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Union Minister booked after police officer probing mining case alleges threat

Sanjay Kumar Bengaluru, Nov 05: A case has been registered against Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy based on a complaint by a senior police officer who alleged that the JD(S) leader had threatened him in connection with a mining case probe against him. Kumaraswamy termed the FIR as "ridiculous and malicious." The Inspector General of Police M Chandra Sekhar charged the Union Steel and Heavy Industries Minister Kumaraswamy with threatening him - a government servant - to prevent him from discharging his duties. The complainant noted that he was heading the Special Investigation Team probing a mining case in which Kumaraswamy is an accused. The probe against Kumaraswamy pertains to allegations that he illegally approved a 550-acre mining lease to Sri Sai Venkateswara Minerals (SSVM) in Ballari district in violation of law, during his tenure as Karnataka Chief Minister from 2006 to 2008. "The SIT, after preparing the investigation report and having found substantial evidence and mate-

rial to prosecute the accused (Kumaraswamy), had written to H.E. Governor of Karnataka seeking sanction for prosecution against the accused Sh. H.D. Kumaraswamy on 21/11/2023," Sekhar said in his complaint lodged at Sanjay Nagar police station. "I have read the FIR and the complaint's content. It is completely ridiculous and clearly malicious. The complainant has stated that I allegedly made accusations against him in a press conference and has asked for action. Did I provide false information about him? He can review my press conference video if he wants," Kumaraswamy was quoted as saying in a statement issued by his office. He alleged in the November 13 Assembly by-election in Channapatna, in which his son Nikhil Kumaraswamy is the NDA candidate, the Congress government is targeting him "out of sheer animosity." "When they (Congress) realised their deceit in Channapatna was becoming apparent, they resorted to new tactics. We have faith in Baba Saheb Ambedkar's Constitution and the law, and trust in the people of Channapatna.

Rahul Gandhi declares 'will abolish artificial barrier of 50% reservation'

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Nov 05: Rahul Gandhi further said there may be some shortcomings in the caste survey to be taken up by the state government. However, these will be sorted out. Leader of opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday reiterated he is "fully committed" to ensuring caste census in Telangana and will make the state a model for caste census across the country. Calling caste discrimination in India as "unique" and among worst in the world, the former Congress chief said he "will demolish artificial barrier of 50 per cent reservations in country." Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and state deputy chief minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka during the state-level consultations on caste census at Gandhian Ideology Centre, in Secunderabad on Tuesday. (ANI) Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi with Telangana CM Revanth Reddy and state deputy chief minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka during the state-level consultations on caste census at Gandhian Ideology Centre, in Secunderabad on Tuesday. "Caste census is the

first process to be taken up to assess the extent and nature of discrimination. So, I am fully committed to ensuring not only the caste census happens in



Telangana, but that Telangana becomes a model for the caste census in the country," PTI quoted Gandhi as saying. Gandhi further said there may be some shortcomings in the caste survey to be taken up by the state government. However, these will be sorted out. Taking potshots at Prime Minister Narendra

Modi, he said, "Why is the PM scared of asking how many Dalits, OBCs, Adivasis are there in corporates, judiciary, media." Rahul Gandhi said he has committed in Parliament on behalf of Congress to conduct a national caste census. This is not the first time that the Congress MP has voiced his support for the caste census. In August, he had posted on X, "Modiji, if you are thinking of stopping the caste census, you are dreaming - no power can stop it now!" In its Lok Sabha elections 2024 manifesto, the Congress promised to conduct caste census if it came to power at the Centre. The grand old party had said it would conduct a nationwide socio-economic and caste census to enumerate the castes and sub-castes and their socio-economic conditions and it will pass a constitutional amendment to raise the 50 per cent cap on reservations for SC, ST and OBC. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said that the primary struggle in the country today "is to protect and uphold a Constitution crafted with humility and love, not hatred." Congress leader Rahul Gandhi addresses a public meeting in support of AICC General Secretary and party candidate for Wayanad Lok Sabha by-polls seat Priyanka Gandhi in Mananthavady.

CJI DY Chandrachud's remarks on Krishna Iyer Doctrine spark controversy

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, Nov 05: Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud's remarks on legendary former Supreme Court judge VR Krishna Iyer that his doctrine did a "disservice" to the broad and flexible spirit of the Constitution has invited criticism from Supreme Court Judges BV Nagarathna and Sudhanshu Dhulia. While pronouncing the majority verdict on interpretation of Article 39(b) of the Constitution to decide if private properties can be considered "material resources of the community" and taken over by the State to subserve the "common good", the CJI noted that the interpretation of Article 39(b) adopted by Justice Iyer was rooted in a particular economic ideology and the belief that an economic structure which prioritises the acquisition of private property by the state is beneficial for the nation. "The doctrinal error in the Krishna Iyer approach was, postulating a

rigid economic theory, which advocates for greater state control over private resources, as the exclusive basis for constitutional governance," the CJI said, overruling his verdict

while Justice Dhulia termed it harsh and avoidable. She wondered if the top court's judgments which interpreted the



Constitution to be compatible with the policies of the State then be considered to be "a disservice to the broad and flexible spirit of the Constitution" and the authors of the said judgments being critiqued today. Justice Dhulia wrote, "Before I conclude, I must also record here my strong disapproval of the remarks made on the Krishna Iyer Doctrine as it is called. This criticism is harsh, and could have been avoided. "The Krishna Iyer Doctrine, or for that matter the O Chinnappa Reddy Doctrine, is familiar to all who have anything to do with law or life. It is based on strong humanist principles of fairness and equity. It is a doctrine which has illuminated our path in dark times. The long body of their judgment is not just a reflection of their perspicacious intellect but more importantly of their empathy for the people, as human beings, was at the centre of their judicial philosophy," he said.

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'Have to stop at some point'; Sharad Pawar hints at retirement

Pune, Nov 05: Hinting at retirement from parliamentary politics, NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Tuesday said he would have to think about whether he should seek another Rajya Sabha term after his current tenure ends in 2026. Speaking at a campaign rally for grand-nephew Yugendra Pawar at Supa in Baramati assembly constituency in the district, the 83-year-old leader said he has to stop at some point and make way for the new leadership. He has won 14 elections during his political career, noted the veteran leader who first entered the Maharashtra assembly in 1967 and was made a minister in the state gov-

ernment five years later. "With your support, I first went to the state assembly. I became a minister of state and (then) cabinet minister. I became chief minister four times. I worked as defence minister at the Centre. Later, I worked as agriculture minister for 10 years, and today I am in the Rajya Sabha," said Pawar. Some years ago, he decided not to contest Lok Sabha elections as he wanted to give the responsibility to a new leadership, he said. "I decided that I will not be involved in the local politics here and gave all the responsibilities to Ajit dada (nephew Ajit Pawar). For the last 25-30 years, he had all the responsibilities. For the first 30 years, I was there, later Ajit dada was there for another 25 to 30 years and now there is a need to make arrangements for a new leadership," he said. The Nationalist Congress Party faction headed by Sharad Pawar has given ticket to Yugendra, who would be taking on his uncle and Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar in Baramati in the November 20 Maharashtra assembly elections.



36 killed as bus rolls down gorge in Uttarakhand's Almora district

ST Correspondent Marchula (Uttarakhand), Nov 05: A packed beyond capacity bus carrying passengers returning to work after Diwali fell into a deep gorge in Uttarakhand's Almora district on Monday, killing at least 36 of the over 60 people on board. Twenty-six people were injured, four of them critically, when the 43-seater bus, operated by the private Garhwal Motor Owners Union, was on its way from Pauri in Garhwal region to Ramnagar in Kumaon, about 250 km away. The accident took place around 8 am, almost the fog end of the overnight journey, said District Magistrate Alok Kumar Pandey. The bus plunged into a 200-metre gorge in Almora's Marchula area 35 km before its destination of Ramnagar, he said. Visuals from the area pointed to the magnitude of the accident, with the vehicle reduced to a mangled mess as it rolled down the forested, rocky slope and stopped just short of a stream. Rescuers could be seen working to pull out passengers. The rescue operation lasted around five hours. Of the 36 killed, 10 are women. Twenty-eight people died on the spot and eight succumbed to injuries in the Ramdutt Joshi Joint Hospital in Ramnagar. A magisterial probe has been ordered and the assistant regional transport officers of Pauri and Almora suspended. "The news of the death of many people, including women and children, in a road accident in Almora, Uttarakhand is heart-rending. I express my condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured," President Droupadi Murmu wrote on X. PM Narendra Modi,

Folk singer Sharda Sinha, dies at Delhi AIIMS

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, Nov 05: Popular folk singer Sharda Sinha, who was undergoing treatment at All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)-Delhi, died on Tuesday night. She was 72. "Sharda Sinha expired at 9.20 pm due to refractory shock as a result of septicemia," an AIIMS official said. Sinha was known among her fans for folk songs such as 'Kartik Maas Joriya' and 'Koyal Bin' as well as Bollywood numbers 'Taar Biji' from 'Gangs of Wasseypur- II' and 'Babul' from 'Hum Aapke Hain Koun'. Earlier, AIIMS said Prime Minister Narendra Modi is continuously monitoring Sinha's condition and has prayed for her speedy recovery. Sinha, a Padma Bhushan recipient synonymous with folk songs in Bhojपुरi, Maithili, and Maghahi languages, was on ventila-

tor support following a health complication due to multiple myeloma, a



form of blood cancer. The singer was admitted to the intensive care unit of

Institute Rotary Cancer Hospital (IRCH), the cancer institute of AIIMS, last month. "Noted folk singer, Smt. Sharda Sinha is admitted in AIIMS, New Delhi for treatment. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji is continuously monitoring her condition and is in direct contact with the treating doctors. He has conveyed his prayers for her good health and speedy recovery through the treating team," AIIMS in a post on X said earlier. Known as Bihar Kokila. Supaul-born Sinha was famous in her native state and parts of eastern Uttar Pradesh courtesy her folk songs sung on occasions like Chhath Puja and weddings. Some of her popular tracks are 'Chhathi Maiya Aayi Na Duariya', 'Kartik Maas Joriya', 'Dwar Chekai', 'Patna Se', and 'Koyal Bin'. The singer had been battling multiple myeloma since 2017.

Karnataka HC issues notice to Siddaramaiah, others on plea seeking transfer of MUDA case to CBI

Bengaluru, Nov 05: The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday issued notice to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and others on a writ petition filed by RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna seeking a direction to transfer the MUDA site allotment case to CBI. Justice M Nagaprasanna, who also issued notice to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathi B M, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy, Union of India, the State government, CBI and Lokayukta, directed the Lokayukta to place on record investigation conducted in the case so far. Meanwhile, the Lokayukta police have summoned Siddaramaiah, who is accused number one in the case, for questioning on November 6. They had on October 25 questioned his wife, who is the accused number two in the case. The CM is facing allegations of illegalities in the allotment of 14 sites to his wife by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). Siddaramaiah, his wife, Swamy and Devaraju - from whom Swamy had purchased a land and gifted it to Parvathi - and others have been named in the FIR registered by the Mysuru-located Lokayukta police establishment on September 27. Swamy and Devaraju have also deposited before the Lokayukta police.

Not all private properties can be termed 'material resources of community'

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Nov 05: Amid the raging debate over redistribution of wealth, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that not all private properties can be termed "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) of the Constitution and taken over by the state to subserve the "common good". A nine-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI DY Chandrachud said, "Not every resource owned by an individual can be considered a 'material resource of the community' merely because it meets the qualifier of 'material needs'." Writing the verdict for himself, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice JB Pardiwala, Justice Manoj Misra, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Justice SC Sharma and Justice AG Masih, however, said, "Theoretically, the answer is yes, the phrase may include privately owned resources even as it sought to emphasise that "this Court must not tread into the domain of economic policy, or endorse a particular economic ideology while

undertaking constitutional interpretation". Justice Nagarathna wrote a partially concurring verdict while Justice Dhulia delivered a dissenting judgment. To decide if a particular private



resource was a "material resource, the court must determine if its distribution would subserve "common good", the CJI said while pronouncing the verdict. "Whether the resource in question falls within the ambit of Article 39(b) must be context-specific and subject to a non-exhaustive list of factors such as the nature of

the resource and its characteristics; the impact of the resource on the well-being of the community; the scarcity of the resource; and the consequences of such a resource being concentrated in the hands of private players," the CJI said, adding, the public trust doctrine evolved by this top court may also be applied to identify resources which fall within the ambit of the phrase "material resource of the community". It said, "In some cases, the mere vesting of the resource in the hands of the government serves the 'common good', while in other cases, a resource may be distributed amongst private players to achieve this purpose. To illustrate, a large privately owned pond may be acquired and put in control of a governmental agency or a cooperative society so that the pond is preserved. "Similarly, the material resource of spectrum may be auctioned to the highest bidder who may be a private company, who would then utilise the spectrum along with their technology to best sub-serve the common good. These are questions of economic and social policy which fall outside the ambit of judicial inquiry," it noted. "To hold that the term

"distribution" cannot encompass the vesting of a private resource would amount to falling into the same error as the Justice Krishna Iyer doctrine, ie, to lay down a preference of economic and social policy," the CJI said in his majority verdict, disapproving of observations made by Justice Iyer in a 1978 verdict. In the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had talked about growing inequality and the need for wealth redistribution. "First, we will conduct a caste census to know the exact population and status of backward castes, SCs, STs, minorities and other castes. After that, the financial and institutional survey will begin. Subsequently, we will take up the historic assignment to distribute the wealth of India, jobs and other welfare schemes to these sections based on their population," he had said. However, the majority verdict rejected this line of constitutional thinking. "India's economic trajectory indicates that the Constitution and the custodians of the Constitution - the electorate - have routinely rejected one economic dogma as being the exclusive repository of truth. As participants in a vibrant multi-party

'economic democracy', the 'People of India' have voted to power governments which have adopted varied economic and social policies, based on the country's evolving development priorities and challenges. "The foresighted vision of our framers (of Constitution) to establish an 'economic democracy' and trust the wisdom of the elected government has been the backbone of the high growth rate of India's economy, making it one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. To scuttle this constitutional vision by imposing a single economic theory, which views the acquisition of private property by the state as the ultimate goal, would undermine the very fabric and principles of our constitutional framework," the CJI said in his majority verdict. The nine-judge Constitution Bench was asked to decide whether private properties can be considered "material resources of the community" within the meaning of Article 39(b) of the Constitution and consequently, taken over by the state to sub-serve the common good. Article 39(b) in the Directive Principles of State Policy says.

News box

Landslide causes TN villagers to walk several km for basic amenities

THENI: Residents of Agamalai village were forced to walk several kilometres to Periyakulam for basic amenities, after rubble from landslides obstructed the way in multiple locations from Agamalai to Periyakulam Road. Villagers claimed that the rubble was cleared off the road only two days after the landslide on Monday. Officials said that sporadic rain caused the delay and remaining minor works will be completed soon. Sources said, earlier on Friday, following sporadic rainfall in the Western Ghats, a landslide occurred in nearly 10 places in the mountain road connecting Periyakulam to Agamalai. As the roads were not motorable, villagers had to opt walking several kilometres for basic amenities for two days, till Monday. Agamalai village is situated in the mountains above Sotherparai Dam. Though the area is situated close to Periyakulam in Theni district, the village comes under the Bodinayakanur panchayat. There are nearly 10 villages including Pattur, Parambur, and Karunparai near Agamalai, which uses the same road to commute to Periyakulam for work and school.

"Officials have been clearing debris for the last two days. As Deepavali holidays are over, children have to walk several kilometres to go to school. For purchasing basic amenities, locals have to walk all the way down from the mountain for transport. We request officials to restore the road as soon as possible," said Subbaiah, an Agamalai resident. When contacted, a senior official from Theni district said that the particular road is maintained by the highways department and following the landslide, a team was immediately deployed to clear the rubble.

Forest guard drowns while escaping from tusker attack in Karnataka

MYSURU: In a tragic incident, a 22-year-old forest guard drowned in the Kapila river while trying to escape from a tusker attack at Bandipur Tiger Reserve on Sunday evening. According to foresters, Shashank, a resident of Kalaihanahalli village and a forest guard serving in the Kakanakote forest area as an outsource staff, drowned in the Kapila river coming under the Gundre forest range in HD Kote taluk. Forest guards Shashank P C and Rajanna P were on foot patrolling in the forest area at Aaramalleshwara near forest IB when a tusker attacked them at 4.45 pm. As the tusker was behind a huge bush, the forest guards, who did not notice the animal, had walked close to it. The tusker which rushed towards them attacked the guards. As the tusker attacked the guards, they tried to run for their lives towards the river at Kannegala. As both received minor injuries during the attack, they jumped into the river to save their lives from the tusker attack. While Rajanna managed to swim back to shore and saved his life, Shashank drowned in the river. Rajanna managed to run towards the village and informed forest officers and villagers regarding the incident. RFO Amruthesh along with the staff rushed to the spot and managed to fish out the body out of the water. HD Kote MLA Anil Chikkamadu, who visited the spot, assured Rs 30 lakh compensation to the victim's family members. He handed over Rs 5 lakh as immediate relief to the victim's mother Prema.

Hasanamba temple in Karnataka nets Rs 12.64 crore in nine days

HASSAN: In nine days, Hasanamba temple recorded a revenue of Rs 12.64 crore, a significant increase compared to previous years. The temple also saw a record number of devotees in 2024; 20.68 lakh devotees from different parts of the state and abroad thronged the temple. According to Maruti, the administrator of the Hasanamba temple committee, Rs 7.41 crore was collected by selling Rs 1,000 tickets, Rs 1.81 crore collected by selling Rs 300 tickets, Rs 76.77 lakh collected by selling Laddu prasadam and Rs 6.84 lakh was earned through online tickets. "The temple also earned Rs 2 lakh by selling of sarees while Hasanamba hundi (Cash collection box) got Rs 2,55,97,567. Rs 13,47,780 was collected in the hundi of Siddeshwara temple and the rest of money from donations, Tulabhara and advertisement," he added.

