

PUBLISHED FROM Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Chandigarh, Himachal and Jammu

The Sikh Times National Daily

VISIT: www.thesikhtimes.in Email:sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Vol. 16 No. 199 RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465 New Delhi, Saturday, 30 November 2024 sikhtimesindia@gmail.com 9654077232 12 pages ₹ 3

Dhankhar says adjournment notices being 'weaponised' as mechanism of disruption

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Nov 29: Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar on Friday said adjournment notices under Rule 267 of the House are being



'weaponised' as a mechanism of disruption before adjourning the proceedings till Monday amid Opposition parties protest over corruption allegations against the Adani Group, and other issues. Like the previous three sittings of the ongoing Winter Session, the House could not take up scheduled business on Friday as well and the House proceedings were adjourned within minutes of the Assembly.

Opposition MPs started the protest soon after the chairman announced that he had accepted their 17 notices for suspension of scheduled business and take up issues related to corruption allegations against the Adani Group, violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, and Manipur. "...these issues have been raised repeatedly during the week with the result that we have already lost three working days. These days should have been committed by us for public cause," Dhankhar said. The chairman said the loss of time, opportunity and question hour has given enormous set-backs to the people at large. "Now, I find honourable members and I call upon you for deep reflection. Rule 267 is being weaponised as a mechanism of disruption and disruption from our normal working. There are very senior members," he said. The statement led to further protests, with some Opposition members raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Adani Group. Expressing "deep anguish", Dhankhar said, "Our actions are not people-centric.

Haryana, Maharashtra followed what Odisha began: PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 29: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the BJP was the party of people's choice because of the commitment to welfare and development, adding that the trend started by Odisha was followed by Haryana and now Maharashtra. Speaking of the BJP-led NDA returning to power at the Centre for a record third time, Modi, speaking in Bhubaneswar, said, "Where ever I go in the world, people wonder how a large country like India with 140 crore citizens continues to vote the same party term after term." The Prime Minister said the impact of BJP's 2024 win is several times higher than in 2014 and 2019. "Haryana, Maharashtra results have revealed the scale of trust the country has in the BJP. Odisha voted BJP and then Haryana and Maharashtra followed. BJP's hallmark is people's trust," Modi said. The Prime Minister said Opposition parties were peddling lies and propaganda against the BJP but the people, having seen the delivery of BJP dispensations, continues to bless it. Without naming the Congress, Modi said of late the country was witnessing a tendency to use "lies and rumours as a tool to

usurp power." "I urge every citizen who cares for the Constitution and democracy to stay alert to the politics of lies, deceit and rumours of these power-hun-



gry people who are angry at the voters for choosing the BJP," the Prime Minister said. He said in politics issued-based criticism was natural and political parties have the right to go to the people with their views and ideologies and campaign for their stands. "But for the past some time, we are witnessing a new

trend, the trend of crushing the sentiment of the Indian Constitution and of rejecting democracy. Those who considered power their birthright lost power a decade ago and are angry with the people for rejecting them and choosing the BJP. This trend has filled these people (read the Congress) with such anger that they are now engaged in conspiring against the country," Modi said. He said these political parties were resorting to lies to mislead people. "Their shop of lies and rumours has been open for very long and now they have activated their business more. For every conscious citizen, who loves the country and honours the Constitution and democracy, the acts, ideas and approaches of such people are a huge challenge. We must all stay alert and expose every lie," the Prime Minister said. He said power-hungry people had long been speaking lies to voters and giving false assurances to their own workers. "These people just want to mislead the voters to capture power so that the masked gang that looted the country can once start its plunder," Modi said in a blistering attack on the Congress-led Opposition. He said BJP governments were succeeding because of focus on women, women-led development and delivery of guarantees.

Congress chief Kharge urges party leaders to unite against BJP

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Nov 29: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge on Friday emphasised the need for party leaders to stop infighting and present a united front against BJP. This statement comes after the party's unexpected defeats in Haryana and Maharashtra. Kharge made these remarks during the Congress Working Committee meeting at the AICC headquarters in New Delhi. He stressed that the party needs to learn from its recent electoral losses and make tough decisions to strengthen its organisation. Kharge expressed concerns over the reliability of electronic voting machines (EVMs), stating that they have made the electoral process "suspect". He urged the Election Commission



to ensure free and fair elections in the country. The Congress chief also slammed factional fights within the party, saying that a lack of unity has harmed the party more than anything. "We must fight elections together, stop making statements against each other, and focus on defeating our opponents," Kharge said. Kharge acknowledged that the party's performance in the Lok Sabha poll had filled them with new enthusiasm, but the results of the elections in three states held thereafter were not as expected. He stressed that the party needs to learn from these results, correct its weaknesses, and strengthen its organisation up to the booth level. "INDIA parties formed the government in two out of the four states. But our performance was below expectation. The result is a message as well as a challenge for the future," he said. The Congress chief also highlighted the need for the party to fine-tune its strategy for contesting elections in every situation. He emphasised that the ways of contesting elections have changed, and the party needs to make its "micro-communication" strategy better than its rivals. "We will have to learn to convert the atmosphere into results. What is the reason that we are not able to take advantage of the atmosphere?" he questioned. Kharge asserted that despite the party's electoral losses, issues like unemployment, inflation, and economic inequality remain burning concerns in the country. He also stressed the importance of the caste census.

Himachal CM Sukhu seeks special industrial package to boost state's economy

Shimla, Nov 29: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu met with Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal in New Delhi, seeking a special industrial package for the state. Sukhu emphasised the need for balanced regional development, citing the state's unique challenges due to its hilly terrain. The CM requested a special industrial package similar to those granted to Jammu and Kashmir and the north-eastern states. He also urged the resumption of the transport subsidy scheme for hilly areas, which would help promote industrial production and boost exports. Additionally, Sukhu requested funds for industrial infrastructure development projects, quality testing labs, and certification labs for export promotion. He also sought the release of pending capital subsidies under the Industrial Development Scheme and the sanction of pending cases. Union Minister Goyal assured Sukhu that the issues raised would be examined, and all possible support would be extended to the state. Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani and other senior officers of the state also attended the meeting.

Birsa Munda's great-grandson dies of cardiovascular failure in Ranchi

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Ranchi, Nov 29: Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren pays tribute to the mortal remains of tribal icon Birsa Munda's great-grandson Mangal Munda at Rajendra Institute of Medical Science (RIMS) in Ranchi. Munda, who was undergoing treatment at a hospital in Ranchi after being injured in a road accident, died of "cardiovascular failure" on Friday, an official of the health facility said. Tribal icon Birsa Munda's great-grandson Mangal Munda, who was undergoing treatment at a hospital after being injured in a road accident, died of "cardiovascular failure" on Friday, an official of the health facility said. Mangal breathed his last at 12.30 am at the state's apex health facility - Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS). Mangal sus-

tained severe head injuries after he fell from the roof of a passenger vehicle in Jharkhand's Khunti district on November



25. "Birsa Munda's kin Mangal Munda died of cardiovascular failure around 12.30 am. He was on a ventilator after being critically injured. We tried our best to save him but failed," RIMS Medical Superintendent Dr Hiren Birua said.

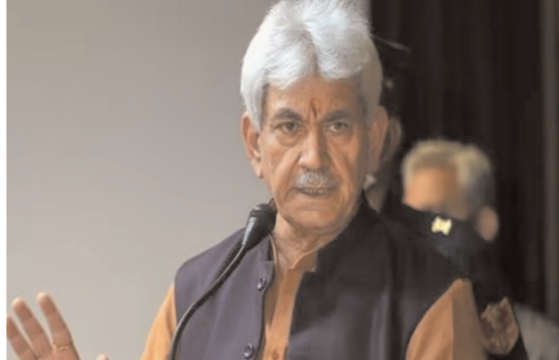
Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed Munda's demise as a loss to Jharkhand tribal society. "I am deeply saddened by the demise of Mangal Munda Ji, a descendant of Lord Birsa Munda Ji. His demise is an irreparable loss for his family as well as the tribal society of Jharkhand. May God give strength to his family in this hour of grief," PM posted on X. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Governor Santosh Gangwar also condoled the death of Mangal Munda. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the demise of Shri Mangal Munda Ji, a descendant of Lord Birsa Munda, who was undergoing treatment at RIMS. May Marang Buru (supreme tribal deity) grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this difficult time of grief," Soren posted on the microblogging site. Gangwar, in a message on the social media site, said,

J-K LG fires two govt employees for alleged terror links

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Jammu, Nov. 29: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday terminated two government employees from service for their alleged terror links, officials said. The fired employees have been identified as Abdul Rehman Naika who worked as a pharmacist in the health department, and Zahir Abbas, a teacher in the school education department, they added. Sinha invoked Article 311 (2) (c) of the Constitution to terminate the two employees after a probe by the law enforcement and intelligence agencies "clearly established their terror links", officials said. The LG has ordered termination of several government employees over the past few years under the same provision. Naika, a resident of Devsar in Kulgam district, was appointed as a medical assistant in 1992. "His links with Hizbul Mujahideen was unearthed after the police launched a probe into the killing of Ghulam

Hassan Lone, a staunch nationalist in Devsar whose three sons are serving in security forces. "Lone was killed by terrorists in August 2021. The probe revealed that Naika was one of the plotters of killing aimed at creating a state of fear and insecu-



only in Kulgam, but also in the neighbouring Shopian and Anantnag districts, they added. After Lone's murder, the police tracked the footprints of the overground workers (OGWs) providing logistical support to the terrorists, they said. Naika and his associates were nabbed with hand grenades and AK 47 ammunition. During interrogation, he confessed to have received direction from his handlers in Pakistan to carry out a terrorist attack in Kulgam by lobbing grenades on security forces and political persons, officials said. "He also admitted that as an OGW, his job was to conduct reconnaissance of targets. In the killing of Lone, Naika and his associates kept a watch on his movement and on the day of the murder, he mounted surveillance in the area to provide a safe passage to the attackers," they added. During investigation, "his role as an Hizbul Mujahideen aide facilitating attacks on police personnel was also unearthed", officials said. "Naika was a

rabid OGW and a hardcore terror associate for various outfits, in particular the Hizbul Mujahideen, and used his privilege as a government employee to target people, police and political leaders," they said. The second employee to face action - Abbas - is a resident of Badhat Saroor area in Kishtwar district. "A graduate from Aligarh Muslim University, Abbas was posted as a teacher at the government high school in Bugrana in 2012. He was arrested in September 2020 for harbouring three active Hizbul terrorists in Kishtwar. He is currently lodged at the Kot Bhalwal prison," officials said. During investigations into terror activities in Kishtwar, Abbas' role as a hardcore OGW came to light. "After his arrest, Abbas gave inputs of hideouts where arms and ammunition were stored, besides identifying two OGWs - Gulzar Ahmad and Mohammad Hanief," they said. Abbas was also providing critical information about force movements to his handlers in Pakistan, they added.

India tells Bangladesh to protect all minorities

Nareesh Malhotra

New Delhi, Nov 29: India on Friday said the interim government in Bangladesh must live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities as it expressed serious concern over the "surge" of extremist rhetoric and increasing incidents of violence against Hindus as well as attacks on temples in the neighbouring country. New Delhi also hoped that the case relating to Hindu monk Chinmoy Krishna Das, arrested in Bangladesh on sedition charge, will be dealt with in a just, fair and transparent manner. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar told Parliament that India has taken a serious note of incidents of violence against minorities in Bangladesh and that it is the primary responsibility of Dhaka to protect the life and liberty of all the citizens, including minorities. The relations between India and Bangladesh have come under strain after the interim govern-

ment headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus came to power following the resignation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in August amid unrest. India has been expressing concern over attacks on minorities, especially Hindus, in that country. "The primary responsibility for the protection of life and liberty of all citizens of Bangladesh, including



minorities, rests with the government of Bangladesh," Jaishankar said, adding that the Indian high commission in Dhaka continues to monitor the situation related to minorities in that country "closely". Separately, the

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) called upon Bangladesh to take all steps for the protection of minorities and hoped that the case involving arrested Chinmoy Krishna Das will be dealt with in a just, fair and transparent manner. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India has consistently and strongly raised with the Bangladeshi government the threats and targeted attacks on Hindus and other minorities. "Our position on the matter is very clear—the interim government must live up to its responsibility of protecting all minorities," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. "We are concerned at the surge of extremist rhetoric, increasing incidents of violence and provocation. These developments cannot be dismissed only as media exaggeration. We once again call upon Bangladesh to take all steps for the protection of minorities," he added. Responding to a question in the Lok Sabha, Jaishankar said India is concerned over incidents of violence against Hindus and other minorities, their homes and business establishments and attacks on temples and religious places. "The government has taken a serious note of these incidents and shared its concerns with the government of Bangladesh."

Big mystery why govt not resisting Parl adjournments, it has much to feel defensive

New Delhi, Nov 29: With Parliament facing repeated adjournments, the Congress on Friday said the big mystery is why the government is not resisting the interruptions and instead facilitating the aggression of the

INDIA parties especially on the Adani issue. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said the government has much to feel defensive and apologetic about. "Yet another day of a washout in the Parliament on the Modani issue. Both Houses adjourned today after only a few min-



utes. The big mystery is why the government is not resisting the adjournments," Ramesh said in a post on X. "On the contrary, the government is facilitating the aggression of the INDIA parties on Modani especially - as also on Manipur, Sambhal, and Delhi's law and order. Clearly it has much to feel defensive and apologetic about," the Congress leader said. His remarks came soon after Rajya Sabha proceedings were adjourned for the day on Friday as opposition MPs protested the rejection of adjournment notices for a discussion on allegations against the Adani Group, and the violence in Manipur and Sambhal. Soon after laying of listed papers in the morning session, Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar said he had received 17 notices for adjournment of scheduled business under Rule 267 of the House. This led to a protest by several opposition MPs who began raising slogans. Expressing anguish, Dhankhar said, "I call upon you (MPs) for deep reflection. Rule 267 is being weaponised as a mechanism of disruption". The remark was protested by opposition MPs including those belonging to the Congress.

Teacher accuses Karnataka Congress leader of sexual abuse, he calls it 'baseless'

Bengaluru. Police have registered an FIR against B Gurappa Naidu, General Secretary of the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) and Chairman of BGS Bloom Field School in Thyagaraja Nagar, for allegedly sexually harassing a former teacher. The 38-year-old complainant, who worked at the school from March 2021 to August 2023, alleged that Naidu repeatedly summoned her to his office, made inappropriate advances, and verbally abused her when she resisted. She also accused him of recording explicit videos of victims and using them to intimidate and silence them. The teacher claimed Naidu targeted multiple women from vulnerable backgrounds and created a climate of fear within the school. "Since the women are from poor backgrounds, they were afraid to come forward," the FIR quoted her as saying. She lodged a complaint at Channammanakere Achukattu police station on November 26, after confiding in her mother and quitting her job. The police have booked Naidu under relevant sections related to sexual harassment, intimidation, and insulting a woman's modesty. Speaking to reporters, DCP (South) Lokesh Jagalapur confirmed that an investigation has been initiated. Naidu, however, dismissed the allegations as "baseless" and part of a conspiracy by RTI activists. "These are fake cases filed by individuals with vested interests. I hardly visited the school, and we have a principal and administrator who handle its operations. I will hold a press conference soon to address this," Naidu said. The police are continuing their investigation to verify the claims and gather evidence from the school and its staff.

Cyclone Fengal: Deep depression heads to Puducherry coast, schools remain shut

- Deep depression will cross Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast near Puducherry tomorrow
- Minimal chances of it intensifying into Cyclone Fengal but will bring heavy rain and winds, IMD said
- Schools are shut, and fishermen are warned to avoid the sea until landfall



In anticipation of the storm, schools in Chennai and Chengalpet districts were closed on Friday, and fishermen have been advised to avoid venturing into the sea until the system has passed.

It is likely to continue to move north-westwards and cross north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coasts between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram close to Puducherry as a cyclonic storm with a wind speed of 70-80 kmph gusting to 90 kmph during the afternoon on 30th November, the IMD said. Explaining why the system did not develop into a cyclone, IMD Regional Director S. Balachandran said that while initial conditions seemed favorable, they changed over the past few days. "The lower-level convergence, which was strong on November 26 and 27, weakened by Thursday. This reduced cloud formation and prevented the system from organizing into a cyclone," he said. Balachandran added that for a cyclone to form, the atmospheric vortex needs to align in both the lower and upper levels. In this case, the alignment was inconsistent, reducing the system's intensity. While the possibility of the depression intensifying into a cyclone is now minimal, the IMD continues to monitor its progress closely and will provide timely updates.

