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### Priyanka Gandhi accuses BJP of 'politicising' Wayanad landslides

**Sanjay Kumar**  
Wayanad, Nov 04: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of



politicising landslides in Kerala's Wayanad district that killed over 200 people in July, news agency Vadra was campaigning at Kenichira in the Sulthan Bathery Assembly constituency of Wayanad district, where she is contesting the Lok Sabha bypoll. "Even a disaster that caused immense pain to people was politicised by the BJP. And this is where we start today. We stand in a place where you must think about your

country, your own needs, and the kind of politics you want in our nation," Vadra said. Also read | Kerala Assembly unanimously passes resolution against Centre delaying aid to Wayanad She also accused the Centre of failing to distribute enough aid to families in the landslide-ravaged district and promised to raise her voice over the issue. "If you give me the chance to represent you in Parliament, I will show you that I can work harder than anyone else for you. I will voice your issues everywhere. I will fight for you and put pressure on both the state and central governments. You will have a tough fighter by your side who does not back down when your needs are at stake," Priyanka Gandhi Vadra added. The Congress general secretary also alleged that the saffron party uses "hatred, anger, divisiveness and destruction" to distract people from focusing on real issues. Priyanka also alleged that the BJP failed to address real issues, including rising prices and unemployment.

### PM Modi condemns 'deliberate attack' on Hindu temple in Canada

**Simmi Kaur Babbar**

New Delhi, Nov 04: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday condemned a "deliberate attack" on a Hindu temple in Canada, saying that he expected the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law. Taking a serious note of the clash between two groups of Indian-origin people inside the temple in Brampton, the Prime Minister said such acts of violence cannot "weaken" India's resolve. Modi put out a post on X saying that "I strongly condemn the deliberate attack on a Hindu temple in Canada". He added, "Equally appalling are the cowardly attempts to intimidate our diplomats. Such acts of violence will never weaken India's resolve. We expect the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law". Modi's post came just hours after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) condemned the violence at the temple and said it was perpetrated by "extremists and separatists". The MEA statement said, "We condemn the acts of violence perpetrated by extremists and separatists at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton, Ontario yesterday." It said

the "Government of Canada needs to ensure that all places of worship are protected from such attacks". "We remain deeply concerned about the



safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada," it added. Separately, on Monday morning, the Indian High Commission in Ottawa said its consular camp saw "violent disruption" on Sunday and blamed "anti-India" elements for the disruption. The High Commission put out a statement on X:

"We have seen violent disruption today (Nov 3) orchestrated by anti-India elements outside the consular camp co-organized with the Hindu Sabha Mandir, Brampton, near Toronto." The statement of the High Commission was posted on Monday morning. Such camps are for the benefit and ease of "local life certificate" beneficiaries (both Canadian and Indian), the High Commission said. It also said that the Canadian authorities had been requested to provide security. "On account of the prevailing security situation, the Canadian authorities had been requested well in advance to provide strong security measures for these events, which constitute routine consular work". There were also attempts to disrupt similar camps held in Vancouver and Surrey on November 2-3, the statement said. "Despite these efforts by anti-India elements, the Consulate was able to issue more than 1000 life certificates to the Indian and Canadian applicants", the statement said. The High Commission's statement said: "It is deeply disappointing to see such disruptions being allowed for routine consular work being organized by our Consulates with the fullest cooperation of local co-organizers".

### SC relaxes Kerala journalist Kappan's bail rider

**Naresh Malhotra**  
New Delhi, Nov 04: The Supreme Court on Monday relaxed the bail condition imposed on Kerala journalist Siddique Kappan in a UAPA case saying he doesn't have to report to a Uttar Pradesh police station every week. A Bench of Justices P S Narasimhan and Sandeep Mehta relaxed the condition imposed by the top court on Kappan at the time of his bail in September, 2022. "The order dated September 9, 2022, is modified and it shall not be necessary for the petitioner to report to the local police station. The other prayers made in the present application can be agitated independently," said the Bench. Kappan was arrested in October, 2020 while on his way to UP's Hathras, where a Dalit woman had died after allegedly being sexually assaulted by a group of men. While granting bail to Kappan, the court had directed him to report to the police station concerned every week. The top court had on September 17 asked the state government to file its reply on Kappan's plea. The top court granted him bail after he had spent almost two years in prison and observed every person had the right to free expression. Kappan was then

saddled with several bail conditions, including the one directing him to remain in Delhi for the following six weeks after his release from prison and reporting to the Nizamuddin police station every Monday. "The appellant shall be



taken to the trial court within three days and shall be released on bail on conditions as deemed fit by the trial court," the Bench had said. The court had, however, allowed him to travel to Malappuram in Kerala, his home state, after six months maintaining that he would have to report to the local police station and

mark his presence there every Monday. Kappan was directed not to leave Delhi's jurisdiction without the permission of the court besides being ordered to attend the trial court every day either personally or through his lawyer. "The appellant shall deposit his passport with the investigative machinery," added the top court. The case was registered against Kappan and three others under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for allegedly having links with the Popular Front of India (PFI). The PFI had been accused in the past of funding protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act across the country and the police claimed that the accused persons had attempted to vitiate the law and order situation in Hathras. The woman in question had died at a Delhi hospital a fortnight after

her alleged rape by four men from her village on September 14, 2020. She was cremated in the middle of the night at her village but the family claimed that her last rites were performed without their consent and they were not allowed to be her mortal remains home one last time.

### Akhilesh Yadav's 'old trick of BJP' jibe after UP bypolls rescheduled

Lucknow, Nov 04: Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday slammed the Election Commission's decision to reschedule the assembly bypolls to nine seats in Uttar Pradesh. He termed it an "old



trick of the BJP" to avoid losing elections. "First the Milkpur bye-election was postponed, now the date of bye-elections for the rest of the seats has been rescheduled. The BJP was never so weak," the former chief minister said in a post in Hindi on X. "The fact is that due to 'maha berozgari' (unem-

ployment) in UP, people who go to different parts of the country for work have come to UP on Diwali and Chhath holidays. They were going to vote in the by-elections to defeat the BJP," Yadav added. "As soon as the BJP understood this, it postponed the by-elections, so that people's holidays end and they go back without casting their vote," the SP president said. The poll panel rescheduled assembly by-elections to all nine and four seats in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, respectively, and one seat in Kerala from November 13 to November 20 in view of festivals. Parties including the Congress, BJP, BSP and RLD had urged the poll body to reschedule the polls in view of various festivals, saying that it could impact voter turnout. When asked about the SP chief's allegations, state BJP spokesperson Manish Shukla told PTI, "The bypoll date shift was demanded as the date coincided with Hindu festival. But Samajwadi Party has to do politics in everything."

### At least 23 killed as bus falls into gorge in Uttarakhand

**ST Correspondent**  
New Delhi, Nov 04: At least 23 people were killed after a Garwal Motors Users' bus fell into a 200-metre deep gorge near Uttarakhand's Kupi in Ramnagar at the Pauri-Almora border on Monday. A search operation is underway and the injured are being rushed to the hospital. The bus was going from Garhwal to Kumaon when the accident took place at Marchula in Almora, District Magistrate Alok Kumar Pandey said. So far seven deaths have been reported but the numbers may rise as there were at least 40 passengers in the bus at the time of the accident. "Received very sad



news of casualties of passengers in the unfortunate bus accident that took place in Marchula of Almora district. The district administration has been instructed to conduct relief and rescue operations swiftly," he said on X. "The local administration and SDRF teams are working swiftly to evacuate the injured and take them to the nearest health centre for treatment. Instructions have also been given to airlift the seriously injured passengers, if required," he said.

### IAF's MiG-29 fighter jet crashes near Agra

Agra, Nov 04: "A MiG-29 aircraft of the IAF crashed near Agra during a routine training sortie today, after encountering a system malfunction. The pilot manoeuvred the aircraft to ensure no damage to life or property on ground, before ejecting safely. An enquiry has been ordered by the IAF, to ascertain the cause of the accident," the Indian Air Force said in a statement. "During a routine night training mission in Barmer sector, an IAF MiG-29 encountered a critical technical snag, forcing the pilot to eject. The pilot is safe and no loss of life or property was reported. A Court of Inquiry has been ordered," the IAF said in an X post. Barmer SP Narendra Meena said that the incident took place away from the populated area. "No loss of human life was reported. The plane caught fire during the crash," he said. On June 4, IAF's Sukhoi 30 MKI fighter jet crashed near Shirasgaon village of Niphad tehsil in Maharashtra's Nashik district.

### Court frames charges against prime accused Sanjay Roy, trial to begin on Nov 11

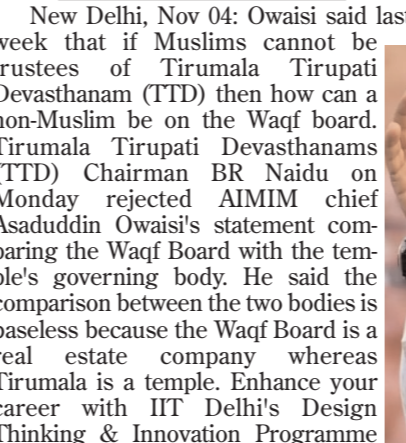
Kolkata, Nov 04: Eighty seven days after the heinous rape and murder of a junior doctor in the RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata, a city court on Monday framed charges against the prime accused in the case, Sanjay Roy, who continues the claim that he has been framed in the murder case. The Sealdah Court in West Bengal framed charges against accused Sanjay Roy under section 103(1), 64 and 66 Bharatiya Nyay Sahita. The court further said that the day-to-day trial in the case will commence from November 11. Roy has been booked under Section 64 of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) Section 66 (which pertains to punishment for causing death or resulting in a persistent vegetative state) and 103 (punishment for murder). While he was being led out of court, Sanjay Roy told reporters, "I have done nothing. I have been framed in this rape-murder case. Nobody is listening to me. The government is framing me and threatening me not to open my mouth." In its initial charge-sheet submitted last month, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) identified Roy as the "sole prime accused" in the case. The CBI's charge-sheet also acknowledged the possibility of a "bigger conspiracy" behind the crime.

### TTD chief rejects Asaduddin Owaisi's 'Tirumala' comparison

**Navdeep Singh Sahni**

New Delhi, Nov 04: Owaisi said last week that if Muslims cannot be trustees of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) then how can a non-Muslim be on the Waqf board. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman BR Naidu on Monday rejected AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's statement comparing the Waqf Board with the temple's governing body. He said the comparison between the two bodies is baseless because the Waqf Board is a real estate company whereas Tirumala is a temple. Enhance your career with IIT Delhi's Design Thinking & Innovation Programme Enroll now! "This statement is baseless, the waqf board is a real estate company... How can he compare it with Tirumala? Tirumala is a Hindu temple. There have been demands for many years that non-Hindus should not be in Tirumala. It is not my personal (opinion)... Sanatana

Dharma says only Hindus should be there. We are working on that and we will decide in the first board meeting," he



said. Asaduddin Owaisi said on Saturday that the Modi government's proposed Waqf amendment bill, which makes it mandatory to include two non-Muslims on the panel, was wrong. "Not even a single member of the 24 members of TTD Board (Tirumala Tirupati

Devasthanams) is a non-Hindu...The new Chairman of TTD says that the people working there should be Hindu...We are not against this, we just have an objection to the fact that Narendra Modi's government is saying in the proposed bill of Waqf that in the central Waqf Council, it has been made mandatory that 2 non-Muslim members should be there...Why are you bringing this provision in the Waqf bill?" he said. "TTD is a board of the Hindu religion and Waqf Board is for the Muslim religion. There should be parity...When the trustees of TTD cannot be Muslims, how will a non-Muslim member be on the Waqf Board?" he added. BR Naidu said last week that he would discuss with the Centre his demand that non-Hindu employees working at Tirumala be transferred or given voluntary retirement. "I will talk to the government about the people from other religions working in Tirumala on priority whether to shift them to other departments or give them VRS," he said.

### EC must act against Sarma's 'communal rhetoric', campaigning by Odisha governor: Jairam Ramesh

**Tejinder Kaur Babbar**

New Delhi, Nov 04: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Monday hit out at the Election Commission for the "tone and tenor" of its recent letter to his party while also urging the poll body to act against "communal and incendiary rhetoric" allegedly used by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma during poll campaigns. In an interview with PTI, the Congress general secretary in-charge communications also urged the Election Commission (EC) to take action against Odisha Governor Raghubar Das for campaigning in Jamshedpur. His remarks come days after the Congress slammed the EC after it rejected the party's allegations over irregularities in the Haryana Assembly polls. The opposition party had said if the poll panel's goal was to "strip itself of the last vestiges of neutrality",

then it was doing a "remarkable job" at creating that impression. In its letter to the EC signed by nine senior leaders, including Ramesh, the Congress had said,



"We have carefully studied your response to our complaints. Not surprisingly, the ECI has given a clean chit to itself. We would normally have let it be at that. However, the tone and tenor of the ECI's

response, the language used, and the allegations made against the INC compel us to submit the counter-response." On the Congress' letter to the EC, Ramesh said, "I don't want to say anything more than what we have already said. In fact, we met the EC on Haryana on 20 assembly constituencies on which we had specific complaints. We met the EC on October 9 and they gave a response on October 29 and we would have (left the matter at that)," Ramesh said. "We have exercised our democratic right, the EC heard us, they heard us patiently and they have responded but it is the manner in which they responded, the language that they used, the charges that they have hurled at us, giving a sense that they did us a favour by meeting a Congress delegation," he told. "Its job is to listen, that is what we took objection to, we took objection to the tone and tenor of the lan-

guage, we took objection to the patronising and condescending manner in which the Election Commission was calling into question the democratic right of a political party to be heard and to represent," the Congress leader said. "We have to have our say, ultimately the EC will have its way and if you are still unhappy, we can go to court. So that is a separate issue," he added. Ramesh said the EC could not say that it had done a political party a favour by meeting it and that by raising questions "you are spreading unrest and anarchy". These are extraordinary statements to be made and put on record in writing to any political party, he said. "This is not the way the EC should be replying," he added. Ramesh is still hopeful that the EC is a constitutional body and should move on complaints. "It should move against the communal and incendiary rhetoric that is being used by the Assam chief minister and the Union home minister.

## News box

**Salem man held for Rs 1.2 crore fraud 16 years after he went missing**

**ERODE:** CB-CID police arrested a 51-year-old man who cheated several people to the tune of Rs 1.2 crore by starting a firm and promising lucrative returns on their investment 16 years ago. The suspect M Prabakaran (51), a resident of Gandhi Road in Salem, was arrested in Bengaluru on Friday based on a tip-off.

Sources said Prabakaran started a company in Erode in 2002 and put up an advertisement that if anyone paid him an advance and got data entry projects and completed the work, they would get double their invested amount. Believing that, many people invested in the company. Later, Prabakaran went into hiding. The victims complained to the Erode town police station. The case was later transferred to CB-CID. During the investigation, it came to light that Prabakaran along with five others including his wife Vandarkuzhali (50) had cheated people of Rs 1.2 crore.

A case was registered against the six and a trial was held in Erode JM 3 court. In 2008, Prabakaran went absconding without appearing for the trial following which the court issued an arrest warrant against him. However, the others were sentenced.

Police said, "On Friday, the CBCID received information that Prabakaran was in Bengaluru. A special team rushed to Bengaluru and arrested him. After investigation, he was produced before the concerned magistrate and was sent to jail on Saturday."

**Crop yields drop by 38 per cent in drought-hit Annamayya in Andhra**

**TIRUPATI/KADAPA:** With the State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) recently declaring 54 mandals in five districts of Rayalaseema as drought-hit during the Kharif season, The New Indian Express interacted with farmers in Annamayya district to bring to light the issues faced by them due to the lack of water. In Kalakada, a severely drought-affected mandal in Annamayya district, dwindling water resources have impacted agriculture activity. With irrigation ponds and wells drying up, farmers are struggling to cultivate their lands. Known for producing tomatoes, groundnuts and paddy, the region has witnessed a sharp decline in acreage due to unfavourable conditions. This year, farmers cultivated groundnuts in 816 acres, tomatoes on 1,427 acres, and rice in 339 acres — which is around 38% to 45% less than the previous years. As a result, farmers have been facing severe losses, particularly with groundnut yield falling short of expectations. Additionally, livestock farmers are also struggling to provide fodder for their cattle.

**SV Naidu**, a ryot from Kalakada, rued, "I planted tomatoes in 25 acres and spent up to Rs 1 lakh. We have seen little rain this Kharif season. The quantity and quality of my produce have also declined, further forcing me to sell it at a low price."

