

Siddaramaiah suggests CBI probe into 'Waqf scam' as BJP denies allegations

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accused BJP state chief BY Vijayendra of attempting to bribe ex-Minority Commission chairperson Anwar Maniappad to suppress a Waqf scam report.

Bengaluru. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that his allegations 'Waqf scam' against the state BJP chief were based on evidence and urged the Central government to order a CBI probe into the matter if the saffron party's claims of innocence are true. These remarks came after the Karnataka BJP president, BY Vijayendra, dismissed Siddaramaiah and ruling Congress leaders' charges that he attempted to "bribe" former state Minority Commission chairperson Anwar Maniappad to hush up his report on the Waqf encroachments. "I made the statement based on his video where he spoke about it, and I commented on that. Let them hand over the case to the CBI and let the central government investigate it," Siddaramaiah said. "Have you seen his video statement? He mentioned that he had written a letter to the Prime Minister and the President. If he is now denying making the statement, that means he is lying. Let the Union Government hand over the case to the CBI. The Prime Minister



-Siddaramaiah accuses Karnataka BJP chief of trying to suppress 'Waqf scam' -BY Vijayendra denies allegations, says Congress 'perturbed' by charges of corruption -Chief Minister urges a CBI probe to prove BJP's claims of innocence

claims 'Na khaunga, na khane dunga', let him give the case to the CBI," he continued. Siddaramaiah, in a statement on Saturday, said that Maniappad had publicly claimed Vijayendra visited his house during Yediyurappa's tenure as Chief Minister and offered Rs 150 crore to remain silent about the Waqf property encroachment report. However, on Sunday, Maniappad denied that any such offer was made by Vijayendra. Siddaramaiah, meanwhile, stated that there was video footage of Maniappad making the allegation and demanded that the central government order a CBI probe into the matter. Rejecting these allegations, Vijayendra questioned whether there was any logic in the claims. He said Congress and Siddaramaiah seem to be "perturbed" by the allegations of corruption and scam against them, especially by the MUDA site allotment case against the Chief Minister.

Suspended member of key regional ally of Tamil Nadu's DMK quits party

VCK general secretary Aadhav Arjuna, who was suspended over his comments on DMK following monarchy, resigned from the party. VCK, a key ally of the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, earlier suspended Arjun for his remarks against DMK at a book launch event.

Tamil Nadu. Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) deputy general secretary Aadhav Arjuna, who previously commented that the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in Tamil Nadu, resigned from the party on Sunday evening. In a post on social media platform X, he wrote his resignation letter and added the picture of the document he sent to the party.

In the letter, addressed to VCK chairperson Thol Thirumavalan, Aadhav wrote that he joined the party to work for the oppressed. "I don't have any difference of opinion with the ideology of Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi," he wrote, adding "The thoughts that stemmed out of me due to valid anger over the welfare of the people have now turned into points of debates. I don't want this to create a rift between us." He stated that because he didn't want any "unnecessary debates on open forum", he decided to resign from VCK.

Aadhav also stated that he would continue to question this and sought Thirumavalavan's blessings. Aadhav Arjuna created a political storm when, at a book launch on December 6, he allegedly targeted DMK when he said that a party which claimed to be the champion of social justice was following monarchy. "Tamil Nadu will no longer allow monarchy to flourish. A Chief Minister should not be appointed based on birth," Aadhav had said. The comment was widely interpreted as a direct jibe at Chief Minister MK Stalin, who took over the state's top post after his father M Karunanidhi.

Following the remark, Aadhav also claimed responsibility for DMK's victory in the state elections. The party, however, distanced itself from Aadhav's comment, and led to his suspension from VCK for six months. Meanwhile, VCK chief reacted to Aadhav's resignation. "My blessings are always with him. In public life, patience and tolerance are essential. I expected him to get that opportunity in Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi. This also seems to be (his) urgent decision," Thirumavalan said. Even before the monarchy comment, Aadhav courted controversy when he claimed that alliance parties couldn't be content with only seat sharing, they needed power sharing.

Friend in social sense: Shashi Tharoor's clarification as old Soros post surfaces

New Delhi. Congress MP Shashi Tharoor firmly denied having any financial or political ties to US investor George Soros after social media users dug up a 15-year-old tweet of his in which he refers to the billionaire as an "old friend". In a post on X (earlier Twitter), Tharoor called the controversy over a 15-year-old tweet "absurd" and the product of "unhealthy curiosity." The Thiruvananthapuram MP and former UN diplomat described his relationship with Soros as purely social. "Since there is so much unhealthy curiosity about this tweet, I knew Mr Soros well in my UN days as an upstanding international-minded resident of New York. He was a friend in the social sense: I have never received or solicited a penny from him or any of his foundations for myself or any institution or cause I supported," Tharoor wrote on Sunday.



His remarks come at a time the BJP has accused top Congress leaders of colluding with Soros to destabilise India. The Congress has refuted the charge as baseless. Tharoor clarified the two had very limited interactions, and that he had only met Soros once since the tweet — at a dinner hosted by Hardeep Singh Puri, then India's Ambassador to the United Nations and now a BJP Minister. "Amb Puri had invited a number of prominent Americans for a dinner discussion with me (and that was entirely appropriate). I have not been in touch with Mr Soros since," he added. The Congress leader hit back at detractors for sensationalising a 15-year-old "innocuous tweet" and ridiculed the "troll factory" amplifying the narrative. "I hope this clarifies matters to those misguided enough to make an absurd allegation out of a fifteen-year-old innocuous tweet. But knowing how the troll factory works, I have no doubt it won't!" Tharoor said. The controversy over Soros exploded in Parliament last week after BJP leaders accused former Congress president Sonia Gandhi of being aligned with the billionaire investor, whom they allege is attempting to undermine India's democratic institutions.

Return Nehru's letters taken by Sonia Gandhi: PM Memorial writes to Rahul Gandhi

In a letter to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library urged him to return Jawaharlal Nehru's personal letters, which were allegedly taken by Sonia Gandhi during the UPA regime.

New Delhi. The Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML) has formally requested the return of personal letters written by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, which were sent to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi in 2008 during the UPA regime. In a letter dated December 10, PMML member Rizwan Kadri wrote to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi, urging him to retrieve the original letters from Sonia Gandhi or provide photocopies or digital copies. This follows a similar request made to Sonia Gandhi in September. The letters, considered to be of immense historical importance, were initially entrusted to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (now PMML) by



the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial in 1971. However, they were reportedly packed into 51 boxes and sent to Sonia Gandhi in 2008. The collection includes correspondence between Nehru and prominent figures such as Edwina Mountbatten, Albert Einstein, Jayaprakash Narayan, Padmaja Naidu, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, Aruna Asaf Ali, Babu Jagjivan Ram, and Govind Ballabh Pant, among

others. In his letter to the Gandhi scion, Kadri mentioned that Nehru's private papers were given to the PMML by his daughter and former PM Indira Gandhi since 1971 "for safekeeping rather than an outright gift". He also cited the minutes of a 2008 meeting which mentioned that Sonia Gandhi took away 51 cartons of the donated papers. As the letters "provide invaluable insights into a critical period of Indian history", the PMML sought their return to the institution's archives. "We understand that these documents may hold personal significance for the 'Nehru family.' However, the PMML believes that making these historical materials... more widely accessible would greatly benefit scholars and researchers," the letter stated.

Manmohan Singh as PM doomed Congress's return to power: Mani Shankar Aiyar

Mani Shankar Aiyar argued that Congress's decision to retain Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister despite his declining health led to governance paralysis and ultimately doomed the party's chances of forming UPA-III.

New Delhi. Veteran Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar asserted that the decision to retain Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister, despite his declining health, hindered the party's prospects of returning to power for a third term. In his new book, Aiyar proposed that Pranab Mukherjee should have been appointed as Prime Minister, while Manmohan Singh could have been elevated to the presidency when the Rashtrapati Bhavan became vacant in 2012. Such a move could have prevented the "paralysis of governance" that plagued UPA-II, the 83-year-old Aiyar argues in A Maverick in Politics. He claims that the decision to retain Manmohan Singh as Prime Minister and move Pranab Mukherjee to Rashtrapati Bhavan ultimately "doomed" the Congress's chances of securing a third consecutive term with UPA-III. "In 2012, the prime minister (Manmohan Singh) underwent operations for multiple coronary bypasses. He



never quite recovered physically. It slowed him down and this showed up in governance. As for the party, there was no official announcement about the Congress president's health when she took ill at about the same time as the PM," Aiyar says. The diplomat-turned-politician observed

that both the Prime Minister's Office and the party president's position soon slipped into a state of stasis, marked by a noticeable lack of governance. He notes that several crises, particularly Anna Hazare's 'India Against Corruption' movement, were either mishandled or left unaddressed altogether. "The choice of Rashtrapati: Manmohan Singh or Pranab Mukherjee. Personally, I was of the view that Pranab Mukherjee should have been given the reins of the government and Dr Manmohan Singh elevated to President of India when the office of Rashtrapati presented an opening in 2012," the book reads. "This was principally because we needed a very active PM in good health and with the energy to lead the government (Pranab Da) and a person of high distinction who had served his country exceptionally well (Manmohan Singh) to preside over the nation. Pranab's memoirs indicate that this was in fact contemplated," Aiyar points out.

'Why this approach after being Chief Minister': Congress vs Omar Abdullah on EVMs

-Congress MP Manickam Tagore asked the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister to check his facts after Omar Abdullah questioned the Congress's stance on EVMs.

New Delhi. The Congress said it was the Samajwadi Party, NCP (SP), and the Shiv Sena (UBT) that had spoken against Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) as it hit back at ally Omar Abdullah for questioning the party's



stance on the voting method. In a sharply worded post on Monday, Congress MP Manickam Tagore asked the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister to check his facts. "It's the Samajwadi Party, NCP, and Shiv Sena UBT that have spoken against EVMs. Please check your facts. The Congress CWC

(Congress Working Committee) resolution clearly addresses the ECI only. Why this approach to our partners after being Chief Minister?" Manickam Tagore tweeted.

Omar Abdullah's National Conference is part of the INDIA bloc and the Congress is an alliance partner of the party in J&K. The development marks another point of friction between the Congress and another INDIA bloc ally.

Following significant electoral defeats in Haryana and Maharashtra, the Congress and other opposition parties have advocated a return to ballot paper voting, expressing concerns over the reliability of EVMs.

Abdullah, in an interview, dismissed the Congress's objection, saying the voting machines "cannot be a problem only when you lose elections." "When you get 100 plus MPs using the same EVMs, and you celebrate that as a sort of victory for your party, you can't

-Congress says Samajwadi Party, NCP (SP), Sena (UBT) objected to EVMs -Omar Abdullah said EVMs can't be a problem only when one loses polls -After losses in Haryana, Maharashtra, Congress sought return to paper ballots

then, a few months later turn around and say... we don't like these EVMs because now the election results aren't going the way we would like them to," Abdullah said in an interview with. Citing his own example, Abdullah said when he lost in the Lok Sabha elections earlier this year, he "never blamed the EVMs". "How can you have problems with the EVMs and then continue to fight elections... If you don't trust the machines, then you shouldn't be

fighting elections... You can't say that if I win, I am going to keep quiet and if I lose, then something is wrong with the machines," he said. Seizing the opportunity, the BJP used Abdullah's remarks to slam the Congress and Rahul Gandhi. "EVMs can't be good when Congress wins and bad when they lose. Rahul Gandhi is increasingly looking like a loser no one wants to stand with," BJPIT Cell chief Amit Malviya tweeted.

## NEWS BOX

## New trend: Cybercriminals target public mobile charging stations to steal data

**BENGALURU.** In a concerning trend, cyber criminals are now targeting public mobile phone charging stations to steal users' sensitive data, cyber security experts warn. The growing threat involves the use of USB charging ports, commonly found in public places such as airports, bus stands, railway stations, cafes and hotels. USB ports are often used for both power and data transfer, creating an opportunity for hackers to exploit. Even the state police are creating awareness on the USB charger scam, cautioning people against using public phone charging stations. Dr Harsha, a cyber security expert, said that if public USB charging stations are not configured properly, cyber criminals can misuse the ports to steal data. Since most charging stations use USB ports and the charging cables as a two-way street -- to send the power to device and also transfer data -- cyber criminals have more opportunities to steal data. The scam is all about stealing data or leaving malware in devices. If a person's mobile phone battery is low, he or she does not think of security as he/she just wants to charge the device. Frauds take this as an advantage, he said. Cyber criminals try to steal data in two main ways. First, when a device is plugged into a public USB port, a hacker can compromise that port to infect the device. This could lead to the theft of data such as financial information, passwords, banking details and personal files, which can result in identity theft or financial loss. The hacker can use a crawler program to search for sensitive data on the device. Secondly, cyber criminals may use USB ports to install malware or viruses on devices. These malicious programs can clone phone data and transfer it to the hacker's device, he said.

## Karnataka man impersonates Upalokayukta, held

**BENGALURU.** The Anekal police arrested a man, who claimed to work in the Karnataka Lokayukta and misused the name of Upalokayukta Justice B. Veerappa on a caller ID application. The accused tried to threaten the deputy tahsildar of Anekal to complete work by misusing the Upalokayukta's name. The accused has been identified as Anand Kumar, a native of Kolar. The police said that Kumar met the Deputy Tahsildar of Anekal, Kariya Naik, claiming he was employed in the Karnataka Lokayukta office in Bengaluru and was a relative of Upalokayukta Justice B. Veerappa.

He requested Naik to change the name of the owner of a one-acre land in Sarjapur to his brother's name, though the land belonged to some other person. When Naik ignored his request, Kumar approached him again and handed him a phone, claiming that a senior police officer with the Lokayukta was on line. The person on the other end also pretended to be a Lokayukta official. Kumar allegedly threatened and harassed Naik, pressuring him to complete the work without delay.

He also saved his number as "Upalokayukta B Veerappa" on a caller ID application and used the number to contact Naik. Suspicious of Kumar's claims, Naik shared his number and photo with Lokayukta officials.

## Policeman shoots himself dead with service gun in Malappuram

**MALAPPURAM.** A Special Operation Group (SOG) commando allegedly shot himself dead at the MSP camp in Areekode on Sunday night. The deceased has been identified as Vineeth, 36, a resident of Thekkumthara, Wayanad. Vineeth was immediately rushed to a nearby private hospital but succumbed to his injuries before reaching there. Preliminary reports suggest that he allegedly took his own life due to prolonged denial of leave, even during critical personal circumstances.

## THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published  
Owned by Simmi Babbar  
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika  
Printing Press, A-4/A-144,  
Tronica City (Loni), Ghaziabad  
(Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:  
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi

Editor-in-Chief  
Gurcharan Singh Babbar  
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517  
Website : www.thesikhimes.in  
Email : sikhimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

## Legal Advisors:

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

## With eye on polls, AIADMK to revive Youth Brigades

**CHENNAI.** With an eye on the 2026 Assembly polls, AIADMK has decided to strengthen its youth wing to garner the support of the young voters and inject young blood into the party apparatus. At the party's general council meeting at Vanagaram on Sunday, AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami directed office-bearers to strengthen the Youth Brigades (Iaignar Pasaraigal) by enrolling more youngsters into it. Besides, a separate sports wing will be created to encourage sports aspirants. The Youth Brigades was launched by former chief minister J Jayalalitha in September 2008, when AIADMK was out of power, as part of its strategy to win the 2011 Assembly elections. Those who were in the age group of 18-25 were allowed to become members in these brigades. Reviving the Youth Brigades assumes significance as the party is leaving no stone unturned to win the next Assembly elections. At the GC meeting, Palaniswami directed the office-bearers from district secretaries to village-level functionaries to enrol youth below the age of 30 in these brigades. Palaniswami also announced that he would be undertaking a statewide tour from the last week of January to expose the DMK government and visit all 234 Assembly constituencies. He also assured that, taking into consideration the expectations of party members, a mega alliance headed by AIADMK will be formed for the elections. "You may think the general secretary gave the same



assurance for the Lok Sabha elections and (that has not become true). But I say Lok Sabha elections and Assembly elections are entirely different in nature. Assembly elections are our own elections and we will return to power in 2026." "Is Karunanidhi's clan from a royal family? Only in dynastic rule, the son of a king will ascend the throne after the king's time and this goes on. The same thing has been happening in Karunanidhi's family for very long. The 2026 Assembly elections will put an end to dynastic rule in Tamil Nadu," Palaniswami said. He added that for each of the

68,467 polling booths in the state, nine new members including three women should be appointed to work for the 2026 Assembly elections.

