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Rahul Gandhi, other party MPs from UP to visit Sambhal today

Sanjay Kumar New Delhi, Dec 03: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi along with the five other party MPs from Uttar



Pradesh will visit Sambhal on Wednesday, Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai said. Newly-elected Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is also likely to accompany the delegation, he said. The party's general secretary and UP in-charge

Avinash Pande will be there too, Rai told. Curbs under section 163 (power to issue order in urgent cases of nuisance or apprehended danger) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), were set to expire on Sunday and have now been extended till December 31. Sambhal has been in the eye of the proverbial storm since November 19, when a Mughal-era mosque was surveyed on court orders following claims that a Harihar temple previously stood at the site. Violence erupted during a second survey on November 24 as protesters gathered near Shahi Jama Masjid and clashed with security personnel. Four people died and several others were injured in the violence that ensued.

A nation that tests farmers' patience will pay a heavy price: Jagdeep Dhankhar

Summi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Dec 03: Amid the raging farmer

protests, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar on Tuesday made strong remarks asking the government why it was not holding a dialogue with the protesting farmers. With agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on stage at an ICAR event in Mumbai, the VP asked him, "Agriculture Minister Sir, every moment is critical for you. I urge you, and as the person holding the second-highest constitutional position in India, I request you to please tell me, was any promise made to the farmers, and why has it not been fulfilled? What are we doing to fulfill the promise? There was an agitation last year, and there is one this year as well, and time is passing, but we are doing nothing." Dhankhar said he was feeling hurt and addressing Chouhan, he said, "You are the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. I am reminded of Sardar Patel, and his responsibility to unify the nation, which he did so excellently. This challenge is before you today, and it should

not be considered any less than the unity of India." Invoking Punjab farmer Jagjit Singh Dallewal, on a fast unto death demanding legal backing to the



MSP, Dhankhar said a dialogue with the farmers should happen immediately and everyone should know if any promises were made to the farmers. Dallewal, the head of Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non Political) has maintained that the govern-

ment since the time of ex agriculture minister Radha Mohan Singh made promises to farmers which it did not keep. Mentioning Dallewal, Dhankhar asked Chouhan, "Honorable Agriculture Minister, did the previous agriculture ministers make any written promises? If so, what happened to them?" Drawing attention to the agitating farmers, the VP said, "We cannot fight with our own people and put them in this situation where they are left to fight on their own." "We cannot hold the ideology that their struggle will be limited and they will eventually tire out. We should not disturb the soul of India, we should not hurt its heart. Can we create a boundary between the farmer and the government? Those whom we need to embrace cannot be pushed away," Dhankhar said referring to Dallewal who has claimed that promises made to the farmers have not been fulfilled. "This is your challenge. When any government makes a promise, and it is related to the farmers, we should never leave anything incomplete," Dhankhar said, adding that a nation that tests the patience of farmers has to pay a heavy price.

Oppn, BJP MPs debate Bhagwat's population remarks

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Dec 02: A day after Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat expressed concern over India's declining fertility rate, BJP leaders welcomed his remarks while the opposition asked where will the resources to support an increased population come from. Food prices are high and the government has "failed" to create employment opportunities for people, they said. Speaking at an event in Nagpur on Sunday, Bhagwat highlighted the vital role of families and warned that according to population science, if a society's total fertility rate dips below 2.1, it could face extinction. "So when



we say 2.1, this means it should be more, at least three. The (population) science says so," the

patriotic organisation. If Mohan Bhagwat ji has said something, then it would certainly be in the national interest. So it should be analysed positively," Tiwari told PTI outside Parliament. "His ideas are in the national interest. He is a mature person. If he has given this statement, it is for the good of the country and it must be right," Govil said. However, opposition leaders questioned Bhagwat and the BJP over his remarks. Congress Lok Sabha MP from Katihar Tariq Anwar said Bhagwat's remarks were in contrast to what BJP leaders have been saying on the issue of population. "What he

(Bhagwat) is saying is contradictory because BJP leaders are saying the population should be controlled. They should clear these contradictions and the government should come out with a policy on population," he said. Azad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) MP Chandra Shekhar asked where will the additional resources to support an

increased population come from. "Such statements are made with a political agenda and people have to pay (the price) for them," the Nagina MP said. If managed properly, India's population is a useful resource, he said. "If we start manufacturing, people will get employment. But the government has failed in this," he added.

If adjournments continue, House will be convened on Sunday as well: Om Birla

New Delhi, Dec 03: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday warned the members that if the business of the House is disrupted further due to adjournments, then he will have to convene the proceedings over the weekends to make up for the loss of time. The government and opposition parties reached an agreement on Monday to break a week-long impasse in Parliament with the dates announced for a discussion on the Constitution, to mark its 75th year of adoption, in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. The Lower House will take up the discussion on the Constitution on December 13 and 14, and the Upper House on December 16 and 17.

Dhaka suspends consular services at Agartala mission

Dhaka/Agartala, Dec 03: Security personnel keep vigil amid heightened security at the Bangladesh Assistant High Commission after protests erupted in Tripura over alleged attacks on Hindus in Bangladesh Bangladesh on Tuesday summoned the Indian envoy to its Foreign Office while announcing the suspension of consular services at its mission in Agartala, a day after the premises were breached by protesters over the arrest of a Hindu monk in the neighbouring country. There was drama too at a court in Chattogram, where monk Chinmoy Krishna Das' bail plea was to be heard. But no lawyer appeared for him, and his supporters later claimed that his advocates are under threat. Tuesday's developments marked another low in ties between the two countries following the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as prime minister in August. India has been expressing concern over Hindus and other minorities being targeted in Bangladesh under the interim government of Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus. New Delhi earlier called the breach at the Agartala mission "deeply regrettable". Tripura Police said seven people have been arrested and action taken against four policemen over the incident. Bangladesh had said its flag was desecrated.

Eknath Shinde rushed to hospital in Thane, doctors advise full examination

Mumbai, Dec 03: Caretaker Chief Minister of Maharashtra Eknath Shinde was taken to a private hospital in the city on Tuesday morning for a "routine check-up", a close aide said. "I am fine, do not worry," Shinde told reporters as he was driven to Jupiter Hospital. Shiv Sena leader Uday Samant said it was a "routine check-up", and Shinde would return to his official residence 'Varsha' in Mumbai afterwards. "He has had throat infection, weakness and fever. He would be undergoing a blood test," Samant added. Shinde, whose party is a constituent of the BJP-led Mahayuti coalition, has been unwell for the last few days, and staying at his private residence here. His decision to head to his village Dare in Satara district last Friday had sparked speculation that he was unhappy over the way the new Mahayuti government was shaping up. His aides, however, said he was not well and put it down to the exertion during the campaign for the last month's Maharashtra assembly elections.

CJI Khanna recuses self from hearing pleas against exclusion of CJI from selection panel

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Dec 03: Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna on Tuesday recused himself from hearing PILs challenging a recently enacted law on appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners that replaced the CJI with a Union Cabinet Minister in the three-member selection panel. Sitting on the Bench with Justice Sanjay Kumar, CJI Khanna told the petitioners' lawyers that he couldn't hear the petitions. "List the matter before a bench of which I am not a part," he said. Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan and advocate Prashant Bhushan pointed out that the previous Bench headed by Justice Khanna had issued the notice and they had no objection if he continued hearing the matter. However, Justice Khanna, who took over as



the top court had on February 13 refused to stay the newly enacted law on appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. The Bench had, however, issued notice to the Centre on the Association for Democratic

Reform's (ADR's) PIL challenging the validity of the Chief Election Commissioner and the other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Condition of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023, notified in the official gazette on December 28, 2023. The ADR has contended that the law was contrary to the Constitution Bench verdict which directed the inclusion of the CJI in the three-member selection panel to pick the CEC and ECs. In January, the Bench had issued notice to the Centre on another PIL filed by Madhya Pradesh Congress leader Jaya Thakur challenging the law on the grounds that it gave sweeping powers to the Centre by dropping the CJI from the three-member selection panel. Besides Thakur, Gopal Singh, an advocate, had also challenged the validity of the law.

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News box

80 earthmovers to clean city drains

BENGALURU. Due to the Cyclone Fengal devastation in the neighbouring state Tamil Nadu and Union Territory Puducherry, and warning of an impact in Karnataka by India Meteorological Department, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath on Monday held a meeting with zonal commissioners and directed them to take precautionary measures.

Addressing the media, Girinath said that although the city may not receive heavy rainfall as per the predictions, instructions have been given to deploy 80 earthmovers at low lying areas prone to floods. The engineers have been asked to clear silt from the drain, and ensure the waste is cleared and does not clog the drain during rain.

The Commissioner also stated that, although the warning has been given to neighbouring states, BBMP has taken precautions. The engineers have been asked to be on alert from Sunday onwards even if it was a holiday. The Palike also put all 28 tree cutting teams on alert to ensure uprooted trees and branches are cleared.

The Chief Commissioner also informed that, due to Fengal impact, it has become difficult to close all the potholes in city and engineers have been instructed to use cold mix and when the rain stops, more asphalt should be taken up.

According to IMD, the city logged 14.5 mm rainfall from 8:30 am to 8:30 pm on Monday, and it predicted moderate to heavy rain and generally cloudy sky for the next 36 hours. The temperature may be 23 degrees Celsius max and 19 degrees Celsius minimum.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath said 21,369 e-Khatas have been issued so far and 14,000 are still pending with Assistant Revenue Officers (AROs). By end of this week, majority of them will be cleared. Six lakh properties are in the draft e-Khata list and all owners will have to move to e-khata, he said.

SWM drivers and loaders launch hunger strike for regularisation

BENGALURU. Hundreds of drivers and loaders associated with Solid Waste Management (SWM) started hunger strike from Monday, demanding regularisation of service and Pourakarmika status.

Thyagaraj, President, Praja Hakkugala Vedike said these demands have been put forth before the palike several times, but the palike is yet to reciprocate. About 10,000 members engaged as drivers / loaders have to be recognised as Pourakarmikas as per IPD Salappa Commission Report. BJP leaders like former DyCM Dr CN Ashwath Narayan, opposition leader in Karnataka Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and former Safai Karmachari Commission Chairman Jagadish Hiremani visited and assured to prevail upon the state government to get justice to protesting members, he added.

Speaking to TNIE, Thyagaraj said, "Until and unless the government does not respond, the strike at Freedom Park will continue."

The protesting drivers and loaders said, that they are the one who are in the forefront to clear the city's waste and ensure the beautification, and it is the responsibility of the government and BBMP to treat them with respect, recognise and absorb them into palike.

Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, who visited the spot and spoke to the protesting members, said, when BJP was in power, 14,000 pourakarmikas were made permanent employees. Now drivers and loaders, who are also equally working, need to be regularised. "The government and BBMP can at least remove the contractors and absorb these sections under 'Direct Payment' segment," said Narayanaswamy.

Madras HC grants conditional bail to four students in murder case

CHENNAI. Madras High Court on Monday granted conditional bail to four students of Pachaiyappa's College who were arrested in a case relating to the murder of a student of the Presidency College.

Justice A D Jagadish Chandra issued the orders for enlarging N Chandru, Eswar, Yuvaraj and Eswaran on bail with the condition of rendering service at the trauma ward by two each at the Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) and the Kilpauk Medical College Hospital for a week from 9 am to 2 pm.

The Periyamet police arrested the four on October 4 on the charges of attempt to murder, after they had allegedly attacked Presidency College student Sundar, who succumbed later at RGGGH. Subsequently, the police altered the FIR to register a murder case against them.

During the previous hearing, the judge had expressed concern over the recurring incidents of student groups attacking each other without being aware of their family conditions and their future. He suo motu impleaded the Higher Education Secretary and subsequently, the principals of the two colleges were impleaded in the case to find a lasting solution to the issue. The Students Federation of India (SFI) and Sattva Panchayat Iyakkam, an NGO, filed petitions as intervenors to submit their proposals for working out the solution. Adjourning the case to December 20, the judge directed the college principals to appear in court on the same date.

CM MK Stalin urges Centre for Rs 2,000 crore aid as cyclone Fengal devastates Tamil Nadu

Besides, he also requested Modi to depute a central team at the earliest to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the damages.

CHENNAI. Chief Minister MK Stalin on Monday requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to release Rs 2,000 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) for emergency restoration and rehabilitation works in the areas affected by cyclone Fengal. Stalin pointed out that despite best efforts, the scale of disaster due to the cyclone overwhelmed the state's resources and Tamil Nadu needs urgent financial assistance to manage the fallout of this natural disaster.

The CM, in his letter to the PM, said according to the initial assessment of these damages, Rs 2,475 crore is required for temporary restoration efforts. He also requested Modi to depute a central team at the earliest to undertake a comprehensive

assessment of the damages. "Based on their findings, I seek your kind consideration for further financial assistance to address the unprecedented adverse impact on infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods in the affected districts," the CM said and expressed confidence that the centre will support Tamil Nadu at this crucial moment to overcome this crisis and quickly restore normalcy.

Further explaining the damages caused by the cyclone, the CM said it has caused extensive disruptions, inundating vast areas, displacing the population and severely impacting infrastructure and livelihood. "A total of 69 lakh families and 1.5 crore individuals have been adversely affected by



this calamity. The districts of Villupuram, Tiruvannamalai and Kallakurichi, in particular, received rainfall equivalent to an

entire season's average (more than 50 cm) in a single day, resulting in widespread flooding and severe damage to infrastructure and crops," he added. The cyclone also caused heavy inundation and damage in the interior districts of Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri, Ranipet, Vellore and Tirupattur. Giving details of the efforts taken by the state government to face this natural disaster, the CM said the state mobilised all available resources to provide relief and rehabilitation to the affected population.

Senior ministers and officers have been deputed to oversee operations in the districts, while 9 teams from the NDRF and 9 teams from the SDRF have been deployed.

Kerala govt data busts vaccine death myth; no rise in mortality post-Covid

While there have been no substantial studies on premature deaths in the state, the available mortality data confirms health experts' claims that the vaccines are safe.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Debunking the popular notion that Covid-19 vaccinations have led to an increase in deaths among young adults, state government data shows no significant change in the death rate in the 35-44 age group between 2019 and 2023.

Mortality rates in this group have remained relatively consistent, at 3.30% in 2019 and at 3.13% and 3.23% in the post-vaccination years of 2022 and 2023 respectively. Reports of heart attack in young people, often attributed to the side effects of the vaccine, appear to be unfounded. The data does not support any correlation between vaccinations and death rate in this age group.

While there have been no substantial studies on premature deaths in the state, the available mortality data confirms health experts' claims that the vaccines are safe. In Kerala, 1,29,45,396 individuals aged 18-44 have received the first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, of which 1,08,60,254 went on to complete the second dose.

The death of youngsters, especially when it occurs suddenly and without an obvious cause during work or workouts often attracts public attention. However, health experts dismiss the assumptions linking such deaths to the vaccine.

"The tendency is to attribute any young person's death to the vaccine. It is also wrong to assume that vaccine-related risks persist. There is evidence that vaccination can cause some issues in young people, but these cases are extremely rare, and the mortality rate reflects that," said Dr V Ramankutty, an epidemiologist and emeritus professor at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology.

Dr B Ekbal, public health activist and head of the expert panel advising the state on Covid and elderly vaccination, affirms that Covishield is one of the safest vaccines available.

"The death rate is likely to remain steady or increase as there are several reasons for people in the age group to die. They are at

risk of death due to non-communicable and infectious diseases. People should be discussing poor diabetes control, obesity and post-Covid issues instead of vaccines which were rolled out long ago," he said.

