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Indian Foreign Secretary likely to visit Bangladesh next week

Sanjay Kumar Dhaka, Dec 04: Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri is likely to visit Bangladesh next week for a foreign secretary-level meeting, amid tensions between the two countries after the interim government headed by Muhammad Yunus came to power.

Foreign Adviser Md Touhid Hosain said the scheduled Foreign Secretary-level Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between Bangladesh and India will take place in Dhaka on December 9 or 10, the state-run BSS news agency reported.

Bangladesh since the interim government came to power on August 8 after the ouster of Sheikh Hasina as prime minister. "It is very clear that we want a good relationship (with India)," Hosain told reporters at the Foreign Ministry here.

Maharashtra Governor invites Fadnavis to form govt, oath-taking today

Simmi Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Dec 04: Maharashtra CM-designate Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday met Governor CP Radhakrishnan to stake claim to form the government in the state.

and 2019. In the 2019 state elections, the pre-poll alliance of the BJP and the undivided Shiv Sena got a mandate to rule but Sena chief Uddhav became the chief minister of the state with BJP support.

Shiv Sena's Eknath Shinde and NCP's Ajit Pawar have been offered deputy CM ship in the new government that will take oath at Mumbai's Azad Maidan on Thursday in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Thank God Sukhbir is safe, probe the attack: Chandigarh MP Manish Tewari

ST Correspondent New Delhi/Chandigarh, Dec 04: Congress MP from Chandigarh Manish Tewari on Wednesday condemned the attack on Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal and demanded a probe into it.



'sewadar' outside the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Condemning the attack, senior BJP leader Capt Amarinder Singh expressed relief that Sukhbir was safe.

30th Kolkata International Film Festival gets underway

Kolkata, Dec 04: The 30th edition of the Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF) was inaugurated on Wednesday, with France as the theme country, showcasing several films that highlight the European nation's rich cultural and cinematic heritage.

Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka stopped at UP border on way to violence-hit Sambhal

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, Dec 04: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi speaks to media persons at the Ghazipur border on the Delhi-Meerut Expressway on Wednesday.

Congress leaders were planning to meet family members of the victims of police firing after reaching Sambhal. There was heavy chaos at the border after Congress workers gathered there confronting the police and blocking the highway.

DM has written to officers in Bulandshahr, Amroha, Ghaziabad, and Gautam Buddha Nagar, urging them to intercept the Congress team at the border.



No plan to allow need-based changes in society flats

Tejinder Kaur Babbar Chandigarh, Dec 04: In a setback to residents of cooperative society flats in the city, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has clarified that there is no proposal to allow need-based structural modifications.

Affairs, said there was no such proposal. Tewari also sought to know whether the government planned to revise the Chandigarh Housing Board's method to calculate conversion charges for cooperative societies in accordance with the original policy.

while societies under the Estate Office were exempt from such charges. To this, the minister replied, "The board has sought a clarification on the applicability of GST charges from the Authority of Advance Ruling with the GST Department."

Avtar Singh, president of a cooperative housing building society in Sector 50-D, stated that they had been raising various issues faced by residents of cooperative housing flats.



Supreme Court raps MP HC for ignoring woman judge's miscarriage before sacking her

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, Dec 04: Wish men have menstruation, the Supreme Court has remarked, censuring the Madhya Pradesh High Court's decision to sack a woman judge in the state based on performance and not considering her predicament due to a miscarriage.

nation of six women civil judges by the state government over their alleged unsatisfactory performance. However, a full court of the MP high court reconsidered its earlier resolutions on August 1, and decided to reinstate four officers, namely, Jyoti Varkade, Sushri Sonakshi Joshi, Sushri Priya Sharma and Rachna Atulkar Joshi on certain terms and conditions leaving out the other two Aditi Kumar Sharma and Sarita Chaudhary from the exercise.



Rakesh Tikait detained by Aligarh Police

Aligarh, Dec 04: BKU leader Rakesh Tikait was detained by the Aligarh Police on Wednesday while on his way to Greater Noida to participate in a meeting of farmer leaders, a police official said.

Tikait told reporters that the police were preventing farmers from going to Noida in Gautam Buddha Nagar by forcing them to stay in their respective houses. "How long will you detain us? If you keep us locked, then with whom will you talk to?" he said.



## Many blackspots in Alappuzha, yet rectification work slow: Officials

KOCHI. Alappuzha's poor road-safety record was underscored by Monday night's accident near Kalarcode, an area which traffic experts have termed as "accident-prone".

While several such stretches have been identified in the district, which topped the state in terms of fatal mishaps last year, agencies concerned have failed to carry out rectification of blackspots identified by the National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (Natpac). In the wake of Monday's fatal accident, the Alappuzha Regional Transport Officer (RTO) on Tuesday submitted a report to the collector, recommending the implementation of four measures on the stretch on a war footing. The team found the section lacking road markings and adequate lighting, among others.

"The section of road has no border markings which makes it difficult for drivers to judge the edges of roads. Then, there is the issue of poor lighting, for which streetlights should be installed. We have recommended the removal of a large tree near the accident site which channels water onto the road during rain. Waterlogging on roads can cause hydroplaning," Alappuzha RTO Dilu AK told TNIE.

'Kalarcode stretch accident-prone'

A road-safety expert who had worked with Alappuzha police to help decongest roads in 2022 said the stretch near Kalarcode junction is an accident-prone area. According to Upendra Narayan, there are two major traffic junctions in the area with no specific speed limits for vehicles. "It is a narrow stretch and often during daytime vendors line the road. There is also no proper signage cautioning motorists about upcoming junctions."

# Hyderabad: Peripheral ULBs, GPs to get improved drinking water supply

## Thousands of households in Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri and Sangareddy districts are set to benefit from the move

HYDERABAD. With the commissioning of 19 water reservoirs, consumers in the peripheral Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Gram Panchayats (GPs) outside the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits but within the Outer Ring Road (ORR) under the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) are set to receive improved drinking water supply.

The project is expected to benefit thousands of households in mandals such as Saroomagar, Maheshwaram, Shamshabad, Hayathnagar, Ibrahimpatnam, Ghatkesar, Keesara, Rajendranagar, Shamirpet, Medchal, Qutubullapur, RC Puram, Patancheru and Bolarum. The initiative includes the construction of 19 Ground Level Surface Reservoirs (GLSRs) and Elevated Level Surface Reservoirs (ELSRs) along with the laying of approximately 554.77 km of water pipelines at a cost of Rs 188.11 crore. These reservoirs are distributed across Medchal (seven), Maheshwaram (six), Patancheru (four) and Rajendranagar (two)

Assembly constituencies. Each consumer is expected to receive the water supply on alternate days with 135 litres per capita per day (LPCD).

Sewerage infrastructure In addition to water supply, six Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) with a combined capacity of 527 million litres per day (MLD) have also been commissioned. These STPs aim to prevent sewage flows in the catchment areas, achieving 100% sewage treatment in the GHMC area by December 2025. Part of a Rs 3,866-crore project funded by the state government, this initiative focuses on enhancing urban sanitation and protecting local water bodies from untreated sewage. The treated water will be released into tanks and water bodies in compliance with standards, preserving hydrology and



improving hygiene in and around the catchment areas. Sources said that to ensure adequate drinking water for ULBs and GPs within the ORR and outside GHMC limits, the state

government allocated Rs 1,200 crore in September 2021. Under the ORR Phase-II project, HMWS&SB is constructing 71 ELSRs/GLSRs with a total capacity of 138 ML across 12 mandals. Of these, 61 reservoirs have been completed, while 10 are nearing completion. Additionally, 2,728 km of the planned 2,764 km of inlet, outlet and distribution pipelines have been laid. Out of the 20 STPs planned for the GHMC area with a total capacity of 1,106 MLD, 10 STPs with a combined capacity of 653 MLD have been commissioned, including those at Kokapet (15 MLD), Durgam Cheruvu (7 MLD), Nalla Cheruvu (86.5 MLD), and Pedda Cheruvu (17.5 MLD). The remaining 10 STPs, with a total capacity of 453 MLD, are under construction and are expected to be operational by December 2024 or January 2025.

## Heavy rain, inexperience of driver led to accident that killed five students: MVD officials

Overcrowded vehicle, poor visibility also cited. Car lacked safety features such as ABS, airbags. Vehicle veered after brakes were applied and rammmed the bus

ALAPPUZHA. Heavy rain and an inexperienced driver, according to officials, are believed to have caused the accident that claimed the lives of five students of Alappuzha Medical College. The incident occurred at Changanassery junction in Kalarcode, Alappuzha, around 9.20pm on Monday. The deceased are Devanandan, 19, of Kottakkal, Malappuram; Sreedeeep Valsan, 19, from Shekharipuram, Palakkad; Ayush Shaji, 19, of Kavalam, Kuttanad; Muhammed Ebrahim P P, 19, from Androth Island in Lakshadweep; and, Muhammad Abdul Jabbar, 19, of Muttom, Kannur. The six other students in the car, Anand Manu, Krishadev, Alvin, Muhsin, Gouri Shankar, and Shane, sustained injuries. The first three are in critical condition. The group was travelling to see a movie in Alappuzha town from their hostel in a rented car owned by Shamilkhan, of Valanjavazhi, Alappuzha. The driver lost control of the car when he applied brakes and the vehicle collided side-



on with an oncoming KSRTC bus bound for Kayamkulam. Motor vehicle department (MVD) officials said the accident was caused by reckless driving on the part of the student behind the wheel of the car. "Gouri Shankar, who drove the car, had obtained his driving licence less than six months back. The car lacked

anti-lock braking. When he applied the brakes, the vehicle veered and rammmed into the bus," said A K Dilu, RTO, Alappuzha. The seven-seater car was carrying 11 people at the time of the accident. "The students had taken the car from an unauthorised rent-a-car facility. We have identified the owner of the facility and

summoned him for questioning. There was heavy rain at the time of the accident and it may obstructed the vision of the driver. Steps would be initiated to suspend the driving licence of the driver," RTO said. Meanwhile, Transport Commissioner C Nagaraju said that the Alappuzha accident resulted from a combination of factors, including an inexperienced driver, overcrowded vehicle and poor visibility. The incident involved 11 students travelling in a 2010-model seven-seater Tavera. "When a vehicle is overcrowded, the driver's ability to manoeuvre is compromised. The partial damage to the vehicle suggests that overspeeding may not have been the cause, though we will confirm this through scientific analysis," Nagaraju said. He added that a joint report from the MVD, police, and NHA will be submitted on the accident, and the National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (Natpac) will also conduct an accident analysis.

## Iskcon flyover tragedy: Court denies bail to Tathya Patel

Ahmedabad. A rural court here on Tuesday rejected the regular bail plea of Tathya Patel, who is accused of recklessly driving a car and causing the death of nine people on the Iskcon flyover in July last year. The principal sessions judge of the Ahmedabad rural court, K M Sojitra, rejected the bail plea and observed that the accused was charged with a serious offence in which nine people lost their lives. The court further observed that Tathya had a habit of causing accidents; hence, releasing him on bail was not justified. With the sessions court rejecting Tathya's bail plea, it is likely that he may approach the Gujarat high court for bail. Tathya was in jail for rash driving and causing the death of nine people. On July 20, 2023, Tathya allegedly drove his Jaguar car at high speed (over 142.5 kmph) on the Iskcon Bridge, running over nine people and killing them on the spot. Tathya was in jail since then as his bail pleas were rejected or disposed of by different courts. His father, Pragadesh Patel, who is a co-accused in the case, was granted bail by the Gujarat high court in Nov last year on the condition that he would not enter Ahmedabad except to attend court hearings. Tathya's advocate argued in court that the police completed the investigation and filed a charge sheet; hence, there was no possibility of tampering with evidence. He added that the court had the authority to grant bail, and his client was willing to comply with all conditions if released on bail. However, the chief public prosecutor, Pravin Trivedi, argued that Tathya was accused of killing nine innocent people. One of the injured victims still cannot speak properly, he said, adding that such accidents caused due to rash driving were on the rise. Trivedi argued that there was sufficient evidence against Tathya to prove that he was guilty.



## Despite Shakti scheme, women in Therukanalli and Kulve villages in Uttara Kannada take vow to pay bus ride

SIRSI (UTTARA KANNADA). Women from Therukanalli and Kulve villages in Kulve gram panchayat limits in Sirsi taluk of Uttara Kannada district have decided to pay for their bus ride at least for 15 days a month, despite the state government's Shakti (free bus ride) scheme for them. They took this decision because their villages, which are in the forest area, were provided with a bus service recently -- 77 years after Independence. "After several appeals and requests, a mini KSRTC bus service was approved for our villages where roads are narrow. We have to ensure that the bus service

is uninterrupted. Hence, we have decided to pay for our tickets at least for 15 days a month as suggested by the KSRTC authorities," said Geetha Naik, a resident of Therukanalli. People of Therukanalli and Kulve welcomed the service by offering puja to the mini bus as it reached their villages. They not only paid for their first trip, but also vowed to pay at least for 15 days a month. A video of a group of women announcing this decision has gone viral.

"Children from these villages had to walk around five km to their school. To go to Banavasi, Sirsi or even the gram panchayat

office at Kulve, we had to depend on some private vehicles or walk till Banavasi road to catch a bus. This bus service has come as a blessing to us," says Venkatesh Naik. This bus service will help people of Muddinapal, Paladabail, Therakanalli, Kulve, Koppa, Shigehalli and Nanikatta villages going to Sirsi or Banavasi. On the first day, the bus service received a good response with most of the women passengers paying for their ride. The Sirsi depot of KSRTC, which launched this mini bus service, has promised to run its red buses regularly if roads in these villages are widened.



## Schoolgirls walk 10 km to meet collector to air grievances in Khunta



BARIPADA. A group of girl students from Kamali ME school in Khunta walked over 10 km early Tuesday morning to meet Mayurbhanj collector Hema Kanta Say, seeking redressal of grievances about their hostel conditions. The students, also hostel inmates, alleged that they were being served substandard food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Due to absence of an English teacher in the school, the subject was completely ignored, they said.

The school runs under the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, Minorities and Backward Classes department under the supervision of Kaptipada ITDA in the district. The girls left the hostel at around

4 am, while the school warden, watchman, and other staff were asleep. They exited through the main gate and began their journey towards Baripada to meet the collector. Their absence was noticed in the morning, prompting the school staff to launch a search. It was later discovered that the students had reached Khunta tehsil office, mistaking it for the collectorate. They were stopped by local residents, police, and tehsil staff, who inquired about their concerns. The students expressed their dissatisfaction with the hostel management, stating that despite repeated complaints from both guardians and students,

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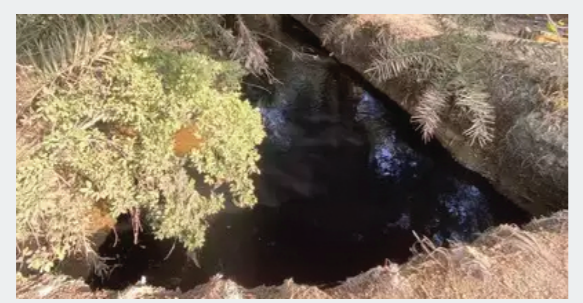
News box

Spat over fare leads to guard's murder in Gurgaon, auto driver nabbed

Gurgaon. An auto driver was arrested for allegedly stabbing a security guard to death with broken pieces of a beer bottle during an argument over auto fare.

