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10 arrested in major crackdown on terror networks in J-K's Kathua

Sanjay Kumar Jammu, Nov 27: Ten over ground workers (OGWs) of terror groups were arrested on Wednesday during a massive crackdown aimed at dismantling the terror ecosystem in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

ferent encounters with security forces in the upper reaches of Kathua district and its fringe area with Basantgarh in Udhampur district, causing serious setback to terror groups who have stepped up their activities in the district this year. Over the past few days, police in Jammu region had intensified its crackdown on terror networks linked to JeM and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) by conducting over 56 raids in various other districts including Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur and Reasi.

Hemant Soren to take oath as Jharkhand's 14 CM today

Simmi Kaur Babbar Ranchi, Nov 27: Hemant Soren will take oath as the 14th chief minister of Jharkhand at the Morabadi Ground today. Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar will administer the oath of office and secrecy to the 49-year-old Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader at 4 pm.

Sena reminds Eknath Shinde of his promise to 'leave politics' Hindustan Times Bypoll results 2024: Trinamool Congress set for clean sweep in Bengal,

Sunday, Soren met Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar and staked a claim to form the government. After emerging victorious in the Jharkhand Assembly elections, Hemant Soren thanked the people of the state for their "continued trust in our leadership".



UP BJP leads in 6 seats | Updates on 48 seats Hindustan Times Reportedly, as per the power-sharing deal in the INDIA bloc, RJD is likely to get one ministerial berth in Soren's cabinet.

Adani denies bribery charges by US court: Rahul

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, Nov 27: Fresh controversy erupted on Wednesday on billionaire Gautam Adani's indictment in the US court for alleged bribery with the industrialist denying all corruption allegations.

alleged securities fraud conspiracy, (ii) alleged wire fraud conspiracy, and (iii) alleged securities fraud." Adani Green made the listing in



relation to the criminal indictment in a US court and in relation to the civil complaint in terms of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

National Stock Exchange under regulation 30 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations 2015 (SEBI Listing Regulations). Adani's lawyer Mukul Rohatgi also held a press conference defending his client and said the alleged bribery charges were vague, general and "not specific."

Petition claims presence of Hindu temple in Ajmer dargah, court issues notices

New Delhi, Nov 27: An Ajmer court on Wednesday ordered the issuance of notices to three parties in a petition that claimed there is a Shiva temple inside Saint Moinuddin Chishti's dargah.

Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) office in the national capital, reported. The plaintiff Vishnu Gupta told the agency that he demanded that the Ajmer Dargah be declared Sankat Mochan Mahadev Temple and Hindus be given the right to worship inside the premises.



sought directions regarding Hindu worship inside the dargah. The petitioner's lawyer, Advocate Yogesh Siroja, told reporters in Ajmer that the suit was heard in the court of civil judge Manmohan Chandel.

Mahayuti allies to meet Shah to decide on CM: Shinde

ST Correspondent New Delhi, Nov 27: Suspense over the chief ministerial face of the BJP-led NDA alliance that registered a landslide win in Maharashtra is expected to end on Thursday when all three Mahayuti partners will meet Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss the issue and take a final call.



that the Shiv Sena will accept whatever decision the top BJP leadership takes," Shinde said in Mumbai today. He, however, made it clear that the final decision on the Chief Minister-ship will be taken once "Mahayuti allies meet Amit Shah tomorrow and hold detailed discussions before a final call is taken on the matter."

Opposition members storm out of Waqf panel meeting

New Delhi, Nov 27: Opposition members on Wednesday stormed out of the meeting of the joint parliamentary committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, alleging that its proceedings had become a mockery.

Jhansi hospital fire: Medical college principal removed

Lucknow, Nov 27: Uttar Pradesh Government on Wednesday removed Jhansi medical college's principal and suspended three staff members after a four-member committee submitted its report on the November 15 fire incident that claimed lives of 10 children.

JPC on Waqf bill to seek extension till end of Budget session next year

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Nov 27: The Joint Committee of Parliament on the Waqf (Amendments) Bill Joint Committee has decided to seek time till the end of the budget session to scrutinise the controversial amendments.

states, where there are disputes between the waqf and the state governments. He explained: "Today we asked some ques-



tions to the Ministry of Minority Affairs. They will answer those questions. We had a few questions that there are 123 properties of Govt of India in Delhi dating back to 1911... Later the Waqf Board

laid its claim on those properties. So, for clarification on that Ministry of Urban Development and DDA will have to be called. Similarly, Odisha, UP, MP, Rajasthan, Bihar - a total of six states - where government properties are being claimed by the Waqf.

SC rules against religious conversion for quota benefits

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 27: In a significant verdict, the Supreme Court has said religious conversions undertaken solely to avail reservation benefits without genuine belief amounted to a "fraud on the Constitution".

same cannot be permitted, as the extension of benefits of reservation to people with such ulterior motives will only defeat the social ethos of the policy of reservation," he noted.



ly demonstrated that the appellant professed Christianity and actively practiced the faith by attending church regularly. "Despite the same, she claims to be a Hindu and seeks for a SC community cer-

tificate for the purpose of employment," it noted. "Such a dual claim made by her," said the Bench "was untenable and she cannot continue to identify herself as a Hindu after baptism".

mother, was baptised as a Christian shortly after birth but later claimed to be a Hindu and sought an SC certificate to apply for an upper division clerk position in Puducherry in 2015.

Hema Committee report: Kerala HC directs SIT to appoint nodal officer to prevent witness intimidation

KOCHI. The Kerala High Court has directed the Special Investigation Team probing cases registered after the publication of the Justice Hema Committee report to appoint a nodal officer. The victims and witnesses shall contact the officer in cases of harassment by the accused or any other individuals. A Division Bench comprising Justice AK Jayasankaran Nambiar and Justice CS Sudha also directed the SIT to give



adequate publicity to the name and contact details of the nodal officer. The move will help the victims or witnesses to immediately report instances of threat or intimidation during the pendency of the investigation. The Court issued the order when the counsel representing the Women in Cinema Collective (WCC) submitted that many of the victims faced such issues. WCC also expressed that there is a need for a mechanism to ensure the safety of witnesses and victims. "The SIT shall also file a report regarding the steps taken and the action taken by the nodal officer, if any. The nodal officer acts as the first point of contact," said the Bench.

Kerala cops' photoshoot on holy steps kicks up row; ADGP seeks report

PATHANAMTHITTA. A group of police officers on duty at Sabarimala has triggered a controversy posing for a photograph on the 18 holy steps at the hill shrine. ADGP S Sreejith, chief police coordinator, Sabarimala, sought a detailed report on the incident on Tuesday. The incident occurred on Sunday when a group of 30 cops posed for a photograph standing on the steps with their backs to the sanctum sanctorum. The photoshoot went viral and triggered widespread criticism. A group of netizens accused the cops of disrespecting the sanctity of the shrine. Sources said the photo shoot of the cops stationed at the sacred steps happened around 1.30 pm on Sunday after the temple was closed after the rituals. It was taken at the end of the officers' duty, just before a new team assumed responsibilities.



"It appears that the photo was captured by a mediaperson present at Sannidhanam. Preliminary inquiries suggest negligence on the part of the officers involved," a source said. Later, Sannidhanam Special Officer K E Baiju was tasked to file a report on the episode following the ADGP's directive. Hindu organisations up in arms

Soon after the controversy, several Hindu organisations have accused the police of breaching the traditions upheld at Sannidhanam. Vishwa Hindu Parishad criticised the act of police personnel alleging that the officers standing with their back to the sanctum sanctorum, was viewed as a disrespectful act. Kerala Temple Protection Samiti state secretary V K Chandran said that

even the head priests and other seniors move backwards, facing the deity, after closing the sanctum sanctorum. He demanded that the authorities should appoint only officers who are Ayyappa devotees for Sabarimala duty. Meanwhile, the Kerala High Court also raised concern over the photoshoot. The High Court said such things cannot be accepted. Meanwhile TDB president P S Prasanth said in Thiruvananthapuram that the incident in which police officers posed atop the Holy Steps at Sabarimala temple was unfortunate. "The Holy Steps are sacred and have ritualistic importance. The young policemen carelessly stood over it," he told TNIE. The president said that the policemen posed for the photograph after completing

their ten-day duty at the shrine. "They were posted on the Holy Steps to help the devotees climb it. They were the best ever batch of policemen deputed for this duty in recent years. During their tenure, an average of 80 devotees climbed the steps in one minute. Sometimes as many as 85 persons climbed the steps," he said.

When asked, Prasanth said the temple thantri has not raised any complaint. The board has not raised any complaint with the police as well. **TDB LIKELY TO INCREASE SPOT BOOKING COUNTERS**

PATHANAMTHITTA: The Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) is considering increasing the number of real-time booking counters at Sabarimala due to a large number

of pilgrims failing to show up for their virtual bookings. With around 10,000 virtual slots going unused daily, the board aims to accommodate more pilgrims by expanding spot booking options. Currently, the cap for spot bookings at Pamba, Erumeli, Vandiperiyar, and Sathram is set at 10,000 pilgrims. This limit could be raised if additional counters are opened, according to TDB president P S Prashanth. In addition, the board is exploring the possibility of providing a direct darshan for pilgrims immediately after they climb the 18 Holy Steps. A decision on this will be made before the next annual season, Prashanth said.

HC SEEKS REPORT ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

KOCHI: The Kerala High Court has directed the chief police coordinator, Sabarimala, to file a report concerning security arrangements at the hill shrine in a sealed cover. The court also directed the executive officer, Sabarimala, to inform it about the implementation on the decision to ban the use of mobile phones at Thirumuttam and near the sreekovil. The government pleader submitted that the security will be tightened with effect from December 1 till December 6. The executive officer said that despite boards being displayed at Sannidhanam informing that the use of mobile phones are strictly prohibited at Thirumuttam and near the sreekovil, pilgrims are using phones for recording videos here

Walking pneumonia' cases rise amid seasonal flu spike in Mumbai

MUMBAI. With temperatures dropping and the season of sniffles setting in, city doctors are reporting a rise in an unusual entity in the city-walking or mild pneumonia-in the past couple of weeks. Walking pneumonia seems like a persistent cold and cough, and patients can continue with their routines. However, a small percentage of these patients could develop full-fledged pneumonia, which typically needs hospital admission and care.

"Right now, I am seeing children and adults coming in with community-acquired bacterial infection that is known as walking pneumonia," said infectious diseases specialist Dr Vasant Nagvekar. Walking pneumonia is also called atypical pneumonia as it is caused by the bacterium *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* and not usual bacteria, viruses, and fungi; walking pneumonia also cannot be treated with the usual antibiotics, and needs stronger antibiotics.

It's not easy to detect, but the availability of certain rapid tests in the last couple of years has changed that. "Affluent patients



coming to well-known hospitals don't mind spending Rs 10,000 to Rs 15,000 on tests that can detect organisms affecting them," said a senior doctor. "Moreover, these tests give results in a couple of hours, resulting in patients starting on the right medication at the earliest." Walking pneumonia is not

worrisome, but doctors in the city don't suspect the condition as it's not usually seen in patients here. Delhi, with its high level of air pollution, has been reporting it for a few years. Dr Nagvekar said X-ray reports of a few of his patients showed an infection of the upper lung lobes that is typical of

tuberculosis. "But further tests revealed that it wasn't the TB bacillus but *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*," he said. Meanwhile, data released by the state health department showed that Mumbai has the highest cases of influenza A (caused by H1N1 or swine flu and H3N2) this year, followed by Pune and Nashik. According to the health department, 2,325 influenza patients were found in the state between Jan 1 and Nov 21; of these, 57 people died. Around 45% of these cases (1,055) were from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, but the region hasn't reported a single death.

A doctor from a civic hospital said hygiene and hydration would be the best ways to reduce the risk of flu. While the flu vaccine is known to reduce the risk of an infection, there has been poor interest in flu vaccination. The state govt has distributed 45,000-plus flu vaccines in various districts this year for pregnant women and patients with chronic diseases such as diabetes and hypertension, but only 2,608 people have taken them so far.

Agriculture dept to soon launch Ashraya centres for Kerala farmers



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. In a first of its kind in the country, the state agricultural department has formed 'Ashraya centres' in line with the Akshaya centres in the state. Through the Akshaya centres' essential services are provided to the public, the new initiative Ashraya centres are aimed at providing all digital services related to agriculture to farmers. The government has issued an order in this regard. Though already two digital services are there to help the farmers - a mobile application and a web portal - the government decided to start the Ashraya centres as part of the hundred-day programme. Through this the department intends to provide all digital services to farmers quickly. A nominal fee equal to the fees charged by the Akshaya centre would also be charged in Ashraya centres too. The centres would be started with the help of farmers' groups, Krishisree centres, agro service centres and Karshika Karma Sena.

Infopark connectivity in Kochi set to get major boost

KOCHI. A major complaint raised by Infopark techies is inadequate public transportation facilities, which in turn, leads to issues like insufficient parking space at the IT park. However, things appear brighter for the IT park as a host of infrastructure projects, including the Kochi Metro and phase-2 of the Seaport-Airport Road, are set to become a reality in the near future. Kochi Metro has speeded up construction of its phase 2 extension, the 11.2-km-long Pink Line from its Jawaharal Nehru Stadium station to Infopark, and promises to meet the August 2026 deadline. It has already started the process to further extend metro connectivity to Infopark phase 2. "We're preparing a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the extension to phase-2 campus. The draft has been finalised," a senior Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) official said. The Pink Line, having

11 stations, is expected to be the most financially viable section for the KMRL as per the DPR. The highest number of commuters are expected to travel in the section when it gets operational. "The construction works are progressing from both ends. Even in the Vazhakkala stretch, the widening activities are nearing completion. We'll erect the barricades once the same is over, and start metro construction works, which will be in full swing in a couple of weeks," the official said. Meanwhile, techies will get a major relief from congested roads and traffic blocks when KMRL introduces the e-feeder service, connecting the Kakkannad Water Metro terminal with Infopark in a week. "Currently, registration and testing of 15 new e-feeder buses are progressing and the services will be launched soon. The feeder buses will connect the airport (Aluva-Kochi airport), Medical

College (Kalamassery-Medical College, Infopark-Kakkannad water metro terminal and other destinations that lack transportation," a KMRL spokesperson said. The same will let techies take the water metro from Vyttila hub and reach Infopark in 40 minutes - the time includes the 20-25 minute boat travel - allowing them to avoid the congested roads and reach the destination in half the time taken otherwise. "We'll increase the frequency to 20 minutes in the Vyttila-Kakkannad section soon when the second pontoon at Vyttila terminal is built," said another official in charge of the water metro, adding that efforts are also on to connect Infopark phase-2 in the near future. The techies, meanwhile, are looking forward to the e-feeder services. "The feeder buses have been our long-pending demand, and once the buses are deployed, a large number of employees will shift to water

transport. Currently, last mile connectivity is the main issue," said Anish Pandalani, the state president of Progressive Techies, a socio-cultural and welfare organisation of IT employees. However, he rued that bus connectivity is inadequate, and batted for more KSRTC services. "Currently, except for one or two buses, the KSRTC is operating long-haul services only on Fridays. There is virtually no bus connectivity after 7pm. This despite shifts at many IT companies ending at 8pm, 8.30pm and 10pm," he said. The Infopark campus alone employs nearly 75,000 staff. The figure crosses over one lakh when employees at Smart City and Kinfra Park are taken into account. Seaport-Airport Rd phase-2: L18.7 crore allocated. The state government on Monday allocated Rs 18.77 crore needed as part of acquiring 1.6352 hectare land belonging to the HMT.

The Pink Line, having 11 stations, is expected to be the most financially viable section for the KMRL as per the DPR. The highest number of commuters are expected to travel in the section when it gets operational.

Under the BBMP Act-2020, the top brass of each zone have been assigned to decide on the budget to be prepared zone-wise.

BBMP budget likely to touch Rs 15k crore

BENGALURU. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) budget for the year 2025-26 is likely to touch Rs 15,000 crore, as per sources in the palike. Reportedly for the first time, senior officials of the civic body are planning to present a zone-wise budget. Last year, 2024-25, the BBMP presented a budget of Rs 12,369 crore. The budget size was increased to Rs 13,114 crore, with the government promising to provide an additional Rs 745 crores when approved. The budget size is generally increased by 5-8 percent year-on-year. This year, it is likely to increase a bit more as the Palike plans zone-wise budget. This is the first time that BBMP has formulated such a plan, and it is learned that Harish Kumar, Special Commissioner of BBMP Finance, has proposed the plan to BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath. Under the BBMP Act-2020, the top brass of each zone have been assigned to decide on the budget to be prepared zone-wise. This apart, there are also powers given

to manage each zone and release funds for specific programmes and works. Though the city was divided into eight zones, BBMP is still functioning under a centralised system. For this reason, the next budget has been planned to be divided zone-wise for better infrastructure. Don't sanction Rs 4k cr loan to BBMP: Forum to World Bank While the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has proposed to take a loan of Rs. 4,000 crores from the World Bank for flood mitigation, a forum has requested the World Bank not to approve the same, suspecting corruption and maladministration.



Right to Information Study Institute, which filed a complaint with the World Bank in this regard, urged the Bank not to sanction loan due to the possibility of misuse of money by the BBMP. Addressing the media, the

managing trustee of the institution, Amaresh, said that a proposal has been submitted for sanction of a loan of \$426 million from the World Bank under the Karnataka Water Security and Resilience Program. He said that a virtual meeting has already been held by BBMP officials in this regard

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News box

Car runs over toddler playing on road, 1 held

Gurgaon. A two-year-old girl was run over by a pickup van while she was playing in front of her house at Indira Colony in Sector 52 on Monday. The victim, Srishti Basor, was immediately rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared her dead. The driver, Ramjeevan, was arrested after the incident. According to victim's father, Durgesh, the van driver was driving rashly, and alleged driver's negligence caused the accident. "My daughter lost her life due to the rash and negligent driving of the accused," he stated in his complaint. "When we were alerted about the incident, our team reached the emergency room of Artemis Hospital, where the victim's father met us. The girl suffered a severe head injury in the accident. She was declared dead on arrival," Sector-53 PS Inspector Sukhbir Singh said. A case was registered under sections 281 (rash driving on a public way) and 106 (causing death due to negligence) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The body of the girl was handed over to the family after autopsy on Tuesday. "We have seized the pickup van from the accident spot. The accused driver, Ramjeevan Bairwa from Indira Colony-1, was arrested on Monday, and an investigation is underway," police said.

52 bulk waste generators get MCG notices for violations

Gurgaon. MCG has issued notice to 52 bulk waste generators for failing to comply with the solid waste management (SWM) rule. This came after the cell inspected 70 BWGs and found 52 at fault. The body also registered 27 new bulk waste generators on the MCG's portal, bringing the total number of registered BWGs to 248. MCG additional commissioner, Balpreet Singh, said, "The MCG formed BWG Monitoring Cell to inspect bulk waste generators and ensure compliance with waste management rules. Retired colonel Sanjay Pandey has been appointed this cell's chief officer. One inspector has been appointed for each of the four zones in the BWG cell. Over the past week, the cell inspected 70 BWGs, issuing notices to 52 for non-compliance with the rules. The BWGs within the municipal limits that have not registered on the online portal should do so promptly to avoid a fine of Rs 25,000." In July, MCG revised the criteria for identifying BWGs per the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs guidelines. According to the new guidelines, waste generators that produce "100 kg or more waste daily" will be classified as BWGs against the previous limits of 59 kg or more. MCG officials issued new guidelines to ensure compliance with the ministry's directives. 8,749 waste generators in the city produce over 50 kg of waste, including 1,531 residential societies, 1,959 educational institutions, 222 religious institutions, 177 industrial units, 860 welfare societies, etc. However, the MCG has yet to evaluate the waste generators as per the latest guidelines for waste generators.

