhi government launched a portal for the elderly to apply for pensions. It has

already received 10,000 applications, Kejriwal claimed. "It is a sin to stop the pensions of old people," Kejriwal said, accusing the BJP of halting pensions during his imprisonment. "After coming out, we not only restarted the halted pensions but also added 80,000 new beneficiaries," he said. After this addition, the total number of pensioners in Delhi is around 5.3 lakh, Kejriwal added. Kejriwal further claimed that Delhi offers the highest pension rates in the country, with Rs 2,000 provided to individuals aged 60-69 and Rs 2,500 for those aged 70 and above. Delhi Chief Minister Atishi and Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj were also present at the press conference. Atishi reaffirmed the government's dedication to serving the people, while Bharadwaj announced plans to extend Rs 5,000 monthly pension to differently-abled individuals.

Kharge on Opposition demand for discussion, JPC on Adani issue

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 25: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday expressed dismay over the Chair in both Houses of Parliament disallowing the opposition to raise under Rule 267 the issue of corruption allegations against the Adani Group and said the government should "let the truth come out" as the matter is affecting the country's image. Under Rule 267, the listed business for the day can be suspended to debate an urgent matter with the Chair's approval. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Monday disallowed 13 notices served under Rule 267, including seven that sought a discussion on the US indictment on the alleged payment of USD 265 million in bribes. Similar notices were rejected in Lok Sabha also. Kharge also attacked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, accusing him of spoiling the country's image by "helping" some key businessmen get contracts abroad, and demanded a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) probe into the allegations against the Adani Group. "Rule 267 is made only to raise such important issues. Else, that rule should not have been there. We want that we should be allowed to raise this issue under this

rule. "We want a Joint Parliamentary Committee to be set up, in which there will be more people from his party (BJP) and all get an opportunity to be represent-



ed. Form a JPC, let the truth come out," he said in a video message shared on X. Both Houses were adjourned for the day after opposition uproar when they were disallowed to raise the issue on the first day of the winter session of Parliament. Kharge said he does not know the reason for the adjournment of the

House. He stressed there are serious allegations of corruption, bribery and financial irregularities against the Adani Group. "It is important that we raise this issue to help save the country. But, Modi ji says that we are creating 'hungama'," Kharge said. He lashed out at the prime minister for accusing the opposition of stalling Parliament. "Modiji targets the opposition abroad and says that we are tarnishing his image. You are spoiling the image of the country with such acts of corruption and helping businessmen get contracts," the Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha said. "The Modani issue rocked both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha today. INDIA parties called for a Joint Parliamentary Committee investigation into the Modani scam - the case for which has been reinforced by the recent indictments of Adani's bribery and suppression of information from Indian and American regulators. Both Houses got adjourned for the day," AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. The Modani issue rocked both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha today. INDIA parties called for a Joint Parliamentary Committee investigation into the Modani scam - the case for which has been reinforced by the recent indictments of Adani's bribery and suppression of information from...

Bihar a failed state: Prashant Kishor tells Bihari diaspora in US

Naresh Malhotra

Washington, Nov 25: Jan Suraj leader Prashant Kishor has said Bihar is "literally a failed state" which is in "deep shit" and tremendous efforts are required for its all-round development. In a virtual interaction with the Bihari diaspora community after the launch of the US chapter of the Jan Suraj, the former poll strategist exuded confidence that his party would win the 2025 Bihar Assembly polls and said that he would lift the ban on alcohol and use the revenue to improve school education. "We have to realise that this (Bihar) is a state which is in deep shit. If Bihar were a country, it would be the 11th largest country in terms of population in the world. We have just overtaken Japan in terms of population," Kishor told the gathering. He said the biggest challenge is that society has become "hopeless" about improving the situation of Bihar. "When you become hopeless, the immediate survival needs become so overpowering that nothing (else) matters," he said. "Some hope is definitely there because of what we have been doing in the last two-and-a-

half years. But to convert this into a tangible



electoral outcome and further into a governance outcome (will take time). Anyone who wants to be part of it has to be committed for at least five-six years," he said. "Even if the government (of the Jan Suraj) is formed in

2025 and we continue to work hard with this intensity, it would be a big thing if Bihar becomes a middle-income state by 2029-2030. It is literally a failed state as it stands today on all developmental parameters," Kishor said. "The characteristics of failed states are visible in the population here. For example, sometimes we think... why are people in Sudan fighting for 20 years in the civil war because when you are in that failed state, then people are not worried about how our children will study in Sudan. They are worried about who to shoot and where to capture. So that is the situation in Bihar too and we must be aware of it," he added. Kishor told the Bihari diaspora community that he was "not trying to scare them" but making them aware of the ground realities and the long road ahead. "The Jan Suraj will win in 2025 (Bihar Assembly elections). There is no doubt about it. (Based on my) electoral understanding, I can clearly see that we will win," he said. Kishor said if the Jan Suraj is voted to power, his top priority would be improving school education and this would be funded by the revenue generated after lifting the statewide ban on alcohol.

Those rejected by people trying to control Parliament: PM Modi

New Delhi, Nov.25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday slammed the opposition, saying those who were rejected by people 80-90 times were trying to control Parliament by resorting to hooliganism for



their own political gains. Addressing reporters ahead of the start of the Winter Session of Parliament, Modi said such handful of people did not succeed in their intentions but people of the country observed their actions and punished them at an appropriate time. Modi's remarks came days after

the BJP-led coalition won the Maharashtra Assembly elections by a landslide, bagging 235 seats and relegating the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi to a distant 49 seats in the 288-member House. Earlier, the BJP registered a surprise third consecutive victory in the Haryana polls, trouncing the Congress, which was billed as a pre-poll favourite. "There should be a healthy debate in the Parliament but, unfortunately, certain individuals are trying to control Parliament for their own political gains, resorting to disruptions and chaos," Modi said. "Though their tactics ultimately fail, the people watch their behaviour closely and deliver justice when the time comes," he added. Modi said he had been repeatedly urging opposition colleagues, and some also agreed that Parliament should function smoothly. "But those who have been continuously rejected by the public ignore the words of their colleagues and disrespect their sentiments and that of democracy," the prime minister said.

SC asks CAQM to consider restarting physical classes in school

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Nov. 25: The Supreme Court on Monday asked the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the national capital region and adjoining areas to consider restarting physical classes in schools and colleges noting many students lacked mid-day meals and infrastructure to attend online classes. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih said a large number of students did not have air purifiers at home and therefore there may not be a difference between children at home and those attending schools. The top court, however, refused to relax the anti-pollution GRAP-4 restrictions in Delhi-NCR and said unless it was satisfied that



there was consistent decrease in AQI levels, it cannot order curbs below GRAP-3 or GRAP-2. Noting that several sections of society, especially labourers and daily wagers, were adversely affected due to GRAP-4, the bench directed the state governments, where construction has been banned, to use funds collected as labour cess for subsistence to them. GRAP-4 restrictions specifically relate to restricting entry of trucks carrying non-essential goods into the national capital. First implemented in 2017, the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was a set of anti-air pollution measures followed in the capital and its vicinity according to the severity of the situation.

Jailed MP Engineer Rashid moves court, seeks interim bail to attend Parliament

New Delhi, Nov 25: Jammu and Kashmir MP Engineer Rashid on Monday moved a Delhi court, seeking interim bail in a terror-funding case to attend the Parliament session. After Rashid urged Principal District and Sessions Judge Vimal Kumar Yadav to grant him the reprieve, the court asked the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to file a response by November 27. Engineer Rashid, appearing virtually in court from Tihar Jail, said, "I have been elected by my people. I was not allowed to attend the last session. With folded hands, I request that I may be granted interim bail."

Will not accept Adani's Rs 100 crore donation for Skill University

Hyderabad, Nov 25: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday said the state government will not accept the Rs 100 crore donation announced by Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani for the Young India Skill University being set up in the state. The decision was taken since Adani's announcement gave rise to "unnecessary discussions" that it may appear favouring the state government or the CM, if the donation was accepted, he said while addressing a press conference. He said so far the Telangana government has not accepted a single rupee into its account from any organisation, including Adani Group. "I and my Cabinet colleagues do not want to be involved in unnecessary discussions and situations that would dent the image of the state government or my own. That is why, on behalf of the state government, our official Jayesh Ranjan wrote a letter (to Adani)". "Due to the (present) situation and controversies, the Telangana government is not ready to accept the Rs 100 crore donation you (Adani) generously offered," Reddy said. He said the letter clearly requested the Adani Foundation not to transfer Rs 100 crore to the university. The state government's attempts to obtain Income Tax exemptions for the donations made to the varsity fruited recently, the CM said.

RS proceedings adjourned till Wednesday amid Oppn bid to raise Adani bribery issue

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Nov. 25: Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day on Monday as opposition parties led by the Congress tried to raise the issue of the indictment of Adani group founder chairman Gautam Adani and others in a US court on charges of paying bribes to secure solar power supply contracts. The House will meet again on Wednesday (November 27). There will be no sitting of Parliament on Tuesday to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Constituent Assembly's adoption of the Constitution in 1949. Earlier, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar disallowed 13 notices served under rule 267, including seven that sought a discussion on the US indictment on the alleged payment of USD 265 million in bribes. But the Congress and Left parties insisted on a discussion, forcing a 15-minute adjournment of pro-

ceedings. Soon after listed papers were laid on the table of the House and obituary references read out on the death of



former MPs, Dhankhar said he had received 13 notices under rule 267 but was not convinced to accept them. Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, who was among the seven that sought a discus-

sion on the Adani bribery issue, said if the listed business is suspended, the opposition parties can explain how the "very important" issue was impacting the entire country. The image of the country has been tarnished globally and yet Prime Minister Narendra Modi was supporting Adani, he alleged. At this point, Dhankhar ordered that nothing that Kharge says will go on record. But as the opposition parties persisted, he adjourned the proceedings for 15 minutes. When the House re-assembled at 11.45 am, the chairman said he has the highest respect for the members of the House and urged them to allow him to continue with the scheduled business. However, some opposition members were heard raising certain matters. The chairman then adjourned the proceedings of the House for the day.

Sambhal violence toll rises to four; prohibitory orders issued, outsiders' entry barred till Nov 30

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Lucknow, Nov.25: The toll in the clashes between police and protesters opposing a court-ordered survey of a Mughal-era mosque here rose to four following the death of one more injured person, officials said on Monday. The district administration has already imposed prohibitory orders and barred the entry of outsiders till November 30. Deputy Inspector General of Police (Moradabad) Muniraj said one person injured in the violence died during treatment. District Magistrate Rajender Pensiya said late on Sunday that the prohibitory order had been issued under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). "No outsiders, other social organisations or public representatives will enter the district border without the permission of the competent officer," said the order, which came into force with immediate effect. Violation of the order will be punish-

able under Section 223 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by public servant) of the BNS. Earlier, Muniraj told reporters



that Naem, Bilal and Nauman - the three men who died in Sunday's violence - had been buried. The officer added that those involved in the violence were being identified on the basis of available videos and action would be taken against them. "Right

now, we are engaged in maintaining peace and the situation is under control," he said. Violence broke out in the district on Sunday as protesters opposing the survey of the Jama Masjid clashed with security personnel. The protesters torched vehicles and pelted the police with stones while the security personnel used tear gas and batons to disperse the mob. Divisional Commissioner (Moradabad) Aunjaneya Kumar Singh said on Sunday, "Shots were fired by miscreants... The PRO of the superintendent of police

suffered a gunshot to the leg, the circle officer was hit by pellets and 15 to 20 security personnel were injured in the violence." A constable also suffered a serious head injury while the deputy collector fractured his leg. Twenty-one people, including

two women, have been detained and a probe has been launched, the official had said, adding that those accused in the violence would be booked under the stringent National Security Act (NSA). District Magistrate Pensiya had said, "The casualty count stands at three. The reason for the deaths of two is clear - bullet wounds from country-made pistols. The reason for the death of the third person is not clear but it will be after post-mortem." Internet services were soon suspended in Sambhal tehsil for 24 hours and the district administration declared a holiday in all schools for Monday. Tension had been brewing in Sambhal since November 19 when the Jama Masjid was first surveyed on the court's orders following a petition claiming that a Harihar temple had stood at the site. On Sunday, trouble started early when a large group of people gathered near the mosque and started shouting slogans as the survey team began its work.

## News box

**Inquiry launched after staff lock classroom with student inside for three hours at Chekkarapatti school in TN**



**DHARMAPURI:** The school education department has launched an inquiry into the incident where a Class 2 student of Chekkarapatti panchayat union middle school was locked up for three hours inside the classroom by a staff accidentally on Thursday. Sources said the student had fallen asleep on the bench and the staff did not notice him and locked the room after school hours. As he did not return home even after a long time, the boy's parents went to the school to check on him and found the school locked.

His father contacted school staff who rushed to the school and opened the classroom to find the child unconscious. Parents rescued the child and after first aid, he was taken home. Sources in the School Education Department said, "The parents did not lodge a complaint regarding the incident as it was an inadvertent mistake. Teachers apologised to the parents and residents for the negligence. The department came to know about the incident on Saturday and has sought an explanation."

**Rare burning swing sacrificial monuments found in Karnataka's Koppal**

**KOPPAL:** Two burning swing sacrificial monuments have been found near a lake at Bilagi village in Kushtagi taluk of Koppal district. The burning swing is called "Uri Uyyale" in Kannada. These rare monuments describe the sacrifices made by people around 1,000 years ago. According to historians, such monuments were found earlier in Mandya, Gadag, Dharwad, and Chamarajanagar.

In the past, people used to set themselves afire sitting or standing on a swing (offering themselves to Agnideva, the God of fire) to bless their childless rulers with sons or daughters. Some used to perform this ritual to attain moksha, according to inscriptions on the monuments. However, these are considered as sacrificial monuments. These rituals were performed in the temples of goddesses. People even performed these rituals for the victory of their kings in wars, according to historians.

**25th All India Police Lawn Tennis tournament from Nov 26**

**BENGALURU:** The 25th edition of the All India Police Lawn Tennis Championship will begin on 26 November, Tuesday. The four-day championship, organised by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) will have police forces from across the nation. The inauguration will be conducted by Special Director General (SDG) of CISF, Praveer Ranjan, on Monday, and the valedictory will be held by City Police Commissioner B Dayananda. The event will be held at the Karnataka State Lawn



Tennis Association (KSLTA) Stadium and Kanteerava Stadium.

Speaking at the curtain raiser, Jose Mohan, Inspector General (IG) of the Airport Sector, said that police forces from across the nation will take part in the event, with an IG-rank officer also participating. Around 124 individuals have enrolled for the competition, playing in 21 teams across singles, doubles, and veteran categories. Players from police forces, paramilitary forces, CRPF, and the NSG will also participate in the sports event, which will be held from November 26 to 30, he said.

He further added that playing sports also helps reduce stress. This championship will bring together players from state and central police organisations across the country, providing them with a platform to showcase their talent. The objective of the event is to foster better relations among police organisations and encourage healthy competition in the field of sports.

# TDB, Kerala government to identify land for recycling floral waste generated at hill shrine

**A meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary with the stakeholders has decided to go ahead with the project.**

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM:** In a move to address environmental concerns posed by the large quantity of floral waste generated daily at Sabarimala temple, the state government and the Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) is set to launch a first-of-its-kind initiative to convert the floral rejects into value added projects like agarbattis/incense stick. A Kanpur-based company has come forward expressing interest in giving eco-friendly solutions to address the floral waste menace. A meeting



chaired by the Chief Secretary with the stakeholders has decided to go ahead with the project. Suchitwa Mission executive director U V Jose told TNIE that the project would be implemented immediately. "The Devaswom Board authorities have been asked to provide the land for setting up the recycling unit," said Jose.

