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ਸ੍ਰੀ ਗੁਰੂ ਤੇਗ ਬਹਾਦਰ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਜੀ ਦੀ ਮਹਾਨ ਸਹਾਦਤ ਨੂੰ



ਕੋਟਿ ਕੋਟਿ ਨਮਨ

Fadnavis takes oath as Maharashtra CM, Shinde and Pawar get deputy CM post

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Mumbai, Dec 05: The swearing-in ceremony was attended by over 42,000 attendees, including high-profile guests like Shah Rukh Khan, Madhuri Dixit, and Kumar Mangalam Birla.

administrative disruption." The new government formation comes after two weeks



of intense negotiations between parties within the Mahayuti alliance, which emphatically won the Maharashtra assem-

over 42,000 attendees, including high-profile guests like Shah Rukh Khan, Madhuri Dixit, Sachin Tendulkar and Kumar Mangalam Birla.

Opposition slams NDA government over 'Hindification of laws'

New Delhi, Dec 05: The accusations were levelled by the opposition during a discussion on the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak bill, whose title was changed from English to Hindi.

INDIA bloc MPs protest over Adani issue, wear jackets reading 'Modi Adani Ek Hai'

Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, Dec 05: In an unusual protest, leaders of several INDIA bloc parties wore black jackets with stickers reading "Modi Adani Ek Hai" and "Adani Safe Hai" on them.

Rahul and Priyanka demanded that a discussion on the indictment of Adani in a US court on charges of bribery and



fraud must take place in Parliament and Prime Minister Narendra Modi must speak in the House on the issue.

steps leading to it as a Lok Sabha Secretariat advisory and Speaker Om Birla had flagged the issue.

Unnao rape case: Delhi HC grants interim bail to Kuldeep Sengar

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Dec 05: The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted a two-week interim bail on medical grounds to expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar.



ical evaluation," the bench, also comprising Justice Amit Sharma, said. The court sought a report from the medical board of AIIMS and listed the matter for hearing on December 20.

Nature, DNA of what happened in Ayodhya, Sambhal in Babur's era and now Bangladesh same: Adityanath

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

Lucknow, Dec. 05: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Thursday accused the Opposition parties of trying to divide society, saying what Mughal ruler Babur's army did in Ayodhya and Sambhal is what is happening in Bangladesh.

indulge in caste-based politics to shatter the social fabric are still active," the CM said.



ing today in Bangladesh. The nature and DNA of all three are the same," he added.

then they are mistaken. "Divisive elements are there already, tearing apart the social fabric, breaking social unity, and making full arrangements 'apko kaatne aur katwaane ka'," he said.

Supreme Court allows GRAP 4 measures to be relaxed to GRAP Stage 2 in Delhi

New Delhi, Dec 05: The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed GRAP 4 measures to be relaxed to GRAP Stage 2 in Delhi.

Investments in India are profitable, Russia ready to place manufacturing site in country

Naresh Malhotra

Moscow, Dec 05: Russian President Vladimir Putin lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Indian government for creating "stable conditions" for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and offered to place Russian manufacturing sites in India.

agriculture, the number of our manufacturers and producers keeps growing. In 1988, the Soviet Union imported grains for USD 35 billion, and last year, we exported grains to the tune of USD 66 billion, and to a large extent that is to our farmers and producers.



sectors of the Russian Federation, including high-tech ones, there is an acute need to expand the opportunities to sell and export products," Putin said.

India's "Make in India" initiative and noted that India's leadership focused on a policy of prioritising its interests. He also offered to place Russian manufacturing sites in India.

Six JMM MLAs among 11 take oath as Jharkhand ministers

Ranchi, Dec 05: Eleven MLAs, including six from JMM, were sworn in as ministers in the Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand on Thursday.



ters at Ashok Udyan of the Raj Bhavan here. The six JMM legislators, who took oath as ministers, are Sudivya Kumar, Deepak Birua, Ramdas Soren, Chamra Linda, Yogendra Prasad and Hafizul Hasan.

Radhakrishna Kishore were sworn in as ministers, while RJD's Sanjay Prasad Yadav also found a berth. JMM leader Hemant Soren took oath as the chief minister on November 28.

News box

'Take action against illegal buildings': Tushar Girinath



BENGALURU. Chief Commissioner Tushar Girinath instructed officials to take appropriate action against unauthorised buildings in East Zone.

Receiving complaints from the public at the Chief Commissioner's Walk Towards the Zone programme held in East Zone on Wednesday, he issued notices to those constructing unauthorised buildings and instructed them to remove them and adjacent parts of the buildings within a time limit.

With residents of Hebbal and Pulakeshinagar assembly seats complaining about Assistant Executive Engineers failing to prevent construction of unauthorised buildings, Girinath directed the zonal commissioner to issue show cause notice against AEEs Madhav Rao of Hebbal sub-division and Ravi of Pulakeshinagar sub-division.

On encroachment of sidewalks, he said in Kasturi Nagar, he said the corporation is clearing encroachments on sidewalks, and instructed it to take appropriate action and ensure there are no permanent structures. When asked why Venkateswara Colony Road in New Thippasandra was dug down the middle for drainage work and not repaired even after six months, Girinath spoke to BWSSB officials and instructed them to immediately close the dug part of the road. He instructed officials to identify accident spots in East Zone and take steps to control accidents by installing road humps as per the advice of traffic police officers.

Cantonment to Whitefield quadrupling by June 2025

BENGALURU. The quadrupling of the section between Bengaluru Cantonment and Whitefield would be completed by June 2025, said Bengaluru Central MP P C Mohan on Tuesday.

In a statement released on social media as a follow-up of the Railway Parliamentary Standing Committee that visited Bengaluru last month, Mohan shared deadlines of numerous ongoing railway projects by the Construction Division of the South Western Railway and K-RIDE, which is implementing the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project.

A senior railway official said that the MP had posed multiple queries to them on projects and these were the responses Railways had given him later.

The Committee, chaired by Kurnoor MP Dr C M Ramesh and comprising 15 members, visited the Rail Wheel Factory on November 2. The MP stated that the The Hosur-Salem line via Yesvantpur and the Baiyannahalli-Hosur line will be in place by August next year. Regarding the Circular Rail Network, the survey for the Odarahalli-Devanahalli Segment has been completed and the Detailed Project Report submitted to the Railway Board for Rs 1638 crore on September 23.

Survey work was going on for the remaining six segments: Devanahalli-Maluru-Heelalige-Hejjala-Solur-Nidavanda-Oddarahalli. Railway Board has sought the complete DPR by Feb 2025. The other vent of the Panathur railway underpass will be commissioned by January 2025 and one vent has just been commissioned.

Unable to repay gambling debts, 20-year-old hangs self in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. A 20-year-old college student, addicted to online gambling, took his own life after being unable to repay his debts. The incident took place at his residence in KR Puram on November 23, and his parents filed a police complaint on December 2, after learning that he took the extreme step due to pressure from his friends to return the money.

The deceased, identified as Praveen, was a student of 2nd year BSc at a private college. The police said Praveen had been addicted to online gambling for over a year. He reportedly placed bets on cricket and other sports through mobile applications. He had borrowed money from friends and relatives to fund his gambling addiction.

As his debts increased, he faced pressure from his friends to repay the money. Unable to do so, he took the extreme step and ended his life on November 23. He hanged himself from a ceiling fan using a blanket. His parents found him hanging and alerted the police, the police said.

'Friends were pestering him'

The police added that initially, a case of unnatural death was registered. However, on December 2, based on a complaint filed by the youth's father, a case under Section 108 (abetment of suicide) of the BNS was registered. His father alleged that Praveen took the extreme step as his friends were pestering him to return the money that the latter owed to them. "It is estimated that he had raised loans to the tune of Rs 5 lakh," the police added. During investigation, the police questioned Praveen's friends and found that he was always hooked to his phone for gambling.

KSDMA launches disaster-reduction study of Varkala Cliff amid rising risk

NGT slaps notices on various agencies over sorry state of national geological monument

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Amidst increased concern of erosion and landslips, the state government has ordered yet another disaster risk reduction study of Varkala Cliff - a national geological monument and geo-heritage site. Despite being a major tourism attraction, the nearly 23-million-year-old cliff has been facing neglect for years now.

The frequent caving in of earth has inflicted severe damage. Apart from studies and a master plan by expert agencies, the state and central governments have failed in their efforts to protect and conserve the rare geological formation. The sorry state of affairs recently caught the attention of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which initiated a case suo motu on the deteriorating condition of the cliff.

According to sources, an expert team

from NGT visited the cliff to take into account the present situation. The tribunal has issued notices to various agencies including Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), Geological Survey of India (GSI), National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS), Kerala Coastal Zone Management Authority (KCZMA), and district magistrate.

Lack of coordination between various departments including the tourism department, GSI, Vision Varkala Infrastructure Development Corporation (Vivid), NCESS and KCZMA is one of the primary reasons for the deteriorating state of the cliff.

In response to the alarming rise in landslides, it was the chief



secretary who directed Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) to conduct the disaster-reduction study.

A team of landslide experts recently

visited the cliff. "We will be submitting the initial technical report to the chief secretary within a week. Our focus is only on disaster risk reduction."

Conservation and preservation of the cliff should be done by other concerned agencies. If it's a geo-technical issue, GSI has to intervene. We will be giving our recommendations in the report," KSDMA member secretary Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose said.

NCESS undertook a study and submitted a report to the government in 2021. In

2014, the cliff was declared a geo-heritage site by GSI and has given multiple reports to the government with all possible recommendations

for the protection of the cliff in the past decade. "Enough studies have been done and the GSI has provided multiple reports in the past to the government with solid recommendations. But none of them have been implemented. The most recent report was submitted after the landslide near Bali Mandapam," GSI deputy director general V Ambili said.

Sanjeev S J, president of the Environment Research and Protection Council, who filed a joint petition with NGT, said illegal constructions continue unabated, threatening the stability of the cliff.

Facing neglect

Frequent caving in of earth has inflicted severe damage to the cliff. The state and central governments have failed in their efforts to protect and conserve the rare geological formation

Kochi mayor orders investigation into allegations against corporation officials

The mayor also suspended Adarsh Chandran, revenue officer with the Vyttila zonal office, following a corruption allegation raised by P S Viju, the Nambiapuram councillor.

KOCHI. Kochi mayor M Anilkumar has ordered an investigation into claims of violation of building rules in four projects and bribery charges against corporation officials. This comes after the allegations sparked a heated argument at the corporation council meeting on Wednesday.

The mayor also suspended Adarsh Chandran, revenue officer with the Vyttila zonal office, following a corruption allegation raised by P S Viju, the Nambiapuram councillor. "The official also demanded a bribe from building owners on the pretence of passing on the money to the chairperson of the standing committee," Anilkumar said, before announcing the investigation.

In a discussion following the tabling of the investigation report into the case against Galaxy Homes, UDF councillor and public work standing committee chairperson Minimal V K alleged that the general public is being forced to bribe

officials to register vehicles, get building numbers, etc.

"Citizens who visit the corporation office are the prime targets. If the situation continues, what is the significance of a



democratically elected council?" she asked, seeking an investigation into the cases and demanding action against corrupt officials. The complaint against a building near Pullepady bridge was raised by UDF councillor Aristotle MG. The mayor urged the public not to entertain any official who demands a bribe. "In such

cases, a complaint should be filed against the official. If they seek bribes in my name, you can write to the CM," he said, adding that with the arrival of K-Smart, the details of any building can be accessed, with no space for foul play.

complaints under the lens. Chief town planner (vigilance) to probe construction of building near Pullepady bridge

Building rule violations at Galaxy Homes flat complex. Corp secretary announces vigilance investigation against officials who issued occupancy certificates without completion of work

Additional secretary to look into complaint that allotting a UA number to a hotel building in Vyttila without collecting tax dues caused financial loss to corporation

Superintending engineer directed to investigate apartment in Pachalam Superintending engineer to also probe complaint raised against building in Elankulam

Community involvement in healthcare necessary, says Dr M R Rajagopal

Acknowledging the role played by the community he explained that the suffering can be social, physical, spiritual and emotional and measures to address the suffering should encompass all these.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Dr M R Rajagopal, Chairman Emeritus of Pallium India, said on Wednesday that there should be community involvement in healthcare delivery to ensure comprehensive care as advocated by the WHO.

He expressed concerns over ignoring the health-related sufferings of patients in a disease-focused healthcare system.

Acknowledging the role played by the community he explained that the suffering can be social, physical, spiritual and emotional and measures to address the suffering should encompass all

these. He pointed out that less than 4% of the needy has access to pain relief in the country.

He was delivering the 6th V Ramachandran Memorial lecture at Centre for Management Development (CMD).

Chairman of CMD and former Chief Secretary S M Vijayanand, who presided over the meeting, recollected the role played by former Chief Secretary V Ramachandran as silent activist and institution builder.

The family of Ramachandran, including his wife and former Chief Secretary Padma Ramachandran, attended the event online.



Passengers stuck near Shoranur for three hours as Vande Bharat develops snag

Eyewitnesses said tension prevailed briefly at the Shoranur station as the system failure made even opening the train's doors impossible.

KOCHI. Passengers had a harrowing time on Wednesday after the Kasaragod-Thiruvananthapuram Vande Bharat (20633) train developed a technical snag that left it stranded for more than three hours shortly after it left Shoranur railway station.

Sources said the train developed a system error and stopped after passing the Shoranur signal. The train was taken back to Shoranur railway station using a diesel engine and the technical snag fixed. It departed on its onward journey to Thiruvananthapuram around 8.50pm.

Eyewitnesses said tension prevailed briefly at



the Shoranur station as the system failure made even opening the train's doors impossible.

"The train was pulled into platform six of Shoranur station using a diesel engine and

steps were taken to open its doors," said a source. A railway police officer said once the doors were opened, a few passengers disembarked and sought alternative modes of transport for the onward journey, while others stayed on board. The officer said though the AC engine was connected to the train, its departure was delayed further after the rear coach developed a snag.

The Palakkad Division spokesperson said reasons behind the system failure will be investigated once the train reaches Thiruvananthapuram.

'Electrical component developed snag'

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News box

Fake call centre that cheated US citizens busted, 3 arrested

Gurgaon. Three people, who are part of a fake call centre, were arrested by cyber cops on Wednesday for allegedly cheating United States residents by posing as customer care executives of prominent tech companies.

Deadline over, 90 shops encroaching road demolished

Gurgaon. GMDA on Wednesday conducted an anti-encroachment drive on CRPF Road between the bus stand and Sheela Mata Mandir Road along with MCG and police.

A chunk of complaints to human rights panel linked to family IDs

Gurgaon. Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP), a digital initiative launched to reduce red tape and make access to govt schemes easier for people by eliminating visits to govt offices for small tasks, has become a major pain point for residents.

Delhi Metro's Blue Line Faces Delays Amid Cable Theft

New Delhi. Delhi Metro services on the Blue Line experienced disruptions on Thursday as a result of cable theft that occurred between Moti Nagar and Kirti Nagar stations, leading to considerable delays for passengers.

Failure to provide cab on time deficiency in service': Delhi consumer panel to Uber

NEW DELHI. Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has upheld a district commission ruling that deemed Uber India Systems Pvt Ltd's failure to provide a cab on time and non-resolution of the issue as a "deficiency in service".



Airport. The driver never arrived and there was no response from the firm despite numerous calls. Singh cancelled Uber and took a local taxi, reaching the airport at 5.15am. The delay caused him and his wife to miss their Delhi-Indore flight. They could spend less than 12 hours with their family in Indore, as return tickets to Delhi were pre-booked.