Bay of Bengal is expected to cross the north Tamil Nadu-Puducherry coast between Karaikal and Mahabalipuram, close to Puducherry, on the morning of November 30, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The IMD predicts that the system will bring winds ranging from 55 to 65 kmph, with gusts reaching up to 75 kmph when it makes landfall. Coastal regions of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are

already experiencing gusty winds, and residents have been advised to remain cautious. Heavy rainfall is expected across central and northern Tamil Nadu. On November 29, districts like Nagapattinam, Villupuram, and Chengalpet are likely to see significant rainfall, while Chennai, Tiruvallur, Kancheepuram, Chengalpet, and Tiruvannamalai are forecast to receive intense showers on November 30.

4 killings on trains, teen's rape-murder: Serial killer caught in Gujarat

Ahmedabad/Vapi A 29-year-old man's arrest for a teenager's rape and murder in Gujarat has unearthed a string of similar crimes committed across five states in a span of just over a month. The man, identified as Rahul Singh Jat from Haryana's Rohtak, was arrested from Gujarat's Vapi for allegedly raping and murdering a 19-year-old girl near railway tracks in Valsad earlier this month. During questioning and following subsequent investigations, police managed to establish his involvement in four other murders, including one rape committed on trains in Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal and Telangana. Jat's last murder - of a woman in Telangana - was committed just two days before his arrest, police said. Jat was arrested at Vapi railway station in Gujarat as part of an investigation that began after the body of a 19-year-old girl was found near the tracks close to Udvada railway station on November 14. Police said the victim was returning home from tuition in the evening that day when she was attacked from behind, raped and murdered. According to police sources, Jat attacked the girl who was talking on

the phone while she was returning home. He then raped the girl and strangled her. Even after the teen died, the man raped her corpse and committed the gruesome act several

times for nearly two hours. When Jat felt hungry, he went to the nearest shop and had his breakfast. He also bought a water bottle and a cold drink and returned to the spot, intending to continue the horror act. However, he saw people gathering near the body and fled the spot, leaving his belongings behind. Valsad Superintendent of Police (SP) Karanraj Vaghela said the t-shirt and the bag left by Jat at the crime scene became important clues for the police, adding that it was difficult for

the police to catch him since he changed locations frequently. "Jat was arrested from the parking lot of Vapi railway station in Valsad on Sunday night in a joint operation carried out by local and railway police. Jat travelled extensively and kept changing his location. We have found that he is involved in at least four cases of loot and murder on trains and at railway stations in Karnataka, West Bengal, Telangana and Maharashtra," the SP said. Police said Jat had raped and murdered a woman on a Kanyakumari-bound train near Solapur railway station in Maharashtra between October 17-21. On October 25, he strangled a passenger in a disabled train compartment in Karnataka. On November 19, he stabbed to death an elderly man on a Katihra Express train near Howrah railway station in West Bengal. On November 24, Jat looted a woman and murdered her on a train near Secunderabad railway station. He was nabbed after a massive search operation involving police units from Haryana, Rajasthan and Karnataka and checking the footage of 2000 CCTV

UP Waqf Board claims ownership of 115-year-old Varanasi college, stokes row

Varanasi. A controversy has erupted in Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi after the state Waqf Board claimed ownership of the 115-year-old Uday Pratap College. The claim, originally made in 2018, has resurfaced amid the ongoing debate on the Waqf Amendment Bill. The Uttar Pradesh Central Sunni Waqf Board has asserted that the college land, spanning over 100 acres, is Waqf property linked to a historical mosque within the campus. However, the college administration has strongly refuted this, saying that the land belongs to a charitable endowment and cannot be transferred or sold. In December 2018, the Waqf Board sent a notice to the college, claiming that the Choti Masjid and the associated property within the college were endowed to Waqf by the Nawab of Tonk, and therefore should come under the board's control. Responding to the notice at the time, the college authorities stated that Uday Pratap College was established in 1909 under the Charitable Endowment Act, and rejected the Waqf Board's claims. The college currently has over 17,000 students. According to the college management, no further move was taken by the board for years after their reply. However, in 2022, there was an attempt by the Waqf Board to carry out construction at the mosque, which was halted by the police following a complaint from the college. Uday Pratap College Principal DK Singh said. The principal also alleged that the electricity supply to the shrine was cut off because the power being used there was "illegally stolen" from the college.



Schools, Colleges In Manipur's Imphal Valley, Jiribam Reopen After 13 Days

Imphal. Schools and colleges in Manipur's Imphal Valley and Jiribam district resumed classes on Friday after a hiatus of 13 days, officials said. Students in their school uniforms and parents were seen waiting for buses in the state's capital Imphal with the law and order situation improving in the valley districts. The Directorate of Education Schools and the Higher and Technical Education Department had on Thursday ordered the resumption of classes in Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Kakching, Thoubal and Jiribam districts. K Biken Singh, a central government official whose two children study in a private school in Imphal, said, "It is a great relief that schools have reopened. Final exams of my children, who are in Class 6 and Class 7, were scheduled to

start from the second week of December and parts of the syllabus are yet to be completed. Reopening of schools will allow the teachers to interact with their students. Educational institutes in the valley districts and Jiribam have remained closed since November 16 after the dead bodies of three women and three children in Jiribam were recovered from the Jiri and Barak rivers in Manipur and Assam respectively. Meanwhile, the state government ordered relaxation of curfew from 5 am to 4 pm on Friday in all five valley districts and Jiribam to enable people to purchase essential items and medicines, according to an official order. "Due to the developing law and order situation in the districts, there is a need to relax restrictions on the movement of people to facilitate the



public to purchase essential items including medicines and food items. Restriction of movement of people outside their residences is hereby lifted for Friday from 5 am to 4 pm" according to a government order. District Magistrates of Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Kakching and Thoubal issued the

order separately. "The relaxation, however, shall not include any gathering/sit-in/ rally without obtaining approval through the competent authority," the order read. Violence had escalated in Manipur after three women and three children belonging to the Meitei community had gone missing from a relief camp in Jiribam after a gunfight between security forces and suspected Kuki-Zo militants resulted in the deaths of 10 insurgents on November 11. Bodies of those six were later found. More than 250 people have been killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

Educational institutes in the valley districts and Jiribam have remained closed since November 16 after the dead bodies of three women and three children were recovered.

Birsa Munda's Great-Grandson, Injured In Road Accident, Dies At 45

Mangal Munda sustained severe head injuries after he fell from the roof of a passenger vehicle in Jharkhand's Khunti district on November 25.

Ranchi. Tribal icon Birsa Munda's great-grandson Mangal Munda, who was undergoing treatment at a hospital here after being injured in a road accident, died of "cardiovascular failure" on Friday, an official of the health facility said. He was 45. Mangal Munda breathed his last at 12.30 am at the state's apex health facility - Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences. Mr Munda sustained severe head injuries after he fell from the roof of a passenger vehicle in Jharkhand's Khunti district on November 25. Birsa Munda's relative Mangal Munda died of cardiovascular failure around 12.30 am. He was on a ventilator after being critically injured. We tried our best to save him but failed," RIMS Medical Superintendent Dr Hiren Birua told PTI. Mangal Munda was referred to RIMS on Tuesday from Khunti's Sadar Hospital. Prime Minister Narendra Modi termed the Munda's demise as a loss to Jharkhand tribal society. "I am deeply saddened by the demise of Mangal Munda Ji, a descendant of Lord Birsa Munda Ji. His demise is an irreparable loss for his family as well as the



tribal society of Jharkhand. May God give strength to his family in this hour of grief," he posted on X. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren and Governor Santosh Gangwar condoled the demise of Mangal Munda. "I am deeply saddened by the news of the demise of Shri Mangal Munda Ji, a descendant of Lord Birsa Munda, who was undergoing treatment at

RIMS. May Marang Buru (supreme tribal deity) grant peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this difficult time of grief," Mr Soren posted on X. Governor Gangwar, in a message on the microblogging site, said, "The news of the demise of Mangal Munda, a descendant of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda is

extremely sad. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family. May God give strength to the bereaved family to bear this sorrow." Prime Minister Modi's office, Union Health Minister JP Nadda and the Jharkhand Chief Minister's office were in touch with the RIMS authorities in connection with Mr Munda's treatment.

THE SIKH TIMES
 Edited, Printed, Published
 Owned by Simmi Babbar
 N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
 Delhi-110009
 Printed at Quami Patrika Printing
 Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
 (Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
 Corporate Office:
 5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
 Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
 Editor-in-Chief
 Gurcharan Singh Babbar
 Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
 Website : www.thesikhtimes.in
 Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com
 RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465
Legal Advisors:
 Advocate Mohd. Sajid
 Advocate Dr. A.P. Singh
 Advocate Manish Sharma
 Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

NEWS BOX

Brazil's Bolsonaro hoping Trump will aid political comeback: Report

WASHINGTON. Brazil's ex-president Jair Bolsonaro is hoping that incoming US leader Donald Trump will support his political comeback in 2026 elections, according to an interview published Thursday, despite facing charges over an alleged coup plot. The Wall Street Journal reported that Bolsonaro is banking on Trump pressuring Brazilian judges to delay enforcing a court ruling that bars him from office until 2030 for baselessly trashing Brazil's voting system ahead of the 2022 elections he lost. "Trump is back, and it's a sign we'll be back too," said Bolsonaro, who the newspaper reported had been in close contact with the Republican since his US election victory in early November. A spokesperson for Trump's incoming administration did not respond to a request for comment, the Wall Street Journal said. Bolsonaro -- a hard-right populist widely dubbed the "Tropical Trump" during his 2019-2023 term -- has remained politically active since leaving office, recently campaigning for the right-wing Liberal Party ahead of October municipal elections. Like Trump, he has blamed his legal issues on apparent political persecution. Brazilian police have accused Bolsonaro of participating in a 2022 plot to prevent President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva from taking office, and of being aware of an alleged plan to assassinate the incumbent. He is accused alongside 36 other people named as co-conspirators in a police report made public this week. Brazil's attorney general is examining the allegations to see if the evidence supports the charges.

Taiwan Reports Surge In Chinese Military Activity, Detects 33 PLA Aircraft

World Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense (MND) on Friday reported an increase in Chinese military activity around the island, detecting over 30 PLA aircraft and 8 PLAN vessels around Taiwan. The details were shared in a post on X. "33 PLA aircraft and 8 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 21 of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, southwestern and eastern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly." Chinese incursions around Taiwan have increased recently. In response, Taiwan has stepped up security along its maritime borders. Taiwan's armed forces conducted a comprehensive air defense drill on Thursday as China reportedly prepares for its third large-scale military exercise, Joint Sword-2024C, near Taiwan. The drill, which involved air, naval, and missile defense units, was conducted to strengthen readiness against potential aerial and missile threats, according to Taiwan News. The Air Force Command stated that the exercise took place from 5 am to 7 am, deploying fighter jets, naval vessels, and air defence missile systems. Aircraft such as the Indigenous Defence Fighter (IDF), Mirage 2000, F-16, and C-130 transport planes were utilised, along with ground-based air defence missile units. Recently, Taiwanese President, Lai Ching-te attended the completion ceremony for the #ROCN Shuei-Sing Barracks. The base will serve as the new home for the Taiwanese Navy Underwater Operations Unit and enhance its training capabilities. Taiwan President Lai Ching-te convened a high-level national security conference in which he assured the public about the government's commitment to neutralising any threat to Taiwan's democracy and security after China staged a large-scale military drill around the island. He made his remarks in response to the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) announcement of military drills, named "Joint Sword-2024B," in the Taiwan Strait and surrounding areas, which were described as a "stern warning" to advocates of Taiwan independence, according to the Taipei Times.

Putin: Russia will use all weapons at disposal if Ukraine gets N-arms

World President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that Russia would use all weapons at its disposal against Ukraine if Kyiv were to acquire nuclear arms. The NYT reported last week that some unidentified Western officials had suggested US President Joe Biden could give Ukraine nuclear weapons before he leaves office. If the country which we are essentially at war with now becomes a nuclear power, what do we do? We will use all means of destruction available to Russia," Putin said at a presser in Kazakhstan. "If officially someone were to transfer something, then that would mean a violation of all the non-proliferation commitments they have made," Putin said. He also said it was practically impossible for Ukraine to produce a nuclear weapon, but that it might be able to make some kind of "dirty bomb", a conventional bomb laced with radioactive material. In that case, Russia would respond appropriately, he said. Putin also said that Russia may use its new Oreshnik hypersonic missile to attack "decision-making centres" in Kyiv in response to Ukraine's firing of Western missiles at Russian territory. Russia has not so far struck Ukrainian ministries, parliament or president's office in the 33-month war. Kyiv is heavily protected by air defences, but Putin says the Oreshnik, which Russia fired for the first time at a Ukrainian city last week, is "incapable of being intercepted". "At present, the ministry of defence and the general staff are selecting targets. These could be military facilities, defence and industrial enterprises, or decision-making centres in Kyiv." Putin praised US Prez-elect Trump as an experienced and intelligent politician, but said he did not believe he was safe. Putin said he had been shocked by the way the US election campaign had unfolded.

Saudi Arabia to host UN talks on drought, desertification

Saudi Arabia is aiming to restore 40 million hectares of degraded land.

A picture shows a view of the Al-Ghat National Park on November 28, 2024.

RIYADH. Saudi Arabia will host the COP16 UN conference on land degradation and desertification next week as the top oil exporter pitches itself as an environmental defender despite criticism of its role at climate talks. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called the meeting for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) a "moonshot moment" to protect and restore land and respond to drought. Activists accused Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, of trying to water down calls to phase out fossil fuels at last week's COP29 UN climate talks in Azerbaijan. However, the subject of desertification is

close to home for the Gulf kingdom, which has one of the biggest deserts on the planet. "We are a desert country. We are exposed to the harshest mode of land degradation which is desertification," deputy environment minister Osama Faqeeha told AFP. "Our land is arid. Our rainfall is very little. And this is the reality. And we have been dealing with this for centuries." Land degradation disrupts ecosystems and makes land less productive for agriculture, leading to food shortages and spurring migration. Land is considered degraded when its productivity has been harmed by human activities like pollution or deforestation. Desertification is an extreme form of degradation. The last gathering of parties to the convention, in Ivory Coast in 2022, produced a commitment to "accelerating the restoration of one billion hectares of degraded land by 2030". But the UNCCD, which brings together 196 countries and the European Union, now says 1.5 billion hectares (3.7 billion acres) must be restored by decade's end to combat crises including escalating droughts. Saudi Arabia is aiming to restore 40 million hectares of degraded land, Faqeeha told



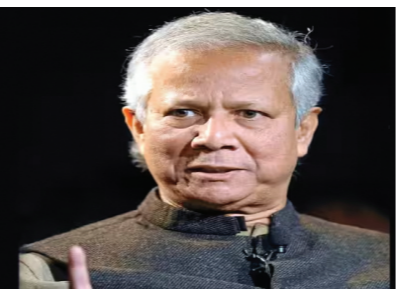
AFP, without specifying a timeline. He said Riyadh anticipated restoring "several million hectares of land" by 2030. So far 240,000 hectares have been recovered using measures including banning illegal logging and expanding the number of national parks from 19 in 2016 to more than 500, Faqeeha said. Other ways to restore land include planting trees, crop rotation, managing grazing and restoring wetlands. The COP29 climate talks yielded a hard won \$300 billion climate finance deal that poorer nations most at risk of worsening disasters dismissed as insultingly low. UNCCD executive secretary Ibrahim Thiaw told AFP he hoped COP16 would result in an agreement to

accelerate land restoration and develop a "proactive" approach to droughts. "We have already lost 40 percent of our land and our soils," Thiaw said. "Global security is really at stake, and you see it all over the world. Not only in Africa, not only in the Middle East." Faqeeha said he hoped the talks would bring more global awareness to the threat posed by degradation and desertification. "If we continue to allow land to degrade, we will have huge losses," he said. "Land degradation now is a major phenomenon that is really happening under the radar." Saudi Arabia's high oil production, resulting in eye-watering profits for oil giant Aramco, routinely draws the ire of climate activists. But its exposure to desertification could give it more credibility during the Riyadh talks. "With the desertification fight, (Saudi Arabia is) not necessarily directly contributing to the problem, whereas with climate change, it obviously is," said Patrick Galey, senior fossil fuels investigator for Global Witness. "Saudi Arabia can, with some legitimacy, claim to be standing up for the little guy when it comes to desertification, because it is directly affected."