However, finding land in the Sannidhanam or Nilakkal for setting up the recycling unit is impossible because the area comes under an ecologically fragile area. "There are hurdles while allocating land for any construction activities as it is a forest area and there are restrictions. There is no private land and all available land belongs to the forest department or the Devaswom

Board. But there are no restrictions for setting up temporary structures. Hence, we are exploring possibilities to set up the recycling unit on a temporary basis for a year," said an official source.

The Sabarimala temple has been witnessing an influx of tourists and the enormous quantity of floral offerings left by pilgrims each day has been a challenge. Currently, the floral rejects are being buried in the locality. Jose said the government is very particular about implementing the project without any delays.

"There is an industrial estate in Pathanamthitta and we have asked the industries department to provide land there. We will get a response on Monday after their board meeting," said Jose. The initiative is expected to create employment opportunities also.

"The agency is ready to roll out the project immediately after getting the land. They will submit a proposal soon and the scope of employment will be discussed afterwards," added Jose.

## Tamil Nadu government tells all schools to observe awareness week on child abuse

**CHENNAI:** The School Education Department has directed schools across the state to observe awareness week against child abuse from November 25 to 29. This comes after had reported that initiatives mandated by a 2021 government order, including the formation of safety committees and awareness programmes, largely remain only on paper in many schools.

As part of the awareness week, house heads will explain the Manavar Manasu scheme during the morning assembly. Under the scheme, complaint boxes have been placed in government schools for students to submit grievances anonymously. Schools have also been directed to ensure the Student Safeguarding Advisory Committee is functional. The committee comprises headmaster, two teachers, two PTA members or parents, a school management committee member, a non-teaching staff member, and



optionally, a member from outside the school. This committee must conduct a one-day awareness programme for parents on November 28 or 29 and compliance reports must be submitted to the chief educational officer. Grievances received in the complaint boxes should

also be addressed during these meetings. In cases of sexual abuse complaints received through the complaint box, the committee must immediately contact the helpline numbers 14417 or 1098.

The department has asked CEOs to submit reports with details on the number of schools that conducted committee meetings and action taken on complaint box grievances. Furthermore, all high and higher secondary headmasters in government and private schools in Chennai have to attend a legal awareness seminar on Pocco Act on November 26. However, activists said that the department should come up with a comprehensive school safety plan. "The department has to engage with child rights activists with the help of the social welfare department instead of conducting one-time events. Only this would help prevent abuse of children in government and private schools," said a child rights activist.

## 'Jagan played with lives of students': Andhra Pradesh Minister Lokesh

**VIJAYAWADA:** Taking a dig at the remarks of YSRCP president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on the delay in fee reimbursement, HRD Minister N Lokesh expressed his surprise over the former, who kept dues to the tune of Rs 6,500 crore from eggs and chickis supplied to students to fee reimbursement, and is now preaching morals. Replying to the statement posted on 'X' by Jagan, he responded in the same medium, saying, "Yours (Jagan's) is a wasteful government which played havoc with the students after making an empty promise that their entire fee would be reimbursed."

Blaming the previous YSRCP government for playing with the lives of the students by amending the rules of fee reimbursement, Lokesh said in the most sarcastic way that only Jagan can function irresponsibly while in power but preach values after coming into opposition.



The future of lakhs of students is hanging in the balance as they have not received their certificates since Rs 3,500 crore in dues are to be cleared in the name of Vidya Deevana and Vasathi Deevana, Lokesh said. "When I was on my 'Yuva Galam' padayatra, the students brought to my

notice your 'greatness' and as per the promise made to them, we have taken the issue seriously and resolved the matter immediately after the TDP-led NDA government came to power," the Minister for Education posted on 'X'. The colleges have been directed to immediately issue certificates to the students and a decision was taken recently to pay the fee reimbursement amount directly to the colleges, he stated. "With the policy of talking to souls at midnight and taking decisions in the morning, the entire academic sector was totally destroyed in the past five years," Lokesh quipped. The minister asked why four lakh students dropped out of schools if his government had made sound decisions. He announced that the government will revive the old fee reimbursement system and reiterated commitment to bolstering the academic sector by filling 16,347 teacher posts.

## RTI reveals Polavaram height set by Andhra Pradesh govt in 2021 amid blame game

**VIJAYAWADA:** At a time when both the TDP and YSRCP are blaming each other responsible for the reduction in height of the Polavaram Irrigation Project, the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) has made it clear that the Phase-I concept emerged from the State government's proposal, and the Centre approved it at a review meeting held on April 10, 2023 that the focus should be on achieving benefits at the specific water level of +41.15 metres.

In reply to a query posed by RTI activist Inaganti Ravi Kumar of Bapatla, the PPA informed that the Andhra Pradesh government in its sixth meeting of Monitoring Committee for strengthening the process mechanism for Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) of the Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) oustees held on July 29, 2021 mentioned that R&R works and shifting of Project Displaced Families (PDFs) would be taken up as per contour levels i.e up to +41.15 metres and +45.72 metres respectively, and focused to complete the R&R works up to +41.15



metres. Later, as per the request of the State government for inclusion of water component for reimbursement, the Centre examined the proposal to furnish assessment benefits of the PIP at Minimum Drawdown Level (MDDL) i.e +41.15

metres. Further in the review meeting held by the Secretary (Department of Water Resources, RD&GR) on April 10, 2023, it was recorded that a proposal for balance funds required for Phase-I i.e till impounding of

water in the dam up to +41.15 metres may be submitted. As per the above, the Phase-I of the project came into picture, the RTI reply read.

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## NEWS BOX

## Indonesia Flash Floods: 13 Killed, 18 Injured As Landslides Hit North Sumatra

JAKARTA. Landslides and flash floods that hit two regencies in Indonesia's North Sumatra province last week have claimed 13 lives with 18 others injured, said an official from the provincial disaster management and mitigation agency. According to Sri Wahyuni Pancasilawati, head of the emergency, equipment, and logistics unit of the agency on Sunday, the landslides and flash floods struck on Saturday night in Deli Serdang and Karo regencies,



Xinhua news agency reported. In Deli Serdang, six people were killed, and nine others sustained injuries after strong currents swept away four houses and a religious building. In Karo regency, a similar disaster left seven people dead and nine injured. The injured were taken to nearby hospitals and health clinics for treatment, she told Xinhua.

On early Saturday morning, landslides and flash floods had also stricken Padang Lawas and South Tapanuli regencies in the province, leaving six dead and seven injured. The Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency had issued warnings of extreme weather, forecasting above-normal rainfall intensity in the region. Efforts are underway to assist affected communities and mitigate further risks as authorities continue to monitor the situation closely.

## Russian Plane Engine Catches Fire In Turkey, All 95 Passengers Evacuated

Istanbul. The engine of a Russian-made passenger plane caught fire after landing at southern Turkey's Antalya Airport on Sunday, the Turkish transport ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said landings at the airport were suspended until 0300 local time (0000 GMT) while authorities towed the plane from the runway. All 89 passengers and six crew were safely evacuated from the Sukhoi Superjet 100 passenger plane that had come from the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi, the ministry said. A video shared on social media by Airport Haber news website showed emergency units responding at the site of the fire, with flames and smoke coming out of the aircraft's engine. Videos shared by the transport ministry following the incident showed the aircraft with fire extinguishing foam underneath as firefighters continued to spray the left-side engine to cool it down. According to the Antalya Airport website, an Azimuth Airlines plane from Sochi landed at 1825 GMT.

## Petition Calling For Fresh General Election In Britain Crosses 1.7 Million Signatures

WORLD. A petition calling for fresh general election in the UK has reached over 1.7 million signatures as the Labour government faces widespread disapproval regarding its policies and post-poll work. Even Tesla boss Elon Musk chimed in on the issue by reposting a message about the success of the petition. According to the guidelines, any petition that asks for a change to the law or to policies gets a response from the government after 10,000 signatures. After 100,000 signatures, petitions are considered for debate in the parliament. "I would like there to be another General Election. I believe the current Labour Government have gone back on the promises they laid out in the lead up to the last election," the petition description reads.

As of the last update, the petition had raked up 1,771,423 signatures and counting. The petition was started by Michael Westwood who runs Britain's 'cheapest pub'. He said he did not imagine in his wildest dreams that Mr Musk would quote post his petition. "The General Election petition has now DESTROYED the 200k target within 6 hours—just after midnight in Britain. The British people are about to completely humiliate the Labour Party," read the post shared by Mr Musk.

Meanwhile, Mr Westwood, the owner of the Wagon and Horses pub where pints are sold for \$2.90, said the Labour government's actions looked "nothing like what was promised" in the manifesto. "I think people have had enough, people have seen what's happened over in America as well, and I think that's had a knock-on effect that, actually, if people stand together and vote then we can make a change," Mr Westwood told Express.

### Dwindling popularity

According to an Ipsos poll, the Labour government has seen its fortunes dwindle rapidly after the general elections earlier this year with Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer's popularity taking a nosedive as well. Almost half (49 per cent) of the public views the Labour Party unfavourably which trails three points behind the Conservative Party. Meanwhile, two in five Britons think they are worse off since Labour came to power.

A significant majority (56 per cent) believes that Britain was heading in the wrong direction, compared to just 19 per cent who feel things are on the right track -- suggesting there was widespread public pessimism.

# Imran Khan Supporters Clash With Cops, Face Tear Gas On Way To Islamabad

**The convoys encountered intense tear gas shelling near the Attock Bridge, Chach Interchange, and Ghazi Barotha Canal.**

WORLD. A large convoy of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) supporters, led by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur and opposition leader Omar Ayub, encountered heavy resistance from law enforcement as it made its way from Swabi to Islamabad via Punjab. The convoys encountered intense tear gas shelling near the Attock Bridge, Chach Interchange, and Ghazi Barotha Canal as police attempted to disperse the PTI supporters marching towards the capital, The Express Tribune reported. Starting from Swabi, the PTI convoys were initially met with calm progress as they entered Punjab territory. However, police deployed heavy tear gas near key checkpoints to

impede their passage. At these sites, law enforcement aimed to halt the convoys, forcing the PTI supporters to face resistance before they could continue their journey. In his address to the crowd, Gandapur emphasised that the march would not stop until Imran Khan, the PTI founder, was released. "We must advance and not turn back until Imran Khan is released," he declared, rallying the supporters to press on despite the delays caused by police intervention. Later, addressing the group again at Ghazi, he urged them to prepare for further resistance. "Prepare, as we will need to confront further resistance ahead," Gandapur said, reinforcing the commitment to the cause. The convoy, temporarily halted at Ghazi Bridge, faced mixed reactions from party members, as Chief Minister Gandapur advised them to rest before further confrontations. Bushra Bibi, the wife of Imran Khan, expressed frustration at the delays, urging the convoy to move forward without further pause. Speaking from her vehicle, she

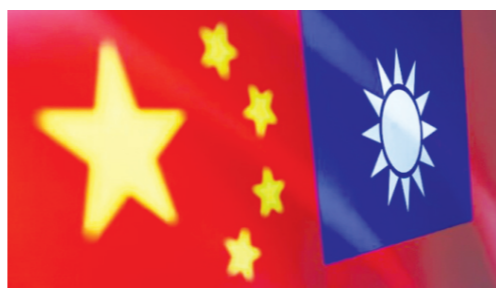


emphasised, "Time is being wasted," calling on supporters to stay in their vehicles and continue swiftly. "Stay in your vehicles so we can reach there quickly," she urged, reiterating the necessity to press on without delay. "We are here to bring Khan back. Let's move without delay," she directed, reinforcing the singular focus on securing her husband's release. The PTI, led by Imran Khan, has been organising the march towards Islamabad, with plans to hold a protest at D-Chowk. The protest, which PTI describes as a movement for

freedom and justice, has stirred political tensions, with party members and their supporters increasingly vocal about the arrest of Imran Khan, reported The Express Tribune. PTI's call to action is to gather at D-Chowk, despite government attempts to prevent the rally. The Interior Ministry has emphasised that no protests will be permitted in Islamabad, citing court orders, and warned of legal action against any violation. In a related development, PTI leaders Aamir Dogar and Zain Qureshi were arrested by Punjab Police at the Qadirpurra Toll Plaza in Multan. The arrests have only heightened tensions as PTI proceeds with its plans for the protest. Despite the government's efforts, which include sealing key roads and setting up barriers around Islamabad, PTI leadership has remained firm in its stance. Gandapur declared, "We will bring our private machinery to remove obstacles and reach Islamabad," emphasising that nothing would deter their efforts to stage the protest at D-Chowk.

## China balloon spotted near Taiwan amid rising tensions before presidential polls

WORLD. Taiwan's defence ministry on Monday reported that a Chinese balloon had been detected over the sea to Taiwan's north, the first time since April it has reported such an incident in what Taipei views as part of a pattern of harassment by Beijing. Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, complained that in the weeks leading up to its presidential election in January, Chinese balloon activity took place at an "unprecedented scale". It described the incidents as part of a Chinese pressure campaign - so-called grey-zone warfare designed to exhaust a foe using irregular tactics without open combat. Taiwan strongly objects to



China's sovereignty claims and says only the island's people can decide their future. The ministry, in its regular morning update on Chinese military activities over the previous 24 hours, said the single balloon was detected at 6:21 p.m. (1021 GMT) on Sunday 60 nautical miles (111 km) to the north of

Taiwan's Keelung port. It then vanished some two hours later, having flown at an altitude of 33,000 ft (10,000 metres), but without crossing Taiwan itself, the ministry said. China's defence ministry did not respond to a request for comment. China has previously dismissed Taiwan's complaints about the balloons, saying they were for meteorological purposes and should not be hyped up for political reasons. The potential for China to use balloons for spying became a global issue last year when the United States shot down what it said was a Chinese surveillance balloon. China said the balloon was a civilian.

## Donald Trump Planning To Remove Transgenders From US Military

WORLD. US President-elect Donald Trump has added to the growing fears of the LGBTQIA+ community in the US as he is reportedly planning an executive order that would lead to the removal of all transgender members from the US military. According to officials, the transgenders would be medically discharged, which means they would be "unfit" to serve, The Sunday Times reported. The 78-year-old leader had imposed a similar order during his first term as the US President - he had prevented transgender people from joining the armed forces but allowed those who were already serving their jobs. However, according to the report, this time, all those transgenders who are currently serving would also be removed. The executive order would reportedly come on his first day back as the President on January 20, next year.

There are reportedly around 15,000 transgenders actively serving in the US military presently. When President Joe Biden had lifted Trump's ban on transgenders in the military, around 2,200 service personnel were diagnosed with gender dysphoria, and several other personnel identified as a different gender than what they were born, the report said.

Trump, who has repeatedly dismissed the inclusion of transgenders in the community, has a key vision: To rid America of perceived "wokeness" and "left-wing indoctrination". Since his first term, the US President-elect has said that he would cut money to "any school pushing critical race theory, transgender insanity, and other inappropriate racial, sexual or political content on children". He also wants to keep transgender athletes out of girls' sports and to forbid classroom lessons on gender identity.

Now, Trump's defence pick Pete Hegseth - who will be in charge of the US military - also has dismissive views of the transgenders. He has forcefully argued that steps to incorporate women and transgender personnel across the military are eroding the US security, reported The Washington Post. Earlier this month, Trump's Vice President-elect JD Vance had triggered a row by making controversial remarks on transgender and nonbinary people, suggesting that some white children are incentivised to "become" trans to get college admissions into Ivy Leagues.

If you are a middle-class or upper-middle-class white parent, and the only thing that you care about is whether your child goes into Harvard or Yale, obviously that pathway has become a lot harder for a lot of upper-middle class kids... The one way that those people can participate in the DEI (Diversity, equity, and inclusion) bureaucracy in this country is to be trans," he said during a podcast with Joe Rogan.