Apart from cash, 51 grams of gold ornaments, 913 grams of silver ornaments and 500 grams of copper items were found in the hundi. For the first time, the temple administrative committee has not disclosed contents of the letters dropped by devotees.

Sources said that most of the devotees prayed for marriage, settlement of land disputes, family problems and jobs. Sources also said that a pamphlet related to Channapatna bypoll was also found in the cash collection box. Over 1,000 different handwritten letters, foreign currencies, small garland, wrist watch, banned Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000 notes were also found in the hundi. 500 officials attached to Revenue department, bank and volunteers of Scouts and Guides deployed for counting of cash being collected in the hunds on Monday.

Berhampur's ODF status questioned as public toilets remain neglected

BERHAMPUR: Berhampur city was declared open defecation-free in 2018. Two years later, the Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) was awarded ODF++ ranking in the Swachhata Sarvekshan (cleanliness survey) conducted by the Centre. But the acute shortage of functional public toilets and garbage strewn in the open belie the very notion of sanitation. The city has a population of 6 lakh, excluding a floating population of over one lakh. While most households in the city have their own toilets, people residing in slums use embankments of ponds to defecate. However, it's those who come to the city for work on a daily basis who suffer the most. In the absence of functional public toilets, people are forced to urinate in the open. The BeMC has constructed a considerable number of community toilets across the city and keeps adding to the number every year but many of the toilets remain closed due to lack of maintenance, particularly shortage of water. As expected, women suffer the most as they have no option but to relieve



themselves in the open. The BeMC has spent crores of rupees on various projects to keep the city clean. But several toilets including the one at Canal Street, have been razed and the authorities are not even aware of it. Santosh Behera, a resident of Canal Street rues that a toilet, constructed in 2015, was locked two years back. It has now been demolished. The

ones still standing are locked and the ones that are functional lie in a dilapidated condition.

The civic body was reportedly sanctioned over Rs 1 crore in the first phase of Swachh Bharat Mission. The civic body initially constructed 23 toilets and the number went up to 62. Eight more public toilets are in the pipeline. But the state of

affairs depicts a sorry picture with urinals at several locations including Bijipur, Bada Bazaar and Zenana Hospital demolished for reasons best known to the civic body officials. What's interesting is that BeMC officials have no record of toilets that no longer exist.

As per records, BeMC spends over Rs 5 lakh per month for maintenance of 40 community toilets which is carried out by self-help groups. This apart, the civic body pays around Rs 3 lakh to Sulabh International, a social service organisation. Apart from paying for the public toilets, BeMC has its own around 12 sanitation staff who are paid over Rs 4 lakh towards salary.

A look at the figures suggests the civic body spends over Rs 12 lakh per month on maintenance and upkeep of community toilets some of which do not even exist. BeMC commissioner, Bhabani Shankar Mishra said, so far, he has not received any complaint about public toilets and if any is received, appropriate action will be taken.

Archaeologists seek govt help to protect 300-year-old Maraiyur choultry in Virudhunagar

It is said that choultries in Maraiyur and Narikudi were built during the rule of Rani Mangammal from 1689 to 1706 AD.

VIRUDHUNAGAR: The Ramanathapuram Archaeological Research Foundation sought help from the government to restore a 300-year-old choultry at Maraiyur near Narikudi and preserve it as a heritage monument.

Sources said, Madurai Nayaks, Sethupathi kings, and Marudhu Pandiyars had built choultries for those going on the pilgrimage -- 'Sethu Yatra' -- to Dhanushkodi and Rameswaram. It is said that choultries in Maraiyur and Narikudi were built during the rule of Rani Mangammal from 1689 to 1706 AD. President of Ramanathapuram Archaeological Research Foundation V Rajaguru and Assistant Professor of History at Aruppukottai SBK College Rajapandi



carried out research on the choultry at Maraiyur. "There is an ancient choultry facing east with a big mandapam and veranda. Nearly 50 years ago, it was a school and presently it is not in use. Trees have grown on and around the roof," Rajaguru said and added that it was built using rectangular granite stone, brick, and

lime mortar. Rajaguru added that the roof on the northwest part of the choultry and the two rooms in the western portion have collapsed. He said that these rooms may have been the kitchen, choultry keeper's accommodation and store rooms. "From these sculptures we come to know that the 'Marudhu Pandiyars' renovated the Narikudi choultry and donated it. Similarly, the choultry in Maraiyur was also repaired, renovated and new pillars were erected. Presently, the sculpture of the 'Periya Marudhu' has been damaged," he said.

He requested the government to remove trees that have grown in and around the choultry. He also urged for preserving it as a heritage monument after repair work.

Wastewater emerges as threat to Meghanada Prachira of Shree Jagannath in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR: Waste water, especially the discharge from Ananda Bazaar, has emerged as a threat to the Meghanada Prachira of Shree Jagannath temple in Puri, slowly damaging the 12th-century shrine's boundary wall made of laterite and sandstone blocks. The absence of a proper channel to drain out water from the shrine premises has resulted in ingress into the Meghanada Prachira on three sides of the boundary wall - east, north and west. At the south, a pipe system is in place to discard waste water through 'Magara Muha'. For the convenience of devotees visiting the 12th-century shrine, the temple administration has installed RO systems, one each at the drinking water points in the south and north sides besides the premises of Ananda Bazaar where thousands of devotees partake 'Mahaprasad' everyday. The existing old drainage channel (dry masonry) in Ananda Bazaar has been lying in a dilapidated condition for a long time and is unable to drain out excess water from the RO system along



with the tap water used to wash hands by devotees before and after partaking the 'Mahaprasad'.

While there are water points in the north, east and south parts of the boundary wall, there is a washroom for sevayats on the west side which they use to wash their hands and legs before entering the shrine. Drainage channels near every water point in all the directions of Meghanada Prachira except south are damaged and need to be repaired or reconstructed failing which, percolation of water into the boundary wall cannot be stopped, sources

said. The responsibility of the shrine and Meghanada Prachira's protection, preservation and conservation lies with the ASI while devotees' amenities and drainage are looked after by the temple administration.

ASI Puri circle head DB Gadnayak said the matter has been taken up with the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) in the past. In August this year, the ASI had written to the temple administrator (development) to take steps for the water leakage from the walls of Meghanada Prachira on east, west and north sides alongside the damaged drain, washroom and pipeline. A tender was called by the temple administration for the purpose but could not be finalised. Temple administrator Arvind Padhee said there are six drainage channels on the shrine premises which have already been cleaned for smooth flow of waste water. The works section of the temple has been directed to go ahead with temporary measures to address the drainage issues, particularly at Ananda Bazaar.

Taking the AI-way! Govt school enlists robot tutor to make learning fun

A corporate group in the capital helped the school raise funds as part of its CSR initiative.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: Even as education moves away from the being mechanical to analytical, there are still certain lures of learning that call for robotic rigour. At the Virakupurakotta Government UP School, in the state capital, a teacher is proving to be a 'virtual' draw. Besides reciting rhymes and poems and narrating stories, in a mellifluous voice this tutor is popular with students for her ability to answer their countless questions with patience. The fact that she doesn't mind students milling around her makes her more endearing. Meet Poopy, the artificial

intelligence (AI)-driven humanoid robot that the school enlisted last week to make learning an interactive and fun-filled experience. Poopy was developed by RedFox Robotics, a startup incubated at the Barton Hill Government Engineering College, in Thiruvananthapuram. After the school evinced interest in a project for interactive learning, the college pitched the idea of an AI-based robot and RedFox made it a reality in little over three weeks. A corporate group in the capital helped the school raise funds as part of its CSR initiative. "Poopy's introduction has generated much enthusiasm among students. They fire questions and Poopy answers most of the queries with ease. Since the robot is well versed in both English and Malayalam, we are planning to use it to improve our students' communicative skills," said Biju E, a teacher. "Poopy delivers interactive, multilingual lessons customised to each



student's syllabus. With the ability to adapt to different learning styles, Poopy engages students through real-time responses and personalised teaching, making complex subjects easier to understand," pointed out Vimun A, CEO and founder of RedFox Robotics and a B.Tech student of the college. "Plans on to apply for patent for Poopy" Vimun was assisted by Jinso Raj, another B.Tech student.

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News box

Property dealer opens fire at another in Gurgaon's Sector 4, held

Gurgaon. The crime branch arrested a 36-year-old property dealer on Monday for allegedly attempting to kill another property dealer by firing at him in Sector 4. A case was registered at New Colony police station, and the accused was arrested within hours of the incident. The victim, Jatin, did not suffer any injuries. A licensed firearm was recovered from the accused, police said. They added that they received an alert about the shooting at Sector 4/7 Chowk near Dreams Mall. "Our team rushed to the spot and met the complainant. A bullet fired by the accused was found pierced in the seat of the car," said ACP Crime II, Manoj Kumar. Jatin told police that around 12.05am, he was headed towards Dreams Mall with three friends and had stopped near Sector 4/7 Chowk to attend to some personal work. "The accused, Abhishek Gaur (36) came from behind in another car and asked Jatin to move his vehicle. During this, the accused referred to Jatin as 'chotu', leading to an argument," the ACP said. "The accused opened fire at Jatin and fled the scene." A case was registered against Abhishek under BNS sections 109(2) (attempt to murder), 3(5) (common intention), and the Arms Act.

Stay away from corrupt practices or face action: Cabinet Minister Rao Narbir Singh warns MCM staffers

Gurgaon. Cabinet Minister Rao Narbir Singh held a meeting at Municipal Corporation of Manesar (MCM) on Monday and issued a warning to engineering and taxation department officials against corruption, saying he was aware of their "rates". He stressed on the importance of better service delivery and directed officials to improve their performance within six months. According to sources, he named four taxation department officials, including a top officer and two clerks, and said, "Your rates are fixed, and I know your rates." He then directed them to relinquish additional responsibilities that impacted their performance and ensure that public doesn't face any issues related to property ID matters. The Cabinet Minister also pulled up the officials for failing to ensure sewerage network was functional in certain villages even after the lines were laid during his last tenure in 2019. He said it was concerning that despite laying these sewer lines around five years ago, they remained unconnected to the main network. According to sources, he gave officials six months to finish works on the sewerage network. Officials, especially those in the engineering wing, were directed to spend more time in the field rather than the office to better understand people's problems. The meeting also included a detailed discussion on the sanitation system in the corporation area. Officials reported that untreated sewage from various societies was being discharged openly through tankers. The Cabinet Minister directed them to identify such societies and take strict action against them. He also ordered an inspection of the sewage treatment plants (STPs) installed in societies to make sure they were functional. Moreover, the minister instructed officials to build service roads along both sides of the intersection after evaluating the traffic congestion at Rampura Chowk on the national highway. At the meeting, he also said his goal was to include Gurgaon among the top 10 cities in the country. He urged the officials of the MCM and Gurgaon to ensure high-quality construction work at a low cost and to invest public money for the public's welfare. He also directed the officials to work towards freeing govt land from encroachment and completely banning polythene.

Ghaziabad bypoll now on Nov 20, parties rush to tweak campaign plans

Ghaziabad. The Election Commission has rescheduled bypolls to nine assembly seats in UP, including Ghaziabad, from Nov 13 to Nov 20. In a statement, the poll panel cited "large-scale social, cultural, and religious engagements" for its decision. Apart from UP, dates of polls to certain seats in Kerala and Punjab were changed as well. "Subsequently, representations have been received in the Commission from various recognised National and State political parties (including BJP, INC, BSP, RLD) and some social organisations for a change of date of poll in some Assembly Constituencies having by-elections on 13th November 2024, considering large-scale social, cultural, and religious engagements on that day which may cause inconvenience to a large number of people, give rise to various logistic issues and may lead to reduced voter participation during the poll," the commission said in a statement. Frontline parties like BJP and SP are planning to make the most of this time extension, tweaking their campaign schedules to bring in senior leaders to hold roadshows and public meetings. For BJP, chief minister Yogi Adityanath is set to hold a rally on Nov 8. "He will attend a roadshow in Vijay Nagar. According to the earlier schedule, polls were supposed to be held on Nov 13, which meant we had time only till Nov 11 for campaigning. Now that the commission has given a time extension, we are planning another such programme by Yogi Adityanath," said Pramod Chaudhary, BJP's media in charge in Ghaziabad. As part of preparations, BJP state president Bhupendra Singh Choudhary also held a meeting of party workers on Monday. "It was attended by about 1,000 booth-level workers. The agenda of the meeting was to increase voter turnout. Choudhary also stressed the need to shed off complacency even though Ghaziabad is considered a safe seat for BJP," the media in-charge said. BJP has fielded Sanjeev Sharma from Ghaziabad, which fell vacant after Atul Garg was elected to the Lok Sabha. SP, too, is not leaving any stone unturned. "Party chief and former CM Akhilesh Yadav will be in Ghaziabad on Tuesday, when he will address about 500 workers from the INDIA bloc on ways to garner maximum votes for alliance candidate Singhraj Jatav. The meeting will take place in Govindpuram area," said.

160ft long water pit getting ready at Noida stadium for Chhath

Noida. NCR's largest artificial water pit — 160ft long, 50ft wide and 4ft deep — is being set up at Noida stadium in Sector 21A. It will be decorated with one tonne of rose petals for Chhath puja, which starts from Tuesday. Swimming pools and parks across several highrises and residential areas are being decked up for the puja. "Around 1 lakh people are expected to come to Noida stadium for Chhath," said Alok Vats, president of Pravasi Mahasangh Samiti. TN Chaurasia, acting chairman of the committee, said the event will be held under the surveillance of 25 CCTV cameras and drones. "Necessary fire equipment will be ensured, along with the presence of policemen," he said.

While MP Mahesh will be the chief guest at the puja, BJP luminary Vimala Batham, GB Nagar DM Manish Kumar Verma, and poet-author Kumar Vishwas will visit. There will be musical events as well in the presence of prominent Bhojpuri singers. In Ghaziabad, apart from the

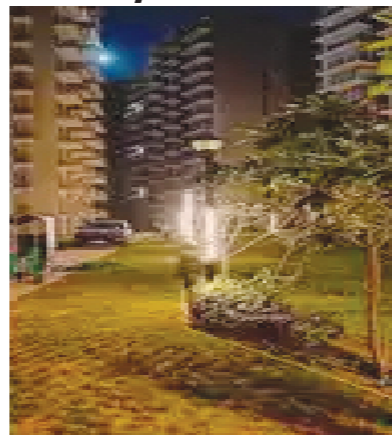
ghats of Hindon River, swimming pools will be used for the puja at several highrises in Indirapuram's Vaibhav Khand, Nyay Khand, Vaishali, Vasundhara among others. Arrangements for changing rooms, mobile toilets and CCTV surveillance have also been made at ghats as over 10 lakh people across GB Nagar and Ghaziabad are set to celebrate the four-day festival. In Sector 75, Munna Kumar Sharma, president of the Suryadev Puja Committee (SPC), said a makeshift Chhath ghat—60ft long, 25ft wide and 4ft deep—has been made at the Central Park of Golf City in Sector 75. In Greater Noida West, the New Era Flat Owners Association (NEFOA) Foundation, in association with Purvanchal Ekta Samiti (PES) and with the support of Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA), will hold its fifth edition of the puja at a makeshift Chhath ghat, which is created



near Ek Murti Chowk. While the pond is 50 metres in length, 40 metres wide and 4 feet deep, the water for it is sourced from the GNIDA pipeline. While similar celebrations are planned in highrises of Noida and residential sectors, GB Nagar DM Manish Kumar Verma also reviewed Chhath preparations in the district. Apart from setting up a control room to monitor the cleanliness of the ghats, officers were also directed to monitor the use of no polythene at the ghats. He also directed prior arrangements for a temporary hospital and ambulance at the ghats and fire brigade vehicles to check for any untoward fire incidents. In Ghaziabad, several ghats along the Hindon River will be thronged for the festivities. These ghats have been painted and spruced up with selfie points while awareness will also be created about plastic and banned polythene at Chhath ghats. The Ghaziabad water department will assist with water tankers for water to the temporary ghat. AOA president CP Baliyan said lakhs of people gather at the Hindon Chhath ghat. In such a situation, a temporary ghat is built every year in the society to avoid chaos.