The members should be party loyalists and be able to function efficiently. "If you accomplish this task diligently, it will ensure the AIADMK's victory in the 2026 Assembly polls," he said. Stating that the people have started hating the ruling DMK, Palaniswami said AIADMK functionaries should use this opportunity well. In his hour-long speech, Palaniswami also criticised the DMK

## From crowdfunding to AI, directors explore new horizons at IFFK

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.** Even as the young crop of directors have backed the advent of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the making of movies, not all are on board with this shift. Twenty-year-old Cyril Abraham Dennis, whose feature debut Watusi Zombie! is scheduled for three screenings at IFFK, voiced his concern over the pace at which AI is taking over human creativity.

The heated debate over the disruptive technologies took centre stage during the Day 3 'Meet the Director' session, on Sunday. Cyril was joined by directors Satish and Santosh Babusenan (Mukhakannadi), Vipin Radhakrishnan (Angammal), Ishan Shukla (Schirkoo: In Lies We Trust), Abhijit Mazumdar (Body), Amala Popuri, producer of Body and Omara Shetty, actor in The



Shameless. Mira Sahib moderated the session, which was held at Tagore Theatre in front of a packed audience. The Babusenan brothers opined that the definition of creativity itself would be changed in the future. "Now, if you make a film using AI, you'll have to hide it. But

tomorrow, if you are not using AI in your creativity, then you're very old-fashioned", they said. Vipin Radhakrishnan added that the capability of AI in the technical aspects of movie-making was commendable.

Beginning with a quick introduction to each of their films, the discussion soon shifted to the alternative ways of funding and production possibilities of new-age filmmaking. Ishan Shukla said the concept of Film Markets, though complicated in the process, was helpful in finding international collaborators.

Omara Shetty shared her experience of facing heavy financial crunches and the help extended by four countries. Amala Popuri suggested her successful model of crowdfunding as another alternative that could be emulated.

## Kerala Students Union 'didn't sweep polls', loss of bastions temporary setback: SFI

**KOCHI.** Even as the Kerala Students Union (KSU) made a near-clean sweep of the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) students' union elections, the Students Federation of India (SFI), which had been in power at the varsity for the past 30 years, termed it a temporary setback. The Cusat students union elections saw KSU winning 13 out of the 15 posts. SFI state secretary P M Arsho said such setbacks happen. "And to say the KSU has swept the elections is not correct. In the case of campus elections, wins happen by a mere five or six votes. That is true in our case too," Arsho told TNIE. While it has been being said that SFI has seen a slight dip in its clout among students over the years, Arsho begged to differ. That is not correct. Look how we have performed in the MG University and Calicut University elections. SFI won in 20 out of the 29 college union elections under Calicut University," he said. Be it law colleges or arts and science colleges, ITIs, Polytechnics, or professional colleges, SFI has been doing well and enjoys good rapport among the students, he added. As for losing campuses that it had been ruling for two or more years, Arsho said, "We lost many campuses that we considered prestigious. We lost the Palakkad Government Victoria College, Pattambi Government Sanskrit College, Nennmara NSS College and Trithala Pakkulum NSS College to KSU. But this year, we wrested them back," he said, adding that even in the Kerala Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (KVASU) at Pookode in Wayanad, SFI won the students' union elections. "KVASU was in the news following the death of J S Sidharthan, a 20-year-old second-year veterinary student. The SFI branch at the university was accused of ragging Sidharthan, and four SFI Kerala leaders were arrested on March 1. "Election to the KVASU students union was held just two days before Cusat," said Arsho.

## A celebrated Siva temple with many unique features

**CHENNAI.** Kizhvelur (Keevalur), a village near Thiruvavur, has a Siva temple, wherein the principal deity (Siva Lingam) is worshipped as Akshayalinga Svami and Kediliyappar. This temple is a Padal Petra Sthalam or shrine praised in the Tamil verses of the Nayanmars or important Siva devotees, totally numbering sixty-three. Appar and Thirugnanasambandar, the famous Nayanmars visited this temple in the 7th century CE. The Sthala-Puranam or traditional story of this temple records that Subramanya worshipped his father Siva here and established this temple with the help of God Indra. It is said that Subramanya performed tapas (penance) here to kill Tarakasura and then had a bath in the pushkarini (temple-tank) called Saravana Poigai, which he created by piercing his vel (spear) into the ground. This pushkarini is seen near the main entrance. Since this deity was a tapasvi in Kizhvelur, his images of Balasubramanya and Arumugasvami are not flanked by consorts, Valli and Devasena. Interestingly, Balasubramanya here has the elephant vahana instead of the peacock. This temple, which has three prakarams (enclosures), has a majestic gopuram,



covered with sculptures, on the east. The main sanctum, which has a narrow open prakaram around it, houses the small Siva Lingam worshipped as Akshayalinga Svami, which is said to be Svayambhu (self-manifested). An interesting image of Nataraja dancing in Chatura Tandava on the left foot is worshipped closeby. A flight of steps leads to the main sanctum which is at an elevation, earning this temple the name 'mada kovil'. There are several such 'mada-kovil' built by a Chola ruler named Kochenganan who was also a Nayanmar. Goddess Parvati is called Vanamulai Nayaki or Sundarakuchambikai in this temple. Small sanctums for each of the Siva Lingas in the Pancha Bhuta

Sthalams (Prithvi, Ap, Thejus, Vayu and Akash in Kanchipuram, Thiruvannaikka, Thiruvannamalai, Srikalahasti and Chidambaram) are in the second prakaram and also a rare shrine for Kubera, the God of wealth as this deity is said to have helped a poor devotee here.

Another unique sanctum is for Anjувattathu Amman, or Parvati, who, wanting to protect Subramanya and his penance, covered the four directions and also the sky. Interestingly, the images of the Navagrahas are in a single row just as in the Thyagaraja Svami temple in Thiruvavur. A couple of Chola inscriptions have been found here, one unfortunately mutilated and the other mentioning a grant of land.

## Stormwater pools in Tiruchy junction station subway, poor renovation blamed

**TIRUCHY.** Stormwater pooled in the subway connecting platforms at Tiruchy railway junction on Saturday, forcing many passengers to avoid using it. This subway has been facing the situation from 2020 onwards with sources blaming infrastructural renovation work at the station taken up in 2019.

The Southern Railway spent roughly over Rs 20 crore for the infrastructural upgrade here, but every monsoon the subway gets flooded, exposing poor drainage, they said. Although the authorities often conduct temporary measures to drain out the water, passengers stressed the need for

a permanent solution. "I have been boarding trains from this station for the past 20 years. This station's subway faced this kind of situation only after the infrastructural renovation during 2019 to 2022. It left us a beautiful station with poor storm water management. What is the point in having a beautiful granite-laid subway pooled up with storm water?"

None can use it during the monsoon. I had several times noticed water rushing out from the gaps of stairs in the subway. I don't know how many crores the railway has to spend to stop this pooling of water in this underpass," said B Anandanarayan, a



resident and state government official working in Thanjavur. Some passengers demanded an inquiry against those who conducted the

infrastructural renovation works at the station. "I am a regular railway passenger, and I request the administration to start an inquiry into the works executed at this station. Second, the railway should also come up with a permanent solution. Last year, we faced the same issue, and authorities failed to come up with a solution to avoid such a situation," said Syed Ibrahim, a senior citizen and a passenger. Meanwhile, a senior railway official said, "We used two high-power motors to drain out the water. The railway team will take measures for a permanent solution."

## Works for Hyderabad Old City Metro expedited

**HYDERABAD.** The land acquisition process for the construction of the Metro in the Old City has been expedited following the orders of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, covering nearly seven-and-a-half-kilometers between MGBS and Chandrayangutta, announced Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited (HAML) Managing Director NVS Reddy on Sunday. As many as 1,100 properties are likely to be affected. He revealed that requisitions for 900 properties have already been submitted to the district collector under the Land Acquisition Act. Preliminary notifications have also been issued for 800 properties in phases, while 400 properties have received preliminary declaration.

Compensation awards for 200 affected properties are expected to be finalised by the end of December,



after which payments will be disbursed, and demolition work will commence, NVS Reddy said, adding that these steps would streamline the Metro rail construction process in the Old City. Simultaneously, negotiations are being conducted with property owners.

He promised that all religious and historical structures would be preserved using engineering solutions. He highlighted that the Metro's arrival would transform the Old City into an attractive destination, boosting employment opportunities and driving sustainable, pollution-free development.

The chief minister is being updated on the project's progress, the HAML MD added.

News box

Gurgoan hospital treats Iraqi man with rare spinal condition

Gurgoan: A 40-year-old Iraqi man underwent a rare spine surgery at Artemis Hospital. Mohanad Adnan Mohamed from Baghdad endured a rare spinal condition causing acute neck pain and progressive weakness in his right arm.

Then a vacant plot, now a dumpsite near housing societies in Crossings

Ghaziabad. Residents of several housing societies in Crossings Republik have raised concerns about the unauthorised disposal of plastic and sewage waste at a private plot next to their condominiums.



have ultimately fetched no results here since garbage and sewage waste still lie open close to our houses," said Anuranjan Srivastava, a resident of Skytech Merion Residency 2. Locals highlighted that landowners and developers should be responsible for regular maintenance of their vacant properties.

6 arrested in credit card scam

Noida. Six people were arrested from Sector 37 on Sunday for cheating over 50 people on the pretence of increasing their credit card limits. Another member of the gang is on the run.

Drains choked, sewage floods roads, 'pollutes potable water' in Gurgaon's Sushant Lok 1

Gurgaon. For the past 10 days, sewage has been overflowing on roads of Sushant Lok 1 near Lily Park and Peach Tree Hotel in C Block. The situation in the area has now worsened, with residents complaining about contaminated water supply as well, leaving them with no choice but to rely on water tankers.



struggled to cope with increased FAR and rampant construction violations, leaving it overburdened. Last Sept, MCG sanctioned Rs 30.7 lakh for cleaning sewer lines using bucket machines.

despite repeated complaints. Hardly 20% of the cleaning was done by the contractor, and there was no monitoring from MCG.

president of Sushant Lok 1. Meanwhile, the chief engineer of MCG, Manoj Yadav, said, "I will get the issue resolved. The lack of a contracting agency is not an issue; when required, we deploy resources from other areas to minimise inconvenience to residents."

Grid of legal notices including NAME CHANGE, PUBLIC NOTICE, and Date of Birth Correction. Each notice provides specific details about the change or correction being made.

Public notices and advertisements from Northern Railway, including notices for e-tenders, public notices regarding property and legal matters, and advertisements for legal services.

## NEWS BOX

## Ukraine Slams FIFA For Map Omitting Crimea From Its Territory: "Are you OK"

**World.** Ukraine has lashed out at FIFA after the governing body of world football showed a map that seemingly omitted Crimea as part of the country. The incident took place last week when FIFA held a European qualifier draw for the 2026 World Cup that is being jointly hosted by the US, Mexico and Canada. The map was intended to show countries that cannot be drawn to play against each other for geopolitical reasons, such as Ukraine vs Belarus, Armenia vs Azerbaijan, Spain vs Gibraltar, Kosovo vs Serbia, and Kosovo vs Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the middle of the presentation, FIFA excluded Crimea from the Ukrainian region, instantly leading to backlash from Kyiv. Notably, Crimea has been under Russian occupation since 2014 with only a handful of countries recognising the peninsula as Russian territory.

Ukraine Foreign Ministry spokesman Heorhiy Tykhy took to X (formerly Twitter) and tagged FIFA while questioning it for "redrawing" the international map.

"Are you OK, @FIFAcom? By redrawing international borders in yesterday's broadcast, you not only acted against international law, but also supported Russian propaganda, war crimes, and the crime of aggression against Ukraine," said Mr Tykhy.

"We fixed the map for you and expect a public apology," Mr Tykhy added while sharing the correct map.

Ukraine FA writes letter

The Ukrainian Football Association also wrote a letter to FIFA expressing its concerns. "We write to express our deep concern regarding the infographics map of Europe displayed during the television broadcast of the European Qualifiers draw for the FIFA World Cup 2026 on December 13, 2024," read the letter.

Taking into account a number of official decisions and resolutions adopted by the Fifa Council and the UEFA executive committee since 2014...we emphasize that today's version of the cartographic image of Ukraine is completely unacceptable and looks like an inconsistent position of Fifa and UEFA," it added.

In response to the outrage expressed by the Ukrainian Football Association, FIFA also issued a statement acknowledging the issue. "FIFA is aware of an issue that affected one of the graphics shown during the draw and has addressed the situation with the Federation. The segment has been removed."

## Clothing Brand Founder Releases 'Most Wanted CEOs' Playing Cards

**World.** James Harr, founder of Comrade Workwear, a self-described "socialist apparel" brand, has courted controversy with his latest project -- a deck of cards featuring "most wanted CEOs" complete with names, faces, and illustrations of gun range targets.

Harr, known for his anti-capitalist rhetoric and controversial social media posts, introduced the project days after the killing of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson in New York. On his Instagram and TikTok accounts, which collectively have over 109,000 followers, Harr shared his plans for the deck, adding the idea was inspired by the Iraq war-era card decks. He claimed the deck would help people identify the CEOs he believes are responsible for harming the public. The deck will be divided into suits representing various industries, according to Harr's posts. Clubs will feature pharmaceutical and chemical company CEOs. Hearts will represent retail and real estate, Diamonds will cover tech, finance, and media, and Spades mean oil and war company executives.

The cards' reverse sides will display the phrase "most-wanted CEOs" alongside a red human silhouette gun range target, and the front will show black-and-white close-ups of each CEO's face, name, affiliation, and QR codes labelled "why they're evil," leading to web pages outlining their alleged wrongdoings. Harr asked his followers to suggest more CEOs to feature in the deck, and many pledged to buy the deck as soon as it was available. One commentator even asked if the deck would include addresses. In response to criticism, Harr insisted the deck was not a call to violence. "I'm not suggesting anyone should cause any physical harm to anyone," he told The NY Post. "But I do want people to know who is making their life harder, who is stealing from them, who is deciding that a couple more percentage points of profit is worth more than the life of your loved ones."

## Taiwan receives 38 US-made Abrams tanks amid China threat

**World.** Taiwan's defense ministry announced Monday the arrival of 38 M1A2 Abrams tanks from the United States, a move aimed at strengthening the island's defenses against a potential attack from China. These tanks represent the first of 108 ordered in 2019.

The tanks arrived Sunday according to AFP and were transported to an army training base in Hsinchu, as confirmed by the defence ministry. Currently, Taiwan's tank arsenal comprises approximately 1,000 units, including locally manufactured CM 11 Brave Tiger and American M60A3 tanks, which are considered dated. The remaining tanks are scheduled for delivery in 2025 and 2026.

The US is Taiwan's main ally and arms supplier. China claims Taiwan as its territory and opposes such arms sales. Taiwan's government budgeted over \$1.2 billion for the Abrams tanks.

China has not ruled out using force to take control of Taiwan. While Taiwan develops its own defense systems, it relies heavily on US arms sales for security. Delays in arms deliveries to Taiwan have occurred due to supply chain issues and US weapon shipments to Ukraine and Israel. Taiwan's 2024 defense budget is a record \$19 billion, and next year's is expected to be even higher, reflecting the island's focus on bolstering its defenses. China has intensified military activities around Taiwan, including recent large-scale maritime drills.

## 'Definitely several hundred' killed as Cyclone Chido devastates French territory of Mayotte

**SAINT-DENIS DE LA REUNION.** Local authorities said Sunday that the likely death toll from cyclone Chido's passage across Mayotte was "definitely several hundred" though the disruption means reaching an exact count will be difficult.

Rescue workers and supplies are being rushed in by air and sea, but their efforts are likely to be hindered by damage to airports and electricity distribution in a territory where even clean drinking water was already subject to chronic shortages.

A previous toll shared with AFP by a security source had confirmed only 14 deaths.

"I think there will definitely be several hundred, perhaps we will come close to a thousand or even several thousand" deaths, prefect Francois-Xavier Bieuvreille said on broadcaster Mayotte La Premiere.