## Israel, Hezbollah 'very close' to ceasefire deal, as Lebanese death toll surges

**The reports added that a US led oversight committee will be tasked to get the deal implemented and address the violations, if any.**

WORLD. Amid the hostilities in the Middle East between Israel and Lebanon based Hezbollah militant group, reports have emerged that both the warring factions are on cusp of a ceasefire deal, according to Axios which quoted two senior Israeli officials and two US officials. Even though there is an unofficial confirmation about a ceasefire deal, the attack on Lebanon hasn't subsided and more than 3,000 people have died in Lebanon since the up-tick in hostilities from mid-September,



according to the Lebanese health ministry. A CNN report also indicated in the same direction suggesting that the deal between Israel and Hezbollah was closer than ever but not fully formed yet. In a statement to CNN, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's spokesperson "We are moving in this direction, but there are still some issues to address."

According to the draft agreement, a 60 day transition period has been sought during which the Israeli military will have to recede the ground in southern Lebanon, the Lebanese military will be deployed in border areas and

Hezbollah will move its heavy artillery to north of the Litani River. The reports added that a US led oversight committee will be tasked to get the deal implemented and address the violations, if any.

The deal would also include assurances from the United States to Israel that includes "support for Israeli military action against imminent threats from Lebanese territory, and for action to disrupt things like the reestablishment of a Hezbollah military presence near the border or the smuggling of heavy weapons," Axios reported.

Israel had launched its massive attack on Lebanon in mid-September after engaging in a tit for tat attack as Hezbollah had attacked Tel Aviv in solidarity with Hamas and Palestinians in Gaza.

The talks for an agreement between Israel and Hezbollah were underway when the International Criminal Court last week issued arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, when he was meeting the US envoy Amos Hochstein.

## Leftist candidate Yamand Orsi wins close presidential election in Uruguay

WORLD. In a tightly contested runoff election, left-wing opposition candidate Yamandú Orsi emerged victorious on Sunday, defeating the conservative governing coalition and bringing a shift in leadership to the South American nation. The victory marks another setback for incumbent parties across the globe in a year of transformative elections. Alvaro Delgado, the centre-right ruling coalition's candidate, conceded the race as the vote count neared completion. "With sadness, but without guilt, we can congratulate the winner," Delgado told his supporters in Montevideo, as reported by Associated Press (AP).

Fireworks lit up the capital as Orsi, a 57-year-old former history teacher and two-time mayor representing the Broad Front coalition, addressed a jubilant crowd. "The nation of liberty, equality and fraternity has triumphed once more," he said, pledging to unite Uruguay's 3.4 million citizens. Acknowledging the

narrow margin of victory, he added, "There are others in the country who feel differently today. We will need their help to build a better Uruguay."

With nearly all votes counted, electoral authorities reported Orsi secured just over 49% of the vote compared to Delgado's 46%, with the remainder casting blank ballots or abstaining. Turnout reached an impressive 90%, as Uruguay enforces compulsory voting. While voter disinterest among younger citizens remained a challenge, Uruguay's campaign season avoided the populist fervour seen elsewhere, such as in Argentina and the United States. Instead, Orsi's moderate approach resonated after polls suggested a dead heat in the weeks leading up to the election. Outgoing President Luis Lacalle Pou, who was barred from seeking consecutive terms, confirmed the result



on social media: "I called Yamandú Orsi to congratulate him as President-elect of our country," he wrote on platform X, adding that he was ready to facilitate a smooth transition.

Orsi's victory reflects growing public dissatisfaction with post-pandemic economic challenges, a sentiment that has driven anti-incumbent votes globally. Despite this, Orsi's platform is not radical. It echoes the Broad Front's earlier

tenure (2005-2020), blending market-friendly policies with social welfare programmes. Under its previous leadership, Uruguay achieved sustained economic growth and progressive reforms, including legalising abortion, same-sex marriage, and marijuana sales.

José "Pepe" Mujica, a former Marxist guerrilla and ex-President renowned for these reforms, offered support to Orsi despite his advanced age and recent cancer recovery. "This is no small feat," Mujica said after casting his ballot, praising Uruguay's political stability and respect for institutions.

Orsi has pledged targeted reforms, such as tax incentives to attract investment, revitalising agriculture, and modest social security changes to lower the retirement age. These plans fall short of the sweeping union demands rejected in October's general election, where neither major candidate won outright.

News box

Telangana: Students forced to sleep on floor as hostel is in dilapidated state

HANAMKONDA: Over 38 boys are forced to stay in the dilapidated building of the Government Backward Classes (BC) Welfare Boys Hostel in Nallabally mandal, Warangal district. The hostel rooms are in a dangerous condition, with parts of the building collapsing, causing fear among students. The rooms lack basic facilities like proper doors, windows and fans. Despite several representations requesting the relocation of the hostel, no action has been taken. The hostel, originally intended to accommodate outstation students, now only has one room and a hall for the students, while four other rooms are crumbling. Additionally, two rooms of the four have been locked for two years now. Although the number of students has been increasing each year, the District Backward Classes (BC) Welfare officials have failed to provide adequate infrastructure for them to study. A staff member told TNIE, "We have raised concerns with the department authorities multiple times, asking for a new building or for the hostel to be relocated, but to no avail. The officials inspected the hostel and proposed relocating it, but the situation remains unaddressed. With no fans or beds in the hostel rooms, students are forced to sleep on the floor every day." When contacted Warangal District Backward Classes (BC) Development Officer A Pushpalatha admitted that the hostel building is in a dilapidated condition and stated that a proposal to shift the hostel has been submitted.

Pembarthy's artisans in Telangana battle for survival

JANGAON: The brass engraving artisans of Pembarthy village, located about 80 km from Hyderabad, are struggling due to a lack of support and demand for their traditional craft. The lack of governmental initiatives, including training programmes and subsidies, has led many artisans to abandon their ancestral profession for other means of livelihood. Pembarthy has long been renowned for its exquisite brass, copper and silver engraving, with skilled artisans garnering recognition across India. For decades, these artisans, many of whom belong to the Vishwakarma community, have been crafting intricate designs in metal. However, in recent years, the number of artisans has dwindled, with only around 100 families still engaged in the trade. Artisans alleged a lack of support from the government. Earlier, community members appealed to the Congress to give proper recognition to their craft and allocate funds for the establishment of a training centre in the village. Although two acres of land were allocated for the centre by the previous BRS government, the promise remains unfulfilled. The estimated cost of the centre was Rs 5 crore, but no progress has been made toward its construction. K Annapurna, a brass and copper engraving artisan, told TNIE that artisans from Pembarthy, once celebrated for their skill during the Kakatiya and Nizam eras, have seen their craft diminish after the formation of Telangana. "We hoped for better support after the state's formation, but instead, we lost the little support we had. A training centre in the village would not only preserve our heritage but also provide opportunities for the younger generation to learn this craft," she said.

Airports authority of India nod for master plan to revamp HAL airport in Bengaluru

BENGALURU: City's HAL airport is all set for a major revamp. A master plan is ready and has been approved by the chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI), according to sources. This airport catered to the air traffic needs of the city until 2008, when operations were shifted to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA). Now, an average of 12 small aircraft, including those used by defence forces, VIPs and VVIPs and private firms, use the HAL airport daily. It has a single runway with 30 parking spots and is open 24x7. A source told TNIE, "HAL's master plan, which will hold good till 2047, aims to cater to 40 lakh passengers per annum. It could handle a maximum of 2,500 passengers during peak hours. "In 2007-08 fiscal, just before it closed for passenger traffic, it handled over 10 lakh flyers. In the plan's Phase-I, the airport area will be extended to 32,000 sqm from 21,885 sqm. "The terminal building will be demolished and a new one constructed. It will have 'Arrivals' at one level and 'Departures' at another level. At present, both are housed together. There will be a multi-level car parking facility (ground plus six floors), where 500 cars can be parked." The two-lane road in front of the terminal will be expanded to a four-lane one, he said. "There will be no change in the runway of the airport. It has a length of 3,306 metres and a width of 61 metres. It is among the best runways in the country, dimension-wise," said an airport official. Another source said, "The agreement on exclusivity with Bangalore International Airport Limited, which bars any other airport from operating within 150 km, ends on May 24, 2033. As per the concession agreement signed between HAL and the Centre through the Ministry of Civil Aviation in July 2004, our airport will be opened for civilian operations by May 2033. Bengaluru will have a second airport by then. But due to the explosive growth the city is witnessing, there will always be a demand for another airport. Hence, we are gearing up for the future."

Tamil Nadu, Pondy cops spar over raid at licensed arrack shop

PUDUCHERRY/CUDDALORE: Conflict of jurisdiction led to a confrontation between Cuddalore and Puducherry police teams on Saturday after the former had raided a licensed arrack shop in Madukarai in Puducherry. The Nellikuppam police from Cuddalore arrested D Natarajan (65) of Panruti at the Pattampakkam-Madukarai Road checkpoint for possessing eight packets of arrack, upon whose information they raided the shop. The Cuddalore police seized 40 litres of arrack stored in packets from the shop -- located near the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry border -- owned by R Sarala and managed by her husband Raja from Andiyarpalayam in Puducherry. The shop operates under a licence issued by the Puducherry Excise Department. As the Cuddalore team attempted to detain the cashier for inquiry, the Madukarai police arrived, objecting to the action, arguing that the former lacked authority to conduct raids in Puducherry without obtaining permission and informing them. As the argument escalated, the Puducherry police blocked the Cuddalore team's vehicle from leaving the spot. DSP M S Ruben Kumar from Cuddalore intervened, explaining the ban on the sale of liquor in packets in



Tamil Nadu and that tracing the source was necessary for enforcement. After discussions, the Cuddalore team handed over the seized arrack packets and the detainee to the Puducherry police, who requested the former to approach the Puducherry Excise Department for further action.

A senior officer from the Puducherry police team said they had not obstructed the actions of their counterparts and only asked them to follow procedure. An official from the

Puducherry Excise Department said, "We have requested a report from the Cuddalore police regarding the seizure. Since selling arrack in packets is banned in Puducherry as well, further action will be taken based on our inquiry."

Sources from the Nellikuppam police confirmed that two separate cases have been registered -- one regarding the arrest of Natarajan and another in connection with the sale of arrack in packets at the Puducherry shop.

Long-awaited SCoR proj set to take off

VISAKHAPATNAM: As promised in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, the long-awaited South Coast Railway (SCoR) Zone project, a cherished dream for the people of Andhra Pradesh, is now closer to becoming a reality. Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Sunday announced the tender notice for constructing the zone's headquarters in Visakhapatnam, signalling a step in fulfilling a major commitment made during the bifurcation of the State. The announcement, made via a post on X, signals progress in the long-delayed railway project. The tender involves the construction of a multi-storey general manager's office complex, including two basements, a ground floor, and nine additional floors (B2+B1+G+9), along with associated structures. Bidding for the Rs 149 crore project will commence on December 13, 2024, with a pre-bid conference scheduled for December 2, 2024. The last date for bid submission is December 27, 2024, and the construction is expected to be completed within 24 months after commencement of works. Following years of demand and political pressure for the fulfilment of the bifurcation promise, the Centre announced the formation of the SCoR Zone in February 2019, designating Visakhapatnam as its headquarters. However, progress has been slow. Despite the submission of a detailed project report (DPR) in August 2019 under the YSRCP government, the project stagnated due to unresolved land allotment issues and administrative delays. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Visakhapatnam in November 2022, though significant, did not address the railway zone, leaving many people in North Coastal Andhra disheartened. In December 2023, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, on his visit to Visakhapatnam, clarified that the delay was primarily due to non-allotment of land by the State government. After the formation of the TDP-led NDA government, headed by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, he required 52.22 acres of land at Mudasarlova has been allotted and cleared for the SCoR Zone project.

TN doctors allege ill-treatment by collectors, to go on stir

CHENNAI: The Tamil Nadu Government Doctors Association (TNGDA) has announced a boycott protest on Monday to draw the chief minister's attention towards the alleged mistreatment of doctors by certain district collectors, directors, and other officials of the health department. In its press release, TNGDA said that, of late, doctors are treated like criminals by Tiruchy, Virudhunagar, Thanjavur, Tiruvallur, Mayiladuthurai, Dharmapuri, and Tirupattur collectors. The directors of the directorates of the health department are also ill-treating the doctors. The most recent incident was during the review meeting with deans by the National Health Mission (Tamil Nadu)



mission director (MD-NHM). The doctors alleged that at the recent review meeting with deans and directors, the MD-

NHM said he will hold the head of department and the medical college dean responsible for even one maternal or fever death, and doctors who feel their salary is not sufficient can leave the job. He allegedly also said that doctors should work even if they are attacked at the hospital, else they can leave the job. The doctors working in PHCs, ESI dispensaries, taluk, district, and medical colleges will boycott all meetings, whether online or in person. They will also exit from all official WhatsApp groups, the association said. All camps including Varumun Kappom will be stopped. TNGDA has also demanded to fill over 5,000 vacancies and increase the doctors' strength in proportion to the

number of patients. The monthly review meeting by collectors should be conducted during working hours. Further, there should not be a ranking system for doctors and hospitals based on medical index, which is done taking into account only a few aspects, they added. If these demands of the doctors are not met, elective surgeries in obstetricians and gynaecology departments in DME, DMS and DPH, ESI hospitals will be stopped on Tuesday (November 26), the association said. The next course of action will be decided in the TNGDA state emergency committee meeting. Since MD-NHM has instructed to admit all one-day fever cases, TNGDA requested heads of the institutions to increase the number of beds.

Digital addiction claimed 19 children's lives in three years in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: On November 17, a 15-year-old boy was found hanging at his house in Thiruvananthapuram city limits. On September 10, a 11-year-old boy was found dead in a similar fashion at his residence in rural parts of Thiruvananthapuram district. While unconnected, the two incidents have one thing in common: In both, the children allegedly ended their lives after they were reprimanded for continuously using mobile phones. Addiction to digital devices -- dubbed digital addiction -- has claimed the lives of 19 children in Kerala in the past three years, the state government records have revealed. The statistics prepared by the home department said another 22 children were found habituated to drug abuse and sexual offences after getting hooked to digital platforms during this period. Sources in the police said only a fraction of such cases come to the fore and the real



number of victims of digital addiction would be much higher.

Thiruvananthapuram Range DIG S Ajeetha Begum, who heads the social policing directorate that runs the digital de-addiction programme for children, says digital addiction results in exploitation of children as well. "The children are targeted by adults for grooming even via certain gaming platforms. In certain instances, the predators, who befriend the children in digital spaces, lure them into sharing the bank account credentials of their parents,

resulting in cyber fraud," Ajeetha says. The DIG says the 'Chiri' helpline, launched to address mental distress among kids, has been getting thousands of calls each month. "There are multiple reasons behind the stress. And digital addiction is a major one. We are taking concrete measures to address digital addiction. However, the main solution lies at home and that is to maintain good communication with children and keep them engaged in other creative activities," Ajeetha says. Senior psychiatrist Dr C J John says digital addiction among children is growing as a silent epidemic, and parents remain largely unaware of this. "The parents too are not role models as they themselves are addicted to gadgets. Digital addiction is as dangerous as substance abuse. The children are not indulging in multi-faceted activities and rather get confined to the digital world," Dr John says.

Police yet to complete Cusat stampede probe; awaiting PWD report, says Kochi ACP

KOCHI: Even a year after the stampede, the police are yet to complete the investigation and file a chargesheet. Police say they are awaiting a report from the public works department (PWD), which carried out a structural study of the amphitheatre, and a report of the magisterial enquiry ordered by the district collector. The district administration and the Cusat management too had announced inquiries into the incident. A police officer who was part of the investigation team said they have probed all aspects of the stampede.