Hand over flats to buyers in 3 months and compensate for delays, H-Rera tells 4 builders

Gurgaon. H-Rera has ordered four prominent developers — Raheja Developers, Ramprastha Developers, Tashi Land Developers, and Sunrays Heights — to deliver flats to their buyers within 90 days and pay approximately 11% annual interest on investments. Rera also issued a warning that non-compliance will result in legal proceedings. The regulator's investigation of individual cases revealed that investors, who had paid amounts ranging from Rs 13 lakh to Rs 1 crore, experienced substantial delays beyond the contractually agreed delivery dates. In the first case, H-Rera penalised Raheja developers as they failed to hand over a Rs 74 lakh flat to Delhi residents Dharampal Singh and Manjeet Kaur Swami. They bought the flat in Shilas, Sector 109, in 2010 and paid Rs 66 lakh, but did not



Department of Town and Country Planning. HRera member V.K. Goyal ordered the developer to grant possession within 90 days and pay interest for the delay. In another case,

Society of Sector 37D in 2013 and paid Rs 1 crore. They were supposed to receive possession in 2018. HRera mandated Ramprastha Developers to pay 11.1% annual interest from Feb 2018 until possession is granted. Dwarka 9 resident Sushma Rani, who also paid Rs 76 lakh to book a flat in Capital Gateway of Sector 111 in 2015, is yet to receive possession. H-Rera member Ashok Sangwan ordered Tasha's Land Developers to pay 11.1% per annum interest from 2015. A warning of legal action under the H-Rera Act has been issued if possession and interest payments are not made within 90 days. Ruchika Yadav, a resident of Krishna Colony in Gurgaon, paid Rs 13.5 lakh for a flat in 63 Golf Heights, Sector 63A, and was scheduled to receive possession in 2021. As per H-Rera's order, Sunrise

Cops ramp up crackdown against drunk driving, over 2k fined last month in Gurgaon

Gurgaon: Over 2,000 drivers, including 17 women, have been fined for drunk driving in the city in Oct. The traffic police conducted drives against drunk driving primarily on weekends at Sector 29, Cyber Hub, Udyog Vihar, 32 Milestone, Golf Course Road and areas near new malls and restaurants along Southern Peripheral Road (SPR). The traffic police said on an average they fined 68 people daily in Oct. In addition to issuing fines, the authorities also impounded two vehicles during the drive. DCP (traffic) Virender Vij said special police teams were formed for the drive and deployed at hotspots known for higher incidences of the offence. Checkpoints were established and thorough inspections conducted to identify violators, he said. According to police, the primary goal of this campaign was not merely punitive, but also preventive. "By enforcing strict adherence to traffic laws, we aim to instil a sense of responsibility among drivers and ensure safer roads for all. The campaign's

Parliament's winter session from November 25 to December 20

New Delhi, Nov 05: The Winter Session of Parliament is scheduled to begin on November 25 and continue till December 20, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Tuesday. Rijiju said a special celebration to mark the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution will be held in the Central Hall of the Samvidhan Sadan on November 26, observed as Constitution Day.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, PRIYANKA DABHI W/O KULDEEP SODH R/O 1130/2, Sector 3D, Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat - 382006 has embraced Sikhism and renounced Hinduism on 03.11.2024. In my name will be considered as PRIYANKA KAUR and not PRIYANKA DABHI.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Kalpana Devi is the owner of Land area measuring 60 sq. yards, i.e., 50-160 sq. meters, out of Kharsa no. 227Ka situated at village Noornagar, Ghaziabad Tehsil & Distt. Ghaziabad through Sale Deed dated 10.11.2020 regd. as doc. No. 9229 executed by Mr. Vinod Kumar in favour of Mrs. Kalpana Devi in respect of said property. Mrs. Kalpana Devi is in the process of mortgaging the said property with SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. (Formerly Fullerton India Credit Co. Ltd.). Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 07 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 07-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 07 days from the date of this notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.
[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate
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NAME CHANGE
I, Suresh Kumar Luthra S/O Chaman Lal R/O C-154, Near Clock Tower, Hari Nagar, North West Delhi - 110064 have changed my name to Suresh Kumar for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE
I, Sandeep Kumar Resident of Village & P.O. Blochpura, Tehsil Malahar, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana-124109 have changed my son's name from Amav to Amav Bagholia vide affidavit dated 05.11.2024 at New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sheeba Rahman W/O Sami Ur Rahman D/O Taufiq Ahmad R/O- K-405 Express Park View -2, Sector Chl V, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttarpradesh - 201310 have changed my name to Sheeba Taufiq for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rohtas Singh S/O Rattan Singh R/O Plot No-684, Sector-64-A, Ballabgarh, Faridabad, Haryana-121004 Have Changed My Name To Rohtas Singh Rawat for all Future Purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sudhir S/O Dharambir R/O House Number-930, Sector-45, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001 Have Changed My Name To Sudhir Bhan for all Future Purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, Tara Jain /TARA MANI W/O SHRI PARAS MAL DOSHI R/O D-225, JHILMIL COLONY, NEAR COMMUNITY CENTER, DELHI-110095 have changed my name to TARA MANI DOSHI for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, Tessa Parveen W/o Amnuddin R/O 3085, Third Floor, Partap Street, Darya Ganj, Delhi-110002 have changed my name to Taseena.

NAME CHANGE
I, Vasudhara Singh Bhatti W/O Rajat Mukherjee D/O Ravinder Singh Bhatti R/O C-311, FLAT NO-2, S.D.A. HALZ KHAS, SOUTH DELHI-110016 have changed my name to Vasudhara Singh Bhatti for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, JESSY RAJAN ABRAHAM wife of RAJAN ABRAHAM residing at E-2, TOWER-2, TYPE-4, N B C C, KIDWAI NAGAR, DELHI-110023 have changed my name to JESSY RAJAN for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, PIRAJI father of NO-153306677 Rank-HAV Name-S NAGNATH residing at VPO-PALS, TEH-MUJHOL, DIST-NIRMAL, TELANGANA-504103 have changed my name from PIRAJI to PIRAJI SILEVAR for all future purposes, in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1960 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1946 vide affidavit dated 05/11/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHIVENDRA PRATAP SINGH S/O RAJENDRA BAHADUR SINGH R/O H NO-3558, 3RD FLOOR, GALI NO-4, NARNAG COLONY TRI NAGAR, ONKAR NAGAR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110035, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as SHRAVAN PRATAP SINGH in my minor son SHRAVAN PRATAP SINGH aged 14 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is SHRAVAN PRATAP SINGH, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAHIL SAXENA S/O BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA R/O A-3/94, Second Floor, Sector-17 Rohini, Rohini Sector-15, North West Delhi, Delhi-110089, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA in my 10th and 12th class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father is BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAHIL SAXENA S/O BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA R/O A-3/94, Second Floor, Sector-17 Rohini, Rohini Sector-15, North West Delhi, Delhi-110089, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA in my 10th and 12th class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father is BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA, which may be amended accordingly.

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NAME CHANGE
I, SAHIL SAXENA S/O BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA R/O A-3/94, Second Floor, Sector-17 Rohini, Rohini Sector-15, North West Delhi, Delhi-110089, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA in my 10th and 12th class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father is BRAJ KISHOR SAXENA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sandeep Kumar Resident of Village & P.O. Blochpura, Tehsil Malahar, Distt. Jhajjar, Haryana-124109 have changed my son's name from Amav to Amav Bagholia vide affidavit dated 05.1

NEWS BOX

Indian American voices 'will roar' in this election: Joe Biden's advisor

Washington, The voices of the Indian American community are expected to be crucial in the US presidential polls across many states, including the battleground states, Neera Tanden, senior advisor to US President Joe Biden, said in an exclusive conversation with India Today as she analysed the pre-election scenario. According to her, this election could be the culmination of long-standing efforts to ensure that Indian American voices are heard, as Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and her Republican rival, Donald Trump, are set for a razor-thin contest on November 5. We've all lived through periods where there's more bias and anger. And then there's periods where we feel more welcome. And I just think, you know, we stand at a moment where Indian American voices will not just be heard, but will roar in this election. Tanden said as he explained Harris's campaign addressing various communities. She noted that Kamala Harris's deep understanding of India and her perspective will be a significant asset in fostering stronger US-India relations if she is elected to power. "If we elect Kamala Harris tomorrow, we will have the first president ever who visited India as a child who has Indian relatives who experience what it's like, that really knows India from that perspective, not just as a geopolitical ally, but really from the bottom up," Tanden said. She stressed, "I think her added understanding of India from that perspective will be an unfathomable asset in the bilateral relationship between the United States and India. And I think India will be very proud to have a daughter of India as President". She further noted that a lot of people in the Indian community in the US feel a sense of pride that Kamala Harris is actually on the cusp of being president. "And I just see that there's a lot of, you know, just energy out there. So our Indian Americans are a crucial voting bloc. They are one of the largest ethnic minorities in Pennsylvania, for example, a very important state. But they're a very large voting bloc in Georgia and North Carolina. And I really think this election could be kind of the culmination of efforts for a long time to ensure our voices are heard," Tanden remarked.

Tanden described Harris as a leader deeply focused on how policies impact everyday people, a quality shaped by her background as California's Attorney General. The election, according to her, underscores the importance of inclusive representation, resonating with Indian Americans and other minority communities.

Canadian police officer suspended for attending pro-Khalistan protest outside Hindu temple

OTTAWA. A Canadian police officer has been suspended for participating in a pro-Khalistani protest outside the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton, according to a media report. On Sunday, protestors carrying Khalistani flags clashed with people at the Hindu temple and disrupted a consular event co-organised by the temple authorities and the Indian Consulate. There were unverified videos circulating on social media about the protest.

The videos appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, as reported by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The Peel Police is "aware of a video circulating on social media which shows an off-duty Peel Police officer involved in a demonstration," said Media Relations Officer Richard Chin in an email to CBC News. "This officer has since been suspended in accordance with the Community Safety and Policing Act," he said. "We are investigating the circumstances in totality depicted in the video and are unable to provide further information until such time that this investigation is complete." Peel police previously said three people have been charged after violence erupted as Indian consular officials visited the Hindu Sabha Mandir temple Sunday. Videos circulating on social media show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, the CBC report added.

Later in the day, demonstrators made their way to the Westwood Mall in neighbouring Mississauga, according to the World Sikh Organisation of Canada.

A short time after, a third protest was held outside the Malton gurdwara, a Sikh place of worship on Airport Road in Mississauga, the report added. "Although these demonstrations occurred at three different locations, they appear to be related to one another. Several incidents between protestors and worshippers broke out," police said in a news release. India on Monday condemned the attack on the temple with an expectation that those indulging in violence "will be prosecuted".

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that New Delhi remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada.

US election: When will we know who won

WASHINGTON. As Americans prepare to vote on Election Day Tuesday, officials are calling for patience as they tally ballots in what could be a historically close presidential race -- and warning that it could take days to find out who has won.

Under the US system, citizens do not vote directly for their leader. Instead, their ballots elect the 538 members of a group called the Electoral College, which then elects the president and vice president.

Each state casts its Electoral College votes for the candidate that won its popular vote. Bigger states, with more representatives in the US Congress, get a larger share of the 538 Electoral College votes on offer. Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and her Republican rival Donald Trump will be vying to get to the all-important 270 votes that pushes them past the halfway mark and guarantees them the keys to the Oval Office. But with this year's race going down to the wire, experts point to a growing risk of delays and complications like legal challenges over the vote count. Around 81 million people have voted ahead of Tuesday, over half of the total ballots cast in 2020. How long is the count?

The first polls close at 6:00 pm Eastern Time (2300 GMT) but when the race is tight, it could take days before a victor is projected. In 2020, US media declared Democratic candidate Joe Biden the winner on Saturday November 7, although polls closed the Tuesday before.

In 2016 and 2012, voters had a shorter wait. After votes are cast, local election officials, who may be appointed or elected, process and count them. Tallying methods vary from one location to the next.

Missouri sues US Justice Department to block it from sending poll monitors

The Republican-led state of Missouri asked a judge on Monday to block the US Justice Department from sending lawyers to St. Louis on Election Day to monitor for compliance with federal voting rights laws, even after the city's election board agreed to permit it.

New Delhi The Republican-led state of Missouri asked a judge on Monday to block the US Justice Department from sending lawyers to St. Louis on Election Day to monitor for compliance with federal voting rights laws, even after the city's election board agreed to permit it. The lawsuit, which was filed in the US District Court for the Eastern District of

Missouri by the state's attorney general and Secretary of State, accuses the Justice Department of making an 11th hour plan that intends to "displace state election authorities" by sending poll monitors on Tuesday to locations throughout St. Louis. Republican former President Donald Trump, who faces Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris in Tuesday's US presidential election, continues to falsely claim that his 2020 defeat was the result of widespread fraud. He has urged his supporters to turn out at polling places to watch for suspected fraud. Missouri is one of 27 states the Justice Department said on Friday it would send staff out to monitor voting locations, as it has done regularly during national elections.

The only location in Missouri it is sending poll monitors to is St. Louis, which in January 2021 reached a settlement with the Justice Department over concerns about architectural barriers and other problems that could have hindered voting by people with disabilities. As part of that settlement, the city's Board of Election



Commissioners agreed to allow the Justice Department to monitor for compliance. This included the monitoring of polling places on Election Day. The settlement was completed at the very end of the Trump administration, when Eric Dreiband previously served as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. The Justice Department declined to comment on the lawsuit. While some of the locations the Justice Department will monitor on Election Day include key counties in the seven battleground states expected to help decide the election, the Justice Department is also sending personnel to a

variety of other locations such as counties in Texas, Massachusetts, Alaska, South Dakota and New Jersey.

Missouri is not one of the seven battleground states. The Justice Department is responsible for enforcing a variety of federal voting rights laws, such as one that requires states to accommodate voters with disabilities and another that requires states to allow US citizens and military members who reside overseas to vote by absentee ballot in federal elections. In 2022, both Florida and Missouri resisted efforts by the Justice Department to send poll monitors to locations including Miami-Dade and Broward County, Florida. Florida, in a letter to the Justice Department that year, said state law prohibited department employees from being inside polling places unless they were on a list of permitted personnel. In response to the concerns, the Justice Department had its staff stationed outside polling locations in Florida and Missouri for the 2022 election.

The 7 states that will swing the fate of Kamala Harris and Donald Trump

World With the 2024 US presidential election set to go down the wire, it will be up to the seven swing states to determine the fate of Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, 60, and her Republican rival and former President Donald Trump, 78. These pivotal states -- Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin -- have 93 electoral votes and are the primary battlegrounds as both candidates vie for the 270 of the total 538 electoral votes required to secure the presidency. Swing states, or battleground states, are those that can shift between Democratic and Republican support depending on the election. These states, with historically



narrow voting margins and varied outcomes over time, draw significant attention from candidates, who focus their campaigns there to sway voters and secure crucial electoral votes. On the final day of campaigning, both Harris and Trump held marathon rallies

in Pennsylvania, the largest of the swing states with 19 electoral college votes. While all seven states are essential to either campaign, three states in particular -- Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin -- are crucial for Harris's path to victory. Known as the "Blue Wall", these states were reliable Democratic strongholds until Trump flipped all three in 2016, breaking the Democrats' winning streak in the region. In 2020, Joe Biden reclaimed these states for the Democrats, but by narrow margins, highlighting their competitive nature and making them must-wins for Harris in 2024.

Bad things can happen: Trump on possibility of losing to Harris amid close race

Former President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump stated that he could imagine the possibility of losing the election to Vice President Kamala Harris. However, he emphasised that he currently holds "a substantial lead" and predicted that the outcome of the election would likely be clear by election night.

Speaking to ABC News, when asked whether he thinks there's any way he could lose the election, the former president said, "Yeah, I guess, you know". "I guess you could lose, can lose. I mean, that happens, right?... But I think I have a pretty substantial lead. But, you could say--yeah, yeah, you could lose. Bad things could happen. You know, things happen, but it's going to be interesting," Trump elaborated. The US is going to the polls on November 5 to elect its next president in what is predicted to be the closest race in American history. While some polls suggest an edge for Harris at the national level, others predict a Trump upper hand in key

Indian-origin actor Poorna Jagannathan endorses Kamala Harris for US election

Washington Indian-origin actor Poorna Jagannathan, who is known for her roles in films like 'Delhi Belly' and 'Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani', as well as the hit Netflix series 'Never Have I Ever', has endorsed US Vice President and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris for the presidential election.

In an exclusive interview with India Today, the 51-year-old actor said, "I am wholeheartedly supporting Kamala Harris. This is a very multi-issue election for me. I am an immigrant, a survivor of sexual violence, believe there should be a ceasefire and peace in the Middle East, and I have experienced the effects of climate change." "And for all these reasons, I am a huge believer in not only what the Democratic Party thinks, but what she (Harris) stands for. It is a very personal election for me," she added. This latest celebrity endorsement for Harris comes just hours ahead of the high-stakes election which will see the Vice President going head-to-head against her Republican rival and former President, Donald Trump. When asked to comment on what the Indian-American voters

thought of the 2024 election cycle, Jagannathan said it was not only members of the Indian community, but groups of people from other minorities coming together to Harris's aide. Regarding her message to Indian-



American voters who were still undecided on which candidate to choose as President, the actor said that the decision "depends on who they are as a person". There is a big divide right now between Indian-American women and Indian-American men. For Indian-Americans in general, you have to remember where we came from and who we are. We may be perceived as the minority or immigrants who are not

threatened when Trump sends Diwali messages. But don't be fooled," she warned. "What happens to one immigrant group will affect us as well. This is exactly what we saw after 9/11. There was so much Islamophobia, it also affected our Sikh brothers and sisters. The horrors that happens to one immigrant group, we are not exclusive to it. Trump's immigration policies are brutal and unfair, and we have to see ourselves as immigrants."

The actor also mentioned abortion rights, one of the most contentious issues in this year's election, and said that it not only affects women but men as well.

Jagannathan has joined a long list of celebrities who have endorsed Kamala Harris in the race to the White House.

The list includes top musicians like Beyonce, Taylor Swift, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Eminem; actors Julia Roberts, Kerry Washington, Samuel L Jackson, Arnold Schwarzenegger; and NBA stars LeBron James and Magic Johnson.



battleground states, which could turn the tide in his favour.

However, the Republican candidate also hinted that he might claim victory prematurely on Election Day itself. Trump told ABC News that he believes the country will know the winner by Tuesday night, and when asked when he expects to address the nation, Trump told Karl, "I'll be out there at the right time". Anticipating Trump's plan to claim victory, the Kamala Harris camp said they are preparing to counter the claim. "We are sadly ready if he does and, if we know that he is actually manipulating the press and attempting to manipulate the consensus of the American people... we are prepared to respond," Harris said.

It may take several days for the US to officially declare the election winner, although the outcome is expected to become clearer soon after the polls close.

Elon Musk's lawyer admits \$1 million giveaway to voters was not random

World Elon Musk's pro-Trump group does not choose the winners of its \$1 million-a-day giveaway to registered voters at random, but instead picks people who would be good spokespeople for its agenda, a lawyer for the billionaire said on Monday.

Musk lawyer Chris Gober was trying to persuade a Pennsylvania judge that the giveaway was not an "illegal lottery," as Philadelphia district attorney Lawrence Krasner alleged in a lawsuit seeking to block the contest ahead of Tuesday's US presidential election. "There is no prize to be won, instead recipients must fulfil contractual obligations to serve as a spokesperson for the PAC," Gober said in the hearing before Judge Angelo Foglietta. The hearing in the battleground state comes just one day before Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican former President Donald Trump will square off in the tightly contested race. Musk and his political action committee are backing Trump. Tesla CEO Musk's offer is limited to registered voters in the seven states expected to decide the election - Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. America PAC says its two remaining winners will be from Arizona

and Michigan, meaning that Musk would likely be able to continue the giveaway even if Foglietta blocks the lottery.