Experts agree that premature deaths should be thoroughly investigated to determine their true causes. While vascular diseases have been the primary cause of death since 1995, cardiologists indicate that there has been no significant increase in heart disease cases among young people since the pre-Covid period.

"Vaccine-related complications extremely rare"

"The number of young patients visiting hospitals for heart-related issues has not dramatically increased.

Vaccine-related complications are extremely rare, and the benefits of vaccination far outweigh the risks," said Dr Harikrishnan S, professor and head of the cardiology department at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST).

R Ashoka warns against eviction of farmers over Waqf Board notices, accuses Congress of appeasement

MYSURU. Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly, R Ashoka, on Monday warned the state government against evicting farmers and owners of various institutions from their lands in light of notices issued to them by the Waqf Board, claiming rights over their properties.

He was speaking after visiting Muneshwara Colony, where notices have been issued to 101 families, claiming that their lands belonged to the board. A notice has also been issued by the board, claiming rights over a Basava mandir in the colony, he said. Ashoka said the BJP would not be responsible if the state witnessed a law and order situation over the Waqf issue. Thousands of farmers, who have been residing on and tilling their lands for decades, have been issued notices. Accusing the Congress



government of indulging in appeasement politics to garner the votes of the minority community, he blamed former PMs and Congress leaders Jawaharlal Nehru and Manmohan Singh for the issue, alleging

that they granted extraordinary powers to the board.

He said the seer of Basavanjali Mutt and residents of Muneshwara Colony had expressed fears of eviction from their lands. Stating that the previous BJP government had released Rs 60 lakh for the mutt, Ashoka said the residents had now been forced to appear before the Waqf Committee in Bengaluru.

Terming the board as a "cancer," the BJP leader accused Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan of pressuring revenue officials to serve notices, claiming the board's rights over farmers' lands by changing their RTCs and land records. The board has put up boards claiming its rights over farmers' lands in many places, he alleged.

Kerala HC directive to transfer Rs 1,510 crore paddy land conversion fee to agricultural promotion fund

There shall be an annual audit of the Agricultural Promotion Fund. It should be done by the State Audit Department, and the result should be published on the website of the department concerned.

KOCHI. Kerala High Court has directed the state government to remit the amounts received as application fees for the conversion of paddy land collected under the Kerala Conservation of Paddy Land and Wetland Act, 2008 to the Agricultural Promotion Funds (APF).

There shall be an annual audit of the Agricultural Promotion Fund. It should be done by the State Audit Department, and the result should be published on the website of the department concerned. "The drop in paddy cultivation has decreased employment opportunities for farm workers and rural women, increased water scarcity, and worsened living conditions of the rural poor. Many remain unaware of the long-term impacts of these losses. If current practices continue, the future of remaining paddy lands will be at



risk. It is vital to preserve these lands for future generations as paddy supports food production and maintains wetland ecology. Preserving wetlands is essential for agricultural growth, food security, and ecological balance in Kerala, making the

enactment crucial for paddy land preservation and maintenance of wetlands," said the court. A division bench comprising Chief Justice Nitin Jandhar and Justice S Manu issued the order on a petition filed by T N Mukundan and others challenging the non-utilisation of Agricultural Promotion Fund for the conservation of paddy lands and their restoration.

The petitioners argued that though crores of rupees are collected under Section 27A of the Act, they are not accounted for and not even 3 per cent of the amount is transferred to the Agricultural Promotion Fund. The rules mandate that along with the application for conversion of land, a payment of Rs 1,000 must be submitted.

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NEWS BOX

US PRESIDENT BIDEN Biden Admin Approves Sale Of USD 1.17 Billion Worth Helicopter Equipment To India

Washington. The Biden Administration on Monday notified the Congress of its decision to approve the sale of MH-60R Multi-Mission Helicopter Equipment and related ones at an estimated cost of USD1.17 billion. The proposed sale will improve India's capability to deter current and future threats by upgrading its anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency said in a notification to the Congress. The Biden administration's approval of sale of major defense equipment to India comes weeks ahead of its completion of its four-year term. President-elect Donald Trump would be sworn in as 47th president of the United States of America on January 20, 2025.

According to the notification, India has requested to buy 30 Multifunctional Information Distribution System-Joint Tactical Radio Systems (MIDS-JTRS). It also included advanced data transfer systems; external fuel tanks; AN/AAS 44C(V) forward looking infrared (FLIR) systems; an operator machine interface assistant; spare containers; facilities study, design, construction and support; support and test equipment; munitions; and integration and test support.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Rotary and Mission Systems.

Implementation of this sale will require travel of up to 20 US Government or up to 25 contractor representatives to India on a temporary basis for program technical support and management oversight, it said.

Elon Musk's \$56 billion pay package for Tesla blocked again by Delaware judge

World. Tesla CEO Elon Musk's compensation package of \$56 billion has been blocked again by a Delaware judge despite the shareholders of the EV company voting to reinstate the pay package in June. Musk's pay package was earlier rescinded in January by the same judge, Chancellor Kathaleen McCormick of the Court of Chancery, who called it excessive. It also surprised the investors and now Musk's future at the world's most valued carmaker remains uncertain. The \$56 billion compensation for Musk has now become \$101 billion based on Tesla's closing share price on Monday, and it is made up of 303 million Tesla stock options, reported CNN. In January, Judge McCormick ruled in favour of one of the shareholders in the suit who had argued that "Musk and the Tesla board bore the burden of proving that the compensation plan was fair, and they failed to meet their burden." Tesla opposed the verdict by the judge and posted on X, "A Delaware judge just overruled a supermajority of shareholders who own Tesla and who voted twice to pay Elon Musk what he's worth. The court's decision is wrong, and we're going to appeal. This ruling, if not overturned, means that judges and plaintiffs' lawyers run Delaware companies rather than their rightful owners - the shareholders." Tesla and Musk can appeal against the verdict in the Delaware Supreme Court as and when the final order by the judge comes out. However, the appeal could take a year to play out, reported Reuters. Tesla in its court filings argued that the judge should acknowledge the voting held in June by the shareholders of the company, who voted in favour of the pay package for Musk. Judge McCormick said that Tesla's board was not entitled to hit a "reset" for Musk's compensation. "Were the court to condone the practice of allowing defeated parties to create new facts for the purpose of revising judgments, lawsuits would become interminable," she said.

Hunter Biden pardon sparks criticism, raising questions about Biden's legacy

World. President Joe Biden's decision to pardon his son, Hunter Biden, has drawn widespread criticism and raised questions about his legacy. The pardon comes weeks before Hunter's sentencing for tax evasion and firearms-related charges and reverses Biden's earlier pledge not to intervene in the case.

The sweeping pardon not only covers the charges Hunter faced but also precludes prosecution for any federal offenses committed between 2014 and 2024. Biden justified the move by stating the prosecution was politically motivated and a miscarriage of justice. Critics, including members of Biden's own



party, expressed concerns. Colorado Governor Jared Polis called the decision a "bad precedent" that tarnishes Biden's reputation. Democratic Representative Greg Stanton highlighted that Hunter was convicted by a jury, countering claims of political interference in the case. White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre reiterated Biden's stance, stating the president believes politics infected the process. Meanwhile, Republicans, including President-elect Donald Trump, have condemned the pardon, with Trump calling it a "miscarriage of

Trump Issues Ultimatum To Hamas To Release Gaza Hostages Before He Takes Charge As President

Donald Trump has issued an ultimatum to terrorist group Hamas that the hostages taken by it be released from Gaza before his inauguration in January.

Washington. US President-elect Donald Trump has issued an ultimatum to terrorist group Hamas that the hostages taken by it be released from Gaza before his inauguration in January, or there will be "hell to pay" in the Middle East for those responsible. Writing on Truth Social, and without naming any militant group, Trump said on Monday in his post: "If the hostages are not released prior to January 20, 2025, the date that I proudly assume Office as President of the United States, there will be ALL HELL TO PAY in the

Middle East, and for those in charge who perpetrated these atrocities against Humanity. Those responsible will be hit harder than anybody has been hit in the long and storied History of the United States of America. RELEASE THE HOSTAGES NOW!"

About 250 hostages were captured in the Hamas-led attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, and about 100 of them remain in Gaza, with about a third believed to be dead, according to the Israeli authorities. The Biden administration has been working since last year with Israel and international mediators, including Qatar and Egypt, on a cease-fire deal that would include the release of the hostages.

It was not clear what tactic Trump might take that has not already been taken already by Israel, which has killed many of Hamas's leaders and thousands of its fighters while leveling much of Gaza.

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already by Israel, which has killed many of Hamas's leaders and thousands of its fighters, while leveling much of Gaza.

Trump said in his post on Monday, "It's all talk and no action" when it comes to the hostages, and his statement suggesting that he could use the power of his office to punish those who took the captives is the first sign of how aggressively Trump might handle Middle East policy when he resumes office. There was one brief pause in the fighting, more than a year ago, that led to the release of about 105 hostages. And efforts to broker a cease-fire deal

appeared to stall last month after mediators met in Egypt.

Some hostages have also been rescued in Israeli military operations. But there have been protests and widespread frustration in Israel over the lack of a deal to secure their freedom, with critics of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel saying that he has failed to prioritise their release over his political survival.

This is not the first time that Trump has addressed the conflict in Gaza and the fate of the remaining hostages. He has told Netanyahu that he wants the war in the enclave to end before he returns to the White House. And at the Republican National Convention in July, he said that he wanted the hostages returned and that captors "will be paying a very big price".

His latest warning came after Hamas released a propaganda video showing the American-Israeli hostage Edan Alexander, 20, pleading with Trump to secure his release.

Biden administration approves sale of USD 1.17 billion worth helicopter equipment to India

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Implementation of this sale will require travel of up to 20 US Government or up to 25 contractor representatives to India on a temporary basis for program technical support and management oversight, it said.

Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire in fragile position as both accuse each other of violations

World. For the first time since the ceasefire took place between Israel and Hezbollah, the militant group has fired two projectiles toward Israeli-occupied territory amid repeated strikes by Israel, bringing the ceasefire agreement under shadows.

The Lebanese authorities reported that at least 11 people died and three were left injured from Israeli strikes as Tel Aviv's military said it struck dozens of Hezbollah targets throughout Lebanon.

The exchange of fire which took place between the two warring factions has led the ceasefire agreement brokered by the United States in a fragile position. Beirut residents even told Reuters that they heard drones flying overhead at low altitudes in the evening. Both sides have accused each other of ceasefire violations while the



Hezbollah projectiles targeted Israeli military's positions in Shebaa Farms area and the Iran-backed militant group termed it as "defensive warning strike." The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Monday said that "Strikes were in response to several acts by Hezbollah in Lebanon that posed a threat to Israeli civilians, in violation of the understandings between Israel and Lebanon." Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also termed Hezbollah's strike "a serious violation of the ceasefire" and vowed to retaliate against it in a statement. But CNN reported that the US and French government have warned Israel against the violations of the ceasefire deal terms. According to a statement from a source in the United Nations peacekeeping force in Lebanon, UNIFIL, Israel's violation of the ceasefire agreement with Lebanon goes up to "approximately 100" times, reported CNN. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar posted on X, "The presence of Hezbollah operatives south of (Lebanon's) Litani is a fundamental violation of the agreement and they must move north."

Biden arrives in Angola for first visit to sub-Saharan Africa as president

LUANDA. Joe Biden arrived in Angola Monday on the first and only trip to sub-Saharan Africa of his presidency which intended to underline US ambitions in Africa amid significant investment from China. The US leader, who hands over to Donald Trump on January 20, is due on Tuesday to meet Angolan President Joao Lourenco in the capital Luanda and to deliver remarks at the National Slavery Museum. On Wednesday, he is scheduled to travel to Lobito, a port city about 500 kilometres (310 miles) south of Luanda, to highlight US investments in the region. The port is at the heart of the Lobito Corridor, a massive infrastructure project which has received loans from the United States, the European Union and others. In anticipation of Biden's visit, the Angolan government declared December 3 and 4 public holidays and deployed heavy security across Luanda, a city of some 9.5 million people. "It's a historic visit, not just because he's the first time a US President has visited Angola, but because it's really emblematic of

President Biden's priority to strengthen global alliances and partnerships, and really of our strategic approach when it comes to US-Africa policy," John



Kirby, the White House national security communications advisor, told reporters Monday. With Biden carrying little political weight so close to the end of his term, the trip risks being overshadowed by his pardon on Sunday of his son Hunter on criminal cases related to tax evasion and the purchase of a firearm. The pardon shocked Washington as Biden entered the White House in 2021 vowing to restore the "integrity" of a justice system that Democrats said had been

corrupted by Trump, and because he had specifically vowed not to relieve his son. The president, 82, instead issued a "full and unconditional"

pardon on Sunday, absolving 54-year-old Hunter Biden of any wrongdoing over the last decade, charged or otherwise, just ahead of his looming sentencing over gun and tax convictions. By visiting Angola, Biden is fulfilling a promise made in late 2022 to visit the oil-rich Portuguese-speaking nation of 37 million people. It is Africa's second-largest crude oil exporter with the oil industry making up about 90 percent of its exports. But many of its people are poor and jobless, with the youth unemployment rate at 58 percent in 2023, according to World Bank figures. Biden's trip is focused on the Lobito corridor, a multinational project to rehabilitate a 1,300-kilometre (800-mile) railway connecting the mineral-rich inland countries of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Zambia with Angola's Atlantic seaport of Lobito.

Stampede at football match in Guinea kills at least 56

CONAKRY. Chaos erupted at a soccer game in Guinea after fans protested a referee's call and thousands of panicked spectators tried to flee the stadium, leaving at least 56 people dead in the West African nation, officials and witnesses said Monday.

Amid the confusion, security forces used tear gas, local news website Media Guinea reported. Many of the dead were crushed as they tried to escape through the stadium gates, a journalist covering the game for a local sports website told The Associated Press. "The gates, that's where the stampede happened," said Cissé Lancine, who got away by climbing over one of the stadium walls. "I was saved because I did not rush towards the exit." The world's latest sports crowd disaster unfurled on Sunday in the second-largest city in a military-run nation where information is sparse and government-controlled at the best of times. It was not immediately clear how much the death toll could grow. Lancine said between 20,000 and 30,000 people were present at the Third of April stadium to watch the local Labe and Nzerekore teams compete in the final of the first national tournament honoring military leader Mamadi Doumbouya.



Checkpoints were set up Monday throughout Nzerekore, a city of about 200,000 that was at a standstill as soldiers guarded the hospital where victims were being treated. Most shops were closed.

Video, apparently from the scene, showed shouting fans protesting the refereeing. People ran as they tried to escape the stadium, many of them jumping the high

fence. "Supporters threw stones. This is why the security services used tear gas," reported Media Guinea, which also wrote that several of the dead were children and some of the injured were in critical condition. The footage showed people lying on the floor of a hospital as members of a crowd helped the wounded.

Enock Loua, a resident of Nzerekore, learned

over the phone that his niece Aline Olivier had been killed. "We have a hard time realizing what happened to us, it is as if the sky has fallen on our heads," Loua told The Associated Press. Authorities are trying to establish who was responsible, Prime Minister Amadou Oury Bah said on national television. The National Alliance for Alternation and Democracy opposition coalition said the tournament was organized to drum up support for Doumbouya's "illegal and inappropriate" political ambitions. Doumbouya, who ousted President Alpha Conde in 2021, has been eyeing a possible candidacy for the presidential election, for which the date has not been set. The transition charter put in place by his own regime does not allow him to run.