He added that it would be "very difficult to reach a final count" given that most residents are Muslim, traditionally burying their dead within 24 hours. The mayor of Mayotte's capital Mamoudzou, Ambdilwahedou Soumaila, had earlier told AFP that nine people were gravely wounded and fighting for their lives in

hospital, while 246 more were seriously injured. "The hospital is hit, the schools are hit. Houses are totally devastated," he said, adding that the hurricane "spared nothing". Mayotte's 320,000 residents had been ordered into lockdown Saturday as cyclone Chido bore down on the islands around 500 kilometres (310 miles) east of Mozambique with gusts of at least 226 kilometres per hour. Electricity poles were hurled to the ground, trees uprooted and sheet-metal roofs and walls torn off improvised structures inhabited by at least one-third of the population. Information from the locked-down population, in shock and largely cut off from water and electricity supplies, is slow to filter out, a source familiar with the recovery effort told AFP. One local resident, Ibrahim, told AFP of "apocalyptic scenes" as he made his way through the main island, having to clear blocked roads for himself.

Scramble for supplies

Interior Minister Retailleau will travel to Mayotte on Monday, his office said, alongside 160 soldiers and firefighters to reinforce the 110 already deployed to the



islands. Medical personnel and equipment were being delivered from Sunday by air and sea, said the prefecture in La Reunion, another French Indian Ocean territory some 1,400 kilometres away on the other side of Madagascar. A first aid plane landed in Mayotte at around 3:30 pm local time (12:30 GMT) with three tonnes of medical supplies, blood for transfusions and 17 medical staff, authorities in La Reunion said, with two military aircraft expected to follow. A navy patrol ship was also to depart La Reunion with personnel and equipment including for electricity supplier EDF.

Pope Francis, visiting French Mediterranean

island Corsica on Sunday, urged people to pray for Mayotte's residents. Storm hits Mozambique Just northwest of Mayotte, the Comoros islands, some of which had been on red alert since Friday, were also hit, but suffered only minor damage. Cyclone Chido later slammed into Mozambique, bringing gale-force winds and heavy rain when it made landfall early Sunday around 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of the northern city of Pemba, weather services said. Buildings were damaged and power knocked out in some areas of Mozambique's northern coastal provinces of Nampula and Cabo Delgado early Saturday, authorities said. But by the afternoon Chido was travelling over the inland province of Niassa and had weakened, said the president of the National Institute for Risk and Disaster Management, Luisa Meque. UNICEF said it was on the ground to help the people impacted by the storm, which had already caused some damage. "Many homes, schools and health facilities have been partially or completely destroyed and

## Bangladesh to hold elections in late 2025 or early 2026: Yunus

**DHAKA.** Bangladesh's interim leader Muhammad Yunus, who heads the caretaker government installed after an August revolution, said Monday that general elections would be held late next year or in early 2026.

Pressure has been growing on Nobel Peace Prize winner Yunus -- appointed the country's "chief adviser" after the student-led uprising that toppled ex-premier Sheikh Hasina in August -- to set a date. The 84-year-old microfinance pioneer is leading a temporary administration to tackle what he has called the "extremely tough" challenge of restoring democratic institutions in the South Asian nation of some 170 million people. "Election dates could be fixed by the end of 2025 or the first half of 2026," he said in a broadcast on state television. Hasina, 77, fled by



helicopter to neighbouring India as thousands of protesters stormed the prime minister's palace in Dhaka. Her government was also accused of politicising courts and the civil service, as well as staging lopsided elections, to

dismantle democratic checks on its power.

Hasina's 15-year rule saw widespread human rights abuses, including the mass detention and extrajudicial killings of her political opponents.

Yunus has launched commissions to oversee a raft of reforms he says are needed, and setting an election date depends on what political parties agree.

"Throughout, I have emphasised that reforms should take place first before the arrangements for an election," he said. "If the political parties agree to hold the election on an earlier date with minimum reforms, such as having a flawless voter list, the election could be held by the end of November," he added. But including the full list of electoral reforms would delay polls by a few months, he said.

## New York Pet Stores Rush To Sell Pets At Discounted Rates Before Sales Ban

**World.** Pet shops across New York City can no longer sell dogs, cats, or rabbits. The Puppy Mill Pipeline Act, signed two years ago by Governor Kathy Hochul, came into effect on Sunday.

It aims to stop the flow of animals bred in inhumane puppy mills and promote adoption from overcrowded shelters.

The act to curb abusive breeding practices has turned New York into a buyer's market for prospective pet owners. Pet stores scrambled to clear their inventory, offering steep discounts on animals in a last-ditch attempt to sell before the ban. Many took advantage of price reductions over the weekend. Ingrid Rodriguez, 25, bought a 10-week-old Pomeranian for \$1,300 (Rs 110,084) down from \$1,450 (Rs 122,482) -- at Astoria Pets in Queens. "I was just walking by with my mom when we saw the sign. We went in, and you know, holding the dog up to her chest," she told The NY Post. Despite her mixed feelings about the law, Ms Rodriguez supports reducing illegal breeding. "I never thought I'd buy a dog,

but if they didn't get sold, they were going to the shelter," said Krisjan Polonia, 31, who purchased a black-and-white shih tzu-bichon mix for \$650 (Rs 55,082) -- down from \$2,800 (Rs



237,104). "Kids make you do crazy things," he added, explaining the dog was a gift for his son. On the other side of the debate, pet shop owners like Don D'Alessio of 'Astoria Pets' are frustrated with the law. A veteran of the industry for 42 years, Mr D'Alessio has always adhered to the city's regulations, ensuring that he only bought from licenced breeders. "We've never had a violation here, look at the paperwork. Fifteen years of paperwork, not one violation," he said. Despite following

the rules, he is now forced to close his doors. "I can't last selling supplies that are cheaper online... We're not going to survive. We're done," he said, pointing out that over 120 businesses like his are expected to shut down across the state, affecting around 2,500 employees.

Mr D'Alessio, 73, had no choice but to sell the 21 dogs in his store over the weekend, fearing that any unsold animals would be sent to shelters. He explained that many customers couldn't afford the dogs even at their discounted prices, which led him to give some of the animals to loyal clients.

Despite the challenges faced by pet shop owners, animal rights groups are celebrating the law as a victory for animal welfare. Rise Weinstock, president of the New York Animal Care Centers, praised the bill for ending a cruel supply chain. "For too long, pet stores have been the final stop in a system that treats living beings as commodities," she said. Activists argue that pet shops often source their animals from puppy mills, where dogs are bred under inhumane conditions.

## Prince Andrew And Alleged Chinese Spy "H6": All You Need To Know

**World.** Prince Andrew, the younger brother of King Charles III, has become the subject of yet another scandal after an alleged Chinese spy used him to get access to the heart of the British establishment. According to The Guardian, the businessman, identified only as "H6" for legal reasons, had gained unusual level of trust from the senior royal. However, in a rare statement, issued by Andrew's office, the royal insisted that he "ceased all contact" with the alleged spy after concerns were raised, and that "nothing of a sensitive nature was ever discussed".

The Guardian quoted court documents to report that the businessman was so close to the Duke of York, he was authorised to act on his behalf in an international financial initiative with potential partners and investors in China.

A March 2020 letter written to him by Dominic Hampshire, a senior adviser to Prince Andrew, was also found in the alleged spy's phone, which referred to him being invited to the duke's birthday party. "Outside of his closest internal confidants, you sit at



the very top of a tree that many, many people would like to be on," the letter said, as per the outlet.

The BBC said that H6 formed an "unusual degree of trust" with the duke and has since been banned from the UK. The alleged spy even appealed against his ban in 2023, but the decision was upheld by the UK's national security court. Buckingham Palace declined to comment, saying they do not act for Prince Andrew, who is not a working royal.

What we know about H6?

As per The Independent, the alleged Chinese spy called the UK his "second home" and had previously been granted indefinite leave to remain in Britain. He is said to have used his high profile connection to secure invitations to Buckingham Palace and other royal residences, with fresh reports now alleging he also met two former prime ministers, including David Cameron and Theresa May. 6 was finally expelled from Britain in 2023 when then-home secretary Suella Braverman's office said he reportedly engaged in "covert and deceptive activity" on behalf of the United Front Work Department (UFW), which is an arm of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) state apparatus. Prince Andrew's controversial past The disgraced prince has been facing scrutiny since 2019 over his friendship with US financier and sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

## 'Fascist Yunus': Sheikh Hasina's Fresh Attack On Bangladesh's Interim Leader On Bijoy Dibosh

**Dhaka.** On the eve of Bangladesh's Bijoy Dibosh, deposed premier Sheikh Hasina on Sunday launched a fierce attack on the interim administration, dubbing it Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus a "fascist". She claimed Nobel laureate Yunus was leading an "undemocratic group" that was "secretly supporting anti-liberation extremist-communal forces" and the main aim of his dispensation was to suppress the spirit of the Liberation War and the pro-liberation forces. Ms Hasina's remarks were part of her statement to commemorate the defeat of Pakistani forces in Bangladesh's Liberation War of 1971. Bangladesh celebrates December 16 as 'Bijoy Dibosh' or Victory Day. On December 16, 1971, then Chief of Pakistani forces General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi, along with 93,000 troops, surrendered to the joint forces of the Indian Army and 'Mukti Bahini' after the 13-day war following which East Pakistan became Bangladesh. In a statement posted on her party's official X account, Ms Hasina highlighted the role of her father, Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman, and the Awami League in the struggle that culminated in the emergence of Bangladesh. She also noted the developmental work done by the Awami League government and its vision for Bangladesh under her leadership. Talking about the events leading to her ouster, Ms Hasina said, "Anti-national groups illegally and unconstitutionally seized state power through domestic and foreign conspiracies." "This undemocratic group, led by fascist Yunus, has no responsibility towards the people. They are obstructing all public welfare-oriented work by seizing power. About 50 million people in the country were under the social security system. They were given various allowances. It has been alleged that most of the allowances have been stopped. The family cards of 4.3 million families under the TCB have been cancelled. The people of the country are suffering from the



hardships of rising commodity prices. Hungry people are picking food from dustbins," she said. Ms Hasina, who fled to India after resigning as the prime minister in August in the face of massive anti-government protests, claimed that since Mr Yunus-led interim government was not democratically elected, it has no responsibility towards the people. "Their main goal is to create resentment against

the spirit of the Liberation War and the forces supporting the Liberation War and to silence them. On the contrary, they are secretly supporting the anti-liberation extremist-communal forces. The lack of sensitivity of the officials of this government, including the fascist Yunus, towards the Liberation War and its history is proven by their every step," she stated.

Ms Hasina alleged that the Mr Yunus-led dispensation was following the "rituals of the responsible group" Pakistan in an attempt to erase "progressive ideals," the history and spirit of the Liberation War.

"If they could, they would have presented a different narrative and erased the traces of the great Liberation War from every aspect of national life. They would have turned this great glorious event of the collective achievements of the Bengalis into a disgrace," she added.

NEWS BOX

25-year-old held for attacking woman in Valasaravakkam

CHENNAI. The Valasaravakkam police arrested a 25-year-old man on Saturday for allegedly attacking and harassing a woman, with whom he had been in a relationship until a few weeks ago. The police said the suspect - R Sriram, an employee of a private company in Tiruvallur - forced the woman to



talk to him after she had ended their relationship. According to the police sources, Sriram and the woman, the latter hailing from Mayiladuthurai, pursued MBA together. A few months ago, the woman moved to Chennai, where she has been employed at a private company. After she broke up with him, Sriram allegedly followed her often and argued with her. On Saturday, Sriram went to the woman's house near Valasaravakkam and an argument broke out between the two, during which he attacked her with a stone and fled. Based on the woman's complaint, the police arrested Sriram and remanded him in judicial custody. Further investigation is underway.

Suresh Vedanayagam elected as president of Chennai Press Club

CHENNAI. In the Chennai Press Club election held after a gap of 25 years on Monday, the 'League for Justice' emerged victorious, securing all major positions, while 'Team Unity' managed to win one post. M Suresh Vedanayagam, a journalist from the 'League for Justice' team, was elected as president with 659 votes, defeating R K Radhakrishnan of 'Team Unity', who secured 398 votes. Sundara Bharathi and J Madan from the 'League for Justice' were elected to the vice president positions. For the post of general secretary, S Manikandan won with 803 votes, defeating P Lakshmanan, who secured 495 votes. M Haseef also won the position of general secretary with 734 votes, while Nelson



Xavier from the 'League for Justice' claimed the joint secretary position. Furthermore, P Stalin, S Pazhanivel, M Vijaygopal, and Akhila Eswaran from the 'League for Justice', along with Gavaskar from 'Team Unity', were elected as members of the executive committee.

Upkeep of CRMP roads goes for a toss in Hyderabad city

HYDERABAD. With an end to the five-year agreement between two GHMC zones - Serilingampally and Kukatpally - maintenance of the main road over 810 kilometres under the Comprehensive Road Maintenance Programme (CRMP) by private agencies hangs in balance. For the remaining four GHMC zones, including Khairatabad, Secunderabad, LB Nagar and Charminar, the agreement is going to expire



next month. The GHMC has not taken any decision to float fresh tenders for the maintenance of CRMP roads nor given any extension to the agencies which are currently maintaining them. Meanwhile, the GHMC has invited bids from the agencies to provide truck-mounted mechanical sweeping services through compact heavy-duty vacuum sweepers to clean large flat paved areas on CRMP road stretches in Kukatpally and Serilingampally till June 2025. The agreement was handed over to private agencies in November 2019 which were entrusted to take up sweeping roads, laying bitumen and concrete roads, and developing road infrastructure at regular intervals. The agreement had mentioned that 50% of the roads should be recarpeted in the first year, 30% in the second year, and the remaining 20% in the third year, and maintenance responsibilities should be taken care of for another two years.

Heavy rain likely over Tamil Nadu delta districts on Dec 17, 18

CHENNAI. Close on the heels of the recent weather system that brought significant rainfall to Chennai and the delta districts, along with extremely heavy downpours in the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC) on Sunday announced that a new low-pressure area is likely to form over the southeast Bay of Bengal on Monday. The system is expected to bring heavy to very heavy rainfall to the delta districts on Tuesday, it stated. The low-pressure area is to be formed under the influence of an upper-air cyclonic circulation, which was located over the South Andaman Sea and adjoining areas on Saturday and subsequently moved to the South Andaman Sea and the adjoining Bay of Bengal by Sunday. It is likely to become more marked and move west-northwestwards towards the Tamil Nadu coast in the next two days.



As per the RMC's forecast, an orange alert (heavy to very heavy rains) has been issued to Cuddalore, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam and Tiruvallur districts and Karaikal area for Tuesday. Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Tiruchy, Thanjavur and Pudukkottai districts and Pudukcherry. On Wednesday, heavy to very heavy rains are likely in isolated places over Cuddalore and Villupuram districts and Pudukcherry. Heavy rain is likely to occur at isolated places over Tiruvallur, Chennai, Chengalpattu,

Kancheepuram, Ranipet, Tiruvannamalai, Kallakurichi, Mayiladuthurai, Nagapattinam and Tiruvallur districts and Karaikal area, the forecast stated. Weather blogger K Srikanth said that there is an increasing consensus among the weather models about the low-pressure area becoming well-marked and its potential slow movement due to presence of a ridge over peninsular India. Any stall or slow movement could turn the rainfall event into widespread heavy rainfall over the northern Tamil Nadu coast. The potential for westerly/easterly interaction near south coastal AP or north coastal TN is

increasing and it could bring an extreme rainfall event between Marakkanam and Sriharikota. The stretch between Pondicherry and Nellore may see heavy to very heavy rains during this period, he said. After intensification, the well-marked low-pressure region will approach the north TN coast and then move along southern AP coast, potentially bringing moderate to heavy rainfall on December 18 and 19, lasting for 24 to 36 hours, subject to real-time tracking. In the 24 hours ending at 8.30 am on Sunday, Papanasam in Tirunelveli district recorded the highest rainfall at 13cm.