"The only people protected by Pennsylvania law are in Pennsylvania," said Richard Briffault, a professor at Columbia Law School.

But in courtroom testimony, Krasner said he would seek financial penalties against Musk and America PAC. He said he would not seek to take money back from the 16 voters who have so far won the contest. "I'll be seeking a lot more money than that for what Elon Musk and America PAC have done," Krasner said under cross-examination. Since Oct. 19, Musk has been giving a \$1 million check every day to a randomly selected voter who has signed his petition supporting free speech and gun rights. Musk became an outspoken Trump supporter this year and has promoted the former president on his social media platform. Krasner, a Democrat, sued Musk and his political action committee in state court on Oct. 28 to try to block the giveaway, which he called an illegal lottery that violates state consumer



protection laws. A lawyer for Krasner's office, John Summers, called Gober's comments a "complete admission of liability."

"We just heard this guy say, my boss, my client, called this random," Summers said. "We promised people that they were going to participate in a random process, but it's a process where we pre-select people." Summers later showed the court a clip of Musk at an Oct. 19 Trump rally telling attendees that America PAC would "randomly" award \$1 million to people who sign the petition every day until the

election. In the video, Musk also said "all we ask" is that the winners serve as spokespeople for the group.

"This was all political marketing masquerading as a lottery, albeit an illegal lottery," Krasner said. Philadelphia is the largest city in Pennsylvania, one of seven battleground states likely to determine the outcome of the race between Trump and Harris. Whichever candidate wins, the state will receive its 19 electoral votes out of a total of 270 needed to win. The giveaway falls in a grey area of election law, and legal experts are divided on whether Musk could be violating federal laws against paying people to register to vote.

The US Department of Justice has warned America PAC the giveaway could violate federal law, according to media reports, but federal prosecutor have not taken any public action. Musk has so far given nearly \$120 million to America PAC, according to federal disclosures. The Trump campaign is broadly reliant on outside groups for canvassing voters, meaning the super PAC founded by Musk, the world's richest man, plays an outsized role in what is expected to be a razor-thin election.

News box

Industrialists, organisations want new railway division in Coimbatore

COIMBATORE: Various Industrialists and social organisations met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw during his visit to Coimbatore on Monday. They also demanded a new railway division with Coimbatore as its headquarters and new lines connecting Mettupalayam to Sathyamangalam and Erode to Palani. They also submitted a petition demanding the redevelopment of Coimbatore, Coimbatore North, and Podanur railway stations to improve facilities and passenger experience. They urged the extension of the Mayiladuthurai-Thanjavur train up to Coimbatore with stops at Palani, Pollachi, and Kinathukadavu and the introduction of new train services, specifically a Coimbatore-Rameswaram train and a Coimbatore-Tiruchendur train, to enhance connectivity to these destinations. They said, "At Podanur, train maintenance facilities like pit lines, stabling lines coaching depot, and train watering facility must be approved immediately and a brief halt must be also provided for Coimbatore-Mangalore Intercity Express." They added, in line with the policy followed by railways in renaming stations inside big cities in our country, Podanur must be renamed as Coimbatore South Junction because it is situated within the city limits. An entrance to the northern side of the Podanur station should also be given as there is an adequate space on the existing road and it will give easy access for passengers from the central part of the city."

Bengaluru man sits on 'paper bomb' as challenge, dies

BENGALURU: A 32-year-old man, who took on a challenge to sit on a "paper bomb" firecracker, died two days after he suffered serious injuries. The incident took place near Weavers' Colony in Konanakunte police limits. Six people, all aged between 25 and 35, have been arrested in this connection. The deceased has been identified as Shabarish M, a mason from Weavers' Colony. The accused have been identified as Shabarish's friends Naveen Kumar, Dinakaran, Sathyavelu, Karthik, Sathish and Santosh Kumar, all masons. Police said on Thursday around 9.30 pm, Shabarish and his friends had a booze party. One of Shabarish's friends challenged him to sit on the "paper bomb", claiming they would give him a new autorickshaw if he won the challenge.

Shabarish accepted the challenge. They lit the "paper bomb" firecracker and placed a cardboard box on it. As soon as Shabarish sat on the box, the "paper bomb" exploded, injuring his private parts. He was immediately rushed to Victoria Hospital, where he died on Saturday, the police said. The police said the CCTV footage obtained from near the spot shows Shabarish sitting on the box placed on the "paper bomb", while his friends run for cover. Moments later, the box explodes, leaving Shabarish seriously injured. The police said they arrested Shabarish's six friends after receiving a complaint on Sunday. They have been booked under Sections 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) and 288 (negligent conduct with respect to explosives substance) of BNS.

Sirpur BJP MLA launches fast, demands suspension of forest officials for alleged third-degree torture of six farmers

ADILABAD: Sirpur BJP MLA Palvai Harish Babu launched a hunger strike in front of the Sirpur (T) range office in Kumurambheem-Asifabad district on Monday, demanding that the government suspend the forest officials who, he alleged, subjected six farmers to third-degree torture. He said that the forest officials tortured the farmers from the Bengal camp and one farmer from Heerapur in the district for allegedly killing a wild boar. "The forest officials took them to the Khagaznagar forest division and kept them there for 48 hours," Harish alleged. Families of the farmers along with BJP and Bajrandal activists staged a protest. Cases were filed against several Bajrandal activists.

The MLA alleged that the Sirpur range officer and officials from other divisions were involved in torturing the farmers. "The wild animals appear in the village in search of water, but often they are killed by the dogs. However, the officials blame the villagers. They threaten them and collect money from the villagers," he said.

Harish also said that they had submitted a letter to Forest Minister Konda Surekha and PCCF RM Doberiyal, arguing that "farmers have a right to kill wild animals if they damage their crops." He said that unless the accused officials were not brought to justice, the farmers would continue the protest. "Six months ago, thousands of teakwood trees were smuggled from Karjili range and it was revealed that higher officials were involved in the crime," Harish said and added that in Bhupalpelli, Chilapalli, Lakshimpur villages the officials extorted lakhs.

Palakkad bypoll postponed to Nov 20; political fronts welcome ECI move

TIRUPURAM/PALAKKAD : Taking into account the demand of all the three political fronts in the state, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has postponed the by-election to the Palakkad assembly constituency to November 20. However, by-elections to Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency and Chelakkara assembly segment will be held on November 13, as per the original schedule. The Palakkad bypoll has been rescheduled in view of the 'Kalpathi Ratholsavam' to be held from November 13 to 15. The leadership of the three political fronts and their candidates have welcomed the ECI decision. UDF candidate Rahul Mamkoottathil said the change in poll date will help the voters. "A request to change the poll date was made for the benefit of devotees. However, we don't want credit for the date change," he said. Meanwhile, NDA candidate C Krishnakumar said the district administration had given a report in favour of conducting election on the earlier fixed date. "The BJP requested for a date change on the day the notification was issued.

The party leadership convinced the commission that a large number of

residents will not be able to cast votes owing to the festival. But, the district administration's report was that the election on the earlier declared day will not cause inconvenience.

The report itself shows a conspiracy by the UDF and the LDF against BJP supporters," he said. P Sarin, the LDF candidate, raised suspicion over the

The UDF felt that the ECI could have taken the call much earlier. Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan welcomed the decision to postpone the election. "Even if the by-election is held on Tuesday, the UDF is prepared to face it. However, it's not clear why the decision was made only days before the election," said Satheesan. Echoing the sentiment, Congress state president K Sudhakaran said: "We are happy that the ECI listened to our request. But the commission should have taken a call to postpone the election much earlier," said Sudhakaran. Even though the Congress leadership welcomed the date change, the party workers at the grassroots level are not amused by the decision. A DCC leader from Palakkad expressed mixed feelings. He told TNIE that it's good for the leadership, but not for persons like him. "With one more week for campaigning, we need to ensure that the UDF candidate emerges victorious.

It's also taxing for us to manage the expenses," he said. Welcoming the ECI decision, LDF convener T P Ramakrishnan said: "The LDF had demanded postponement of the election on October 15.

delay in ECI decision. "We welcome the decision to change the poll date. But, we suspect a conspiracy behind the delay. The authorities delayed the announcement to let BJP claim credit, by creating an impression that the party was responsible for getting the by-election postponed," said Sarin.

ECI could have taken decision earlier, feels UDF



Kodakara hawala case: Police to seek court's approval to hold further probe

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: A special team of the police will approach the court on Tuesday seeking its permission to conduct a further probe into the 2021 Kodakara hawala case. Once the court grants its consent, the police will record the statement of former BJP Thrissur district committee office secretary Thirur Sathesh, who stirred a hornet's nest by alleging that cash stolen from a car at Kodakara was part of hawala money received by state BJP leaders for election



expenditure. Police sources said Sathesh's statement will be recorded within two days once the court gives its approval. However, the sources noted that the revelations made by Sathesh could not be considered "groundbreaking," as the original complainant in the case the car driver had already provided more details about the incident. Sathesh had claimed that the hawala money, meant to cover BJP's election expenses, was kept in six sacks at the party office. He said the money was received at the office the night before the Kodakara heist. The key accused, Dharmarajan, had allegedly visited the party office when BJP state president K. Surendran was also present, according to Sathesh.

The LDF government decided to conduct a further investigation into the 2021 case after Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan held a meeting with State Police Chief Shaik Darvesh Saheb on Friday, in light of the fresh revelations by Sathesh.

Madras HC imposes Rs 5,000 cost on tahsildar for removing encroachment without issuing prior notice

MADURAI: The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court recently imposed Rs 5,000 cost on the tahsildar of Kalayarkoil in Sivaganga for failing to issue notice to a woman before removing an alleged encroachment made by her. A bench comprising Justices R Subramanian and L. Victoria Gowri passed the order on a petition filed by the said woman, K Valli, against the removal of a fence, which she had allegedly erected in a public property. The judges had first summoned the tahsildar, other revenue officials and the station house officer of the Kalayarkoil police station who were involved in the eviction process. Pursuant to this, the tahsildar appeared before the court and admitted that no notice was issued to Valli before the eviction.

The judges observed, "The Tamil Nadu Land Encroachment Act, 1905, which is 119 years old, provides for a procedure for eviction of encroachments over public property. The Tahsildar, who is invested with the powers to implement the provisions of the said enactment, is required to follow the procedure prescribed under that enactment for removal of encroachments. Digression from the said procedure cannot be condoned by this court." They directed the revenue officials and the police to restore the fence; issue notice to Valli and take further action as per the procedure prescribed under the Act. They also imposed Rs 5,000 cost on the tahsildar for the manner in which he had acted, but added that the cost would not have any impact on his service records.



Odisha government to kickstart paddy purchase from Bargarh district on November 21

BHUBANESWAR : The state government has decided to start paddy procurement for the kharif marketing season (KMS) 2024-25 from Bargarh district on November 21. This will be the first procurement season of the BJP government which has committed to fulfilling its major poll promise of buying paddy at Rs 3,100 per quintal with an input subsidy of Rs 800 - one of the highest subsidy support by a state to farmers in the country under the minimum support price regime. A five-member ministerial level sub-committee under the chairmanship of deputy chief minister Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo on Monday finalised the procurement modalities. "The BJP government is going to create another history. An additional financial support Rs 800 per quintal of paddy will be given to farmers



over and above the minimum support price of Rs 2,300 announced by the Centre. The sub-committee discussed measures to be adopted at mandi (paddy purchase centre) level to make the entire procurement foolproof and hassle-free for the farmers," Revenue minister Suresh Pujari told mediapersons after the meeting. While the panel has proposed to start procurement from November 21,

the procurement committee of Bargarh district in its meeting on Tuesday will take a call on the date to start the operations. "In order to ensure transparency in paddy procurement, it was decided that the authorised officials will be present at mandis till completion of the process. They will report to the government on daily basis through a dedicated portal," Pujari said. He said a supervisor will be in charge of four to five mandis. Each mandi will have a quality testing machine so that fair average quality (FAQ) of paddy can be ascertained properly. This will end the unethical practice of 'katni chatni'. The Transport department will inspect the paddy transportation from mandis to rice mills. Time lapse of online token issued to farmers was another important issue discussed at the meeting.

Traffic stops in Bhubaneswar to have solar sheds for commuters



BHUBANESWAR: Bhubaneswar will soon get solar sheds at major traffic intersections to protect commuters from the blazing sun during summer and fulfil the electricity requirement of the city's infrastructure from renewable energy sources. A proposal to this effect has been submitted by the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) to the Odisha Renewable Energy Development Agency (OREDA). Bhubaneswar mayor Sulochana Das said, "Initially, we have planned to pilot the project at two major traffic intersections - AG square and Kalinga Hospital Square. After studying their feasibility, these sheds will be installed at other traffic intersections in the city."

Das said during the summer this year, BMC had installed temporary sheds at traffic intersections to protect commuters from the scorching sun. The civic body was widely appreciated for the initiative. "Subsequently, we decided to go for solar sheds to get rid of the needless expenditure on installing temporary structures every year."

The sheds will be permanent structures with one-time investment. "Apart from providing shelter to commuters from the sun, the sheds fitted with solar panels on the roof will supply power to street lights on the road medians and other energy infrastructure," the mayor added. A BMC official said the sheds will be made climate resilient to make them withstand strong winds. Besides, these structures will be planned in such a way that they don't affect the proposed metro project. He said the proposal will also be in line with the 'Green Energy and Solar City' plan envisioned by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the state capital. Under the plan, around 42 stretches of the road network have already been identified by the OREDA and TPCODL in coordination with BMC where solar power integration of street lights will be carried out in phases.

Air quality takes a hit in Bengaluru's Hebbal, Jigani

Ambient noise levels too saw a notable rise, impacting residents' health and well-being, especially those with respiratory issues.

MYSURU: As Bengaluru celebrated Deepavali last weekend, the city's air quality took a significant hit, according to data obtained by Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) from a few key locations. The air quality index (AQI) surged dramatically, with Hebbal and Jigani stations in Bengaluru experiencing some of the most pronounced increases in pollution levels. Ambient noise levels too saw a notable rise, impacting residents' health and well-being, especially those with respiratory issues.

people on prolonged exposure. Although the AQI dipped to 227 on the second day and to 65 on the third, Hebbal's three-day average AQI was an alarming 185 - marking a 146.7% increase from pre-Deepavali levels. In Jigani, similar

average of 141 over the festivities, a spike of 110.9%.

The situation was no different in other districts. Davanagere reported a staggering 217.2% increase, from a 31 AQI level pre-Deepavali to an average of 97 during the festivities. Dakshina Kannada, known for its relatively cleaner air, saw a 114.8% surge from 36 to 77 AQI, while Hassan's AQI rose by 131.2%, averaging 106 during Deepavali compared to pre-festival's AQI of 45. Pre-Deepavali, Mysuru recorded 40 and its three-day average was 68. Raichur, similarly, saw a significant jump, with AQI levels reaching an average of 118, a 126.9% increase. Noise pollution levels also saw substantial increases. Basaveshwarnagar's Nisarga Bhavan recorded an 11.3% rise in ambient noise levels, with readings increasing from 73.1 decibels pre-Deepavali to 81.3 decibels.



On the day before Deepavali, Hebbal's AQI reading was relatively low at 75, indicating a "satisfactory" air quality level, with only minor discomfort possible for sensitive groups. However, as festivities commenced, the AQI levels soared. On the first day of Deepavali, Hebbal recorded an AQI of 263, plunging the quality of air to the "poor" category, posing breathing risks for most

patterns emerged. The station, which reported an AQI of 55 on the eve of the festival, saw this increase to 123 on the second day, with the third day AQI of 81, averaging 136 over the three days. This constituted a 147.3% rise in pollution levels. Meanwhile, Kasturinagar's AQI soared from 67 pre-Deepavali to an

High global stakes in a bitter US election

difference between US Democrats and Republicans was like the contrast between Coke and Pepsi. Now, it seems both have lost the fizz and represent two conflicting worldviews and distinct approaches amid wildly differing expectations. The mild common effervescence is replaced by bitter froth. For voters in the US, the concerns are unemployment, inflation, immigration, disproportionate growth in income levels, and reproductive healthcare. Pollsters are busy projecting the future based on the way they gauge popular moods; betting syndicates ogle at their desired outcome. The US electorate grapples with this tug of war; the world waits for the outcome, and its implications for other regions and global geopolitics. West Asia has to be a priority of the US administration, given its share of 40 per cent in global oil exports and America's reliance on the region for oil security. West Asia plays a crucial role in balancing oil demand and supply globally. The issues of oil and regional security, the US relationship with Saudi Arabia and the repercussions of the Israel-Gaza conflict on the region are important. There seems to be uncertainty about who between Donald Trump and Kamala Harris can impact the situation in West Asia in a positive way, especially as dissatisfaction might grow if there is loss of territory in Gaza or West Bank. The other region that is likely to be impacted is Latin America, which has witnessed the growing influence of China. Earlier considered a preserve of the US, China's role in Latin America has grown rapidly, led by its state firms investing in the region's energy, infrastructure and space industries. China now ranks as South America's top trading partner, with free trade agreements with Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Peru, and 21 Latin American countries signing the Belt and Road Initiative of China. China has invested about \$73 billion in Latin America's raw material sector, including by building refineries and processing plants in countries with significant amounts of coal, copper, natural gas, oil and uranium. China has also invested in lithium production in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile and financial ports, airports, highways and railway projects. What could be worrying for the US is China's concentration on building 'new infrastructure', such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing and 5G technology, and its strong bid to strengthen cooperation in the space sector.