Untreated waste flowing into wetland, fewer birds make pit stop at Surajpur

Noida. Untreated industrial waste that continues to find its way into Surajpur wetland through drains is not just damaging its flora, but also keeping waterbirds away.



stench. They left within minutes," Bhandari said. Loud noise from construction projects nearby was also disrupting the tranquillity in the habitat.

"Species like bar-headed geese and lesser whistling ducks are completely absent," Shekhar, a regular visitor to the wetland, said. "This decline has been evident over the last four years, and the current situation is the worst yet."

IIT-Delhi vets project, IT City to get Rs 40cr STP soon; 4 more in Gr Noida too

Noida. Greater Noida Authority is likely to set up five more sewage treatment plants (STPs) to improve wastewater recycling in the township.

GRAP restrictions, cold weather: Road repairs suffer twofold blow

Gurgaon. Despite GMDA's allocation of funds and approval for road recarpeting work in the city, residents may have to wait longer to see improvements as Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) restrictions will delay commencement of the projects.



manpower and machinery. While challenges like GRAP and weather conditions are there, procedural requirements must be followed and we are confident that the works will be completed within the stipulated timeframe of 9 months after works orders are issued," a senior official of GMDA

before that.GMDA floated the tenders for road repairs and revamp in mid-June, but before contracts could be awarded, the dates for Haryana assembly elections were announced in Aug.

They should at least fill up the potholes on these roads to ease the suffering of commuters. Broken roads are also adding to dust pollution in the vicinity.

Business analyst run over by car multiple times while helping woman in distress

Gurgaon: A 25-year-old business analyst suffered severe injuries when a drunk man repeatedly drove his car over him in Sector-38 on Wednesday evening.

and again drove over me. I remained stuck under the car. Locals intervened and pulled the driver out of the car. They then lifted the car and pulled me out.

gised for my situation. I suffered three fractures on my spinal cord and five in my ribs.

NAME CHANGE I, SURENDER KUMAR S/O TAPESHWAR PRASAD R/O B-155, Chhuna Bhatti Kirti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar H.O. West Delhi, Delhi-110015 declare that name of mine and my father have been wrongly written as SURENDER and SH TAPESHWAR in my Driving Licence No. DL04 20049491288. The actual name of mine and my father are SURENDER KUMAR and TAPESHWAR PRASAD respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as SUSHILA SHARMA alias SHASHI SHARMA W/O RAJESHWAR PRASAD R/O G-55/2, STREET NO-17, JAGAT PURI, KRISHNA NAGAR, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110051 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHASHI SHARMA

NAME CHANGE I, JC-736670Y Rank-NB/SUB Name-BAGADIYA RAMDEV RUDMAL Father of DIVYANSHU residing at VILL-KITPURA, PO-NAPAWALI, TEH & DIST-NEMET KA THANA, RAJASTHAN-332713 have changed my minor son's name from DIVYANSHU to DIVYANSHU BAGADIYA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/12/2024 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as ANJALI D/o LAKHMAN SAH SAH W/O OM PRAKASH SAH residing at Kharsa No. -33/20, Gali No. -12, Gautam Colony, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi 110040 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI DEVI.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as HARSH S/O MANOJ KUMAR R/O C-56, Gali No. -6, C Block, Ankur Enclave, Karawal Nagar, Dayapur, PO Dayapur, Dist. North East Delhi - 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARSH MISHRA.

NAME CHANGE I, Jitender Singh S/O Bhim Singh R/O H.No-77, Gali No-3, Awas Kunj, Laxman Vihar, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, have changed my Name To Jitender Singh Kataria for All Future Purpose.

NAME CHANGE I, PUNJEE MALIK S/O VIJAY MALIK R/O B-109/1 STREET NO-II, SHAHDARA SHAHDARA DELHI-110032 have changed my minor daughter name from ANGEL MALIK to ANGEL CHAUDHARY for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as AMIRDHAVALLI RANJANATHAN D/o S RANJANATHAN residing at House No. 251-A, Near Rama Market, Munirka Village, South West Delhi - 110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMIRDHAVALLI R.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as ANJALI D/o LAKHMAN SAH SAH W/O OM PRAKASH SAH residing at Kharsa No. -33/20, Gali No. -12, Gautam Colony, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi 110040 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI DEVI.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as ANJALI D/o LAKHMAN SAH SAH W/O OM PRAKASH SAH residing at Kharsa No. -33/20, Gali No. -12, Gautam Colony, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi 110040 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI DEVI.

NAME CHANGE I, Mohit S/O Babu Ram, R/O H. NO.-192, VILLAGE, Dallupura, East Delhi, Delhi - 110096, have changed the name of my minor daughter Khushi aged 9 years and she shall hereafter be known as NAVI.

NAME CHANGE I, PUNJEE MALIK S/O VIJAY MALIK R/O B-109/1 STREET NO-II, SHAHDARA SHAHDARA DELHI-110032 have changed my minor son's name

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as AMIRDHAVALLI RANJANATHAN D/o S RANJANATHAN residing at House No. 251-A, Near Rama Market, Munirka Village, South West Delhi - 110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMIRDHAVALLI R.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as HARSH S/O MANOJ KUMAR R/O C-56, Gali No. -6, C Block, Ankur Enclave, Karawal Nagar, Dayapur, PO Dayapur, Dist. North East Delhi - 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARSH MISHRA.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as ANJALI D/o LAKHMAN SAH SAH W/O OM PRAKASH SAH residing at Kharsa No. -33/20, Gali No. -12, Gautam Colony, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi 110040 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI DEVI.

(BEDAKHAL) That I, LAXMI DEVI wife of BABU LAL declare as under that I disowned my Son's RINKU SEN and his wife RASHMI from my all movable/immovable/Partick properties/assets for wrong behaviour. Hereafter I shall not be held responsible for any kind of acts done by him in money or transaction and any illegal/illegal and property purpose in future. That he debarred from entering my premises situated at T-443, NEAR NANDLAL RATIION WALI GALI, BALJEET NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, DELHI-110008.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as AMIRDHAVALLI RANJANATHAN D/o S RANJANATHAN residing at House No. 251-A, Near Rama Market, Munirka Village, South West Delhi - 110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMIRDHAVALLI R.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as HARSH S/O MANOJ KUMAR R/O C-56, Gali No. -6, C Block, Ankur Enclave, Karawal Nagar, Dayapur, PO Dayapur, Dist. North East Delhi - 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARSH MISHRA.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as ANJALI D/o LAKHMAN SAH SAH W/O OM PRAKASH SAH residing at Kharsa No. -33/20, Gali No. -12, Gautam Colony, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi 110040 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI DEVI.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as ANJALI D/o LAKHMAN SAH SAH W/O OM PRAKASH SAH residing at Kharsa No. -33/20, Gali No. -12, Gautam Colony, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi 110040 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ANJALI DEVI.

NAME CHANGE I, Komal Jain alias Komal Gupta D/O ASHOK Jain Ex wife of Satvik Gupta R/O-10B, Madhuban Road, Veer Savarkar Block, Shakarpur East Delhi Delhi-92, declare that my husband expired on 02.12.2022 and death certificate was issued with Regd no. 02220912278950 Dated 10.12.2022. further I Remarried with Sanam Anand S/O Vijay Anand vide marriage certificate no 907300009873 dated 17.01.2024. further I have changed the name of mine and my minor daughter namely Anshika Gupta aged 7 years and we shall hereafter be known as Komal Anand and Anshika Anand further I also declare that name of the father of my minor daughter may be known as Sanam Anand on Future for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as AMIRDHAVALLI RANJANATHAN D/o S RANJANATHAN residing at House No. 251-A, Near Rama Market, Munirka Village, South West Delhi - 110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AMIRDHAVALLI R.

NAME CHANGE I, hitherto known as HARSH S/O MANOJ KUMAR R/O C-56, Gali No. -6, C Block, Ankur Enclave, Karawal Nagar, Dayapur, PO Dayapur, Dist. North East Delhi - 110094 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARSH MISHRA.

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PUBLIC NOTICE Mr. Amit Gupta Owner of the Residential Unit No. 1901 on 19th floor, Tower-C, Super Area Admeasuring 1732 sq. feet., in the property "APEX ATHENA", on Plot No. GH-12A, ECO CITY in Sector-75, Noida, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Mr. Amit Gupta have lost Original Allotment Letter dated 18/11/2016 issued by M/s Apex Dream Homes Pvt. Ltd in favour of Mr. Amit Gupta and Possession Certificate dated 20/05/2017 issued by M/s Apex Dream Homes Pvt. Ltd in favour of Mr. Amit Gupta, for which complaint lodged to the police. That any person(s)/Appropriate authority etc. if finds the misplaced Allotment Letter and Possession Certificate aforesaid said person may come forward and inform the undersigned within 15 days from the date of Publication. RAHUL KUMAR GUPTA (ADVOCATE) M.No.- 7252922875

INDIAN RAILWAYS भारत सरकार GOVERNMENT OF INDIA रेल मंत्रालय MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (रेलवे बोर्ड RAILWAY BOARD) Sub: E-open Global Tender No: 2024-TM-1A closing on 24.01.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 23 nos. of 'Multi Purpose Tamper (MPT)' along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC. Electronic bids are invited for and on behalf of the President of India for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 23 nos. of 'Multi Purpose Tamper (MPT)' along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC. The interested bidders are advised to visit the website http://ireps.gov.in for further details, downloading of the tender document and submission of their e-bids. Director, Railway Stores (F), Railway Board No.: 2024/RS(E)/TM/1 Dated: 18.11.2024 3725/2024 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems) N.I.T. No. S.N. 13, 24, 25, 26 -2024-25-W-V

KIND ATTENTION: RAIL PASSENGER! IMPORTANT NOTICE For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Special Train as per the schedule given below:-

PUBLIC NOTICE This is to inform the general public that Mr. Brj Pal & Mr. Jawahar Singh are the owners of Property bearing No. K-8/63-A, area measuring 50 sq. yds., i.e. 41.80 sq. mtrs., out of Kharsa no. 557, situated at Village Ghonda Gujran Khadar, in the Abadi of Gali no. 8, K Block, Gangotri Vihar, West Ghonda, Ilaaha Shahdara, Delhi-110053 through Sale deed dated 27.06.2024 doc. No. 2024/12/2143 executed by Mrs. Krishna Wati in favour of Mr. Brj Pal & Mr. Jawahar Singh in respect of Said property. Mr. Brj Pal & Mr. Jawahar Singh intend to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of Entire Third floor (with roof rights) of aforementioned property to Mr. Anand Kumar Jha. Subsequently, Mr. Anand Kumar Jha is in the process of mortgaging the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. Any objections or concerns regarding this transaction should be raised within a period of 15 days from the date of this public notice. Any objections submitted after the completion of this 15-day period will not be considered binding with respect to the said property or the interests of our client. If anyone wishes to raise an objection, please do so within the stipulated 15-days period by contacting Law Veritas: North (Advocates & Legal Consultants) at Office No. 11, 1st Floor, Building No. A-44/A, Sector-16, Noida, Uttar Pradesh-201301; Landline(s): +91120-3101683; E-mail: accounts@lvnrth.in

## NEWS BOX

## 'Bangladesh Govt Has Absolute Obligation To Protect Its Hindu Minority': US Congressman

Can influential US lawmaker on Tuesday said the interim Bangladeshi government has an absolute obligation to protect the minority Hindu community in the country after the fall of the democratically-elected Sheikh Hasina-led government earlier this year. Over the weekend, Hindus from Bangladesh organised a rally at the White House demanding release of Chinmaya Das and protection for Hindus of Bangladesh. Bangladesh's interim government has an absolute obligation to protect its Hindu minority and meaningfully address the protests of thousands of minority Hindus in outcry over the recent wave of attacks and harassment," Congressman Brad Sherman said in a statement. Bangladesh's interim government has an absolute obligation to protect its Hindu minority and meaningfully address the protests of thousands of minority Hindus in outcry over the recent wave of attacks and harassment," Congressman Brad Sherman said in a statement. Based on the feedback we are getting from #Bangladesh, Hindu monk and civil rights defender Chinmoy Krishna Brahmachari, who has been incarcerated by the interim government, faces a serious threat to his life, in custody," he said.

## US Embassy In South Korea Issues Emergency Alert To Its Citizens After Lifting Of Martial Law

**World.** Following the lifting of martial law in South Korea, the United States Embassy in the country issued an emergency alert to its citizens on Wednesday, warning that the situation is "fluid" and advising them to take safety precautions.

The embassy posted the emergency information on its website a day after South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law. It was, however, lifted hours later after the National Assembly voted to reject it. "Following President Yoon's announcement to lift the martial law declaration, the situation remains fluid," the embassy said. US citizens should anticipate potential disruptions. When in public, you should pay attention to your surroundings and exercise routine safety precautions," as per the posting. The embassy also advised US citizens to avoid areas of demonstration and to exercise caution near "large crowds, gatherings, protests, or rallies." Peaceful demonstrations can turn confrontational and escalate into violence, it further stated. The embassy also noted that it will cancel routine consular appointments for US citizens and visa applicants on Wednesday.

## Gladiator for a night at the Colosseum Some Romans are up in arms

**Rome.** It has probably been centuries since Romans have been so feverish about happenings at the Colosseum, and it is not because of the recent release of the Ridley Scott "Gladiator" sequel. A plan by the Colosseum and Airbnb to give a select few people the chance to unleash their "inner gladiator" at the most visited site in Italy has caused an uproar among many Romans who say it demeans a treasured cultural icon.

Over two nights in May, a total of up to 32 people will learn the art of gladiator fighting at the ancient arena, taught by Roman history buffs who specialise in historical re-enactments. The project is a partnership between the Colosseum Archaeological Park and Airbnb, the accommodations booking platform, which donated \$1.5 million to spruce up a permanent exhibit inside the arena. The aim, Airbnb said, "was to support the Colosseum's ongoing conservation work to find new ways to inspire and educate visitors on the historical significance of this bygone era." But some Romans and cultural leaders have given the initiative an emphatic thumbs down. (Footnote: While the emperor made such a gesture to condemn a fighter in the original "Gladiator" movie, scholars are uncertain about the direction thumbs actually pointed in ancient arenas for such purposes.) "We're against transforming the Colosseum into a theme park," said Massimiliano Smeriglio, a member of Rome's City Council. "We're all in favour if a company decides to sponsor a monument or a restoration," he said, "but it shouldn't be necessary to get anything in exchange."

Federico Mollicone, a lawmaker with the Brothers of Italy party of PM Giorgia Meloni, dismissed the criticism as the views of a "radical chic" element in Rome that treated the arena "as something sacred". The Colosseum, he pointed out, had been built for rough-and-tumble entertainment. The center-right govt this year passed a law that supports the promotion of historical reenactments. Critics also raised questions about Airbnb's involvement at a time when many European cities are struggling to balance the needs of locals with a booming postpandemic tourist industry facilitated by accommodation platforms. This summer, the backlash against mass tourism saw protests in many cities, including Barcelona, Spain, and Athens, Greece. While Romans are frequently incensed by many issues in their city - everything from uncollected garbage to potholes - they can be particularly sensitive about the Colosseum. A kerfuffle erupted last year after Elon Musk challenged Mark Zuckerberg on social media to "a cage match", and it was rumored that the Colosseum could be the venue.