**Several mandals reel under drought in Rayalaseema dists**

The situation is dire in the entire Pileru constituency identified in five Rayalaseema districts of Ananthapur, Sri Sathya Sai, Annamayya, Kurnool, and Chittoor. At 19, Annamayya district has the highest number of severely drought-affected mandals. These include Galiveedu, Chinnamandem, Sambepalli, T Sundarapalli, Rayachoti, Lakkireddipalli, Ramapuram, Veeraballe, Tamballapalle, Gurrakonda, Kalakada, Pileru, Kalikiri, Valmikipuram, Kurabalakota, B Kothakota, Madanapalle, and Nimmanapalle. Another farmer from Chinnamandem, lamented, "I have 30 acres of land. However, this year we have not cultivated anything due to lack of rain. We were even forced to sow paddy in Karthika Masam for food grains, but it dried up."

**Heinous crime exposes ugly reality of horticultural nurseries in Andhra**

**RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM:** With over 2,000 farmers cultivating horticultural crops on approximately 5,000 hectares and employing over 50,000 workers, the Kadiyam Nurseries are renowned across India for their extensive collection of flowers and gardens. Located 15 km from Rajamahendravaram, the cultural capital of Andhra Pradesh in East Godavari district, Kadiyam Nurseries has recently been in the spotlight as a preferred destination for various tourism development projects.

However, behind the fame of these flower gardens lies the challenging reality faced by nursery workers, who lack proper facilities, with an urgent need for enhanced security, especially for women. The lack of security came to light following the recent gang-rape and murder of a 43-year-old nursery worker by local farm workers in Burrilanka village.

Despite the large workforce and an estimated annual business of approximately Rs 800 crore, government officials from the labour and women and child welfare departments have yet to conduct a comprehensive study on the working conditions of female workers in the region. It is noteworthy that nearly 50,000 farm workers are employed in these gardens, about 25,000 of whom are women. Many of these workers have migrated from villages along the Andhra-Odisha border, North Andhra districts, and Chhattisgarh. Widespread criticism has been directed at nursery owners, who are accused of profiting significantly while neglecting.

**'In a shambles': Sorry state of archives in Kerala has experts sounding alarm bells****Need for modern infrastructure, systemic reform, improved accessibility by focusing on digitalisation stressed**

**KOCHI:** In 1993, the central government enacted special legislation for the conservation and preservation of "public records" in the country. Several states followed it up with initiatives to protect the rich archival history they possess. In 2023, Kerala passed the Public Records Act. As a part of its implementation, inspections and public sittings by a special committee of officials, comprising the minister of archeology and archives, were held at all four state archive centres. According to experts, archives in the state need urgent protection and conservation. "Archival material are treasures of national importance. They hold the history of the nation, and culture, and they answer many questions. Such materials in our possession are in a highly dilapidated state right now," Cherai Ramdas, an independent researcher and historian, told. "Archives once lost can never be retrieved. The condition of many of our records is saddening. On the racks of the archives we see the sole evidence of our history torn,

withered, decayed, and even misplaced," he says, sounding the alarm bell. Retired archivist Abdul Majeed echoed the views. "It is not only the state of the archival materials. The whole system is in a shambles. It lacks systematic organisation at the very core. There are no proper racks, no catalogues and no qualified professionals to maintain the records," he says.

The Kerala State Archives, which was formed in 1962 as a section of the higher education department, became an independent department in 1964. The archives in Thiruvananthapuram and Ernakulam were established in the same year. In 1966, the regional archives in Kozhikode was set up. The state archives of Kerala has records from colonial era to pre-colonial times. It includes correspondence files, records on land ownerships, settlement registers, maps, gazettes, etc. "We have a record named Fort St George Gazette. It includes all kinds of files from the colonial times, even



evidences like statements from the survivors of the wagon tragedy and such. All these are rapidly decaying right now," says Majeed.

Ramdas provides cases in point. "The documents that I had referred to 10 years ago cannot be found anymore. There are paper files termed 'brittle' and single sheet records and maintenance of such files have been neglected for years. Right now, I am dealing with files during the time of Rajarshi Rama Varma (ruler of Cochin from 1895 to 1914). The condition of

'Thathi Smarthavicharam,' a rare evidence of trials during old times, is no different. Over 800 pages of the files are missing now.

"He says the original copies of the Kesari newspaper, of Kesari Balakrishna Pillai, which he had handed over to the archives in 2010 for mending and safe-keeping, are going down the same path.

Attempts to digitise the records have been on for long. Earlier, many of the records at the Ernakulam archives were made into microfilms, but experts say none of that was well maintained. "Digitalisation of all these materials would be a revolutionary change," says Dr Sivadasan, a senior professor.

"Such democratisation of knowledge is vital in our society," he adds. As per the archive protection rules, the materials should be mended, laminated and preserved in air-conditioned rooms, kept in steel racks that are not over seven feet, and should never be exposed to sunlight and other weather conditions.

**Madras HC pulls up TN police over delay in probe in two cases****"If the police are not carrying out a proper investigation, the victims may not get a remedy," observed Justice B Pugalendhi**

**MADURAI:** Displeased with the state police for delay in completing probe in two separate cases, one of which was a hit-and-run case, the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court recently criticised that if not for the victim's situation, it would have permitted her to investigate the case along with the police. "The state is the prosecuting agency and every victim of a crime depends upon it. If the police are not carrying out a proper investigation, the victims may not get a remedy," observed Justice B Pugalendhi, while passing two separate orders in petitions seeking expeditious investigations. The first petition was filed by S Kamala, who lost her husband in a hit-and-run incident eight months ago and the police are yet to identify the vehicle involved. The judge pointed out that as per



Section 2(h) of the CrPC and Section 2(j) of the BNSS, the power of investigation is also vested not only with a police officer but also with anyone authorised by a magistrate. But he said he refrained from permitting Kamala to conduct the probe along with the police, considering she is a young widow with two kids. He therefore suo motu impleaded the Dindigul

superintendent of police to the case and directed the officer to ensure the vehicle involved is identified and action is taken by two weeks.

**Case pending at FIR stage for last 2 years**

The judge made similar observations in another petition filed by R Kanimozhi in a burglary case registered in 2022. Though jewellery worth 6.6 lakh was reported to have been stolen, the police have neither found the suspect nor the jewellery and the case is still pending at the FIR stage for the last two years and the victim is forced to knock the doors of the high court to expedite the probe, the judge said. He suo motu impleaded Tiruchy police commissioner and directed the officer to monitor the investigation and ensure that the stolen articles are recovered within a month.

**Stink no more! K-100 waterway network to be ready by January in Karnataka**

**BENGALURU:** The Rs 179-crore K-100 waterway project, which runs from Shantala Silk Junction in Majestic to Koramangala in BTM and drains into Bellandur Lake, covering 12 km, is likely to be ready by January. The project is the initiative of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) with architect and urban expert Naresh Narasimhan of Mod Foundation helping in developing the concept. It was also supported by the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) and other parastatals to ensure the 12-km drain remains free from sewage. It will become an urban green asset for the public, if all goes well. "This major drain (K100) across the city can hold water even if there is heavy rainfall up to 100 mm per hour. Over the years, drains have become choked with 30% occupied by hardened silt, 30% by sewage and 30% solid waste. Hardly 10% of drains have capacity for rainwater. To fix the problem, this project was taken up. Currently, this is the only Rajakaluve that does not cause



flooding in heavy rain. Once the BWSSB's intermediate stage pumping station in Shantinagar becomes operational, there will be almost zero sewage in the 12-km drain network. There is a pathway along the drain network and people can also take a walk from Double Road to Bellandur, during the non-rainy season," said Narasimhan. He also added

that technology like alert systems, water-level sensors and automatic gate closure to pathways have been installed.

According to BBMP officials, initially, 130 million litres per day (MLD) of sewage was being let in and now it has been reduced to only 10 MLD and soon this will be stopped. Due to the reduction in sewage and the development of Rajakaluve, flooding incidents in areas of Shanthi Nagar, Richmond Town and parts of Koramangala and other places were avoided this rainy season.

"We are hopeful that the ISPS by BWSSB will be ready in two months and the project is likely to be inaugurated by January. Once we complete, work on another drain network will also be taken up," said BS Prahalad, Principal Engineer, BBMP, and also in-charge of the Stormwater Drain Network. According to Prahalad, the contractor engaged in the project has designed, built and will operate and maintain the project for the next five years.

**Rain and ruin: Crops on 1.05 lakh hectares of land damaged**

**BENGALURU:** Agriculture and horticulture crops on around 1.05 lakh hectares were damaged due to heavy rain since October 1. While a survey was done to ascertain the extent of damage, preliminary reports by officials indicate that agriculture crops on 74,994 hectares and horticulture crops on 30,941 hectares were damaged due to rain. TNIE takes a look at the impact of heavy rain across the state.

**Dakshina Kannada: Arecanut, cocoa growers stare at loss**

There are over 1.44 lakh registered arecanut growers who have suffered as tender areca fruits had fallen due to fruit rot disease, following heavy rain in June and July. Central Arecanut and Cocoa Marketing and Processing Cooperative president Kishore Kumar Kodgi said this summer, extreme heat resulted in withering of the inflorescence. But heavy rain has worsened the condition, and farmers could not spray pesticide. Cocoa production was also affected across the district, with tender cocoa buds either rotting or blackening and



falling off.

**Gadag: Onion, chilli bring tears to farmers** Many farmers who grew onion and chilli are in distress, with heavy rain leaving their crops damaged. Of 12,500 hectares, sowing was completed only on 2,760 hectares. Similarly, chilli was also sown in a few places. Besides this, farmers in Nargund, Ron, Gajendragad, Laxmeshwar, Shirahatti and Mundargi also saw a loss in maize, cotton and other crops. Farmers Prakash Beleri and Manjunath Konnur said,

"Abbigeri onions are famous across the state, and many farmers directly sell the onion crop to Tamil Nadu and surrounding states with the help of Yeshwantpur APMC market. But this year, Gadag's onion farmers suffered losses and got Pune and other onions at a high price."

**Hassan: Banana and ginger crops lost**

Recently, standing crops including maize, ragi and horticultural varieties, including ginger, banana and vegetables, were destroyed due to rain. According to Ramesh Kumar, joint director of agriculture, crops sown on 2.50 lakh hectares, maize on 362 hectares and ragi on 132 hectares were damaged in the district so far. The highest loss was agricultural crops on 397 hectares in Holenarasipur taluk, followed by Arkalgud (175 hectares), Hassan (79 hectares), Channarayapatta (71 hectares) and Alur (56 hectares).

**Kodagu: Change in weather pattern**

The changing weather pattern severely affected coffee cultivation in Kodagu, and the sector has recorded considerable loss this year due to untimely rain, said Coffee Board Deputy Director V Chandrashekar.

September's untimely rain resulted in dropping of coffee beans, which will affect productivity next year. "A crop loss survey was conducted jointly with the revenue, agriculture and horticulture departments. Coffee plantations in heavy rainfall zones have reported crop loss and a detailed report has been submitted to the district administration," he said. Alongside paddy, ginger farmlands in the district also suffered losses due to rain in September.

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## NEWS BOX

## Israel says it carried out ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen connected to Iran

JERUSALEM: The Israeli military said Sunday it has carried out a ground raid into Syria, seizing a Syrian citizen involved in Iranian networks. It was the first time in the current war that Israel announced its troops operated in Syrian territory.

Israel has carried out airstrikes in Syria multiple times over the past year, targeting members of Lebanon's Hezbollah and officials from Iran, the close ally of both Hezbollah and Syria. But it has not previously made public any ground forays into Syria.

The Israeli military said the seizure was part of a special operation "that took place in recent months," though it did not say exactly when it occurred. Syria did not immediately confirm the announcement, but a pro-government Syrian radio station, Sham FM, reported Sunday that Israeli force carried out a "kidnapping operation" over the summer targeting a man in the south of the country. The disclosure of the raid comes as Israel has waged an escalated campaign of bombardment in Lebanon for the past six weeks, as well as a ground invasion along the countries' shared border, vowing to cripple Hezbollah. On Saturday, an Israeli military official said naval forces carried out a raid in a northern Lebanese town, seizing a man they called a senior Hezbollah operative. The army identified the man it seized as Ali Soleiman al-Assi, saying he lives in the southern Syrian region of Saida. It said the man had been under military surveillance for many months and was involved in Iranian initiatives targeting areas of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights near the border with Syria. Body camera footage of the raid released by the army showed soldiers seizing a man in a white tank top inside a building. The man was brought to Israel for interrogation, the military said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the border with Lebanon on Sunday, saying his focus was trying to keep Hezbollah from rearming itself through the "oxygen lifeline" of Iranian weapons transferred to Lebanon via Syria. Israel says its campaign in Lebanon aims to push Hezbollah away from the border and put an end to more than a year of fire by the group into northern Israel.

Israel's strikes in Lebanon have killed more than 2,500 people over the past year. In Israel, 69 people have been killed by Hezbollah projectiles.

## China's marriage registrations fall by almost a million in 2024

World. China has reported a significant drop in marriage registrations for the first nine months of 2024, amidst efforts to control its declining population. According to the ministry of civil affairs, only 4.747 million couples got married in this period. This decline follows 5.690 million marriage registrations during the same period in 2023, marking a year-on-year decrease of 943,000 registrations, as calculated by Reuters.

The latest figures, released on Friday, show that rising living costs and economic uncertainty are causing many young couples to delay marriage. This poses a challenge for lawmakers looking to address the shrinking population. In response to the situation, China has updated a draft law to make marriage registration easier but has made it harder to get a divorce. For the first three quarters of 2024, 1.967 million divorces were registered, a slight decrease of 6,000 compared to the previous year.

Earlier this year, China experienced its second annual decline in births, prompting initiatives aimed at encouraging a "new-era" culture of marriage and childbearing. Many young Chinese people are choosing to stay single or delay marriage because of job uncertainties and worries about the future. Chinese President Xi Jinping stressed the role of women in creating a "new trend of family."

## Mount Laki-Laki volcano erupts in Indonesia; 9 killed

World. Mount Lewotobi Laki-Laki volcano erupted in eastern Indonesia on Sunday, killing at least nine people, launching massive plumes of lava, and forcing authorities to evacuate several nearby villages, according to officials. "After the eruption, there was a power outage, followed by heavy rain and intense lightning, which caused panic among residents," said Hadi Wijaya, a spokesperson for the Center for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation (PVMBG), adding that authorities had raised the volcano's status to Level IV, the highest alert level, as reported by Reuters news agency. Hadi said fiery lava and rocks hit the nearest settlements around four kilometre (two miles) from the crater, burning and damaging residents' houses. The agency recommended a seven-kilometre (4.35 miles) radius to be cleared. "We have started evacuating residents since this morning to other villages located around 20 kms (13 miles) from the crater," Hadi said. By Monday morning, at least nine people had died and the nearest villages were covered by thick volcanic ash, according to Heronimus Lamawuran, a local



official in the East Flores area. Indonesia lies on the "Pacific Ring of Fire," a region of intense seismic activity where multiple tectonic plates converge. The eruption comes amid a series of volcanic eruptions across Indonesia. In May, Mount Ibu on the remote island of Halmahera erupted, prompting evacuations from seven nearby villages. After torrential rain on May 11, flash floods and cold lava flows from Mount Marapi in West Sumatra province swept through several nearby districts, leaving more than 60 people dead.

## Pro-Khalistani mob attacks devotees at Hindu temple in Brampton; Trudeau, Indian High

**In a video that has gone viral, Khalistani supporters were seen assaulting devotees and trespassing on the temple premises.**

World. The Hindu Mahasabha Temple in Brampton, Canada, was attacked on Sunday amidst rising tensions between India and Canada. In a video that has gone viral, Khalistani supporters were seen assaulting devotees and trespassing on the temple premises. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Leader of the Opposition Pierre Poilievre have both condemned this vile act of violence. "The acts of violence at the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton today are unacceptable. Every Canadian has the right to practice their faith freely and safely. Thank you to the Peel Regional Police for swiftly responding to protect

the community and investigate this incident," PM Trudeau said. Adding to the outcry, Canadian MP Kevin Vuong voiced his concerns, warning that Canada is becoming a safe haven for radicals. He further emphasised that the country's leadership had failed to safeguard the Hindu community. "Completely unacceptable to witness violence targeting worshippers at the Hindu temple in Brampton," said Poilievre.

"All Canadians should be free to practice their faith in peace. Conservatives condemn this violence unequivocally. I will unite our people and end the chaos," he added. Meanwhile, the High Commission of India in Ottawa also issued a strong statement on Monday condemning the recent attack on Brampton's Hindu Sabha temple by "anti-India" elements. In its statement, the High Commission remarked, "We have seen violent disruption today (November 3), orchestrated by anti-India elements outside the consular camp co-organised with the Hindu Sabha Mandir in Brampton, near Toronto." Peel Regional Police said on X Sunday afternoon that



they were aware of the protest taking place at the Hindu Sabha Mandir, and had increased its presence at the temple to maintain public order and safety.