Pay up fee or face action: Gurgaon DC warns builders over safety audit delays

Gurgaon. Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar, in a meeting with builder management teams, stressed the urgency of expediting the structural audit in residential societies. He expressed dissatisfaction with builders delaying deposit of their share of audit fees.



also given the option of choosing non-empanelled agencies with RWA

approval. In the first phase, 15 societies were covered. District Town Planner (DTP) Manish Yadav said that while testing in 11 of these were complete and repairs initiated in two, pending fees in others was delaying the process.

24hr surveillance on Delhi-Gurgaon & Dwarka expressways from next year

Gurgaon. From next year, speeding, illegal parking, lane-jumping and other traffic violations on highways in the city are unlikely to go unpunished as advanced CCTV surveillance will monitor every section of the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (NH-8) and Dwarka Expressway (NH-248BB).

NAME CHANGE

I, Meenu Sharma alias Meenu Kapila D/O Govind Ballabh Sharma W/O Naveen Kapila R/O VZ-25, First floor Mukh Ram Park Extn. Tilak Nagar, PO: Tilak Nagar, Dist: West Delhi, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to Meenu Sharma

NAME CHANGE

I, BHARTI ARORA W/O MANOJ ARORA residing at C-11234, Yamuna Vihar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed the name of my minor Daughter ALISHA ARORA aged 9 years and She shall hereafter be known as DAKSHITAARORA.

NAME CHANGE

I, BHARTI ARORA W/O MANOJ ARORA residing at C-1234, Yamuna Vihar, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053 have changed the name of my minor Daughter AYESHA ARORA aged 13 years and She shall hereafter be known as SATVIEKAARORA.

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22 years & counting, city auto market project still on paper

Gurgaon. Even after 22 years, the promise to develop an auto market in the city has remained on papers. The market was planned by HUDA (now HSVP) on 55 acres in Sector 10 to avoid spurt of haphazard roadside shops for automotive parts and mechanics.

In Aug 2002, then chief minister Omprakash Chautala laid the foundation stone of the project but over the years, the 55-acre land earmarked for it has turned into a dumping site for construction and demolition waste.

"HSVP Gurgaon has been directed to seek the help of MCG to clear C&D waste from the land and initiate the development works," said a senior official from HSVP, adding that mention of the project came up during the review of

Public Notice: Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client that Mr. Laxman Kumar Gupta is claiming to be owner of Plot bearing No. 59, area measuring 50 sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 333, situated in the area of Village Nasirpur, Delhi State Delhi, Colony name Madan Puri, West Gurgaon, New Delhi; vide GPA, ATS & Will. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the property to a person who wants to obtain a loan from our client against the said property. If anybody has any objections upon the ownership of above owner over the said property, its sale/mortgage/litigation, and any other objections, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

Public Notice: This is to inform the general public that Mr. Rekha is the owner of Third Floor, With roof rights, Back Side RRS, Unit Bearing No. 306, Built On Plot No. 55, 55A, 55B, 56, 56A and 56B, area measuring 80 Sq. yds., out of Kharsa No. 23, 30, 31 and 32 Mini. Situated in the area of Village Nawada Majra Hastal, Colony known as Vipin Garden Extension, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi through Sale Deed dated 29.11.2022, Ch. No. 30405 executed by Mrs. Balaji Builders through its Partner Mr. Hans Raj Goyal in favour of Mrs. Rekha in respect of the Said Floor. Mrs. Rekha intends to transfer the ownership by way of Sale Deed of aforementioned Floor to Abhishek Kumar and Mrs. Neeru Kumar.

Public Notice: My client Shakuntla Negi R/o 182 H/37A Garhwal Colony New Achar Factory Mehrauli, New Delhi-110030 has severed all relations and disowned her son Sandeep Singh Negi, his wife and her grandson from all her movable/immovable properties, because of their misbehavior. My client shall not be responsible for their acts/deeds in future.

Legal 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@lvnorth.in

NEWS BOX

Nearly 12 Vietnamese soldiers killed during military exercise

World. Twelve Vietnamese soldiers lost their lives to an accidental explosion on Monday night according to state media. This fatal accident took place during a military training exercise at a military shooting range of the 7th Military Region in Dong Nai in southern Vietnam. A report from a local military newspaper revealed that the group was transporting explosives when the explosion was triggered by an electronic detonator upon being hit by a lightning strike during a severe storm. It also stated that most of the victims' bodies have been recovered, with authorities still searching for the missing, quoted news agency AFP. State run Vietnam News Agency reported that an urgent investigation of the incident has been ordered by the ministry of The incident occurred one day after defence minister Phan Van Giang delivered a speech to mark the beginning of the combat exercise, as reported by the state newspaper Nhan Dan.

Are Prince Harry and Meghan Markle planning to stay in US forever? Here is the answer

World. Prince Harry and Meghan Markle have decided to stay in the United States and have no plans to return to the United Kingdom, citing security concerns and their children's future as primary reasons. While speaking at the DealBook Summit in New York on Wednesday, Prince Harry revealed that he is enjoying his life in the US and there are many activities that he can do with his children Archie and Lilibet in America which he can't do in the UK. Since summer 2020, following their departure from the UK and the Royal family, the Sussexes have established their residence in Montecito, California. Prince Harry said, "I very much enjoy living here and bringing up my kids here," as reported by The Times. He noted that he can engage in activities with Archie, five, and Lilibet, three, that "undoubtedly wouldn't be able to do in the UK." Whilst the duke addressed the summit, Meghan extended holiday greetings to attendees at a charitable carol concert in central London. There are several occasions where Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are attending the events separately leading to the rumors of their divorce. The programme featured Meghan's written welcome, emphasising the organisation's impact on women's employment opportunities and confidence building. The event included performances by Alexandra Burke and a reading by Jennifer Saunders, the Daily Mail reported. The Sussexes' relationship with the Royal Family has remained complex since their 2020 departure. Through various media appearances, including their Netflix series and Harry's memoir "Spare", they have discussed challenges faced during their time as working royals, including Meghan's initial interactions with the Prince and Princess of Wales and her struggles with mental health whilst pregnant with Archie in 2019.

Manhunt underway for killer of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson after fatal shooting

World. A manhunt for the killer of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson, who was shot dead on Wednesday morning, is underway. Brian Thompson, 50, was shot outside the Hilton hotel at 1335 Avenue of the Americas just after 6:45 am after arriving early for the company's annual investor conference. A man wearing a mask approached him and fired at him repeatedly, police said as per CBS news. The shooting happened ahead of an investors conference that UnitedHealth Group, the parent company of UnitedHealthcare, was scheduled to host on Wednesday at the Hilton, according to a spokesperson for the subsidiary. According to the cctv footage, that is being circulated on social media platforms, the shooter appeared to be a light-skinned male, wearing a light-brown or cream-colored jacket, a black face mask, black and white sneakers, and a distinctive grey backpack. Authorities said the gun appeared to malfunction, and the gunman cleared the jam before firing again and fleeing northbound into an alleyway between 54th Street and 55th Street. The shooter then continued to walk westbound on the Avenue of the Americas, where he got on to an electric Citi Bike and rode northbound towards Central Park, CBS news reported. Police say they recovered three live 9mm rounds and three discharged 9mm shell casings. Authorities also recovered a cellphone. Authorities are also investigating the suspect's point of origin. Surveillance images released by the police show the suspect at a Starbucks, located two blocks from the incident, moments before the shooting. According to police statements to CBS News, they discovered unspecified "forensic evidence" at the Starbucks location. The NYPD's Crime Scene Unit is currently testing recovered items for DNA and fingerprints. At UnitedHealthcare, investigators and security personnel are examining records to establish potential motives, including any previous threats or connections to dissatisfied or terminated employees, according to a law enforcement source. The organisation has confirmed its support of the investigation. Kenny stated that police are reviewing social media content and conducting interviews with employees, family members, and Thompson's associates.

France's Government Felled In No-Confidence Vote. What Happens Next

Paris. The government in France collapsed on Wednesday after lawmakers of both left and right wings joined forces to push a no-confidence against the country's Prime Minister Michel Barnier, throwing the European Union's second-biggest economic power deeper into chaos that threatens to exacerbate its budgetary and looming economic crises. The Prime Minister addressed the nation just before the vote, calling it an honour to have served France and its people with dignity. He'd been on the job for just two months and 29 days. With the vote of confidence against him, Mr Barnier will now have to tender his resignation and that of his government to President Emmanuel Macron, making his minority government's tenure the shortest lived in France's Fifth Republic beginning in 1958. As per French media reports, he is expected to do so on Thursday morning. The president will then address the nation at 1900 GMT, the Elysee Palace said. Michel Barnier's government fell after 331 deputies voted against him, making him the shortest-serving Prime Minister in modern French political history. Only 288 votes were needed to pass the no-confidence motion in the 577-

member chamber. It was the first successful no-confidence vote since a defeat for Georges Pompidou's government in 1962, when Charles de Gaulle was president. In France, the President nominates prime ministers. However, lawmakers can reject his picks at any time by passing a no-confidence vote, like in the case of Mr Barnier. National Assembly, the French parliament's lower house, is almost equally divided between the far right, a loosely united left-wing, centrists including Mr Macron's allies, and a few candidates who please all three factions, according to a report by Vox. Though not a popular leader, Mr Barnier was seen as a capable choice after the Prime Minister's post following surprise elections this past summer. However, he was met with challenges while trying to lead a government without a majority. He angered lawmakers on both the right and left after he attempted to push through a 2025 national budget without a vote in the lower house of parliament. Amid a standoff over the social security financing bill, France's far-right party and its left-wing alliance each put forward no-confidence motions against him. Passage of No Confidence Vote



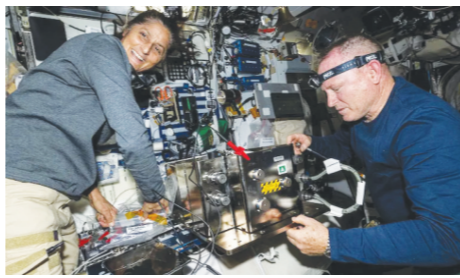
The successful vote means President Macron will have to find a new Prime Minister to replace Mr Barnier, which doesn't seem to be an easy affair. A similar situation happened once before in 1962, but the particular situation was dealt with by calling early legislative elections. However, President Macron doesn't have that choice as he has already called early poll last June. This means he can't call new ones until next July, because under the French Constitution, the National Assembly must remain in place for a minimum of one year. So for the moment, France has no government. However, it will have caretaker ministers in place, appointed by the President. Amid limited options given the dysfunction in the

National Assembly, Emmanuel Macron needs to appoint a new prime minister quickly to pass the government's budget and, hopefully, prevent an economic crisis from engulfing France. A source close to Mr Macron told news agency AFP that the president, who has taken time with appointments in the past, has "no choice" but to name the new premier within 24 hours. Call For Emmanuel Macron's Resignation France's hard left on Wednesday urged President Emmanuel Macron to resign and hold early presidential elections after lawmakers voted to oust the government of Prime Minister Michel Barnier. "We are now calling on Macron to go," Mathilde Panot, the head of the parliamentary faction of the hard-left France Unbowed (LFI) party told reporters, urging "early presidential elections" to solve a deepening political crisis. But taking care not to crow over the government's fall, Le Pen said in a television interview that her party -- once a new premier is appointed -- "would let them work" and help create a "budget that is acceptable for everyone". Laurent Wauquiez, the head of right-wing deputies in parliament, said.

NASA Offers \$20,000 For Best Rescue Plan To Save Stranded Astronauts Like Sunita Williams

World. NASA invites innovators to develop a life-saving Lunar Rescue System to save astronauts stranded on the Moon. The space agency offers up to \$20,000 for the most effective design to safely transport a fully suited astronaut across the Moon's rugged terrain. This initiative is part of NASA's Artemis missions, which face challenges like extreme temperatures, uneven surfaces, and bulky spacesuits. If you have a groundbreaking idea, now's your chance to make an impact and win big. Submissions for the South Pole Safety Challenge: Lunar Rescue System are open until January 23, 2025, via the HeroX portal. With a total prize pool of \$45,000, the best proposal will help address critical concerns as NASA gears up for the Artemis mission, scheduled for September 2026. NASA is preparing for the possibility of an astronaut becoming incapacitated on the Moon due to injury, medical emergencies, or mission-related accidents. In such

scenarios, crewmates will need a reliable method to transport them back to the lunar lander. "The unforgiving lunar environment poses unique challenges that demand



innovative solutions," said Sarah Douglas from NASA, as reported by The Sun. Experts highlight that while the mission site was chosen partly for its water-ice reserves, the Moon's surface remains a significant hurdle. Covered with sharp rocks, deep craters, and steep slopes, it is difficult to navigate even under optimal conditions. The competition calls for a design

capable of moving a fully suited astronaut over two kilometres, up a 20-degree incline, without using a rover. While the Moon's lower gravity reduces the astronaut's weight, it's still too much for manual carrying, making a technological solution essential. This is your chance to help shape the future of lunar exploration and astronaut safety. "The solution must perform effectively in the Moon's extreme South Pole environment and operate independently of a lunar rover," NASA explained. Interested candidates can apply or submit their applications via the HeroX portal, where the organisation usually posts its public challenge. Entries are open until January 25. NASA's experts and engineers will evaluate the submitted plan. Criteria such as the weight, ease, and impact on the astronaut's new Axiom Extravehicular Mobility Suit will be considered. Visit the official website for more information.

All About Adam Boehler, Trump's Pick For US Hostage Affairs Envoy

Washington DC. US President-elect Donald Trump has named Adam Boehler as his administration's lead hostage negotiator at a time when the United States is seeking to secure the release of prisoners trapped in Gaza and other parts around the world. A healthcare executive, Mr Boehler would be America's special presidential envoy for hostage affairs. He will succeed Roger Carstens, who held the role since 2020 after Mr Trump appointed him as special presidential envoy for hostage affairs during his first term as President. He remained on the job for the duration of the Biden administration and is credited for bringing home several dozen Americans held hostage or wrongfully detained in countries including Russia. Some of the notable prisoner exchanges during his time in office include W/NA star Brittney Griner and Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich. About Adam Boehler Adam Boehler, founder and CEO of healthcare investment firm Rubicon Founders, served as the first CEO of the International Development Finance



Corporation, a new federal agency created during Mr Trump's first administration ending in 2021. Announcing his appointment, the incoming President said Mr Boehler was a lead negotiator for him on his team that worked on the Abraham Accords in 2020, a series of normalization and broader recognition agreements between Israel and Arab nations. He has negotiated with some of the toughest people in the World, including the Taliban, but Adam knows that NO ONE is tougher than the United States of America, at least when President Trump is its Leader. Adam will work tirelessly to bring our Great American Citizens HOME," Mr Trump wrote in a Truth Social post. In college, Mr Boehler reportedly shared a room with the president-elect's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, briefly, who was the lead negotiator on the Abraham Accords. Mr Boehler's appointment came two days after the President-elect warned those holding hostages that there would be "all hell to pay" if the prisoners were not released by the time he took over office on January 20. Hamas continues to hold around 100 hostages, living and dead, in Gaza.