No Minority Feels Safe In Bangladesh': Former USCIRF Commissioner Says Muhammad Yunus Is 'Failing'

Washington DC. Johnnie Moore, former Commissioner of the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), has slammed the Bangladesh interim government over the situation of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh, saying "there isn't a minority in the country that doesn't feel under threat right now" and that "Muhammad Yunus is failing." In an interview with ANI, Moore said it is the government's first responsibility to protect those under threat. He also said that this is a moment of "existential threat not only for the minorities of Bangladesh but for the entire country". Moore criticised the arrest of priest Chinmoy Krishna Das by Bangladesh Police and said perception among minorities is "if they'll go after him, they'll go after any of us". The former USCIRF Commissioner said the global Christian community stands with the Hindu community in Bangladesh. "Bangladesh isn't just a Muslim country. It's a Muslim-majority country that has many, many minorities. There isn't a minority in the country that doesn't feel under threat right now. That's been globally evident in recent days as this high-profile arrest has taken place of not just a leader of the Hindu

Bangladeshi community, but really a very serious religious figure. I think the perception is if they'll go after him, they'll go after any of us. I want to be crystal clear, that the global Christian community stands with the Hindu



community in Bangladesh. It is the first responsibility of a government to protect those under threat. The religious minorities of Bangladesh are really feeling it now and they deserve our support," he said. We're not sure who's really doing this, but let me just say, the way I see it, Muhammad Yunus is failing. That's what's happening in Bangladesh now. As, the leader of the country, as the interim leader of the country, there are no aspirations for the Bangladeshi people. If you can't manage a very, very simple component

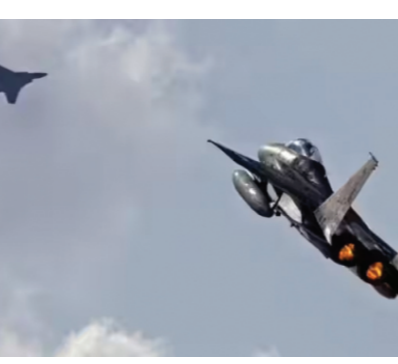
of civil society, which is you have to protect people, people have to be safe. If the rule of law becomes so inefficient that instead of getting due process, a lawyer is killed. This is unbelievable, I was astonished by the response of Mr Yunus in the Bangladeshi government. They are saying this is exaggerated. They're saying that this isn't as big a deal as it seems," he added. Moore said the visuals and the reports that are coming out of Bangladesh show that how a Hindu priest was first arrested then he was denied bail by the local court. "Then the lawyer defending the priest was killed amid protests outside the court where the lawyer was hacked to death by protesters, dragging him out of his chamber. It's become a major rallying point in the country," Moore said. "As the leader of the country, as the interim leader of the country, there are no aspirations for the Bangladeshi people if you can't manage a very, very simple component of civil society, which is you have to protect people. People have to be safe. And you certainly, you certainly cannot have a vibrant democratic country...if the rule of laws becomes so inefficient that instead of getting due process, a lawyer is killed," he added.

Donald Trump's call for 'energy dominance' is likely to run into real-world limits

WASHINGTON. President-elect Donald Trump is set to create a National Energy Council that he says will establish American "energy dominance" around the world as he seeks to boost U.S. oil and gas drilling and move away from President Joe Biden's focus on climate change. The energy council -- to be led by North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Trump's choice to head the Interior Department -- will be key in Trump's pledge to "drill, drill, drill" and sell more oil and other energy sources to allies in Europe and around the globe. The new council will be granted sweeping authority over federal agencies involved in energy permitting, production, generation, distribution, regulation and transportation, with a mandate to cut bureaucratic red tape, enhance private sector investments and focus on innovation instead of "totally unnecessary regulation," Trump said. But the president-elect's energy wishes are likely to run into real-world limits. For one, U.S. oil production under Biden is already at record levels. The federal government cannot force companies to drill for more oil, and production increases could lower prices and reduce profits. A call for energy dominance -- a term Trump also used in his first term as president -- "is an opportunity, not a requirement," for the oil industry to move forward on drilling projects under terms that are likely to be more favorable to industry than those offered by Biden, said energy analyst Kevin Book. Whether Trump achieves energy dominance -- however he defines it -- "comes down to decisions by private companies, based on how they see supply-demand balances in the global marketplace," said Book, managing partner at ClearView Energy Partners, a Washington research firm. Don't expect an immediate influx of new oil rigs dotting the national landscape, he said. Trump's bid to boost oil supplies -- and lower U.S. prices -- is complicated by his threat this week to impose 25% import tariffs on Canada and Mexico, two of the largest sources of U.S. oil imports. U.S. The oil industry warned the tariffs could raise prices and even harm national security. "Canada and Mexico are our top energy trading partners, and maintaining the free flow of energy products across our borders is critical for North American energy security and U.S. consumers," said Scott Lauer, speaking for the American Petroleum Institute, the oil industry's top lobbying group. American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, which represents U.S. refineries, also opposes potential tariffs, saying in a statement that "American refiners depend on crude oil from Canada and Mexico to produce the affordable, reliable fuels consumers count on every day." Scott Segal, a former Bush administration official, said the idea of centering energy decisions at the White House follows an example set by Biden, who named a trio of White House advisers to lead on climate policy. Segal, a partner at the law and policy law firm Bracewell, called Burgum "a steady hand on the tiller" with experience in fossil fuels and renewables.

Israeli Fighter Jet Launches Airstrike In Lebanon Amid Ceasefire

Jerusalem. An Israeli fighter jet launched an airstrike in southern Lebanon, said the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) in a statement, claiming the attack aimed to "thwart a threat." This is reportedly the first strike of its kind took place on Thursday since the ceasefire deal between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon took effect early Wednesday morning, Xinhua news agency reported. The IDF statement said that "terrorist activities were identified in a facility used by Hezbollah to store mid-range rockets in southern Lebanon," adding, "The IDF troops are deployed in southern Lebanon, operating to prevent any violation of the ceasefire." Earlier on Thursday, the IDF confirmed that it conducted a drone strike in southern Lebanon in the morning, describing it as a warning shot. The IDF said several "suspects," some with vehicles, entered areas in



southern Lebanon, violating the ceasefire agreement. In response, the military fired a warning shot near a vehicle in the Markaba area, aiming to deter it without causing casualties. However, Lebanese military sources reported that at least two individuals were injured due to the strike. Meanwhile, unnamed official and military sources in Lebanon reported four additional injuries in a series of

Israeli attacks on the village of Taybeh in southern Lebanon, accusing the Israeli army of breaching the truce. They added that more such attacks took place in the towns of Al-Bissariye, Shebaa, and Khiam, as well as in the villages of Kfarchouba, Halta, Tayr Harfa, Mays al-Jabal, Kafir Kila, and Aitaroun. Although a cautious calm prevailed across the border areas in southern Lebanon since the entry into force of a ceasefire between Hezbollah and the Israeli army at 4:00 a.m. local time on Wednesday, the two sides have been trading accusations of ceasefire violations. Stay informed on all the latest news, real-time breaking news updates, and follow all the important headlines in india news and world News on Zee News.

Israel launches airstrike on Lebanon day after ceasefire, says Hezbollah violated truce

Israel said they were violating the ceasefire agreement, without providing details. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said two people were wounded.

BEIRUT. The Israeli military on Thursday said its warplanes fired on southern Lebanon after detecting Hezbollah activity at a rocket storage facility, the first Israeli airstrike a day after a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah took hold. There was no immediate word on casualties from Israel's aerial attack, which came hours after the Israeli military said it fired on people trying to return to certain areas in

southern Lebanon. Israel said they were violating the ceasefire agreement, without providing details. Lebanon's state-run National News Agency said two people were wounded. The back-to-back incidents stirred unease about the agreement, brokered by the United States and France, which includes an initial two-month ceasefire in which Hezbollah militants are to withdraw north of the Litani River and Israeli forces are to return to their side of the border. The buffer zone would be patrolled by Lebanese troops and U.N. peacekeepers.



Associated Press reporter in northern Israel near the border heard Israeli drones buzzing overhead and the sound of artillery strikes from the Lebanese side. The Israeli military said in a statement that "several suspects were identified arriving with vehicles to a number of areas in southern Lebanon, breaching the conditions of the ceasefire." It said troops "opened fire toward them" and would "actively enforce violations of the ceasefire agreement." Israeli officials have said forces will be withdrawn

gradually as it ensures that the agreement is being enforced. Israel has warned people not to return to areas where troops are deployed, and says it reserves the right to strike Hezbollah if it violates the terms of the truce. A Lebanese military official said Lebanese troops would gradually deploy in the south as Israeli troops withdraw. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media. The ceasefire agreement announced late Tuesday ended 14 months of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah that began a day after Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023 attack out of Gaza, when the Lebanese militant group began firing rockets, drones and missiles in solidarity. Israel retaliated with airstrikes, and the conflict steadily intensified for nearly a year before boiling over into all-out war in mid-September. The war in Gaza is still raging with no end in sight.

BMRCCL revises deadline of Airport Line to September 2026

BENGALURU. Due to the slow pace of construction work witnessed along one segment of the 36.44-km Airport Line from K R Pura to Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCCL) has said that the full line (Phase-2B) can be launched only by September 2026. It will be split into two phases and only the first phase would be in place by June 2026, the latest promised deadline. BMRCCL officials told The New Indian Express that the stretch from Hebbal to airport would be opened initially while the stretch from K R Pura to Hebbal will have a delayed launch. Asked about the reasons for the delay, a top official said, "We need to carry out construction work on the main road between two flyovers. Since it is a very busy spot, the traffic block we can take is only for a few hours. Hence, we are only able to work very slowly." Comparatively, work on the other stretch of the Airport Line from Hebbal to KIA is taking place along the service roads and work can proceed smoothly, he added. The Outer Ring Road Line from Central Silk Board to K R Pura is on target to be completed by June 2026, he said. Another senior official though was sceptical of these deadlines. "Let us wait and see when the civil works get completed," the official said.



flyovers. Since it is a very busy spot, the traffic block we can take is only for a few hours. Hence, we are only able to work very slowly." Comparatively, work on the other stretch of the Airport Line from Hebbal to KIA is taking place along the service roads and work can proceed smoothly, he added. The Outer Ring Road Line from Central Silk Board to K R Pura is on target to be completed by June 2026, he said. Another senior official though was sceptical of these deadlines. "Let us wait and see when the civil works get completed," the official said.

Andhra rains: Orange alert for South Coastal, Rayalaseema districts

Imphal. The Manipur government has strongly criticised the "constant meddling in the internal affairs" of the violence-hit state by the Mizo National Front (MNF), a Mizoram-based political party led by a former chief minister who was defeated in the last assembly election. The Manipur government in a statement on Thursday said the MNF has been pushing an "anti-national, pro-Myanmar refugee propaganda" and maintaining an "anti-Manipur stance."

The statement came after the MNF in a press note issued by its general secretary of outreach VL Kroshehzhova called for the resignation of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who is from the ruling BJP. The Manipur government in the statement said the MNF has consistently opposed the Centre's efforts to secure the border with Myanmar to curb illegal immigration, arms trafficking, and drug smuggling. It said these measures seek to go into the root causes of Manipur's challenges, including illegal immigration and drug-related issues originating from Myanmar.

The Manipur government reminded the public of the MNF's historical secessionist movement in the erstwhile Mizo district of Assam.

MNF chief and former Chief Minister Zoramthanga was a member of a Mizo militant group that declared independence from India in 1966. The MNF, founded by Laldenga, waged a two-decade-long militancy against India for independence for a sovereign Mizo nation. Zoramthanga

remained an active insurgent of the MNF until the centre and the MNF signed a peace agreement in 1986. The ongoing crisis in Manipur is the result of illegal immigrants from Myanmar, whose economy, driven by illicit poppy cultivation, was severely disrupted by the Chief Minister's War on Drugs," the Manipur government said. The Manipur government attributed narratives of religious policy as a factor behind the state violence to propaganda by the MNF and other vested interests at both domestic and international levels. The state government criticised the MNF for ignoring funding by "narco-terrorists" behind the conflict on the Kuki tribes' side. It pointed out a significant increase in the number of villages in Kuki-dominated districts between 1969 and the present - an abnormal rise compared to Naga-dominated districts. The government questioned the MNF's awareness of the reasons behind this dramatic increase, particularly in forested areas. The Manipur government reminded the MNF that the Mizoram government itself has taken measures to prevent Myanmar nationals from buying land, running businesses, or getting official documentation such as Aadhaar and voter identity cards without permission.

It questioned why the MNF opposed similar efforts by Manipur to tackle illegal immigration. The press statement highlighted Mizoram's implementation of a



1950 cut-off date for defining indigenous and non-indigenous persons under the Inner Line Permit (ILP) system. Manipur adopted a similar approach with a 1951 cut-off date under the Manipur People Bill, later revised to 1961. It cited concerns raised by members of the Kuki tribes regarding the impact of these measures on tribal population, urging the MNF to reflect on the scale of illegal immigration since 1951.

"The Mizo National Front is reminded that the Mizoram government, in view of similar concerns of pressure on land, livelihoods and resources, had instructed Myanmar nationals not to purchase land and run business without prior permission from the state government. In addition, the foreigners should also not enrol for Aadhaar, voter list or obtain driving licence, amongst others. Why should the MNF oppose the decision of the Manipur government to tackle the issue of illegal immigration similarly in Manipur?" the

Manipur government said. The Manipur government outlined its successes in the 'War on Drugs' campaign, including the destruction of drugs worth ₹ 60,000 crore in the international market, the seizure of vast quantities of narcotics, and the eradication of 16,787 acres of illicit poppy cultivation.

It noted a 60 per cent decline in poppy cultivation between 2021 and 2023. In contrast, the statement alleged Mizoram has emerged as a transit route for illegal arms and drugs between India and Myanmar. The MNF should focus on the looming threat on Mizo society from the drugs trade instead of passing unwarranted comments on legally justified acts of the government of Manipur to combat drugs trafficking. If requested by the MNF, the government of Manipur will extend all assistance to the efforts of the state of Mizoram towards curbing drugs," the Manipur government said. He state government detailed its efforts to restore peace and normalcy, including providing food and shelter to over 60,000 people in relief camps, conducting combing operations to recover looted arms, and prosecuting lawbreakers. Sensitive cases have been handed over to central agencies like the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for impartial investigation, and a retired Supreme Court judge is heading a commission of inquiry into the origins of the ethnic conflict.

Three missing women rescued after 14 hours from Kerala's Kuttampuzha forest

Three women who went missing after they entered the forest in search of their cattle left for grazing were chased by elephants and had taken refuge on a rock.



KOCHI. Ending hours of tension, the search teams that were scouring the Kuttampuzha forest area for more than 14 hours, rescued the three women who went missing after they entered the forest in search of their cattle left for grazing. Maya Jayan, Darly Stephen and Parukutty of Athikandam near Panthapra had entered the forest around 2 pm on Thursday searching for the cattle they left for grazing on Wednesday. The women were found waiting for help on a rocky terrain at Arakkamutty around 6 km inside the forest at 7.30 am on Friday. The forest department had launched a

massive search at 5 pm on Thursday as the relatives informed that the women have lost their way in the forest after they were chased by wild elephants. Police, fire and rescue team, civil volunteers and local residents formed four teams and searched the Viripara and check dam area on Thursday night but couldn't find the women. Two teams returned to the village around 2 am while another team lit fire and waited for dawn break. The presence of elephant herds in the area had made the search operation risky. On Friday morning, the forest department relaunched the search using drone and thermal scanning equipment to locate the missing women. At around 7.30 am the search team found the women waiting on a rock at Arakkamutty area. "We lost our way inside the forest while trying to escape from wild elephants. We were chased by elephants and had taken refuge on a rock. We heard the calls of search teams in the night but did not respond as there were elephants and wild animals were roaming the area," said Maya Jayan. The rescue team brought the women to Kuttampuzha around 8.30 am. The cattle had returned to the village on Thursday evening.