For Latin America, the major issue is immigration, which is clearly on the rise as witnessed by the number of people detained at the border. The US administration's war on drugs also affects Latin American countries, which may not be producers, but serve as corridors for drug and human trafficking to the US. According to Colombian journalist Diana Duran, the US administration needs to realise the importance of Latin America for the US economy. The question of the US-Russia relationship came up during the presidential debate in September. What seems to bother the US is that after the breakup of the Soviet Union, there was hope that the new Russia would be liberal, democratic and helpful to its neighbours. The emergence of Russia, especially under Putin, as a country working to be a superpower has belied US expectations, turning potential cooperation into a possible conflict. While America cannot ignore Russia, the latter seems unconcerned about the US elections. According to some experts, Harris is relatively unknown to Russians. Although she is expected to continue the Biden approach, Trump is known to be a 'friend' and is preferred. Bob Woodward's latest book, War, refers to secret conversations between Trump and Putin, giving rise to the apprehensions that Trump might make concessions to Russia. This may help Russia in dealing with the Ukrainian crisis, besides adding to its growing importance in influencing global economy because of its energy resources, due to which it has been able to consolidate its position with many Asian and European countries despite sanctions.

Landmark SC ruling targets menace of child marriage

Good looks, dictated by what should be the perfect colour, curves in all the right places and a certain oomph, do matter. In our appearance-obsessed society where women, and some men, work tirelessly to conform to an impossible idea of...

In a recent landmark ruling, the Supreme Court issued a slew of directives to the Centre and state governments to eradicate the social evil of child marriage. The court also ordered the creation of special police units to firmly address the evil.

However, the challenge is daunting. Child marriage is an age-old practice. Various social, cultural and economic factors came into play in the need to protect unmarried girls from foreign invaders. Hence, early marriage was preferred and it later became a rigid social custom. The problem was further compounded by the dowry system. The fear of payment of a heavy dowry for the marriage of a girl after puberty made the practice common, particularly among the poor sections of society. In rural areas of some states, if the girl is not married before she is 17 years old, the entire family is ostracised. For the girl, early marriage leads to inadequate socialisation, discontinuation of education and great physiological damage owing to repeated pregnancies. Evidence shows that the maximum maternal deaths take place between 15 and 16 years, when a girl is unprepared for marriage.

Under the amended Child Marriage Restraint Act of 1978, the minimum legal marriageable age was raised to 18 years for women and 21 years for men from the original Act of 1929 that provided for the marriageable age for girls at 14 and boys at 18. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, replaced the 1978 Act with the same minimum age limits. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill raised the age of marriage for females to 21 years. This Bill is yet to be passed. The Council for Social Development, New Delhi, conducted a study on child marriages in Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh and concluded that this legislation remained a dead letter because of the prevalent social and religious customs, poor economic conditions and ineffective enforcement machinery. Hundreds of girls below 18 years are married on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya in Rajasthan, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. A study conducted by the council for the

Union Ministry of Social Welfare has dealt with the perception of women themselves on the issue of child marriage. Many women look at early marriage as protection against sexual molestation. Also, when a girl grows up, it is difficult to get a suitable match for her as the dowry demand also goes up. Further, child marriage is actually a betrothal, as the 'gauna' or real marriage takes place when the girl is much older. Discussions with women also reveal another negative side of the issue. Boys who marry young usually abandon their wives and get married again



when they grow older. After a news report was published in an English daily that mass marriage would be solemnised in Rajasthan on April 29, 1998, on Akshaya Tritiya, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) issued a notice to the state Chief Secretary and called for a detailed report to know the action taken by the state government to prevent child marriages. It also sent a team to Rajasthan for an investigation. Senior officers visited Bikaner and Jodhpur and witnessed a number of child marriages being solemnised with fanfare, and without any objection from the authorities or the public. The commission pointed out to the state government that it was a statutory obligation on its part under the Child Marriage Restraint Act to prevent child marriages and take appropriate action in accordance with the

provisions of the Act. It called for a report from the Rajasthan Government on the prevalence of child marriages in the state. The NHRC also undertook a study of the Child Marriage Restraint Act and felt that some amendments to the Act were needed. As the offences under the Act are not cognisable, no arrest could be made without the order of the Judicial Magistrate. The commission felt that the Act had to be amended to make the offence cognisable, non-bailable and triable by the sessions court. Powers should be given to the Executive Magistrate and police officers for the effective implementation of the Act. Sadly, the present situation regarding child marriages remains as horrifying and shameful. According to the UNICEF, one-third of the world's child brides live in India and nearly 23 per cent of young women in India are married before their 18th birthday. The states with the highest number of child marriages include Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Economists, applying the law of demand and supply, have recommended that a reduction in the number of women would enhance their status. They should, however, look at the hard anthropological evidence, which shows that states in India with extremely adverse sex ratio, including Bihar, UP and Rajasthan, are notorious for crimes against women such as polyandry, gang-rape and dowry killings.

The Supreme Court, in its recent directives, ordered the appointment of child marriage prohibition officers at the district level. They would be responsible for the enforcement of laws protecting the affected children. The court has also called for the establishment of police units dedicated to prevent child marriage. This can be a game-changer only if these units are adequately staffed and empowered. Often, it has been seen that such officers and special units have not been purposefully utilised. However, legal deterrents alone will not eliminate the scourge of child marriage. Social conscience needs to be stirred against this evil practice. Voluntary groups should be encouraged to mobilise public opinion and create an atmosphere of stern social disapproval of the traditional practice of child marriage.

Punjab's drug war

Name and shame big fish for deterrence

PUNJAB's ongoing crackdown on drug trafficking demonstrates a renewed commitment to combating the drug menace that has gripped the state for long. Over the past 10 months, the Punjab Police have arrested 10,524 smugglers, including 153 high-level operators, recovering substantial amounts of heroin and other drugs. While these numbers reflect commendable action, simply reporting figures is not enough. To create real deterrence, the police must go beyond these statistics by naming and shaming major traffickers. This must be followed up with swift judicial proceedings against the big fish to send out the message that engaging in such illicit activities has very serious consequences. Punjab's current two-pronged approach — targeting large drug networks alongside local peddlers — has yielded significant success, with seizures totalling 790 kg of heroin, 860 kg of



opium and other narcotics, along with drug money amounting to over Rs 13 crore. Additionally, the state has frozen assets worth Rs 208 crore, striking at the financial foundations of these criminal operations. However, a

more impactful strategy would involve publicly exposing major traffickers and demolishing the notion of impunity associated with the trade. At the same time, the authorities need to strike at the threat of cross-border trafficking, which has intensified with the increasing use of drones to smuggle narcotics. This year alone, the Border Security Force (BSF) seized 183 drones along the Punjab border, a significant rise from 107 in 2023. These drones, primarily from Pakistan, represent a sophisticated smuggling method that demands stronger countermeasures, though the BSF has put in place some anti-drone systems. As Punjab battles this deeply-rooted crisis and tries to reclaim communities from the grip of narcotics, a robust, multi-agency collaboration is called for to reinforce border security and intercept such high-tech threats.

SAD faces a crisis of legitimacy

The party has been unable to comprehend concerns of the Sikhs and Punjab's agrarian economy

THE Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) occupies a distinctive place in the history of India's regional and democratic politics. Born out of a popular movement in 1920, it is among the oldest political parties of the subcontinent. Over the past 104 years, it has confronted many challenges and seen many changes. From the Partition in 1947 to Punjab's reorganisation in the 1960s and the militant Khalistan movement of the 1980s, the SAD has been through many difficult times and survived.

Though its control over the SGPC remains, the SAD's appeal among the Sikh masses has been on the decline. Though a regional party that is also identified with the Sikh community, its leadership has often been at the forefront of articulating national-level concerns, particularly those related to questions of federal politics. It was also among the few political parties in India with a cadre base of jathedars and local-level organisations.

The SAD's distinctiveness also lay in the fact that it represented a range of interconnected interests and identities: the regional aspirations of Punjab; the representative face of the Sikh community; and the economic interests of the landowning agrarian class. As a regional party, it has been the sole voice of Punjab. Likewise, though not all Sikhs have voted for the party, they have looked up to the SAD to be the institution that represents their sense of distinctive identity and interests — as a Panthic institution. Sikhs living outside Punjab, too, have had a sense of ethnic identification with the SAD. After the reorganisation of Punjab in 1966, the party also emerged as a custodian of agrarian interests, with its leadership positions being almost exclusively occupied by individuals coming from the agrarian, rich, landowning caste of the Jats. The success of the SAD

leadership lay in its ability to cruise through these diverse axes of Punjab politics — region, community and class/caste — which helped it emerge as a regionally hegemonic actor. Even when its leadership chose to aggressively raise Panthic issues, it was hard to brand it as a communal or a sectarian party. Its electoral allies have ranged from local communist parties to the right-wing Bharatiya Jana Sangh and the BJP. The early generation of its leadership also worked from within, or alongside, the Congress. Likewise, despite the narrow social base in terms of caste and class, it connected with all sections of the Sikh community. Even some non-Sikhs of Punjab have been voting for its candidates. The SAD has been a part of the mainstream political culture in yet another way. Like many other regional parties, it has recently seen a growing hold of one family, the Badals, and has been marred by internal schisms and factional divisions. Over the past 50 years, many of its senior leaders have left the party and formed offshoots of the SAD, often positioning themselves as the radical Panthic alternative. But rarely has their political appeal been lasting. It is mostly the mainstream outfit, led by the Badals for nearly three decades, that has continued to dominate.

However, that seems like old hat. The challenges that the SAD confronts today are unprecedented. With the growing hold of the Badal family, the party has seen an erosion of its cadre base and organisational structure. Though its control over the SGPC remains, its appeal among the Sikh masses has been on the decline. There has been a growing perception that the

SAD leadership has intentionally prioritised its electoral arithmetic over Panthic sentiments/issues. The victory of two 'radical' Sikhs in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections was a clear signal to the SAD that the common Sikhs no longer trusted it with their communitarian and religious concerns.

To broaden its electoral appeal, the Badals-led SAD has given up on being a Sikh-only party and opened up its membership to all Punjabis. There is little evidence to



suggest that such a 'secular-regionalist' turn has found traction among the non-Sikhs of the state. On the contrary, its prolonged proximity to the Hindu nationalist party, the BJP, has only eroded its federalist credentials. Perhaps the biggest blow to its social and electoral base has come from its most secure social base, the rural-agrarian constituency. With a weakening cadre base, the SAD leadership

appears to have lost connect with the emerging crises of the agrarian economy.

This was visible during the year-long farmers' protest on the borders of the national capital against the three farm laws introduced by the Narendra Modi government. It was only when its leaders felt the heat due to the growing anger among Punjabi farmers that they raised objections to the Central laws. They had all along been party to the 'reforms' that the Modi government had been working on. The party's decision to quit the NDA government could not restore the loss of trust. This was reflected in a rather sharp decline in its vote share, reduced to nearly half of what it was in the past. In the political landscape of India, Punjab has often been an outlier. Its political dynamics tends to be shaped by its local context and history rather than by what appears to be the 'national mood'. Although Punjab is not the only state in the Indian Union that has a strong sense of regional identity and a strong regional party of its own, the regional politics of the state has a distinct flavour.

Fullscreen The most important actor representing the regional sentiments of the state had been the SAD. Today, it appears to be at a crossroads, confronting an unprecedented crisis of legitimacy. Much of this comes from its inability to comprehend the changing concerns of the Sikh community, Punjabi society and, perhaps most importantly, the agrarian economy of the region. Its waning appeal among its traditional constituencies have for the identity and aspirations of the region? This is a phase worth watching.

Parents and in-laws are now moving to be closer to their children, and some opt to live in separate homes to get their own space.

Gone are those days when a girl, after getting married and migrating to another city, would only get to see her parents occasionally. With families becoming nuclear and no one to take care of the elderly after their children leave home, parents are relocating to stay with their kids or in the same vicinity. City-based HR professional Ruchi Sharma's father stays in the same apartment complex as her. "He shifted to this complex three years ago. The idea was to have a good support system for both of us. It is good for my children as they get guidance in all spheres of life. Also, if I am not home, they can always go to their grandfather, in turn ensuring that he doesn't feel lonely. In case there is a medical emergency, it is easy for us to take care of him. Otherwise, if he is alone in another city or in another part of Bengaluru far away from us, who can we trust to look out for him?" says Ruchi. Her father SK Sharma adds, "With somebody so close, it gives you a sense of security. Also, family support is much more important than social support. Daily interaction with one's grandchildren also lifts one's emotional state."

Domlur resident and scientist Shilpa Vora stays with both sets of parents in the city. As her siblings and her husband's siblings stay abroad, the onus of taking care of their parents fell on the couple. "My parents shifted from Mumbai when my mother had a relapse of leukemia, and frequent travel between Mumbai and Bengaluru became difficult for us. So my parents shifted near us so as not to disrupt our daily lives. Now that my mother has passed away, my father stays in a flat in the same residential society as us, as we did not want him to stay alone and manage a house by himself in another city. We make it a point to have dinner together as everyone gets to interact with each other. It works for everybody - from the children's point of view, they get attention from both sets of grandparents. My in-laws, who stay with us, are good company for my father-in-law too. We can also take care of them and get their support in times of crisis," explains Shilpa. The other factor that has attributed to this change is that now, a married woman is not obliged to stay in a particular home. "These days, in-laws understand that one has to take care of both sets of parents. So, over time, it



Say hello to the nuclear
Joint Family



becomes one big family. Also, it is good that rather than us travelling to meet them all the time, they shift near us so that we can be there for each other," says professor Madhu Venkat, who has stayed with both sets of parents. "When my father was ill and I had to work, my mother-in-law would cook healthy food for him and keep him company. I think this arrangement is fantastic," she says.

Parents get children into the entrepreneurship Game early

If you've got a child who's always dreaming up schemes to get rich, you might just be sharing a house with the next big entrepreneur.



Interaction helps toddlers develop Language

Next time you read to your baby, pay attention to the babbling as interaction is the key to language development during reading, reveals a new study.



The researchers found that babies made more speech-like sounds during reading than when playing with puppets or toys. They also discovered mothers were more responsive to these types of sounds while reading to their children than during the other activities. "A lot of research shows that book reading even to infants as young as six months of age is important to language outcomes, but I am trying to explain why by looking at the specifics, which could be responding to speech-like sounds," said study co-author Julie Gros-Louis from University of Iowa in the US. "If we know what specific interactions are occurring between care-giver and child and we can link that to language outcomes, then it would not just be telling parents, 'Read a lot of books to your kids,'" Gros-Louis added. The study looked at how mothers



responded to their 12-month-olds during book reading, puppet play, and toy play. Researchers observed the interactions of 34 mothers and their 12-month-olds during three 10-minute periods of different activities: puppet play, toy play, and book reading. The babies were seated in a high chair to control proximity to their mothers and to prevent them from getting up and moving around the play room. The study also found that no matter the context, mothers' responses to speech-like sounds were often imitations or an expansion of the sound. "The current findings can contribute to understanding how reading to preverbal infants is associated with language outcomes, which is not well understood in contrast to reading interactions with older toddlers," according to the study.

The increasing spread and use of technology is making it far easier to set up new ventures, run by ever-younger businesspeople. So, students can craft their own bags and phone cases and sell them online, offer dogwalking or baby-sitting services online, or build and monetize their own apps. And parents are being told that they should encourage these traits rather than order their children back to their books. "Entrepreneurship is tipped to become an even more important character trait for the next generation to enter the workforce. While their parents might have been able to lock in careers for life, those still in the education system or getting their first jobs are likely to juggle many roles and have to self-manage a lot more," writes Susan Edmunds for stuff.co.nz. Studies have established that children whose parents ran their own businesses are more likely to become entrepreneurs, and that a third of five-year-olds have natural entrepreneurial traits. But by the time they leave secondary school, it had dropped to 3%. So parents have to foster entrepreneurial traits and teach kids the necessary skills by talking to them about risk taking, strategy and ambitions. "It's amazing how switched on [children] are to

the power of money. They get quite motivated," Edmunds quotes Bradley Gerdis, managing director at payment solutions startup Smartpay, as saying. Starting early by talking to children about the interesting things people are doing not only makes them creative and curious individuals but also teaches them the value of money and fosters a strong work ethic. Parents could also work with children on their ideas, encouraging them to look at all aspects of a business, and help them set it up on a small scale. Starting early seems to be the best way to catch that unicorn.



UP Madarsa Education Act valid, Supreme Court says High Court erred in order

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra gave the verdict against the High Court's March 22 judgement striking down the Madarsa Education Act 2004 as "unconstitutional".

New Delhi: In a massive relief to about 17 lakh madarsa students in Uttar Pradesh, the Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the constitutional validity of the Madarsa Education Act 2004, cancelling the Allahabad High Court order that struck down the law on grounds that it violated the principles of secularism. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, and Justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra gave the verdict against the High Court's March 22 judgement that declared the Act as "unconstitutional" and violative of the principle of secularism. The High Court had also asked the Uttar Pradesh government to accommodate madarsa students in the formal schooling system. During the hearing on Tuesday, the Supreme Court bench said, "We have upheld the validity of UP Madarsa Education Act. The statute can be struck down if a state lacks legislative competence." "The Allahabad High Court erred in holding that the madarsa law had to be struck down for violating basic structure, which is the principle of secularism. The legislative scheme of the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act was to standardise the level of



education being prescribed in madaras," it added. The Supreme Court further said that madaras granting 'fazel' and 'kamil' degrees beyond class 12 cannot be recognised by the Uttar Pradesh Madarsa Board as these are in conflict with the UGC Act and to that extent it was unconstitutional. Tuesday's ruling means that madaras would continue to function in Uttar Pradesh with the state regulating the education standards. The Supreme Court further said that the Act does not interfere with the day-to-day working of the madaras. "The Act is to protect the rights of a minority in Uttar Pradesh and is consistent with the positive

obligation of the state, which ensures the students to pass out and earn a decent livelihood. The mere fact that a legislation includes some sort of religious training or instruction does not make it unconstitutional," it noted. Some 23,500 madaras currently function in Uttar Pradesh. Of these, 16,513 are recognised, which means that they are registered with the state government. Among the recognised madaras, 560 are funded by the Uttar Pradesh government. Before its verdict today, the Chief Justice-led bench heard a number of lawyers on behalf of eight petitioners, including Anjum Kadari, besides Additional Solicitor General KM Natraj, who appeared for the Uttar Pradesh government, for almost two days. On October 22, the Supreme Court reserved its judgement on the Allahabad High Court order. The top court emphasised that "secularism means to live and let live" and also highlighted the importance of accommodating diverse religious instruction in education. Even on April 5, the Supreme Court had stayed the High Court order, observing that secularism meant to "live and let live".