Water breaches from Madakulam outlet into Madurai's residential areas

MADURAI. Lack of periodical maintenance has clogged the outlet canal of the Madakulam Tank and caused overflow in residential areas. Since Sunday morning, several areas in Ward 71 and nearby areas faced severe waterlogging issues. Activists cited lack of maintenance and encroachments in the waterbody as reasons. In the morning, water released from Madakulam Tank to Kirithumal River through the outlet channel overflowed into residential areas in Madakulam, leaving roads in several residential areas inundated with foot-deep water. As the area lay in the middle of two separate WRD divisions (Vaigai and Gundar division) and the city corporation, officials from all three were inspecting the waterlogging in Madakulam. "As the canal was not



being maintained properly, whenever water was released from the Madakulam Tank, water overflowed into residential areas. On Sunday, knee-deep water got logged in residential areas in Annai Mahalakshmi Nagar in Ward 71. Though the corporation has been taking measures, we request concerned departments to do periodical maintenance in the canal to prevent waterlogging in the future," said Prasanna, from the resident's welfare association of Annai Mahalakshmi. While speaking to TNIE, senior official from the WRD department, said the Madakulam Tank was half-full and considering the rain, excess water is being released through the outlet canal to Kirithumal River. The WRD department has already floated tenders for carrying out maintenance works in the Kirithumal River and Madakulam Tank and works will be started by January. At present, works are being carried out to prevent stagnation.

BDA scraps plan to demolish Hebbal flyover's KR Pura ramp

BENGALURU. In a significant step in connection with the Hebbal flyover augmentation project undertaken by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), it has now decided not to demolish the ramp leading from KR Pura to the city. This follows a step initiated by the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRC) to shift its line slightly from the present alignment, said BDA officials. In another change of plan, it has also decided to effect changes in the existing Tumakuru loop. These moves will significantly reduce the time taken to complete the project by many months. The much-delayed flyover project by BDA is being carried out at a cost of Rs 106 crore. With the convergence of Metro and suburban rail projects at the spot, the need to



accommodate various agencies delayed it considerably. The latest deadline for the project is June 2025 for Phase-I and December 2025 for full completion. A senior official told TNIE, "Initially, the BDA planned to demolish the KR

Pura ramp to make way for the Metro line. However, until Metro work began, we decided to use the ramp temporarily by making some adjustments. To facilitate this, a portion of the ramp, particularly at the turn was removed. Two Metro lines go via the Hebbal flyover, the Kempapura to JP Nagar IVth Phase (Orange Line, Phase-3) and the Sarjapura to Hebbal (Phase-3A), the officials explained. "Metro officials recently informed us that they were shifting the alignment of their pillars slightly. This gives us some additional space. Hence, we decided at a crucial meet on December 11 that we will not demolish it but instead align it with the route towards the city. This also helps us save time," he added.

Uber eyes Bengaluru for its shuttle bus services

BENGALURU. With its shuttle bus service performing well in Kolkata and Delhi, Uber is actively engaging with the Karnataka government to secure required regulatory approval for introducing the service in Bengaluru. The ride-hailing company plans to introduce the shuttle service but is still awaiting the nod from the government. It plans to operate 200 air-conditioned buses along the city's tech corridor on the Outer Ring Road, aiming to reduce congestion by offering commuters an alternative to personal vehicles. The proposed service would run at 2-3 minutes intervals, allowing passengers to pre-book seats, get picked up from designated locations and be dropped at their destinations. Speaking to TNIE, Abhishek Padhye, Head of Regional Business Operations, Uber India and South Asia said, "The shuttle bus service is doing well in Kolkata and Delhi.

We are confident we will receive approval to operate in Bengaluru soon and thereby help address the congestion in the city." Highlighting Bengaluru's unique challenges, he emphasised the severe traffic issues on ORR, where many tech companies are located and the potential impact that shuttle services could have on easing traffic. "Bengaluru's congestion issue is a more serious problem than that of Delhi and Kolkata. Among the routes that have a maximum on-boarding and off-boarding together, tech parks are a natural fit for this service. Bengaluru and Hyderabad are cities which have massive tech parks when compared to To gather public support for Uber Shuttle, the company displayed the bus at the Bengaluru Tech Summit that was held here last month.

The company explained the model to IT BT Minister Priyank Kharge and others at the summit to garner support for their service. The company is now awaiting the government's nod to begin operation.

Malappuram lad, Agniveer among winners of Kochi Navy Marathon

KOCHI. Even before the break of dawn on what would otherwise have been a quiet Sunday, the Sagarika International Cruise Terminal in Willingdon Island was buzzing as over 5,000 participants lined up for the many races held as part of the Kochi Navy Marathon. The crowd included defence personnel and civilians, but they were indistinguishable from each other as each runner sported the blue-white jersey provided with the marathon registration. Some ran for glory, a few for a cause, many for fitness - their Strava primed and ready, and others simply for leisure. The event, now in its fifth year, featured three races: the gruelling 21km Venduruthy Run, the competitive 10km Dronacharya Run, and the 5km Garuda Run. They were held in two categories, open and women's. Malappuram lad Mohammed Sabeel piped two Senegal nationals to emerge the champion in the open Venduruthy Run. He finished the 21-km race in 75.21 minutes. Collins Kipkrui Sang and Gilbert Kipkosgei followed in 77.16 and 80.11 minutes, respectively. Somya, an Agniveer of the Indian Navy, won the corresponding women's race after a near-photo finish. She finished in 111.29 minutes, with Bismy Augustine close behind (111.37 minutes). Rema A K came in third, clocking 112.18 minutes. In



the open 10km event, Ajit K finished first, in 36.10 minutes. The Navy's Hemanth Kumar and Subhashis Manna followed with timings of 37.19 and 37.26 minutes, respectively. In the women's event, Jincy G clinched the top spot on the podium with a timing of 40.10 minutes. Feminine Treesa (48.51 mins) and Navy's SLT Anouska Yadav (54.48 mins) finished behind her. Earlier in the day, Southern Naval Command Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Vice Admiral V Srinivas, Chief of Staff Rear Admiral

Upal Kundu, and Chief Staff Officer (Training) Rear Admiral Satish Shenai flagged off the runs.

People in Kochi are already fitness enthusiasts. We want to run shoulder to shoulder with them," Rear Admiral Upal Kundu had said during a curtain raiser held in October.

Mohammed Sabeel from Malappuram piped two Senegal nationals to emerge the champion in the open Venduruthy Run finishing the 21-km race in 75.21 minutes.

Karnataka Tahsildar's grouse: Panipuri wala leads a better life than we do

HOLENARASIPUR. Expressing anger against the way government offices function, and the stress on officials from their seniors, Holenarasipur Tahsildar KK Krishnamurthy said it was better to be a "panipuri wala or a gobi manchurian seller". "By comparison, they lead stress-free lives. They are free to go on vacations with their families, and return home peacefully. They are satisfied with their routine work and private lives, and lead better lives than us. We government officials are unable to even take our families to temples due to continuous pressure from seniors," said Krishnamurthy. He was speaking at the

padgrahana programme of office-bearers of the Taluk State Government Employees' Association here on Saturday. A video of his speech targeting senior officials and the government went viral on social media on Sunday. Krishnamurthy said he is under pressure and unable to work due to torture and is also thinking of voluntary retirement. Technology has improved and simultaneously our workload has also increased. Senior officials keep watch on officials' progress by creating WhatsApp groups, and we are expected to show progress on the same day. Finally, they take the staff to task and order a departmental inquiry after condemning their



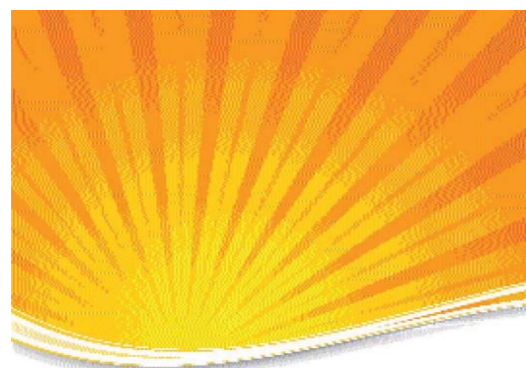
work. It would be fine if they order a departmental inquiry, citing the right reason,"

he rued. He said village accountants are upset with routine unscientific targets, but are afraid to express themselves before their seniors. Teachers are unable to teach properly as they are busy implementing government schemes, including distribution of eggs to children. They also pay from their pockets if the price of eggs and chicki is hiked, he added. Due to this, officials suffer from BP, diabetes and kidney and liver diseases, he said, and urged officials to air their problems before senior bureaucrats. Krishnamurthy is now reportedly upset after the video of his speech went viral on social media.

## UniVerse: Your true legacy as a doer

How will posterity see my legacy? This question has recently been raised by no less a person than the retired Chief Justice of India. This reminded me of a story recorded by the Hindi scholar Hazari Prasad Dwivedi in an essay titled 'Bhishma Ko Maaf Nahin Kiya Gaya' (Bhishma Was Not Forgiven). Once, during their regular evening walk on the premises of Kala Bhavan, Rabindranath Tagore had posed an interesting question to him: "Why was Bhishma Pitamah, the grand old warrior, patriarch of the eminent royal clan of Kurus, not anointed as an avatara after his death, but two Yadava brothers, Krishna and Balrama, from a much humbler rural background, were?" The poet said he thought it was so because such questions are decided historically by how posterity views your true legacy as a doer. Hazari Prasadji mulled over it and agreed. After the Mahabharata war, he writes, Balrama, the great farmer warrior, earned the right to be revered as an avatara because he refused to take sides in what he foresaw as a terrible fratricidal war and chose instead to go into the forest for his remaining days.

When the Pandavas and Balrama's younger brother Krishna, the great statesman, asked him to take up arms, he had the guts to stand up and tell the warring royals that whatever the dharma, he shall not participate in a war for throne that will ruin mankind and make the land sterile. Krishna participated in the war only because of his loyalty to Arjuna, his friend, as his unarmed charioteer and refused to shed blood. When Gandhari cursed him for the death of her sons later, he told her bluntly: "You can curse me all you want, but O Kshatriya queen, it was your own upbringing that led to this." In India, people have always preferred an outspoken karma yogi to an orator. One who throws caution to the winds, swings into action to protect the greater common good and restore sanity of the nation. So what if it meant losing public face and risking ridicule? A later karma yogi, Mahatma Gandhi, whose grand



legacy makes even his political critics bow to him, showed the same presence of mind and daring after the Chauri Chaura violence and stopped the Satyagraha in its tracks. A peaceful movement, he felt, could not be allowed to degenerate into violence. There was criticism from hot heads, but he did not relent. It is not hard to make out the public perception of a man to whom the nation has turned again and again to sort out its moral dilemmas. Bhishma was one such figure of authority — celibate, morally irrepensible and a great warrior. But he let clansmen like the Kauravas misbehave with his granddaughter-in-law, Draupadi, in public. Even when the three abducted princesses — Amba, Ambika and Ambalika — appealed to him that he marry them instead of his impotent brother, he kept quoting his great vow of celibacy and examples and precedents from scriptures and history, but did nothing. When divisions in Bhishma's psyche surfaced again and again at crucial points, resulting in the denial of justice to men, women and clans, his claim to join the pantheon of great avatars shrank in public perception.

Bhishma's case proves that history remembers great heroes less by their recorded speeches and more by prompt, though risky, acts that cause personal loss of reputation, but go on to ensure justice and relief to millions of sufferers.

## Hidden migration of tiny songbirds from Siberian Tundra

Chandigarh is uniquely positioned to welcome migratory birds with its mix of diverse habitats

The mention of bird migration immediately conjures up images of ducks and geese forming the V-shaped skeins across the autumn sky, along with a host of other waterfowls and waders. These large, conspicuous birds are eagerly awaited, heralding the changing season. However, a parallel migration goes largely unnoticed. At the same time as these large waterfowls traverse the sky, tiny non-descript songbirds make an equally arduous journey of more than 6,000 km from their breeding grounds in the Siberian Tundra to the northern plains of India. Both groups use the same Central Asian Flyway, yet their experiences are starkly different. While ducks and geese fly at high altitudes to avoid predators and other vagaries of nature, small songbirds fly at low altitudes, usually under 2,000 m above the sea level. Their route winds through countries like China, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan and the Himalayan foothills, using the valleys and forests to enter India, and spread out throughout the northern plains. Most migrating birds lose their vibrant breeding plumage before embarking on this annual journey. They arrive in their wintering grounds bearing a dull visage. While helping them to blend into their surroundings, their earthy plumage also renders them easy to overlook. The perseverance of these little heroes often goes unheralded. Chandigarh is uniquely positioned to welcome these birds with its mix of diverse habitats — forests, riverine tracts, grasslands, wetlands, agricultural fields, gardens and parks. The Taiga Flycatcher, the Bluethroat and the Rubythroat are striking examples of these inconspicuous yet fascinating migrants. They are 'robin-like' in appearance — small in size, with cocked-up tails and wings drooping down the sides. The Taiga Flycatcher prefers dense vegetation. It adjusts its migratory route to stay close to forested areas and natural cover flying up to 300 km daily. This small bird finds refuge in the lush gardens and parks of Chandigarh. Its predominantly brown plumage is punctuated by the bright orange patch on its throat, almost like a human thumbprint. With bright inquisitive eyes, this bird spends much of its time perched on the lower branches of a tree, surveying its surroundings. Its stationary, almost meditative, appearance can galvanise into sudden action at the sight of a moth or some innocent bug fluttering nearby. It dives to the ground to grab its prey, revealing the white edges to its tail before returning to its perch. Unlike the Taiga Flycatcher, the Bluethroat is a bird of the marshes and wetlands, skulking in reeds and bushes encircling water bodies. During its breeding season in the Tundra,



this bird builds its nest on the ground in shrubby areas. The Bluethroat is a shy bird, which is often out of sight while it forages in the thick reeds. In birding parlance, it is deemed a skulker! The Bluethroat is well known for its skill in mimicry. In Norway, this talent has earned it the sobriquet of 'Nightingale of the North'. It is capable of mimicking more than 50 different species of birds! At first glance, the Bluethroat appears as another 'little brown bird', but a closer look reveals a spectacular blue patch at its throat, adorned with a rust-coloured spot in the centre. During courtship display, it puffs out the throat feathers, revealing the beautifully hypnotic circle. This vibrant patch, coupled with the bird's special ability to mimicry, is enough to attract mates. The Bluethroat also communicates through frequent tail flicks, revealing orange tail patches that serve as alarm signals. Common names of birds are usually descriptive and the Siberian Rubythroat is no exception. The ruby-red teardrop at its throat glows against its otherwise greyish-brown plumage. This small secretive bird is often hard to spot, preferring to hide in dense shrubs and vegetation, its presence

revealed only when it flashes the red patch. During the breeding season, the melodious song and fluttering dance display of the Rubythroat is spectacular. Its ability to mimic other birds shows a degree of vocal versatility. However, in its wintering habitat around Chandigarh, it is silent and its occasional appearance in the thickets adds a touch of mystery. While these God's little creatures brighten up our winter landscape, we are oblivious to the incredible dangers and hardships the migratory birds face. Crossing vast landscapes and navigating diverse ecosystems pose significant challenges. En route, the migrating birds rely on stopover habitats to rest and recuperate. These sites are critical in providing food and shelter to enable the birds to continue their journeys. Climate change, habitat loss and violent human conflict along the Central Asian Flyway can disrupt migration patterns. Conservation of stopover habitats, thus, becomes a global responsibility to ensure the survival of these delicate, yet tenacious, travellers. — The writer is president of the Chandigarh Bird Club.

## World chess champ

### Gukesh Dommaraju, take a bow

IT'S been Gukesh Dommaraju's year. In September, he led the Indian team to a historic gold medal at the biennial Chess Olympiad. Now, the 18-year-old prodigy from Chennai has fulfilled a childhood dream by becoming the youngest world champion in chess history. He is the first Indian to hold the title after Vishwanathan Anand. Twists and turns marked the 14 games in Singapore. Gukesh and China's Ding Liren, the reigning champ, were tied with two wins each before the final game. Just when a draw seemed imminent, setting the stage for high-speed games to break the tie, Ding committed a dramatic blunder. He was gracious in defeat, marking the end of the three-week match that kept fans riveted across the globe. Former world champions Magnus Carlsen and Vladimir Kramnik may have criticised the quality of play, but in the larger scheme of things, it's the



game of chess that won. Gukesh's victory signals a generational shift in the chess ecosystem.

world. Yet, the new champion does not harbour any illusions. He remains outside the world's top three by rating, and is not even the highest-rated Indian. That spot goes to 21-year-old Arjun Erigaisi. In his post-match press conference, Gukesh acknowledged that 'becoming the world champion doesn't mean that I'm the best player in the world, there's obviously Magnus.' The 34-year-old Norwegian, who is regarded as possibly the greatest chess player of all time, said Gukesh has shown the potential to establish himself as the 'number two player in the world, who knows, maybe the number one'.