Why child rescue is a complex task for helpline in city of gated societies

Noida. Earlier this month, a one-and-a-half-year nightmare finally ended for an eight-year-old girl who was rescued from torture by her employers at a flat in Blossom County by a Child Helpline team that was tipped off by another resident of the society. This was a rare operation that went off smoothly in a city of highrises and gated societies that makes the job of child rescuers logistically difficult because tip-offs are hard to follow up since entry into societies isn't straightforward and the perpetrators are part of the 'educated elite'. Child Helpline 1098 is a 24-hour, toll-free phone service for children in need of care and protection. It's a project of the ministry of women and child development. The city team has eight members, whose basic job description is to be available 24x7. And each rescue brings with it unique challenges. Adnan Usmani, the district coordinator, said a tip or complaint first goes to the Delhi head office from where it is transferred to Lucknow, which passes on the information to the Noida team. Information can also come from police's Dial 112. Just from housing societies, the Child Helpline has received 12 tips in the last one year. Two of them could not be rescued because an inspection of their school mark sheets revealed they had turned 18. "From the other 10, we managed to rescue 5 children, of whom two were who were being assaulted and tortured. In the other cases, the employers of the children most likely managed to hide them, so we were not able to rescue them," a helpline worker told TOI. "The educated class, aware of labour laws, often rationalises their actions by claiming they are helping the child."

Sector 18 traders say business hit by curbs

Noida. Traders at Sector 18 market say have seen a nearly 20% drop in customers over the past few weeks because of restrictions on cars and people working from home because of high pollution levels. According to the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT), NCR, restrictions under GRAP stage 4 on vehicular movement have further affected businesses. Consumers, they said, were prioritising health over non-essential shopping. Most queries and purchases have been focussed on mitigating pollution. Around 25 units of air purifiers and nebulisers — priced between Rs 10,000 and Rs 50,000 — are sold daily, said Neeraj Maheshwari of Rhythm House. "But sales of garments, footwear, and home furnishings have declined," said SK Jain, president of Sector 18 market association. Jain said restrictions on diesel vehicles have disrupted supply chains, delayed goods transportation, and raised logistics costs as well. Small and medium enterprises are feeling the brunt, he said, especially as pollution curbs coincided with festive and wedding seasons. "The city's business sector is bearing the double burden of pollution and regulatory restrictions," Jain said. Health issues caused by pollution have led to absenteeism, with many migrant workers leaving the city due to poor living conditions. Health issues caused by pollution have led to absenteeism, with many migrant workers leaving the city due to poor living conditions.

Under 'digital arrest', 55-yr-old man made to go from Faridabad to Bihar



Gurgaon. A 55-year-old man who believed a CBI warrant had been issued against him in a money laundering probe, agreed to transfer all his money in a local account for what he believed was an RBI verification and took a train from Faridabad to Bihar to do the same for another bank account before he realised he had been scammed. The plight of the bank clerk, who was put under 'digital arrest' for 56 hours, is yet another example of the hypnotic spell that cyber crooks can put people under by inducing fear and comes a day after police in Mumbai revealed the longest known 'digital arrest' case, of a 77-year-old woman who was asked to stay connected on a call continuously for a month by being similarly targeted with a money-laundering case and made to transfer money in batches over days. The 55-year-old bank clerk who lives with his family at a condominium in Sector 80, Faridabad, has previously served in the air force. Late night on Oct 5, he had returned home after election duty (the Haryana assembly election was held that day). He received a phone call "from CBI", around 9.50am the next morning when his wife and son had gone to a temple. It was a video call, but at the other end were two male voices. One identified himself as a CBI officer — a DCP — the other as an officer with TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India). The two told him that another phone number had been activated using his Aadhar card, through which several offences had been committed. "I was told on the video call that a warrant was issued against me in a Rs 6.6-crore money laundering case in which a wanted criminal, Nawab Malik, was involved. I was asked to go to the CBI office in Delhi in two hours. When I expressed my inability to do so within that short period, the man posing as a CBI officer threatened to arrest me for non-cooperation," according to the police complaint filed by the victim. This scared him, and fearing the worst, he agreed to the alternative — which was to cooperate and do exactly as this 'officer' said. The first step was to check into a hotel to buy himself privacy during the 'probe' and be spared of the humiliation of the family getting to know that CBI was looking into him. The clerk checked into a hotel in Sector 81 the same morning and stayed

there till the next morning, under 'digital arrest' with the phone call going the entire time. By Oct 7, he had revealed to the 'officer' that he had Rs 5 lakh available in his Punjab National Bank account. He was given an account number and asked to transfer the entire sum there for an investigation. "I was told RBI would verify if the money transferred by me was linked to money laundering, and if they cleared it, the amount would be reverted to my account," the victim told

police. Under continuous pressure, he had also told the 'officer' about another account he had with State Bank of India at Madhubani in Bihar. Since he could not operate this account from Faridabad, he was instructed to immediately go to Bihar. He did. "I was asked to visit my native place in Madhubani to initiate another set of fund transfers from my home branch of SBI as I could not do the same from SBI's branch in Faridabad. I reached my native place by train on Oct 8 but could not do the transfer that day. All this while, the fraudsters stayed in continuous contact through video call," the victim said in the complaint. The stupor broke when some villagers took hold of his phone and called a family member. He returned to Faridabad on Oct 10 and lodged a police complaint. After an initial probe, the cyber police registered a case under section 318 (4) (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) of the BNS on Nov 25. "We are analysing the details of the bank transactions and phone calls between the victim and the fraudsters to identify them," said a cyber police officer.

Alignment & station location survey for new metro to begin

Gurgaon. Groundwork for the new metro line between Millennium City Centre and Cyber City is set to begin soon as the project's design consultant will finalise the route alignment for the corridor and pinpoint the exact location for all 27 stations on it. Gurugram Metro Rail Limited (GMRL) officials said on Tuesday that Systra India, appointed the detailed design consultant (DDC) for the project, will carry out a survey. It will take two to three months to complete. The agency will use GPS technology to map the exact location of metro stations and their infrastructure. This includes even the entry and exit gates of each station. Additionally, officials said, a 500m buffer zone along the metro corridor's route and intersecting roads will be surveyed to facilitate smooth intermodal transfers. GMRL managing director Chandra Shekhar

Khare last week wrote to local authorities, including GMDA, MCG, NHAI, and traffic police, requesting their assistance in execution of the work. A senior GMRL official said that this survey was crucial because the last time this exercise was carried out was five years ago and the city has seen several changes since then. "This survey is important for finalising the metro's alignment and stations, and ensuring the infrastructure integrates seamlessly with the city's existing framework. Under this, we will pinpoint the exact locations of stations, entry and exit points, and other infrastructure elements," he said. GMRL is expected to appoint a general consultant for the project. The agency will be responsible for procurement, construction, management, testing and commissioning of the new metro line. Beginning at Millennium City,

the new metro line will cross Old Gurgaon before making a loop and ending at Cyber City. This 28.8km corridor with 27 elevated metro stations has a budget of Rs 5,452 crore. It will be the first metro extension project to come up in the city in seven years. Public transportation in Gurgaon has barely seen any change even though the city's population and reputation as a hub of corporates and IT firms has rapidly grown over the years. Currently, the city has just 17 km of metro line — 5.3 km of the Delhi Metro's yellow line, and 11.7 km of Rapid Metro. The last expansion was in 2017, when the Rapid Metro, which connects Cyber City and almost the entire length of Golf Course F was opened to commuters in entirety. The Union Cabinet in 2023 approved the Millennium I Cyber City line, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid

Milk banks for infants to be set up at district hospitals & govt med colleges Gurgaon

Gurgaon: With an aim to reduce the infant mortality rate and improve neonatal health, the Haryana govt is set to establish milk banks across the state to provide breast milk from donors to babies who do not have access to their own mother's milk. Dr Virender Yadav, director of health services, said, "Under trial runs that are being conducted, a comprehensive lactation management centre (CLMC) has been set up at Rohtak PGIMS and lactation management units (LMUs) at Mewat and Yamunanagar." After trials, these centres will first be set up in all govt medical colleges, followed by expansion to all district hospitals. These centres will focus on the collection, storage, processing, and dispensing of donor human milk (DHM) and ensuring its safety and quality for at-risk and low-weight babies admitted to health facilities.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as VIVEKANAND alias VIVEKANAND MEVAL S/O RAMRATAN Permanent R/O 46, Railway Line Khataspur, Rajasthan - 321602. Presently residing at House No. 230-231, FF, Pocket-5, Rohini, Sector-25, Delhi - 110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIVEKANAND MEVAL.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as AVINASH S/O GOPAL SHARMA residing at WZ-686, Near by Hotel Chokri Karana Village, South West, Delhi - 110028 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AVINASH SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as BEBY alias TILAK RANI W/O LAXMAN, Residing at 43, Gali No. 9, Ambedkar Colony, Haiderpur, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110088 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BEBY.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, PRAMOD SHAH MAHAJAN S/O VINDASHAH, R/O 351, New Priyanka Camp, Madanpur Khadar, South Delhi, Delhi - 110076, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as PRAMOD JAIN and DEEPA JAIN in my minor son namely NEERAJ SHAH, aged 16 years in his 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are PRAMOD SHAH MAHAJAN and SEEMA DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, SUSHILA DEVI W/O DHARAM RAJ R/O K-200, Gali Square Near Ram Manohar Lal Hospital, Kirti Bani Marg, New Delhi G.P.O. New Delhi G.P. New Delhi, Delhi - 110001 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SUSHILA in my minor son ARUSH KUMAR aged 14 year in his school record the actual name of mine is SUSHILA DEVI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, PRASHANT SHARMA S/O RAGHU RAM SHARMA R/O F-40222, Street no-2, West Karawal Nagar, Karawal Nagar P.O. Karawal Nagar, DIST: North East Delhi, Delhi - 110094 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written RAGHU RAM SHARMA in my Driving Licence No. DL2 20200001030. The actual name of my father is RAGHURAM SHARMA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-15147652L Rank-HAV Name-JAYANTA KUMAR BEHERA Father of PRIYANKA BEHERA Presently residing at VILL-VILVA, PO-DWARAKA, TEHSORO, DIST-BALASORE, ODISHA-756044 have changed my minor daughter's name from PRIYANKA BEHERA to PRIYANKA BEHERA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 28/09/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I hitherto known as KAINALYA JAYANTI daughter of Smt. SHAILAJA JAYANTI residing at 55-G, Top Floor, Pocket K Sheikh Sarai Phase-02, Malviya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110017, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAI SHAILAJA. It is certified that I have complied with all other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE
I, Manmohan Meena son of Girraj Prasad Meena residing of 161 Shreed Bhagat Singh Apartment Pocket-3 Sector-14 Dwarka New Delhi declare that the correct and full name of my son is viyaan Barnawat. My son's name was wrongly recorded as viyan. Hence in future for all purposes and synonyms he should be known as viyaan Barnawat.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAGAR GIROTRA S/O SANJAY GIROTRA residing at 16 & 17, PANDIT PARK, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051 have changed my name to SAGAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUSHILA Wife of NO-16011779K Rank-HAV Name-DEVI LAL residence of VPO-SESAM, TEH-DANTLA RAM GARH, DISTT-SIKAR, RAJASTHAN-332023, have changed my name from SUSHILA to SUSHILA DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/11/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SHYAM SUNDER alias SHYAM SUNDER SHARMA S/O JAGESHWAR SHARMA R/O A-53/1, Harkesh Nagar, Okhla Industrial Estate, South Delhi, Delhi-110020, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHYAM SUNDER SHARMA, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, VASNAVA KAILAS BOKARE is daughter of NO-GS-188975W Rank-DVRMT GDE-II Name-BOKARE KAILAS SHANKAR presently residing at Ctr No. G-59, TYPE-II, NANAKPURA, SOUTH MOTI BAGH, NEW DELHI-110021 have changed my name of mine, my father and my mother to VAISHNAVI KAILAS BOKARE for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit No. IN-DL-922814/26675760W Dated 26/11/2024 Before Sub Divisional Magistrate Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, ANSHUL GOYAL daughter of Shri SANJAY KUMAR GOYAL, residing at C-62, Flat No. 6, Duggle Colony, Khanpur, Puchpa Bhawan S.O South Delhi, Delhi-110062, declare that name of mine, my father and my mother has been wrongly written as ANSHUL GOEL, SANJAY KUMAR GOEL and SUNITA GOEL in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine, my father and my mother are ANSHUL GOYAL, SANJAY KUMAR GOYAL and SUNITA GOYAL respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, WAHID AHMAD son of Shri HANIF, residing at H. No. 16/2017 A Railway Marg, Sangam Vihar, VTC, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, District: South Delhi, Delhi-110062, declare that name of mine and wife has been wrongly written as MD. VAHEED and SHAHNAZ in my minor daughter GULPARA, aged 15 years in her School Record. The actual name of mine and my wife are WAHID AHMAD and SHEHNAZ, respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, UMESH YADAV S/O NANHAJ YADAV, R/O 3B/11, Bal Bharti Public School, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-110062 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as UMESH YADAV in my Pan Card No. AFXPY4810L. The actual name of mine is UMESH YADAV, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Manmohan Meena son of Girraj Prasad Meena residing of 161 Shreed Bhagat Singh Apartment Pocket-3 Sector-14 Dwarka New Delhi declare that the correct and full name of my son is viyaan Barnawat. My son's name was wrongly recorded as viyan. Hence in future for all purposes and synonyms he should be known as viyaan Barnawat.

Alignment & station location survey for new metro to begin

Gurgaon. Groundwork for the new metro line between Millennium City Centre and Cyber City is set to begin soon as the project's design consultant will finalise the route alignment for the corridor and pinpoint the exact location for all 27 stations on it. Gurugram Metro Rail Limited (GMRL) officials said on Tuesday that Systra India, appointed the detailed design consultant (DDC) for the project, will carry out a survey. It will take two to three months to complete. The agency will use GPS technology to map the exact location of metro stations and their infrastructure. This includes even the entry and exit gates of each station. Additionally, officials said, a 500m buffer zone along the metro corridor's route and intersecting roads will be surveyed to facilitate smooth intermodal transfers. GMRL managing director Chandra Shekhar

NAME CHANGE
I, Priyaranjan Parashar S/O Shree Bhagwan Prasad Verma R/O LP-43/D, First Floor, Maurya Enclave, Pitampura, North West Delhi-110034, have changed the name of my minor son BHUVANESH AMBASHTHA (DOB: 19.01.2010 aged 14 years) and he shall hereafter be known as BHUVNESH PARASHAR for all purposes. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection. PRIYARANJAN PARASHAR

NAME CHANGE
I, MANEESH GARG S/O RAJPAL GARG R/O RZ-113 Santosh park Uttam nagar New Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Manish Garg

NAME CHANGE
I, No-888642P Rank-UCC Name-ARVIND KUMAR R/O 440H BLOCK, SOUTH MOTI BAGH, NANAKPURA, NEW DELHI-110021 have changed my wife's name from AMITA BHADOURIA to REEMAA for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 27/11/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NOTICE
Public at large is hereby informed that our client M/s S.P Kapoor & Sons through its Karta Sh. Sanjay Kapur is the owner of Plot No. 464, area measuring 200.00sq. mtr. in PKT-C, in IFC Gajipur Scheme in the layout Plan of Gajipur vide Conveyance deed dated 13.07.2015 executed by POI in favour of M/s S.P Kapoor & Sons (HUF) through its Karta Sh. Shashi Prakash Kapoor (vide doc no. 11059 pages no. 5589 pages no. 180-182 SR Viljin respect of Plot no. 464, area measuring 200.00sq. mtr. Initially, Initially, DDA allotted said Plot in favour of M/s S.P Kapoor & Sons Thereafter, Registered Perpetual Lease Deed dated 13.02.2007 executed by DDA in favour of M/s S.P Kapoor & Sons (HUF) (vide doc no. 3412 Book No. 1 Vol no. 2420 pages no. 179-184) Finally, registered Conveyance deed dated 13.07.2015 executed by POI in favour of M/s S.P Kapoor & Sons (HUF) through its Karta Sh. Shashi Prakash Kapoor (vide doc no. 11059 pages no. 5589 pages no. 180-182 SR Viljin respect of Plot no. 464, area measuring 200.00sq. mtr. Now, SMC late Sh. Shashi Prakash Kapoor in favour of Smt. Kiran Kapoor & Ms. Richa Sakhuja & Sh. Sanjay Kapur & Ms. Shruti Anand & Ms. Upasna Khanna wherein Sanjay Kapur became the karta of M/s S.P Kapoor & Sons after demise of previous karta Shashi Prakash Kapoor and now our abandoned client intends to mortgage the said immovable property for bonafide requirements to HDFC BANK LTD. Whosoever is having any objection to the said mortgage or anyone has claim or right or interest in the property shall contact the undersigned with the objection within 07 days failing which it shall be presumed that there are no objections. NEW DELHI. PRAGYA BHUSHAN ADVOCATE Enrl. No. D/721/02 Office: L-27, GF, Kailash Colony, New Delhi-48 Mob.: 9968006418

INDIAN RAILWAYS
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(RAILWAY BOARD)
New Delhi, Dated 20.11.2024
No. 2023/RS(E)/TM/3
CORRIGENDUM No. 1
Sub-E - Eopen Global Tender No.: 2023-TM-3 closing on 28.11.2024 for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 138 nos. of 'Dynamic Track Stabilizer (DTS)' along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC.
1. The due date of closing of the subject tender has been changed from 28.11.2024 (Thursday) to 10.01.2025 (Friday).
2. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain the same.
Director, Railway Stores (F) (Railway Board)

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tendering)
Name of work with its location | Comprehensive Annual maintenance Contract of Datalogger system of Electronics make for three years in Delhi Division.
App. Cost of the work (₹) | ₹ 4,09,89,780/- only
Bid Security (₹) | ₹ 3,55,000/- only
Address of the office | Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for upload the tender/closing of tender | Tender uploading 27.11.2024/ closing date & time- 19.12.2024 up to 15:00 hrs.
Website/particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. | See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.
Tender No. 558-Sig/16M/Tender/AMC/088/2024-25 Dated: 27.11.2024 3662/2024
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAME CHANGE
I, Sunil bindal S/o Khem Chand Aggarwal R/O S-67 Palm Puri, Uttam Nagar Nagar, D.K. Mohan Garden, west delhi - 110059 have changed my name from Sunil bindal to Sunil kumar bindal for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Aakanksha Kaushik W/o Vineet Verma R/O J-1/13 DLF Phase - 2, opposite Sahara Mall, Sikanderpur, Ghosi (68) DLF QE Gurgaon Haryana 122002 have changed my name to Aakanksha Kaushik Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-888642P Rank-UCC Name-ARVIND KUMAR R/O 440H BLOCK, SOUTH MOTI BAGH, NANAKPURA, NEW DELHI-110021 have changed my wife's name from AMITA BHADOURIA to REEMAA for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 27/11/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SHYAM SUNDER alias SHYAM SUNDER SHARMA S/O JAGESHWAR SHARMA R/O A-53/1, Harkesh Nagar, Okhla Industrial Estate, South Delhi, Delhi-110020, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHYAM SUNDER SHARMA, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as VIVEKANAND alias VIVEKANAND MEVAL S/O RAMRATAN Permanent R/O 46, Railway Line Khataspur, Rajasthan - 321602. Presently residing at House No. 230-231, FF, Pocket-5, Rohini, Sector-25, Delhi - 110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as VIVEKANAND MEVAL.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as AVINASH S/O GOPAL SHARMA residing at WZ-686, Near by Hotel Chokri Karana Village, South West, Delhi - 110028 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AVINASH SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as BEBY alias TILAK RANI W/O LAXMAN, Residing at 43, Gali No. 9, Ambedkar Colony, Haiderpur, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110088 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BEBY.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, PRAMOD SHAH MAHAJAN S/O VINDASHAH, R/O 351, New Priyanka Camp, Madanpur Khadar, South Delhi, Delhi - 110076, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as PRAMOD JAIN and DEEPA JAIN in my minor son namely NEERAJ SHAH, aged 16 years in his 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are PRAMOD SHAH MAHAJAN and SEEMA DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as AVINASH S/O GOPAL SHARMA residing at WZ-686, Near by Hotel Chokri Karana Village, South West, Delhi - 110028 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AVINASH SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as BEBY alias TILAK RANI W/O LAXMAN, Residing at 43, Gali No. 9, Ambedkar Colony, Haiderpur, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110088 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BEBY.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, PRAMOD SHAH MAHAJAN S/O VINDASHAH, R/O 351, New Priyanka Camp, Madanpur Khadar, South Delhi, Delhi - 110076, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as PRAMOD JAIN and DEEPA JAIN in my minor son namely NEERAJ SHAH, aged 16 years in his 10th class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my wife are PRAMOD SHAH MAHAJAN and SEEMA DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as AVINASH S/O GOPAL SHARMA residing at WZ-686, Near by Hotel Chokri Karana Village, South West, Delhi - 110028 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AVINASH SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as BEBY alias TILAK RANI W/O LAXMAN, Residing at 43, Gali No. 9, Ambedkar Colony, Haiderpur, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110088 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BEBY.