Guinea is one of a number of West African countries — including Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso — where the military has taken power and delayed a return to civilian rule. Doumbouya said he was preventing the country from slipping into chaos and chastised the previous government for broken promises. He has, however, been criticized for not meeting the expectations that he raised.

News box

GCC floats tender to construct indoor boxing court in Old Washermenpet

CHENNAI. The city corporation has floated a tender to construct an indoor boxing court and boxing ring at a cost of Rs 26 lakh on Kannai Koil Street in Old Washermenpet.

Spanning an area of 187 square meters, the proposed boxing court will be housed within a rectangular structure measuring 15 metres in length and 12.5 metres in width. The facility, estimated at a total cost of Rs 31 lakh, will have a boxing ring and be provided with essentials such as punching bags, skipping ropes, swiss balls and boxing guards, a corporation official said.

The indoor court is being planned to promote sports development among students of north Chennai, as several young children visit the area for practice. Councillor of ward 48 V Vijayalakshmi Vijayakumar said a group of 50 students of various age groups currently practice at the Robinson playground in Royapuram nearby. "The boys practice every morning and evening at the open ground and had requested for an indoor facility, especially since their practice is affected every time it rains," she said.

The civic body is also in the process of constructing an indoor boxing stadium in Perambur Agaram (Loco Works), spanning 4,575 sq.ft. as part of Singara Chennai 2.0.

R Raju (35), a coach for seven years, recently relocated from the Robinson playground ground in Royapuram to Anna Poonga to train students in the 5-21 age group, said. "The open ground poses challenges in providing proper practice. September marks the start of a competitive season with school, state and national-level events."

Get your pens, notebooks out for this videogame

CHENNAI. Is solving the Sunday morning cryptic crossword getting a little too easy for you? Of course it is. That's a puzzle for newbs. You are more intense than that. You crave something with a little more complexity, don't you? You want the kind of puzzle that changes its rules everyday. And maybe they don't even tell you that they've changed up the rules.

You want to wake up every morning to pin up the answers on a giant conspiracy board trying to make sense of it all. You can't prove anything just yet, but you know that there's a pattern hidden here somewhere. Does this sound insane to you? If yes, then look away. This isn't for you. Are you still here? Good. Let me tell you about "Lorelei and the Laser Eyes".

The game begins on a dark night. You, the heroine, park your vehicle outside a very gloomy old hotel. You have accepted an invitation to meet an acquaintance here.

But they don't seem to be here. In fact, the hotel seems empty. So, what do you do if you have a night alone at a large hotel? Explore it, of course. Something terrible has happened here. That much you can tell. But what? Does it have anything to do with the names scribbled on the walls? Renzo.

Lorenzo. Renate. Lorelei. Does it have anything to do with the mysterious man with face of a maze that hovers around you? This, dear reader, was all I knew two hours into playing "Lorelei and the Laser Eyes".

'Traffic Ambassadors' appointed

VIJAYAWADA. In a move to address growing traffic congestion, Vijayawada City Police launched a joint public-police initiative, "Traffic Ambassadors," on Monday. The programme aims to streamline vehicular movement and improve road safety with active community participation.

NTR District Commissioner of Police (CP) Rajasekhar Babu inaugurated the initiative, commending the traffic wing for engaging citizens from diverse backgrounds. He lauded the 380 volunteers already enrolled, urging them to stay vigilant, particularly during peak hours.

"We didn't expect such a large turnout of volunteers. Achieving congestion-free traffic is only possible with public involvement," said Babu, encouraging more residents to join the cause. He emphasised that real-time alerts from traffic ambassadors could help manage emergencies efficiently. Traffic ambassadors will report issues via a dedicated WhatsApp group, ensuring quick responses from local police teams. The CP highlighted the importance of integrating advanced technologies into traffic management. He noted a significant improvement since introducing the AI-based system ASTraM. In November, the average congestion decreased to 72 km, a sharp drop from 112 km in October. "With drones and artificial intelligence, we're tackling traffic issues head-on," Babu stated. The system uses Google Maps data, analysed in a centralised command centre, to issue on-the-ground instructions to traffic personnel. This integration enhances response times and ensures smooth traffic flow across the city. DCP Gowthami Sali reinforced the positive impact of technology-driven enforcement. She reported a marked improvement in traffic conditions over the past two months. "ASTraM's automated detection, using Google Maps, alerts officers to congestion hotspots. For instance, Mahanadu Junction saw congestion reduced from 80 kilometers to just 40," she explained.

It is people's responsibility to protect govt: CM Revanth Reddy

HYDERABAD. Asserting that his focus was solely on development and welfare activities, Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Monday appealed to the people of Telangana to shield him from the baseless allegations being levelled against him by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao so that he could concentrate on his work.

"The responsibility to rebut their baseless allegations is yours, because I want to concentrate on my responsibilities. This government is yours. It is your responsibility to protect the government which you elected," he told the gathering at a programme organised by the Health department to celebrate the first year of Congress rule.

"The BRS never fulfilled the aspirations of the youth of Telangana. BRS never focused on addressing unemployment, it neglected health and education," Revanth said. He added that the BRS regime treated the Telangana Public Service Commission as a political rehabilitation centre. "The Congress government has completely revamped the Commission. The previous government appointed RMPs and deputy

tahsildars as Commission members. We don't want to make the TGpsc a political rehabilitation centre and that is why we appointed a senior IAS officer as the chairman of the Commission," Revanth said. He accused the previous administration of failing to conduct

Group-I examinations postponed, the chief minister made it clear that his government doesn't want to waste the valuable time of youth. "We don't want youth and unemployed to roam round coaching centres and we have made the decision not to postpone the examinations," he said

Recalling that for 13 years no Group-I examinations were conducted in Telangana, the chief minister said that soon, Group-I posts would be filled. Revanth said that the aim of his government was to achieve a healthy Telangana. "To this aim, the government is making all efforts, including filling vacant posts. Though the previous BRS regime sanctioned eight medical colleges, no facilities were created which led to problems in starting admissions," he said.

On the occasion, the chief minister flagged off 213 new ambulances. He also virtually inaugurated 16 nursing colleges, 28 government affiliated healthcare colleges and 32 transgender clinics. The chief minister handed over the appointment letters to newly recruited 442 civil assistant surgeons and 24 food safety officers.



Puducherry CM N Rangasamy announces Rs 210 crore for families affected by cyclone Fengal



PUDUCHERRY. Puducherry CM N Rangasamy announced an assistance of Rs 5,000 to each family ration card holder in Puducherry, Karaikal and Yanam regions of the UT affected by cyclone Fengal.

Announcing the compensation on Monday, Rangasamy said the government will provide Rs 10,000 per damaged fishing boat, Rs 30,000 per hectare for damaged crops, Rs 40,000 for loss of cattle, Rs 20,000 for loss of calf, Rs 20,000 for completely damaged hut, Rs 10,000 for partially damaged huts, Rs 5 lakh each to the families of deceased. He said the relief, which will have an implication of Rs 210 crore on the exchequer, will be disbursed as soon as possible.

The cyclone caused widespread devastation, with four deaths reported, one person missing, and three injured. Crops in 10,000 hectares were damaged, while 50 boats wrecked. Fifteen huts were destroyed, 10 partially damaged, and livestock losses included four cows and 16 calves. The administration has sought interim relief of Rs 100 crore from the centre.

Kerala: Robber strikes it rich, but slip-ups give him away

Familiarity with the house's layout, surrounding area, and CCTV placement had given the 45-year-old welding worker an initial advantage, however, minor oversights - such as leaving fingerprints and failing to fully conceal his identity led to his arrest.

KANNUR. It was the confidence from a prior successful theft and expertise in locker making that drove Lijeesh C P to steal 267 sovereigns of gold and Rs 1.21 crore cash from the house of his neighbour Ashraf, a rice trader, at Valapattanam in Taliparamba on November 20.

On Monday, a special investigation team arrested Lijeesh for the theft and recovered the loot that was hidden in a specially built compartment under his cot.

Familiarity with the house's layout, surrounding area, and CCTV placement had given the 45-year-old welding worker an initial advantage.



However, minor oversights - such as leaving fingerprints and failing to fully conceal his identity - proved crucial in the police investigation, leading to his arrest.

Ashraf, along with his family, left for a wedding in Madurai on November 19, which created a chance for Lijeesh to execute the robbery the next day. In a swift 40-minute operation, he entered the house through the kitchen window after cutting through its iron bar. Using his knowledge of the property's CCTV locations, he attempted to redirect cameras to avoid detection.

Despite his efforts, one camera captured partial footage of him, although his face was obscured by a mask.

Assistant Commissioner of Police T K Retnakumar, the head of the investigation team, said Lijeesh's skills as a welder and locker maker enabled him to bypass Ashraf's advanced locker system.

After confirming his family was asleep, he moved gold and cash in sacks to his house, which he hid in a compartment under his cot. However, his plan unravelled when he left behind a chisel at the crime scene.

The next day, fearing discovery, he returned to retrieve it but was unsuccessful. The chisel was later found by police, and the fingerprints on it became a key piece of evidence.

WhatsApp row: No scope to book IAS officer, say police

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. In a major relief for K Gopalakrishnan IAS, who was suspended for allegedly creating a WhatsApp group for Hindu bureaucrats, the police team that conducted a preliminary inquiry has reported that there is no legal ground to register a case against the officer. The report filed by Narcotic Cell ACP Aji Chandran Nair said the officer did not post any polarising content in the WhatsApp group that he created. Also, the members of the group did not file any police complaint against Gopalakrishnan, the report said. The report was filed before City Police Commissioner G Sparjan Kumar on Monday. To substantiate its findings, the preliminary inquiry report cited several Supreme Court verdicts.

The police had initiated a preliminary inquiry based on a complaint filed by a



Congress leader from Kollam. The police decided to conduct the preliminary inquiry after the district government pleader gave a legal opinion that legal

action could be initiated against the bureaucrat. The police plan was to register a case if the preliminary inquiry suggested so.

The state government, in its suspension order, had said that Gopalakrishnan's action was prima facie intended to foment divisions and discord among the civil servants on communal lines and that was a violation of the All India Services (Conduct) Rules.

Gopalakrishnan was issued a charge memo by Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan on Friday directing him to file his response to the allegations within 30 days.

Gopalakrishnan had landed in a soup for creating a WhatsApp group 'Mallu Hindu Off' with Hindu bureaucrats as members.

Congress poised to reshape power dynamics in state's upper house with four upcoming vacancies

The situation may help Congress not only bag the chairperson's post, but also of deputy chairperson, a major shift in power that has long eluded the party in the state.

BENGALURU. Two vacancies are set to reshape the balance of power in the state's Upper House. These vacancies will arise with the retirement of Congress MLCs Prakash Rathod and UB Venkatesh, prompting the party to gear up to secure these seats.

However, the unexpected resignation of CP Yogeshwara has created a third vacancy, potentially tipping the scales significantly in Congress's favor. Additionally, JDS MLC Thippeswamy is set to retire in January.

This scenario presents Congress with a rare opportunity to fill all four vacancies through nominations, potentially securing control of the Upper House for the first time since it came to power in May 2023. This shift could allow Congress to claim not only the chairperson's post but also the deputy chairperson's position, marking a significant power shift long sought by the party in the state.

With a newfound majority, Congress could secure the chairperson's post for the first time this term, cementing its dominance in the Upper House for the remainder of the Assembly's tenure. However, the critical question remains: who will take up the roles of chairperson and deputy chairperson?

"This majority will be a huge relief for us. In the past, when we lacked the numbers, the opposition deliberately blocked our important bills," said NS Bose Raju, leader of Congress in the Upper House, in an interview with The.

Currently, Congress holds 36 seats in the 75-member Upper House, while the opposition, led by the BJP with 29 seats and the JDS with 8, has a slim majority of 37 seats. However, that edge is rapidly eroding as Congress inches closer to gaining control. The final seat count is expected to shift in Congress's favor by the budget session.

Once the governor approves Congress's four nominees and appoints them, the party will need to prove its majority on the House floor, likely during the budget session in February 2025.

Karnataka govt approves DPR for Vijayawada and Visakhapatnam metro rail projects

The government also approved the DPR for Phase-I of the Vijayawada Metro Rail Project for submission to the Centre.

VIJAYAWADA. In a boost to the urban transportation system, the State government has approved the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Vijayawada metro rail project and the implementation of phase-I works for the Visakhapatnam metro rail.

According to Secretary K. Kanna Babu, metro rail works under phase-I will be taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 11,498 crore (excluding land costs). This will include three corridors totaling 46.23 km. Corridor-1 will connect Steel Plant Junction and Kommadi (34.40 km), Corridor-2 will connect Gurudwara and Old Post Office (5.08 km), and Corridor-3 will connect Tadichetlapalem to Chinna Waltair (6.75 km).

As part of phase-II, a fourth corridor will connect Kommadi to Bhogapuram (30.67 km). The total cost of the project, spanning 76.90 km, has been pegged at Rs 14,309 crore. The project will follow a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, with 40% funding from the Central

government and 60% from a private developer.

The government also approved the DPR for Phase-I of the Vijayawada Metro Rail Project for submission to the Centre. As



part of phase-I, Corridors 1A and 1B, spanning 38.40 km, will be developed at an estimated cost of Rs 11,009 crore, with Rs 1,152 crore allocated for land acquisition by the State government. Corridor 1A will cover Gannavaram to PNBS, while Corridor 1B will connect

PNBS to Penamaluru. Phase-II will include the third corridor (27.75 km) connecting PNBS to Amaravati's Reservoir Station, to be undertaken at a later stage.

The Centre had earlier granted in-principle approval for a feasibility study and DPR preparation for the metro rail in the VGTUDA (Vijayawada Guntur Tenali Mangalagiri Urban Development Authority) region, focusing on viable corridors. Following the release of the New Metro Rail Policy, the Central government returned the DPR to the State government, advising resubmission according to the updated guidelines.

In response, APMRCL engaged France-based Systra Consultants through German bank KfW to prepare a revised DPR aligned with the new policy.

To streamline the process, the government constituted a Steering Committee chaired by MAUD Minister P Narayana to review technical reports and provide recommendations.

Imran's street politics hardens battlelines in Pak

PAKISTAN witnessed another socio-political crisis as a protest by former Prime Minister Imran Khan's supporters, who came out in thousands and marched towards Islamabad's D-Chowk, turned violent last week. The protesters demanded the release of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) leader and other party functionaries. Rallies, sit-ins and protests have been a signature move for the cricketer-turned-politician, who is incarcerated in Rawalpindi's Adiala Jail and is embroiled in over 150 cases. Imran had issued a 'final' call to his supporters for a protest on November 24; this time, the faces behind the protests were Bushra Bibi, Imran's wife, who, till now, had abstained from public appearance, and Ali Amin Gandapur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister and a close aide of Imran. The protesters faced a severe crackdown by the security forces. There have been conflicting reports on the number of people dead and arrested as a result, but the fact remains that it was the use of brute force that resulted in the protesters' retreat.

Imran enjoys immense popularity and support within Pakistan and has demonstrated great resilience by not opting to go into exile, which has been a customary conduit for former political (and military) leaders in Pakistan. Imran's mass appeal has been driven by his unwavering claim and position to stand for Pakistan against the corrupt dynastic politics and his blatant challenge to the all-powerful Pakistan military, which has been held responsible for most of the economic and political woes of Pakistan.