"Our probe revealed that the stampede occurred due to poor event organisation and the amphitheatre's structural issues. The students were given the charge of managing a crowd of around 3,000 persons. Only one entry point was used for such a large crowd. Also, the path from the entrance had steep descending steps. In their hurry, several



people fell on the steps and were crushed by those following them," the officer said. The PWD was tasked with studying the amphitheatre as the department has the expertise in examining structure issues, said P V Baby, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Thrikkakara, who headed the probe. "We are awaiting their report to complete the investigation. Also, we are looking to get a copy of the report of the magisterial enquiry ordered by the district collector. We expect to complete the investigation and file a chargesheet soon," the ACP said. A PWD official in Kochi said they could spot multiple structural issues at the amphitheatre. "We will be submitting the report soon," he said. The then School of Engineering principal, Deepak Kumar Sahu, was arraigned by the police as the first accused in the case. Two teachers, Girish Kumaran Thampi and Vijay, who were in charge of the fest, are the other accused. The police have charged them under IPC section 304A for causing death by negligence. Sahu had maintained that he had written to the Cusat registrar requesting adequate security arrangements. Initially, the university took the stand that no such letter was received. But the registrar, in an affidavit filed at the High Court, confirmed that a letter from the SoE principal was received and forwarded to the security officer on November 24.

TTD digital makeover for hassle-free darshan

TIRUMALA: Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) is undergoing a significant digital transformation, aimed at streamlining operations and providing hassle-free services to visitors. TTD Executive Officer J Shyamala Rao confirmed that the administration is integrating AI and custom-developed software into various departments, including IT, accounts, diary administration, and traffic management at key locations such as Alipiri and Garuda toll gates.



These kiosks will provide information on temple programmes, queue lines, darshan timings, laddu purchases, tansure and donation services, as well as details on transportation, cab services, and RO water availability. Devotees will also be able to book darshan tickets, reserve accommodation, and plan their pilgrimage through these kiosks. For example, pilgrims can purchase up to 25 laddus, based on availability, and collect them from designated counters upon receipt. TTD plans to hire AI and software experts

to assess each department and identify areas for digital intervention. A senior IT employee noted, "This response reflects the increasing digital engagement of devotees, motivating TTD to fast-track its digital initiatives." AI will play a crucial role in improving operational efficiency by calculating queue times, managing darshan schedules, and reducing waiting periods. With 16.5 to 18.5 hours allocated daily for darshan, precise algorithms will optimise the queue management system.

The ultimate goal of this digital facelift is to minimise manual intervention, enhance self-service options, and ensure a seamless experience for devotees. These advancements will help transform Tirumala into a hub of advanced digital services. TTD is committed to embracing the future while preserving the spiritual sanctity of Tirumala. The proposals will be submitted to the Trust Board for approval, ensuring that the digital initiatives align with the institution's values, enhancing services for pilgrims without compromising its traditions.

## The weight of insecurity

Today's human life has become quite complicated—thanks to the multifarious inventions of modern technology. Machines of different types and functions developed by scientific pursuits of contemporary times have made human living far more comfortable than hitherto, at least on the face of it. Gadgets and devices to aid our daily life activities have made our chores easier and, in many cases, effortless.

Today, we don't have to physically exert much to perform most of our daily chores. By harnessing the enormous power of electricity, we have devised machines to perform all our tasks at the press of a button or the click of the computer 'mouse'. Even tasks like reading, cataloguing, extracting, filtering and interpreting are being outsourced to the latest tool called Artificial Intelligence or AI. Despite the wonderful gifts of technology, as mentioned above, human peace and happiness are at a great premium. The individual feels vacuous inside, and there is a wanton feeling of fulfilment. There is a grave sense of insecurity pervading all. Ideas and ideologies are many, and these have been embraced by sets of human beings dispersed all over the globe, but most of such ideologies are at variance with each other in a few or many ways.

These ideologies determine fashion, lifestyles, customs, traditions and habits, leading to broad cultural differences. And some of these differences are so sharp that human communities holding them are living in conflict mode, riven by mutual suspicion, fear and insecurity. Hence, insecurity has afflicted humans at the individual level as well as the community level. Insecurity is the greatest bane of modern times. A businessman feels insecure about the uncertainties of the demand and supply situation, which can affect the market for his traded goods. A stock trader is ever in fear of the bulls or bears overwhelming the market depending upon which trading position he has taken.

An old person is afraid of moving around freely lest he should fall and sustain injuries. An average employee working in the corporate sector is ever afraid to lose his job. The ruler of a country feels constantly insecure in the face of powerful enemy countries located across its borders. A farmer growing seasonal crops is insecure about his crops because of the vagaries of monsoon rains. A tiny toddler or small child feels insecure when it loses sight of its mother. Youngsters are insecure about their conjugal relationships. Life is uncertain, and you can never be sure what problem or pitfall you may have to face in the immediate or near future and this future is actually unpredictable. The whole insurance industry thrives on this sense of human insecurity about the future. Insecurity is a universal reality, and we need to keep provisioning for material resources. But insecurity should not grip us, leading to disruption of mental peace and pesky worry or tension. It will then play havoc with our personality and mar our productivity. We have to develop a more rational and pragmatic perspective on fear and insecurity. Truly speaking, nagging insecurity is due to factors more internal to us than external. Actually, the nagging sense of insecurity of people in modern times springs from ignorance, illusion and lack of perseverance. The first and foremost issue of importance in this regard is that we should try to develop a logical, rational approach toward things. Being overly emotional and succumbing to anger, pride, passion, and greed dilutes our sense of objectivity and drags us away from the truth of things. We should try to find out the truth and grasp it in all situations and circumstances. For this, we need to shed our positive and negative biases towards things and persons and acquire a level-headed approach. Truth is not to be found on the extreme left side or the extreme right side of the emotion spectrum. It is located somewhere near the centre. When insecurity comes from factors external to us which are largely not in our control, we must understand that peace-disrupting forces are generated by running faulty paradigms of living which are not consistent with core, divine truths handed down to us by the creator in the primal scriptures called the Vedas. We should refer to these divinely ordained scriptures to align our institutional systems with eternal, core truths expounded therein.

## Balancing the interests of State & Justice seekers

**In some contexts, the court under CJI Chandrachud's leadership fell short of expectations. There is no point in creating physical spaces and amenities without upholding the essence of justice.**

The soul of justice cannot be enclosed in world-class brick and mortar structures just as the cause of liberty is not served by sermons in structured judgements. The constitutional protection to the right of privacy is not ensured by declaring it as a fundamental right but by holding 'unconstitutional' intrusive acts of the state through its enforcement agents. Upholding constitutional values is in the nature of a sacrament; any willful infraction or apparent insouciance in protecting those values makes the justice delivery system suspect in the eyes of the public. Over a billion people in our country are watching how our courts attempt to balance the interests of the state with the interests of those seeking justice. For a polity as divisive as one prevailing since 2014, the constant vigil of the court is the only way to ensure our constitutional values are safe. Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud's tenure was high on optics and somewhat low on delivery. The court under his stewardship often compromised even on liberty, of which he was ostensibly a champion. His majoritarian tilt, reflected in some of his judgements, was worrisome. At the heart of the justice delivery system is the ability of the court to stand up to the excesses of the executive; to speak truth to power. The court's record in that endeavour has been rather weak. Despite this, Chief Justice Chandrachud, who became a judge of the Supreme Court on May 13, 2016, has many landmarks to his credit. The frenetic energy he demonstrated over the years, especially during his tenure as the CJI since November 2022, in creating inclusive infrastructural facilities for the court and lawyers has won him accolades. Sensing the inadequacy of the existing infrastructure, he single-handedly facilitated the proposed construction of a new building within the Supreme Court premises, which will have world-class facilities both in terms of court rooms as well as space for practising lawyers and litigants seeking justice. He endeared himself to members of the Bar, in particular the younger members, by his exemplary conduct in court and the patience he demonstrated when hearing matters. His initiatives were transformational in many respects. For example, moving away from physical filing to digital record-keeping has transformed access to



justice, live-streaming of court proceedings in constitutional matters has brought it closer to people, and simultaneous translation of court proceedings has allowed for accuracy and contemporaneous recording, which facilitates lawyers to make their submissions with greater clarity.

The cafeteria facilities for lawyers, modernisation of facilities for the Bar, conceptualising a new building for resolution of disputes through arbitration are certainly initiatives for which he will be fondly remembered. The chief justice wondered about his own legacy. But what he should have wondered more about is the legacy of the court he left behind. In this context, the court under his leadership fell short of expectations. Part of the problem is the diktat of the Master of the Roster in assigning cases that concern our fundamental freedoms, the future not only of the polity but of the nation as well. Each one of us at the Bar is aware of the likely outcome of a case when assigned to a particular judge. Eyebrows were raised when certain cases dealing with fundamental freedoms were assigned to particular benches. That is one area where, I believe, the court requires to evolve a procedure that does not evoke suspicion or controversy. While the then chief justice must be given credit for deciding long-pending constitutional matters, one felt that matters of political significance requiring urgent attention were not listed. The Shiv Sena matter was pending for over a year, giving legitimacy to a government that was constitutionally suspect. Eknath Shinde, Ajit Pawar and their lot should, I believe, have been disqualified long ago. The future of our democracy

depends on the quick disposal of such matters. Had those matters been heard, the outcome of Saturday's election results in Maharashtra would have been entirely different.

Despite the fact that the PMLA judgement was under review, the matter has been kept pending for years. The Enforcement Directorate has been merrily misusing its powers by continuing to destabilise many opposition-ruled state governments. Had the law been settled in time, the future of the polity of our nation might well have been different. Amendments to existing laws were carried out by including them in the Finance Bill, thereby terming them as 'money bills'. That matter too has not been heard for years. Not deciding matters relating to the polity of our country indirectly benefited the government in power. That indeed is a matter of great concern. We have also seen, on many past occasions, that matters relating to defection were not heard for years till the term of the assembly was over.

Oppressive statutory provisions relating to bail being upheld by court required to be revisited. That too did not happen. Rampant bulldozer justice, including open threats to the minorities, did not evoke a suo motu proceeding, nor did the open threat of violence by those at the forefront of the dharma sansads. The court, I believe, is an institution that can set right the course if events in the polity go astray. The real challenge India faces relates to the slow but steady diminishing of our syncretic culture. That's what needs protection. The onslaught of majoritarianism, induction of those committed to an ideology into the judicial system, destroys the very fabric of our country. The judge needs to be independent of a political ideology when administering justice.

The induction of such judges and transfer of judges who attempted to stand up to the executive at the same time does not bode well for our judiciary. The CJI who allowed this to happen must take the blame. He was the author of a judgement that held that no further intrusion into religious places of worship was to be allowed. However, disregarding his own judgement, he allowed intrusion in the Gyanvapi case. When it mattered, he fell short. There is no point in creating physical spaces and amenities without upholding the very essence of justice, which is its soul.

## Jokes that hurt

**Humour has long served as a means to connect people, break barriers and lighten the burdens of daily life. However, when humour perpetuates stereotypes, particularly about communities, it crosses the line into insensitivity. The ongoing plea in the SC to...**

Humour has long served as a means to connect people, break barriers and lighten the burdens of daily life. However, when humour perpetuates stereotypes, particularly about communities, it crosses the line into insensitivity. The ongoing plea in the SC to ban jokes targeting the Sikh community highlights the need to reassess this boundary. For decades, 'Sardar jokes' have been a staple of Indian humour, often portraying Sikhs as intellectually inferior. While such jokes might seem harmless banter to many, their societal impact is far from trivial. The normalisation of these jokes has contributed to bullying in schools and professional spaces, pushing individuals—especially children—to question their identity and heritage. The tragic account of a Sikh boy who took his life after relentless racist bullying in the UK underscores the real-world consequences on mental health of what some dismiss as humour.



The Sikh community, renowned for its resilience and contributions to India's development, finds itself unfairly

stereotyped. Many Sikhs wear their cultural and religious identity with pride, yet they often face ridicule for doing so. This situation reveals a societal paradox where diversity is celebrated superficially but ridiculed in practice. The petitioner, Harvinder Chowdhury, has rightly called attention to the fundamental right to dignity enshrined in the Constitution. The SC's emphasis on sensitising children and encouraging steps to curb such stereotyping reflects an essential shift in addressing societal issues through education. However, the problem extends beyond classrooms. Social media, rife with unchecked content, demands stronger regulation and accountability from various platforms. Humour must reflect a society that values respect alongside free speech. Creative expression does not necessitate the demeaning of a community. Sensitisation campaigns, digital content filters and penalties for offensive material could pave the way for a more inclusive environment.

## The gory tale of A Varanasi Prince

**The cannibal king was said to be an earlier birth of Angulimala, the dreaded bandit who cut off a finger from each person he murdered and wore them around his neck in a gristly garland. But the Bodhisattva converted him into a gentle, enlightened person.**

I had occasion to revisit the Jatakas recently and was much struck by the ferocity of the Maha Sutasoma Jataka, which is Number 537 in the Pali canon. Why were such stark stories told, I wondered. But the answer was apparent at once. The Jatakas were cautionary tales meant to teach the dreadful consequences of vice and why destructive habits should be shunned. This story goes that the Buddha, in a previous birth as a Bodhisattva, was a prince and sent to study at Taxila university. His best friend there was the prince of Varanasi. The Bodhisattva was the topper and tutored his friend. Eventually, they both went home and became kings. The prince of Varanasi never ate a meal without meat and continued doing so as king. One day, some dogs got into the royal kitchen and ate up all the meat. The terrified cook didn't know what to do. He rushed to a cemetery, cut off a part of a freshly-buried corpse, and cooked that.



The king found it so delicious that he questioned the cook closely and the cook confessed. But instead of being properly revolted, the depraved king told him to serve human flesh every day. The Jataka says this unnatural desire was because the king had been a goblin in his previous birth who frequently ate human flesh. The cook was ordered to source flesh from the prisoners in the city jail. This went on until the prison was empty. Then the cannibal king told his cook to

drop a bag with one thousand coins in the street and take anyone who picked it up to be cooked. But soon, people learned it was a trap and avoided all unclaimed bags—which sadly reminds us of warnings against terrorist bombs in unclaimed bags today. So, the king told his cook to hide by a road and kill people at random to obtain their flesh. The city fell into utter panic. A crowd of agitated citizens stormed into the palace courtyard and begged their king to find the killer. When he flatly refused to do anything, to their great dismay and puzzlement—was he not their king and protector?—they turned in despair to the senapati, the commander-in-chief of the army. The senapati himself had been waiting impatiently for

royal orders to catch the killer and was on the brink of taking it up with the king. He was shocked by the king's response and being a good man with a strong sense of public duty, he ordered his soldiers to hide throughout the city. They soon discovered and captured the cook. He was beaten up and confessed. When the cook was taken to face the king, the king had nowhere to hide.

He owned up to the disgusting and frightening fact that the cook was merely acting on his orders. But he declared defiantly that he would never give up eating human flesh. The horrified commander-in-chief told the cannibal king that he would be driven out of the city if he did not stop, and would come to a sorry end like what happened to a young man who would not give up alcohol. This young man was the only son of a wealthy family, and thoroughly virtuous. But one day, his friends tricked him into drinking alcohol for the first time by pouring some fiery liquor into cups made of lotus leaves and telling the young man it was lotus nectar. He drank it down and got drunk, which he unfortunately enjoyed very much.

So, he and his friends kept drinking, and when they ran out of liquor, the young man pawned his gold signet ring to buy more. He went home in total disarray and passed out. His father reasoned gently with him at first. He told him to never drink again because they were a respected family and if their reputation was destroyed, so would their business. But, the son

refused and was duly kicked out of home. He died a wretched death as a beggar on the streets. However, the cannibal king was unmoved by this story. As a final attempt, the commander-in-chief brought out the cannibal king's wife and children and asked him to choose between them and eating human flesh. But, the king refused and had to be driven out of Varanasi with the cook.

