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Rahul Gandhi's challenge to 'little sister' Priyanka Vadra

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Wayanad by-election, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's maiden electoral battle, will be held on Wednesday. On the final day of



campaigning for Kerala's Wayanad Lok Sabha by-election, ex-Wayanad MP Rahul Gandhi on Monday threw a 'challenge' to his 'little sister' Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, the Congress candidate. Wayanad, Nov 11 (ANI): Lok Sabha LoP and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi addresses a roadshow in support of party candidate for Wayanad Lok Sabha by-elections, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, at Sulthan Batherly in Wayanad on

Monday. "Priyanka Gandhi ji is the MP candidate. She is also my little sister, so I have the right to complain about her to the people of Wayanad," Gandhi, who now represents Uttar Pradesh's Raebareilly in the Lok Sabha, said at a poll rally in Sultan Batherly, two days before the polling. "I would also like to challenge my sister to make Wayanad the best tourist destination. When people think of Kerala, the first destination should be Wayanad. This will benefit the people of Wayanad and its economy, and the world will get to know its beauty," the ex-Congress chief remarked.

In July, the Kerala district was hit by landslides that claimed more than 200 lives. The Wayanad by-election was necessitated as Rahul Gandhi chose to keep the Raebareilly constituency after winning both seats in the Lok Sabha polls. The 54-year-old politician had won Wayanad five years ago, when he was defeated by BJP's Smriti Irani from the Congress' bastion of Amethi in Uttar Pradesh, a seat that he had held since 2004.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna sworn in as 51st Chief Justice of India

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 11: Justice Sanjiv Khanna was on Monday sworn in as the 51st Chief Justice of India. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Justice Khanna at a brief swearing-in ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan at 10.30 AM. Justice Khanna succeeds Justice D Y Chandrachud, who demitted office on Sunday on attaining the age of 65 years. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, outgoing CJI DY Chandrachud, ministers, sitting and former judges attended the five-minute ceremony. Appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on January 18, 2019, Justice Khanna will have a six-month tenure as the CJI. He will retire on May 13, 2025. The Centre had notified his appointment as the next CJI on October 24, following Chief Justice Chandrachud's recommendation on October 16. Reducing pendency of cases and speeding up justice delivery are said to be his priorities. There has been a convention of the CJI recommending the senior-most judge of the

Supreme Court as his successor. Only twice, it has not been followed — Justice AN Ray was appointed the 14th CJI on April 25, 1973, superseding three



senior-most judges, and Justice MH Beg was appointed the 15th CJI on January 29, 1977, superseding Justice HR Khanna. Justice HR Khanna—his uncle—was denied the appointment as CJI by the Indira Gandhi-led government for his sole dissenting opinion in ADM Jabalpur versus Shivkant

Shukla (1976) on the suspension of fundamental rights during Emergency. The majority had declared that the government could suspend fundamental rights and detain citizens without following due process during Emergency. Justice HR Khanna had resigned after the government notified the appointment of Justice HM Beg — a junior judge — as the CJI. Son of Justice DR Khanna, a former Delhi High Court judge, Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been a part of many Constitution Bench verdicts, including the ones upholding the abrogation of Article 370 and the scrapping of electoral bonds scheme. He headed the Bench which upheld the use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in elections amid the 2019 Lok Sabha poll. A Bench led by him had granted an interim bail to former Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal to enable him campaign in the 2024 Lok Sabha poll. Born on 14th May, 1960, Justice Khanna got enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Delhi in 1983 and initially practised in the District Courts at the Tis Hazari complex, Delhi, and later in the High Court of Delhi and tribunals in fields as diverse as constitutional law, direct taxation, arbitration, commercial law, company law, land law, environmental law and medical negligence.

Congress claims India faces 'demand crisis' due to income stagnation

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Nov.11: Congress on Sunday claimed India was facing a "demand crisis" due to sustained and said the "double engine" of private investment and mass consumption that powered the UPA's decade of sustained GDP growth has been "derailed" in the last ten years of the Modi government. Congress general secretary in-charge communications, Jairam Ramesh, urged the government to accept what the Congress has been proposing - raising MGN-REGA wages to a minimum of Rs 400 per day, guaranteeing MSP and a loan waiver for farmers, and a monthly income support scheme for women - to kickstart income growth in rural India. He said that with each passing day, the tragedy of India's dying consumption story becomes more evident. Last week, several CEOs from India Inc raised the alarm over the 'shrinking' middle class and now, new data from NABARD's All India Rural

Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22 adds to the evidence that India's demand crisis is a result of sustained income stagnation, he said in a statement. Citing key takeaways from



the survey data, Ramesh said the average monthly household income for Indians is Rs 12,698 to Rs 13,661 for agricultural households and Rs 11,438 in non-agricultural households. "Assuming an average household size of 4.4, the per capita income in rural areas is an esti-

mate Rs 2,886 per month - less than Rs 100 a day. The vast majority of Indians therefore have very little money for discretionary consumption beyond that of basic necessities," Ramesh said, citing the data. "This is hardly the exception - nearly every piece of evidence points to this same damning conclusion: that the average Indian can buy less today than they could 10 years ago. This is the ultimate root cause for India's consumption slowdown," he claimed. Citing Labour Bureau's Wage Rate Index data, Ramesh said real wages for labourers stagnated between 2014 and 2023, and in fact declined between 2019 and 2024. Further, he cited the Ministry of Agriculture's Agricultural Statistics data to state that under Dr Manmohan Singh, real wages for agricultural labourers grew at 6.8 per cent each year, he said. "Under Mr Modi, real wages for agricultural labourers declined by 1.3 per cent each year," Ramesh said. Citing Periodic Labour Force Survey Series data, Ramesh said the average real earnings over time have stagnated between 2017 and 2022 across all employment types - salaried workers, casual workers, and self-employed workers.

Yasin Malik ended hunger strike, being provided with necessary medical aid

New Delhi, Nov 11: The Tihar Jail authorities informed the Delhi High Court on Monday that convicted separatist leader Yasin Malik ended his hunger strike on November 8, and was being provided with the necessary medical



treatment. The respondent authorities, including the Centre, opposed the petition filed by Yasin Malik, who sought admission to AIIMS due to his alleged deteriorating health. The respondents requested additional time to review the medical status report submitted by the jail authorities before filing a response. The court of

Justice Jasmeet Singh after noting the submissions, scheduled the next hearing for November 18. Meanwhile, it directed the jail authorities to ensure that Malik receives appropriate medical care. The lawyer representing Malik expressed dissatisfaction with the rescheduling of the hearing, stating that the legal team will visit Malik at Tihar Jail today to verify the claims made by the jail authorities. The Delhi High Court on Friday issued a notice to the Centre, the Director General of Tihar Jail and other relevant authorities in response to a plea filed by Malik. He claimed that he had been on a hunger strike since November 1 as he was allegedly denied of necessary medical treatment. In his plea before the Delhi High Court, Malik seeks appropriate directions from the court to ensure that he is referred for proper and necessary medical care at AIIMS or any other super-speciality hospital, either in New Delhi or in the Kashmir region. Additionally, Malik has asked the court to direct the authorities to produce him before the courts in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi whenever his presence is required. After considering the submissions, the court sought a medical status report of Malik from the concerned jail superintendent.

SC raps Delhi police for not fully imposing cracker ban

New Delhi, Nov 11: Calling it a mere "eye-wash", the Supreme Court came down heavily on the Delhi police for failing to comprehensively implement the firecracker ban in the national capital and only seizing raw materials. A bench of Justices Abhay S Oka and Augustine George Masih therefore directed the Delhi police commissioner to immediately inform all the stakeholders concerned about the ban order and ensure no sale and manufacture of crackers. "We direct Delhi police commissioner to form a special cell to ensure effective implementation of the ban on fire crackers. We direct Delhi police commissioner to file a personal affidavit putting on record the steps taken by them to enforce ban," it said. The top court wondered why the Delhi government delayed imposition of the ban on fire crackers till October 14, when the order of ban was issued. "The right to live in a pollution-free atmosphere is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. Prima facie, we are of the view that no religion promotes any activity that promotes pollution or compromises with health of the people," remarked the bench. The top court further asked the Delhi government to decide before November 25 on a "perpetual" firecracker ban after consulting stakeholders.

India tells Russia to remove tariff barriers, trade in national currencies

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Nov 11: Just four months after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin held the annual India-Russia inter-governmental summit, increased bilateral opportunities in trade and investment are being worked upon by the two sides. In Mumbai on Monday, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, while speaking at the India-Russia Business Forum, asked Russia to remove tariff barriers to allow Indian products greater access to the Russian market and suggested that doing trade in national currencies was of great importance. Modi and Putin met in Moscow in July and tasked officials on either side to "prepare a programme for the development of promising areas of Russian-Indian economic cooperation till 2030". In New Delhi, the Russian Embassy said on Monday that a 'business centre' is to open in the national capital on Tuesday. Its main objective is to develop business ties between the two countries and

promote export cooperation. Also, on Tuesday, the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission will be meeting



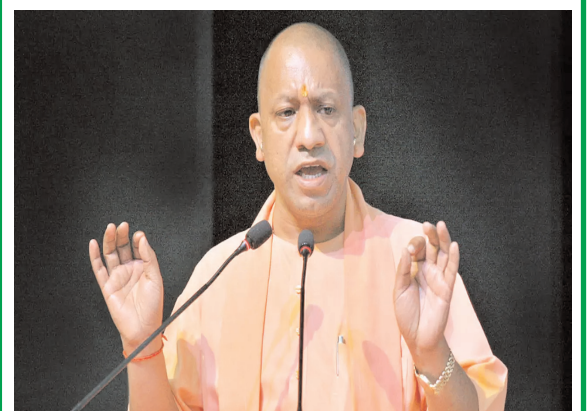
in Delhi to take stock of the bilateral cooperation. Jaishankar said, "Mutual settlement of trade in national currencies is of great importance, especially in the current circumstances.... Special rupee-vostro

accounts are an effective mechanism right now. But in short term, a better trade balance with national currency settlements is the answer." The minister said the India-Russia bilateral trade was today at \$66 billion and the goal was to take it to \$100 billion by 2030. He then sought Russia to relax some tariffs. "The balance of trade, however, needs urgent redressal since it is so one-sided. It is imperative that non-tariff barriers and regulatory impediments are speedily addressed for this to happen.... A growing Russian appreciation of 'Make In India' as a programme to deepen business will certainly help to take forward our cooperation in many domains," he said. India, said Jaishankar, would grow at 8 per cent annually for multiple decades ahead and Russia was a key natural resources provider and a major technology leader. India would be major player in oil, gas, coal or uranium and this applied to fertilizers too, the minister said. Jaishankar referred to the annual summit at Moscow in July and the interaction Modi and Putin had last in Kazan.

CM Yogi Adityanath calls SP a haven for criminals

ST Correspondent

Lucknow, Nov.11: Speaking at a rally at Tilak Inter College in Hanumanganj, Phulpur, to support BJP candidate Deepak Patel, Adityanath alleged that prominent mafia figures like Atiq Ahmed, Mukhtar Ansari, and Khan Mubarak were all associated with SP. Referring to past high-profile crimes, he stated, "daylight murders of leaders like Krishnanand Rai and Raju Pal took place during SP's reign." He added that during previous SP rule, public funds were funneled to the SP family and their allies, turning the state's administrative bodies into a "production house for rioters." He further remarked, "Today's SP has strayed from the values it was originally founded upon. It has become a refuge for



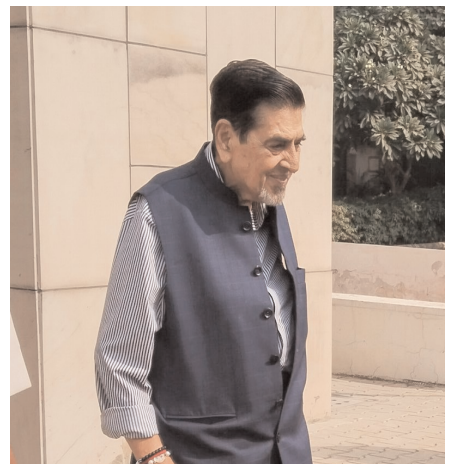
mafia and criminals." Adityanath also questioned the Congress party and the INDIA alliance's stance on Article 370, highlighting a recent Jammu and Kashmir government proposal calling for its reinstatement. He alleged that "Congress and its allies want to reinstate Article 370 to promote terrorism." Adityanath assured voters that under the Modi administration, the move would never be allowed, and India would continue with "one flag, one Constitution." Addressing a crowd alongside BJP leaders and local dignitaries like BJP candidate Deepak Patel, MPs Praveen Patel and Nand Gopal Gupta Nandi and Mayor Ganesh Kesari, Adityanath honored Prayagraj's cultural and spiritual heritage, calling it a land blessed by the Ganga. He mentioned the special significance of 2025, when Prayagraj will host the Mahakumbh, an event recently recognised as a cultural heritage by UNESCO, thanks to efforts by PM Modi. Highlighting a decade of progress, Adityanath credited PM Modi's government for transforming the country's image and destiny. He pointed out that UP has also seen "double-engine government." "Earlier, UP was known for anarchy and riots; women were unsafe, farmers were ignored, and youth couldn't find jobs," he said. Under SP rule, he claimed, "even government jobs were auctioned off beforehand, and farmers and the poor did not receive necessary benefits."

1984 riots: Delhi HC says murder trial to continue against Jagdish Tytler

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Nov 11: Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri was hearing a plea filed by Tytler seeking a stay on the trial proceedings taking place against him in a Delhi court. The court would continue with the hearing on November 29. "It is made clear the trial will continue. Same will be subject to the outcome of the present proceedings," the judge ordered. Tytler's counsel submitted the case was listed for the recording of evidence of a prosecution witness before the trial court on November 12 and the trial court was asked to not proceed till the high court decided his plea against the framing of charges order. Tytler's plea challenging the framing of murder and other charges against him is listed on November 29 but he moved court with the plea to stay the trial. His plea said the evidence of the prosecution witness was recorded by the trial court and her cross-examination by the defence counsel was scheduled for November 12. "The criminal revision petition (of Tytler)

raised substantial questions upon the motivation of the prosecution and the investiga-



tion conducted by the CBI. Therefore, an order/direction from this court for the trial court to not proceed with the captioned matter till the pendency of the revision petition is expedient in the interest of justice,"

his plea read. Senior advocate H S Phoolka, representing the victims, opposed the plea arguing the witness was old and suffered from various ailments and being subjected to multiple court appearances. She would be appearing in court for the fourth time, he said. Tytler has claimed being a victim of a "witch-hunt" and contended the trial court's order framing charges against him was "perverse, illegal and lacked application of mind". "Trial court has erroneously framed charges against the petitioner overlooking the settled principles of law on the point of charge," his petition stated. While Tytler's counsel raised the plea of alibi, claiming his absence at the time of the incident, the counsel for the CBI and victims argued the plea of alibi had already been decided and rejected by the high court. Tytler said there was no credible evidence to corroborate the allegations against him and the trial court's order was "misconceived" passed "mechanically" and liable to be set aside. He alleged it was a case of harassment wherein he was made to face

the trial for alleged crimes committed more than four decades ago, and referred to being 80-years old and suffering from several ailments, including heart disease and diabetes. The trial court on September 13 framed charges against him after he pleaded not guilty. Besides murder, the trial court ordered the framing of charges pertaining to unlawful assembly, provocation, rioting, murder, promoting enmity between different groups, house trespass, and theft, among others. The CBI on May 20, 2023, filed a chargesheet against Tytler in the case saying he "incited, instigated and provoked the mob assembled at Pul Bangash Gurdwara Azad Market" on November 1, 1984. The mob, the agency claimed, provoked by Tytler, set a gurdwara ablaze and killed three men - Thakur Singh, Badal Singh, and Gurcharan Singh. Anti-Sikh riots erupted in several parts of the country in the aftermath of the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984.



## News box

## Farmers concerned over Water Minister's statement on desilting Mettur reservoir

**CHENNAI:** Farmers have expressed concern over Water Resources Department Minister Duraimurugan's recent statement that it may not be scientifically feasible to desilt Mettur and other reservoirs, months after a government order (GO) was issued to desilt four reservoirs. On July 26, the government approved a project to restore the original capacity of the Mettur, Vaigai, Pechipparai, and Amaravathy reservoirs, which includes removing 13.75 million cubic meters of sediment from Mettur over four years. A project estimate of Rs 3.6 crore was prepared to obtain environmental clearance.

However, Duraimurugan stated that reservoirs are not desilted anywhere in the world and that sand would naturally wash away with the water flow. Farmers are concerned whether the state intends to abandon the desilting of Mettur Dam, which has not undergone maintenance since its construction in 1934.

KV Elankeeran, president of the Federation of Cauvery Delta Farmers Association, said, "Farmers have been urging the government to desilt Mettur reservoir to increase its capacity, which is essential for agriculture in the region." Meanwhile, the Water Resources Department (WRD) on Sunday issued a release stating that the tenders to desilt Vaigai and Amaravathy will be floated on November 13 and 20, respectively. Additionally, the tenders for Mettur and Pechipparai have already been opened.

## Woman tries to save aged mom, both fall into well and drown

**TIRUPPUR:** An 87-year-old woman and her 65-year-old daughter drowned after they slipped and fell into a 50-foot-deep well in their farmland in Ponnampara Thottam in Alangiyam on Sunday morning. The daughter had gone near the well to keep her elderly mother from accidentally falling into the well, said the police. The deceased were identified as S Mayilathal and her daughter M Pushpavalli Nayagi. Police said after the death of Mayilathal's husband Subbiah six years ago, she had been living with her three daughters.

According to police, Mayilathal had been suffering from mental health issues for the last few months. The elderly woman left the house on Sunday morning but did not return for a long time. Pushpavalli went in search of her mother and found her standing near the farm well. While attempting to keep her mother away from the well, the duo accidentally fell into the well and drowned.

Mayilathal's youngest daughter Bhuvana Sundari alerted the family, who called the villagers for help. Fire and rescue personnel from Dharapuram recovered the bodies after an hour of effort. The bodies were then sent to Dharapuram Government Hospital for post-mortem examination. The police registered a case and initiated an investigation.

## Kerala man dies in custody in Udupi, CID to probe case

**UDUPI:** A 45-year-old labourer died in police custody in Brahmapura on Sunday after he was arrested the previous day for allegedly harassing a woman and her children. The deceased, Biju Mohan, was a migrant from Kollam in Kerala. Udupi Superintendent of Police Dr Arun K said the Brahmapura police received a call at 7.45 pm on Saturday from Cherkady village, saying an unidentified man was allegedly harassing a woman and



her children. The victim, accompanied by her brother, also filed a complaint, stating that the man entered her home and harassed her and her children.

A case was subsequently registered, and the accused was taken into custody. At 3.45 am, a sentry noticed Biju sitting motionless, with his head resting against the wall. He was immediately shifted to the Brahmapura Community Health Centre, but was declared brought dead. The SP said Biju's family has been informed and they are expected to arrive soon. "A case will be registered based on their complaint. Since this is a case of a lock-up death, the CID will probe the case as per law. A postmortem will be carried out by two medical teams and video recorded, and the inquest will be overseen by a judicial magistrate. All procedures will be followed as per rules and suitable action will be taken," he added.

## Wayanad: Down-to-earth issues plague high-profile constituency

**KALPETTA:** Crossing the Thamarassery Ghat road, which connects Kozhikode and Wayanad, is an exercise that calls for much patience and pluck. The stretch is prone to traffic blocks that can take hours to clear. The situation gets worse on weekends or holidays when travel plans can get totally disrupted. Delays can even be a matter of life and death for patients being moved for critical care to Kozhikode, for want of medical facilities in Wayanad. "Alternative routes are the only possible solution and the Centre announced development of the 109km-long Purakkattiri-Kuttiadi-Mananthavady-Mysuru stretch at a cost of ₹7,134 crore last January. The project will reduce the impact of the night travel ban at Bandipur Tiger Reserve. An effective member of Parliament (MP) in Wayanad can help realise the project without much sweat. We have been agitating for various development projects in the district, including the Poozhithode-Padinarathara road and an alternative Wayanad-Kozhikode route," says Babu Philip, a social activist from Mananthavady. "For the past 25 years,



we have been raising the issue of inadequate medical facilities in Wayanad," says C D Saraswathi, head of the Sickle Cell Anaemia Patients Association. "There are 1,050 patients, including over 600 tribal people, in Wayanad district suffering from the genetic disorder. We still depend on the Ghat road to reach Kozhikode MCH during emergencies," she points out. "Mananthavady has a government medical college hospital. But why are we still being referred to Kozhikode for treatment? We need a special unit in Wayanad," Saraswathi adds.