This is ironic since Imran's tenure as Prime Minister from August 2018 to April 2022 was marked by glaring misjudgments, witch-hunting of opponents, lack of governance, faulty decisions/projections, economic downfall and misconstrued foreign policy choices. Imran was the military's favourite at one point and its choice for the 2018 General Election, when he enjoyed the full patronage of the military to win the elections and trounce Nawaz Sharif. In 2018, Imran was projected as a clean and corruption-free leader, driven by a welfare agenda, and one who would alter the course of Pakistan's growth and its image on the global stage. Eventually, his strains with the deep state resulted in his scandalous exit from the Prime Minister's office in 2022. After his exit, he has kept the momentum of his support base going, even when he was not allowed to contest the 2024 elections and his party was denied the election symbol. His support base has expanded from the urban middle class to all levels of society, where the masses see him as fighting for Pakistan, even though his track record demonstrates a complete inability to manage Pakistan's complex political, economic and security challenges.

The current crisis is primarily a fight between Imran and the Army chief, Gen Asim Munir. They have a well-known history of hostility. The controversial and much-debated 2024 elections brought the Sharifs in power and they currently enjoy the trust and support of the military establishment. The weak civilian regime in Pakistan, which lacks credibility, has no intention of asserting itself against the military's writ and will prioritise its own survival in power. Critical constitutional changes have been made with the passing of the recent 26th Amendment Act, with the intention to manage the functioning of the judicial system and ensure Imran's political isolation. Gen Munir, the most powerful man in the country, has got an extension and he will continue to serve till 2027, if not beyond.

he protests have resulted in the resignations of the top brass of the PTI and the faultlines within the party are expected to deepen. Frustrations within the party will grow, given the arrests of PTI workers. Imran might seem to have limited options left after his call for the November 24 march. But given his obsession with street politics, he is unlikely to give up soon and his next call for a protest might not be far away.

Multi-pronged strategy can make children safer online

ANEW Australian law mandates social media platforms to verify users' age and restrict access for those under 16. The aim is to safeguard children by delaying their entry into social media, a move supported by proponents who argue that it...

ANEW Australian law mandates social media platforms to verify users' age and restrict access for those under 16. The aim is to safeguard children by delaying their entry into social media, a move supported by proponents who argue that it would reduce harm and lessen parental burdens. However, critics view this as a 'patchwork' approach, saying policing by guardians is more effective than government-imposed rules as they are better positioned to manage their children's online presence. Further, the law fails to tackle the fundamental issue of ensuring that social media companies properly remove harmful content. Also, concerns about enforcement arise as the law leaves age verification methods open-ended, potentially relying on government documents or technologies like facial scanning or behavioural tracking, which raise privacy issues. The Covid-19 pandemic led to an increased screen time among children, leading to behavioural and health issues and delinquency, as highlighted by various studies. UNESCO's 2023 report calls for a global school ban on smartphones, citing research that shows their mere presence can disrupt learning and that children take up to 20 minutes to regain focus after engaging with non-academic content. The US Surgeon General's 2023 advisory warns that social media can harm adolescent brain development, affecting emotional regulation and impulse control. It proposes warning labels on platforms, similar to those for cigarettes. The algorithm-driven content of social media fosters a form of digital addiction. As in drug problems, effective regulation should focus on supply-side measures as controlling individual behaviour (demand-side) is challenging.

In 2022, India reported 32 per cent increase in cybercrime against children with 1,823 cases, including cyber pornography (1,171 cases) and cyberstalking (158). Offline crimes against children also saw a worrying increase, with over 1,62,000 cases reported, up by nearly nine per cent from the previous year. This highlights a broader, concerning trend of rising crime against children that is not solely tied to the Internet. The overall surge in both online and offline crimes calls for a comprehensive approach to child protection across all environments. Similarly, in the UK, a rise in

cybercrime among children aged 10-16 shows that some children, often unknowingly, are engaging in illegal activities, underscoring the need for both preventive and educational measures.

The dilemma centres on whether to ban social media



for children or impose stricter regulations on platforms. An alternative to a ban on platforms involves implementing robust age verification for content moderation, which could be enforced at specific barriers to restrict access to harmful content. Restricting children's Internet access entirely may seem like a protective measure, but it is impractical in today's digital age. Instead, the focus should be on promoting safe online practices, digital literacy and tools that foster responsible Internet use that would let children access general features while saving them from harmful content, offering a more targeted and feasible solution.

A strong parallel exists in the case of a rise in cybercrime across all sectors, involving adults and businesses. Banning specific websites is a short-term fix that overlooks the broader issues, such as digital literacy, cybersecurity awareness and effective online monitoring. A comprehensive solution is necessary to target its root causes, not just limit access to the Internet. Implementing such a ban for those under 16 in India will face major challenges due to the country's large population and technological diversity, making enforcement

difficult. Teenagers could bypass such bans using VPNs, fake credentials, proxy websites or lesser-known platforms. The Indian context, the 2020 report from the Singapore-based DQ Institute serves as a crucial resource for enhancing child online safety, with its survey covering 63 per cent of the global population. This think tank has established standards for digital intelligence to ensure safety, empowerment and wellbeing. Its Child Online Safety Index (COSI) evaluates digital safety across six key areas: cyber risk, disciplined digital use, digital competency, guidance and education, social infrastructure and connectivity. India ranks highly in several categories, securing the second place in tackling cyber risk, third in disciplined digital use, first in digital competency and second in guidance and education. India also tops the rankings for its children's ability to cope with cyberbullying, highlighting their resilience in handling online threats. While India lags in connectivity, its strong performance in managing cyber risks and online safety education provides a window of opportunity to enhance its COSI as connectivity improves, without resorting to bans. India's children excel in online safety education, scoring 68/100—30 per cent higher than the global average of 52/100.

Interestingly, lower-income countries tend to score better in online safety education (55/100 on average) than high-income nations (51/100 on average), emphasising the crucial role of education in helping children navigate online dangers. However, the data is biased towards public schools, so India must focus on improving online safety education in government schools and rural areas.

Despite efforts to limit children's screen time, modern life offers fewer opportunities for real-world experiences. Playgrounds are rare, academic pressures high and social structures more impersonal due to nuclear families. This trend leaves children valuing their devices for connection. Limiting technology alone won't restore the outdoor play and socialisation earlier generations enjoyed, unless broader societal issues are addressed.

GDP hits a low

INDIA's economic growth in the second quarter of FY25 has decelerated to a disappointing 5.4%, the lowest in seven quarters. This figure, significantly below last year's 8.1% for the same period, underscores the mounting pressures on the country's economic resilience....

INDIA's economic growth in the second quarter of FY25 has decelerated to a disappointing 5.4%, the lowest in seven quarters. This figure, significantly below last year's 8.1% for the same period, underscores the mounting pressures on the country's economic resilience. The manufacturing sector, traditionally a growth driver, is at the heart of this slowdown, grappling with declining output and subdued demand. The decline in Gross Value Added (GVA) in manufacturing to 2.2% from 14.3% a year ago highlights the sector's vulnerability to inflation and weak consumer spending. While the Chief Economic Adviser has downplayed concerns, brushing off this dip as a "one-off", there is need to remain cautious. Private final consumption and gross fixed capital formation together shaved off 1.5 percentage points from the overall growth, signalling waning confidence in household and



business spending. On the brighter side, the services sector expanded by 7.1% and the agriculture sector grew

by 3.5%, driven by improved rural demand. However, these gains were not sufficient to offset the drag from manufacturing and exports, which slowed to 2.8%, reflecting global uncertainties and weaker petroleum exports.

The government's underwhelming capital expenditure—just 37% of the budgeted target for the first half—adds another layer of concern. Public spending is critical to kickstarting private investments, particularly when high borrowing costs stifle corporate growth. As India faces the dual challenge of sustaining growth while managing inflation, a robust fiscal push is imperative. Without increased public investment and strategic support for manufacturing, the risk of falling below the projected 6.5% annual GDP growth looms large. The upcoming fiscal policy decisions will thus be crucial in steering the economy back on a stable growth trajectory.

Empower military with strategic heft

A significant development that has gone unnoticed and uncommented upon is the involvement of military commanders in trying to ostensibly resolve the 54-month-old standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) that forms the de facto border between India and...

A significant development that has gone unnoticed and uncommented upon is the involvement of military commanders in trying to ostensibly resolve the 54-month-old standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) that forms the de facto border between India and China. Beginning June 6, 2020, Indian and Chinese military commanders held talks in the Chushul-Moldo region following the violent confrontation on May 5, 2020, between Indian and Chinese troops in Pangong Tso. The second round of talks between Lt Gen Harinder Singh and Maj Gen Liu Lin, Commander of the South Xinjiang Military District, were held on June 22, 2020, in the wake of the unfortunate Galwan conflagration. Since then, 19 more rounds of talks have been held till February 19, 2024. The 22nd round has still not been scheduled.

This was perhaps after a long time that the military was so overtly involved as a concurrent track in efforts to resolve the question of Chinese transgressions into Indian territory or our perception of the LAC. Of course, there have been flag meetings on India's borders with the frontier forces or militaries of the neighbouring countries. Over the past 54 months, the Ministry of External Affairs has been issuing readouts on a regular basis after each round of talks.

Is this a good or a bad thing? If one looks towards the past for guidance or even at the practice that is followed in other countries, one would find that the military has been intrinsically embedded in politico-military strategic diplomacy. The military representatives of India and Pakistan met in Karachi from July 18 to 27, 1949, under the auspices of the truce sub-committee of the United Nations Commission for the establishment of the ceasefire

line in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian delegation consisted of Lt Gen SM Shrinagesh, Maj Gen KS Thimayya and Brig SHFJ Manekshaw, while the Pakistani side was represented by Maj Gen WJ Cawthorn, Maj Gen Nazir Ahmad and Brig M Sher Khan. Bureaucrats and Foreign Office functionaries were only observers. HM Patel and V Sahay C from the Indian side and M Ayub and AA Khan from Pakistan made up the quorum of the civilian component. On December 11, 1972, senior military commanders of India and Pakistan met at Suchetgarh to sign and exchange maps delineating the 800-km Line of Control in J&K, extending from the Chhamb sector to the Partapur sector, in accordance with Paragraph 4 (II) of the Simla Agreement dated July 2, 1972. This agreement was a sequel to the understanding reached between the Army Chiefs of India and Pakistan at their second meeting in Lahore on December 7, 1972, where Pakistan conceded to India's claim that Thako Chak formed a part of the International Border and that it should withdraw its troops from there. The maps were exchanged between Lt Gen PS Bhagat on behalf of India and Lt Gen Abdul Hamid Khan representing Pakistan. It is noteworthy that there was a summit-level meeting between Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, followed by a meeting between then Chief of the Army Staff Gen Manekshaw and his Pakistani counterpart Gen Tikka Khan before the operational-level exchange of maps between Lt Generals Bhagat and Hamid Khan.

After that, the role of the military in the politico-strategic-diplomatic arena was either recessed or took a back seat till the time it briefly seemed to have



emerged in May 2006 to ostensibly oppose the demilitarisation of Siachen.

India's former Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran records in his book, How India Sees the World: Kautilya to the 21st Century: "When the CCS meeting was held on the eve of the defence secretary-level talks, [Mr] Narayanan launched into a bitter offensive against the proposal, saying that Pakistan could not be trusted, that there would be political and public opposition to any such initiative and that India's military position in the northern sector vis-à-vis both Pakistan and China would be compromised. [Gen] JJ Singh, who had happily gone along with the proposal in its earlier iterations, now decided to join Narayanan in rubbing it." The reference is to then Army Chief Gen JJ Singh, who ostensibly along with former National Security Adviser MK Narayanan had opposed the proposal to turn the Siachen glacier into a mountain of peace in the most productive years of the

India-Pakistan relationship after the ceasefire agreed upon by then Prime Minister Vajpayee on November 26, 2003, in the aftermath of Operation Parakram that ended on October 16, 2002. Unlike in India, the military is embedded in the politico-military hierarchy of democracies around the world. Though under very strict civilian control, the six US theatre commanders report directly to the American President through the Secretary of Defence. Though the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff in the US is the Principal Military Adviser to the President, he has no executive authority to command combatant units. This enmeshes various streams of the military into the political decision-making process on critical questions of national security. In China, the theatre commanders report directly to the Central Military Commission that is headed by the Chinese President and the General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, thus institutionalising their role in the strategic decision-making process. Similarly, in the Russian system, the Chief of the General Staff does not exercise direct operational control over Russian forces; the superintendence is vested in the President in terms of Articles 4 and 13 of the Federal Law on Defence. It is, therefore, imperative that beyond the CCS (Cabinet Committee on Security) paradigm, the role of the military in the national security decision-making framework is also formalised, given that India has a Chief of Defence Staff and is moving towards theatre commands, though the only functional and integrated theatre command as yet is the Andaman and Nicobar Command.

How to remain independent in your

Relationship



Make time for yourself

While it is widely believed that you must do activities together to strengthen your relationship, it does not have to be done all the time. Seema Hingorrany, relationship counsellor says, "Engaging in a few activities on your own, like cleaning the house or going out shopping for grocery is liberating for the soul and will keep your mind off the relationship for a while, which is completely healthy."

Have different set of friends

It's okay to have common friends, but sometimes you would like to have a different group of friends where you can just be yourself and not have someone hovering around. Your friends may also not want your partner to be around with you all the time. They would want to chitchat with you without worrying about it affecting your partner.

Map out your own future plans

Sure, the two of you maybe looking at spending the rest of your lives together. However, you don't have to always do the planning together. Sometimes, there are certain decisions that you must take on your own, without having a partner influence your decisions. Aparupa Bhattacharya, a 24-year-old advertising professional says, "In my previous relationship, I would plan everything with my boyfriend. However, nothing materialised because we kept arguing all the time. That is when I realised the importance of planning on your own, sometimes."

Go solo now and then

You don't have to experience everything with your partner. There are a couple of things that you need to do just on your own. For example, if you have been thinking of going out to a beach destination for a while, go on a solo trip. Hrishita Roychowdhury, a 29-year-old IT professional says, "Experience something on your own and create many

memories. These are the memories that will help frame your life and also make you an independent person. There is nothing more liberating than doing something exclusively for yourself."

Here's what you must also keep in mind

- Independence does not mean being stubborn: There are many people who often mistake the idea of being independent with being



stubborn. You have to be open to ideas and thoughts so that it strengthens your relationship.

- Do not neglect your relationship issues: Do not overlook important issues in your relationship. For example, if your partner is going through a tough time at work, spend some time with him and try to talk it out. However, if you realise that he needs some space, let him be on his own for a while without pressuring him.

For most people, the minute you commit to your partner, not only does your world start revolving around them, but sometimes you tend to lose yourself in love. This in the beginning is encouraging, however, as time goes by, you realise that you've stopped caring for yourself. To make sure that you do not fall into this trap, here's how you can be independent in your relationship.

How to talk to your dog



Learn the tone and language to use with your pet pooch. Dogs aren't born with an innate understanding of words. They learn through associating words with actions. Teaching a command for the first time? Lure your dog into position. Your dog's mother did not repeat herself over and over and neither should you. Most importantly, be positive. You work for rewards like a salary or a bonus, so will your dog. Once your dog understands what the command means, it should only be said once. Follow these tips with your dog: Start all commands with the dog's name. How else will he know you're talking to him? First, teach him to look at you. Trace a line with your index finger from his eyes to yours. As soon as he makes eye contact, talk to him and encourage him to sustain the eye contact for a few seconds by saying something like 'good watch' in a pleasant, upbeat tone. Another way to get his attention is by letting him sniff a little tidbit of food, and moving it up to your eye level. When he looks up, praise him and give him the food treat. Be consistent. Ask the dog to do one thing at a time. If you ask him to 'sit down,' he might get confused about what to do since 'sit' and 'down' are two different

commands. Be specific. When you want him off the couch, don't interchange commands like 'down' and 'off.' Make sure everyone at home uses the same commands. Vocabulary for dog owners - **Wrong or Ech:** When your dog makes a wrong choice - **Good dog:** When you want your dog to know he did something wonderful and should repeat the behaviour. Say it in an upbeat, happy tone. - **Down:** Means to lie down. Since it's a subordinate position, some bossy dogs may not comply. Say it when you want your dog to be comfortable or when you need him to be in control. - **Stand:** Useful at the vet's clinic or on a rainy day, when you want the dog to stand with all four feet on the ground. - **Stay:** Means don't move from whatever position you are in (when you're leaving him to fetch something). - **Take it:** For your dog to take food or toys. - **Drop it:** When your dog hears this, he should spit out whatever he is chewing on. Use a reward system to teach this command. - **Leave it:** This goes beyond drop it, since you don't want your pooch to even think about picking up the object, or other dogs.