He camped under a banyan tree by the highway and killed wayfarers for food. One day, when no victim appeared, he killed and ate the cook.

The Bodhisattva was then urgently sent for to do something about his friend, and went boldly to him. The Bodhisattva prayed that his friend should live a healthy, happy life for a hundred years. This pleased the cannibal king so much that he granted the Bodhisattva a wish.

At once, the Bodhisattva asked the cannibal king to stop eating people. But he laughed uproariously and refused, and told the Bodhisattva to make some other wish. But the Bodhisattva wouldn't give up, and managed, through several moral stories, to fill the cannibal king with a great fear of hell and a strong desire for heaven. Finally, the cannibal king's hard heart cracked itself free of his terrible addiction. He broke into tears and promised to stop. He threw himself at the Bodhisattva's feet and prayed for redemption. The cannibal king, says the Jataka, was an earlier birth of Angulimala, the dreaded bandit who cut off a finger from each person he murdered and wore them around his neck in a gristly garland. But the Buddha converted him into a gentle, enlightened person. A terrifying story against harmful addictions, is it not?



# Dressing your plate

## How to add diverse Foods to our meals (and what we're still figuring out)

**H**ow to dress your plate right A healthy lifestyle starts with bringing diversity to our plates. Considering today's environment, every meal should be an opportunity to nourish our body with all the required nutrients, i.e., carbs, proteins, healthy fats, vitamins, and minerals. Each food group provides unique health benefits that provide us energy, build our muscles, help us fight infections, and keep us healthy. Including a variety of foods in your meal adds vibrant colors and flavors and fulfills nutritional value.

**Why do we need a balanced plate with diverse foods?**  
To diversify your plate, focus on balancing by combining different food groups and flavors. Each meal may be made more palatable and healthy by including a range of foods to improve flavors and nutritional profiles.

A healthy plate sets the stage for proper nutrition as it gives the body accurate nutrition intake, which is needed to produce energy and keep one's physical well-

being in check. By dressing your plate with a variety of foods, you can fuel your body with its nutrient-dense essentials for maintaining your health. A balanced diet includes several groups of foods to make sure all of the boxes of dietary requirements are checked.

**Choose your grains wisely**  
According to Dr. Meghana Pasi, Head, MyThali, "In order to add diversity to our meals, one should have a mix of whole grains and legumes, along with lean protein, dairy, and plenty of colorful fruits and vegetables. Create a balanced meal by including a base of whole grains such as quinoa, millet, barley, farro, or brown rice. Complex carbohydrates and fiber from whole grains, such as quinoa, brown rice, or whole-wheat pasta, aid with digestion and maintain feelings of fullness."

**Pick only seasonal and local produce**  
Try to include local, seasonal, and fresh foods in your diet to improve the nutritional quality. Add a mix of

vegetables such as leafy greens like spinach, root vegetables like beetroot, carrot, or sweet potatoes, and cruciferous vegetables like broccoli or Brussels sprouts, as they provide a range of vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants.

According to Dr. Preeti Nagar, Dietician at NIIMS Medical College & Hospital, "Begin with a foundation of vibrant veggies, such as bell peppers or tomatoes, yellows from carrots or squash, and greens like spinach and kale. A rainbow of veggies is the best way to cover a variety of nutrients because each color corresponds to a particular antioxidant and vitamin."

From whole grains, lean proteins, and healthy fats to an added layer of color using a rainbow of vegetables, starting from leafy greens to vibrant peppers, carrots, and berries, each provides unique health benefits.

**Protein is the building block**

According to Varsha Sharma, dietician, Sharda Hospital, "Lastly, one-quarter of your plate should be occupied by protein, which is essential for tissue growth and repair. Use whole grains on one-quarter of your plate, which provide long-lasting energy. This method guarantees that your body gets the variety of nutrients it needs to support immune system health, vitality, mood stability, and cognitive performance."

Think about protein-rich foods like eggs, beans, lentils, chickpeas, and tofu instead of only meat. Additionally, lean proteins like turkey, fish, and chicken are great options. Integrate protein sources such as beans or soya. Non-vegetarians can rotate between plant protein and animal

protein. It includes fermented food like kimchi, kefir, kombucha, or yogurt to get the probiotics, as they improve gut health by maintaining healthy intestinal flora and increasing the absorption of nutrients.

**Healthy fats are your friend**

For taste and fullness on your plate, include healthy fats; omega-3s and other important fatty acids are found in foods like avocados, olive oil, nuts, and seeds.

**Add spices to the diet for added nutrition**

According to Dr. Bhavna Garg, senior consultant, Dietitian and Nutritionist, Yashoda Super Speciality Hospital Kaushambi, "Fresh herbs and spices, such as rosemary for its antioxidants or turmeric for its anti-inflammatory qualities, not only improve flavor but also offer other health advantages. Your dish becomes a varied blend of flavors, textures, and nutrition when these components are carefully combined.

Experiment with herbs and spices to maximize the taste and flavors in your dishes. Our aim is to inspire everyone to foster a lifestyle that prioritizes variety along with quality, help people follow a balanced diet, and make healthier food choices along with embracing seasonal



produce. The goal is to make the meal not just visually appealing but also nourishing.

**Importance of meal planning**

A diversified plate ensures the absorption of numerous vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, and healthy fats that can significantly contribute to energy, strengthen the immune system, and prevent chronic diseases.



# 6 foods

that help you poop better and relieve

## Constipation in the morning

**C**onstipation affects almost everyone at some point in their lives. The illness can be brought on by certain drugs, inactivity, pregnancy, or even dehydration. Hemorrhoids, anal fissures, or even fecal incontinence—the inability to control your bowels—can result from constipation if it is not treated. Even though it's unpleasant to have painful, infrequent

stools that are lumpy, dry, or hard and resemble tiny stones or pebbles  
Discomfort and pain when having bowel motions  
Loss of appetite as a result of a persistent feeling of fullness and an inability to completely empty the intestines

**Bloating**

Here are 6 foods that help treat constipation:

**Prunes**

One of the most well-known foods for constipation is prunes, a variety of plum. More than 12 grams of dietary fiber can be found in one cup of raw prunes. Additionally, they include sorbitol, a chemical that prevents and relieves constipation by acting as a probiotic. If raw prunes are not available, drinking prune juice is a fantastic substitute and can also help relieve constipation. According to a research in the American Journal of Gastroenterology, consuming prune juice daily for three weeks significantly reduced chronic constipation.

**Ground flaxseeds**

Both soluble and insoluble fiber, which are found in flaxseeds, support regular bowel motions in various ways. Improvements in stool consistency and frequency of bowel movements are also reported as benefits of daily flax intake. Select ground flaxseeds instead of whole ones. Whole flaxseeds are less efficient and more difficult to digest.

**Oatmeal**



bowel movements, most cases of constipation can be resolved by eating meals that improve bowel movements and ease constipation.

The following symptoms are seen in those who are constipated:



**Beans**

One of the easiest strategies to relieve constipation is definitely to eat a lot of vibrant veggies. In addition to having additional laxative qualities that keep your stools from getting too firm or difficult to pass, vegetables are great providers of dietary fiber. They also contain a lot of water, despite perception. One of the best veggies for constipation, beans include both soluble and insoluble fiber, which facilitates the passage of stool through the intestines. To avoid constipation, think about consuming three servings of beans every week.

**Figs**

A concentrated high amount of 1.86 g of fiber can be found in dried figs. According to a tiny 2016 study conducted by the Department of Medical Nutrition Therapy, eating fig paste may have helped participants with constipation experience less abdominal pain, better stool consistency, and faster colonic transit. In addition to being eaten on their own, figs can be added to fruit salads or boiled to make a delicious jam that pairs well with sandwiches, pizza, and bruschetta.

**Sweet potatoes**

Oats are genuinely underappreciated when it comes to helping you to poop better. Their abundance of vital vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants promotes intestinal health and makes them one of the greatest meals for constipation. Soluble fiber, the kind of fiber that keeps more water in the stool, is abundant in oats. As a result, the stool becomes softer and bigger, making it simpler to pass. To get the most fiber content when buying oats, seek for whole grain oats, oat groats, and oat bran.

In addition to fiber, sweet potatoes are packed with vitamins and minerals. 3.76 g of fiber may be found in one medium roasted sweet potato with skin. Sweet potato eaters also report less discomfort and straining when they poop.

You may substitute sweet potatoes for white potatoes in any of your favorite recipes by mashing, frying, or roasting them. You can also try making avocado toast with them instead of bread.

# Indian Navy's INSV Tarini embarks on second leg of expedition from Australia

Booked for transporting 'fake' water purifiers, how Delhi tempo driver ran around for 7 years to clear his name

**Speaking to The Indian Express, tempo driver Anwar Sheikh said he had agreed to transport the ROs for Rs 1,200. Sheikh said he knew he was transporting ROs — but he did not know that they were fake.**

**NEW DELHI:** Booked for transporting duplicate ROs (water purifiers), tempo driver Anwar Sheikh ran around attending court hearings for the next seven years to prove his innocence. A case was registered against the 46-year-old and two others initially under sections of cheating and the Trademark Act. Later, three others were also named as accused in the case. In March 2017, Anwar was arrested by the Faridabad Police and spent three days in jail before he got out on bail.

Last month, a Faridabad court acquitted all six persons and came down heavily on the police. In its order, the court said there is not an iota of evidence to prove the alleged commission of offence as the evidence on the file clearly suggests that no such incident ever happened.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Sheikh, who lives in a one-bedroom house measuring 50 yards in West Delhi's Vishnu Garden, with his wife, five-year-old son, and mother-in-law, said he had agreed to transport the ROs for Rs 1,200. Sheikh said he knew he was transporting ROs — but he did not know that they were fake. "I was hired and told to take the tempo just till the Badarpur border. But when I got there, I was told to cross the border and go 3 km further for an extra Rs 300. Sometimes, I wonder what would have happened had I not been greedy for the Rs 300... but we are daily wagers so that amount mattered," said Sheikh. It was not just Sheikh who went through the ordeal but also his family. His wife Farhana (40) refuses to speak about it. "Jo tha bas khatam ho gaya (Whatever it is, it's over now). I just hope and pray it never happens to anyone," she said.

For Anwar, the three days in jail were the worst days of his life. "Never in my life did I think I'd be in jail. I cried every night, the blankets were so smelly that I would remove my shirt and stuff it in my mouth so no one could hear me cry. I have a liver issue and when my friend came to give me medicine, the cops asked him to drink it first before handing it over to me," he said.

During his battle to clear his name, he sold his tempo and took the Metro to attend court hearings. Now, he has a new tempo — and a different bond with the police. "Sometimes, I run into them while driving around... the cop who was there when I was in the police station is now in the Traffic unit. I met him once," added Sheikh.

**What the court said**  
The accused in the case — Anwar, Laxmi Narayan, Mohd Intaj, Bijender Kumar, Naveen Kumar and Rajeev Singhal — were acquitted on October 3. The court order noted that the complainant in the case, Manoj, who had earlier claimed he received secret information regarding duplicate ROs, had failed in the cross-examination and even refused to identify the alleged accused. The complainant also mentioned that no recovery was effected in his presence and claimed police had taken his signatures on a blank paper.

**►The Indian Naval Sailing vessel INSV Tarini sailed out from Australia's Fremantle on November 24 for the second leg of the Navika Sagar Parikrama II expedition to Lyttelton in New Zealand.**

8.30 am (Indian time) for the second leg of the Navika Sagar Parikrama 2 expedition and was seen off by an enthusiastic crowd cheering for the safe passage to Lyttelton.

The expedition, with two intrepid women officers, Lieutenant Commanders Dilna K and Roopa A onboard the ship, was flagged off by Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi on October 2 from Goa.

The voyage will cover 3,400 nautical miles (6,300 kilometres) in approximately 20 days, and it will see the crew experience varied weather conditions, including frontal weather systems and dropping temperatures, the Navy said in a statement.

In Australia's Fremantle, INSV Tarini received a warm welcome by several dignitaries, including the Consul General of India at Perth, the Defence Advisor from Canberra, the Secretary of the Indian Navy Sailing Association (INSA), representatives from the Royal Australian



Navy, and Indian Naval veterans residing in Australia. At Fremantle and Perth, the crew engaged in various impactful activities showcasing the Indian Navy's contribution to promoting gender equality and global maritime cooperation. Fostering cultural and historical connections between the two countries and recognising their achievements, the crew were honoured as special invitees at the Western Australia Parliament where they interacted with parliamentarians and also attended a

session of the Parliament where a statement was made in the house, acknowledging the expedition and their journey thus far. During the stopover, Tarini also underwent checks of all systems and repairs to defects under the supervision of a shore support team from India and stocked up with provisions for the next leg. The crew was briefed by the team mentor, Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd) on the passage ahead, who also assessed the boat.

Serving as ambassadors of India's rich maritime heritage, the Navy officials interacted with the Indian diaspora at a vibrant event coordinated by the Consul General of India in Perth. They also visited the Royal Australian Naval Base HMAS Stirling and the Ocean Reef High School. Sharing their journeys and experiences with the students. Phase 2 of the expedition will see INSV Tarini cross Cape Leeuwin, the Great Australian Bight, Tasmania and the South Island of New Zealand before calling on at Lyttelton.

## MCD launches software for bulk waste generators

**NEW DELHI:** The MCD on Sunday announced the launch of an advanced software platform to streamline the registration and monitoring of bulk waste generators (BWGs) as required under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016. This move is part of the civic body's efforts to improve waste management practices and promote a cleaner and greener Delhi.

BWGs include residential complexes, commercial establishments, hotels, banquet halls, hospitals, and institutions generating more than 100 kilograms of



waste daily. The new platform offers a user-friendly system for BWGs to register, ensuring compliance with regulations like proper segregation, processing, and waste disposal at the source.

The MCD stated that the software would enhance its ability to monitor waste disposal practices effectively. It will also allow timely interventions to address challenges in waste management. This initiative is aimed at reducing pressure on overburdened landfills and improving the waste management system. BWGs are required to register on the platform via the 311 app or the designated portal. The MCD warned that non-compliance with registration or proper waste management practices could result in penalties under the Solid Waste Management rules.

## DUSU Election Result 2024: Counting underway, Delhi University Students Union results expected by 4 pm.

**NEW DELHI:** The counting for the Delhi University Students Union (DUSU) elections was underway at the North and South campuses and the final results are expected by 4 pm on Monday. In the fray are candidates from RSS-affiliated Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), Congress-supported National Students' Union of India (NSUI), and a Left coalition comprising the All India Students' Association (AISA) and the Students' Federation of India (SFI). The candidates for the post of president are ABVP's Rishabh Chaudhary, NSUI's Rounak Khatri, and AISA's Saavy Gupta.

The candidates for the post of vice president are ABVP's Bhanu Pratap Singh, NSUI's Yash Nandal, and AISA's Ayush Mondal. Winners for the posts of treasurer and general secretary in the four-member body will also be declared on Monday. While voting took place in September, the counting was delayed after the Delhi High Court pulled up the varsity for rampant defacement during the campaign. The administration has now asked the candidates to sign an undertaking that the celebrations will be muted.

The candidates have signed an affidavit pledging to "not resort to roadshows and rallies after the declaration of results" and avoid celebratory activities such as using dhols, loudspeakers, firecrackers, or distributing pamphlets. Non-compliance with these measures could result in the nullification of a candidate's victory or removal from their elected position, as per the affidavit. Till the last reports came in, NSUI presidential candidate Khatri had amassed 4,565 votes at the end of round four of counting, and the ABVP candidate was trailing with 4,072 votes. Whereas ABVP's Singh was leading the race for the post of vice president with 4,336 votes against the NSUI candidate's 3,441 votes.