NAME CHANGE
I, KULVINDER SINGH, S/O TEJPAL SINGH, R/O B-108, THIRD FLOOR, KAILA JI, NEW DELHI-110019, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KULVINDER SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Gagan Thakral S/O Mr. Atam Prakash Thakral is the owner of Freehold Residential Property Bearing No. 203/10-11, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., out of total area measuring 200 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 147, Min., & Khasat/Khata No. 43363, Situated in the revenue estate of Village Garhi Jharla, Maria, Colony known as Amritpur-B, Garhi, East of Kailash, New Delhi-110065. By Virtue of Sale Deed dated 19.03.2024 in favour of our client Mr. Gagan Thakral in the office of SR- South East Defence Colony, Vide Doc. No. 2024/9/11631, Vol. No. 3744, Book No. 1, On Pages 55-76, dated 19.03.2024. in the Chain Documents below mentioned not available i.e. Death Certificate & SMC of Mr. Mohan Lal Died, SMC of Mr. Ramji Lal, Death Certificate & SMC of Mr. Om Prakash, Death Certificate & SMC of Mrs. Meenu, Death Certificate & SMC of Mr. Dhani Ram, now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and Second Floor without roof rights Sold to be Mr. Manas Maity and Same property is Finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Kalkaji, Delhi. If any person(s) has any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained. [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 9956871432

PUBLIC NOTICE
To Whom so ever it may concern This is to inform the public at large that I Asha Rani nee Gyano W/o Sh. Baldev Raj R/O H.No. B-957, Shashi Nagar, New Delhi-110052 do hereby declare that I am real daughter of late Sh. Gurdas Ram S/o Sh. Moti Ram R/O Village Brahm Pur. P.O. Pattar Kalandh, P.S. & Tehsil Kartar Pur, Jalandhar, Punjab-144806 and before marriage my name was Gyano. I am known by both names namely Asha Rani as well as Gyano. MANMOHAN SATJIA Advocate CHAMBER No. 429, WESTERN WING, TIS HAZARI COURT, DELHI-110054

NAME CHANGE
I, DIPESH DUGGAL son of Shri ASHWANI DUGGAL, residing at 219, Nagin Lake Apartment, VTC, Paschim Vihar District, West Delhi, Delhi-110087, have changed the name of my minor daughter DEVANSHI MAYA DUGGAL aged 10 years and she shall hereafter be known as REET DUGGAL.

NAME CHANGE
I, Raj Kumar Satija S/O Lalpat Rai R/O 206/1B, Gali No. 10, Bhola Nath Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi - 110032, have changed my name to Raj Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shitiz Singh S/O Sh. Siyaram Singh R/O H. NO - C-1/4, Street No 18, Khajuri Khas, Sher Pur, North East Delhi, Delhi 110034 have changed my name from Shitiz to Shitiz Singh for all future purposes. That both names Shitiz & Shitiz Singh are the names of the same person.

NEWS BOX

Displaced people return to south Lebanon as ceasefire appears to hold

World. Long-displaced residents of south Lebanon started returning to their homes amid celebrations hours after a ceasefire between Israel and the Hezbollah militant group took effect early Wednesday morning.

The ceasefire has brought relief across the tiny Mediterranean nation, coming after days of some of the most intense airstrikes and clashes since the war began, though many wondered if the agreement to stop fighting would hold. Israel has said it will attack if Hezbollah breaks the ceasefire agreement, which was announced Tuesday. Hundreds of cars made their way into southern Lebanon, defying a warning from the Israeli military to stay away from previously evacuated areas. At least 42 people were killed by Israeli strikes across Lebanon on Tuesday, according to local authorities. Hezbollah also fired rockets into Israel on Tuesday, triggering air raid sirens in the country's north. The Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire marks the first major step toward ending the regionwide unrest triggered by Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, but it does not address the devastating war in Gaza. Hezbollah began attacking Israel a day after Hamas' attack. The fighting in Lebanon escalated into all-out war in September with massive Israeli airstrikes across the country and an Israeli ground invasion of the south. In Gaza, more than 44,000 people have been killed and more than 104,000 wounded in the nearly 14-month war between Israel and Hamas, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Will Trump's White House return lead to new wave of bestselling books

NEW YORK. As she anticipates her estranged uncle's return to the White House, Mary Trump isn't expecting any future book to catch on like such first-term tell-alls as Michael Wolff's million-selling "Fire and Fury" or her own blockbuster, "Too Much and Never Enough." "What else is there to learn?" she says. "And for people who don't know, the books have been written. It's all really out in the open now."

For publishers, Donald Trump's presidential years were a time of extraordinary sales in political books, helped in part by Trump's legal threats and angered tweets.

According to Circana, which tracks around 85% of the hardcover and paperback market, the genre's sales nearly doubled from 2015 to 2020, from around 5 million copies to around 10 million. Besides books by Wolff and Trump, other bestsellers included former FBI Director James Comey's "A Higher Loyalty," former national security adviser John Bolton's "The Room Where it Happened" and Bob Woodward's "Fear." Meanwhile, sales for dystopian fiction also jumped, led by Margaret Atwood's "A Handmaid's Tale," which was adapted into an award-winning Hulu series. But interest has dropped back to 2015 levels since Trump left office, according to Circana, and publishers doubt it will again peak so high. Readers not only showed little interest in books by or about President Joe Biden and his family — they even seemed less excited about Trump-related releases.

Mary Trump's "Who Could Ever Love You" and Woodward's "War" were both popular this fall, but neither has matched the sales of their books written during the first Trump administration. "We've been there many times, with all those books," HarperCollins publisher Jonathan Burnham says of the various Trump tell-alls. He added that he still sees a market for at least some Trump books — perhaps analyzing the recent election — because "there's a general, serious smart audience, not politically aligned in a hard way," one that would welcome "an intelligent voice." "It's like the reboot of any hit TV show," says Eric Nelson, publisher and vice president of Broadside Books, a conservative imprint of HarperCollins that's released books by Jared Kushner, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and Trump Cabinet nominee Pete Hegseth and Sen. Marco Rubio. "You're not hoping for ratings like last time, just better ratings than the boring show it's replacing."

Trump promised mass deportations; educators worry fear will keep immigrants' kids from school

World. Last time Donald Trump was president, rumors of immigration raids terrorized the Oregon community where Gustavo Balderas was the school superintendent. Word spread that immigration agents were going to try to enter schools. There was no truth to it, but school staff members had to find students who were avoiding school and coax them back to class. "People just started ducking and hiding," Balderas said.

Educators around the country are bracing for upheaval, whether or not the president-elect follows through on his pledge to deport millions of immigrants who are in the country illegally. Even if he only talks about it, children of immigrants will suffer, educators and legal observers said. If "you constantly threaten people with the possibility of mass deportation, it really inhibits peoples' ability to function in society and for their kids to get an education," said Hiroshi Motomura, a professor at UCLA School of Law.

That fear already has started for many.

"The kids are still coming to school, but they're scared," said Almudena Abeyta, superintendent of Chelsea Public Schools, a Boston suburb that's long been a first stop for Central American immigrants coming to Massachusetts. Now Haitians are making the city home and sending their kids to school there.

"They're asking: 'Are we going to be deported?'" said Abeyta. Many parents in her district grew up in countries where the federal government ran schools and may think it's the same here.

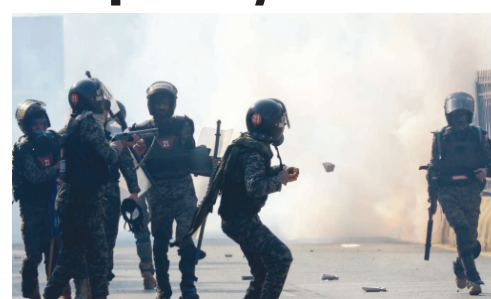
Pakistan government's midnight crackdown ends protest by Imran Khan's party in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD. A midnight crackdown by the security personnel forced the supporters of jailed former prime minister Imran Khan to evacuate the D-Chowk and its adjacent main business district of the capital ending their protest, which his party on Wednesday described as a "massacre under the fascist military regime." Police sources said about 450 protesters were arrested in the crackdown and more arrests are expected while Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) said it was a violent assault on protesters by security forces firing live rounds with the intent to kill as many people as possible. Earlier on Tuesday evening, PTI supporters battled law enforcing agencies and succeeded in reaching the D-Chowk for a sit-in till their leader told otherwise as part of their protest march to Islamabad that started on Sunday. The supporters' clash with police killed six security personnel and injured dozens. Khan's wife, Bushra Bibi, who was leading the march to Islamabad from Peshawar along with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ali Amin Gandapur, announced that the protesters would not go

away until Imran Khan, who had given the final call for protest, was released from jail even as security personnel continued their efforts to move them from the area.

Video footage showed Khan's supporters facing tear gas and climbing on the shipping containers placed on the roads leading to D-Chowk, which is located close to several important government buildings: the Presidency, the PM Office, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court.

Around midnight, police and Rangers launched an operation to clear the Blue Area business area, forcing the protesters to move away along with Bibi and Gandapur. Police sources said that about 450 protesters were arrested in the crackdown and more arrests are expected after the end of the protest. Special teams have been formed to arrest PTI leaders, the sources added. Addressing a press conference later at D-Chowk, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said Gandapur and Bushra Bibi had fled away. "They ran away in front of you, not one or two or three but thousands of people ran away," he said. He said it was a priority to restore the roads



that were closed for traffic in the capital. He also announced that schools would reopen on Thursday. "Mobile and internet services will be restored by morning. You will find all roads in working condition by morning," he said, adding that the administration would try to remove all containers by morning. PTI Information Secretary Sheikh Waqas Akram said in a post on X that "Gandapur and Bibi are safe," according to the information he received from sources he did not disclose. Geo News, however, reported that Bibi and Gandapur have reached Peshawar, while the party has ended its protest. Information

Minister Atta Tarar also claimed in a press conference that Gandapur and Bibi fled away. "Sadly I must say this was not a final call but a miscall," he said mockingly referring to the 'final call' of Khan for protest. "You will not believe how they've run away from here. They've abandoned their cars, sandals and some even their clothes here," he claimed. He alleged that documents were also found detailing a plan to enter the Red Zone to attack parliament and government property, and target state officials. Tarar said the whole route at D-Chowk was clear and roads were reopening as well. PTI, in a reaction to the crackdown, blamed the government for using violence and killing hundreds of its workers. "A massacre has unfolded in Pakistan at the hands of security forces under the brutal, fascist military regime led by the Shehbaz-Zardari-Asim alliance. The nation is drowning in blood," it said in a post on X referring to the ruling coalition headed by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, President Asif Ali Zardari and Gen Asim Munir, the Chief of Army Staff (COAS).

Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah start a ceasefire after nearly 14 months of fighting

JERUSALEM. The ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon's Hezbollah militants began early Wednesday as a region on edge wondered whether it will hold. The ceasefire announced Tuesday is a major step toward ending nearly 14 months of fighting sparked by the ongoing war in Gaza between Israel and Hamas. Israel has said it will attack if Hezbollah breaks the ceasefire agreement. The ceasefire calls for an initial two-month halt to fighting and requires Hezbollah to end its armed presence in southern Lebanon, while Israeli troops are to return to their side of the border. An international panel led by the United States will monitor compliance. The ceasefire began at 4 a.m. Wednesday, a day after Israel carried out its most intense wave of airstrikes in Beirut since the start of the conflict that in recent weeks turned into all-out war. At least 42 people were



killed in strikes across the country, according to local authorities. The ceasefire does not address the devastating war in Gaza, where Hamas is still holding dozens of hostages and the conflict is more intractable. There appeared to be lingering disagreement over whether Israel would have the right to strike Hezbollah if it believed the militants had violated the agreement, something Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu insisted was part

of the deal but which Lebanese and Hezbollah officials have rejected. Israel's security Cabinet approved the U.S.-France-brokered ceasefire agreement after Netanyahu presented it, his office said. U.S. President Joe Biden, speaking in Washington, called the agreement "good news" and said his administration would make a renewed push for a ceasefire in Gaza. The Biden administration spent much of this year trying to broker a ceasefire and hostage release in Gaza but the talks repeatedly sputtered to a halt. President-elect Donald Trump has vowed to bring peace to the Middle East without saying how. Still, any halt to the fighting in Lebanon is expected to reduce the likelihood of war between Israel and Iran, which backs both Hezbollah and Hamas and exchanged direct fire with Israel on two occasions earlier this year.

Australia's House of Representatives passes bill that would ban young children from social media

MELBOURNE. Australia's House of Representatives on Wednesday passed a bill that would ban children younger than 16 years old from social media, leaving it to the Senate to finalize the world-first law. The major parties backed the bill that would make platforms including TikTok, Facebook, Snapchat, Reddit, X and Instagram liable for fines of up to 50 million Australian dollars (\$33 million) for systemic failures to prevent young children from holding accounts.

The legislation passed 102 to 13. If the bill becomes law this week, the platforms would have one year to work out how to implement the age restrictions before the penalties are enforced. Opposition lawmaker Dan Tehan told Parliament the government had agreed to accept amendments in the Senate that would bolster privacy protections. Platforms would not be allowed to compel users to provide government-issued identity documents including passports or driver's licenses. The platforms also could not demand digital identification through a government system. "Will it be perfect? No. But is any law perfect? No, it's not. But if it helps, even if it helps in just the smallest of ways, it will make a huge

difference to people's lives," Tehan told Parliament. Communications Minister Michelle Rowland said the Senate would debate the bill later Wednesday. The major parties' support all but



guarantees the legislation will pass in the Senate, where no party holds a majority of seats. Lawmakers who were not aligned with either the government or the opposition were most critical of the legislation during debate on Tuesday and Wednesday. Criticisms include that the legislation had been rushed through Parliament without adequate scrutiny, would not work, would create privacy risks for users of all ages and would take away parents' authority to decide what's best for their children. Critics also argue the ban would isolate children, deprive them of

positive aspects of social media, drive children to the dark web, make children too young for social media reluctant to report harms they encountered and take away incentives for platforms to make online spaces safer. Independent lawmaker Zoe Daniel said the legislation would "make zero difference to the harms that are inherent to social media." "The true object of this legislation is not to make social media safe by design, but to make parents and voters feel like the government is doing something about it," Daniel told Parliament. "There is a reason why the government parades this legislation as world-leading, that's because no other country wants to do it," she added. The platforms had asked for the vote on legislation to be delayed until at least June next year when a government-commissioned evaluation of age assurance technologies made its report on how the ban could be enforced. Melbourne resident Wayne Holdsworth, whose 17-year-old son Mac took his own life last year after falling victim to an online sextortion scam, described the bill as "absolutely essential for the safety of our children." "It's not the only thing that we need to do to protect them because education is the key."

Indian-American Jay Bhattacharya is Trump's pick to lead USA's top health institute

WASHINGTON. US President-elect Donald Trump has picked Indian-American scientist Jay Bhattacharya as the director of the National Institutes of Health, the country's top health research and funding institutions.

With this, Bhattacharya becomes the first Indian-American to be nominated by Trump for a top administrative position. Earlier, Trump picked Indian-American Vivek Ramaswamy to lead the newly created Department of Government Efficiency along with Tesla owner Elon Musk. However, that is a voluntary position and does not need confirmation from the US Senate.

"I am thrilled to nominate Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, to serve as Director of the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Bhattacharya will work in cooperation with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to direct the Nation's Medical Research and to make important discoveries that will improve Health, and save lives," Trump announced. "Together, Jay and RFK Jr. will restore the NIH to a Gold Standard of Medical Research as they examine the underlying causes of, and solutions to, America's biggest Health challenges, including our Crisis of Chronic Illness and Disease. Together, they will work hard to Make America Healthy Again," he said. Bhattacharya is a professor of Health Policy at Stanford University, a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a senior fellow by courtesy at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, Stanford Freeman Spogli Institute, and the Hoover Institution, according to Trump. He directs Stanford's Centre for Demography and Economics of Health and Aging.



His research focuses on the health and well-being of vulnerable populations, emphasising the role of government programmes, biomedical innovation, and economics. Bhattacharya is a co-author of the Great Barrington Declaration, an alternative to lockdowns proposed in October 2020. His peer-reviewed research has been published in Economics, Statistics, Legal, Medical, Public Health, and Health Policy Journals. He holds an MD and PhD in Economics from Stanford University, Trump said. Trump also nominated Jim O'Neill as the deputy secretary of Health and Human Services to work alongside Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

"He (O'Neill) will oversee all operations and improve Management, Transparency, and Accountability to, Make America Healthy Again," he said. O'Neill previously served as the principal associate deputy secretary of HHS. He led reforms at the FDA to overhaul Food Safety Regulations and implemented the FDA Amendments Act, which improved Drug and Medical Device Safety, and ensured greater protection for Public Health, according to Trump.

Trump team claims Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire deal brokered by Biden is actually Trump's win

WASHINGTON. The Biden administration kept President-elect Donald Trump's incoming administration closely apprised of its efforts to broker the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hezbollah that is slated to go into effect early Wednesday, according to the outgoing Democratic administration. Trump's team, meanwhile, was quick to spike the football and claim credit for the rare spot of good news for a Democratic administration that's been dragged down by the grinding Mideast conflict. "Everyone is coming to the table because of President Trump," Florida Rep. Mike Waltz, Trump's choice for his national security adviser, said in a post on X on Tuesday, shortly before the Israel Cabinet signed off on the agreement. "His resounding victory sent a clear message to the rest of the world that chaos won't be tolerated. I'm glad to see concrete steps towards deescalation in the Middle East."