"We respect the right to protest in a peaceful and safe manner but will not tolerate violence and criminal acts," Chief Nishan Duraipappah posted on X Sunday after the videos began circulating.

Indian-origin Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya condemns attack

Harpreet Bajwa  
Indian-origin Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya condemned the

attack on Hindu temple in Brampton. He raised concerns over the frequent attacks on Hindus in Canada. Chandra Arya tagging a video wrote on social media platform X, "A red line has been crossed by Canadian Khalistani extremists today. The attack by Khalistanis on the Hindu-Canadian devotees inside the premises of the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton shows how deep and brazen has Khalistani violent extremism become in Canada. I begin to feel that there is a small grain of truth in the reports that in addition to Canadian political apparatus, Khalistanis have effectively infiltrated into our law enforcement agencies. No wonder that under the 'freedom of expression' Khalistani extremists are getting a free pass in Canada. As I have been saying for long, Hindu-Canadians, for the security and safety of our community, need to step up and assert their rights and hold politicians accountable," he said.

## From 2020 to 2024: Kamala Harris and Donald Trump on home stretch

World. The 2024 US presidential election is shaping up to be a nail-biter, with Democrat Kamala Harris and Republican Donald Trump locked in a tight battle. With a day to go for polling, both Harris and Trump are at the centre of global attention. However, both faced different political landscapes in the closing days of the 2020 election.

In 2020, it was a historic moment for then-Senator Kamala Harris as she joined Joe Biden's team as the first Black and South Asian woman to be nominated for vice president by a major party. She would go on to make history that year as Biden defeated Trump in a chaotic election.

The 2024 poll was initially a rematch of 2020. However, it was upended in July when President Biden ended his campaign and endorsed Vice President Harris. Now, she is gearing up to become America's first female president and the first woman of colour for the top job. For Trump, the scenario was completely different. In 2020, Trump was battling for re-election in a



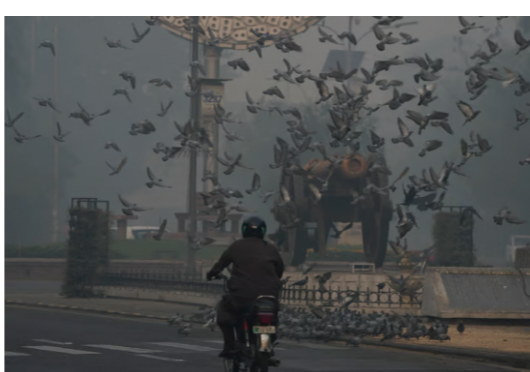
year shaped by the Covid-19 pandemic. Fast-forward to 2024, Trump is now seeking a rare comeback, with the baggage of a host of controversies and the label of becoming the first US president -- former or current -- charged with criminal activity. KAMALA HARRIS: FROM VICE-PRESIDENT TO FIRST BLACK WOMAN RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT

In 2020, Kamala Harris, who is of Indian-Jamaican heritage, initially ran for the Democratic presidential nomination. However, Biden won the race and chose Harris as his running mate, calling her "a fearless fighter". She was

chosen not only for her extensive legal and legislative experience, but also as a symbol of hope and representation for the 47.9 million Black Americans. In the run-up to the 2020 polls, Harris focused on core messages of unity and rebuilding America post the Trump era, in contrast to the more divisive tone of the Trump campaign. She focused on rallying African American and minority communities, particularly in key swing states. Criminal justice reform was a key plank of her campaign, defined by the years she spent as a California prosecutor. Harris's appeal to younger and diverse voters was key in Biden securing a win, albeit narrow, in key swing states. Cut to 2024, with only a short period of campaigning ahead of her after Biden withdrew from the race, Harris had no time to waste. Coming out of Biden's shadow, Harris has spent much of her time trying to differentiate her role as vice president from what she planned to do if elected.

## Pakistan shuts primary schools for a week in Lahore due to dangerous air quality

LAHORE. Dangerously poor air quality on Monday forced Pakistani authorities in the cultural capital of Lahore to close primary schools for a week, government officials said, after the air-quality index hit a record high over the weekend. The measures in Lahore were part of a larger effort to protect children from respiratory-related and other diseases in the city of 14 million people. The government said everyone in Lahore was required to wear a face mask. Fifty percent of employees must also work from home as part of a "green lockdown" in the city, the government said, adding that barbecuing food without filters was banned and motorized rickshaws restricted. Wedding halls must close at 10 p.m. and artificial rain is likely to be



used to combat the pollution. The air-quality index in Lahore exceeded 1,000 over the weekend, a record high in Pakistan. Toxic grey smog has sickened tens of thousands of people, mainly children and elderly people, since last month when the air quality started

worsening in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province bordering India. The government has also banned construction work in certain areas and fined owners of smoke-emitting vehicles. Schools will remain closed for a week because of the pollution, according to a government notification.

The concentration of PM 2.5, or tiny particulate matter, in the air approached 450, considered hazardous, the Punjab Environment Protection Department said. Lahore was once known as a city of gardens, which were ubiquitous during the Mughal era from the 16th to 19th centuries. But rapid urbanization and surging population growth have left little room for greenery.

## Violent rhetoric to wooing Arab Americans: Trump, Harris make final pitches

North Carolina. Democrat Kamala Harris made her closing pitch for the US presidency at a historically Black church and to Arab Americans in battleground Michigan on Sunday, while her Republican rival Donald Trump embraced violent rhetoric at a rally in Pennsylvania. Opinion polls show the pair locked in a tight race, with Vice President Harris, 60, bolstered by strong support among female voters while former President Trump, 78, gains ground with Hispanic voters, especially men. Voters overall view both candidates unfavorably, according to Reuters/Ipsos polling, but that has not dissuaded them from casting ballots. More than 78 million Americans have already done so ahead of Tuesday's Election Day, according to the University of Florida's Election Lab, opens new tab, approaching half the total 160 million votes cast in 2020, in which US voter turnout was the highest in more than a century. Control of Congress is also up for grabs on Tuesday, with Republicans favored to capture a majority in the Senate while Democrats are seen as having an even chance of flipping Republicans' narrow majority in the House of Representatives. Presidents whose parties fail to control both

chambers have struggled to pass major legislation. "In just two days we have the power to decide the fate of our nation for generations to come," Harris told parishioners at Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ in Detroit. "We must act. It's not enough to only pray; not enough to just talk." Later in a rally in East Lansing, Michigan, she addressed the state's 200,000 Arab Americans, starting her speech with a nod to civilian victims of Israel's wars in Gaza and Lebanon. "This year has been difficult, given the scale of death and destruction in Gaza and given the civilian casualties and displacement in Lebanon, it is devastating. And as president, I will do everything in my power to end the war in Gaza," Harris said to applause. Many Arab and Muslim Americans as well as anti-war activist groups have condemned US support for Israel amid the tens of thousands of civilian deaths in Gaza and Lebanon, and the displacement of millions. Israel says it is targeting militant groups Hamas and Hezbollah. Trump visited Dearborn, Michigan, the heart of the Arab American community, on Friday and vowed to end the conflict in the Middle East without saying how. Instead of mentioning Trump by name, Harris



chose to highlight her opponent's record during her last Sunday on the campaign trail.

## TRUMP GOES OFF SCRIPT

Trump, at his first of three rallies on Sunday, frequently abandoned his teleprompter with off-the-cuff remarks in which he denounced opinion polls showing movement for Harris. He called Democrats a "demonic party," ridiculed Democratic President Joe Biden and talked about the high price of apples.

Trump, who survived an assassination attempt in July when a gunman's bullet grazed his ear in Butler, Pennsylvania, on Sunday complained to supporters about gaps in the bulletproof glass surrounding him as he spoke and mused that an

assassin would have to shoot through the news media to get him. "To get me, somebody would have to shoot through the fake news and I don't mind that so much," said Trump, who has long criticized the media and sought to rile public sentiment against them. Last week he suggested prominent Republican critic, former congresswoman Liz Cheney, should face gunfire in combat over her hawkish foreign policy, leading an Arizona prosecutor to open an investigation. Campaign spokesperson Steven Cheung issued a statement saying Trump's comment was not directed toward the media but rather, "It was about threats against him that were spurred on by dangerous rhetoric from Democrats." Trump later spoke in Kinston, North Carolina, and in Macon, Georgia, where he seized on last week's jobs report that showed the US economy only produced 12,000 jobs last month. He told a large crowd gathered in an amphitheater that the report showed that the United States was a "nation in decline" and he warned darkly without evidence of a potentially looming repeat of the 1929 Great Depression with "people jumping off buildings."

## Japanese nuclear reactor that restarted 13 years after Fukushima disaster is shut down again

TOKYO. A Japanese nuclear reactor that restarted last week for the first time in more than 13 years after it had survived a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami that badly damaged the nearby Fukushima nuclear plant was shut down again Monday due to an equipment problem, its operator said.

The No. 2 reactor at the Onagawa nuclear power plant on Japan's northern coast was put back online on Oct. 29 and had been expected to start generating power in early November.

But it had to be shut down again five days after its restart due to a glitch that occurred Sunday in a device related to neutron data inside the reactor, plant operator Tohoku Electric Power Co. said. The reactor was operating normally and there was no release of radiation into the environment, Tohoku Electric said. The utility said it decided to shut it down to re-examine equipment to address residents' safety concerns. No new date for a restart was given. The reactor is one of three at the Onagawa plant, which is 100 kilometers (62 miles) north of the Fukushima Daiichi plant where three reactors melted following a magnitude 9.0 earthquake and tsunami in March



2011, releasing large amounts of radiation. The Onagawa plant was hit by a 13-meter (42-foot) tsunami triggered by the quake but was able to keep its crucial cooling systems functioning in all three reactors and achieve their safe shutdowns.

All of Japan's 54 commercial nuclear power plants were shut down after the Fukushima disaster for safety checks and upgrades. Onagawa No. 2 was the 13th of the 33 still useable reactors to restart.

Japan's government last year adopted a plan to maximize use of nuclear energy and is pushing to accelerate reactor restarts to secure a stable energy supply and meet its pledge to reach carbon neutrality by 2050. Concern about the government's revived push for nuclear energy grew after a magnitude 7.5 earthquake hit Japan's Noto Peninsula on Jan. 1, 2024, killing more than 400 people and damaging more than 100,000 structures.

News box

**Delay in procurement leaves paddy farmers on edge in Warangal**

**WARANGAL:** Farmers in the erstwhile Warangal district have begun harvesting paddy crops, bringing large loads to procurement centres in their respective mandals. However, they are anxious about selling their produce, alleging that the district administration and Civil Supplies department are delaying purchases. In Bayyaram mandal, farmers have left their crops soaked in rainwater at an Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP) centre. They are worried about delays, as their crops are ready for weighing and transportation to rice mills. Despite the inauguration of procurement centres, operations are yet to start fully. Local farmers feel that negligence on the part of the state government and officials has allowed private rice mills to purchase paddy without checking moisture levels, worsening their situation. Farmer Bhukya Ramesh from Bhayyaram Mandal expressed frustration over the lack of government action to facilitate proper procurement. With recent rains damaging their crops, he urged officials to expedite the purchasing process.

**AP to resume ferry services from Nagarjuna Sagar to Srisailem soon**

**KURNOOL:** Days after the Telangana Tourism Department resumed ferry services from Nagarjuna Sagar to Srisailem in the Krishna River, its counterpart in Andhra Pradesh is gearing up to launch a similar service soon. As part of the plan, the State Tourism Department will operate two boats — one with a seating capacity of 100 and another with 150. However, only one boat is likely to be operated in the first phase. Ticket prices for one-way trip have been fixed at Rs 2,000 for adults and Rs 1,600 for children, and Rs 3,000 for adults and Rs 2,400 for children for round trips. Speaking to TNIE, Andhra Pradesh Tourism Srisailem unit manager B Penchal Reddy explained, "Due to ample water in the Krishna River, the services will begin in early or mid-November." Further, he highlighted that while the Telangana government has introduced only the transport services, AP Tourism has added special tourism packages that include transport, temple visits and accommodation. He recalled that the services were suspended last year due to the lack of sufficient water in the river and reservoir. However, following the incessant rains this year, the Krishna River is abundantly filled. Penchal Reddy stated that the special trips from Srisailem to Akka Mahadevi caves located in the Nallamala forest range in Telangana will also be facilitated. He mentioned that the trip features a minimum of four-hour-travel to reach the caves from Patalaganga in Srisailem.

**Five boats set aside for ferry services**  
The Telangana government has fixed ticket prices, including forest entry fee, at Rs 650 for adults and Rs 520 for children.

**Rs 1.5 lakh crore steel plant to come up in Andhra's Anakapalle, create 70,000 jobs**

**VIJAYAWADA:** An integrated steel plant with a capacity of 24 million metric tonnes per annum is set to be established at Nakkapalle in Anakapalle district with an investment of Rs 1.5 lakh crore. AM/NS India, a joint venture of ArcelorMittal and Japan's Nippon Steel, will set up the plant. It is expected to create nearly 70,000 direct and indirect jobs. A formal announcement is likely to be made after the State Cabinet, scheduled to convene next week, discusses the proposal. In a post on X, the TDP termed the project "biggest investment in India". As per a document accessed by the TNIE, besides the integrated steel plant, a proposal has been submitted for a co-terminus captive port with a total of 17 berths. The project will be taken up in two phases with an investment of Rs 11,198 crore. It will create a total of 8,000 jobs. In the first phase, five berths will be built with a total handling capacity of 20.5 MMPTA.

According to official sources, the proposal to establish a steel plant augurs well for Andhra Pradesh as the steel sector is only next to textiles in providing jobs. Further, they explained that representatives of AM/NS contacted IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh a couple of months ago, and proposed to set up the steel plant at Nakkapalle. They emphasised that the location was strategic considering the geographical locations such as the proximity to the coast, road connectivity via NH-16, rail link to Chennai Grand Trunk and adequate water sources from the Polavaram Left Main Canal. Sources explained that the steel plant will be set up in two phases. In the first phase, the plant will produce 7.3 million metric tonnes of stainless steel per annum. Its capacity will be expanded to 24 million metric tonnes per annum in the second phase.

**Tamil Nadu's spirit indomitable, ever-ready to overcome any storm**

**Chennai.** As citizens of Chennai, we have repeatedly witnessed our city's spirit rising, despite the trials posed by natural calamities, and the resilience we displayed during the last floods is a remarkable testament to this. Standing strong in solidarity, the people of Tamil Nadu, regardless of caste or creed, came forward to extend a helping hand, embodying the unity and compassion that define our society. I speak not only as a citizen but as someone profoundly moved by the outpouring of support within our people, a spirit that transcends personal hardship for the well-being of others. At Amir Mahal, the ancestral home of Nawab Mohammed Abdul Ali, Prince of Arcot, we opened our doors to shelter those in need. It was a time when Amir Mahal transformed from a residence to a haven for people affected by the crisis. For a week, we provided shelter, food and solace to families who had been uprooted by the devastating rains. Seeing the faces of those families, relieved and grateful, has been an indelible reminder of our responsibility to our society. We stood together, not just as hosts, but as fellow citizens who shared the pain and the commitment to

emerge stronger. We are deeply grateful to the state government and the Greater Chennai Corporation, whose tireless work was pivotal in safeguarding countless lives.



The efforts of our government, and of several NGOs, during this crisis deserve the highest praise. Amidst formidable odds, they mobilised resources, restored essential services, and coordinated rescue operations with precision and dedication. We owe them our thanks, for their commitment to protecting lives and restoring hope never wavered. Their preparedness, alongside the people's support, mitigated an even larger tragedy and highlighted the efficiency of our public services. It is the collaboration between the authorities and the people that truly turned the tide and brought Chennai back on its

feet. While we draw strength from our shared resilience, there is always room to enhance our preparedness. Looking ahead, the Chennai Corporation could consider investing further in advanced drainage systems that efficiently manage surplus rainwater, particularly in low-lying areas. Implementing real-time flood monitoring and alert systems would enable rapid response and early evacuation, providing essential information to residents and emergency personnel. Additionally, regular public awareness campaigns, focusing on emergency preparedness, could empower citizens with essential knowledge to protect themselves and others in times of crisis. The compassion and unity displayed by people throughout this ordeal have shown us that solidarity is not just a word but a way of life. Strangers became friends and entire communities rallied to offer food, shelter and support. We witnessed countless acts of selflessness from citizens risking their safety to aid stranded individuals and volunteers wading through flooded streets to deliver essentials. It is this very spirit that defines our resilience that is woven deeply into the fabric of Tamil Nadu.