US Senate introduces resolution to designate December 3 as National Chemical Disaster Awareness Day

WASHINGTON. On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Bhopal chemical disaster, three Senators have introduced a resolution to designate December 3 as National Chemical Disaster Awareness Day. Introduced by Senators Jeff Merkley, Ron Wyden and Peter Welch, the resolution recognises the 40-year effort of the survivors of the 1984 Bhopal chemical disaster in India to ensure that no other community around the world suffers another such catastrophe by designating December 3 as National Chemical Disaster Awareness Day. On December 3, 1984, a Union Carbide pesticide factory released a dense cloud of toxic methyl isocyanate gas into Bhopal, killing 8,000 people within 72 hours and permanently injuring 5,00,000 more in what is considered to be the world's worst industrial disaster. Applauding the resilience of the Bhopal chemical disaster survivors in battling

to overcome ill health, poverty, and marginalization to try to establish a deterrent against future chemical disasters; the resolution calls on the



Department of Justice to take timely steps in response to requests by the Indian Government concerning Dow Inc., who purchased the Union Carbide facility where the disaster took place. The resolution also calls for any other actions necessary for the United States to comply with obligations under the Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in

Criminal Matters, signed at New Delhi on October 17, 2001 (TIAS 05 1003). It seeks to engage with the survivors of the Bhopal chemical disaster to strengthen the public's understanding of the dangers of chemical disasters; and emphasises that supporting human rights and protecting the right to freedom from discrimination are and should remain key pillars of United States foreign policy worldwide. The resolution notes that Union Carbide and its representatives have ignored repeated summonses to appear in court in India, and applications under 2 extradition treaties between India and the United States dating back to 1942 have failed to secure their appearance. Dow Inc., the owner of Union Carbide since 2001, has not compelled its subsidiary to attend any proceedings relating to the Bhopal disaster; it said.

South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol Clings To Power After Martial Law U-Turn

Seoul. South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol was still clinging to power Thursday, with his party announcing they will oppose an opposition impeachment motion put forward after his stunning but brief imposition of martial law. Yoon suspended civilian rule late Tuesday and deployed troops and helicopters to parliament only for lawmakers to vote down the measure and force him into a U-turn in a night of protests and drama. Seoul's allies were alarmed -- Washington said it found out via television -- and on Wednesday, the opposition filed an impeachment motion saying Yoon "gravely violated the constitution and the law". The opposition aims to bring the bill to a vote Saturday, Yonhap reported. They hold a large majority in the 300-member legislature and need only a handful of defections from Yoon's People Power Party (PPP) to secure the two-thirds majority needed to pass. But on Thursday, the PPP leader said that while he had asked Yoon to leave the party, he would block the impeachment motion. Han Dong-hoon told reporters his party was "not trying to defend the president's

unconstitutional martial law". "All 108 lawmakers of the People Power Party will stay united to reject the president's impeachment," the party's floor leader Choo Kyung-ho said. If the motion passes, Yoon will be suspended pending a verdict by the Constitutional Court. If the judges give the nod, Yoon will be impeached and new elections must happen within 60 days. Bad memories Yoon, who has lurched from crisis to crisis since taking office in 2022, has not been seen in public since his televised address in the early hours of Wednesday. On Thursday, his office said that Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun had resigned, but other key allies including Interior Minister Lee Sang-min remain in office. Yoon's martial law declaration was the first in more than four decades in South Korea and brought back painful memories of the country's turbulent past. The move was to "safeguard a liberal South Korea from the threats posed by North Korea's communist forces and to eliminate anti-state elements plundering people's freedom and happiness," Yoon said. A six-point decree from the army chief banned political



activities and parties, "false propaganda", strikes and "gatherings that incite social unrest". Security forces sealed the National Assembly, helicopters landed on the roof and almost 300 soldiers tried to lock down the building, seemingly to prevent lawmakers from entering. But as parliamentary staffers blocked the soldiers with sofas and fire extinguishers, enough MPs -- some leaping over barriers -- got inside and voted down Yoon's move. This brought cheers from the hundreds of protesters braving bitter temperatures outside, many waving national flags and

chanting for Yoon to be arrested. Lawmakers formally presented the impeachment motion in the early hours of Thursday, saying Yoon's decision to impose martial law was intended to "evade imminent investigations... into alleged illegal acts involving himself and his family". "This is an unforgivable crime -- one that cannot, should not, and will not be pardoned," MP Kim Seung-won said. The main opposition Democratic Party has also filed a complaint of "insurrection" against the president, ministers and top military and police officials -- which can carry a penalty of life imprisonment or even death. In a show of public anger, thousands of protesters converged around Yoon's office in Seoul late Wednesday after staging a rally in Gwanghwamun Square, demanding his resignation. Robust and resilient The United States has around 30,000 troops stationed in North Korea to help protect its ally against the nuclear-armed North. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan said.

News box

Four more held in digital arrest scam in Chennai

CHENNAI. The Chennai City Police have arrested four more people in the digital arrest case wherein a central government employee lost ₹88 lakh to fraudsters. The police had arrested a man from Assam in November for running the scam, following which their modus operandi and network was uncovered. According to the police, the arrested men were identified as Dhrubajyoti Mazumdar (25), Swaraj Pradhan (22), Prashant Giri (21), and Pranjal Hazarika (28). The police said the four were acting as mediators between the fraudster's company and F2F (face-to-face) agents functioning from major cities in states like New Delhi, West Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Goa, and Rajasthan, and with bank account holders to transfer the money and commission. According to police, the first arrest in the case was of Partha Pratim Bora from Assam in November. Bora allegedly ran a company called Harshi Health Care Private Limited, whose bank account was used to deposit money from the scam victims. The police said that money transfer, contacting victims, transfer of fraudulent money to banks, nomination of F2F managers, commissions and so on were done by companies operating from countries like Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Taiwan, and Bangkok by Chinese Nationals. The syndicate has agents globally and thousands of people work under the syndicate, the police added. All the four arrested were produced before a magistrate in Guwahati and brought to Chennai. They were remanded in judicial custody on Monday.

Woman crushed to death at Pushpa premier



HYDERABAD. The craze for the Allu Arjun starrer Pushpa-2: The Rule, cost a woman her life and left at least two persons with injuries, crushed by milling crowds at a theatre at RTC Crossroads in Hyderabad late on Wednesday. A large crowd had gathered at the Sandhya theatre at Musheerabad hoping to get hands on a ticket for the premier show, when matters got out of hand. According to reports, 39-year-old Revathi, a resident of Dilshuknagar, had come to watch the movie with her husband Bhaskar and children Tej and Sanvi. Due to the milling crowds, Revathi fell unconscious and was shifted to Durgabhai Deshmukh Hospital, where she passed away. Her children remain under medical observation. According to unconfirmed reports, Allu Arjun was watching the movie at the theatre when the incident occurred.

Hygiene issues: GHMC to take portable loos on rent

HYDERABAD. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) is introducing portable toilets to ensure neat and hygienic sanitation facilities during special occasions, including national and state festivals, government celebrations, and other major events. These portable toilets are self-contained and do not require pre-existing infrastructure such as sewerage connections. The civic body plans to take on rent four types of portable toilets: regular portable toilets, portable bio-toilets, VIP toilets, and mobile portable toilets. These will be deployed at various locations based on demand and will come with high hygiene standards, continuous maintenance (including cleaning and washing), regular water supply, and transportation for one year. A portable toilet also known as mobile toilet is a



term covering different types of toilets with varied and distinguished features. It can be easily moved around, it can be easily taken to different locations during festivals and major government sponsored programmes. Portable toilets, also known as mobile toilets, are versatile units that can be easily relocated. Unlike traditional toilets, they are not connected to the ground, septic tanks, or sewage systems. This makes them ideal for use during festivals and government-sponsored programmes. To implement this plan, GHMC is empaneling agencies to provide portable toilets on a hire basis. An expression of interest has been invited to select firms with proven experience in offering such services for government or semi-government events. The chosen agencies will supply and maintain the portable toilets to ensure they meet the required standards.

5.3 magnitude temblor rocks Telangana, no casualties

Prantik Mandal, a senior scientist at the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), assured the public there was no cause for alarm.

HYDERABAD. Residents of Hyderabad and parts of Telangana experienced moderate tremors on Wednesday morning, following a 5.3 magnitude earthquake centered in Mulugu district. The National Centre for Seismology (NCS) confirmed the quake occurred at 7:25 am at a depth of 40 km. No loss of life or significant structural damage have been reported. A resident of Hyderabad recounted her experience saying: "I felt disoriented while cutting vegetables, thinking it was vertigo, until my son informed me about the tremors." Wednesday's temblor marks the second major earthquake in the region after a 5.7 magnitude quake in Bhadrachalam in 1969. Tremors were felt in multiple areas, including Kothagudem, Bhadrachalam, Khammam, Warangal, Hanamkonda, Mahabubabad, Mulugu, Sultanabad, Odela, Kalva Srirampur and other areas in the state. Prantik Mandal, a senior scientist at the

National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), assured the public there was no cause for alarm. "Earthquakes of this magnitude are not uncommon, and there is no history of

The NGRI is analysing the initial data, and further computations may revise the magnitude below 5.3. Dr Mandal pointed out the infrequent and low-intensity nature of earthquakes in south India, citing a 1993 earthquake in Latur as an exception due to its unexpected timing. The Latur earthquake claimed almost 10,000 lives and displaced lakhs of people. Mulugu district officials, as directed by collector Divakara TS, are assessing the damage to structures while revenue teams have been told to inspect properties, particularly old and dilapidated buildings. The epicentre of Wednesday's temblor was 18.44°N and 80.24°E with a focal depth of 40 km. The epicentre was approximately 85 km northeast of Warangal, 65 km southwest of Bijapur (Chhattisgarh), 218 km northwest of Hyderabad and 212 km north of Vijayawada.



quakes exceeding a magnitude of 6 in Telangana in the last 100 years," he said. "Hyderabad is seismically stable. Though earthquakes occurred in the past, the Godavari belt and other parts of Telangana never recorded any of a magnitude more than 5.4," Dr Mandal explained.

Mulugu residents wake up to mild tremors

MULUGU. Residents of the Mulugu Agency area were gripped with fear and fled their homes after experiencing an earthquake on Wednesday. The locals, unfamiliar with such incidents, initially did not understand what was happening but soon realised the tremors were caused by an earthquake in the Eturunagaram and Tadvai mandals in the morning. According to the National Centre for Seismology (NCS), an earthquake of magnitude 5.3 on the Richter scale struck Mulugu district. A post on X (formerly Twitter) by the NCS stated that the earthquake occurred at a depth of 40 km and was recorded at 7:27 am IST on December 4 at latitude 18.44°N in Mulugu, Telangana. District officials from Warangal, Hanamkonda, Mahabubabad and Mulugu confirmed that no reports of property damage or loss of life had been received. Speaking to the media, Mulugu Collector Divakara TS stated, "The earthquake occurred around 7:30 am and lasted for 6 to 8 seconds. Fortunately, there has been no damage to property or loss of life in the district. We have alerted gram panchayat secretaries, MPDOs and revenue staff to assess any damage within their jurisdictions. Additionally, officials have been directed to identify any dilapidated houses or properties and submit a detailed report." Residents of Tadvai mandal recalled a squall-like incident in September earlier this year that had caused significant damage to trees over 200 hectares of forest land. Within two months, the occurrence of the earthquake heightened panic in the Agency area. During the tremors, belongings in homes fell to the ground, forcing terrified residents to rush out of their houses. Villagers in Roheer and Shankarajpally, particularly, waited outside their homes on the streets until 9 am, fearing aftershocks.

Lack of night shelters force homeless to sleep out in the open in Cuttack city

In such a situation, most of these poor and homeless people have no other option but to sleep in the open.

CUTTACK. The homeless people in Cuttack city are forced to spend the winter nights under the open sky, thanks to the inadequate number of shelters to house them. To add to the woes, the mosquito menace which has taken the entire city in its grip has made things even more difficult for these people. Sources said the homeless, most of whom are labourers, rickshaw-pullers or ragpickers, can be sighted sleeping on footpaths in Ranihat Clock Tower area, Ranihat canal road, OMP square and Station Bazaar locality. Some of them can also be found taking shelter in front of shops or market yards at Badambadi, Dolamundai, Haripur Road, Dargha Bazar, Tinikonja Bazar, Buxi Bazar, Bajra Kabati road, Dolamundai, Mani Sahu Chhak and Stadium road among other localities.



The Cuttack Municipal Corporation had during the 2009-2019 period constructed around six shelters for urban homeless (SUHs) - at Badambadi, Sishu Bhawan, Sati Chaura, Deula Sahi, Mangalabag and Jagatpur - to provide permanent shelter to these people. However, the SUH at Badambadi

was demolished in 2021 to make way for the Cuttack Netaji Bus Terminal (CNBT) at Khannagar while the night shelter at Deula Sahi was shut down a year back as it was lying unutilised. The remaining four shelters have a total of around 202 beds with 58 at Sishu Bhawan, 48 at Sati Chaura, 46 in Mangalabag SUH and 50 beds in the one at Jagatpur. While the SUHs at Sishu Bhawan and Mangalabag are almost always fully occupied, the ones at Sati Chaura and Jagatpur are lying unoccupied as they are located faraway from the city. In such a situation, most of these poor and homeless people have no other option but to sleep in the open. Slum improvement officer of CMC Swetapadma Satapathy said steps would be taken for construction of new night shelters in the city soon.

'Vasantholsavam' flower fest to kick off on December 24 in Thiruvananthapuram

Various competitions for nurseries and landscaping will also be organised for individuals and organisations.

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The state capital is gearing up to celebrate Christmas and New Year with 'Vasantholsavam' - the annual flower and light festival - to be held at Kankakunnu Palace ground from December 24 to January 3. Tourism Minister PA Mohamed Riyas, in a statement on Wednesday, said that the festival will elevate the city's charm and ambience during the Christmas and New Year for the residents and tourists. "Vasantholsavam 2024 and New Year illumination are the most important events being organised by the tourism department this year, since the Onam



celebrations were called off in the wake of the devastating Mundakkai-Chooralmala landslides in Wayanad,"

said Riyas. An organising committee has been formed for the smooth conduct of Vasantholsavam, with General Education Minister V Sivankutty and Food and Civil Supplies Minister G R Anil as the chief patrons, and Riyas as the chairman. MP's Shashi Tharoor, Aloor Prakash and A A Rahim, and MLAs of the district will also be the patrons of the event. Various competitions for nurseries and landscaping will also be organised for individuals and organisations. DTPC Thiruvananthapuram has invited tenders for setting up stalls in trade fair, amusement parks and the food festival.

Grievances flood CM Rangasamy's meet with people affected by cyclone Fengal

The Chief Minister has directed the authorities to take immediate steps to drain the floodwater and provide relief to the affected people.

PUDUCHERRY. The people in rural areas brought their grievances to Chief Minister N Rangasamy when he visited TN Palayam, Abhishekappakkam, Bahur, Karayambuthur, Manamedu, Pandacholanallur, and Nettappakkam on Wednesday to assess the damage caused by heavy rains triggered by cyclone Fengal. The overflow of the Thenpennair and Sankarabarani rivers resulted in severe flooding, displacing residents and inundating homes and farmlands. The CM visited the canals, submerged houses, farmlands and relief camps, where he consoled people who sustained major losses owing to the deluge. The women complained to Rangasamy that prior intimation about the release of water from the dams could have mitigated the crisis. "We woke up to flooded houses. Though

we were shifted to relief camps, we still have to remain in wet clothes as we don't have a change of clothes here," one of the



women said. Another woman told him that food was not regularly distributed in all the relief centres. Other occupants of the centre too presented the CM with a list of grievances, including the

strengthening of banks of canals. In response, Rangasamy assured them of addressing the issues. He also directed officials present at the spot to take appropriate action. He also signed and forwarded a petition submitted by the women, to an official after making some remarks on the paper. Even though the floodwater has started to recede, most farmlands remain submerged. The Chief Minister has directed the authorities to take immediate steps to drain the floodwater and provide relief to the affected people. Meanwhile, the people in some relief camps in Bahour constituency have begun to return home. Bahour MLA R Senthil Kumar said the water has begun to recede from near houses and people now want to save their gadgets and documents. Power is yet to be restored in some areas like Utchimedu, he added.