The Biden administration's reported coordination with Trump's team on its efforts to forge the ceasefire in Lebanon is

perhaps the highest-profile example of cooperation in what's been a sometimes choppy transition period. Trump's transition team just on Tuesday reached a required agreement with President Joe Biden's White House that will allow transition staff to coordinate with the existing federal workforce before Trump takes office on Jan. 20. There has been some coordination on high levels between the outgoing Biden and incoming Trump teams, including talks between Biden's national security adviser Jake Sullivan and Waltz. Biden in Rose Garden remarks on Tuesday cheered the ceasefire agreement as a critical step that he hoped could be the catalyst for a broader peace in the Mideast, which has been shaken by nearly 14 months of war following Hamas' attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. "This is designed to be a permanent cessation of hostilities," Biden said. "What is left of Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations will not be allowed. I emphasise, will not be allowed, to threaten the security of Israel



again. "White House officials are now hopeful that a calm in Lebanon will reinvigorate a multi-country effort at finding an endgame to the devastating war in Gaza. Biden said the US, as well as Israel, will engage in talks in the coming days with officials from Egypt, Qatar and Turkey to try to get Gaza talks back on track. But during Biden's moment of success in a conflict that has roiled his reputation at home and abroad, the specter of the incoming Trump administration loomed large. Trump's senior national security team was briefed by the Biden

administration as negotiations unfolded and finally came to a conclusion on Tuesday, according to a senior Biden administration official. The official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity on a call organised by the White House, added that the incoming Trump administration officials were not directly involved in the talks, but that it was important that they knew "what we were negotiating and what the commitments were." Trump's team and allies, meanwhile, said there was no doubt that the prospect of the Republican president returning to power pushed both sides to get the agreement done. Waltz, in addition to giving Trump credit for the ceasefire deal coming together, added a warning to Iran, Hezbollah's chief financial backer. "But let's be clear: The Iran Regime is the root cause of the chaos & error that has been unleashed across the region. We will not tolerate the status quo of their support for terrorism," Waltz said in his post. Sen.

Thrissur lorry accident: 'All that I remember was screams,' says Ponnamma, who lost her dear ones

THRISSUR . The victims of the Nattika mishap were in deep sleep when the lorry driven by a drunk person ran over them. While five persons lost their lives and many were injured, those who had a providential escape from the tragedy recalled the horrendous moments of the chilling accident. "It was in the wee hours. I woke up to the noise of the vehicle crashing onto the median, and loud screams that followed. What I saw was the shattered parts of my family members, who were sleeping next to me. My husband who woke up hearing the melee asked me to get up and run away. I didn't know then what happened as it took a moment to grasp what went wrong," said Ponnamma, who was struggling to control her tears as she waited for the mortal remains of her beloved family members. Grumbling about the ill-fated moment, Ponnamma said that even though they shouted to stop the vehicle, the lorry didn't stop, crushing those who were in deep sleep. Viswa, Jeeva, Kaliyappan, Rajeswari, and Nagamma who got crushed under the lorry. Viswa, Jeeva, Kaliyappan, Rajeswari, and Nagamma who got crushed under the lorry. Ponnamma and the ill-fated members of the vagabond family have been living in Nattika and its surroundings for about four months. They make a living by fishing and also collecting scrap items in and around Nattika. "They used to sleep on the other side of the road. As it was Ekadashi day and chances were high for heavy traffic on the route, they decided to sleep on the lane under construction, where road diversion boards had been erected. They thought they would be safe as the drivers of approaching vehicles could see the board clearly," said Salim, a local resident. Ponnamma's sister Nagamma, her children Jiva and Viswam were also killed in the accident.

Frames of Strength and Sisterhood

CHENNAI. A closeup shot of a girl reflecting in front of a mirror, a time-freezing shot of girls jumping in a circle joining hands, another zoomed-in picture of a girl in a kitchen, a medium shot of one in the living room posing with her parents, a portrait of a girl wearing a dark-coloured T-shirt, hair braided, a silver chain, and a beaming smile. These were a few photographs clicked by photographer Harshitha Parthasarathi for NalandaWay Foundation. As many as 24 girls, who are part of the organisation's Project Sakhi, were captured for a few months over a year ago. This culminated in 'She Rises. Unseen to Unstoppable'. A photo exhibition celebrating strength, courage and sisterhood'. On Saturday, it was opened to the public with more than 40 large and small frames and polaroid walls.

The exhibition was also a celebration the success of Project Sakhi, an eight-year holistic development programme for adolescent girls. "It is a long-term project where we work with girls, especially from underserved and underprivileged backgrounds, and help them become

resilient and learn skills, which will help in a smoother transition into adult life," says Sameen Almas, director of projects, NalandaWay Foundation.



Unconventional learning

The programme has three phases — first, girls between the ages of 13 and 15 are taught about menstrual health, at 16 and 17, they are imparted sex education, and as they enter adulthood, 18 to 20 years, they are introduced to financial planning. "It is not as structured as the school syllabus but certain topics should be addressed at certain ages. We have a common repository, accessible by every Sakhi facilitator," adds Sameen. These facilitators or mentors are the project's anchor. They have seen the girls grow as an individual, who know their fears. They remain with the group as they move ahead, as after spending an hour twice a week, for many years, there is also a possibility that the girls will fall back on them. "In many

sessions, we ensure that there is independent decision-making. The conversations and discussions during the classes lead to the point that the girl has to make the decision herself," she notes. Eniya, a student in the programme, says, "Through Sakhi, I learnt who I am. I understood that I am a person who can keep a room alive and interactive. I can make people laugh and I am happy to know that." Another student, Shobana, says, "I have learnt dancing, miming and other crafts through this project. I also understand about menstruation and I wish to teach it to my juniors."

By juniors, Shobana means the children from the Child Care Institution. Under the same programme, there is a unit called 'SEVA'. Sameen says, "The girls are going to these homes and working with the children there, to help them learn life skills and others they have learned through the project. We are trying to create a ripple of change and ensure it is a value of what they have received in five years. They should be able to reach out to five more in each of their surroundings."

Expressing his thoughts on the accomplishment Sriram V, founder and CEO of NalandaWay Foundation, says, "To have contributed to a small shift in the way they (the girls in the programme) have approached life, built their courage, and believed in their own possibilities, I feel very emotional and tremendously satisfied today." The photo exhibition is on till November 29 at NalandaWay Foundation, 123, 4th Street, AH Block, Anna Nagar from 10 am to 7 pm. For details, visit @nalandawayfoundation on Instagram.

Heavy rains likely to lash South Coastal & Rayalaseema districts over next 3 days

—The Deep Depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal moved north-northwestwards with a speed of 12 kmph during the past six hours.

VIJAYAWADA. Under the influence of a cyclonic storm brewing in the Bay of Bengal, heavy rains are likely to lash South Coastal and Rayalaseema districts in the State for the next three days, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). 'Number 1' warning has been issued at all ports in Andhra Pradesh. The Deep Depression over the Southwest Bay of Bengal moved north-northwestwards with a speed of 12 kmph



during the past six hours and lay centred at about 520 km south-southeast of Nagappattanam, 640 km south-southeast of Puducherry and 720 km south-southeast of Chennai at 17:30 hours IST on Tuesday. It is very likely to continue to move north-northwestwards and intensify further into a cyclonic storm on November 27. Thereafter, it will continue to move north-northwestwards towards the Tamil Nadu coast, skirting the Sri Lanka coast during the subsequent two days. The Cyclone Warning Centre in Visakhapatnam forecast heavy rains in Nellore and Tirupati districts on Wednesday and in Annamayya, Prakasam, Chittoor, Nellore, and Tirupati on Thursday. Moderate to heavy rains are likely in isolated parts of North Coastal districts. Home and Disaster Management Minister Vangalapati Anitha reviewed the situation and directed senior officials to take measures to ensure there is no loss of life or property. State Disaster Management Authority alerts. Special Chief Secretary (Disaster Management) RP Sisodia instructed district administrations to be on alert.

Textile policy to attract Rs 10,000 crore investments in Andhra Pradesh

The Chief Minister, who expressed satisfaction over the draft policy, gave his assent to it, which will be placed before the Cabinet soon.



VIJAYAWADA. The new textile policy has been evolved to attract Rs 10,000 crore investments to the State, which can generate two lakh jobs. Chairing a review meeting on the new textile policy being adopted by the State government on Tuesday, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu directed officials to ensure that it is much better than the previous one meant for 2018-23. Rural

women can be employed on a large scale in the textile sector. "Andhra Pradesh will be the ideal destination for investments in textiles once the new policy comes into force," he asserted. The Chief Minister, who expressed satisfaction over the draft policy, gave his assent to it, which will be placed before the Cabinet soon. The government has already announced over 10 new policies, covering key sectors. In the new textile policy, it has been proposed to provide incentives, and increase the capital subsidy to encourage

setting up of weaving, processing, garment and integrated units. Additional incentives have also been proposed in the new policy for SCs, STs, BCs and Minorities, besides women. Holding a review meeting on the leather policy, the Chief Minister said the government will take a decision on it only after thorough discussions.

Arrest illegal': Bombay HC orders Rs 2 lakh payout to cop

MUMBAI. The Bombay high court declared illegal, the March 2013 arrest of a police inspector Sambhaji Patil a recipient of the President's medal, for a faulty probe in a murder case and directed the State to compensate him with Rs 2 lakh. Patil sought an inquiry against the additional superintendent of police, Satara, who had arrested him. In 2004 Patil had also Director General of Police insignia for rendering excellent service.

Pronouncing the judgment on Monday, a division bench of Justices A S Chandurkar and Rajesh Patil held that the arrest was indeed in violation of the 52 year old police officer's fundamental rights. The HC disposed of Patil's petition that was filed in 2013, when he was 52 years old. The HC after hearing both sides and perusing all the record, held that after arresting Patil "without an arrest warrant" the officer should have produced him before his superior officer as mandated under criminal procedural code section 56.



A police officer arresting without a warrant is required to take the person arrested before a magistrate or before the officer in charge of a Police Station, without unnecessary delay. Additional SP Amol Tambe, who had effected Patil's arrest did not, the HC noted and directed State to compensate him in eight weeks. The HC said the State may recover the Rs 2 lakh pay out from officers found derelict in their duty

22 Maganoor school girls in hospital for food poisoning

HYDERABAD. Just a week after 50 of their schoolmates fell ill in a similar manner, 22 students from the Maganoor ZP High School in Narayanpet district were rushed to hospital after they complained of nausea, dizziness, stomachache and shivering, allegedly after taking lunch provided at the school. Soon after, Narayanpet District Collector Sikta Patnaik, in a press release, said that the students had snacks and outside food in bakeries and kirana shops in the vicinity of the school. The collector said that preliminary investigation by officials revealed that the students did not fall ill because of the midday meal in the school. Last week, the collector and other officials visited every



hostel and residential institution in the district. "All rice bas were replaced," the release added. An official, requesting anonymity, said that one of the girls was rushed to the Mahabubnagar government hospital after she experienced shortness of breath and vomiting. "Her condition is stable," the official mentioned. Reacting to the incident, BRS MLA T Harish Rao tweeted:

—The collector said that preliminary investigation by officials revealed that the students did not fall ill because of the midday meal in the school.

"Maganoor SP high school again fell victim to food poisoning, within 10 days after 100 students fell ill. Though parents are expressing concerns, the government is not taking even minimum measures. Despite the number of food poisoning cases and loss of lives in government schools, the government is not waking up..."

120kg of dried shark fins, seahorses seized in Tamil Nadu; two held

CHENNAI. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Chennai zone, seized 95 kg of shark fin and 25 kg of sea horse, both in dried form, from a location in Tiruvottiyur in north Chennai and arrested two people on Friday. According to sources, the case was transferred to the forest department for further investigation as it is believed to be part of a bigger operation. Though the exact estimates were not given, the consignment is believed to be priced upwards of Rs 50 lakh. The products were found inside sacks. Follow-up searches were conducted at a firm's office in Triplicane and later in Ramanathapuram as well, sources added. Investigation is underway to find out the source of supply and the intended destination. Seahorses and some species of sharks are covered under Schedule 1 and 2 of the Wildlife Protection Act. Possession of shark fins would amount to hunting them and hence is prohibited under the Act.



Animals listed under these schedules are provided absolute protection and their trade and hunting are prohibited.

Minor among 3 held for attacking man at rly station

Chennai: The Avadi Government Railway Police have arrested three people, including a minor boy, on charges of attacking a man and creating ruckus at the Hindu College Railway Station near

Avadi on Monday. In a clip that has gone viral, the group, in an inebriated state, was seen brandishing plastic pipes and hitting the man for reprimanding them. The police have launched a hunt for the others. The police identified the arrested as Subash (23), S Ibrahim (22) and the minor boy. Subash and Ibrahim are school dropouts and the boy is a Class IX student in a school near Avadi. "A group of more than six people went to a local Tasmac shop and consumed alcohol. In an inebriated state they went to the Hindu College Railway Station and created ruckus on one of the platforms. They picked up PVC pipes and tube lights that were lying there and were intimidating the people who were waiting for the train there," said a police source. One of the persons on the station, Paramasivam (50), a Tangedco employee, reprimanded the gang. However, one of them hit Paramasivam with a PVC pipe on his head. The man sustained injuries and was taken to a

Two RTO officials among five held for extortion of truckers on NH-16 in Odisha's Berhampur

The trio said the money collected from trucks were given to the RTO officials through cash or online payment to the number shared by the latter on WhatsApp.

BERHAMPUR. Ganjam police on Tuesday arrested five persons including two officials of the Transport department for illegal collection of money from trucks on NH-16 in Berhampur. Police identified the accused as Ganjam additional RTO K Venkatesh, junior MVI Ratikanta Nahak and three agents Bharat Kumar Sahu (31), Rabindra Sahu (36) and B Vijay Kumar (30) of Girisola. Berhampur SP Saravana Vivek M said police were informed that a group of youths were illegally collecting money from trucks on NH-16 between Girisola to Sorala junction since the last several days. Accordingly, a team of police led by Golanthara IIC Bibekananda Swain conducted a raid on Monday night and found four youths busy

collecting money from trucks detained on the NH near Hanuman temple at Girisola. On seeing the cops, one of the youths fled while the rest three were apprehended. During questioning, the truck drivers and locals informed police that the youths regularly collected huge amount of money from trucks plying on the highway on the promise of ensuring their smooth passage without any checking or legal trouble by RTO officials of Ganjam. The SP said the three youths were taken to Golanthara police station and during interrogation, revealed that they were collecting money from trucks on behalf of additional RTO Venkatesh, junior MVI Nahak and former traffic inspector NK Chhinira. The trio said the



money collected from trucks were given to the RTO officials through cash or online payment to the number shared by the latter on WhatsApp.

Vivek said during verification, it was found that the additional RTO and junior MVI had added their 'agents' in a WhatsApp group where the officials were members. In the WhatsApp group, these agents used to share details of trucks which paid money so that the vehicles would not be checked by RTO officials on NH-16. Each truck reportedly paid Rs 700 to Rs 2,000 depending on the load they were carrying. After gathering evidence, Golanthara police registered a case and arrested the three agents and two officials. They were later produced in court. The SP said further investigation is underway and efforts are on to nab other agents and staff of Transport department involved in the illegal act.

Ominous escalation in Russia-Ukraine war

THE Russia-Ukraine war crossed the 1000-day mark on November 19 and the conflict entered a higher level of fire-power escalation on November 17, when US President Joe Biden finally gave the authorisation for the US Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) to be used by Ukraine. While this decision is being interpreted as a case of Uncle Joe finally showing 'spine', albeit rather late in the day, the potential for sudden and dangerous escalation — either accidental or deliberate — has increased in a visible manner.

Kyiv had long sought such approval for the use of long-range western origin missiles, but this had been withheld by Washington as a measure of prudence and restraint to keep the conflict limited and confined to the two adversaries. It is pertinent that this green signal has been given when the Biden presidency is in what is described as its 'lame-duck' phase. This is the period after the US election results for the White House are announced (usually early November) and January 20, when the new incumbent assumes office — in this case, President-elect Donald Trump.

Kyiv lost no time in using its new weaponry and launched the ATACMS missiles against targets in Russia on November 20 and followed this offensive with the Storm Shadow missiles supplied by the UK. Earlier, Russia was accused of inducing North Korean troops into the conflict and also using drones supplied by Iran — thereby widening the scope of the war from a binary conflict (Russia-Ukraine) and according to a wider multinational nature. This has pitted Ukraine, supported by the US and some of its allies, against Russia, which is receiving tangible military assistance from North Korea and Iran.

Moscow retaliated almost immediately and on November 21, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that his military had carried out an attack on the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro, using "a new conventional intermediate-range missile." Classified as Oreshnik, this has been identified as an experimental medium-range ballistic missile. Putin stated: "In response to the use of American and British long-range weaponry, on 21 November this year, the Russian armed forces carried out a combined strike on one of Ukraine's military-industrial complex sites." The sub-text of the use of the hypersonic Oreshnik missile was that if the US-led alliance chose to escalate the lethality of the conflict, Russia would respond in an assertive manner. Putin added that Russia was "ready for any developments and if anyone still doubts this, they shouldn't. There will always be a response."

Will this response be nuclear? This is the worst-case scenario that many European nations fear and Putin has stoked this anxiety by revising Russia's nuclear doctrine to cater to a wide range of exigencies that go beyond pristine deterrence.

Russia's earlier nuclear doctrine was framed in the traditional template that was limited to the core mission, meaning that the nuclear weapon was meant only to 'deter' the adversary (the USA) from even contemplating the use of such apocalyptic capability. The second condition was to repel a conventional military attack that threatened the existence of the state. However, the revised November doctrine announced by Moscow has expanded the spectrum and states that any attack by a non-nuclear power supported by a nuclear power would be considered a joint attack. It further adds that any attack by one member of a military bloc (in this case, the US-led alliance) would be considered an attack by the entire alliance. Moscow has drawn attention to its nuclear capability since the early stage of this war that began in February 2022 and this has been repeated many times. However, the received wisdom is that Russia would not cross the red line and some western commentary has dismissed this as mere posturing. But such complacency may be misleading and dangerous.

It merits recall that the 1962 Cuban missile crisis between the USA and the former USSR that began in mid-October that year almost plunged the world into a nuclear war. This apocalyptic eyeball-to-eyeball brinkmanship was averted by the last-minute sagacity and prudence of the two leaders — US President John Kennedy and Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev. They decided to 'blink' together on November 20, 1962.

How PPP model can propel Punjab's economic growth

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have the potential to revolutionise infrastructure development and services delivery by blending private sector capital and expertise with public sector oversight. For Punjab, which has over 147 PPP projects worth Rs 59,358 crore in critical sectors like...

Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) have the potential to revolutionise infrastructure development and services delivery by blending private sector capital and expertise with public sector oversight. For Punjab, which has over 147 PPP projects worth Rs 59,358 crore in critical sectors like roads, bridges, healthcare and education, this model could be the key to unlocking sustained economic growth. However, despite the scale of these projects, systemic inefficiencies, governance issues and a narrow strategic focus have hindered their transformative potential. To fully leverage the power of the PPPs, Punjab must embrace a comprehensive reset, aligning these initiatives with the state's long-term economic and social goals. Punjab's track record in executing PPP projects has often fallen short. High-profile failures, such as the Ludhiana-Talwandi Nhai (National Highways Authority of India) project and the stalled food storage silo initiatives, reveal deep-rooted inefficiencies. Even as demand for modernised grain storage facilities grows, no silos have been built since 2021. Similarly, three commercial complexes in Amritsar, Mohali and Ludhiana — requiring an investment of over Rs 500 crore — remain incomplete. These missed opportunities reflect a broader issue: the state is struggling to follow-through on significant infrastructure investments, resulting in wasted resources.