**Brewed risks: Excessive coffee triggers anxiety disorders, high BP**

**BENGALURU:** Coffee, often seen as a productivity booster, is silently fuelling a rise in anxiety disorders, according to doctors. Many patients reporting anxiety symptoms have excessive caffeine consumption in common because in workplaces, where 'free coffee' is readily available, employees often overconsume without realising it, doctors said, linking this habit to various disorders, including heightened anxiety, insomnia, increased stress and even blood pressure. Medical experts mentioned that the city's strong coffee culture, paired with high-pressure work environments, is driving anxiety levels higher, with many unaware of the connection between their daily cups and rising stress. One of the studies in General Hospital Psychiatry, a monthly health journal, found that excessive caffeine consumption can worsen anxiety and even trigger panic attacks in individuals prone to anxiety disorders while another research in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition linked high caffeine intake to increased blood pressure, which elevates the risk of cardiovascular disorders. Doctors highlighted that while consuming up to three-four cups or 400 mg of caffeine is generally safe, individual tolerance varies, and factors such as age, underlying health conditions, and caffeine sensitivity play a role. Pregnant women, specifically, should be cautious as excessive caffeine can increase the risks of miscarriage and low birth weight. Moreover, coffee intake also increases sugar consumption directly. Edwina Raj, Head of Services, Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, Aster CMI Hospital, highlighted that excessive consumption can lead to various side effects, including increased blood pressure and it can also interfere with the absorption of essential micronutrients, causing iron and zinc deficiencies.

**Cochin Devaswom Board urges devaswoms to find new waste disposal solutions for Thrissur Pooram**

**THRISSUR:** While a decision on the rent for Thekkinkadu Maidan to conduct the Thrissur Pooram Exhibition remains pending, the Cochin Devaswom Board (CDB) has urged the Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu devaswoms to find a solution for disposing of the waste generated during the Thrissur Pooram starting in 2025. In a fresh notice, the CDB made it clear that Pallithamam Ground will no longer be available for processing Pooram waste. Every year, the waste is removed from Thekkinkadu Maidan after the Pooram as a collective effort, with the Thrissur Corporation's sanitary staff, including Haritha Karma Sena, taking the lead. Normally, the CDB-owned Pallithamam Ground is used to segregate and later dump organic waste in a pit. At the same time, it is unclear whether any construction is planned for Pallithamam Ground. According to norms, it is the responsibility of the respective local body to manage the waste generated within its limits. With the CDB withdrawing its support for waste management, the



devaswoms will now need to discuss this with the corporation and other stakeholders to arrive at a decision. Will the CDB do the same to political parties that organize

events at Thekkinkadu Maidan? Why is it a problem for the CDB only when it comes to Thrissur Pooram?" asked Baiju Thazhakattu, president of the Pooram Premi Sangham. A majority of the 10 temples participating in the Thrissur Pooram are under the CDB. However, the elephants for the parade, caparisons, and parasols are provided by the Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu devaswoms, the main organizers of the event. The organizers cover these expenses from the income generated by the Thrissur Pooram Exhibition. Every year, a share of the collection from the Thrissur Pooram Exhibition on sample fireworks day, the following day, and on Thrissur Pooram day is given to the Thrissur Corporation to support its activities, including waste management during the Pooram days. While the Thiruvambady and Paramekkavu devaswoms remain uncertain about the final decision regarding Thekkinkadu Maidan, the latest issue of waste disposal has placed an additional burden on the organizers.

**Bengaluru Rural police arrest Asha Sweets owner, experts flag manual scavenging worries**

**BENGALURU:** Bengaluru Rural police arrested Mayur, owner of Asha Sweets, for the death of two men allegedly engaged in manual scavenging at the company's factory in Sompura Industrial Area in Bengaluru Rural district. This brings the number of arrests to three, including the sub-contractor and site in charge. Investigations revealed that the company, which has about 18 outlets in the city, allegedly did not adhere to clearances and regulations from various departments, including the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.



August 2024. The case also highlights the authorities' failure to enforce the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013. It is registered under Sections 7 and 9 of the Act, apart from BNS Section

105 -- culpable homicide not amounting to murder. Section 7 prohibits employing individuals as manual scavengers, while Section 9 mandates local authorities to provide alternative livelihoods and enforce prohibition. A senior official with Karnataka State Commission for Safai Karamcharis told TNIE that officials were directed to identify manual scavengers in each district, and the delay in starting the survey is due to the ongoing rehabilitation of manual scavengers. Advocate Basavaraj said failure to comply with these provisions exposes workers to exploitation and health risks. While there are thousands of registered manual scavengers, there are many others doing the same work without officially being employed, or involved in cleaning sewage treatment plants (STPs).

**Are parties talking petty to make up for their lack of development agenda?**

Leading candidates in Palakkad bypoll are focusing on state & local-level political issues

**PALAKKAD:** Election time usually generates heated discussions about local development, or, the lack thereof, in constituencies. Sadly, though, leading candidates in the upcoming by-election to Palakkad have been focusing on state- and local-level political issues to the detriment of the region and its residents. The parties have been indulging in petty politics to cover for their inefficiencies and inability to offer progressive ideas in the social and economic spheres. "This is a serious trend that must be addressed. Even seasoned politicians are nowadays busy forwarding comical reels and videos of their political rivals. While admitting to employing any means possible to win elections, parties are really not bothered about the real issues at play. They wax eloquent only when it comes to leaked letters, turcoat activists and the public conduct of candidates," a senior Congress leader said. Despite having a significant population of elderly citizens, Palakkad sorely lacks quality healthcare facilities, he said. "The Palakkad government medical college is



yet to be fully functional and nowhere in the state do we see a medical college referring cases to a district hospital. Even students and employees of the medical college have to make their way to the district hospital to stage protests," he quipped. "Palakkad constituency has changed very little in the last 20 years.

People representatives still believe that constructing bus stops, erecting streetlights and visiting voters during deaths and marriage functions are developmental activities. They don't talk about the town's lack of public transport, wider roads, new bypasses to ease congestion, proper sports recreation facilities or even a standard crematorium," pointed out A V Gopinath, former MLA and former DCC president. The stadium bus stand, indoor stadium, reconstruction of the town hall, development of parks, etc., are all demands that have remained unaddressed. "Unlike in other towns or major constituencies in Kerala, there are no efforts in Palakkad to constitute a town development authority or expert committee to list out the advantages, opportunities, shortfalls in the constituency. In fact all the so-called developments are carried out only for the benefit of some monopoly establishments and individuals," said Palakkad United Merchants Association president Joby Chungath.

**TN may talk to Kerala as Siruvani dam's level nears restricted limit**

**COIMBATORE:** With water level in the Siruvani Dam inching towards the restricted reservoir level of 44.63 feet set by the Kerala water resources and irrigation department, Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) board officials plan to request authorities to initiate negotiations with Kerala and stop it from discharging water as the dam is the main drinking water source for Coimbatore city. As on Sunday evening, water level in the dam stood at 44.3ft. Siruvani Dam, located deep inside the reserve forest of the Kalladikodan Hill and



Muthikulam Hill in Palakkad district, is among the major sources of drinking water for Coimbatore city. The Kerala government has not allowed the water level to reach the FRL (full reservoir level) of 50 ft in the last nine years, allegedly citing safety of the structure as a concern. Of Coimbatore city's total drinking water requirement of 265 MLD, 101.40 MLD is supplied by the Siruvani Dam. As per an agreement that was entered into by the Tamil Nadu and Kerala governments on August 19, 1973, Kerala should supply 1.30 TMC annually (July 1 to June 30) to the erstwhile Coimbatore Municipal Town for 99 years. The Kerala irrigation department is maintaining the water level in Siruvani Dam at a restricted reservoir level of 877.00m (44.61ft) instead of the FRL of 878.50m (49.53ft) as stipulated in the interstate agreement. Lowering the water level by 1.5m results in a shortage of 122.05 MCFT of water, which is 19% of the total storage. This creates difficulties in catering to the needs of Coimbatore city during summer. Sources from TWAD, Siruvani division, told TNIE, "The dam is receiving good inflow thanks to incessant rainfall in the catchment areas. We shall intimate our higher officials to hold high-level talks with Kerala government to prevent it from releasing water once the level reaches 44.61 ft."

## Food for thought from fauji kitchen

We are today grappling with intolerance, divisive narratives and trumped-up 'fassad' (tension/violence), mischievously described as 'food jihad'. Coupled with this is the advocacy for vegetarianism and forced abstinence during specified periods, disregarding dietary preferences and livelihoods. As a disclaimer, having grown up in Rajasthan, I am to a great extent an "exception-tarian", or one who imbibes non-vegetarian food but only occasionally. Fauji did make me a "mauka-tarian", enjoying whatever is served with love, and in good faith.

My first experiment in culinary re-ordering was as the second-in-command, 63 Cavalry. A forced bachelor who would dine in the mess, I pointed out the skewed menu with a daily overdose of non-vegetarian dishes. I called for adhering to the age-old tradition of a chana-bhatura lunch on Tuesday and South Indian fare for the Sunday brunch. I was surprised to see the dining members lading out pickle from jars with chana bhatura. We had three new pickles — chicken, mutton and pork! Pickle being an essential accompaniment, I was stumped. I simply gave up when they served keema dosa on Sunday. The second effort was in trying to post our Sikh cook, Chanan Singh, from the headquarter squadron to the Sikh squadron and to move Mohanan, a South Indian, to the headquarters. The Sikh soldiers, having got addicted to Mohanan's tadkas, were literally up in arms and simply refused to part with him.

When my wife Anita joined me, all married officers were invited for the much-awaited party. Unknown to us, the bachelors had taken the licence to shoot vermin. Shakeel served us the most relished pork chops. When I told him that he need not serve it, it was humbling to hear his response: "I am the host, you love it and I don't eat it." During another tenure, the mess cook in the Brigade headquarters, lovingly called Pandeyji, dished out the most delicious mutton rogan josh despite being a staunch vegetarian himself. In the same Brigade, we had the elite 18 Cavalry with three squadrons (equivalent of a company). Alpha squadron comprised Jats, who can drink but not eat mutton as per the squadron norms, though some did it surreptitiously. Bravo had Hindustani Muslims (HM). They eat their halal meat and are



not permitted alcohol. The Charlie squadron was of Rajputs, who were allowed both meat (but only jhatka) and drinks. The roof of the langar (cook house) of the Jats collapsed and they chose to set up a temporary langar with the Muslims.

Meat goes with rum so the Army issued it on meat days. As the Brigade Major, I was in the shared langar and a bit worried. The good old Muslim senior JCO walked up to me and, as if anticipating my thoughts, told me: "Sahib, don't worry, no Jat will be allowed to consume meat in our langar and break his dharma, but I can't guarantee about the headquarter squadron." The headquarter has a mixed, all castes' staffing on a deputation basis and some Jats do consume mutton there. The wise JCO's parting words still ring in my ears. "After all, we follow deen-imaaan and dharma." I wish all of us could be true to ourselves, and let others be — to each his own. There's much food for thought there.

## Tiger reserves and the arduous task of conservation

Return to pre-Galwan patrolling protocols is a prerequisite for satisfactory disengagement

The year was 1985. The late Shyam Sunder, then head of the Karnataka Forest Department, was camping in the Shettihalli forest resthouse of the Shivamogga division, deep inside the Western Ghats. As Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga, I accompanied him, along with the Conservator of Forests, for a field visit and camping. The resthouse had only two rooms. After dinner, I left for another resthouse at Sirigere, 15 km away. My half-an-hour journey was through a magnificent forest. No human, livestock, stray dog or wild animal was encountered on the way. The next morning, however, while returning on the same route to Shettihalli, my driver and I sighted a tiger crossing the road, 50 metres ahead of us. Spellbound, we watched the tiger for 10-15 seconds till it disappeared in the jungle. When I shared this experience with my seniors, they were thrilled. They said sighting a tiger was uncommon and many forest officers had retired without sighting a tiger in their entire service. With the help of state forest departments, an all-India tiger census was regularly carried out. Tiger numbers were assessed on the basis of pugmarks. States showed growth in numbers until the early 2000s, when it was found that the entire census was flawed and some departments had reported more tigers than they actually had. Tiger states came under heavy criticism and the Central government took strict action. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was constituted and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, amended in 2006. It coordinated with states to take legal and administrative action to revive the tiger numbers. Anti-poaching camps were established inside forests, staff were upskilled and legal training and assistance provided to ensure that the poachers who hunted tigers for skin and body parts were brought to justice. More forest areas were brought under the purview of the NTCA. Nine areas, originally included under Project Tiger in 1973, covering nearly 16,000 sq km, were increased to 53 tiger reserves (TRs) in 2024, covering approximately 75,000 sq km. The methodology for tiger estimation, which was earlier based on pugmark count, was made more robust by Dr Rajesh Gopal, who was member secretary, NTCA, from its establishment till 2014, with the assistance of scientists of the Wildlife Institute of India. The new methodology involved eight days' field protocol in all tiger-bearing forests, putting in use new data-gathering techniques. The



methodology is peer-reviewed globally and published in leading scientific journals. Using this methodology, the tiger number in the country, which was reported to be 10,000 in 2002, was found to be 1,411 in 2006. Thereafter, estimation was done every four years. The tiger numbers started growing — 1,710 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, 2,967 in 2018 and 3,682 in 2022. The most worrying part has been the loss of area under tiger occupancy. Anthropogenic pressure, diversion of forests for infrastructure and mining projects, encroachment and forest fires account for rapid degradation and fragmentation of tiger habitats and the tigers do not survive in human-dominated areas. This is the reason why the NTCA focuses on the relocation of families from the core areas of the tiger reserves. Though it is a long-drawn process and the Forest Rights Act, 2006, has come in the way, relocation of families is still progressing at a slow pace. Relocation of tribal families from core areas of TRs is done after taking their consent. The package is quite attractive; all male members above 18 years constitute a family and were provided Rs 10 lakh, which has been revised to Rs 15 lakh from 2018. The families not opting for cash had another

option and were provided agriculture land, houses and cash (20 per cent of the whole package) and relocated. While working as Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka, in 2010-11, I could relocate 19 out of 25 families in a tribal hamlet named Dalimbe Kolli in Nagarhole TR. Six families who did not give their consent were left out. It became difficult for the state to provide them the basic necessities like piped water, electricity, hospital and school. The families are now repenting. The state is also in a dilemma as the families have grown to 20 in number and there are cost overruns.

Tiger is a territorial animal and has to fight another tiger to gain territory. As habitats are lost, fragmented tigers get pushed out of the reserves and are exposed to human areas. They have to depend on livestock for prey, which is detrimental to both humans and tigers. Conservation efforts get a setback if human lives/livestock are lost. Often tigers are poisoned/shot by humans. The best forests in the country are notified and included in tiger reserves. We need to conserve tiger reserves for our own welfare as vast stretches of the forests provide origin and catchment of rivers.

## Mid-air mess in HP

Strictly regulate paragliding to ensure safety

THE death of two foreign paragliders in two days in Himachal Pradesh has cast a long shadow on the Paragliding World Cup 2024, which starts today at Bir-Billing in Kangra district. A Belgian national was killed after his parachute did not open following a mid-air collision with another paraglider at Bir-Billing on Tuesday. Shockingly, 10 paragliders were flying simultaneously when the inevitable mishap occurred. A Czech woman met her end after she crashed into a mountain in Manali on Wednesday. As many as 10 paragliders, mostly free-fliers, have been killed in the hill state in the last two years. Yet, the business-as-usual approach continues unabated. Every adventure sport entails a risk to life and limb, but tragic accidents can be minimised by strict adherence to safety protocols. This week's deaths are a wake-up call for the state paragliding authorities as well as the organisers of the November 2-9 World Cup, which will feature participants from around 50 countries.



Paragliding is a popular adventure sport in Himachal, but the safety of fliers has been a matter of concern. Untrained

pilots and unregistered private paragliding schools — these are key factors that endanger the lives of paragliders. No guidelines have been laid down to regulate paragliding schools in the state. The state Tourism Department has worsened the mess by failing to make a government-funded paragliding school operational at Bir-Billing, even three years after it was set up at a cost of Rs 8 crore.

Attributing the mishaps solely to the recklessness of fliers reflects an evasive attitude. Paragliding should be suspended till foolproof security measures are put in place. There is a need to weed out unprofessional and unauthorised persons involved in this sport, for at stake is Bir-Billing's reputation as a paragliding paradise. Hosting the World Cup is a big achievement, but it's more important to work on improving flier safety throughout the year. All stakeholders must take urgent steps to ensure that the mid-air thrills eclipse the perils.