Dubai Holding-owned TECOM to exit 84 per cent stake in SmartCity Kochi

The nod for the recommendations comes two years after TECOM wrote to the state government expressing its desire to withdraw from SmartCity Kochi.

KOCHI. TECOM Investments, a subsidiary of Dubai Holding LLC, which owns an 84% stake in SmartCity Kochi, a 246-acre IT park in Kakkannad, is withdrawing from the project. The state government holds the remaining 16% stake in the project. Contours of the withdrawal, including the compensation to be given to TECOM, will be decided by a government-appointed committee headed by the chief secretary. Industries Minister P Rajeeve said the committee will comprise the Kerala State IT Mission director, the Infopark CEO, and MD of Overseas Keralites Investment and Holding Ltd Dr Baju George. "The committee has been directed to study various aspects and submit recommendations. An independent evaluator will be appointed to



calculate the compensation amount that needs to be paid to TECOM," he said. Dissatisfaction over TECOM's performance in developing the IT park has been brewing for some time, and prompted the cabinet's Wednesday decision to approve the recommendations of the chief secretary-led committee. The nod for the recommendations comes two years after TECOM wrote to the state government expressing its desire to withdraw from SmartCity Kochi. The IT park has been mired in controversies ever since the Oommen Chandy-led UDF government proposed the project during its tenure from 2004 to 2006. The then opposition under V S Achuthanandan had alleged that TECOM was a real estate firm and not a company backed by the Dubai government. Then, in early 2012, the Achuthanandan government signed the agreement, clearing the hurdles for the much-hyped project. However, it was dedicated to the nation by Chandy in February 2016, just months before the UDF was voted out of power. SmartCity Kochi was started as a joint venture between the Kerala government and Dubai Holding to develop an IT special economic zone in Kochi. It was implemented by Smart City (Kochi) Infrastructure Pvt Ltd based on successful models of Dubai Internet City, Dubai Media City, and Dubai Knowledge City.

Adani saga and the dharma of bureaucracy

QUESTIONS were put to the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), during his media briefing on November 29, on the indictments issued in the United States against the Adani Group's chairman and others. The queries focused on (i) whether India was informed about these investigations and its cooperation sought by the US authorities, (ii) if India has now requested evidence so that investigations can take place here (because the alleged crimes were committed in India), (iii) whether India considers the US action as 'overreach' and (iv) if the US has requested the Indian mission to serve warrants or summons against persons mentioned in the indictments.

The spokesperson, reading out from prepared notes — not unusual in sensitive matters — stated, "We see this as a legal matter involving private firms and individuals and the Department of Justice. Obviously, there are established procedures and legal avenues in such cases which, we believe, would be followed." He clarified that the Government of India had not been informed in advance and nor has it had any conversations with the US Government on this issue. In respect to the service of summons, he said, "Any request by a foreign government for service of summons or arrest warrants is part of mutual legal assistance but such requests are examined on merits and we have not received this request from the US side."

These responses would have been cleared at the highest levels of the political leadership, especially as the matter has stalled Parliament since the beginning of its present session. They were technically correct because the indictments are against private individuals. A government company, the Solar Energy Corporation of India, was in the middle of both the Power Purchase and Supply Agreements, but no shadow has been cast on it. Significantly, the spokesperson did not answer questions raised in the media briefing about India seeking 'evidence' or on possible US 'overreach'. While in matters such as the Adani indictments there are obvious political angles, they also have diplomatic and bureaucratic underpinnings. Even while politics is taking place, diplomats and bureaucrats have to objectively assess different facets of such issues to ascertain their impact on national interest. Once the indictments became public, what would or should have been the diplomatic and bureaucratic actions by senior civil servants? Government prescriptions on how diplomats and civil servants should handle such issues may change over time, but such changes cannot be substantial; for, the basics of diplomatic and bureaucratic dealing of such matters do not admit a fundamental change.

The indictments cleared by grand juries were two in number. One was filed by the District Attorney of the Eastern District of New York in the Eastern New York District Court for alleged infringement of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). District attorneys are appointed by the President and come under the Department of Justice. The other was by the Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) for infringement of its statute. The SEC is an independent body. It would, therefore, not be as easy for an incoming President to influence it as he can the Department of Justice. It is noteworthy that the MEA spokesperson did not mention that the SEC, too, had filed an indictment through a grand jury. Once the indictments became public, the Indian mission in Washington DC was duty-bound to take cognisance of them. This was because they involved one of India's leading business conglomerates with a global presence. Hence, judicial action against it by US official institutions would resonate through the US and the global business community, as it has done. There was also the possible impact of the indictments.

Mounting domestic discontent spells trouble for Xi

BARELY had the dust settled after the disappearance of the Chinese State Councillor, the Foreign Minister and Chinese President Xi Jinping's protege Qin Gang that three months later, Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu was 'removed' from his post. Li Shangfu,...

BARELY had the dust settled after the disappearance of the Chinese State Councillor, the Foreign Minister and Chinese President Xi Jinping's protege Qin Gang that three months later, Chinese Defence Minister Li Shangfu was 'removed' from his post. Li Shangfu, too, was a close associate of Xi Jinping.

Confirmation has now come on November 28 that the Political Commissar of the Central Military Commission (CMC), Admiral Miao Hua, another close associate of Xi Jinping, is under investigation. Till being placed under investigation, Miao Hua was the top official in charge of ensuring compliance with the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)'s ideology and regulations throughout the PLA. The sudden fall of three of Xi Jinping's close associates points to dissatisfaction with Xi Jinping in the senior echelons of the CCP and certainly signals that all is not well inside Zhongnanhai — the residential walled compound in Beijing of the senior-most Chinese leaders. The recent dismissals in the PLA Rocket Force, together with the removal of some senior generals, suggests problems in the PLA. Indicating that the circle of enquiry among senior PLA officers has expanded, latest reports, though as yet unconfirmed, state that the Commander of the PLA Eastern Theatre Command, General Lin Xiangyang, and till now Chief of Staff of the CMC Joint Staff Department and CMC member Liu Zhenli are both being investigated. The Eastern Theatre Command is the frontline command for operations against Taiwan. Liu Zhenli is the senior-most PLA officer. Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun is already under investigation.

Rumours have been circulating for some months of a power struggle in the PLA's top echelons. There are two strands of rumours. One is that General He Weidong's 'helicopter' promotion as one of the two CMC Vice-Chairmen has been resented by senior PLA officers, who feel that he was not adequately experienced or senior. The other is that there is rivalry between General Zhang Youxia and General He Weidong. The former is a war veteran, having fought in the war with Vietnam and General He

Weidong has experience of confrontation with Taiwan. The latter is influential in the Southern and Eastern Theatre Commands. He Weidong also forged close personal ties with Xi Jinping and the two were drinking buddies when Xi Jinping was posted in Fujian Province. The rumours claim that He Weidong represents a "Taiwan faction" in the PLA. Zhang Youxia, the senior Vice-Chairman of the CMC, is also a 'princeling' and close second-generation family friend of Xi Jinping. Their fathers served together in the 1940s. This proximity and Zhang Youxia's reputation as a military professional

People's Armed Police Commander Wang Ning and new PLA Army Commander Han Weiguang, came into contact with Xi Jinping who was the Deputy Party Secretary of Fujian. All their careers were fast-tracked. Miao Hua is a close associate of Xi Jinping and their tenures overlapped when Xi Jinping was Party Secretary of the Zhejiang province. In mid-2012, Miao Hua was promoted as Deputy Political Commissar of the Lanzhou MR and Secretary of its Discipline Inspection Commission and, within months, was appointed the Political Commissar of the Lanzhou Military Region. Considering that the Lanzhou Military Region was long regarded as a powerbase of Guo Boxiong of the Jiang Zemin faction, Miao Hua would have had a role in the investigations against Guo Boxiong and removing remnants of his influence in the region. Miao Hua was among the senior PLA officers who published articles in April 2014, pledging loyalty to Xi Jinping. General Miao Hua was given a double promotion by Xi Jinping to become one of the PLA's youngest officers to be promoted to the rank of PLA General.

The ouster of Miao Hua, for whatever reason, could mean that his associates, proteges and persons appointed on his recommendation would now be subject to renewed vetting. This could include CMC Vice-Chairman General He Weidong. Given Miao Hua's long tenure as Political Commissar in the CMC, he would have had a key role in the elevation and appointment of many senior PLA officers. But the implications of these removals would be wider. They point to either poor judgment of personnel by Chinese President Xi Jinping, or that Xi Jinping is himself under attack. There is enough popular dissatisfaction, including within the CCP, with Xi Jinping's policies. The slowdown of the economy and consequent joblessness, graduate unemployment and rising cost of living have aggravated societal discontent.

A lot depends on the extent of support Xi Jinping enjoys in the PLA and whether there is substance in the rumours of differences between Zhang Youxia and He Weidong. The looming unpredictability in China-US relations amid mounting domestic dissatisfaction point to difficult times ahead for Xi Jinping.



prompted Xi Jinping to retain him in the CMC as Vice-Chairman at the 20th Party Congress in 2022, though he had crossed the retirement age. Zhang Youxia was also re-appointed as one of the two PLA officers to the CCP CC Politburo. As the senior-most General in the PLA, Zhang Youxia commands considerable respect among PLA personnel and veterans.

Miao Hua, who held the PLA Navy rank of Admiral, was, till his removal last week, the Director of the CMC Political Work Department and a member of the CMC. He was retained as Director of the CMC Political Work Department and CMC member at the 20th Party Congress. Miao Hua is the first among an elite group of officers who earned their spurs in the PLA's 31st Group Army in the Nanjing Military Region near Xiamen. He and others, like former

Stuck in traffic

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AS Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah are poised to take to the skies en route to Chandigarh, the common commuters on the Delhi-Noida border found themselves mired in yet another gridlock. The irony is stark: while the leaders of the nation soar above the turmoil, the very people who till the land and feed the nation are left stranded, both on the roads and in negotiations. The farmers' protest, now approaching its fourth year, continues to simmer without a resolution in sight. Their demands, including a legally guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP), loan waivers and compensation for families of deceased protesters, remain unmet. The government's silence has only deepened the mistrust, making a peaceful resolution seem like a distant dream. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's appeal for dialogue



rings hollow when juxtaposed against the government's actions — or lack thereof. While Dhankhar promises open

doors, the roads leading to those doors remain barricaded, both literally and figuratively. Farmers, once hailed as the backbone of the nation, are treated as obstacles rather than stakeholders in India's development. The Supreme Court's call for peaceful protests without public inconvenience is a fair point. Yet, one must ask:

who is inconveniencing whom? The farmers' agitation is a manifestation of systemic neglect and the real inconvenience is the government's apathy towards their plight. As traffic jams paralyse the Capital's borders, they serve as a metaphor for the current state of affairs — progress stalled, voices unheard and grievances unresolved. The government must descend from its lofty perch and walk the ground with the farmers, for the road to a truly developed India runs through its farmlands.

Constitution has stood us in good stead

THIS year's Constitution Day coincided with pleas that a mosque and a dargah be surveyed to verify whether they had temples underneath. Pleas like these remind us how far we remain as a nation from realising the dream the Constitution...

THIS year's Constitution Day coincided with pleas that a mosque and a dargah be surveyed to verify whether they had temples underneath. Pleas like these remind us how far we remain as a nation from realising the dream the Constitution symbolises and represents. As a symbol, it stands for a transformative vision. No wonder it evokes criticism from people who cannot differentiate between a civilisation and a modern nation. Both the drafting and adoption of the Constitution represent a possibility — that as a society, we can accomplish complex tasks that require a difficult and long dialogue. This is what our neighbour and historical cohorts on either side could not successfully manage. Their struggle to achieve stability continues, reminding us that we should not take ourselves for granted.

The search for temples beneath mosques and shrines also points out that we must appreciate how exceptionally lucky we were to have a document that has stood us in good stead for 75 years. This is not a minor achievement, but we can't afford to rest on our laurels. Our difficulties arise partly because the means available to us for passing on ideas and values to younger people have not been robust or all that reliable. The Constitution is, of course, taught in considerable detail and is frequently mentioned in schools and colleges, but teaching it is not easy if you want to bring it alive. To enable young people to recognise that it is a transformative document, they must know what it tries to transform and why. This is where most debates of the present times arise. A lot of people who see India as essentially an old civilisation don't like it being called a new nation. Between these two positions, an interesting dialogue is possible, but

it doesn't occur. Like everything else in our times, this polarity is also treated as frozen. The two sides exist in independent orbits. The possibility of a bridge does not get a chance to be explored. Of course, the makers of the Constitution were aware of this polarity. And those who did not directly participate in the final drafting also knew that India was both an old civilisation and a new nation. One such person was Mahatma Gandhi. He drew inspiration from India's civilisational resources in his struggle to seek freedom from colonial rule and resolve Indian society's internal strife and contradictions in a peaceful manner. It was a monumental struggle, as one can imagine. The Independence movement was arduous and long; and it was the first movement of its kind in the colonial world. India's Independence inspired many other colonised nations and still does, because it had no precedent. No doubt it involved several violent episodes, but the key political moves that led towards freedom created a new discourse of liberation through peaceful argumentation.

Several new ideals and values arose during the freedom movement, and the Constitution offers to the young the best repository of these ethical achievements. If a teacher uses the Preamble to study the history of the 19th and 20th centuries, the Constitution would come alive — in the sense that the deep difficulties its drafting posed would all surface. How Dr BR Ambedkar, who chaired the drafting group, ironed out various positions and assertions is an amazing story of consensus-building. Terms like 'equality' and 'justice' are not mere words conveying key values that the Constitution asserts as fundamental. A critique of society and the urgency to transform it so



that it can be governed democratically is embedded in these words. Is justice possible among grossly unequal groups? Is equality possible in the middle of destitution and exploitation? Such are the questions hidden in the Preamble. And then, there is an overarching question: Is fraternity possible when chasms are so deep and they often get flooded with volatile emotions? Makers of the Constitution were aware of the risks that the politics of representation would pose to values encoded in the ethical framework.

I once tried to impart the experience of Constitution-making to my students by presenting a family map. It featured three generations living under one roof but with different worries brewing in their hearts. The older generation had just two members left, while the middle one consisted of four members whose capacities and interests radically differed. Then there was the third generation, consisting of the children of

three siblings of the middle generation. Among the children, too, there was great variation in pursuits and capacities. They had an unmarried aunt and an uncle who was financially weak and routinely needed help from the rest of the family, including the two grandparents. It was a complex task to prepare a document about the future arrangements that the grandparents wanted to be put in place with consensus before their death.

I made four discussion groups and assigned drafting to a fifth group. I returned to the room after an hour and found the place quite noisy and chaotic. One hour was left for the exercise, but there no sense of hurry among any of the groups. So, I went away and came back an hour later. I was told that more time was required, so we decided to meet again the next day. The same thing happened next day, and we needed more time. Finally, when we met to discuss the draft Constitution, I noticed as many as six notes of dissent appended to it. Everything was read out and the discussion began. There were several angry voices, and some were sulking. The drafting group was also unhappy because every discussion group was blaming them for unfair recording.

Teaching about the real Constitution became easy after this exercise. These students were in the first year of Delhi University's legendary B.El.Ed. (Bachelor of Elementary Education) course. The collective attempt to create a document that was under so many contending demands and pressures had given the class a considerable taste of what the drafting and passage of the real Constitution of India must have been like. I didn't need to tell them that for a newborn nation, it was quite an achievement.