DRI flags smuggling of poppy seeds through Indian ports including Chennai, Thoothukudi

CHENNAI. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has recently flagged a nation-wide alert regarding the smuggling of poppy seeds from Malaysia and other southeast Asian countries through ports across India, including Chennai and Thoothukudi, by either misdeclaring the cargo or concealing it in some other consignment. Obtained from the poppy plant which is also the source of opium, poppy seeds are commonly used for cooking in Indian households, but there is a restriction in place for its import. Indian norms permit the import of poppy seeds only from 16 countries.

In addition, the importer has to produce a certificate from the competent authority of the exporting country, showing the Opium poppy has been grown legally in that country. All import contracts would also have to register with the Central Bureau of Narcotics, Gwalior. This is part of the Indian government's measures to protect the business of poppy cultivators in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The legal

import of poppy seeds also attracts a 25% customs duty. According to official sources, all these reasons drive its smuggling, which causes a loss to the government exchequer. Poppy seeds cost around ₹ 1,300 per



kilogramme. Sources said DRI's alert mentions recent instances where around 11 tonnes of poppy seeds were found in a container in Chennai port concealed in a cargo with wooden panels and another 15 tonnes loaded in six containers

declared as limestone powder. Similar incidents have also been discovered at Thoothukudi where there have been attempts to smuggle poppy seeds inside consignments declared as saw dust, sand or cement. A similar attempt was busted at Kolkata where there was an attempt to smuggle the seeds in a consignment declared as detergent. Sources said customs officials at Chennai international airport have also seized poppy seeds smuggled in from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Singapore. DRI sources said the seized poppy seeds are supposed to be disposed by way of an auction through which the government also earns significant revenue. Only from Australia, Austria, France, China, Hungary, The Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Turkey, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Macedonia, Germany and Ukraine certificate from importing country that the poppy plant is legally grown. Register every import with Central Bureau of Narcotics, Gwalior

Odisha to have South Asia's first elephant centre for species survival

BHUBANESWAR. In a first-of-its-kind initiative that would support conservation of elephants in South and Southeast Asia, Odisha government has accepted a proposal for establishment a Centre for Species Survival (CSS) of Asian Elephants near Bhubaneswar. The centre will be set up at Chandaka wildlife division. A letter of agreement with the International Union for Conservation of Nature Species Survival Commission (IUCN-SSC) and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) was signed by the Forest, Environment and Climate Change department in this regard. The centre will not only enhance the protection of Asian elephants across 13 range countries in South and South East Asia including India but also be in line with Government of India's 'Act East

Policy' launched in 2014 to promote country's economic, strategic and cultural relations with the Asia-Pacific region. Establishment of the species survival centre of elephants in India is also being seen as vital as the country is home to over 60 per cent of wild Asian elephant population. While India has emerged as a global leader in Asian elephant conservation, addressing challenges of securing elephant corridors, mitigating human-wildlife conflict, training frontline forest staff, rescue and rehabilitation, creation of community-conserved areas, top sources in the Wildlife Wing said, the centre will facilitate integration of scientific and cultural knowledge and promote collaboration among different stakeholders including

government agencies, forest communities and public to bolster conservation efforts for Asian elephants. The establishment of the centre will also bring significant international support, funding as well as expertise for the protection of elephants in the country including Odisha. It will also go a long way in resolving the human-elephant conflict which has been a raging issue for many states. For effective management of the centre, a seven-member governing council headed by the PCCF (wildlife) was notified by the state wildlife headquarters on Thursday. The governing body will be led by the PCCF (wildlife) as its chairman while chief conservator of forests, regional CCF (Bhubaneswar circle), WTI CEO, WTI regional facilitator, Chandaka DFO and

GUNTUR. In a significant relief for commuters, the long-delayed road widening project of AT Agraharam main road is set to pick up pace. The road, which serves one of the city's oldest and most densely populated areas, has been in dire need of expansion to accommodate increasing traffic and address damage, particularly during the rainy season.

The project, delayed for years due to the absence of a Guntur Municipal Corporation (GMC) council, gained traction over the past two years after council approval. Initial progress saw officials clearing encroachments and initiating construction. However, work stalled when some residents filed legal cases in the High Court, leading to prolonged disruptions and severe inconvenience for daily commuters. In response to mounting public complaints, GMC Commissioner P



Srinivasulu recently inspected the project and issued directives to expedite the work. He instructed engineering teams to complete drainage construction by the end of the month and clear remaining encroachments promptly. The GMC Commissioner acknowledged the hardships faced by

commuters and emphasised the need for timely completion of the roadwork.

Efforts to resolve legal hurdles are also underway. A meeting was held with residents who filed court cases, during which their concerns were addressed. Officials have been directed to conduct a comprehensive survey of the AT Agraharam main road master plan, mark boundaries, and provide prior notifications to those affected.

The Commissioner stressed that pending Transferable Development Rights (TDR) bonds and structural compensation must be distributed to eligible residents without further delays. The project, when completed, promises to improve commuting conditions and enhance infrastructure in this bustling area. Authorities are racing against time to ensure its swift execution.

Riverine discharge from Godavari ups dead zones in Bay

It highlighted that Godavari could have significant impact on the intensification of ODZ, besides major rivers like the Ganga and Brahmaputra.



HYDERABAD. A joint study, led by researchers from the University of Hyderabad (UoH) and other national and international organisations, has found that riverine discharge from the Godavari intensifies the oxygen-depleted zones

(ODZ) or dead zones near its mouth in the Bay of Bengal. Apart from the UoH, scientists from the CSIR-NIO in Visakhapatnam and King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia also took part in the research published in the Frontiers in Marine Science journal. It highlighted that Godavari could have significant impact on the intensification of ODZ, besides major rivers like the Ganga and Brahmaputra. Researchers analysed the river discharge data from the Godavari at the Dowlaiswaram barrage, World Ocean Atlas 2018 data and high-resolution biogeochemistry recorded Array for Real-Time Geostrophic Oceanography (ARGO) buoys in the Bay of Bengal off Godavari

river mouth. The study found that during the monsoon season, when the Godavari experiences peak discharge, large amounts of organic matter from dead trees, plants or soil are carried into the Bay of Bengal. In addition to this, river water also carries huge amounts of nutrients to the coast that enhance phytoplankton production. A mentor to the lead author, Prof K Ashok, told TNIE, "This is the first time that the effect of Godavari on the Bay of Bengal has been studied. Fish cannot thrive in ODZs. The study found that Godavari flow could also be contributing to a decrease in the oxygen levels in some zones in the Bay of Bengal, affecting fishing activity. Since Godavari is rained.

COP29 deal has let the world down

COP29, the latest round of climate negotiations at Baku, ended with a contested deal. The central theme was supposed to be climate finance. It refers to local, national or transnational financing that seeks to support mitigation and adaptation actions that will address climate change. For decades, developing countries have been demanding additional funding to help them take effective measures to meet the challenge of climate change. They have been demanding that rich countries shoulder a greater responsibility because primarily they are responsible for the current crisis. It is historical emissions from the Global North since the Industrial Revolution that have led to the climate crisis. The quantum of climate finance and its source have been a sticking point between developed and developing nations for a long time. It was against this backdrop that the Baku negotiations raised expectations and hope for a good deal. The outcome sets a goal of at least \$300 billion of climate finance every year by 2035 for developing countries. The money will come from a wide variety of sources — public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources. In providing this funding, developed countries will take the lead and developing nations will be encouraged to make contributions voluntarily. The finance goal set at Baku falls much short of the target and the timeframe developing countries had demanded — \$1.3 trillion in finance every year to be mobilised by developed countries starting 2025. Not only is the figure much below the quantum but the timeframe is far off. This is by now a familiar tactic of the Global North — fix a watered-down target and a much longer timeframe to avoid any immediate commitments. Moreover, the promised funding will not come solely from the rich. Developing countries, too, will have to contribute to the kitty. Predictably, this has upset developing countries. At the end of the negotiations, India, Bolivia and Nigeria voiced their concerns over the weak deal, officially called the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance. India has also accused the presidency of the Conference of Parties (COP) of pushing through the deal without following the norms of multilateral talks held under the aegis of the UN. Developing countries need finance and technology to meet the challenge of climate change. Money is needed for mitigation — large-scale investments are required to significantly reduce emissions. This means funding to support renewable energy projects, energy efficiency, managing living natural resources and land use, protection of terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, clean transportation, etc. The second major requirement of additional funding is for adaptation — resources needed to adapt to the adverse effects and reduce the impacts of a changing climate. This would, for example, include funding to build infrastructure that can withstand storms and flooding, financing the relocation of infrastructure projects away from areas with rising sea levels, developing and supplying drought-resistant seeds, etc. In addition, climate finance is required for a third category of actions known as 'loss and damage' to help countries cope with natural disasters accentuated due to climate change.

Over the years, several mechanisms and funds have been devised for climate finance under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These include the Global Environment Facility, Green Climate Fund, Special Climate Change Fund, Least Developed Countries Fund, Adaptation Fund, etc. However, in effect, very little money has flowed into these funds and made available to developing countries. For instance, the Green Climate Fund has supported 243 projects across 129 developing countries totalling \$13.5 billion during the 2020-23 period. The Adaptation Fund has committed \$1.2 billion for 183 adaptation projects in several developing countries since 2010. The flow of funding from other mechanisms is even more minuscule. Overall, the finance available from UNFCCC-promoted funds and mechanisms is far below the requirement. Hence, the demand at Baku was to enhance the quantum as well as quality of finance.

Manipur a test of govt's ability to manage unity in diversity

AS euphoric celebrations over Maharashtra state elections lead to a 'masterstroke' discourse and headlines, the continuing agony of Manipur has been relegated again. A brief mention of rushing an additional 10,000 CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) soldiers towards addressing the.

AS euphoric celebrations over Maharashtra state elections lead to a 'masterstroke' discourse and headlines, the continuing agony of Manipur has been relegated again. A brief mention of rushing an additional 10,000 CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces) soldiers towards addressing the spiralling Manipuri violence seemingly satisfies the national consciousness. Official figures peg the death toll at about 258, with about a lakh displaced. The substantially higher unofficial figures are automatically pooh-poohed. News coming out of the troubled state is patchy, if any. The complete breakdown of Manipur is a mere footnote in news.

Manipur is a microcosm of India with religio-ethnic diversities, polarised assertions and a deeply contested history that tests the ruling dispensation's ability to manage the constitutionally aspired unity in diversity. Manipur hosts an amalgamation of Hindus (Vaishnavite Meitei), Christians (Kuki-Zo, Nagas), Muslims (Pangals), Buddhists and tribals and it even had Jews (B'nei Menashe) once upon a time. Therefore, the erstwhile Kangleipak state (Meitei-ruled Manipuri state) has always had to deal with underlying disaffection among its non-Meitei populace, especially in the hills dominated by Kukis and Nagas. But a certain geographical arrangement and understanding of respecting the local turfs and sensibilities of the various diversities ensured a semblance of normalcy. In a way, Manipur mirrors the challenges that had beset the newly independent India. It, too, had required the celebration of the commonality of differences as opposed to insisting on the homogeneity of the 'land of the pure' or Pakistan. The foundational and constitutional 'idea of India' was a direct contrast to the majoritarian 'idea of Pakistan' as India was fundamentally predicated on inclusivity, secularism and a deliberate accommodation of 'others'.

Therefore, the 'idea of India' always beseeched a large-hearted outreach, protection and affirmation of those whose voice could get naturally diluted in a democratic majority. Ultimately, as numbers matter in a democratic contest, those with lower numbers (read minorities) could get lost. It is this imagined vulnerability of the minorities that led to societal dissonance in regions with higher numbers of minority denominations, like Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab or the Northeast states.

The integration of many of these regions, such as Jammu and Kashmir's accession to India in 1948, or

the Maharaja of Manipur's signing of the merger agreement in 1949, were by themselves complicated events. Obviously, the forces inimical to India fanned the situational dissonance towards secessionism. It had taken Delhi to course-correct many of its missteps and admit to some excesses whilst signing the peace accords in places like



Punjab and Mizoram to trigger the end of insurgent movements. Finally, the 'Idea of India' had triumphed by convincing the restive diversities, especially minorities, on the genuineness of Delhi in honouring the foundational spirit of unity in diversity. Sadly, along with Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur has the dubious distinction of facing the longest continuing insurgency and the maximum number of insurgent groups. Groups like the People's Liberation Army of Manipur (PLA), People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak and Kangleipak Communist Party represent the societal grouping in the state. Other prominent insurgent groups include Naga groups like the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Isak-Muivah and National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang as also the Kuki National Army representing the Kuki ethnicity. These groups have separate, specific, and, often, conflicting agendas that seek to protect their respective turfs and arrangements.

These armed groups could either be pursuing purely secessionist movements, such as the PLA, or protectionist agendas to defend their communities from seceding space in the delicate arrangement from usurpation or diminishment. Many groups have fought violently in the past, like the Kuki forces against the Naga groups, or, like now, the Meitei multitude against the Kukis.

Delhi always had a difficult task in addressing each group and challenge uniquely, without resorting to blanket narratives or presumptions. Therefore, while it is relatively peaceful in the once-troubled places like Nagaland, Mizoram and Assam, the divergence of competing interests in the Manipuri cauldron have failed to end the insurgent movements therein. Although till about 2022, the broadly respected arrangement of various groups ensured relative peace, but not completely. Delhi had to tiptoe around the armed aspirations to not be seen as favouring any group or community.

The local arrangement among the Manipuri divide was given to a sudden fracture, with the local courts suggesting affirmative action that seemed to suit one group over the other perceptively. This move, coincidentally, fitted well with the thrust of majoritarian politics that had entered the region and spurred the ruling dispensation in Delhi into power even in Imphal for the first time in 2017. The fact that this winning partisan thought had successfully conflated religion with nationalism, it axiomatically led to 'othering' or aspersions of 'anti-national' on to communities that did not fit the formula.

Dangerously, the perception gained credence that Delhi had made a choice among the restive groups that threatened the traditional set piece of local arrangement. The supporting rhetoric was typically one-sided, with murmurs of one side having foreign support, gunrunning, smuggling, territorial denialism and even aspirations of a 'Christian state'. It didn't help matters that the actions of the law and order agencies also seemed to favour one side. The absence of the Prime Minister's visit despite the scale of tensions and bloodshed only deepened the distrust amongst the proverbial 'others' in the conflict. The new narrative may have electorally benefited the ruling dispensation in the region, but it has also brutally polarised the communities and allies, like the regional National People's Party, had no choice but to throw in the towel. It is true that conflict-ridden regions like Jammu and Kashmir and Manipur have very little impact on national government formation, with just three seats for the former and two for the strife-torn state. However, these regions with substantial number of minorities or 'others' test the sincerity and commitment of the ruling government to the constitutional morality of unity in diversity.

Minority persecution

THE arrest of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in Bangladesh on Tuesday has once again spotlighted the challenges faced by minorities in the country. Das, ISKCON leader and advocate for minority rights, was arrested on charges of sedition after allegedly...

THE arrest of Hindu leader Chinmoy Krishna Das in Bangladesh on Tuesday has once again spotlighted the challenges faced by minorities in the country. Das, ISKCON leader and advocate for minority rights, was arrested on charges of sedition after allegedly disrespecting the Bangladeshi flag — a claim his supporters contest. The arrest, coupled with the denial of bail, has sparked widespread protests, both in Bangladesh and across the border in India. The context of this unrest lies in a troubling pattern of minority persecution. Despite constitutional assurances of equality, Bangladeshi Hindus, who constitute around nine per cent of the population, frequently endure violence, vandalism and social exclusion. Reports of mob attacks on Hindu homes and temples are alarmingly common, especially during political transitions — as has been seen since Sheikh Hasina's ouster — or communal tensions. While the current unrest ostensibly revolves around Das' arrest, it underscores the



broader insecurity experienced by minorities in a state where Islam is the official religion. India's official response to the incident — urging the

interim government led by Muhammad Yunus to ensure minority safety and uphold freedom of expression and assembly — reflects its concerns for the region's stability. However, Bangladesh must recognise that addressing these issues is not merely about appeasing international pressure. The long-term solution lies in fostering inclusivity, ensuring swift justice for victims of communal violence and protecting the fundamental rights of its citizens, irrespective of faith. The onus is on Dhaka to restore trust by heeding the calls of groups like the Sammilit Sanatan Jagran Jote, which advocate for special tribunals to expedite justice for victims of persecution. Failing this, the cycle of unrest threatens to escalate, undermining Bangladesh's image as a progressive democracy. Peace and security for all minorities must be a lived reality.