**VIP constituency**

Lok Sabha elections in Wayanad used to be a tame affair until Congress leader Rahul Gandhi decided to run from the constituency in 2019. This placed Wayanad in the national spotlight. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra's decision to contest the seat vacated by her brother, following his second win in the general election earlier this year, has accorded the constituency wider recognition, given that this marks her foray into electoral politics. And Priyanka has signalled that she is up to the challenge, surprising even her campaign managers with unscheduled house visits and interactions with people from all walks of life. Although such actions have generated a wave of goodwill and hope, the glitter and glamour of a high-profile campaign threatens to submerge the real issues of the constituency.

## Disaster sidelined

Chief among them is the rehabilitation of the victims of the July 30 landslides in Chooralmala and Mundakkai, which left a trail of destruction in three wards in Meppadi panchayat. People who lost everything in the tragedy are still living in rented houses or government quarters. With owners of the

estates identified to relocate them approaching courts, official rehabilitation plans have been put on hold. "Everyone is focused on the by-elections, and this includes the government and the media. The search for the bodies of missing persons has been halted and problems related to issuing of death certificates for the missing victims haven't been resolved. There are a lot of issues that require the urgent attention of officials, including speeding up procedures to debt write-off and comprehensive rehabilitation projects," said Shajimon, a Chooralmala native who now resides in Ambalavayal and is the convener of the Chooralmala Jana Shabdham Action Council.

## Wild threats

Tourists to Wayanad are left awe-struck by the scenic beauty that greets them. But for residents who live in the constant shadow of wild-animal attacks, life has not been enchanting. This year alone, such attacks have claimed five lives in the district. There are protests every time a human life is lost and authorities come up with assurances, but these have not translated into significant measures.

## No date yet for 'Chalakra Dinacharana' in Karnataka

**BENGALURU:** While multiple requests were submitted to the state transport department to select a specific day in a year dedicated to the drivers - 'Chalakra Dinacharana' (Drivers Day), it is yet to designate a day.

Auto, cab, goods and truck drivers have urged the transport department to declare a day, so that all the drivers can unitedly celebrate it. Also, on Chalakra Dinacharana, along with celebrations, the drivers want the department to identify the best drivers and honour them, and also commemorate the day by bringing their various issues and demands to the attention of the government. There were requests to declare a day in the month of November,



which is filled with the celebrations of Kannada culture and language as part of the Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations. Also, there were requests to declare the birth anniversary of actor and director Late Shankar Nag who is revered as an

icon of the auto drivers community. There were some representations to declare the day on the death anniversary of Shankar Nag. As transport department is yet to announce any date officially, representatives from the Adarsha Auto and Taxi Drivers Union, Peace Auto, Karnataka State Private School Van Drivers Union, Jai Bharath Vahana Chalakra Sangha and others, who celebrated their 11th year Kannada Rajyotsava on Saturday, requested Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy to designate Shankar Nag's birth anniversary. When The New Indian Express spoke to Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, he said he would check with the transport department on the date for Chalakra Dinacharana.

## Andhra Pradesh experiences 60 days of extreme weather

**VISAKHAPATNAM:** Andhra Pradesh experienced extreme weather conditions on 60 days out of the 274-day period from January 1 to September 30, 2024, according to a report by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) titled 'Climate India 2024: An Assessment of Extreme Weather Events'. The adverse conditions led to 60 human casualties in the State, while agricultural, residential, and livestock losses were also substantial.

During this period, the State recorded significant damage to crops and homes. Crops covering 2,62,840 hectares were reported as damaged, while 85,806 houses sustained partial or total damage, marking Andhra Pradesh as the State with the highest number of affected homes in the country. Additionally, 501 animals were reported dead as a result of these extreme weather events. Throughout India, extreme weather was observed on 255 out of 274 days, affecting 3.2 million hectares of crops, causing damage to 2,35,862 houses, and resulting in 3,238



human deaths. Nationwide animal losses stood at over 9,457 during this time. In Andhra Pradesh, specific extreme events were also highlighted in the report. Lightning and storms occurred on 12 days, leading to the loss of 17 lives. Heavy rainfall, floods, and landslides affected the State for 33 days, resulting in 43 fatalities. Additionally, the State experienced three warm nights - defined as nights when minimum temperatures remained 4 - 6.4°C above normal - in the months of March through June. The report distinguished between 'very heavy' and

'extremely heavy' rainfall, noting that such events were classified as extreme only when they caused damage. Heatwaves, recorded on 19 days in the State, were also a concern. The report defined a heatwave as an increase in maximum temperature by 4.5 - 6.4°C above normal, while a severe heatwave represented a rise of more than 6.4°C. They cautioned that, without meaningful measures against climate change, the impacts of extreme weather will likely intensify. In its analysis, the report observed that India experienced extreme weather events for over 90% of the first nine months of 2024.

The authors highlighted that the frequency of extreme weather events, previously expected once every century, are now occurring every five years or less. "This frequency overwhelms the most vulnerable populations, who lack the resources to adapt to this relentless cycle of loss and damage," the report added, stressing the urgent need for enhanced climate resilience measures.

## 9-seater seaplane set to take Kerala's tourism to new horizons

**KOCHI:** Marking the beginning of a new chapter in Kerala's tourism sector, the much-anticipated seaplane flew in from Vijayawada to Bolgatty on Sunday. The trial run of the seaplane service will be flagged off from Bolgatty by Tourism Minister P A Mohamed Riyas on Monday. From Bolgatty, the crew and passengers of the nine-seater seaplane named 'de Havilland Canada - 6 Twin Otter', being operated by a Switzerland-based private company and SpiceJet, will fly to Mattupetty dam in Idukki where they will be accorded a reception in the presence of Irrigation Minister Roshy Augustine. The seaplane, which departed from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, arrived at Nedumbassery the Cochin International Airport Limited and flew to Bolgatty waterdrome after refuelling. According to a CIAL spokesperson, the seaplane was received at the airport with a water salute to mark the momentous occasion. "CIAL is a key player in this ambitious initiative and has given technical expertise and support to the state government. This pioneering venture signifies CIAL's commitment to innovation and its vision to expand



aviation horizons in Kerala. By embracing the potential of seaplane tourism, the state is poised to offer its visitors an unparalleled experience, combining breathtaking aerial views with the tranquillity of its waterways," said the spokesperson. Minister Riyas said Kerala gives priority to enhance connectivity since it plays a vital role in the growth of

our tourism sector. "The launch of heli-tourism was a significant step in this direction. Our aim is to make the state's tourism destinations more accessible for quick and seamless travel. The expansion of motorable roads connecting even the remote parts of Kerala ensure that tourists can now reach far-off locations with ease," he said. The minister said the seaplane

## Polavaram Project: New D-Wall design approval likely by this Nov 25

**VIJAYAWADA:** Designs for the new Diaphragm Wall of the Polavaram Irrigation Project are expected to be approved by November 25 this year and the works are likely to commence from the end of December or January next year. According to sources, the new D-Wall, which is estimated to cost around Rs 900 crore, will be executed by German company Bauer Group and it is expected to be completed by March 2026, if not December 2025. Polavaram project officials expect that if climate permits, the works can be executed swiftly. They are expecting normal flood days in the Godavari River next season. However, to be on the safe side, the increase in flood days is also taken into consideration before finalising the work schedule.

The international experts' team which studied the scoured portions of the project and other aspects, is likely to examine and submit its recommendations to the Central Water Commission (CWC) for its approval for the Earth Cum Rock Fill (ECRF) Dam by February. Works for Gap 1 of the ECRF Dam are likely to be taken up in March next year and Gap 2 in November. In other words, both the D-Wall and the ECRF of the project will be taken up simultaneously. Decisions to this effect were taken during the workshop held on technical aspects of Polavaram, where the international team of experts explained the finer points of technical details to the project officials and those associated with the project. Following his visit to the Polavaram project, after the formation of the new government, Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu released a white paper on June 28, and squarely blamed YSRC president and former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for the delay in completing the irrigation project. Naidu attributed the damage caused to the D-Wall and the leaks in the cofferdams to the 'ignorant decisions' taken by the previous government. He stated that changing contract agencies and transferring experienced officials during the execution of crucial works on the upper cofferdam resulted in a gap in the project, which further proved fatal during the floods in 2019 and 2020. In August last week this year, the Union Cabinet sanctioned Rs 12,157 crore for completing Phase-1 works of the Polavaram Irrigation Project. It has been estimated that Rs 30,436.95 crore is required for Phase-1 of the project.

service will soon complement these efforts, placing Kerala as a well-connected destination with a robust of transportation network of waterways, highways, helicopters and now seaplanes.

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## Legal Advisors:

Advocate Mohd. Sajid  
Advocate Dr. A.P. Singh  
Advocate Manish Sharma  
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma



## News box

## None to water them for three months, trees &amp; plants are wilting here

**Noida.** Residents of sectors 51, 62, 31 and others complained about lack of upkeep of green areas for the past three months. As plants, trees, and grass dry up, residents are questioning why the Noida Authority fails to renew tenders before expiration, ensuring consistent upkeep. In Sector 51's Children's Park, trees have begun dying out, leading to growing concerns among residents. "Not even a drop of water has been given to these trees for the last three months. Due to this, even tall trees have started drying up and falling," said Sanjeev Kumar, RWA general secretary for blocks C to F of Sector 51. "Trees and plants also have life, and by neglecting them, we are essentially killing them. Residents are upset and continually report that greenery is dying," he added. Gopal Verma, RWA general secretary of Rajat Vihar in Block C, Sector 62 had similar complaints. He expressed frustration over the deteriorating state of local parks. "All the parks in C block of Rajat Vihar have been ruined due to lack of proper upkeep. We're still waiting for the authority to address the issue," he said. In Sector 31, overgrown trees and grass add to residents' dissatisfaction. "I've been contacting Noida Authority senior officials continuously on the matter," said Devender Chauhan, a resident of Sector 31. "But every time, I get only assurances with no work." Residents say that calls to Noida Authority officials go unanswered. Vidya Sagar Virmani, RWA president of D Block, Sector 20, shared, "Some senior officials have stopped answering phone calls. They forward you to their voicemail, saying they're busy. If they don't take calls, how will they address it?" Recognising the rising concerns, Yogendra Sharma, president of the FONRWA, assured residents that he would bring the matter to senior officials.

Responding to this, Anand Mohan Singh, deputy director of the Noida Authority's horticulture department, acknowledged the issues, promising prompt action. The electrical panel at Sector 51 park was damaged, and after installing a new panel, irrigation will resume. We had issued a tender earlier, but no contractor qualified in the first round. The re-tendering process is ongoing and may take another 15 days," said Singh.

## Diwali long gone, but garbage yet to be picked up since then

**Noida.** Over 10 days have passed since Diwali, but garbage remains uncollected in Sector 3, Greater Noida West, prompting residents to voice concerns about health risks and escalating sanitation issues.

On Sunday, residents said that household waste has not been collected since the festival, leaving garbage to pile up outside homes. Adding to the problem, a water pipeline leak in some parts of the sector has worsened the situation, with stagnant water, now mixing with uncollected waste. "Household waste collection has not taken place since Diwali," said Laxman Singh Chamyal, a resident of Sector 3. "Waste collectors have not been coming to the sector for the past 10 days, and the house is filled with garbage, posing a health hazard." Other residents, like Mukesh Vashishth, noted the strange absence of the garbage collection van. "We can hear the jingle of the garbage collection van, but it hasn't entered our lane in the past week," Vashishth said. Aruna Shukla, another resident of Sector 3, said, "Water has been leaking in front of Janta flat D 533 for the last month. Authority staff came and dug a pit, but then left. Any incident could happen due to this pit, and we request the concerned authorities to take action immediately." Sandeep Sagar, the technical supervisor of the water department at GNIDA, assured that the issue is being addressed. In the city, the Diwali aftermath has taken a different shape, with idols, flowers, garlands, and diyas, discarded on roadsides, in parks, temples, and under trees across several sectors. This seasonal debris, left behind by celebrations, clutters public spaces, creating an unsightly mess for days following the festival. Local volunteers stepped up to tackle the issue. Members of Yuva Manch Jagran Samiti (YMJS), a local social organisation, collected Diwali puja materials from sectors 22, 30, and 31, immersing them in a temporary pond created in Muradnagar and sprinkling Ganga water over it as part of the ritual.

## Gr Noida set to ready a 15-year master plan for drain network

**Noida.** Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) is planning to develop a comprehensive 15-year master plan and detailed project report (DPR) for water, sewer and stormwater drains. A consultant will be hired to assess the current systems, forecast future needs, and align with GNIDA's master plans for 2021 and 2041. The Authority aims to upgrade and modernise Greater Noida's essential utilities to meet the city's growing demand across residential, industrial and commercial sectors.

The project is expected to revamp existing systems for water supply, sewerage and drainage, along with continuous (24x7) water supply, water auditing, GIS mapping, and establishing operation and management systems. GNIDA issued a tender and invited consultancy firms with expertise in large-scale urban infrastructure projects. Selection will follow a quality-cost based selection (QCBS) model, with 70% weightage on technical expertise and 30% on financial considerations. A pre-bid conference has been scheduled for Nov 14, followed by the deadline for bid submissions on Nov 28. Technical bids will be opened on Dec 2 and financial bids will be considered subsequently for qualifying bidders.

"With this master plan and DPR, we are laying the groundwork for a resilient and sustainable infrastructure system that can meet Greater Noida's needs through 2041 and beyond," a GNIDA official said. The consultant will study all existing water sources, storage facilities and distribution networks in the city. This includes data verification, on-site assessments and closing data gaps to build a complete understanding of the network from sources to end-users. The consultant will evaluate the Ganga water treatment plant and current disinfection methods, forecast demand for 2041, and design a water supply scheme that addresses leftover areas. The consultant's work will unfold in two main stages.

## 5 of a family die after car crashes into truck parked on Noida e-way

**Noida:** Five members of a family died after the WagonR in which they were travelling crashed into a truck parked on the Noida expressway on Sunday morning. The accident occurred near Sector 146 metro station in Greater Noida around 6am when the five were returning from Child PGI hospital, where the daughter of a relative is admitted. The truck parked on the expressway had flat tyres – and its driver had gone to look for a mechanic, leaving the vehicle by the side of the road without any warning signs. Aman, a daily wager, was driving the WagonR – HR 51BY 1774 – back home to Ghodi Bacheda village in Dadri with his father Devi Singh, mother Rajkumari and two maternal aunts Vimlesh and Kamlesh when he crashed into the truck from behind. Police suspect he had dozed off after staying awake the previous night at Child PGI. "Since the expressway was empty that early in the morning, the car was being driven at high speed. So, the impact was severe when the WagonR rammied the truck. The car was mangled and its occupants were trapped inside," said Ashok Kumar, additional deputy commissioner of police, Greater Noida. Informed by passersby, a team

arrived from Knowledge Park police station. Four of the occupants were brought out of the car and rushed to a nearby hospital, where they were declared dead on arrival.

Aman, who was behind the wheel, was stuck inside the mangled car. The police team had to cut open the vehicle to bring him out. Two hours had already passed by then and Aman had died on the spot.

"He is likely to have dozed off at the wheel, causing the car to swerve towards the left and crash into the parked truck. The truck had broken down merely half an hour earlier after two of its tyres were flat. The driver had gone to get a mechanic when the accident occurred," said a senior police officer at Knowledge Park police station. Since it was a Sunday and most offices stayed shut, a traffic snarl was spared on the expressway. "We cleared the vehicles using a crane. The bodies were handed over to the families after an autopsy," Kumar said. It was merely a week ago that tragedy struck the family. Aman, the primary earning member, lost his two-year-old daughter to illness a day before Diwali. "He was the backbone of his



family. This tragedy is unimaginable," said Sunil, Aman's friend who arrived at the hospital to take the bodies back. Back home in Ghodi Bacheda village, Aman's wife collapsed after hearing the news of her husband's death. She has two children – aged five and seven years – to raise. "Aman's younger brother Sonu studies in Class 11. He wanted to pursue higher studies so that he could bring the family out of poverty. But it seems he will now have to look for a job to augment the family income," Sunil said. An FIR was

registered against the truck driver under Section 106 (death due to negligence) of BNS. Parking isn't allowed on the expressway because of the sheer speed at which vehicles pass by. "The truck driver is untraceable. We are scanning CCTV footage and gathering inputs to track him down," said a senior officer. Earlier in the day, chief minister Yogi Adityanath asked officials to reach the spot and expedite relief work. "The chief minister took cognisance of the road accident in Greater Noida and expressed condolences to the bereaved family members of the deceased," a statement from the CM office read. MP Mahesh Sharma also met Aman's family members and offered his condolences. "I am deeply saddened to hear the heartbreaking news of the untimely death of five members of a family in the tragic accident on the Greater Noida Expressway. I pray to God to give place to the departed souls in his feet and provide strength to the victims and their families to endure this," he posted on X.

## Submit affidavit on trees to be cut for kanwar route, UP told

**Ghaziabad.** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has asked UP govt to submit an affidavit from the additional chief secretary (environment), specifying the exact number of trees that will be felled for the kanwar corridor. In an earlier order, the NGT had asked the Surveyor General of India to submit satellite images of 2018 and 2024 to make a comparison of the environmental damage done in the intervening six years in the area. The images were supposed to have been sourced from the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) in Hyderabad. On Oct 4, the SGI informed the tribunal that satellite imagery of the region was available only for this year, but not 2018.

So, the bench of chairperson Prakash Shrivastava, Arun Kumar Tyagi, and expert member A Senthil V ordered a drone survey of the area and sought a report in 30 days. The Centre has allowed 1.1 lakh trees to be cut for the project. "The Surveyor General of Survey of India has stated that he can conduct an aerial survey using UAV/drone to generate orthorectified images of the area to capture the present ground situation and to

identify the extent of trees cut on both sides of the (upper Ganga) canal. He has submitted that this exercise can be completed within a period of 30 days and the report can be submitted before the Tribunal," the bench said on Oct 4. Along with this report, drone survey images covering a linear stretch of the 100km-long corridor on both sides of the canals were also submitted with the NGT this Thursday. But comparing the images was difficult because of the varying resolution. "The report does not reflect what attempts were made by the Survey General of India to find out the satellite imagery of the area concerned," read the NGT order on Saturday. The tribunal then gave the additional chief secretary two weeks' time to file the affidavit. The next hearing was scheduled for Nov 25.

"The State shall provide clarification regarding whether plants, trees, bushes and other vegetation being felled during road construction, which are not included in the count of 33,766 trees, are classified under the UP Tree Protection Act's definition of trees. The additional chief secretary of environment from UP shall submit an

affidavit specifying the precise number of trees to be felled during the Kanwar Marg construction project, in accordance with the UP Tree Protection Act, 1976. Additionally, the affidavit shall explicitly address whether any trees beyond the 15/20 metre width have been cut down, and if so, identify the individuals responsible for such action," the NGT said. The kanwar route will link Muradnagar with Purkaji near the Uttarakhand border, passing through the districts of Meerut, Muzaffarnagar and Ghaziabad. According to a govt report submitted in NGT, around 1 crore devotees from UP, Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and MP collect Ganga water from Haridwar and walk back to their cities in the month of Sawan. "This route is included in the category of very crowded routes for the common people and devotees. As well as a total of 54 villages falling under the districts of Muzaffarnagar, Meerut, and Ghaziabad on the said route, in which it has also been a main route for the movement of residents. In such a situation, there is a lot of disruption in the traffic on the Kanwar route directly and indirectly,

## Vendors occupy much of this road2, but there's no stopping bikers here



**Ghaziabad.** Vacant roads outside Shaheed Sthal new bus adda metro station in Ghaziabad, where flower vendors set up their market during the early hours of the day, see bikers speeding down the stretch. Locals complained that the situation poses a significant risk of accidents as the vendors occupy almost half of the road. "This results in traffic congestion in the area, and particularly causes inconvenience for people going to office and school children who use this road early in the morning," said Manoj Singh, a regular commuter. People visiting a temple nearby often park their vehicles along the road, adding to the congestion. Moreover, a resident of the area Sunita Sharma spoke about some incidents where flower sellers

## Fire breaks out at banquet hall in Delhi

**New Delhi:** A two-floor banquet hall was gutted in a fire that broke out in Delhi's Shahdara, police said on Friday. No casualties were reported. The police suspect that the fire broke out when a misfired cracker struck the banquet hall. However, the exact cause is yet to be ascertained, they said. On the night of Diwali, the police were patrolling in the Krishna Nagar area when they saw a banquet hall, in flames, prompting them to call the fire department, they said. The hall was locked from the outside. Ten fire tenders were rushed to the spot and doused the flames. The ground, first and second floors of the hall were damaged. "The crime team inspected the spot and recorded the incident. The forensic science team will also visit the spot for further investigation. The owner of the building, Rakesh Nagpal, was contacted. The exact cause of the fire remains under investigation," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Shahdara) Prashant Gautam said. Meanwhile, the Delhi Fire Services experienced a surge in fire-related calls this Diwali with more than 300 such incidents reported across the city, which is the highest in the past 13 years, an official said on Friday. According to officials, the increase is attributed to the extensive use of firecrackers.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, BANO W/O ABDUL MAJID residing at H/NO-25, 2ND FLOOR, GREEN PARK EXTN, DELHI-110016, have changed my name to BANO BHATI for all future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as Bittu alias Birender Rastogi S/O Kishori Lal R/O F-224 old Simapur delhi-95 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BITTU.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
That my clients, Sh. Surender Kumar & his wife Smt. Poonam R/o House No. 12 Near Mandir village Barwala, North-West Delhi-110039 have disowned/debarred her, daughter, Saneha from their all movable, immovable properties due to his bad conduct, behavior towards my clients and she is not in my clients control and if any one keeps relation with her it will be on their own risk, cost and consequences and my clients have no responsibility for her act, omission etc. in this regard and if any one keeps relation with her it will be on their own risk, cost and consequences and my clients have no responsibility for her act, omission etc. in this regard.