The surging popularity of chess as a spectator sport could ignite a new wave of enthusiasm. Gukesh's achievement also cements India's growing influence in the chess world. What's needed is more government and private support to nurture a robust ecosystem.

## 10 yrs of a unique classical library

Murty Classical Library is unique initiative with a 100-year plan to publish the English translations of some of the greatest literary works of India from the past two millennia

Entrepreneur and computer scientist Rohan Narayana Murty's ambitious plans for the Murty Classical Library are more or less on course. The Library 'opened' in 2010 and started publishing, after five years, the English translations of some of the greatest literary works of India from the past two millennia. It's probably the only publishing house with a 100-year plan to publish 500 manuscripts of authors ranging from Kalidasa to Mir Taqi Mir. To mark the first 10 years, the Library recently released 'Ten Indian Classics', an anthology featuring ghazals and devotional poems, journeys of nirvana by women Buddhist followers, words of Sikh Gurus and poets, and epic Ramayana's hero Ram's battle for justice and honour. This English edition captures almost 2,500 years of literary tradition, translated by experts and richly introduced by poet and art critic Ranjit Hoskote.

The Murty Library books are available worldwide in bookstores and on conventional e-commerce platforms. Rohan founded the Library by making a generous contribution (around \$5.2 million, according to some media reports) to Harvard University, the institution from where he earned his PhD. With close to a century's experience in publishing bilingual editions (both for Greek and Latin classics), Harvard appeared the perfect choice. For the firm believers in India's glorious past, the Murty Library may appear as another visionary idea from a family (father NR Narayana Murthy and mother Sudha Murthy) with a remarkable success record. For many modernists though, the Library is a brave attempt to reboot India's humanities education programme, long hijacked by the IIT brigade.

Subjects like philosophy, literature and history are often viewed in India as "future-less", compared to the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. Humanities degrees are less pursued though they are more likely to stir students towards critical thinking and ethical reasoning. Rohan's dream is simple. He imagines students in schools and colleges to read

classical Indian poets like Kalidasa and Tulsidas, besides consuming Shakespeare or Homer. "I dream of a day when students across India will voluntarily read these texts," he says. The Library, he believes, has done a commendable job, having already published close to 50 volumes translated from more than 10 classical languages like Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Pali, Persian, Sanskrit, Urdu and Sindhi. The author list includes Guru Nanak, Bulle Shah, Kalidas, Surdas and Nandi Timmana. For the first time, it is pointed out, a wide international audience is reading these texts in English. "Several universities around the world have started incorporating these texts into their classrooms," he says. For Murty Library, the Harvard University Press, with a team of distinguished scholars, editors and translators, has published English translations of great Indian classics that include 'The Sea of Separation: A Translation from the Ramayana of Tulsidas' by 16th century poet Tulsidas; 'Theft of a Tree, A Tale by the Court Poet of the Vijaynagara Empire' by Telugu poet Timmana; 'The Kannada Mahabharata V.1' by 15th century Kannada poet Kumaravyasa, and 'God at Play V.1', the oldest extant Marathi work by 13th century biographer Mhaimbhat.

Rohan finds it difficult to pick his favourites from the impressive selection, but says he often revisits Raghavanka's 'The Life of Harishchandra' (Kannada) and Shah Abdul Latif's 'Risalo' (Sindhi).

Sharmila Sen, Editorial Director and Director of Special Initiatives, Harvard University Press, says, "To publish original books that instruct and delight in equal measure is never easy." Book trade in North America, Europe and Asia varies, and only complicates the task for them. She claims that compared to Greek and Latin translations, their publications are far more complex, varied, richer and more alive to literary tradition.

Indeed, the task has been demanding as Murty Library does not reproduce previously published translations



and every work is originally commissioned. It produces the original Indic text in the relevant script on the verso (the left-hand side of the books). It has also faced some criticism in the past, mostly from the Indian scientist community and strong believers of India's glorious past,

regarding the choice of certain editors (like distinguished Sanskrit scholar Sheldon Pollock) of the Library. Rohan has treated the attacks merely as "noise". According to a media report, he likened the attacks to people throwing empty shells in a "peanut gallery". Defending Pollock, he declared that nationality, gender, race, creed or colour will not decide who the editors shall be. Rohan says he has envisioned a "living library" that continuously interacts with its readers and is not shackled by the ivory towers of an academic project. He claims he does not micro-manage the project and "it relies little, if at all, on any single individual".

He has planned for the centenary of Murty Library. Those who will celebrate it may not have been born yet, but both Rohan and Team Murty believe they are doing their bit in "elevating Indian classics as first-class members of world literature".

## The extraordinary Champa

We store memory in multiple layers. Some may become a burden, some are uplifting, and some are just there — parked in a corner to be pried out when the moment comes. Many are connected with the people one has known and who have impacted one's life. Recently, writing about Nek Chand, Amitabh Pande, a former civil servant, mentioned another extraordinary person of Chandigarh of that era, Champa Mangat Rai. This triggered yet another memory and the close friendship that my parents, especially my father, had with the Mangat Rais. Some distance came after they separated and when Mangat Rai married the writer Nayantara Sahgal. The close ties with Champa Mangat Rai remained till her death on March 7, 1999, at the age of 79. When we heard of her passing, my

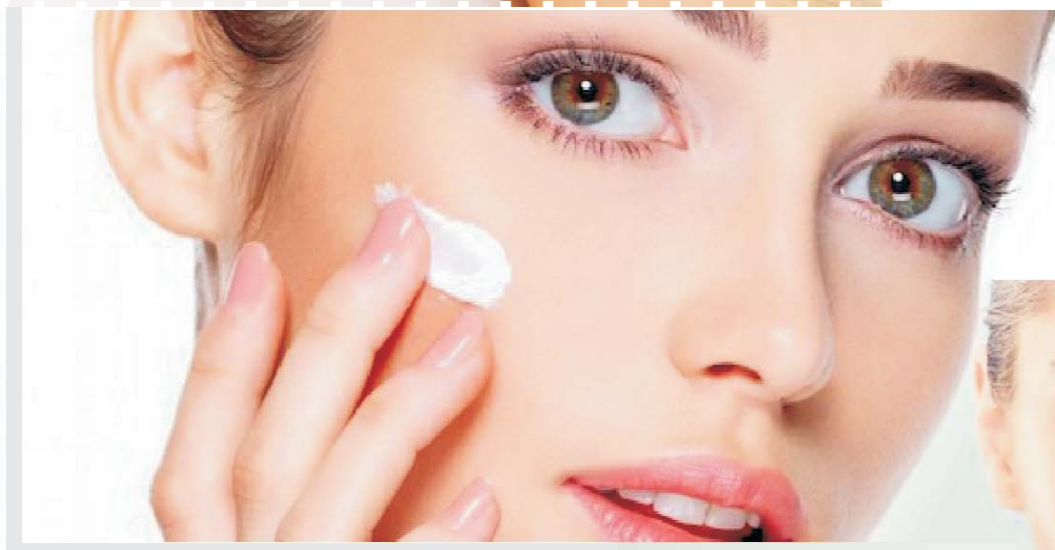
father and I drove down from Shimla to Chandigarh and were just in time for the burial. All the way down and on most of the way up, he hardly spoke. When he did, all he said was: "The world has lost a very fine person." While this is something unclear, the connection with Champa Mangat Rai, if any — and certainly tenuous — may have gone back to Lahore where my grandfather was teaching both at the university and at Kinnaird College. Her father, Satya Prakash Singha, an Indian Christian, was the university's Registrar and went on to become the Speaker of the British-Indian Punjab Assembly; he stayed on in Pakistan after Partition. Champa's future husband, Edward Nirmal Mangat Rai, 'Bunchi' to his friends.



# Myths debunked

# SKIN

# Care



## The truth and the fiction behind getting supple skin

### Washing your face will cure acne:

You may have heard this way too many times, but washing your face constantly throughout the day does not aid in reducing acne. In fact, it strips your skin of essential oil and makes your skin extremely dry and parched and susceptible to acne. Restrict to washing your face only twice or thrice in a day.

### Scrubbing often reduces excess oil on the face:

It is believed that if you have oily skin, scrubbing your

face twice or thrice in a week will reduce the excess sebum. But this is not true. In fact, scrubbing your face more often might end up bruising your skin and in turn cause blemishes or pimples.

### Pimples reduce with age:

Most women believe that acne mostly happens to women in their teens and early 20s. However, acne has nothing to do with age. Not everyone outgrows it with age. Instead it

reduces when you alter your lifestyle and have the right kind of food that cleanses and detoxifies your system from within.

### Do not wear an SPF on a cloudy day:

Just because it is raining heavily, does not mean that you don't require a sunscreen. Going without it even at this time of the year is a complete no-no. Even on a cloudy day, the UV rays of the sun are at its prime and if you go without a sunscreen, you will surely get tanned.

### Age spots are signs of getting older:

Age spots or sun spots as popularly known, can occur at any age. The freckle-like spots on the skin are not really age spots, but happen when your skin has been exposed to the harmful UV rays of the sun. The sun-induced discolouration can be only treated by skin treatments that are done by dermatologists.

### Makeup can lead to skin breakouts:

It is a popular belief among women that applying too much make-up can cause acne and pigmentation. Though applying a product that does not suit the skin does lead to breakouts, but that's not too often. However, you must choose a product that suits your skin type. Also, look for products that have 'non-comedogenic' or 'non-acnegenic' written on it.

### If you have dry skin, drink more water:

It is said that if you have dry skin, drinking more water will bring moisture to your skin. However, drinking water has nothing to do with dry skin. Surely, it does help your face glow and clears toxins from your system but it does not necessarily bring moisture to your skin. When you have more water, it cleanses your system from within, thereby making your skin less prone to any skin-related problems.

### Expensive products are better:

It is believed that only expensive brands and products go a long way in keeping your skin healthy and free from any skin-related problems. But the fact is that they almost do the same job that probably a less expensive product would do.

It is actually your lifestyle choice and the kind of food on an everyday basis that keeps your system healthy from within.

## 5 Essential makeup tips for the summer



face now, do they? Here are some tips and tricks which will help you keep your makeup in place during the hot summer months... Sweat is not the only cause for melted makeup, oil too is a major factor. Make sure you use an oil-control facial cleanser or toner to reduce the oil on your face especially the T-zone.

Rather than using a foundation, use a tinted concealer or a tinted moisturizer for a light and sheer look. If you have to use foundation, use a primer first, rather than applying the foundation directly on the skin.

Silicone-based eyeshadows or the pressed ones are best for summer as they are less likely to cake due to the heat.

Dust your eyelashes with powder and then apply mascara. That way, the mascara will cling to the powder and not run when you sweat. Plus it will give your lashes a fuller look. Of course, water-resistant mascara works best.

Lipsticks tend to last longer during the summer if you apply a base of foundation first. Stay away from lip gloss and opt for matte finishes or lipstains instead.



## It is that time of the year again, when the sun relentlessly shines down upon us.

While summer is a great time to experiment with colours and prints, for those of us who like to wear makeup, there is always the fear of sweat, turning your carefully made up face into a pile of melted mush. No one wants concealer streaks down their



## 6 ways to avoid wasting Beauty Products

### Finish before buying new products

One of the best ways to ensure that you do not waste your old products is by using them until they are completely empty. For example, if you have a moisturiser left, squeeze it until there is nothing left in it anymore. Often when you do not finish a product, it keeps lying in your makeup kitty and with time it expires.

### Stop yourself from impulse purchases

The only reason why your old products find their way behind the new ones is because more often than not, women tend to buy beauty products simply on an impulse. If you already have a shade of red lipstick, wait for it to get over and then get another one of the same shade, rather than accumulating six

lipsticks of the same colour scheme.

### Try out samples before you buy

Trying out product samples before making a final purchase can prevent you from getting a skin rash or any other kind of skin inflammation. Further, you may also realise that you do not want to use the product because either the colour is not what you want or it doesn't go well with your skin complexion. Sampling the product will help you from recklessly purchasing it.

### Go for small-sized products

You are bound to pick the larger size when it comes to buying beauty products. Though you cannot pick a small size for every product, like a lipstick, mascara or a lip liner, there are other items that are available in small sizes. For example, if you want to buy an eye shadow, instead of picking an entire palette, try a palette of one or two shades that will be easier for you to finish.

### Check your stock always

Before you begin buying a new product, always check whether you have something similar in your kitty.

### Opt for all-in-one items

For those who love to stock on various types of cosmetics and beauty essentials, it is always safe to choose all-in-one products that are not only easy on your budget but will also go on for a long time.



# MK Stalin slams BJP's 'One Nation, One Election', calls it threat to democracy

Delhi freezes as temperature dips to 4.5°C, cold wave grips North India

Delhi Weather: People of Delhi-NCR woke up to a chilly morning on Monday with the minimum temperature slipping below 5 degrees Celsius for the second time in a row. The Air Quality Index (AQI) also deteriorated to the 'very poor' category.



New Delhi. Delhi-NCR residents on Monday woke up to another cold morning as the average minimum temperature dropped below 5 degrees Celsius for the second consecutive day. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the national capital registered a minimum temperature of 4.5 degrees Celsius at 5.30 am. The temperature in certain areas of Delhi went even below 4.5 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature in Pusa was recorded at 3.5 degrees Celsius, while in Ayanagar, the minimum temperature was recorded at 4 degrees Celsius.

At Najafgarh, the minimum temperature was slightly higher, at 6.2 degrees Celsius. Earlier on December 15, Delhi-NCR also witnessed a minimum temperature of 4.9 degrees Celsius.

In the coming days, Delhi may witness a further increase in the cold wave with shallow fog in various parts due to calm winds and high humidity, as the IMD. The weather department has also issued a cold wave warning for certain states of northern India, including Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh, among other states.

A cold wave is officially declared in the plains when the minimum temperature falls to 4 degrees Celsius or below, or when it registers a drop of 4.5 to 6.4 degrees from normal. With temperatures hovering around these thresholds, the capital has seen biting cold mornings, forcing residents to bundle up against the chill.

Amidst the intense cold conditions, the air quality in Delhi and surrounding areas also deteriorated to the 'very poor' category on Monday due to unfavourable weather conditions and low wind speeds. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) for the national capital was recorded at 334 at 4 am on Monday. The air quality slipped to the 'very poor' category on Sunday evening, with the AQI climbing to 307, up from 294 just hours earlier, which was at the higher end of the 'poor' category.

An AQI between zero and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin denounces BJP's 'One Nation, One Election,' calling it anti-federal and a threat to democracy, and the constitutional framework. He urges united resistance.

Chennai. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has strongly criticised the BJP-led Union government's push for a "One Nation, One Election" policy, calling it an anti-federal move that threatens India's democracy and diversity.

In a post on X, Stalin accused the BJP of attempting to impose a unitary form of governance under the guise of electoral reform. "INDIA will resist the anti-federal & impractical 'One Nation, One Election' as it will push the country into the perils of a unitary form of governance, killing its diversity and democracy in the process," Stalin stated. The Chief Minister further alleged that the BJP's ultimate aim is to usher in a Presidential form of governance, which he said contradicts the spirit of the Indian Constitution. Stalin argued that the proposal, if passed, would eliminate the system of periodic state elections, thereby undermining regional sentiments and destroying India's diversity. He emphasised that periodic elections serve as crucial checks and balances in the democratic process, as envisioned by



the Constitution's framers. "The proposed bill, if passed and implemented, will remove the legal checks and balances put in place... to prevent the country from slipping into anarchy and totalitarianism," he warned.

Stalin accused the BJP of advancing the proposal despite lacking the parliamentary majority required to pass such critical legislation. He characterised the move as an attempt to settle political scores and divert attention from the government's failures in addressing key issues hindering India's progress. Calling for a united front against the

proposal, Stalin urged democratic forces to oppose the policy and safeguard India's Constitution. "All the democratic forces must unite & fight tooth and nail against this abomination imposed in the garb of electoral reform, to save India, its diversity and the Constitution," he stated. The Chief Minister's remarks add to the growing criticism of the "One Nation, One Election" proposal, which has faced backlash from opposition parties who argue that it undermines federalism and diminishes the importance of state elections.