# South Korea lifts president's martial law decree after lawmakers reject military rule

SEOUL. The president of South Korea early Wednesday lifted the martial law he imposed on the country hours earlier, bending to political pressure after a tense night in which troops surrounded parliament and lawmakers voted to reject military rule. President Yoon Suk Yeol, who appeared likely to be impeached over his actions, imposed martial law late Tuesday out of frustration with the opposition, vowing to eliminate "anti-state" forces as he struggles against opponents who control parliament and that he accuses of sympathizing with communist North Korea. Police and military personnel were seen leaving the grounds of parliament following the bipartisan vote to overrule the president, and the declaration was formally lifted around 4:30 a.m. during a Cabinet meeting. Parliament acted swiftly after martial law was imposed, with National Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik declaring that the law was "invalid" and that lawmakers would "protect democracy with the people." In all, martial law was in effect for about six hours. The president's surprising move harkened back to an era of authoritarian leaders that the country has not seen since the 1980s, and it was

immediately denounced by the opposition and the leader of Yoon's own conservative party. Lee Jae-myung, leader of the liberal Democratic Party, which holds the majority in the 300-seat parliament, said the party's lawmakers would remain in the Assembly's main hall until Yoon formally lifted his order. Woo applauded how troops quickly left the Assembly after the vote.

"Even with our unfortunate memories of military coups, our citizens have surely observed the events of today and saw the maturity of our military," Woo said.

While announcing his plan to lift martial law, Yoon continued to criticize parliament's attempts to impeach key government officials and senior prosecutors. He said lawmakers had engaged in "unscrupulous acts of legislative and budgetary manipulation that are paralyzing the functions of the state." Jo Seung-lae, a Democratic lawmaker, claimed that security camera footage following Yoon's declaration showed that troops moved in a way that suggested they were trying to arrest Lee, Woo and even Han Dong-hoon, the leader of Yoon's People Power Party. Officials from Yoon's office and the Defense Ministry did not respond to



requests for comment early Wednesday.

Seemingly hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the Assembly, waving banners and calling for Yoon's impeachment.

Some protesters scuffled with troops ahead of the lawmakers' vote, but there were no immediate reports of injuries or major property damage. At least one window was broken as troops attempted to enter the Assembly building. One woman tried unsuccessfully to pull a rifle away from one of the soldiers, while shouting "Aren't you embarrassed?" Under South Korea's constitution, the president can declare martial law during "wartime, war-like situations or other comparable national

emergency states" that require the use of military force to maintain peace and order. It was questionable whether South Korea is currently in such a state.

When martial law is declared, "special measures" can be employed to restrict freedom of press, freedom of assembly and other rights, as well as the power of courts. The constitution also states that the president must oblige when the National Assembly demands the lifting of martial law with a majority vote. Following Yoon's announcement of martial law, South Korea's military proclaimed that parliament and other political gatherings that could cause "social confusion" would be suspended, South Korea's Yonhap news agency said. The military said anyone who violated the decree could be arrested without a warrant. In Washington, the White House said the U.S. was "seriously concerned" by the events in Seoul. A spokesperson for the National Security Council said President Joe Biden's administration was not notified in advance of the martial law announcement and was in contact with the South Korean government.

## Hamis, Fatah near agreement on who will oversee postwar Gaza

CAIRO. Palestinian officials say Fatah and Hamas are closing in on an agreement to appoint a committee of politically independent technocrats to administer the Gaza Strip after the war. It would effectively end Hamas' rule and could help advance ceasefire talks with Israel. The rival factions have made several failed attempts to reconcile since Hamas seized power in Gaza in 2007. Israel has meanwhile ruled out any postwar role in Gaza for either Hamas or Fatah, which dominates the Western-backed Palestinian Authority. A Palestinian Authority official on Tuesday confirmed that a preliminary agreement had been reached following weeks of negotiations in Cairo. The official said the committee would have 12-15 members, most of them from Gaza. It would report to the Palestinian Authority, which is headquartered in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, and work with local and international parties to facilitate humanitarian assistance and reconstruction. A Hamas official said that Hamas and Fatah had agreed on the general terms but were still negotiating

over some details and the individuals who would serve on the committee. The official said an agreement would be announced after a meeting of all Palestinian factions in Cairo, without providing a timeline. Both officials



spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media on the talks. There was no immediate comment from Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until Hamas is dismantled and scores of hostages are returned. He says Israel will maintain open-ended security control over Gaza, with civilian affairs

administered by local Palestinians unaffiliated with the Palestinian Authority or Hamas.

No Palestinians have publicly volunteered for such a role, and Hamas has threatened anyone who cooperates with the Israeli military. The United States has called for a revitalized Palestinian Authority to govern both the West Bank and Gaza ahead of eventual statehood. The Israeli government, which is opposed to Palestinian statehood, is reportedly discussing a postwar plan with the United Arab Emirates, which normalized relations with Israel in 2020 and backs a rival Fatah faction. He Hamas official said the emerging Palestinian agreement would fulfill one of Israel's war goals by ending Hamas' rule in Gaza. It's unclear if Israeli officials would see it that way. The Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank, recognizes Israel and cooperates with it on security matters, a policy that is deeply unpopular among Palestinians, many of whom view it as a subcontractor of the occupation.

## Trump's pick Chad Chronister withdraws from DEA nomination, cites commitment to local duties

**World.** Sheriff Chad Chronister of Hillsborough, US President-elect Donald Trump's pick for the role of Administrator of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), has withdrawn his candidacy, citing his ongoing commitment to local initiatives. "To have been nominated by President-Elect @realDonaldTrump to serve as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration is the honour of a lifetime," Chronister wrote in an X post on Wednesday.

"Over the past several days, as the gravity of this very important responsibility set in, I've concluded that I must respectfully withdraw from consideration. There is more work to be done for the citizens of Hillsborough County and a lot of initiatives I am committed to fulfilling," he

added. Chronister expressed gratitude for the nomination and vowed to continue serving as sheriff. However, the announcement has sparked mixed reactions. District 1 Lake County Commissioner Anthony Sabatini called the withdrawal a "huge win for liberty," while Republican Congressman Thomas Massie of Kentucky criticised Chronister's past actions during the COVID-19 pandemic. "This sheriff ordered the arrest of a pastor for holding services during the COVID panic. He was tapped by Trump to head the DEA. Glad to see him withdraw from consideration. Next time politicians lose their ever-lovin' minds, he can redeem himself by following the Constitution," Massie wrote on X. Chronister faced backlash in 2020 for arresting Dr. Ronald Howard-

Browne, pastor of The River at Tampa Bay Church, for holding in-person services in violation of public health orders. At the time, Chronister defended the decision, "Announcing the arrest of Dr. Ronald Howard-Browne... who intentionally and repeatedly disregarded state and local public health orders, which put his congregation and our community in danger," he said. The charges were later dropped. Some conservatives, including commentator Liz Wheeler, criticised Chronister's nomination. "Chad Chronister is a COVID tyrant who arrested a Christian pastor... Chronister abused his power; he's unfit to lead the DEA," Wheeler wrote on X. Senator Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma defended Chronister, "What disqualifies somebody.

## Gazans walk miles for bread and flour amid war shortages

**World.** Faced with major food shortages after nearly 14 months of war, Palestinians describe long days hunting for flour and bread in the conflict-ravaged Gaza Strip. Every morning crowds form outside the few bakeries open in the Palestinian territory, as people desperately try to get a bag of bread at distribution points. Since the outbreak of war in Gaza last year, charities and international aid organisations have repeatedly warned of crisis levels of hunger for nearly two million people. A United Nations-backed assessment last month warned of famine looming in the northern Gaza Strip amid a near-halt in food aid after Israel launched an offensive in the area. Essential goods like water, fresh produce and medicines are also scarce.

Gazans across the territory have told AFP in recent months how they wake up at the crack of dawn just to ensure they can get some flour or bread, with current availability reaching an all-time low.

In the southern city of Khan Yunis, AFP photographers saw dozens of people at a distribution point, bodies pressed against each other. Over each other's heads, everyone tries to reach out as far as possible to grab the round bread.

A small child, her face covered in tears, squeezes a coin between her fingers as she makes her way through the crowd of adults.

Nothing in markets "I walked about eight kilometres (five miles) to get bread," Hatem Kullab, a displaced Palestinian living in a neighbourhood of makeshift tents, told AFP. It was in the middle of one of these crowds that two women and a child were trampled to death in a stampede at a bakery in the central Gaza city of Deir el-Balah Friday. "To get a loaf of bread you need a whole day of eight to 10 hours," said the brother of one of the women killed, describing his sister's ordeal as she tried to get bread to feed 10 family members. "The suffering that my sister went through is suffered by all the Palestinian people," Jameel Fayyad told AFP, criticising what he described as poor management of the bakeries. Fayyad's anger was largely directed at Israel, but he also blamed the World Food Programme (WFP) and "traders who want to make money on the backs of people". Palestinians from across the Gaza Strip told AFP journalists that it is extremely difficult to find the 50-kilogram (110 pounds) bags of flour that would last



them several weeks before the war. "There is no flour, no food, no vegetables in the markets," Nasser Al-Shawa, 56, said, who, like most residents, was forced to leave his home because of the bombings and lives with his children and grandchildren in central Gaza. Shawa, who now lives in a friend's house in Deir el-Balah, says a 50-kilogram bag costs between 500 and 700 shekels (\$137 and \$192). Before the war, it cost around 100 shekels. Inside Gaza where more than half of the buildings have been destroyed, the production is at an almost complete standstill. Flour mills, warehouses storing flour and industrial bakeries are unable to function because they have been so heavily damaged by

strikes. Bullet to the head Humanitarian aid is trickling in but aid groups have repeatedly slammed the many constraints imposed on them by Israel, which the country denies. In the latest blow, the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) announced Sunday it was halting aid deliveries to Gaza via a key crossing point with Israel. UNRWA said delivery had become impossible, partly due to looting by gangs.

For Layla Hamad, who lives in a tent with her husband and seven children in southern Gaza's Al-Mawasi, UNRWA's decision was "like a bullet to the head". She said her family had regularly received "a small quantity" of flour from UNRWA. Every day, I think we will not survive, either because we will be killed by Israeli bombing or by hunger," she said. "There is no third option." The majority of private companies that Israel had in the past allowed to bring in food to Gaza say they are no longer able to do so. The war in Gaza broke out after Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on southern Israel, which resulted in the deaths of 1,208 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally based on official data.

**Kadi engineer, others lose Rs 8.58cr to investment fraud**

**Ahmedabad.** A 35-year-old mechanical engineer, Hardik Patel, lodged a complaint with Kadi police against three persons for running a fraudulent investment operation, resulting in losses of Rs 8.58 crore for him and others. The cheating occurred between 2018 and 2023.

In 2017, Hardik relocated with his family to New Shyam Dharti City Society in Kadi. The following year, he encountered Kanaiyalal Patel, a teacher at Shobhasan Primary School, who claimed expertise in tobacco investments. Hardik's initial investment of Rs 4 lakh generated annual returns of Rs 72,000 until 2022. Subsequently, Kanaiyalal, accompanied by his wife Sudha and brother-in-law Kanaiyalal Sankabbhai Patel, began seeking investments from various people for property and land ventures. They claimed to invest in Visakha Group projects, Royal Dream Construction, and GIFT City land in Gandhinagar. Believing the notarised agreements and verbal commitments, Hardik and others invested their money. However, the accused failed to honour repayment schedules and offered various excuses. Investigations indicated that the accused utilised the fraudulent funds to acquire properties in Ratanpur and invest in mills across Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad, among other ventures.

According to the complainant, the accused shut their office, became uncontactable, and issued fraudulent notices to avoid repayments. When confronted about the money, Sudha reportedly threatened legal consequences. Initial investigations indicate the accused duped several people of Rs 100-125 crore. The Kadi police have registered the case and begun investigation.

**Pizhala residents issue ultimatum to GIDA to finish approach road project**

**“We couldn't even walk through the road earlier but following the collector's visit they levelled the stretch overnight.”**

**KOCHI.** Residents of Pizhala, a small island on the outskirts of Kochi city, have given an ultimatum to the Goshree Islands Development Authority (GIDA) to complete the much-delayed approach road project by December 7, failing which the residents threatened to complete the pending construction work themselves.

The 350-metre-long approach road is the sole connectivity to the mainland for nearly 1,700 households in Pizhala. The construction of the approach road began in 2022 but only 40% of the work has been completed until now. The residents held a ‘rappakal’ (round-the-clock) protest before the GIDA office at Chathiath Road last month following which



the authorities hastened up the work. However, it was again stopped two weeks back. “The bridge is the sole connectivity to the mainland for nearly 7,500 residents in

wards 10, 11 and 12. The GIDA secretary earlier promised to complete the work and make the bridge fully navigable by October 31. However, that didn't happen. Following

our protest, they resumed the construction activities, but it was stopped again two weeks back after the contractor expressed reluctance to proceed with the work as the assistant engineer got transferred,” said Arun Augustine, a member of Pizhala Approach Road Action Council.

Meanwhile, the authorities promised to wrap up the project in a week's time during a meeting convened by District Collector N S K Umesh, who visited the site on Sunday.

“We were about to carry out the construction work by ourselves from December 3, and even took measures to purchase the raw materials like coal and tar. However, the collector's visit the other day prompted the authorities to suddenly resume the work.

We couldn't even walk through the road earlier but following the collector's visit they levelled the stretch overnight. Hence, we gave GIDA time till December 7, a deadline committed by the authorities in a meeting convened by the collector,” said Maglin Phenomena, a resident.

The residents rued that the delay in the work has made their lives difficult.

“People are forced to negotiate through the under-construction stretch. Two-wheelers are often meeting with accidents due to potholes,” Arun pointed out.

**Cyclone Fengal effect: Mumbai's minimum temperature shoots up 7.5°C in 4 days**



24.5°C, 2° above normal. On Monday, Santacruz logged 20.6°C.

Rain & thunderstorms likely in southwest Maha. KonkanCyclone Fengal has pushed plenty of moisture over Mumbai and Maharashtra and has also changed the wind direction to east-southeasterly,” said weather enthusiast Athreya Shetty. “Thus, we've seen an increase in humidity and cloudy weather that keeps night temperatures high. The remnant of the cyclone has crossed over and re-emerged in Arabian Sea as a depression off Karnataka coast, which will continue to influence our weather till this weekend.”

**MUMBAI.** Four days after the city recorded the second coldest Nov night in a decade at 16.5°C - which also marked the arrival of winter - the minimum temperature rose to 24°C on Tuesday.

The surge was accompanied by overcast skies all through the day. Weather experts attributed the change to cyclone Fengal, which made landfall in Tamil Nadu over the weekend.

They said the cyclone brought moisture to Mumbai and Maharashtra, altering the wind pattern from chilly, dry northerlies to humid east-southeasterlies.

The minimum temperature is expected to drop from Dec 8. Tuesday's 24°C at Santacruz observatory was 4° above normal, while the Colaba station recorded

Amateur weather forecaster Abhijit Modak said the cyclone transitioned into a well marked low pressure system in the Arabian Sea, positioned off the Mangaluru coast. This led to Mangaluru receiving 156mm of rain in 24 hours on Tuesday, accompanied by thunderstorms.

“The system has brought moist easterly winds over Maharashtra, causing a sharp rise in minimum temperatures,” Modak said. “As the dry northeasterly winds are replaced by the moist southeasterlies, scattered rain or thunderstorms are likely to occur over southwest Maharashtra and along the Konkan coast over the next three days,” he added.