Why the Anglo-Saxon West hates Russia

This is the taunting remark made by the then UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace on February 23, 2022, even before Russia had invaded Ukraine: "The Scots Guards kicked backside of Tsar Nicholas-I in 1853 in Crimea and we can always..."

This is the taunting remark made by the then UK Defence Secretary Ben Wallace on February 23, 2022, even before Russia had invaded Ukraine: "The Scots Guards kicked backside of Tsar Nicholas-I in 1853 in Crimea and we can always do it again." He was referring to the 170-year-old Crimean War between Moscow and the tripartite forces of London, Paris and Ankara's Ottoman Empire which defeated Russia to conclude with the Treaty of Paris in 1856. The palpable hatred of the West's Anglo-Saxon people towards Russia is unmistakable.

Fast forward one month, to March 22, 2022, and one finds Joe Biden, President of the US (POTUS), blurted out another verbal bullet in Warsaw: "For God's sake, this man Putin cannot remain in power." What message was POTUS giving to the world? Was he in charge of the regime change of Moscow and judge, jury and arbitrator, with powers of the world supercop on the prowl? Or, was he heading the sole superpower state? For a minute, however, POTUS acted like a non-state actor of a tinpot dictatorship!

True, Biden was referring to the wrong and illegal Russian invasion of the sovereign Ukraine. But, did he remember the plethora of worse wrongdoings of his own country committed in the 21st century? Again, it's true that two wrongs cannot make one right, yet one has to be rational, restrained and reticent while uttering words to make a point on an international platform dealing with such crisis situations as the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Russia was wrong on all counts to invade Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and under no stretch of the imagination can the Moscow aggression be defended. It's a naked 18th-20th century imperial-

type aggression by the powerful to conquer the weak. Moscow had no business to trample upon Ukraine's sovereignty. Nevertheless, on closer scrutiny, it is seen that the Russian invasion of Ukraine was born of a ceaseless two-decade-plus shameless US-led NATO and EU provocation, which posed a dire and direct existential threat to Moscow's geography through her underbelly of Kiev.

Hence, despite Russian President Vladimir Putin being wrong, he had reason to be wrong, and reason to be not right. It's the blatant West-plotted expansion towards the East that Russia couldn't have ignored beyond a point. All the more so because the once-sovereign USSR had already been broken into 15 states in December 1991, with Russia being one of the new states. The shrunkened and weakened Russia, thus, constituted a fresh opportunity for the traditional imperialist powers of the West to get back to their favourite pastime: Of expanding territory, controlling resources and subjugating local manpower to subservience to bolster their own economy and multiply their growth chart, the way it zoomed from the 17th to the 20th century.

Today, the Russia-Ukraine war is more than a local conflict of the Balkan-Black Sea belt. The outgoing POTUS, Biden, has suddenly escalated the war, which could be potentially disastrous for Europe if it remains just a conventional conflict. However, in the unlikely event of the use of nuclear wares, one cannot predict the conflict's outcome. Indeed, whatever the



future course of the Ukraine war, Biden (the Anglo-Saxon who hates Russia), for sure, will go down as a would-have-been hero who fell as a tragic villain in the history of the USA in general and the history of European warfare in particular for escalating the war zone into a potential Armageddon.

Ironically, the villain should have been Putin for initiating the war. But the role has been diametrically reversed as Biden seems to have taken over the mayhem mantle from the Moscow man.

Thus, Biden has perfectly fitted into Putin's shoes by allowing US-made lethal weapons to be targeted deep into Moscow's land. Obviously, Moscow will react and go for reprisals on the source of the weapons' launch pads. And the launch pads may be

any country, but certainly not the US or the UK, the two Anglo-Saxon nations whose hatred for the eastern state of Russia constitutes permanent chapters of world history. Where, then, do things go from here? The biggest puzzle at this point in time to the world in general and the West in particular is US president-designate Donald Trump, whose dislike for Biden is too conspicuous to be ignored. Biden inherited the Trump legacy of the Afghan war endgame. And August 2021 is a bad dream come true for the new POTUS. The retreat after the 20-year war made Biden a bitter man. The October 2024 escalation of the present Ukraine war is the right punch for Biden to deliver as a revenge trophy to Trump, his 2021-predecessor-cum-2025-successor.

The short of the long story, therefore, is the revival of Anglo-Saxon versus Russia rivalry on the fringe of Europe. The imperial sea powers of the West would prefer to continue with the proxy conventional war in land owing to their inherent discomfort to take a direct fight with a monstrous land power which has traditionally thrived on protracted conflict away from the water. The Anglo-Saxons may like to think that the long war on land would weaken the Slav Russia both economically and demographically, but that may not turn out to be so.

The dynamics of political alignments are changing rather fast, with land powers uniting to take on the comparatively smaller sea powers with diminishing demography and challenging economy.

How to choose the best

Carpet for your home

Carpets for a home are a necessity. I realized their importance only once I bought myself my very first rug. I cannot quite describe this feeling, but it was somewhat magical. My home instantly became my Zen space. After this, there was surely no going back for me, and as fate would have it, I also became the CEO of Obeteete Carpets.

I am not a design expert, but after being in the luxury décor industry for a substantial amount of time, there are a few things that I have learned and eventually mastered. The most important factor out of all these is just one: What defines you? If one were to visit your home one day, how would they describe it? Would it have a lot of lush green plants? Would it be minimalistic with fewer colours or patterns? Would it be a vibrant home filled with statement accents and décor pieces? Carpets are all about self-expression. So, before you go on a hunt to choose the best rug for your home, make sure that you know your requirements well. Not knowing what your home or soul needs and juggling between a variety of options can quickly become a hassle. Now let us discuss the various elements that would help you decide on that one carpet that would take all your worries away.

Colour
Of all the factors mentioned here, I would say colour tops the list. The colour of your rug can make or break your décor. This is why it is always best to go for a rug which blends well with the rest of the elements in your space. Even a statement rug, which is supposed to stand out, should blend well with your curtains, the cupboards, the flooring, and so on. Always consider the colour aesthetic in your room that you wish to achieve. A red rug is great when looked at individually, but if you have grey walls, it might make your décor look a bit dull. Similarly, if the entire furniture setup in your space is brown, the ideal colour might be something from that family of colours. Thus, thinking about these elements is necessary when you're choosing a rug for your space.

Pattern
Once you've decided on the desired colour, the next step is to choose your pattern. The easiest tip for this, which has worked for me, is to identify how busy your space is. If your room already has a lot of elements—be it furniture, artwork, or decorative pieces—then opting for a simpler, more subdued pattern would work best. On the other hand, if your space is minimalistic, a bold, intricate pattern can add much-needed character and depth. Remember, the pattern should complement the overall vibe of your room and not clash with it.

Material

The material of the carpet is crucial not just for aesthetics but also for functionality and comfort. Different materials serve different purposes and have varying levels of durability. For instance, wool is a popular choice due to its softness, durability, and natural stain resistance. Silk carpets, though luxurious and visually stunning, are best suited for low-traffic areas. If you have pets or kids, synthetic fibers like nylon or polyester might be more practical due to their high durability and ease of cleaning. Always consider the foot traffic and the intended use of the space before



making a decision on the material.

Type of space

The type of space where the carpet will be placed also plays a significant role in your decision. A carpet for a living room should ideally be inviting and cosy, setting the tone for relaxation and social gatherings. Bedrooms benefit from plush, soft carpets that add warmth and comfort. In contrast, high-traffic areas like hallways and entryways require durable, easy-to-clean carpets that can withstand wear and tear. Tailoring your carpet choice to the specific needs of each space ensures that it will not only look good but also function effectively.

Size

Size matters when it comes to carpets. A rug that is too small can make a room feel disjointed, while one that is too large can overwhelm the space. The general rule of thumb is to choose a carpet that fits well within the room's dimensions, allowing for a border of exposed floor around the edges. For living rooms, a common approach is to ensure that the front legs of your furniture rest on the rug, creating a cohesive look. In dining areas, the carpet should be large enough to accommodate the table and chairs, even when they are pulled out. Accurate measurements and thoughtful placement can make all the difference in achieving a balanced, harmonious look.

Choosing the perfect carpet involves a blend of personal expression and practical considerations. By keeping in mind these elements—colour, pattern, material, type of space, and size—you can find a carpet that not only enhances the beauty of your home but also reflects your unique style and personality. Remember, a well-chosen carpet can transform a space, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere that you'll love coming home to.

9 easy ways to reduce Mosquito breeding sites around your home



Mosquitoes are not just a nuisance; they are carriers of dangerous diseases like malaria, dengue, and other diseases. One of the most effective ways to protect your home and family from these pests is by eliminating their breeding sites. Mosquitoes lay their eggs in stagnant water, and even small amounts of standing water around your home can become a breeding ground. But by some proactive steps to reduce mosquito breeding sites, you can significantly decrease the mosquito population around your home. Here are some of them:

1. Eliminate standing water
Dispose of or regularly empty containers that collect water to prevent mosquito breeding. This includes items like buckets, flowerpots, and bird baths. Clean and unclog gutters and drains to stop water accumulation, which can serve as a breeding ground

for mosquitoes.
2. Maintain pools and water features
Keep swimming pools properly chlorinated to deter mosquito larvae. Well-maintained pools are less likely to attract mosquitoes. Apply mosquito larvicides or introduce fish in decorative ponds to control mosquito larvae and prevent their growth.
3. Cover water storage
Ensure water storage containers have tightly fitted lids to keep mosquitoes out and prevent egg-laying. Properly cover and seal any water storage containers to eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites.
4. Clear debris
Remove Fallen Leaves: Regularly clear leaves and other organic matter from gutters and around your property to

prevent water collection and mosquito habitats.
5. Improve drainage
Ensure your yard has proper grading to direct water away from low areas and prevent pooling. Add or improve drainage systems in areas where water accumulates to manage and redirect water flow effectively.
6. Use mosquito-repellent plants
Grow mosquito-repellent plants like citronella, lavender, marigolds, and basil around your home to naturally deter mosquitoes.
7. Maintain your lawn



Keep your lawn mower to reduce potential mosquito hiding and breeding areas. Trim dense bushes and vegetation to eliminate mosquito shelter and breeding sites.
8. Repair leaks
Fix Plumbing Issues: Address leaking faucets, pipes, and toilets promptly to prevent puddles and small water sources that mosquitoes could use for breeding.
9. Use mosquito-prevention products
Use larvicidal products in areas where standing water cannot be eliminated to target mosquito larvae and prevent their development. Install mosquito nets on windows and doors to keep mosquitoes from entering your home and reduce indoor mosquito populations.

Ex Bureaucrat, Former Top Cop, Retired Judge: Who's On Sambhal Mosque Body

New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel constituted a three-member Judicial Inquiry Commission, to be headed by Justice Devendra Kumar Arora (Retired), to probe the violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal, ahead of an Archaeological Survey of India examination of a Mughal era mosque. He other two members of the commission are retired IAS Amit Mohan Prasad and retired IPS Arvind Kumar Jain.

Scope Of Inquiry

The commission will submit a report on whether the incident was planned or a "sudden" event, and also on the effectiveness of law and order arrangements made by the District Administration and police. The committee will also give suggestions regarding non-recurrence of such type of incidents in future. The commission will submit its report in two months.

About Justice Arora

Justice Devendra Kumar Arora, a retired judge of Allahabad High Court, has served as the chairman of UP Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA). Justice



Arora is a law graduate from Lucknow University and holds a PG Diploma degree in Labor Law from Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. After practicing law in the Allahabad High Court, he was appointed as an additional judge in the High Court on 13 February, 2009 and became a regular judge from 24 December, 2010. He retired in 2019 and immediately after retirement, he was

appointed the chairman of RERA by the Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government.

About Amit Mohan Prasad

As per his LinkedIn profile, Mr Prasad joined the Indian Administrative Service in August 1989, going on to serve in various positions, including as the District Magistrate of

Jalaun, Mirzapur, Muzaffarnagar and Meerut. During his tenure, he oversaw the conduct of three Lok Sabha and one Vidhan Sabha elections in these four districts.

In 2015, he started Direct Benefit Transfer in Agricultural Subsidies. He also developed the cluster model of Covid vaccination in February 2020, when he was Additional Chief Secretary of Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department

About Arvind Kumar Jain

Mr Jain, a 1979 cadre officer, was took charge as the Director General of Uttar Pradesh Police in 2015. His appointment came just two months ahead of his retirement. However, the government extended his tenure by another three months. He holds an MA in Modern History and hails from Saharanpur.

Post a comment

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court on Friday will hear a plea by the Committee of Management of Jama Masjid in Sambhal against the November 19 order of the local court for the survey of the mosque. Four people died in the November 24 violence.

Bishnoi Gang's Favourite Destination What Delhi Salon Shooter Said

Bishnoi Gang's Favourite Destination?

What Delhi Salon Shooter Said
The fake passport accessed by NDTV shows that Harsh's name was written as Pradeep Kumar and it was issued from Punjab's Jalandhar on March 26.

New Delhi. Members of the notorious Lawrence Bishnoi gang and other wanted criminals prefer to hide in the US, a sharpshooter of the group who was arrested for killing two at a Delhi salon has told the police.

The accused man, Harsh alias Chintu, has reportedly told the police that these gangsters enter America using fake passports by the "donkey route", the term that describes travelling from one place to another to migrate illegally.

That is believed to be the route taken by several gangsters, including Goldy Brar, Anmol Bishnoi, Rohit Godara, Monty Mann, and Pawan Bishnoi, who are currently in the US.

22-year-old Harsh was arrested on Thursday from the Delhi airport, where he arrived to arrange for another fake passport, officials said.

The fake passport accessed by NDTV shows that Harsh's name was written as Pradeep Kumar and it was issued from Punjab's Jalandhar on March 26. According to the police, Harsh left India on June 9 from Amritsar Airport and flew to Sharjah before heading to Azerbaijan on August 27, where he remained for several months.

Delhi salon shooting incident

On February 9, two people, identified as Sonu Tehlan and Ashish Tehlan, were shot multiple times in front of other customers and workers. The attackers fled after the attack.

During investigations, the shooters were identified as Sanjeev Kumar or Sanju Dahiya and Harsh - both were previously involved in criminal cases and declared proclaimed offenders. The police had also offered a reward of ₹ 50,000 for their arrest. Listen to the latest songs, only on JioSaavn.com. The police had issued a lookout circular - or airport alert - for Harsh, whose alleged motive for the shootings was that the victims were leaking information on him.

Post a comment

Harsh had been operating on the orders of gangster Yogesh (aka Tunda), who had taken over the Gogi gang after its leader's murder. Harsh is also known to have been involved in extortion activities and had previously been arrested in connection with an extortion case. He was also recently involved in threatening several businessmen in Delhi and demanding money in the name of gangster Yogesh, reported news agency PTL.

Indian Coast Guard rescues 10 stranded in Tamil Nadu amid cyclonic weather

New Delhi. The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) saved six fishermen and four jetty workers stranded off the Cuddalore coast amid cyclonic weather on Thursday. The operation followed a request from the Tamil Nadu



State Authorities, who sought assistance as deteriorating conditions and lack of road access to the location made evacuation impossible by conventional means. The six fishermen from Thaikkal Thonithurai village had ventured into the sea in private boats, which were damaged and sank due to rough weather. They, along with four workers at the abandoned Chemplast jetty located about 2 km off Chitrapettai village, found themselves stranded as the weather worsened. Responding swiftly, the ICG Regional Headquarters (East) deployed an Advanced Light Helicopter from the Coast Guard Air Station in Chennai. Braving adverse weather conditions caused by the ongoing cyclonic activity, the helicopter crew carried out the search and rescue mission with precision, evacuating all 10 individuals safely to Chitrapettai.