Stalin was amongst the first to criticise the move, calling the bill "draconian". "This impractical and anti-democratic move will erase regional voices, erode federalism, and disrupt governance. Rise up #INDIA! Let us resist this attack on Indian Democracy with all our strength!" Stalin said.

What is 'One Nation, One Election' policy? The policy proposes a unified electoral process where all elections, including those for the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies, are held simultaneously.

## 1984 anti-Sikh riots case: Verdict against ex-Congress MP Sajjan Kumar on January 8

On November 1, 2023, Kumar recorded his statement in the case, denying all charges against him. The upcoming judgment is expected to be a significant milestone in the decades-long pursuit of justice for the victims of the riots.

New Delhi. A Delhi court is likely to deliver its verdict on January 8, 2025, under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 302 in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case involving former Congress MP Sajjan Kumar. The case pertains to the murder of Jaswant Singh and his son Tarundeep Singh in Delhi's Saraswati Vihar on November 1, 1984, following the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Special Judge Kaveri Baweja, who was scheduled to pronounce the judgment on Monday (December 16), deferred the decision. "The next date for the verdict is January 8," the judge said. Kumar, currently lodged in Tihar Jail, attended the hearing via video conference. The court had earlier framed charges

allegedly led a mob that



(murder), 147 (rioting), 395 (dacoity), and 436 (arson), after concluding that there was sufficient evidence to establish a prima facie case against the accused. According to the prosecution,

Kumar attacked the victims' home, looted their belongings, set the house on fire, and killed Jaswant Singh and his son. Other family members were also injured during the incident.

Initially investigated by Punjabi Bagh police, the case was later transferred to a Special Investigation Team (SIT) set up to probe the 1984 anti-Sikh riots cases.

On November 1, 2023, Kumar recorded his statement in the case, denying all charges against him. The upcoming judgment is expected to be a significant milestone in the decades-long pursuit of justice for the victims of the riots.

## AIADMK slams Centre for naming laws in Hindi, calls it indirect language

AIADMK accuses the Centre of Hindi imposition through law names, and urges naming all laws in English. Opposition party criticises DMK on governance issues and vows to bring Palaniswami back as chief minister in 2026.

Chennai. Tamil Nadu's main Opposition party, the AIADMK, on Sunday accused the central government of indirectly imposing Hindi by naming laws in Hindi and Sanskrit. In its executive committee and general council meeting held in Chennai, the party passed a resolution condemning the Centre's practice of renaming laws, urging that they be named in English instead.

The resolution pointed out that Hindi is only one among the 22 languages listed in the eighth schedule of the Constitution. In Tamil Nadu, the state continues to follow the two-language formula of Tamil and English.

"Under the circumstances, the central government naming laws in Hindi and Sanskrit can be considered only as an indirect imposition of Hindi. It is very condemnable that the Centre changed the



names of the three criminal laws that were already in English," the resolution read.

The party further demanded that all laws enacted by the Union government should have English names.

The AIADMK also passed 16 other resolutions during the meeting. One of the key resolutions called for the subject of education to be brought back under the state list of the Constitution. The party also urged

the central government to ensure financial allocations to Tamil Nadu without any bias.

The Opposition party took aim at the DMK government, accusing it of failing to fulfill promises made during the 2021 Assembly elections. AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami, in his address, slammed the DMK for holding Assembly sessions for only 113 days since coming to power, despite its promise of conducting proceedings for 100 days each year.

"The DMK government should have conducted sessions for 400 days by now. This failure shows their fear of the AIADMK," Palaniswami said. He also questioned why the state government had not implemented its assurance of live broadcasting Assembly proceedings and accused it of "blacking out" speeches by AIADMK legislators.

## Hollow gimmick: Jagan Reddy slams Chandrababu Naidu's 'Vision 2047'

Andhra Pradesh. YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy launched a scathing attack on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's 'Swarna Andhra 2047' vision, terming it a "publicity stunt" devoid of realistic goals.

In a social media post on Sunday, Jagan accused Naidu of using Vision 2047 as a ploy to mislead people. "There is no place for the state's needs, people's needs, and above all reality in Chandrababu's document," the former Chief Minister alleged.

Criticising Naidu's past plans like Vision 2020 and Vision 2029, Jagan described them as "failures" that brought no tangible benefits to the state. He claimed Vision 2020 led to "farmer suicides, mass migrations, and rising unemployment," while Vision 2029 "did not deliver a single impactful project." "Did he build a single medical college, hospital, or school? Did he create ports or improve agriculture? Did he generate jobs or invest in Andhra Pradesh's future? The answer is no," Jagan asserted.

The YSRCP supremo also dismissed Naidu's projection of achieving a USD 2.4 trillion GDP by 2047 as baseless. He accused Naidu of causing consistent revenue deficits during his tenure and selling public assets under the guise of privatisation. Jagan contrasted his government's focus on welfare schemes and poverty eradication with what he called Naidu's attempts to "dismantle welfare schemes" and deepen societal inequalities.

## Delhi Assembly elections: BJP to take a leaf out of Maharashtra book on 30 SC seats



NEW DELHI. Encouraged by the success of its strategy in Haryana and Maharashtra elections, the BJP central leadership has solidified its plans for the upcoming crucial Delhi Assembly elections scheduled for February 2025.

As part of a carefully crafted strategy for Delhi, the party has developed a targeted approach to attract Scheduled Caste voters, who played a decisive role in shaping the results in over two dozen assembly constituencies. At the same time, the BJP's central electoral think tank is working to mobilise voters from the Poorvanchal region (Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar), who have settled in across many assembly segments and are obtaining voting rights.

On Sunday, a senior party leader said, "Around 29-30 assembly segments have a significant presence of SC voters. They have been direct beneficiaries of free rations and other benefits from the Narendra Modi government. We are reaching out to them about how the BJP has supported their progress and will continue to do so if we replace the AAP in Delhi."

Another party leader said, "In the 70-member Assembly, 12 seats are reserved for SCs. The turnout of Dalit voters significantly influences the results in 17-18 other assembly seats. So our party will certainly need to extend its outreach to them."

Sources said the BJP has appointed representatives from the SC community to win support. "A nameplate campaign, covering 60,000 houses, is now on," said a senior functionary. A source said the BJP recognises that 30 out of the 70 assembly seats have Dalit voters, comprising between 17% and 44% of the electorate. Outreach to these voters could alter the narrative against the ruling AAP in this election.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolence on the death of tabla maestro Zakir Hussain, saying he will be remembered as a true genius who revolutionised the world of Indian classical music.

New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday paid his tributes to iconic tabla player Zakir Hussain, saying he will be remembered as a true genius who

revolutionised the world of Indian classical music. Expressing grief at Hussain's death, PM Modi said he brought tabla to the global stage, captivating millions with his unparalleled rhythm. Through this, he seamlessly blended Indian classical traditions with global music, thus becoming an icon of cultural unity, PM Modi added.

"Deeply saddened by the passing of the legendary tabla maestro, Ustad Zakir Hussain Ji. He will be remembered as a true genius who revolutionised the world of Indian classical music. He also brought the tabla to the global stage, captivating millions with his unparalleled rhythm," the PM said.

"Through this, he seamlessly blended Indian classical traditions with global music, thus becoming an icon of cultural unity. His iconic performances and



soulful compositions will contribute to inspire generations of musicians and music lovers alike. My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and the global music community," the PM added. Hussain died in a hospital in San Francisco, US, his family said on Monday. He was 73.

Hussain died from complications arising out of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, the family said in a statement. He had been

in hospital for the past two weeks and was shifted to the intensive care unit (ICU) after his condition deteriorated.

Earlier this year, PM Modi congratulated Hussain and other members of the fusion band Shakti for winning the Grammy Award for Global Music Album.

Congratulations to @ZakirHTabla, @RakeshFlute, @ShankarLive,

@kanjeeraselva, and @violinanesh on your phenomenal success at the #GRAMMYS! Your exceptional talent and dedication to music have won hearts worldwide. India is proud! These achievements are a testament to the hard work you keep putting in. It will also inspire the new generation of artists to dream big and excel in music." PM Modi said in a post on February 5 this year.





# Homemade Face packs for glowing

# Skin

We all know that certain fruits are rich in vitamin and potassium. At times, we even pay huge sums of money just to get fruit facials. But why do that when you can get glowing skin at home? Try these homemade face packs for beautiful skin now.

### Banana face pack

Banana helps in making the skin dewy and fresh. Try this face pack for supple skin. Directions Mash some banana and apply on your face and neck. If you're suffering from skin disorders such as acne and pigmentation, add some honey to it. Wash your face after 15 minutes.

### Papaya face pack

This is extremely beneficial for tanning. Try this one out if you're tired of dark spots and tanned skin. Directions Take a ripe papaya and massage on your skin. Leave it on for 15 minutes and wash it off.

### Cucumber face pack

Best for dry skin, cucumber acts as a cooling agent. Directions Grate cucumber and apply the juice on your face. You may also refrigerate the pulp and once it cools, use as an eye mask to treat dark circles.

### Kiwi face pack

Kiwi is especially good if you want a natural glow on your face. Directions Puree the kiwi and add some yoghurt to it. Massage onto your skin for a bit. Wash it off in 15 minutes.

### Tomato face pack

Tomatoes help in skin whitening, tightening and curing pimples. Directions Squeeze 2 teaspoons of juice from a ripe tomato. Add 3 teaspoons of butter milk

to it and mix thoroughly. Leave it on for 30 minutes and wash it off. We all know that certain fruits are rich in vitamin and potassium. At times, we even pay huge sums of money just to get fruit facials.

But why do that when you can get glowing skin at home? Try these homemade face packs for beautiful skin now.

### Banana face pack

Banana helps in making the skin dewy and fresh. Try this face pack for supple skin. Directions Mash some banana and apply on your face and neck. If you're suffering from skin disorders such as acne and pigmentation, add some honey to it. Wash your face after 15 minutes.

### Papaya face pack

This is extremely beneficial for tanning. Try this one out if you're tired of dark spots and tanned skin. Directions Take a ripe papaya and massage on your skin. Leave it on for 15 minutes and wash it off.

### Cucumber face pack

Best for dry skin, cucumber acts as a cooling agent.

Directions Grate cucumber and apply the juice on your face. You may also refrigerate the pulp and once it cools, use as an eye mask to treat dark circles.

### Kiwi face pack

Kiwi is especially good if you want a natural glow on your face. Directions Puree the kiwi and add some yoghurt to it. Massage onto your skin for a bit. Wash it off in 15 minutes.

### Tomato face pack

Tomatoes help in skin whitening, tightening and curing pimples. Directions Squeeze 2 teaspoons of juice from a ripe tomato. Add 3 teaspoons of butter milk to it and mix thoroughly. Leave it on for 30 minutes and wash it off.



## Homemade cures for puffy Eyes

Waking up with puffy eyes every morning? Here are some homemade cures for irritable eyes. Potato Potato is extremely beneficial for puffy eyes. It has anti-inflammatory properties and helps cure irritation around the eyes. Grate a potato, place the pulp into a poultice. Keep this on your eyelids for about 15 minutes. This must be done almost every day without fail.

### Cucumbers

Cucumbers are cooling agents and their astringent properties are meant to cure puffy eyes. Rest a slice of cucumber on each eye and relax for 5-10 minutes.

### Green tea

Green tea is known to be a soothing agent for puffy eyes. It reduces swelling of the eyes. Dip 2 bags of your choice of tea in hot water for 3-5 minutes. Let it cool until the bags are comfortably warm. Close your eyes and place a tea bag over each eyes.



## Benefits of rose water

One of the most important things in a woman's beauty regime is rose water. Regular inclusion of rose water in your beauty packs will give you amazing results. Here are a few benefits of rose water:

Its nourishing and moisturising properties helps in protecting your skin in harsh weather.

It helps tone the skin, while offering anti-bacterial properties.

Rose water helps in treating mild scalp inflammations and dandruff. You can mix it with your shampoo and use it on your hair.

It fights signs of aging and helps in reducing wrinkles.

Rose water calms the skin and helps ease stress and anxiety. So, dab a few drops on your face after a tiresome in the sun to help your skin relax.

**Your hair tends to suffer as well during the winter as much as your skin does. Here's how you can take care of it...**

Apart from your skin, your hair also goes through its own set of problems during the colder months. If you are looking at



## Hair packs for winter

keeping your mane healthy and strong, there are couple of hair packs that you must use during this season.

### Aloe vera hair pack

Evenly apply aloe vera all over your hair at least once in a week. Keep this pack on for at least half an hour or so before you wash it off with lukewarm water. Aloe makes your

hair soft and also makes it shiny.

### Reetha hair pack

Reetha is not only known for reducing hair loss, but also protects your hair from losing its texture during the winter. Make a thick paste of reetha and apply this all over your hair. You can apply this pack at least twice a week depending on how damaged your hair gets during winter. Do not use shampoo while washing off reetha.

### Henna hair pack

Mix henna along with curd and coffee or tea strain and keep it overnight in a copper bowl. Apply it before you wash your hair in the morning and keep this for approximately an hour or so. Once it dries off, wash off the paste off your hair.

## Vishal Mega Mart IPO allotment: Online guide to check status. See latest GMP

**NEW DELHI** The allotment of shares for the Vishal Mega Mart IPO is expected to be finalised on Monday, December 16. Investors who applied for the Rs 8,000 crore IPO will receive alerts, messages, or emails regarding the allotment, or any revocations of their IPO mandate, by Tuesday, December 17. Vishal Mega Mart IPO was open for bidding from December 11 to December 13, and saw a strong response from investors. The company offered shares in the price band of Rs 74-78 per share, with a minimum lot size of 190 shares. The IPO received an overwhelming response, with the issue being subscribed 27.28 times overall. Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) portion was subscribed 80.75 times. The Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs) category was subscribed 14.24 times. Retail Investors quota was booked 2.31 times during the three-day bidding period.

In total, investors applied for 20,64,25,17,700 equity shares against the 75,67,56,757 equity shares on offer, fetching bids worth Rs 1.60 lakh crore. Out of this, Rs 1.36 lakh crore came from the QIB category alone.

### ALLOTMENT STATUS: HOW TO CHECK

Investors who applied for the Vishal Mega Mart IPO can check their allotment status on the following platforms:

## Sensex, Nifty open lower as IT stocks drag; bearish trends continue

**NEW DELHI.** Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Monday, dragged by a decline in IT stocks after having witnessed a very volatile session on Friday when it recovered after having lost nearly 1,200 points. The S&P BSE Sensex was down 279.70 points to 81,853.42, while the NSE Nifty50 lost 74 points to 24,694.30 as of 9:35 AM.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that the excessive volatility witnessed on Friday is a reflection of the sharp differences in perceptions about the near-term market trend. "The huge positions in F&O segments are causing such heightened volatility in the market. The 500 point move in the nifty from the day's trough to the peak indicates massive short covering," he added.

While FIIs turning buyers in December, so far, after the relentless selling in the previous two months is positive, investors should not assume that the FIIs will continue to buy. Strong dollar and high bond yields in the US are headwinds for capital flows. Slowdown in GDP growth and stagnant earnings growth are hurdles in the path of the bull. A rally will sustain only if the data regarding growth and earnings show recovery. This will take some time.

## Wadia illegally sold 8.69% Tata Sons stake

**MUMBAI.** A public interest litigation has alleged that Bombay Dyeing group chairman Nusli Wadia has misappropriated 8.69% stake that FE Dinshaw Ltd owned in Tata Sons since the 1920s, and transferred the shares to the Shapoorji Pallonji group in the 1970s soon after he was made the administrator of the Indian trust, which owned the stake in FE Dinshaw Ltd.

Though the petition could not calculate the actual value of the share transaction, given that the Tata group is worth over \$150 billion today, the value involved could be around \$14 billion or R1.2 lakh crore. Dinshaw Trust, which was established by Edulji Dinshaw, the son of the senior Dinshaw, will all its assets to two New York-based American charities.