**CM Stalin announces rain relief package**

**CHENNAI.** Chief Minister MK Stalin on Tuesday announced a comprehensive relief package for people affected by Cyclone Fengal in Villupuram, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi, Tiruvannamalai, Dharmapuri and Krishnagiri districts, including cash of Rs 2,000 each to the affected families, based on ration cards, in Villupuram, Cuddalore and Kallakurichi districts.

Chairing a meeting at the secretariat in Chennai on Tuesday, the chief minister directed officials to extend Rs 5 lakh compensation each to the families who lost relatives due to the cyclone or floods. The government will also provide Rs 10,000 as compensation for damaged huts, prioritise the construction of houses under the Kalaingar Kanavu Illam (housing scheme) for completely damaged huts, and provide Rs 17,000 per hectare to standing crops damaged up to 33% and above (irrigated crops including paddy). Additionally, Rs 22,500 per hectare for perennial crops and trees (33% damage and above), Rs 8,500 per hectare for rain-fed crops

damaged up to 33% and above, Rs 37,500 for cattle (buffalo, cows), Rs 4,000 for the loss of a goat or sheep, and Rs 100 for the loss of a chicken will also be provided. The chief minister also directed the district



administrations to conduct special camps for reissuing lost documents like voter ID, Aadhaar, and family cards, and to provide new textbooks and notebooks to the affected students.

Rescue works in full swing in northern TN districts. The collectors of Dharmapuri, Krishnagiri and Tiruvannamalai have been instructed to send details of severely affected areas. A release said unprecedented

heavy rainfall had affected people, damage properties, and submerged large tracts of agricultural land in northern TN districts.

In these districts, infrastructure facilities such as roads, bridges, electric poles, transformers and public buildings, and people's livelihood have been affected, and rescue and rehabilitation works are in full swing. In another release, cooperation and food departments said about one lakh 5-kg bags of rice have been mobilized for distribution through ration shops. Rice bags will be given to beneficiaries. 75,000 packets of 5kg rice have been procured for Villupuram. 30,000 packets will be distributed in Kallakurichi, Cuddalore, and certain parts of Tiruvannamalai district.

**Rain situation: PM speaks to CM**

Chennai: The PM spoke to CM M K Stalin to inquire about the flood situation and assured all possible support. DMK leader Kanimozhi told reporters in New Delhi that DMK MPs had sought an audience with the PM to personally explain the situation

**Alappuzha Medical College mourns students lost in accident; hundreds gather in tribute**

**ALAPPUZHA.** The air around the central library of Alappuzha Medical College campus at Vandanam was heavy with sorrow, as grief-stricken faces gathered in silent tribute.

The pain turned into agony as the bodies of the five students were placed in front of the corridor of the library building. Many were seen hugging each other, yearning for consolation. “Our campus is different from others,” says a classmate, who did not wish to be named. “In a mere 45 days, we had all become ‘chunk bros’. We hail from different parts of the state and various family backgrounds, but one and half months were all it took to build close friendships on campus,” he added. “Caste, creed, and politics are irrelevant among friends. When some of them expressed the desire to go see a movie, others joined in. But lack of transportation for the second



the library building. Many were seen hugging each other, yearning for consolation. “Our campus is different from others,” says a classmate, who did not wish to be named. “In a mere 45 days, we had all become ‘chunk bros’. We hail from different parts of the state and various family backgrounds, but one and half months were all it took to build close friendships on campus,” he added. “Caste, creed, and politics are irrelevant among friends. When some of them expressed the desire to go see a movie, others joined in. But lack of transportation for the second show was a problem. Finally, Gouri Shankar arranged a van, and 11 tickets for the Malayalam flick Sookshmarshini were booked. Those who missed out were disappointed, but I believe it was destiny,” he said, weeping. **ALAPPUZHA:** The air around the central library of Alappuzha Medical College campus at Vandanam was heavy with sorrow, as grief-stricken faces gathered in silent tribute. The pain turned into agony as the bodies of the five students were placed in front of the corridor of

**After year-long delay, Gyaspur jungle safari gets the green light**

**Ahmedabad.** After a series of flip-flops and bureaucratic hurdles, the ambitious plan for a 500-acre jungle safari and biodiversity park in Gyaspur is finally moving forward. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has approved the project and sent a preliminary report to Delhi for approval. Once greenlit, a detailed project report (DPR) will be prepared to bring this vision to life, said sources.

The park is planned as an extension of the Kamla Nehru Zoological Park at Kankaria Lakefront and will be developed on land originally acquired during the British era as part of a 3,000-acre sewerage farm. A senior official of the AMC says, “The plan is to establish a jungle safari and biodiversity park at Gyaspur, which will be larger than the Statue of Unity. The first step is to appoint a consultant to prepare the DPR. The consultant's duties will include everything from site mapping and case studies to developing the



park's infrastructure, habitats for animals, and visitor amenities. “Gyaspur is the only place in Ahmedabad city where such a large piece of land is available, says the official, adding: “Additionally, the village is located on the banks of the Sabarmati. The undulating terrain and natural habitat make it an ideal location for observing birds, including migratory species, and for creating a safari experience.” The official further adds, “We will have to bring in new animals for the jungle safari. Further

action will be taken after approval from Delhi.” The initiative not only aims to offer a unique recreational space for Amdavadis but also contribute to biodiversity conservation efforts and environmental education. One of the key highlights of this project is the focus on biodiversity. The parks will showcase a diverse range of tree species and create natural habitats for various animal species. This approach aims to allow visitors of all ages to engage with and learn about wildlife and ecology. AMC sources revealed that earlier attempts to appoint a consultant for the DPR had stalled due to lack of interest from officials. Despite tenders being issued in Aug 2023, no proposals were received initially, prompting multiple deadline extensions. The process resumed in Nov when a consultant came forward. However, the tender process was cancelled due to lack of interest from office-bearers of the elected wing.

**Bid to block 'Pushpa 2: The Rule' release invites wrath of Telangana HC**

**The costs are to be directed to organisations supporting trafficked women and children.**

**HYDERABAD.** Making it clear that misuse of judicial time and resources would not be tolerated, Justice Moushumi Bhattacharya of the Telangana High Court on Tuesday dismissed a petition seeking to stay on the December 5 release of the Telugu movie Pushpa 2: The Rule and imposed an unspecified amount as costs on the petitioner, Sararapu Srisailem of Nallagutta, Secunderabad. The costs are to be directed to organisations supporting trafficked women and children. The petitioner claimed that Pushpa: The Rise glorified the smuggling of red sandalwood, and feared that the

sequel would promote a similar message thus harming societal values. However, Justice Bhattacharya rejected the plea, calling it speculative and lacking substantive evidence. “The petitioner relied solely on the teaser, which is insufficient to substantiate such apprehensions,” the judge remarked. The court expressed concerns over the timing and intent of the petition, which was filed just three days before the film's scheduled release. “This last-minute attempt raises doubts about the petitioner's motives,” the judge noted. Deputy Solicitor General Gadi Praveen

Kumar defended the film's release, stating that the censor board had already reviewed Pushpa 2: The Rule and approved it with five modifications in compliance with the Cinematography Act and related rules. “The petitioner has no locus standi in this matter and failed to establish any valid grounds for stalling the movie,” Kumar argued. In her order, Justice Bhattacharya highlighted that halting the release would cause undue harm to the producers and directors of the film. The court will announce the exact amount of costs to be paid by the petitioner shortly.



## Courts letting ancient sores erupt afresh

WHEN in a hole, stop digging further — thus goes the familiar proverb. After the Ayodhya temple judgments, Indian courts are now sought to be engaged in a frenetic digging up of ancient religious grievances of a similar nature.

The underlying primary assumption is that many mosques were built upon temples that had been demolished by invaders. The second assumption is that notwithstanding the passage of centuries of time, there is today a legal right to restore the old temple by demolishing the existing mosque if necessary. The third assumption is that any court anywhere in India can grant executable decrees of change of character of a place of worship of one faith, to a worshipper of another faith. None of these assumptions was upheld by the five-judge Constitution Bench that passed the Ayodhya verdict. The judgment refutes the claim that a temple was brought down to build a mosque in medieval India. It awards decrees to both religions as having established their rights of worship at the spot. However, using the Supreme Court's special powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, it imposed a majoritarian peace by pushing away the mosque to an alternative site and letting a temple be built on the original site.

Thus, all three assumptions listed above stood legally negated by the judgment that ran into over a thousand pages. Implicit in the judgment was the acceptance that the resolution of the Ayodhya dispute was to be treated as a one-off event and not as a precedent for further claims. However, the message that percolated down to the public was that the Supreme Court had upheld the building of a temple where a mosque once stood. Public perception, therefore, was that all mosques were, henceforth, fair game for conversion. What the courts did soon thereafter only added to the public perception. The Ayodhya judgment had barely been delivered that cases were filed for the conversion of mosques in Mathura and Varanasi. The mosque committees responded that the suits had to be dismissed because the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act of 1991 prohibited the change of character of any place of worship that existed as on August 15, 1947. The Act of 1991 had been upheld unanimously in the Ayodhya judgment.

Thus, in the fresh Gyanvapi dispute, when an order of the courts in Varanasi was carried to the SC, the court had an opportunity to nip the trouble in the bud. That was not to be. It was an ill-considered remark by presiding judge DY Chandrachud — that the courts could still inquire into what the exact character of the place was on the first day of Independence — that gave a fresh life to the suit and let loose the dragon seeds of fresh hatred.

Running parallel to the Varanasi dispute was the dispute regarding the Eidgah in Mathura. Both suits were allowed by the SC to proceed and work their way through the court system. Some interim orders were also passed, depriving the Muslim side of the use of some portion of the facilities and allowing surveys to be done by the Archaeological Survey of India and various court commissioners. The upshot is that courts are now instruments of an Ayodhyaesque kar seva.

It may well be that the judges of the Supreme Court felt it to be safer for public passions to be expended in the long process of the Indian litigation. They possibly thought that the legal process would help a nation resolve uncomfortable questions from the past. What they did not perceive was that disputes about religious sites are not about religions but about nationalism itself. Are we a nation of unity in diversity or are we a unitarian civilisation? Journalist and author Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, in his book on Ayodhya, *The Demolition and the Verdict*, writes: "... 'inclusive' or 'multiple sub-nationalisms' (region and religion) were amalgamated into pan-Indian nationalism by the Congress, especially with the advent of Gandhi.

## Shaky Dhaka needs a helping hand

**EVER since a popular revolt overthrew the government of Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh, the country has been rocked by violence and disorder. The minority Hindu community there has been targeted. New Delhi has expressed strong concerns about these incidents to...**

EVER since a popular revolt overthrew the government of Sheikh Hasina in Bangladesh, the country has been rocked by violence and disorder. The minority Hindu community there has been targeted. New Delhi has expressed strong concerns about these incidents to Dhaka, saying that the primary responsibility for the safety and security of "all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh".

Developments in the country can be seen in two ways. First, after the iron hand of Hasina's Awami League government has been lifted, the country is reverting to a situation of semi-anarchy, with the Islamists and Pakistan's ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) holding sway and the Hindu minority being persecuted. The second approach would be to consider that Bangladesh is going through a temporary phase in which the country, which did not have real democracy for the past decade, is trying to find its feet under the aegis of an interim government.

Bangladesh is perhaps the most consequential neighbour of India in South Asia, being 'India-locked' — of its 4,367-km land boundary, just 271 km is with Myanmar and the remaining 4,096 with India. It borders Tripura, Mizoram, Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal and holds the key to the economic development as well as security of our northeastern region.

Given the nature of the Bangladesh border, it is difficult to completely seal it; as a result, the policies of various governments of the country have had a vital bearing on our security. India's relations with Bangladesh have seen ups and downs. Beginning with India's role in helping Bangladesh emerge as an independent nation, it has been a rollercoaster ride for bilateral ties as dictators Ziaur Rahman and HM Ershad encouraged the Islamisation of the country in a bid to maintain their control. As in Pakistan, the Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) has played a significant role and grown in the process, despite the fact that it fought against the freedom movement of the country. But what happens in Bangladesh is not just about India but the wider region, including China, Myanmar and South-East Asia. The creeping radicalisation of its large Muslim population could have wider global consequences. Besides the JeI, there are other

radical groups, like the Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami and the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, as well as elements of the al-Qaeda and the Islamic State. A network of madarsa leaders, Hefazat-e-Islam, too, wants Sharia rule in the country and is opposed to the establishment of a secular polity there. The JeI's alliance with the Bangladesh National Party (BNP), headed by Begum Khaleda Zia, has been a major

location at the head of the Bay of Bengal, next to the Rakhine state of Myanmar, where it has important investments and from where a pipeline carries oil from the port of Kyaukpyu to Yunnan in China, bypassing the Malacca Strait. Beijing has invested large amounts of money in constructing bridges, roads and power plants in Bangladesh and has also emerged as the biggest military supplier to the country. For many of the reasons cited above, New Delhi needs to handle things with care in Bangladesh. It is true that the situation is extremely volatile and can go out of control, resulting in negative consequences for India. The situation is compounded by the fact that the ISI is likely to be working overtime to impose an anti-India narrative on the popular movement there.

India needs to draw lessons from its successful handling of strained ties with neighbours recently. By providing financial succour to Sri Lanka during its economic crisis, it has bought considerable goodwill, which is paying dividends with the government of Anura Kumara Dissanayake. Likewise, by calmly dealing with President Muizzu of Maldives, New Delhi has managed to blunt his "India out" strategy.

Similar dividends are visible in Nepal — the nominally anti-India Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, who is on an official visit to China, had made it clear beforehand that his country would not sign any new loan agreement with Beijing under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Indeed, the Nepalese want to sign a new agreement with China that will narrow the scope of BRI in their country.

With Bangladesh, too, India needs to adopt a policy of strategic patience. Bangladesh is a country in transition. New Delhi needs to support the process of restoring democracy there. There has been a tendency to exaggerate the attacks on Hindus. After an initial upsurge, such attacks have come down. We also must understand that our one-sided support to Hasina has resulted in suspicion about our motives and there is need to provide a corrective to our Bangladesh policy.



problem. As a result, her tenures as Prime Minister in 1991-96 and 2001-06 have been marked by problems arising out of the virtually free rein given to the ISI and the sanctuary provided to an assortment of insurgent groups active against India in the North-East.

The India-Bangladesh relationship stabilised with the establishment of Hasina's government in 2009. Most importantly, it helped check the use of Bangladeshi territory by anti-India elements, be it the ISI or various north-eastern insurgent groups. This led to the reopening of land routes connecting the two nations and signing of the Motor Vehicles Agreement by BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal) to promote regional movement of traffic. China has developed significant interest in Bangladesh both as part of its larger policy of containing India as well as exploiting the country's

## Population push

**RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has sounded the alarm. He has expressed concern over a paradoxical situation: population growth in the world's most populous country is on the decline. Painting an apocalyptic picture, Bhagwat has warned that a society whose total...**

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat has sounded the alarm. He has expressed concern over a paradoxical situation: population growth in the world's most populous country is on the decline. Painting an apocalyptic picture, Bhagwat has warned that a society whose total fertility rate (TFR) dips below 2.1 could disappear off the face of the earth. He has a solution: Hum Do Hamare Teen — every couple should have at least three children. Does the RSS Sarsanghchalak want members of every community in the country — majority as well as minority — to produce more kids? That seems unlikely, going by what Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at an election rally in Banswara, Rajasthan, in April. In a thinly veiled attack on a particular community, the PM had equated 'infiltrators' with "those who have more children".