"Government Can't Take Over...": Big Supreme Court Order On Private Property

In her separate judgment, Justice BV Nagarathna disagreed with Chief Justice DY Chandrachud on his observations on the ruling by Justice Krishna Iyer in the 1977 Rangareddy case

New Delhi: Not all privately owned properties qualify as community resources that the State can take over for the common good, the Supreme Court said in a landmark verdict today. The nine-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud delivered the judgment on the vexed issue with an 8-1 majority. Three judgments were authored -- the Chief Justice wrote one for himself and six colleagues, Justice BV Nagarathna wrote a concurrent but separate judgment and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia dissented. The judges on the bench were Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Nagarathna BV, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Justice JB Pardiwala, Justice Manoj Misra, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Justice SC Sharma and Justice AG Masih. The case relates to Article 31C of the Constitution that protects laws made by the State to fulfill directive principles of state policy -- guidelines the Constitution lays down for governments to follow while making laws and policies. Among the laws that Article 31C protects is Article 39B. Article 39B lays down that the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good. On this, the Chief Justice remarked, "Does material resource of a community used in 39B include privately owned resources? Theoretically, the answer is yes, the phrase may include privately owned resources. However, this court is unable to subscribe itself to the minority view of Justice Iyer in Ranganath Reddy. We hold that not every resource owned by an individual can be considered a material resource of a community only because it meets the qualifier of material needs." "The enquiry about the resource in question falls under 39B must be contest-specific and subject to a non-exhaustive list of factors such as nature of resource, the characteristics, the impact of the resource on well-being of the community, the scarcity of resource and consequences of such a resource being concentrated in the hands of private players, the public trust doctrine evolved by this court may also help identify resources which fall under the ambit of material resource of a community," he added. In 1977, a seven-judge bench had ruled with a 4:3 majority that all privately owned property did not fall within the ambit of material resources of the community. In a minority opinion, however, Justice Krishna Iyer held that both public and private resources fell within the ambit of "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b). In her separate judgment, Justice Nagarathna disagreed with the Chief Justice on his observations on the ruling by Justice Iyer.

Rs 35 lakh cash, jewellery worth crores stolen from ex-Samajwadi Party MLA's house

New Delhi: Jewellery valued at Rs 1.75 crore and Rs 35 lakh in cash were stolen from the residence of former Samajwadi Party (SP) MLA Madhubala Pasi in Uttar Pradesh's Jaunpur. The theft took place late on Sunday, November 3, while Pasi was in Delhi celebrating Diwali. According to police, the thieves entered the house by breaking the grill on a kitchen window. Once inside, they targeted the safe and iron almirah where the valuables were stored. The break-in was discovered by Pasi's caretaker, Rajesh Yadav, who was looking after the house in her absence. Upon receiving the report of the theft, Additional SP and Crime Branch officers, along with a police team from the local station, reached the spot for investigation. The complaint was filed by Pasi's nephew, Rakesh Kumar, at Rampur Police Station. Kumar stated that the thieves broke in through the kitchen window and then accessed the almirah and safe, making off with valuable jewellery and cash. He added that Madhubala Pasi is currently in Delhi, where her husband serves as a director in the Ministry of Railways. Madiahu Area Officer Vivek Kumar confirmed that a case has been registered based on the complaint, and a forensic team conducted a thorough examination of the crime scene. Police have taken a suspect into custody for questioning and assured that the case would be solved soon.

"Can We Castigate...": An Objection To Chief Justice's Remark On Past Judge

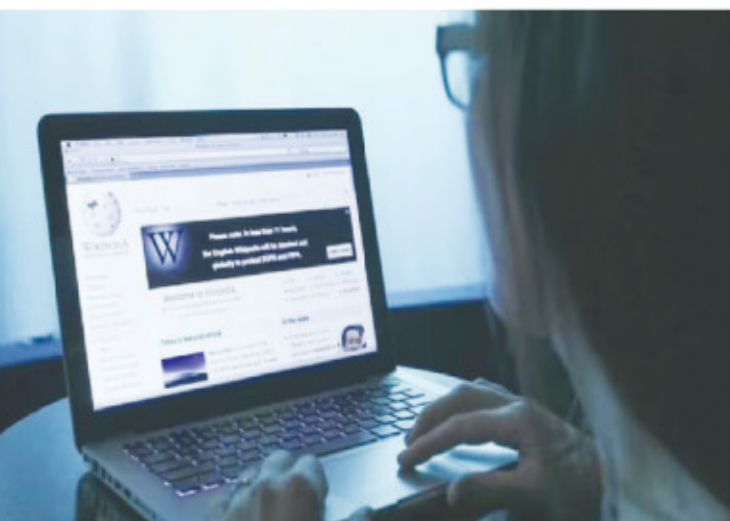
New Delhi: Judges should be mindful of not castigating past judges only because they reached a different outcome while deciding a case, Justice BV Nagarathna said today. The remark was made as the Supreme Court ruled that all privately owned property does not qualify as community resources that the State can take over for the common good. The landmark verdict was delivered by a nine-judge Constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud and comprising Justice Hrishikesh Roy, Justice Nagarathna BV, Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia, Justice JB Pardiwala, Justice Manoj Misra, Justice Rajesh Bindal, Justice SC Sharma and Justice AG Masih. The bench passed the ruling with an 8-1 majority. Three judgments were authored -- the Chief Justice wrote one for himself and six colleagues, Justice BV Nagarathna wrote a concurrent but separate judgment and Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia dissented. One of the past verdicts referred to extensively during today's judgment was the 1977 ruling in the State of Karnataka vs Ranganath Reddy case. This case addressed the issue of nationalisation of private transport companies and the extent to which the State can intervene in private enterprises. The matter had come up when the then Karnataka government brought a law to nationalise private bus services. A seven-judge bench had then ruled with a 4-3 majority that all private property did not fall within the ambit of material resources of the community. Justice VR Krishna Iyer, one of the judges in the minority, had contended that both public and private resources fell within the ambit of "material resources of the community" under Article 39(b) of the Constitution. "We have been guided by the thought that an all-too-large gap between the law and public needs, arising out of narrow notions, must be bridged by broadening the constitutional concepts to suit the changing social consciousness of the emerging Welfare State. Institutional crises and confrontations can be and should be avoided by evolving a progressive interpretation, discarding over-sensitivity to under-valuation when private property is taken for public good," Justice Iyer had said. Delivering the judgment today, the Chief Justice said, "Does material resource of a community used in 39B include privately owned resources? Theoretically, the answer is yes, the phrase may include privately owned resources. However, this court is unable to subscribe itself to the minority view of Justice Iyer in Ranganath Reddy. We hold that not every resource owned by an individual can be considered a material resource of a community only because it meets the qualifier of material needs."

Government raps Wikipedia over 'bias', says small group controls edits: Sources

New Delhi: The Centre on Tuesday put Wikipedia on notice over multiple complaints about bias and inaccuracies on the platform. In a letter to the internet encyclopaedia, the government highlighted that a small group of editors appears to have significant control over content, potentially influencing its neutrality, sources said. The government, according to sources, has questioned why Wikipedia should not be classified as a publisher, rather than an intermediary. Neither the government nor Wikipedia has issued an official statement on the matter so far. Wikipedia, known as a free online encyclopaedia, allows volunteers to create and edit pages on a wide variety

of topics, including people, issues, and various fields of knowledge. This recent scrutiny comes nearly two

Wikipedia page contained inaccuracies and defamatory content. In the latest hearing on November 1, the



court questioned Wikipedia's assertion of being a "free encyclopaedia" and emphasised that, as an "intermediary" rather than a "publisher," Wikipedia should provide the necessary information when requested. Wikipedia has faced growing criticism for alleged bias and inaccuracies, especially amid the ongoing US presidential elections. Elon Musk, owner of X and a billionaire entrepreneur, has publicly accused Wikipedia of supporting far-left ideologies. Musk also urged the public to stop donating to Wikipedia, claiming it is controlled by "far-left activists."

Judiciary's independence doesn't mean deciding against government: Chief Justice

While addressing an event in Delhi on Monday, the Chief Justice said that when he struck down the electoral bonds scheme and ruled against the Centre, he was called "very independent".

NEW DELHI: Outgoing Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, who is set to demit office on November 10, said that independence of the judiciary does not always mean deciding against the government. He also urged people to trust judges when it comes to taking decisions on cases. Addressing an event on Monday hosted by the Indian Express newspaper in Delhi, the Chief Justice said that when he struck down the electoral bonds scheme and ruled against the Centre, he was called "very independent". "When you decide electoral bonds, then you are very independent, but if a verdict goes in favour of the government, then you are not independent... That is not my definition of independence," he said. On February 15, the Supreme Court struck down the electoral bonds scheme, terming it "unconstitutional". In a unanimous decision, a five-judge Constitution Bench led by Chief



Justice Chandrachud, put an end to a contentious method of political funding that has been under scrutiny since its inception in 2018. The Chief Justice went on to say that traditionally, judicial independence was defined as independence from the executive. "Independence of the judiciary even now means independence from the government. But that is not the only thing in terms of judicial independence. Our society has

changed. Particularly with the advent of social media... Interest groups, pressure groups and groups which are trying to use electronic media to put pressure on the courts to get favourable decisions," he said. He said a lot of these pressure groups term the judiciary independent if judges decide in their favour. "If you do not decide in my favour, you are not independent, that is what I have an objection to. To be independent, a judge must have the independence to decide what their conscience tells them. Of course, the conscience, which is guided by the law and the Constitution." The Chief Justice said that people must give judges the "freedom to decide as they feel where the balance of justice lies, irrespective of whom the verdict goes in favour of". "The cases which have to go against the government, we decided against the government."

Upcoming Wedding Season Will Generate 6 Lakh Crore Business: Traders' Body

New Delhi: The upcoming wedding season in India which will extend from November 12 till December 16 is likely to generate business worth nearly ₹ 6 lakh crore from 48 lakh weddings which constitutes a 41 per cent increase over the corresponding figure of ₹ 4.25 lakh crore recorded for 35 lakh weddings last year, according to a study carried out by the Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT). From 11 auspicious dates the previous year, this year's season would have 18 dates which is expected to fuel the business growth, with Delhi alone expected to see ₹ 1.5 lakh crore business across 4.5 lakh weddings this year, estimates compiled by CAIT show. CAIT estimates 10 lakh weddings involving spending of ₹ 3 lakh per wedding, 10 lakh weddings with ₹ 6 lakh per wedding, 10 lakh weddings with ₹ 10 lakh per wedding, 10 lakh weddings with ₹ 15 lakh per wedding, 7 lakh



weddings with ₹ 25 lakh per wedding, 50,000 weddings with ₹ 50 lakh per wedding, and 50,000 weddings with ₹ 1 crore or more per wedding. CAIT's Veda and Spiritual Committee convener Acharya Durgesh Tare said the auspicious wedding dates for this season are November 12, 13, 17, 18, 22, 23, 25, 26, 28, and 29 and December 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16. Following this period, there will be a pause of about a month before the season resumes from mid-January to March 2025. The study has also highlighted a shift in consumer purchasing behaviour, with

people increasingly opting for Indian products over foreign goods, reflecting the success of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Vocal for Local' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) vision," said CAIT's Secretary General Praveen Khandelwal. Mr Khandelwal said wedding expenses are divided between goods and services, with main expenditure areas in goods including jewellery (15 per cent), clothing (10 per cent), electronics and appliances (5 per cent), dry fruits, sweets, and snacks (5 per cent), groceries and vegetables (5 per cent), gift items (4 per cent), and other goods (6 per cent). In the services sector, expenditures will likely go toward banquet halls, hotels, and venues (5 per cent), catering services (10 per cent), event management, tent decoration floral decorations, transportation and cab services (3 per cent), photography and videography (2 per cent), other services such as music and lighting.

Delhi HC asks DGP to address lack of basic facilities for lawyers at Tihar premises

NEW DELHI: The Delhi High Court has directed the Director General of Prisons to promptly address concerns regarding the insufficient facilities for lawyers visiting their clients at Tihar Jail. A bench, comprising Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, has instructed jail authorities to respond to a representation filed on the matter within four weeks. The decision came following a plea from Shyam Sunder Aggarwal, who highlighted the absence of basic amenities for lawyers meeting undertrial and convicted clients in Tihar's premises. According to the petitioner, advocates often face long waiting periods under challenging weather conditions, with inadequate access to necessities like clean drinking water, sanitation facilities, and parking within the jail's expansive grounds. The court expressed concern over the Delhi government's reluctance to allocate funds for the facilities, noting, "They collect no taxes, they spend no taxes."

Friends can make your marital conflict Less stressful

Marital conflict can lead to lots of mental and emotional stress. People who have friends and family to talk to and share their problems with experience relatively lower levels of stress as compared to those who have no friends outside of marriage to share their concerns with.



Marital conflicts can take a toll on your health, but having even a few close friends and family members to turn to can help reduce

the stress associated with such conflicts, new research suggests. Social networks may help provide protection against health problems

brought about by ordinary tension between spouses, said the study published online in the journal Social

Psychological and Personality Science. "We found that having a satisfying social network buffers spouses from the harmful physiological effects of everyday marital conflicts," said Lisa Neff, Associate Professor at the University of Texas at Austin in the US. "Maintaining a few good friends is important to weathering the storms of your marriage," Neff said.

The research looked at 105 newlywed couples who kept daily records of marital conflict in their home environment and completed questionnaires about the number, quality and characteristics of their connections with friends and family. In addition, the couples participating in the study collected morning and evening saliva samples for cortisol testing every day for six days. Cortisol levels over the course of the day are a measure of the stress response. The overall number of friends and family members that study participants reported having did not appear to affect couples' ability to handle conflicts nearly as much as the quality of those outside relationships. The researchers found that people who reported having even a few close friends or family members to talk to outside of their marriage experienced lower levels of stress when marital conflicts arose. "Even everyday conflict takes a toll on people physiologically," Neff said. "But we found that the association between marital conflict and cortisol responses completely disappears when people are happy and satisfied with their available social network," Neff added.



Mothers supporting child's negative emotions can impact their social adjustment: Study

The findings suggest that it may be helpful for parents to consider other strategies to guide their children to develop their own skills in emotion regulation and social interaction.



Dear parents, you may have to stop favouring your child in every situation, as according to a study, mothers supporting their child's negative emotions may impact their social adjustment and social interaction in school. According to a study, mothers, who are more supportive of their children's negative emotions, rate their children as being more socially skilled and these same children appear less socially adjusted when rated by teachers. Specifically, mothers' supportive reactions predicted fewer socio-

emotional skills and more behaviour problems, according to children's third-grade teachers. These contrasting patterns suggest a potential downside to mothers' supportiveness of children's negative

emotions for third-grade children's social adjustment in school. Co-author of the study Dr. Vanessa Castro said that it's not clear, if the parents are causing these problems by hovering or providing too much support when less support is needed or if the parents are rightfully providing more support because their children are experiencing these social and emotional problems, or if the children are exhibiting very different emotional and social behaviors at home than they are at school. The findings suggest that it may be helpful for parents to consider other strategies to guide their children to develop their own skills in emotion regulation and social interaction.



Study suggests that your toddler can predict your next move

Your toddler may have the ability of registering your routine activities and based on that can guess what you might be most likely to do next, suggests a research. The findings demonstrated that infants, as young as eight-month-old, look for consistent patterns of behaviour and make judgements about people's preferences based on simple probabilities calculated from observed events and actions. "Even before they can talk, babies are keeping close track of what's going on in front of them and looking for patterns of activity that may suggest preferences," said Lori Markson, Associate Professor at the Washington University in St. Louis. "Make the same choice three or four times in a row, and babies as young as eight months come to view that consistent behaviour as a preference," Markson added. For the study, detailed in



the journal *Infancy*, the team conducted a series of experiments on a sample of 60 healthy, full-term infants with an even split of males and females ranging in age from seven to nine months and an average age of eight and a half months. The researchers tracked whether infants, when asked to give a toy to the actor, would reach more often for the toy consistently chosen by the actor in previous trials, thus implying that the infant understood the actor's preference. "Consistency seems to be an important factor for infants in helping them sort out what's happening in the world around them," Markson said. "Our findings suggest that if a person does something different even a single time, it undoes the notion of someone having a clear preference and changes an infant's expectations for that individual's behaviour," Markson noted.

The researchers tracked whether infants, when asked to give a toy to the actor, would reach more often for the toy consistently chosen by the actor in previous trials, thus implying that the infant understood the actor's preference.