90% Top Indian Firms Favour Work From Office, More Than World Average: Survey

New Delhi. India demonstrates a strong preference for office-based work, with 90 per cent of organizations requiring employees to work from the office for at least three days a week, according to a survey by JLL, a global real estate services firm. This figure surpasses the global average of 85 per cent, placing India among the top advocates for office-based work.

The survey added, "This trend is expected to strengthen, with 54 per cent of organizations in India (43 per cent globally) anticipating an increase in office days by 2030." Indian workplaces are undergoing significant transformation as businesses increasingly adopt Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their operations. According to the survey, 95 per cent of business decision-makers in India plan to accelerate investments in AI over the next five years. The survey highlighted how AI is reshaping workforce operations and revolutionizing the design and management of workspaces.

"A staggering 94 per cent of businesses foresee AI changing their workforce operations, with 95 per cent planning to accelerate AI investments over the next five years," the survey stated. This study is part of a global research initiative that surveyed over 2,300 Corporate Real Estate (CRE) and business decision-makers. The survey also highlighted the growing emphasis on sustainability in the corporate sector. About 77 per cent of respondents indicated plans to increase spending on sustainability initiatives, while 70 per cent reported having well-defined programs aimed at reducing their environmental footprint. Furthermore, nearly 50 per cent of organizations expressed a willingness to pay a premium for buildings with top-tier green certifications by 2030. Despite the positive trends, challenges persist. Nearly 44 per cent of CRE leaders reported difficulties in long-term planning due to the rapidly changing organizational landscape. Another 46 per cent identified limited integration with other business units as a significant hurdle in delivering optimal value. The survey emphasized that fostering partnerships and aligning corporate goals with CRE objectives is crucial for achieving portfolio efficiency and future-ready workplace solutions. It paints a promising picture of India's workplace evolution, driven by technology and sustainability, while also highlighting areas requiring attention for smoother transitions.

India's 1st hydrogen powered train to run between Jind, Sonipat stations

New Delhi. Indian Railways is set to achieve another milestone with the launch of the country's first hydrogen-powered train. This innovative train will soon undergo a trial run between Haryana's Jind and Sonipat railway stations. The Research, Design, and Standard Organisation (RDSO) has developed the design for the train. With this breakthrough, India will join a select group of countries that have initiated the use of hydrogen as fuel for trains. Notably, this will be the first large-scale attempt globally. The design for India's first hydrogen-fuelled train is now complete. Following necessary formalities, the train is expected to undergo its final trial in the first quarter of the upcoming year. RDSO, a key wing of Indian Railways, developed the train's design with a focus on modern utility and innovation. The design was finalised and released in December 2021, and work on the project has been ongoing since then. Operations could begin as early as the first quarter of next year.

RDSO DEVELOPS THE DESIGN

The design was unveiled at the

International Innovative Rail Expo held in Lucknow. Highlighting the features, RDSO Director General Uday Borwankar stated, "RDSO consistently focusses on new and innovative projects. While hydrogen fuel has been tested in road transport globally, its use



in rail transport has not achieved significant success. India's efforts in this direction will certainly be a major achievement, especially as it aligns with the vision of sustainable energy."

TRAIN FEATURES: 8 PASSENGER COACHES, CAPACITY FOR 2,638 PASSENGERS

Although the hydrogen train does not have a name yet, the RDSO-designed model features 8 passenger coaches capable of carrying 2,638 passengers

Sambhal case: Supreme Court pauses trial court action until High Court's order

The Supreme Court's order comes days after violence broke out in Sambhal, killing five people, following a court-mandated survey of the Mughal-era Jama Masjid.

NEW DELHI. The Supreme Court on Friday asked the trial court in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal not to proceed with the mosque survey case till the Shahi Idgah committee of the Jama Masjid moves the High Court. The top court's order comes days after violence broke out in Sambhal, killing five people, following a court-mandated survey of the mosque.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna and Justice PV Sanjay Kumar also directed that the report of the commissioner, who conducted the survey of the mosque, should be kept in a sealed cover and should not be opened in the meantime.

"Let this be pending. We want peace and harmony. You (petitioner) approach the High Court. Till then, let the trial court not take any action," CJI said. The Supreme Court's order came on a plea filed by the Sambhal Shahi Jama Masjid Committee challenging the order passed by the trial court



commissioning the survey of the mosque. The trial court order came following claims that the mosque was built by Mughal emperor Babar in 1526 after demolishing a temple that stood there. The top court said the petition filed by the mosque committee before the High Court should be listed within three working days. The Supreme Court, however, kept the committee's plea before it pending and ordered it to be listed in the

week starting January 6, 2025. "We clarify we have not expressed any opinion on the merits of the matter. We are not disposing of the present plea. Re-list in the week commencing January 6, 2025," the court said.

Appearing for the mosque committee, senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi told the top court that the trial court order was capable of causing "great public mischief". "Ten suits are pending across the length and breadth of the country... the modus operandi is on the first day only, the surveyor is appointed," he said. The Supreme Court asked the trial court to not take any steps till January 8 while asking the district administration to ensure peace and harmony. "We do not want anything to happen. See Section 43 of the mediation act... the district should form mediation committees. We have to be absolutely neutral," the court further said.

Cameras In Corbett National Park Being Misused To Intimidate Women: Study

New Delhi. Cameras and drones originally planted in Corbett National Park for conservation activities, such as monitoring animals, are being deliberately misused by local government officials and men to surveil women without consent, a study has found.

The study, published in the journal Environment and Planning F, revealed that forest rangers intentionally flew drones over local women to scare them and prevent them from collecting natural resources, despite their legal entitlement to do so. A total of 270 residents around the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand, including women, were interviewed over 14 months by researchers from the University of Cambridge, UK.

"We argue that the use of digital technologies for forest governance, such as camera traps and drones, tends to transform these forests into masculinised spaces that extend the patriarchal gaze of society into the forest," the authors wrote in the study. Researcher and lead author Trishant Simlai reported that the women,

who had previously found sanctuary in the forest away from their men-dominated villages, told him they felt watched and inhibited by camera traps, causing them to talk and sing much more quietly. This, he said, increases the chances of surprise encounters with potentially dangerous animals, such as elephants and tigers. The national park is known to provide respite to women, who, in addition to gathering firewood, spend long hours there to escape difficult situations at home, such as violence and alcoholism. They often share their stories and express themselves through traditional songs, the researchers said. The women told Simlai that new surveillance technologies, deployed under the guise of wildlife monitoring projects, were being used to intimidate and exert power over them -- by monitoring them as well. "A photograph of a woman going to the toilet in the forest -- captured on a camera trap supposedly for wildlife monitoring -- was circulated on local Facebook and



WhatsApp groups as a means of deliberate harassment," Trishant Simlai, a researcher at the University of Cambridge's Department of Sociology, said.

Simlai discovered that local women form strong bonds while working together in the forest, singing while collecting firewood to deter attacks by elephants and tigers. When women see camera traps, they feel inhibited because they don't know who's watching or listening to them, resulting in them behaving differently,

often becoming much quieter, which puts them in danger, he added. One woman he interviewed has since been killed in a tiger attack, Simlai said. "Nobody could have realised that camera traps put in the Indian forest to monitor mammals actually have a profoundly negative impact on the mental health of local women who use these spaces," Simlai said. Co-author Chris Sandbrook, a conservation social scientist and professor of conservation and society at the University of Cambridge, said. "These findings have caused quite a stir in the conservation community. It's very common for projects to use these technologies to monitor wildlife, but this highlights the need to ensure they're not causing unintended harm." Surveillance technologies that are supposed to track animals can easily be used to watch people instead - invading their privacy and altering the way they behave, Sandbrook said.



Small spaces are often perceived as restrictive design challenges, but an effective design strategy can transform them into aesthetic, functional environments. With its inherent veining and polished finish, marble can reshape these intimate areas into expansive reveries, exuding luxury and finesse. The natural stone enhances a room's aesthetic appeal and creates a sense of openness that defies the physical limitations of such areas.

The light-reflective properties of marble can enhance spatial perception in compact spaces. The stone's polished surface, particularly in neutral shades like Michelangelo, Angelo White or Statuario, reflects daylight, making a zone appear brighter and more spacious. This reflective subtlety can strategically expand visual dimensions, creating an illusive ambience fluidly dissolving the confines of walls.

In small areas where light is often limited, the luminous quality of marble plays a transformative role, infusing the room with an ethereal glow that elevates the entire atmosphere. The innate veining of marble adds a layer of sophistication without overwhelming the eye. Its gentle, organic lines bring movement to surfaces, guiding the gaze across the space and fostering a sense of fluidity. A feature wall adorned with dramatic Sodalite Gold stone or a sleek backsplash in Maurizio or Emerald Quartz marble can become a compact space focal point, introducing texture and richness while maintaining a seamless flow. This quiet elegance transforms small interiors from a constricted area into a polished, inviting retreat.

The versatility of marble also allows it to play multiple

Small space solutions Using marble to make Rooms feel larger



roles in small areas, making it a multifunctional and artistic material. Marble can be effortlessly integrated across various surfaces, creating continuity and extending visual space. For instance, a kitchen island with a marble countertop can serve as a functional kitchen surface and a classic dining table, merging utility with visual poetry. Likewise, marble flooring throughout a residence or a commercial area creates a harmonious cohesion, making individual zones a part of a larger continuum.

Bespoke marble designs can redefine a space, conveying artistry and grandeur. Its timeless appeal is also a testament to its longevity, making it a sound investment for small areas where quality endures over time. With proper care, natural stone's strength and durability ensure it retains its aesthetic allure for years. It is ideal for high-traffic areas like entryways, foyers, or kitchens, which face constant and inevitable wear and tear.

Marble plays a significant role in small spaces, transcending its physical presence to serve as an architectural expression of light, texture, and intrinsic beauty. It is a statement of refined taste and an exemplification of perpetual design, making even the most compact rooms expansive, luminous, and memorable.



5 herbs you can easily Grow on your balcony



There is nothing quite like the flavour of adding some freshly minced parsley to your creamy spaghetti. Whether it's a sprinkle of parsley on your soup or a sprig of mint in your tea, fresh herbs elevate our culinary experience. While having a huge garden might seem like a luxury, putting together a garden on your balcony is achievable. Here are five herbs that you can grow

easily in your balcony garden.
Basil
Basil is a quintessential herb for many cuisines. The aromatic basil leaves are perfect for making pesto, adding flavor to pasta, or topping a classic Margherita pizza. This herb comes with minimal maintenance. Watering the plant regularly and occasionally pruning it will keep your basil plant lush and healthy. If your



balcony is well-lit by the sun, basil herb would be a perfect addition to your garden. The delightful fragrance of the basil leaves also makes it a great natural air freshener for your balcony.
Cilantro
Cilantro aka coriander is a star ingredient in various cuisines. All it needs is well-drain soil and moderate sunlight to flourish. Cilantro is perfect for small spaces as it grows quickly and doesn't need much room. The leaves can be used both as a garnish and also as an ingredient in various curries, soups, and salads. The flavourful spice will grow all around the season, and give a steady supply!
Thyme
This culinary herb needs minimum to zero maintenance, making it ideal for a balcony garden. The hardy herb is drought-resistant, and grows best in well-drained soil, and requires plenty of sunlight. The earthy aroma and robust flavor of thyme make it a standout herb. From roasted vegetables to meat dishes

and stews, you can use thyme in a variety of dishes. As the herb is compact, it is perfect for the balcony.
Parsley
Parsley is a staple herb, used in various cuisines. This low-maintenance herb will grow well in pots. The plant requires moderate sunlight and regular watering. There are several varieties of parsley available, and you can buy one according to your preference. They are a great addition to soups, stews, and salads.
Mint
How can you call it a garden without a mint plant? This is probably one of the easiest herbs to grow and maintain. Mint can adapt to both sunny and partially shaded areas, and hence it is perfect for balconies with varying light conditions. They grow quickly and it is best to plant them in separate pots. From teas to mojitos, and desserts, this refreshing and cooling herb is a summer favorite. Planting one in your garden will give you the herb all around the year.

Enviro Infra shares make strong debut, list at 49% premium over IPO price

New Delhi. Enviro Infra Engineers made a strong stock market debut on Friday, listing at a premium of nearly 49% over the issue price.

The shares opened at Rs 220 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), marking a 48.64% jump from the IPO price of Rs 148. On the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), the stock listed at Rs 218, reflecting a 47.29% premium. This is even better than what the grey market premium had indicated. The Rs 650-crore IPO, priced between Rs 140 and Rs 148 per share, was open for subscription from November 22 to November 26 and saw overwhelming demand. It received bids for 2,76,83,13,747 shares against the 3,07,93,600 shares on offer, translating to an overall subscription of 89.90 times. The portion reserved for qualified institutional buyers was subscribed 157.05 times, while non-institutional investors subscribed 153.80 times. Retail investors' portion was subscribed 24.48 times. Ahead of the IPO, the company raised Rs 195 crore from anchor investors. The offering included a fresh issue of 3.87 crore equity shares and an offer for sale (OFS) of 52.68 lakh shares by promoters. The fresh issue proceeds will be used to address several financial needs: Rs 181 crore for working capital, Rs 100 crore for debt repayment, and Rs 30 crore to fund its subsidiary, EIEL Mathura Infra Engineers, for the construction of a 60-million-litre-per-day sewage treatment plant in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh.

Air India facing delays in Boeing aircraft deliveries: CEO Campbell Wilson

NEW DELHI: Air India CEO and MD Campbell Wilson said on Wednesday that the airline is experiencing delays in receiving aircraft deliveries from Boeing, largely due to a strike at the aircraft manufacturer's U.S. factory. Wilson revealed that the delivery of 50 "white tail" aircraft, initially expected to be completed by December this year, has been pushed to June 2025. "50 white tail aircraft, all of them were to come by December this year... They will stretch up to June next year and that in itself has a little bit of impact..." he said, adding that the two factors - a slowdown in production by Boeing and the strike - are likely to have contributed to the delay.

"It is not clear for how long the impact will be. Six months is reasonable for some aircraft..." Wilson added. Out of the total 50 white-tail Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, at least 35 have joined Air India's fleet. These planes are being operated by Air India Express. Generally, white-tail planes are those that were originally manufactured for a particular airline and later taken by another airline. Currently, the Air India Group operates a fleet of around 300 aircraft. It is expected to add 100 new planes between 2026 and 2027. However, Wilson noted that deliveries in 2025 will be slower compared to 2024. The CEO also highlighted the importance of domestic and short-haul international markets for Air India's growth in 2025, as the airline expands its narrow-body fleet while sending its older wide-body aircraft for retrofitting. "We had hoped to start retrofit of 787s and 777s by now. Unfortunately, the global supply chains in some areas are still recovering and seats in particular are a challenge... Once it (retrofit) starts in 2025, we will be doing 3-4 aircraft every month until the full legacy 40 wide-body aircraft are completed," Wilson said. "So, we took the view that there is an opportunity, appetite for growth in the market and that we should take it. On balance, we have taken millions of people on these aircraft. People are happy that the service exists," he noted.

In general, the penalties for such charges are less severe than bribery. Adani Group had last week denied all allegations as baseless, and said it would seek legal recourse to defend itself.

2024 'Black Friday' sale targets inflation stricken US customers

NEW DELHI. As November ends, Black Friday kicks off the US holiday shopping season, a time known for finding the best deals. However, this year, retailers are preparing for shoppers who are more focused than ever on finding the best bargains and maximizing the value of their money. Though inflation has stabilized after the substantial price hikes during the Covid pandemic, consumers are still feeling the financial strain. Consequently, bargain-hunting strategies like grabbing early giveaways and waiting for last-minute steals have become a trend.

Vivek Pandya, leading insights analyst at Adobe Digital Insights told AFP that as compared to previous years, 2024 holiday shoppers are "even more preoccupied and very focused around value and discounts." "We do see stronger price sensitivity on the part of the consumer and they are very responsive to deals and event-tie deals," he said. This year, consumers have eagerly participated in special discount events like Memorial Day sales and Amazon's "Prime Day."