## Coast Guard seizes 5 tonnes of drugs in Andaman waters in 'biggest ever haul'

**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Coast Guard on Monday seized five tonnes of drugs from a fishing boat in the Bay of Bengal near the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. According to the defence officials, this is likely to be one of its biggest drug busts. "The Indian Coast Guard has apprehended a huge consignment of around five tons of drugs from a fishing boat in the Andaman waters. This is likely to be the biggest ever drug haul by the Indian Coast Guard ever. More details awaited," said defence officials. This bust is the latest in a series of actions taken by anti-narcotics agencies targeting drug smuggling rackets and cartels.

Earlier this month, the anti-narcotics agencies seized about 700 kilograms of methamphetamine and arrested eight Iranian nationals in Indian waters off the Gujarat coast. The operation, called "Sagar Manthan-4," was based on intelligence inputs, the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) said in a statement. The Navy identified and



intercepted the vessel using maritime patrol assets. The operation was conducted jointly by the NCB, the Navy, and the Gujarat Police Anti-Terrorist Squad. Union Home Minister Amit Shah described the drug seizure as an example of the government's commitment and the coordination among its agencies. "The back-to-back major breakthroughs against illegal drugs in a single day demonstrate the

Modi government's unwavering resolve to build a drug-free Bharat. The NCB today confiscated 82.53 kg of high-grade cocaine in New Delhi," he tweeted. This year, anti-narcotics agencies have seized 3,500 kilograms of drugs transported through maritime routes and arrested 11 Iranians and 14 Pakistanis in three cases. The foreign nationals remain in jail awaiting trial, the NCB said.

## Delhi Assembly polls next year, AAP and BJP go all out to woo rural voters

**Officials said that till date, 573 projects worth Rs 523 crore have been sanctioned, with Rs 960 crore transferred to the Delhi Development Authority for the programme implementation.**

**New Delhi.** Political parties are queuing up to impress the rural voters in the Capital with AAP and BJP holding rallies in different parts of Delhi on Sunday as the Assembly elections are around the corner.

While AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal attended a dangal in Mundka where he promised to build India's largest sports university at Rs 2,100 crore, Delhi BJP co-in-charge Alka Gurjar, president Virendra Sachdeva and MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat addressed a public meeting in Kanganheda village of Matiala Assembly constituency. Delhi BJP General Secretary Vishnu Mittal was also present. Both Mundka and Matiala constituencies are home to old Delhi villages but also have a significant number of unauthorised colonies and slums.

Last year, Lt-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena had launched the Dilli Gramodaya Abhiyan with an aim to enhance civic amenities in the rural areas. Officials said that till date, 573 projects worth Rs 523



crore have been sanctioned, with Rs 960 crore transferred to the Delhi Development Authority for the programme implementation. Piped Natural Gas has also been made available in the villages for the first time. Over the past decade, the AAP has built a support base in these areas. However, party sources said that this support has been slipping because of the unpopularity of the local MLAs in many such areas. Notably, in its first list, AAP replaced three sitting MLAs — in Seelampur, Kirari and Matiala.

At the Mundka meeting, Kejriwal said the constituency has the highest number of kacchi (unauthorised) colonies in Delhi. "Mundka constituency has 73 unauthorised colonies where we have built roads and lanes. I'm not claiming that all the work has been completed, there are still areas where work is ongoing. However, significant progress has been made," he said, adding, "If you give us another chance, we will complete the remaining work in the next term... Don't worry. They put me in jail for several months, but now that I am out, I will ensure that all pending work is completed swiftly". Announcing plans for the sports university, Kejriwal said, "Construction will begin soon. It will take time, but it will be a massive university. People in our villages and rural areas are particularly passionate about sports, and this university will provide opportunities for our youth to shine in this field."

## Sambhal: Case against Samajwadi MP, MLA's son over deadly mosque survey clashes

**NEW DELHI:** Schools are closed today, mobile internet has been suspended and large gatherings are banned in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal day after hundreds protesting against a court-ordered survey of a mosque clashed with the police, resulting in the deaths of four people and several, including cops, being injured. A case has been registered against Sambhal MP and Samajwadi Party leader Ziaur Rahman Barq and Sohail Iqbal, the son of local MLA Iqbal Mehmood who is also from Akhilesh Yadav's party. The two have been accused of orchestrating violence, mobilising crowds, and provoking unrest, officials said.

Violence broke out on Sunday after protesters opposed a survey of the local Shahi Masjid conducted by a court-appointed Advocate Commission following a petition claiming that Mughal-era mosque was constructed by demolishing a temple at the site. The crowd threw stones and set vehicles on fire prompting the police to respond with

tear gas shells. The tension that began at 7 am continued for hours. Four people died in the clashes; they have been identified as Nauman, Bilal, Naim, and Mohd Kaif. While there are allegations that the victims sustained bullet injuries, the police have said that the exact cause of death will be confirmed after autopsy.

Police said that shots were fired by some protesters and a police officer suffered a gunshot wound to his leg. Another officer was hit by pellets and 15 to 20 security personnel were injured in the violence. Another cop suffered a serious head injury, while the deputy collector fractured his leg. Videos showed protesters throwing stones at cops from buildings in front of the Shahi Jama Masjid. Later, police personnel were allegedly seen cornering and hitting people as they tried to disperse a large crowd in a narrow alleyway. The district administration suspended mobile internet services Sunday evening for 24 hours. All schools and colleges are shut today, and



prohibitory orders banning large public gatherings are in place. The administration has also banned purchasing or stockpiling stones, soda bottles, or any flammable or explosive materials. Any outsider, social organisation or public representative has also been banned from entering the area without permission till November 30. Opposition parties slammed the BJP over the violence. The Congress alleged that the police directly fired on the protesters, describing it as the "horrifying result of a well-planned conspiracy" by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and the BJP-

RSS. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also criticised the BJP, accusing its government and administration of orchestrating the violence "to divert attention from electoral malpractice".

The BJP shot back alleging that the INDIA alliance had been trying to create unrest since the failure in the Lok Sabha polls. It said that those who do not agree with judicial orders should take legal recourse. A party spokesman blamed what he called the "ghamandia alliance" (an alliance full of arrogance), a term BJP leaders have often used for the INDIA bloc, for the violence. Tension has been brewing in Sambhal since November 19, when the Jama Masjid was surveyed on the orders of a local court following a petition claiming that a Harihar temple once stood at the site. Police stated that the first survey was incomplete, prompting a second survey on Sunday. However, amid violence, the Advocate Commissioner completed the survey on Sunday.



# Hidden dangers of eating dry Chia seeds you must know

Chia seeds is a viral superfood people can't stop talking about in videos, reels and online conversations. Soaked chia seeds have even been given a moniker of natural alternative to popular weight loss drug Ozempic. The tiny superfoods are also added to various infused waters, promising effective weight loss and cholesterol reduction. Amid all the online chatter, it's easy to fall into the trap of misinformation and blind trust.

Dieticians often recommend chia seeds (Salvia hispanica) for weight loss. Other than aiding weight loss, consuming chia seeds have also been quite effective in controlling blood sugar and improving bone health among other benefits given that it is rich in fibre, calcium, antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids. It therefore calls for making the nutritious seeds part of daily diet. But hang on. Swallowing of too many dry chia seeds at one go could have disastrous side effects. Plus, excess consumption of it may lead to problems ranging from dietary issues to lowering blood sugar level. It could also interfere with diabetes medication.

**Choking hazard**

Chia seeds has also been known to improve digestion and ease constipation, but, people who ingest dry seeds, especially too many of them, could land in trouble. If consumed without liquid or water, it can form a concrete-like mass in your digestive tract, which can lead to them getting stuck. Dr. Wendi Lebre, a gastroenterologist at California's UCLA Health, told New York Post and advised people to not eat dry chia seeds. Dr. Lebre cited a 2014 report from the American Journal of Gastroenterology, which

described a 39-year-old man with asthma who had trouble swallowing after ingesting a tablespoon of dry chia seeds. Tests revealed that the seeds had hydrated and formed a gel, causing an obstruction in his oesophagus.

Chia seeds can absorb up to 27 times their own weight in water and one should preferably have them soaked or in smaller quantities.

**Constipation, abdominal pain or diarrhoea**

Dry chia seeds are fibre-rich and helps in poop regulation but higher dietary intake of it cause problems for many people. Not drinking enough water along with dry chia seeds leads to bloating and abdominal pain. It may also cause diarrhoea. As soon as such issues crop up you should immediately cut chia seeds intake. Many people who suffer from inflammatory bowel disease should limit dry chia seeds intake in order to stop the problem from exacerbating.

**Caution for diabetics**

While chia seeds are considered a good option for managing blood sugar levels, their intake should be restricted if you are taking blood sugar or blood pressure medications. Too many chia seeds can interact with these medicines and reduce their effect.

**Can interact with blood pressure medications**

Chia seeds are effective at lowering both blood sugar and blood pressure. Studies have shown that consuming chia seeds can reduce blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and inflammation. This effect is attributed to their high omega-3 fatty acid content, which acts as a blood thinner. However, chia seeds may interact with blood pressure medications, potentially leading to low blood pressure.



Miraculous benefits of raw

# Ginger juice

for lowering cholesterol, weight loss

Ginger is a culinary staple used in almost every kitchen, but its utility is beyond the flavor it lends to a dish. Many forgotten uses of ginger are now finding favour in the modern world thanks to the various scientific studies that are approving incredible benefits of this spice for digestive health, weight loss and lowering cholesterol.

Ginger has a natural compound called gingerol, which provides a range of benefits from nausea to pain relief, and blood sugar to cholesterol control. It is a much-revered spice in Ayurveda too. According to Acharya Shushruta, ginger pacifies vata and kapha, eases constipation, relieves gas and bloating, and is helpful in abdominal pain. Acharya Charak says ginger's Vipaka or post-digestive effect is sweet and it is used in the case of hridya roga or heart disease. Ginger is also considered a good appetizer, and helps whet the appetite.

**How to make ginger juice**

Ginger juice can be made in jiffy and downed quickly, providing solution to your cholesterol as well as weight loss woes. This concoction is fast becoming popular among wellness enthusiasts. To make ginger juice, cut fresh ginger into small pieces and add some water. Blend it smooth and strain the mixture to extract the juice. If you do not like the taste, add honey or lemon for extra flavor.

Health experts suggest not having more than 1-2 spoonfuls to avoid adverse effects like mild heartburn, diarrhea, and irritation of the mouth.

**Benefits of ginger juice**

**Relieves nausea and vomiting**

Ginger is known to be effective in preventing nausea and

vomiting. It works by improving digestion and blocking certain receptors that cause nausea. Studies have shown that ginger can help reduce nausea caused by chemotherapy, which often leads to severe sickness, as well as nausea after surgery.

**Aids in weight loss**

Gingerol in ginger can boost metabolism and enhance fat burning. It also helps in controlling appetite which prevents overeating. This can help in shedding pounds.



or reduce complications such as micro-vascular retinopathy. Preliminary research suggests that ginger may contribute to better blood sugar control. Ginger juice consumption on an empty stomach may aid in managing blood sugar levels even in those without diabetes.

**Relieves morning sickness**

The active compounds in ginger, called gingerols, could help relieve morning sickness in pregnant women and is considered safe by the FDA in pregnancy.

**Joint health**

Another amazing benefit of ginger is its effectiveness in reducing pain and swelling, especially in case of conditions like rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. This is due to its anti-inflammatory properties.

**Instant relief in headaches**

Have a headache? Do not pop a pill but have some ginger juice. By reducing prostaglandin synthesis, ginger can relieve headaches and migraines.

**Cancer prevention**

There is some evidence that ginger may inhibit the growth of cancer cells and help combat drug resistance in tumors.

**Way to have ginger**

- Ginger water in morning can help relieve constipation
- Add grated ginger to your morning tea for a metabolism boost
- You can also add ginger to your soup

Avoid ginger if on blood thinners as it may increase risk of bleeding. Don't eat more than 6 gm of ginger on a daily basis as it can cause acidity, heartburn and diarrhoea.

**Cholesterol control**

Ginger can help lower blood sugar and reduce cholesterol and triglyceride levels. Long-term use may also raise beneficial HDL cholesterol.

**Blood sugar control**

Ginger has antidiabetic properties which can prevent the disease



‘Faceless’ I-T assessment initiative struggles to deliver

**NEW DELHI:** The Faceless Assessment mechanism is aimed to revolutionise tax administration by enhancing transparency and efficiency. However, as the system has evolved, it has faced significant challenges that have hindered its effectiveness, raising concerns among taxpayers and tax professionals alike. One of the primary issues is the limited opportunity for real-time interaction between taxpayers and assessing officers. The absence of video conferencing for cases involving complex disputes has made it difficult for taxpayers to clarify factual nuances or rectify misunderstandings. This lack of direct communication often leads to arbitrary assessments and prolonged disputes, frustrating many taxpayers who find themselves unable to effectively present their cases. “Taxpayers often struggle to clarify factual nuances or correct misunderstandings, leading to arbitrary assessments or prolonged disputes,” says Punit Shah, Partner, Dhruva Advisors. According to him, technical difficulties have further complicated the assessment process. Taxpayers frequently encounter bulk upload errors, stringent size limits for document submissions, and various glitches within the system. These barriers prevent individuals from providing detailed evidence, undermining the goal of a fair and transparent assessment process.

Vivek Jalan, founder of Tax Connect Advisory Services, pointed out that large taxpayers face unique challenges as their extensive financial records can overwhelm assessing officers. The inability to have personalised discussions often leads to inflated demands that could be easily resolved in a manual hearing.

Market opens strongly as investors cheer Maharashtra election outcome

**NEW DELHI:** India’s equity market made solid gains on Monday morning with the benchmark indices - BSE Sensex and NSE Nifty - opening higher by about 1.5% each. The gain is attributed to the landslide victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led coalition in the Maharashtra Assembly elections and a strong rally seen in global markets.

At the start of the Monday session, Sensex stood at 80,344.78, gaining 1,227%, or 1.55%, while the Nifty 50 reached 24,277, up by 370 points, or 1.55%. The fresh rally comes after the two benchmarks had surged about 2.5% each—their highest single-day gain in nearly five months—on Friday.

BEL, Shriram Finance, ONGC, M&M, Adani Enterprises and BPCL were among the gainers on the Nifty 50 pack, while JSW Steel was the major laggard. Shares of Zomato surged by more than 5% as the food tech company is set to replace JSW Steel in the BSE Sensex, effective from December 23. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that this sharp upswing is assisted by the super NDA performance in Maharashtra. “The political message from this election is huge and highly positive from the market perspective. A significant feature of the Friday rally was the sharp spurts in many large-caps with some stocks shooting up by more than 4%. This clearly indicates short covering, which will keep the market resilient today,” he added. However, he added that whether the rally will continue beyond a couple of days remains to be seen since the earnings headwinds will continue to constrain the bulls. Banking and IT are on a strong wicket assisted by fair valuations and reasonable growth prospects. Watch out for capital goods, telecom and pharma stocks, he said.

RBI-Centre tussle: Is govt trying to guide interest rates?

**MUMBAI:** Mint Road observers were taken aback by the sudden calls from top two Union ministers to cut the interest rates, days ahead of the December 6 policy meeting and within a month of the governor Shaktikanta Das’ six-year term ending. Are we going back to the days of bitter public spat that government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had when Subbarao was at the helm which got lingered into the terms of Raghuram Rajan and Urjit Patel, though not on rates per se but on larger policy issues? What has suddenly changed the honeymoon-days-like cordial relationship between the RBI and government in the past six years? Das completes his near record six-year term on December 12—the longest tenure since Benegal Rama Rau’s, who helmed the central bank for 7.5 years from 1949-57—and all indications signal that he’s going to keep the job for a year or two at least.