## GOOD SPORT: The very essence of life

Lessons from sportspersons must be learnt so that we become better at what we do

Everything in this life has a beginning and an end — Rafael Nadal's plain words, uttered when he announced his retirement recently, may appear far too trite, even banal, to mark the end of the greatest era in men's tennis, but they contain the essence of life. The greatest sportspersons do self-realisation the best; few people assess themselves with such brutal — yet clinical and forensic — honesty as, say, Rafael Nadal. "He was much better than me," Nadal would say after a loss; after a particularly bad show, he'd just say: "I did a disaster." Press conferences with sportspersons are exercises in banalities, but players such as Nadal, combining sensibility and rationality and honesty, provided nuggets of wisdom that contain life lessons for us mortals. Sportspersons are possibly the only professionals who try to improve their skills every day of their life; for this, they must be brutally honest with themselves — they must confront their faults, their weaknesses. On the other hand, most of us mortals, mired in careerism and an inflated sense of the self, can't even see our faults.

Eighteen and ebullient in 1989, Viswanathan Anand was the young tiger, ready to take on the world, for which he saw "thrilling possibilities" for himself. Fifty-five next month, Anand has run his race, he's made his reputation. Anand took on the world in an online chess game last week — and beat over 60,000 opponents. Chess — not even a sport, and certainly not a game that runs on adrenaline — appears to be ideal for the aged. But professional chess champions are young — Kasparov and Carlsen became world champions at 22, Karpov at 23; Ding Liren is something of an oddity, winning the crown at 31. His challenger, D Gukesh, is 18, and Arjun Erigaisi 21. Anand is ancient, but he's still the world No. 10 — Gukesh and Erigaisi are the other Indians in the top 10. Anand became the champion of the world in his



late 30s; Gukesh could well become a teenaged champion. Chess great Viswanathan Anand was the India No. 1 for close to four decades; when this writer asked him about the prospect of being deposed by players young enough to be his sons, Anand just laughed philosophically and said everything must end. Indeed, Nadal and Anand — and Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin — would succumb to the vagaries of time; the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak, and even the spirit begins to waver with the passage of time.

Ashwin is 38, Rohit will turn 38 next year, Kohli will be 36 next week. The road ahead for them is much shorter than the road travelled — we're seeing the end of a golden era, during which India achieved possibly their greatest feat in Test cricket: two consecutive series wins in Australia. It doesn't get better than that. Now they've lost a Test cricket series at home after 12 years, and for the first time ever to

New Zealand — the end of the greats is nigh.

In football, there was an end of an era, too — neither Lionel Messi nor Cristiano Ronaldo was nominated for the prestigious Ballon d'Or, presented to the best footballer in the world; the two had won the award 13 times in the last 16 years — eight for Messi, five for Ronaldo. The award this time went to Rodrigo Hernandez, a man who had admitted to his own frailties as "the lame one who never did anything"

during his days in university.

Rani Rampal, former India hockey captain, too, has life lessons for us — daughter of a cart-puller who earned Rs 80 a day, the girl who was rejected by a district-level coach for being malnourished, has gracefully walked away from the sport: "It's time for me to step off the field as a player and begin a new chapter... Hockey has been my passion, my life, and the greatest honour I could ever have asked for."

## A feel of nature's masterpieces

Depending on the time of year of their birth, several hill children don't crawl. If, at some point in winter, they are expected to move on both hands and feet, they just may not. Swaddled in heavy clothing to keep the cold away, their tiny limbs cannot move freely. Come spring and suddenly, the little people may present a surprise by standing erect and taking their first steps. In the mid-hills, where many of us live, the deep bite of winter is still a couple of weeks away and these young ones, for the moment, can freely crawl, clamber and run. Once grown, today's toddlers will walk every day for a few, if not several, miles for the rest of their lives. The monsoons have ended, leaving behind a verdant landscape that shall soon pass into winter's quiet repose. While the weather is changing and there is a slight chill in the air, autumn, my favourite time in the hills, is here. The last tree fern has wilted. The cob of the 'snake plant', a species of arisaema, has long turned traffic-light red and announced that the monsoons are over. The leaves on the deciduous trees are changing colour and moving

into shades of rust, crimson and gold. If some doubt remained about an end to the months of rain, the magnificent deodar trees are pouring dusky pollen all over the place.

For someone like me, one reason for living in the hills is to walk. Autumn is one of the best times to revisit the trails I've known for most of my walking life. This may be something about taking life slow, but it is also about nourishing both body and mind. Hopefully, should it choose to, the soul (if it exists) may also decide to dance. This has very little to do with the obvious benefits of walking. It is more about the simple pleasure of being able to do so. Nature was always democratised. As a species, we humans evolved alongside this. It was always accessible. We were, and are, just a part of a far wider and more complex pattern that makes our planet. Adding to those undemocratically grandiose words and to the hundreds if not thousands of pieces that have been written extolling the virtues of walking, let me add my two bits.

# Keep these in mind while buying rustic Furniture



area, opt for light-weight wooden arm-rests. To add comfort, you can add a few cushions. To jazz up the look, you can also paint the chairs in quirky colours, but if you want to maintain the old-world charm, then, keep it the way it is.

### For your bedroom

Choose a teak wood bed, instead of rot iron. For the country-side charm, you can also have a piece of log placed in the room, near the bed to make your room look interesting. Also make sure that the log remains unpolished so that it retains its original look.

### For your balcony

A few wooden chairs in the balcony looks great. You can accentuate the look by having a cane swing chair placed in the balcony to complete the look. You can also have a faux



garden set up to make the ambience look interesting.

If you are the one who swears by the rugged and country-side look, having rustic furnishings in your house will add to the charm. Not only will this sort of decor look interesting and unique, it is also a great way to make your home look different from the others. Here are a couple of ideas that you can consider, while doing up your home with rustic furniture.

### For your living room

Instead of having a sofa in your living



# Create a cosy Balcony for yourself

The other way to ensure that your balcony or seating space near your living room window looks glamorous and party-ready is by lending a personal touch to your balcony. So, whether it is incorporating colourful cushions or quirky furniture pieces to this space, there is so much you can do to make this place a haven for yourself as you sit down to enjoy your cuppa coffee.

Apart from having plants of various types and sizes, you can also have vases with fresh flowers in them. To make the balcony come alive in the evening, you can place some twinkly lights for extra lighting. Apart from chairs and a coffee table as the centrepiece of your balcony, you can also throw in some cushions and mattresses to make the area cosy.

If you are someone who does not like too much furniture in your balcony, opt for a comfortable rocking chair or a swing to make your space look different and vibrant. You can also select a particular colour shade to lend a theme to your balcony or seating space near your window. Have some plants with flowers in it, to make the space look more green.



# Ways to revamp your Living Space

Apart from gorging on sinful delicacies and spending quality time with friends and family, one of the best things about the festive season is going decor shopping to give your home a makeover. It gives you a valid excuse to splurge on revamping your home, without feeling guilty. Depending on your budget, here's how you can give your living space a fun facelift. Decals, accent walls and more

Brighten up your room with an accent wall — a wall whose colour/design differs from that of the other walls in the room. Paint your favourite wall in a brighter shade and others in lighter tones to maintain the balance. If painting is not paint, you can still add some magic to your wall by going for decals; these are a more convenient and less expensive option. Another way to spruce up your old walls is by going for colourful hangings, mirrors and paintings.

Change those linens, cushions and rugs

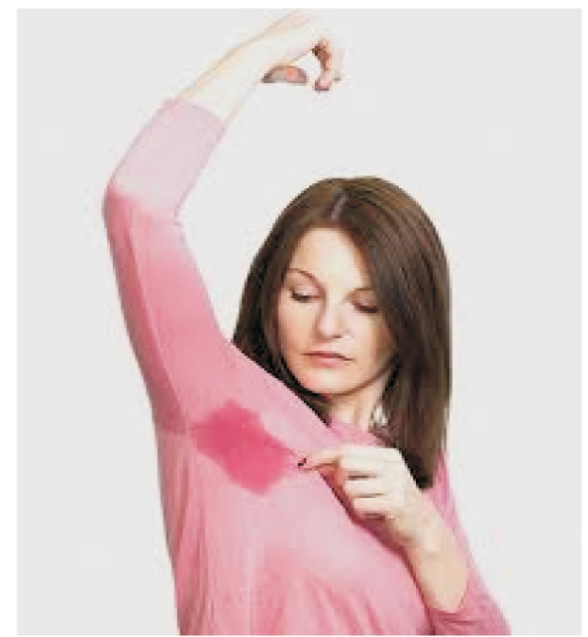
Simply using a set of new bedsheets and curtains can completely transform a room. For your bedding, go for festive colours like fuchsia, turquoise, orange and royal blue. Throw in a pair of bright-coloured cushions or those which have intricate embroidery or mirror work on them. For your curtains, opt for fabrics like tissue. Prints like floral, geometric shapes and abstract art are great options. Curtains in colours like ivory and gold, adorned with applique in red, maroon, lilac and blue will make your room look lively. If you have a big space in the centre of the room, decorate with a fancy rug.



# How to prevent and remove sweat stains

Sweat stains are a reality for most of us. The yellowish tinge around your armpits are a result of the stain. Not only are they ugly, but they are time consuming too when you set about to remove them. Best is to prevent them from happening and if they still are a bother try these tricks.

- \* Try to wear an undershirt which will absorb the sweat and keep your outer clothes beautiful.
- \* If you use a roll-on deodorant, allow it to dry completely before you wear your clothes.
- \* You can also opt for deos with less of aluminium content.
- \* Try to remove the stain when it is still fresh, since removing a dried stain is a tedious task.
- \* While removing the stain at home, use cold or warm water and avoid hot water since it sets the stain more.



# How to remove wallpaper without much difficulty



Wallpapers look good and are easy to put up on the walls too. However, removing them sounds difficult unless it is a removable wallpaper. The wallpaper is attached to the wall with a wheat-based non-toxic adhesive. The entire process of removing it is delicate and difficult. If you are stuck with a wall paper that is not removable, then try these techniques.

- \* Use proper solvents which are easily available in the market today. These are chemical based and you need to spray them and then gently peel away the wallpaper.
- \* Try using warm water on the wallpaper which is the cheapest form of removing it.
- \* Use a steamer to apply steam on the wallpaper.
- \* Use an electrically powered wallpaper removal tool.
- \* Before using any of the above tools perforate the wallpaper with a sharp instrument.
- \* Remember when you spray water on the wallpaper you are also risking damaging the wall



# Jamiat cautions TDP, JD(U), says even 'crutches' will not escape responsibility if Waqf bill passed

New Delhi: Stepping up its campaign against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, the Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind on Sunday urged TDP's Chandrababu Naidu and JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar to heed the sentiments of Muslims on the matter and said the parties within the NDA that claim to be secular must distance themselves from supporting this "dangerous" legislation. It also cautioned that if the legislation is passed, the "two crutches" on which the BJP-led government is running at the Centre would not be able to escape responsibility. Jamiat chief Maulana Arshad Madani made the assertion at the prominent Muslim body's 'Save Constitution Convention' held here at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

"People of the country defeated the BJP. They did not accept their policies. This government is dependent on two crutches — a strong one is Chandrababu and the other is Bihar's Nitish Kumar. I had invited him (Naidu), he excused himself but had sent his party's vice president Nawab Jan. I look at this positively as he will convey the sentiments of the people gathered here,"

Madani said, gesturing to the large gathering of Jamiat functionaries and supporters. "If the Waqf Bill is passed ignoring the emotions of the Muslims — it would be as much a responsibility of the crutches as it would be of other powers at the Centre," Madani asserted.

A resolution passed by the Jamiat at the Convention put forward the demand that no individual from any other religion be included in the Waqf Board, and that Parliament's joint committee be bound to consult only Muslims, Muslim organisations, and Muslim leaders. "Jamiat Ulama-e-Hind supports the stance of opposition parties regarding the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill and appeals to the parties within the NDA that claim to be secular to distance themselves from supporting this dangerous proposed bill and to prove their secular credentials," the resolution read.

In his remarks, Madani said Jamiat has decided that either by the end of this month or in December, it will hold a gathering of



around five lakh Muslims in Chandrababu Naidu's "area" and put forward Muslims' feelings before him.

"If this bill is passed, the crutches on which the government is dependent would not be able to escape responsibility for it," he reiterated. Madani said the waqf is established by "our ancestors and is a part of Allah's ownership, with mosques built on it." "You (government) should protect them because we live in this country and we have not come from outside. If a Hindu is a

Gujjar, a Muslim is also a Gujjar... Hindus are Jats, Muslims are also Jats — They chant slogans saying that Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs are separate, but we say that 'Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians sab hai bhai bhai'," the Jamiat chief said. "There are so many mosques, some of which are 400-500 years old, located in Delhi... There is a section in India that seeks to usurp these mosques... Who can present 500-year-old documents? The law states that any mosque built on Waqf land is indeed Waqf," Madani said. He also said that the INDIA bloc and Rahul Gandhi had stated in the run-up to the Lok Sabha polls that if they came to power, all minorities would be free to practice their religion, an assertion he appreciated. "That is why I urged Muslims to support the alliance that gives them the freedom to practice their religion and I am happy that Muslims supported the alliance throughout the country. The alliance moved forward and the BJP was defeated," Madani said.

## How a war 4,000km afar is fuelling a farm fire in Haryana

A war 4,000 kilometres away has got farmers in several districts of Haryana protesting. It is because of the Israel-Hamas war and its ripple effects on the Red Sea routes that has resulted in a big shortage of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), a crucial fertiliser, before sowing of Rabi crops.

New Delhi: A group of farmers in Haryana's Sirsa blocked a city road, creating a long traffic jam on Sunday. They were demanding that they be provided with di-ammonium phosphate (DAP), a fertiliser crucial for sowing of Rabi crops like wheat and mustard. The shortage of fertiliser supply that has hit Haryana villages is because our interconnected world is a global village. A war 4,000 km away is one of the key reasons that is choking fertiliser supply to farmers in India. Last week, several districts in Haryana saw long queues of farmers at fertiliser distribution centres, with police being deployed to control any untoward situation. Congress MP Kumari Selja claimed that police lathicharged a group of farmers. As the Rabi season commences in India, farmers in Haryana, and states like Punjab, are grappling with a severe crisis that has its roots in the ongoing war in Eastern Europe and West Asia, particularly the Red Sea region.

The year-long war between Israel and Hamas has severely disrupted the global supply chain of di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser, leading to a significant shortage in India. India, which primarily depends on imports for this essential fertiliser, is now facing an acute shortfall.

Here's a look at how the geopolitical turmoil and bloodbath, thousands of kilometres away, has resulted in a shortage of DAP and farming woes. While an estimated 1,139 people were killed in Israel, Palestinian health authorities say Israeli offensives have killed more than 41,500 people, since October 2023. Earlier in 2022 and 2023, the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war had also led to DAP shortages in India.

### WHY DAP IS IMPORTANT FERTILISER FOR HARYANA FARMERS

DAP fertiliser, a vital one for Indian farmers in northern states like Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, contains phosphorus, an essential nutrient for several key crops. It also fulfils the initial need for nitrogen and sulphur in the crops. DAP provides critical nutrients for crops such as wheat and mustard, that are usually sowed during the months of October and November. "Every year, India consumes approximately 100 lakh tonnes of DAP, with the majority being met through imports," says Om Prakash, an agriculture expert with Kisan Tak, India Today Digital's sister media platform.

### IMPACT OF ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR ON DAP AVAILABILITY IN INDIA

The Israel-Hamas war that seems to have spilled over and taken the shape of a regional war in West Asia with Hezbollah, Houthis and Iran, has severely impacted the import of DAP fertiliser. The war in the Middle East has disrupted the vital lines of communication through the Red Sea, connecting the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean through the Suez Canal.

## Maha Vikas Aghadi gives 1-hour ultimatum to rebels to pull out of poll race

Mumbai. The opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) has issued a one-hour ultimatum to rebel candidates to withdraw their nominations, saying it was not in favour of "friendly fights".

Addressing a joint press conference with NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray warned that action would be taken against rebels who fail to withdraw their nomination by 3 pm. "We have appealed to several rebel leaders to withdraw. Many have agreed to withdraw. Once the deadline is over, we will come to know who has withdrawn. Those rebels who have not withdrawn will face action from the party," Thackeray said. Multiple rebel candidates filed nominations after being denied tickets by their respective parties. November 4 is the last day to withdraw nominations,

as per the Election Commission. With the MVA set to unveil their election manifesto on November 6 in a mega rally, the top brass wants to put up a united face. Shiv Sena (UBT) Rajya

In the MVA, the Congress has emerged as the biggest party with 101 seats in its share, followed by the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) with 96 seats and the Sharad Pawar-led NCP



Sabha MP Sanjay Raut said Uddhav Thackeray and Sharad Pawar personally contacted several rebel candidates and told them to withdraw their nomination. "We are of the view that MVA should not field candidates against each other," Raut said.