A fundamental problem lies in the skewed risk allocation. Private sector entities often shoulder the burdens of land acquisition delays, regulatory uncertainties and incomplete infrastructure, which discourages investment and delays projects. This imbalance undermines the core principle of risk-sharing in PPPs. Punjab's focus on "showcase" projects has often diverted attention away from addressing critical systemic needs. For example, the proposed medical colleges in Gurdaspur and Pathankot have made little progress, reflecting a disconnect between investments and challenges faced by the healthcare sector. Punjab's reliance on viability gap funding (VGF) further underscores a lack of financial confidence in the private sector's ability to execute projects without subsidies, raising concerns about the sustainability of its PPP mode. Moreover, the PPP landscape has focussed on traditional infrastructure projects like roads, bridges and silos, while emerging sectors such as renewable energy, education, food processing and circular

economy remain underexplored. This narrow focus limits the potential of PPPs to address the socio-economic challenges. Governance bottlenecks, such as procedural delays, opaque decision-making and weak contract enforcement, exacerbate the issues, undermining investor confidence and outcomes.

To overcome these challenges, Punjab must adopt a more strategic, diversified and transparent approach. First, the state must recalibrate risk allocation. Risks must be distributed more equitably between the public and private sectors. Private entities should manage risks related to construction and service delivery, while the government should



address land acquisition issues, regulatory challenges and policy alignment. This would ensure a fairer balance and encourage more private sector investment. Second, Punjab must explore innovative revenue models to make projects financially viable and socially impactful. One such model is payment for environmental services (PES), successfully implemented in Costa Rica to incentivise forest conservation through revenue generated by carbon credits and biodiversity offsets. It could be adapted in Punjab's Kandi belt for afforestation and environmental preservation, with potential revenue sources that align economic growth with sustainability. Further output/outcome-based payments (OBP), which link funding to improved healthcare or educational outcomes, could incentivise high-quality service delivery and ensure that projects produce measurable societal benefits.

Expanding the scope of PPPs into high-growth sectors is equally crucial. Renewable energy offers tremendous potential, as Punjab seeks to meet rising energy demands while reducing dependence on fossil fuels. Similarly, education-focused PPPs

could help modernise schools and colleges, emphasising vocational training to address the skill gaps in the workforce. Circular economy initiatives in waste management, recycling and sustainable practices could provide both environmental and economic benefits. Moreover, the food processing industry, with its potential to add value to farmers' produce, should be prioritised as a critical area for PPPs. None of these initiatives can succeed without strengthening the governance and regulatory frameworks. Updating the Punjab Infrastructure Act is essential to modernise the state's regulations, ensuring transparency, streamlined processes and rigorous enforcement of state support agreements. The Surat Municipal Corporation's wastewater recycling project is an example of how robust governance, clear demand forecasting and innovative financing can ensure long-term sustainability and investor confidence.

Engaging citizens, private sector players and experts during the planning and execution stages will help ensure that projects meet public needs while delivering tangible, impactful results. Recent Budget announcements indicate that Punjab recognises the importance of PPP in driving growth. The 2023 Budget emphasised developing tourist destinations through PPP, while the 2022 Budget highlighted sports infrastructure projects. However, these initiatives need to be integrated into Punjab's long-term development strategy. For example, eco-tourism projects should prioritise sustainability and community participation, while sports infrastructure should balance grassroots development with high-performance facilities.

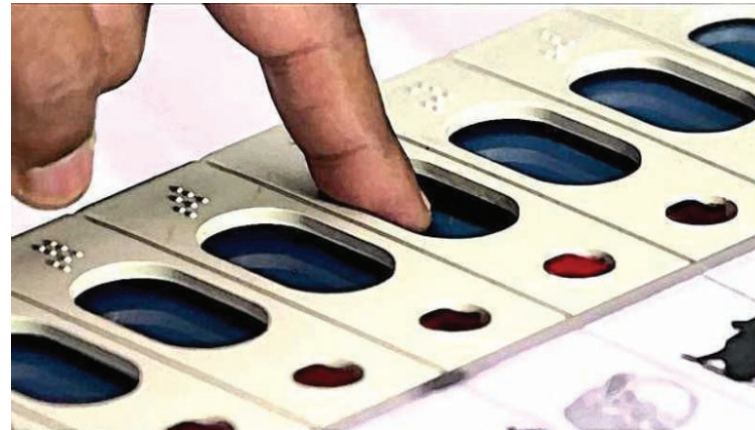
Punjab stands at a crossroads in its PPP journey. While it has recognised the transformative potential of these partnerships, inefficiencies, governance challenges and limited strategic focus continue to hold it back. Punjab must recalibrate its risk-sharing models, adopt innovative financing mechanisms, diversify into high-growth sectors and strengthen governance frameworks. By embracing these reforms, Punjab can modernise its infrastructure, foster sustainable economic growth and improve public welfare. A transparent and inclusive approach will set a new benchmark for PPP success, enabling Punjab to harness the transformative power of these partnerships and pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable future.

Punjab byelections

THE Punjab byelections saw the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) winning three seats — Gidderbaha, Chabbewal and Dera Baba Nanak — while losing Barnala to the Congress. The results are as much about the ruling party's victories as the Shiromani Akali...

THE Punjab byelections saw the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) winning three seats — Gidderbaha, Chabbewal and Dera Baba Nanak — while losing Barnala to the Congress. The results are as much about the ruling party's victories as the Shiromani Akali Dal's (SAD) decision to stay away from the poll fray since the shift of Akali votes to AAP played a decisive role. This shift wasn't necessarily a vote for AAP, but a tactical alignment against the Congress.

For the Congress, retaining Barnala offers a faint silver lining in an otherwise disappointing performance. Kuldeep Singh Dhillion's victory highlights the party's ability to capitalise on internal discontent within AAP, amplified by rebel candidates splitting votes. However, the loss in Gidderbaha — despite intense campaigning by state chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring for his wife, Amrita Warring, the Congress candidate — underscores deeper



issues of leadership disconnect and ineffective voter engagement. This setback is particularly damaging as Warring's singular focus on Gidderbaha came at the

expense of other constituencies, further diminishing the party's overall appeal across Punjab. The BJP, meanwhile, remains an outsider in Punjab's rural political landscape, unable to overcome the damage caused by the farm laws. These results come against the backdrop of AAP appointing Aman Arora as its state president, signalling a shift towards consolidating urban and Hindu votes. However, the ruling AAP, facing a midterm reality check, must tread carefully. Issues like drug abuse, economic instability and agricultural distress remain critical and mere electoral wins cannot substitute for policy solutions. The bypoll outcomes offer lessons not only in electoral strategy but also in the pressing need for a governance model that addresses systemic challenges and resonates with the state's aspirations.

The Constitution has kept the nation united

November 26 is celebrated as Constitution Day of India

In 2015, on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, the government decided to celebrate November 26 as the Constitution Day to highlight the importance of the event and commemorate its chief architect.

On this day in 1949, the Constituent Assembly had adopted the Constitution of India which came into effect on January 26, 1950. This is when the foundation for the world's largest democracy was laid. For 75 years, this document has been serving as the guiding light for the running of the country. Among its many remarkable features, the principles of secularism and pluralism stand out as cornerstones of India's democratic identity.

Secularism in the Indian Constitution

A unique model unlike the western model of complete separation between religion and state, the Indian Constitution adopts a model of "equal respect for all religions", ensuring that the state neither favours nor discriminates against any religion. What makes the constitution secular is its key features, namely, freedom of religion (Articles 25-28), equality of all before the law (Articles 14 and 15) and neutrality of the State in matters of religion (Articles 27-28) guarantee the right to freedom of religion, allowing every individual to profess, practice, and propagate their faith. At the same time, these provisions protect individuals from being coerced into following a particular religion. Article 14 guarantees equality before the law and prohibits discrimination based on religion, caste, or gender. Article 15 specifically forbids discrimination on religious grounds. Neutrality of the state is ensured by Article 27 which prohibits the use of public funds for promoting or maintaining any religion and Article 28 that prohibits religious instruction in government-

run educational institutions. Pluralism and diversity are the next distinguishing features of the country mandated by the Constitution which reinforce secularism. India is home to over 1.45 billion people, speaking 22 official languages listed in the Eighth Schedule and practising a multitude of religions. Ethnologue, an encyclopedic reference work cataloging all of the world's 7,111 known living languages, reports India as a home to 398 languages besides thousands of dialects. Article 29 protects the rights of minorities to conserve their language, script, and culture. Article 30, much in the news lately, empowers religious and linguistic minorities to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice. This ensures the preservation of cultural identity. Universal adult suffrage is another important feature that empowers every section of society with right to vote to all adults regardless of caste, religion, gender, or economic status. For protection of the marginalised communities, the Constitution includes provisions for affirmative action, ensuring political, educational, and employment opportunities for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes. The coexistence of secularism and pluralism are two basic features that are central to India's unity in diversity. By respecting minority rights, the Constitution prevents the dominance of any single group over others, while pluralism fosters inclusivity, ensuring that all communities feel valued and represented in the nation-building process.

I have often said that India is secular because Hindus are secular and the living proof is our constitution.

When the country was partitioned in the name of religion, Pakistan became an Islamic republic whereas India chose to be secular unanimously in the Constituent Assembly where an overwhelming majority (82 per cent) of members were Hindus! The reason India is looked upon by the world community with awe and respect is its unique plural and secular



identity which has kept the exceptionally huge and diverse country united. It is noteworthy that the word "secular" was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, during the Emergency under Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's government. The amendment inserted the words "secular" and "socialist" into the Preamble, making the description of India as: "Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic." The

necessity of adding the term "secular" has been debated extensively, especially in the last couple of decades. Was it really necessary when secularism oozes from most articles? One section of the population is fighting for its deletion from the Preamble, especially because it was brought in by their bete noire Indira Gandhi and that too during the much despised emergency. They overlook the fact that it would not alter the secular character of the Constitution one bit. While some think it is redundant, for others it is reinforcement. Either way the debate is superfluous. Secularism and pluralism are considered parts of the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, as affirmed by various judgments of the Supreme Court. The basic structure doctrine, established in the landmark Kesavananda Bharati v State of Kerala (1973) case, identifies certain fundamental principles of the Constitution that cannot be amended by Parliament, even through its constitutional amending power under Article 368. In the case of SR Bommai v Union of India (1994), the Supreme Court explicitly recognised secularism as a part of the basic structure. The Court ruled that: Secularism means that the state must maintain neutrality in matters of religion and ensure equal treatment of all religions. Any law or amendment that undermines secularism would be unconstitutional. Like secularism, pluralism is also a part of the basic structure. Pluralism refers to the coexistence of diverse cultural, linguistic, religious, and social groups in harmony. It is intrinsic to India's identity as a multicultural society.

Kerala

A vacation in paradise

Kerala is magical. Every corner and every turn of this magnetic state has a visual wonder tucked away. So pack your bags and get ready; a travel across paradise awaits you

A vacation to the south of India ensures more than just a magnificent visual treat and the skipping of a heartbeat. Kerala's breathtaking views and natural splendours pull

aside their green curtains to greet every traveller. The friendly locals are helpful and join their hands together to welcome all avid travelers with platters of appam and puttu and a shy namaskaram. Away from

all strains and burdens of a city life, this year, do take the time to visit the surreal state of Kerala. Kerala is a place resplendent with natural beauty. Named as one of the 'ten paradises of the world' by the National

Geographic Traveler, Kerala is famous especially for its ecotourism initiatives. The states name, in fact, originates from two words- 'kera' and 'alam', where 'kera' means coconut and 'alam' means land or location. Apart from the food, pristine rain

forests, beguiling beaches, the one feature that's exclusive to Kerala are the backwaters. These waters are marked by a unique ecosystem wherein lagoons, lakes, canals, estuaries and deltas of several rivers meet the Arabian Sea. If you are looking for a quiet, rejuvenating and peaceful getaway, then look around no more. The quaint and peaceful backwaters prove to be the perfect dose for your restless soul. Here's a look at some of the prime spots where one can visit the backwaters.

Kumarakom
The village of Kumarakom is situated 16 km away from Kottayam town, Central Kerala. One can reach this place either by the train - 16 kms from Kottayam; or by air - 76 kms from Cochin International Airport. As one enters Kumarakom, the environment seems almost freshly-laundered and the serenity of the place takes one by surprise. The chirping of wild birds peeking from an unknown distance helps break the mysteriously silent ambience of the backwaters. A bed of clay sand and a slippery inlet leads one towards a colony of the most exquisite and extremely beautiful houseboats. Some houseboats have an open wide front, designed for some lazy bachelors who want to lounge around with a small TV, food and drinks and watch the calm water. Some house boats have the capacity to carry almost 5

families. The land on both sides is dotted with gangling palm trees. As one looks ahead, one sees a vast stretch of nothingness; only the silent water.

Thiruvallam
The friendly, popular and crowded Thiruvallam is 10 kms from Thiruvananthapuram. One can reach this place by road or rail. This specific location is famous for its canoe rides, kayaking and cruises in kettuvalloms (house boats). The Boat Club here organises tours to the nearby islands of Pozhikara and Edayar as well as visits to coir manufacturing units. While sailing, hear the peaceful chorus of the rippling water alongside your houseboat cruise as you float on the breathtaking Kerala backwaters with palm fringed golden beaches on both sides. What is also truly magical about a houseboat ride is the breathtaking view of the untouched and inaccessible rural Kerala while you float! Seeing bobbing heads of locals swimming alongside your boat isn't uncommon. Nor is it rare to see small thatched-roofed huts on the banks of the waters with locals watching you sail by.

Ashkkumar
Located in Kollam district of Kerala in southern India, Ashtamudi is one of the major centres of backwater tourism. One can reach this place by

rail; Kollam being the nearest rail head. One can also reach this place by bus. Both luxury as well as semi deluxe buses are available from Kollam to Ashtamudi. Ashtamudi means 'eight coned'. This name is indicative of the lake's topography. Thevally lake, Kandachira lake, Kureepuzha lake, Kallada lake, Perumon lake, Kumbalath lake, Kanjirothu lake and Thekkumbhagam lake form the eight branches of Ashtamudi lake.

Apart from enjoying a peaceful backwater ride, one can also truly witness the culture and traditions of Kerala here. One can participate in the festivals at the Sreekrishna Swamy Temple, Asramam, Thrikkadavoor Mahadeva Temple and Kottamkulangara temple.

The various islands that make a semi-circular cover around the backwaters are converted into the most breath-taking and luxurious resorts. Long, comfortable benches are spread along the banks of these islands where happy and relaxed bones find peace and tranquility. At night, the backwaters light up and look like a picture post card. Emerald green hills and mists slip over the hills in the aqueous light, passing through the undulating hills.

So get ready, pack your bags, and look up ahead. A fulfilling vacation and a soulful journey is waiting for you along the cost of the Arabian Sea. Do take the time to visit this paradise - one that is God's calls His Own.



Kabini

Wild, peaceful and all in between



Kabini, on the border of Karnataka and Kerala, makes a perfect wild getaway. The best thing about the foothills of the Nilgiri Hills and Western Ghats is the abundance of wildlife that one gets to spot. It needn't always be about spotting that elusive tiger. The joy for the wildlife lover is to spot many other rare species here, which include leopards, wild dogs and many different reptiles.

Kabini too is one such delight, where one can go to check out some rare sightings of animals at the Nagarhole National Park. Found alongside the

river banks of the Kabini river are many species of birds and animals, making it a much sought-after destination, especially for the wildlife photographers. The best attractions would have to be the land and water safari. While on land safari, one gets to spot bison, elephants and peacocks along with some other rare sightings, the river safari is a delight for the ornithologists, with many winged-wonders resting alongside the river. A

little known fact is that wild spots around Kabini used to be a private hunting lodge of the Mysore Maharaja as it used to boast of a lot of wild cats. Today, Kabini has many resorts and camps as options for people to stay. The area also boasts of a dam as the other tourist destination. For the culture vultures, there are some interesting tribes that reside in these forests, who have fascinating tales to tell. Their handicrafts are also worth a buy. A 10-hour drive from Chennai is how one would reach this place. Alternately, one could either opt to take a train or fly to Bangalore and Mysore, to reduce the time spent travelling on the road. Getting to Kabini from Coimbatore is also another option, if one wants to make a travel holiday out of it, traversing through Mudumalai and Bandipur National Parks. Kabini is also closely connected to the Wayanad district in Kerala.

From picturesque beaches to tranquil mountain hideaways—India has an abundance of post-wedding getaways. Here are some of the most popular honeymoon destinations that you and your significant other can reminisce about in the years to come.

Lakshadweep

Exotic and sun-kissed beaches, verdant landscapes and turquoise-hued waters—what more could you ask of a tropical honeymoon? The real attraction of the Lakshadweep islands, however, rests underwater: the pristine lagoons, unspoiled coral reefs and warm waters are a magnet for honeymooners.

Goa

Goa has always been a natural choice amongst honeymooners—home to miles and miles of scenic beaches, swaying coconut palms, old colonial Portuguese buildings, delicious cuisine and an easy-going, laid back atmosphere. In Goa, there's a sense of revelry, merriment and abandon in the air that is totally contagious.

The Andamans

Jet-setting couples favour Andaman and Nicobar Islands for the near-deserted beaches, incredible corals and marine life, and an intriguing colonial past. Newlyweds can enjoy everything from scuba diving and snorkelling to spending time soaking in spectacular views of deep forests and magnificent hills. Plus, the resorts here know only one standard of luxury—extravagant.

Coorg (Kodagu)

Spread out across the Western Ghats, the misty valley of Coorg makes for the perfect honeymoon destination. Fondly referred to



India's best honeymoon Destinations

as the 'Scotland of India' due to its verdant beauty and pleasant climes, Coorg has a special place among all hill stations in India. Elite resorts nestled into the landscape offer couples an unparalleled window into the Coorg's lush flora and fauna

Udaipur

Fantastical palaces, temples, havelis and countless narrow, crooked streets add to the

charm of this Rajasthan destination. Even if you are just wandering around the city taking in the majestic sights or cruising the calm lakes on multiple boat rides—the city is bound to sweep you off your feet.

Nainital

An erstwhile summer retreat of the British, Nainital is a small town settled amidst Uttarakhand's Kumaon range. The cool waters of the the Naini Lake, the busy town bazaar and a web of walking tracks around the forested hillsides make for the perfect honeymoon backdrop.

Kerala

The rich vegetation, biological diversity and gentle pace of village life in the backwaters beckon all kinds of honeymooners to Kerala. Spend an evening lounging on a serene beach or a day exploring the splendid backwaters, and you have your perfect getaway.



"Democratic Deep State Weaponising US Courts": M Jethmalani In Adani Case

The senior lawyer said Congress must put out credible evidence before demanding a JPC probe

New Delhi: Senior lawyer and former Rajya Sabha MP Mahesh Jethmalani said the Congress is "reading too much" into the indictment against the Adani Group in the US for "purely political purposes". He said the Opposition party must provide credible evidence before demanding a parliamentary probe. Mr Jethmalani said the US Department of Justice indictment does not have evidence of any act of bribery carried out in India. "All this noise the Congress has made is completely misconceived. What is the evidence which proves that there was any conspiracy to

bribe Indian officials to get these solar energy contracts? (there is) nothing in the indictment," he said.