First it was the chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran who made a wildcard demand in the last economic survey—skin food items off the retail inflation basket—food items constitute as much as 45.9% of the weighting in retail inflation basket and their prices cannot be controlled by monetary policy as they are supply-driven. The issue got a silent response from the RBI at the next policy presser: RBI believes that food inflation is central to its price control objectives. On November 14, just ahead of Das’ speech at an industry event, commerce minister Piyush Goyal dropped the rate bomb—first time in six years: “I certainly believe the central bank should cut interest rates. Growth needs further impetus. It’s absolutely a flawed theory to consider food inflation while deciding interest rates.” Since Das was the next speaker, when sought comments, he quipped: “the next monetary policy is coming up in the first week of December. I would like to reserve my comments for that.”

**Adani Group shares rise for 2nd straight session: 2 reasons behind bull run**

**Adani group shares: Adani stocks continued their upward movement, with Adani Energy Solutions being among the top performers.**

**NEW DELHI:** Adani Group shares saw a rise in early trade on Monday, continuing their recovery from last week’s turbulence. All 10 listed companies of Gautam Adani’s conglomerate opened higher, with some stocks rising as much as 7% before paring gains as the session progressed. Adani Energy Solutions was among the top performers, rising 6.9% to Rs 694.15 compared to its previous close of Rs 649.40 on Friday. Similarly, Adani

Green Energy gained 6.4% to reach Rs 1,120, up from Rs 1,052.50 in the previous trading session. Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone Ltd, part of the Nifty50 index, rose 4.65% to Rs 1,192.30 after closing at Rs 1,137.50 on Friday. Meanwhile, Adani Enterprises Ltd, the flagship company of the group, advanced over 4% to Rs 2,319.90 from its previous close of Rs 2,229.65.



Other stocks in the group also recorded gains: Adani Total Gas Ltd: Up 5.3% to Rs 641.95. Adani Power Ltd: Gained 4.1%, touching Rs 480. Adani Wilmar Ltd: Rose 3.25% to Rs 301.75. Ambuja Cements Ltd: Added 2.6%, reaching Rs 513.90. ACC Ltd: Increased by 2.25% to Rs 2,138. NDTV (New Delhi Television Ltd): The smallest listed entity of the group rose 4% to Rs 176 during the session. **WHAT DROVE THE MARKET RALLY?** Market bull run: The stock markets experienced a strong rally driven by a

surge in banking, financial, and energy stocks. Sensex surged over 1300 points in early trade while Nifty crossed 24,300 mark. ‘Maha’ win in Maharashtra: The positive market sentiment was driven by the clear mandate by the BJP-led ‘Mahayuti’ alliance in the Maharashtra assembly elections. **RECENT CHALLENGES** The Adani Group recently faced allegations from US prosecutors, who accused Gautam Adani and others of orchestrating a \$265 million bribery scheme to secure state energy contracts. These allegations led to a steep decline in Adani stocks last week, causing significant volatility. The company has categorically denied the allegations, calling them “baseless.” This clarification helped stabilise investor sentiment, with the group’s stocks rebounding on Friday after experiencing heavy losses earlier in the week.

**MARKET REACTION** Despite last week’s turbulence, Monday’s rally shows that investor confidence in the Adani Group remains intact. The group’s stocks were buoyed further by broader positive market trends and some recovery in sentiment following its strong rebuttal of the allegations. The gains also coincided with a rally in Indian markets after the BJP-led alliance swept Maharashtra assembly elections. While the political outcome boosted overall investor sentiment, Adani Group stocks have been particularly responsive given their sharp fall earlier.

**NTPC Green Energy IPO share price: Strong debut on D-Street or muted listing?**

**New Delhi:** Shares of NTPC Green Energy are set to make its debut on the Dalal Street on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, after having witnessed decent subscription numbers through its 3-day bidding process. The NTPC Green Energy IPO saw decent investor interest, with an overall subscription of 2.55 times by the third day of bidding on November 22, 2024.



Among the different investor categories, the retail segment showed the highest enthusiasm, subscribing 3.59 times the allotted shares. Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) closely followed, with a subscription rate of 3.51 times. However, Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs), which include high-net-worth individuals, showed comparatively less interest, with their category subscribed at 0.85 times. “The grey market

effect among investors applying for NTPC Green,” he added. **LATEST GMP FOR NTPC GREEN ENERGY IPO** The latest grey market premium (GMP) for NTPC Green Energy’s IPO is Rs 3.50 as of November 25, 2024, 7:00 AM. With the IPO’s upper price band set at Rs 108, the projected listing price stands at Rs 111.50, which is calculated by adding the GMP to the cap price. This implies a potential gain of 3.24% per share from the upper price band. Allotment of shares for NTPC Green Energy IPO will be completed by Monday. Investors who have bid for NTPC Green Energy IPO can check their allotment status online. They can log in to either the BSE website or the website of Kfin Technologies Limited, the registrar for the issue.

**Amazon's quick commerce service code named Tez to challenge Blinkit, Zepto**

**NEW DELHI:** Amazon India is planning to launch its quick commerce service, reportedly code-named Tez, as early as late December or early next year, reported news agency Reuters. According to sources cited in the report, this move will mark Amazon’s entry into the fast-growing quick commerce space in India, where competitors like Blinkit, Zepto, and Swiggy Instamart currently dominate. The quick commerce sector, which deals with ultra-fast delivery of groceries and daily essentials, is projected to reach a market size of nearly \$7 billion by 2024.

its rivals. Amazon is working on setting up dark stores, managing stock-keeping units (SKUs), and building the logistics infrastructure needed for quick deliveries. The company has also started hiring staff for this project. According to a job post from Amazon’s India grocery and essentials team, the initiative is being described as a “ground-up project in an upcoming and fast-growing e-commerce space.” However, the final name for the service is yet to be decided.

**PLANS FOR TEZ** Sources mentioned in the report suggest that Amazon initially planned to roll out Tez in the first quarter of 2025 but has now accelerated its timeline. The launch date could be finalised during the company’s December review meeting, just ahead of its annual Smbhav event. The service will likely start with groceries and everyday essentials, following a model similar to

**GROWING COMPETITION IN QUICK COMMERCE** Amazon is entering a crowded market where other players are scaling up rapidly. Flipkart, Amazon’s main rival in India, launched its Minutes quick commerce service earlier this year and has already expanded it to major cities. Tata Group has also entered the segment with Neu Flash, a quick commerce service under its Tata Neu super app. BigBasket, another Tata-owned company, has shifted to the quick commerce model, reporting gross sales

of over Rs 900 crore in October. Zepto recently raised \$350 million, taking its cash reserves past \$1 billion, while Zomato’s Blinkit has secured shareholder approval to raise another \$1 billion through qualified institutional placements (QIP). **POTENTIAL OF QUICK COMMERCE IN INDIA** According to a Morgan Stanley report, the quick commerce market could reach a size of \$25 billion to \$55 billion by 2030, depending on growth conditions. The report forecasts significant growth in key metrics, such as the number of households using ultra-fast delivery services and the frequency of orders. The report also highlights that high-frequency users, who make up about one-third of current users, are expected to account for nearly 75-80% of the total market value by 2030. The quick commerce sector is projected to overtake food delivery in gross order value (GOV) by 2026, making it a key area of focus for e-commerce players.

Zomato’s stock has seen a 130% rise in the last 12 months, compared to the Sensex’s 20% return. Meanwhile, JSW Steel, which is being replaced, has delivered a 27% return in the same period. The reconstitution of indices is not limited to Zomato and JSW Steel. Several other stocks are being shuffled across BSE indices: BSE 100: Ashok Leyland, PI Industries, IDFC First Bank, IRCTC, UPL, and APL Apollo Tubes will be dropped. New additions include Jio Financial Services, Suzlon Energy, Adani Green Energy, Adani Power, Samvardhana Motherhood, and PB Fintech. BSE Sensex 50: HDFC Life, BPCL, and LTI Mindtree will be replaced by Zomato, Jio Financial Services, and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). Zomato’s rising market value is backed by strong financial results. In the July-September quarter, the company reported a 389% growth in its consolidated net profit, which stood at Rs 176 crore compared to Rs 36 crore in the same period last year. The company’s revenue from operations also surged, climbing 69% year-on-year to Rs 4,799 crore in Q2, up from Rs 2,848 crore a year earlier. Sequentially, Zomato’s revenue grew from Rs 4,206 crore in the previous quarter, showcasing consistent growth. With a market capitalisation of Rs 2.3 lakh crore, Zomato has solidified its position as a major player in India’s food delivery and technology space. The company’s shares closed at Rs 264.89 on November 22, slightly down by 0.72%.

**Sensex surges 1200 points: 3 factors behind stock market rally**

**New Delhi:** Sensex saw a huge rise as markets experienced a strong rally in early trade on Monday. The Sensex surged over 1,300 points and the Nifty gained nearly 400 points. This upward trend, building on the momentum from the last trading session, saw gains across all sectors. The S&P BSE Sensex shot past the 80,000 mark, while the broader NSE Nifty climbed above 24,300. The rally boosted investor wealth, with over Rs 8.6 lakh crore added to the BSE’s market capitalisation. The total market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies reached Rs 441.37 lakh crore, up from Rs 432.71 lakh crore in the previous session. Heavyweight stocks such as Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), State Bank of India (SBI), Airtel, and Axis Bank played a major role in lifting the indices.



**THREE REASONS BEHIND TODAY’S RALLY** **POSITIVE POLITICAL SENTIMENT** - The National Democratic Alliance’s (NDA) recent victory in Maharashtra elections boosted market confidence. The

rally. **STRONG GLOBAL CUES** - Global markets also provided support to the rally. Most Asian indices traded higher, with Japan’s Nikkei index rising 1.17% and South Korea’s Kospi index gaining 1.44%. Positive global trends often have a ripple effect on Indian markets, and today was no exception.

**NIFTY OUTLOOK** Analysts remain optimistic but cautious about the Nifty’s trajectory. “Today’s bounce hints at a vertical rise with a swing target of 25,262. However, given the large gains on Friday, there may be a slowdown or a pullback around the 24,030-24,420 range. If dips hold above 23,800, the upward momentum could continue, with intermediate resistance levels at 24,420-24,770,” said Anand James, Chief Market Strategist at Geojit Financial Services. **INVESTOR WEALTH SURGES** The rally resulted in a significant rise in investor wealth. The market capitalisation of companies listed on the BSE increased by Rs 8.65 lakh crore in a single session, reflecting the broad-based gains in the market.

## NEWS BOX

## Rift in Australian team? Adam Gilchrist highlights Hazlewood's Perth Test comments

New Delhi. Former Australia wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist has raised concerns about a potential divide in the Australian cricket team following comments by fast bowler Josh Hazlewood after a challenging third day in the Perth Test. Hazlewood, who returned figures of 28 for 1 from 21 overs as India declared their second innings at 487 for 6, appeared visibly frustrated during a press conference. His remarks came shortly after the dismissals of Nathan McSweeney and Marnus Labuschagne late in the day, which left Australia's chances of victory all but extinguished. When asked about the team's approach to turning the game around, Hazlewood shifted focus to the batting unit, saying, "You probably have to ask one of the batters that question... I'm probably looking mostly towards the next Test." The seamer's comments sparked debate amongst cricketing pundits, with Gilchrist leading the discussion on Fox Sports. "I wonder if there's a divide in Andrew McDonald's team between the batters and bowlers," Gilchrist remarked, noting the unusual tone of Hazlewood's remarks.

However, former England captain Michael Vaughan saw it differently, interpreting Hazlewood's words as indicative of internal strain. "Publicly, I've never heard an Australian divide the camp into batters and bowlers like that," Vaughan said. "It's unusual to hear an Australian cricketer publicly shift focus to the next game before this one is finished." Mohammed Siraj delivered two sharp morning spells, dismissing Usman Khawaja and an out-of-form Steven Smith, as Australia struggled to 104/5 by lunch on day four of the first Test against India. Chasing a daunting target of 534, Australia, starting at 12/3, slumped further to 17/4 when Khawaja's mistimed pull off Siraj (3/34 in 10 overs) was brilliantly caught by Rishabh Pant, running backward. Travis Head (63\* off 72) launched a spirited counter-attack alongside Smith (17), who battled hard to break out of his slump.

Questions now loom over the state of the Australian dressing room. While some commentators like Ravi Shastri and Warner downplayed the idea of significant discord, others believe Hazlewood's comments reflect a deeper issue. As Australia prepares for the fourth day of a seemingly insurmountable Test, attention will be split between their on-field performance and the dynamics within the team.

## World Chess Championship Final: D Gukesh aims to become youngest champion

New Delhi. The countdown has begun – just three days left until the highly anticipated World Chess Championship between India's rising star Gukesh D and reigning champion Ding Liren of China. This is shaping up to be a historic showdown, not only because of the stakes involved for both players but also due to the significance of the match for the world of chess. For India, the stakes couldn't be higher. Gukesh has the potential to make history by becoming the youngest-ever World Chess Champion, a feat that would eclipse the legacy of his legendary countryman, Vishwanathan Anand, who last brought the World Chess Championship to India in 2012. The road to this point has been challenging for Indian chess, with Anand's 2012 victory remaining India's most recent World Championship win. The gap since then has been a long one, and Gukesh has emerged as the new hope for Indian chess, positioning himself as a serious contender to break the drought.

On the other hand, Ding Liren, the current World Chess Champion since 2022, has had a turbulent journey since claiming the title. While his victory at the 2022 World Championship was a monumental achievement, his performance over the past two years has been inconsistent. Some fans have even unfairly turned against him, trending the hashtag #NotMyChampion when Ding failed to perform at his best. Yet, when Ding is at his peak, he remains one of the most formidable players in the world. The question is, which Ding Liren will show up at this year's championship?

For Gukesh, the challenge will be especially tough. Historically, Ding has had the upper hand in their classical encounters. To date, Gukesh has yet to defeat Ding in a classical game, with Ding leading their head-to-head record 2-0. But Gukesh has proven time and again that he's a fighter, capable of bouncing back from setbacks and making quick adjustments. This championship match presents him with the perfect opportunity to rewrite that narrative and achieve something truly extraordinary.

## The Crucial Openings: Ruy Lopez and Nimzo-Indian Defense

Gukesh's past losses to Ding Liren have been largely determined by Ding's choice of openings – two in particular that Gukesh struggled to handle effectively. In the 2024 Tata Steel Chess Tournament, the game between Gukesh and Ding featured the Ruy Lopez, specifically the Berlin Defense. The Berlin Defense is known for its solidity and flexibility, making it a popular choice among top-level players. Ding's preference for this opening stems from its ability to offer both flexibility and strategic depth.

## AUS vs IND: Bumrah's historic feat, India's biggest win in Australia – Stat Pack

## AUS vs IND: Jasprit

**Bumrah's India took a 1-0 lead in the five-match series after beating Pat Cummins' Australia by 295 runs at the Optus Stadium. Bumrah became the Player of the Match for taking eight wickets, including a five-wicket haul in the first innings.**

New Delhi. India had a memorable day on Monday after beating Australia by 295 runs in the opening Test of the five-match series at the Optus Stadium in Perth. Chasing a mammoth target of 534 on the fourth day, Jasprit Bumrah's men bowled the home team out for 238 in 58.4 overs. India won the Test series in Australia in 2018-19, after which they triumphed in 2020-21. India



could not have expected a better start in the ongoing series. After being bowled out for 150 in the first innings, India were on the backfoot, but then they got a lead of 46 runs on the back of Jasprit Bumrah's five-wicket haul.