Bhagwat is worried most probably because of the findings of a working paper released by the Economic Advisory Council to the PM a few weeks after Modi's controversial speech. It says that the share of Hindus in India's



population decreased by 7.82 per cent between 1950 and 2015, while that of Muslims increased by 43 per cent. The worst-case scenario for the RSS chief is the majority

community being reduced to a minority. Ironically, Health Minister JP Nadda, while addressing a meeting on World Population Day (July 11), stated that 'smaller families' could help India achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat. It's true that India's fertility rate has fallen significantly, in part due to a laudable rise in the contraceptive prevalence rate. A low TFR has prompted Andhra Pradesh to do away with its two-child policy, while Telangana is keen to follow suit. However, various states would be well advised to take stock of the resources available while reversing time-tested family planning measures. Can they handle the additional demographic burden in terms of healthcare, education, job generation and poverty alleviation? It's tempting for political and religious leaders to play the numbers game and stoke communal fires, but they should not overlook the implications of such actions for India's long-term social and economic stability.

## What holds back Punjab's draft agricultural policy

**IAM often asked about my tenure as the Chairman of the Punjab State Farmers' & Farm Workers' Commission (April 6, 2017-September 20, 2021). On the very first day, without even a hint of guidance on what my work entailed, flummoxed...**

IAM often asked about my tenure as the Chairman of the Punjab State Farmers' & Farm Workers' Commission (April 6, 2017-September 20, 2021). On the very first day, without even a hint of guidance on what my work entailed, flummoxed but undeterred, I sent a letter to the Department of Agriculture, asking it to provide information on pesticide, seed and fertiliser sample failures in the state.

The data — that would have taken a few hours to put together in the private sector — took two years of dogged perseverance and persuasive cajoling to get. It took six months just to get an officer from the department to assist the commission in its work. Having never worked in the government, the chase taught me a vital lesson: the real problem is not the government, it is the bureaucracy. That was lesson number one. I cut the long story short, the commission found many instances of pesticide, fertiliser and seed sample failures where no cases had been filed for the past 10 years or had been time-barred. Consequently, around 150 officers were charge-sheeted. I was informed that the officers had threatened to go on strike. However, the commission's aim was not to penalise anyone, which it ensured, but thereafter, compliance became 100 per cent. The same happened a little later when we proposed that the government create a price stabilisation fund for milk, food and vegetables by imposing a 20 per cent fee on the charges received by the arhtiyas for the procurement of grains for the FCI. The arhtiyas arrived, flexing their muscles. I told them that if they were to agitate at my doorstep, it would do good for the commission's image. However, they easily convinced the government to

ignore my advice. Initially, different departments were to brief me on their working and issues so as to understand how the system worked. Instead, the commission decided to visit all departments and meet the officers and junior staff in their respective offices. It proved to be an eye-opener. It led to the next awakening: "inept governance" holds back progress. Consequently, in the draft agricultural policy, the first chapter is on "governance". It was the first-ever policy of any kind to identify governance as a problem and a solution. It was not palatable for many but, with time, my stand was vindicated. The commission only has an advisory role. Yet, I have regrets — not for the work I did, but about the decisions I did not make or was dissuaded from taking. It is hard to quantify all the work in brief here, but some laws that got enacted during my tenure were path-breaking. I was doubtful that the then state Chief Minister, Capt Amarinder Singh, would agree to banning truck unions, but his administrative acumen being outstanding, truck unions were banned. Though they kept operating in some places like Bathinda. That was the third learning: never be afraid to punch above your weight. On regulating the electricity subsidy to the economically better farmers, the CM was persuaded by his office not to tread the politically contentious path, even though the farmers' unions had concurred with this suggestion.

I must acknowledge that farmers' union leaders were supportive of the commission's efforts in policy formation. Making the draft of Punjab state farmers' policy taught us the fourth valuable lesson: a transparent consultation process is a fundamental

requirement for achieving positive policy outcomes. Additionally, we ensured that Punjab banned the sale of herbicide glyphosate, the only state to do so.

There were other remarkable wins. In 2002, the government had allocated over 300 acres of land in Ladhawal near Ludhiana to a business group for a



measly Rs 2,000 per acre for supporting agriculture. On finding out that the land was not being used for the purpose, the commission submitted a report on the issue, based on which the group returned the land without litigation to the state. That was the fifth takeaway: success is only possible if one works as a team as the commission did; not as individuals.

My own experiences derived from my farm at Abohar helped me in my work at the commission. Agriculture college students train at our farm as a part of their degree course. Their practical knowledge is left wanting in many aspects. After joining the

commission, I was shocked to learn that unlike medical colleges that are regulated by the Union Government, agriculture colleges were not regulated. Agriculture is a state subject and the state did not have any such law. On the commission's suggestion, the state government enacted the Punjab State Council for Higher Education Act 2017. Out of the 112 colleges in the state, the Punjab State Council for Higher Education (PSCAE) asked students to avoid taking admission in colleges offering BSc (agricultural) which were not fulfilling conditions under the Act. It also released a list of the institutes that complied with the minimum standards prescribed. The list had only 15 names. The farm experience had also taught me about the difficulty of viably operating a greenhouse. We decided to list each greenhouse subsidised by government agencies. To its shock, the commission documented that over 90 per cent greenhouses had stopped operating within three to four years. There were many other such instances. The commission had a similar experience on the suo motu inquiry report on canal water pollution in the Beas river from the Chadha distillery spill. The sixth learning was that the system tends to turn a blind eye to failures and evidence-based research should influence the policy and action. We, thus, recommended that actual beneficiaries be allowed to assess the programme outcomes. When the commission reached out to district headquarters to follow up on the rehabilitation of families affected by farmers' suicide, it found that, like other laws, it was not even on their agenda.

# Himachal

# Gobind Sagar Lake introduces parasailing activity to boost tourism

Parasailing activities are set to begin at Govind Sagar Lake in Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh, with a leading Delhi-based company conducting trial operations from December. If successful, parasailing will become a permanent attraction, enhancing the lake's status as a premier water sports destination and generating local employment opportunities.

introduces parasailing activity to boost



Adventure enthusiasts have something exciting to look forward to in Himachal Pradesh. As per the reports, parasailing activities are set to commence at Govind Sagar Lake in Bilaspur district, Himachal Pradesh. A leading Delhi-based company, currently operating in Tehri, Uttarakhand, has been invited to conduct trial operations for this thrilling venture, officials confirmed recently. Referring to this development, Deputy Commissioner of Bilaspur, Aabid Hussain Sadiq stated that all necessary approvals have been granted for the project. The company will bring specialised parasailing boats to the lake in the first week of December to begin the trial phase, which will last for two months.

A technical committee comprising experts will monitor the trials to ensure the safety and feasibility of the operations. Based on the trial results, the District Regulation Committee will evaluate the project for granting formal permits and developing a structured operational framework. If successful, parasailing will become a permanent feature at Govind Sagar Lake, enhancing its appeal as a premier destination for water sports in Himachal Pradesh. Govind Sagar Lake already attracts tourists with activities like cruise rides and shikara rides. The addition of parasailing promises to elevate the lake's status as a hub for water-based adventure tourism. "Parasailing will not only offer an exhilarating

experience for visitors but also create employment opportunities for locals, contributing to the region's economic growth," said DC Sadiq. He also hinted at plans for expanding water sports offerings in the future, aiming to make Bilaspur a focal point for water tourism in North India. Popular adventure sports in Himachal Pradesh It's given that Himachal Pradesh is a haven for adventure lovers, and has endless activities that cater to all kinds of thrill-seekers. Besides the upcoming parasailing at Govind Sagar Lake, the other exciting options that have been popular and luring tourists from far and near are: Paragliding in Bir Billing: Also known as the

paragliding capital of India, this activity in Bir Billing takes you high up above the air to offer stunning aerial views of the Himalayan landscape. River rafting in Kullu and Manali: Try river rafting here in the Beas River which provides the perfect setting for these adrenaline-pumping experiences. Skiing in Solang Valley: If you enjoy adventure sports and want to travel to Solang Valley, which is a haven for skiers, this trip should definitely be on your bucket list. Dharamshala rock climbing: The untamed landscape surrounding Dharamshala provides fantastic bouldering and rock climbing conditions.

## Spotting wildlife on foot

Trekking through India's best

## National parks

Spotting wildlife on foot: Trekking through India's national parks India's national parks are not only havens for wildlife, but also offer some of the most breathtaking trekking experiences. Unbelievable, right! It's not just for the jeep safaris that people visit national park parks. There are many such national parks in the country that offer the options of exploring the jungles on foot, which allows visitors to gather a distinctive viewpoint of the natural world. Trekkers can get up close and personal with wildlife and immerse themselves in a variety of environments with this activity. Here are some of the best national parks in the country where you can try trekking, and spot wildlife up close.

### Great Himalayan National Park, Himachal Pradesh

The Great Himalayan National Park, a UNESCO Heritage Site, is a must-visit place for adventure and trek lovers. There are several trekking routes that the park offers, which take travellers through lush forests and alpine meadows, and offer them a slice of nature. This park also serves as home to the elusive snow leopard, Himalayan tahr, and various bird species, making it a paradise for nature lovers. You can opt for guided tours to remain safe by choosing the best trails, and weather conditions for treks.

### Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh

It's definitely one of the best locations in the country to see these magnificent large cats in their native environment. This place is also well-known for its tiger conservation initiatives. For an enriching experience, you can opt for guided walks through the park's lush bamboo and sal forests. Do keep an eye out for the rich flora and fauna while trekking here, where you may spot barasingha (swamp deer) and a

range of birds, including the Indian roller.

### Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, Kerala

Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, since it's set in the Western Ghats, is all about breathtaking landscapes, which are further complemented with rolling hills and serene lakes. Trekking through this sanctuary might take you closer to spot elephants, barking deer, and the Nilgiri langur in their natural habitat. Guided hikes led by local tribal tribes are offered by the park's eco-tourism projects, which enhance your experience by providing you with knowledge about the biodiversity and conservation efforts of the area.

### Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh

Bandhavgarh National Park, well-known for its dense tiger population, is another excellent place to go trekking. Since it boasts of diverse topography, including hills, valleys, and thick forests, you get various options on the plate to explore as per your choice. Guided treks offer the chance to see tigers, leopards, and other wildlife as well as to learn about the park's ecology and take in the stunning views from the historic Bandhavgarh Fort.

### Hemis National Park, Ladakh

Hemis National Park is another best place in the country, where you get to spot the snow leopards. Also, the park's rugged terrain offers adventurous trekking routes through the breathtaking, remote landscapes of the Himalayas. Trekkers can test their limits and explore high-altitude meadows, glacial valleys, ancient monasteries, and much more.



# "Respectfully Disagree": Congress MP Vs Narayana Murthy On Work-Life Balance

New Delhi. After Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy reignited debates on work-life balance, Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi on Wednesday responded and expressed his disagreement to the tech tycoon's statement supporting grinding, relentless work hours--an 'overwork culture.' Gaurav Gogoi countered Narayana Murthy's beliefs of work-life balance as an indulgent myth and highlighted the perspective where the traditional division of labor between men and women in the household is being challenged, in context to work-life balance. Mr Gogoi shared his disagreement with Narayana Murthy's view on work-life balance, who is known for his strong stance on the importance of work-life balance.

also disagree with the view of Narayana Murthy on work-life balance. After all what is life but looking after your children, cooking for them, teaching them, taking care of your elderly parents, being there for your friends in their times of need, making sure that your house in order. The above is just as much a man's job as it is a women's."

Mr Gogoi describes life not only in terms of professional work but also as a combination of various personal responsibilities--raising children, caring for elderly parents, managing the household, and supporting friends. This paints a picture of life as a balancing act between multiple roles, all of which are demanding and require time and energy. Mr Gogoi points to an egalitarian view where both men and women share the burden of maintaining



the household and raising children. His post further read, "Traditionally working women don't even have the choice to cut away life from work. It is a luxury that traditionally men have and one that they have to forego in the modern world." Mr Gogoi suggests that in the modern world, men no longer have the same luxury of "cutting away life from work," implying that both men and women are now

required to manage work and life responsibilities more equally, and that the concept of work-life balance is a challenge for everyone, not just women. Mr Gogoi calls for a more equitable sharing of all roles within the family and workplace. His response comes after a user on X shared an open letter to Narayana Murthy, respectfully disagreeing with his opinion on work life balance. "I respectfully disagree with you sir on work life balance. Employees are not slaves. Working longer hours doesn't mean better productivity. Several countries have switched to a 4 day work week and are doing better. Women don't have the luxury of working 70/80 hours a week either," shared the user on X with an attachment of the letter. Narayana Murthy at the CNBC Global Leadership Summit championed a 70-hour workweek as essential for India's economic rise.

## BJP forms committees to strategise on Delhi assembly election campaign

With the upcoming election, the saffron party is leaving no stone unturned in its efforts to win.

NEW DELHI. Ahead of the Delhi assembly elections scheduled for February 2025, the Delhi BJP has set up 47 committees, comprising former and current leaders, sitting MPs, and former ministers, to shape the party's election campaign. The committees will focus on key areas, including manifesto preparation, outreach to women, youth, Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Poorvanchalis, and beneficiaries of central government schemes. The BJP, which has not been in power in Delhi since 1998, faces a tough challenge after consecutive defeats to Congress in 1998, 2003, and 2008, and to AAP in 2015 and 2020. With the upcoming election, the saffron party is leaving no stone



turned in its efforts to win. In mid-November, the BJP formed its Election Steering Committee, which includes prominent members like Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, Union minister Harshdeep Malhotra, BJP national general secretary Dushyant Gautam, MPs Manoj Tiwari, Arvinder Singh Lovely, Kailash Gahlot, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Ramvir Singh Bidhuri, Vijender Gupta, Satish Upadhyay, Yogendra Chandolia, Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Bansuri Swaraj, and Praveen Khandelwal. Baijayant Panda, BJP's national vice president, has been appointed as the election in-charge, with Atul Garg, MP from Ghaziabad, serving as co-in-charge. The state unit has also formed a 12-member manifesto committee, headed by former south Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri, with members including Dr Harsh Vardhan, Arvinder Singh Lovely, Vijay Goel, Satish Upadhyay, Meenakshi Lekhi, and Praveen Sahib Singh Verma. Additionally, the party has set up a Parivartan Yatra committee to manage its padyatra, which will commence soon. An 11-member Aarop Patra committee (state chargesheet committee) has been constituted to target the AAP-led Delhi government. The committee, led by Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi assembly Vijender Gupta, includes former MP Ramesh Bidhuri, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, RP Singh, former Delhi mayor Aarti Mehra, LoP in MCD Raja Iqbal Singh, and Kapil Mishra, among others. A senior Delhi BJP leader said, "The BJP is committed to serving the people."

## Three of a family stabbed to death in Delhi's Neb Sarai

NEW DELHI. Three members of the same family were stabbed to death at their residence in South Delhi's Neb Sarai area in the early hours of Wednesday. The deceased individuals were identified as Rajesh (55), Komal (47), and their daughter Kavita (23). According to officials, the police rushed to the spot after receiving the information on the incident around 5.30 a.m. Their son found the bodies lying in the house after he returned from a morning walk, preliminary enquiries revealed. The cops have cordoned off the entire area and the forensic teams are scanning the crime scene. Meanwhile, strongly reacting over the incident former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal once slammed



the BJP-ruled central government over the deteriorating law and order situation. "Three murders in the same house in Neb Sarai.... This is extremely painful and frightening. Every day Delhiites wake up to such frightening news" Kejriwal posted on X.