Top 20 ways to Improve Your Concentration



With distractions present everywhere, concentrating on work becomes difficult. The human mind isn't designed to cope with surrounding chaos as each sense picks up on something that could distract us in a second. However, even though it is difficult to improve concentration, it is not entirely impossible. Perseverance is important in improving your concentration power. Here are the top 20 ways with which you can improve your concentration. Get cracking today!

Select your environment

The environment in which you work plays an important role in improving your concentration. Comfortable and appealing environments are more conducive to attaining full concentration while working.

Usually, while selecting the environment, keep in mind, the lesser the distractions, the better the chances of working with full concentration.

Control your thoughts

The key to concentration is to not allow your mind to distract you with casual thoughts. When unrelated thoughts emerge in the mind, pay no attention to them and actively focus on the task you are trying to accomplish.

Make a time plan

Make a schedule for the jobs to be done. In order to balance, allocate time appropriately to serious tasks, and to leisure as well.

This will help you feel more fulfilled and less weak toward playful distractions.

Never be negative

Do not tell yourself that you cannot concentrate; this will make it more difficult to focus, because you will force your mind to be short of concentration and attention.

Avoid Multi-tasking

Multi-tasking ensures that we cannot concentrate on one single task at hand when we have a horde of tasks lying in front of us. Focus on completing each task before moving on to the next.

Cut off the Noise

Cutting off noise is very important, as it is obvious that distractions won't help you focus. Though it can be tempting to put the e-mail

alerts on, reply to the BBM or whatsapp messenger and answer every request sent your way, eventually it will only prevent you from concentrating.

Diet and Exercise

Focus depends, to a great deal, on a balanced diet and exercise plan.

Lack of essential nutrients can cause fatigue and lethargy. Ensure concentration by eating a diet rich in nuts and fruits containing Vitamin E, and follow through with a healthy workout routine.

Understand the task

Concentration is particularly difficult if you have doubts about what you are doing or if you find the task confusing.

When work is difficult, the mind looks for easier things to do. Hence, try to get a general overview and develop a basic concept and framework before you start each task.

Conquer Procrastination

Don't feel like concentrating? Are you putting off a task? This is procrastination.

Do not postpone, in fact simply decide to not leave your seat till the burdensome task is over.

Spot your peak times

All of us have our times of peak alertness in the 24-hours cycle. However, it is not the same for all.

Find out yours and use it for more tricky or less interesting tasks.

Be positive

Whenever you need to focus, tell yourself over and over again that you can concentrate, and this will easily help you to develop this ability.

Divide tasks

Tasks that have no clear start or end point will destroy your focus. If you have a large project that needs work, clearly identify a path that you will use to get started working on it.

Concentration Exercises

Exercise restores the loss in focus by improving mind and body coordination.

Focus is closely related to memory preservation exercises like coin trick, chair trick. This will improve your concentration.

Meditation

Meditation is not a cure; but, if you can practice sincerely and learn to control the mind you will notice a difference, and slowly improve your concentration power.

Go slow

It is important to discipline yourself as well as put in more time to effective use. So start small, but stick to it if you are not able to concentrate easily.

Train your brain

In order to improve your concentration you need to train your brain.

If you are unable to focus on a subject for

more than a few seconds, but if you persevere, you will be able to fix the mind on anything for a longer duration.

Set a Deadline

Deadlines work well when trying to strengthen concentration.

A deadline can make it easier to forget the non-essential and speed up your working time.

Get enough sleep

Impose a regular bedtime.

Tiredness, fatigue and lack of a good night's sleep is one of the leading causes of poor concentration.

Steady progress

If you feel you are horrible at concentration, try to make small improvements each week.

If you get distracted for say half of the time, make an effort to get distracted for less time each week.

Manage requirements

Make sure that you have arranged all your requirements before you start with each task.

This may avoid unnecessary distractions, and you will work serenely.

Unite your heart with mind

Applying your mind to the work is a requirement in any case; adding positive attitude makes the real difference.

When you start enjoying the work, your understanding of it and desire to concentrate on it is much faster and better.



Benefits of chamomile

Tea

Of late, green tea has earned kudos for its miraculous effects on skin and body. But the wonders of chamomile tea are still unknown to many. Yes, chamomile tea has sundry beneficial effects on the skin as well as hair. Some of them are as follows:

1. It has an abundance of amazing healing, antioxidant, cleansing and moisturizing properties and is considered a full-fledged skincare treatment.
2. Infused with great healing properties, chamomile tea accelerates the healing process of minor wounds and also disinfects the wounds.
3. Chamomile tea is an excellent all-natural skin bleach. It lightens the complexion and renders it a healthy glow.
4. It is found to be very effective in soothing skin irritation and sunburns.
5. This magic potion is a powerhouse of antioxidants that help you fight acne and breakouts. It

also works wonders to eliminate acne scars.

6. It protects your skin from free radical damage, a chief contributor to premature aging, hence help retaining your youthful charm for long.

7. Placing cooled down chamomile tea bags under the eyes can help reducing under-eye dark circles and eye puffiness. It also soothes your tired eyes.

8. When blended with powdered milk, chamomile tea provides you a great body and facial scrub. It sloughs off the dead, dry skin cells revealing the underlying cells which are new.

9. If consumed on a regular basis, chamomile tea nourishes and moisturizes your skin from deep inside. You may also want to use chamomile in your homemade beauty recipes to draw its beauty benefits.

10. A chamomile tea rinse brightens up the blonde hair instantly. If combined with henna, it makes natural highlights for dark hair as well.

11. It is a wonderful hair lightener. Using chamomile tea as final hair rinse adds a stunning bright-golden light to the brown hair. Use the treatment regularly to lighten your hair gradually.

12. Chamomile is also found to be highly effective in preventing and eliminating dandruff. In addition, it also soothes irritated scalp.



Here are 7 great reasons to snack on olives regularly

Cardiovascular benefits

When free radicals oxidize cholesterol, blood vessels are damaged and fat builds up in arteries, possibly leading to a heart attack. The antioxidant nutrients in black olives impede this oxidation of cholesterol, thereby helping to prevent heart disease. Olives do contain fat, but it's the healthy monounsaturated kind, which has been found to shrink the risk of atherosclerosis and increase good cholesterol.

Cancer prevention

Black olives are a great source of vitamin E, which has the brilliant ability to neutralize free radicals in body fat. Especially when working with the stable monounsaturated fats found in olives, vitamin E can make cellular processes safer. When such processes such as mitochondrial energy production are not well protected, the free radicals produced can cause oxidation, damaging a cell's mitochondria, and preventing the cell from producing enough energy to supply its needs. If the DNA of a cell is damaged, it may well mutate and become cancerous. Studies have shown that a diet supplemented with olive oil leads to a lower risk of colon cancer, almost as low a risk as a diet rich in fish oil.

Skin and hair health

Black olives are rich in fatty acids and antioxidants that nourish, hydrate and protect. Chief among those is vitamin E. Whether applied topically or ingested, vitamin E has been shown to protect skin from ultraviolet radiation, thus guarding against skin cancer and premature aging. You can gain a healthy, glowing complexion by washing your face in warm water, applying a few drops of olive oil to vulnerable spots, and letting it work its magic for 15 minutes before rinsing it off. In fact, you can moisturize with olive oil before any bath, and even condition your hair with it by mixing it with an egg yolk and leaving it before rinsing and washing.

Bone and connective tissue

The anti-inflammatory abilities of the monounsaturated fats, vitamin E and polyphenols in black olives may also help dull the asperity of asthma,

7 reasons you MUST eat

Olives



osteoarthritis, and rheumatoid arthritis. Most of the suffering in having one of these three bone maladies is brought about by high levels of free radicals. Olive oil also contains a chemical called oleocanthal, which acts as a painkiller. Research has found that oleocanthal inhibits inflammation by the same means that drugs like Ibuprofen do.

Digestive tract health

Frequent consumption of both vitamin E and the monounsaturated fats in black olives is associated with lower rates of colon cancer. These nutrients help prevent colon cancer by neutralizing free radicals. Olive oil's protective function also has a beneficial effect on ulcers and gastritis. Olive oil activates the secretion of bile and pancreatic hormones much more naturally than prescribed drugs, thereby

lowering the incidence of gallstone formation. A cup of black olives also contains 17% of the daily allowance of fiber, which promotes digestive tract health by helping to move food through the system at a healthier pace. This keeps any one part of the digestive tract from having to work too hard and supports the ideal balance of chemicals and populations of microorganisms required for a healthy digestive system.

Good source of iron

Black olives are very high in iron. The ability of red blood cells to carry oxygen throughout the body is due to the presence of iron in the blood. If we suffer from a lack of iron, our tissues don't get enough oxygen, and we may feel cold or weak. Iron also plays a vital role in the production of energy. It is a necessary part of a number of

enzymes, including iron catalase, iron peroxidase, and the cytochrome enzymes. It also helps produce carnitine, a nonessential amino acid important for the utilization of fat. To top it all off, the proper function of the immune system is dependent on sufficient iron.

Eye health

One cup of black olives contains ten percent of the daily recommended allowance of vitamin A which, when converted into the retinal form, is crucial for healthy eyes. It enables the eye to better distinguish between light and dark, thereby improving night vision. Furthermore, Vitamin A is believed effective against cataracts, macular degeneration, glaucoma and other age-related ocular diseases.

12-year-old schoolmate held in Class 6 student death case in Delhi

The police have registered an FIR for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and apprehended the accused boy, who, on being questioned, revealed the reason for the argument.

NEW DELHI. Delhi Police has apprehended a 12-year-old boy in the case of the death of his classmate at a private school in south-west Delhi, a senior police officer confirmed. A class 6 boy died on Tuesday morning after an argument over the brushing of the victim and the accused's shoulders while walking led to a scuffle between the two inside the school. Following the clash, the boy collapsed and was rushed to a hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. However, the initial enquiry and inspection of the body led the police to suspect the death was a result of a seizure.



"Some foam-type material was oozing out from his mouth when he was brought to the hospital," the officer said, adding that doctors had verbally opined that the deceased boy might be having some "fits-

related problem". However, the family alleged foul play, claiming that their child was beaten up by his classmate, which led to his sudden death. The police then initiated an inquiry and

reached the school, where the teachers and some students were questioned. According to the officer, the victim got into a scuffle with the accused boy, which was captured on a CCTV camera. "Both of them could be seen holding each other's throat. Probably they were choking each other, and one of them suddenly collapsed, who was then taken to a hospital, where he was declared dead," the officer told TMS. The police have registered an FIR for culpable homicide not amounting to murder and apprehended the accused boy, who, on being questioned, revealed the reason for the argument. The officer maintained that further legal action will be taken only after they ascertain the exact cause of death for which they are awaiting the post-mortem report. Meanwhile, another officer said that the doctors who conducted the autopsy have prima facie opined that the child may have probably died due to asphyxiation.

Delhi Schoolboy, 12, Taken Into Custody For Classmates Death: Cops

Hundreds of people protested outside Chinmaya Vidyalaya in southwest Delhi after the mysterious death of Prince, who was a resident of Kudumpur Pahari in Vasant Vihar, following a minor fight with his classmates on Tuesday.

New Delhi. A day after a 12-year-old student of Class-6 died following a minor fight at a private school in the national capital, Delhi Police has detained a classmate of the student in connection with the case, officials said on Wednesday. Hundreds of people protested outside Chinmaya Vidyalaya in southwest Delhi after the mysterious death of Prince, who was a resident



of Kudumpur Pahari in Vasant Vihar, following a minor fight with his classmates on Tuesday. A scrutiny of CCTV footage from the school showed some boys fighting with each other after the morning assembly, police said. We have detained a 12-year-old boy studying in the same class as the victim under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)," a police officer said. Prince, who got admission in Chinmaya Vidyalaya under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) quota, turned 12 on November 3, his family members said. Police said the Fortis Hospital in Vasant Kunj informed at 10.15 am on Tuesday that Prince was brought dead there, the officer said. An inspection of the body showed no visible injury marks, with some foam-like substance coming out of the mouth, police said. The doctors said the boy might have suffered a convulsion-related condition. Prince's father Sagar, a sewer line worker in Vasant Vihar, said his son had no medical history and was completely fit and fine when he dropped him at the school on Tuesday.

CBI Conducts Searches In Delhi-NCR Over 117 Crore Cyber Crime Case

New Delhi. The CBI conducted searches at 10 locations in Delhi and surrounding areas on Wednesday in connection with a case of transnational cyber-enabled financial frauds involving ₹ 117 crore, officials said. The searches were conducted during an ongoing investigation into a case registered on a complaint from the Union Home Ministry's Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C). It was alleged in the FIR that unidentified organised cybercriminals and suspected foreign actors were engaged in systematic financial fraud across India. "The investigation so far has revealed that fraudsters



operating from overseas use digital platforms such as websites, WhatsApp, and Telegram to target victims in India.

"They lure individuals through part-time job scams, task-based frauds, and promises of high returns on initial investments. Funds deposited by the victims are quickly transferred through a network of 'mule accounts' layered to obscure their origins," the CBI Spokesperson said in a statement. During the searches conducted on Wednesday at two locations in Gurugram and eight in the national capital, "incriminating" evidence, including electronic devices and financial records, was seized from the premises of 10 individuals suspected of involvement in the fraud, he said.

Delhi triple murder: Hatred for father, jealous of sister, chose anniversary date to kill parents

NEW DELHI. December 4, a day that should have been a celebration for Rajesh Kumar and his wife Komal on their 27th wedding anniversary, turned into a tragic nightmare for their family. The couple's 20-year-old son, Arjun, a second-year BA student at Delhi University, turned a long-held grudge into a deadly act by killing his parents and his elder sister, Kavita, in a cold-blooded murder. The date, chosen deliberately by Arjun, was meant to teach his family a final lesson.

To the outside world, the Kumar family seemed close-knit and harmonious. Rajesh, an ex-serviceman, his wife Komal, a homemaker, seemed to have it all. However, beneath the surface, Arjun harboured deep resentment. Describing the motive behind his actions, Arjun told police, "They loved only my sister, not me."

Arjun, a trained boxer and Delhi State silver medalist, had always been overshadowed by his elder sister, Kavita, a brilliant student who excelled academically and earned her parents' praise. In contrast, Arjun struggled in his studies, leading to a growing sense of neglect and frustration over the years. He had studied at Army Public School, Dhaulai Kuan. According to police sources, Arjun felt scorned by his parents, who he claimed favoured Kavita in all aspects of life. He was routinely scolded for his academic shortcomings and daily tasks, further fueling his anger. The turning point came after two incidents. The first occurred when Arjun's father publicly scolded and physically disciplined him in front of others, leaving him humiliated. The second, more severe blow, was learning that his father planned to transfer property to Kavita, further cementing his feelings of being sidelined.

These events ignited a dangerous rage in Arjun, who began plotting revenge. He meticulously chose the morning of his parents' wedding anniversary for killing them, believing it would be the perfect time to execute his plan. Aware of his parents' routine, he used his usual morning walk as an alibi, ensuring that no one would suspect him. On Wednesday morning, Arjun woke up in full rage, took his father's dagger, and first slit his sister's throat who was sleeping on the ground floor. Then he went to the first floor where he found his father in a deep sleep, while his mother had already woken up and was inside the washroom.

Unnao Rape Case: Kuldeep Sengar Gets Interim Bail On Medical Ground

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

New Delhi. The Delhi High Court on Thursday granted a two-week interim bail on medical grounds to expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar who is serving life term for raping a minor in Uttar Pradesh's Unnao in 2017.