How to strike a conversation with your teen

This time, try and strike a friendly conversation with your teenage child, try to make an attempt to understand his (or her) world. Here's how you can go about talking to your teen. Start the discussion with a topic of news. The simplest thing is to start your conversation based on recent news, while going through the newspaper or watching updates on a news channel. Ask your teenage kid's views about the matter, have a healthy debate and then drift the topic of discussion to your teen's life. The change in discussion should be done effortlessly, otherwise the possibilities are that he/she might get alarmed and refrain from opening up. Remember not to go straight to the point (in case you're having a candid talk for the first time), ponder on other topics for a while.



Make the first move by showing interest

Teens today are very sensitive, especially about the choices they make in life. Showing interest in your teen's likes and dislikes might help you get into the guarded territory. For instance, if your daughter likes reading sci-fi books, start borrowing books from her, discuss them or ask about the things you don't understand. Giving your child an upper hand will help him/her come out of their shell and open up with you.

Enter his/her room

It's true, you paid for the room and you have all the right to go in. However, this is slightly tricky, as a lot of kids do not like their parents interfering in their personal space. However, you can always knock and make the situation friendly. Start by asking if he/she is comfortable with you being around, appreciate the set-up and try not to notice things like the scattered books, the always-plugged-in phone or laptop. Then, start with a detailed talk about life. Give instances from your childhood if you are at a loss of words.

Offer to help

As a father, you've always been the provider, a never-ending bank of resources. In spite of the love you have for your child, you haven't been able to express it with clarity.

Getting intrigued by your child's behaviour is normal, but impatience or anger might not be the only reaction. You must understand that teenagers undergo a lot of issues, be it studies, friends, relationships or even habits. Offer help if you see a change in behaviour. This will open a lot of doors for discussion and will draw your child closer to you. Adolescence is a difficult time and having one's father — who's also usually a personal hero — to offer companionship through conversation would make a world of difference to these awkward years.

Take a casual walk or explore a coffee shop

As a father, you need not always stop your child from doing things. There are times when you can also accompany them, unless it's not very uncomfortable. Go for a casual walk and share music, this will draw you two closer. The ambience at home can sometimes get claustrophobic. People often open up when taking in some fresh air. In fact, you can also treat him/her to a hot cuppa at a coffee shop and casually start talking about life. If your child sounds hesitant about going out, don't insist. Try another day.

6 ways to enjoy your singledom



You don't have to be in a relationship to have fun. Being single is equally great. Read on to know how...

Being in a relationship is great. It makes you happy and you surely get to spend a memorable time with your loved one. But that doesn't mean you cannot have fun all by yourself as well. Being single is necessary at times, it helps you understand yourself better and also lets you do things that you otherwise wouldn't have been able to, had you been with someone.

Go on a holiday alone

One of the best ways to enjoy yourself is by venturing out all by yourself. It makes you feel liberated and builds your confidence as well. Choose a destination as per your personality. If you love shopping Paris would be a great option or if you love water sports Thailand or Lakshadweep could be your best bet.

Focus on your career

If you have a job that you love, this

is the time to concentrate on it. Says clinical psychologist Mimrah Ansari, "Spending your maximum time to work will not only help you achieve a professional high, but will also make you feel happy and powerful. This does not mean that you have to turn into a workaholic, but giving your best at your job will liberate you as well."

Spend time with friends

If you have missed out on socialising with your gang of pals, go ahead and party hard. You could meet your friends over the weekend or simply call them over to your place after work hours and just chill with them. These memories will go a long way in nurturing you and creating wonderful memories.

Shop or go out for a movie

How many times have you cancelled plans because your guy or girl couldn't make it for that late

night show? Well, you don't have to rely on them anymore. There is something about going out all by yourself to watch a movie or simply shop. Says relationship counsellor Sauleha Shaikh, "Most people don't like the idea of going out all by themselves. It helps build your confidence and also shapes your personality. It teaches you to be independent."

Live for yourself, not by yourself

Often people confuse between living for themselves with living by themselves. You must realise that this is the time that you need to invest in yourself. It shouldn't be your aim to only look out for love, rather it should be a quest to find yourself and learn how you can be the best. If you have been thinking of learning a new language or doing some

sort of social work, do it now. Spend this time to enhance yourself.

Revisit your interests/hobbies

Utilise this time to indulge in your interests. If you love cooking, simply start your own cooking class and invite your friends or neighbours to come and learn from you or if you love gardening, create your own garden on the terrace or balcony.

Essential tips for living the perfect single life

- This is the time for introspection rather than looking out for love once again.

- Reflect on your past relationships and try and learn from the mistakes that you have made in the past.

- Be prepared for love to come in your life rather than preparing for it.

- Be open to meeting and interacting with new people in your life, just don't hold onto old ones.

Akali Dal's Sukhbir Badal, on wheelchair, serves punishment at Golden Temple

On August 30, Akal Takht Jathedar, Giani Raghbir Singh, along with four other high priests, had declared Sukhbir Badal a 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct).

New Delhi. Sukhbir Singh Badal, who resigned as president of the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) last month, arrived at the Golden Temple in Amritsar in a wheelchair to serve a religious punishment after the Akal Takht, the supreme temporal authority of the Sikhs, found him guilty of taking "wrong political decisions" when his party was in power in Punjab from 2007 to 2017. The former Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab was also wearing a plaque around his neck acknowledging his "misdeeds" and holding a spear. On August 30, Akal Takht Jathedar, Giani Raghbir Singh, along with four other high priests, had declared Sukhbir Badal a 'tankhaiya' (guilty of religious misconduct). And on Monday, the Sikh authority directed the former Deputy Chief Minister and other senior SAD leaders to serve the penance. As part of the punishment, the SAD leaders have been directed to clean washrooms, wash utensils, and undertake other religious duties to atone for their actions, which included



granting a pardon to controversial Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh in 2015. A video is also doing the rounds on social media of SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia washing utensils as part of his penance. The Jathedar directed Akali leaders Sucha Singh Langah, Hira Singh Gambia, Balwinder Singh Bhundar, Daljit Singh Cheema and Gulzar Singh Ranike to clean washrooms from noon to 1 pm today, and then clean utensils at the community kitchen after taking a bath. They will also listen to 'kirtan' for one hour.

Other party leaders, including Majithia, Bibi Jagir Kaur, Prem Singh Chandumajra, Surjit Singh Rakhra, Mahesh Inder Singh Grewal, Charanjit Singh Atwal and Adesh Partap Singh Kairon, were also told to clean washrooms at the Golden Temple for an hour. Citing the same controversies during the Akali regime, the Akal Takht has also withdrawn the prestigious title of 'Fakhre-e-Qaum' (Pride of the Community) conferred on former Chief Minister and Sukhbir Badal's Parkash Singh Badal, who died in April 2023. The punishments came after days-long proceedings by Akal Takht in which Sukhbir Badal admitted to playing a role in the controversial pardon granted to Gurmeet Ram Rahim, a decision that sparked widespread criticism within the Sikh community. In view of the Sikh authority's religious interests, the SAD Working Committee had unanimously decided not to contest recent by-elections to four Assembly seats in Punjab.

BJP to launch 'PaAdvocates body urges Chief Justice to remove glass partition in Supreme Court' Yatra' from December 8 to 20

The association has also reiterated its request for relocating the National Judicial Museum and Archive (NJMA) to a lower-security zone within the court premises.

New Delhi. The Supreme Court Advocate-on-Record Association (SCAORA) has written to Chief Justice of India (CJI) Sanjiv Khanna, seeking the removal of the recently installed glass partitions in the corridors of the Supreme Court. The association has also reiterated its request for relocating the National Judicial Museum and Archive (NJMA) to a lower-security zone within the court premises.

In its letter, SCAORA expressed concerns over the two changes introduced during former Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's tenure, asserting that they may not fully align with the historical ethos, functional needs, and legacy of the Court.

The association emphasised that the glass partitions, while part of an effort to modernise and provide centralised air-conditioning, were implemented without consulting stakeholders or representatives of the Bar. "The corridors, as they once were, embodied the grandeur and timelessness of the Court's legacy. Reinstating the older, open design would not only preserve the historic character of the building but also foster a sense of openness and accessibility," the letter stated.

SCAORA also highlighted safety concerns regarding the glass panels, which have reportedly sustained damage and developed cracks, posing a potential hazard to lawyers and litigants. It urged the Chief Justice to prioritise creating a safe environment for all individuals within the Supreme Court's walls. The association further called for the relocation of the National Judicial Museum and Archive, arguing that its current location in a high-security area within the main premises violates established security practices.

According to SCAORA, the museum occupies valuable space that could be better utilised for the welfare of the Bar and the broader legal community. The letter underlined that allowing visitor access to a high-security zone contradicts the Court's long-standing practice of strictly segregating security areas and controlling individual entry.



Ram Mandir trust releases pics of other shrines being built in temple complex

As per the Trust, the new shrines that are being developed in the Ram Temple premises are the Surya Mandir, Ganesh Mandir, Shiva Mandir, Durga Mandir, Annapurna Mandir and Hanuman Mandir.

Lucknow. In a first, the Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirth Kshetra Trust has released pictures of other shrines being built in the Ram Temple complex in Ayodhya. This comes ahead of the first anniversary of the consecration ceremony of the Ram Lalla idol at the temple on January 22.

As per the Trust, the other shrines that are being developed are the Surya Mandir, Ganesh Mandir, Shiva Mandir, Durga Mandir, Annapurna Mandir and Hanuman Mandir.

The Trust has also decided to celebrate the Pran Pratishtha anniversary on January 11 instead of January 22 due to Paush Shukla Dwadashi, also known



as Kurma Dwadashi

On January 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the 'Pran Pratishtha' as Lord Ram's homecoming took place after 500 years in Ayodhya. The temple was inaugurated amid massive celebrations

and Ram Lalla's (infant Lord Ram) face was revealed. As the inauguration of the temple marked the culmination of a decades-long campaign, the PM said it was the advent of a new era.

Lakhs of people watched the Pran Pratishtha ceremony on television at their homes and in neighbourhood temples, which came just months ahead of the Lok Sabha elections.

The Centre had declared a half day holiday for the grand ceremony. Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Maharashtra, Assam, Tripura, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jharkhand, and Gujarat had declared a public holiday.

Unhappy with results, this Maharashtra village plans re-poll with ballot papers

Markadwadi village comes under the Malshiras Assembly constituency, which is reserved for the Scheduled Castes. In the Assembly polls, Malshiras NCP (SP) candidate Uttam Jankar defeated BJP's Ram Satpute.

New Delhi. A village in Maharashtra's Solapur has planned to conduct a re-vote today using ballot papers after residents were unhappy with the Election Commission of India's (ECI) results for the recently-concluded Assembly polls in the state.

Markadwadi village comes under the Malshiras Assembly constituency, which is reserved for the Scheduled Castes. In the Assembly polls, Malshiras NCP (SP) candidate Uttam Jankar defeated BJP's Ram Satpute. However, ECI data revealed that Satpute received 1,003 votes from Markadwadi, surpassing Jankar's 843. The results have caused outrage among villagers, who are largely supporters of the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), which suffered a humiliating defeat against the ruling Mahayuti. On November 23, the MVA

suffered a massive setback and managed to secure only 46 seats. Congress won 16 seats, NCP (SP) 10, and Shiv Sena (UBT) 20 seats. Meanwhile, the Mahayuti swept the state polls by winning a whopping 230 of 288 Assembly seats. The BJP emerged as the single largest party, winning 132 seats, its highest-ever tally, while the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena and Ajit Pawar's NCP got 57 and 41, respectively. Commenting on the re-vote, Markadwadi resident Ranjit Markad, "We do not trust the Election Commission data. To verify the true count, we are conducting our own voting process using ballot papers." Banners have been put up across the village urging residents to participate in the polling. Despite the villagers' insistence, their request to appoint government officials to oversee the process was denied. "The voting and counting

process concluded on November 23, and the results were transparent. There was no discrepancy in the figures from the three booths in Markadwadi," Malshiras Constituency Returning Officer Vijay Pangarkar said. The Solapur district administration has expressed concern over the villagers' actions, with officials warning that such steps could lead to tensions.

Notices have been issued to several villagers urging them to refrain from re-voting. To prevent potential unrest, a heavy police force has been deployed in the village.

Solapur SP Atul Kulkarni said, "We have issued precautionary notices and are engaging with the villagers to prevent any disruption to law and order. The administration is attempting to persuade them to abandon this unofficial re-voting plan."

Kashmir braces for La Nina: Heavy snowfall and harsh winter ahead

New Delhi. Kashmir is preparing for a particularly harsh winter this year, with weather experts predicting frequent spells of heavy snowfall and sub-zero temperatures, largely influenced by the La Nina climate phenomenon. La Nina, which occurs when ocean surface temperatures in the central equatorial Pacific cool significantly, disrupts atmospheric circulation patterns, often leading to extreme weather conditions across the world. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, Director of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) for Jammu and Kashmir, confirmed that the La Nina effect is set to intensify as the winter progresses.

Speaking to India Today, he explained, "La Nina has previously brought significant snowfall to Kashmir. This year, it is intensifying, and we expect frequent snowfall spells and colder temperatures, much like the traditional Kashmir winter." This prediction has led to expectations of above-normal precipitation in the region, along with colder-than-usual temperatures for Kashmir, Jammu, and Ladakh.

The Kashmir Valley has already experienced signs of the coming harsh winter. November, traditionally the onset of the cold season, saw three moderate snowfall events, primarily in the mountainous regions. Early snowfall has caused temperatures to dip dramatically, with nighttime temperatures consistently hovering between 0°C and -5°C.

The weather experts are forecasting that the intensity of snowfall will increase as the winter advances, resulting in a more severe and prolonged cold season.

The region has been grappling with extreme weather variations in recent years, with long dry spells and increased temperatures, a trend that experts attribute to global warming and climate change. However, this year, the La Nina phenomenon, the opposite of last year's El Niño, is expected to bring significant snowfall and colder temperatures to the Valley.

Delhi air quality stays 'poor' for second consecutive day



NEW DELHI. Delhi experienced a much-needed break from hazardous air as its AQI remained in the "poor" category on Monday, recording a 24-hour average AQI of 280 at 4 pm. This marked a slight improvement from Sunday's reading of 285 and was the second consecutive day of AQI below 300, a threshold the city had struggled to breach for over a month.

The air quality deteriorated to "very poor" on October 30 and frequently fluctuated between the "very poor" and "severe" categories throughout November. Sunday's improvement was attributed to dry northwesterly winds and ample sunlight.