**AMARDEEP INDRORA ADVOCATE**  
CHAMBER NO. 604, LAWYER'S CHAMBER BUILDING, ROHINI COURT COMPLEX, DISTRICT COURTS ROHINI, NEW DELHI.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Be it known to all that my clients namely Smt. Shabnam Khan W/O Sh. Gaffar Ahmad & Sh. Gaffar Ahmad (Step Father of Danish) both R/o F-72-A, Vishwakarma Colony, Lal Kunan, Pt. Pratibha, New Delhi-110044 have disowned/debarred their son namely Danish aged about 21 years from all their movable and immovable properties/assets and severed all relations with Sh. Danish due to his misbehavior, misconduct towards my clients, he is not in control of my clients, if anybody deals with Danish in any manner whatsoever, will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibility, my clients shall not be responsible for the same.

**Yogesh Kumar Advocate**  
Chamber No. 625, Lawyers Block, Saket District Courts, New Delhi-110017

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as Bittu alias Birender Rastogi S/O Kishori Lal R/O F-224 old Simapur delhi-95 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BITTU.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, JAGJIT SINGH S/O CHANDER BHAN, R/o House No. 71-C, Ward No. 22, Gali No. 4, Kishan Pura, Rohitak, Haryana - 124001, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as JAGJIT in my minor Daughter namely MEGHNA aged 16 years in her 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is JAGJIT SINGH respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is for general information that I, VARSHA SARSER D/O RAJIBIR SINGH R/O D-13A, Arjun Park, Najafgarh, Nangli Sakrawati, South West Delhi-110043, declare that Name of My Father and My Mother has been Wrongly Written as RAJIBIR and SUNITA SARSER in My 10th Class Marksheets, Certificate. The Actual Name of My Father and My Mother are RAJIBIR SINGH and SUNITA DEVI. Which May be Amended Accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
To be known to all that I (Name of the Purchaser) Sh. Sunil Kumar S/o Sh. KL Sharma R/o H. No. C-1/361, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053 has applied for conversion of the aforesaid Plot No. 361, Block C-1, situated in Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-110053 from lease hold to free hold in DDA. The original documents i.e. Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip & NOC for Electricity & Water Connection in issued by DDA of the above flat have been lost. An FIR to this effect has been lodged in Police Station Crime Branch Delhi & LR No. 2275518/2024. Any person (S) Claiming any right, interest, having any objection or found in possession of original documents may write contact with above named person at above address within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right, interest, objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dy. Director (LAB) H Director (H-1), D-Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Hem Kumar S/o Shri Babu Lal, R/o Nagla Kevak, Umara Kirar, Firzabad, Uttar Pradesh-205135 and presently R/O 287, Taria Mohla, Village Ghitoni, New Delhi-110030, declare that my daughter's real and correct name is KARISHMA but in her School Documents, her name is wrongly written as KASHAMA instead of KARISHMA.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, KUMAR SHANU S/O LATE GIRISH KUMAR R/O D-8245, SECTOR-6, ROHINI, ROHINI SECTOR-7, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110085, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as SHALU in my Birth certificate-154, Passport M8478989 and 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my mother is SHEELWATI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, DHARAM CHAND Father of No. 2897647H Rank-HAV Name-AMRIT SINGH Presently residing at VILL-TEHARKI, PO-JANDAPUR, TEH & DIST-PALLWAL, HARYANA-12102 have changed my name from DHARAM CHAND to DHARAM CHAND for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/11/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of VOICE OF AWAM PARTY. The office of the party is located at H-23 B, Garhwali Mohalla, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi-110092. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act 1951. Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows:-  
President: ISMAIL  
General Secretary: MOHD. FAHAD  
Treasurer: RAJENDER SINGH  
If any one has any objection to the registration of VOICE OF AWAM PARTY they may send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party), Election Commission of India, Nirvanchan Sadan, Ashoka Road New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of the notice.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as priya D/O Pappu Sharma, R/O H-NO -D-159 BLOCK-D, BEGUM VIHAR, BEGUM PUR, Nithari, North West Delhi, Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anita. I am unmarried.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Sunil Dharma S/O Virender Singh R/o H No. B-32 Nalanda Colony Ward No. B-12 Nalanda Colony Mohalla Kablegate Mavana Mavana PO Mavana Dist. Meerut Uttar Pradesh - 250401 have changed my name to Sunil Kumar for future purposes.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, RAHUL NAPHRRRI S/O TEJ PAL, R/O T-146/A/1, 3rd Floor, Near Lal Mandir, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, Central Delhi - 110008 declare that name of mine and my Father have been wrongly written as RAHUL and TEJPAL in my 10th & 12th Class Educational Documents and name of mine has been wrongly written as RAHUL in my Graduation Documents (Bachelors of Arts). The actual name of mine and my Father are RAHUL NAPHRRRI and TEJ PAL respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as priya D/O Pappu Sharma, R/O H-NO -D-159 BLOCK-D, BEGUM VIHAR, BEGUM PUR, Nithari, North West Delhi, Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Anita. I am unmarried.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Kamal Nagpal W/O Shailen Bhatia R/O Flat No - 184, 3rd Floor, Max Heights, Sec - 62, P.O. Rai, Distt Sonapat, Haryana - 131029, have changed my name to KAMAL BHATIA

## NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/Northern Railway, Tilak Bridge, New Delhi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single -packet system for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work and location	Provision of One meter Wide Side Pathway over 11 no's Major Bridges (Br. No. 38 (1x45.70 m), Br. No. 50 (1x45.70 m), Br. No. 100 (1x45.70 m), Br. No. 101 (1x45.70 m), Br. No. 105 (1x30.50 m), Br. No. 212 (1x61.00 m), Br. No. 239 (1x30.50 m), Br. No. 246 (1x18.30 m), Br. No. 275 (1x76.20 m), Br. No. 305 (1x61.00 m) & Br. No. 358 (1x18.30 m)] on Rohtak-Meham-Hansi new line.
1	Completion of the work	06 (Six) months
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1.48 crore only
3	Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 223900/- (Rupees Two lacs Twenty Three Thousand Nine Hundred only)
4	Date & Time for Submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tender may be uploaded up to 11.30 hrs on 03.12.2024 on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid on 11.30hrs on 03.12.2024
5	Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed tender's document will be available on IREPS Website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 13.11.2024 to 03.12.2024 and bidders will be able to offer their technical and financial bid on 19.11.2024. All other terms conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document.

Tender Notice no. - 489-ACS-C-PATHWAY-ROK-HNS-TKJ Dated 11.11.2024  
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 3496/24

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, mohd shamim S/o mohd sidqi R/O 2180 rodragan lal kuan delhi 110006 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD SHAMEEM.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, hitherto known as MOHD ANAS SAIFI alias ANAS S/O MOHD INTAZAR R/O A-81, SOM BAZAR ROAD, OLD SEEMAPURI, OLD SEEMAPURI, JHILMIL, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110095, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANAS.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, No-2897647H Rank-HAV Name-AMRIT SINGH S/O DHARM CHAND Residing at VILL-TEHARKI, PO-JANDAPUR, TEH & DIST-PALLWAL, HARYANA-12102, have changed my minor son's name from YUDHIBIR SINGH to YUDHVEER for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 11/11/2024 before Notary Public, Delhi

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
General Public at large is informed that my client Shri Sudesh Solanki S/O Shri Mahavir Singh aged about 51 years living peacefully with his family including his elder son namely Himanshu Solanki and his family at RZ-90 A, Ganga Vihar, Dindarapur, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043 and he has disowned his younger son namely Shri Sahil S/O Shri Sudesh Solanki from his all moveable and immovable properties/assets as he is misbehaving with my client and no more under the control of my client. If anybody has done, is doing or will deal with his above said younger son in any manner whatsoever, he has done the same or is doing the same or will do the same as his/her/their own risk and my client shall not be responsible for any act done by him in past as well as future and moreover will not have any sort of liability for the same.

**PULKITA NARA ADVOCATE**  
Chamber No. 325, Dwarka Courts Complex, New Delhi 110075  
Mobile: +91 9821531517

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Ramesh Kumar Behal, S/o Jagdish Chand Behal, R/o V-24 Ground Floor, Green Park Main, south delhi Hauz Khas New Delhi 110016, have changed my name to Ramesh Behal for all future purposes

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, SANDEEP SINGH S/O GURDIT SINGH R/O 2 Delhi Girls BN NCC Bhawan, Rohini Sector-19, Rohini Sector-18, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110089 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as HAV SANDEEP SINGH and GURVINDER KAUR in my minor Daughter SUMIT KAUR aged 15 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine and my wife are SANDEEP SINGH and GURVINDER KAUR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

**NAME CHANGE**  
It is for general information that I, SANDEEP SINGH S/O GURDIT SINGH R/O 2 Delhi Girls BN NCC Bhawan, Rohini Sector-19, Rohini Sector-18, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110089 declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as HAV SANDEEP SINGH and GURVINDER KAUR in my minor Son JASPREET SINGH aged 14 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine and my wife are SANDEEP SINGH and GURVINDER KAUR respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform the general public that Sh. Suresh Kumar, Sh. Rajesh Kumar, and Sh. Mukesh Kumar Soni are the GPA Holders of Property bearing Plot No. 5, land area measuring 125 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No 77, situated in the revenue estate of Village Sagarpur, East Sagarpur Colony, New Delhi - 110046. They are in possession through GPA, ATS and Will dated 17.12.2003 executed by Sh. Rattan Lal and Smt. Muni Devi in favour of Sh. Suresh Kumar, Sh. Rajesh Kumar and Sh. Mukesh Kumar Soni in respect of Said Property. Sh. Suresh Kumar, Sh. Rajesh Kumar, and Sh. Mukesh Kumar Soni intend to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned property to Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta. Subsequently, Sh. Pawan Kumar Gupta is in the process of mortgaging the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 15-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 15-days period by contacting  
Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at  
Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301;  
Landline(s): +910120-3101683,  
E-mail: accounts@lvorth.in



NEWS BOX

### US Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor has no plans to resign amid Trump's victory

**World** After the US presidential election results, talks in the legal corridors of the United States have been about resignations of liberal judges but reports suggest that Justice Sonia Sotomayor is not scheduled to resign before her term due to poll verdict. President-elect Donald Trump has warned regarding the rushed appointment of judges to the court before he is inaugurated on January 20. Justice Sotomayor, 70, is the third-oldest judge of the Supreme Court and suffers from Type-1 diabetes. Democrats have been urging Justice Sotomayor to resign as Trump returns to the White House after defeating Vice President Kamala Harris and it'll also give President Joe Biden an opportunity to appoint a younger replacement to the Supreme Court. "This is no time to lose her important voice on the court, she takes better care of herself than anyone I know," a source told the Wall Street Journal. A CNN report stated "She's in great health, and the court needs her now more than ever."

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, in an interview with NBC News, acknowledged that he has heard "little bit" about Justice Sonia Sotomayor being asked to step aside but Sanders added that such demands for Sonia to resign are not "sensible". Even if Sotomayor agrees to resign and the Biden administration plans to successfully confirm another judge as replacement before the January 20, 2025 inauguration is logistically impossible.

The average retirement age of judges in the judicial system in the United States is 75 while Sotomayor, who is 70 as of now, remains in good health and has five years in the account. Though judges in the US are appointed for life and have generally chafed at public pressure campaigns to step aside. Post inauguration, Trump may have further opportunities to reshape the Supreme Court. The two Conservative Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito are aged 76 and 74 years old respectively.

### Indian American Democratic fundraiser receives racist messages

**World** An Indian American Democratic Party fundraiser and Vice President Kamala Harris supporter has been subjected to racist and threatening mobile messages demanding his departure to India. A text message received on Sunday from an unidentified number told Ajay Jain Bhutoria: "You claim that you are doing what's best for Americans, but you aren't doing anything for Americans and you don't care about America. You are Indian. You only care about Indians. You do what's best for India. Why are you here? Stop being a beggar in America and become a leader in India."

Currently serving as the Deputy National Finance Chair DNC and National Finance Committee member for the Harris-Walz campaign, Bhutoria also holds a position as Commissioner on the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. His work has been significant in addressing various legal immigrant community concerns. Bhutoria told news agency PTI: "Trump supporters asking me to go back to India to fight for green card backlog." The text messages, some of which Bhutoria shared on social media platforms, included statements like "Stop being a beggar in America and to be a leader in India."

### Pakistan Railways suspends train services to and from Quetta station after explosion

**World.** Pakistan Railways has implemented a temporary suspension of train services to and from Quetta station, after an explosion that claimed 26 lives and injured 62 people. The suspension will be in effect from November 11 to November 14 to ensure passenger safety, according to ARY News.

Railway authorities have confirmed that Quetta railway station will cease operations during this period.

Train services will resume gradually, with the Bolan Mail operating from Karachi to Quetta on November 16, followed by its return journey to Karachi on November 18. The Jaffar Express service will commence from Peshawar to Quetta on November 14, with its return journey scheduled for November 15. Police officials confirmed that the explosion occurred during the Jaffar Express departure when the station was crowded with passengers.

Railway authorities indicated that two trains, the Chaman Passenger and Jaffar Express, were scheduled to depart from Quetta for Chaman and Peshawar respectively. Passengers for both services were present on the platform during the incident.

Prime minister Shehbaz Sharif has requested an investigation report into the incident, stating, "Terrorists will pay a heavy price for their heinous act." Interior minister Mohsin Naqvi stated that terrorists intend to create instability in Pakistan, adding, "The nation will foil their designs."

People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed his condemnation of the attack, declaring that perpetrators targeting innocent citizens warrant no mercy. "We are backing all steps to get rid of the terrorists and their facilitators," he said. Prime minister Shehbaz Sharif has requested an investigation report into the incident, stating, "Terrorists will pay a heavy price for their heinous act." Interior minister Mohsin Naqvi stated that terrorists intend to create instability in Pakistan, adding, "The nation will foil their designs." People's Party Chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed his condemnation of the attack, declaring that perpetrators targeting innocent citizens warrant no mercy. "We are backing all steps to get rid of the terrorists and their facilitators," he said. In the reopening festivities, Post-reopening, Notre Dame anticipates 14 to 15 million annual visitors, an increase from 12 million in 2017.

## Sri Lanka's President vows to stop Tamil Nadu fishermen, assures steps to return Tamil land taken by govt

**At his first rally in Jaffna since becoming president, Dissanayake said political prisoners will be freed but refrained from discussing enforced disappearances, a key issue for many seeking justice.**

**JAFFNA.** Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake, who addressed his first public meeting in Jaffna since coming to office in September, on Sunday took a firm stance against Indian fishermen "illegally" fishing in Sri Lankan waters. He also assured Tamils that their land occupied by the Sri Lankan government would be returned to them. Disanayake was in the city a day before the campaign for the Sri

Lankan parliamentary elections, scheduled for Thursday, comes to an end to canvas votes for his Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)-led National People's Power (NPP) alliance. In a well-attended meeting, he said Indian fishermen were destroying the marine resources that belong to the Tamil-populated northern region of Sri Lanka. Stating that his government will ensure that such exploitation of marine resources does not happen and will protect the rights of Sri Lankan fishermen, he asked, "Should we not?" To which the crowd responded with a resounding yes. His speech comes in the backdrop of the arrest of 23 fishermen from Rameswaram and the detention of three Indian trawlers by the Sri Lankan Navy on Sunday for illegally fishing in Lankan waters. This is the latest in a series of arrests. In a letter to the Union government on October 23, urging its intervention in the release of the fishermen, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin had pointed out that 128 fishermen and 199 boats were in Sri Lankan custody. While expectations were high on what the new president would promise to Tamils in the



north and east, who face several problems even 15 years after the end of the civil war, Disanayake made significant assurances—for the first time—on two important issues vis-à-vis land and political prisoners. He said steps would be taken to gradually return land still occupied by the Lankan government, especially the military, to the rightful owners. He also said political prisoners still lodged in prisons will be released. The two announcements drew the loudest cheers from the mostly Tamil crowd during the rally. However, the president did not speak about enforced disappearances, for which thousands of people are seeking justice in a democratic manner. Although many Tamil parties have asked the NPP to clearly spell out its stance

on a political solution for Tamils in terms of devolution of more powers, Disanayake refrained from the topic. Instead, he said his alliance will ensure "full freedom" of Tamils. Highlighting the opening of a new road that had been under military control since the war, the Sri Lankan President said such measures will be done continuously through talks with the defence department to ensure the freedom of Tamils. Elections for the provincial councils will also be conducted soon, he said.

Acknowledging the concerns Tamil people have about his alliance, he said they will be cleared through the positive measures his government will implement gradually. Disanayake's speech stressed on his alliance's broader theme of "nation building" without creating divisions between the Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims, as well as economic development and tackling corruption. He also said his government will focus on building the rural economy and tourism in the north. Stating that drug abuse had increased in northern Sri Lanka, Disanayake blamed politicians for the prevalence and said he would control it.

## Trump, Putin speak over phone, discuss ending war in Ukraine

**After winning the recent presidential elections, Trump has spoken to over 70 world leaders.**

**WASHINGTON.** US President-elect Donald Trump spoke to Russian President Vladimir Putin over the phone and discussed ending the war in Ukraine amongst many other important topics, a media report said Sunday. After winning the recent presidential elections, Trump has spoken to over 70 world leaders.

Among the firsts were Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. The two men discussed the goal of peace on the European continent and Trump expressed an interest in follow-up conversations to discuss 'the resolution of Ukraine's war

soon,' one of the people said. The Washington Post said in an exclusive report. One former U.S. official who was familiar with the Putin call said that Trump likely does not want to enter office with a fresh crisis in Ukraine prompted by Russian escalation. 'giving him the incentive to want to keep the war from worsening,' the



daily said. Trump is scheduled to be sworn in as the 47th President of the United States on January 20, 2025. Ukraine has been informed about the

Trump-Putin call. During the call, which Trump took from his resort in Florida, he advised the Russian president not to escalate the war in Ukraine and reminded him of Washington's sizable military presence in Europe, said a person familiar with the call, who, like others interviewed for this story, spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive matter. The Washington Post reported. Meanwhile, Steven Cheung, Trump communications director told PTI that they would not comment on the private calls between President-elect Trump and other world leaders. "President Trump won a historic election decisively and leaders from around the world know America will return to prominence on the world stage.

That is why leaders have begun the process of developing stronger relationships with the 45th and 47th President because he represents global peace and stability," Cheung said.

## Who gets to keep the ring if engagement's off? US court rules always the buyer

**World.** That's what the highest court in Massachusetts was asked to decide with a \$70,000 ring at the centre of the dispute. The court ultimately ruled that an engagement ring must be returned to the person who purchased it, ending a six-decade state rule that required judges to try to identify who was to blame for the end of the relationship.