Congress party is blindly relying on an indictment against an Indian conglomerate which has undertaken extremely useful businesses in India and abroad. This is not in India's interest, and to blindly follow a US court indictment which gives no evidence and does not suggest that any of the Adanis or the company which issued the bonds, Adani Green, have done any wrong in India. Congress is reading too much into the indictment for purely political purposes. And they have been aided, as is revealed by the timing of this indictment, by the Democratic deep state" Mr Jethmalani said. The Democratic Deep State, the senior lawyer said, was weaponising US courts to destabilise India's economic rise. The senior lawyer said that he doesn't know what evidence the judge is the US who issued the indictment acted upon. Slamming the Congress, he said, "This is a conspiracy to



stop India's growth story. You are repeatedly going after one corporate group, trying to embarrass the Prime Minister... he is an industrialist who has executed many infrastructure projects successfully in India and abroad of which you should be proud." "Don't rush to condemn him blindly following a US indictment. You are behaving like local agents of a foreign power that has an interest in stopping India's economic growth. Indirectly, you affect retail investors," he said. Mr Jethmalani said there is no need for an

inquiry by any authority in India or a Joint Parliamentary Committee unless the Congress puts out "credible evidence" in the public domain. "Please put out evidence, you only want to create some kind of noise and disrupt Parliament. This is completely unwarranted." Lawyer and BJP spokesperson Nalin Kohli told, "Mr Rahul Gandhi and his family members are facing charges in the National Herald case. The standard line is innocent unless proven guilty. At another level, when India is being celebrated across the globe as a bright spot on the economic side, we need to consider whether comments that come from the political class are broadly trying to shake confidence in India's story. Over the last two-three days, it's almost like a celebration. After all, when the economy grows, everyone benefits." On the Opposition's uproar in Parliament, Mr Kohli said, "There is a pattern. Let me pick up the Congress strategy. There was Rafale, then there was Pegasus... disruption of Parliament has become a norm."

Lakhimpur Kheri violence: SC tells Ashish Mishra to respond to allegation of threatening witnesses

At the outset, a counsel appearing for one of the complainants in the case told the court that he has filed a plea in which he has said that witnesses were threatened by Mishra.

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court on Wednesday directed former Union minister Ajay Mishra's son Ashish Mishra to respond to allegation that witnesses were being threatened in the 2021 Lakhimpur Kheri violence case that claimed eight lives. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Ujjal Bhuyan asked senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for Mishra, to file an affidavit clarifying his stand after he refuted the allegations. At the outset, a counsel appearing for one of the complainants in the case told the court that he has filed a plea in which he has said that witnesses were threatened by Mishra.

Dave denied the allegations and said this is an "endless process." "It's not me in the photographs. This is not for this court, this is for outside," Dave said. The top court then asked Mishra to file an affidavit denying the allegations within four weeks. On July 22, the top court had granted bail to Ashish Mishra and restricted his movement to Delhi or Lucknow. On January 25 last year, the top court had given Ashish Mishra interim bail in the "unfortunate ghastly incident." It had also granted bail to four farmers -- Guruwinder Singh, Kamaljeet Singh, Gurupreet Singh and Vichitra Singh -- in the case and directed the trial court to expedite hearing.

On October 3, 2021, eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Tikunia in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district. The violence erupted when farmers were protesting against Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. Four farmers were mowed down by a sports utility vehicle. A driver and two BJP workers were then allegedly lynched by angry farmers.

A journalist also died in the violence. The apex court in February had extended Ashish Mishra's interim bail and asked its registry to obtain a report from the trial court on the progress of the case. The Supreme Court on January 25 last year had said Ashish Mishra should not stay in Uttar Pradesh or Delhi during the period of interim bail. This was done with a view to avoid any influence on witnesses in the case. Later, on September 26, the apex court relaxed his bail conditions to enable him to visit and stay in the National Capital Territory to look after his ailing mother and for the treatment of his daughter.

On December 6 last year, the trial court framed charges against Ashish Mishra and 12 others for the alleged offences of murder, criminal conspiracy and under other penal laws in the case of the farmers' deaths, paving the way for the trial to start.

5 doctors dead as Scorpio collides with divider, hits truck on Agra expressway

New Delhi: Five doctors were dead, and an individual was seriously injured in a road accident on the Lucknow-Agra Expressway in Uttar Pradesh's Kannauj district, early on Wednesday (November 27). According to police, the accident occurred around 3 am when a speeding Scorpio SUV, en route from Lucknow to Agra, lost control and collided with a divider. The vehicle then veered into the opposite lane and was hit by an oncoming truck. Superintendent of Police Amit Kumar Anand confirmed that all five



victims died on the spot. The lone survivor, identified as Jaiveer Singh (39), a postgraduate student at Saifai Medical College, was rushed to Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Medical College in Tirwa and is undergoing treatment.

The victims were identified as Dr Anirudh Verma (29) from Agra, Dr Santosh Kumar Maurya (46) from Bhadohi, Dr Arun Kumar (34) from Kannauj, Dr Nardev (35) from Bareilly and Rakesh Kumar (38). The group, affiliated with the Uttar Pradesh University of Medical Sciences in Saifai, was returning from a wedding in Lucknow when the accident occurred. Circle Officer Dr Priyanka Bajpai said that the bodies have been sent for postmortem, and an investigation into the accident is underway.

Counter-terrorism force NSG to be stationed in Jammu amid rising attacks: Sources

New Delhi: A special task force of the National Security Guard (NSG), the country's counter-terrorism unit, will be stationed in Jammu in view of the recent spike in terror attacks in the region, sources told. The counter-terrorism unit force will be stationed in the city based on the instructions of the Ministry of Home Affairs, sources said. Sources also said that NSG's special task force will be stationed permanently in Jammu city so that they can reach any spot in case of an emergency or terror attack.

The Jammu region comprises the districts of Jammu, Doda, Kathua, Ramban, Reasi, Kishtwar, Poonch,



Rajouri, Udhampur and Samba. This year, the Jammu region has witnessed a significant surge in terror attacks, affecting eight out of 10 districts, and 44 people have been killed in such incidents, including 18 security personnel, 14 civilians and 13 terrorists. The Rajouri-Poonch belt, which had seen a significant decline in terror activities over the past decade, has again become a focal point of terror attacks. Since October 2021, the region has witnessed deadly attacks targeting Army vehicles, resulting in the deaths of over 100 people, including 47 security personnel, 48 terrorists and seven civilians. To counter the rising terror threat, the army, police, and central armed police forces have intensified their operations.

Udhayanidhi Stalin will one day become chief minister: Tamil Nadu minister

New Delhi: Tamil Nadu School Education Minister and DMK leader Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi has expressed confidence that Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin will ascend to the role of Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in the future. Speaking at a DMK youth wing event on Tuesday to release the birthday song "Thalaivaney, Ilam Thalaivane" ahead of Udhayanidhi's 47th birthday on November 27, Anbil Mahesh declared, "Indraya deputy chief minister, oru naal definitely chief minister" which translates to, "Today's deputy chief minister, one day definitely chief minister." His remarks drew enthusiastic applause from party workers. The minister praised Udhayanidhi for his dedication to DMK's ideology, describing him as

"well-mannered" and steadfast in his beliefs. Without directly mentioning the Sanatana Dharma controversy that

Thoothukudi S Joel, celebrates Udhayanidhi as both a leader and a youth icon.



This is the first time a Tamil Nadu minister has publicly expressed confidence in Udhayanidhi's eventual rise to the chief ministerial post. Several DMK leaders had earlier voiced support for his elevation as Deputy Chief Minister, a position he currently holds alongside being the youth wing secretary of the party. Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of Chief Minister MK Stalin and grandson of late DMK patriarch M Karunanidhi, has been a prominent figure in Tamil Nadu politics, commanding significant influence among the party's youth cadre. His recent political trajectory, combined with the growing support within the DMK, has led to speculation about his potential to take over the state's top post in the coming years.

erupted following Udhayanidhi's remarks last year, Anbil Mahesh highlighted Udhayanidhi's refusal to apologise, affirming, "He said he is Kalaignar's grandson." The birthday song, titled "Thalaivaney, Ilam Thalaivane", composed by DMK youth wing deputy secretary

NGT issues notice to govt, agencies over rapid expansion of Himalayan glacial lakes

The glacial lake expansion is a direct result of rising temperatures and accelerated retreat of glaciers due to climate change.

NEW DELHI: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notice to the Centre and its agencies regarding the rapid expansion of the Himalayan glacial lakes, raising concerns over the increasing risk of natural disasters. NGT took a suo motu proceeding over a media report. The report indicated the expansion of Himalayan glacial lakes by 11 per cent in over a decade, raising serious flood threat concerns. It also called for urgent action. The NGT issued notice to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment, and Central Pollution Control Board. The bench scheduled the date of the hearing on March 10 next year. The glacial lake expansion is a direct result of rising temperatures and accelerated retreat of glaciers due to climate change. Glacial lakes are formed after the melting of



glaciers. Rise in such lakes holding a significant volume of water raises concern about Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs). GLOFs can trigger catastrophic consequences to downstream communities, infrastructure and the biodiversity.

In an order issued on November 19, the bench headed by the NGT chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said, "The report

notes that the surface area of glacial lakes in India has increased by 33.7 per cent from 2011 to 2024."

The tribunal also noted that a recent report by the Central Water Commission (CWC) has also highlighted a significant expansion of glacial lakes in the Himalayan region, with an increase of 10.81 per cent in surface area from 2011 to 2024. "The report identifies 67 lakes in India that have seen an increase of over 40 per cent in surface area, placing them at the high-risk category for potential GLOFs," the tribunal said. The order also noted that the expansions have been observed in regions such as Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh.

The tribunal stressed the urgent need for enhanced monitoring, early warning systems, and improved flood management strategies to mitigate the potential damage.

Doesn't match our culture: Minister for laws to curb social media vulgar content

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw batted for strict laws to be implemented to curb objectionable content on social media and said such content did not match with Indian culture.

New Delhi: Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Wednesday called for laws to curb objectionable content on social media and hoped that the Opposition would have a discussion on the same. There is a lot of difference between the culture of our country and the countries from where these social media platforms have come. I hope the opposition can come on board

and we can have a discussion on this. I would like the Standing Committee of Parliament to take up this issue and strict laws are made regarding the same," Vaishnaw said in the Lok Sabha during the Winter Session of Parliament. On his part, Govil, who essayed the role of Lord Ram in Ramanand Sagar's 'Ramayan', seconded what Vaishnaw said.

"There is a lot of content on social media, especially private players, which does not match Indian culture. There is a need for a watchdog to keep a close eye on the kind of content that is being given on various platforms," Govil said. "There are so many private players and so many platforms that have cropped up over the past few years. With no regulations on the content, anything and everything can be seen on platforms. The young people are being misled because of this content," he said.

The government wants platforms to be more responsible for the content hosted on their



sites, requiring them to take action against harmful material promptly. It also said that social media platforms are required to appoint grievance officers and set up a mechanism for addressing user complaints. The government has urged social media platforms to be more proactive in content moderation, especially when it comes to harmful or illegal content.

It said that social media companies are expected to submit transparency reports detailing actions taken against harmful

content, thus increasing accountability. Vaishnaw has suggested that social media platforms should adopt a more self-regulatory approach, especially when it comes to preventing content that could harm the fabric of Indian society. He has maintained that the intent is to strike a balance between free speech and responsible content moderation. Earlier this month, Vaishnaw highlighted four critical challenges facing news media, calling for greater accountability and fairness from Big Tech. He listed fake news, algorithmic bias, artificial intelligence and fair compensation as the top concerns.

Vaishnaw warned that algorithms driving digital platforms often prioritise content that maximises engagement by amplifying sensational or divisive narratives. This dynamic, he asserted, posed societal risks and necessitates solutions that balance engagement with ethical considerations.

Tamil Nadu's proud of its Heritage

For those who love soaking in some culture and learning about the past heritage, Tamil Nadu can be a good beginning.

The state not only houses a great collection of artefacts in its various museums, but UNESCO has recognized some of the sites here as having cultural and heritage importance. As of last year, five more sites including Sri Ranganathar temple in Srirangam, Fort St George in Chennai, Chettinad, Kazhugumalai rock sculptures and Pulikat Lake were included in the tentative list by the ministry for UNESCO's world heritage status. As we celebrate World Heritage Week, Chennai Times lists out some destination that you can visit in the state...

Kanyakumari, at the southernmost tip of the country, is one of those few towns that were ruled by Cheras, Cholas, Pandyas and even the Nayaks. Apart from being a historically important place, it also generates several mythological interest. Right from the multicolour

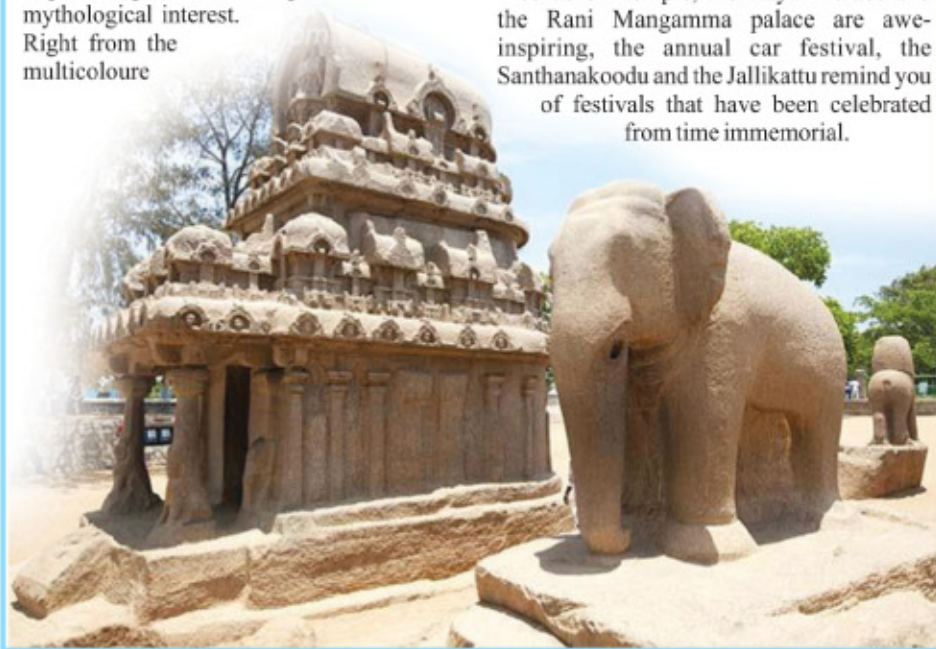
d sand on the sea shore to the ancient Kumari Amman temple, from Vivekananda rock memorial and the Gandhi memorial to the more recent 133 ft statue of saint poet Thiruvalluvar, Kanyakumari offers a lot to those who dig history!

Located a few kilometres from Kumbakonam, the Airawateswar temple at Darasuram is a recognised UNESCO World Heritage Monument. The temple is said to be built by Rajaraja Chola II in the 12th century, and was restored by the ASI.

The rock-carved Ratha temples and cave sanctuaries and sculptures at Mahabalipuram, built by Pallavas in the 7th and 8th centuries, found a place in UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1984. Apart from the 40-plus monuments, and the largest open-air bas-relief in the world, one can also get a taste of rockcarving and sculpture-making first hand there.

Tanjore is a treasure trove for art lovers and history fanatics. The Brihadisvara temple at Tanjore and Gangaikonda Cholapuram, built by the Cholas between the 11th and 12th century, attract hordes of people every day. The inscriptions on the temple walls, the ancient paintings and bronze sculptures provide a window into the past. The Saraswati Mahal library, the Sivaganga park, Thanjavur Maratha palace, Schwartz Church, and the museums are among the other attractions in Tanjore.

As much as Madurai is known for its religious destinations, it's known for its architectural brilliance as well. While the 1000-pillared halls and porthamarai kulam in Meenaskshi temple, the Nayak Palace and the Rani Mangamma palace are awe-inspiring, the annual car festival, the Santhanakoodu and the Jallikattu remind you of festivals that have been celebrated from time immemorial.



Machu Picchu, the city that was never lost

Although US explorer Hiram Bingham achieved worldwide fame for having "discovered" the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, all historical evidence points to the fact that the famous archaeological site had never been lost.

Bingham mounted three expeditions - in 1911, 1912 and 1915 - to Machu Picchu, which he dubbed "the lost city of the Incas", but amid his adventures he sidestepped historical information that was found and even failed to mention it to important experts in the area, among them one of his compatriots.

This person was Albert Giesecke, a 29-year-old US academic who was the dean of the Universidad San Antonio Abad in Cuzco and gave him the references and even the name of Melchor Arteaga, the peasant who later guided Bingham to the famous ruins July 24, 1911.

But before Bingham, who is thought to be the inspiration for "Indiana Jones", other people visited the site, although always in search of treasure, mineral deposits or river routes to the Amazon.

The most famous of all of them was Cuzco landowner Agustin Lizarraga, who arrived at the ruins nine years

before Bingham and even wrote on the wall of the Three Windows in Spanish "A. Lizarraga, July 14, 1902". Lizarraga carried out the first efforts to clean up the ruins along with Justo A. Ochoa, Gabino Sanchez and Enrique Palma, but he drowned in the Vilcanota River in February 1912.

Even before Lizarraga, however, there existed 19th century maps on which Machu Picchu was marked and, going back even further, the first indications of the site date back to 1565, when in the writings of Spaniard Diego Rodriguez de Figueroa it appears bearing the name "Pijchu".

Much of this information was presented in 2003 by Peruvian historian Mariana Mould de Pease in her book "Machu Picchu and the Code of Ethics of the American Anthropological Society".

She provided maps that prove that the Inca citadel had been known and - apparently - looted in the 19th century by German adventurer August Berns.

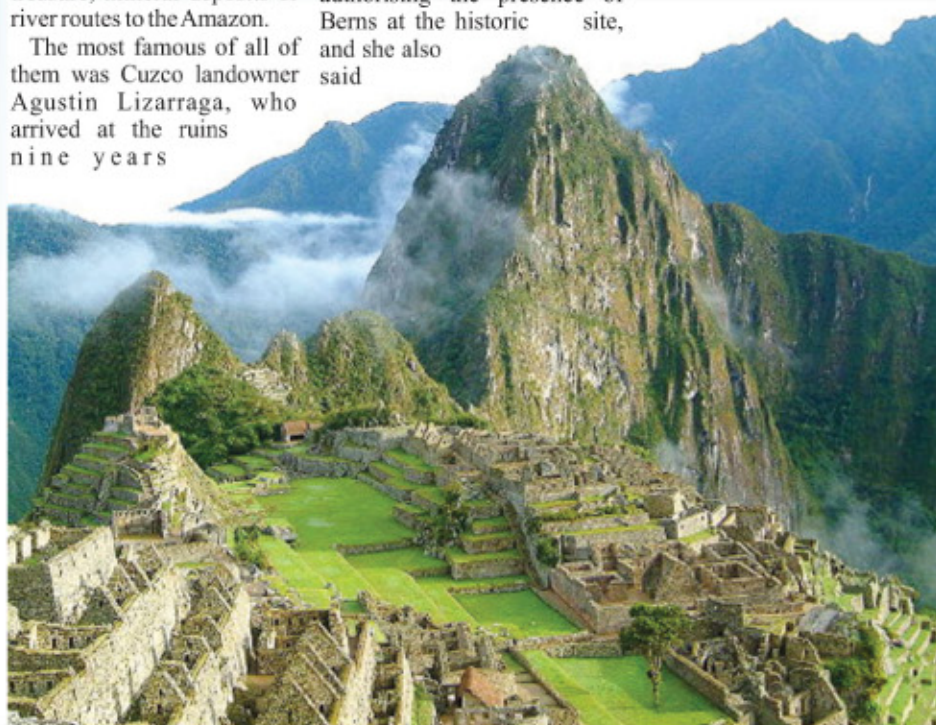
In addition, the historian revealed that Bingham had among his papers the resolution authorising the presence of Berns at the historic site, and she also said

that British historian Clements Markham, who became president of the Royal Geographical Society in London, also had maps showing the location of Machu Picchu.