Data from the city's 38 monitoring stations revealed varied air quality levels. While 12 stations reported "very poor" air, 25 recorded "poor" levels, and one station recorded "satisfactory" results, according to the Sameer app. PM2.5 remained the dominant pollutant, with levels at 106 µg/m³ at 3 pm. These fine particles, capable of entering the bloodstream through the lungs, pose serious health risks. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) classifies AQI as "good" (0-50), "satisfactory" (51-100), "moderate" (101-200), "poor" (201-300), "very poor" (301-400), and "severe" (above 400).

While vehicular emissions are typically a significant contributor, data from the Decision Support System (DSS) for Air Quality Management had not been updated for the weekend or Monday, with Friday's data showing a 21.4% contribution to the city's pollution.

According to the Air Quality Early Warning System, surface winds from the northwest at speeds below 8 kmph were observed in the morning, with predictions of smog and shallow fog during the evening and night. Clear skies and "poor" air quality are expected to persist from Tuesday to Thursday.

Cracks in opposition? Trinamool, Samajwadi Party skip Parliament protest

Parliament session: While Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and some Congress allies attended the protest, Akhilesh Yadav and Trinamool leaders were conspicuous by their absence.

New Delhi. The rift in the INDIA bloc came out in the open on Tuesday as the Trinamool Congress and Samajwadi Party skipped the joint opposition protest in the Parliament complex over the Gautam Adani bribery case. While Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and some Congress allies attended the protest, Samajwadi Party's Akhilesh Yadav and Trinamool leaders were conspicuous by their absence.

The Congress MPs were seen holding placards that read "Modi-Adani are one" and "India demands accountability on Adani".

TMC MP Samik Bhattacharya, in a swipe at the Congress, accused the party of "harming the decorum of democracy" and not allowing the House to function. "You can see the condition of the alliance.

Sometimes TMC is missing, and sometimes AAP is missing. Wherever Congress goes to people, the public rejects them there. Congress now has just one place - Parliament Gate or not allowing the House to function," Bhattacharya said. He also claimed that the Trinamool was being neglected in the INDIA bloc by the Congress. "Mamata Banerjee wanted Mallikarjun Kharge to be the face of this alliance... The same Mallikarjun Kharge's clarion call does not include TMC now. This is all a drama now," he said.

OPPOSITION STAGES WALKOUT IN LOK SABHA



Meanwhile, the opposition walked out of the Lok Sabha as issues like Adani's indictment and the Sambhal violence continued to mar Parliament proceedings in the winter session. The development comes a day after the government and the Opposition seemed to have reached an

agreement for the smooth functioning of both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

"We are protesting against the Modi government's policies... We can not protest inside the House, that is why we have staged a protest outside," said Congress MP Shashi Tharoor.

Congress's Renuka Chowdhury also blamed the government for the logjam by preventing the opposition from raising key issues.

"We are raising our voice here, we will also be doing this in the House, if it is allowed to function. People from abroad accused one person here, and India is disgraced. Because of one person, the government is hiding.

Morning meetings. A hurried lunch. Afternoon presentations. Rush hour. Evening chores. No me-time. Little time for family. Welcome to the working professional's harried life in any Indian metro. But, it doesn't have to be that way. A changing world and an evolving economy are allowing jobs to be reinvented and many companies now rely on a network of experts working from anywhere. Even from Aluva, a small town near Kochi in Kerala.

In his new publication by Penguin, God's Own Office: How One Man Worked for a Global Giant from his Village in Kerala, James Joseph details how he started out from the backwaters of Kerala, climbed the corporate rung in America, and found his way back to his village to continue his successful career. Interestingly, Joseph accomplished the tallest achievement of his working life - winning Microsoft's highest award from CEO Steve Ballmer - after he returned to his village and started working from home in 2009.

In 2012, Joseph quit his job as director of Microsoft India, to set up JackFruit365, a company that supplies freeze-dried jackfruits across the world.

Here, he shares advice on how to work away from the maddening crowd and convince your boss and clients to be okay with it.

Strong conviction

There's always a strong current in your favour when moving from your hometown to a big city for work. But the current is against you when you move back. You need unwavering conviction as a family to complete this journey. In my case, the realisation came from a comparison of the first 20 years of my life and the last 20 years. The first 20, a life surrounded by nature, spirituality, farms and many generations of family and friends, prepared me to perform well in the professional world during the last 20. I was convinced that the opportunity to give those first 20 years to my children - without giving up my professional life - was a goal worth pursuing.

Double-up on your back-up

Working from home requires a lot of positive energy, and discipline. Let your family and friends know that you are working from home, not at home. Importantly, if you plan to relocate to a small town, ensure that your office is well versed with technology - use instant messenger for realtime interaction, online and video conferencing, desktop sharing, and remote access. You must also have easy travel connectivity to your base office.

Keep in mind that at God's own office, you are your own Chief Information Officer. It is your decision to work from home and not your employer's, so the onus is on you to make sure you are able to work without interruption. In an office, the onus is on the IT department to ensure digital connectivity. Plan your back-ups well - broadband connection and power supply. I work with a physical cable, a state telecom



How to work away from Office



department connection and a USB wireless connection.

Keep your secret

Ambient noise is the number one issue faced by employees who try to work from home in India. Customers and colleagues get annoyed when they hear vehicles honking, dogs barking, kids crying or construction work in the background. Ensure you have a sound-proof room to work out of. No one on a conference call needs to know whether you are working from home or another office.

Women can do it too

Women not returning from maternity break are one of the biggest risks faced by major corporations for their already lean leadership pipeline of female candidates. If I have proved to work effectively from the comfort of a home, that too in a village in India, women can do even better. Work from your home a few days a week before you start maternity leave and again when you are getting back. This could significantly improve your chances of getting back on the leadership pipeline.

Study the business model

Five years after returning to India, I gave up my job at Microsoft. Later, I was at a dinner when I wondered why chefs didn't use jackfruit - known as "vegetable meat" - instead of mushroom in vegetarian dishes. That is how I struck on the business idea. But, before you make your switch, study the business model and identify areas where you have significant strength and areas where you don't have expertise. I leveraged my marketing skills, professional networks, cash-flow

management and outsourcing experience for the venture. I clearly lacked experience in food processing and hence, outsourced that to a reliable partner. I leveraged my contacts and got various chefs at 5-stars to try new dishes using jackfruit.

For the consumer business, I used an online-only model. This allowed me to offer my product across India; more importantly, they pay first, then materials are dispatched.

Study the risk

There are risks involved in having a niche product like jackfruits. I analysed the overall scope for a jackfruit industry in India to see if it was worth my time. On the supply side, I learned that jackfruit worth Rs 2,000 crore is wasted in India every year. On the demand side, my trials with chefs convinced me that jackfruit can easily replace potato and apple in almost all dishes. The market for potato and apple is bigger than the total supply of jackfruits in India. These data points gave me the confidence to launch JackFruit365.

The financial aspect

I needed to keep in mind whether I could meet the financial commitments of my family and the new venture till I was able to draw a salary from the business. My cost of living

had come down by 30 per cent by moving from Bangalore to my village in Kerala. In four years, I was able to set aside a fund from this additional saving to cover both financial commitments. For the first few years, I managed the business with tight cash flow management, repositioned jackfruit from an inferior food to superior one with the help of the chefs, and through the social media marketing I ran.

Exploit social media

While I was working for Microsoft, I started mentoring three start-ups from the Kochi Start-up village and I have firsthand experience observing how these youngsters bring new business ideas to the market with relatively low capital investment. Mentoring them taught me how to leverage social media, crowd sourcing and e-commerce retail channels to keep my investments low at all levels. Mindhelix taught me how to use social media and blogs to reach consumers, WOW Makers taught me the power of crowd sourcing, (JackFruit365's logo and mascot was designed through their CrowdStudio venture), and Yummybay taught me the power of e-commerce (Yummybay is JackFruit365's online retail partner).

5 Things to ask yourself before getting a Pet



Pets are companions you can truly count on. From cheering you up to making you feel deeply loved, they will be your long-term companions. Hence, it is extremely important to be fully prepared before you get yourself a pet.

Namrata Jham, who recently adopted a 9-month-old cocker spaniel says, "You need to be ready to give your pet all the love because it is like your own child. In return, you will receive unconditional love from them. To build that bond, you must ask yourself if you're really ready for this responsibility." According to Jham, it is also important to

divide responsibilities amongst family members before getting a pet. "You need to segregate work. Take a call on who will train the dog and who will ensure that he gets his meals on time. If you decide all this beforehand, you will be more organised before you get your pet home." Here are a few questions you need to ask yourself before getting a furry friend home.

Do I have the time?

Having a pet is like having a baby. You need to ask yourself if you will truly have the time to walk your dog three times a day because having a pet means giving it ample amount of attention. You may think that making time will be easy but you need to consider the fact that it's a huge commitment and you don't want to let your pet down.

Can I afford a pet?

The expenses of owning a pet goes beyond basics like food, water and shelter. Regular veterinary care is of utmost importance to a pet. You have to ensure that your pet gets high quality food and exercises regularly. You would also have to invest in toys and treats so your pet feels energised and happy.

How do I choose the right dog? Take as much time as you want while choosing your pet. You are making a long-term commitment and hence, cannot make decisions in haste. Try and visit adoption events held in your city. If you wish to get one from a breeder, have in-depth conversations with them and see which one seems perfect for you.

Should I get a puppy or an adult dog?

Many would like to bring home a puppy because they want to mould him their way. You need to prepare yourself well in advance before getting a pet. Adult dogs might be better trained and are more developed. But they might come with behavioral issues that you must be ready to deal with.

Is my family ready?

It is imperative to know if your family will be comfortable with the idea of keeping a pet. If they're forced into it just because you want one, they will treat your pet differently. You need to make sure that your decision does not harm anyone. Moreover, you also have to ensure that no one in your family has a pet allergy.

It is but normal for you to want to know how your child has fared in his or her exam. But the examinations have already taken a toll on your child's mind and further introspection can make him or her panicked. We tell you how you can help your child come out of this phase.

Stop talking about the examination:

First and foremost, to ensure that your child's mind is absolutely free from exam-related stress, don't talk about it further. You have asked your kid once how the exam was, now let the mind be free and focus on doing fun things together so that your child can prepare better for the future.

Go on a vacation:

One of the great ways to ensure that your child stops thinking about the examination is by going out on a holiday together. The holiday will ensure that your child stops thinking about the exam and can take a break from thinking about studies and further exams and can have some fun.

Call in cousins or friends for a stayover: Your child needs to relax after the exams are over.

If you haven't booked for a holiday yet, don't worry. Call in your relatives or his/her friends over on a short stay. This could be a nightover or simply a week's stay.

Watch movies together:

Keep your Child stress-free after exams

Your child has probably not spent the last few months in front of the TV. Though you would not like him or her to get addicted to it, yet you can always arrange for a movie marathon in your house over the weekends or simply take your child out for a new film that he or she is interested to watch.

Do activities together:

Enjoy the time your child is spending at home by doing some activities together. Instead of



The exams have already taken a toll on your child's mind, so don't stress him or her more by asking them about it. Here's what our counsellors have to say.

just getting your child enrolled into a hobby class, the two of you can enroll together and enjoy yourself doing some craft together. From dance classes to craft, cooking sessions, there are plenty to choose from.

UIDAI extends free Aadhaar updates until December 14: All you need to know

NEW DELHI. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has extended the deadline for free Aadhaar updates to December 14, 2024. The service, available through the official 'My Aadhaar' portal, allows users to update key demographic details like name and address without any charges.

Initially set to end on June 14, 2024, the free update period was extended twice—first to September 14 and now to December 14. After this deadline, users will need to pay a processing fee for updates.

HOW TO UPDATE AADHAAR ONLINE Updating Aadhaar online is simple and hassle-free.

Visit the myaadhaar.uidai.gov.in.
Log In: Use your Aadhaar number and authenticate via a one-time password (OTP) sent to your registered mobile number.

Update Details: Select the fields you wish to update, such as name or address, and upload the required documents. **Submit & Track:** Submit your request and save the Update Request Number (URN) for tracking. However, biometric updates such as fingerprints, iris scans, or photographs require a visit to the nearest Aadhaar center.

WHY IS AADHAAR IMPORTANT?

The Aadhaar card serves as proof of identity, address, and age for accessing various government services. It is also useful for banking purposes, acting as a KYC document for verification. Additionally, Aadhaar simplifies processes like applying for a passport, as it can be submitted as a sole proof of residence and identity. Moreover, Aadhaar Face Authentication has made it easier for pensioners to generate Digital Life Certificates (DLC), or Jeevan Pramaan, without leaving their homes.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOSE YOUR AADHAAR NUMBER

Online Retrieval: Use the 'Retrieve Lost UID/EID' service available on the MyAadhaar Portal to recover your Aadhaar number.

Gold, silver price : Precious metals record hike on MCX

NEW DELHI. Both gold and silver prices recorded a hike on the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. Gold futures, maturing on February 5, 2024, stood at Rs 76,764 per 10 grams on the MCX, after recording a jump of Rs 77 or 0.10 per cent. The previous close was recorded at Rs 76,687. Meanwhile, silver futures, maturing on March 5, 2024, witnessed a marginal hike of Rs 322 or 0.35 per cent and were retailing at Rs 91,132 per kg on the MCX against the previous close of Rs 90,810. The gold and silver prices in India depend on several factors, including the value of the rupee against the dollar. Global demand also plays a key role in determining the trends observed in the rate of precious metals.

GOLD, SILVER PRICES IN INTERNATIONAL MARKET

Gold prices were steady on Tuesday as investors took a cautious stance ahead of the upcoming U.S. economic data that could provide insights into the Federal Reserve's interest rate path, news agency Reuters reported. According to the latest metal report, spot gold stood nearly unchanged at \$2,636.50 per ounce, as of 01:56 GMT, while, U.S. gold futures stood flat at \$2,659.00.

Bangladesh halves power buying from Adani citing low winter demand: Report

NEW DELHI. Bangladesh has halved the power it buys from Adani Power, citing lower winter demand, government officials told Reuters on Monday, amid disagreements over dues running into hundreds of millions of dollars. Adani, whose founder has been accused by US authorities of being involved in a bribery scheme in India, charges which he has denied, halved supply to Bangladesh on October 31 over payment delays as the country battles a foreign exchange shortage. Subsequently, Bangladesh told Adani to keep supplying only half the power for now, officials said, although it will keep paying its old dues. We were shocked and angry when they cut our supply," said Md. Rezaul Karim, chairperson of the state-run Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). "Winter demand is now down, so we have told them there is no need to run both units of the plant." Adani has been supplying power under a 25-year contract signed in 2017 under ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, from a \$2-billion power plant in Jharkhand that has two units, each with a capacity of about 800 megawatts. A document seen by Reuters showed the plant ran at only 41.82 per cent capacity in November, the lowest this year, with one unit shut since November 1.

Two BPDB sources said Bangladesh had bought about 1,000 MW a month from Adani last winter, adding that Adani had asked the board when it would resume normal purchases, but had not received a definitive answer. An Adani Power spokesperson said the firm was continuing to supply Bangladesh, although mounting dues were a significant concern, making plant operations unsustainable.

"We are in constant dialogue with senior officials of BPDB and the government, who have assured us that our dues will be cleared soon," said the spokesperson. The firm was confident Bangladesh would fulfil its commitments, just as Adani had upheld its contract obligations, he added. Karim said Bangladesh owed Adani about \$650 million, and paid about \$85 million last month and \$97 million in October. An Adani Power source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the dues had jumped to about \$900 million, hurting its debt profile and risking a higher cost of funds. Bangladesh wants to sharply lower prices under the Adani deal, unless it is cancelled by a court, which has called for an investigation into it, the de facto minister for power and energy told Reuters on Sunday. The Adani Power spokesperson said the firm had no indication that Bangladesh was reviewing its power purchase pact. Adani charges the highest rate of all Indian suppliers to Bangladesh, a government document seen by Reuters showed. Its cost per unit was 14.87 taka during the fiscal year that ended on June 30, 2024, compared with an average of 9.57 for all Indian suppliers.