"Homes are being destroyed, innocent lives are being lost. Those who are responsible are silently watching it happen. Will the Central government keep quiet and watch the law and order situation in Delhi collapse? Will his party still say that crime is not an issue in Delhi?" the AAP convener questioned. He also alleged that the criminals have been given a free hand in the city.

## Security remains 'unsatisfactory' at Delhi hospitals: AIIMS RDA chief

NEW DELHI. Months after junior doctors across the country went on strike following the brutal rape and murder of a female colleague in Kolkata, security measures at Delhi's government hospitals remain inadequate. The tragic incident sparked nationwide outrage and calls for a central law to protect healthcare workers, alongside demands for better security, workplace conditions, and swift legal action against those who harm medical professionals.

In Delhi, the Resident Doctors Associations (RDAs) of seven government hospitals led the protests. However, despite several promises from authorities, doctors continue to express dissatisfaction with the progress made. "The improvement in security measures is far from satisfactory, even after four months," said Dr Rajat Sharma, president of the RDA at Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital. Recent incidents highlight the risks healthcare workers still face. At Safdarjung Hospital, an IPS officer verbally assaulted a resident doctor, while at GTB Hospital, a crowd barged into the duty room and threatened to kill a medical intern.

"Just a few days ago, the administration fast-tracked a proposal to enhance security measures, but only after repeated reminders. This reflects their lack of seriousness in addressing workplace violence," Dr. Sharma added.

Dr Sarada Prasad Sahoo, president of the RDA at Lady Hardinge Medical College, echoed similar concerns. While there has been a slight increase in the number of security guards, key demands, such as the deployment of marshals or bouncers in high-risk areas, remain unmet, said Sahoo. "Merely increasing guards isn't enough. We have consistently asked for marshals, CCTV cameras, well-lit corridors, and female security staff for women doctors. Yet, the authorities' standard response is, 'the file is in process,'" the doctor added. Doctors continue to call for decisive action to ensure their protection, emphasizing that their ability to save lives depends on working in a safe and secure environment.

In an interview with Dr. Indra Shekhar Prasad, president of the RDA at the AIIMS Hospital, Ashish Srivastava discusses the most pressing issue and possible solutions. Excerpts.

## Delhi government orders five-year CAG audit of women's university accounts

NEW DELHI. The Delhi Government has decided to conduct a Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audit of the accounts of the Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGDTUW) for five years, a statement issued by the chief minister's office said on Tuesday. Chief Minister Atishi has approved the audit to ensure financial accountability and transparency, the statement added.

Atishi said this decision will ensure transparency and accountability in the financial affairs of IGDTUW. "Through the audit, any irregularities or financial mismanagement will be identified and addressed," she added. The CM emphasised that improving the quality of education and ensuring efficient financial management are top priorities for the AAP government. "The CAG audit will guarantee that taxpayers' money is utilised



appropriately and effectively," she added. The chief minister also noted that the audit will ensure a thorough examination of all financial transactions and expenditures of the university. "This process will not only help curb financial mismanagement but also introduce greater transparency across the system. The CAG audit will promote administrative transparency," she said. IGDTUW is an independent government engineering college in the national capital with Delhi L-G

VK Saxena serving as its chancellor.

Last week, Saxena wrote to Atishi over Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports pending tabling in the Delhi Assembly, and called it unfortunate. The L-G said he had raised this issue with her predecessor, Arvind Kejriwal on several occasions and flagged the gross Constitutional "impropriety" of the government in this regard. He also reminded the Delhi CM that the office of CAG has sent several reminders to my office requesting urgent action in this regard.

### Improving quality of education top priority: Atishi

The CM emphasised that improving the quality of education and ensuring efficient financial management are top priorities for the AAP government. "The CAG audit will guarantee that taxpayers' money is utilised appropriately and effectively," she added.

## Man shot dead following dispute in Mangolpuri, Kejriwal calls out cops

**The probe revealed that Pankaj was gunned down in front of his nephew when the three assailants began firing indiscriminately towards the duo. The nephew ran but Pankaj succumbed to his injuries.**

NEW DELHI. A 19-year-old man was shot dead in the wee hours of Tuesday in the Mangolpuri area by three men who fired at least half a dozen bullets at him. The deceased, identified as Pankaj was a resident of X block in Mangolpuri and worked at a garment factory. DCP (Outer district) Sachin Sharma said they received information regarding a man being brought dead at a hospital following which a police team reached the hospital and enquired about the incident.

The probe revealed that Pankaj was gunned down in front of his nephew when the three assailants began firing indiscriminately towards the duo. The nephew ran but Pankaj succumbed to his injuries. Based on the nephew's statement, the police registered a case of murder against the accused. "The accused have been identified. Multiple teams are working to



nab the accused. Suspicious persons are being rounded up to know about the whereabouts of the accused," the DCP said. Former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal criticised the Delhi Police for deteriorating law and order situation in the capital. "Last night, a man was shot dead in Mangolpuri. Day before yesterday three murders happened in Delhi. Delhiites must raise their

voice against crime. The important thing is the safety of yourself and your family," he wrote on X. On Tuesday, the AAP chief met the grieving family of Manish, a young man who was brutally murdered by two boys in Shalimar Bagh area. "The situation has spiraled out of control--people are afraid to step out of their homes after sunset," he said, vowing to stand with Delhiites and fight for their safety.

Kejriwal expressed serious concerns over the way the police is handling the case. "A major concern is that eyewitness Himanshu's official statement has not been taken and that the statement recorded in Himanshu's name is false. This clearly indicates that the police are trying to protect the culprits. It raises questions about whether the police are working under some external pressure or orders from higher authorities."

## 'No effective action': NGT pulls up officials for failing to restore ponds

**The NGT noted that of the six ponds in dispute, five are under DDA's control and one is managed by DSIIIC.**



NEW DELHI. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has summoned key officials, including the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) Vice-Chairman, the District Magistrate of West Delhi, and Delhi State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Managing Director over their failure to restore ponds in the national capital. A bench led by Justice Sudhir Agarwal expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of progress, stating that "no effective action has been taken" and no evidence was

provided to demonstrate steps toward restoring the ponds to their original state. The bench, which also includes expert member Afroz Ahmad, emphasised that the DM, as Chairperson of the District Wetland Committee under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, is responsible for preventing damage, encroachment, or degradation of water bodies. The NGT noted that of the six ponds in dispute, five are under

DDA's control and one is managed by DSIIIC. Despite assurances from DDA's counsel on October 25, that restoration efforts were underway and substantial progress would be achieved in a month, no compliance report has been submitted. The tribunal criticised the lack of detailed information, stating, "We find no option... but to direct personal appearance of V-C, DDA, District Magistrate, West Delhi, and Managing

Director, DSIIIC before tribunal on the next date." The matter is scheduled for a hearing on December 13, with the NGT directing the authorities to present the current status and steps taken to restore the ponds. The case originated in May 2022 from a letter petition alleging the illegal filling of ponds and their conversion for other purposes, including road construction. The ponds in question include Shanguhar, Guga, Johdi, Gulhi, and the historic Shishuwala Talab. The NGT had ordered a joint committee of the Central Ground Water Authority, Delhi Pollution Control Committee, and District Commissioner, West Delhi, to report on the issue.

### Encroachments persist

The NGT noted that of the six ponds in dispute, five are under DDA's control and one is managed by DSIIIC. Despite earlier directives, the applicant claimed in a November 7 submission that encroachments persist, with BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd allegedly constructing a fenced.



# 7 temples in Assam

to be connected via waterways in

## Brahmaputra River



In a recent update, the Assam government has got approval from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways to develop 10 waterway projects that will connect seven prominent temples in the state. As per proposal, the waterways will work on a "Hop on & Hop off" basis.

As per the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, the project will be built with an investment of INR 645.56 crore under the Sagarmala Scheme. The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has granted approval for the projects.

**The Waterways will connect the following 7 temples:**

**Kamakhya Temple:** Kamakhya Temple is one of the prime temples in Assam, India. It is also among the most ancient Shakti Peethas dedicated to the goddess Kamakhya. The temple attracts devotees from across the globe for its unique rituals and the Ambubachi Mela, celebrating the goddess's yearly menstruation cycle.

**Pandunath Temple:** Pandunath Temple in the Kaziranga National Park is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is related with the Pandavas from the Mahabharata, and attracts both devotees from all over.

**12 places in India that are most searched by foreign tourists**  
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**Ashwaktanta Temple:** Ashwaktanta Temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna and is noted for its peaceful surroundings. The statue of Krishna here is believed to be installed by the legendary sage, Narada.

**Doul Govinda Temple:** Doul Govinda Temple in Tezpur, Assam, is also dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple is known for its colourful celebrations during the Holi festival.

**Umananda Temple:** Umananda Temple is another ancient temple built on Peacock Island in the Brahmaputra River. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is accessible by boat. People can have scenic experiences.

**Chakreshwar Temple:** Chakreshwar Temple is a beautiful temple in the village of Hajo, Assam. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and the place is noted for its quiet atmosphere and historical significance.

**Auniati Satra Temple:** Auniati Satra, founded in the 17th century, is in Majuli, one of the most beautiful and unexplored places in Assam. The place is a prominent Vaishnavite monastery dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple is known for its rich cultural and religious significance.

As per reports, the waterways will promote river tourism in the state. The plans are to develop 12 floating terminals, two multimodal terminals at Pandu and Jogighopa, and two permanent terminals at Bogibeel and Dhubri.

# Paris

Notre-Dame Cathedral set to reopen after five years; know all about it here

After more than five years of meticulous restoration following a devastating fire of April 19, 2019, the iconic Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris is set to reopen this weekend. The highly anticipated event marks a historic milestone for one of the world's most beloved landmarks.

The reopening ceremonies will begin on Saturday afternoon with a symbolic service led by Paris Archbishop Laurent Ulrich. He will strike the cathedral's doors with his staff, a traditional gesture to signify the reopening. The archbishop will also breathe life back into Notre-Dame's legendary grand organ, whose 8,000 pipes—coated in toxic dust from the fire—have been painstakingly disassembled, cleaned, and restored.

**24 hours in Paris**  
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pianist Lang Lang, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and singers Angelique Kidjo and Hiba Tawaji. Notre-Dame, whose spire collapsed in the tragic 2019 blaze, has undergone one of the most ambitious restoration projects in modern history. Craftsmen, architects, and historians collaborated tirelessly to preserve its Gothic heritage, while modernizing safety standards. The reopening of the cathedral is more than just a milestone for Paris.

The Ile de la Cité, home to Notre-Dame, will be sealed off to the public throughout the weekend. Access will be limited to residents and invitees, including clergy and government officials. Shops and tourist services will be closed, and a security cordon will extend to surrounding bridges and a stretch of the Seine's southern bank.

Sunday morning will feature another landmark moment: the consecration of Notre-Dame's new altar during an inaugural mass led by the archbishop.

The celebrations will include a blend of religious rituals and artistic performances. French President Emmanuel Macron will attend the opening service, alongside nearly 50 heads of state and dignitaries from around the world. The evening will culminate in a spectacular concert featuring international stars such as

Nearly 170 bishops from France and other nations, along with clergy from all Paris parishes, will attend the service. Following the mass, a "fraternal buffet" will be organized for the needy, reinforcing the cathedral's enduring role as a beacon of compassion and community.



## Government has kept banks stable in last 10 years, says Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

**NEW DELHI.** Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday said the Indian banking system is critical to the growth of the nation and the government in the last 10 years has been extremely cautious so that banks remain stable. "The intention is to keep our banks safe, stable, healthy, and after 10 years you are seeing the outcome," the finance minister said while replying to a debate on the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024 in Lok Sabha. Today the banks are being professionally run, the public sector banks are safe, stable and healthy, and have performed exceptionally well in recent years. She added that the metrics of the banks are healthy so they can go to the market and raise bonds, raise loans and run their business accordingly.

She informed the lower house of parliament that total bank branches of scheduled commercial banks have increased by 3,792 in a year to reach 16,55,001 in September 2024. Out of this 85,116 branches are of public sector banks.

## 5.5 million customers port numbers to BSNL after private telcos hiked tariff

**NEW DELHI.** Nearly 5.5 million mobile users (till October 2024) ported their numbers to the state-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) after the tariff hikes announced by private telecom service providers in June 2024.

As per data from the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), there was a major rise in customer migrations from other telcos to BSNL from July to October 2024 period. In July 2024, BSNL saw 1.5 million users joining its network from Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, and Vodafone Idea (VIL). This number rose to 2.1 million in August, 1.1 million in September, and 0.7 million in October 2024. In contrast, BSNL experienced only 63,709 port-ins in June 2024, prior to the tariff hikes. At the same time, the number of customers leaving BSNL to switch to other networks had been higher in June 2024, with nearly 0.4 million users porting out. Following the tariff hikes, the rate of customer churn significantly decreased. By July 2024, only 0.31 million users left BSNL, and this number further dropped to 0.26 million in August, 0.28 million in September, and 0.51 million in October 2024.

Overall, the number of customers joining BSNL far outpaced those leaving the network during this period, with many consumers opting for the state-run operator. Additionally, BSNL experienced a surge in new SIM card sales. The company sold just 790,000 SIM cards in June 2024, but this number jumped to 4.9 million in July 2024, 5 million in August 2024, 2.8 million in September, and 1.9 million in October 2024. Meanwhile, the telecom industry saw a decline in subscriber numbers. As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), telcos collectively lost 10 million users in September 2024. Jio lost 7.9 million, Airtel lost 1.4 million, and VIL lost 1.5 million subscribers during the month. Robert Ravi, Chairman and MD of BSNL, stated that the company has no plans to increase its tariffs in the near future.

## India's Affordable Housing Market To Reach Rs 67 Lakh Cr By 2030, Demand At 31.2 Mn Units

**New Delhi.** India's affordable housing market is projected to reach Rs 67 lakh crore by 2030, with cumulative demand likely to be 31.2 million units, a report showed on Wednesday. The existing shortage as well as upcoming demand for the affordable housing segment in India is estimated to be 30.7 Mn units by 2030 and the opportunity to finance these units is calculated to be Rs 44 lakh crore, according to the report by Knight Frank India and CII.

Led by factors such as urbanisation and employment opportunities, 22.2 million units of housing will be required in urban centres in the country. Almost 95.2 per cent of this demand, equivalent to 21.1 million units, will be concentrated in the affordable housing segment, the report mentioned.

A predominant share of 45.8 per cent of the demand will be concentrated among the economically weaker section (EWS) households as there is already an existing shortage of 10.1 million units. The current portfolio of the affordable housing loan market in India is estimated to be Rs 13 lakh crore, with Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) constituting Rs 6.9 lakh crore and Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) holding a share of Rs 6.2 lakh crore.

"As urbanisation accelerates and income levels rise, affordable housing is positioned to play a pivotal role in shaping the country's real estate landscape," Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director, Shishir Bajjal, said.

Addressing this demand will require innovative strategies, including public-private partnerships, policy interventions, and advancements in construction technologies, making affordable housing not just a social imperative but also a critical driver of economic growth, he added. The loan market in this category is anticipated to experience significant expansion due to the escalating potential demand for affordable housing. The reliance on loans is notably high in the affordable housing segment as compared to premium in India. Based on an assumption of a 77 per cent loan dependency and loan-to-value (LTV) ratios applied at various loan thresholds, the potential financing opportunity for banks and Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) in the affordable housing segment is estimated to be Rs 45 lakh crore, said the report.