Black Friday, marking the beginning of the gifting season, falls the day after Thanksgiving and kicks off a busy shopping weekend that also includes "Small Business Saturday" and "Cyber Monday."

To combat the ever evolving concern of inflation, major retailers like Target have shifted their "Black Friday" promotions to October or even earlier. Consumer prices on average were 22 percent higher in August 2024 compared with January 2020, according to Pew Research, and popular discontent with inflation is one reason Donald Trump won the US presidency in November. In August 2024, prices surged by an average of 22 percent compared to January 2020, according to Pew Research. Inflation is also believed to have played a role in Donald Trump's victory in the November elections.

Inflation continues to influence retailers' discounting strategies as they aim to meet the demands of the market. At Target, shoppers have become accustomed to gathering at the chain's "Circle Week" savings events, held almost once every quarter. These events have resulted in reduction in purchases a week before and after the events, as per the executives. After a lengthy period of inflation, "consumers tell us their budgets remain stretched," Target CEO Brian Cornell told analysts.

Global Capability Centres to pay 50% higher salary than non-tech sectors

For FY25, GCCs are prioritising roles like penetration tester, data scientist, full-stack developer, software developer and customer success specialist.



BENGALURU. With the increase in the number of Global Capability Centres (GCCs) in the country, the job opportunities that they provide have also surged over the years. An analysis by TeamLease Digital reveals that GCCs are estimated to pay premium salaries in the Software Development domain, which is over 50% more than IT Products & Services and non-tech sectors. Employers are now preferring candidates with AI/ML skills in software development,

and due to this, entry-level positions in this domain are expected to see an average salary of Rs 9.37 lakh per annum in GCCs, followed by Rs 6.23 LPA in IT products & services, and Rs 6 LPA in non-tech sectors by the end of FY25. For FY25, GCCs are prioritising roles such as Penetration Tester, Data Scientist, Full Stack Developer, Software Developer, and Customer Success Specialist. The IT Products & Services sector is seeking Big Data Developers, IT Auditors, RPA

Business Analysts, Cloud Security Engineers, and IoT Engineers, says the analysis. It says non-tech sectors are focusing on roles like Data Engineer, SAP ABAP Consultant, Cloud Support Engineer, Cybersecurity Analyst, and Automation Engineer. In cybersecurity and network administration domain, a critical field ensuring IT infrastructure protection, GCCs are expected to lead with an average salary of Rs 9.57 lakh per annum, which is 40.12% higher than their

IT counterparts, showcasing the critical need for expertise in identifying vulnerabilities and mitigating risk exposure, while IT products and services may offer Rs 6.83 LPA, and non-tech sectors '5.17 LPA. eeti Sharma, CEO, TeamLease Digital, said, "India's entry-level job market is witnessing dynamic changes. While IT Services have seen a slowdown in fresher and entry-level hiring over the last 2-3 years, it is the GCCs and non-tech sectors that have emerged as the torchbearers for welcoming young talent and offering rich opportunities." "GCCs are expected to lead the way, offering premium salaries, particularly in roles like Penetration Testing and Data Science, with average packages reaching Rs 11.8 LPA. This surge can be attributed to the rapid expansion of GCCs in India employing more than 1.66 million people and their need to maintain global standards," Sharma added. Data scientists, full-stack developers in demand. For FY25, GCCs are prioritising roles like penetration tester, data scientist, full stack developer.

Enviro Infra makes solid market debut: Should you hold or book profit

New Delhi. Enviro Infra Engineers made an impressive debut on the stock market, listing at a nearly 49% premium to its IPO price of Rs 148. On Friday, the stock opened at Rs 220 on the National Stock Exchange (NSE), a 48.64% rise, and at Rs 218 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), reflecting a 47.29% premium. Shares of Enviro Infra Engineers have dipped slightly following their strong listing, prompting investors to weigh whether to hold onto their shares or book profits.

SHOULD YOU HOLD OR BOOK PROFIT?

While the initial listing offers a strong start, experts suggest a cautious approach. According to Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart, the company's future performance hinges on project execution, regulatory developments, and competition.

"The company's focus on sustainable infrastructure and its strong track record in executing projects have contributed to this impressive listing. However, investors should remain



cautious and monitor the company's performance closely, considering factors such as project execution risks, regulatory changes, and competition in the sector," Nyati said. "While the initial listing is promising, long-term success will depend on Enviro Infra's ability to capitalize on its growth opportunities and deliver strong financial performance. But, as of now, investors may hold their position by keeping a stoploss around Rs 200," she added.

ENVIRO INFRA IPO DETAILS

The Rs 650-crore IPO saw overwhelming demand during its subscription period

from November 22 to November 26, achieving an overall subscription of 89.90 times. The qualified institutional buyer category was subscribed 157.05 times, while non-institutional investors subscribed 153.80 times. Retail investors also showed keen interest, with their segment subscribed 24.48 times. Enviro Infra specialises in turnkey projects for water and wastewater treatment plants, sewage systems, and water supply schemes. Its processes are zero-liquid-discharge compliant, enabling treated water to be repurposed for horticulture, industrial washing, and refrigeration.

Proceeds from the IPO will address several financial priorities. The company plans to allocate Rs 181 crore for working capital, Rs 100 crore for debt repayment, and Rs 30 crore towards its subsidiary's sewage treatment plant project in Mathura, Uttar Pradesh. The remaining funds will be used for general corporate purposes.

Experts see GDP growth below 6.5% in second quarter

NEW DELHI. Ahead of the release of official GDP numbers for the second quarter of FY25, economic analysts present varied estimates ranging from 6.2% to 6.9%. The outlook reflects contrasting indicators from various sectors of the economy, highlighting both structural challenges and potential growth drivers. The Q2 GDP numbers will be announced on Friday by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. ICRA has projected GDP growth to dip to 6.5% in Q2 from 6.7% in Q1FY25. It attributes the drop to heavy rains and weak margins offsetting buoyancy injected by turnaround in government capex and healthy trends in kharif sowing. "Several sectors (in Q2) faced headwinds on account of rainfall, which affected mining activity,

electricity demand and retail footfalls and a fall in goods exports. Margins appear to have weakened for corporates in various sectors in Q2. As a result, we project slight dip in India's GVA and GDP growth in Q2FY25 to 6.6% and 6.5%, respectively," says Aditi Nayar, chief economist, head-research & outreach, ICRA. DK Srivastava from EY raises concerns about CPI inflation rate, which stood at 6.2% in October, alongside an expected lower GDP growth of 6.5% for Q2. He said, "Main reason for growth slowdown is contraction in government's capex at (-)15.4% during April-September 2024." Srivastava advocates for a prioritisation of fiscal policy actions, stating, "Accelerated government investment expenditure should be

given the highest priority while monetary policy action may be delayed beyond December 2024." Gaura Sen Gupta, chief economist, IDFC First Bank, pegs Q2 GDP growth at 6.2% due to moderation in manufacturing sector growth. Listed companies results show fall in profit in Q2 with slowdown in revenue. Urban demand weakness persists with softer FMCG sales growth, consumer goods production and fall in passenger vehicle sales," she added. Madhavi Arora, chief economist at Emkay Global, suggests Q2 GDP may come in at 6.3%. He stated, "Urban wage bill growth has been declining on real basis for over one-and-a-half years and currently is well below five-year pre-COVID average of 9%.



crore after days of buying is hard to explain. Whether this is a one-off or signals a broader trend will be clear in the coming days. Investors are advised to adopt a cautious wait-and-watch approach." He also noted that the inclusion of 45 new stocks in the F&O segment could trigger stock-specific action starting today. For long-term investors, Vijayakumar recommended accumulating large-cap stocks in sectors such as financials, IT, capital goods, and telecom, emphasizing that a "buy-on-dips" strategy may not yield immediate gains but could be rewarding over a medium to long-term horizon.

No delays in banking, Aadhaar OTP messages due to new traceability rules: TRAI

As the new deadline approaches, a video circulating on social media claimed that OTP and banking messages could be delayed due to the introduction of the new technology.



NEW DELHI. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has assured consumers that there will be no disruptions in the delivery of essential net banking and Aadhaar OTP messages starting December 1, as the new traceability rules are implemented.

To combat the growing issue of cybercrime, TRAI had introduced a rule

on October 1 requiring telecom service providers to establish a system for tracking the origins of bulk messages. The original deadline for implementing these measures was set for October 31 but was later extended to November 30 due to technical challenges faced by operators. As the new deadline approaches, a video circulating on social

media claimed that OTP and banking messages could be delayed due to the introduction of the new technology. In response, TRAI clarified that there will be no delay in the delivery of any messages. "This is factually incorrect. TRAI has mandated the Access Providers to ensure message traceability. It will not delay delivery of any

message," said TRAI, in a social media post. The TRAI has directed telcos, including Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea, to implement message traceability in their systems. This measure aims to identify the source of bulk SMS traffic and is designed to curb the spread of fraudulent messages. Once the system is in place, authorities will be able to take action against the originators of such schemes. Initially, telecom companies expressed concerns about the technical complexities involved in deploying new system. However, TRAI has emphasized that the implementation of message traceability will not cause any delays in message delivery. In August, TRAI also took several steps to curb promotional calls, including penalties for offenders, such as the disconnection of telecom resources, blacklisting for up to two years, and restrictions on obtaining new resources during that period.

NEWS BOX

Joe Root out for duck in 150th Test, goes past Virat Kohli on unwanted WTC list

New Delhi. Star England batter Joe Root endured a bitter milestone in his storied career during the first Test against New Zealand at Hagley Oval. Root, playing his 150th Test match, was dismissed for a four-ball duck by New Zealand debutant Nathan Smith. Root's dismissal, his 13th in Test cricket and eighth in the World Test Championship (WTC) era, elevated him to an unenviable list of batters with the most ducks in the WTC, surpassing the likes of Virat Kohli and Steve Smith, both of whom have seven. This lean patch continues a difficult run for Root, who has scored just 90 runs in five innings since his double-century against Pakistan in Multan.



Smith, a debutant seamer, had a dream start, dismissing England's Jacob Bethell and Root in the same over, reducing the visitors to 45/3 after Zak Crawley's early exit. England's struggles were compounded by Ben Duckett's dismissal, leaving them reeling at 71/4. However, a resilient 103-run stand between Ollie Pope (59*) and Harry Brook (54*) brought some stability, with England reaching 174/4 at tea, still 174 runs behind New Zealand's first-innings total of 348.

Root's duck in his milestone 150th Test match places him in an exclusive yet undesirable club, joining Australian legends Steve Waugh and Ricky Ponting as the only batters to record ducks in their 150th Test appearances. Earlier in the day, England dismissed New Zealand for 348, with Glenn Phillips (58*) anchoring the tail after Kane Williamson's composed 120 on Day 1. England's bowlers Brydon Carse (4/64) and Shoaib Bashir (4/69) excelled, but the visitors faced immediate setbacks in reply. Harry Brook and Ollie Pope's counterattacking 150-plus partnership provided hope, but England's task remains daunting with a significant deficit to overcome and New Zealand's pace attack firing on all cylinders.

IPL: Too many Australians in Punjab Kings Ricky Ponting reacts to criticism

New Delhi. Punjab Kings head coach Ricky Ponting has reacted to criticism about making the side mini-Australia. Punjab bought 6 players in the IPL mega-auction on November 24-25. The team made fresh signings after retaining only two players. The Punjab side RTMed Arshdeep Singh for a massive amount of Rs 18 crore and majorly made a fresh side with 5 Australian players - including the likes of Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis. Speaking in a media interaction, Ponting said that the players that Punjab bought in the IPL auction fit their roles perfectly. We have brought some of the



best young Indian talent into our group, which is very exciting. So, our scouts have done a great job and worked really hard and well to make sure that the auctions go exactly how we wanted them to," said head coach Ricky Ponting. "We have (a few Australians) and I'll probably get some criticism. I think we have got five Aussies out of our complement of eight overseas. But when you look at the slots that we needed, the players that we have got fitted into those roles perfectly," Ponting reacted to the criticism. "To have Marcus Stoinis and Glenn Maxwell back to Kings is huge as they have both played here in the past. A couple of new guys, including Xavier Bartlett, Aaron Hardie, and Josh Inglis, are coming into the IPL for the first time, which is also really exciting for us," added Ponting. Ponting adding Australian players to the roster is nothing new. In the 2024 edition of the Indian Premier League, Ponting introduced Jake Fraser-McGurk, who was a massive hit in the tournament.

Simona Halep calls out double standards after Swiatek escapes lengthy doping ban

Former World No.1 Simona Halep slammed the International Tennis Integrity Agency for double standards on doping bans. Halep, who was once banned for 4 years hit out at the association after Iga Swiatek received a 1-month ban for doping.

New Delhi. Former World No.1 tennis player Simona Halep slammed the International Tennis Integrity Agency over their double standards while dishing out doping bans. In a lengthy Instagram post, Halep slammed the agency for trying to ruin her career, and being partial against her. Halep's comments came after the ITIA handed a one-month ban to Iga Swiatek after she tested positive for a banned substance. Halep pointed out at the discrepancy between her ban and the current World No.1's and said that she was left frustrated at the twilight of her career due to the unfair treatment. "I'm sitting and trying to understand, but it's really impossible for me

to understand something like this. I stand and ask myself, why is there such a big difference in treatment and judgment? I can't find and I don't think there can be a logical answer. It can only be bad will from ITIA, the organization that has done absolutely everything to destroy me despite the evidence," Simona Halep wrote on Instagram. "I really wanted to destroy the last years of my career, I wanted something that I could never have imagined would be wanted. I always believed in good, I believed in fairness, I believed in goodness. It was painful, is painful and maybe the injustice that was done to me will always be painful. How is it possible that in identical cases happening around the same time ITIA to have completely different approaches to my detriment. How could I accept that the WTA and the players council did not want to return me the ranking that I deserved?!" Halep said. "I lost two years of my career, I lost many nights when I couldn't sleep, thoughts, anxiety, questions without answers... but I won justice. It turned out that it was a contamination and that the biological passport was a pure invention. And I won something else, my soul remained clean!! I feel disappointed, I feel mad, I feel frustrated, but I do not feel evil even now. I am grateful for the support and



unconditional love of those who have been by my side every day. THANK YOU! In all the naughtiness, I also received love because those who offered me love in those moments really knew me! Perhaps this is the biggest victory! As we know well that every morning the sun rises for everyone, but it's good to rise finding yourself with a flawless soul! And that's how I am, packed and proud of what I am!" concluded Halep.

SWIATEK'S DOPING BAN
World number two and five-times Grand Slam champion Iga Swiatek accepted a one-month suspension after testing positive for banned substance trimetazidine (TMZ), the International Tennis Integrity Agency said

on Thursday. Swiatek tested positive in an out-of-competition sample in August but the ITIA, which runs tennis's anti-doping programme, accepted that it was caused by contamination of her medication melatonin, which was manufactured and sold over the counter in her native Poland. Swiatek said she had been taking it for jet lag and sleep issues and as there was no significant fault or negligence, the ITIA ruled it was "the lowest end of the range" and offered the reigning French Open champion a one-month suspension which the 23-year-old accepted. "The player was provisionally suspended from Sept. 12 until Oct. 4, missing three tournaments, which counts towards the sanction, leaving eight days remaining," the ITIA said in a statement.

Swiatek is not the first world number one to fail a doping test this year after Italy's Jannik Sinner, the men's top-ranked player, also tested positive for anabolic agent clostebol.

However, Sinner was cleared of wrongdoing by an independent tribunal ahead of the U.S. Open, which he went on to win. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) against the tribunal's finding of "no fault or negligence". With two of the biggest names in tennis escaping lengthy bans for anti-doping violations, questions are being raised about the sport's reputation.

Shubman Gill returns to training in big boost to India's pink ball Test hopes

New Delhi. India received a huge boost ahead of the Adelaide Test match as batter Shubman Gill returned to practice on Friday, November 29. Gill, who had been out due to a thumb fracture, was spotted in the India nets at Canberra ahead of the tour game against Prime Minister's XI. India are set to play their second Test match against Australia in Adelaide. The team will take on Australia in a Pink Ball Test match - traditionally a big strength for Australia in the 5-match series. Shubman, who had not been in action due to his rehabilitation process was seen leaving the ball well in the nets. Gill got hurt while fielding on the second day of the intra-squad match simulation ahead of the Perth Test. He was seen in considerable pain and immediately left the field for further scans. India Today had learnt at the time that Gill had fractured his left thumb and had been ruled out of the opening game. In case the batter does return to the playing XI, the visitors have to rejig their entire line-up. India captain Rohit Sharma is poised to



return to the playing XI, which will displace KL Rahul from his spot. With Shubman Gill expected to return to the line-up, Rahul might have to drop further down the order, possibly at No.5 or No.6.