GST on cigarettes, tobacco, aerated drinks may rise to 35%: Report

GST News: The Group of Ministers (GoM), led by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, met on Monday to finalise the proposed rate adjustments.

NEW DELHI. The Group of Ministers (GoM) on GST rate rationalisation has proposed increasing the tax on products such as aerated beverages, cigarettes, and other tobacco-related items to 35%, up from the current rate of 28%, reported news agency PTI. This decision may be a part of a broader effort to adjust tax rates on certain goods to enhance revenue collection. **GST RATE CHANGES**

DISCUSSED

The GoM, led by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, met on Monday to finalise the proposed rate adjustments. Alongside the hike for "sin goods," changes to the GST structure for apparel and other items were also discussed.

Costing up to Rs 1,500: Taxed at 5%.
Between Rs 1,500 and Rs 10,000: Taxed at 18%.

Above Rs 10,000: Taxed at 28%.

The GoM has proposed tax changes for 148 items in total, with the expectation that the adjustments will have a positive impact on revenue. The GoM's report will be presented to the GST Council on December 21, 2024. The council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and including state finance ministers, will make the final decision on the proposed changes.

"The GoM has agreed to propose a special rate of 35% on tobacco and related



products and aerated beverages. The existing four-tier tax structure of 5%, 12%, 18%, and 28% will remain, with the addition of the new 35% rate," said an official as quoted by PTI.

EXISTING GST STRUCTURE

Under the GST system, essential items are either exempt or taxed at the lowest slab, while luxury and demerit goods are taxed at higher rates. Luxury goods, such as cars

and washing machines, and demerit goods, including aerated beverages and tobacco products, also attract a cess in addition to the highest slab rate of 28%.

The GoM's recommendations will help the council assess whether there is further scope for rate rationalisation. The council may also decide to extend the GoM's mandate for periodic reviews of GST rates.

PREVIOUS GOM PROPOSALS

In its last meeting in October, the GoM made several other rate-related suggestions: Packaged Drinking Water (20 litres and above): Reduce GST from 18% to 5%. Bicycles costing less than Rs 10,000: Reduce GST from 12% to 5%. Exercise Notebooks: Reduce GST from 12% to 5%. Shoes costing above Rs 15,000 per pair: Increase GST from 18% to 28%. Wristwatches above Rs 25,000: Increase GST from 18% to 28%.

Wipro shares down 50% Here's why some apps are showing the wrong price

NEW DELHI. Wipro shares saw an unusual 50% drop on some trading apps on Tuesday, causing confusion among investors. However, the decline shown in certain brokerage platforms is not due to a genuine fall in the stock's value. The apparent drop is a result of Wipro's 1:1 bonus issue, which has adjusted the share price to reflect the increased number of shares in circulation. **WHY WIPRO SHARES APPEAR TO BE DOWN**

Wipro shares turned ex-bonus today in a 1:1 ratio. This means one additional fully paid-up share will be issued for every share held by existing shareholders. As a result of the bonus issue, the stock price has been adjusted proportionately. At market open, Wipro shares were trading 1.09% higher at Rs 295.50 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). However, compared to the unadjusted closing price of Rs 584.55 from the previous day, the stock appeared to have dropped by 49.45%. Certain apps and trading platforms might still be displaying the unadjusted price from the prior day, which led to the perception of a 50% fall.

HOW BONUS ISSUES AFFECT SHARE PRICES

A bonus issue increases the number of outstanding equity shares while reducing the stock price in proportion to



the bonus ratio. The total value of the investment for shareholders remains unchanged, as the bonus shares are issued from the company's free reserves. In Wipro's case, the 1:1 ratio means shareholders will receive one additional share for each share they already own. This is Wipro's first bonus issue since 2019 when it offered a 1:3 ratio. December 2 was set as the record date for determining shareholder eligibility for the bonus shares.

Shareholders on record today will soon receive their bonus shares.

FINANCIAL DETAILS AND BONUS HISTORY

As of September 30, Wipro had a reserve of Rs 56,808 crore, which includes free reserves, securities premium, and the capital redemption reserve. Post-bonus, Wipro's paid-up equity share capital will be approximately Rs 20,925.9 crore, with 10,462,971,564 shares of Rs 2 each in circulation. Wipro has a long history of issuing bonus shares, dating back to the 1990s. Previous bonus issues include: The company also conducted a share buyback programme last year, which attracted attention from the market. Wipro has been facing a challenging demand environment, with client-specific issues impacting its performance. However, early signs of growth in its BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance) vertical are emerging. Analysts believe the company's combination of a diversified portfolio, new leadership under CEO Srinu Pallia, and attractive valuations offers a promising risk-reward balance.

Govt scraps windfall tax on ATF, crude oil products, petrol, diesel

NEW DELHI. Finance ministry on Monday announced the scrapping of the windfall tax or special additional excise duty (SAED) on aviation turbine fuel (ATF), crude oil products, petrol and diesel. The windfall tax, which targeted unexpected profits from domestic crude oil production, was first imposed in July 2022. As per the notification, the tax on the production of petroleum crude and the export of ATF, petrol, and diesel will no longer be levied. This move is expected to benefit oil producers and refiners such as Reliance Industries and ONGC, potentially improving their refining margins. Shares of Reliance Industries rose following the announcement. ONGC shares closed at 257.65, up by 0.37%, while Reliance Industries shares closed at 1,310.60, up by 1.42%. The decision to roll back windfall tax followed a review by the



Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the Revenue Department, and the petroleum ministry. It was also accompanied by the withdrawal of the Road and Infrastructure Cess (RIC) on the export of petrol and diesel. The windfall tax was introduced in July 2022 in response to surging crude oil prices caused by the Russia-Ukraine war and Western sanctions on Russia. The tax rates were revised every fortnight based on international crude oil prices. However, with global crude

oil prices stabilising around \$70-\$75 per barrel, the government decided to eliminate the levy. The rollback is believed to be a response to declining government revenues from tax, which fell from 25,000 crore in FY23 to about 6,000 crore in FY25. The windfall tax was last revised on August 31, when it was set at 1,850 per tonne for crude petroleum. Export duties on diesel, petrol, and jet fuel had already been reduced to zero as of September 18, signalling the government's intent to phase out the levy. Since its levy, the windfall tax has been a subject of controversy. While it initially sought to balance government revenue amid fluctuating oil prices, industry players argued it negatively impacted profitability and disincentivised production. For private and foreign players, it brought in an element of uncertainty.



IndusInd Bank rounded out the top performers with an increase of 1.06%.

ITC stocks were down nearly 3% in early trade, while Trent declined 1.18%. Bharti Airtel slipped 1.09%, and Sun Pharma dropped 0.83%. Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) completed the top losers list with a decrease of 0.71%.

"News of higher GST proposals on products like tobacco can impact stocks like ITC and tax reductions on insurance premiums can be beneficial to insurance stocks," said Vijayakumar. "Looking ahead, even though the key indices remain tentative and are likely to hover within a range, the broader market seems to have plenty of activity, so one must look for opportunities outside the broader space. Also, one must approach the markets with firm risk management until we witness any clarity in the overall market trend," said Sameet Chavan, Head Research, Technical and Derivative - Angel One.

Intel CEO Pat Gelsinger's 'Bittersweet' response after being forced out

Intel's Chief Financial Officer, David Zinsner, and Executive Vice President, Michelle Johnston Holthaus, have taken over as interim co-CEOs while the board searches for a permanent replacement.

NEW DELHI. Intel Corporation's Chief Executive Officer, Pat Gelsinger, has been forced to step down after the company's board lost faith in his plans to revive the struggling chipmaker, reported Bloomberg. This marks a major shake-up at one of the most prominent technology companies in the world. The board's decision followed a tense meeting last week where Gelsinger discussed Intel's efforts to regain market share and compete more effectively with rivals like Nvidia Corporation. According to

sources, quoted in the report Gelsinger was presented with two options: announce his retirement or face removal. He chose to retire, ending his career at the company.

Intel's Chief Financial Officer, David Zinsner, and Executive Vice President, Michelle Johnston Holthaus, have taken over as interim co-CEOs while the board searches for a permanent replacement. Meanwhile, Frank Yeary, the independent chair of Intel's board, will act as interim executive chair. The company said that the leadership team is focused on stabilising operations and restoring investor confidence.

GELSINGER'S JOURNEY WITH INTEL

Pat Gelsinger, 63, had a long history with Intel, beginning his career there as a teenager. After spending decades at the company, he left in 2009 to lead VMware Inc. He returned to Intel in 2021 with the ambitious goal of regaining its manufacturing dominance, which had been surpassed by competitors such as Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC). Gelsinger also sought to expand Intel's reach by producing chips



for other companies, directly competing with TSMC and Samsung Electronics.

Under Gelsinger's leadership, Intel unveiled a bold plan to expand its factory network, including a major new facility in Ohio. This project received federal funding through the Chips and Science Act. Despite these efforts, Gelsinger's strategies faced challenges due to stiff competition, industry shifts, and rising costs. News of Gelsinger's departure initially pleased investors, causing Intel's shares to rise by 6% during Monday's trading. However, the gains were short-lived, and the stock ended the day down 0.5% at \$23.93. This brings the company's total decline for the year to 52%, reflecting ongoing struggles in a

competitive market.

COMPETITION FROM NVIDIA

One of Intel's major hurdles has been the rise of artificial intelligence computing, an area dominated by Nvidia. Once considered a niche player, Nvidia has transformed its graphics chips into essential tools for AI and data centres, making it the world's most valuable publicly traded semiconductor company. Intel's attempts to break into this lucrative market have not yet gained significant traction. In a statement, Gelsinger expressed mixed emotions about his departure. "Today is, of course, bittersweet as this company has been my life for the bulk of my working career," he said. He acknowledged the difficulties of the past year but defended the tough decisions made to adapt to market demands. Frank Yeary, Intel's interim executive chair, highlighted the importance of focusing on the company's core products. "We know that we have much more work to do at the company and are committed to restoring investor confidence," he said. "Our customers demand this from us, and we will deliver for them."

NEWS BOX

Rohit scolds Jaiswal for getting stuck in 'no entry' area en route to Adelaide

New Delhi. The Indian cricket team's travel day to Adelaide for the second Test against Australia was filled with chaos and fun, as shared in a video by BCCI on social media. Yashasvi Jaiswal found himself stuck in a "no-entry" area, while his teammates stayed outside. Indian captain Rohit Sharma scolded him for entering the restricted zone, displaying his big-brotherly concern. Meanwhile, Shubman Gill teases Jaiswal, knowing how to help but prolonging the mischief. Rohit Sharma's affectionate yet stern leadership style is evident on and off the field. During a warm-up game against the Prime Minister's XI in Canberra, Rohit playfully hit Shubman Gill, much like his earlier interaction with Sarfaraz Khan after a dropped catch. This mix of tough love and camaraderie showcases Rohit's unique way of bonding with his teammates.

"He got stuck. It says no entry right there. It will open if we go close. Only if we go close," Shubman said. Washington Sundar



Mogambo?

In the latter part of the BCCI video, Sarfaraz Khan and Washington Sundar engage in a light-hearted exchange. While shopping at the airport, Sarfaraz humorously suggests that Sundar try on a hat, jokingly comparing him to Mogambo, the iconic villain from a Bollywood film. Sundar, however, hesitated, expressing doubts about the hat's color. Eventually, he agreed with R Ashwin's recommendation to opt for an off-white hat instead. "Wear this bro, you will look like Mogambo," Sarfaraz said.

"I don't like the colour, I look like a magician," Washington said. "No, you are looking like Mogambo," Sarfaraz claimed. "Do you know that movie? Mogambo," Sarfaraz asked.

"No" Washington replied.

"Aap kab serious hote ho, kab mazak karte ho... nhi pata lagta," Sarfaraz told R Ashwin.

The Indian team encountered rain upon their arrival in Adelaide, travelling from Canberra for the second Test against Australia. Even Team India head coach Gautam Gambhir also joined the Indian team in Adelaide after returning from India amid personal reasons.

Keep talking to Jassi bhai: Siraj shows trust in Bumrah to find success in AUS

New Delhi. Australia wicketkeeper batter Alex Carey said that the hosts are not expecting India to be bowled out for 36 in the pink ball Test match at Adelaide Oval. Speaking to the media ahead of the Day-Night Test match, which starts on December 6, Carey said that an incident like 36-all-out is historic and does not keep repeating itself.

Carey stressed that Australia were proud of their pink ball record at home - as they are yet to lose a Day-Night Test at home - and are following required processes to stage a comeback in the series.

"There are obviously amazing days in cricketing history but we are not going there expecting to do that again. We have a process and a plan that we try to execute and whatever happens, happens. I was not here for that Test match. We are excited. We take a lot of confidence for our record in pink ball cricket. We will hope to succeed and I think our methods will help us bounce back from Perth," Alex Carey told the media on Tuesday morning, December 3. Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25: Full Coverage

AUS vs IND: Adelaide Test Match 2020

The first Test of the 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy between Australia and India, held at the Adelaide Oval from December 17 to 19, 2020, was a day-night encounter that will be remembered for its dramatic and one-sided outcome. Here is a detailed summary of the match. The Test was the inaugural match of the series and marked the return of international cricket to Adelaide Oval after a significant hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The day-night format, using the pink ball, added an extra layer of complexity to the game, known for its challenging conditions, especially under lights.

India, batting first, faced a formidable Australian bowling attack. Despite a solid start, India's innings was marred by regular wickets. The top order showed some resistance, with Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli contributing significantly. However, the Indian batting lineup crumbled, and they were eventually bowled out for 244 runs. The Australian bowlers, particularly Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, were instrumental in restricting India's score.

In response, Australia's batting performance was also hampered by the Indian bowlers. The hosts lost wickets at regular intervals but managed to post a competitive total of 191 runs. The Australian innings was characterized by small but crucial contributions from several batsmen, with no one scoring a century. The Indian bowling, led by Ravichandran Ashwin and Umesh Yadav, kept the pressure on the Australian batsmen throughout their innings.

India's 36, Warner's 335: Stats you need to know about Adelaide Day-Night Tests

AUS vs IND: Australia and India will be looking to secure a crucial win when they face each other in the all-important Day-Night Test, starting Friday, December 6 at the Adelaide Oval.

New Delhi. India and Australia are set for the Day-Night Test, starting Friday, December 6 at the Adelaide Oval. India are already 1-0 up in the five-match series after winning the Perth Test by 295 runs. In pink-ball Tests, India have won three out of four matches. While they won all three of their matches at home, they lost their only overseas Day-Night Test against Australia back in 2020. Australia, on the other hand, have a phenomenal record in Day-Night Tests, having won 11 out of 12

matches. They won 11 matches on the trot before the West Indies ended their winning streak at The Gabba in Brisbane earlier this year. Before their upcoming clash against India, the Aussies have their task cut out since they are looking to bounce back after the Perth debacle.

For India, Rohit Sharma has returned after missing the Perth Test. As far as Australia are concerned, they do not have the services of Josh Hazlewood, who has been ruled out due to a side strain. The hosts have roped in the uncapped duo of Sean Abbott and Brendan Doggett.

In this article, let's delve deep into some numbers before the Australia vs India Test in Adelaide 7-0: Australia have won all their seven Day-Night Tests at the Adelaide Oval since the first-ever pink-ball Test back in 2015.