# IndiGo takes Mahindra to court over use of '6e' name

**NEW DELHI.** IndiGo has filed a trademark infringement suit against Mahindra Electric Automobile, objecting to the latter naming its upcoming EV as BE 6e as "6E" is the airline's flight code. Mahindra launched the electric car on Nov 26, with company officials insisting then there is no copyright infringement with use of 6e. IndiGo went to the court within days. Titled Interglobe Aviation (IndiGo parent) vs Mahindra Electric Automobile, the case was on Tuesday listed to be heard in the court of Justice Amit Bansal. However, the judge recused himself from hearing the matter. The next hearing is scheduled for Dec 9. Appearing for IndiGo, senior advocate Sandeep Sethi informed the court that Mahindra had initiated discussions with the airline to address the issue. In a statement, IndiGo said: "6E mark is an integral part of IndiGo's identity for the past 18 years and is a registered trademark that holds strong global recognition. The 6E mark,



whether standalone or in its variants and formative forms, is extensively used by IndiGo for its offerings and for goods and services provided in collaboration with trusted partners." The airline further said, "Any unauthorised use of the '6E' mark,

whether standalone or in any form, constitutes an infringement of IndiGo's rights, reputation and goodwill. IndiGo is committed to taking all necessary and appropriate steps to safeguard its intellectual property and brand identity."

Mahindra said it revealed EV SUVs - the BE 6e and XEV 9e - late last month. "Mahindra has applied for trade mark registration under class 12 (vehicles) for 'BE 6e' a part of its electric origin SUV portfolio. We hence don't see a conflict as Mahindra's mark is 'BE 6e,' not the standalone '6E.' It differs fundamentally from IndiGo's '6E,' which represents an airline, eliminating any risk of confusion..." The distinct styling further emphasises their uniqueness. We have taken on board the concerns that InterGlobe Aviation Limited have to infringement of their goodwill, which was not our intention. We are engaged in discussions with them to find an amicable solution." This is the second time IndiGo is locked in a legal battle with some other company using a name associated with it. In 2015, the airline had a trademark dispute with Tata Motors which then used to sell its sedan under the name IndiGo.

## Swiggy likely to increase delivery charge on Instamart orders: Report

**NEW DELHI.** Food and grocery delivery platform Swiggy is considering increasing the delivery fees for its quick commerce arm, Instamart, reported moneycontrol.com. The move aims to improve profitability, according to Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Rahul Bothra, who discussed the plan with analysts after the company announced its Q2 FY25 results on December 3.

Currently, Swiggy subsidises delivery fees through its loyalty program, Swiggy One, and discounts for new users. While delivery is free for Swiggy One members, other customers pay a dynamic fee. Bothra indicated that the company plans to raise these charges



gradually but did not specify a timeline. The competitive quick commerce sector includes players like Zomato-owned Blinkit and Zepto. Unlike Swiggy, Blinkit does not offer free delivery for any orders, while Zepto waives fees for loyalty program members. Bothra also highlighted additional measures to boost margins,

including increasing platform fees for food delivery orders and monetising Instamart through advertisements.

Swiggy has already raised its platform fee fivefold, from Rs 2 to Rs 10 per order, in the past 18 months. The company intends to improve its take rates (commissions) for Instamart from the current 15% to 20-22%. Instamart recorded adjusted revenue of Rs 513 crore in Q2 FY25, more than double the Rs 240 crore earned in the same period last year. However, it still trails Blinkit, which reported revenue of Rs 1,156 crore during the quarter.

At the company level, Swiggy's revenue rose 30% year-on-year to Rs 3,601.5 crore for Q2 FY25, while its losses narrowed to Rs 625.5 crore from Rs 657 crore a year earlier.

## December tax deadlines: Your essential guide for ITR compliance

**NEW DELHI.** As the year comes to a close, December becomes a vital month for taxpayers to fulfil important financial and compliance duties. It is the time to claim deductions, make advance tax payments, and file returns, ensuring all tax responsibilities are wrapped up before the year ends.

Failing to meet these deadlines can lead to penalties, which makes early planning essential. Staying on top of the crucial deadlines in December 2024 is key to ensuring smooth compliance and taking full advantage of available tax benefits. By understanding the key dates, taxpayers can avoid last-minute stress and ensure they complete all obligations on time. Here's a look at the important income tax deadlines to keep in mind for the month.

**DECEMBER 7, 2024**

The last date to deposit tax deducted or collected for the month of November 2024. However, all taxes deducted or collected by a government office must

be credited to the Central Government on the same day if no Income-tax Challan is used for payment. **DECEMBER 15, 2024**

The deadline for submitting Form 24G by government offices for TDS/TCS



payments made without a challan for the month of November 2024.

The third instalment of advance tax for the assessment year 2025-26.

The due date to issue TDS Certificates for deductions made in October 2024 under sections 194S (for specified persons), 194-IA, 194-IB, and 194M. The deadline for filing Form 3BB by stock exchanges for modified client codes for the month of

**December 2024 holds critical tax deadlines for advance payments, returns, and deductions. Stay on track with key dates to avoid penalties.**

**November 2024.**

**DECEMBER 30, 2024**

Last date to furnish challan-cum-statements for tax deductions for the month of November 2024 under sections 194S (specified persons), 194-IA, 194-IB, and 194M.

The final date to file belated or revised income tax returns for AY 2024-25, provided assessments are not completed by December 31, 2024.

By adhering to these deadlines, taxpayers can avoid penalties, stay compliant, and wrap up their tax obligations efficiently before the year concludes.

## Sebi cancels SME IPO of Trafiksol ITS Technologies, orders to refund money

**The IPO which was open for subscription between September 10 and 12, 2024 oversubscribed 345.65 times. The issue was priced at the upper end of the price band (Rs 70 per share) and Rs 44.87 crore was raised through the issue.**

**NEW DELHI.** Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has cancelled the SME IPO of Trafiksol ITS Technologies and asked the company to refund the money to the investors for alleged questionable dealings with a 'shell entity'. The IPO which was open for subscription between September 10 and 12, 2024 oversubscribed 345.65 times. The issue was priced at the upper end of the price band (Rs 70 per share) and Rs 44.87 crore was raised through the issue.

After the closure of the issue and allotment of shares, a complaint was received by

SEBI and BSE from the Small Investors' Welfare Association - SIREN which alleged that the objects of the issue by the company included purchase of software valued at Rs 17.70 crore from a vendor which had questionable financials and failed to file its annual financial statements with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. The BSE then in consultation with the SEBI deferred the listing of the shares of the company. "Based on the findings, it is reasonable to conclude that the third-party vendor (TPV) in question is a 'shell entity'. The TPV's office was found locked during a site inspection, and its financial statements for FY22 to FY24, submitted in response to allegations, were obtained under questionable circumstances as it was signed by the auditor on same day it was submitted to the BSE by the MB (merchant banker)," Sebi said in its 16-page order. This was one day after BSE in consultation with Sebi put on hold the listing of the shares of the company and initiated an examination. "Further, the client list and credentials of its directors, presented in its profile, were fabricated. Apart from the above, the ex-director's sworn statement



that the company was sold for a nominal sum of Rs. 20,000 reinforces the conclusion that the TPV lacked the technical expertise and operational capacity to execute a complex project such as ICCC software," Sebi said. Further, the client list and credentials of its directors, presented in its profile, were fabricated. Apart from the above, the ex-director's sworn statement that the company was sold for a nominal sum of Rs 20,000 reinforces the conclusion that the TPV lacked the technical expertise and operational capacity to execute a complex project such as ICCC software, Sebi order said. "The question of whether the quotation from the TPV was part of a scheme to divert IPO proceeds will remain moot due to the events triggered

by the complaint and subsequent regulatory intervention. This, however, does not take away the fact that the company relied on a sham entity and participated in a cover-up when the credentials of the TPV were being examined," Sebi said. I cannot also lose sight of the fact that the funds of the investors who have been allotted shares in the IPO have remained locked-in for close to three months now. Therefore, the issue cannot be put on hold till the other findings of the Investigation are adjudicated," Sebi Wholtime Director Ashwani Bhatia said in the order. Balancing these considerations, the most prudent course of action is to direct the company to refund the money raised through the IPO, Sebi said.

The company may approach the market afresh after the ongoing proceedings initiated by SEBI are concluded and subject to any directions issued therein, it said. I cannot also lose sight of the fact that the funds of the investors who have been allotted shares in the IPO have remained locked-in for close to three months now. Therefore, the issue cannot be put on hold till the other findings of the Investigation are adjudicated.



received strong investor interest, being oversubscribed 2.55 times.

**INDIA'S LEADING RENEWABLE ENERGY PSU**

NTPC Green Energy is India's largest renewable energy public sector enterprise, excluding hydro projects, based on operating capacity and power generation as of September 30, 2024.

According to a CRISIL report, the company's diversified renewable energy portfolio includes solar and wind power assets spread across more than six states, helping mitigate risks related to location-specific variability in power generation. The company's operational capacity consists of 3,220 MW of solar projects and 100 MW of wind projects. In addition, it has a contracted and awarded capacity of 13,576 MW and a total portfolio, including pipeline projects, of 26,071 MW. With 17 offtakers across 41 solar projects and 11 wind projects, NTPC Green Energy has built a robust customer base, primarily from public sector undertakings (PSUs) and Indian corporates. NTPC Green Energy has a clear focus on expanding its utility-scale renewable energy projects. It has been actively working on developing large-scale projects, catering to the growing energy needs of public and private sector entities in India.

## NEWS BOX

## Ben Stokes lashes out at ICC after England's WTC points docked

New Delhi. England captain Ben Stokes lashed out at the ICC after the team faced deductions in the World Test Championship points. The sanctions were put against New Zealand and England during the 1st Test of the series in Christchurch. Stokes took to his Instagram and shared a post over the same and captioned, "Good on you ICC. Finished the game with 10 hours of play still left." Stokes was unhappy with the deduction in points and highlighted that the match ended well within time.

Both New Zealand and England were fined 15% of their match fee and three points were docked in the World Test Championship standing. These penalties come in at a very critical juncture of the WTC 23-25 cycle as the teams are fighting it out to finish in top two.

England's commanding eight-wicket win at Hagley Oval may have been a showcase of dominance, but it does little to alter their fate in the World Test Championship (WTC), as they are already out of contention for the final. However, the victory dealt a



significant blow to New Zealand's campaign. Ben Stokes' Insta story points deduction has pushed the inaugural WTC champions down from joint fourth to fifth place in the standings, leaving them with a reduced points percentage of 47.92%. Even if New Zealand secures wins in both of their remaining Tests against England, their maximum possible points percentage rises to just 55.36%. This leaves the Black Caps in a precarious position, needing more than just back-to-back victories. They must rely on favorable outcomes in other matches to keep their slim hopes of reaching the final alive, making their path to qualification a daunting one. The penalties arose as both sides were found to be three overs short of the target after accounting for time allowances. Under competition rules, teams are penalized one championship point for each over they fall short. Captains Tom Latham (New Zealand) and Ben Stokes (England) admitted to the offense and accepted the sanctions, negating the need for a formal hearing. The charges were brought by on-field umpires Ahsan Raza and Rod Tucker, with support from third umpire Adrian Holdstock and fourth official Kim Cotton.

## 6mm grass, rain on Day 1: Adelaide pitch curator talks conditions for 2nd Test

Adelaide. Adelaide Oval's pitch curator Damian Hough has confirmed that the wicket will have an even covering of grass - 6mm to be exact in the 2nd Test match of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Speaking to the press on Wednesday, 4 December, Hough said that the conditions will help the seamers. Asked if the conditions will be overwhelmingly favourable for fast bowlers in Adelaide, Hough said that him and his team were trying to make a balanced wicket where batters, pacers and spinners can impact the Test match. However, the curator added that under certain parameters such as under the lights or overcast conditions, the seamers will get a lot of help from the wicket. Thundershowers are expected on



Day 1 of the Adelaide Test match, with 88 per cent chances of rain predicted on December 6. Hough said that in those days, the ball will swing and seam but it will not be because of the pitch, but due to the conditions on the venue. "History suggests that it is hard to bat under lights in Adelaide. The pitch will have 6mm of grass. We are trying to produce a pitch that would be a good contest. The pitch did not play a part in the Test match finishing in 3 days last time India were here. I thought that it was really good bowling from Australia. As long as there is something in it for all aspects of the game, I am happy, I just want a good contest," Adelaide Oval curator Damian Hough told the press on Wednesday, 4 December. "The ball hooping around has got nothing to do with the pitch. Under right conditions, right weather, the ball will move," he further added. The last time India played in Adelaide, they were bowled out for 36 - their lowest ever Test total in Test cricket. The team go into the Test match this time around with more confidence. India won the first Test match of the series by 295 runs - their biggest win in Australia by the margin of runs.

The team will try to replicate their success from Perth as they hunt for a spot in the final of the World Test Championship.

## Probable top-eight sweat it out ahead of day-night challenge

While nothing is certain as of now, it could well be the top eight of India's XI for the second Test against Australia that begins Friday.

New Delhi. With thousands of fans getting a close-in view, India captain Rohit Sharma had two extensive net sessions ahead of the pink-ball Test in Adelaide on Tuesday. Sharma, who missed the first Test, having hinted at batting in the middle-order to allow Yashasvi Jaiswal and KL Rahul remain at the top, did show a lot of resolve while facing the Pink Kookaburra. During the session, Indian team had four nets at the practice arena. In one such net, Jaiswal and Rahul took turns



to bat while Shubman Gill and Virat Kohli were in the second net. It was the third net where Rohit was clubbed with the inimitable Rishabh Pant while the final net was occupied by Nitish Kumar Reddy and Washington Sundar. While nothing is certain

as of now, it could well be the top eight of India's XI for the second Test against Australia that begins Friday. Even as India trained for more than four hours in their attempt to get ready for the day-night challenge, the highlight of the day was fans

getting a close-in view of their heroes in the nets. Just next to the enclosed nets was a viewing area where fans, thousands of them stood in line, to get a glimpse of their sporting stars. As it did in 2018-19, a clipping of Virat Kohli batting with the sound of his bat did the rounds on social media. Meanwhile, Rohit faced a lot of side-arm throwdowns from Nuwan Senewiratne along with usual stuff from the right-arm specialist Raghavendra and Dayanand Garani. The skipper made a conscious effort to leave deliveries on length but whenever anything short was dug in, he would pull effortlessly. Bengal fast bowling duo of Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar (reserve pacer) looked impressive during the session. While Mukesh got his deliveries to move in the air creating some sort of a challenge for Virat Kohli, Akash did ask probing questions to Gill, who looked comfortable.

While there are a few questions left to be answered on India's combination for the second game, some of them might get clear when a member of the team/support staff address the media on Wednesday.