Explained: Why IRCTC share price dipped in early trade after Q2 results

New Delhi Shares of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) dropped by 3% in early trading, hitting a low of Rs 792.45 on the BSE, as investors reacted to the company's Q2 financial results. At 10:40 am, shares of IRCTC were trading 0.82% higher at Rs 822.90. For the quarter ending September 30, 2024, IRCTC's total income rose by 8.1% to Rs 1,123 crore, up from Rs 1,039 crore in Q2 FY24. Operating revenue increased by 7.2% year-on-year to Rs 1,064 crore, compared to Rs 992.4 crore a year earlier. The company's EBITDA for Q2 FY25 rose modestly by 1.7% to Rs 372.79 crore, though the EBITDA margin saw a slight decline, slipping 190 basis points to 35% from 36.9% in the previous year. For the first half of FY25, IRCTC reported a 10.24% increase in total income to Rs 2,292 crore, compared to Rs 2,079 crore in H1 FY24. EBIT for the half-year also rose to Rs 615 crore, up from Rs 526 crore. IRCTC has declared an interim dividend of Rs 4 per share for FY2024-25, representing 200% of the paid-up share capital, resulting in a total payout of Rs 320 crore. The record date for this dividend is set for November 14, 2024. On the segmental front, IRCTC's catering and internet ticketing divisions continued to perform strongly. Catering revenue increased by 11.68% year-on-year to Rs 481.95 crore, up from Rs 431.52 crore. Internet ticketing revenue also showed growth, rising 13.36% to Rs 370.95 crore, compared to Rs 327.50 crore in the previous year. However, the tourism segment faced challenges, with revenue down by 27.35% to Rs 124.44 crore from Rs 158.48 crore in the prior year.

Sensex, Nifty dip as investors remain cautious ahead of US elections

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices opened the trading session on a weak note on Tuesday as investors remained cautious ahead of the US presidential elections. The S&P BSE Sensex was down 125.73 points to 78,656.51 at 10:17 am, while the NSE Nifty50 fell 36.20 points to trade at 23,959.15 points. All the other broader market indices were trading in negative territory as volatility remains on the higher side. Nifty Metal was the only significant gainer among sectoral indices, while some auto stocks also gained. The top five gainers on the Nifty50 were Tata Steel, IndusInd Bank, JSW Steel, Tata Motors and Maruti.

On the other hand, the top losers were Adani Ports, Trent, HDFC Life, Apollo Hospitals and ITC.

While US elections have kept Indian stock markets on the edge, experts believe there are other domestic factors at play as well. Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "With all attention focused on the outcome of the US presidential election, perhaps the more important domestic economic issue is not getting the importance it deserves." "It is important to understand that India's underperformance is striking: while S&P 500 is up 20.45% YTD Nifty is up by only 10.36% YTD. Clearly, domestic issues are weighing on markets. With two thirds of Nifty 50 companies missing their earnings estimates in Q2, Nifty 50 earnings for FY25 has been drastically revised down to less than 10% from the consensus 15% earlier," he noted.

Southern states lead in white-collar hiring in October

BENGALURU. When it comes to white-collar hiring, Southern states saw significant growth with strong year-on-year gains. With a 24% YoY growth, Tamil Nadu emerged as the top performer, followed by Telangana at 16%, Karnataka at 12%, Andhra Pradesh at 9% and Kerala at 7%, according to the Naukri JobSpeak Index for October month. Hyderabad and Chennai were among the top cities that led hiring for the Research & Analytics industry, showing growth of 51% and 50%, respectively. Cochin led the chart for the BFSI industry, registering a 40% YoY growth.

With 10% growth in October, hiring activity has sustained momentum and oil & gas (18%), pharma/biotech (12%), FMCG (8%), and IT (6%) emerged as primary drivers of this positive trend, the report said. Artificial intelligence/machine learning roles showed growth at 39% YoY and 2% month-on-month. Interestingly, hiring in the IT sector showed positive growth in 4 out of the 7 months this fiscal.

Pawan Goyal, chief business officer at Naukri, said, "We are now experiencing sustained YoY growth, with Jobspeak revealing consistently positive trends over the past few months. We are particularly thrilled to see synchronised expansion across IT and non-IT sectors. The accelerating pace of fresher hiring is a strong indicator of business confidence and presents exciting opportunities for upcoming graduates."

Hiring for freshers showed encouraging signs with a 6% YoY growth in October. Architecture/interior designing (57%), KPO/research/analytics (39%) and agriculture/dairy (36%) are key growth drivers. Tier 2 cities led this growth, with Coimbatore (31%) and Jaipur (15%) showing maximum increases in fresher hiring. Senior roles and strategic hires continue to drive job market growth as 16+ years experience band registered a significant 23% YoY growth. With a 28% increase in white-collar hiring, IT unicorns showed strong performance.

At the same time, foreign MNCs and Global Capability Centers (GCCs) in the IT sector, which had a relatively slower growth through the year, showed a jump of 5% and 10%, respectively.

Hiring in IT sector shows positive growth. Interestingly, hiring in IT sector showed positive growth in 4 out of 7 months this fiscal. With 10% growth in October, hiring activity has sustained momentum and oil & gas (18%), pharma/biotech (12%), FMCG (8%), and IT (6%) emerged as primary drivers of this positive trend, the report said. AI/machine learning roles showed growth at 39% YoY and 2% month-on-month.

Why Maruti Suzuki is counting on lakhs of weddings in November

With impressive sales figures from October, Maruti Suzuki is optimistic that the upcoming wedding season will sustain its sales momentum in November.

New Delhi With wedding bells ringing across the country, Maruti Suzuki India is revving up its engines for what it hopes will be a bumper month of sales. After a record-breaking October, where the company clocked in retail sales of 202,402 units—the highest for any October—Maruti is betting that the wedding season in starting November will keep the momentum going. "We are made to understand that some 'few lakhs' marriages are being planned across the country (in November). So we are pretty

hopeful that it will also give us good traction in terms of our retail sales," Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer of Marketing and Sales, told news agency PTI. With a wedding season that looks to be packed, Maruti is counting on those joyful celebrations to translate into car sales. Banerjee noted that this November is could have an all-time high of about 11 or 12 wedding days. "We are hopeful that in November, since so many marriages are there, the momentum will carry and that's what we are looking forward to," he added.

The festive season already provided a much-needed boost, and Maruti Suzuki is optimistic about maintaining its growth trajectory of 4-5% for the current fiscal year. The company reported a cumulative growth of 4% from April to October, with a stellar 22.4% growth in October alone. If this wedding season proves fruitful, Maruti could be cruising towards a solid



finish for the year. In the wake of the robust October sales, Maruti has also trimmed inventory levels significantly—by over 40,000 units. Their network stock is now comfortably around one month, a far cry from the overflowing lots of the past. "We have corrected our network stock by more than 40,000 units. We calibrated our production supplies, and now our network stock is almost one month. We

different way. We need to respect the customer's viewpoint, and accordingly, we need to act actually," he said. As for potential price hikes in January, Banerjee hinted, "Our finance team is examining that, but it's too early to comment." So, as couples across India prepare for their weddings, Maruti Suzuki is keeping its fingers crossed that love will also translate into some impressive car sales

Pay 250 million dollar quickly: Adani to Bangladesh

NEW DELHI: Amid delay in payment of dues by the Bangladesh government, it is said that an immediate payment of \$200-250 million is crucial for Adani Power continuing with power supply to the government.

Sources said ahead of the November 7 deadline, the government has fast-tracked the payment of the outstanding dues. Quoting a Bangladeshi official, news agency Reuters has said the country has cleared \$96 million last month and opened a credit line of \$170 million. Sources told TNEI the Bangladesh government owes Adani Power about \$900 million, which is due since April this year. Of the \$900 million, \$840 million is the amount due for power supplies and \$170 million for an additional credit line opened by the government this month. As per company sources, Adani Power immediately needs money to procure coal from Australia for its ultra-supercritical power project at Godda



that supplies electricity to Bangladesh. The sources said that since the Godda power project is ultra-supercritical, coal for the same is not available in India, and Adani Power needs to import the coal either from Australia or Indonesia. Though Adani Group owns coal mines in Australia's Carmichael Project and is transported to India as well, sources said that coal is not enough for supplies to the Godda project.

In November 2017, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) executed a long-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with APL's wholly-owned subsidiary Adani Power Jharkhand Limited (APJL) to procure 1,496 MW net capacity power from 2X800 MW ultra-supercritical power project at Godda. Adani is expected to commission its second 800 MW unit soon. Bangladesh has been facing a serious shortage of dollars since 2022 due to high crude oil prices after the Russian attack on Ukraine. The situation aggravated after the political turmoil that broke out in the country leading to the ouster of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina on 5 August this year.

Adani sources said that the interim government has been trying to make the payment but has been struggling due to dollar shortage. Bangladesh's forex reserves have fallen to less than \$20 billion at the end of September 2024.

Quick commerce hottest category: Swiggy co-founder

Food delivery is a mature business now and in the run-up to the IPO, a lot of questions came out of curiosity from investors about quick commerce.

BENGALURU. Quick commerce is the hottest category with its fast growth, large TAM (total addressable market), as the category can be \$30-\$50 billion in four years, supported by strong CAGR, said Swiggy co-founder and group CEO Sriharsha Majety. Ahead of the company's IPO, to be open for subscription from Wednesday, Majety told reporters here that quick commerce is a generational opportunity that we have in front of us. "Consumer preferences, needs and wants, everything is getting developed and emerging as we go into the next phase

of quick commerce," he said. Launched in August 2020, quick commerce platform Swiggy Instamart is present in 43 cities, and it brings groceries and other daily



essentials in 10-15 minutes. Talking about growth opportunities of quick commerce in tier-2, 3 and 4 cities, the co-founder said they are already in over 30 cities and they have a lot more depth. "Each new city gives feedback in terms of how many people we can go and at this point we believe that there is reasonable headroom," he said.

Food delivery is a mature business now and in the run-up to the IPO, a lot of

questions came out of curiosity from investors about quick commerce. The Majety said questions from investors were about the market structure, how many players are going to be in the space and how a path to profitability can be found in this category.

The company's CFO Rahul Bothra said India is leading the way in quick commerce showing globally how this could be done. On the food delivery business, Majety said it is at a meaningful scale today and the category is expected to grow to about 20% CAGR. "We think that it will continue in that zip code for a long time to come," he said, adding that they are thinking about a world where there are 100 million consumers using the platform 15 times a month. "It's like a rallying cry for us and a vision that we go after," he said. Swiggy IPO price band has been set up at Rs 371-390 a share. In the first quarter of FY25, the company recorded a total income of Rs 3,310 crore and a net loss of Rs 611 crore.

Sebi asks Embassy REIT to sack CEO Aravind Maiya for 'harming' Coffee Day investors

This follows the findings by the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) of serious lapses and gross negligence leading to market fraud by Maiya

MUMBAI. Market regulator Sebi has ordered Embassy REIT's manager to immediately sack its CEO Aravind Maiya for "harming ordinary investors" of Coffee Day and also appoint an interim CEO in his place. This follows the findings by the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA) of serious lapses and gross negligence leading to market fraud by Maiya while leading the statutory auditors of Coffee Day Enterprises during FY19 as their engagement partner. Embassy Office Parks Management Services is the manager of Embassy REIT, which is owned by the Embassy Group of Jitu

Virwani, whose commercial tenants include IBM, Microsoft, Fidelity, TCS, Rolls Royce, Mercedes Benz, Yahoo, Goldman Sachs and Swiss Re. Embassy Office Parks REIT is the first listed REIT in the country and the largest office REIT in Asia by area.

In an interim order passed Monday, Sebi said Maiya was debarred for the maximum permissible period by the NFRA. Sebi had passed an order on Coffee Day in January 2023, in which it noted that Rs 3,535 crore was transferred from Coffee Day's subsidiaries to its related party, Mysore Amalgamated Coffee Estates, without obtaining the necessary approvals from the board of directors or the audit committee. There were other violations too, such as the non-disclosure of material subsidiaries leading to glaring audit omissions, failure to maintain adequate internal controls over its finance functions, and failure to carry out adequate due diligence and exercise independent judgment, the Sebi order said. All of this resulted in the diversion of Coffee Day's funds for the benefit of

promoter entities. During Sebi's investigations, it was revealed that the statutory auditor had a role in facilitating the fraud. Taking note of Sebi's observations, the NFRA started



its investigations and passed an order in August 2024. The NFRA order, according to Sebi, "brings out knowing violations of applicable audit norms which failed to flag a massive fraud at a listed company while Maiya was in a special position to discern given his professional assignment and domain knowledge." The interim order passed by whole-time member Ashwani Bhatia further said, "The order also leads to a

reasonable inference that Maiya failed to act in public interest. Instead, he acted in a manner that harmed ordinary investors and shareholders." The order said, "The NFRA order raises sufficient doubt regarding Maiya's competence, ethical behaviour and reputation to warrant disqualification under clause 3 of schedule II of the intermediaries regulations, at least till his name is cleared at an appellate forum, by way of overturning or stay of the NFRA order."

The market regulator's latest order also raises concerns around the conduct of Embassy REIT's manager, Embassy Office Parks Management Services.

The order notes that Sebi had communicated several times with Embassy REIT's manager that Maiya was ineligible to continue in his post. But it refused to replace him. As the Sebi order notes, "It is a matter of concern that irrespective of e-mails, meetings and a specific instructions in this regard, the manager has tried all means to retain Maiya as CEO."

Sagility India IPO Day 1: Should you subscribe or skip? Check key details, GMP

NEW DELHI. The Sagility India Limited IPO opened on Tuesday, marking the entry of this US-focused healthcare solutions company into India's public markets. Investors have until November 7, 2024, to place their bids on this IPO, which has been priced between Rs 28 and Rs 30 per share.

Sagility India aims to raise Rs 2,106.60 crore through this offering, but unlike many IPOs, it's an offer for sale (OFS). This means that all proceeds will go to the company's existing shareholders, not directly into company operations.

LATEST GMP AND SUBSCRIPTION STATUS
Before its launch, Sagility India was trading at a premium of Rs 3 in the grey market, indicating neutral investor demand. However, the GMP has now dipped to Rs 0. As of the first morning of bidding, the IPO saw mild activity, with total subscriptions at 5% of the issue.

Retail investors, who can apply in lots of 500 shares, have been the most active so far, subscribing at 24% of their quota, while non-institutional investors (NIIs) have shown lighter interest.

IPO SIZE AND PRICE BAND

Sagility India's IPO has a price band set at Rs 28-30 per share, with a minimum bid of 500 shares per lot. The company's goal with this offering is to raise Rs 2,106.60 crore at the upper end of the price band, with shares scheduled to list on the BSE and NSE on November 12, 2024. Anchor investors, including notable names like HDFC Mutual Fund and Government Pension Fund Global, have already shown interest, purchasing shares at the upper price band and contributing around Rs 945 crore to the issue.

SAGILITY FINANCIALS AND ADVANTAGE
Sagility India provides critical services to the US healthcare industry, which has a steadily growing market. With the aging US population and rising chronic disease prevalence, healthcare spending has been growing at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.2% and is expected to reach \$258.9 billion by 2028.

As one of the leading tech-enabled healthcare providers, Sagility's deep-rooted relationships with key U.S. payers and providers could translate to sustained demand for its services.

Financially, Sagility India has demonstrated consistent growth, with revenue from operations rising 9.6% to Rs 1,223 crore in the latest quarter and by 12.69% in FY24, reaching Rs 4,753 crore. Its EBITDA margins are healthy, recorded at 23.5% for FY24. This growth trajectory is appealing, especially for investors seeking a company that is already established in a complex market.

NEWS BOX

Haris Rauf rues not defending 203 in first ODI vs Australia: We were untidy

New Delhi. Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf felt his team was on course to defend the low total of 203 against Australia in the first ODI of the three-match series on Monday, November 4 at Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne. After being put in to bat first, Pakistan were bundled out for 203 in 46.4 overs but gave a strong reply with the ball as Rauf picked up 3/67 in nine overs.

However, his efforts went in vain as a bit untidy bowling led to Pakistan losing the game by two wickets with Australian captain Pat Cummins taking his team home with captain Pat Cummins taking his team home with an unbeaten knock of 32* (31). Reflecting on Pakistan's bowling after the game, Rauf mentioned that they were a bit untidy which led to a few extras. However, the speedster mentioned that the entire team put their best efforts but the game didn't go their way. "We did give away extras but when you attack, you have to accept that these things happen. We did make mistakes, and we were a bit untidy. We know these little things make an impact. If you're a good bowling unit, then you can cover the batters falling 20-30 runs short if you tighten up in the field as well. We could have defended this and we all tried really hard. The game



didn't go our way, but we gave no quarter in terms of our energy and our effort," said Rauf.

Haris Rauf's game changing spell

Australia were cruising at one stage courtesy of a massive 85-run stand between Josh Inglis (49) and Steven Smith (44). However, Rauf brought his team back into the game as he broke the partnership by dismissing Smith, getting him caught at point. He further got rid of Marnus Labuschagne (16 off 13) and Glenn Maxwell (0 off 1) off consecutive balls leaving Australia on 139/6 in 20.2 overs.

Shaheen Afridi (2/43) also dismissed Inglis (49) courtesy of a brilliant catch from Irfan Khan at deep mid wicket. However, lower order resistance from captain Cummins saw Australia home as they went 1-0 up in the series. Meanwhile, after losing first ODI, Pakistan will be eager to make a comeback in the second ODI on November 8.

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso calls Liverpool one of Europe's best ahead of clash

New Delhi. Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso has hailed Liverpool as one of Europe's top teams as he prepares his side for a pivotal Champions League showdown at Anfield on Tuesday. With both teams in impressive form, the encounter is set to be a high-stakes battle as they vie for supremacy in Group C. Alonso's team currently sits sixth in the competition standings with seven points from three games. Liverpool, under the management of Arne Slot, are riding high with a perfect nine points, leading both the Champions League group and the Premier League. Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Alonso underscored the intensity of the challenge that lies ahead. "For us, it is a big challenge. Liverpool at the moment are



one of the best, if not the best, in Europe," Alonso remarked. "They are showing that in the Premier League and Champions League. They have a good squad and a great coach. We're looking forward to it—let's see what happens." Alonso, a former Liverpool midfielder who made over 200 appearances for the club from 2004 to 2009 and was part of the squad that famously won the Champions League in 2005, acknowledged the formidable task Leverkusen will face. With Liverpool in exceptional form, the Spaniard emphasized the importance of staying focused and resilient throughout the match. "You can play 70 minutes great, and in 20 minutes the game is gone, so mentally and emotionally we need to be ready," Alonso said. "In all areas, they are really strong, so the process works really well. The manager [Slot] has done a fantastic job in three months." Returning to Liverpool is always a meaningful experience for Alonso, but he's keeping his focus strictly on the task at hand. "Unfortunately, there is no time for tourism — maybe a little run or walk tomorrow," he said. "I know the city very well; I love it, but tomorrow I will focus on the game and only the game." Reflecting on Liverpool's evolution since his playing days, Alonso added, "It feels great to be back here after a few years. It's always special. You notice the development of the club; the new stand looks amazing.