The case involved Bruce Johnson and Caroline Settino, who started dating in the summer of 2016, according to court filings. Over the next year, they travelled together across the United States and to Italy. Johnson paid for the vacations and also gave Settino jewellery, clothing, shoes and handbags. Eventually, Johnson bought a \$70,000 diamond ring and in Aug 2017 asked Settino's father for permission to marry her.

Johnson said he felt like after that Settino became increasingly critical and unsupportive, including berating him and not accompanying

him to treatments when he was diagnosed with prostate cancer, according to court filings. At some point Johnson looked at Settino's cell phone and discovered a message



from her to a man he didn't know. "My Bruce is going to be in Connecticut for three days. I need some playtime," the message read. He also found messages from the man, including a voicemail in which the man referred to Settino as "cupcake" and said they didn't see enough of each other. Settino has said the man was just a friend. Johnson ended the

engagement. But ownership of the ring remained up in the air. A trial judge initially concluded Settino was entitled to keep the engagement ring, reasoning that Johnson "mistakenly thought Settino was cheating on him". An appeals court found Johnson should get the ring. In Sept, the case landed before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, which ultimately ruled that Johnson should keep the ring. In their ruling the justices said the case raised the question of whether the issue of "who is at fault" should continue to govern the rights to engagement rings when the wedding doesn't happen. More than six decades ago, the court found that an engagement ring is generally understood to be a conditional gift and determined that the person who gives it can get it back after a failed engagement, but only if that person was "without fault". Harvard Law School professor Rebecca

## Biden should resign to make Harris first woman US President, says former aide

**World** A former aide of Kamala Harris set the cat among the pigeons after suggesting that Joe Biden should resign and make his deputy the first woman President of the United States till Donald Trump takes charge on January 20, 2025. Jamal Simmons, Harris's former communications director, argued that the move would turn the tables on Trump, who defied projections to win his second term as US President. "Joe Biden has been a phenomenal president, he's lived up to so many of the promises that he's made. There is one promise left that he can fulfill: being a transitional figure," Simmons said at a show



on CNN. Simmons, who was part of Harris's team from 2022 until 2023, said the move would absolve the Vice President from having to oversee the January 6 transition of her own defeat. He (Biden) could resign the presidency in the next 30 days, make Kamala Harris the President of the United States. He could absolve her from having to oversee the transition of her own defeat," Simmons further said. Even though Trump has won the election, it will not be until January 20, 2025, that he will take charge as the President. The US Constitution provides a four-month transition time between the election and the inauguration of the next president. Interestingly, Kamala Harris will have a bitter pill to swallow as she would have to certify Trump's victory in the election on January 6. It is a rare occasion in which a vice president, who ran as a presidential candidate, will have to preside over the confirmation of their rival's win. Simmons said the move would be a moment for the Democrats to change the perspective of how the party operates. "And it would make sure, it would dominate the news, at a point where Democrats have to learn drama and transparency and do things the public wants to see," he further said.

## Young Black, Latino men say they chose Trump because of the economy and jobs. Here's how and why

**WASHINGTON.** Brian Leija, a 31-year-old small-business owner from Belton, Texas, was not surprised that a growing number of Latino men of his generation voted for Donald Trump for president this year. Leija had voted for the Republican in 2016 and 2020. Leija's rationale was simple: He said he has benefited from Trump's economic policies, especially tax cuts. "I am a blue-collar worker," Leija said. "So, tax breaks for small businesses are ideal for what I do." For DaSean Gallishaw, a consultant in Fairfax, Virginia, a vote for Trump was rooted in what he saw as Democrats' rhetoric not matching their actions. "It's been a very long time since the Democrats ever really kept their promises to what they're going to do for the minority communities," he said. Gallishaw, 25, who is Black, also voted for Trump twice before. This year, he said, he thought the former president's "minority community outreach really showed up." Trump gained a larger share of Black and Latino voters than he did in 2020, when he lost to Democrat Joe Biden, and most notably among men under

age 45, according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of more than 120,000 voters. Even as Democrat Kamala Harris won majorities of Black and Latino voters, it wasn't enough to give the vice president the White House, because of the gains Trump made. Economy and jobs made men under age 45 more open to TrumpVoters overall cited the economy and jobs as the most important issue the country faced. That was true for Black and Hispanic voters as well. About 3 in 10 Black men under age 45 went for Trump, roughly double the share he got in 2020. Young Latinos, particularly young Latino men, also were more open to Trump than in 2020. Roughly half of young Latino men voted for Harris, compared with about 6 in 10 who went for Biden. Juan Proaño, CEO of LULAC, the nation's largest and oldest civil rights organization for Hispanic Americans, said the election results make it clear that Trump's messaging on the economy resonated with Latinos. "I think it's important to say that Latinos have a significant impact in deciding who the next



president was going to be and reelected Donald Trump," Proaño said. "(Latino) men certainly responded to the populist message of the president and focused primarily on economic issues, inflation, wages and even support of immigration reform." The Rev. Derrick Harkins, a minister who has served Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York, has overseen outreach to Black American religious communities for more than a decade. He said that Trump's hypermasculine appeal worked to win over some younger men of color. "I

think that Trump with this bogus machismo has been effective amongst the young men, Black, white, Hispanic," Harkins said. "And I think unfortunately, even if it's a very small percentage, you know, when you're talking about an election like we just had it can be very impactful." Black and Latino voters' priorities changed from 2020

While about 4 in 10 young voters under 45 across racial and ethnic groups identified the economy as the top issue facing the country, older white and Latino voters were likely to also cite immigration, with about one-quarter of each saying that was the top issue. A clear majority of young Black voters described the economy as "not so good" or "poor," compared with about half of older Black voters. Majorities of Latino voters, regardless of age, said the economy is in bad shape. That belief made it more difficult for Harris to highlight the actual numbers in the economy, which show that inflation has receded dramatically, unemployment remains low and wages have risen.



## News box

### Four arrested in Thenmala moral policing case

**KOLLAM:** In a suspected case of moral policing, the Thenmala police have arrested four individuals for allegedly assaulting a young man. The suspects, identified as Sujith, Rajeev, Sibin, and Arun, have been accused of stripping Nishad, a resident of Edamon, tying him to an electric post, and assaulting him. The police have indicated that the incident stems from a family dispute between Sujith and Nishad. The police said in addition to the four arrested individuals, they are also searching for a fifth person connected to the incident. Nishad is currently receiving treatment at Punalur Taluk Hospital. According to the police, the assault occurred around 11pm on last Thursday. Nishad had arrived at his friend Pramila's house in Anoor, Thenmala, when the suspects arrived with the intent to attack him. Upon realising the presence of the assailants, Nishad attempted to flee. However, the suspects managed to overpower him, dragging him onto the road where they assaulted him with a rod and a machete. Nishad suffered injuries to his head and both legs, with his left leg being fractured. After the attack, the suspects stripped Nishad and tied him to an electric pole. They continued to assault him and filmed the ordeal, later sharing the footage on social media.

### Tracker-tagged vulture found near Kadamba Naval Base

**HUBBALLI:** A vulture, which had a GPS tracker and was found in the vicinity of the Kadamba Naval Base in Karwar of Uttara Kannada district, created a flutter on Sunday as security officials wondered whether the bird was being used for espionage purposes. But their suspicion was unfounded as the GPS tag on the bird was found to be fitted by the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS). "The vulture was tagged for research purposes and there are records that similar GPS-tagged birds flying around Karwar. Its said that the vulture had been released from the Tadoba-Andhari Tiger Reserve. The transmitter on its back bears the website address mahaforest.gov.in," a district administration official said. Naval base authorities had been tracking the bird and on Sunday, they managed to take its photos and videos and the GPS tag. Local residents along the riverbank in Karwar had taken photographs of the bird and informed naval authorities a day earlier. Naval authorities tried to catch the bird, but it flew away. Naval Base authorities are on a heightened level of alert as recently, five people, including officials and local labourers, were arrested for passing on sensitive information to enemy nations on Phase 2 of the Kadamba Naval Base and warships. Later, a drone was spotted flying over the Naval Base at night. The sighting of the bird only further pushed security officials to the edge. "The locals informed the authorities as the Kaiga nuclear power plant and the Naval Base are situated here. The Karwar police, forest department and state and central intelligence agency officials arrived at the scene. When we zoomed in on the tracker with the camera, the details on the tracker could be seen," a district official said.

### GGH Cancer Centre to get Rs 18 crore PET-CT scan and 90 more beds

**GUNTUR:** Following the overwhelming response from the cancer patients, the officials of the NATCO Cancer Care Centre, located in the Guntur Government General Hospital premises, are chalking out plans to extend services by bringing in advanced equipment and improving necessary infrastructure to cater the needs of growing patients. It may be noted that the State government has recently announced the facility as Level-1 Cancer Centre and also allotted 35,000 sq. ft land beside the existing institute to NATCO Trust for construction of an additional block, thereby increasing total bed count to 200 from 110. The government is planning to develop the facility as the State Cancer Institute. Additionally, a PET-CT scan worth Rs 18 crore will be procured for the benefit of the patients. The officials have already made an order. PET-CT scan (Positron emission tomography-computed tomography) is a nuclear medicine imaging test that is important for diagnosing, staging, treatment planning, treatment monitoring, prognosis, radiation therapy planning and detecting lymph node diseases in cancer patients. With its addition, the Guntur GGH will become the first government hospital in the State to offer these services. The 1.6-acre NATCO Cancer Care Centre boasts advanced medical equipment such as Varian Vitalbeam Linear Accelerator worth Rs 12 crore, Brachytherapy, and CT Stimulator worth Rs 5 crore, a mammography machine worth Rs 2 crore. The facility has become a one-stop solution for free cancer treatment and the centre offers services in the domains of radiation, medical and surgical oncology, nuclear medicine, and radiotherapy. It has over 25 oncology professors, assistant doctors, and junior assistant doctors providing super-specialty treatment to the patients.

## For Kerala women, migration a chance to break free

### The peer-reviewed paper written after in-depth interviews with prospective students highlights that parents, too, are driven by the social benefits of migration

**KOCHI:** Women in Kerala view migration as an opportunity to challenge patriarchal norms and pursue personal growth, including the choice of partner and age of marriage, a recent study has revealed. The study, "Middle-class Indian students: Migration recruiters and aspirations" by Anand Panamthottam Cherian of George Mason University, US, and S Irudaya Rajan from the International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMD), also highlights Kerala's migration-friendly ecosystem, where over 50% of surveyed students aspire to move abroad. Rajan, chair of the IIMD and former professor at Centre for



Development Studies (CDS), told TNIE that female students take migration as an opportunity to escape from peer and cultural pressure of getting married and having children. "Going abroad makes it easy for women to choose partners of their liking and settle as per their choice. Parents are also accommodating of the choice of partners when their girl child is abroad," he said. The peer-reviewed paper written after in-depth interviews with prospective students in Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kozhikode highlights that parents, too, are driven by the social benefits of migration, with many recognising its potential to elevate their family status. For instance, middle-class parents encourage children to migrate abroad, citing the respect and high social standing it would bring, it says. According to the study, women wish to migrate as they want to come out of the dependence they have had over the years

and to avoid surveillance from family and relatives—from going out to deciding what to wear. Many wish for a transition from a 'village girl to a cosmopolitan girl', it says.

### 'KMS 2023 supports trend of rising female migration'

"Migration helps, especially women students, acquire the ability to provide new gendered possibilities for experimenting with speech and attire. It provides agency to women in a patriarchal society in a way that facilitates their empowerment," says the study. Rajan noted that the Kerala Migration Survey (KMS) 2023 supports the trend of increasing female migration, particularly among students. The survey reveals that 54.4% of student emigrants from Kerala are males while 45.6% are females. This shows a narrower gender disparity among student emigrants compared to the overall emigrant population from Kerala, where males comprise over 80%. KMS-2023 also reveals a significant surge in student migration from Kerala, with the number almost doubling in just five years. It adds that Kerala is poised to become one of the top states in terms of students pursuing education abroad. This reflects the Kerala students' desire for high-quality education and better career opportunities. The survey estimates that 2.5 lakh student migrated from Kerala as of 2023.

### Man held for sending obscene pics to Delhi woman nine years ago

**DINDIGUL:** The cyber crime wing of Delhi police with the help of Dindigul police have arrested a 34-year-old software engineer for allegedly sending obscene pictures to a woman in New Delhi nine years ago using the SIM card of a DMK functionary. According to police, Chinna, a local functionary of DMK, lost his SIM card at a political meeting in 2015. A few weeks later, a team of police personnel from New Delhi arrived at his doorstep for allegedly sending obscene pictures using the lost SIM card to a woman living in Delhi. The police said the woman had complained about receiving messages from Chinna's number and an FIR had been filed, the police said. Chinna's advocate, who appeared at the Delhi High Court, submitted evidence of his client losing the SIM card at an event. Chinna also registered a complaint with Batlagundu police in this connection in 2015. Last week, the cyber crime wing of the Delhi police began investigating the case again. With the Dindigul police's help, they traced the SIM card to a location in Theni and arrested Hari Pradeep (34), a software engineer, from a house. He was produced before Nilakottai Judicial Magistrate (Dindigul) and sent to New Delhi for investigation.

### Software engineer

The suspect, a software engineer, allegedly sent the pics using the SIM card of Chinna, a DMK functionary in Dindigul. Chinna had lodged a complaint that he lost his SIM card at a political meet in 2015.

## Are BBMP multi-level car parks turning into white elephant?

**BENGALURU:** While parking remains a major challenge in Bengaluru, BBMP's Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP) facilities across the city, including those on JC Road and the one recently opened at Freedom Park, remain largely unused. As BBMP explores ways to boost usage, the 'low occupancy' raises broader questions about the need for such facilities, especially with all MLCPs in the city facing similar issues. Raghavendra P, a worker at the Freedom Park MLCP mentioned that the problem is especially evident during evenings and weekends when these spaces are almost entirely empty. "Many motorists continue to park illegally, without considering using the MLCPs," he said, pointing out that the facility is only making Rs 6,000 to Rs 7,000 daily, far below expectations.

Mobility Expert Professor Ashish Verma, who also heads the transportation engineering research lab at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), highlighted that MLCPs are not sustainable solutions to traffic congestion. He explained that such infrastructure projects often fail because of lack of location review. "If the MLCP location does not offer connections to key areas, it will only encourage greater use of personal vehicles, which eventually spill onto the roads, making traffic conditions worse," he said, adding that simply providing more parking spaces encourages people to continue using private vehicles rather than shifting to public transport or other alternatives. Professor Verma highlighted that the government must evaluate whether an area actually



needs an MLCP. "For example, if an MLCP is placed in a congested area like Freedom Park or JC Road, but people need to travel to another congested area like Chickpet with no proper connectivity, the facility will be pointless. Without proper links to key areas, the MLCP will likely be underused or

abandoned," he highlighted. The expert stressed that unless policies are designed to promote connectivity and prioritise mobility options, these measures will only worsen the problem. What's needed, he argued, is a comprehensive mobility strategy that reduces dependence on private cars and focuses on improving public transport and other sustainable solutions.

Parking problems should be solved by demand management interventions - managing how many people need parking - rather than supply side interventions like creating more parking spaces. The real issue is traffic movement, so focusing on reducing the number of cars on the road and encouraging better public transportation options is key, the mobility expert added.

## Madras High Court orders action plan to stop sewage flow into Thamirabarani river

**TIRUNELVELI:** Coming down heavily on officials over ineffective water treatment systems, Justices G.R. Swaminathan and B. Pugalendi of the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, after inspecting multiple locations along the Thamirabarani River, ordered Collector K.P. Karthikeyan to submit a comprehensive action plan within a week to stop the flow of sewage into the river. During the inspection of locations where the Tirunelveli Corporation discharges untreated sewage into the river, Amicus Curiae T. Arul informed the judges that the Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) built at various locations along the riverbed were ineffective.

In response, Corporation Commissioner N.O. Sukhaputra stated that the administration would construct a mini



sewage treatment plant to prevent sewage from mixing with the river until all phases of the underground sewage system (UGSS) are completed.

The judges questioned the delay in completing the UGSS and expressed concern over the alarming situation in the Thamirabarani River. In a statement, the civic body explained, "The Tirunelveli

Corporation covers an area of 108 sq. km and serves a population of about 5.65 lakh. In 2007, the corporation completed Phase 1 of the UGSS, providing connections to 27,322 households. Waste from these households is currently treated at the 24-MLD Ramayanpatti STP.

Phase 2 of the UGSS is scheduled for completion by March 2025, and Phase 3 by September 2025. Once operational, treated water from the Ramayanpatti STP will be supplied to industries in SIPCOT. The Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB) classifies the Thamirabarani River as Grade B, meaning that the water needs treatment before it is safe for drinking. The judges carried out the inspection as part of a hearing in a case filed by writer Kamarasu from Muthalankurichi in 2018. Local MP C. Robert Bruce and other officials were also present.

## Mango kernel deaths: A bitter cost of hunger and failing governance

**MANDIPANKA (KANDHAMAL):** The scar left by the death of two women after consuming mango kernel is starkly visible in Mandipanka village of Kandhamal district. The village atmosphere is unusually silent despite the rush of administration officials, politicians, NGOs and activists after the October 31 tragedy, which has brought back the haunting memories of the infamous 2001 Rayagada district incident, when 24 tribals had succumbed under similar situation. On the path in front of the asbestos-roofed house of Anil Patamajhi stand two plastic chairs covered in white sheets with garlanded photographs of both the victims on them. A few feet away, Anil struggles to tend to his six-month-old daughter, who has just lost her mother with grandmother battling the consequences at MKCG Medical College and Hospital in Berhampur.

On October 31, his wife Ramita (28) and a neighbour Runu Majhi (30) died while six others were hospitalised after they consumed the fatal gruel. Though three of the six injured, including Anil's sister-in-law have been discharged after treatment, his mother is still admitted at MKCG MCH and two other neighbours at SCB Medical



College and Hospital in Cuttack. "This mango kernel took the life of my wife. Had there been sufficient rice, we would not have consumed the mango kernel gruel," said Anil Patamajhi pointing his finger towards the leftover kernels kept in a polythene carry bag. Describing the fateful day, he said, Runu had recooked the leftover gruel kept in open for two-three days and distributed among the women members of the three families. "We had taken fermented water rice while the children had gone to Anganwadi centre where they had food. This saved our and the children's lives," he said.

### Delay in PDS supply led to the tragedy

The Mandipanka incident underscores the dire food insecurity faced by tribal communities. The families turned to

mango kernel gruel as they had no rice left with them. While the state government provides free 5 kg rice per person, the quantity falls woefully short for many households, particularly the marginalised and small landholding tribal communities who sustain only on rice as they have no means to get other food. Delay in PDS supply is frequent while exclusion of members from the ration card compounds their woes. The tribal families in the village had got rice in July for the July-September quarter and were supposed to get the October-December quarter rice in October. But this time the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare department delayed the supply for about a month owing to indecision over supply of wheat along with rice and updation/integration of point of sales (PoS) machines and digital weighing machines. "We got the rice two days after the death of my wife. The rice we had received in July lasted only a month. We managed for the next three months with whatever was left from our own grown paddy. We were a family of five, but got only 20 kg of rice as my wife's name had not been included in the card. We eat at least a kilo of rice daily.

## Andhra Pradesh govt to table budget for last quarter of FY25 on November 11

**VIJAYAWADA:** The State government is set to table the budget for the last four months of the financial year 2024-25 (December-March) in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) will decide the duration of the Assembly session. After getting approval from the State Cabinet on Monday, Minister of Finance Payyavula Keshav will present the budget in the Assembly. According to sources, the outlay of the full-fledged budget is expected to be between Rs 2.7 lakh crore and Rs 2.9 lakh crore, with a focus on covering expenditures for the last quarter of the current fiscal year. Allocations for welfare programmes and promises made in the election manifesto, including the Super Six guarantees, are likely to be announced. Budgetary provisions will also be made for Deepam 2.0 scheme, which was launched on Diwali day (October 31). Additionally, significant allocations are expected for Amaravati, Polavaram, and other crucial infrastructure projects. Ahead of the elections, the previous government, led by YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, had introduced a vote-on-account with an outlay of Rs 2.86 lakh crore. A sum of Rs 1,09,052 crore was approved for the period from April to July.

An ordinance was promulgated on July 31, allowing the TDP-led NDA government to allocate funds for four months from August 1 to November 30. With an outlay of Rs 1.29 lakh crore, the Andhra Pradesh Appropriation (Vote-on-Account No. 2) Ordinance, 2024 covered grants allocated to 40 government departments. Besides the budget, key bills, including Land Grabbing Act (Prohibition) 1982 Repeal Bill, AP Judicial Preview Act Repeal Bill, new Land Grabbing (Prohibition) 2024 Bill, are likely to be tabled during the Assembly session.