The Indian assets of the trust included the 8.69% holding it had in Tata Sons, and over 1,000 acres of land around Malad in the northwestern suburb of the megapolis. Wadia claimed ownership over all these assets following an agreement on 1 August 2003. The petition also alleges that the agreement is



fraudulent since Bachoobai Woronzow, one of the three children of FE Dinshaw, a leading Parsi industrialist of the times, was fatally ill in a New York hospital on that day. She died on 12 August 2003. The trust was registered in New York because after the senior Dinshaw passed away in 1940, the two of his three surviving children—the son Edulji, and the daughter Bahoo—settled down in New York in the mid-1940s. Dinshaw Trust was founded by Edulji, and held a majority stake in FE Dinshaw Ltd, the company founded by his father.

The 8.69% shares of Tata Sons were held by FE Dinshaw Ltd, the company which acquired equity in Tata Sons following non-repayment of a R2 crore loan to the Tatas in the 1920s. The petition further contends that it is for the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) to ascertain how the stake of Dinshaw Trust in FE Dinshaw was passed on to the Mistrys by Wadia and for what consideration. FE Dinshaw Ltd was renamed as Cyrus Investment in 2008, and is now the main investment arm of the Shapoorji Pallonji group, which began as a construction contractor with most of the orders coming in from FE Dinshaw.

The petition further alleges that Wadia has forged three key documents to transfer the assets of the Dinshaw Trust to himself. The Economic Offenses Wing of the Mumbai Police, which is investigating the matter under the supervision of the Bombay High Court, has found prima facie evidence of forgery.

# Why your money needs your help in 2025

**Do not forget that your investments must generate a return that beats inflation and leaves some money on the table over the years. You will miss out on a stock market rally if your money is largely locked in properties that you do not use.**

**NEW DELHI** The idea that you can earn more than you can spend and create an investible surplus every month is riveting. Not many people can achieve that. People generally live beyond their means, spending more than investing. But it is not just about spending alone. You realise that you are struggling to meet commitments made to your future. In most situations, you make commitments to some

investments that may be overdone. These are situations when you are overinvested or overinsured. There is a strong affinity towards physical assets in India. Two-thirds of the Indian household wealth is invested in property and gold. Many of you think of these as investments. There is a sense of comfort that physical assets give to you. Many invest in multiple properties to generate a rental income. Considering an average rental yield of less than 1-2%, it is not an investment but just a saving. Do not forget that your investments must generate a return that beats inflation and leaves some money on the table over the years. You will miss out on a stock market rally if your money is largely locked in properties that you do not use. The same applies to the thought about over investment in gold that happens primarily through jewellery. While gold as an asset class has done well, it cannot be a dominant part of your assets. You must allocate your money in such a way that you have covered adequate bases in the market. The other problem is with individuals not keeping track of their monthly systematic investment plans. Over diversification is unnecessary if the average returns on the Nifty 50 are 13% over 30 years. Assuming the inflation rate stays at 6% over the



long-term, a return of 13% can take care of your future needs. You must engage a financial advisor in 2025 if you have not done it yet. Your asset allocation is likely to help you manage your finances better. There is a lot of zeal in the way insurance companies sell life and general insurance to you. Since a lot of your data is floating across credit bureaus and banks, you would be inundated with calls from tele-marketers to secure your family's future or income. You cannot blame companies for reaching out to you. They are merely looking to grow their business. The onus is on you to make the right choices. A lot of you take up multiple life insurance policies, unit-linked

insurance plans or health insurance policies to protect against eventualities. You must evaluate your options carefully. Insurance is a protection against life situations. However, it is not an investment. The primary objective of an insurance company is to keep money to pay you when you or your family need it the most. You pay a premium for that promise and not really to meet your financial goals or beat inflation. Choose a good life insurance plan and a health insurance plan that takes care of most illnesses or emergency care for you and your family. For investments, plans offered by insurance companies are not the only solution. You can invest in index funds or exchange-traded funds, diversified equity funds or own quality company shares. Your financial advisor can help you make sense of all options. The New Year calls on you to make a resolution. You must invest in knowledge for your own financial security. It is not easy to understand all the investment and insurance products if you are not familiar with finance. You need to try to focus on things that are relevant to you. 'Over investment' and 'over insurance' are not exactly classical personal finance terms. They are behavioural issues.

## Why Narayana Murthy believes Indians should work 70 hours a week

**NEW DELHI.** Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy defended his stance on the 70-hour workweek, highlighting that young people must recognise the importance of hard work to help India achieve the top global position.

At the Indian Chamber of Commerce's centenary celebration in Kolkata, Narayana Murthy urged the youth to work hard to elevate India's global standing. He said, "At Infosys, I said we will go to the best and compare ourselves with the best global companies. Once we compare ourselves with the best global companies, I can tell you we Indians have a lot to do. We have to set our aspirations high because 800 million Indians get free ration. That means 800 million Indians are in poverty. If we are not in a position to work hard, then who will work hard?" Earlier, the Infosys co-founder had shared his opinion about the much debated work-life balance argument and said he does not agree with the idea of "work-life balance." He also expressed disappointment over India's move from a six-day workweek to a five-day one in 1986, a change he says he never agreed with while talking at the CNBC Global



Leadership Summit in November, last month. He mentioned that comparing India with the best global companies reveals a long journey ahead. He believes hard work is essential to addressing the country's challenges and making it a global leader.

According to Narayana Murthy, combating poverty requires generating employment that results in disposable income. He said, "I realised the only way a country can fight poverty is by creating jobs that lead to disposable incomes."

Moreover, he underscored the critical role of entrepreneurs in creating jobs and wealth, which ultimately combat poverty. "The government has absolutely no role in entrepreneurship. I also realised entrepreneurs build a nation as they create jobs, they create wealth for

**Narayana Murthy has stood by his stance on work-life balance and his recent comments come amid continued debate over his previous suggestion that young Indians should commit to a 70-hour work week.**

their investors and they pay taxes," he added. He criticised complacency, urging individuals to dedicate themselves to realising their potential. Additionally, Narayana Murthy believes fighting poverty requires generating disposable incomes through employment, which only entrepreneurship can provide. He called on Indians to avoid mediocrity and embrace hard work to create a prosperous and globally respected nation. His comments come amid continued debate over his previous suggestion that millennials in India should aim for a 70-hour workweek. This suggestion had sparked mixed reactions, with some agreeing on the need for a stronger work ethic while others criticised the idea as excessive.

## How much should you be investing

**NEW DELHI.** When it comes to saving and investing, people are obsessed with the returns they're going to get on their money! Two factors that determine how much money we end up with are - the amount we put into our savings and investments in the first place and the amount of time we have it there.

For instance, let's suppose that you need to cobble together R10 crore over 40 years and you reckon on getting an investment return of 12% per year. If you pop the numbers into excel, you'll see that you have to save a paltry looking Rs 7,960 per month.

If you start 10 years later, at the same 12% per year investment return, you'll now have to save a difficult R28,000

per month. What if we did fancy to get higher investment return, which would surely get us to our R10 crore over 20 years? Well at R88,000 this is not easy. What about getting to R10 crore in 20 years with a smaller amount and a higher rate of return?

Well, of course anything is possible, but to make up for the missed time, you'd have to almost double your investment returns. In fact, you'd need to get a return of 21% per year to turn R28,000 into R10 crore in 20 years!

Have a play on excel calculators with your own numbers. With so little to play with, it's no accident that Equities are considered better long-term investments than other asset classes.

So, plug everything in.....and repeat the

process regularly.

Let's go back to the original example where we were expecting a return of 12% per annum and aiming to cobble together R10 crore over 40 years.

To do that we set about saving R7,960 p.m. Now let's fast-forward to five years from the start and look at two possible scenarios - one good and one not so good. Scenario 1 - Things go fine! In the first scenario, we've got a great return of 22% per year. That gives us a pot of investments worth R900,000. Plugging the numbers in, we find we need to save R7,000 per month to get us there! That's a fall of R960 per month! Scenario 2 - Things go, not so well! Here, we've got a return of 10% per year.

## Withdrawal of EPF from ATM may take time

**Labour ministry sources have said that this is just an idea floated by the labour minister, and it needs a lot of deliberations between the labour ministry, EPFO and the banking regulator before it could be implemented.**

**NEW DELHI.** The plan for allowing withdrawal of employee provident fund (EPF) claims through ATM has a long way to go. Labour ministry sources have said that this is just an idea floated by the labour minister, and it needs a lot of deliberations between the labour ministry, EPFO and the banking regulator before it could be implemented.

The idea is to have a hassle-free claim settlement process as high rejection rates are becoming a headache for individuals, who keep their life savings with EPFO (Employee Provident Fund

Organisations) for use after retirements or during emergency fund requirements.

However, the idea of allowing EPFO members to withdraw from ATM is not happening in the immediate future. The ministry has a vision to ease the claims process, and the idea is at a very early stage, says a labour ministry source. "Without the approval of the RBI, the banking regulator, the idea cannot be implemented. Besides, there are other several issues like frequency and limit of withdrawal that the EPFO needs to figure out before going ahead with the project," the labour ministry source told TNIE.

The ministry is also exploring the possibility of introducing a digital wallet, where the claimed amount could be kept and withdrawn from. "These ideas, including issuing ATM cards, cannot be implemented without a strong backing from the banking regulator and banks," the ministry source said, adding that anything like this is not possible in the immediate future.

Improving digital infra

The EPFO has been trying to improve its digital infrastructure and ease the claims



process. Early this year, the EPFO implemented the first of the six modules of Central IT System (CITS) 2.01. This facility will reduce the time and effort while providing facilities such as online submission of application, validation of applications and transfer of past accumulations of the member. CITS 2.01 will replace the earlier system of physical submission with voluminous documents and allow the establishment to track its application with a tracking ID. More modules of CITS 2.01 are likely to be implemented from 1 January 2025.

The EPFO has reduced the rejection of claims to 25% till November 2024. In 2022-23, the combined rejection and return ratio was 34%, while in the year before, the claim rejections had touched 35%. Claims are rejected when the claimant is not eligible for the type of advance or withdrawal. Claims are returned if there is any deficiency. Returned claims can be resubmitted after corrections.

The labour ministry has claimed that the implementation of CITS 2.01 has increased the number of claims settled in the current financial year. During 2023-24, EPFO settled 4.45 crore claims for an amount of R1.82 lakh crore. In the current financial year, 3.83 crore claims have already been settled for more than R1.57 lakh crore, the CBT was informed.

In FY25, 1.15 crore claims have been settled in auto mode, whereby requests for withdrawals for education, marriage and medical purposes are settled automatically. The limit for auto claims settlement facility has also been extended to R1 lakh from R50,000 which has also been extended to advances for housing, marriage and education.

## NEWS BOX

## Sanjay Manjrekar questions role of batting coach after Brisbane collapse

Former India cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar has questioned the role of a batting coach in the Indian team after another collapse on Day 3 of the third Test against Australia at the Gabba, Brisbane. Notably, India were reduced to 48/4 by Australia as Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli and Rishabh Pant departed cheaply.

Following India's debacle, Manjrekar has questioned BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) about the role of the batting coach in the Indian staff. The former batter mentioned that major technical issues have remained unresolved in the Indian batting for too long and hence the management needs to be accountable. "I guess the time has come to scrutinise the role of a batting coach in the Indian team. Why major technical issues have remained unresolved for so long with certain Indian batters. @BCCI," wrote Manjrekar on his X account.

Indian batting has looked in shambles on the ongoing tour as, apart from the second innings in Perth they haven't been able to cross the 200-run mark. In the four innings, India have registered scores of 150, 487/6, 180 and 175 so far bringing their technical



deficiencies out in the open.

Mitchell Starc gets Yashasvi Jaiswal again  
Coming back to play on Day 3, Mitchell Starc once again got Australia off to a terrific start as he made Yashasvi Jaiswal hit straight to Mitchell Marsh at mid-wicket on just the second ball of the innings. Shubman Gill also departed cheaply as he chased a wide delivery from Starc which found his thick outside edge. The ball went flying towards the slips and Mitchell Marsh took a breathtaking catch diving to his left.

Zorder Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25: Full Coverage

Australia had another big breakthrough in the first session as Josh Hazlewood got the big scalp of Virat Kohli exposing his weakness outside off stump all over again. Pat Cummins further got rid of Rishabh Pant for the third time in the series as he found his outside edge. Earlier, Alex Carey's 70 guided Australia to 455 in their first innings while Jasprit Bumrah finished with figures of 6/76 in 28 overs.

## NZ vs ENG: Ben Stokes faces fresh injury concern after limping off the field

New Delhi England Test skipper Ben Stokes faced a fresh injury scare after he limped off the field clutching his left hamstring on Day 3 of the third Test against New Zealand. The injury is particularly concerning as it involves the same hamstring he had torn earlier this year, which sidelined him from cricket for two months. England confirmed that the all-rounder had sustained a hamstring injury and his availability for the rest of the Test is still uncertain.

Stokes, bowling the 56th over of New Zealand's second innings, pulled up in visible pain after delivering just two balls, with the second delivery being hit for a boundary by Rachin Ravindra. After bowling the ball, Stokes immediately went



down clutching his left hamstring. The England skipper left the field limping, sparking immediate concern in the England camp. The painful expression on his face as medical staff treated him heightened fears about the severity of the injury. This incident marks another setback for Stokes, who only returned to international action in October during England's Test series against Pakistan. He had previously torn the same hamstring on August 11, 2024, while playing for Northern Superchargers in The Hundred. At the time, his injury had prompted widespread discussions about limiting his bowling workload to prevent further strain, especially given his importance as an all-rounder. England's situation in the third Test has compounded the concern surrounding Stokes' injury. Despite leading the series 2-0, the visitors found themselves under immense pressure in Hamilton. New Zealand scored a commanding 347 runs in their first innings, while England's batting collapsed for just 143. The Black Caps, led by Tom Latham, extended their lead to a massive 474 runs before Stokes left the field.

Key contributions from Will Young and a century by Kane Williamson ensured that New Zealand dominated the proceedings, leaving England with a monumental task ahead. Stokes' absence will not only affect England's already struggling bowling attack but could also impact their chances of pulling off a remarkable comeback.

## AUS vs IND: Sunil Gavaskar suggests Sachin Tendulkar lesson to struggling Virat Kohli

New Delhi. Legendary Sunil Gavaskar advised Virat Kohli to revisit Sachin Tendulkar's iconic knock in Sydney in 2004 to overcome his issues with the line outside the off-stump in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Gavaskar suggested that Kohli should resist the urge to drive at deliveries outside the off-stump to break the pattern of dismissals that have plagued his form and reputation in the five-Test series in Australia. On Monday, 16 December, Kohli was dismissed for just 3 runs in the first innings of the third Test at the Gabba in Brisbane. Kohli appeared intent on being disciplined at the start of his innings on an overcast morning. However, he was lured into playing at a wide delivery from Josh Hazlewood, resulting in a thick edge safely pounced by wicketkeeper Alex Carey. Australia have consistently trapped Kohli with the line outside the off-stump during the series, exploiting his tendency to push and poke at deliveries away from the body.

Speaking to the broadcasters, Gavaskar recommended that Kohli study how Tendulkar decided to eliminate the cover drive from his game during the Sydney Test in 2004, which helped him tackle a similar problem.

"Yes, I think practice is different, but what happens in the middle is different. The mindset is completely different. What happens in practice is, you know, if you play a bad shot, you can get away with it. But in the match, if you are out, you are out," Gavaskar said. "What I think Kohli can do is maybe have a look at what Sachin Tendulkar did way back in 2004. In the first three Test matches, he got out playing for the line outside the off-stump. He got caught at slips, short gully. When he came to Sydney, he decided he was not going to play anything in the cover region. He played only between the bowler's follow-through and to the right of the mid-off fielder, and everything else on the other side. That's the resolve. He hardly played a cover drive; I think only after getting to 200-220 did he play one. That is the kind of mind control you should be having," Gavaskar added.

## HOW TENDULKAR DELETED THE COVER DRIVE

In the Sydney Test of the 2003-04 Border-Gavaskar Trophy, Tendulkar displayed exceptional adaptability and mental discipline. Under pressure from a rare slump in form, Tendulkar had been repeatedly dismissed while attempting the cover drive, one of his most elegant strokes but, in this



instance, a liability. Australian bowlers, particularly Brett Lee, Andy Bichel, and Jason Gillespie, devised a plan to exploit his off-side game, luring him into errors. Recognising this, Tendulkar made the unconventional decision to avoid playing the cover drive entirely throughout his innings. This required extraordinary mental strength, as it meant sidelining one of his signature shots. Tendulkar adjusted his technique and mindset, focusing on playing straight down the ground, working the ball off his pads, and prioritising leg-side scoring. By consciously eschewing the risky drive, he nullified Australia's primary tactic to dismiss him.