AUS vs PAK: Healy slams 'Australian Boys' egos' after nervy win over Pakistan

← Former Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy sharply criticized Australia's poor batting in their first ODI against Pakistan at the MCG, where they scraped a two-wicket win, chasing 204 in 33.3 overs.

New Delhi Former Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy slammed Australia's unconvincing batting performance in their opening ODI against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Despite securing a two-wicket win and chasing down Pakistan's modest target of 204, Healy expressed frustration at Australia's approach, calling it "schoolyard cricket." "We have a lot to learn," Healy stated on SENQ, highlighting that Australia's preparation for the Champions Trophy is running out of time. "We're gearing up for the Champions Trophy, so there aren't many opportunities left before a final team has to be selected. We should be playing these games properly, but



they're treating it like a schoolyard." Australia managed to achieve the target in just 33.3 overs, but Healy was unimpressed, pointing out their lack of discipline. "The disregard for conditions was unacceptable," Healy said, referencing the unpredictable pitch, which bowlers like Mitch Starc noted was two-paced with uneven bounce. "So what do we do? We try to slog the Pakistani bowlers all over the place. The batters didn't learn anything from what the bowlers told them; they didn't respect the opposition enough." Healy also emphasized how Pakistan's bowlers, led by Haris Rauf, gained momentum as Australia

falttered, underscoring his frustration with what he called "the Australian boys' egos." Healy insisted that they couldn't "set aside [their egos] for even half an hour."

Pat Cummins, Australia's skipper, emerged as the hero, steadying the chase with a calm 32 off 31 balls. Coming to the crease at 155 for 7, Cummins managed the final stages with his trademark composure, adding to his record of clutch performances. Together with tailender Mitchell Starc, he led Australia to victory, hitting the winning runs in the 34th over. Cummins also shone with the ball, claiming two wickets and demonstrating his all-round skill. Starc was

awarded Player of the Match after removing Pakistan's openers and finishing with figures of 3-42, setting the tone in the first innings.

Pakistan's innings had mixed fortunes, as they stumbled early with Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafique falling cheaply to Starc. Captain Mohammad Rizwan led the scoring with 44, while Babar Azam, returning after missing key Tests, added 37 before a mistimed shot saw him bowled by Adam Zampa. Late contributions from Naseem Shah (40) and Shaheen Afridi (24) pushed Pakistan past 200. Australia's chase, however, stumbled. Openers Matt Short and Jake Fraser-McGurk failed to capitalize, while Steve Smith (44) and Josh Inglis (49) added stability before Pakistan's Rauf triggered a collapse, dismissing Marnus Labuschagne and Glenn Maxwell in successive balls. With Australia teetering, Cummins took control, guiding them home.

The victory secured a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, yet Healy's comments underscore the need for improvement. "Inglis and Smith showed restraint, and then Pat Cummins had to as well," Healy remarked, stressing that the team must bring more respect and focus in the upcoming matches. The series will continue with the second ODI in Adelaide on Friday, followed by the final ODI in Perth on Sunday, before concluding with three T20 matches.

Virat Kohli turns 36, Yuvraj, Raina lead birthday wishes for batting stalwart

New Delhi, Star India batter Virat Kohli is celebrating his 36th birthday on Tuesday, November 5 as wishes have been pouring in for the India star from his fans and co-cricketers. Kohli made his international debut way back in 2008 as he opened the innings alongside Gautam Gambhir in the first ODI vs Sri Lanka in Dambulla. The young lad from Delhi was dismissed for just 12 (22) on his debut but began showing signs of his potential as he scored a half-century (54 off 66) in the fourth ODI of the series. Since then, there has been no looking back for the batting star as he's emerged as arguably the greatest batter of the modern era for his marvellous exploits across all three formats. Kohli has made a reputation for himself for scoring big knocks while batting second earning him the title of 'chase master.' The right-handed batter is the best batter in limited-overs cricket (ODIs and T20Is) while chasing, a feat backed by numbers. Kohli has the most runs in winning cause batting second in both ODIs and T20Is which further stamps his authority as the best



chaser ever in the history of the game. Kohli's major records in international cricket The star batter has a world-record 50 centuries in ODI cricket surpassing his idol Sachin Tendulkar. He's also the highest run scorer in T20 World Cup history (1292) having won the prestigious Player of the Tournament award twice in the event. Earlier this year, he also retired as the second-highest run-scorer in T20Is with 4188 runs to his name. Kohli has slammed 80 international centuries, the second most by a player behind the legendary Sachin Tendulkar (100). He's also the most successful Test captain from India, and fourth most successful overall having 40 wins from 68 matches at a win percentage of 58.82. In Tests, Kohli has accumulated 9040 runs from 118 matches with 29 centuries to his name. Hence, on Kohli's big day, several players posted special messages for the star batter to honour the legendary career of the star cricketer and wished him.

Match-fixing scandal in Mizoram: 24 footballers, 3 clubs banned in local league

← The Mizoram Football Association has banned three clubs and 24 players after uncovering a match-fixing scandal in the Mizoram Premier League. The association is determined to maintain the sport's integrity and has assured strict penalties for those involved.



manipulating the outcome of matches in the Mizoram Premier League. "It has come to the notice of the Mizoram Football Association, after investigations with local law enforcement agencies that certain clubs, officials and players in the recently concluded MPL-11 had indulged in acts of corruption, for which they have been penalized after careful deliberations," the state football body said in a statement. The MFA imposed life bans on two players, five-year bans on four players, three-year bans on 10 footballers, and one-year bans on eight men involved in the alleged corruption. "These activities involving a few miscreants represent a severe breach of our

values, undermine the integrity of our sport and disrespect the fans who passionately support Mizoram Football," read the MFA statement. "As a consequence of these findings, we have imposed strict penalties on those involved."

"We also assure stakeholders that clubs found to be complicit in these activities will face sanctions affecting their participation in future competitions, and players and officials implicated will be subject to suspensions and other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by the MFA," it added in the statement. The three clubs are all part of the top state league and Siphir finished among the top four, losing out in the semi-final to eventual winners Aizawl FC.

Seeking support from the football community in this challenging time, the MFA said, "We call upon football fans, partners, and the broader football community to stand with us as we address this challenging chapter."

The association admitted that the scandal could damage the league's reputation and stressed its commitment to moving forward with transparency and integrity.

New Delhi. In a shocking development, three clubs, 24 players and three club officials have been banned by the Mizoram Football Association (MFA) for alleged match-fixing in a recently-held competition in the state. Three clubs -- Siphir Venghluh FC, FC Bethlehem, and Ramhluh Athletic FC -- have been banned for three years along with three match officials for allegedly

Pep Guardiola expecting challenging season for injury-hit Manchester City

New Delhi. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has admitted his team faces a more challenging season than recent campaigns, with injuries disrupting their hopes of maintaining dominance in the Premier League and Europe. Speaking ahead of Tuesday's Champions League group-stage match against Sporting CP, Guardiola acknowledged the difficulty of navigating a season with a squad that injuries to key players have significantly weakened.

City's formidable 32-game unbeaten Premier League streak ended on Saturday in a shock defeat to Bournemouth, just days after an exit from the League Cup at the hands of Tottenham Hotspur. With key players missing, Guardiola knows that maintaining the high standards fans expect may be out of reach. "I know our standards, but we've only lost one game," Guardiola said on Monday. "We could lose again in the Premier League against Brighton, Tottenham, or Liverpool," he said, acknowledging the calibre of their



upcoming opponents. City currently trail Liverpool by two points in the league. Despite a strong start in the Champions League, Guardiola warned that this season would be tougher, given the injuries plaguing the squad. "Sometimes, to win the treble, everything has to align perfectly. This season, it hasn't," he said, underscoring the

importance of an injury-free roster for success at the highest levels. City will be missing Ballon d'Or winner Rodrigo and emerging talent Oscar Bobb for an extended period, while John Stones, Jack Grealish, and Ruben Dias are also sidelined and will not make the trip to Portugal. Manuel Akanji, Nathan Ake, and Kyle Walker, though in the squad, are nursing various fitness issues. While star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and young talent Savinho are on the mend, forward Erling Haaland is fortunately fit for selection. Currently third in their Champions League group with two wins and a draw, City will be aiming for their third consecutive European victory against a strong Sporting side. Sporting, currently unbeaten this season, is level on points with City and sits just behind them on goal difference. Guardiola anticipates a tough encounter with Ruben Amorim's side, which they decisively beat 5-0 in the 2022 Champions League round of 16.

Sunil Gavaskar exclusive full text: 'Australia series to decide future of seniors'

← Legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar in an exclusive conversation with India Today, dissected India's series loss against New Zealand and the spoke about the future of senior players.

New Delhi. Legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar in an exclusive conversation with India Today dissected India's 0-3 whitewash against New Zealand on home soil. The Rohit Sharma-led side faced a shambolic 0-3 series loss for the first time in their Test history which has posed several questions on the current lot of players and the team management.

Reflecting on India's loss, Gavaskar delved deep into the technical shortcomings of the Indian batters, future of batting stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma and also shared his

prediction for the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy. Here's the full excerpt from the interview: Is this a new low for the Indian team? "It is a new low because of the way this Indian cricket team has been performing at home over the last so many years. Over the last so many years they have come back from behind. They've won matches against England and Australia, who have always been thought of as being even better and sterner opponents than what New Zealand could be. And that is the reason why, you know, this was totally unexpected, against Australia against England, one could have said, yeah, they've got, they've got the team, they've got the players. But against this New Zealand team, therefore, it was not expected that India would lose all three test matches," said Gavaskar.

Collective failure of batting brought the downfall

"I think it's a failure of the batting. Everybody, you know, literally, I think, struggled with the bat on pitches where there was help for



the bowlers. So I think that was probably the main reason the batters didn't score enough runs, particularly in Pune and in Mumbai," Gavaskar told India Today.

Impact of white-ball cricket on Test batting

"Yes, I think it's been a situation ever since the White ball game has come in. The white ball game encourages batters to play with hard hands, where you're looking to push at the ball to get the ball away. Now on pitches where the ball is doing something, whether it is seam swing turn, I think you need to be playing with at least one soft hand, if not two

soft hands. And therefore you know that bat speed, which can be then controlled, where the edges, which are now going to the slip fielders would fall just a little short if you played with soft hands. So it's the bat speed that has been the cause, because India is now playing a lot more of the white ball game than test matches," he added.

Need to use the feet effectively vs spinners

"Yes step out and get to the pitch of the ball and drive. I know Ian Chappell used to say the sweep is played by batters, the regular orthodox sweep is played by batters who who can't use their feet. And it's just like, you know, get out of jail kind of shot if it comes out great. If it doesn't come out, you're, you know, backpack in the pavilion. So, while the reverse sweep was not very much in fashion during our time when it is played well, I think it is one of the finest shots that one can see. I really love watching the reverse sweep being played by being played properly. You know, whether it's hit in the air and into the stands or the way they control it with the.

Kriti Sanon

Makes First Public Appearance With Rumoured Boyfriend Kabir Bahia At Mumbai Airport



After celebrating a warm Diwali with her family and friends, Kriti Sanon was snapped at the Mumbai airport today. She made a stylish entry at the airport in a bohemian-casual avatar. But what caught everyone's eye was how she was joined by her rumoured boyfriend Kabir Bahia at the airport. Fans believe that the couple was flying out of Mumbai for a romantic getaway. In a video shared by a paparazzo, Kriti Sanon was seen making a chic entry in an all-black outfit. She was seen donning a pair of black ripped shorts that she had paired with a black tank top. She broke the monotony of the all-black outfit by opting for a patchwork jacket that lent the entire outfit a bohemian look. She left her tresses loose and wore sunglasses and a pair of sneakers. As she made her way to the airport's entry, Kabir Bahia was seen at the gate. He was wearing a black t-shirt which he had paired with loose pants.

Bahia and Sanon did not pose for the cameras. Bahia was seen entering the airport before her and he also did not wait for her at the gate for long. The rumours of their relationship started doing rounds when the actor posted pictures from her 34th birthday celebrations in Greece. She was joined by her sister Nupur, Kabir Bahia, and their friends. Earlier, Sanon had also posted a BTS video of her performance at the UP T20 Season 2 Opening Ceremony held at the Ekana Stadium. Bahia left a comment and fans were quick to notice it. For her Diwali post, Sanon shared a series of pictures with her family. One of the pictures in the post also featured Bahia along with Sanon and her sister. Bahia is a UK-based businessman. He is the son of Kuljinder Bahia, the owner of Southall Travel. The family's net worth is estimated to be ₹427 million. On the work front, the actor was last seen in Do Patti. She was seen in a double role in this Shashanka Chaturvedi thriller.



Shah Rukh Khan Reveals He Has Quit Smoking: 'Thought I Will Be Breathless...



Shah Rukh Khan celebrated his 59th birthday on November 2, receiving a flood of well-wishes from stars across the film industry. He also attended a special SRK Day event to interact with his fans and answer their queries about his life. During a segment, Shah Rukh Khan spoke about the good things he is following and revealed that he has quit smoking. Shah Rukh Khan said, "Another good thing, I'm not smoking any more guys." He added that he thought he would feel breathless at the event but he felt fine and was "catching up". This announcement made his fans scream with excitement. Watch the video here:

This clip went viral on Reddit and fans took to the comments section to express their hot takes. One person wrote, "Better announcement than a movie. Hope he can stick to it." Another wrote, "Thank god. Long live the King!" One person commented, "Wow this is great news." Another fan of the actor chimed, "Wow good on him." For the unversed, SRK attended a fan event hosted by his fan clubs in Mumbai's Bandra. Later in the evening, he took to social media, sharing a photo of himself doing his iconic arms-outstretched pose against a sea of fans at the special event. Dressed in a violet T-shirt, a beanie and sunglasses, SRK thanked everyone for coming over and making his evening special. He wrote, "Thank you for coming over and making my evening special... my love to everyone who made it for my birthday. And for those who couldn't, sending you all my love."

Meanwhile, Shah Rukh's wife Gauri Khan shared a sneak peek into SRK's birthday celebration with her, Suhana Khan and their close friends. On Saturday evening, Gauri Khan took to her Instagram account to share a picture from Shah Rukh Khan's birthday celebration. The picture appeared to have been clicked at their residence Mannat. It showed Shah Rukh Khan cutting the birthday cake, while Gauri Khan and Suhana Khan stood on either side of him. Sharing the picture, Gauri wrote that it was a memorable evening, with their loved ones in attendance.

Natasa Stankovic Heads Out On A Drive With Aleksandar Illic In Her Swanky Car In Mumbai



Natasa Stankovic is often seen shuttling between Serbia and Mumbai following her divorce from Indian cricketer Hardik Pandya. Whenever she is in Mumbai, she is seen spending time with her friends and with her son, Agastya. The model and actor was recently papped in Mumbai as she headed for a drive with her good friend Aleksandar Alex Illic. In a video shared by a paparazzo, Natasa Stankovic and Aleksandar Alex Illic were spotted together in Mumbai. Natasa was seen in a black bodycon midi



dress which she had paired with flats. She had a sling bag across her body and she let her hair down as she wore her spectacles. Aleksandar, on the other hand, was seen in a white and brown tie-dye t-shirt which he had paired with orange shorts and white flip-flops. The duo posed for the cameras before heading to their swanky car. They were seen putting on their seatbelts as they were clicked by the paparazzi.

Following her divorce, Natasa and Aleksandar are often spotted together. They were earlier seen chilling at a vacation in Goa. They have been papped outside the gym as well. Natasa has often introduced him as her brother and friend. Aleksandar has been rumoured to be dating actor Disha Patani. Natasa and Pandya announced their split in July this year. They shared a statement and said, "This was a tough decision for us to make, given the joy, mutual respect, and companionship we enjoyed together and as we grew a family. We are blessed with Agastya, who will continue to be at the centre of both our lives and we will co-parent to ensure that we give him everything that we can for his happiness." On the work front, Natasa was seen in PreetINDER's Tere Krke music video.



Malaika Arora

Shares Cryptic Post About 'Saying No' Following Breakup With Arjun Kapoor

The rumours of Malaika Arora and Arjun Kapoor's breakup had been doing rounds on social media ever since the couple stopped posting each other on social media. However, Kapoor recently put all speculations to rest when he confirmed that he is single at an event. Amidst the breakup confirmation, Arora took to her social media to share a cryptic note about saying no. Taking to her Instagram Stories, Malaika Arora shared a cryptic note. She did not add any caption with the post but she simply shared it on her social media. The post spoke about the importance of saying no to unnecessary things. The note read, "'NO'vember... A time to start saying 'no' to people, places & things that drain your energy."

Kapoor confirmed the breakup at a promotional event for Singham Again. The actor addressed his relationship status and said, "Abhi single hoon main, relax." The video started going viral on social media as Arora had not talked about the breakup to the media. The rumours of their breakup started doing rounds on social media earlier this year. A report by Pinkvilla mentioned that their relationship has 'run its course.'

The report quoted a source who said, "Malaika and Arjun had a very special relationship and both of them will continue to hold a special place in each other's hearts."

They have chosen to part ways and will maintain a dignified silence in this matter. They won't allow anyone to drag and dissect their relationship.

"On the work front, Kapoor was last seen in a negative role in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again. The movie starred Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Akshay Kumar, Kareena Kapoor, and Tiger Shroff. It was released in cinemas on November 1. Arora, on the other hand, was last seen in a cameo role in Kho Gaye Hum Kahan. She lost her father in September.