### Land grabbing, other bills likely to be introduced

The new bill to prevent land grabbing was discussed at length during the recent Cabinet meeting. The Council of Ministers have asserted that the new Act will be a landmark in the annals of the State.

Post the Cabinet meeting, Revenue Minister Anagani Satyaprasad had stressed that the new Act will safeguard lands belonging to the rightful owners. He had observed that as the value of lands in the State increased, land grabbers and encroachers also increased. It has been learnt that since the new government took over, 80% of the complaints received by the Revenue Department were related to land.



## The permanence of our loss

Much like how vaccines work, loss too operates, though just a bit differently. Once you have taken a vaccine, the next time your body senses the disease, it knows the drill. Just a bit similarly yet differently, once you have gone through loss, the next time you witness loss, your body recognises it, even though it does not ever learn to deal with it. Loss bruises you again, and you learn to sense loss, every time. The stalwart Dr Bibek Debroy died last week, and he had penned his obituary four days before he passed away, which was published in a national daily. The news of his passing made me feel a profound sense of what Dr Debroy terms 'social loss', but it was definitely reading his self-obituary that catapulted me into feeling loss at its very atomic form. While I did not know Dr Debroy personally, I do know loss personally, for it is a shared feeling, though it looks different to and for each of us — much like living, we all know what it is to live, though in our own ways. While reading Dr Debroy's note, I was spurred into exploring my detachment with life, for two of Dr Debroy's thoughts echoed consistently — whether on his possible passing away permanent loss will accrue (except one personal loss), and his concluding sentence on whether the mind will or can heal from the experience undergone.

On loss, Dr Debroy wrote, 'not much social loss', 'possible private loss', finally concluding with 'no permanent loss'. And so I wonder, what is loss, beyond the dictionary? Is loss just the future loss of the social value we create, the networks we might have enriched in the future? Is loss quantified as the missing ideas that someone would have ideated had life not been cut short? Is loss seen as the empty seat at the dining table that speaks of the love that once flowed? Is the absence of grieving an indicator of the impermanence of loss? I borrow ink from CS Lewis and Madeleine L'Engle who called the death of a beloved 'an amputation'. You indeed feel like you have lost a limb when you lose someone you love. The pain, searing at first, persistent yet fading as time passes, and as the months go by, the dull ache of loss, the bottomless pit in your being that talks of your loss, all the time. The loss is permanent but you learn to live with the loss. Does it mean the loss is lost? Maybe not. We are so adept at adapting, we learn. Yet, the loss is potentially permanent. You cannot tell someone to stop missing their arm, or their leg, you cannot tell someone to stop missing someone they loved. Like the vaccine response, my muscle memory invokes my sense of personal loss on losing my father. As we step out of the festive season, for one going through the loss of a loved one, this time of the year is that intrusive thought that keeps scraping off the scab every time, and any hopes of living with a healed scar are lost. And so was it for us as a family, this year.

Navigating a melange of emotions, my mind was occupied with what Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, in her deeply felt memoir 'Notes on Grief', wrote, "I am writing about my father in the past tense, and I cannot believe I am writing about my father in the past tense". This sentence remained with me ever since, for this parting sentence of the book carves an abyss so deep where even silence does not reach. I realised I will choke if I told myself the meaning of Chimamanda's sentence, and so I just read it like it is, literally. Is this loss not permanent? I have learnt to live with the loss of my father whom I loved dearly, but is routine akin to forgetting? I affirm, no. If Chimamanda could not bear the thought of writing about her father in the past tense, was loss really impermanent? Dr Debroy concluded his note wondering whether the mind will or can heal from the experience undergone. This nudged me to think whether the very act of writing our own obituary can be termed as an inflexion point in the trajectory of our lives, for a self-obituary is not just a reflection on how we lived life, but a blueprint of how we intend to live life. Dr Debroy spoke with detachment of the vast body of work he leaves behind, but the intangible aspects of loss and detachment are what he leaves for us to think. What if we write our own obituaries at some point in our lives, will we be able to add meaning to the years lived, and the moments to be lived? Dr Debroy, in writing your obituary, you have etched the permanence of our loss.

## The fascinating world of agama, the reclusive lizard

Lizards have long suffered from an undeserved negative image in popular culture

Walking in the high mountains or lush tropical forests, often a splash of bright colour or a sudden movement catches the eye, and more often than not, it turns out to be an agama, quietly basking in its surrounding, still as a statue or scurrying across to safety at great speed, scared out of its reverie by an intruder. The diverse world of reptiles is often overshadowed by fear and misunderstanding, yet it holds creatures that are crucial to the delicate balance of our ecosystem. Among these are the agamas — a family of small to medium-sized lizards belonging to the family agamidae, widespread in Asia, Africa and Australia. Known for their sturdy build, powerful legs and a range of vibrant colours, they are highly adaptable creatures, occupying a wide range of habitats from deserts and mountains to rainforests, and often close to human settlements as well. Despite being cold-blooded or ectothermic like most reptiles, unable to regulate their body temperature internally and relying on external sources of heat, they can survive at an elevation up to 5,000m.

Agile hunters of insects and other small invertebrates like ants, termites and beetles, they play an important role in controlling their populations in the ecosystem. Some species that consume plants and fruits also play an important role in seed dispersal.

India is home to a fascinating variety of agamid species, each uniquely adapted to the country's diverse climates and landscapes. Some well-known species include the Himalayan Rock Agama (paralaudakia Himalayana), Peninsular Rock Agama (psammophilus dorsalis), Fan-throated Lizard (Sitana ponticeriana) and the commonly seen Oriental Garden Lizard (calotes versicolor), each with their own unique appearance and ecological role. Agamas possess a fascinating array of physical and behavioural adaptations that make them unique. One of the most captivating aspects of these lizards is their ability to change colour, especially in response to different environmental and social stimuli. The Oriental Garden Lizard, for example, displays a striking red colouration during the breeding season, with dominant males often showing off this brilliant hue to attract mates or warn rivals while the Fan-throated Lizard does the same with a thin flap of skin called a gular appendage between its throat and abdomen. This colour-changing ability is not only visually remarkable but also serves as a form of communication within the species. At the same time, they are masters of



camouflage as well, blending seamlessly into their surroundings. Despite their ecological value, agamas face a number of threats that jeopardise their population and the larger ecosystems they support. Habitat loss is a major issue, as urbanisation, deforestation and agricultural expansion encroach upon the natural habitats where they thrive. Many species such as the Peninsular Rock Agama rely on specific rocky or arid environments that are increasingly being destroyed or fragmented by human activities. As natural habitats shrink, agamas are forced into smaller, fragmented areas, which can lead to decreased genetic diversity and increased vulnerability to environmental changes.

Climate change further exacerbates these threats by disrupting the delicate environmental cues that guide agamas' breeding, feeding and hibernation patterns. Rising temperatures, altered rainfall patterns and the increasingly erratic availability of food can place tremendous stress on these small lizards, leaving them vulnerable to population decline. Another significant threat is human hostility rooted in misunderstanding. Lizards, in general, have long suffered from an undeserved negative

image in popular culture, with many people associating them with danger or disease. Agamas are no exception, often viewed with fear or disgust, and people go to great lengths to remove them from homes, gardens and public spaces.

In reality, agamas are shy, reclusive creatures that avoid human contact, making them unlikely to harm anyone. The simple act of allowing agamas to coexist peacefully actually offers effective pest control in our surroundings without the need for harmful pesticides or insecticides.

Promoting a greater appreciation for agamas and reptiles, in general, is essential, not only for their preservation, but also for the overall health of ecosystem. Educational initiatives that raise awareness about their harmlessness to humans and importance in the ecosystem can go a long way in dispelling misconceptions. Simple actions — such as letting agamas coexist in gardens and parks within cities — can allow them to continue their ecological functions while enthralling us with their vibrant social behaviours. Agamas remind us of the intricate and delicate web of life that sustains our planet, and it is up to us to protect and cherish every thread.

## All over for Jet Airways

Australia for ban on social media access

THE prolonged ordeal of Jet Airways' creditors, employees and other stakeholders is set to end as the Supreme Court has ordered the liquidation of the grounded air carrier's assets. The court set aside the contentious decision of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), which had upheld the resolution plan and approved the transfer of the airline's ownership to the winning bidder, Jalan Kalrock Consortium. The latter's failure to meet its financial obligations, which included pumping Rs 350 crore into the moribund airline and paying Rs 226 crore in employee salaries, sounded the death knell for Jet Airways. The revival plan never took off in the absence of requisite funding. After GoFirst, Jet has become the second major airline in India to be liquidated under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC). This is disheartening news for the country that prides itself on



having the third-largest domestic aviation market in the world, after the US and China. The shrinking number of

players in the civil aviation sector is a matter of concern. Timely course correction is a must to pull financially stressed airlines back from the brink.

The court has rightly highlighted the need for stricter adherence to the IBC, which was enacted in 2016 by the Union Government as an "effective deterrent against unscrupulous borrowers". The most important lesson from the Jet fiasco is that insolvency resolution should be done in a time-bound manner so that lenders don't have to wait for years for loan recovery. The decisions of appellate bodies such as the NCLAT should be marked by consistency as well as transparency. Defaulting bidders who try to pass the buck must be taken to task. The long-term success of the government's regional air connectivity scheme, UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik), hinges on giving ailing airlines a new lease of life.

## Consumer Rights: Diagnostic centres liable for negligence

Given the increasing dependence of medical professionals on a variety of scans for diagnosing ailments and abnormalities, any negligence on part of a scanning centre or a radiologist could play havoc with the physical and mental well-being of the victim...

Given the increasing dependence of medical professionals on a variety of scans for diagnosing ailments and abnormalities, any negligence on part of a scanning centre or a radiologist could play havoc with the physical and mental well-being of the victim and the family. A recent order of the apex consumer court in Shrivari Sono Scans vs Sureshan highlights one such case where a resident of Kasargod in Kerala had to undergo a series of unnecessary tests and suffer immense anxiety, thanks to an erroneous report given by a diagnostic centre. It all began with TM Sureshan consulting a doctor for a stomach ache, way back in 2019. The abdominal and pelvic scan showed such serious complications in the liver and gall bladder that the doctor advised treatment from a specialist. Two days later, Sureshan travelled 100 km to Mangalore and consulted doctors at the Kasturba Medical College. Further tests carried out showed no abnormality. A repeat scan showed the first scan to be false. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission here upheld the order of the lower commissions awarding compensation of Rs 25,000 and costs of Rs 3,000 to Sureshan.

There have been instances where the consequences have been extremely grave. In Udayan vs Imaging Point, failure of the ultrasound scans to detect foetal anomalies denied the parents an option to terminate the pregnancy and prevent lifelong suffering for the child and themselves. The scanning centre argued that diagnosing genetic anomalies required a level 2 scan or a target scan, which neither the gynaecologist nor the patient asked for. All four scans were basic scans that could not detect such abnormalities. After referring the issue to an expert panel from the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, the commission



held the gynaecologist as well as the radiologist guilty of negligence. Considering that the patient was 37 years old and suffered from gestational diabetes, the doctor should have asked for a target scan but failed to do so. The radiologist, too, had an ethical and legal duty to take the history of the patient, ascertain the gestational age and perform the relevant ultrasound scan, which he failed to do. Besides, limb anomalies such as presence or absence of arms, legs and feet should be checked in all standard obstetric ultrasound examinations performed in the second trimester and documented by the radiologist. The report of the scanning centre did not comment on the limbs at all, the commission observed. It directed the doctor and the scanning centre to jointly and severally pay Rs 1.25 crore as compensation and Rs 1 lakh as cost (May 25, 2022, case filed in 2009).

Last year, the Kerala State Commission awarded a compensation of Rs 50 lakh, with 8 per cent interest calculated from the date of complaint (2015) in a

similar case. Here again, the baby was born with no lower limbs and hips but several scans done during the pregnancy did not reveal this. The commission held the doctors guilty of negligence for not recommending a level 2 scan and the hospital that conducted the scans equally liable for routinely reporting the increase in the length of the femur in every report, while the baby did not have legs at all. (Jayesh JR vs St Luke Hospital). Given the enormous

financial burden such negligence puts on the victims and the mental pain they undergo, consumer justice should be quick and compensation fully commensurate with the suffering. Unfortunately, in all these cases, the final orders have taken years, exacerbating the victims' suffering. Award of steep punitive damages by consumer courts and strict disciplinary action by the regulator are also necessary to prevent such carelessness by diagnostic centres.

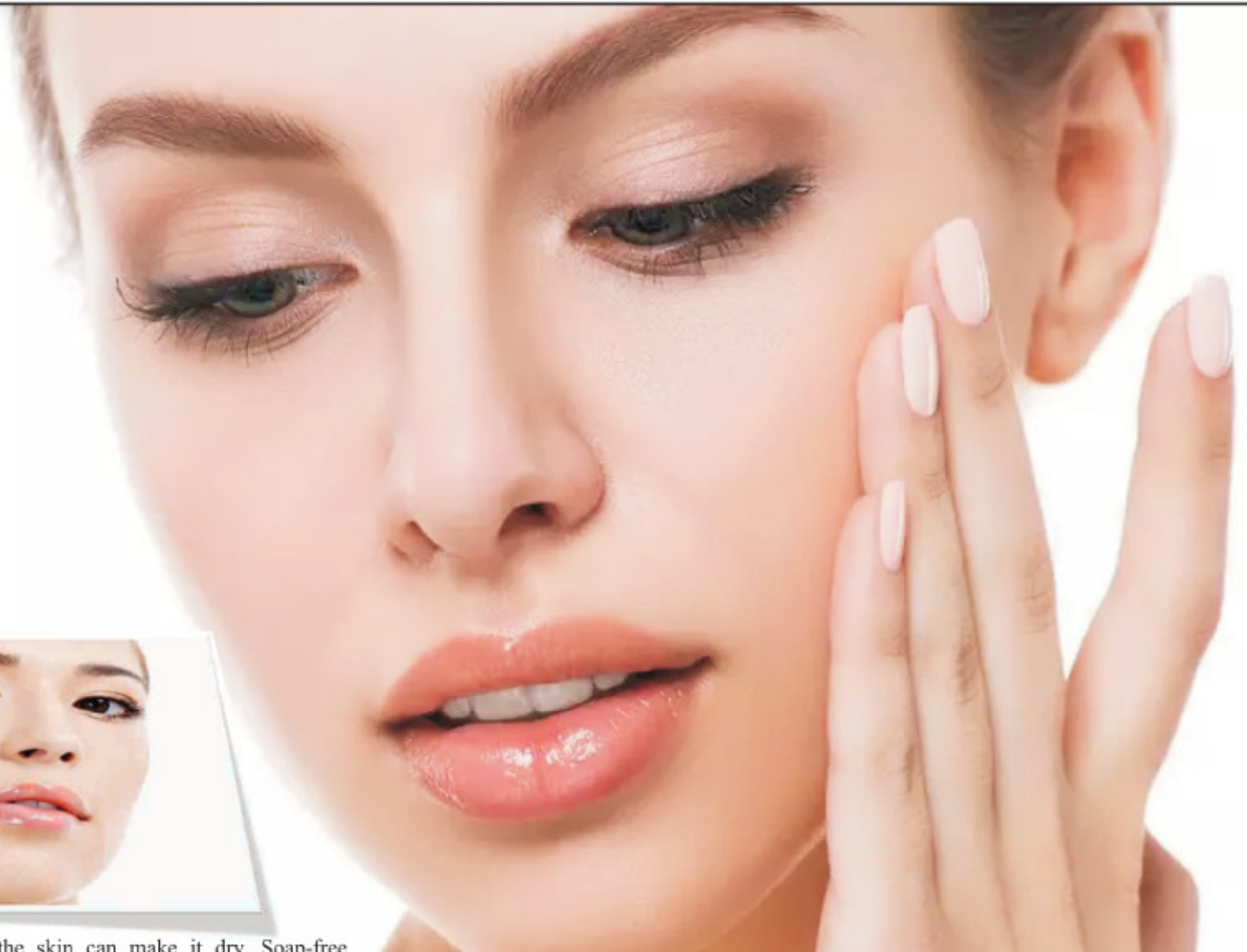
## Simple lessons learnt well

I am writing this column days after the momentous US presidential election results. Enough has been written about them for us to be able to see the deep fault lines between the 'woke', left-leaning academic elite and the rest of middle-class America. I am, perhaps, not the only Indian who sees a similar divide here between our two main political groupings.

So, let me make this more personal. Our family moved to Allahabad in 1963 from Nainital, and it seemed to us hillbillies like no other town we knew. Perhaps, this was because we saw and savoured many new sights and sounds in a 'big city' for the first time. Vegetables such as tinda (which I first thought were raw tomatoes), parval and kundru were discoveries to us simple pahari folk nourished on greens, radish and many varieties of gobhi till then. This was also the time when I became aware that as a young girl, there were certain places that were never to be visited because these were 'unsafe'. Large swathes of the city areas with evocative names — Muthiganj, Alopi

Bagh, Attarsuiya — were declared out of bounds, so that we spent years in Allahabad without ever going there. Once, during the 1966 Kumbh Mela, my two older sisters and I were allowed to go all alone to spend a night at the camp of the mela officer (an uncle). Moving unescorted among the crowds late in the night, bathing in the Ganga the next morning and changing into dry clothes in full public view was the closest we ever came to skinny-dipping and flashing, I think. How we savoured every moment of freedom because it was so hard to wrest from parents who guarded their daughters like gold! Perhaps, the greatest lesson we all received was to deal creatively with boredom. One of these was writing letters to each other. My friend Harini and I wrote to each other every week after her parents were transferred to another town. Often, we had to use three envelopes because there were too many sheets to stuff into one or two. We had also devised a code so that no one could decipher our secrets.





**Picking the wrong sunscreen, using harsh soaps and changing dermatology products frequently are some of the common mistakes women commit when it comes to caring for their skin. Avoid them to attain a healthy skin, says an expert.**

Sonia Mangal, medical director at Myra Skin & Hair Solutions here, has several suggestions in this regard:

- \* Inappropriate selection of a sunscreen: Sun exposure is one of the main reasons for visible signs of ageing. A two percent increase in skin damage can age a face by three years. Choose a sunscreen with good UVA protection and a SPF of 30.
- \* Ignoring sunscreen in winter or monsoon or in cars: UVA light is not filtered by the window glass of your car (except the tinted glass). Also 50 percent of the exposure to UVA occurs even in the shade. So make sunscreen your best friend and make sure to wear it all round the year, even while working indoors.
- \* Using harsh soaps: Use of harsh soaps



on the skin can make it dry. Soap-free products are ideal for sensitive skin as they tend to be less harsh and drying.

\* Inadequate sleep: Lack of sleep can cause your body to release the stress hormone leading to lusterless skin, fine lines and under eye dark circles. Take adequate sleep and follow a regular sleeping cycle for a healthy and glowing skin.

\* Insufficient water intake: Your skin is made up of cells which in turn are made up of water. Inadequate water intake makes the skin dry and flaky. Dry skin has less pliability and is more prone to wrinkling.

\* Wrong selection of products: Never buy a product going by an advertisement or celebrity endorsement. A skin product should be bought after ascertaining that it is appropriate for your skin type



# Common Skincare mistakes women make

and needs.  
\* Being impatient towards the results of good products: A big no-no is changing dermatology products every fortnight anticipating miraculous results. The best of the products also require a minimum of two to three months to afford visible results on your skin.

\* Casual attitude in consulting the dermatologist: Don't worsen your rashes, allergies or acne breakouts by applying over-the-counter products. Consult your dermatologist at the earliest.  
\* Inadequate diet: Incorporate vitamin C, omega 3 fatty acids and other antioxidants in your diet for a younger looking and firmer skin.

## How to get rid of dark elbows

Dark elbows are always a cause of worry for those who do not know how to lighten the skin around the area. However, it is not a difficult task at all. All you need to do at home is ensure that you are constantly caring for it. Here are a few treatments that you can follow.

### Cucumber and papaya paste

This works wonders. Most beauticians recommend using a combination of cucumber and papaya paste on your elbows at least once or twice during the week, depending on how dark your elbows are.

### Honey and chandan

You can try using a mix of honey and chandan (sandalwood) at least once in two weeks to keep



your elbows clear and healthy. This mix will make sure that it keeps dead skin cells away from your elbows by exfoliating the area and also nourishing it.