## Umesh Yadav reacts to Jayden Seales breaking his record of most economical spell

New Delhi India's veteran speedster Umesh Yadav reacted to West Indies fast bowler Jayden Seales, breaking his record of the most economical spell in Test history. Umesh congratulated Seales for his achievement and was elated to witness Test cricket thrive. The West Indies pacer delivered an extraordinary bowling performance in the 2nd Test vs Bangladesh at Kingstown. He bowled the most economical spell in the history of Test cricket by a speedster. Seales bowled 15.5 overs, including 10 maidens, conceding just five runs while claiming four crucial wickets. He economy rate was 0.30, which is the second best in Test history. "Congrats Jayden Seales on an amazing performance - 4 wickets with an economy of 0.31! You've broken my record, and I couldn't be happier to see Test cricket thriving with such talent. The purest form of the game tests skill, patience, and character, and you've shown it all," Umesh tweeted. Earlier, the record was



held by the Indian pacer whose economy rate clocked 0.42 vs South Africa in 2015 Test match. Until Seales' spell, Umesh Yadav's 0.42 (21-16-9-3) was the best - both among pacers and among any bowler since that Nadkarni spell. Apart from Umesh, the only other 21st-century entry in the top ten is Nathan Lyon's 0.45, set across his 22-17-10-0. Umesh Yadav's tweet Seales scripted his name into the record books by delivering the

most economical spell since 1977. Operating at an incredible economy rate of 0.31, the right-arm pacer did not concede a single boundary. Only six bowlers in Test history (with at least 60 deliveries bowled) have managed a better economy rate than Seales. His wickets included key dismissals of Litton Das, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Taskin Ahmed, and Nahid Rana. Bangladesh script history Seales economical spell helped West Indies bundle Bangladesh out for 164 runs in 1st innings. However, this did not prove to be enough. Bangladesh secured a historic victory in the Caribbean, defeating the West Indies by 101 runs at Sabina Park to draw the Test series. This marked their first Test win in the West Indies in 15 years. Set a challenging target of 287, the West Indies fell short, all out for 185 in less than two sessions.

## We don't talk anymore: Harbhajan Singh's shocking remark on equation with Dhoni

New Delhi Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh said him and MS Dhoni do not talk to each other. Speaking to News18, Harbhajan has revealed that while he does not have a problem with MS Dhoni, him and the former India captain are not friends anymore.

Harbhajan and MS Dhoni were integral parts of the Indian team that won the 2007 T20 World Cup and the 2011 ODI World Cup. While Dhoni captain the team in bot editions and was the team's brains, Harbhajan shined with 7 and 9 wickets in respective tournaments. The spinner revealed that he and MS Dhoni did not speak outside the field during their years at the Chennai Super Kings as well. Harbhajan played for the Chennai-based franchise between 2018-2020. He further added that he only rings those people who pick up his calls. "No, I don't speak to Dhoni. When I was playing at CSK, that's when we spoke, but otherwise,



we haven't spoken. It's been 10 years and more. I have no reason; perhaps he does. I don't know what the reasons are. When we were playing in the IPL at CSK, that's when we used to talk, and that, too, was restricted to the ground. After that, he did not come to my room, nor did I go to his," Harbhajan Singh told News18. "I don't have anything against him. If he has something to say, he can tell me. But if he did, he would have told me by now. I never tried to call him because I have a lot of passion. I only ring up those

Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh has said that he does not talk to MS Dhoni. In a shocking claim, Harbhajan has said that friendship is a two-way street, and he only rings up people who pick up his calls.

who pick up my calls. I don't have the time otherwise. I stay in touch with the ones I am friends with. A relationship is always about give and take. If I respect you, I hope you will respect me back. Or you respond to me. But if I call you once or twice but don't get a response, I will probably only meet you as much as I am needed to," the spinner added. The last time Harbhajan and Dhoni represented India together was in 2015 - in an ODI against South Africa. After the 2015 World Cup, Harbhajan and Yuvraj Singh were sidelined from Indian team. While Harbhajan did not play after 2015, he announced his retirement from all forms of cricket in 2021.



and displace Dhruv Jurel from the playing XI. KL Rahul has batted in a total of 5 positions for India in Test cricket. Apart from the 2 opening slots, Rahul has batted at No. 3, No. 4, and No. 6 as well. "I just want to be in the playing XI, go out there and bat and play for the team. I just go there and try and see what I need to do to get runs in a particular situation. Luckily I have batted in different positions. Early on, when I was asked to bat at different positions, it was a bit of a challenge mentally. How to play those first 20-25 balls? how early can I attack? Those things were a problem earlier, but it has gotten easy with the experience of playing in different formats," KL Rahul said. The right-hander batted brilliantly in the second innings of the Perth Test match alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal, where they notched up a partnership of 200+ runs, the first by any Indian opening pair. Rahul said that he was told by the Indian team management that he might open in the Perth Test match quite early.

## WI vs BAN: Taijul stars as Bangladesh draw series with 101-run win in 2nd Test

Bangladesh secured a historic victory in the Caribbean, defeating the West Indies by 101 runs at Sabina Park to draw the Test series. This marked their first Test win in the West Indies in 15 years.

New Delhi. Bangladesh secured a historic victory in the Caribbean, defeating the West Indies by 101 runs at Sabina Park to draw the Test series. This marked their first Test win in the West Indies in 15 years. Set a challenging target of 287, the West Indies fell short, all out for 185 in less than two sessions. Bangladesh had lost their previous seven Tests in the Caribbean, including the first match of this series in Antigua, but their performance in

this match brought them level in the short series.

Taijul Islam was the star performer for Bangladesh, taking 5-50 in the West Indies' second innings. It was his best overseas bowling performance in 2 1/2 years and his best figures in the West Indies since his Test debut in 2014. With the pitch offering grip and occasional low bounce, Taijul's spin caused the West Indies' collapse, with the last six wickets falling for just 42 runs. Taijul Islam was the star performer for Bangladesh, taking 5-50 in the West Indies' second innings. It was his best overseas bowling performance in 2 1/2 years and his best figures in the West Indies since his Test debut in 2014. With the pitch offering grip and occasional low bounce, Taijul's spin caused the West Indies' collapse, with the last six wickets falling for just 42 runs. In Bangladesh's second innings, Jaker Ali played a crucial role, scoring a career-best



91. His innings included five sixes and eight boundaries, and he was the last man out just before lunch, giving West Indies a challenging target. Jaker's aggressive batting ensured Bangladesh's total was competitive, despite a lower-order collapse. West Indies' Struggle in the Chase West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite led a positive start to the chase but could not form a lasting partnership. He was dismissed for 43, and the team struggled to build

momentum. Mikyle Louis and Keacy Carty fell to Taijul and Taskin Ahmed, and Brathwaite's departure further hindered the chase. Kavem Hodge, who scored a half-century, tried to keep the West Indies in the game, but once he fell for 55, the rest of the team quickly followed. Taskin Ahmed, Hasan Mahmud, and Nahid Rana joined Taijul in dismantling the West Indies' lower order. Taijul's brilliant spell earned him his 15th career five-wicket haul, trapping Joshua Da Silva to seal the victory for Bangladesh. The West Indies' chase began with promise, but they failed to maintain consistency. Brathwaite's 43 and Hodge's 55 were the highlights, but they were unable to sustain the required partnerships. Bangladesh's bowlers, particularly Taijul, exploited the conditions expertly, and the West Indies were bowled out for 185, falling 101 runs short.



# Tamannaah Bhatia

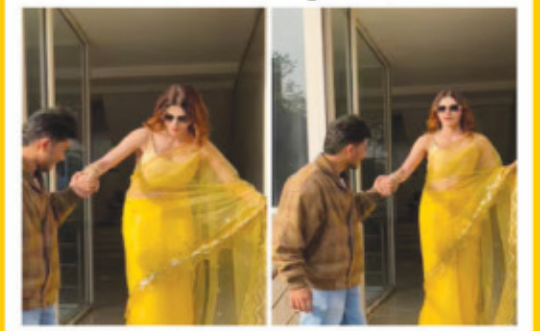
Discusses Beauty Standards; Recalls Fan's Reaction Post Kaavaalaa: 'You Were So Big And Fat...'



Actress Tamannaah Bhatia, who was recently seen in Neeraj Pandey's heist thriller *Sikandar Ka Muqaddar*, has been busy promoting her film. The actress recently opened up about unrealistic beauty standards for women, and how she used to earlier put a lot of pressure on herself to look a certain way. She also recalled that post her song *Kaavaalaa* (Jailer song), a lady came up to her at a party and thanked her for making curvy women feel accepted. Speaking with Instant Bollywood, Tamannaah Bhatia said, "I grew up myself on the idea of unrealistic beauty standards for women. So I had that kind of a childhood and upbringing where I felt being skinny was being fit. Growing up while being a part of the movies, I put a lot of pressure on myself to look a certain way. There came a time when I figured it only served a certain utility, but it didn't actually make me feel beautiful. Times that I actually started to feel good about myself had rarely anything to do with how thin I was. I somewhere feel like maybe *Aaj Ki Raat* helped me accept my body."

She then recalled the incident when a fan walked up to her and thanked her for representing curvy women. "When *Kawala* came out, one lady walk up to me at a party and said, 'Thank you! Because of you, us curvy women feel accepted. You were so big and fat and yet you were enjoying.' For the first time I registered that according to this lady, I was fat. I didn't completely understand that till I didn't hear it from a person. I thought it was normal. I thought that was beautiful. That was my understanding. But I understand that today everyone has a phone, everyone has a camera, everyone is posting pictures on Instagram. So, everyone has this pressure. Early on, I was an actor it was a part of my job. I had to look at my body. But today every young girl is doing that," said the actress. She said that now that she is in a position of power, and has agency, she wants to emphasize that beauty has nothing to do with how thin or how fair one is. She then recalled a time when she was dressed to the nines, yet she hated herself because she was uncomfortable and couldn't breathe. It didn't make her feel beautiful. "But I felt beautiful sometimes when I was naturally dressed, sometimes without my makeup or hair done. So beauty has literally nothing to do with all those standards," said Tamannaah.

## Paparazzo Holds Sherlyn Chopra's Hand As She Struggles To Walk In High Heels



Sherlyn Chopra and her paparazzi appearance – a love affair that needs no introduction. Often stealing the limelight with her candid conversations with the shutterbugs and head-turning looks, the model and actress dishes out fashion goals with her casual outings. This time around, she decided to take it a notch higher, slipping into a saree as paps captured her in a video. The clip has now surfaced on social media as it shows Sherlyn struggling while trying to walk in high heels. In a kind gesture, one of the paps stationed there extended his helping hand but the struggle was real. The clip opens with a photographer holding Sherlyn Chopra's hands as she tries to step out of a building, wearing a bright yellow saree and high heels. Struggling to walk through the corridor assuming that she may fall, Sherlyn is visibly scared in the clip. Despite the help, she finds it difficult to take a step forward and stops to drink water instead. As the video progresses, another man joins in, holding her another hand but the attempts fail miserably. At the end of the clip, she is seen posing from inside the building and also showcases her beige high heels.

Days before her candid appearance, Sherlyn Chopra sat down for an interview with Bollywood Bubble, revealing the illness she has been battling since 2021. The actress shared that she has an autoimmune disorder called Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) which led to her kidney failure in 2021. Her doctor advised her to keep this health disorder under control through medication, as she revealed during the discussion. Sherlyn said, "I take it three times a day, morning, afternoon and evening. They also advised that I should never contemplate getting pregnant because it could be life-threatening for both the baby and the mother".

Despite the illness, Sherlyn Chopra holds a strong desire to be a mother as she added, "I think I was born to be a mother because whenever I think about children, I feel an indescribable happiness. Even before they arrive, I'm so happy. Just imagine how much joy I'll feel after they're here." Sherlyn Chopra made headlines in 2012 as she became the first Indian woman to pose for *Playboy* magazine. Later, she began her career in Bollywood with films like *Time Pass* (2005), *Dosti: Friends Forever* (2005) and *Raqeeb* (2007). She also entered the *Bigg Boss* Season 3 in 2009.

## Taapsee Pannu Shares How Marketing Lesson By Shah Rukh Khan Changed Her Mindset: 'Billboards Were Used...'



Taapsee Pannu is one of the most versatile actresses in the industry. She has worked with many established actors and has also given hits at the box office. Recently, she shared a valuable marketing lesson she learned from Shah Rukh Khan and it has also changed her mindset. In a conversation with *Connect Cine*, Taapsee Pannu revealed how Shah Rukh Khan's perspective towards marketing helped her rethink. The *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba* actress revealed that Shah Rukh Khan likes influencers to advertising and think them as advertising tool akin to hoardings or banners which used to promote films in earlier decades. Taapsee shared what King actor said, "Think about it—10 or 20 years ago, billboards were used to publicize films. Now, these individuals are the new marketing tools. Don't see them as people with responsibility; see them as advertising spaces available for sale."

"It's all about perspective. You see it one way; I see it another. Ultimately, it's up to you which side you choose," she said. Taapsee Pannu and Shah Rukh Khan worked together in *Dunki*. The film garnered immense love from fans and critics alike, with its box office success speaking volumes. The movie also marked the first collaboration between Shah Rukh Khan and Taapsee Pannu. Recently, in an interview, Taapsee reflected on her experience working with the superstar. She lauded his vast knowledge, sharp wit, and undeniable charisma, noting how these qualities make him truly stand out among his peers. Taapsee Pannu has carved a niche for herself in the film industry with acclaimed performances in movies like *Pink*, *Thappad*, and *Hasseen Dillruba*. She was last seen in *Phir Aayi Hasseen Dillruba*, alongside Vikrant Massey and Sunny Kaushal. Directed by Jayprad Desai, the sequel premiered on Netflix on August 9. Taapsee's next project, *Gandhari*, is already generating buzz. Netflix recently unveiled an introductory teaser for the film, which appears to focus on a mother who takes extreme measures to protect her children when they are in danger.

## Pushpa 2 The Rule:

# Sreeleela

Sets The Stage Ablaze With Her Performance On Kissik At Pre-Release Event

**P**ushpa 2: The Rule, starring Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna and Fahadh Faasil is among the most highly anticipated upcoming films. With just two days to go for the film's release, the excitement among fans is sky-high. Last night, the pre-release event of *Pushpa 2* was held in Hyderabad, and visuals from the grand event have gone viral on social media. One such video shows Sreeleela setting the stage on fire with her performance on the film's song *Kissik*. Dancing queen Sreeleela, who has a guest appearance in the *Pushpa 2* song *Kissik*, was seen grooving to the song during the pre-release event. She left her fans mesmerized with her sizzling dance moves. She aced the hook step of the *Kissik* song, while fans cheered for her. She was also seen waving at her fans! Sreeleela looked gorgeous in a white, pink and green striped saree, and left her hair open. Check out the video below!



The foot-tapping number *Kissik* from *Pushpa 2: The Rule* was unveiled by the makers in November. Composed by Devi Sri Prasad, this dance anthem has been sung by Lothika and Sublahshini. Meanwhile, the promotion of *Pushpa 2: The Rule* has been taking place in full swing. Allu Arjun, Rashmika Mandanna and other team members of *Pushpa 2* are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the film is a huge success. The trailer launch of *Pushpa 2* was held in Patna, followed by pre-release events in Chennai, Kochi and Mumbai.

Meanwhile, at the event in Hyderabad, *Pushpa 2* director Sukumar lauded Allu Arjun for his dedication and hardwork, and it left the actor in tears. The filmmaker said, "Pushpa-1 and Pushpa-2 happened because of the love I have for Bunny. Our bond is like an exchange of energy. For even the smallest expression, Bunny puts in incredible effort—whether it's moving an eyelid or delivering a perfect voice modulation. That level of commitment inspires any filmmaker." The grand event was also attended by Rashmika Mandanna and director SS Rajamouli. The film is set to release in theatres on December 5.