(SP) with 87 seats. Smaller parties such as the Samajwadi Party, Peasants and Workers Party (PWP) and Left have been allotted seats from their respective share. Uddhav Thackeray said the Sena (UBT) had withdrawn its candidates from Alibaug, Pen and Panvel constituencies for the PWP. The Sena (UBT), however, will contest the Uran seat.

The ruling Mahayuti alliance has also been plagued by around 35 candidates turning rebels. However, several of them have withdrawn their nominations, including BJP veteran Gopal Shetty, who filed as an independent candidate from Borivali after he was denied a ticket.

## Madhya Pradesh teens hung upside down, thrashed, exposed to chilli fumes for theft

New Delhi: Two 14-year-old boys in Madhya Pradesh's Pandhurna district were hung upside down, beaten, and exposed to chilli smoke as punishment for stealing a watch. The incident happened on October 31 and came to light on Sunday after a video of the incident went viral. According to Mohgaon Police Station in-charge Rupalal Uike, the boys had gone to a local house to return money borrowed for curd. While there, they reportedly picked up a watch. Realising their mistake later, they quietly returned the watch to its original spot. However, two men from the village, Nikhil Kalambe and Surendra Bawankar, saw the boys keeping back the watch, and they then forcibly took the boys to a tractor garage, where they questioned them about the alleged theft, beat them, and then subjected them to chilli smoke treatment.

Initially, the boys did not inform their families about the incident. However, when the video, recorded by one of the accused, Surendra Bawankar, began circulating on WhatsApp, it eventually reached the father of one of the boys. Shocked, he questioned his son, who revealed the details of the ordeal. The father then took his son to the police station, where a formal complaint was lodged. Police have detained both Nikhil Kalambe, Surendra Bawankar, and another suspect in the case and further investigation is underway. The police have registered a case under sections 137, 2, 140, 3, 115, 35, 127, 2, and 75 of the BNS Act in connection with the incident.

## Caught on camera: Ex-Congress MLA's son beats up shop owner in UP's Hapur

Former Congress MLA's son and his friends attacked Ankush Kukreja, a local mobile shop owner, in a restaurant on Delhi Road in the Kotwali Nagar area on Saturday night.

New Delhi: A video showing the son of former Congress MLA Gajraj Singh, Bobby, physically assaulting a local mobile shop owner has emerged. The incident took place in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur. Bobby and his friends attacked Ankush Kukreja, a local mobile shop owner, in a restaurant on Delhi Road in the Kotwali Nagar area on Saturday night. According to Kukreja, a resident of



Mohalla Patel Nagar, Bobby and his friends — identified as Rahul Sharma, Archit Bansal, Amardeep Kalaithar, and four others — confronted him at Food Panchayat Restaurant, demanding Rs 5 lakh. When he refused to pay the sum, the group attacked and left him severely wounded.

Following the incident, Kukreja was admitted to hospital in critical condition, where he is currently receiving treatment. Police have opened an investigation into the matter. Jitendra Sharma said that authorities received a complaint regarding the altercation between the two groups.

However, he clarified that, as of the initial findings, no extortion case has emerged. Sharma noted that both parties have a history of disputes and multiple cases filed against them. The police are examining CCTV footage and witness statements to gather further evidence.

## Bus marshals will be redeployed for anti-pollution drives in 2-4 days: AAP

**Chief Minister Atishi said that the BJP is only engaging in dirty politics with bus marshals and will not allow the L-G to approve their regularisation proposal.**

NEW DELHI: Accusing the BJP of playing "dirty politics" over the re-employment of civil defence volunteers, Chief Minister Atishi on Sunday said her government will send a proposal to L-G VK Saxena to redeploy in the next two to four days to assist agencies on anti-pollution drives. Addressing a press conference Atishi alleged, "BJP is only engaging in dirty politics with bus marshals and will not allow the L-G to approve their regularisation proposal. Arvind Kejriwal gave jobs to children from low-income families as bus marshals, but BJP took away those jobs."

The services of around 10,000 civil defence volunteers deployed in public buses as marshals were terminated last year over objections raised by the finance and the revenue departments. AAP-led Delhi government has been planning to utilise the volunteers in its efforts to curb the pollution which breached 500-mark on Sunday at



several places. However, on Saturday, the Delhi L-G wrote to Atishi, saying he was yet to receive a proposal despite his order to immediately reappoint the civil defence volunteers. A detailed proposal for their permanent engagement will also be sent for Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena's approval within a week, she said.

Targeting the BJP, Atishi alleged, "On one side, we have the AAP and Kejriwal ji, who provided employment to 10,000 bus marshals, and on the other side, are BJP

officials have stopped their salaries since April 2023 and repeatedly recommending their termination." She pointed out that, unlike BJP, AAP fulfilled its promise to regularise contract workers, as seen in Delhi MCD and Punjab. Responding to Atishi's allegations, the BJP's Delhi unit chief, Virendra Sachdeva, said no matter "how many stories Atishi weaved over the matter", he would hold a protest outside her residence if the chief minister failed to send a proposal for redeployment of the civil defence volunteers by Monday. "It is strange that Atishi is so agitated by our demand to follow the lieutenant governor's directive to reinstate the civil defence volunteers and citing examples from 'Kashmir to Kanyakumari' to deflect the matter," Sachdeva said. "Still she fails to explain why her government has not reinstated the 10,000 civil defence volunteers from November 1 despite clear orders from the lieutenant governor," he said.

# Ten-year-old bibliophile turns author with The Dancing River

New Delhi: Just before nap time, Anika Ann Anil conjures and shuffles random ideas for future stories and poems. Later, on waking up, she jots down those snippets in her treasured notebooks. This has been her routine since she was six. Little did her parents know that these 'snippets' would eventually evolve into a full-fledged book and their daughter, a published author. The 12-year-old recently released her first book, The Magic in Poems and Stories. It is a compilation of all her works thus far. As with every writer, Anil's yearning to become a writer stems from her habits of reading. An admirer of the Harry Potter series, she chose to read books when most kids her age preferred screen time. "Anil has always been an avid reader. Even when she was young, she had a curious mind and often asked a lot of questions. Perhaps she found a way to figure out the answers on her own through reading," says Elizabeth Abraham, her mother. Among her favourite authors, Sudha

Murthy and Ruskin Bond top the list. "Their stories are innately funny and at the same time, very thoughtful," Anil remarks. The youngster credits her parents for instilling a love for reading in her. "They are my source of motivation. They encouraged me to write and sometimes, gave me suggestions to improve my work as well. But they never pushed me to incorporate any of them. They wanted my writing to be authentic. This way, I felt that I had the room to make mistakes grow," she says. Inspired by her daughter's inclination to reading and writing, Abraham, who runs a Montessori preschool, has incorporated reading as part of the children's class time routine.

"I have noticed how reading makes these children more and more curious about their surroundings and the world. I have hence bought more books for these children," she says. Apart from reading



and writing, Anil loves dancing as well. When asked if she wanted to pursue a career in English literature in the future, the young author says in a confident tone, "I want to be a voice-over artist too, but mostly an author."

### Ten-year-old bibliophile turns author with The Dancing River

Ages passed and strangers arrived, different in wisdom and virtue. Along, they brought a new queen, born to rule. So goes a prophecy in The Dancing River, a book written by Thanusree

Shyamkumar, which follows the adventurous journey of a trio who move mountains to reach their destination.

Perhaps it's a metaphorical nod to the writer's own journey in the world of literature. Though only 10, Thanusree has read hundreds of books in all genres. For this Malayali residing in Dubai, the love affair with books began at the age of three. "Even when she was a toddler, she used to listen very keenly to the stories we read her. Now, she can read and write on her own. But the same fascination for stories remains," says Shyamkumar, Thanusree's father. From Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book and Jules Verne's Around the World in 80 Days, the youngster's interests have graduated to timeless classics in English literature, namely The Scarlet Letter, David Copperfield, and Frankenstein among others. These gems now deck up her personal library.





## 5 ways to remove wine stains from

# Clothes

Party season or not, there's always a good reason around the corner to indulge in that inducing and seductive glass of sparkling wine.

While studies have also suggested that a glass of wine is good for health, hot bubble bath without a glass of wine, feels incomplete. And while indulging in it takes to another high, removing wine stains makes us all time low. So, here are some easy tricks that you can try as soon as that wine spills on you.

### Cover it up with salt

Especially useful for rugs or carpets. Whenever wine spills over, blot as much of it as you can with a paper towel. Then cover the entire stain with salt until you can't see the red wine stain anymore. As and when the salt dries up, it will soak all

the salt. Vacuum it well.

### Use soda

Another method is to use soda. Continue pouring the soda over the stained area until the color fades away. Once the stain is removed, let the fabric dry. Use paper towels to clean up any excess club soda.

### Vinegar

One can also use white vinegar. Cover the stain with white vinegar. It neutralizes purple and red pigments. Immediately after applying the vinegar, rub in liquid detergent, then wash it in hot water. This should remove the stain.

### Toothpaste

Well, toothpaste can help in more than one way. Apply a little amount of toothpaste before washing your clothes, toothpaste works wonders on wine stains.

### Lemon Juice

The classic grandma remedy. Try applying lemon juice before washing.



## How to make your bedroom

# Sleep-friendly

Getting a good night's sleep is vital to your body. Did you know that your bedroom plays a major role in making you fall asleep? And if you have trouble getting adequate sleep you should try to take a look at how to make things right.

## Make your relocation exciting by exploring

Did you just relocate from your hometown to a faraway land? Are you looking forward to save yourself from paying that hefty amount to a broker? Here is an option! You are just a click away. Yes, the biggest platform in form of social media would help you.

Be it any city, there are specific pages for you on social media to find out the availability of flats, flat mates, furniture, gadgets, automobiles on rent. Interestingly, there are also a few pages where you can find a pet of your choice. Since you are really new to a place, you would want to explore the city as well as its culture; few pages would offer you to just check out a few events that might include the local exhibitions and concerts.

### Finding a place to stay

When you step into a new city, the first thing that you would require is a place to crash in for those hours after your work. One just needs to put in his/her requirement that includes the rent budget or whether s/he prefers a furnished or non-furnished place to stay in. There you go, you would start getting a number of leads. Being just a fresher or a starter, you would want to share your place with some likeminded person to divide your expense and save some amount in your pocket. You are at a perfect place, you can find your flat mates from here. You can perfectly communicate and get in touch with new people around you who are looking for the same things that you are looking for.

### Getting few gadgets

After a while, you just feel that you are in a need of washing machine or a refrigerator. There you go! You also have few pages that would be offering you some of the essential electronic gadgets as well as furniture at a subsidized rate that you would want to have. If you are lucky enough, you might get a good second hand things at a cheaper rate. While working for a couple of days or months in a new city, you would want to travel the exciting places that are in and around. Instead of wasting your time waiting for a bus, you would just want to rent an automobile and roam around freely. There are also pages that would help you find such vehicles.

### Get the pet of your choice

Don't know what to do in a spare time? Looking for some companion? Just find a pet of your choice online. Like you came to a new city, there might be someone in the same city relocating somewhere else and they would want to give the responsibility of their pet to someone as responsible as you. Loneliness would disappear in a fraction of seconds and a life would get a new life with a new owner.

### Knowing the local events

Every place has a different texture of life and culture. Being a part of that place, you would want to mingle with that air. There might be a few local concerts and exhibitions that you can be part of. Apart from the monotonous things that you would be coming across every single day, this experience of yours would definitely be refreshing.

### Part time jobs

And yes, one last thing, are you looking for part time jobs in your field to add on to your pockets? There are a few pages that would provide you few leads for such requirements. Just type a few letters of your field and you would get a list of it.

Like we say, world is a global village; everything is connected and every part is linked. Staying at a new place or relocating would only be a rejuvenating experience.

So right from paint colour to bedding to the room temperature, here is a sleep-boosting decorating plan.

Avoid all lights Melatonin, also known as the vampire hormone is called so because it comes out only in darkness. It's the key that starts the engine for sleep, so it's best to avoid bright lights after about 8 p.m. and throughout the night. Block street lights as well as alarm clocks which emit light.

### Use neutral shades of paint

Muted, neutral colours like light blue, lilac, soft pink

are best for the bedroom since they help you relax as opposed to bright colours, like red. Also choose a matte finish instead of high gloss, which reflects light.

### Ensure comfortable bedding

Use cotton sheets which are the most breathable, instead of synthetic ones. A thin pillow is best for those who sleep on their back or stomach while a thicker pillow is best for side sleepers since it keeps your head and spine aligned.

Make it sound proof Drown out all noises like street nights or a snoring partner with artificial noises, like the sound of falling rain which has lower, steadier frequency.

The humming of a fan too works well, or you can try an app like Rain, Rain Sleep Sounds that you can set on a timer.

### Maintain ideal temperature

Its been proven that people sleep better when it's cool so maintain the ideal room temperature between 18C and 21C.

Use scents to relax Lavender, ylang-ylang and vanilla can all help you feel more relaxed?—?and you need to be relaxed before you can sleep. So use these aromas in diffusers or as spray them on your pillow.



## Indians spending more on premium shoes: ASICS head

**NEW DELHI.** Indians are spending more on shoes with the average price point increasing 10-15% in the last one year, said Rajat Khurana, Managing Director, ASICS India and South Asia. The Japanese sportswear brand, which competes with Adidas and Nike, has 111 outlets across the country and expects this number to go up to 200 by 2026.

"The average price point of our shoes when I compare it with 2023 has increased by 10-15% despite no major uptick in retail prices. It is consumers who are shifting to the premium segment," Khurana told TNIE.

Bullish on India, ASICS expects its sales here to grow by 26-27% in 2024 and then at a CAGR of 30% over the next 3 years. "The global management believes in India, because of its growing population, high disposable income and growing culture for fitness," Khurana, adding it is a very promising market.

The MD also informed that ASICS has now achieved 30% local sourcing norms and as per existing FDI norms they can now open company-owned outlets here. The first of such outlets will come in the next 24 months. "We plan to take localisation to 35-40% in the next 2-3 years. This 30% of the production caters to the low to the medium price point and our more premium products are still imported. We hope India will soon get the technology to produce high-end shoes," said Khurana. He added that they won't be increasing their prices in tandem with an expected GST rate hike. The Group of Ministers (GoM) recently proposed to increase the GST rate on shoes costing over R15,000 from 18% to 28%. "If the proposal is implemented, we will take some hit and not pass all the price hikes to the consumers. Our lowest price point is R4,999 and goes as high as R21,999," he said. On demand coming from tier 2 and tier 3 cities, Khurana said that he could have never imagined 9 years back getting such a strong demand beyond metro cities. About 60% of ASICS stores opened in the last one year are in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

Khurana also said that performance-oriented running shoes are growing at a faster pace than the industry and account for 55% of their total sales. The company recently reintroduced the SportStyle Skyhand OG sneakers after a gap of 30 years to increase its presence in the sneaker segment.

## 40% surge in car deliveries during festive season fuels strong demand

**NEW DELHI.** Car deliveries surged by 40 percent this festive season, with a notable increase in light motor vehicles, including cars and SUVs, sold in October.

As per the industry data, the spike highlights a significant rise in consumer demand for four-wheelers during the festive period, despite a modest year-on-year growth of just 1.8 per cent in the broader passenger vehicle sector, which recorded a total of 401,447 units. Industry insiders attribute the restrained growth in overall numbers to several carmakers deliberately limiting production to keep inventories balanced. The data underscores a notable shift in consumer preference towards four-wheelers, particularly during festive seasons, a trend that manufacturers and dealers may strategically leverage moving forward. Key cities like Bangalore, NCR, Hyderabad, and Pune saw substantial demand, with consumer preferences increasingly leaning towards automatic cars, SUVs, and flexible financing options—choices that align well with festive buying sentiments. According to Spinny data, automatic vehicle deliveries, for instance, rose by 57 per cent, reflecting a growing preference for convenience-oriented purchases. Meanwhile, Spinny's exchange program saw a 39 per cent increase as more buyers opted to trade in their older vehicles for newer models, a trend particularly prominent during Dhanteras as consumers embrace the tradition of upgrading assets. Petrol vehicles remained dominant, with a 50 per cent surge in demand, while SUVs and sedans experienced robust growth of 49 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively.

## TGI Fridays ops in India unlikely to be impacted by US bankruptcy proceedings



**NEW DELHI.** Even as TGI Fridays Inc has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the US, its India operations may remain unaffected. The US-based company in a press statement has said that TGI Fridays has franchised the brand to 56 franchisees in 41 countries, and all these franchise locations, both domestic and international, are independently owned and therefore not included in TGI Fridays Inc's Chapter 11 process. They are open and serving customers as usual, reiterated the company in a press statement.