### Besan (gram flour) and yogurt

For those who would like to do a daily treatment on their elbows, choose a mix of besan and curd and apply it on the area for a good half an hour. You will notice that within a few days your skin around the elbows have become much clearer and the area also looks healthy and moisturised.

### Stay hydrated

Though it may seem strange, but body parts mostly dry out when you do not have enough water. H2O keeps your body nourished and also helps retain the moisture in your skin.

## Make-up guide to wearing any Lip colour right

th celebrity pouts glowing green and blue, we show you how to take this red carpet trend into your own make-up looks

### Red

Classic and always trending, red is best worn with jet black liquid eyeliner and liberal coats of mascara. However, try keeping the focus only on the lips. Keep your skin natural and dewy with sheer foundation. Ditch the blush and eyeliner and just swipe on a few coats of mascara.

### Pink

Baby pink looks great on paler skin tones while deep pink is great if you have dusky skin. To avoid looking too girly, try monochromatic makeup. Use eye, lip and cheek colours in different shades and

textures of pink. The trick works with almost every skin tone.

### Purple

The colour is so rich and vibrant, it's best to have subdued make-up on the rest of the face. Sheer-coverage foundation and soft eye make-up will let blue take centre stage. A light dusting of coral blush will complement the deep lipstick hue.

### Gold

Although unusual, shades of yellow gold can lend a high-fashion feel to your beauty look. Reach for a high-coverage foundation to create a flawless base. Says makeup artist Clint Fernandes, "On the eyes, play up the energy of the lip colour by

drawing a cat-eye and then tracing over the top of the black line with a white liner pencil to create a dual look."

### Green

Whether applied lightly for a sheer look or slicked on heavily for a dramatic effect a la Rihanna, green looks gorgeous. Since the shade tends to hide your natural lip colour, pair it with pink and red hues on the cheeks and eyes. "This will bring back



you r natural flush to other areas of the face," says makeup artist Priya Kapur.

### Orange

The colour complements a sun-kissed glow. When going for an orange lip, apply bronzer wherever the sun would naturally hit your face — on the forehead, highest points of the cheekbones, point of the nose, chin, and shoulder — to warm up the skin. Sweep pink blush on the apples of your cheeks for a natural warmth and balance.

### Silver

This fantasy metallic shade is perfect for

dramatic eye make-up. Stick on a set of false eyelashes using make-up glue. A pop of pink blush add drama to the look, while balancing out the cool metallic effect of the lip colour.

### Blue

Blue has the ability to make your teeth appear whiter. Keep it simple when wearing blue lipstick by framing the eyes with a thin line of liquid eyeliner and using a sheer, tinted moisturiser. Says makeup artist Poonam Rawat, "The more discreet the rest of your make-up is, the better."

### Black

Take away its goth associations, and the colour black gets sophisticated. Keep the skin natural in coverage and finish. Pair the dark hue with a diffused smokey eye and surprise people who expect bold eyeliner.



# 'Sky Is Just The Beginning': Vistara Bids Goodbye

New Delhi: The song 'Kal Ho Na Ho' played as Vistara's Goa-Bengaluru flight landed at its destination on Sunday, invoking nostalgia among crew and members a day before the carrier's time in the Indian aviation landscape was to come to an end.



The full-service carrier Vistara, which is a 51:49 per cent joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines, is all set to merge with Air India on November 12. In an Instagram post, the airline said, "As the plane ascends, so do our dreams; let's glide toward the future, where the sky isn't the limit, but just the beginning."

### Why Is Vistara Merging With Air India?

Singapore's flagship carrier announced a plan to merge the decade-old Vistara and Tata-owned Air India in November 2022, in a bid to create a dominant full-service airline in the domestic and international markets. The merger process, however, was anything but smooth, with problems like pilot shortages causing widespread flight cancellations and Vistara crew protesting over plans to align their salary structures with Air India plying to be hurdles. As the merger concludes on Monday, Vistara's 49 per cent owner Singapore Airlines will have a 25.1 per cent stake in Air India. Singapore Airlines will

make an additional investment of ₹ 3,194.5 crore in Tata Group-owned airline.

### How Is Air India Orchestrating The Transition For Fliers?

Air India has deployed additional resources, including help desk kiosks, at touch points and airports to ensure a smooth experience for Vistara passengers. There will be "customer support staff wearing 'How may I assist you?' Air India x Vistara branded t-shirts for support". The staff will work with airport security to guide customers with old Vistara tickets to the nearest help desk or to Air India customer support staff and deploy advisory on self-service kiosks. In due course, Vistara airport ticketing offices and check-in terminals will become that of Air India. Vistara aircraft will be identified by a

special four-digit Air India code beginning with the digit '2'. Over the last few months, 2,70,000 customers who had booked Vistara flights have been migrated to Air India, and more than 4.5 million Vistara loyalty programme members are being migrated to Air India's loyalty programme. Further, customers calling the Vistara contact centre will be automatically directed to Air India representatives, who will ensure a seamless experience during this transition. The integrated entity will have a fleet of more than 200 planes, offering connectivity to 90 domestic and international destinations. Air India's narrowbody fleet continues to be upgraded with new aircraft being delivered, legacy aircraft being refitted with entirely new interiors and Vistara's catering now also extended to Air India. Air India's widebody fleet has also been augmented with the entry of six A350 aircraft that have started to fly between Delhi and London, and Delhi and New York, the airline said. In the first month after the merger, nearly 1,15,000 passengers who had purchased Vistara tickets pre-merger are expected to fly on unified Air India.

### A Managerial Reshuffle

Vistara chief executive officer Vinod Kanan, who has also been holding the role of Chief

Integration Officer for the merger of the two entities, will continue in the latter role post-merger. Besides, he will be a member of the management committee and report directly to Air India CEO Campbell Wilson, a company statement said.

Deepak Rajawat, Chief Commercial Officer of Vistara will take up the position of Chief Financial Officer at the low-cost arm Air India Express, reporting to its chief executive officer Alok Singh and also support Air India Group CFO Sanjay Sharma in strategic initiatives and projects. Meanwhile, Vikas Agarwal, the current CFO of Air India Express, will move to a new role in Air India. Senior vice president for flight operations at Vistara Hamish Maxwell has assumed an advisory role to Air India Express CEO Alok Singh while Pushpinder Singh, Chief Operations Officer of Air India Express, returns to flying, as per the statement. A successor for Singh will be announced in due course. Deepa Chadha and Vinod Bhatt, senior vice president HR & Corporate Affairs and Chief Information Officer of Vistara respectively, will take on senior roles at other Tata group companies, the statement said adding that Vistara CFO Niyant Maru, who had continued beyond his superannuation date to see through the completion of the merger, will retire at the end of his current term.

## Justice Sanjiv Khanna takes oath as 51st Chief Justice of India

A large number of activists, mainly from the Hindu Sikh Global Forum, gathered outside the High Commission of Canada in Delhi on Sunday to protest against the recent attacks on Hindu temples in Canada.

New Delhi: Justice Sanjiv Khanna took oath as the 51st Chief Justice of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday, following the retirement of his predecessor, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud. President Droupadi Murmu administered the oath of office to Justice Khanna at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijju, Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar, former Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, and other important personages. Justice Khanna's name was recommended by Justice Chandrachud, who retired from the post on November 10 at the age of



65. He will serve as the Chief Justice till May 13 next year.

Born on May 14, 1960, Justice Sanjiv Khanna studied law at the Campus Law Centre of Delhi University. He was a third-generation lawyer before being appointed as judge of the Delhi High Court. He also served as the executive chairman of the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA). Justice Khanna was appointed to the Supreme Court in January 2019. During his tenure as a top court judge, he headed the benches of several politically sensitive cases, including hearing the bail applications of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the liquor policy case. In a decision described as one-of-its-kind, Justice Khanna's bench granted interim bail to Kejriwal in May, specifically for campaigning during the Lok Sabha elections. The bench referred the case to a larger bench and granted interim bail to the former Delhi chief minister again in July, to explore the need for additional grounds for arrest under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) to prevent misuse of the law. As part of the Constitution Bench, Justice Khanna has also contributed to several judgments, including the revoking of Article 370 and the electoral bonds case. Justice Khanna's bench also dealt with issues related to the electronic voting machines (EVMs) and Voter Verified Paper Audit Trails (VVPATs).

## Navy to test new anti-ship ballistic missile with 1,000 km range soon

New Delhi: India will test its new anti-ship ballistic missile, which will be able to strike targets at a range of over 1,000 km in a major step towards bolstering firepower of the defence forces. The missile test is scheduled to be held in the next few days, which would be done from the eastern coast of the country, top sources told. The missile system will help the Navy to create a strong inventory of ballistic missiles, which are being used by countries engaged in conflicts. The missiles would enable the Navy to hit targets from both surface ships and shore-based locations.

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is also making hypersonic missiles for the defence forces. The decision to create a rocket force is aimed at strengthening India's medium-range striking capability, a feature already possessed by neighbouring countries Pakistan and China. As per the authorities, the Pralay missiles, which are currently being mass-produced, are expected to be ready for operational service soon.

These missiles, powered by a solid-propellant rocket motor and equipped with other novel technologies, have a range of 150 to 500 kilometres. The rocket force project would provide a significant boost to the armed forces' efforts to develop a strategic rocket force. The forces have been working on the creation of a rocket force to counter border threats.

## "Blatant Lie": 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs Say Never Met Manipur Chief Minister Since May 2023

New Delhi: The 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs in Manipur who have been calling for a separate administration carved out of the state in a statement on Monday termed as a "blatant lie" a top government lawyer's submission to the Supreme Court that Chief Minister N Biren Singh has been meeting all "Kuki MLAs" in an effort to bring peace. In a statement signed by the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs including Paolienlal Haokip, who is a fierce critic of Biren Singh, the MLAs said they came to know that during a Supreme Court hearing on November 8, the Solicitor General of India submitted that the "Chief Minister is meeting all Kuki MLAs and [is] trying to bring the [Manipur] situation down to get peace." "The MLAs said the top government lawyer's submission was "a blatant lie and tantamount to misleading the Supreme Court" as they have not met the Manipur Chief Minister in the last 18 months - since ethnic violence broke out between the valley-dominant Meitei community and the Kuki tribes dominant in some hill areas of Manipur.

"We further clarify that we have never had any meeting with Chief Minister, Shri N Biren Singh since May 3, 2023, nor have any intention to meet him in future as he is the mastermind behind the violence and ethnic cleansing of our people from Imphal valley, which is continuing till today, the latest being the brutal killing and burning of Mrs Zosangkim Hmar on November 7, 2024," the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs said in the statement. A woman from the Meitei community, Sapam Sophia Leima, who was working in her low-lying paddy field in Bishnupur district, was also shot dead by suspected Kuki militants from the nearby foothills on Saturday. Some Manipur MLAs had visited Delhi in October to attend a meeting called by the Intelligence Bureau and monitored by Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Those among the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs who attended the meeting had held separate sessions with Home Ministry officials, and not with the other MLAs.

Monday's statement from the 10 Kuki-Zo MLAs came after the Supreme Court on Friday directed a Kuki organisation to submit material to indicate authenticity of some leaked audio clips on the basis of which the organisation had filed a petition seeking a court-monitored special investigation team (SIT) probe into the alleged role of the Manipur Chief Minister in the ethnic violence. The tapes have been submitted to a Commission of Inquiry formed by the Home Ministry.

## Even Ganga's Originating Point Is Polluted, Green Tribunal Told

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal has been informed that according to an Uttarakhand government's report on pollution in Ganga, even the "originating point" of the pious river is polluted by sewage treatment plant (STP) discharge. The submission was made during the proceedings about the prevention and control of pollution in Ganga in Uttarakhand. The tribunal had earlier sought a report from the state and others.



A bench of NGT Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava noted the submissions of the advocate of one of the intervening applicants, who referring to the state's report, pointed out that a faecal coliform having the most probable number (MPN) of 540/100 ml was found in the sample collected from the 1 million litres per day (MLD) capacity sewage treatment plant (STP) at Gangotri. Faecal coliform (FC) levels show pollution from the microbes from the excreta of humans and animals. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) water quality criteria, an MPN of less than 500/100 ml is desirable for

"organised outdoor bathing". In the order passed on November 5, the NGT bench also comprising judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal and expert member A Senthil Vel noted, "She (the advocate) has submitted that even the originating point of the pious river Ganga is polluted by the STP discharge." The tribunal also noted CPCB's report about the compliance of norms and functionality of the STPs and said that out of 53 commissioned STPs, only 50 were functional and 48 were not complying with the norms, including FC levels, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) removal efficiency range and utilisation capacity. Comparing the state's report with the CPCB report, it said, "We find that

disclosures which have been made by the state of Uttarakhand in his latest report are doubtful." "Thus, we require the Chief Secretary to duly look into the matter and ensure that a proper status report with due compliance is filed," it added.

The tribunal also noted deficiencies in the state's report about the STPs. It said, "Many of the STPs are either underutilised (Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Pauri, Chamoli) or receiving the excess quantity of sewage against their designed capacity (Haridwar, Tehri) and there is no mention of inundation of STPs during flooding/backflow." Regarding the status of drains in the states, the tribunal noted that 63 untapped drains were directly discharging untreated sewage into the Ganga and its tributaries. "We also find that in towns of Kashipur, Bazpur and Kitchha of district Udham Singh Nagar, all the drains are untapped," it said. "The next report of the state needs to clarify action to be taken in a time-bound manner to ensure that no sewage carrying (BOD) load and FC joins Ganga or its tributaries," the tribunal added.

## Jadavpur University professor found dead with throat slit in Uttarakhand hotel

**Mainak Pal, a professor in the Philosophy Department at Jadavpur University, was found dead in the washroom of a hotel in Uttarakhand, with deep cuts on his neck and hands.**

New Delhi: A 44-year-old professor from Jadavpur University in Kolkata was found dead with his throat slit at a hotel in Uttarakhand, where he had arrived with two friends a few days prior. The bloodied body of Mainak Pal, a professor in the Philosophy Department, was discovered on November 8, lying in the washroom with deep cuts on his neck and hands, according to a report by the news agency PTI, which cited police sources.



Pal, who is survived by his wife, daughter, and parents, was expected to return on November 8. When his family was unable to reach him, they contacted the hotel authorities, who broke into his room and discovered his body. Based on the preliminary autopsy report, Uttarakhand

Police have not ruled out the possibility of suicide, as indicated in initial police communications, according to a university official. A detailed report is pending. In a condolence message, the Jadavpur

University Teachers' Association (JUTA) described Pal as a talented individual who made a significant impact as both a teacher and researcher, with interests spanning a wide range of subjects. "We are in deep shock upon hearing about his death," said Partha Pratim Roy, the association's general secretary.

The professor's body is expected to be brought back to Kolkata by Sunday evening. "Pal was a beloved figure and well-liked by both students and colleagues. He went to Uttarakhand with two friends and was scheduled to return on Friday. We are still struggling to come to terms with this devastating news. The entire JU community is in shock," Roy added.

Before joining Jadavpur University, Pal had worked at two government colleges and as an associate professor at Presidency University in 2022.

## Who is Arsh Dalla, Khalistani terrorist and Nijjar aide, arrested in Canada?

New Delhi: Intelligence agencies are closely monitoring reports of the arrest of Khalistani terrorist Arsh Dalla in Canada. However, Canadian authorities haven't yet shared any information with India on Dalla's reported arrest. Dalla, known to be a close aide of slain Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, has been leading the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) since Nijjar's killing last year. Nijjar's killing has been at the heart of the downturn in the diplomatic ties between India and Canada. Canada has alleged that Indian government agents were behind Nijjar's murder -- a charge vehemently shot down by the Narendra Modi government. Arshdeep Singh Gill alias Arsh Dalla, who is wanted for various criminal activities in India, has been in the crosshairs of intelligence agencies for a very long time. Here is all you need to know about the Khalistani terrorist.



### CLOSE AIDE OF HARDEEP SINGH NIJJAR

A close aide of Hardeep Nijjar, Arsh Dalla, carried out multiple targeted killings in Punjab through his sleeper cell network. According to the NIA, the duo were involved in the killings of key figures. In 2022, Dalla and Nijjar were linked to the murder of Manohar Lal, a member of Dera Sacha Sauda. In 2024, Dalla claimed

responsibility on social media for the assassination of a Congress leader in Punjab. Following Nijjar's death, Dalla took over the KTF. The outfit was established by Jagtar Singh Tara in 2011. Tara, previously associated with the Babbar Khalsa International terrorist organisation, was involved in the 1995 assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh.

### GLOBAL NETWORK AND RIVALRY WITH BISHNOI GANG

Arsh Dalla's network spans Canada, the United States, Dubai, Europe, the Philippines, Thailand, and the Middle East. According to a chargesheet of the NIA, Dalla operates a terror-gangster network in collaboration with Canadian gangster Gaurav Patial, alias Saurav Thakur. His operations are believed to be supported by Pakistan's ISI. Dalla is also involved in smuggling weapons from Pakistan to Punjab using drones. Dalla has also carried out terror acts in collaboration with the terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-

Taiba. He allegedly orchestrated the killing of a Hindu youth in Delhi's Jahangirpuri area. Dalla was also sent a video of the youth being beheaded by his sleeper cell network. In Canada, Dalla's gang has been involved in violent clashes with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, with whom he has a long-standing rivalry. In 2023, the Bishnoi gang reportedly broke into the Winnipeg home of Sukhdul Singh, alias Sukha Dunike, a close associate of Dalla, and shot him dead.

### RECRUITING INDIAN YOUTH

Dalla has reportedly been using social media platforms to recruit youth from Punjab and Haryana by luring them with promises of assistance in settling abroad. Intel reports indicate Dalla manipulates these recruits to carry out terror attacks in India. Dalla is among the many gangsters from Punjab residing in Canada. Canadian authorities have faced mounting pressure from India to hand over Khalistani extremists plotting unrest in the country.





# How Ayurveda can treat your Hair loss



The first step is to locate the root cause in your diet or lifestyle that may be increasing the Pitta dosha. Once you locate it, try to give up or at least reduce the diet, habit, or activity responsible for increasing Pitta. Internal use of Ayurvedic medicines like Thikthakam kashayam, Thikthakam ghritam as per medical advice are effective to correct the metabolism. Ayurvedic general tonics like Narasimha rasayanam, Chyavana prasam are effective for improving hair growth. In alopecia, due to systemic diseases, treatment of the same is also required.

activates the sebaceous glands. - A mixture of lettuce and spinach juice is good to drink to induce hair growth. The juice of carrot, and lettuce juice is also good to take. - Applying juice of green coriander leaves on the head is also good. - Washing the hair with a paste of cooked green gram and fenugreek (methi) two to three times a week, is also good. - A paste of licorice made by grinding it in milk can be applied in the bald patches. - The seeds of fenugreek is soaked in coconut oil and kept under direct sunrays for seven days and applied to the scalp, which prevents hair loss. - Traditional therapies like Dhara, Abhyangam, Thala pothichil, Nasya shows excellent effects.

## Treat hair loss with Ayurveda

For thousands of years, men and women of all countries and races have shared the tragedy of pre-mature hair loss. According to Ayurveda, the hair is derived either as a by-product or produced as a breakdown product of Asthi (bone tissue). Any disturbance in this tissue metabolism, which very much depends on the digestive fire, can affect the health of the hair. To a certain extent, the quality of hair depends on the body constitution.

two doctors, seem to agree on and everyone seems to have their own opinion on the subject. The major causes for hairfall are hormonal, nutritional deficiencies and complications to other diseases and medications. Hormone related hair fall may also result from an increased sensitivity of hair follicles to male hormones or due to greater number of male hormone receptors attached to hair follicles. This is the component that is inherited through the genes — termed as Pitta constitution.

alcohol, meats and excessive smoking. Eating too much fried, oily, greasy, and acidic foods also aggravates Pitta. Pitta balancing herbs (Eg: Shatavari—Asparagus) and vegetables which improves the quality of Asthi dhathu (Eg: bitter vegetables) are effective in treating hair fall.

### What leads to hair loss

According to Ayurveda, excess of Pitta dosha in the body is increased by hot climatic conditions, excessive intake of spicy, salty and sour food, hot and sharp food, tea, coffee,

### The main reasons

There are a number of other causes for hair fall like acute illness, high stress, and thyroid imbalance, certain drugs, sudden weight loss and high fever.