Apart from Gill, India captain Rohit Sharma was also spotted in the nets. The India captain had started his practice midway through the Perth Test match. He was seen in good touch on Friday.

AUS vs IND: INDIA vs PM XI - ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW

Shubman Gill is in contention to play the 2nd Test in Adelaide

Gill fractured his thumb ahead of the Perth Test match

Rohit Sharma also joined Gill in practice

India are set to play a warm-up fixture to prepare for their second Test against Australia which will be a day-night affair. The Rohit Sharma-led side will take on Prime Minister's XI in a two-day pink ball-Test at Manuka Oval, Canberra from November 30. It will be a much-needed practice for the visitors who last played a day-night game in March, 2022 against Sri Lanka in Bengaluru. When and where to watch India vs Prime Minister's XI warm-up game? The India vs Prime Minister's XI warm-up fixture will be live streamed on Hotstar while the live broadcast will be available on Star Sports on November 30 from 9:10 am onwards.

Don't want 'confident' Virat Kohli for rest of series vs Australia: Allan Border

New Delhi. Former Australian captain Allan Border has called out Australia's failure to contain Virat Kohli during the first Test in Perth, warning that the star Indian batter's resurgence could jeopardise the Pat Cummins-led side's chances in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT). Kohli, who had gone 18 months without a Test century, silenced his critics with an unbeaten 100 in the second innings, helping India clinch a commanding 295-run victory. Border criticised Australian captain Pat Cummins for field placements and tactics, arguing they allowed Kohli to regain his confidence far too easily. "I was really disappointed in the way we let Kohli roll on to a hundred without much resistance," Border told SEN radio on Friday morning. "We don't want this guy full of confidence for the rest of the series."

Border's concerns were echoed by Matthew Hayden and Mark Taylor, who criticised Cummins for failing to apply early pressure on Kohli. Former Australian batters pointed out that the lack of close-in fielders allowed Kohli to settle in easily and regain his form. "They missed a few tricks with Virat



Kohli in the early part of his innings. Nathan Lyon had mid-on back, one on the off-side catching and a mid-wicket. I felt like it was so easy for him to get off strike," Hayden had told Channel 7 after India's win.

"You can't cut a sucker an even break when a bloke is under pressure as he was. The field we actually finished with - two slips, no point, a man straight - it offered up the outside edge of his bat as well. He found it a little more frustrating. When he got the bit between the teeth, it was too late. Hayden also highlighted missed opportunities during India's earlier batting partnerships, particularly with Yashasvi Jaiswal, who looked susceptible to short-pitched deliveries. He criticized the delayed use of such strategies and pointed to Australia's "shell-shocked" approach following their subpar batting performance in the first innings.

Europa League: Man United fight back for Amorim's 1st win, Spurs drop points vs Roma

New Delhi. Manchester United staged a thrilling comeback to defeat Norwegian side Bodo/Glimt 3-2, securing their first Europa League victory under new manager Ruben Amorim. Meanwhile, Tottenham Hotspur were denied all three points dramatically as AS Roma salvaged a 2-2 draw with a last-gasp goal on Thursday.



precise delivery found H.Jlund, who controlled the ball brilliantly before firing a clinical finish to equalize. The Danish striker struck again shortly after the interval, guiding Manuel Ugarte's low cross into the net to give United the lead. Despite dominating the second half, United were unable to extend their advantage and relied on two key saves from Onana to secure the victory.

The result lifted United to 12th in the standings with nine points, while Bodo/Glimt remained seventh with seven points. Spurs Denied Victory by Roma's Late

Strike In North London, Tottenham Hotspur looked poised for a win but were left frustrated as Roma's Mats Hummels scored a late equalizer in stoppage time. Spurs took an early lead when Son Heung-min converted a fifth-minute penalty after Hummels fouled Pape Matar Sarr. Roma leveled in the 20th minute through Evan N'Dicka, who finished from Paulo Dybala's free kick delivery. Roma appeared to have turned the tide when they scored again, but the goal was ruled out for offside. Tottenham regained the lead in the 33rd minute as Dejan Kulusevski set up Brennan Johnson for a powerful low strike. However, despite dominating much of the match, Spurs failed to close the game out. In added time, a Roma corner initially cleared by Spurs was recycled into the box, where Hummels pounced to secure an unlikely draw for José Mourinho's side. The result leaves Spurs in ninth place with 10 points, while Roma sit 21st with six points, keeping both teams within striking distance of advancing to the next stage.

AUS vs IND: Mike Hussey backs 'defensive' Labuschagne to overcome form slump

Border-Gavaskar Trophy: Michael Hussey has backed Marnus Labuschagne, attributing his form slump to mental adjustments rather than technical issues. Labuschagne has scored just 123 runs at an average of 13.66 in his last 10 Test innings.

New Delhi. Former Australia batter Michael Hussey has thrown his support behind under-fire batsman Marnus Labuschagne, attributing his recent slump in form to mental adjustments rather than technical flaws. Labuschagne, widely regarded as one of the world's premier batsmen, has endured a

torrid run of form, managing only 123 runs at a paltry average of 13.66 across his last 10 Test innings. His struggles were on full display during the first Test against India in Perth, where he registered scores of just 2 and 3 as Australia succumbed to a crushing 295-run defeat. Critics have questioned Labuschagne's technique, but Hussey believes the root of the problem lies in his approach to the game. "I actually went back and had a look at some of his highlights of some of his great innings from a few years back. It was just to see if I could see anything different than what we've been seeing in the last week or so," Hussey told SEN.

Hussey suggested Labuschagne's attempts to shoulder greater responsibility as a senior player may have led to an overly cautious mindset. "From a technical perspective, there's actually not a lot of difference from when he was playing really well in scoring a lot of runs compared to the last Test match



against India. The biggest difference I've noticed is just his intent to score. He's probably looking at it thinking, 'I'm a senior player now, I've got to take responsibility, I've got to bat time, be there for the team, soak up the pressure and all of that'. That gets you into a tentative defensive frame of mind - of batting time, being there and being patient. Whereas when I watched some of those

highlights from a few years back, he was just confident and decisive in everything he did, even in defence and when he was letting the ball go he was getting into really strong positions." The 29-year-old Labuschagne took a proactive step to address his form on Thursday, returning to the basics with an intense nets session alongside a close friend. Hussey is optimistic that a mental shift can help Labuschagne rediscover his touch.

"I feel as though it's something that can be fixed really quickly just with a mindset shift," Hussey said. "If he can just change that mindset of just looking to occupy the crease... into, 'Whatever I do, I'm going to do it confidently, decisively and be a little bit more positive with an intent to score'. I feel like he can turn it around really quickly."

Australia will hope Labuschagne regains his form ahead of the second Test against India, starting December 6 at the Adelaide Oval. A strong performance from their No.3 will be crucial as the hosts aim to level the series.

Diana Penty's

Latest Video Is A Must-Watch For All Introverts



Diana Penty's latest Instagram post is a hilarious nod to all introverts. In her newest clip, the actress shares a funny and relatable moment that will definitely have you laughing. The simply unmissable video has Diana putting her introverted side to display, and it will make you laugh hard, we bet. In the caption, she expressed what she feels when forced to act friendly during interactions. The actress wrote, "Hoping they'll cancel."

Showcasing her witty side, Diana Penty is seen reluctantly chatting with someone outside her house in her latest video. The forced smile on her face perfectly conveys her disinterest in the conversation. As the video unfolds, she cleverly closes the door on the individual without them noticing, only to be seen crying in relief once she's alone. The clip emphasises the discomfort of the interaction.

Before this, Diana Penty made headlines for her adorable birthday post for her beau Harsh Sagar, a diamond merchant. Although the couple has been dating for a while, Diana made it public only last year when she posted a message on Harsh's birthday. This year, too, she did not miss out on the opportunity to express her love for Harsh on his special day. Along with happy pictures of the two, she attached a heartfelt message that read, "Happy Birthdayyyyyyyy my HS. Here's to many more trips around the sun. Love you."

Earlier, while speaking with Hindustan Times, the actress revealed, "The film industry has made me learn patience all over again. I have learnt along the way that things will happen at their own pace and time. What's important is to keep the faith and continue to work hard." In terms of work, Diana Penty has proved her versatility as an actress in films like Selfiee, Bloody Daddy, Adhbut and Shiddat. Next up, she is gearing up for the release of the film Azaad, which will feature Aaman Devgan, the nephew of actor Ajay Devgn, and Rasha Thadani, the daughter of Raveena Tandon, marking their Bollywood debut.



Kajol Captures A Priceless Hug From Son Yug In Viral Post, Netizens React With Love

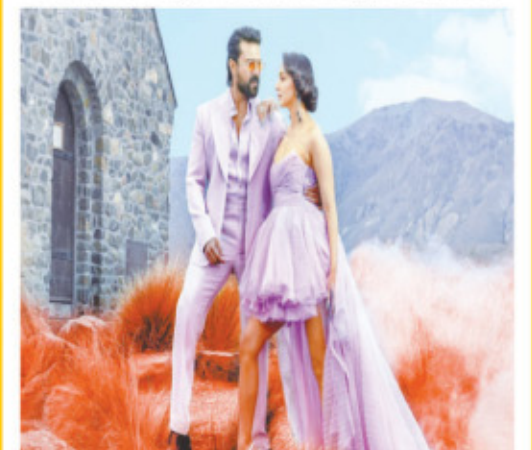


Kajol and Ajay Devgn are proud and loving parents to Nysa Devgan and Yug Devgan, and they never shy away from expressing their affection for their kids. Recently, Kajol took to Instagram to share an adorable moment that has melted hearts online, with one fan calling it the "cutest thing on the internet." In the picture, Yug Devgan is seen giving his mom the warmest hug, and it's pure love. Adding to the charm of the photo, Kajol is holding their pet dog, whose reaction has everyone talking. The caption accompanying the post read: "Four arms four paws and one giant hug..happy 2nd birthday to my doggy baby, #pawsitivevibesonly #dogsofinstagram #notyouraveragepup #barkingmad #wooflife."

Fans were quick to shower the post with love. One user wrote, "Cutest thing on the internet today." Another commented, "Having a son is the most beautiful feeling in the world." Others chimed in with, "Unconditional love. So heart-touching," and, "This is so wholesome, much love to you, your family, and your doggy." Kajol and Ajay frequently share glimpses of their family life. Back in October 2024, they were spotted together at a Durga Puja pandal, where Kajol's playful side stole the show. In a video, Kajol humorously pinched Ajay to get him to pose properly for a family photo. Standing between Kajol and Yug, Ajay initially looked away, prompting Kajol to playfully pinch his hand. Ajay quickly responded by wrapping an arm around her shoulder, creating the perfect family frame.

Their son Yug added to the sweetness of the moment with his priceless reactions. Towards the end of the video, he teasingly interacted with Ajay, adding a touch of mischief to the heartwarming family moment. On the professional front, Kajol is gearing up for her next big release, Sarzameen, co-starring Ibrahim Ali Khan and Prithviraj Sukumaran. The patriotic drama is set to hit theaters around Republic Day 2025.

Game Changer Song NaaNaa Hyraanaa: Kiara Advani And Ram Charan Romance Against Stunning Locations



The excitement around Game Changer is growing as the makers have confirmed that the film, starring Ram Charan and directed by Shankar, will release on January 10, 2025, for Sankranti. After several delays, the release date is now set, and promotions have begun. Following the teaser launch in Lucknow, the team has now released the third single, titled NaaNaa Hyraanaa. The song, composed by Thaman S and sung by Karthik and Shreya Ghoshal, features lyrics by Ramajogayya Sastry, and promises to deliver the grand style that Shankar is known for.

The lyrical video featuring Kiara Advani and Ram Charan is a visual and auditory treat. The song, set against a breathtakingly picturesque backdrop, elevates the entire experience, with the stunning location almost stealing the spotlight. Adding to this charm are Kiara and Ram Charan, who sizzle in coordinating outfits that highlight their palpable chemistry. Vocally, the track soars to greater heights thanks to the soulful voices of Shreya Ghoshal and Karthik.

Game Changer marks a much-awaited return for director S Shankar, known for his knack for crafting intense political thrillers. In this film, Ram Charan stars as an IAS officer who takes on a corrupt system, bringing both brains and brawn to his role. The over one-minute teaser captures his transformation from a determined student preparing for his UPSC exams to a government officer unafraid to take on powerful enemies. Ram Charan's character, in a brief but impactful line, declares, "I am unpredictable," hinting at the complex layers of his role.

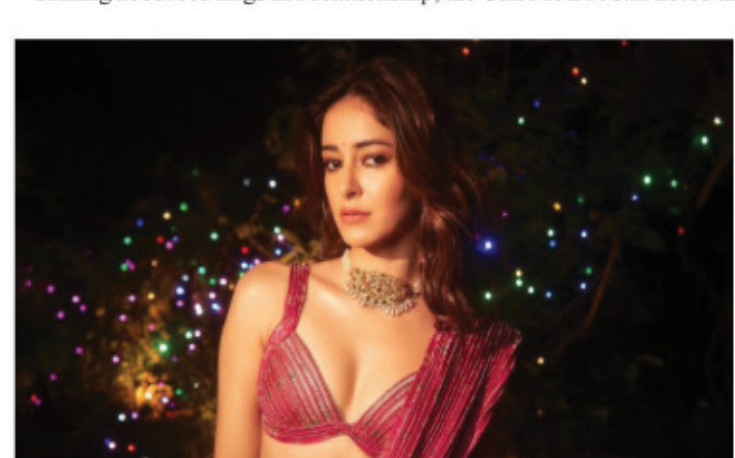
The project, initially announced in 2021, experienced multiple delays, partly due to S Shankar's simultaneous commitment to Indian 2 with Kamal Haasan. Ram Charan, in the meantime, was heavily invested in promoting his international success RRR, which saw him touring worldwide to support the film. Additionally, Kiara Advani took a brief hiatus in 2022 following her marriage to actor Siddharth Malhotra, further fueling speculation about delays.

Ananya Panday

Opens Up On Red Flags In A Relationship: 'Half-Heartedness Doesn't Work'

While Ananya Panday is emerging as a versatile actor, her personal life especially relationships have made headlines since her debut in Student of the Year 2. The actress has never openly admitted to her romantic equations but the chatter around her love life is a usual topic of discussion in the entertainment industry. Recently, Ananya shared her views on relationships and noted that half-heartedness doesn't work for her as one has to show loyalty and respect. During an appearance on Raj Shamani's podcast, Ananya said that she prefers to see the best in people and believes in giving her all to a romantic bond. In case of an argument, she would do everything to figure things out. That being said, she expects the same commitment from her partner.

"For me, half-heartedness doesn't work. If you are in a relationship, you have to show loyalty and respect," said Ananya. Talking about red flags in a relationship, the Call Me Bae star noted that no one sees a red flag immediately when they start going out. It is only after a while that they realise what could have been better. Exploring more, she mentioned small things like not acknowledging your partner in public and disrespecting them are a big no for her. "Another red flag would be ego, like not being able to see your partner succeed," she continued. Talking about her life, she admitted that sometimes it gets intimidating for men to accept she is a successful Bollywood actor.



During the same conversation, Ananya also revealed her idea of romance and how she sees her ideal partner. She expressed that it is someone who pays attention to details, notes her likes and dislikes, and tries to implement them. "Remembering small things is important," she noted. Apart from that, the actress said support is also an essential factor. On the work front, 2024 has been a stellar year for Ananya Panday. She has been a part of impactful projects that have solidified her position as a versatile actor. The actress was seen as Bella Chaudhary in the show Call Me Bae. She received major love and appreciation for the Prime video series. Later, she lead Netflix's thriller CTRL. As per reports, the actress will next be seen in period drama Shankara alongside Akshay Kumar and R. Madhavan.