"To ensure continuity of service to franchisees, TGI Fridays Franchisor, LLC has negotiated a Transition Services Agreement with — and provided interim funding to — TGI Fridays Inc to maintain support services for franchisees while TGI Fridays Franchisor, LLC works to implement a new long-term support structure," the company said.

On Saturday, it filed voluntary petitions under Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Code in the Northern District of Texas. According to a statement issued by the company, it expects to use the time and legal protections made available through the Chapter 11 restructuring process to allow the company to explore strategic alternatives in order to ensure the long-term viability of the brand. The Company has secured a commitment for debtor-in-possession financing to support operations while proceeding through the Chapter 11 process.

It also filed motions with the Bankruptcy Court that, when approved, will allow the company to, among other things, continue its customer programs in the normal course. These motions are typical of the Chapter 11 process and are expected to be heard approved in the first days of the case.

# 10 bad financial habits that keep you poor

**It is really important to have goals — whether in health or wealth. The rich and those really wanting to reach there have clear goals.**



**NEW DELHI.** What are the BAD FINANCIAL HABITS that keep you poor. Well not exactly poor, it does not allow you to break out of being middle class. Let me look at a few of the things that I have observed:

Having no financial goals — when there is no goal for which you are saving or investing, chances are you will not save or invest! It is really important to have goals — whether in health or wealth. The rich and those really wanting to reach there have clear goals. Paying yourself last — when you earn money on a regular basis (mostly

monthly), if you first spend on your needs and luxuries, you will never have enough investments. The rich stick to the principle of 'Pay yourself first' — first pay and allocate the money for all your goals, and thus you will have savings. Getting comfortable with debt — borrowing to pay for sudden expenses — a broken windshield, or an inflated electricity bill or a doctor's bills. Once you get comfortable with debt you don't worry about borrowing. When you are told only the instalments the loan looks small. Such

people buy everything in instalments — EMI for travel, and even expensive phones! The interest paid to the banks keeps you poor! Not having Emergency funds — when they need some money, they just dip into the bank account and take a loan! This leads to borrowing and they feel justified when they have, say a medical emergency. Not having a hang of one's expenses, income, assets, liabilities. When you do not have goals (destination), you have no path and have no accounting. This also means they have no

accountability to themselves. This really keeps you poor. The rich track their assets, liabilities, income and expenses! Most importantly they monitor their Net Worth on a regular basis. Habits which I see as 'expensive' — planning last minute trips and paying top dollar for air tickets, staying in expensive hotels when on vacation, using private transport for every move! They don't bother much about calculating how expensive it is to travel by private transport! Regularly eating out, buying branded goods, using expensive modes of transport, — these are luxuries. Travel is a necessity but travel in luxury is keeping you poor. Poor asset allocation! — most of the money (if any) would be lying in the bank without being invested, in this case there is no investment made or it is made at a much later date — which is postponed indefinitely. Poor understanding of taxation — when you do not know that capital gains is taxed at a lower rate than regular income! This is for people who have some money. The real rich people understand investing, and taxation — as applicable to your earned income and investment income. Not understanding basic Personal Finance — goals, budgets, monitoring, renting vs buying.

## Why Azad Engineering share price jumped 14% despite market selloff

**New Delhi.** Azad Engineering shares jumped over 14% to Rs 1,670 during trading on Monday after the company announced a major long-term contract with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries worth Rs 700 crore. Around 12:15 pm, the shares were up 9.49% at Rs 1,599.70, giving Azad Engineering a market capitalization of Rs 9,450 crore.

In a filing to the stock exchanges, the company confirmed it has signed a Long-Term Contract and Price Agreement (LTCPA) with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Japan. This contract involves supplying complex rotating and stationary airfoils for gas and thermal power turbine engines, addressing the increasing global demand in the power generation industry. The current phase of the



contract is valued at approximately USD 82.89 million (Rs 700 crore) and is expected to strengthen the strategic relationship between the two companies. Azad Engineering debuted on the stock market in December 2023, launching at Rs 720 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and Rs 710 on the BSE, compared to an issue price of Rs 524. Since then, the stock has

increased nearly 220%. However, it has also faced a correction of about 20% from its 52-week high of Rs 2,080, reached in June. Analysts estimate an average target price of Rs 2,150 for the stock, indicating a potential upside of 34% from current levels. The consensus among two analysts is a 'Strong Buy' recommendation.

Founded in 1983, Azad Engineering specializes in precision engineering and manufacturing solutions, providing high-quality aerospace components and turbines to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in sectors like aerospace, defense, energy, and oil and gas. The company's products are known for their complexity and critical importance.

## How to get started with good financial habits

**NEW DELHI.** One way to interpret the battle between the 'good' and the 'evil' is within. As you celebrate the victory of the good over the evil, you must nurture good habits. There are so many things that you can take note of as you review the year gone by. A lot of your future wealth depends on your money habits today. We have often discussed the influence of emotional and behavioural issues. But there are simple things to learn that can go a long way. A fundamental habit is to save first, invest, and spend whatever is left.

It is essential to understand that your money situation differs from anyone else's. That is the first step towards inculcating good habits. The 'personal' in 'personal finance' means that when you are dealing with money, you are unique. If you want, you can keep emotions out of financial matters.

When you bring rationality into the picture, you will see that most money problems have a solution. With prudent budgeting, you can manage your income, investments and expenditures effortlessly. If you have problems with the complexity of the knowledge about money, you will realise that you do not

have to be an expert to manage personal finances. In the book 'The Psychology of Money', author Morgan Housel emphasises the aspects of human emotions and money. He argues that financial decisions in the real world are far more complicated than the textbooks. It is difficult to separate your emotions from your decision-making regarding money matters. However, good financial habits can help you overcome the hurdle of learning complicated financial knowledge. Solid financial knowledge can do you no wrong. But, if you are new to investing and uninterested in learning about finance, you must focus on your actions. Those are things you can control. Many of you already do that by hanging on to tangible assets like real estate and gold. For a long time, it has been an issue of debate whether gold is an investment. The long-term returns on gold have been similar to those in the Sensex or Nifty over 20-year phases. That is a significant achievement for the precious metal as the global consumer and institutional demand remains strong. It is a natural hedge you use against inflation. That has rewarded

Indian households estimated to have nearly 27,000 tonnes of the yellow metal. The value of that gold is nearly \$ 3 trillion at current prices. It is more than half the value of all shares traded on the Bombay Stock Exchange or the National Stock Exchange. Despite all that household hoarding, it is not a liquid investment. It is an asset with a lot of emotions attached. Most of you like to keep that gold in the form of jewellery that you sell or mortgage only in case of an emergency. Households are seen using gold for short-term loans. The rise of companies that offer only gold loans and their stock market success is a testimony to that behaviour. The dramatic surge in gold prices could also be due to the geopolitical risk due to international wars. At the same time, equity asset prices are record-high in many markets despite relatively slow growth. There is a perception of a risk of a sharp fall eventually. Fear is pushing many towards gold. Despite similar returns over 20-year phases, the price trajectory is not similar for gold and shares. It may be a good idea to split your investments into equity.

## Stock market crash: Sensex drops 1,400 points, here's how much investors lost

**NEW DELHI.** Domestic investors were in for a shock on Monday as stock markets declined sharply due to a mix of factors, especially persistent selling by foreign investors. The BSE Sensex dropped 1,433.61 points, to 78,290.51 at 11:15 am, resulting in a total market capitalisation loss of over Rs 8 lakh crore. The Nifty50 also fell sharply, down 458.45 points to 23,845.90 and most of the other broader market indices also tumbled sharply, leading to a bloodbath on Dalal Street. Major contributors to the decline included Reliance Industries, Infosys, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, and Sun Pharma, collectively accounting for a 420-point drop on the Sensex. Other significant laggards included L&T, Axis Bank, TCS, and Tata Motors. Sectoral indices for Nifty Bank, Auto, Financial Services, IT, Pharma, Metal, Realty, Consumer Durables, and Oil & Gas experienced declines ranging from 0.5% to 1.7%. Meanwhile, the India VIX, a gauge of market volatility, surged 5.2% to 16.73.

**WHAT TRIGGERED TODAY STOCK MARKET CRASH?**

Concerns mounted amid a volatile market environment driven by uncertainties surrounding the upcoming US presidential election and the Federal Reserve's potential interest rate decisions. With major stocks across sectors taking a hit, investors are left grappling with the implications of this sharp market downturn. US election outcome: The uncertainty surrounding the US presidential election set for November 5 has cast a shadow over investor sentiment in India. With Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican former President Donald Trump locked in a tight race, the potential economic implications have investors on edge. Analysts caution that the election outcome could lead to differing policy approaches affecting the Indian economy. A win for Kamala Harris may prompt a more accommodative stance from the US Federal Reserve, potentially enabling the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to ease domestic rates, which would favor non-banking financial companies (NBFCs).

On the other hand, a victory for Donald Trump could keep US interest rates



elevated, leading to a continued high-rate environment in India and favouring public sector banks (PSBs) instead. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, noted, "In the next couple of days, global markets will be focused on the US presidential elections, which may result in near-term volatility. However, this is likely to be short-lived, with economic fundamentals such as US growth, inflation, and Fed actions influencing market trends." The upcoming US Federal Reserve policy meeting on November 7 is amplifying apprehension in Indian markets. Analysts anticipate a potential quarter-percentage-point rate reduction that

could enhance foreign investment inflows to India. Until clarity on the Fed's stance emerges, investors are expected to remain cautious, further contributing to the current market downturn. Disappointing Q2 earnings: Investor sentiment has also been adversely affected by disappointing Q2 earnings from Indian corporates, leading to a downturn in the equity market and prompting foreign institutional investors (FIIs) to offload Indian stocks. Vijayakumar said, "The Indian market is grappling with headwinds from decelerating earnings growth. Nifty EPS growth, as indicated by Q2 results, may dip below 10% in FY25, making current valuations difficult to sustain. FIIs may continue to sell in this challenging earnings growth environment, restricting any market rallies." Rising oil prices: Oil prices surged by more than \$1 during early trading on Monday, following OPEC+'s announcement of a delay in a planned December output hike due to soft demand and increasing supply from outside the group.

## Niva Bupa Health IPO: Check price band, GMP, lot size, key dates and other details

**NEW DELHI.** Niva Bupa Health Insurance is set to enter the primary market with its initial public offering (IPO) scheduled to open for subscription on November 7 and remain available until November 11. The joint venture between Bupa Group and Fettle Tone LLP has set the price band for its shares at Rs 70 to Rs 74 each, aiming to raise a total of Rs 2,200 crore from this public offering. This includes Rs 800 crore from a fresh share issue and Rs 1,400 crore from an offer for sale (OFS) by its promoters. As the IPO approaches, the company's shares are currently trading at par in the grey market, indicating no premium as of now. The anchor allotment for institutional investors will open a day prior, on November 6, giving institutional participants a chance to secure shares ahead of the public offering. Each lot in the IPO consists of 200 shares, meaning a minimum investment of Rs 14,800 is required at the upper price band.

The company has allocated 75% of the shares for qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), 15% for non-institutional investors (NIIs), and 10% for retail investors. Additionally, up to 750,000 shares will be reserved for employees at a Rs 25 discount to the issue price. Proceeds from the IPO will be utilised to strengthen the company's capital base and enhance its solvency levels, along with other general corporate purposes.

Funds from the OFS will be directed to the selling shareholders, Bupa Singapore Holdings and Fettle Tone LLP. Niva Bupa Health Insurance has reported strong growth, with a 44% year-on-year increase in revenue for FY24, alongside a 550% surge in profit after tax (PAT). As of March 31, 2024, the company insured 14.73 million active lives and has expanded its reach across 22 states and four union territories in India.

However, for the quarter ending June 30, 2024, Niva Bupa posted a net loss of Rs 18.82 crore on revenues of Rs 1,124.90 crore, though it recorded a net profit of Rs 81.85 crore for the financial year ending March 31, 2024. The shares of Niva Bupa Health Insurance are expected to list on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and the National Stock Exchange (NSE) on November 14, 2024.

The IPO is being managed by a consortium of leading financial institutions, including ICICI Securities, Morgan Stanley, and Kotak Mahindra Capital.

NEWS BOX

**AUS vs PAK: Babar Azam returns for Pakistan with 37 vs Australia at MCG**

New Delhi. Babar Azam made a reasonable return for Pakistan in international cricket in the first ODI against Australia on Monday, November 4 at the iconic Melbourne Cricket Ground. Babar scored 37 runs off 44 balls with four fours before Adam Zampa dismissed him against the run of play.

Australia vs Pakistan, 1st ODI Updates  
After being asked to bat first, Pakistan lost the early wicket of Saim Ayub, who scored only a single on his ODI debut before Mitchell Starc cleaned him up. Pakistan also lost Abdullah Shafique cheaply, but Babar put his head down and played some glorious shots. The 30-year-old Babar dealt in singles early in his knock before collecting his first boundary with an on-drive off Pat Cummins. In the last ball of the same over, Babar creamed Cummins through the off-side for another boundary. In the penultimate ball of the 11th over, Babar pulled Mitchell Starc through the mid-wicket boundary for a four. Then, in the last ball of the 16th over from Sean Abbott, Babar dished out a cut shot



through third man to collect his fourth boundary of the innings. But Zampa cut short his stay in the middle. In the 18th over, Zampa ran through his defence and rattled his woodwork. Babar tried to go on to the backfoot to a ball that wasn't overly short and was beaten all ends up. He went for a flick, but saw his stumps rattled. Babar was also involved in a partnership of 39 runs for the third wicket with Mohammad Rizwan, the newly-appointed skipper of the Pakistan white-ball team. With Babar's dismissal, Pakistan lost their third wicket with 63 on the board in 17.4 overs. Babar recently lost his place in the national Test team when Pakistan faced England in the three-match ODI series. Babar will be expected to score big in the last two ODIs in Adelaide and Perth.

**Sunil Gavaskar urges India to play warm up game before Australia Test series**

New Delhi. Legendary India batter Sunil Gavaskar has urged team India to play a warm-up game ahead of the five-match Test series against Australia. Notably, India were supposed to play an intra-squad warm-up fixture with India A which they've cancelled. However, Gavaskar has advised the team to play warm-up fixtures between matches. The former batter mentioned that the youngsters who've never played in Australia



should acclimatize themselves to conditions. Indian youngsters such as Dhruv Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan and Yashasvi Jaiswal will be playing their first Test in Australia and hence could take some time to get used to the pace and bounce. "I really do believe that they should have a warm-up game. In the gaps between Test matches, they really should have warm-up games. Not necessarily for the senior players. But for the junior players who have never played in Australia before. For the Yashasvi Jaiswals, the Sarfaraz Khans, the Dhruv Jurels, all these young batters. Even against an Australia A team or a state side like Queensland. Juniors must be given the opportunity to get used to the bounce and pitches in Australia," Gavaskar told Indian Express. Further speaking ahead, Gavaskar advised India to practice as much as they can and focus on playing regular bowling instead of throw downs.

India's hopes of playing WTC final diminishing

"Just believe in yourself. Practice as much as you can. I think there is some merit in facing throwdowns. But it is more important to play regular bowling. Face the quicker bowlers. Not (Jaspri) Bumrah, of course, because Bumrah can kill you. But you can ask others to bowl from 20 yards instead of 22 yards. So therefore, the ball comes on to the bat quickly," he added. Meanwhile, after suffering a humiliating whitewash against New Zealand on home soil, India find themselves in a precarious position in the World Test Championship (WTC) standings. The Rohit Sharma-led side is on the second spot in the standings having a points percentage of 58.33% and now need to win four out of their next five matches to qualify for the WTC final on their own.

**Spooked by turn: Once India's strength, spin is now their kryptonite**

**India vs New Zealand: Indian batters can no longer dominate spin. By preparing rank-turners, India have been shooting themselves in their foot. The 0-3 humiliation in the recently-concluded home Test series raises concerning questions.**

New Delhi. Spin to win" is no longer India's mantra at home. Whenever they have rolled out spin-friendly track, leave alone dust bowls, it has often been India who found themselves in trouble. This was starkly evident when New Zealand stunned India in Pune and Mumbai after initially troubling Rohit Sharma's men with pace in Bengaluru. A 3-0 result in favor of India seemed like a foregone conclusion. Few could have imagined that New Zealand would inflict a whitewash on Indian soil. India's proud record of 18 successive series victories at home came to a sudden halt in one of the most sensational ways. The hunters became the hunted, as a resilient

group of New Zealand cricketers outperformed their Indian counterparts in every department of the game. One glaring deficiency was India's handling of spin. Over the past few years, it has been an open secret that India's dominance in spin-friendly conditions is fading—a reality that the Indian team management has been reluctant to fully acknowledge. "There is a misconception that India is good at playing spin. They are like everyone else. Gone are the days of Sachin, Ganguly, or Dravid. Now, they struggle against good spinners. We saw that in the IPL; as soon as the ball started to spin, they began to falter," said former New Zealand bowler Simon Doull after the second Test in Pune. Before examining historical data, recent numbers from the three-Test series tell a compelling story.