A bench headed by Justice Prathiba M Singh suspended the sentence for the time being and directed that Sengar be admitted to AIIMS-Delhi for his medical evaluation and must remain in the capital once discharged.

"Considering the history of the case as also the medical condition of the applicant, it is directed that the applicant will be released on interim bail for two weeks and he shall seek admission in AIIMS Delhi for a comprehensive medical evaluation," the bench, also comprising Justice Amit Sharma, said. The court sought a report from the medical board of AIIMS and listed the matter for

hearing on December 20. Sengar is also serving a 10-year jail term in connection with the custodial death of the Unnao rape victim's father. His plea for interim bail in that case is still pending before another bench of the high court. Sengar sought interim bail on the grounds that he was suffering from various ailments, like cataract, that required urgent attention. The plea was opposed by the victim's lawyer as well as the CBI. Sengar's appeal challenging the trial court's verdict in

the main Unnao rape case is pending in the high court. He has sought quashing of the December 2019 judgement of the trial court which sentenced him to imprisonment for the remainder of his life. The girl was kidnapped and raped by Sengar in 2017 when she was a minor. On March 13, 2020, Sengar was sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and was fined ₹ 10 lakh, in connection with the case of custodial death of the rape victim's father. The court had also awarded a 10-year jail term to Sengar's brother Atul Singh Sengar and five others. The father of the rape victim was arrested at the behest of Sengar in a case under the Arms Act. He died in custody on April 9, 2018. The rape case and other connected cases were transferred to Delhi from a trial court in Uttar Pradesh on the directions of the Supreme Court on August 1, 2019.

INDIA MPs wear jackets reading 'Modi-Adani ek hai', Trinamool skips protest

The Trinamool Congress and the Samajwadi Party again kept away from the protest on the Gautam Adani bribery case held in the Parliament complex by the Congress and other opposition parties.

New Delhi. Speculations over a rift in the INDIA bloc deepened after the Trinamool Congress and the Samajwadi Party again kept away from the protest over the Gautam Adani bribery case held in the Parliament complex by the Congress and other opposition parties. Trinamool MP Kirti Azad said the party had other issues to highlight but underlined that the opposition was united in their strategy on the floor of Parliament. "On the floor of the House we have the same strategy, but at the same time, we have other different issues to highlight," Azad told India Today. Samajwadi Party MP Ram Gopal Yadav also gave an evasive response. "Where are we not together in protest? We are together," he said. Meanwhile, Congress and other opposition MPs continued their protest in



Parliament over the US indictment of Adani in a bribery and fraud case. The MPs, including Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Wayanad MP Priyanka Gandhi, were seen wearing jackets that had "Modi Adani Ek Hai, Adani safe hai" printed on them. Reiterating his claim that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was shielding Adani, Rahul Gandhi said, "PM Modi can't get Adani investigated because if he does that, he would be getting himself

investigated... Modi aur Adani ek hain." Priyanka Gandhi demanded a discussion on the issue in Parliament and a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Congress and some other opposition parties have also demanded a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) probe into the dealings of the Adani Group. However, the Trinamool wants a discussion on issues like price rise, unemployment, and deprivation of funds to the opposition states. US prosecutors have accused Adani of promising bribes to Indian government officials for securing solar power contracts between 2020-2024. The Adani Group has dismissed all allegations as "baseless". Since last week, Parliament proceedings have been stalled amid protests by opposition parties over the Adani.

When Akal Takht ordered lashes for Maharaja Ranjit Singh over Heeramandi lover

The Akal Takht, the highest temporal authority for Sikhs, has ordered sewa as atonement for former Punjab deputy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal and other Shiromani Akali Dal leaders. Around 223 years ago, Akal Takht ordered lashes for Maharaja Ranjit Singh for marrying a Muslim dancer from Heeramandi. This is what happened next.

New Delhi. The supremacy of the Akal Takht, the highest seat of temporal power for Sikhs, was on display as powerful politicians admitted to their mistakes and were ordered to atone for their mistakes towards the community and perform sewa (services) at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. Akal Takht Jathedar Akali Phula Singh had 223 years ago ordered 100 lashes for Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the Lion of Punjab. The powerful king submitted before the Akal Takht's supremacy so that the punishment could be carried out. What happened then is interesting. In the recent case, the Akal Takht has ordered former Punjab deputy CM Sukhbir Singh Badal and a host of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leaders to perform sewa (service) as atonement for their mistakes. It has also formed a committee to revamp the SAD. This came after Badal admitted before the

Akal Takht to his role in getting a religious pardon issued for Dera Sacha Sauda head Ram Rahim in 2015. It also has to do with the cases of sacrilege the same year. However, the 223-year-old case had to do with Maharaja Ranjit Singh marrying Moran Sarkar, a 12-year-old Muslim dancer from Heeramandi. The Maharaja had heard of her splendid beauty and followed it up by meeting her. What followed was a love story resulting in him being flogged by the Akal Takht. It is a story of a maharaja, a courtesan and an area with a reputation. But before we go into this, let's look at the context they were present in.



THE SIKH CONQUEST OF PUNJAB AND RISE OF RANJIT SINGH
The Sikhs conquered Lahore in 1799 under the leadership of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. The empire's capital was Gujranwala.

Both Lahore and Gujranwala are now in Pakistan. While there were strategic reasons why Ranjit Singh shifted his capital to Lahore, he stayed and operated from the area till his death, partly because of his love for Moran. That Moran lived in the hustling and bustling market of Heeramandi. Here, women were trained in various arts, including classical kathak, mujra, thumri, ghazal, and dadra, and became tawafs upon mastering

classical dance and singing. The area reached its financial and cultural heights during the Mughal rule. But during the early 18th century, after the death of Aurangzeb, the Mughal empire's influence started to diminish. After Ahmad Shah Durrani and the Afghan forces entered Lahore on January 12, 1748, Shahi Mohallah or Heeramandi became a mere hub of prostitution. The situation remained the same until Ranjit Singh's conquest of Lahore in 1799. Ranjit Singh, the young leader of the Shukerchakia Sikh group, captured Lahore at the age of 17 and declared himself the Maharaja of Punjab in 1801. Famous as a military commander, Ranjit Singh was also a person who appreciated art and aesthetics. Among the vibrant streets of Shahi Mohallah, his attention was drawn to a rising star.

High-fat diet ups Breast cancer risk



The study from the Breast Cancer and the Environment Research Program at Michigan State University indicated that before any tumors appear, there are changes in the breast that include increased cell

growth and alterations in immune cells. These changes persist into adulthood and can lead to the rapid development of precancerous lesions and ultimately breast cancer.

A new study has revealed that eating a high-fat diet at puberty can accelerate the development of breast cancer and may actually increase the risk of cancer similar to a type often found in younger adult women.

In addition to the accelerated breast cancer development, this type of diet produces a distinct gene signature in the tumors consistent with a subset of breast cancers known as basal-like that can carry a worse prognosis.

"This is very significant because even though the cancers arise from random mutations, the gene signature indicating a basal-like breast cancer shows the overarching and potent influence this type of diet has in the breast," Sandra Haslam, one of the lead investigators of the project, said.

Richard Schwartz, microbiology professor in the College of Natural Science, who co-led the research said that it is important to note that since the experimental model did not involve any weight gain from the high-fat diet, these findings are relevant to a much broader segment of the population than just those who are overweight. This shows the culprit is the fat itself rather than weight gain.

8 exercises that burn stomach fat fast

Our goal is to show you the best and practical way to burn stomach fat, so you can finally flaunt a well toned stomach. We have Mike Jackson - Nutritional Consultant and Physique Transformation Specialist to help you get toned and sexy abs. Read on and burn the unwanted calories with these exercises to burn stomach fat quickly.

Exercises that burn stomach fat fast # 1: Running or walking

Okay, you're probably thinking, "How does moving your legs shrink those love handles?" Well, the truth is there's no way to target belly fat. Your genetics get to decide where the fat settles in your body, so the best thing to do is start moving.

As you exercise, calories are burned and your body fat percentage decreases. So, exercising not only helps you lose belly fat, it also sheds fat from other areas. Running and walking are two of the best fat-burning exercises. Plus, the only equipment you need is a good pair of shoes. Between the two, running burns more calories, but walking really isn't too far behind.

Running and walking can be part of your interval training routine and do not forget to warm up and cool down if you take up running for weight loss.

Exercises that burn stomach fat fast # 2: Elliptical trainer

Some of us no longer have the strong joints we had as teenagers. Jogging is out of the question and walking doesn't cut it. The good news is elliptical trainers provide an intense, low impact cardio workout. In fact, a 145-lb. person can burn about 300 calories in 30 minutes on an elliptical trainer. That's about as many calories as running burns, but without the joint wear-and-tear.

Exercises that burn stomach fat fast # 3: Bicycling

Bicycling is another great low impact cardio exercise. Not to mention, it's a great way to travel or see the countryside. Depending on the speed and intensity the average person can burn between 250 to 500 calories during a 30-minute bike ride.

Exercises that burn stomach fat fast # 4: The bicycle exercise

Burning body and belly fat with cardio exercises is half the battle. Next is strengthening abdominal muscles so you have something to show once the fat is shed. In a recent study, ab exercises were ranked from best to worst. The bicycle exercise ranked as #1 because it requires abdominal stabilization, body rotation, and more abdominal muscle activity.

These are some bicycle exercises you can do before you hop on your bike: -Lie on your back with hands behind your head

If building a six-pack were easy almost everyone would have sexy abs. It's not only the actual effort that's hard, it's also knowing "how" to burn stomach fat correctly is a challenge.

Exercises that burn stomach fat fast #5: The Captain's chair leg raise

For this exercise you require a captain's chair which is found in most gyms. The chair has a padded back and armrests with grips. Your legs hang free.

Exercises that burn stomach fat fast #6: Exercise ball crunch

The exercise needs a lot of stabilization which engages more muscles. You'll need an exercise ball. -Lie on the ball so your lower back is supported and feet are firmly planted on the ground -Place hands across chest or behind the head -Contract abs and lift your torso up and forward -Lower back down -Keep the ball stable during each crunch -Exhale when you crunch; inhale when you lower back down -Do 1-3 sets with 12-16 repetitions

Exercises that burn stomach fat fast #7: Vertical leg crunch

The vertical leg crunch is similar to a regular crunch. But it requires you to keep your legs straight, which makes the abs work harder and increases the workout's intensity.

Exercises that burn stomach fat fast #8: Reverse crunch

The reverse crunch was also ranked above regular crunches as the 5th best

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How to make a nutritious bachelor Breakfast

But a few quick fixes and just a tiny bit of prep can make that most important meal of the day possible and a treat too.



Your shopping list must-haves

Always keep a few things in your kitchen which are most important to fix a quick, healthy breakfast. So the next time you go to a supermarket, remember to include the following in your list. Eggs are most important, so load up on them. Add to that olives, flavoured oats, red sauce, peppers,

cheese, butter, peanut butter, wheat vermicelli, bacon and chicken breasts. If you're a vegetarian, make sure you buy mushrooms, broccoli, beans, tomatoes, potatoes and basic sauces. Food expert Sudhir Pai also suggests getting a small, basic grill that would help you make all kinds of sandwiches in a jiffy.

Eggs-a-hoy!

Eggs, most food experts stress, are the best form of protein found in foods naturally. Clinical nutritionist Priya Karkera agrees, "Eggs make for an easy and healthy breakfast, and if you're pushed for time there are few foods that could be as nutritious to prepare in a short while as eggs." And you don't have to fret about your breakfast turning boring. If you can manage to cut veggies beforehand (mushrooms, broccoli, olives, red peppers), you can always rustle up an omelette. "Unlike a typical Indian breakfast, with eggs, you can be creative and make dishes like egg toast, French toast, sandwiches and various omelettes," suggests Pai.

Ready-made with a twist

If you're bored with your regular morning cereal, there's just a quick twist you can give to your grub. Fresh fruits in a bowl of oats can do wonders for their nutritional value. Also, if you crave for an Indian fare, there are a lot of options now available in flavoured oats like masala, tomato and other flavours to give you a home-cooked, upma style breakfast.

Quick breakfast foods

Peanut butter apple sandwich: Full of healthy calories protein and antioxidants, the sandwich can be a tasty fix for a quick breakfast

Potato mash, chicken and veggies: Last night's mashed potatoes mixed with butter, some marinated grilled chicken breast and a few boiled veggies will keep you stuffed until lunch. Oatmeal Pancakes: With the batter mix ready, it takes all of five minutes to toss out a few hot tasty pancakes that could energise you to take on the day.

4 Ways to get healthy, fit and gorgeous

Being fit, light, healthy and happy is everyone's goal. If you still haven't achieved your fitness goal and want to be a brand new person by the year end, then follow these simple 4 tips by Dr. Sandeep Suttar - Hair Restoration and Skin Rejuvenation surgeon at Hairrevive, Mumbai, to live a life without disease and be beautiful always.

Go do some detox

Detox is the most important thing, in your journey to a brand new person. Detox will help to remove the dirt and waste from your body, and bless you with a gorgeous and beautiful body. Plan your detox programme by choosing from various detox foods, detox juice or detox smoothies. The days of boring, bitter detox options have gone, so choose your option from whole lot of variety and breathe in a new body.

Get fit

Detox will help you to look beautiful and gorgeous, no to get in good shape lose some excess weight by trying various exercise regimes. Plan an exercise routine for yourself; it can be anything like walking, running, swimming or just dancing. So get off from those lazy couches and get in action, this will add fun and zeal to life. Besides, it will also make you feel awesome with a great body.

Plan something healthy

Planning something healthy doesn't mean setting unrealistic goals or stressing your body



beyond its limit. We mean simple healthy plans like going for a health checkups (blood sugar, cholesterol, blood count, and cancer), adopting healthy habits (avoiding junk foods, eating less salt) and sticking to your goals.

Seek your happiness

Happiness is not in worldly pleasure, so stop working your brain like a machine. Spend some time focusing on yourself rather than listing on what to do during the day. Enjoy each day of your life and take it up as an opportunity rather than thinking it as a curse. Achieve what you aimed for, and pursue your path of happiness with lots of joy.

Voda to sell 3% stake in Indus Towers to clear debt

NEW DELHI. Vodafone, the parent company of Vodafone Idea Limited, announced on Wednesday that it will sell 3% stake in Indus Towers to clear its debt of \$101 million (about Rs 856 crore). The residual amount will be used to pay outstanding dues of its Indian venture, Vodafone Idea. Following this transaction, Vodafone's stake in Indus Towers will fall below 1%. Prior to this, Vodafone held 82.5 million shares, representing a 3.1% stake in Indus Towers. In June, Vodafone sold an 18% stake in Indus Towers for nearly Rs 15,300 crore. The current transaction is valued at around Rs 2,841 crore, based on the closing price of Indus Towers stock at Rs 358.75 per share on the BSE. Vodafone, in a regulatory filing said that the proceeds from the sale will be used to repay outstanding borrowings of \$101 million to its existing lenders, secured against Vodafone's Indian assets. Under the terms of the security arrangements between Vodafone and Indus, Indus has a security over the residual proceeds from the sale to guarantee obligations from Vodafone Idea to Indus under the Master Services Agreements (MSA). Vodafone intends to contribute the residual proceeds from the sale towards a new equity share issue by Vodafone Idea, once the terms of the capital raise have been evaluated and decided upon by the Board of Directors of Vodafone Idea. The shares of Vodafone Idea closed nearly 5% up after the parent company announced the stake sale to pare debt of VIL.