## Here are some tips

General recommendations and tips to maintain the results are some of the following:

- The person should maintain a regular bowel movement everyday. In case of constipation, a mild natural laxative can be taken. Triphala is very useful. - Regular physical exercise is very beneficial as it helps in balancing the aggravated doshas. - Rub your scalp after washing the hair. It increases the blood circulation, and

## Here's what you can do

- A high protein and an iron rich diet is recommended for hair loss. An adequate intake of raw vegetables, fresh fruits, salads, green leafy vegetables should be included in the diet on a regular basis. - Use a natural shampoo to clean the hair. Amla (embilica officinalis), Shikakai (Acacia concinna) are very good for washing the hair. - Oiling and massaging of scalp is very beneficial for stopping the hair loss. Use coconut oil at least three times in a week. Certain medicated oils like Neelibhringadi oil, Kunthala kanthi oil, Kanjunnyadi oil are very useful. Put oil on the scalp, and massage gently in the roots of the hair.

## Here's how to trim your own Fringe

Having a fringe gives your hairstyle that edge and takes years off your face.

But one inconvenience that comes with having a fringe is the need to get it trimmed every now and then, especially if your hairdresser charges a bomb to do it. However, with the right equipment and a little practice, you can trim your own fringe. Here's how...

1. Get the right equipment: Don't make the mistake of using nail or kitchen scissors to trim your fringe. You'll need haircutting shears, along with a comb.
2. Style your hair first: Style your hair and your fringe as you normally would so that you trim your fringe to suit your hairstyle.
3. Separate your fringe from the rest of your hair: Do this by clipping up all your hair, except for your fringe. This way, you won't cut into the rest of your hair by accident.

4. Start the actual trim: Pull your fringe down in front of your face and make sure it's even. Insert the comb under your fringe and pull it down till where you want to cut your fringe. Then, position your scissors in such a way that they're pointing upwards, perpendicular to the line of your fringe. Cut into your fringe, starting in the centre, and working your way outwards till you reach the middle of your eyebrows. Work on the outer sides of your fringe by inserting your comb under those areas and holding your scissors at a 45-degree angle and then start to trim.



5. Check to see if your fringe is even: Move your fringe around with your fingertips to check whether it's even and is the way you want it to be.

### TIPS

- Do not wet your fringe when you're trimming it. This is because wet hair is longer than dry hair, which means you could end up cutting your fringe too short when it's wet.
- Do not cut straight across your fringe as this will give it a more severe and less natural look.



## 6 genius ways to use coconut oil on your face

### Amazing beauty benefits of coconut oil

The natural multi-tasker coconut oil is known for many benefits. This wonder oil can replace many of your beauty products. In fact, this oil is used in many beauty products courtesy its antibacterial and antifungal properties. It's an excellent moisturiser for your skin and it smells divine. Here are six ways you can use coconut oil for your face:

#### Skin moisturiser

This wonder oil is high in fatty acids and vitamin E, which makes it a good recipe for a moisturiser. If you have really dry skin, coconut oil can be your saviour. It speeds the

healing process of the skin, reduces water retention and boosts hydration.

#### Remover stubborn make-up

We know removing a waterproof mascara, long-lasting lipstick can be a pain. That's why you should turn to coconut oil for its magic. Pour some on the cotton pad and gently sweep along the lips, eyes and wherever needed. Bonus: The oil is gentle for the delicate skin around the eyes.

#### Natural Highlighter

Do you know a lot of highlighting products have coconut oil as a base? This oil works like magic on your skin. It glides perfectly on the skin and reflects pigment. To get that natural glow, you can sweep some coconut

oil on your cheeks. You can also add a little bit of pigment or broken shadow to get your sparkle on!

#### Fight acne

Coconut oil is known for its antibacterial properties and can help to control acne. The fatty acids kill the bacteria causing acne and even balances the sebum production.

#### Natural Sunscreen

Coconut oil has a natural SPF of 4-5, which can protect your skin from the sun rays. However, the SPF isn't sufficient for a long day in the sun. So, if you're sun exposure is around 30 minutes or so, coconut oil can be your perfect moisturiser and sunblock.

#### Anti-ageing benefits

With coconut oil, you don't have to splurge on expensive anti-ageing products. The genius oil helps to boost collagen production which keeps your skin looking youthful. The oil penetrates deep into the skin, giving your skin the healthy glow back.





## How not to miss chances to create wealth

**New Delhi.** In the world of investments, your biggest enemy is the inflation. As you work hard to earn a meaningful living, you constantly strive for more because the prices of things keep rising. The official consumer price inflation data may say one thing, but inflation is the daily price for consumption. You know things to do to ensure that you are not letting that demon eat into your wealth.

You must ensure that equity and equity-linked assets are always in your portfolios. A primary reason is equity assets outperform all other asset classes convincingly to give you the highest return. If you invested ₹50,000 yearly since 1994, you put around ₹14.40 lakh. That money is worth ₹58.8 lakh today if you had invested in a fixed deposit and ₹70.2 lakh if you had invested in a public provident fund. If you had put the same money in gold, it would have been worth ₹1.2 crore. You would feel pleased about that. However, an investment in the Nifty 50 index would have propelled your ₹14.4 lakh into ₹2.8 crore.

At an average 6.3% inflation rate in those 30 years, you must adjust your savings by ₹47 lakh for inflation. With fixed deposits and PPFs, you are barely adding to your wealth. While gold has given you a decent return, it is probably not enough to pay for retired life. The data underscores the need to add that equity muscle to your portfolio.

However, financial markets are about future returns. Very few experts anywhere in the world argue against India's steady economic growth and consistent profit growth of Indian companies. Stock market returns typically follow the trend in profit growth.

In 1994, your awareness of equities was minimal, and your participation in equity markets was barely anything. Today, there is a surge in the demat accounts, trading accounts, and investor accounts for stock market trading. The National Stock Exchange recently celebrated ten crore investor accounts. That number will likely continue as it is a fraction of the potential.

### Index investing

There is always a burden of lack of knowledge when investing in equities. You suffer from an inertia for learning anything new after your formal education. Those who enter the equity markets are quickly attracted to high-intensity stock market trading activity like day trading or options trading. The idea is primarily to make a quick buck. You need not follow the same path.

## How Zomato's 'Food Rescue' will work, what's in it for delivery workers, restaurants

**NEW DELHI.** Zomato has launched a new feature – called Food Rescue – that will allow customers to buy a cancelled order at a discounted rate, a fix the company says could work towards reducing food wastage.

Every month, around 4 lakh food orders on their way to the customers are cancelled on Zomato, as per the company. With the new feature, which is currently being scaled up, such cancelled orders will show up on the Zomato app of nearby users, who can purchase them at a lower value, in its original packaging, the company's CEO Deepinder Goyal said in a post on X on Sunday. While the company said it will not keep any proceeds from the sale except the required government taxes, the feature could boost the app's usage and user retention, as people are likely to be scouring through the app, waiting for a cancelled order to pop up. The company said its delivery workers will be compensated fully for the entire trip, from the initial pickup to the final drop-off at the new customer's location. How does the 'Food Rescue' feature work on Zomato?

Once the initial purchaser of a particular food item cancels the order, it will show up on the app of users within a three kilometre radius of the delivery worker carrying the order. The option to claim the order will only be available for a few minutes, which Zomato says is essential to ensure the freshness of the food. To prevent any abuse of the system, the original customer and those in their immediate vicinity will not receive the option to claim the order. Customers who prefer vegetarian food will not see non-veg orders.

## Senior TCS employees receive lower variable pay



**BENGALURU.** Senior employees of TCS saw significant reductions in their quarterly variable pay for the Sept quarter, receiving 20-50% of the payout even though they fulfilled the mandatory office attendance criteria. "HR has told us that they are not aware of why this has happened. For some other accounts, the message has gone through a project allocation index where any unit's performance during the quarter is considered for variable pay," an employee told TOI. In response to TOI's query, TCS said, "For Q2FY25, we have paid out 100% QVA (quarterly variable allowance) to junior grades across the company. For all other grades, the QVA depends on their unit's business performance. This is in line with our standard practice across quarters." Earlier this year, TCS implemented a policy linking variable pay to office attendance. TOI first reported this development.

# Rupee plunges to all-time low of 84.38 against US dollar

**New Delhi.** The rupee hit a record low against the US dollar on Monday, as concerns surrounding the recent victory of Donald Trump in the US elections put Asian currencies under pressure. Continuous outflows from Indian stocks further weakened the rupee, sparking a wave of caution among traders and investors alike. The rupee dropped to a new low of 84.3875 in early trading, surpassing its previous record set last Friday. It was trading at 84.37 by 9:40 a.m. Despite these pressures, traders noted that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervened to prevent further losses.

### ASIAN CURRENCIES HIT BY STRONGER DOLLAR

Across Asia, most currencies saw declines between 0.1% and 0.4% on Monday. The US dollar index, which measures the dollar's value against a basket of major currencies, remained near its four-month high at 105, following Trump's win. This strength in the dollar has contributed to the rupee's recent struggles, pushing the currency into a difficult position in the



market.

### RBI INTERVENTION HELPS STABILISE THE RUPEE

The RBI has been actively intervening to curb the rupee's slide, according to traders. State-run banks were reportedly selling dollars on Monday, possibly on behalf of the RBI, to reduce the impact on the rupee. The central bank has regularly

stepped in over the past week, preventing the rupee from facing sharper declines.

These interventions, however, have come at a cost. India's foreign exchange reserves dropped for the fifth consecutive week, hitting a two-month low of \$682.13 billion as of 1 November. While this action helps in the short term, it puts pressure on the country's reserve levels,

which are meant to safeguard against global uncertainties.

### FOREIGN INVESTORS PULL MONEY FROM INDIAN STOCKS

Foreign investors have been offloading Indian stocks at a notable pace, adding further pressure on the rupee. November alone has seen net outflows of approximately \$2.5 billion from Indian equities, following a significant outflow of \$11 billion in October. This capital flight has weakened the local currency and contributed to the underperformance of Indian markets. Major stock indices, the BSE Sensex and the Nifty 50, were down slightly on Monday, marking a fifth week of decline in the last six weeks. Market experts say the rupee could remain weak until there is a shift in the dollar index or a reduction in foreign institutional investor (FII) outflows.

Amit Pabari, Managing Director at CR Forex, told Reuters, "The rupee is likely to remain under pressure unless there is a softening in the dollar index or a slowdown in FII outflows."

## Singles' Day shopping festival loses its shine under China's lagging economy

**HONG KONG.** Merchants and consumers alike found the Singles' Day shopping festival Monday less shiny than in years past as e-commerce firms look abroad for growth. The annual event named by the numeric form of its Nov. 11 date was started by e-commerce platform Alibaba, which offered attractive discounts to entice shoppers to spend big. The extravaganza has since expanded to other platforms like JD.com and Pinduoduo in China as well as abroad. While Singles' Day was previously a one-day event, shopping platforms in China now kickstart the festival weeks ahead to drum up sales volume. The festival has also traditionally been regarded as a barometer of consumer sentiment. But amid China's lagging domestic economy, dragged down by a real estate crisis and deflationary pressures, consumers no longer go all out on purchases during the shopping extravaganza. "I only spent a few hundred yuan on daily necessities," said Wang Haihua, who owns a fitness center in Beijing. Wang said that the prices offered on e-commerce platforms during Singles' Day are not necessarily cheaper than



usual. "They're all tricks and we've seen through it over the years," she said. Zhang Jiwei, a 34-year-old who runs a barber shop in Xi'an city, echoed Wang's sentiments, saying that he no longer trusts Singles' Day promotions as some merchant tend to raise the usual price of a product before offering a discount, giving consumers the illusion they are getting a deal. "I used to buy a lot two or three years ago and I even purchased a mobile phone (during Singles' Day)," he said. "I stopped doing that following the pandemic because of less income. I am not going to buy anything this year," Zhang added. Some experts say that Beijing's recent stimulus measures have had little impact to boost consumer confidence. "People are not interested in spending and are cutting back on big-ticket

items," said Shaun Rein, founder and managing director of China Market Research Group in Shanghai. "Since October 2022, the weak economy means that everything has been on discount year-round, 11.11 is not going to bring in more discounts than the month before." Rein said he expects low growth for the Singles' Day shopping festival as consumers tighten their spending in anticipation of difficult economic times ahead. Categories such as sportswear and fitness, however, have been doing well as customers "trade down a Gucci bag for Lululemon sportswear," he said. Platforms like JD.com and Alibaba, which operates e-commerce platforms Taobao and Tmall, previously used to publish the value of transactions made during the festival, but have since stopped revealing the total figure. While yearly growth used to be in the double digits, estimates of recent figures have dwindled to low single-digit growth. Syntun, a data provider, estimated that last year's gross merchandising volume sales across major e-commerce platforms grew just 2% to 1.14 trillion yuan (\$156.40 billion), a far cry from double-digit growth before COVID-19.

## Large caps are better than fairly valued: Bajaj Finserv AMC CEO

**NEW DELHI.** Bajaj Finserv AMC, a one-year-old mutual fund company, is trying to grow in what looks like an already crowded place – there are already 44 mutual funds in India with top 10 mutual funds in asset size accounting for 77% of the industry assets. CEO Ganesh Mohan in an interaction with TNIE explains the AMC's strategies to grow assets under management (AuM).

What are the strategies to grow assets in the crowded AMC business?

The advantage we had was that we were setting the fund house from scratch, and our investment team started with a new investment philosophy. We put together all the three possible sources of alpha. And they are the information edge, which is better quality information than the crowd; a quantitative edge, which is better tools, models, analytical tools to assess the data; and behavioural edge, which is, how do you make the right decisions based on the same information and tools.

Can you explain the behavioural edge that you claim you have?

Everybody has access to the same information, so it's a very thin edge. Even the quantitative edge, while today there is some room to differentiate, my own assessment is, in three to five years, this is going to become a pretty standard, the way technology is developing. AI, ML-way of new modelling will get commoditised very soon. Then the third edge becomes important to really generate alpha, which is your behavioural edge.

Explain the uniqueness of your existing funds?

Every single active equity fund that we launch, we will look to bring something that is differentiated from the underlying benchmark. And there are two big weaknesses that a benchmark has – One, benchmarks cannot look into the future. Companies come into the index after they have performed, and companies that are in the index but are underperforming continue to stay in the index till they exit. If you can have a strategy which looks at what are the future growth prospects of individual companies, and have a systematic way of doing that, then you can outperform the index. So, that was what our first fund – a flexicap fund – was based on. The second fund – a large and mid-cap fund – that we launched was on moat-based investing. Companies that have a strong defensive moat can protect their earnings very well and for a longer period of time, that justifies a higher valuation with higher multiples.

The third fund – a large-cap fund – is one of the toughest ones to generate alpha, because you have only 100 companies. If you keep out, maybe 10-15 stocks for different reasons – governance concerns, etc – you're left with maybe 80-85 companies.

## The Criticality of critical Illness Insurance

**NEW DELHI.** In the last column on the eve of the festival of lights, we initiated a discussion on how vital Term Insurance Cover is for anyone with even a single financial dependant. It is worth noting that at the turn of the decade viz. prior to the start of the financial year FY 20-21, barely 10% of those with the means were interested in buying health insurance to cover new age diseases.

But since the advent of the fear instilled by the pandemic, 71% now consider health insurance a necessity. Notably, and almost overnight, 57% of those surveyed, claimed to have understood the importance of comprehensive health insurance plans. That this has not translated into an immediate increase in such coverage is both a reflection of respondent inertia till it is too late and perhaps the lack of an even more

aggressive awareness program on the part of insurance companies. This brings me to a very crucial insurance product, namely CRITICAL ILLNESS Insurance Cover. Most people tend to overlook it believing that since they have Mediclaim they are adequately covered. But the fact is, firstly there has to be hospitalization for Mediclaim to kick in, and further, there are often caps and sub-limits that will easily be exceeded in the event of a Critical Illness. Furthermore, escalation in Premium payable in case of Mediclaim is a given, especially post a year like the last one where huge payouts have been made. In contrast to this, there are Critical Illness insurance policies that offer the optional benefit of covering several (approximately 30 usually) Critical Illnesses such as cancer, heart attack and kidney failure for a

maximum of 30 years without any change in premium. What also makes some of these product offerings distinctive is that it gives full claim payout on the first diagnosis of any of these covered Critical Illnesses, even without Hospital Bills. This payout amount is crucial as it can also safeguard one's family against the loss of income arising out of the illness, which could put one out of action for a prolonged period of time. Critical Illness policies come bundled with an equivalent Term Plan and that usually adds an enhanced financial ring around the family of the one with a Critical Illness in the event of non-survival. That the payment of Premium paid under such a policy can be demarcated and qualifies for deductions under both, Section 80C as well as Section 80D of the Income Tax Act, offers an additional benefit.

## Bitcoin rallies past \$81,000. What's driving the surge

**New Delhi.** Bitcoin soared to a new record high, crossing the \$81,000 mark on Monday. This rally is fuelled by the potential of a favourable regulatory environment following Donald Trump's recent election victory in the US. With this sharp rise, Bitcoin was trading at \$81,119.61 as of 11 AM, giving it a market cap of \$1.6 trillion.

Trump's pro-crypto stance during his campaign has been a major driver of this surge. He promised to make the US the "crypto capital of the planet" and proposed policies such as building a national Bitcoin reserve and appointing regulators to support the industry. These promises have sparked optimism among investors, with expectations that his administration could introduce crypto-friendly regulations.

### BITCOIN HITS NEW RECORD HIGH

Many in the market believe Trump's plans for Bitcoin and other digital assets have set the stage for the recent surge. His win has increased hopes for a friendly environment for digital assets, which many investors see as a shield against inflation and traditional market swings. Sumit Gupta, co-founder of CoinDCX, sees Bitcoin's \$81,000 milestone and \$1.5 trillion market cap as a sign of renewed optimism. "Bitcoin's record-breaking surge is backed by strong

fundamentals and signals from the recent US election that suggest pro-crypto policies may be on the horizon. This shows Bitcoin's strength as a hedge against regular market ups and downs," he said. Gupta also highlighted how growing interest from large institutions and the introduction of Bitcoin ETFs (exchange-traded funds) have played a key role in Bitcoin's rise. "With favourable regulatory support, we could see even more adoption from institutions, which may mark the end of the 'crypto winter' and strengthen the digital asset market further," he added.

Gupta explained that the \$100,000 mark is now the next big target for Bitcoin, which could be reached with continued institutional backing, expanding ETF markets, and supportive regulations. "Bitcoin's unique qualities like its scarcity, decentralisation, and increasing acceptance make it an appealing choice in a diversified portfolio," he noted.

### WHAT'S DRIVING THE RALLY?

One of the significant factors behind Bitcoin's rising value is the growing interest from institutional investors. The approval of Bitcoin ETFs in the US earlier this year has made it easier for these institutions to invest in Bitcoin legally, which has increased demand.

ETFs provide a regulated way for both individual and institutional investors to gain exposure to Bitcoin without needing to directly buy or manage the



cryptocurrency. Edul Patel, CEO of Mudrex, believes Bitcoin's all-time high is a result of several factors. "Firstly, the approval of Bitcoin spot ETFs by the US SEC has been a game-changer, making it simpler for institutions to enter the market. Secondly, rate cuts in major regions, including the US, EU, and China, have led to higher cash flow, with more people willing to invest in alternatives like cryptocurrencies," he explained.

Patel also said that Trump's pro-Bitcoin stance has led more institutions to purchase Bitcoin in anticipation of friendlier regulations. He pointed out

that nearly 30-40% of Americans already hold crypto, and a supportive stance from the government could lead to a significant boost in demand. "With this, the general mood among investors has improved greatly," he added. The current investor sentiment around Bitcoin remains high, with the BTC fear-greed index, which tracks market sentiment, now indicating "Extreme Greed." This positive sentiment has also resulted in an increase in long positions in Bitcoin futures, with an estimated \$2.8 billion in contracts betting on Bitcoin reaching \$90,000.

According to Patel, Bitcoin's support level is at \$75,600, while it faces resistance around \$82,500. If the rally continues, it may drive other cryptocurrencies upwards as well, with Ethereum already showing gains, rising to \$3,200 on Monday due to the positive sentiment surrounding Bitcoin's latest peak. Bitcoin's recent surge has also positively impacted other digital assets, particularly Ethereum, which hit \$3,200. Often, Bitcoin's movements influence the broader cryptocurrency market, and Ethereum's price increase shows the impact of Bitcoin's record-breaking climb



## NEWS BOX

## India coach Gautam Gambhir hopeful of Rohit Sharma's participation in Perth Test

New Delhi Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir remained unsure over captain Rohit Sharma's availability for the 1st Test vs Australia. Gambhir addressed the press conference in Mumbai ahead of Team India's departure for Australia. Uncertainty remained over Rohit's participation in the Perth Test match and Gambhir confirmed that vice captain Jasprit Bumrah might don the captain's hat in that case. Gambhir also backed KL Rahul to open in Rohit's absence, with another option being Abhimanyu Easwaran who is yet to make his Test debut. "Look, at the moment, there is no confirmation. We'll let you guys know what the situation is. Hopefully, he is going to be available. But everything you will get to know at the start of the series," Gambhir said in the press conference.