The results were spectacular. Tendulkar scored an unbeaten 241, one of the finest innings of

his illustrious career. His knock was a testament to patience, technical precision, and determination, showcasing another dimension of his batting genius. Over the course of 436 deliveries, Tendulkar did not offer a single chance, systematically dismantling the Australian attack and anchoring India's mammoth first-innings total of 705/7 declared.

## GAVASKAR BACKS KOHLI TO BOUNCE BACK

Virat Kohli began the current series in Australia with a century in Perth, ending a year-long drought without a three-figure score in Test cricket. However, he has failed to pass 15 in any of his other four innings so far. Gavaskar expressed confidence that Kohli still has time in the series to bounce back and prove his mental strength. "Kohli has also shown it. You can't score 9000 runs in Test cricket and hit 32 hundreds without having mind control. Over here, there is a second innings, and there are two more Tests to go. So there's plenty of opportunity to show your resolve." They are plotting my dismissals; they've got two slips and two gullies. Apart from the resolve that Tendulkar showed, Kohli should watch videos of himself scoring big runs," he added.

## Pep Guardiola accepts blame after City's collapse in derby: I'm not good enough

- City lost to United 2-1 in the Manchester derby
- The City boss decided not to lean on excuses after the loss
- Guardiola admitted that he was still in the job because of his previous achievements at City



last 11 matches across all competitions—a crisis that has left fans, players, and pundits alike searching for answers. "I don't have a defence. I'm the boss, I'm the manager and I'm not good enough," Guardiola said, as quoted by Reuters. "I have to find a solution and I don't find a solution. It is as simple as that. I am not doing well, that is the truth."

Guardiola, who had previously cited the relentless fixture schedule as a factor behind his team's mounting injury list, chose not to lean on excuses in an emotional and introspective post-match press conference. Instead, he acknowledged the need for

solutions to address the ongoing issues.

"(We were leading) 3-0 against Feyenoord at 75 minutes and we draw that (Champions League) game. Is that the schedule, the injuries? No. We have to win that game." said Guardiola. "Today we have to win that game because apart from Bruno Fernandes (with a late chance that the United captain put wide) nothing happened. So, we give it away again." If always it's the same problem, it can be fixed. You say 'Ah, it's that player.' It can be fixed; he doesn't play. But it's not that. "Adding to City's woes, they failed to register a single shot on target in the second half of the match. The defeat also marked an unwanted milestone: it is the latest point in a Premier League game that a reigning champion has squandered a lead and lost. I'm sitting here because of what I have done in the past. Guardiola admitted that he was still in the job because of his previous achievements at City and would have got the sack if he was at any other club. "I'm incredibly well paid to handle these situations, to handle the press conference.

## AUS vs IND: Jasprit Bumrah completes double milestone with 6 for 76 at Gabba

- Jasprit Bumrah completed a double milestone as he got figures of 6 for 76 against Australia on Day 3 of the ongoing Gabba Test on Monday, December 16. Bumrah continued his fine form in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy with his performance in Brisbane.



New Delhi Jasprit Bumrah achieved a double milestone on Day 3 of the Gabba Test as he finished with figures of 6 for 76 against Australia on Monday, December 16. Bumrah has been India's best player in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy series as he has led from the front with the ball and guided them to a thrilling win at Perth as skipper of the side. Bumrah waged a lone battle on Day 2 as the rest of the Indian bowlers were ineffective as Travis Head and Steve Smith scored hundreds. The Indian

pacer would pick up his 2nd 5-wicket haul of the series to give India some respite after a tiring day's play. On Day 3, Bumrah would add another wicket to his tally early on.

The Indian pacer was able to make Mitchell Starc edge a ball to Rishabh Pant to complete a 6-wicket haul. Bumrah's ended with figures of 6 for 76 in 28 overs. This was incidentally the best figures by an Indian bowler at the iconic Gabba ground. Bumrah

surpassed the record previously held by Erapalli Prasanna as he had taken 6 wickets for 104 runs during the second innings of the 3rd Test between India and Australia at the ground in January 1968. AUS vs IND 3rd Test Day 3 Live Updates

Bumrah would also get to 50 wickets against Australia in Tests with his scalp of Starc on Day 3. The Indian pacer is steadily climbing up the rankings and now has Umesh Yadav in sights, who has 53 wickets to his name in 17 matches. Bumrah reached the landmark of 50 wickets against Australia in just 10 matches, with all of them happening down under. The Indian pacer has a stunning average of 17.62 and already has a chance to break Kapil Dev's record in Australia. Kapil Dev had 51 wickets in Australia during his career and Bumrah is just 2 away. Bumrah's Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 so far Bumrah has a total of 18 wickets in the ongoing Border-Gavaskar Trophy and is leading the list so far. The Indian pacer has an average of 11.72 and has conceded just 211 runs in 82 overs across 5 innings.



Mitchell Marsh, leaving India's top order in tatters. Adding to their troubles, Virat Kohli fell for a mere 3 runs, continuing his troubling pattern of nicking deliveries outside off-stump—a trend increasingly exploited by Australian bowlers.

The setbacks didn't stop there for India. Rishabh Pant, the hero of previous Gabba heroics, managed just 9 runs before falling to Pat Cummins. This marked the third time out of five that Cummins had dismissed Pant in the ongoing Border Gavaskar Trophy, further amplifying India's struggles. The rain interruption following Pant's dismissal provided India with a brief respite to reassess their approach, though their position remained precarious. The repeated disruptions, however, broke the momentum for both sides, adding to the irritation visible on players' faces. The score heavily tilted in Australia's favor and conditions testing everyone's patience, the weather added an unwelcome challenge to an already intense Test match.

## WI vs BAN: Mahedi, Mahmud star as Powell's heroics go in vain in 1st T20I

- Rovman Powell's heroic innings went in vain as Mahedi and Mahmud bowled Bangladesh to a 7-run win in St. Vincent on Sunday, December 9. Mahedi picked up 4 wickets and scored a vital 26 runs to help secure the win for his side.

New Delhi. Bangladesh edged out West Indies in a thrilling finish, holding on for a 7-run victory in the first T20I at the Amos Vale Ground. Hasan Mahmud emerged as the hero, defending nine runs in the final over to secure the win in West Indies' first international match in St Vincent in a decade. Chasing 147, West Indies found themselves in trouble early on, reduced to 38 for 5 after a brilliant four-wicket spell from Mahedi

Hasan. Rovman Powell, however, kept the hosts in contention with a blistering 35-ball 60 that included four sixes and five fours, but his efforts fell just short. In the tense final over, West Indies needed 10 runs to win. Mahmud delivered under pressure, dismissing Powell and Alzarri Joseph to seal the game. Powell was caught behind off the first ball, handing Bangladesh captain Litton Das his fifth dismissal of the match. With eight runs required off the last two deliveries, Mahmud bowled Joseph to clinch Bangladesh's first T20I win against West Indies in six years, a victory that coincided with the celebration of Bangladesh's Victory Day back home. The game seemed to be slipping from Bangladesh's grasp midway through the chase. Powell, joined by Romario Shepherd at 61 for 7 in the 12th over, orchestrated a dramatic fightback. The duo hammered 15 runs off Rishad Hossain in



the 14th over before Powell exploded in the next over, taking Taskin Ahmed for three sixes in a 23-run assault. Powell's sixes showcased his range, with one over extra cover, another over point, and a third straight down the ground. With the asking rate reduced to eight runs per over, Tanzim Hasan conceded 12 runs in the 16th over, during which Powell reached his half-century off just 28 balls. Shepherd joined the act, hitting

a six off Rishad, but his dismissal in the 17th over, caught at deep midwicket off Taskin, put the pressure back on West Indies. Shepherd scored a quick 22 off 17 balls, but his departure left Powell with too much to do.

Bangladesh had earlier seized control of the match with a superb start. Taskin Ahmed struck with his first delivery, dismissing Brandon King for a duck. Mahedi Hasan then removed Nicholas

Pooran, who was stumped for 1, before accounting for Johnson Charles, who had hit two sixes in a costly over from Tanzim Hasan. Mahedi's impact continued in his final over as he removed Andre Fletcher, caught behind, and Roston Chase, who inside-edged a reverse sweep. He finished with exceptional figures of 4 for 13, leaving West Indies reeling and setting the stage for a dramatic finish.

# Alia Bhatt

## Looks Stressed, Kareena Kapoor Attempts To Calm Her Down In

Alia Bhatt and Kareena Kapoor appeared to be engaging in an intense chat during the opening night of the Raj Kapoor Film Festival in Mumbai. Alia and Kareena joined their fellow Kapoor family members — Neetu Kapoor, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Karisma Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Ranbir Kapoor and others — to celebrate Raj Kapoor's 100th birth anniversary. The family hosted a special red carpet event and posed for the cameras. Amid the photo ops, a video has now revealed that Alia appeared to be stressed while Kareena seemingly tried to help ease her tension. However, it seems like her worries were soon sorted as she posed with Ranbir, Karisma, Kareena, Saif, Ranbir Kapoor and Babita. Check out the video below:

The RK Film Festival, organised by PVR INOX Limited and the Film Heritage Foundation, pays homage to Raj Kapoor's timeless cinematic legacy. The three-day event kicked off with a grand opening night, featuring screenings of Kapoor's iconic films, such as Awaara, Shree 420, and Mera Naam Joker, in select theatres across 40 cities. Several stars, including Mahesh Bhatt, Rekha, Kartik Aaryan, Sharvari, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Farhan Akhtar, Rekha, Padmini Kolhapure, Vicky Kaushal, Boney Kapoor, Soni Razdan, Shaheen Bhatt, and Vicky Kaushal, among others were present at the event.

The Raj Kapoor Film Festival is playing 10 of his biggest films. The festival will feature Raj Kapoor's most celebrated works, spanning almost four decades including including — Aag (1948), Barsaat (1949), Awaara (1951), Shree 420 (1955), Jagte Raho (1956), Jis Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai (1960), Sangam (1964), Mera Naam Joker (1970), Bobby (1973) and Ram Teri Ganga Maili (1985). Meanwhile, on the work front, Alia has two movies in the making. She is currently filming for Alpha, with Sharvari. The film is a part of YRF's spy universe. She also has Love & War, which is helmed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The film also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal.



## Jackie Shroff Turns Protective For Shah Rukh Khan's Daughter Suhana, Asks Paps 'Light Mat Marana'



Jackie Shroff and Suhana Khan were recently spotted at an event in the city. But what grabbed our attention was Jackie showing his fatherly instincts when he came to the rescue of Shah Rukh Khan's daughter. A video of the incident has been making rounds on social media, earning Jackie praise for his sweet gesture. In the video, shared by Snehzalal, we can see Suhana Khan leaving the event and Jackie is making sure she is safely rescued to her car. The actor even asked Paps not to focus light more. "Zyada light mat marna," the actor was heard saying. Suhana was also smiling and later thanked him for the sweet gesture. One of the fans wrote, "Wowow so beautiful."

Suhana Khan will be seen with her father Shah Rukh Khan in King. As reported by Mid Day, Anirudh Ravichander has been roped in to compose the music for King. Reports reveal that the music composer has started working on the tunes for the film. The report also mentioned that the movie will kickstart the shoot in January. The makers have zeroed in on Budapest which will provide the perfect atmosphere which is needed for the film due to its cold weather. The pre-production will start from October onwards. The dialogues have been crafted by Abbas Tyrewala who recently worked on War 2. The report stated that the first draft of the dialogues had been prepared. Additionally, Shah Rukh, Suhana, Abhishek Bachchan, and Abhay Verma will start the shoot in January.

King will explore the story of a complex don who turns to be a mentor to a girl. Shah Rukh will play the role of a don while Suhana will be seen as his mentee. The report mentioned that Bachchan will be seen in a negative role. On the work front, Jackie Shroff will be next seen in Baby John co starring Varun Dhawa, Keerthy Suresh. The film is releasing on Christmas this year. Jointly written by Atlee, Kalees and Sumit Arora, Baby John is the adaptation of Atlee's 2016 release Tamil film Theri. While Varun Dhawan stars in the lead role, Keerthy Suresh is making her Bollywood debut with this Kalees directorial. The film is produced under Jio Studios, Cine1 Studios and A for Apple Productions. The film will release on December 25, 2024.

## Madhu Chopra Reveals How Nick Jonas Asked For Priyanka Chopra's Hand In



Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas are among the most loved couples globally. They have often impressed fans with their chemistry. Well, recently a video of Madhu Chopra sharing how Nick Jonas asked for Priyanka Chopra's hand has gone viral. She praised him while revealing the information.

Reddit has shared the video on its thread. Madhu Chopra was quoted saying, "Ek din Nick mujhe bola tha apko lunch pe leke jana hai. Leke gaya lunch pe. Aur puchne lage kaisa ladka aap chahte hai Priyanka ke liye. Maine bataya Falana Falana boxes hone chahiye tick. Mera hath pakkad ke kaha hai 'Can I be that person'. Main apko promise karta hu ek bhi apka box untick nai hoga. I was so like amazed and unprepared. But I was very happy because he's such a great guy. He's like kaise batau describe karna bahot difficult hai as I barely knew him that time. Toh ek impression aata hai ki solid hai. This person is solid and so yeah I was happy very happy."

On December 1, Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas celebrated another year of love, marking their anniversary. They got married in 2018 at a grand wedding at Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur. To commemorate this special milestone, Priyanka's mother, Madhu Chopra, shared a throwback video collage on Instagram, showcasing some of the couple's magical wedding moments. The touching footage showcased unforgettable moments from their wedding, capturing everything from the joyful haldi ceremony to the sacred pheras. Priyanka radiated elegance in a deep rose lehenga by the renowned designer Sabyasachi, while Nick looked equally dashing in a cream sherwani. As the video played, an overlay text appeared which read, "A love story rooted in tradition and filled with magic."

Priyanka and Nick celebrated their wedding anniversary with a cosy dinner date in New York City, looking effortlessly stylish as they stepped out together. The couple turned heads as they coordinated in sleek black ensembles. Priyanka dazzled in a chic black mini dress paired with a black leather jacket and knee-high boots. On the other hand, Nick sported a sharp black shacket layered over a polo shirt, finished off with straight-leg pants for a polished look. As they walked hand in hand through midtown Manhattan, Priyanka playfully flashed a victory sign to the paparazzi before heading to their car.

# Taapsee Pannu

## Shocks Fans About Her Marriage; Reveals She Married Mathias Boe In 2023 Not 2024

Taapsee Pannu left everyone shocked when she got married to her boyfriend Mathias Boe in March 2024. However, to add more, the actress recently surprised by revealing that she tied the knot with her long-time beau in December 2023 and not in March 2024. Yes, you are reading right. Taapsee made this claim during an interaction with Agenda Aaj Tak. Speaking at her session about her intimate wedding held in Udaipur, Taapsee said, "People were unaware of my wedding this year as we didn't make a formal announcement. In fact, we got married last year in December. Our wedding anniversary is coming soon. We simply signed the papers then. If I hadn't mentioned it today, no one would have known."

She added, "We wanted to maintain a clear distinction between our personal and professional lives. I've observed that excessive exposure of personal life in professional life can negatively impact both spheres. The

successes and failures of one's career often spill over into personal life, causing unnecessary stress. I've always strived to maintain a balance between the two." The actor and the former Olympic medallist tied the knot on March 23. Their families and closest friends attended the ceremony. A source revealed, "The wedding took place in Udaipur and was an extremely intimate affair. The pre-wedding festivities kicked-started on March 20. The couple was very sure that they didn't want any media attention on their big day. Both of them are known to be very private and reserved people and they wouldn't have had it any other way."

Taapsee Pannu and Danish badminton coach Mathias Boe met at the inaugural Indian Badminton League in 2013. Love blossomed between the two and soon the families met.

While Taapsee largely managed to keep details about her love life under wraps, she once stated in an interview that they began chatting on X (formerly Twitter) and then proceeded to meet one another. A report recently stated that they are all set to get married in March after dating each other for over a decade. On the work front, Taapsee was last seen in Phir Aayi Haseen Dillruba, Woh Ladki Hai Kahaan, and Khel Khel Mein.