0-1: India have lost their only Day-Night Test in Adelaide. Back in December 2020, they lost by eight wickets.

3-4: Teams winning the toss have won only three out of seven Day-Night Tests



at the Adelaide Oval.

3-3: Teams opting to bat first have won three out of six Day-Night Tests in Adelaide. 6-1: Only once have a team opted to field first in a Day-Night Test in Adelaide. England fielded first, but lost the match by 120 runs back in December 2017.

589/3: Australia hold the record for the highest team total in Day-Night Tests in Adelaide back in November 2019 against Pakistan. 36: India hold the record for the lowest team total in Day-

Night Tests in Adelaide back in December 2020.

187/7: Australia hold the record for the highest successful run-chase in the Day-Night Tests in Adelaide, which they achieved against New Zealand back in November 2015.

647: David Warner holds the record for most runs in Day-Night Tests in Adelaide. He has 647 runs from six matches at an average of 64.70.

335*: David Warner notched the highest individual score in the

Day-Night Tests in Adelaide. He scored an unbeaten 335 against Pakistan back in November 2019. 39: Mitchell Starc is the leading wicket-taker in the Day-Night Tests in Adelaide. The pacer has taken 39 wickets from seven games at an economy rate of 2.80.

6/66: Mitchell Starc also holds the record for the best bowling figures in Day-Night Tests in Adelaide. He had figures of 25-6-66-6 against Pakistan back in November 2019.

Fresh injury scare for Australia as Steve Smith exits nets after getting injured

Senior Australia batter Steve Smith left the nets after getting hit on his finger during practice. The incident happened in Adelaide, just days ahead of the pink ball Test match in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Smith, who is one of the key figures in the Australia line-up, was hit by a throwdown from Marnus Labuschagne.

The incident deepened Australia's injury crisis, who already have Josh Hazlewood missing from the second Test match of the series. India Today accessed exclusive videos from the net session of the Australian camp. Smith's injury further deepens Australia's batting crisis. In the first innings of the Perth Test match, the hosts were bowled out for just 104 runs, which essentially played a key role in them losing the match by 295 runs. None of the Australia batters, barring Sam Konstas and Hanno Jacobs did well in Australian PM XI's match against India. Both are uncapped players and are unlikely to get a chance in the 2nd Test. Australia have Jos Inglis in their line-up, who could be drafted in, in case Smith gets ruled out of the game, but that still would not solve the batting crisis that the team has been going through in recent times. Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25: Full Coverage

Earlier, former Australia batter Ricky Ponting



has asked Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne to take a note out of Virat Kohli's book. Speaking on the ICC Review, Ponting said that the Australia batters will do well to follow Virat Kohli if they wish to come out of their form slump in this series. Ponting spoke about the two Australian batters who have had terrible outings in 2024. Once middle-order stalwarts, Steve Smith and Marnus Labuschagne have not even averaged 30 in 2024 and now find themselves on the brink of a first-team exit if they continue to fail.

BGT: Adelaide Test Stat Pack

Speaking on the ICC Review, Ponting said that Kohli trusted his backfoot in the second innings, and trusted his repertoire of shots. He urged both Smith and Labuschagne to do the same.

Nepal spinner injures himself while celebrating in U19 Asia Cup

New Delhi. Young Nepal spinner Yuvraj Khatri injured himself while celebrating a wicket in the team's group-stage match against Bangladesh. Playing in the U19 Asia Cup, Khatri put up a sensational performance against Bangladesh on Sunday, December 1. While he picked up 4 wickets from his 6 overs, Khatri landed himself in trouble.

The incident happened when caught Rizan Hossain plumb in front of the stumps in the 28th over of the match.

An overenthusiastic Khatri started jumping around, and eventually twisted his left foot. Khatri immediately fell to the ground and winced in pain. In a matter of moments, Khatri's joy turned into a grave concern for the Nepalese side. U19 Asia Cup: All you need to know



Khatri is not the only person to injure himself while celebrating in the recent times. Australia pacer Jhye Richardson, who is currently playing in the Sheffield Shield also pulled his shoulder muscles while celebrating a wicket. The incident happened in West Australia's match against South

Australia earlier in November. In the match, Jhye Richardson claimed back-to-back wickets in his opening over, removing South Australian opener Conor McInerney and No.3 Daniel Drew in consecutive deliveries.

McInerney and Drew were both trapped LBW, with Richardson moving the pink Kookaburra as per his will. However, after high-fiving a couple of his teammates, Richardson grabbed at his right shoulder and dropped to the turf in agony, with a team medic running onto the field. The right-armed quick left the field for a precautionary check, prompting fears of another injury setback.

Thankfully, Richardson returned to the action about 30 minutes later, snaring the wicket of Thomas Kelly in his following over.

Australia not expecting to bowl out India for 36 again: Alex Carey

Australia are not expecting to bowl out India for 36-all-out again, said Alex Carey ahead of the pink ball Test in Adelaide. Australia have a terrific pink ball record at home where they are yet to lose a Test match.

We are excited. We take a lot of confidence for our record in pink ball cricket. We will hope to succeed and I think our methods will help us bounce back from Perth," Alex



Carey told the media on Tuesday morning, December 3.

AUS vs IND: Adelaide Test Match 2020

The first Test of the 2020-21 Border-Gavaskar Trophy between Australia and India, held at the Adelaide Oval from December 17 to 19, 2020, was a day-night encounter that will be remembered for its dramatic and one-sided outcome. Here is a detailed summary of the match. The Test was the inaugural match of the series and marked the return of

international cricket to Adelaide Oval after a significant hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The day-night format, using the pink ball, added an extra layer of complexity to the game, known for its challenging conditions, especially under lights. India, batting first, faced a formidable Australian bowling attack. Despite a solid start, India's innings was marred by regular wickets. The top order showed some resistance, with Cheteshwar Pujara and Virat Kohli contributing significantly. However, the Indian batting lineup crumbled, and they were eventually bowled out for 244 runs. The Australian bowlers, particularly Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood, were instrumental in restricting India's score. In response, Australia's batting performance was also hampered by the Indian bowlers. The hosts lost wickets at regular intervals but managed to post a competitive total of 191 runs. The Australian innings was characterized by small but crucial contributions from several batsmen, with no one scoring a century. The Indian bowling, led by Ravichandran Ashwin and Umesh Yadav, kept the pressure on the Australian batsmen throughout their innings.

Who is Venkata Datta Sai PV Sindhu's to-be husband who has managed an IPL team

PV Sindhu is all set to marry Venkata Datta Sai, an executive director at Posidex Technologies. Find out more about the star shuttler's to-be husband.

New Delhi. India's badminton star is set to marry Venkata Datta Sai in an intimate ceremony in Udaipur. The wedding festivities will kickstart on December 20. Sindhu's family revealed that a grand wedding reception will also take place in Hyderabad on December 24. The wedding has been scheduled carefully to ensure Sindhu can return to the international badminton circuit in January, as the next season promises to be crucial. Sindhu's to-be husband, Venkata Datta Sai, is a Hyderabad-

based executive director at Posidex Technologies. As India's badminton star PV Sindhu prepares to marry, all eyes are on her fiancé, Venkata Datta Sai. He is a dynamic professional and a seasoned entrepreneur, having made his mark in the fields of finance, data science, and asset management. Datta Sai completed his education with a strong foundation in liberal studies and business. He earned a Diploma in Liberal Arts and Sciences from the Foundation of Liberal and Management Education and later pursued a BBA in Accounting and Finance from Flame University, graduating in 2018. Venkata Datta's educational background to further his knowledge, he obtained a Master's degree in Data Science and Machine Learning from the International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore. When Datta Sai



managed Delhi Capitals His career began with enriching stints at JSW, where he worked both as a summer intern and as an in-house consultant. He also managed JSW's owned Delhi Capitals during his tenure. Reflecting on his experience, Datta Sai once remarked on LinkedIn, "My BBA in finance and economics pales in comparison to managing an IPL team, but I must admit I

learnt a lot from both of these experiences."

In 2019, he embarked on dual leadership roles. As the Managing Director of Sour Apple Asset Management and the Executive Director at Posidex Technologies, Datta Sai has proven his mettle as an innovator and strategist. At Posidex, his work focuses on revolutionising banking processes.

Passion for finance and technology "The loan that you get in 12 seconds or the credit card you have thanks to instant credit score matching? Just some of the most complex problems I solve using a proprietary entity resolution search engine," he shared on his LinkedIn profile. His solutions are deployed by major banks, including HDFC and ICICI, for critical operations.

Currently, he serves as the Executive Director at Posidex Technologies, where he leads marketing, HR initiatives, and global partnerships.

Sunny Leone's

Hyderabad Event Cancelled Last Minute After Police Denies Permission

Bollywood actress Sunny Leone was all set to attend an event in Hyderabad when it got cancelled at the last minute after the police denied permission. According to India Today, Sunny was to attend the DJ Night at the Illuzion Pub in Hyderabad's Jubilee Hills on November 30. As per the publication's report, the police denied permission for the event due to procedural lapses. Sunny had already flown to Hyderabad and was all set to perform between 11 pm and 12:30 am on Saturday.

According to NewsMeter, the organisers had sold nearly 500 tickets for the event via BookMyShow. However, due to this cancellation, they couldn't let Sunny perform. The organisers continued to host the event despite the actress' absence. This led to police intervention outside the club from 8 pm to 1 am. Nearly 100 police personnel were deployed outside the club, as per reports.



As the attendees started reaching the venue, the organisers displayed a message outside the club stating that Sunny wouldn't be joining them due to ill health. The message read, "Due to health issues, Sunny Leone will not be performing today. However, the club will continue with Bollywood Night as planned. We apologize for any inconvenience caused."

The attendees were left disheartened and frustrated over this situation. Meanwhile, on the work front, Sunny Leone was last seen in Prabhu Deva's Petta Rap. The film stars Prabhu Deva, Vedhika and Sunny Leone. Touted to be an action-comedy, Petta Rap narrates the story of a middle-class man, Bala, who is pursuing to become an action hero in Tamil films, while Janaki, a middle-class lady, wants to become a singer. The title of the film is inspired by the song Petta Rap featured in Prabhu Deva's Kadhalan. The film is helmed by SJ Sinu. Sunny Leone was also seen as the host of MTV Splitsvilla's latest season.



Abhishek Bachchan Reunites With Kareena Kapoor 24 Years After Their Debut



Abhishek Bachchan attended an award show in Mumbai on Sunday night when he was seen presenting an award to Kareena Kapoor Khan. She was honoured with the Best Actress (Web Original Film) award for her performance in the movie, Jaane Jaan. In a video that surfaced on social media, Kareena and Abhishek were seen sharing a warm hug as the former went up to the stage. The actress was then seen accepting the award as Abhishek stood next to her. Watch it here:

Abhishek Bachchan and Kareena Kapoor's reunion left netizens nostalgic. The two made their acting debuts together 24 years ago in J.P. Dutta's romance Refugee, which hit theatres in 2000. They later worked together in several films including Main Prem Ki Diwani Hoon, Yuva and LOC: Kargil.

Interestingly, Abhishek was engaged to Kareena's elder sister Karisma. However, their engagement was called off and Abhishek later married to Aishwarya Rai in 2007. Currently, rumours of trouble in Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai's married life have also been making headlines. Speculations intensified after the couple appeared separately for the media at the Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding earlier this year. Besides this, Aishwarya recently shared photos from daughter Aaradhya's birthday bash which did not feature any of the Bachchan family members, including Abhishek. This had also left netizens wondering if all is not well between the two actors. While Abhishek and Aishwarya have been tight-lipped about the rumours, Amitabh had recently shared a post seemingly addressing speculations surrounding their family's personal affairs. "I rarely say much about family, because that is my domain and its privacy is maintained by me. Speculations are speculations... they are speculated untruths, without verifications... Verifications are sought by the seekers to authenticate their business and commercials of the profession they be in... I shall not challenge their desire to be in the profession of their choice... and I shall appreciate their effort in serving society... But untruths... or selected question marked information can be a legal safeguard for them that inform... but the seed of suspected belief is sown with this most used emblem... the question mark...?" he said.

Not Tharki, R Madhavan And Fatima Sana Shaikh's Next With Karan Johar Is Titled Aap Jaisa Koi



R Madhavan and Fatima Sana Shaikh are all set to share screen space in an exciting new project under Dharmatic Entertainment, and there is excitement to see the fresh collaboration on screen. While the film went on floors last month, in November, it was being reported that the film will be titled Tharki. However, as per the latest update, 'Tharki' is not the title of this rom-com. Bollywood Hungama reported that this film is now called 'Aap Jaisa Koi'. A source informed the portal, "Karan Johar's next with R Madhavan and Fatima Sana Shaikh is directed by Vivek Soni, best known for Meenakshi Sundareswar. After contemplating the title Tharki, the film is now called Aap Jaisa Koi. Karan is a big fan of this song and has decided to go ahead with the title." The source further added that the title blends perfectly with the concept of the film. It is a quirky romance between an older man and a younger woman, offering a refreshing take on love stories.

"The title blends well with the concept of the film, where a 40-year-old fans in love with a woman in her early 30s. The duo meet on a dating app, and the story takes off from there. The film is set in Mumbai and Kolkata," said the source. The film will reportedly premiere on Netflix in 2025.

'Aap Jaisa Koi' marks Fatima Sana Shaikh's second collaboration with Dharmatic Entertainment after her role in the Netflix anthology 'Ajeeb Daastaans', produced by Karan Johar's digital arm. Meanwhile, this film will also see R Madhavan return to the romance genre after many years.

Fatima Sana Shaikh was last seen in Meghna Gulzar's biographical war drama film 'Sam Bahadur', which released in 2023. She has an interesting lineup of films including Anurag Basu's 'Metro... In Dino' with Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan, as well as in 'Ul Jalool Ishq' with Naseeruddin Shah and Vijay Varma. On the other hand, R Madhavan was last seen in the supernatural horror film 'Shaitaan', directed by Vikas Bahl. Apart from 'Aap Jaisa Koi', he also has an untitled film co-starring Akshay Kumar and Ananya Panday, based on the biopic of C Sankaran Nair.

Anushka Sharma

Is All Smiles As She Poses With Virat Kohli And Their Fan In Australia

Anushka Sharma is currently in Perth where she recently attended and cheered for her husband Virat Kohli as he played test match against Australia. Days after, a photo of the couple has surfaced on social media in which they are seen posing with one of their fans. Anushka Sharma was seen sporting a black t-shirt with blue pants. On the other hand, Virat Kohli paired his blue pants with a white t-shirt. While Anushka was all smiles, Virat kept an intense look on his face for the picture. Check it out here:

Recently, Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli were seen sending flying kisses towards one another after the latter scored his second century during the test match against Australia. Anushka's reaction from the stands also went viral. She was seen smiling, clapping for her hubby dearest.



Recently, Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli were seen sending flying kisses towards one another after the latter scored his second century during the test match against Australia. Anushka's reaction from the stands also went viral. She was seen smiling, clapping for her hubby dearest. Anushka Sharma and Virat Kohli first met in 2013 while shooting for a television commercial. The two fell in love with each other but kept their relationship under wraps. In 2017, they tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in Italy. The couple welcomed their first child, a

baby girl in January 2021 and named her Vamika. In February this year, they became parents once again when they welcomed a baby boy. Meanwhile, on the work front, Anushka Sharma has taken a step back from acting since her 2018 film Zero, where she starred alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif. However, the actress is gearing up for a major comeback with Chakda Xpress, a biographical film based on the life of cricket legend Jhulan Goswami. The project is highly anticipated and marks her return to the big screen after a hiatus.