VC funding in start-ups rises to \$6.53 bn, PEs invest \$4.69 bn in January-November

BENGALURU: For the past few months, venture capital (VC) funding in Indian start-ups have increased and it has helped the total funding to reach \$6.53 billion till November 30, 2024. However, this is a decline of 1.2% in total equity funding compared to 2023 (Jan-Nov) and 67% decline when compared to 2022. Start-ups raised a whopping \$19.65 billion total equity funding from VCs across 1,493 rounds in 2022, according to data sourced from market intelligence firm Tracxn. Meanwhile, private equity (PE) funding in start-ups stood at \$4.69 billion in January-November 2024, compared to \$4.59 billion in 2023 and \$14.95 billion



in 2022 during the same period. Zepto raised \$665 million in June and in August, it raised \$340 million, and these were the top two funding rounds in 2024 so far. Start-up funding has been showing some signs of recovery of late, and Milan Sharma, Founder and MD, 35North Ventures, said though there has been recovery, it is still below the peak levels of 2021-2022. "Over the past three months, early-stage investments, particularly seed and Series A rounds, have been relatively stable, especially in the US and India. Late-stage funding remains cautious, with constrained valuations."

Bitcoin tops \$1,00,000 as big rally sparked by Trump election win rolls on

New Delhi. Bitcoin has topped the USD 1,00,000 mark as a massive rally in the world's most popular cryptocurrency sparked by the election of Donald Trump rolls on. The milestone comes just hours after the President-elect signalled a lighter regulatory approach to the crypto industry with his choice of Paul Atkins to be the next chair



the Securities and Exchange Commission. Trump said Wednesday that he intends to nominate Atkins, a former SEC commissioner during the presidency of George W. Bush. In the years since leaving the agency, Atkins has made the case against too much market regulation. The cryptocurrency has climbed dramatically from \$69,374 on Election Day and rose as high as USD 101,512 Wednesday, just two years after dropping below \$17,000 following the collapse of crypto exchange FTX. How long bitcoin will stay above the coveted \$1,00,000 mark is uncertain. As with everything in the volatile cryptoverse, the future is impossible to predict. And while some are bullish on future gains, other experts continue to warn of investment risks.

China+1 plan: India's limited gain

Niti Aayog report says Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia bigger beneficiaries of the plan

NEW DELHI. Government think tank Niti Aayog has admitted that 'India has seen limited success so far in capturing the China Plus One strategy. Niti Aayog, which released its first quarterly report on trade and commerce, said Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Malaysia have become bigger beneficiaries of the strategy.

It attributes factors like cheaper labour, simplified tax laws, lower tariffs and proactiveness in signing free trade agreements (FTAs) have played a key role in helping these countries expand their share of exports. The US has raised



barriers for imports from China, which the report says led to a fragmentation of global supply chains, prompting multinational corporations to seek alternatives to Chinese manufacturing. The report says this situation presents both challenges and opportunities for India. First, India has to navigate disruptions in global supply chain, and be wary of China dumping its products in Indian markets. India is seen as an attractive destination for companies looking to shift

manufacturing bases out of China. "This shift offers India a chance to enhance its domestic manufacturing capabilities, mainly in high-tech industries," says the report. As per Niti Aayog officials, even if India failed to capitalise in the early phase of China plus one strategy, a lot more opportunities could come India's way. They said companies, which have invested in China, would like to diversify their supply chain. They have done so in countries like Vietnam and Mexico but

these countries don't have the bandwidth. India with its large market and economic reform undertaken in the last 10 years stands surely to gain from the opportunity.

Arvind Virmani, member, Niti Aayog says Donald Trump's plan to levy a 60% tariff on Chinese imports would present an opportunity for Indian companies in the future. Even though, he foresees short-term shocks due to the move.

The report highlights potential risks of carbon tax, a levy by the European Union on high carbon emitting exporters. It says India's iron and steel industry, which accounts for 23.5% of its EU exports, faces the highest exposure to carbon tax.

Cheap labour, low tariffs, FTAs played key role. Niti Aayog attributes factors such as cheaper labour, simplified tax laws, lower tariffs and proactiveness in signing free trade agreements (FTAs) have played a critical role in helping these countries expand their share of exports. The US has raised barriers for imports from China, which the report says led to a fragmentation of global supply chains, prompting multinational corporations to seek alternatives to Chinese manufacturing

Consider non-financial transactions for tagging account 'operative': SBI to RBI

Mumbai. Faced with the challenge of ensuring an account remains operative, the State Bank of India (SBI) has written to the Reserve Bank, requesting change in rules, and consider non-financial transactions like balance checking as well for tagging an account as operative. CS Setty, chairman of the country's largest lender, said, many a time, an account holder, especially for accounts where cash transfers under government programmes is the primary usage, does limited number of financial transactions. After direct benefit transfer, the money gets credited into the account, there are at best two-three debit transactions before it becomes dormant and earns the tag of being inoperative, he said on the sidelines of a bank event late on Tuesday evening. Even a non-financial transaction should be able to activate the account, Setty said, adding, "We have taken it up with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)."

He added that the current set of rules focus on financial transactions in a given point of time which result in a lot of accounts getting tagged as

"inoperative". When a customer actually does a non-financial transaction, it is a signal of he or she being "aware" of the bank account and hence there is a case for tagging it as an active account, he said. The comments come within days of the RBI asking



banks to urgently address the issue of inoperative or frozen accounts and also start reporting progress on the same on a quarterly basis to the central bank.

The SBI had also started announcing a special drive on inoperative accounts over the weekend. However, the exact picture on the number of inoperative accounts at the country's largest lender was not known. Setty said SBI is using its vast branch network of over 22,000

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and also the business correspondents to reach out to the inoperative account holders, especially where there is a mobile phone. On recent comments, including those by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on potential mis-selling of insurance covers by banks, Setty said there is a need to make products like insurance, pensions, and mutual funds "self-consuming" to allay any concerns. This can be achieved through easier-to-use mobile interface for buying a product rather than depending on a physical interaction that typically gets done during the customer's visit to a branch for loans, he said.

Billionaire Poonawalla's lender to double staff in growth blitz

NEW DELHI. Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd aims to double its headcount as the Indian shadow bank expands into new product lines to increase assets to 1.5 trillion rupees (\$17.7 billion) in the next five years. The non-bank finance company controlled by billionaire Adar Poonawalla, plans to add six retail-focused lending businesses in the next four to six quarters, on top of its existing portfolio, according to Chief Executive Officer Arvind Kapil.

The new businesses include loans for gold purchases, used cars, shopkeepers and education, according to Kapil, who took over the top job in June. The company plans to add nearly 400 branches by next year, up from roughly 100. It will tap into the demand for loans against gold, in smaller cities through a mix of digital offerings and physical branches, Kapil said.

Poonawalla Fincorp is expanding even as credit growth slows and the Reserve Bank of India steps up scrutiny of the shadow bank sector by raising provisions to reduce risk. Poonawalla's stock tumbled in October after it reported higher provisions for bad loans and saw an increase in operating costs in the latest quarter. Credit Growth has slowed sharply in India this year. Kapil expects operating costs will come down by the end of the fiscal year, especially relative to assets, as the lender expands into new markets. The wider array of business lines will also reduce risk, he added.

"If you want to create a solid franchise with very strong foundation, I think it's important to have nine to 10 retail-focused products which target diversified customer segments so you can actually lower the risk," Kapil said.

The firm will focus on lending to salaried employees at India's top 300 companies. Kapil, who most recently led the mortgages business at HDFC Bank Ltd., has spent the last six months setting up his core management team, which includes unit heads from his former bank, along with Yes Bank Ltd. and others. "The seasoned team has experience of building out large businesses and running them," Kapil said, adding that he expects headcount to double from 2,500 employees over the next three quarters as the lender implements the new strategy. Shadow lender stocks have underperformed index this year. Poonawalla's stock has largely recovered from the earnings hit, which Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd. called a "kitchen sink" quarter under the new management team.

India coming up with its own drugs to take on deadly superbugs: Report

According to the BBC report, "Enmetazobactam, developed by Chennai-based Orchid Pharma, is the first antimicrobial invented in India to be approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)."

New Delhi. If India is among the countries hit hardest by "antimicrobial resistance," some hope is said to be on the horizon. According to a BBC report, "a number of promising locally-developed new drugs show potential to combat antibiotic-resistant pathogens. They also offer a game-changing solution to preserve last-resort treatments." Antimicrobial resistance, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO) occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites change over time and no longer respond to medicines making infections harder to treat and increasing the risk of disease



spread, severe illness and death. As a result, the medicines become ineffective and infections persist in the body, increasing the risk of spread to others.

According to the BBC report, "Enmetazobactam, developed by Chennai-based Orchid Pharma, is the first antimicrobial invented in India to be approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)." This injectable

drug, the report adds, treats severe conditions like urinary tract infections (UTIs), pneumonia and bloodstream infections by targeting bacteria's defence mechanisms rather than the bacteria itself. Trials across 19 countries - the drug has been approved by global regulators - with more than 1,000 patients have shown its effectiveness. "The drug has shown remarkable potency against these bacteria

that have evolved over the years. It is administered via intravenous [IV] infusion in hospitals, specifically for critically ill patients, and is not available over the counter," Dr Maneesh Paul, the lead co-inventor of the drug was quoted as saying to the BBC.

Similarly, Mumbai-based Wockhardt is testing a new antibiotic, called Zaynich, for severe drug-resistant infections. Developed over 25 years, the drug is currently in Phase-3 trials and expected to launch next year.

Also in Phase-3 testing is Wockhardt's Nafithromycin, trademarked as MIQNAF, a three-day oral treatment for community-acquired bacterial pneumonia with a 97% success rate.

Among other things, the BBC report says that a 30-member Bengaluru-based biopharma firm Bugworks Research has partnered with Geneva-based non-profit Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership, or GARDP, to develop a new class of antibiotics for treating serious drug-resistant infections. Currently in early Phase-1 trials, the drug is five-to-eight years from market readiness.

NEWS BOX

Liverpool held in Newcastle thriller, Arsenal inflict Amorim's first defeat

LONDON. Liverpool's Premier League lead was cut to seven points by Arsenal and Chelsea after the Reds conceded a 90th-minute equaliser in a thrilling 3-3 draw at Newcastle on Wednesday.

Mohamed Salah's second-half double was not enough to extend Liverpool's seven-game winning run in all competitions as they failed to win for just the third time in 21 games under Arne Slot. Twice the league leaders were forced to come from behind at St James' Park as Alexander Isak blasted Newcastle into a 1-0 half-time lead.

Curtis Jones levelled before Anthony Gordon restored Newcastle's lead. Salah twice converted Trent Alexander-Arnold assists to turn the game around, taking his tally for the season to 15 goals. However, there was a late sting in the tale as a rare error from Liverpool goalkeeper Caoimhin Kelleher allowed Fabian Schär to squeeze in a late equaliser for the Magpies. "He has done remarkably well for us and even today he was good. Unfortunately, he misjudged the situation," Liverpool boss Slot said of Kelleher's blunder. Arsenal's Dutch defender #12 Jurrien Timber scores the opening goal during the EPL football match between Arsenal and Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium in London on December 4, 2024.



Emirates Stadium in London on December 4, 2024. Arsenal's Dutch defender #12 Jurrien Timber scores the opening goal during the EPL football match between Arsenal and Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium in London on December 4, 2024.

Arsenal take advantage

Arsenal took full advantage by inflicting Ruben Amorim's first defeat as Manchester United boss. Once again the Gunners were able to rely on their prowess from set-pieces to get the job done. Jurrien Timber broke the deadlock, heading in Declan Rice's corner nine minutes into the second half. William Saliba did not know much about the second, as he diverted in Thomas Partey's header from Bukayo Saka's corner, but the Frenchman did not care as Arsenal had the breathing space they craved. A fourth consecutive win in all competitions confirmed Arsenal's return to form and applied a little pressure on Liverpool.

"A special day. It's a joy to play in this stadium with that energy, it's something incredible," Arteta said.

De Bruyne masterclass helps Man City end seven-game winless streak

MANCHESTER. Manchester City snapped a seven-game winless streak as Kevin De Bruyne played a starring role in a 3-0 Premier League win over Nottingham Forest on Wednesday. The Belgian created Bernardo Silva's opening goal and then scored the second before Jeremy Doku rounded off a much-needed victory for the English champions. City's barren run included six defeats to leave them 11 points behind Premier League leaders Liverpool before kick-off. However, De Bruyne's return to the starting line-up for the first time in nearly three months helped resume normal service at the Etihad Stadium.

City move back into the top four and within nine points of Liverpool after their 3-3 draw at Newcastle. Pep Guardiola had to shoot down suggestions of a rift with De Bruyne on the eve of the game after bedding him back into action slowly with a series of substitute



appearances. The 33-year-old showed what City have been missing as he rolled back the years and could well have had more than just one goal. Guardiola reacted to Sunday's 2-0 defeat at Liverpool by making four changes as Josko Gvardiol, Doku and Jack Grealish also came into the team. It took just eight minutes for City to make the breakthrough. İlkay Gundogan's cross was headed back towards goal by De Bruyne and Silva was in the right place to tap home from centimetres out. Guardiola claimed pre-match that Ederson remains his number one goalkeeper but the Brazilian was again benched in favour of Stefan Ortega. The German made a big save to deny Morgan Gibbs-White before Forest missed a glorious chance to put the Etihad crowd back on edge.

Chris Wood's fine goalscoring form has been the catalyst to a fabulous season so far for Nuno Espirito Santo's men. But the New Zealander was wayward as he fired wide with just Ortega to beat. De Bruyne settled City nerves on 31 minutes when he collected Doku's pass inside the area and coolly slotted into the top corner.

Hardik Pandya-Less Baroda Script History, Achieve Sensational Record In T20 Cricket

Baroda scripted history by posting the highest team total in the history of T20 cricket during their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy encounter against Sikkim.

New Delhi. Baroda scripted history by posting the highest team total in the history of T20 cricket during their Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy encounter against Sikkim on Thursday. Baroda ended up scoring a mammoth 349 for the loss of five wickets and surpassed the previous record held by Zimbabwe (344/4 against Gambia in October 2024). This was also the first time that any team scored more than 300 in the SMAT with the previous highest total being



275/6 by Punjab. Baroda registered this huge total without Hardik Pandya in their side and captain Krunal Pandya not even getting a chance to bat. Batting first, Baroda were off to a flying start with Shashwat Rawat and Abhimanyu Singh stitching together a 92-run stand for the opening wicket. While

Shashwat slammed 43 off just 16 balls, Abhimanyu completed his half-century and scored 53 off 17 deliveries. It turned out to be the ideal platform for Bhanu Pania who scored an unbeaten 134 off 51 deliveries with the help of 5 fours and 15 sixes. It was a display of pure power as he ended his innings

with a strike rate of 262.75 as Sikkim bowlers looked completely helpless against the onslaught. That was not the end as Shivalik Sharma scored 55 off 17 balls while Vishnu Solanki scored 50 off just 16 balls to take Baroda's score to 349 and register a big record in the shortest format of the sport.

Earlier, India's T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav smashed 70 off 46 balls in his first appearance in the 2024 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy while Shivam Dube capped his return from a three-month long injury lay-off with a scintillating 37-ball-71 as Mumbai outplayed Services by 39 runs. Mumbai scored 192 for 4 riding on the 130-run fourth wicket stand between Surya and Dube. Between the duo, they smashed 11 sixes with Dube enjoying the lion's share. Surya also hit seven boundaries while Dube had a couple of fours to his credit. Surya's hits were primarily on the on-side with one six over long-on, couple towards deep mid-wicket region and one behind square. Both batters were severe on off-spinner Nitin Tanwar who went for 54 in his four overs.