**CAN'T PLAY SPIN ANYMORE?**  
While the extreme nature of the pitches is certainly a factor, India's approach with the bat was particularly alarming, especially in the recently concluded Test series. Barring Rishabh Pant, no Indian batter scored more than 200 runs in the series, while three New Zealand batters—Rachin Ravindra (266), Will Young (244), and Devon Conway (227)—did so. Only one Indian batter,



Yashasvi Jaiswal, faced more than 300 deliveries in the series, whereas three New Zealand batters managed that feat. India's risk-laden approach was hard to understand. Outside of Shubman Gill, Yashasvi Jaiswal, and Pant, most Indian batters seemed unable to trust their defense and failed to hang in.

**IND vs NZ, 3rd Test in Mumbai: Highlights**  
India's two big guns—Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli—had a disappointing series. Rohit faced just 133 deliveries, while Kohli managed 173. Former opener Virender Sehwag did not hold back after the 3-0 defeat, stating, "The skill to play spin certainly needs an upgrade. Some experimentation is good for shorter formats, but in Test cricket, needless experimentation is poor." Kohli's struggles against spin have become a major concern. Rohit, who scored

500 runs against England in a five-Test series earlier this year, managed just 91 runs across three Tests against New Zealand. The famed lower-middle order also failed to contribute. India missed Axar Patel with the bat; he averages over 35 while batting at No. 6, 7, 8, and 9 in Tests.

**GONE IN MINUTES: India's COLLAPSES**  
- Pune, 1st innings: 53 for 6  
- Pune, 2nd innings: 50 for 5  
- Mumbai, 1st innings: 83 for 6  
- Mumbai, 2nd innings: 16 for 5

Take Virat Kohli's case, for example. His struggles against spin since 2020 are clear; his average in India has plummeted from 72.45 (2013-2019) to 32.86, with 24 of his 57 dismissals during this period coming against spin. Kohli's performance against left-arm spin is particularly alarming, averaging just 20.41 against this type of bowler, with 12 dismissals out of 58 since 2020. In the recent home season alone, he was out four times to left-arm spinners, including once each to Shakhb Al Hasan and Ajaz Patel, and twice to Mitchell Santner. On the other hand, Rohit Sharma paid the price for being overly aggressive. Despite trusting his defense against England earlier this year, he tried to hit his way out of trouble.

**IPL 2025 auction likely to be held in Riyadh on November 24, 25**

**The Indian Premier League (IPL) mega auction is tentatively scheduled for November 24 and 25 in Saudi Arabia, though an official confirmation from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is still awaited.**



Australia Test series, is keen to avoid a direct overlap between the events. Thankfully, due to the time difference with Australia, the auction, if held in the afternoon (IST), would likely avoid clashes with the match broadcast.

With the IPL 2025 mega auction around the corner, anticipation is high as franchises prepare to make pivotal bids on high-profile players. Among the standout names are Rishabh Pant, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Arshdeep Singh, and Ishan Kishan, each renowned for their impact in the T20 format. These players bring a mix of batting prowess, leadership qualities, and sharp fielding, making them invaluable assets for any franchise aiming for a strong 2025 season. While several franchises have

already declared their retentions, these five players will undoubtedly be at the center of intense bidding wars. Teams are strategizing to secure the best players within their budget, and these star players are likely to command some of the highest prices. Pant's explosive wicketkeeping-batsman role, Iyer's dynamic leadership potential, and Rahul's consistency with the bat are especially appealing attributes in a fast-paced tournament like the IPL. Reports suggest that BCCI officials have already conducted preliminary visits to Saudi Arabia to assess potential venues. A second delegation is expected to travel to the Gulf nation on Monday to finalize details. While Jeddah was initially considered, Riyadh, the capital, has emerged as the most likely host city for the two-day auction. The BCCI also explored other international locations like Dubai, Singapore, and even Vienna, but Saudi Arabia appears to have been selected as the ideal venue.

Given this move outside India, IPL franchises are urging the BCCI to finalize the venue and dates promptly to allow enough time for travel and logistical arrangements. With a retention deadline of October 31, teams are working to finalize their player lists before shifting focus to the upcoming auction.

**Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate downplays injury, says he won't miss game time**

New Delhi. Liverpool's Ibrahima Konate has reassured fans that the injury he sustained during the team's recent 2-1 victory over Brighton & Hove Albion will not keep him sidelined. The 25-year-old French international was substituted at halftime after suffering a knock to his arm but has since downplayed concerns over his fitness, confirming that he will be fit to play in Liverpool's next match. Konate's injury initially raised fears of a serious issue, as he was taken off and replaced by Joe Gomez at the interval. However, following a medical scan on Sunday, Konate shared a positive update on social media. "Thanks for all the messages of support. My injury isn't serious there is no break. I'll be ready for the next game," he posted on Instagram, much to the relief of Liverpool fans.

The injury incident, which appeared to occur



after teammate Virgil van Dijk inadvertently stepped on Konate's arm in a crowded goalmouth scramble, led to speculation of a potential fracture. However, sports physios have suggested that it may only be a minor bone bruise. "The recovery time for this would be less than a week," speculated a physio on social media, adding that Liverpool's medical team would likely monitor Konate closely to avoid aggravating the injury. With Liverpool already managing a number of injuries, including those of Alisson Becker, Conor Bradley, Harvey Elliott, Diogo Jota, and Federico Chiesa, the news of Konate's availability will be a welcome boost for the club as they prepare for their upcoming Champions League match against Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday. This will be followed by a crucial Premier League clash with Aston Villa at Anfield on Saturday.

While Konate has expressed his eagerness to play, Liverpool's medical team may still choose to exercise caution given his history with injuries. The team has depth in the form of Joe Gomez and promising youngster Jarell Quansah, who are both prepared to step in if Konate's wrist requires further recovery time.

**WTA Finals: Iga Swiatek scripts unreal comeback to beat Barbora Krejckikova**

**World No.2 Iga Swiatek made a stupendous comeback in her WTA Finals match on Sunday, November 3 against Wimbledon champion Barbora Krejckikova. Swiatek won the match 4-6, 7-5, 6-2 in Riyadh.**



the Wimbledon this year after beating Jasmine Paolini in the final, was looking set for a stupendous victory before losing her way.

"It wasn't easy. At the beginning I felt a bit rusty, but I'm happy that I found a way to play a little bit more solid. I didn't feel great (at the beginning). Barbora also used that.

The score went her way pretty quickly. I knew it was tight even in the first set and I had my chances so I just wanted to use them the next time," Swiatek said. I heard it for sure. I missed that. In tough moments today when I heard you guys screaming, it helped me. Thank you for the support. Even though at the beginning my game wasn't nice, you guys still believed," Swiatek added. After a clinical showing in the first set, Krejckikova broke Swiatek's serve twice in the second. But the Polish star held her nerve to force the deciding set. Swiatek returned to her best in the third set, taking a 5-0 lead. Krejckikova struggled with her lower back and that did not help her. After Aryna Sabalenka defeated Qinwen Zheng on Saturday, Swiatek needs to beat both Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff to have any chance of getting back his No.1 ranking.

New Delhi. Iga Swiatek pulled off a comeback for the ages after beating Barbora Krejckikova in the WTA Finals 2024. On Sunday, November 3, the World No.2 came back from 4-6, 0-3 down to take down her opponent in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. It took Swiatek two hours and 33 minutes to win the match 4-6, 7-5, 6-2. Swiatek, who was playing her first WTA match after her US Open 2024 exit back in September, looked "rusty" to begin with. Krejckikova, who won

**Mitchell Starc joins elite Australia list after deadly new ball spell vs Pakistan**

**Star Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc completed 100 ODI wickets on home soil during the first ODI against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.**



sixth bowler from his country to achieve the feat and joined an elite company with legends namely Brett Lee, Glenn McGrath, Shane Warne, Craig McDermott and Steve Waugh. Starc started the proceedings by

dismissal debutant Saim Ayyub in his second over who got an inside edge back onto his stumps. He further got rid of Abdullah Shafique who mistakenly ended up edging him to wicketkeeper Josh Inglis

while trying to leave the delivery. Later, he shattered Shaheen Afridi's stumps to register his third wicket of the match and finished with figures of 3/33 in ten overs. Meanwhile, Pakistan struggled throughout their innings as they failed to keep the run-flow going. After losing both openers on 24, new white-ball captain Mohammad Rizwan joined star batter Babar Azam at the crease. Mohammad Rizwan scored 44 on his ODI captaincy debut. The duo added 39 runs for the third wicket to calm the nerves in the dressing room but failed to take it ahead as Zampa cleaned up Babar for 37 (44). After losing his partner, Rizwan continued to occupy the crease at one end and took the scoreboard forward. He was dismissed six runs short of his half-century falling prey to Marnus Labuschagne for 44 (71). Agha Salman (12 off 29) and Shaheen Afridi (24 off 19) also made valuable contributions for Pakistan down the order. The visitors were 172/7 after 41 overs with Naseem Shah (13\*) and Irfan Khan (20\*) at the crease.



# Urvashi Rautela

Shares Unseen Video Featuring Shah Rukh Khan On His Birthday, Fans React



Urvashi Rautela surprised fans on social media by sharing an unseen video featuring Shah Rukh Khan on his birthday. The video quickly caught fans' attention. Shah Rukh Khan has turned 59 years old on November 2. Taking to her Instagram handle, Urvashi Rautela shared a video and wrote, "Thank you #ShahrukhKhan sir Happiest Birthday to you #SRK party." In the video, Shah Rukh Khan is seen giving flying kisses to his fans. One of the fans wrote, "Legends in one frame". This year, on his 59th birthday, SRK chose to skip this much-anticipated appearance, leaving fans curious and wondering about the change.

Later in the evening, he took to social media, sharing a photo of himself doing his iconic arms-outstretched pose against a sea of fans at the special event. Dressed in a violet T-shirt, a beanie and sunglasses, SRK thanked everyone for coming over and making his evening special. He wrote, "Thank you for coming over and making my evening special... my love to everyone who made it for my birthday. And for those who couldn't, sending you all my love."

Meanwhile, Shah Rukh's wife Gauri Khan shared a sneak-peek into SRK's birthday celebration with her, Suhana Khan and their close friends. On Saturday evening, Gauri Khan took to her Instagram account to share a picture from Shah Rukh Khan's birthday celebration. The picture appeared to have been clicked at their residence Mannat. It showed Shah Rukh Khan cutting the birthday cake, while Gauri Khan and Suhana Khan stood on either sides of him. Sharing the picture, Gauri wrote that it was a memorable evening, with their loved ones in attendance. On the work front, Shah Rukh Khan is now gearing up for his next project King after taking the box office by storm with his role in Jawan. It marks his first film collaboration with daughter Suhana Khan who is also playing a pivotal role in the much-awaited flick. Besides, the actor also has Pathaan 2, a sequel to his spy thriller alongside Deepika Padukone.

## Aamir Khan Knows 'Nothing' About Son Azad's School, Reveals Kiran Rao: 'He Is A Very Busy Father'



Aamir Khan and Kiran Rao have been co-parenting their son, Azad, since their separation in 2021. Aamir's busy schedule as a top movie star often makes it hard for him to be as present as a father, something he has talked about in interviews. Recently, Kiran discussed the challenges of co-parenting, saying that Aamir is not very involved with Azad's schooling. In a chat with Kareena Kapoor on What Women Want, Kiran described co-parenting with Aamir as "tricky." She mentioned that she handled most of the parenting even when they were married. Now that they are apart, Aamir is realising how important it is to make time for Azad. She said, "It's tricky. He is a very busy father. Honestly, even when we were married, I was doing lot of the actual primary parenting. Once we got separated and then divorced, I think Aamir also sort of realised how much of that he will have to factor into his life because when you are living together in the same house, it somehow gets managed. But, in order to make time for Azad, it became much more of a conscious decision recently." Kiran Rao said that co-parenting with Aamir Khan has become easier after their divorce. She mentioned that Aamir is more involved with their son, Azad, and that they are living close to each other right now. She said, "Now, it's much smoother and Aamir is more involved in it. Luckily, right now, we are upstairs and downstairs, but whenever we will leave, we won't be far away. Azad is enjoying his time with his dad lot more as he is now older. It has reached a place where it is really nice. I feel like I can relax and leave Azad with Aamir."

Kiran Rao opened up on one factor where Aamir lacks. She said, "Only Aamir knows nothing about School. I think it's majority of the dad's problem. They are always like, 'Don't get us involved in school-related activities, we will take up other things'." Kiran also spoke about how her parents are supportive when it comes to bringing up Azad. She shared, "For single moms, bad day is only when you really want breaks for yourself. And your co-parent cannot (be there) for instance because of his own schedule. Luckily, for me, my parents step in and are really supportive. They come and help. But those are the days when you miss that you cannot completely switch off."

## Karan Johar Opens Up About His Fear Of Being A Single Father To Roohi And Yash: 'They Will Find Out Things...'



The latest season of Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives revealed many personal stories, including Neelam Kothari discussing her first marriage for the first time. This emotional moment moved not only the audience but also producer Karan Johar to tears. In a reunion interview for Netflix, Karan shared his fear of difficult questions from his kids. He recalled feeling emotional when Neelam spoke with Ekta Kapoor about her divorce from businessman Rishi Sethia in the most recent season. Karan said, "I was pretty much a large part of that phase of your (Neelam) life."

That really moved me because I remember those days so clearly. I really teared up, I was actually connecting to it on an emotional level. You spoke about your daughter and that's also something that struck a chord with me. My constant fear is that I also have to deal with those questions from my own children, about my circumstances and that I have a modern family situation."

"They will find out things and I will have to be answerable. Being a single parent, I know I am answerable to my children about so many aspects. Thank you for sharing that Neelam, it was really beautiful," Karan added.

In the episode, Neelam Kothari recalled coming home from work to find her daughter Ahana and friends unusually quiet. Neelam recalled, "I came from work, and Ahana was with her friends. Normally, they are always jumping around, screaming, and shouting. But, this time, there was pin-drop silence. Ahana came to me and said, 'Mumma, you never told me you were divorced.' I just died. I was stunned. I had no words."

I told Ahana, 'First of all, how do you know?' She said, 'You're a celebrity, so my friends and I were googling you. The first thing that came up was that you were divorced. You were married.' Karan Johar welcomed twins Yash and Roohi Johar on February 7, 2017, through surrogacy. Yash was named in honour of Karan's late father, Yash Johar, a renowned film producer, while Roohi's name is a playful variation of Karan's mother, Hiroo Johar's name.

# Nora Fatehi

Reveals People Asked Her If She Wanted To Become 'Next Katrina Kaif', Says It Impacted Her Mentally



From appearing on Bigg Boss 9 to becoming one of the most sought-after talents in Bollywood, Nora Fatehi has come a long way. The singer and dancer talked about her difficult journey in the film industry in a latest interview. She recalled facing rejections and how she sought therapy because it impacted her mental health while she was trying to figure it all by herself in Mumbai. Speaking to Rajeev Masand at IFFM Melbourne, Nora Fatehi recalled her initial days in Bollywood. She mentioned how she met a lot of people who promised to help her but had hidden motives. She revealed how people even promised to connect her with big production houses but that often led to scary situations. To deal with situations like these, Fatehi told people that she was open to acting but was also prepared to head back home and finish college if things didn't work out.

In the same conversation, she recalled the rejections and said, "I did seek therapy because when you get a lot of rejection, which I got a lot, a lot of 'you are not good enough', a lot of 'you want to be the next Katrina Kaif?' and I was like 'this is terrible'." She also recalled how she trusted the wrong people because she did not have any help from anyone in the industry.

She continued, "Now, I would be like 'Why am I coming with you? What do you want from me? Clearly, nobody does anything for free but at that time, I was like 'God sent this person to me' and I followed a lot of idiots."

At the age of 22, Fatehi arrived in India to make a career in showbiz. She made her Bollywood debut with Roar: Tiger Of The Sunderbans in 2014. She became a household name after her stint on Bigg Boss. Following her appearance on the reality show, she was next seen in Jhalak Dikha Jaa 9 from where she started making her way to dance and music videos. On the work front, she will be next seen in Varun Tej's Matka.