Peruvian historian Carlos Carcelen says, meanwhile, that Berns settled in the Cuzco region and founded a lumber and mining company in the late 1880s and then set about looting the artifacts he uncovered at Machu Picchu with the knowledge of the government.

Mould also noted the existence of other maps dated in 1870 and 1874 and said that they constitute "irrefutable proof that Machu Picchu was completely integrated into republican Peru".

With the passage of a century, and with the full acknowledgment of the archaeological world, the consensus exists that Bingham was not the discoverer of the site, although he was certainly the first person to take note of the historical and cultural significance of the citadel, now held to be one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.



Rajasthan is one state of India that gives many images at once when one thinks about it- the vast desert, the Rajputana Heritage, India's largest state and many more. Udaipur, probably the most famous leisure destination in Rajasthan has all of these images...and that too in a good measure!



Udaipur City of Lakes

Places of interest

Lakes galore

Udaipur mainly has 5 lakes which are like must watch. Fateh Sagar lake is called the pride of the City of Lakes of Udaipur, it is an artificial lake constructed by Maharana in North of Lake Pichola in 1678 and to the north-west of Udaipur. It is one of the four lakes of the Udaipur city; the other three lakes are: the Lake Pichola (within the Udaipur town), Udai Sagar Lake (13 km to the east of Udaipur) and Dhebar Lake or Jaisamand Lake (52 km south east of Udaipur).

The vintage car museum

The Maharanas of Udaipur once possessed and used regal splendours of automobiles as their luxuries. Grandness was a way of life with the Rajasthan Royals. This museum is a must visit.

The City Palace

This is the second biggest palace in India. It was started by Maharana Udai Singh, completed by his following generation. Located peacefully on the banks of Lake Pichola, this majestic City Palace is the most-visited tourist attraction here.

Saheliyon Ki Bari

Situated near the Fateh Sagar Lake, the



architecture of the garden provides a breath-taking view to any observer. The garden is embellished with numerous fountains in its water pools, and marble elephants.

Food

Udaipur cuisine is debarred of non-vegetarian dishes. Udaipur is famous for its Dal-Baati-Churma, Gatte-Ki-Sabzi, Kachori and Mirchi Bada. Meals are usually comprised of lentils, vegetables and a fantastic variety of spices. Lentil curries, yoghurt soups with deep fried breads and chilli fritters make the favorite

feast. Oera, dried mango and Sangri (beans) go together with most of the meals.

Climate

The best time to visit Udaipur is between March and September! Udaipur has a sultry kind of climate.

Best time to visit: Winter (Sep to Mar)

Summer (April To August)

How to get there

By air

Udaipur Airport namely Maharana Pratap Airport is located near Dabok at a distance of 22 kms from the city of Udaipur. Many domestic airlines connect the city to all the major cities of India including Jaipur, Mumbai, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Regular air services are available for Delhi and Mumbai too.

By rail

Udaipur Railway Station is located at a comfortable distance from the city of Udaipur. Rajasthan Railways connects Udaipur station with all the other cities of Rajasthan as well as India. There are frequent trains which run to and from Udaipur connecting Jaipur, Mumbai and Delhi.

By road

The city lies on the Golden Quadrilateral National Highway (NH) 8, midway between Delhi and Mumbai, located around 700 kilometers from either city. The East West Corridor which starts from Porbandar and ends at Silchar passes and is intersecting the Golden Quadrilateral and shares the common space from Udaipur to Chittor. The roads in this part of the country are paved and fit for private vehicles. One can either drive from Jaipur (around 6 hours via Chittorgarh), from Kota (3 hours - four lane highway) or Surat (9 hours), or take a Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) bus from Bikaner House, India Gate in Delhi. Rajasthan roadways.



From hitting the powdery slopes to going hiking, there are a lot of ways to get the adrenalin going this season. Pack the right outfits and gear to go with it...

Winter is here and folks are already in a festive mood. If you're ready to jet-set off on a holiday, here's what you have in store...

Skiing fun

Getting into 'snow motion' is high on everyone's list. Try skiing, for one; the French or Italian Alps are apt. Or go closer to home, to the snowy reaches of Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir. Ski breaks with family and friends make for a fun activity. And when the sun goes down, there are also things to do beyond the icy slopes, with winter saunas and wellness regimens, cookouts, log fires, camping out in fancy tents and more.

Snowboarding

The other huge draw is the winter sport of snowboarding. It involves coming down a snowy slope while standing on a board attached to your feet. It has now become one of the fastest growing sports in the world and attained Olympic status in 1998. You can choose a terrain as per your skill level. Snowboarding is considered a great cardio workout allowing a person to burn about 400 calories an hour. It also releases endorphins and acts as a stress buster.

Winter hiking

Get ready for a white holiday

Tackling tranquil trails in the cold air has a charm of its own. Although this comes with its own hazards, such as quick changing weather, short daylight hours and other perils, if you



plan the hike right, you can make it pleasant.

Pack right

Remember to pack the fuzzy tops and sweaters. This is bulky and bound to take up luggage space, so go light on other clothes. Other essentials you will need are ear muffs, mittens, thick socks, hydrating lotions, lip balms and fleece shirts. Also put in one all-weather resistant jacket.

Buy the right shoes

A tough pair of walking shoes are a must. So are snow shoes, which are meant for treading on wet ground.

Pss! a tip is to Look for alternate airports

This is prime season, so if you heading to destination X and you wanted airport Y, which is too costly, try another closeby airport instead. Look online and ask around for more affordable hubs.

5 must-haves on your winter shopping list

Gifts: Make sure you have everyone's names on the list and tick as you keep buying.

Ornaments for the home: Rice lights and decorations, baubles, candles and more.

Toys: Buy educational games, soft toys and books.

Turkey: Roast turkey is a must-have for Christmas. Pick this one up before the best birds get sold.

Toppings: Lemon zest, currants, raisins and dryfruits, as you will need these as toppings on desserts.

Zomato CEO to forgo Rs 3.5 crore salary till FY26

BENGALURU. Food delivery platform Zomato's CEO Deepinder Goyal will forgo his annual salary of Rs 3.5 crore until FY26. Its qualified institutional placement (QIP) documents revealed Goyal has voluntarily waived his salary for a period starting from April 1, 2021 till March 31, 2026. Earlier in FY21, the CEO had said he would forgo his salary for about 36 months till the end of FY24. The company will raise Rs 8,500 crore via QIP and has set a floor price of Rs 265.91 for the issue, as per the filings with the exchanges. This comes at a time when quick commerce players are investing in dark stores. Zomato also has plans to increase the number of warehouses that are used for Blinkit.

Zomato also announced shutdown of its operations in Qatar. It announced the liquidation of Zomato Internet LLC (ZIL), step down subsidiary of Zomato with effect from November 20, 2024.

"As disclosed in our red herring prospectus dated July 6, 2021 and prospectus dated July 19, 2021, ZIL didn't have active business operations and was under process of liquidation," as per the filings. Its consolidated adjusted revenue grew 58% YoY (13% QoQ) to Rs 5,127 crore in Q2FY25 and consolidated adjusted EBITDA rose by Rs 289 crore YoY to Rs 330 crore driven by improvement in margins across all our businesses.

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das discharged from Chennai hospital

MUMBAI. The Reserve Bank has said the governor Shaktikanta Das, who was admitted to a Chennai hospital after suffering from high acidity issues last night has been discharged is doing fine.

"Governor Das has been discharged from the Apollo hospital this evening and is doing fine now," RBI said in a statement this evening. Earlier in the day, the central bank had said late last night the 67-year-old governor experienced acidity and was admitted in Apollo Hospital, Chennai for observation.

The statement also said the Das was doing fine and would be discharged in some time. "There is no cause for concern as the governor was doing fine now," the



spokesperson had added. Das is tipped to get a third term as the governor as the government has not invited applications for a replacement yet. Das' six-year term ends on December 12, making him already the second longest serving governor in the last six decades.

Stock market today: BSE Sensex opens flat; Nifty50 above 24,150



NEW DELHI. Stock market today: Indian equity benchmark indices, BSE Sensex and Nifty50, opened flat in trade on Wednesday. While BSE Sensex was above 80,000, Nifty50 was near 24,180. At 9:17 AM, BSE Sensex was trading at 80,009.24, up 5 points or 0.065%. Nifty50 was at 24,186.70, down 8 points or 0.032%.

The domestic markets gave up initial gains on Tuesday following a two-day upward movement amid unfavourable global indicators. A positive development emerged as FIIs became purchasers after persistent selling across 38 trading sessions. However, experts indicate that a definitive shift in FII behaviour requires sustained buying patterns.

"Going ahead the market is likely to consolidate in a broader range in absence of any major trigger in near term, but stock/sector specific action is likely to continue," said Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal.

The current price movement indicates a temporary halt in the upward trajectory towards 24,770 - 24,800, says Jatin Gedia of Sharekhan. He suggests considering minor declines towards 24,070 - 24,050 as purchasing opportunities. US equities finished higher on Tuesday, with technology shares recovering as investors evaluated Trump's trade policies and Federal Reserve minutes.

Asian equities opened cautiously following Trump's tariff announcements. Sydney showed gains whilst Tokyo and Seoul declined. US equity futures remained stable after S&P 500's seventh consecutive rise, achieving its 52nd record this year.

Adani, nephew not charged under US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act: Adani Green informs stock exchange

Adani Green Energy Ltd, which is at the centre of the bribery allegations, said reports claiming that the three have been charged with FCPA violations "are incorrect."

NEW DELHI. Billionaire Gautam Adani, and his nephew Sagar Adani have not been charged with any violation of the US Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in the indictment that authorities filed in the New York court in the alleged bribery case, the Adani Group said on Wednesday. They have been charged under securities fraud that involves levy of monetary penalties. Gautam Adani, founder chairman of the ports-to-energy

conglomerate, Sagar Adani and another key executive, Vneet Jaain, have been charged by the US Department of Justice with being part of an alleged scheme to pay USD 265 million in bribes to Indian officials to win contracts for supply of solar electricity that would yield USD 2 billion profit over a 20-year period. In a stock exchange filing, Adani Green Energy Ltd -- which is at the centre of the bribery allegations -- said reports saying the three have been charged with FCPA violations "are incorrect." They are charged for offences that are punishable with a monetary fine or penalty. "Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and Vneet Jaain have not been charged with any violation of the FCPA in the counts set forth in the indictment of the US DOJ or civil complaint of the US SEC," the filing said. "These directors have been charged on three counts in the criminal indictment, namely (i) alleged securities fraud conspiracy, (ii) alleged wire fraud conspiracy, and (iii) alleged securities fraud," it continued. Adani Group has denied all allegations as "baseless" and



said it will take all possible legal recourse to defend itself. The United States Department of Justice (US DoJ) and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (US SEC) have issued a criminal indictment and brought a civil complaint in the US District Court for the Eastern District of New York, against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani and Vneet Jaain -- all directors of Adani Green Energy Ltd. "The indictment does not specify any quantum of any fine/penalty," the company said. The civil complaint alleges that the executives violated certain sections of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Act of 1934, and to have aided and abetted Adani Green

Energy's violation of the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Act of 1934. "Although the complaint prays for an order directing the defendants to pay civil monetary penalties, it does not quantify the amount of penalty," it added. DoJ has alleged that between 2020 and 2024, senior executives of Adani Green, Azure Power, and CDPQ (Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec -- a Canadian institutional investor and Azure's largest shareholder) participated in a scheme to bribe Indian government officials to ensure the execution of lucrative solar energy supply contracts with Indian government entities. During the same period, senior executives of Adani Green conspired to misrepresent the company's anti-bribery practices (to US-based investors and international financial institutions) and concealed from those investors and institutions their bribery of Indian government officials to obtain billions of dollars in financing for green energy projects, including the corrupt solar energy supply contracts.

Mahindra launches new electric vehicle lineup at starting price of Rs 18.90 lakh

NEW DELHI. Homegrown auto major Mahindra & Mahindra on Tuesday launched its flagship electric origin SUVs - the BE 6e at a starting price of 18.90 lakh and XEV 9e at a starting price of Rs 21.90 lakh. The carmaker will roll out the new SUVs in a phased manner in the latter part of January 2025. Deliveries are expected to commence towards the end of February or early March 2025. The automaker claims a certified range of 682 km (MIDC P1+P2) for BE 6e and 656 km (MIDC P1 + P2) for XEV 9e with 79 kWh advanced LFP battery pack. The unveiling and price announcement by Mahindra for its new EV lineup comes at a time when two other big players are gearing up to launch their battery-powered vehicles. Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) will start producing its first EV early next year. Its parent company Suzuki Motor



Corporation (SMC) recently unveiled its first mass-production battery electric vehicle (BEV) model, named e VITARA, in Milan, Italy. Production for electric SUV will start in 2025, with sales expected to begin in various countries, including Europe, India, and Japan, around summer 2025.

Hyundai Motor India, Korean car brand

and M&M's competition for the number 2 spot in domestic market, will be launching electric version of its most popular SUV Creta early next year. This will be the first big launch by HML after it got listed on Indian exchanges.

Many industry experts believe big launches by the three top automakers will play an important role in boosting electric car adoption in India which till the end of FY24 was just about 2% of the total passenger vehicle sales.

There is also an apprehension about EVs in many global markets over their feasibility. Tata Motors, which controls more than half of the electric car market in India, is also gearing up for a couple of more big EV launches next year. Tata Motors is facing stiff competition from JSW MG Motor whose recent launch Windsor became the top-selling e-car in October.

NTPC Green Energy shares rise after listing. Should you hold or sell

NEW DELHI. Shares of NTPC Green Energy surged after a modest listing on Dalal Street, raising questions among investors about their next move. The stock debuted at Rs 111.50 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), a 3.25% increase from its issue price of Rs 108.

By 10:40 am, it climbed further to Rs 120.80, signalling strong post-listing momentum. The upward movement in NTPC Green's share price defied expectations of a muted debut.

With the stock gaining traction, retail investors are now evaluating whether to hold or sell their shares. Market experts offered guidance, highlighting the company's long-term potential while addressing short-term concerns. Prashanth Tapse, Senior Vice President (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd., said the listing met expectations of a flat debut, considering valuations and market conditions. However, he stressed the company's long-term

growth prospects, particularly in India's renewable energy sector.

"For long-term investors, we believe NTPC Green Energy Ltd. is a great opportunity to invest in a leading player in India's renewable energy sector, backed by the formidable resources and expertise of NTPC Ltd. With ambitious renewable energy targets, the company is well-equipped to capitalize on the increasing demand for sustainable energy solutions. NTPC Green's strategic expansion into green hydrogen, green chemicals, and battery storage further enhances its growth prospects, positioning it at the forefront of India's energy transition," he said. Tapse recommended holding the stock for the long term, despite the possibility of short-term volatility. He also advised non-allotted investors to accumulate shares if the price dips closer to the issue price. Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd., also expressed optimism, noting

that the listing exceeded modest expectations due to improved market sentiment. "The IPO had received a moderate overall subscription of 2.55 times, reflecting measured investor interest. As a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Ltd., the company benefits from a robust and diversified portfolio across geographies and off-takers. Its consistent top-line growth is encouraging, though temporary fluctuations in profitability and margins remain a concern," she said.

Nyati recommended holding the stock with a stop loss at ₹110, citing its strong long-term potential in the renewable energy space. Both experts stressed on NTPC Green's strategic positioning in India's transition to renewable energy. While the company's aggressive pricing and market fluctuations pose short-term challenges, its focus on green hydrogen and sustainable energy solutions offers significant growth opportunities.

integrated heating element for the driver's front window. "Driver cab front look-out glass has been specially developed with embedded heating elements. These elements will keep the glass defrosted in sub-zero temperatures," the official explained, noting this as a first for Indian Railways. The brake system's air dryer mechanism has been equipped with heaters for optimal performance. Officials revealed that the special Vande Bharat trains' water tanks are fitted with silicone heating pads (1800 W per water tank) to prevent freezing. "Heating pads have been provided for bio retention tanks. There are also self-regulating heating cables for plumbing to avoid freezing of water," the official stated.

The trains' water distribution system includes heating cables and thermal insulation throughout.

Indian Railways maintains a standard temperature of 24 degrees Celsius in air-conditioned trains.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link will establish railway connectivity between Kashmir and the mainland. Currently, rail travel extends only to Katra in Jammu. The Rs 37,012-crore project aims to eliminate the transport gap between Jammu and Srinagar. Railway connectivity already exists between Baramulla, Srinagar, Qazigund, Banihal and Sangaldan. Chenab bridge, which is the world's highest.



Ola Electric Shares Jump 8% After Launching Gig and S1 Z Scooters; Details

Ola Electric Shares: Reservations for the new scooters have already begun, with deliveries scheduled to start in April 2025 for the Ola Gig range

NEW DELHI. Shares of Ola Electric surged 8% on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) on Wednesday, following the announcement of two new electric scooter ranges priced as low as Rs 39,000, making them the most affordable models in Ola's lineup to date. Ola Electric's share price opened at Rs 77.71, marking a 5% increase from the previous close of Rs 73.47. The stock later reached an intraday high of Rs 79.33, reflecting a gain of 8%. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Ola CEO Bhavish Aggarwal

introduced the new Ola S1 Z and Ola Gig ranges, priced starting at Rs 39,000, along with a portable battery pack that doubles as a home inverter via the Ola PowerPod. He highlighted the affordability and accessibility of the new models, which are designed to cater to a broad range of customers. Reservations for the new scooters have already begun, with deliveries scheduled to start in April 2025 for the Ola Gig range and May 2025 for the Ola S1 Z range.

New Scooter Range Details:

Ola Electric launched the Ola Gig, Ola Gig+, Ola S1 Z, and Ola S1 Z+ models, with introductory ex-showroom prices of Rs 39,999, Rs 49,999, Rs 59,999, and Rs 64,999, respectively. Reservations for these models are available from November 26 at just Rs 499. The scooters offer affordable, durable, and flexible solutions, featuring removable batteries for both personal and commercial use in urban, semi-urban, and rural areas.

Ola's move to expand its electric scooter



range comes at a time when the company has faced ongoing customer complaints regarding its services and products. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) had previously ordered an investigation into alleged service deficiencies related to Ola Electric's vehicles. Last month, the company reported resolving 99.1% of the 10,644 complaints forwarded by the CCPA.

In another development, Ola Electric reportedly laid off 500 employees in early November as part of a restructuring effort to improve margins and profitability.

Ola's Vision for the EV Market: With the launch of the new scooters, Ola Electric aims to revolutionize access to electric vehicles (EVs) by offering a wide range of affordable options for a diverse set of customers. Bhavish Aggarwal emphasized that the company is committed to expanding EV adoption across India, stating

that the new range of scooters, coupled with the existing portfolio, will help drive the country closer to "ending the internal combustion engine age."