In reply, Services were all out for 153 in 19.3 overs with Shardul Thakur redeeming himself with figures of 4/25. Left arm spinner Shams Mulani also chipped in with three wickets.

Outgoing ICC Head Greg Barclay Hopes Jay Shah Can Take Cricket Out Of Mess

New Delhi. Outgoing ICC chair Greg Barclay believes Jay Shah has the ability to pull cricket out of the current "mess" and take it to another level but also cautioned his successor against keeping the game "under the yoke of India".

Barclay, who stepped down from his position on December 1 after a four-year term in the middle of an ongoing crisis over the Champions Trophy venues, has acknowledged that cricket is witnessing challenging times. I think he (Shah) has got a great opportunity to use what he's got in his background to help India take the game to another level, but without making it sort of under the yoke of India as well," Barclay was quoted as saying by 'The Telegraph'. We're really lucky to have India, they're a massive contributor to the game across all the measures, but one country having that amount of power and influence does distort a whole lot of other outcomes, which is not necessarily helpful in terms of that global growth.

He said Shah has the ability to bring India into the international fold even more. There are a number of things that India could do to help unite and grow the game, including

commercially helping to pool off-shore rights, using their teams to give opportunity to smaller full members and emerging countries, using their clout to open new territories and markets, collaborating closely with the ICC to help benefit members, as examples," he said.



Barclay admitted that presently there is an overkill of cricket and at times he even lost track of the congested international calendar. "I reckon, gee, I'm at the apex of the game and I can't tell you who's playing around the world. In fact, I didn't realise that Sri Lanka were in South Africa until I read about Marco Jansen's seven wickets this morning,"

Barclay said. "So we've lost perspective. It's not great for the game at all. It's a mess. The calendar is incredibly congested and self-interest is such that it's almost impossible to untangle all of that, because no one's going to give up their content," he said. Barclay said ICC was right in not sanctioning

Afghanistan's full membership status after the country's cricket Board was not allowed by the ruling Taliban government to field a women's team. "It is not the Afghanistan board's fault. They used to have women's cricket. I think our approach has been right. It would be easy to kick Afghanistan out, but their board hasn't done anything wrong. They're just working under a decree and a series of laws that says this is what you have to do. I don't think it would make a lot of difference to the ruling party there to kick them out.

"Maybe I'm a little naive, but I think cricket is such a force for good there, and it brings a lot of joy to a lot of people. It is better to leave it there and hope that it can foster a bit of a change," he said. Barclay also took a dig at Cricket Australia, which cancelled multiple bilateral series against Afghanistan but has played them in ICC events.

Australia vs India: Eye on ODI World Cup, India women face Australia

CHENNAI. The last time India and Australia faced each other in ODIs, at the start of the year in Mumbai, the format was not on either side's radar. The shortest format took over as a high priority given the T20 World Cup was approaching fast. Close to the end of the year now and things have changed for both teams. Having qualified for the ODI World Cup in India already, both teams are facing each other with two aims - putting their best foot forward to win the ICC ODI championship trophy and preparing as much as they can for the marquee event. The rivalry will ignite in Brisbane as Harmanpreet Kaur's team takes on Australia.

"We are feeling good. It is always a great feeling to play cricket in Australia," Kaur told media ahead of the first ODI. "We had two days of training sessions and tried to get us (acclimatised) as early as possible. Everyone is looking in good shape. I think we all did well against New Zealand in home conditions



and here the conditions are different but we are trying to get used to them," Kaur added.

The Indian captain also clarified that all 15 members of the squad, including top order batter Jemimah Rodrigues who had to retire hurt in the recently concluded Women's Big Bash League while representing Brisbane Heat. India already had to make one change to their squad once Yastika Bhatia was ruled out of the tour due to a wrist fracture as Assam wicketkeeper-batter Uma Chetry replaced her. Even though there was no information regarding the omission of Pooja Vastrakar and Shafali Verma from the squad, Kaur spoke about her wishes for the latter. Verma has struggled in the ODIs over a long period and was eventually dropped from the side for a tour of Australia. "She is someone really important to us and has done well for the country. We are looking forward to seeing her get back in the zone and do well for the country," the captain mentioned. With an eye on the ICC event at home, Kaur also hinted at the availability of slots for players performing well. "We want to try our combinations.

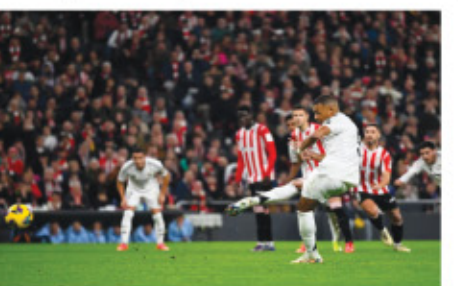
Mbappé enduring 'difficult moment' as he misses another penalty kick and Madrid loses to Athletic

MADRID. Kylian Mbappé admitted he is going through a difficult moment as he missed another penalty kick and Real Madrid lost ground to Barcelona in the Spanish league after a 2-1 loss at Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday. Mbappé had his penalty saved by Athletic goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala in the 68th minute, and later Federico Valverde gifted a late goal by losing possession on defense to allow an easy winner by Gorka Guruzeta in the 80th.

"Bad result," Mbappé posted on Instagram. "A big mistake in a match where every detail counts. I take full responsibility for it. A difficult moment but it's the best time to change this situation and show who I am."

Mbappé sent the penalty shot to his right and Agirrezabala dived that way to make the stop. "We knew that he is a good penalty taker," Agirrezabala said. "He missed the last one and I believed that he was going to choose the same side and luckily that's what happened." MADRID: Kylian Mbappé admitted he is going through a difficult moment as he missed another penalty kick

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Athletic Bilbao on Wednesday. Mbappé had his penalty saved by Athletic goalkeeper Julen Agirrezabala in the 68th minute, and later Federico Valverde gifted a late goal by losing possession on defense to allow an easy winner by Gorka Guruzeta in the 80th. "Bad result," Mbappé posted on Instagram. "A big mistake in a match where every detail counts. I take full responsibility for it. A difficult moment but it's the best time to

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Madrid, which has a game in hand, had won three consecutive league games since a 4-0 loss at home in the "clasico" against Barcelona. Madrid has lost five of its last 11 matches in all competitions. Athletic moved to fourth place with the victory, its fourth consecutive across all competitions. Both matches on Tuesday and Wednesday were moved forward in the schedule because the clubs will be playing in the Spanish Super Cup in January.

Australia Name Playing XI For Pink-Ball Test In Adelaide, This Pacer To Replace Injured Josh Hazlewood

The Adelaide Test will be Boland's first match for Australia in the last 18 months. His previous Test was against England in the prestigious Ashes 2023 series.

New Delhi Pacer Scott Boland will replace injured Josh Hazlewood in the upcoming Adelaide Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy (BGT) against India as Australia skipper Pat Cummins named the playing eleven, as reported by cricket.com.au. The Adelaide Test will be Boland's first match for Australia in the last 18 months. Skipper

Cummins also confirmed that Mitchell Marsh will be fit to bowl in the Adelaide Test, according to cricket.com.au. Boland's previous Test was against England in the prestigious Ashes 2023 series. The 35-year-old will be replacing Hazlewood who suffered an injury during the Perth Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy. On the other hand, Marsh has been added to the playing eleven even after battling with back stiffness, which stopped him from bowling at full tilt during India's second innings in the Perth Test, as per cricket.com.au. Speaking at the pre-match press conference, Cummins said that it's "pretty awesome" to have Scott Boland in the squad. "It's pretty awesome for someone like Scotty to come straight in," Cummins was quoted by cricket.com.au as saying. Meanwhile, India



are yet to name their playing eleven for the upcoming pink-ball Test. The Adelaide test will kickstart from December 6 onwards, with India heading into the game with a mental and physical edge over the

Aussies who were left devastated by Bumrah's bowling and captaincy during a 295-run loss at Perth's Optus Stadium in the first Test. However, the visitors would be looking to overcome the ghosts of the 2020 Adelaide pink-ball Test, which saw them being bundled out for their lowest Test score of 36 runs, starting that series on a nightmarish note. Pat Cummins (4/21) and Josh Hazlewood (5/8) had run riot over the Indian line-up in the second innings, getting an easy target of 90 runs to chase.

Australia Playing XI for the Second Test: Usman Khawaja, Nathan McSweeney, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Mitch Marsh, Alex Carey (WK), Pat Cummins (C), Mitchell Starc, Nathan Lyon, Scott Boland.

Nargis Fakhri

Shares FIRST Post After Sister's Arrest In Murder Case In The US, Says 'We Are...'



Nargis Fakhri has been grabbing headlines after her sister Aliya Fakhri has been accused of murdering her ex-boyfriend, Edward Jacobs. Well, the actress is yet to react. However, amid this, she has shared the first post featuring Housefull 5 actors. The photo has gone viral on social media. Taking to her Instagram stories, Nargis shared a photo featuring Sonam Bajwa and Jacqueline Fernandez. She wrote, "We are coming for you" as the caption. The latest installment in the beloved comedy franchise stars Akshay Kumar, Riteish Deshmukh, Fardeen Khan, and an ensemble cast. A special treat awaits fans as the entire cast is reportedly gearing up to shoot a grand song celebrating 14 years of the Housefull series. Directed by Tarun Mansukhani and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Housefull 5 is set to release in cinemas on June 6, 2025. Coming to Nargis's sister, a source close to the actress has revealed that she found out about the incident through the news. Meanwhile, Nargis and Aliya's mother has denied the charges leveled against Aliya. A source told India Today that Nargis Fakhri has not been in touch with her sister for 20 years now. "She has not been in touch with her sister for over 20 years. The actor learned about the incident through the news, just like everyone else," the report stated. Aliya Fakhri was arrested in connection with the deaths of her ex-boyfriend, Edward, and his friend, Anastasia Star Etienne. They lost their lives in a fire in Queens, New York. According to Daily News, authorities accused Aliya of setting a two-storey garage on fire, causing the victims to die from smoke inhalation and thermal injuries. She has been denied bail and charged with their murders. Nargis and Aliya's mother reacted to the turn of events. "I don't think she would be killing someone. She was a person who was caring for everybody. She tried to help everybody," as reported by multiple news outlets. Aliya Fakhri has been detained at Rikers Island, New York City's largest jail. She pleaded not guilty. However, if she is found guilty, she could face a life sentence.



Samanta Calls Bride Sobhita Dhulipala 'Affectionate' Ahead Of Wedding With Naga Chaitanya: 'Only Love...'



Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala are getting married on Wednesday, December 4. The couple is set to exchange their wedding vows at the Annapurna Studios, owned by actor and Naga Chaitanya's father Nagarjuna Akkineni. Ahead of the wedding, Sobhita's sister Samanta Dhulipala took to Instagram and showered the bride-to-be with love. Samanta shared photos from Sobhita's Pelli Kuthuru ceremony and called the Made In Heaven actress 'most affectionate person.' She wrote, "Cheers to the most beautiful pelli kuthuru and the most affectionate person ever. Only love for you akka. #SoChay." In the photos, Sobhita decked up in red, giving a glimpse of her look as a bride. Dressed in a traditional saree and sporting gold jewellery, Sobhita looked stunning in the ceremony. She posed with her sister and their parents. Sobhita and Naga Chaitanya announced their wedding plans in August this year. The couple had a secret engagement ceremony in Hyderabad. The news about their engagement was then shared by Nagarjuna on his social media accounts. "We are delighted to announce the engagement of our son, Naga Chaitanya, to Sobhita Dhulipala, which took place this morning at 9:42 a.m.!! We are overjoyed to welcome her into our family. Congratulations to the happy couple! Wishing them a lifetime of love and happiness. ?? God bless! ?? 8.8.8. A beginning of infinite love??," Nagarjuna wrote. Naga Chaitanya opened up about his bond with Sobhita and her family. He said, "It's been lovely getting to know Sobhita and her family the past few months, watching the families interact has been a joy. I am really looking forward to and excited for the wedding day, going through all the rituals and watching the families come together." Naga Chaitanya's first marriage was with actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu. They got married in October 2017 after dating for a long time. Unfortunately, the couple announced their separation in October 2021, citing personal differences, and later finalised their divorce in 2022.

'Small Circle, Private Life And ...': Malaika Arora's Mantra For A Happy Soul



Malaika Arora is known for her sartorial choices and exceptional acting and dance skills. She has already etched a special place in millions of hearts with her dance performances in songs like Chaiyya Chaiyya (1998), Maahi Ve (2002), and Munni Badnaam Hui (2010), among many others. In her latest Instagram stories, Malaika has underlined the significance of keeping a private life. Revealing the key factors she believes leads to a clear mind and a happy soul, Malaika suggests maintaining a small circle and a private life, a wisdom that resonates with many. She wrote, "Small circle, private life, clear mind, happy soul." In another story, the 51-year-old advised to maintain a close group with well-wishers. Further, cementing her thoughts, she wrote, "Stay close to people that inspire you, believe in you, support you and celebrate with you." This was followed by a "Good Morning" sticker and a fall leaf emoji. Before this, the actress talked about the challenging phase of her life and reflected on her strength on those days in Instagram stories. The post featured a quote about the motivation and resilience to keep moving. It read, "Push yourself to get up and keep moving even on the toughest days." Ahead of this, she has also revealed her relationship status with a slight twist. She dropped a post on her Instagram stories, including a cartoon character, Snoopy, and his friend Charlie Brown. Alongside it, the note attached to the picture read, "I don't have time to worry about who doesn't like me. I'm too busy loving the people who love me." Not only this, but talking about her relationship status in another Instagram post, she shared a photo with a caption that read, "My status right now", followed by three options - "In a relationship, Single, Hehehe." Of all the options, she picked the one reading "hehehe", leaving her fans wondering if she was still with the actor Arjun Kapoor or if they parted ways due to reasons best known to them.

Urfi Javed

Impresses Netizens With Her Latest Look, Fans Say 'Didi Creative Ho Gaye'



Urfi Javed turned heads yet again with her unique sartorial experiment, this time layering one outfit over another. Someone in the background continuously pulled away each outer layer, dramatically uncovering a new outfit beneath. This continued until she had unveiled a total of five different looks. Urfi loves the theatrics when it comes to fashion and has a unique ability to keep her fans intrigued with her style statements. She is first seen wearing a frilly blue dress, which is then uncovered to reveal a one-shoulder silver dress. Urfi then asks the paparazzi, "Ye outfit kaisa laga?" When the paps reply with a "no," Urfi unveils yet another dress layered under the current one. This went on for a few more times, and Urfi she left everyone impressed with her creativity. The video went viral on social media, and netizens commended Urfi's originality. "Urfi's creativity level day by day increasing," wrote one fan, while another one commented, "Didi creative ho gaye." "She is a real-life magician," read a third comment, while another netizen wrote, "Earlier this year, Urfi Javed talked about her fashion when she shared how people do not respect her and therefore want to refrain from working with her. 'I have achieved popularity? Yes. Fame? Yes. Work? No. People don't respect me. People don't want to work with me,' she told BBC World and then added, 'I scream attention. I want attention so I dress like that.'" Meanwhile, on the work front, Urfi Javed made headlines earlier this year after her series 'Follow Kar Lo Yaar' was released on Prime Video. It was a nine-episode series which presented "an unfiltered and immersive viewpoint into the vibrant and captivating life of Javed, India's biggest viral sensation". The show premiered on Amazon Prime Video in August this year.