Thereafter, Yashasvi Jaiswal and Virat Kohli scored hundreds, helping India take a huge lead of 533. After India took three wickets late on the third day, they became unstoppable. Harshit Rana cleaned up Alex Carey to bring the curtains down on the

match. **Here are the stats and numbers from India's Test win in Perth**

1 – India recorded their biggest win (by margin of runs) in Tests on Australian soil. Their previous biggest victory came by 222 runs back in December 1977 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground.

3 – India recorded their third-biggest win (by margin of runs) in overseas Tests. The 318-run win against West Indies in 2019 stays on top, followed by the 304-run win against Sri

Lanka in 2017.

1 – India became the first team to beat Australia at the Optus Stadium in Perth. Earlier, Australia had a 4-0 record, winning all their matches against Pakistan (by 360 runs in 2023), India (by 146 runs in 2018), New Zealand (by 296 runs in 2019) and West Indies (by 164 runs in 2022). Jasprit Bumrah became the first visiting captain to win a Test at the venue.

4 – India became the fourth visiting team to win 10 or more Test matches on Australian soil. England (57), West Indies (19), and South Africa (10) are the other teams to reach the landmark.

7 – Jasprit Bumrah became the seventh Indian captain to win a Test on Australian soil. The others are Ajinkya Rahane, Virat Kohli, Sunil Gavaskar, Bishan Singh Bedi, Sourav Ganguly and Anil Kumble. 2 – Jasprit Bumrah also became the second Asian captain to win a Test match in Perth (WACA and Optus combined). Anil Kumble tasted victory back in 2008. 2 – Jasprit Bumrah became the second Indian bowler to take eight or more wickets in a Test multiple times in Australia. He took it in 2018 and 2024. Kapil Dev was the first to achieve the feat in 1985 and 1992.

## Phil Salt is someone RCB would love to have: Dinesh Karthik in IPL auction

New Delhi. Royal Challengers Bengaluru's batting coach Dinesh Karthik was elated to have Phil Salt in the team. The franchise splashed cash on the star England wicketkeeper as they acquired Salt's services for Rs 11.50 crore. Karthik said that Salt is the kind of player RCB would have loved to have. The batting coach said that the reason why RCB went after him was because of his explosive batting prowess. Out of their hefty purse of Rs 30.65 crore

"Phil Salt, what have I got to say? He is explosive. He is someone who can take on in the power play. Great attitude. Nice guy to have around in the team. Everything about him says he is the kind of guy that RCB would love to have," Dinesh said during the Day 1 of the IPL 2025 mega auction. RCB engaged in a bidding war with the Kolkata



Knight Riders to get Salt in their team. Eventually, KKR, who were low on purse had to give up on the ICC's No. 1 ranked T20I batter, Phil Salt, was sold to RCB for Rs 11.50 crore.

He also hailed Jitesh Sharma as another pick for RCB who can play an aggressor's role in

middle order. "He is a very explosive middle-order batsman. We wanted someone who is on the fringes of the Indian team and he is right there. We have seen what he can do in the IPL. Has got areas that he can hit and RCB being a ground where you can play spin well, he comes as a very, very good option." Speaking on acquisition of Indian wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma, Karthik said, RCB went on to have another wicketkeeper in their ranks when they bought Jitesh Sharma for Rs 11 crore.

Karthik also opened up as to who among Jitesh and Salt will keep the wickets for RCB in IPL 2025. "I think it is a decision that we will take closer to the tournament. I think it is a discussion that we need to have and see who is the better fielder, who is the better wicketkeeper and accordingly figure out what is the right

## Perth Pitch was not that spicy: Jasprit Bumrah bullish after record win vs AUS

New Delhi. India's stand-in captain Jasprit Bumrah revealed how his experience at the Perth pitch helped the team script history in the 1st Test of the Border Gavaskar Trophy. Team India beat Australia at the Optus Stadium in Perth by 295 runs on Day 4 of the 1st Test. This was India's biggest Test win in Australia and third-largest overseas victory. Bumrah shone with the ball as he ended with match figures of 8/72 and won the Player of the Match award. Captain Bumrah also revealed that he asked the players to trust their abilities and gave them "Very happy. We were put under pressure in the first innings, but the way we responded was



## No time to waste, Rohit Sharma hit the nets straightaway after reaching Perth

New Delhi. India captain Rohit Sharma wasted no time after joining his team in Perth, diving straight into net practice to prepare for the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Rohit, who had been on paternity leave following the birth of his second child, reunited with the Indian squad on Sunday evening and was spotted batting in the nets during the lunch session on Day 4 of the first Test. Facing reserve bowlers Navdeep Saini, Yash Dayal, and Mukesh Kumar, Rohit looked to quickly regain his rhythm as India, under the leadership of Jasprit Bumrah in his absence, closed in on a commanding victory against Australia at the Optus Stadium. Rohit Sharma's return comes at a crucial time, with the team set to face a day-night Test in Adelaide starting December 6. Before that, the Indian contingent will play a two-day pink-ball practice match in Canberra from November 30, providing key preparation for the challenges posed by the pink Kookaburra ball, particularly under twilight conditions. While the match



in Canberra won't carry first-class status, it holds strategic importance as players look to fine-tune their techniques for the unique conditions in Adelaide. Rohit is expected to participate, giving him a chance to acclimatise to the conditions. With KL Rahul delivering a solid knock in Perth and Shubman Gill also in contention, India face selection conundrums for the Adelaide Test. Speaking to the media, Rahul said he was focused on contributing wherever needed, acknowledging the competitive environment in the squad.

India set Australia a mammoth target of 534

after standout performances in the second innings from Yashasvi Jaiswal (161), Virat Kohli (100\*), and KL Rahul (77). The team declared at 487/6, leaving the hosts with a nearly insurmountable task.

India's bowlers, led by a relentless attack, tightened their grip on the match, bringing the visitors within touching distance of a historic win in the opening game of the five-match series. Mohammed Siraj delivered two fiery spells on the fourth morning of the first Test, dismissing

Usman Khawaja and an out-of-form Steven Smith as Australia struggled to 104/5 at lunch. Chasing an improbable target of 534, the hosts, starting the day at 12/3, were in dire straits at 17/4 when Khawaja's mistimed pull off Siraj (3/34) was brilliantly caught by Rishabh Pant running backward. However, Travis Head (63\* off 72 balls) provided resistance with a counterattacking knock, partnering with Smith (17) in a desperate bid to steady the innings. Despite Head's fightback, India maintained firm control, edging closer to a historic win.

## Nostalgia max: Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid's heartwarming reunion at IPL auction

**Rahul Dravid and Sourav Ganguly were engaged in a fun chat during Day 1 of the IPL 2025 mega auction. Delhi Capitals shared a video of the same, heart-warming enough to send fans into nostalgia.**

New Delhi. Day 1 of the IPL 2025 mega auction witnessed some intense bidding wars and some tactical brilliance from all 10 franchises. The IPL auction is that one time when all the owners, team management and coaches come under one roof with the aim of

building a strong team. However, this time, Jeddah witnessed the reunion of two of the legends of Indian cricket- Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid. The official social media handle of the Delhi Capitals shared a heart-warming video of Dravid and Ganguly engaging in a fun chat during the auction buzz. Dravid took part in the auction as the head coach of Rajasthan Royals and Ganguly is the Director of Cricket of JSW Sports and was at the auction table with Delhi Capitals. There was also a glimpse of Ganguly interacting with Ashish Nehra. The relationship between Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid, two of Indian cricket's greatest legends, has been one of mutual respect, camaraderie, and occasional differences. Ganguly and Dravid first played together in the Indian team in the mid-1990s and quickly became integral members of the



squad. Ganguly's aggressive captaincy complemented Dravid's calm and methodical approach. When Ganguly was appointed captain in 2000, he relied on Dravid's consistency as a batter and his tactical acumen. Together, they were part of India's rise as a competitive force in overseas Test matches and ICC tournaments. Dravid was instrumental during Ganguly's

captaincy, especially in landmark victories. Their contrasting styles- Ganguly's flamboyance and Dravid's discipline- helped create a balanced team environment.

However, their relationship faced some strain when Dravid succeeded Ganguly as captain in 2005. This transition came during a turbulent time, with Ganguly being dropped from the team amid his fallout with then-coach Greg Chappell. Despite the controversies, Dravid maintained professionalism and never publicly criticised Ganguly, which showcased his character as a leader. After retiring, both have spoken fondly of each other, emphasising their contributions to Indian cricket's growth. Dravid has praised Ganguly for his leadership and vision, while Ganguly has acknowledged Dravid's immense value as a player and captain.

# Tara Sutaria

Attends Ex Aadar Jain's Pre-Wedding Ceremony? Here's The TRUTH



Bollywood actress Tara Sutaria stepped out amid her ex-boyfriend Aadar Jain's roka ceremony. The actress was seen decked up to attend a wedding in Mumbai. In a video shared online, Tara looked stunning in a golden saree, which she styled with a matching blouse. She wore a heavy choker and a pair of statement earrings. The Student Of The Year 2 star completed her look by tying her hair into a neat bun and topping it with jasmine flowers. She was also seen wearing bangles and carrying a golden purse. Her decked up appearance has led to the confusion that she is attending Aadar's pre-wedding ceremony.

However, the truth is that she was attending a friend's wedding. The ceremony was also attended by Sanjana Sanghi. Check out the video below: Amid Aadar's pre-wedding celebrations, Tara's Instagram Stories have caught everyone's attention. The actress shared a post in which she revealed she is going to start reading a book that is titled, "Karma Is A B\*\*ch." She shared a picture of the book and wrote, "Just got my hands on Shome Mak's new book, Karma Is A B\*\*ch. I cannot wait to start reading. Everyone grab your copy now!" Tara was previously dating Aadar Jain. The couple dated for a few years before they parted ways in 2023. In an exclusive chat with News18 Showsha, Tara confirmed the relationship has indeed ended Tara and Aadar parted amicably and have decided to remain friends. However, they haven't been spotted together in recent times.

She is now rumoured to be dating Arunoday Singh. The actor has been seen in films such as Main Tera Hero and Yeh Saali Zindagi. Tara is yet to comment on the rumours. Meanwhile, Aadar is getting married to Alekha Advani.



# Kareena Kapoor

Decks Up For Cousin Aadar Jain's Roka, Performs Sisterly Duties

Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor attended her cousin Aadar Jain's roka ceremony on Saturday night. In videos shared online, Kareena was seen wearing a gorgeous blue saree for the ceremony. She let her hair down, reminding of her Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Ghum era. She completed her look with a choker and a little potli style handbag. In the video shared online, Kareena was seen greeting the Jain family members and even participating in the ceremony. She was handed a plate of the puja items needed for the ceremony. Kareena attended the ceremony sans her husband, actor Saif Ali Khan and their sons, Taimur and Jeh.

### Who Is Aadar Jain Marrying?

Aadar Jain is dating Alekha Advani. The couple got engaged in September this year. They took to their social media accounts and shared the happy news. Aadar admitted Alekha was his first crush. "My first crush, my best friend & now, my forever," he captioned the post.



Kareena Kapoor, Karisma Kapoor, Ananya Panday, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Maheep Kapoor, Anshula Kapoor and Shanaya Kapoor flooded the comments with congratulatory messages. Kareena Kapoor made a reference to the iconic DDLJ song in a cheerful comment that read, "Yayyyyyyyyy. Mehendi laga ke rakhna, doli saja ke rakhna." Karisma Kapoor also congratulated the couple by adding "Congratulations you both," accompanied by heart and ring emojis. Ananya Panday praised the couple, commenting, "Congratulations. Soooooo beautiful." Riddhima Kapoor

Sahni and Shanaya Kapoor, also cousins of Aadar, joined in with several heart emojis in the comments section.

Aadar Jain was dating Tara Sutaria before he dated and got engaged to Alekha. Aadar and Tara made a few joint appearance. Tara also attended a couple of Kapoor family Christmas lunches and his brother, Armaan Jain's wedding celebrations as well. However, they parted ways in 2023. Aadar Jain, the son of Rima Jain and the grandson of Bollywood legends Raj Kapoor and Krishna Kapoor, made his Bollywood debut with the 2017 film Qaidi Band and was last seen in the film Hello Charlie.



## AR Rahman Issues Legal Notice Against 'Slanderers'; Abhishek Bachchan On Being A 'Girl Dad' To Aaradhya



AR Rahman, who announced his separation with wife Saira Banu, has issued a notice to 'slanderers', demanding removal of objectionable, defamatory content, and concocted stories about the couple that surfaced post the divorce announcement. AR Rahman's counsel stated that failing to do so will result in legal action, and that an appropriate defamation suit will be filed against anyone who has contributed to such false content. Post Rahman and Saira Banu's separation announcement, several defamatory theories and rumours surfaced on the Internet. In the latest episode of KBC, Abhishek spoke with his father, Amitabh Bachchan, about his role in I Want To Talk, a film that explores the emotional journey of a single father navigating a troubled relationship with his daughter. The actor spoke candidly about his relationship with his own daughter, Aaradhya. "Aaradhya is my daughter, and Shoojit da has two daughters. We are all 'girl dads,' and we truly understand that emotion," he shared.

Swara Bhasker reacted to her husband Fahad Ahmad losing in the Maharashtra Election s 2024. Fahad contested from Maharashtra's Anushakti Nagar as a candidate of Sharad Pawar-led NCP faction. He was contesting against Ajit Pawar's NCP nominee Sana Malik. After it was revealed that Fahad was trailing by a large number, Swara took to X and questioned the Election Commission about the EVMs, blaming them for Fahad's loss.

At a recent event, Barkha Dutt said that while Sanjay is well-known in the business world, he is now also known as "Shalini Passi's husband". When asked how he felt about this tag, Sanjay said, "I feel proud about it. When someone asks me, 'Are you Shalini Passi's husband?' I say yes." Sanjay's response won many hearts and fans even praised him for supporting Shalini. After Vinta Nanda lashed out at Imtiaz Ali over his comments on casting couch in the film industry, the latter has issued a clarification about the same. He wrote, "I haven't denied or disputed the tons of harassment cases that Vinta ji and many other friends have spoken about; in fact these incidents are deeply disturbing and must be dealt with severely and consistently."

## Fabulous Lives' Shalini Passi's Husband Sanjay Passi On Her Success: 'She Is A Queen...'



Shalini Passi's sensational debut in Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives has catapulted her into newfound fame. As fans remain intrigued by her personal life, her husband, Sanjay Passi, has also stepped into the spotlight. A renowned businessman and chairman of Pasco Group, Sanjay is now widely recognised as "Shalini Passi's husband," a title he wears with pride. At a recent event moderated by journalist Barkha Dutt, Sanjay Passi opened up about his wife's rise to stardom. When asked about her becoming a "national pride," he expressed his surprise and admiration. "I mean, it was a surprise for me. I mean, overnight I could not have imagined that what she's done. It's amazing. I really feel very proud of her."

When Dutt remarked on Sanjay's successful entrepreneurial journey but his new identity as "Shalini Passi's husband," he responded warmly, "I feel very proud about it. Yes, when people say, are you Shalini Passi, I say yes." The conversation also touched on how this sudden stardom had impacted their household. Shalini chimed in confidently, "I was always a star at home. It's the same. For me, it's the same. Like, I'm the same person I always was from school till now. I've always lived in my own universe. Now everybody, like people know me now, which is different. And I hope I can keep delivering and I hope I can keep, you know, following my dreams and make everybody happy while I'm doing it."

Sanjay also offered a heartfelt glimpse into their relationship when asked to share something about Shalini not seen on the show. "She is a queen. What can I say about a queen? I'm just there to serve her," he said.

While Shalini has become an internet sensation, Sanjay remains a respected figure in the business world. Pasco Group, under his leadership, is a leading name in Tata Motors-certified dealerships in North India. The couple, who shares a son named Robin Passi, showcased their evident love and support for each other in Fabulous Lives vs Bollywood Wives.