Aggarwal also pointed out that the new scooters' portable batteries, which can function as home inverters, offer added value by powering household appliances, enhancing the efficiency of the battery system.

NEWS BOX

Jasprit Bumrah enjoys the responsibility of captaincy: Ravi Shastri

New Delhi. Ravi Shastri reckoned that Jasprit Bumrah laid the foundation for India in the Perth Test with devastating spells that put Australia under pressure in the series opener of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Bumrah became the Player of the Match after India took a 1-0 lead in the series with a thumping 295-run win at the Optus Stadium. After India were bowled out for 150 in their first innings, Bumrah's five-wicket haul gave India a small yet crucial lead of 46 runs. Bumrah stepped up in the second innings as well, picking up three wickets, one of which was of the dangerous Travis Head, who scored a quick-fire 89. Shastri also said that Bumrah enjoys the responsibility of captaincy. "The Test match was decided by Bumrah's spell with the new ball in both innings. He enjoys the responsibility and is a very competitive and ambitious cricketer. He wants it and believes that he can do it," Shastri told the



broadcasters after the match. The legendary Wasim Akram also heaped praise on Bumrah for taking the responsibility of captaincy and introducing himself into the attack when the opposition batters dictated terms. "Whenever a partnership was developing, he brought himself into the attack. He picked up two wickets late on Day 3, and it started the downfall of Australian batting. Even today, he dismissed Travis Head when that partnership was building. That shows how much he wants it," Akram said. Bumrah took eight wickets in the game as India became the first team to beat Australia at the Perth Stadium. Back in 2018, India had lost at the same venue despite Virat Kohli's century, but this time around, they made a stupendous turnaround.

Bumrah is also nearing the landmark of becoming India's top wicket-taker in Tests on Australian soil. Bumrah and India will be looking for a 2-0 series lead when they face the Aussies in the pink-ball Test, starting December 6 at the Adelaide Oval.

Jasprit Bumrah will finish as one of the greatest fast bowlers: Glenn Maxwell

New Delhi. Australia's star all-rounder Glenn Maxwell said that Jasprit Bumrah would finish as one of the greatest fast bowlers. Maxwell was in awe of Bumrah's accuracy and explained how difficult it is to face him. Having faced Bumrah quite a lot in his cricketing career, Maxwell said that it is really difficult to pick and differentiate whether he would bowl a length ball or a bouncer. He also praised India's rising star Yashasvi Jaiswal and made a bold prediction about his career in Test cricket. "It almost feels like his bouncer and his length ball are very similar to where his release point is, and it's really hard to pick up the difference between those and ball always feels like it's coming back into you and he's got the ability to take the ball away, which just makes it extremely difficult. Bumrah is going to go down as potentially the best fast bowler of all time, maybe not with the amount of wickets he takes in every format. But for the guys that have played against him, it is just so difficult,



so difficult. He's just got such unique action, unique ability with the ball. He seems like a complete package," Maxwell said on the Grade Cricketer Podcast. Bumrah captained India in the 1st Test vs Australia of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series. He won the player of the match award for taking 8 wickets in the contest, including a five-wicket haul in the 1st innings. India became the 1st team to beat Australia at the Optus Stadium in Perth. India beat Australia by 295 runs to register their biggest-ever win on Australian soil.

Maxwell predicted Jaiswal to score 40 Test hundreds and break many records on his way to glory. "Jaiswal as well, doesn't seem to have many weaknesses, plays a short ball well, drives well, plays spin unbelievably well and can absorb pressure for periods of time. He's a guy that's probably gonna get more than 40 test hundreds and re-write some different records as well," he added. Jaiswal scored a scintillating hundred in the opening Test as he scored 161 in 2nd innings to lay the foundation for India's win.

Shubman Gill Doubtful For Pink Ball Test In Adelaide: Report

Shubman Gill is dealing with a thumb injury that he suffered while fielding in the slips during India's match simulation in the buildup to the first Test in Perth.



New Delhi. Star Indian batter Shubman Gill, who missed the first Test of the ongoing five-match series between India and Australia at Optus Stadium in Perth due to a thumb injury, is likely to miss the second Test as well. The second Test between India and Australia will be a day-night game and will be played with a pink ball from December 6 to 10 at Adelaide Oval. According to a report in the Times of India on Wednesday (November 27), the 25-year-old right-handed batter, who made his Test debut for India on December 26, 2020, against Australia in Melbourne, is doubtful for the match in Adelaide. He is all set to miss the two-day pink ball warm-up match in

Canberra from November 30. "Gill was advised a 10-14 day rest by the medical specialist after suffering that injury. He won't play in the practice match on the weekend and is doubtful at the moment for the second Test too. Let's see how much his injury has healed and how his finger feels. Even after it has healed, he'll need some quality practice before playing a Test match," a source was quoted as saying. Gill suffered the injury while fielding in the slips during the match simulation in the build-up to the first Test. Recently, former Mumbai and India selector Jatin Paranjape had said that Gill could end up missing "two to three Tests" due to the injury.

"I know from past experience that finger injuries, especially like the one he has

suffered to the thumb, take two to four weeks to heal, so don't be surprised if he misses two to three Test matches," Paranjape had said. Devdutt Padikkal batted at No. 3 for India in the series opener, but with the return of Rohit Sharma to the side, the left-handed batter from Karnataka is set

New Delhi. to lose his place in the playing XI. In all likelihood, Rohit will open the innings for India in Adelaide along with Yashasvi Jaiswal, and KL Rahul, who scored a half-century in the second inning of the Perth Test, will come out to bat at No. 3 in

Is Jasprit Bumrah the greatest ever Indian fast bowler

New Delhi. The numbers at this stage of his career would suggest so, but nothing would have been possible without the great Kapil Dev, the fast-bowling flagbearer who played lone ranger... The other day, as Jasprit Bumrah was wreaking havoc in Perth, Sunil Gavaskar couldn't help going back to that February morning in 1981 in Melbourne. On that day, an injured Kapil Dev won India an incredible Test match, taking 5-28 against a top Australian lineup, which folded for 83 in the second innings as India defended 143 to level the series. "This generation sometimes forgets that there were Indian teams before 2000 which also fought and won," Gavaskar said on air. The original Little Master's comment becomes pertinent in the context of the social-media wave hailing Bumrah as the greatest Indian

pace bowler. There's no denying the fact that with an average of 20.06 and a strike-rate of 43.6 after 41 Tests, Bumrah's numbers are suggesting that he is way ahead of the pack, including the great Kapil, who finished with a career-average of 29.64 and a strike-rate of 63.9. It's Bumrah's ability to rip open batting lineups on any surface that has made him the best paceman in the eyes of this generation. As the world swoons over Bumrah, and justifiably so, there's a worrying tendency to forget spells like Kapil's 9-83 in Ahmedabad against West Indies, in which he dismissed Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Viv Richards and Clive Lloyd. Former India opener WV Raman, who played with and against Kapil, feels the greatness of the 434-wicket man was.

Jacob Bethell has got something very special: Stokes praises England Test debutant

New Delhi. Ben Stokes backed Jacob Bethell's selection for England's opening Test against New Zealand, starting November 28 at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch. Earlier, the Three Lions named their playing XI and handed Bethell his maiden Test cap. Bethell also became the first English batter since Mike Gatting in 1978 to make his Test debut without a first-class hundred to his name. Stokes said that England picked Bethell in their playing XI, keeping in mind the skills he has. The skipper mentioned that including the left-hander in the team wasn't a shot in the dark and rather a decision that the English team management took after taking into account all factors. "I mean, you can totally understand it. But you've got to be true to yourself when you get given the opportunity to be able to make decisions. We've always done what we feel is right for the team. It's gone in our favour quite a lot. So, I think we do know what we're doing. There is thought and there is process towards it, even if it does raise a few



eyebrows. We're not picking people just to wind people up," Stokes said. Bethell made his international debut in the T20I series on the tour of England, after which he also played in the ODIs. In 15 matches for the Three Lions thus far, Bethell has scored three half-centuries with a top score of 62 not out. "He's an incredibly talented kid. I think when you look at someone like Jacob, you can just see the ceiling that he has. I remember watching the one-day series. I think it was [Josh] Hazlewood; he bowled

NZ vs ENG: England skipper Ben Stokes backed Jacob Bethell's selection saying that the Three Lions picked him after taking into account all factors. Bethell will make his Test debut at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

him a full ball and got smacked off the front foot, and then he got tested out, like right there, and then whacked it," he said. "Just those tiny little things where you see that there is something very special there. I'm looking forward to him getting going this week," Stokes added. Bethell has a reasonable first-class record, having scored 738 runs from 20 games at an average of 25.44 with five fifties and a top score of 93.

63 not out: Remembering Phil Hughes on 10th death anniversary

New Delhi. November 27 marks the 10-year anniversary of the untimely death of Australian cricketer Phillip Hughes, a moment that shook the cricketing world to its core. Hughes, a tale so old when he passed away after being struck by a bouncer during a domestic Sheffield Shield match on November 25, 2014. Playing for South Australia against New South Wales at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Hughes was on 63 runs when a short-pitched delivery from Sean Abbott hit him on the neck. The impact caused a rare vertebral artery dissection, leading to a brain haemorrhage. He collapsed on the field and was rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital, where he underwent emergency surgery. Tragically, despite the best medical efforts, Hughes succumbed to his injuries two days later. The cricketing fraternity was left in shock and grief. Tributes poured in from across the globe, with players, fans, and officials mourning the loss of a bright young talent.

What changed after Hughes' death Hughes' death raised critical questions about player safety, especially concerning



protective gear in cricket. In response, helmet designs were improved to offer greater neck protection, and more focus was placed on concussion protocols to prevent such incidents in the future. The aftermath of Hughes' death also highlighted the spirit of unity in cricket. His funeral in Macksville, New South Wales, saw cricketers, fans, and dignitaries come together to celebrate his life. The hashtag #PutOutYourBats became a global symbol of respect, with fans posting images of cricket bats placed outside their homes as a tribute.

Impact on AUS vs IND Test series

The impact of Hughes' death was especially profound on the Australian team, who were preparing for a highly anticipated Test series against India. The series, initially scheduled to begin on December 4, was delayed as the team and the nation mourned their fallen teammate. Cricket Australia prioritised the players' mental well-being, recognising the emotional toll Hughes' passing away had taken.

In an unprecedented show of respect, the first Test in Adelaide began on December 9, with players and fans paying tribute to Hughes. Australia wore black armbands, and a minute's silence was observed before play. The iconic "63 not out," Hughes' score at the time of the incident, became a rallying cry for strength and unity. David Warner, Michael Clarke, and Steve Smith, visibly emotional, played inspired cricket, dedicating their performances to Hughes. Clarke's stirring eulogy at Hughes' funeral and his gritty century in Adelaide remained reminders of the grief and resolve that defined the series.



personalities and their batting line-ups have been world-class.

"They're one of a few teams who, when I was watching IPL years ago, if they were playing, I'd turn the TV on. Obviously they've got Andy there and Mo Bobat [as director of cricket], and I'm really looking forward to playing under them. Having been around them a little bit, I know that we're quite similar thinkers on the game in some ways - and their track record speaks for itself," Salt added.

Salt has had an impressive career in the IPL, having notched 653 runs from 21 games at an average of 34.36 and a strike-rate of 173.53. Last year, it was his opening stands with Sunil Narine that laid the platform for KKR in their title-winning run.

Cricketers are bigger than Bollywood stars in the brand market

Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, and Sachin Tendulkar have ranked higher than popular Bollywood actors, including Shah Rukh Khan and Amitabh Bachchan, in a latest Brand Endorser Report 2024 by Hansa Research.

UPDATED: Cricket's immense popularity in India and the players' performances on the global stage make them relatable and aspirational figures. In contrast, Bollywood actors, while still significant, are increasingly sharing the spotlight with cricketers. But in a latest research, cricketers have emerged as the more popular celebrities than the



Bollywood stars. According to the Brand Endorser Report 2024 by Hansa Research, cricketers have surpassed Bollywood actors as leading brand ambassadors in India. Athletes like Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, and

Sachin Tendulkar rank among the top choices for endorsements due to their wide appeal, trustworthiness, and immense fan following. Ashish Karnad, the Executive Vice President at Hansa Research, explained

how the cricketers have the ability to connect with their fans. What sets cricketers apart from other celebrities is their unique ability to connect with audiences on both emotional and aspirational levels. Whether it's the nostalgia tied to legends like Sachin Tendulkar or the electrifying energy of stars like Virat Kohli and M.S. Dhoni, their hard work and perseverance have earned them admiration," Ashish Karnad said.

"Seen as real-life heroes who have risen from humble backgrounds to make their country proud, they have emerged as dominant brand endorsers, highly preferred by brands to communicate their messages and inspire trust among diverse audiences," he added. The research was conducted through online questionnaires to 4000 respondents across 36 cities in India. Their overall appeal was adjudged on the basis of 29 sub categories within broader industry categories. Kohli is currently in Australia where he is taking part in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy.



Pragya Jaiswal

Says She Won't Mind Dating 'Cute' Shubman Gill: 'I'm Single; Make It Happen...'



Pragya Jaiswal has set social media abuzz with her candid remarks about cricketer Shubman Gill. During a recent interview with Filmygyan, the actress, who recently impressed audiences with her performance in Akshay Kumar-starrer *Khel Khel Mein*, was asked about a fan comment suggesting she and Shubman Gill would make a cute couple. Blushing, Pragya responded, "He's cute, yeah, guys. Come on, whatever you all want, I'm single. Make it happen."

When asked if she would date a cricketer, Pragya replied, "If it's written, if it's meant to be, it can be. I mean, I've never had a thing of for or against a cricketer. If it's a nice person and we get along well, why not?"

Pragya has become a prominent name in the Indian film industry, known for her versatility and charm. She made her acting debut in the 2014 Tamil thriller *Virattu* and gained wider recognition with her Telugu films, including *Kanche*, *Akhanda*, *Nakshatram*, and *Jaya Janaki Nayaka*. Her recent Bollywood debut, *Khel Khel Mein*, directed by Mudassar Aziz, was a Hindi remake of the Italian film *Perfect Strangers*. The film featured a stellar ensemble cast, including Akshay Kumar, Vaani Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Aditya Seal, Ammy Virk, and Taapsee Pannu.

As for Shubman Gill, the talented cricketer has previously been linked to actress Sara Ali Khan. However, Sara clarified that they are just friends. Pragya's lighthearted remarks have sparked excitement among fans, who are now rooting for this potential pairing. Whether or not this playful "shipping" leads anywhere, Pragya continues to charm audiences with her talent and glamorous pics on social media.

Yami Gautam

Makes FIRST Public Appearance After Welcoming Baby Boy With Aditya Dhar, Attends IFFI

Yami Gautam Dhar is known for her range as an actress and her ability to bring diverse characters to life. Recently, her role in *Article 370* has been well-received by audiences. The film will be featured at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) and it also marks Yami's first public appearance since welcoming her first child, a baby boy with her husband Aditya Dhar in May. While the film has had a positive reception in some circles, its performance and overall execution have received mixed reviews from critics and audiences alike. After making an impression with the theatrical release of *Article 370*, the film has its screening at the International Film Festival of India (IFFI). Having been away from the public eye after welcoming her baby, she made a stunning return at the prestigious film festival. Looking



refreshing in an ethnic traditional salwar suit, the actress radiated a new-moon glow on her face. The actress has also returned to work after welcoming her first child, Vedavid. Yami, who recently got back to shoot, shared two reasons for her 'Monday Happiness': one was her return to her and the other was the homemade sweet Panjiri laddos prepared by her sister Surilie. Sharing a happy picture of herself from what appeared to be her vanity van, Yami wrote, "Monday morning happiness. 1. First day of shoot after Surilie Panjiri Laddos." The snap featured the Vicky Donor looking fresh in a blue sparkly top. She let her golden brown tresses open and chose light makeup.

Yami and Aditya Dhar welcomed their son, Vedavid, on May 10, after which Yami took a break from the movies to focus on her health and family. The couple announced their baby's arrival on Akshay Tritiya and expressed excitement for their new journey as parents. Meanwhile, on the work front, Yami Gautam will be seen next in *Dhoom Dhaam*.



Wamiqa Gabbi Turns Up The Heat In A Cutesy Halter Crop Top And Mini Skirt | Fans Swoon Over Hot Photo



Wamiqa Gabbi is turning up the heat with her latest photo from a *Cosmopolitan* magazine shoot. Wamiqa is seen wearing a bold red strappy halter-knit crop top paired with a ruffled pink short skirt featuring tie-up details, giving her a playful and modern look. She posed seated with her knees bent, leaning slightly forward and resting her arms elegantly on her knees. Her hair cascaded in soft waves, adding to the effortless charm of her style. With minimal makeup and a radiant, natural finish, her look was complemented by a pop-art inspired pink backdrop. The stunning look is a perfect blend of bold and elegant, and fans can't get enough! Wamiqa captioned the photo, "Your Premia is thinking of you." Check out the photo here:

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress is all set to star in Vikas Bahl's fun-filled family entertainer titled *Dil Ka Darwaaza Khol Na Darling* with Siddhant Chaturvedi and veteran actress Jaya Bachchan! The makers announced the film last week, along with two pictures featuring the lead cast Jaya Bachchan, Siddhant and Wamiqa, as well as the director, and producers of the film. The interesting casting has garnered a lot of attention, and fans are already excited about the film.

That apart, a report in *Pinkvilla* suggested that Wamiqa Gabbi has joined the team of Akshay Kumar's horror-comedy *Bhooth Bangla*. The entertainment portal quoted a source saying, "Wamiqa has impressed everyone with her work on the digital world, and is now all set to make it big on the theatrical medium with films like *Baby John*, followed by *Bhooth Bangla*. She has signed the dotted lines and has a solid role in *Bhooth Bangla*, which will evoke laughter among the cinema going audience."

Salman Khan Adorably Holds Mother Salma Khan In Family Pic With Arbaaz, Sohail And Salim Khan



Sohail Khan recently treated his fans to a glimpse of his close-knit family. On Tuesday, the actor and filmmaker posted a heartwarming photograph on Instagram, featuring his siblings Salman Khan, Arbaaz Khan, Arpita Khan Sharma, and Alvira Khan Agnihotri, along with their parents, Salim Khan and Salma Khan. The family's radiant smiles and effortless style lit up the frame, with Salma Khan looking elegant in an ethnic outfit, while the others kept it casual. Sohail simply captioned the post "Blessed,"



followed by a red heart emoji. Sohail has often made headlines for his personal life. In September, he was at the centre of dating rumours when a video captured a woman seated in the back of his car outside a Mumbai restaurant. The clip sparked speculation about his relationship status. Addressing the rumours, Sohail clarified in an interview with *Hindustan Times*, "No, it is not true. I am only answering you because you had the decency to question before assuming things. She is just an old friend of mine." The actor married Seema Sajdeh in 1998, and they share two sons, Nirvaan and Yohan. The former couple divorced in 2022 after over two decades together. Speaking about the separation, Seema opened up about her journey toward acceptance and moving forward. "Taking a step to move on is a very big step because it's not just you alone," she said in an exclusive interview with *News18 Showsha*.

She further shared, "There's always guilt for a mom. I didn't want to split up my family... but life happens. As long as your priorities are in the right place, your kids do understand." Sohail Khan, known for films like *Maine Pyaar Kyun Kiya?*, *Main Aurr Mrs Khanna*, and *Tubelight*, has also directed hits such as *Pyaar Kiya To Dama Kya* and *Jai Ho*.