Who can open in Rohit's absence?

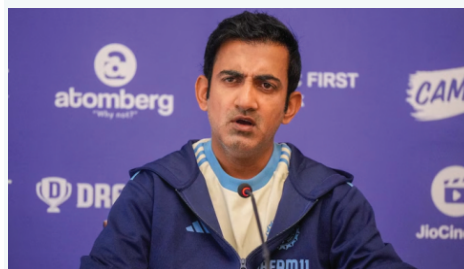


Gambhir highlighted the backup options India have in case Rohit misses out on Perth Test. "Obviously, there is Easwaran, there is KL Rahul. We will take a call ahead of the 1st Test if Rohit is unavailable. There are options there. It's not like there are no options. Once we get closer to the 1st Test, we will try and put in the best playing XI," he added. Abhimanyu Easwaran didn't have a great outing on the Australian soil as he managed scores of 17, 0, 12 and 7 for India A vs Australia B. KL Rahul was also given a chance to open in the 2nd match for India A, but the star batter managed just 4 and 10 runs in the contest. "Quite a lot of talent needed for what KL does"

Nonetheless, Gambhir hailed Rahul for his ability to perform at any position for the team and backed him to do the job at the top of the order. "You go with experienced players as well. I think that is the quality of a man that he can actually bat at the top of the order. You can batter at number three, and he can actually bat in sixth position as well. So you need quite a lot of talent to be doing these kinds of jobs as well."

## Sanjay Manjrekar lashes out at Gautam Gambhir: 'BCCI should keep him away from press'

New Delhi. Former India batter Sanjay Manjrekar lashed out at Gautam Gambhir, saying he 'does not have the right demeanour' to speak to the media after the head coach addressed a press conference in Mumbai before his departure to Australia for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. In a strongly worded social media post, Manjrekar urged the Indian cricket board to keep Gambhir away from interacting with the press. Sanjay Manjrekar's explosive comments come hours after Gautam Gambhir put on a brave face and handled questions from the press regarding the upcoming five-Test series and India's humbling 0-3 defeat to New Zealand in a home Test series. Just watched Gambhir in the press conference. May be wise for the BCCI to keep him away from such duties, let him work behind the scenes. He does not have the right demeanour nor the words when interacting with them. Rohit & Agarkar, much better guys to front up for the



media," Manjrekar said in his post on X. Gambhir answered some tough questions with his usual blend of confidence and bluntness. Gambhir made it clear that social media chatter about his performance are only as impactful as a wet noodle. Gambhir lashed out at Ricky Ponting over his criticism of Virat Kohli while backing the star batter and captain Rohit Sharma to regain peak form in Australia. He also defended the decision to pick Nitish Reddy over Shardul Thakur, and confirmed that if regular captain Rohit Sharma is unavailable for personal reasons, vice-captain Jasprit Bumrah will lead India in the opening Test against Australia in Perth. While Rohit's availability remains uncertain, Gambhir expressed confidence in the leadership structure, stating that Bumrah would step up if needed. With Rohit's possible absence, KL Rahul is expected to open, given his experience over Abhimanyu Easwaran, despite Easwaran's current form. Gambhir praised Rahul's versatility, highlighting his ability to adapt across various batting positions, making him a dependable option. Gambhir said the decision to not play Harshit Rana in India A's tour of Australia was also a deliberate choice to manage his workload.

# Bring Ramandeep Singh on at number 8: Robin Uthappa after India's Gqeberha loss

Robin Uthappa suggests India should bring in Ramandeep Singh at No. 8 to bolster their lower-order batting depth, a missing element that contributed to their T20I loss against South Africa. His all-round capabilities could prove crucial in upcoming matches.

New Delhi Former India cricketer Robin Uthappa believes India should test Ramandeep Singh at number 8 to address the team's lower-order batting struggles, an area that contributed to India's defeat in the second T20I against South Africa in Gqeberha. Though India's batting has remained largely reliable throughout their recent winning streak, Uthappa pointed out that depth down the order could be vital for India, particularly after their lineup faltered on Sunday. Speaking to Jio Cinema, Uthappa suggested that India give Ramandeep Singh



his debut in the third T20I on November 13, a timely opportunity for the young all-rounder who received his maiden India call-up for this series. After being sent in to bat first, India managed to post only 124 for six, with key players like Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma failing to make significant contributions. The typically dependable middle order was unable to stabilize the

innings, and India's lower-order depth was noticeably lacking, ending their 11-game winning streak. As Uthappa noted, an all-rounder who can finish strong with the bat while providing a bowling option could have helped stabilize India's performance under challenging conditions. Ramandeep Singh, with his skills as a finisher and a bowler, might just be the answer.

"You need an all-rounder there (at number 8) is what I feel. You need someone who can bat and bowl. Whether that is a spinner or a fast bowler, other than Hardik Pandya I mean. It is what can fill that gap. Right now they don't have any, but they have Ramandeep on the wings, which is why I am saying - bring him on to play," Uthappa said. Ramandeep had been on the selectors' radar for his consistent performances in both the IPL and domestic cricket, particularly as part of the Kolkata Knight Riders' (KKR) 2024 title-winning team. Known for his explosive lower-order batting and his utility with the ball, the 29-year-old delivered in pressure moments for KKR, and his impactful performances also extended to India A's successful Emerging Asia Cup campaign. These achievements have highlighted him as a promising all-rounder and led to his first senior team call-up. It remains to be seen if India's team management, led by captain Suryakumar Yadav, will bring Ramandeep into the playing XI for the upcoming match. If given the chance, Ramandeep could add versatility to India's lower order, balancing the batting lineup while enhancing the bowling attack's flexibility.

## What difference does social media make: Gambhir 'not feeling the heat' after NZ loss

New Delhi. India head coach Gautam Gambhir denied being under pressure after a tumultuous start to his coaching tenure. Notably, ever since Gambhir came at the helm India have suffered their first loss against Sri Lanka in a bilateral ODI series since 1997 and their first ever 0-3 whitewash at home.

Hence, the head coach is under the scanner for India's poor performances and has been subjected to widespread criticism on social media. Recently, Gambhir was asked about the social media trolling in the press conference before leaving for Australia for the five-match Test series. The India head coach shrugged off the criticism and acknowledged the challenges of his job. He also said that he isn't feeling any heat and is honoured to be coaching India. "What difference does it make tell me? Social media what difference does it make in my life? And for that matter, anyone's life. And when I took up this job, I always think it's going to be a highly difficult job and highly prestigious job as well. And honestly, I don't

think as if I'm feeling the heat, because my job is to be absolutely honest. And there are some incredibly tough people in that dressing room who have achieved some great things for the country and will continue to achieve some great things for the country. So it's an absolute honour to be



coaching them and coaching India," said Gambhir in the press conference. Gambhir under huge pressure for Australia series

The true test of Gambhir will be in Australia where India need to win the series by 4-1 to qualify for the World Test Championship

India head coach Gautam Gambhir has shrugged off social media criticism after a tumultuous start to his coaching tenure of the Indian Cricket Team.

(WTC) without depending on other results. India have emerged victorious in Australia in their previous two series and hence will carry the confidence heading into upcoming series as well. However, the form of senior players Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and KL Rahul don't give any promising signs for the Asian Giants. Their problems have been further exacerbated by the absence of their star speedster Mohammed Shami who will miss the series due to an injury. Hence, India's chances to win their third consecutive series in Australia look grim and coach Gambhir and captain Rohit Sharma have a huge task at their hand to turn things around.

## Incoming manager Ruben Amorim ready for difficult challenge at Manchester United

New Delhi. Newly appointed Manchester United manager Ruben Amorim arrives at Old Trafford fully aware of the challenges that lie ahead as he takes on one of the most demanding roles in world football. The 39-year-old Portuguese manager departed Sporting Lisbon with a stirring 4-2 victory over Braga, rallying from a two-goal deficit in a fitting final act before his move to England. Amorim, considered one of Europe's most promising young managers, is set to officially assume his new position once his work permit is processed - a requirement now standard for European Union citizens working in the UK. Despite the bureaucratic delay, Amorim will be able to visit Manchester United's training facility, Carrington, to meet staff and begin familiarizing himself with his new club.

Amorim addressed his departure from Sporting with a mix of excitement and respect for the gravity of his new role. "I feel ready for the new challenge," he shared in his post-match comments. "I'm not naive; I know it's going to be very different, very difficult. But I'm at peace now, and I can



focus fully on my new job." Following the departure of Erik ten Hag, Amorim steps into a team looking to turn around a season fraught with inconsistency. United currently sit in 13th place with 15 points from 11 games - a stark reflection of their struggles, particularly in front of goal, where they have scored only 12 times in the league. Interim manager Ruud van Nistelrooy has managed an unbeaten run of four games, leaving Amorim with a stable, if still unproven, platform to build upon. As Amorim contemplates the work ahead, he remains committed to retaining his authentic style

and values, which were instrumental in his success at Sporting. "I won't become a different person," Amorim stated. "I know I'll be fine. Whether it's three months or 10 years, I'll remain true to myself. I want to win, but I won't lose my essence." Amorim acknowledged the difficulty of replicating his successes at Sporting, where he guided the club to two Primeira Liga titles and helped develop a style that relied heavily on a cohesive, attacking approach. With United's struggles in scoring, questions have arisen about potential January transfer targets, including Sporting's own Viktor Gyokeres. However, Amorim has yet to identify specific needs, stressing that he'll first evaluate his new squad and the demands of Premier League competition.

"We can't go somewhere and try to replicate what happened here," he explained, hinting at a fresh, adaptive approach to the unique challenges at United. Amorim's first competitive match as United's head coach is slated for November 24 against Ipswich Town.



absence, as informed by Gambhir.

Kohli arrives in Australia

Kohli was spotted at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai late at night on Sunday. Kohli was accompanied by his wife, Bollywood actress Anushka Sharma, and their children, Vamika and Akaay Kohli. As they stepped out of their car, Kohli requested the paparazzi not to take pictures of Anushka and the kids, emphasising their preference for privacy. However, Kohli himself obliged and posed for photos with the media before heading inside the airport. Gambhir has backed senior batters Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma after criticism from former Australia captain Ricky Ponting. Notably, Ponting recently commented on Kohli's form, saying that any other player wouldn't have survived in the team had he scored just two hundreds in five years. Kohli will be aiming to roar back to form vs Australia after a not-so-impressive outing in the home Test series.

## Jasprit Bumrah will lead India if Rohit Sharma is unavailable: Coach Gautam Gambhir

Border-Gavaskar Trophy: India head coach Gautam Gambhir has confirmed that Jasprit Bumrah will lead India if Rohit Sharma misses the first Test against Australia in Perth.

New Delhi. India head coach Gautam Gambhir has confirmed that pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah will lead the national men's cricket team if regular skipper Rohit Sharma is unavailable for the first Test of the highly anticipated Border-Gavaskar Trophy series against Australia. The opening match is scheduled to begin on November 22 in Perth.

"Bumrah is vice-captain; if Rohit is not



available, he is going to lead in Perth," Gambhir stated during a pre-departure press conference in Mumbai. Rohit

Sharma, while not currently with the squad, has not been officially ruled out of the series opener, according to Gambhir. "At

the moment, there is no confirmation but we will let you know exactly what the situation will be. Hopefully he's going to be available, but everything we're going to get to know at the start of the series," Gambhir said at a press-conference before the team's departure to Australia. India's squad is departing for Australia in two separate batches, with the first group having left on November 10 and the second set to depart today. Gambhir has acknowledged the importance of contingency planning in case Rohit is unavailable, mentioning that both Abhimanyu Easwaran and KL Rahul are in the squad and ready to step up as opening options. "Obviously there is [Abhimanyu] Easwaran and there is [KL [Rahul]] there. So we will take a call closer to the first Test match if Rohit is not available," Gambhir said. "There are options there, it's not that there are no options there. There are quite a few options in the squad."



# Mrunal Thakur's

## Airport Fashion Is All About Comfort In Denim Pants, White Tank Top



**M**runal Thakur is not only known for her impressive acting skills but also for her effortlessly chic fashion sense. Whether on screen or off, the actress knows how to turn heads with her effortless style. Her recent appearance at Mumbai Airport was no exception. She was spotted in a white tank top with a plunging neckline and subtle button detailing, paired with relaxed, baggy jeans cinched with a matching belt. Adding a touch of laid-back cool, she wrapped a denim jacket around her waist, creating the perfect fusion of comfort and high-fashion. This ensemble was a prime example of how Mrunal blends casual with chic, proving that style doesn't have to compromise comfort. Mrunal added a playful pop of colour to her soft-toned outfit with bold pink sneakers, making her look stand out effortlessly. To complement her ensemble, she chose black sunglasses, silver earrings and a watch. Carrying a large black tote bag filled with her essentials, she added the perfect finishing touch to her airport style. She kept her makeup subtle with a nude lipstick and her hair styled in side-parted, loose waves.

On the work front, Mrunal Thakur has been part of multiple Indian-language films and series, including Nadin, Made in Heaven 2, Gumraah, Lust Stories 2, Pippa, Hi Nanna, The Family Star and Kalki 2898 AD. Next, she will be seen in the role of "Pooja" in the upcoming Hindi film Pooja Meri Jaan, which is in its post-production stages.

Apart from that, she has Hai Jawani Toh Ishq Hona Hai, Son of Sardaar 2 and Tum Ho Toh, all of which are scheduled for a release in 2025. On Diwali, Mrunal Thakur reunited with her TV show Kumkum Bhagya co-star Arjit Taneja, who played her on-screen love interest, Purab. They met at Ektaa Kapoor's Diwali bash, where Mrunal shared a selfie with him on her Instagram Stories. In the photo, Mrunal looked stunning in an intricately embroidered black outfit, while Arjit complemented her in a classic black kurta. The duo happily posed for the camera, and while sharing the picture, Mrunal captioned it "Rabul," blending the names of their Kumkum Bhagya characters. Arjit later reshared the photo, adding, "Don't use the F word." Arjit is currently part of the TV show, Kaise Mujhe Tum Mil Gaye, co-starring Sriti Jha.



# Varun Dhawan

## Engages In A Fun Banter With Paparazzi At Mumbai Airport

**A** day after the release of his much-awaited spy thriller Citadel: Honey Bunny, Varun Dhawan was seen at the Mumbai airport, jetting off to an undisclosed location. The actor arrived at the airport in a hurry and had a brief chat with the paparazzi before he headed inside. Varun was dressed casually in a beige shirt and pants paired with a blue tee underneath. He teamed up his comfortable look with a pair of cool sunglasses. In a video circulating on social media, the paparazzi outside the airport requested the actor to stop and pose. However, Varun informed them that he was already late for his flight and playfully remarked, "Flight nahi rukegi mere liye (the flight won't wait for me)." The Bhediya actor then waved them goodbye and went inside the airport. Following the release of Citadel: Honey Bunny on November 7 on Prime Video, Varun's fans shared their views on the spy thriller on the social media platform X (formerly Twitter). One of his fans penned a review saying that he had fun watching the first three episodes of the show. However, the user hilariously mentioned the director wanted Varun to always be "naked" on screen. When the post reached the actor, he took it sportingly and replied, "Pura show mein mainly kapda hi paane hain maine woh bhi dekhlo #CitadelHoneyBunny. (I've worn clothes for most of the show, so please watch the rest of Citadel: Honey Bunny)." Citadel: Honey Bunny, a spin-off of the American series Citadel, stars Varun Dhawan and Samantha Ruth Prabhu as the titular characters. The Raj & DK-directed series also features other popular names such as Kay Kay Menon, Sikandar Kher and Saqib Salem. Within a day of its release, it garnered significant traction, with viewers mainly praising the acting of the star cast. Speaking of Varun Dhawan's work front, he most recently made a special appearance in Shraddha Kapoor and Rajkumar Rao starrer horror comedy Stree 2. On the other hand, the 37-year-old is gearing up for the release of his upcoming action thriller Baby John alongside Keerthy Suresh, Wamiqa Gabbi and Jackie Shroff. The film is scheduled to be released in theatres on December 25. Meanwhile, Varun is also filming for Dharma Productions' Sunny Sanskari ki Tulsi Kumari, starring Janhvi Kapoor, Sanya Malhotra, Manish Paul and Rohit Saraf.



## Tiger Shroff Shares New Photos Featuring Ajay Devgn From Singham Again, Thanks Fans For All Love



**T**iger Shroff is basking under the success of Singham Again. The multi-starrer has been ruling the box office since its release. His role as ACP Satya was loved by fans. Tiger has once again shared new photos featuring Ajay Devgn and thanked all his fans for the love. Taking to his Instagram handle, Tiger shared photos and wrote, "Thank you for all your love was fun kicking ass with the ogs." In the photos, he is seen doing action scene with Ajay Devgn. One of the fans wrote, "the satya legacy". Another wrote, "You deserve all the success, Tiger." Singham Again is headlined by Ajay Devgn and also stars Arjun Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar.

Arjun also shared BTS photos in which we are getting a glimpse of his preparation for the role. "The perfect role, at the right time, with a director who believes in you — sometimes, that's all it takes. Grateful beyond words for the trust he's shown in me when not many were willing to, and for creating a character so close to his vision that the audiences have loved. This journey of becoming Danger Lanka has been nothing short of amazing. Thank you, @itsrohitshtetty sir and team, for making every moment on set unforgettable. I'd do this all over again in a heartbeat!" read the caption.

The movie's collections over the first seven days are as follows: Rs 43.5 crore on Day 1 (Friday), Rs 42.5 crore on Day 2 (Saturday), Rs 35.75 crore on Day 3 (Sunday), Rs 18 crore on Day 4 (Monday), Rs 14 crore on Day 5 (Tuesday), Rs 10.5 crore on Day 6 (Wednesday), and Rs 8.75 crore on Day 7 (Thursday). On Thursday, November 7, 2024, the film had an overall 18.24% Hindi occupancy, with 9.06% in morning shows, 17.28% in afternoon shows, 18.81% in evening shows, and 27.82% in night shows.

## Ibrahim Ali Khan Looks Effortlessly Stylish After Intense Workout



**I**brahim Ali Khan is a fitness freak, and his interactions with paparazzi after intense workout sessions remain our favourite. On Friday, he was clicked while stepping out of his gym in Mumbai. On his way to the car, he also indulged in a quick chit-chat with the shutterbugs, who introduced the star kid to one of the photographers named Rohit. The clip is indeed a delightful watch. Walking in style, Ibrahim Ali Khan looked every bit handsome in his gym outfit. He paired a grey T-shirt with black active-wear shorts. His matching crocs, tinted sunglasses and duffle bag completed the look. Later, he is also seen greeting paparazzi and sharing a quick hug with one of them.

As the video progresses, we can see one of the shutterbugs telling Ibrahim, "Aapki film ka intezaar hai (waiting for your film)." Ibrahim responds, "Aa jayega." Excited for his film, a pap then says, "Aag laga dena," prompting the star kid to smile.

Ibrahim is heading for his Bollywood debut through a romantic comedy titled Naadaniyaan. In the film, he will be seen sharing screen space with Khushi Kapoor. Helmed by debutant director Shauna Gautam, the film is produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions. Besides, Ibrahim also has another film Sarzameen in his kitty. Directed by Kayoze Irani, the movie also stars Prithviraj Sukumaran and Kajol in the lead roles. In a previous interview with Variety, Kajol shared her experience of working with both Prithviraj and Ibrahim. She said, "I've worked with Prithviraj [Sukumaran] for the first time and he's absolutely wonderful to work with and so was Ibrahim [Ali Khan], so I think it's going to be quite interesting to see both of them on screen." Reportedly, Sarzameen is a remake of the Malayalam romantic comedy Hridayam. Speaking about the film, a source earlier also informed Bollywood Hungama, "Sarzameen is not that kind of a film. Ibrahim was sure he did not want a conventional debut. This is a very unusual debut, and Ibrahim is thoroughly ready for the challenge." Sarzameen is backed by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions.