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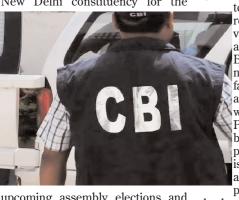
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### CBI files second chargesheet against 6 accused in NEET-UG paper leak case

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Jan. 15: AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday filed his nomination from



upcoming assembly elections and urged people to vote based on work and not "abuses". Before filing his nomination papers, Kejriwal, accompanied by his wife Sunita, offered prayers at Hanuman and Valmiki temples. He then led a 'padyatra' from the AAP office to the New Delhi district magistrate's office, where he filed his nomination. Hundreds of AAP workers, carrying party flags, walked with

the former chief minister. After filing his nomination, Kejriwal exuded confidence that the AAP would return to power in Delhi. "AAP will form the government with full majority," he

told reporters. "I want to request the people of Delhi to vote based on work and not abuses," he said. Attacking the BJP, Kejriwal said the party has no vision, no chief ministerial face and no narrative. "They are not telling what work they will do in the next five years. People of Delhi cannot be bought with a pair of shoes, people are seeing what the BJP s doing," he said. On reports about a threat to his life from a

pro-Khalistani outfit, the AAP leader said God was with him. "Jako rakhe saiyan maar sake na koye (Those protected by God cannot be killed by anyone). God is with me. One lives as long as their lifeline. The day one's lifeline ends, God calls them," he told reporters after offering prayers at the Prachin Hanuman temple. Sunita Kejriwal said the people of Delhi know who will provide better governance.

# India becoming major maritime power: PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar

Mumbai, Jan.15: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said India is becoming a major maritime power and is being recognised as a reliable and responsible partner in the world. Speaking after the commissioning of three naval warships here, Modi said India has always supported an open, secure, inclusive and prosperous Indo-Pacific region. A destroyer, a frigate and a submarine were commissioned together for the first time on Wednesday, he noted, adding that all the three are 'Made in India'. The 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative has made the country strong and self-reliant, the prime minister said. "We should become a global partner in securing the sea from drugs, weapons and terrorism and make it safe and prosperous. India is becoming a major maritime power and is being recognised as a reliable and responsible partner," he said. In the Indian Ocean region, India has emerged as the "first responder", the prime minister noted. Modi said India is going to play a major role in giving a direction to the global security, economy and geopo-

litical dynamics. 'It is important to protect the territo-

rial waters, freedom of navigation, and secure trade

supply lines and sea routes,' he said. Modi further

said India is working for development, and not expan-Nilgiri, the lead ship of the Project 17A stealth frigate sionism. He said 33 ships and seven submarines have been inducted into the Navy in the last 10 years.



India's defence production has crossed Rs 1.25 lakh crore and defence equipment have been exported to more than 100 countries, he added. Earlier in the morning, Indian Navy warships INS Surat, INS Nilgiri and INS Vaghsheer were commissioned at the Naval Dockyard here in the presence of PM Modi. INS ent propulsion technology.

class, represents a significant advancement over the Shivalik-class frigates. Designed by the Indian Navy's

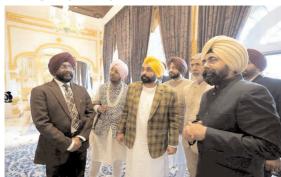
Warship Design Bureau and built at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL), it incorporates advanced features for enhanced survivability, seakeeping and stealth, reflecting the next generation of indigenous frigates. It features advanced stealth technology and reduced radar signatures. It is equipped with modern aviation facilities and can operate multiple helicopter types, including the newly inducted MH-60R. INS Surat, the fourth and final vessel of the Project 15B stealth destroyer class, is a follow-on to the Kolkata-class destroyers. It incorporates improvements in design and capability, making it a critical addition to the Navy's surface fleet. Like INS Nilgiri, it has also been designed by the Warship Design Bureau and constructed at the MDL. INS Vaghsheer is the sixth and final submarine

under the Scorpene-class Project 75. It is a diesel-electric submarine designed for multiple roles, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, and intelligence gathering. It features modular construction, enabling future upgrades such as air independ-

#### **Punjab CM Mann inaugurates** palace hotel in Patiala

**ST Correspondent** 

Chandigarh, Jan. 15: Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann Wednesday inaugurated 'Ran Baas' the state's first luxury palace hotel, at Qila Mubarak here and said the initiative will encourage destination wedding tourism in the state. According to an official statement, the aesthetically designed hotel has been built under public-private partnership model and will set a new benchmark in comfort and hospitality. Mann said that Ran Baas, earlier a guesthouse located in 18thcentury Qila Mubarak complex in the erstwhile royal state of Patiala, has been restored as Punjab's first luxury palace hotel, seamlessly blending heritage with contemporary luxury. The hotel will be a favourite



place for destination weddings and other events, Mann vas quoted as saying in the statement. The hotel wil give a big boost to the tourism sector in the state in general and the 'royal' city of Patiala in particular, he said, adding it is a reflection of the glorious cultural heritage of the state. Mann expressed the state government's commitment to making Punjab a leading tourist destination in the country through such projects. Ran Baas offers 35 suites, a range of dining and wellness amenities and curated immersive experiences for modern travellers, the statement said. The CM said the palace hotel and the larger fort boast of an enduring, eclectic legacy steeped in royal culture from the celebratory traditions of Patiala to the architectural character of the palace itself. The majestic fort is a key landmark in India's history and a remarkable example of the synthesis between late Mughal and Rajasthani architectural styles, reflecting a rich cultural heritage, he said. Mann expressed hope that this prestigious project will drive tourism, create opportunities for local businesses and showcase Patiala's rich cultural identity and heritage to attract global travellers. He said the hotel blends the old with the new, merging late Mughal, Rajput, Sikh, and colonial styles while preserving the architectural integrity of Punjab's rich heritage, according to the statement. The CM also said areas around Chohal Dam, Ranjit Sagar Dam, and Shahpur Kandi Dam in the state are being developed as tourist destinations.

#### Meta India apologises for **CEO Zuckerberg's remark** on India elections

New Delhi, Jan,15: Meta India on Wednesday apologised for CEO Mark Zuckerberg's remarks during a podcast that the incumbent government in India lost power in the 2024 elections, and termed it an "inadvertent error". Taking to X, Meta India's Vice President Shivnath Thukral wrote: Mark's observation that many incumbent parties were not re-elected in 2024 elections holds true for several countries, BUT not India." "We would like to apologise for this inadvertent error. India remains an incredibly important country for @Meta and we look forward to being at the heart of its innovative future," he further said. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had earlier called out the remarks made by Zuckerberg on the Joe Rogan podcast. "Mr. Zuckerberg's claim that most incumbent governments, including India in 2024 elections, lost post-COVID is factually incorrect," Vaishnaw had said in a post on X (formerly Twitter) on January 13. "As the world's largest democracy, India conducted the 2024 elections with over 640 million voters. People of India reaffirmed their trust in NDA led by PM @narendramodi Ii's leadership," said Vaishnaw, who is Minister for Information and Broadcasting as well as IT.

## On SP backing AAP over Congress for Delhi election: Akhilesh Yadav

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Lucknow, Jan 15: The Samajwadi

Party, AAP, and the Congress are part of the INDIA bloc, including other regional heavyweights like the TMC, DMK, and Shiv Sena (UBT) Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav said on Wednesday that his party is supporting the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over Congress in Delhi as the former is in a stronger position to beat the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the upcoming assembly election. Explaining the decision, Akhilesh Yadav said that strengthening the hands of regional parties wherever

they are in a stronger position to fight the BJP is the basic principle behind the formation of the INDIA bloc. "We must support whichever party is strong and in a position to give a fight to BJP. In Delhi, AAP and Congress are facing each Bengal and the DMK in Tamil Nadu. other... My advice is AAP is strong so we 
The Kannauj MP asserted that the unity



mon goal is the defeat of BJP, whether it is Congress, Samajwadi Party or AAP," Yadav said. The Samajwadi Party, AAP, and the Congress are part of the INDIA bloc, which also includes other regional heavyweights like the TMC in West

INDIA alliance is intact. I remember when the alliance was being formed, Nitish Kumar had talked to leaders of all parties, including ours. He had said at the time that we should strengthen the hands of a regional party wherever it is strong. AAP is strong in Delhi, so we support it," Yadav clarified. The SP chief attributed the BJP's political motives to the Home Ministry's prosecution action against Kejriwal over the alleged scam linked to the nowscrapped Delhi excise policy. "Wherever they are in power,

they rule dictatorially," he said. Questions of alliance unity emerged within the INDIA bloc after alliance partners TMC and the SP backed the AAP over Congress for the Delhi assembly

# Rahul Gandhi on Mohan Bhagwat's 'true independence' remark

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Jan.15: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday hit out at RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat saying that his remark that India got "true independence" after the Ram temple consecration amounts to treason and is an insult to every Indian. Speaking at the inauguration of the new Congress headquarters here, Gandhi said every party worker is fighting this battle of ideologies under difficult circumstances where institutions have been captured by the BJP and the RSS and investigative agencies are being used against opposition leaders. The leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha also hit out at the Election Commission and alleged that there is a "serious problem" with the country's election system. "Mohan Bhagwat has the audacity to say to the country what he

the Constitution is invalid and the fight against the British was invalid. "He has the audacity to say this publicly. In any other country, he would be arrested and tried. That is a fact," Gandhi said at the inaugu-



say that India did not get independence in 1947 is an insult to every Indian. And it is time to stop listening to this nonsense that these people think they can keep parroting

Congress president said the party has worked with the Indian people and it has built the success of this country on the foundations of the Constitution and that is what this building symbolises. "It is important that we take ideas from this building

and spread these ideas in the rest of the country," he said. Gandhi said "we are fighting a civilisational war with these people, they are attacking every day the ideas that we believe in" and asserted that only the Congress can fight them. Hitting out at the Election Commission, he said, the EC has refused to give us information about the increase in the number of voters in Maharashtra from Lok Sabha elections to assembly elections. "What purpose does it

serve? Why will it damage the EC? Why are they not giving us the list? "It is the duty of the EC to ensure transparency in elections. If there is an increase of one crore in (the number of) voters in Lok

Sabha and Vidhan Sabha in Maharashtra, it is the duty and sacred responsibility of the EC to show us exactly why this has happened. There is a serious problem with our election system," Gandhi said.

#### **DGCA** warning to Akasa Air, asks to ensure strict compliance of rules

New Delhi, Jan 15: The DGCA noted that the Operations Manual revision cycle exceeded six months, which is director Flight Operations' Failure to Ensure Compliance The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued a warning letter to Akasa Air chief executive officer (CEO) (Accountable Manager) Vinay Dube to ensure strict compliance with rules to prevent violations. The letter is in connection to an incident that took place in a regulatory audit conducted by the DGCA on October 10 last year in Mumbai, which found that during flight QP 1851 from Bagdogra to Bengaluru on March 1 last year had a hard landing (abnormal runway contact).

# out and shouting," he said. The former

thinks about the independence movement

and the Constitution. What he said yester-

day is treason... Because he is stating that

Naresh Malhotra

Pune, Jan 15: Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Wednesday threw his weight behind the locally produced Dhruv advanced light helicopter (ALH) in the wake of the armed forces grounding the choppers for a thorough safety inspection following a recent crash that put the spotlight on the fleet's troubling safety record. "Let me assure the countrymen and my own Indian Army that the ALH has not hit a rough patch. These small accidents keep taking place. All over the world, even the best helicopters meet with such accidents," he said on the sidelines of the 77th Army Day parade held in Pune. He was responding to a question on safety concerns surrounding the helicopter. The army chief's comments came on a day HT reported that it was uncertain if the Dhruv ALH and its armed version Rudra will take part in the upcoming Republic Day flypast after a coast guard helicopter crashed

at Porbandar in Gujarat on January 5, with authorities still struggling to determine the cause of the accident. Two coast guard pilots and an aircrew diver were killed in the latest crash. The ALH has been designed and developed by Bengaluru-

based plane maker Hindustan Aeronautics

Limited (HAL) and often touted as a prime example of indigenisation in the defence sector. The army flew its ALHs for more than 40,000 hours in 2023-24, Dwivedi said. "In those 40,000 hours, only one glitch took place. And we are flying these

helicopters at altitudes of more than 15,000 feet. The ALH is a workhorse, and it will remain a workhorse. We have 100% confidence in this platform," he added. To be sure, the ALH did not take part in Army Day flypast as the fleet is grounded because of flight safety concerns. The choppers have been a regular feature at the Army Day parade, just like the Republic Day parade. Chetak and Cheetah helicopters took part in the Army Day parade, which was reviewed by Dwivedi. The three services and the coast guard together oper-

ate around 330 ALHs, and the army and the air force account for more than 90 Rudra helicopters — all of them were grounded after the January 5 crash, along with seven to eight ALHs operated by the Border Security Force and civil entities. The wreckage of the heli copter that crashed in Porbandar will be flown to Bengaluru in an Indian Air Force aircraft so that HAL can analyse it in detail to find out what went wrong and take steps to fix the problems so that the helicopters can return to service soon. The integrated drive system, including the transmission system, gearbox and rotor hub, of the ALH that crashed in Porbandar is being flown to Bengaluru for a thorough inspection. The ALH has been

involved in around 15 accidents during the last five years. The coast guard suspended ALH operations following an accident last September too when a helicopter crashed into the Arabian Sea near Porbandar. Then too, two pilots and an aircrew diver were killed

### UP govt deploys mobile labs to check food quality at Maha Kumbh

Lucknow, Jan.15: The Uttar Pradesh government on Wednesday announced the deployment of mobile laboratories to carry out food inspections at eateries in the Maha Kumbh Mela area here, aiming to monitor hygiene and safety standards. Assistant Food Commissioner (Grade 2) Sushil Kumar Singh emphasised the use of 'Food Safety on Wheels' to prevent the distribution of spoiled or adulterated food to the pilgrims. "These mobile laboratories conduct on-the-spot testing of food and beverages. Regular quality checks are conducted at hotels, dhabas, and small stalls, with food safety complaints promptly addressed to ensure swift action,' Singh added. In a statement, the Uttar Pradesh government said that under the leadership of chief minister Yogi Adityanath, efforts are being made to ensure clean and quality food for the millions of devotees attending the Maha Kumbh. "The fair is divided into five zones and 25

sectors, with food safety officers in each sector regularly monitoring hygiene and safety standards," the government said. "All food safety operations are coordinated from the central office located on Sankat Mochan Marg in Sector 24. This office oversees food monitoring efforts and supervises the deployment of teams across the fair," it added. While food safety officers are stationed in every sector, while chief officers oversee every five sectors, the government said. A maximum of 14 sectors are actively monitored in the Jhunsi area, it noted. On January 13, the first day of the Maha Kumbh, around 1.75 crore devotees gathered at the Triveni Sangam. The number of devotees doubled to 3.5 crore on the second day, marked by Makar Sankranti. The Uttar Pradesh government estimates a footfall of 40 to 45 crore pilgrims and visitors over the next six weeks, until February 26, for the largest spiritual gathering on the planet.

#### BMTC pushes UPI, aims at Rs 1 crore transactions daily

**NEWS BOX** 

BENGALURU. To address complaints from passengers about Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) conductors discouraging UPI payments and insisting on cash, the bus corporation has begun sensitising its conductors to accept UPI payments too. In many buses, especially those plying on the airport route and the tech corridors of the city, static UPI QR codes are pasted on the bus panels. However, passengers reported that conductors refused to allow payments through this method. Purushotham Shiva, a plumber, who commutes regularly on BMTC buses for work said, "In some buses, conductors do not accept UPI payments for reasons best known to them. We cannot carry exact change every time we board, which is why UPI-based payments are essential. Action should be initiated against conductors if they refuse UPI payments."

BMTC Chief Traffic Manager GT Prabhakar Reddy, confirmed the sensitisation efforts to TNIE: "Except for around 10% of our buses, all buses have static QR codes on bus panels. Passengers can scan the code, enter the amount and once the payment is successful, a ticket will be issued," Reddy said.In addition to static QR codes, handheld electronic ticket vending machines can generate dynamic QR codes. "In this method, the conductor will key in the boarding and destination points, and the system calculates the fare. A dynamic QR code is generated for passengers to scan and pay, after which a ticket is issued," he explained. Since initiating these measures, UPI transactions have risen significantly. "Earlier, only Rs 20-25 lakh of the daily Rs 3 crore revenue came from UPI payments. Now, it has crossed Rs 60 lakh," Reddy said, adding that BMTC aims to hit Rs 1 crore in daily UPI transactions soon.

#### BBMP 1533 helpline for swift animal welfare action

BENGALURU. In the light of the recent incident in Chamarajpet, where miscreants severely injured cows by cutting their udders, sparking widespread outrage, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike(BBMP) animal husbandry department has taken steps to resolve animal welfare issues promptly through the 1533 helpline, said Special Commissioner Suralkar Vikas Kishore.Following the incident on Sunday, concerned citizens and activists have been reaching out via WhatsApp, Facebook groups, personal phone calls to assistant directors, and emails to raise queries and report issues related to animal welfare. They are urging the municipality to take swift action. "The helpline now features more detailed categories and has expanded its scope of service.

Apart from common complaints like animal birth control, anti-rabies vaccination requests and dog bite management, we are now offering assistance with animal feeding, harassment and cruelty, controlling animal breeding and helping with licensing matters," said Kishore.

Citizens can reach out to the Palike by calling the 1533 helpline, submitting requests through the official app, or logging into the Bangalore One City One mobile app. Once the request is logged, veterinary inspectors and anti-cruelty officers are sent to the location to address the issue. Each request is assigned a response time. To improve citizen experience, the department encouraged the public to fully utilise the helpline for more efficient and timely assistance, he

#### Mistaken for thief's accomplice, guard's hand chopped off

BENGALURU. A group of people, who caught a thief, chopped off the left hand of a 24-year-old security guard, mistaking him to be an accomplice of the thief. The incident took place in Harohalli industrial area. The victim, identified as Vinay S, a resident of Belikothanur in Kanakapura of Ramanagara taluk, has been admitted in a hospital. Unfortunately, the hand, which was severed at the wrist, could not be reattached to the rest of the arm, and doctors have suggested that he opt for prosthetics.

"The incident occurred around 10.30-10.40 pm on Thursday outside the Pyrodynamics company's premises in the second phase of Harohalli industrial area. Vinay, who was in the office premises, heard somebody loudly calling out, 'Thief! Thief!' He came outside, assuming that there was a theft in the firm and found a group of men in a car beating the alleged thief, identified as Chetan, a resident of Magadi.

Meanwhile, the group mistook Vinay to be an accomplice of Chetan, and turned their attention towards the former, chopping off his left hand with a machete. The injured guard ran inside the factory and called his brother Thejas Gowda for help. He also dialled '112' and informed the police about the incident," said an officer, based on the victim's statements. Vinay was immediately rushed to a nearby private hospital, from where he was shifted in an ambulance to the Victoria Hospital. Thejas filed a complaint in this regard on Friday. "The thief, Chetan, has been arrested. Of the accused who attacked Vinay, one of them has been taken into custody, and the search for the remaining accused continues," the officer added.

# Kerala to rally other states to fight new regulations of UGC

KOCHI. Worried over new UGC regulations, which it feels would rob the state universities of their autonomy, the Kerala government is planning to garner the support of other state governments to exert concerted pressure on the Union government to withdraw the contentious clauses in the proposed guidelines. Terming the new regulations "concerning and disappointing", Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the Union government and the UGC are adopting an approach aimed at destabilising the universities under state governments.

"State universities function according to acts formulated by elected legislative assemblies, and the creation of such regulations undermines this autonomy. The Union government and the UGC should refrain from such actions and respect the autonomy of universities and the rights of state governments in matters concerning education," Pinarayi said, inaugurating the 'International Conclave on Next-Gen Higher Education', at the Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat), Kalamassery on Tuesday.Later, Higher Education Minister R Bindu told that the state government will reach out to other states on the issue. State governments have especially taken affront to the section regarding the appointment of Vice Chancellors of state universities."A meeting of education ministers will be convened to chalk out a future course of action. The state government will be sending a letter to the



Union government to express our reservations on the new draft regulations,"

#### New draft regulations give more powers to governor on VC selection

As per the new draft regulations, the Governor, who is also the Chancellor of the higher education institutions in the states, has been given complete power over selection of VCs of the state universities. In the past, the state government constituted the selection committee for the appointment of the VC. It had three members. One of the members was appointed by the UGC, one was elected by the Syndicate and the remaining member was nominated by the state government. The VC was then selected by the Governor from the three names recommended by the committee. But as per the new regulations, the selection committee will be constituted by the Chancellor. The three members will be one from the UGC, one nominated by the Chancellor and one from the syndicate. The

state government, which is the main funding agency of the university, will have no say in the matter. The state government believes that this will lead to unsolicited political intervention in the state universities and is an attack on federalism. Apprehensions also have been raised regarding the eligibility criteria of the candidates who can apply for the post of the VC. As per 2018 regulations, the person applying for the post of VC should have an academic background. But, the new regulations give an opening for

those from bureaucratic and industry backgrounds to apply for the post. As per the new clause, a senior-level person in industry, public administration, or public policy and or public sector undertakings with a proven track record of significant academic or scholarly contributions shall be eligible to be appointed as the VC. This has raised concerns that it will lead to the corporatisation of public education institutions.By pursuing such actions, the UGC and the Union Government fail to recognise that these efforts could lead to the collapse of a publicly funded higher education system that is efficient, ultimately paving the way for more private educational institutions, Pinarayi said. "Already, numerous private universities operate across the country, many of which do not even adhere to UGC regulations. If these attempts continue, they will not only harm public universities but also undermine the very integrity of the UGC itself, the chief minister

#### **Hundreds attend Army Day** weapons display at Kanakakunnu; interact with military personnel

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Hundreds of people gathered at Kanakakunnu on Tuesday to witness the weapons display organised by the Pangode Military Station in connection with the Army Day celebrations. The event held under the theme 'Know Your Army', offered an opportunity for the public to interact with the Army and explore its operational capabilities. Brigadier Anurag Upadhyaya, Station Commander Pangode Military Station, interacted with the audience. The event featured display of weapons, war equipment and other military artifacts, drawing keen interest from visitors of all age groups. Children and youth were particularly fascinated by the intricate mechanisms of tanks, artillery, and other advanced weaponry. Rifles, both indigenous as well as those imported from France, Russia, Sweden, South Africa, used extensively by Indian Army were also exhibited. The Army personnel present at the venue provided detailed explanations, answering questions and sharing insights into their equipment and

operations. The visitors also got an opportunity to touch, feel and hold DSR and INSAS rifles. A glimpse of Army's disaster management and rescue operations equipment showcased the efficient use of specialised equipment like rescue landers, nylon ropes, carabiners, harnesses, axes, and buoys.

These tools enable the Army to execute precise and effective operations, saving lives during natural disasters and emergencies.

The visitors also got an opportunity for an immersive journey through India's military history, screening significant war victories and the key battles that shaped the nation's unity and independence. Engaging visuals and detailed presentations highlighted the Army's pivotal role in the integration of princely states post-independence, ensuring territorial integrity, and the bravery of soldiers during the Sino-Indian War of 1962.It also revisited the Indo-Pak wars, particularly the liberation of Bangladesh in 1971, a landmark victory demonstrating India's military prowess and dedication to regional stability.

# Odisha's Nuapada tribal community ostracises families of leopard poachers to uphold conservation values

NUAPADA. Thirteen family members of four tribal men who were arrested for poaching and consuming leopard meat in Nuapada district of the state have been ostracised by their community for the more than a monthand-half since November last. The Chinda Bhunjia tribe, which holds in high regard traditional values rooted in nature and wildlife conservation, took the stern action, deciding to expel the families from community gatherings and every other social interaction.

The move was intended to send a strong message to the community about importance of protecting wildlife and upholding traditional beliefs. The incident had come to light when the four men were apprehended by forest officials for hunting a leopard and consuming its meat in Deodhara village under



Komna police limits of the district on November 18.

The men were charged with violating wildlife protection laws which led to widespread condemnation from environmentalists, wildlife enthusiasts and the local community.

Making a decisive move, the Chinda Bhunjia tribe, to which the accused belong, decided to boycott the family members for their men's involvement in the heinous act which sparked outrage within the village.President of Chinda Bhunjia community Jaysingh Chinda said the community had convened a meeting and found about repercussions of such acts. Subsequently, after consulting with other members of the tribe in nearby villages, the decision was taken collectively and a resolution passed by taking everyone's signature, he said."While leopard is accorded a sacred significance in our tribe, we are also against killing and consumption of any other form of wildlife. The actions of the accused men not only broke the law but also disrespected the values we hold dear," Jaysingh added.

## Labourer rapes, kills 6-yearold girl, thrashed

BENGALURU. A six-year-old girl was raped and murdered by a 25-year-old construction worker in Ramamurthy Nagar police station limits on Monday KENDRAPARA. The spectre of night. Local residents nabbed the accused who was fleeing after committing the act, and thrashed him. Police also resorted to a mild lathicharge to disperse the crowd after they started demanding that the accused be handed over to them. The accused, Abhishek Kumar, 25, from Bihar, has been booked under the POCSO Act and other sections of the BNS. The victim's parents, who are from Nepal, were working at an under-construction



building in Hoysala Nagar. On Monday evening, the victim was alone in the building while her parents had gone out. Abhishek lured her with chocolates and took her inside the

same building, and sexually assaulted her. When she started screaming in pain, he reportedly covered her mouth tightly to stop her from shouting. The girl suffocated to death.On returning, her parents started looking for her as they couldn't spot her. After finding her body, the parents raised an alarm and locals rushed to the spot. One of the locals had last seen the child with Abhishek and passed on the information. Locals fanned out and nabbed him, and when he tried to flee, they attacked him with wooden planks. Police, who rushed to the spot, resorted to a mild lathicharge to disperse the mob as the residents refused to hand him over to the

# Distress sales hit Kendrapara farmers as stock piles up; paddy sold below Rs 3,110 MSP

distress sale haunts large numbers of paddy farmers in Kendrapara, thanks to the slipshod attitude of the district

As a result, farmers are selling their paddy harvest below the governmentfixed price of Rs 3,110 per quintal. The government's procurement process, which began on January 10, is facing implementation issues, leaving harvesting grounds and thrashing fields littered with paddy crops. Farmers report that millers and agents are exploiting the situation by offering prices below the official minimum support price (MSP)."The untimely rains last month damaged crop quality, making it difficult to meet the fair average quality (FAQ) standards required by authorities," says Bhikari Mohanty, a farmer from Biraswati village. Ashok Mandal, a farmer from Badatubi village said that without road connectivity, they are made to navigate crocodile infested waters of the Kharinashi river to reach the nearest primary agriculture cooperative society (PACS) in Ramanagar, 10 km away. This has forced many to sell their



paddy at Rs 2,500 per quintal, far below the government fixed price of Rs 3,110. Large numbers of farmers across the district are being forced to make distress sales of paddy crops, resulting in huge financial losses, said Madhaba Das, the vice- president of the district unit of Krishak Sabha.

Ramachandra Haldar from Batighar village recently sold three quintals at just Rs 2,300 per quintal to rice traders visiting their village.Contacted, district civil supplies officer Srinibas Sahoo said that 118 PACSes have been authorised to procure 85,308 metric tons of paddy in the first phase. "We are conducting awareness programs about FAQ norms in villages," he said, adding that strict action would be taken against non-compliant rice mill owners. The officer also emphasised the mandatory use of jute bags for paddy packaging, in line with recent government regulations.

# Over 4,000 Pocso cases in Kerala last year

KOLLAM. Sexual abuse of children continues to be a major concern in Kerala, with 4,196 incidents reported under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act, 2012, last year, until November. According to a source with the State Crime Records Bureau, the figure is expected to exceed 4,500 once data consolidation for December 2024 is completed, which is expected by the first week of February. In 2023, a total of 4,641 Pocso cases were registered in the state. Among the districts, Thiruvananthapuram reported the highest number of cases (541), followed by Malappuram (465), Kozhikode (416), and Kollam (397). The least number of cases was reported in Pathanamthitta (150). Soja Thulsidharan, special prosecutor for Pocso cases in

Kollam, said there has been a surge in the number of child sexual abuse cases in the state in recent years — with a large number of such incidents originating from the victims' home and educational institutions.

She also highlighted an increase in cases involving male victims. Soja said there has been a growing awareness about reporting sexual abuse of male children. "Previously, sexual abuse cases involving male victims were limited to one or two. But now around 50 such cases are reported annually," she said. The special prosecutor said the rise in consensual sex among teenagers is contributing to the issue. "Teenagers often do not realise that sexual activity below the age of 18 is not legally consensual. These incidents often

come to light when the victim becomes pregnant or faces other medical issues. It is important to not only raise awareness but also educate children about the Pocso Act,"

'Schools lack enough no. of counsellors' She noted that the majority of cases stem from the victims' home or tuition centres,

where close relatives

#### THE SIKH TIMES

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#### RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465 Legal Advisors:

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

#### **Unified industrial** policy, e-bus plan

get board approval Noida. A joint board meeting of the Noida and Greater Noida authorities was convened by chief secretary Manoj Kumar Singh, who also serves as chairperson of both organisations. Key agendas discussed at the meeting included the revised industrial allotment policy and the proposed e-bus

#### **NAME CHANGE**

THEKKAN RADHA CHANDU N/O THATAKANDI CHANDU R/C D-2A/89 C, JANAKPURI DELHI-110025 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO T RADHA CHANDU FOR ALL PURPOSE.

#### NAME CHANGE PRAVEEN SHARMA S/O VISHNI DATT SHARMA R/O 1818 SEC-TOR 28 FARIDABAD HARYANA 121008 I HAVE CHANGED NAME

PRAVEEN KUMAR SHARMA NAME CHANGE Poonam Gupta W/o Sanjay Ga R/o House no.258.2nd floor, Pocke

Rohini sector -24, North We

Delhi -110085 have changed mame from Poonam Gupta to Poonam Garg for all future purposes

#### NAME CHANGE

hitherto known as RAHAMAT A alias GAJI S/o SHEKH PESWA residing at C-49, Block - ( Qamruddin Nagar, Amar Colony Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi - 11004' nave changed my name and shal nereafter be known as GAJI.

**PUBLIC NOTICE** Information is given to general pub-lic at large that our client Mrs Dharshna Kumar w/o Mr. Krishar Gopal is the owner of Freehold Residential First Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 68 Sq. Yds., Property No. RP-341 (Old/New No.) 422, area measuring 80 Sq. Yds., Out of Khasra No. 257 to 260, client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right ove the said property, and same proper ty is be sold to Mr. Satbir Sharma ly is be sold to Mr. Satbir Sharma. which is going to be financed SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited. Branch: SUBHASH NAGAR, DELHI. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and date of Publication of this notice an or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

#### [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]

F-211,sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziaba Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Information is given to general pub-lic at large that our client Mrs Rupika Mithal W/o Mr. Tarun Gupta & Mrs. Shikha Gupta W/o Mr. Sachin Gupta are the owner of Freehold Residential Plot of Land area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., Out of Khasra No. 1199, Situated in the area of Village-Barola Pargana & Tehsil- Dadri, District-Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. By virtue of Sale Deed dated 04.09.2023 vide Doc No. 4916 in Book No. 1 Vol No. 13608 on Page No. 335-354 SR-Gautam Budh Nagar. In the chai documents below mentioned docu nents not available i.e. Origina Sale Deed dated 25.04.2012 executed by Mrs. Munesh W/o Mi Krishan Kumar in favour of Mrs. Munesh W/o Mr. Mahender Singh Vide Doc. No. 3146, Vol. No. 4162, Book No. 1, Pages No. 327-340, SR- II, Noida. now our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same property is be sold to Mrs. Poonam W/o Mr. Ram Krigal which is going to be Ram Kripal which is going to be financed by Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Ltd. Branch: Adarsh Nagar, New Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 14 days from the date of Dublication of this ordinance the Publication of this notice and or th same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim sha

#### [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]

Advocate F-211,sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Utar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

#### NAME CHANGE

LAKSHAY S/O PRAVEE KUMAR SHARMA R/O 1818 SEG TOR 28 FARIDABAD HARYANA 21008 I HAVE CHANGED NAME AKSHAY M SHARMA

#### NAME CHANGE

SHINAZ AHMED W/O SARFARA AHMED R/O 89-A/35 GALI NO-3 ZAKIR NAGAR JAMIA NAGAF OKHLA DELHI-110025 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO SHEHNAZ EGUM FOR ALL PURPOSE.

#### NAME CHANGE

TAHIRA W/O MOHAMMAD QAYA IUDDIN R/O H D-5/1 KH No 74/228/173 SECOND FLOOR GAL NUMBER 9 VILLAGE WAZIRABAI Vazirabad - Burari North Delhi Delh 10084 HAVE CHANGED MY NAMI TO TAHIRA BEGUM

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

My, Client Sunita Devi W/o Mukes Chauhan R/o H.No- 6, Gali No-Shivpuri, Meethapur Badarpur, Nev Delhi-44, has severed her relations from her son Nikhil and disowned from all movable and immovable properties. My client shall not be responsible for any acts done by him

#### **NAME CHANGE**

MOHD KAYAM S/O MOHAMMAI SUALEHI D-5/1 KH No 274/228/17 SECOND FLOOR GALI NUMBER S VILLAGE WAZIRABAD Wazirabad Burari North Delhi Delhi 110084 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAMMAD QAYAMUDDIN

#### NAME CHANGE

MOHAMMED FARMAN S/C MOHAMMAD QAYAMUDDIN R/C 0-5/1 KH ?? 274/228/173 SECOND LOOR GALI NUMBER 9 VILLAGI WAZIRABAD Wazirabad - Burari North Delhi Delhi 110084 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHAM-MAD FARMAN

#### **NAME CHANGE**

t is for general information that PAWAN S/o DINESH THAKUF R/o House No.- 274, Pocket - 2 Paschim Puri, Paschim Viha West Delhi, Delhi-110063, declar that name of my Father has been wrongly written as RAJ KUMAF THAKUR, which may be amended

#### **NAME CHANGE**

, Sanjay Kumar Gupta S/o ⁄laendra kumar Gupta R/o House io.258.2nd floor, Pocket -8, Rohir sector -24, North West Delhi 110085 have changed my nam rom Sanjay Kumar Gupta to Sanjay Garg for all future purposes

#### **NAME CHANGE** s for general information that

SRIBASTAV

GOUTAM SRIBASTAV R/o 282, 3rd loor, Chirag Delhi, Malviya Nagar louth Delhi, Delhi-110017, declare South Deini, Deini-Titutri, declaire that name of mine, my husband and my minor son have been wrongly written as TULSI SRIBASTAVA GAUTAM SRIBASTAVA and HIMANSHU SRIBASTAVA in my ninor son namely HIMANSHU RIBASTAV aged 15 years in his school Record. The actual name of mine, my husband and my minor son are TULSHI SRIBASTAV GOUTAM SRIBASTAV and HIMAN SHU SRIBASTAV respectively.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

nformation is given to general pub-c at large that our client Mr. Parth Supta is the owner of Freehold desidential THIRD FLOOR (WITH ROOF RIGHTS) OF BULLT UP PROPERTY NUMBER D-44, AREA MEASURING 52 SQUARE YARDS (16.1/2 X 28'), OUT OF KHATON NO 9 KHASRA NO.2024, SITUAT-ED IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE TIHAR, NOW COLONY KNOWN AS D-BLOCK, HARI NAGAR CLOCK TOWER, NEW Delhi. by irtue of Will dated 11.09.2024 a oc. no. 2024/25/III/2040, boo no.3, vol.no. 526, Page no. 11 to 18, on 12.09.2024, SRO- West Janakpuri. In the chain documents elow mentioned document no vailable i.e. SMC of Late Mrs. lanju Gupta & Probate Order of Vill dated 11.09.2024 Our client is eclaring that any other Perso does not have any right over the said property, and same property sold too be Mr. Vrindavan Kuman which is to be financed by Pirama capital & Housing Finance Ltd tranch: Narela Delhi. If any per-on(s) have any objection(s) on laim(s) with respect to the right tle or interest in the Said Property nen contact us within 07 days from ne date of Publication of this notice nd or the same to the undersigned found by anyone. Thereafter no laim shall be entertained

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocati F-211,sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziaba Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

is to inform to the public at large tha IR. SHAKEEL KHAN who is intend ing to purchase the Ground Floor, Front Side Flat without roof rights, of Property No.S-439, measuring 50 Sq. Yards, Khasra No.259, School Block, Sakarpur Khas, Illaqa-Shahdara Delhi-110092 from Mrs. Shilpa Khurana owner vide Sale Deed dated 14.02.2019 (Doc. No.795) executed by (1) Mrs. Seema Shrivastava (2) Mrs. Monica and ame to be finance & mortgage b Hinduja Housing Finance Ltd., having its Branch at I.P. Extension. That Original Sale Deed dated 07.07.2014 Vide Doc. No.3154) executed by Mrs. Manju Joshi in favour of Mrs. Savina has lost/misplaced and FIR of the same lodged. So, to comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any Person hav any type of clair t/title/interest/creating mortgag over the said property, may inform in viriting, at the address mentioned below, about his objections, within 7 avs from today, failing which it shall be resumed that the said property is free orn all type of Encumbrances, lien etc Advocate Abhishek Singl

A-2/367, Nand Nagr Near GTB Enclave SDM Court Nand Nagr Delhi-110093 Mobile: 7706007066 mail: advabhisingh1993@gmail.com

#### **NAME CHANGE**

, ASHPINDER SINGH , S/O RAVIN ER SINGH SODHI R/O BA-281/2 SECOND FLOOR ,TAGORE GAR: DEN, Near BSES Office , NEW DELHI -110027. I change my Name ASHPINDER SINGH SODHI

#### NAME CHANGE

SHAKUNTLA W/O NARENDER JNIYAL R/O F-108 NANAK PURA MOTI BAGH-II DELHI-110021 AVE CHANGED NAME SHAKUNT LA UNIYAL

## **NAME CHANGE**

I AJAY GUPTA S/O RICHHPA SINGH R/O VILLAGE SIHI, SEC TOR-8 FARIDABAD -121006 HAVI CHANGE MY NAME TO AJA KUMAR FOR ALL PURPOSE.

**NAME CHANGE** RAJINDER S/o RAJ PAL R/ .NO.DV-63/2. WARD NO-22 SANT DARSHAN SCHOOL, BAS MOHALLA, PALWAL-121102 HARYANA, HAVE CHANGED M NAME TO RAJINDER SING OR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is for general information that IDHARMENDER SINGH S/O ShUDAL SINGH, R/O B-13 Police Quarter. Mangol Puri Delhi -110083 declare that name of mine has heen wrongly written as DHARVENDRA SINGH. In may Page Cord. No. SINGH in my Pan Card No AQNPD7741C, my Educationa Documents and as DHARMENDRA SINGH in my Aadhat Card No 199759178893, The actual name o nine is DHARMENDER SINGH espectively, which may be amende

#### **NAME CHANGE**

Manickam S/o Mani R/ 6/176, Kalyanpuri, Chilla Sarod Chadar, East Delhi, Delhi-11009 lave changed the name of my ninor son M. Ebenzser aged 12

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE** hitherto known as Rinkal Kaur D/

Gurdev Singh R/o WZ-54C Thir loor, Gali No.3, Old Sahib Pura, Tila lagar, West Delhi, Delhi-11001

#### **NAME CHANGE**

It is for general information that I, POOJA W/o YAAD RAM R/o 16/169, Trilok Puri, East Delhi, Delhi-110091, declare that name o mine has been wrongly written as JYOTI in my minor son BHAVYA aged 9 years in his Birth Certificate No-MCDOLIR-0115-006732456. The actual name of mine is POOJ which may be amended accordingly

#### **NAME CHANGE**

It is for general information that BOMMAREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY BOMMAREDDY UTTAM S/o BOMMAREDDY UTTAM REDDY, R/o House No. - 1551, Block E, Jahangir Puri, N.S. Mandi, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110033 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SHRI NIWAS in my PAN Card No. ADSPN1237B. The actual name of mine is BOM-MAREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY which may be amended accordingly

#### **NAME CHANGE**

ATIL KUAMR SHIVGONDA Fathe of No-14853106L Rank-SEP, Name of No.14853106L Rank-SEP, Name-PATIL AJIT KUMAR Presently resid-ing at VILL-CHINCHWAD, PO-CHINCHWAD, TEH-KARVEER, DIST-KOLHAPUR, MAHARASH-TRA-416119, have changed my Name from PATIL KUAMR SHIV GONDA to PATIL KUMAR SHIV GONDA and have changed my date of birth from 01/06/1960 to 01/06/1959 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 15.01.2025 efore Public Notary Delhi.

#### NAME CHANGE

AKUNTALA PRADHAN Mother No-14865204X Rank-NK, ne-GOBINDA PRADHAN Name-GOBINDA Presently residing at VPO-DHAB LAT SHIBPUR, THANA SAGAR DIST SOUTH 24 PARGANAS WEST BENGAL-743373, have changed my Name from SAKUN TALA PRADHAN to SUKUNTALA PRADHAN and have changed my date of birth from 01/06/1970 to 25/06/1970 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 15.01.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

#### NAME CHANGE

PATIL SHOBHA KUMAR Moth f No-14853106L Rank-SEP, Name PATIL AJIT KUMAR Presently resident ing at VILL-CHINCHWAD, PO-CHINCHWAD, TEH-KARVEER DIST-KOLHAPUR, MAHARASH TRA-416119, have changed my date of birth from 05/05/1972 to 01/01/1967 for all future purposes Vide affidavit dated 15.01.202 before Public Notary Delhi.

Train No. 02275

21:35

& Aligarh Jn. Stations.

DEP.

23:00

00:30

12:10

07082 from Azamgarh on 16.02.2025.

Train No. 07081

Train No. 07083

ARR. DEP.

12:00

17:15

Stations.

23:50

12:00

17:15

Stations.

Train No. 07085

ARR. DEP.

20:10

00:20

12:10

--

& 07086 from Azamgarh on 22,02,2025.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier.

22:00

12:10

& 07084 from Azamgarh on 07.02.2025.

ARR.

00:20

12:00

17:15

18.02.2025, 25.02.2025 & 04.03.2025.

ARR. DEP.

08:55

#### NAME CHANGE

RISHNAN alias SAVITHA K I aughter of NARAYANAN NAIR daughter of NARAYANAN NAIR and wife of M. RADHAKRISHNAN R/o Meyassei Nanduvannur via P.O. Vakayad Dist Cozhikode, Kerala-673614, and currently residing at Qtr. No. 208 Police Line, Vikas Puri, Tilak Nagar, Vest Delhi, Delhi-110018, have hanged my name and shall here after be known as SAVITHA K K. for

#### NAME CHANGE

CHINTA DEVI Mother of No-4833341H Rank-HAV Name DAYANAND KUMAR Presentlesiding at VILL-BHAIDI, PC esiding at ATAUNA, PS-KATRISARA ATAUNA, FS-RATRISARA ATAUNA (PART IN GIRIAK), PC ATAUNA, DIST-NALANDA BIHAR-805130, have changed my late of birth from 01/07/1958 to 01/01/1965 for all future purposes ide affidavit dated 15.01.2025 efore Public Notary Delhi.

#### **NAME CHANGE**

SURESH PRASAD Father of No 148333411 Rank-HAV, Name-DAYANAND KUMAR Presently residing at VILL-BIHAIDI, PO-KATAUNA, PS-KATRISARAI ATAUNA, PS-KATRISARAI ATAUNA (PART IN GIRIAK), PO-ATAUNA, DIST-NALANDA KATAUNA, BIHAR-805130, have changed m date of birth from 01/07/1954 t 01/01/1960 for all future purposes /ide affidavit dated 15.01.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

#### **NAME CHANGE**

No-14833341H Rank-HAV, Name I, NU-1493334 In Rallik-HAV, Natliib-DAYANAND KUMAR S/% SURESH PRASAD residing at Presently resid-ing at VILL-BHAIDI, PO-KATAUNA, PS-KATRISARAI, KATAUNA (PART IN GIRIAK), PO-KATAUNA, DIST-NALANDA, BIHAR-805130, have changed my minor daughter's name from ANISHA BHARTI to KUMARI ANISHA BHARTI for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 15.01.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

#### NAME CHANGE

I, INDU DEVI Wife of No 14833341H Rank-HAV, Name DAYANAND KUMAR Presentl residing at VILL-BHAIDI, PO KATAUNA, PS-KATRISARAI KATAUNA (PART IN GIRIAK), PO KATAUNA. DIST-NALANDA BIHAR-805130, have changed my date of birth from 01/07/1986 to 19/09/1987 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 15.11.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

**←** KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! →

**MORE KUMBH MELA SPECIAL TRAINS** 

In continuation to already announced Special

Trains for Maha Kumbh-2025, Railways have

planned to run following additional Special

STATIONS

Subedargani

Delhi Jn.

DAYS OF RUN: 02275 from Subedarganj on 20.01.2025,

27.01.2025, 03.02.2025, 10.02.2025, 17.02.2025,

24.02.2025 & 03.03.2025 and 02276 from Delhi Jn. on

21.01.2025, 28.01.2025, 04.02.2025, 11.02.2025,

STOPPAGES: Fatehpur, Govindpuri, Etawah Jn., Tundla Jn.

**STATIONS** 

Guntur Jn.

Vijayawada

Varanasi

Azamgarh

DAYS OF RUN: 07081 from Guntur Jn. on 14.02.2025 &

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

STOPPAGES: Khammam, Dornakal Jn., Mahbubabad,

Warangal, Ramagundam, Mancheral, Sirpur Kaghaznagar,

Balharshah, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Betul, Itarsi, Pipariya,

Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur,

**STATIONS** 

Machilipatnam

Varanasi

Azamgarh

DAYS OF RUN: 07083 from Machilipatnam on 05.02.2025

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

STOPPAGES: Gudlavalleru, Gudivada Jn., Vijayawada,

Khammam, Warangal, Ramagundam, Manchiryal, Sirpur

Kaghaznagar, Balharshah, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Betul,

Itarsi, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Maihar,

Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Mirzapur & Shahganj

**STATIONS** 

Kakinada Town

Vijayawada

Varanasi

Azamgarh

DAYS OF RUN: 07085 from Kakinada Town on 20.02.2025

STOPPAGES: Samalkot Jn., Nidadavolu Jn., Tadepalligudem,

Eluru, Vijayawada, Khammam, Warangal, Ramagundam,

Manchiryal, Sirpur Kaghaznagar, Balharshah, Chandrapur,

Nagpur, Itarsi, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Katni Maihar, Satna, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki & Shahganj

For any kind of information,

passengers are requested to contact RailMadad

Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website

https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

07085/07086 Kakinada Town - Azamgarh -

Vijayawada Kumbh Special Train

Prayagraj Chheoki, Mirzapur and Shahganj Stations.

07083/07084 Machilipatnam - Azamgarh -

Machilipatnam Kumbh Special Train

ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

07081/07082 Guntur Jn. - Azamgarh -

Vijayawada Kumbh Special Trair

02275/02276 Subedarganj - Delhi Jn. -

Subedarganj Kumbh Special Train (Weekly)

trains as per schedule given below:-

#### **NAME CHANGE**

**DELHI/NCR** 

I hitherto known as M. BOAZBOU NEWMAI alias BOAZBOU MAREN-MAI NEWMAI S/O SIMON NEW-MAI NEWMAI S/O SIMON NEW-MAI R/o H.NO-137/B 1ST Floor Gali No. - 39, Arjun Nagar Safdarjung Enclave, PO Safdarjung Enclave, Dist. North West Delhi 110029 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BOAZBOU MARENMAI NEWMAI.

#### NAME CHANGE

I BARKHA RANI W/O PRAVEEN KUMAR SHARMA R/O 1818 SEC-TOR 28 FARIDABAD HARYANA 121008 I HAVE CHANGED NAME BARKHA SHARMA

#### **NAME CHANGE**

is for general information that I LATE SH. VIJENDER PAL SHAR MA R/o A-212, GALI NO.7, NEAF 25 FOOTA ROAD, MEET NAGAR GOKAL PUR, NORTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110094 declare tha name of my mine and my wife has been wrongly written as KAMAL SHARMA and REEN SHARMA in my minor son VANSH KUMAR SHARMA aged 15 years in his Birth Certificate No. MCDOLR10118972. The actual name of mine and m wife are KAMAL KUMAR SHARM and RANI SHARMA, which may be ended accordingly.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

I, Omkar son of Shri Laljeet resident of D-4/12, First Floor, Sangam Vihar, New Delhi-110080 declare That I am father of SHIVPUJAN, he has assed Secondary School examination from CBSE 2023 and nis Roll Number was 14255376, and y name is mentioned in his CBSE ertificate as Ompal, but I have hanged my name from Ompal to OMKAR and in future I have known called and addressed as OMKAR for all intents and purposes.

#### **NAME CHANGE**

MAFUJ ALAM S/O MD KURSHED ALAM RESIDING AT HOUSE NO 1/10073 F STREET NO-3, KH NO-358 SHAHDARA WEST GORAKH-PARK DELHI-110032. HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD MAFUJ ALAM FOR ALL MY FUTURE PURPOSES

#### NAME CHANGE

SUNIL Kumar Shukla S/O Ambik Prasad Shukla,R/O C-729, Gali No. 10, 3rd Pusta, Sonia Vihar, Karawa Nagar, North East Delhi, Delhi 110094 , have changed the name omy minor daughter Rudrani Shukla aged 16 years and she shall hereafte known as RUDRANI.

ARR. DEP.

11:30

Trips

02

DEP.

19:45

Train No. 07082

23:20 | 23:30

ARR.

07:30

09:00

23:20

---

Train No. 07086

ARR. DEP.

--

23:30

19:45

07:30

23:20

Train No. 02276

ARR. DEP.

19:40

23:55

#### NAME CHANGE

Sandeep Kumar S/o Mahipa Singh R/o 195-A, Sohna Road Sector-38, Islampur, South City II Gurugram, Haryana-122018, Have Changed My Name To Sandeer Thakran For All Future Purpose.

#### **NAME CHANGE**

, JITENDER S/o JAGDISH MAHANDIRATTA R/o 10A, Banl MAHANDIRATTA R/o 10A, Ban Colony, Sector-7, Gurgaon Haryana-122001, Have Changed My Name To JITENDER MEHANDI-RATTA S/o JAGDISH MEHANDI-RATTA For All Future Purpose.

#### NAME CHANGE

nitherto known as Vipin Kumar S/ Subhash Goyal R/o A-40, Anoop Nagar, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi 10059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as

#### NAME CHANGE

M. Manickam S/o Mani R/o 16/176, Kalyanpuri, Chilla Saroda (hadar, East Delhi, Delhi-11009) have changed the name of monitor daughter M. Sophia Raj age 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as Sophia Manickam.

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is for information of General Public that my client M/s. United invest India Ltd, who is the owner of Property as Lease Hold Plot No. 249

Block-A, area measuring 450.00 Sq. Mtrs. situated in Sector-15-A Noida, tehsil & Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P., had lost Transfer Deec of lease hold rights dated 01.07.2002 and the said deed was executed by Mr. Avinash Parti through his attorney Mrs. Swaran Kanta Malhotra in he avour and the said deed is duly reg stered as Document No. 1497 & 1498 in Bahi No. 1, Jild No. 1084 or pages 459 to 474 on dated 01.07.2002 with the office of the Sub Registrar-II-Gautam Budh Nagai and intends to mortgage the said property with Kotak Mahindra Banl Ltd. Any person having any claim/s in respect of the above said property in any manner whatsoever are hereb equired to give notice of the same to he undersigned at the address given below within 7 days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of documents on the basis of which such claim be deemed and hat there is no claim are being clain against the said property and my client may proceed with its intended

RAJESH K GUPTA Advocat F - 43, Dilshad Colon Delhi- 11009 regalloan@gmail.con

ARR. DEP.

07:00

02

Trips

#### 07087/07088 Moula Ali - Banaras - Moula Ali Kumbh Special Train Train No. 07087 Train No. 07088 **STATIONS**

**Banaras** DAYS OF RUN: 07087 from Moula Ali on 17.02.2025 & 07088 from Banaras on 19.02.2025.

Moula Ali

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. STOPPAGES: Bhongir, Jangaon, Kazipet, Jamikunta, Peddapalli, Ramagundaum, Bellampalli, Sirpur Kaghaznagar, Balharshah, Chandrapur, Nagpur, Betul, Itarsi, Pipariya, Narsinghpur, Jabalpur, Katni, Maihar, Satna, Manikpur & Prayagraj Chheoki Stations.

07107/07108 Tirupati - Banaras - Vijayawada 08 Kumbh Special Train Trips									
Train No. 07107			OTATIONO	Train No. 07108					
ARR.	DEP.		STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.				
-	20:55		Tirupati						
02:55	03:05		Vijayawada <b>▲</b>	05:30					
15:45		1	Banaras		17:30				

DAYS OF RUN: 07107 from Tirupati on 18.01.2025 08.02.2025, 15.02.2025 & 22.02.2025 and 07108 from Banaras on 20.01.2025, 10.02.2025, 17.02.2025 & 24.02.2025.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. STOPPAGES: Gudur, Nellore, Ongole, Chirala, Tenali Jn., Eluru, Tadepalligudem, Nidadavolu Jn., Rajamundrv. Samalkot Jn., Annavaram, Elamanchili, Anakapalle, Duvvada, Simhachalam North, Pendurti, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram Jn., Bobbili Jn., Parvatipuram, Rayagada, Muniguda, Kesinga, Titlagarh, Balangir, Bargarh Road, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda Jn., Raurkela, Hatia, Ranchi, Muri, Barkakana, Tori, Latehar, Barwadih Jn., Daltonganj, Garwa Road Jn., Japla, Son Nagar, Dehri On Sone, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Chandauli Majhwar, Pt.Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Kashi & Varanasi Stations.

07109/07110 Narasapur - Banaras - 04 Narasapur Kumbh Special Train Trips								
Train No. 07109		L CTATIONS A		Train No. 07110				
ARR.	DEP.	•	STATIONS T	ARR.	DEP.			
	06:00		Narasapur	05:00				
15:45			Banaras		17:30			
DAVS OF PIIN: 07100 from Narasanur on 26 01 2025 8								

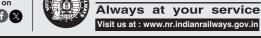
**DAYS OF RUN: 07109** from **Narasapur** on 26.01.2025 & 02.02.2025 and 07110 from Banaras on 27.01.2025 &

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General. STOPPAGES: Bhimavaram Jn., Tanuku, Nidadavolu Jn., Rajamundry, Samalkot Jn., Annavaram, Elamanchili. Anakapalle, Duvvada, Simhachalam North, Pendurti, Kottavalasa, Vizianagaram Jn., Bobbili Jn., Parvatipuram, Rayagada, Muniguda, Kesinga, Titlagarh, Balangir, Bargarh Road, Sambalpur, Jharsuguda Jn. Raurkela, Hatia, Ranchi, Muri, Barkakana, Tori, Latehar, Barwadih Jn., Daltonganj Garwa Road Jn., Japla, Son Nagar, Dehri On Sone, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Chandauli Majhwar, Pt.Deen Daval Upadhyaya Jn., Kashi and Varanasi Stations

Train No. 02417 from Subedarganj on 21.01.2025, 22.01.2025, 04.02.2025, 05.02.2025, 11.02.2025, 12.02.2025, 18.02.2025, 19.02.2025, 25.02.2025, 26.02.2025, 04.03.2025 & 05.03.2025 (Tuesday & Wednesday).

Train No. 02418 from Delhi Jn. on 22.01.2025, 23.01.2025, 05.03.2025 & 06.03.2025 (Wednesday & Thursday).

Note:- Timings, Stoppages and Composition will be same as notified earlier.



#### News box

### Half of MCG staffers in other depts back at corporation after directive in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. Following TOI's report on 67 MCG employees simultaneously working in other govt departments while receiving salaries from it, more than half resumed their duties at the civic body. According to MCG officials, these returning staff members, predominantly from clerical positions, will be assigned to the sanitation department. "The employees have started coming back to work. Currently, 36 personnel resumed their duties and we anticipate the remaining workforce to be present by the end of this week," an MCG official said.A letter sent to the employees recently by MCG commissioner Ashok Kumar Garg read, "In view of the alarming levels of untreated waste in Gurgaon and the declaration of a municipal solid waste exigency by the Haryana govt, the MCG is intensifying its sanitation efforts.""To ensure adequate workforce availability for the implementation of the solid waste environment exigency programme (Sweep), it has been decided to recall all clerical staff currently positioned in various offices across Gurgaon district," it said. The letter said, 'The official shall be treated as wilfully absent in case the concerned employee does not report to his duties in MCG. Any lapse on your part shall be viewed seriously and may invite disciplinary proceedings."

Officials said that a majority of them are clerical staff, including computer operators. TOI reported on Jan 14 that 67 staffers on MCG's payroll were found working for other govt departments, including the district administration, for years, and the numbers are likely

### Treated water for Aravali park by March, 60% of project complete in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. Recycled water is expected to be supplied to the Aravali Biodiversity Park on MG Road by March, with 60% of the work completed. The project aims to maintain the greenery of the park spread across 400 acres.In Oct 2023, GMDA awarded the work for laying a 9.5km pipeline to supply the treated water from Behrampur sewage treatment plant (STP) to Aravali Biodiversity Park. For Rs 2.7 crore, the project was initially scheduled for completion by July 2024.

However, the project faced delays — initially due to challenges in securing land for a pump house in Ghata village from HSVP, and delays in obtaining permissions from the forest department and later due to repeated bans on construction activities under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).HSVP eventually provided land last year, allowing the construction of a pump house crucial to pumping water to the elevated terrain of MG Road. So far, 2.5km of the pipeline has been laid, and the pump house is under construction. The pipeline will not only cater to the Biodiversity Park but also provide water to other green spaces along the Aravali hills.

After clearing all the hurdles, the pace of work has increased. The pump house construction will be completed by Feb, and we are confident the water supply to the park will begin by March," said a senior GMDA official. Currently, 388 million litres a day (MLD) is being treated at five STPs in city, and has a network of 120 km. A common effluent treatment plant at Manesar, which can treat 55MLD water, is also available. However, only 117 MLD is being used in horticulture, irrigation, textile industries, and

### Winter birding: Spot rare migratory bird in NCR

Gurgaon. The winter chill prompts birding enthusiasts across the city to venture out to wetlands, biodiversity parks and bird sanctuaries to spot winter migratory birds, which make the region their seasonal home.

On a crisp morning at Sultanpur National Park, we spotted birders connecting with nature, watching and photographing the winged visitors.

There is more diversity in birdlife this winter' NCR bird habitats have been teaming with birdlife this winter. Birder and photographer Amit Sharma says, "Although the habitat has significantly reduced because of increased urbanisation, Sultanpur National Park, Chandu-Bhudera, Najafgarh Jheel and the Aravalli belt are some of the favourite spots for migrant birds." Migratory

birds from Siberia, Europe and Russia are present in the park in large numbers in Sultanpur, informs bird guide Sachin Sharma. Birds like Eurasian Wigeon, Common Teal and Gadwall are present in large numbersKavi Nanda, a member of Delhi Bird Foundation, says, "While the migration in terms of numbers is low this year, there is diversity and many rare birds like Marbled Duck, Slender-billed Gull, Baikal Teal have been sighted. This is probably because of more eyes in the field, more people taking to birding and regular bird walks happening across the city.

'Pankaj Gupta, a seasoned birder and a member of Delhi Bird Foundation, informs that teams have been collecting data for the Delhi Bird Atlas, and over 151 species of birds have been observed in the first half of January Beginner's guide to birding in winters"The first step for a nature enthusiast to step into the world of bird watching is to pick up a pair of good binoculars and then start honing your observation skills.

Apps like Merlin will help you to identify basic species and families. Keep a field notebook with you to write the name of the

species you spot, " says Shivang Mehta, a bird photographer.Bharati Chaturvedi, an environmentalist, recommends that birders must go out when air is cleaner and AQI is low. She suggests

#### Trips Train No. 07084 ARR. DEP. 23:30 19:45

03.02.2025.

#### Increase in frequency of Train No. 02417/02418 Subedarganj - Delhi Jn. - Subedarganj Superfast Kumbh Special Train from Bi weekly to 04 days a week (24 Trips)

05.02.2025. 06.02.2025. 12.02.2025. 13.02.2025 19.02.2025, 20.02.2025, 26.02.2025, 27.02.2025,

**NORTHERN RAILWAY** Please join



#### **NEWS BOX**

### South Korea's Yoon becomes 1st sitting President to be arrested

World. South Korean authorities arrested impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol on Wednesday over insurrection accusations related to his December 3 martial law declaration, investigators said.A motorcade was seen leaving the gates of his hillside residence where Yoon has been holed up for weeks behind barbed wire barriers and a small army of personal security. Earlier more than 3,000 police officers and anti-corruption investigators had gathered there before dawn, pushing through throngs of Yoon supporters and members of his ruling People Power Party protesting attempts to detain him. Yoon's lawyers have argued attempts to detain him are illegal and are designed to publicly humiliate him. The warrant investigators secured for his arrest is the first ever issued against an incumbent South Korean president.

As local news broadcasters reported that Yoon's detention may come soon, some minor scuffles broke out between tearful pro-Yoon protesters and police near the residence, according to a Reuters witness at the scene. Yoon's declaration of martial law stunned South Koreans and plunged one of Asia's most vibrant democracies into an unprecedented period of political turmoil. Lawmakers voted to impeach him and remove him from duties on December 14. Separately, the Constitutional Court is deliberating over to uphold that impeachment and permanently remove him

#### Impeached South Korean President Yoon Arrested Over Failed Martial Law Bid

Seoul. South Korean authorities on Wednesday arrested impeached President Yoon Suk Yeol over insurrection accusations related to his brief declaration of martial law on December 3, investigators said. He is the first sitting president in South Korea's history to be arrested. According to reports, the suspended President was seen leaving his heavily fortified residence in central Seoul in a convoy to the offices of the Corruption Investigation Office (CIO) after a joint team of investigators and police said they had executed the arrest warrant.

Mr Yoon had been holed up at his hillside residence for weeks, behind a small army of personal security to avoid arrest. His lawyers have argued attempts to detain the impeached Presidnet were illegal and were designed to publicly humiliate him.On Wednesday morning, his lawyer announced that the president had agreed to speak to investigators and that he had decided to leave the residence to prevent a "serious

President Yoon has decided to personally appear at the Corruption Investigation Office today," Seok Donghyeon said on Facebook, adding that Yoon would also deliver a speech. More than 3,000 police officers and anti-corruption investigators gathered at his residence before dawn, pushing through throngs of Yoon supporters and members of his ruling People Power Party protesting attempts to detain him. Shortly after, investigators announced that Mr Yoon had been arrested. "The Joint Investigation Headquarters executed an arrest warrant for President Yoon Suk Yeol today (January 15) at 10:33 am (0130 GMT)," they said in a statement. Following his arrest, Yoon can be held for up to 48 hours on the existing warrant. Investigators would need to apply for another arrest warrant to keep him in custody.

It was their second effort to arrest Yoon. A first attempt on January 3 failed after a tense hours-long standoff with members of Yoon's official Presidential Security Service (PSS), who refused to budge when investigators tried to execute their warrant.

Mr Yoon's declaration of martial law last month stunned South Koreans and plunged one of Asia's most vibrant democracies into an unprecedented period of political turmoil. Lawmakers voted to impeach him and remove him from duties on December 14. Separately, the Constitutional Court is deliberating over whether to uphold that impeachment and permanently remove him from office. Mr Yoon's impeachment trial began Tuesday with a brief hearing after he declined to attend.

#### Sheikh Hasina's niece Tulip Siddia resigns from UK government over Bangladesh graft probe

LONDON. UK's anti-corruption minister and niece of ousted Bangladesh prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Tulip Siddiq, resigned on Tuesday after being named in an investigation into the graft accusations against her aunt. The resignation came days after Dr Muhammed Yunus, the caretaker head of Bangladesh government made serious allegations of corruption against her.UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer has accepted her resignation. In a letter to Starmer, Siddiq wrote: "Sir Laurie has confirmed that I have not breached the ministerial code. As he notes, there is no evidence to suggest that I have acted improperly regarding the properties I have owned or lived in, nor any evidence to suggest that my assets derive from anything other than legitimate sources."

She further stated, "My family connections are a matter of public record. When I became a minister, I provided full details of my relationships and private interests to the government."Siddiq acknowledged that continuing in her role as Economic Secretary could distract from the government's work. She emphasized, "My loyalty is and always will be to this Labour Government in the UK and its program for national renewal and transformation. Therefore, I have decided to resign from my ministerial position."

Siddiq had previously voluntarily referred herself to an independent watchdog. Following consultations with officials, she was advised to declare her aunt's position as the former prime minister of Bangladesh and to recuse herself from matters related to Bangladesh to avoid any perception of a conflict of

# Trump would've been convicted in 2020 poll case had he not been reelected: Report

World. US Special Counsel Jack Smith said that evidence from the 2020 election interference case was enough for President-elect Donald Trump's conviction, but his victory in last year's presidential polls made it impossible to do so. In an over 130-page report published on Tuesday, Smith concluded that Trump engaged in an "unprecedented criminal effort" to retain power after he lost to Joe Biden five years ago. The Special Counsel also detailed how Trump tried to overturn the election results and accused him of plotting to obstruct the collection and certification of votes."As set forth in the original and superseding indictments, when it became clear that Trump had lost the election and that lawful means of challenging the election results had failed, he resorted to a series of criminal efforts to retain power," CNN quoted the report as saying. The report, that came less than a week before the President-elect's inauguration on January 20, also said the



**WORLD** 

"throughline of all of Trump's criminal efforts was deceit, knowingly false claims of election fraud, and the evidence shows that he used these lies as a weapon to defeat a federal government function foundational to the United States' democratic process".In August 2023, Trump was charged with working to overturn the election, but the case was delayed by appeals and ultimately significantly narrowed by the Supreme Court, which held for the first time that former Presidents enjoy sweeping immunity from criminal prosecution for

'The (Justice0 Department's view that the Constitution prohibits the continued indictment and prosecution of a President is categorical and does not turn on the gravity of the crimes charged, the strength of the government's proof, or the merits of the prosecution, which the Office stands fully behind," the report said.

"But for Trump's election and imminent return to the Presidency, the Office assessed that the admissible evidence was sufficient to obtain and sustain a conviction at trial."The President-elect had pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Although much of the evidence cited in Smith's report was already made public before, it also includes some new details like prosecutors considering charging Trump with inciting the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol under a US law known as the Insurrection Act.But prosecutors ultimately concluded that such a charge posed legal risks and there was insufficient evidence that Trump intended for the "full scope" of violence during the riot, a failed attempt by a mob of his supporters to stop Congress from certifying the 2020 election.

The indictment charged Trump with conspiring to obstruct the election certification, defraud the US of accurate election results and deprive American voters of their voting rights. Smith's office determined that charges may have been justified against some co-conspirators accused of helping Trump carry out the plan, but the report said prosecutors reached no final conclusions.

Meanwhile, a second section of the report details Smith's case accusing Trump of illegally retaining sensitive national security documents after leaving the White House in 2021. But the Justice Department said that it would not make that section public as legal proceedings continue against two Trump associates charged in

# North Korean Troops "Blowing Themselves Up" To Avoid Capture In Ukraine

**Kyiv.** After an intense battle with Russian forces this week, Ukrainian special forces were scouring dead bodies from the snowy western terrain of the Kursk region, where they discovered corpses of over a dozen North Korean enemy troops. Among them, they found one soldier was still alive. But as Ukrainian soldiers approached him, the lone North Korean detonated his own grenade, blowing himself up to avoid being captured,

Ukraine's Special Operations Forces said in a post on X, describing the intense fighting in the occupied Kursk According to Kyiv officials, their soldiers escaped the blast uninjured, but the suicide incident added to

mounting evidence from the

battlefield, intelligence reports and



testimonies of defectors that some North Korean soldiers are resorting to extreme measures as they support Russia's three-year war with Ukraine. 'Soldiers Being Brainwashed'

The incident is the latest documentation of the lengths the North Korean troops are willing to go to avoid capture and

become prisoners of war to be presented as proof of Pyongyang and Moscow's blatant military alliance. The "brainwashed" Hermit Kingdom troops, who are being told it is treason to be taken prisoner, are posing a new challenge for Ukraine, officials said.

Self-detonation and suicides: that's the reality about North Korea." Kim, a 32-year-old former North Korean soldier who defected to the South in 2022, told Reuters."These soldiers who left home for a fight there have been brainwashed and

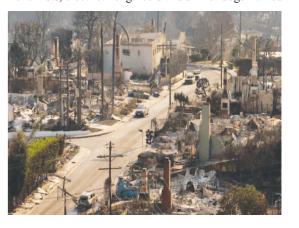
are truly ready to sacrifice themselves for Kim Jong Un," he added, referring to the reclusive North Korean leader.Kim had reportedly worked for North Korea's military in Russia for about seven years up until 2021 on construction projects to earn foreign currency for the regime. According to him, for some North Korean soldiers, being captured and sent back to Pyongyang would be seen

### Federal Probe Begins Into **Deadly Los Angeles Fires**

Los Angeles. A huge federal probe was under way Tuesday into what caused the deadly Los Angeles wildfires, with millions in the city clamoring for answers. Social media has exploded with theories about what started blazes that tore through the city of Altadena and the upmarket neighborhood of Pacific Palisades, killing at least 24 people and leaving whole communities in ruins. Suggestions include downed power lines, deliberate arson, a stray firework and the reignition of an earlier fire.

But Jose Medina of the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), which is leading the inquiry, said it was too early to say.

We know everyone wants answers, and the community deserves answers. ATF will give you those answers, but it will be once we complete a thorough investigation," he told reporters. The ATF is working with local law enforcement, as well as the Forest Service and the US Attorney's office, in an operation that will involve around 75 people. Fire investigators, chemists, electrical engineers and sniffer dogs trained



## Qatar Says Gaza Truce Deal In "Final Stages": What We Know So Far Israel's history, resulted in the

negotiations for a Gaza truce and hostage release deal were in their "final stages" on Tuesday, could be reached "very soon".Qatar, Egypt and the United States have intensified efforts to broker a ceasefire to enable the release of hostages taken during Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel.Late on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu went into a meeting with top security officials to discuss the deal, his office said."The ball is now in Hamas's court," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said earlier. "If Hamas accepts, the deal is ready to be concluded and implemented."US President Joe Biden and his Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said in a phone call on Tuesday that both sides needed to show "flexibility" to get a deal over the line, according to a statement from Sisi's

Biden had said the day before that an Hamas's October 7 attack, the deadliest in



agreement was "on the brink" of being finalised, just ahead of the inauguration of his successor, Donald Trump.Qatar foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari on Tuesday said the negotiations were in their "final stages". "Certainly we are hopeful that this would lead very soon to an agreement," Ansari said, while adding that "until there is an announcement... we shouldn't be over-

Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, meanwhile, said during a visit to Rome that there was a "true willingness from our side to reach an agreement".

deaths of 1,210 people, mostly civilians, according to an AFP tally of official Israeli figures.On that day, militants also took 251 people hostage, 94 of whom are still being held in Gaza, including 34 the Israeli military says are dead.Israel's retaliatory campaign in Gaza has killed 46,645 people, a majority of them civilians, according to the health ministry in

the Hamas-run territory, whose figures the UN considers reliable.'Act Now'Relatives of Israeli hostages and war-battered Palestinians in Gaza waited anxiously for the deal to be finalised."Time is of the essence," said Gil Dickmann, cousin of former hostage Carmel Gat, whose body was recovered from a Gaza tunnel in September."Hostages who are alive will end up dead. Hostages who are dead might be lost," Dickmann told AFP at a rally in Jerusalem. "We have to act now."Umm Ibrahim Abu Sultan said from Khan Yunis in southern Gaza that she had "lost everything" in the war.

to detect accelerant will be doing painstaking fieldwork to find the seats of the two fires, he said.A team will also be deployed to gather clues from the local community and online, conducting interviews with possible witnesses.

We are following all the leads and processing all the physical evidence," Medina said."ATF is determined to leverage every available resource to deliver a thorough and transparent investigation. Internet users have leapt on a video posted by trail runners that shows them running away from smoke in hills above Pacific

But one of the men, Beni Oren, told the Los Angeles Times they had nothing to do with the fire, and had actually been fleeing for their lives in the video.

'It's definitely kind of infuriating that people are blaming us," he told the paper."Just knowing as a matter of fact... that we didn't do it but then seeing the amount of people that have different theories is overwhelming."Local media reported that a number of homeowners in the Altadena area have launched a lawsuit against power company Southern California Edison after a video appeared to show flames at the base of an electrical transmission tower.

# US to lift Cuba's terrorism tag in exchange for release of political prisoners

World. The Biden administration said on Tuesday it would remove Cuba from its terrorism blacklist, while Cuba said separately it would release upward of 500 prisoners from its jails, dual announcements poised to reshape US-Cuba relations just days before Donald Trump takes office. President Joe Biden's announcements effectively roll back many of the sanctions put in place by President-elect Trump during his previous term ending in 2021. If they endure, they would represent the most significant advance in US-Cuba relations since the Obama-era detente.Trump, a harsh Cuba critic who designated the island a state sponsor of terrorism - has not yet commented on the measures but has Just one hour after the US announcement, promised a hard line on the communistrun country. He also nominated US Senator Marco Rubio, the son of immigrants from Cuba and an outspoken critic of the island's government, as Secretary of State.Biden's announced

plans - subject to the review of Congress and the incoming Trump administration - would lift Trump's 2021 designation of Cuba as a state sponsor of terrorism, easing sanctions on an island already suffering a deep economic crisis. They would also revoke a 2017 Trump order that restricted financial transactions with some military- and governmentlinked Cuban entities, according to a senior administration official.Biden also seeks to prevent individuals from filing lawsuits against both Cuban entities and foreign companies under the Helms-Burton Act over property seized following Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution, the official said.

Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel announced his government planned to "gradually" release 553 prisoners following talks with Pope Francis.Cuba faced sharp criticism from rights groups, the United States and the European Union



following the imprisonment of hundreds of protesters after riots on July 11, 2021, the largest since Castro's revolution.

It was not immediately clear whether the prisoners to be released had been detained following those protests. A Cuban foreign ministry statement said the decision reflected the "humanitarian nature of the Cuban justice system" but did not tie the prisoner release to the Biden announcement.Cuba's government called

the breakthrough a step in the "right direction," but accused the US of continued "economic warfare" against the island, warning that the measures could be quickly rolled back and that the Cold War-era US trade embargo against Cuba remained. Trump, who takes office on Jan. 20, may seek to revive the sanctions overturned by Biden once in office. His transition team and Rubio's Senate office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.An official said Biden and Trump's teams had "been in communication" on the

In a brief letter to Congress, Biden said the actions announced on Tuesday were "necessary to the national interests of the United States and will expedite a transition to democracy in Cuba.

#### PRISONER RELEASE

Cuba has been discussing the possibility of a prisoner amnesty with Vatican officials since at least 2023.

KOCHI. For the past five decades,

the Sabarimala hill shrine has been closing by playing the song

Harivarasanam through loud

speakers. It is a nostalgic tradition

for devotees who term the song the

lullaby of Lord Ayyappa.While

there is no clinching evidence

regarding the author of the song,

there are claims that Kambangudi

Kulathur Srinivasa Iyer wrote it.

Another claim says that the song

was penned by Purakkad

Konnakath Janaki Amma,

daughter of Anantha Krishna Iyer,

It is believed that the ashtakam was

first rendered at Sabarimala in

1955 by Swami Vimochanananda.

This was after the reconstruction

of the temple following the fire of

1950. In those days, only a few

an oracle, in 1923.

#### NEWS BOX

#### Relatives to move Kerala High Court against exhuming Gopan Swami's body

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The decision to exhume the body of Neyvattinkara Gopan Swami from the controversial burial site will be taken by the sub-collector based on a new police report.Meanwhile, the family has decided to move the High Court with a writ petition challenging the exhumation order. Gopan Swami's son, Sananthan, has firmly opposed the move and said that it hurts religious sentiments. He also claimed that no police notice was issued regarding the exhumation.

The police will also hold discussions with Hindu organisations regarding the matter. The police recorded the statements of Gopan Swami's sons again on Monday and found contradictions. Due to discrepancies in the statements of the family members, the district administration has decided to open the tomb and examine the mortal remains. It has been decided to proceed with the inspection by opening the tomb under tight police security. The exhumation, initially scheduled for Monday, was halted due to protests by the family and certain religious groups. The controversy arose after a neighbour filed a complaint about Gopan Swami's disappearance. Following this, the police sought the collector's permission to open the tomb built near the

#### 12 labs gutted in fire at govtowned Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre

Saturday evening.

family's house in Aralamoodu.

Meanwhile, the police sealed the tomb on

BENGALURU. As many as 12 research laboratories were reportedly destroyed in an early morning accidental fire on Tuesday, at the Bangalore Bioinnovation Centre (BBC) -- located at the Helix Biotech Park, IBAB Campus, Electronics City Phase 1. No casualties have been reported in the incident.

The BBC comes under the Karnataka Biotechnology and Information Technology Services (KBITS), Department of IT, BT and Science & Technology, Government of Karnataka. The 50,000-sq ft centre is located on a 10acre campus.IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge visited the spot to inspect the damage. Later, the Department of IT & BT, in a statement, said the mishap was due to improper management of flammable solvent in a lab. The preliminary estimation of loss sustained by startups ranged from Rs 80-110 crore, while the estimated loss to BBC properties was approximately Rs 42 crore.

'The fire erupted at Galore Tx startup room on the second floor (ESF07 lab) due to improper management of flammable solvent in their lab. All BBC startups were previously informed to not store and use any large volume of inflammable chemicals in their lab and a separate open storage area was provided for the same," the statement read.

The second floor of the facility, which was recently revamped to house more number of startups, was completely gutted, while extensive damage was also sustained to first and ground floors due to the interconnected HVAC lines, the department added."The fire severely damaged common infrastructure of BBC including the Bangalore Bio Bank, Cleanroom facility, Flowcytometry, HVAC units, AC units, among others. Several of the Incubated startups who had equipment of their own, also sustained serious damage to their consumables and IP products," the department stated.

#### Thiruvananthapuram Airport records 18.5% passenger growth in 2024

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Over 49 lakh passengers used the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in 2024, according to data released by the airport authorities. The passengers included 26.4 lakh domestic and 22.7 lakh using international routes.Compared to 2023, TIAL witnessed an increase of around 18.52% in overall passenger traffic. A total of 41,48,644 passengers had travelled via Thiruvananthapuram in 2023 while the number increased to 49,17,019 in 2024. The airport also saw a 14.19% rise in air traffic movements at 32,324 in 2024 as compared to 28,306 ATMs in 2023. "This growth highlights an ever-increasing demand for air travel from Thiruvananthapuram and reflects the importance of the city for passengers from neighbouring regions in Kerala and Tamil Nadu," a TIAL spokesperson said."The passenger traffic figures and growth observed at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in 2024 aligns with industry trends, reaffirming the airport's commitment to providing seamless connectivity and world class service standards. Prioritising safety and security, Thiruvananthapuram airport ensures a smooth and convenient experience for all travellers," he added.

# Bills stuck with govt, KEONICS Harivarasanam, the Iullaby of the Lord vendors seek PM's Intervention

BENGALURU. In the wake of the state contractors' association threatening to launch protests over the delay in releasing pending bills, vendors working with the Karnataka State Electronics Development Corporation Ltd (KEONICS), a state government undertaking, have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking his intervention to release pending bills and end "harassment".

Keonics Empanelled Vendors' Welfare Association, in its letter to the PM. stated that around 450 to 500 vendors working with KEONICS are in dire straits due to delays in releasing the pending bills and changes in the eligibility criteria by the

management. Eligibility criteria were changed to help some big companies, they alleged. The association has also written to the President of India, Union IT/BT minister and the Karnataka

The association held IT and BT Minister Privank Kharge, KEONICS Chairman Sharath Bache Gowda and senior officers with the corporation responsible for the harassment they face. It also held them responsible if any of the vendors took extreme measures.

Association president Vasanth K Bangera said bills worth around Rs 350-400 crore are pending and nearly 6,000 families that depend



on the vendors are facing hardships. Vendors are being harassed as they had protested against an official who had demanded commission and bills are being held back in the name of investigating a few violations, they alleged.

BJP urges CM to take action

The opposition BJP urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take immediate measures to clear the pending bills. Taking to a social media platform, the BJP stated that the state government was "torturing" the contractors and now the KEONICS vendors' welfare association has written to the President seeking mercy killing. The letter mentions Minister Priyank Kharge and MLA Sharath Bache

Gowda, the BJP stated.Minister Kharge hit back at BJP leaders, asking them to do their homework thoroughly before making public statements. Payments to vendors, who have not been involved in any malpractice, will be processed based on the recommendations of the factfinding committee, he said.

Do you seriously expect our government to clear payments to vendors who were involved in irregularities during your tenure? Have you forgotten the accountant general's audit findings, which flagged over Rs 300 crore worth of misappropriations by KEONICS under your government?" the minister said.

The minister said some of the audit observations included payments made without conducting third-party

inspections, payments made against fake bills before the supply of goods, claims for software that were never installed yet payments were made, fraudulent and excessive claims by vendors, including payments against fake delivery 'challans' and forged third-party inspection reports."This is just the tip of the iceberg. The corruption and mismanagement under your administration ran deep and is being investigated. Why are you in such a hurry to go behind bars? Instead of questioning me, why not direct your questions to the then IT minister and chief minister from your own party?" Kharge stated.

ardent devotees managed to trek through the dense forest and reach the hill shrine.In 1975, Merryland Subramanian produced the movie Swami Ayyappan, and Harivarasanam was included in the movie as per the wish of his son Karthikeyan. Music director G Devarajan composed the song and K J Yesudas sung it.As the song became popular, the Travancore Devaswom Board announced the decision to play it at the Sabarimala temple. Though the version sung by Yesudas is played, marking the end of the poojas, a different version is sung by the priests in front of the sanctum

The popular rendition goes Harivarasanam Viswamohanam...', while the version sung in front of the deity is 'Harivarasanam Swami Viswamohanam...'. The word Swami is repeated in each line.

# No evidence, Karnataka HC quashes case against Ragini, Ranka in 2020 drugs case

BENGALURU. The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday quashed criminal proceedings against accused actress Ragini Dwivedi and Prashant Ranka on the ground that police have not produced any material evidence to prove that they organised parties or sold drugs, except voluntary statements of the co-accused and chargesheet witnesses.Justice Hemant Chandangoudar passed the order recently, while allowing the petitions filed by Ragini Dwivedi, accused No.2, and Prashant Ranka, accused No.4, questioning the legality of the proceedings. The court said that continuing criminal proceedings against them would be an abuse of the legal process of law as there is no material produced by CCB to prove the charges against them. However, the court said the order would not come in the way of prosecuting the petitioners in accordance with the law, in view of the observations made in another writ



petition involving the same issue. The chargesheet was filed against them under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and IPC. The CCB, in its complaint, stated that they filed a suo motu complaint with Cottonpet police station. It was alleged in the complaint that they have information regarding the consumption of narcotics at parties organised at various locations frequented by celebrities, DJs, Chargesheet was filed against several accused

Later, the CCB recorded the voluntary statement of an accused. Based on this, a crime was registered against the petitioners on September 4, 2020, at Cottonpet police station. The chargesheet was filed against several accused, including Ragini and Ranka, who are accused No.2 and 4 respectively, on June 8, 2021. The specific allegations against accused no.1 Shivaprakash, a realtor, is that his friend Ragini introduced him to businessmen and youngsters at parties where drugs were supplied. It was further alleged that Shivaprakash, Ragini and others consumed contraband substances, such as ecstasy pills, at parties. He is alleged to have instigated others to consume ecstasy pills too. The specific allegations against the petitioners were that they organised parties and facilitated.

## against rice millers obstructing paddy procurement process

BHUBANESWAR. A day after Cooperation minister Pradeep Bal Samant urged farmers to lodge FIR in their BHUBANESWAR. After the metal, respective police stations against rice millers who are interfering in the paddy procurement process, the state government on Tuesday directed the officials concerned to inquire into the problems faced by them. Around 3,893 nodal officers have been appointed for 3,903 mandis to help the farmers in the state. Another 1,031 supervisors have also been entrusted with the charge of two to three mandis each. More officers are also being deployed by the district administrations as per requirement, said an official statement.

These officials are inquiring into the problems faced by farmers at the mandis. Arrangements have also been made for farmers to report their grievances directly to the field staff," it added. Speaking to mediapersons, Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare minister Krushna Chandra Patra said the paddy procurement process is going on smoothly. The state government has directed all officials concerned to keep a strict vigil on every mandi to make the process transparent."Extensive measures The cell headed by chief have been taken by the respective district administrations to ensure no eligible farmer faces any problem in the paddy procurement process. Ancillary arrangements have also been made for the benefit of the farmers in the mandis," he informed.Meanwhile contrary to these claims, farmers of a service cooperative society in Niali block of Cuttack district alleged their stock was not being lifted due to non-cooperation by the millers. They said the nodal officer and supervising officer were not coming to mandis for reasons best

# Odisha government probes complaints Odisha government to establish pharmaceutical hub in state

mineral and food processing sectors, Odisha is now gearing up to establish a pharmaceutical manufacturing hub, which could be a game-changer for employment generation

and economic growth in the state. Ahead of the mega investment summit Utkarsh Odisha: Make-in-Odisha Conclave 2025, the state government has set up an Odisha Pharmaceutical Development Cell (OPDC) to create a robust ecosystem for the pharma sector and attract global investments.

secretary will serve as a bridge between the state and potential investors,

facilitating collaborations and expediting investments. The cell has been tasked to craft a comprehensive Odisha Pharmaceutical Policy 2025 and implement a roadmap for a dedicated pharmaceutical special economic zone (SEZ), official sources said.

A pharmaceutical CEO conclave has also

been planned to attract multinational and national industry leaders for exploring the opportunities and investment landscape in the state. Plans are afoot to establish dedicated



pharmaceutical parks with world-class infrastructure, streamlined regulatory clearances, and financial incentives for

Locations on the outskirts of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack and Balasore are being considered for setting up these parks, given their strategic connectivity and existing industrial base. Steps are being undertaken to develop a worldclass pharmaceutical SEZ in the Khurda-Balasore corridor with state-ofthe-art facilities, officials said.

The OPDC is a part of PM Narendra Modi's vision for transforming India into a global leader in pharmaceutical manufacturing and innovation. A senior health official said, "The state will play a significant role in the move to establish the country as a global leader in pharmaceuticals. With its rich industrial history, progressive policies and skilled workforce, Odisha is wellpositioned to become a key player in the sector."The state has 22 pharmaceutical formulations manufacturing units, 22 medical

device/equipment manufacturing companies, five liquid medical oxygen plants and one active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) unit. Sapigen Biologix (Bharat Biotech) and Infinix have already set up their units here. The focus will be to add more API units and drug manufacturing companies.

## Experts call for detailed geological study before further construction in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. With construction activities commercial, residential, and civil increasing across the state, particularly in and around Bengaluru, geologists and experts suggest that a detailed geological study be undertaken for the city before any further expansion.

Geologists point out that the soil in Bengaluru, Mysuru, and surrounding areas is silty and red, and the region is made up of metamorphic granite rock called Peninsular Gneiss. "The soil is not thick, and we hit the

rock surface at shallow depths. Any construction on these structures is strong, but that does not mean you should go for To get through rocks and soil, blasting,



unplanned construction everywhere," said a geological expert from IISc.

mining, and deep drilling are undertaken to lay the foundation. This has an impact on the rocks, not just in the surrounding location, but even in faraway places. "There is a need to understand the impact of fractures and stress on the soil and rocks. So far, no geological studies have been undertaken to ascertain the details of rocks and soil, where construction can be undertaken, and where a limit should be set. We have the expertise to complete the study in three months. It is time to link academic institutions with planning understanding is lacking," the expert

works, officials in Bangalore Metro Rail

Citing the example of ongoing Namma Metro

Corporation Limited said the delay is not just because of a labour shortage, coordination issues with other stakeholders, lack of underground maps of public utilities like drinking water and sewage lines or garbage pits, but also hard rock surfaces. There are many instances where tunnelling gets delayed as blades have to be changed. Prior information on rock morphology will help, they added. An IISc consultant with the state government said, "Government agencies look to private firms for geological and hydrological reports. These are usually based on patch test analysis, and the reports are not accurate.

agencies. Basic scientific Due to natural soil and rock conditions, structures stand strong, but the same cannot continue in the future. What is happening underground needs to be studied before undertaking future projects."

### Trump's new term draws near amid scepticism

AS the United States readies for the inauguration of Donald Trump as its 47th President, I have a sense of déjà vu. Trump's swearing-in as the 45th President is the only presidential inauguration that I skipped since I was posted to Washington as a foreign correspondent in the final full year of the Bill Clinton presidency 26 years ago.

I skipped the ceremonies on the advice of bipartisan political contacts and reliable security sources. Behind their well-meaning advice was the primary fact that I am a journalist. My badge at the inaugural ceremonies would identify me as one. Moreover, I would be in the media enclosure near the Reflecting Pool, which, on a clear day, will reflect the swearing-in of new presidents on the steps of Capitol Hill. During that poll season which saw Trump emerging victorious, the Republicans treated the media as an enemy. This was not entirely without reason. The bulk of the US media — especially the mass subscription liberal media on the east and west coasts - was unfair to Trump throughout the campaign. He did not have a level playing field in dealings with American journalists.I am brown in complexion. Black people are an inalienable part of the US social fabric. If they are trifled with by rednecks in a city like Washington, which is predominantly black, there will be consequences for the perpetrators of white racism. Not so with the brown-skinned minuscule minority, who are also meek compared to African Americans. This also shows very visibly in the ongoing mud-slinging against H-1B immigrants. The underlying anger which culminated in the January 6, 2021, riot on Capitol Hill was already there when Trump was being sworn in for the first time. Trump began his presidency with a peeve that the US media had deliberately under-reported the crowds at his inauguration. If the most important day of a person's political life begins with a grievance against the institution of the Fourth Estate, he is likely to spend the rest of his public life undermining that institution. Never mind that the Fourth Estate is one of the pillars of democracy in the US. Trump did not succeed in this destructive mission as President. That was not for want of trying every day for four years from 2017.

But his next presidency may be different. The spate of resignations in the mainstream American media in recent weeks - including the dissolution and reconstitution of the Editorial Board of The Washington Post in October — are ominous. Partisan new owners of legacy media have chosen to kow-tow to Trump even before he has moved into the White House. Social media will mostly be the new President's facilitator instead of an outlet for free expression. Meta's latest decision to get rid of independent, third-party fact-checkers in the US is the latest assault on truth in that country.

A saving grace is that institutions in the US are strong. That is why they survived the tenure of the 45th President. Officers of the Metropolitan and Capitol Police paid with their lives to save the high-domed edifice, which is emblematic the world over, of the oldest democracy on earth. On January 20, they will once again be prepared to offer the ultimate sacrifice to protect those they may not personally like and whom they have voted against in Washington, Maryland and Virginia, the tri-points which are similar to the National Capital Territory (NCT) surrounding Delhi. In a tribute to the strength of America's institutions, law enforcement agencies are allowing demonstrations against the incoming President. A major rally in Washington in support of Trump is also planned on the day before he takes office. It is praiseworthy that in a media briefing last week, US Secret Service spokesperson Anthony Guglielmi said such demonstrations are not being viewed as security threats and upheld the rights of people to protest. There are few other countries where this can happen. The Secret Service is the lead agency in charge of security at the presidential inauguration. Unlike the run-up to Trump's first swearing-in and the start of Joe Biden's presidency soon after the violent attack on the Capitol, fate ordained that there would be a dress rehearsal of safeguards on a presidential scale during all of last week.

## Disclosure curbs enfeebling RTI law

#### Much remains to be done by the Supreme Court to ensure effectiveness of the Act

THE Supreme Court's recent ruling on the Right to Information (RTI) Act has invited widespread comment and much appreciation from activists. "An institution has been created," said Justice Surya Kant; he then pointedly asked Additional Solicitor General Brijender Chahar, appearing for the Union of India, "What is the use of this institution if you do not have persons to perform the duties under the law?"The Bench asked the government why only people from a specific background (bureaucracy) were the favoured few to be appointed information Thus that writ petition was disposed. That order, commissioners. "We can take judicial notice of how many people from different walks have been

appointed... The entire Commission is overloaded with one set of candidates," was Justice Kant's telling comment.Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for RTI activist Anjali Bhardwaj, had pleaded, "There has been only regression and not progress after the court's intervention. They are killing the RTI because nobody is interested in giving information. So, the best way to kill the law is to render the information commissions defunct."

The intervention in question was the decision on a writ petition (civil) of 2019, of which the present ruling is a follow-up. Justice AK Sikri, a judge with high sensitivity to the nuances of the RTI Act, had referred to a report published in March 2018, titled,

'Report Card on the Performance of Information Commissions in India'. It found that eight information commissions had a waiting time of more than one year for an appeal or complaint to be heard, which was calculated on the basis of the number of appeals and complaints pending as on October 31, 2017, as against the monthly disposal rate. By not filling vacancies in information commissions in a timely manner, the Central and state governments are, in his view, frustrating the very purpose of the RTI Act as receiving information in a time-bound manner is the 'very essence' of the law. The judgment directed in Conclusion (v): "We would also like to impress upon the respondents to fill vacancies, in future, without any delay. For this purpose, it would be apposite that the process for filling of a particular vacancy is initiated one to two months before the date on which the vacancy is likely to occur so that there is not much time lag

between the occurrence of vacancy and filling up of the said vacancy." The ruling added: "We would like to place on record that aforesaid directions are given keeping in view the salient purpose which the RTI Act is supposed to serve. This Act is enacted not only to subserve and ensure freedom of speech. On proper implementation, it has the potential to bring about good governance, which is an integral part of any vibrant democracy. Attaining good governance is also one of the visions of the Constitution."

followed as it is by Justice Kant's enforcement order,



no doubt merits appreciation by the public, to whom the right to freedom of speech belongs under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, and therefore, ownership of the right to any information held by its server, which is the government that it elects.

Yet, in so lauding the judgment, it is well to remember that the apex court has much to answer for in enfeebling the exercise of this right by the citizenry, having gone so far as to exceed its own brief, which is limited, by actually amending the Act.

Former Information Commissioner Shailesh Gandhi, who served with me in the Central Information Commission (CIC) that I chaired and is now a leading RTI activist, lamented in a recent article in The Leaflet that "our right to information is being transformed into a right to deny information before our very eyes". After quoting from the Supreme Court ruling in P Ramachandra Rao vs State of Karnataka (2002), which lays down the limits of any

court's jurisdiction in ruling on any law as, "Courts can declare the law, they can interpret the law, they can remove obvious lacunae and fill the gaps but they cannot entrench upon the field of legislation properly meant for the legislature", Gandhi cites the court's decision of 2012, unremedied thus far, in Girish Deshpande vs Central Information Commission & Others.Relying on the clause to protect privacy under Section 8(1)(j) of the Act, the judge went on to give licence to refuse most information at will to public information officers, appellate authorities, information

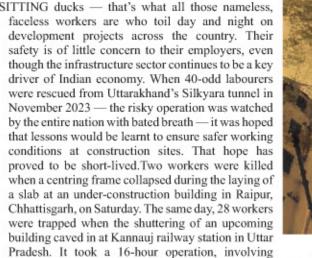
> commissioners and courts. This ruling can and indeed has too often been used to deny information for which the Act mandates suo motu disclosure under Section 4.The Supreme Court gave no reasoning for this unequivocal conclusion, but merely stated that the information sought was 'personal' and need not be given unless a larger public interest could be demonstrated. It chose to ignore whether the information sought stemmed from a public activity or whether or not its disclosure would amount to an unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual, which are provisions enunciated in the Act and have been elucidated repeatedly by rulings of the CIC and the courts.It is necessary to consider the areas in which reasonable restrictions

can be placed on the RTI while denying information on the grounds of privacy. These are defined in Article 19(2) of the Constitution and can be encapsulated in two words: 'decency' and 'morality'. Transgression of either would amount to an invasion of privacy. Yet, Justices KS Radhakrishnan and Dipak Misra have given short shrift to these limits and constricted the Act itself in a judgment repeatedly taken recourse to by those in authority seeking to deny disclosure.

And so, while we might heave a sigh of relief at the stand taken to uphold the spirit of our Constitution by the SC, we should urge the revered institution that much remains to be done not only to make the instruments of enforcement - Central and state information commissions - useful but also to ensure the effectiveness of the law to uphold what has been described by the court as a constitutional

### Workers in peril

Paying the price for employers' negligence



frantic efforts to save labourers from a watery grave in a personnel of the national and state disaster response

flooded rat-hole coal mine in Assam have proved futile. Criminal negligence is at the core of such mishaps, even

as the rescuers put their own lives at risk to extricate survivors. Brazen disregard for the law by public or private entities shows enforcement agencies in a poor light. Why are the humble workers not regarded as nation-builders? Why are they left to fend for themselves? Such apathy does not behove a country that aspires to become developed (Viksit) by 2047. The Buildings and Other the onus on employers to set up safety committees and ensure that steps are taken to prevent accidents. Noncompliance with provisions of the Act is a punishable offence, yet offenders rarely get their just deserts. For the hapless worker, there won't be a

miraculous escape every time. He or she deserves a safety net - financial as well as physical.

## Legal framework to protect digital data must be flexible

The goal of the draft DPDP Rules is to strike a balance between the right to privacy and technological advancement.

THANKS to our growing digital dependence, the majority of our personal data is now in the digital form. To facilitate the implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, which creates a framework for processing digital personal data in India, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has created the draft Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025.

By providing necessary details and in an effort to strike a balance between the need to process personal data for legitimate purposes and the right of individuals to protect their data, it seeks to fortify the legal framework for the protection of digital personal data. The government has given stakeholders 45 days to give inputs or comments on the draft rules. The journey of data protection legislation is intiguing. The World Economic Forum (WEF) started a project called "Rethinking Personal Data" in 2010 to deepen the collective understanding of how a principled, collaborative and balanced personal data ecosystem can evolve. The main goals of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which was created by the European Union in 2018, are to simplify the regulatory framework for international business and to improve individuals' ownership and rights over their personal data. In fact, the UK also kept the law even after breaking with the EU. Additionally, countries such as Brazil, South Korea, South Africa, Japan and Turkey - and the American state of California - adopted the GDPR as a model for protecting personal data. China's Personal Information Protection Law became operative in November 2021.In today's social media-driven world dominated by the Big Techs, data localisation is a delicate issue. Data localisation refers to actions

that restrict data flow within a jurisdiction's boundaries. Under the Data Protection Act cleared in August 2023, the Government of India had stated that it would merely inform the territories where Indian personal data cannot be taken to. Following immaculate lobbying efforts by the tech companies against a provision in an earlier draft bill that required severe localisation rules, this was viewed as a significant victory. Companies were required to keep copies of certain sensitive personal data, such as financial and health information, within India under the Data Protection Bill, which was first introduced in 2019 and later withdrawn from Parliament in 2022. Additionally, it was forbidden for companies to export any undefined "critical" personal data from India. Rob Sherman, vicepresident and deputy chief privacy officer of Meta, said in 2022 that the country's data localisation regulations might make it "difficult" for the business to provide its services there. And Keith Enright, the chief privacy officer at Google, stated that norms for data localisation should be as "narrowly tailored as possible".

forces and the railways, to rescue all of them. In contrast,

Significantly, the draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules, 2025, reinstated data localisation, a Big Tech annoyance that had been eliminated in the Data Protection Act, 2023. The goal is to establish a central body that will collaborate with sectoral regulators and other ministries to successfully deploy local data storage without interfering with business operations. The government is considering giving the industry two years to transition to the new law and set up their systems for compliance.

The introduction of possible obligations for "significant data fiduciaries" with relation to cross-

border data sharing is an intriguing feature in the draft regulations. While businesses and organisations that gather and handle personal data are considered data fiduciaries, "significant data fiduciaries" will be chosen based on the quantum and sensitivity of the personal data they handle as well as The Data Protection Act has given the government or

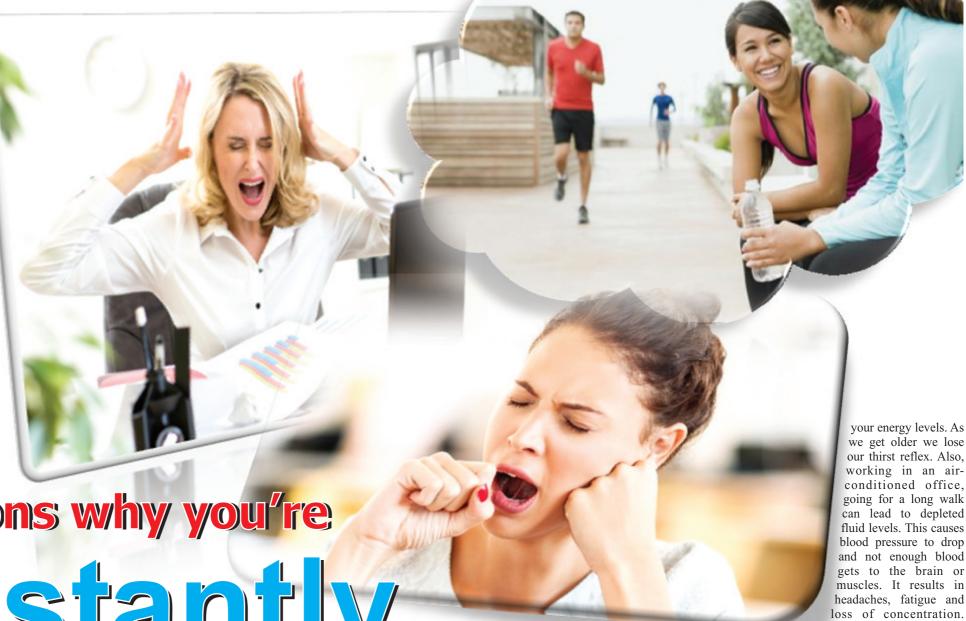


the potential threats to India's sovereignty and integrity, electoral democracy, security and public order. It is anticipated that the Big Tech companies, such as Amazon, Microsoft, Apple, Google and Meta, will be categorised as important data fiduciaries. Additionally, the draft regulations permit tech businesses to put in place a system for obtaining "verifiable" parental approval prior to processing children's personal data. In essence, when companies expressed dissatisfaction over the potential difficulty of implementing the rule, the government has decided not to propose a mechanism from its end and has instead left it up to the companies to choose a system. In the event of a data breach, data fiduciaries will be required to notify affected parties "without delay" about the breach, including its nature, scope, timing and location; the

implications that the breach is likely to have for the impacted user; and the steps that have been taken or are being taken to reduce risk, among other things. Failure to take adequate precautions to avoid a data breach could result in a fine of up to Rs 250 crore.

its agencies broad exemptions for processing the personal information of residents on the basis of "public order", "friendly relations with other states", and "national security", among other things. Additionally, the government has suggested that health experts, educational institutions, creche and daycare facilities be excused from requiring parental agreement before processing children's personal data."Yet, we can't just hit the 'pause button' and let these issues sort themselves out. Building the legal, cultural, technological and economic infrastructure to enable the development of a balanced personal data ecosystem is vitally important to improving the state of the world," the 2011 WEF report said. For similar reasons, we also urgently need a concrete law. The goal of the draft DPDP rules is to strike a balance between the right to privacy and technological advancement. In the near future, the quantum, dynamics and discoveries of the hidden potential and risks of personal data will undoubtedly vary due to the constantly shifting pattern, purview, domain, demand and scope of data transmitting into an unknown horizon. Additionally, there ought to be a dynamic alteration in the pattern with technological evolution, our intrusion into the AI world and changes in the global climate, geopolitics and trade. Any legislation pertaining to the protection of personal data should have the ability to easily and continuously adapt to the changes.

Do you struggle to get out of bed, feel constantly drained and rely on pickme-ups like coffee and sugary treats to get you through the day?



9 reasons why you're

# Constantly Worn out

If so, you're far from alone. Research reveal that one in three of us admit we're permanently worn out because of the pace of modern life. A survey by a vitamin company revealed that a whopping 97% of us claim we feel tired most of the time and doctors' records reveal that 10% of people who visit them complain of unexplained tiredness. So much so that doctors have even created a handy acronym — TATT (Tired All The Time). Here, experts point to some of the causes and how to deal with them.

#### No Exercise

Avoiding exercise because you're tired actually makes you feel worse. Regular

exercise makes your heart and lungs work more efficiently, delivering oxygen and vital nutrients around the body. Remedy: Next time you're tempted to flop on the sofa, force yourself up for a brisk 10-minute walk you'll feel more alert.

#### Lack of sleep

Recent research shows many of us survive on so-called 'junk sleep' — the kind when we wake up frequently throughout the night. It doesn't replenish our energy levels as well as long stretches of continuous sleep do. Remedy: Develop good sleep hygiene. Go to bed on time, avoid staring at screens an hour before bed time. If sleep evades you, have a

relaxing bath and a cup of warm milk. Throw in some easy reading, as that helps.

#### **Caffeine addiction**

Although we think of caffeine as a pick-me-up, it actually makes us feel more

tired once the initial surge wears off. This is because our brain chemistry doesn't like being interfered by stimulants, so it releases chemicals to dampen down the alert response. Drinking coffee even six hours prior to bedtime meant poorer quality kip. Remedy: Avoiding caffeine will increase energy levels in the long run. But cut down gradually to avoid headaches and irritability.

#### Iron deficiency

Figures show that around one third of women

are low on iron often due to heavy periods. Some have low enough iron levels to be anaemic. If you pull down your bottom eyelids and the inner rim looks pale rather than pink, it's an indicator. Remedy: Include

plenty of iron-rich foods in your diet, such as lean meats, dark green vegetables, pulses and dried fruits, and pair them with foods like citrus fruit high in vitamin C.

#### **Dehydration**

Losing even as little as 2 per cent of your body's normal water content can take its toll on

going for a long walk can lead to depleted fluid levels. This causes blood pressure to drop and not enough blood gets to the brain or muscles. It results in headaches, fatigue and loss of concentration. Remedy: Try to drink water every two hours. If you need

encouragement, add mint, basil, lemon or cucumber to liven its

#### Sugar Overdose

Sugary energy drinks and snacks like biscuits, chocolate and crisps cause sharp spikes in blood sugar levels that can leave you tired. Remedy: Swap to low-sugar foods. Avoid white carbs such as bread and pasta which quickly convert to sugar in the body. Choose wholegrain carbs such as granary bread, wholemeal pasta and brown rice.

#### Missing out on protein

Surviving on fruit and salad might feel worthy, but avoiding protein will leave you exhausted, as it's a vital energy giver. Remedy: Eating a minimum of a palm-sized amount of protein with meals and eating seeds and nuts or nut butters can prevent tiredness. Meat, fish, cheese, tofu, beans, lentils, yogurt, nuts and seeds are good sources of proteins.

## Breakfast high in protein better for kids: Study

Abeakfast high in protein - like eggs - keeps children fuller longer than cereal or oatmeal, causing them to eat fewer calories at lunch, says a new study.

"It is really important that we identify certain types of food that can help children feel full and also moderate caloric intake, especially in children who are prone to excess weight gain," said lead researcher Tanja Kral, associate professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing in the US.

The study, published in the journal Eating Behaviours, also found that the effects of a protein-rich meal do not last throughout the day. It only impacts a mid-day meal. The study recruited forty, eight to 10-year-old children to consume one of three, 350-calorie breakfasts (eggs, oatmeal, or cereal), then play games with research staff and then eat lunch once a week for three consecutive



weeks.

On each occasion, every participant had to eat their entire breakfast, but could eat as much or as little lunch

According to the research, after consuming the egg breakfast (scrambled eggs, whole wheat toast, diced peaches, and one percent milk) children reduced their energy intake at lunch by seventy calories - roughly equivalent to one small chocolate-chip cookie.

Moderately active children in the same age range as those who participated in the study generally need between 1,600 and 1,800 calories daily.

The 70-calorie drop at one meal equals about four percent of a child's daily caloric needs.

Eating beyond the caloric threshold, even by a little, can cause excess weight gain and obesity in children, if sustained, the researchers pointed out.



Acidity attack Do you find yourself often under the

deadly attack of acidity or acid reflux and have tried on varied medications to get rid of the deadly acidity attacks? While there might have been times when these medicines have showed their wonders and made acidity shoo off, there are certain home remedies which you can use, to get

rid of your problems without worrying much about the side effects. Here are some simple and easy home remedies to keep acidity at bay.

1. Bananas: Known to be rich source of potassium they keep the acidity levels in check. The next time keep a banana handy,

and in case of a bad bout of acidity eat an overripe banana.

2. Cold milk: Milk has a high amount of calcium, which helps to prevent acid build up by absorbing the excess acid produced. Also with if the milk is cold it sure does provides instant relief from the burning sensation that one feels during

3. Tulsi: One of the safest ayurvedic products, Tulsi helps in stimulating stomach to produce more mucous. It contains antiulcer properties and reduces the effects of gastric acids. One of the easiest way to beat the discomfort felt during acidity is by chewing 4-6 Tulsi leaves to find instant relief.

is more effective.

spoon of ghee added to it

# **Exercises for a toned midriff**

want to wear that crop top, but are afraid of showing off a flabby stomach? Attaining a flat and toned stomach is every woman's dream. However, even if most women follow a healthy diet and exercise regularly, getting a toned midriff is no cakewalk. Here's how you can work out the belly fat and look fab.

1. Bicycle crunches: Lie flat on the floor and press your lower back to the ground. Interlace your fingers, and put your hands behind your head. Bring your knees in toward your chest and lift your shoulder blades off the ground. Straighten your right leg out to about a 45-

body to the left. Get your right elbow toward the left knee to create a pedalling motion. Do 10-20 reps

2. Downward dog: Lie on your stomach. Maintain a tight spine with your shoulder blades depressed and palms resting on the floor. Exhale and lift your back toward the ceiling in such a way that your legs are pushed back. Assume an upturned 'V'

3. Side stretch: Lie on your right side with

degree angle, while turning your upper knees slightly bent. Cross your left foot in front of your right foot. Place your right hand on the floor directly beneath shoulders and your left hand behind the head. Lift your hips off the floor, so that your body is diagonal to the ground.

> 4. Plank exercise: Lie with your face to the ground. Support your the wight of your upper body on your forearms with elbows firmly placed on the ground. Lift your torso off the floor to form a straight line with your body, which is propped up



by your forearms and toes. Avoid drooping and hold for 10 to 20 seconds.

# Over 300 flights delayed, trains hit as dense fog reduces visibility in Delhi

**▶**Delhi weather: Due to zero visibility reported in parts of Delhi-NCR, at least 26 trains were delayed due to the dense fog conditions in Delhi and parts of northern India. Similarly, 329 flights were delayed due to the dense fog at the Delhi airport.

NEW DELHI. Over 300 flights were delayed, and III is an approach system that allows flights to before heading to the airport."With winter in full train services disrupted as dense fog blanketed Delhi-NCR on Wednesday. The cold wave continued in the national capital, with the

minimum temperatur dropping to 6

ue to zero visibility reported in parts of Delhi-NCR, at least 26 trains were delayed due to the dense fog conditions in Delhi and parts of northern India. Similarly, 329 flights were delayed, and 13 flights were cancelled due to the dense fog at the Delhi airport. Early morning travellers faced difficulties in navigating through the dense fog.

The India Meteorological Department has issued an orange alert for Delhi, with dense to very dense fog reported in several areas.It has predicted a cloudy sky for the Delhi-NCR region

on Wednesday with chances of light rain in the evening. The visibility at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi was recorded at 100 metres at 6 am on WednesdayIt stated that flights not compliant with CAT III standards might be affected by the dense fog. Notably, CAT

land safely during poor visibility conditions."Due to dense fog at Delhi, multiple flights have been impacted. Passengers may



contact the concerned airlines for flight updates. Any convenience caused to you is deeply regretted," the airport said in a statement posted

IndiGo airlines, SpiceJet and Air India have issued advisories warning of possible flight delays and urged passengers to check their flight status swing, weather conditions in Delhi haven't improved since our last advisory. We recommend checking your flight status before

> heading to the airport. Our teams are working diligently, keeping a close eye on the weather, and will keep you posted with updates," IndiGo said in a release."Poor visibility due to dense fog and airport congestion may affect flight operations in Delhi and some other cities today," Air India said. The humidity level at 8.30 am was recorded at 97 per cent while the maximum temperature is expected to settle around 19 degrees Celsius.Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality worsened to 'very poor' category, with an AQI of 332 as of 8 am on Wednesday. The weather body had earlier issued a yellow alert, forecasting dense to moderate fog in the capital until

Wednesday.

A fresh western disturbance will bring isolated rainfall with thunderstorms and lightning over the Delhi-NCR region, Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday and Thursday, it

#### **UP** couple consume poison with their 3 children amid financial stress; two dead

NEW DELHI. A couple poisoned themselves and their children in Uttar Pradesh's Saharanpur district over high debt and repeated harassment by a finance company. During treatment, the woman and her son died, while her husband and two other children were undergoing treatment.

According to the police, all five members of the family were found unconscious on the Gagalhedi-Deoband road in Saharanpur and were rushed to a hospital by another passerby in his car on Monday, January 13. Commenting on the incident, the family relatives of the family said that Vikas (45), and Rajni (35) had taken a loan of four to five lakhs from a small finance company named Fusion. After being unable to pay the EMIs on time, the company officials harassed them and often visited their home, threatening them, following which they took extreme step.

initially, the family was taken to a government hospital, from where the doctors referred them to another medical facility for better treatment. However, Rajni and her one-and-a-half-year-old son died during treatment, while Vikas and the couple's two other children were undergoing treatment.Rajni's brother Gurmeet said, "When we arrived at the location, Vikas told me that he had a lot of debt. The company people were bothering them and threatening them. There was another person from the village from whom they had borrowed 10,000-15,000 rupees at 12 per cent interest. They were being harassed by those

After the incident, a probe was launched by the Saharanpur Police. Speaking on the incident, Saharanpur's SP City Vyom Bindal said, "Five members of the same family, including the husband, wife, and their three children, attempted suicide by consuming poison. All five of them were receiving treatment. Unfortunately, their one-and-a-half-year-old son died. The husband's wife, Rajni, also passed away during treatment.""An investigation will be conducted into all these facts. Our priority is to ensure that those who are hospitalised for treatment receive the best possible care. As for the other points raised by the authorities, an investigation will be carried out on all those matters as well," he added

#### aimed at enhancing operational preparedness, adopting cuttingedge technologies, and reforming administrative processes. Gen Dwivedi also announced that

2025 would focus on "Reforms" and "Technology Absorption", laying the foundation for a modern, agile, and technologically enabled force. Acknowledging the growing role of women in the armed forces, he lauded their contributions not only as officers but also as Agniveers. He reaffirmed the

He introduced the Army's "Decade

of Transformation" initiative,

Army's commitment to supporting soldiers, veterans, and their families through robust welfare systems and

collaboration between the Army, Navy, and Air Force, highlighting their collective readiness to face any

Pangong Tso lake in eastern Ladakh,

### **UP Fuel Pump Enforces 'No** Helmet, No Petrol' Rule, Ends Up In The Dark

New Delhi. In a chain of events demonstrating why India is not for beginners, a fuel pump attendant's insistence on following the 'no helmet, no petrol' rule led to consequences he would not have imagined. The biker, who was refused fuel, happened to be an electricity department staff and took revenge by snipping the fuel pump's power supply.

The bizarre incident took place in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district on Monday. The Yogi Adityanath government has asked district officials to enforce the 'no helmet, no petrol' rule as part of an initiative to reduce road accident casualties. Petrol pump owners have also been asked to refuse fuel to bikers who don't wear helmets. According to a petrol pump attendant, a lineman with the power supply department came to refuel his bike on Monday. He was not wearing a helmet. The petrol pump staff had been told to refuse fuel to any biker not wearing a helmet. "Our owner informed us about the district magistrate's order that no one should be given fuel if he/she is not wearing a helmet. When the lineman came, we refused to refuel his bike. He left in a huff and disconnected the power supply."The sudden power cut surprised the petrol pump staff. The power supply was restored about 20 minutes later. The petrol pump's owner has registered a police complaint.

A CCTV camera in the vicinity has captured the miffed lineman stopping his bike near the transformer and scaling a wall. He then climbs a pole and snips the power line. As he climbs down, people are seen approaching the transformer to check what has gone wrong.

### Smriti Irani, Shekhar Kapur among new members in rejigged PMML Society

**NEW DELHI.** The Prime Ministers' Museum & Library (PMML) society and its executive council have been reconstituted. Former Principal Secretary to the PM Nripendra Mishra has been reappointed for a five-year term as the chairperson of the council. Several new members have been nominated to the society. According to an order issued by the culture ministry, the newly added representatives are ex-Union minister Smriti Irani, filmmaker and director of International Film Festival of India Shekhar Kapur, former NITI Aayog vicechairman Rajiv Kumar and retired Army General Syed Ata Hasnain.

The reconstituted body will have 34 members instead of 29, said Ahmadabad-based historian Rizwan Kadri. He has been nominated to the society.

The organisation is headed by the PM and has Defence Minister Rajnath Singh as its vice-president. Union



ministers Amit Shah, Nirmala Sitharaman, Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaihnaw and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are also its members. As per the memorandum of association and rules and regulations of the society, the terms of the members nominated and executive council will be five years or until further order. The PMML society is an autonomous institution under the culture ministry. It has four major constituents; Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, library, Centre for

Contemporary Studies and Nehru Planetarium. The other new members include Sanjeev Sanyal, who is also the member of PM's Economic Advisory Council, educationist Chamu Krishna Shastry, Vasudev Kamath of Sanskar Bharti, and archaeologist KK Mohammad.

## J&K polls, Amarnath Yatra testament to improved security conditions: Army chief

**NEW DELHI.** Army chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi said the 2024 Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir and the Amarnath Yatra were "testament to improved security" in the union territory. He made the remarks while addressing personnel and dignitaries at an event in Pune on Wednesday to mark Army Day 2025. This is the first time that Army Day celebrations were shifted out of Delhi.In his address, the Army chief said the ceasefire along the Line of Control continues to hold, "although vigilance against infiltration is ongoing"

While stability has been maintained, challenges persist. Efforts to modernise critical infrastructure and integrate advanced technologies remain a priority," Gen Dwivedi maintained.He also highlighted the Army's achievements over the past

Upendra Dwivedi on Monday



readiness and professionalism demonstrated by soldiers across the country, whether safeguarding borders, responding to natural disasters, or contributing to internal security. The Furthermore, he recognised the Army chief also laid emphasis on the role of the armed forces in nationbuilding, underscoring the importance

# Army chief justifies replacing 1971 war painting featuring Pakistan's surrender

justified replacing an iconic painting of Pakistan's surrender in the 1971 war at his office in Raisina Hills with a new artwork titled "Karam Kshetra".The painting on the 1971 war was removed from the Army chief's lounge in December, and it was subsequently installed at the Manekshaw convention centre. The shifting of the historical painting had anguished many Army veterans and the decision came under some

criticism. "If you see the golden history of India -it has three chapters. It has the British era, the Mughal era and the era before that. If we wish to connect that and the Army's vision, symbolism becomes important," Gen. Dwivedi

said. The new painting, "Karam Kshetra", meaning "Field of Deeds", is a creation of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Jacob of the 28 Madras regiment.It portrays the Army as a guardian of "Dharma" that protects the nation's values and reflects its evolution into a technologicallyadvanced integrated force, according to the Army.It features the snowcapped mountains around the

Krishna's chariot and Chanakya, which represent strategic wisdom. The Army chief suggested that the new painting was made considering the current realities, as he mentioned the re-balancing of troops in view of challenges coming from the northern front.General Dwivedi said the painting was created by Lt Col Jacob, who belongs to the younger generation in the force. "It is also being said that there is a semi-clad Brahmin standing at the centre on the banks of Pangong Tso," he said.If Indians do not know Chanakya, they need to refer back to their civilisational approach, he said. The Army chief said the new painting symbolises the past, the present and

#### Delhi schools asked to follow strict guidelines on kite flying for Republic Day

NEW DELHI. Ahead of Republic Day and Basant Panchami, the Directorate of Education has issued a set of strict guidelines to schools, urging them to raise awareness about the dangers of using 'Chinese Manja' while flying kites. The circular, released on Tuesday, instructed Heads of Schools (HoSs) in government, governmentaided, and private unaided schools to inform students about the ban on sharp Manja. The directive also emphasised the need for awareness programs on this issue.

The circular referenced a notice from the Environment department, which highlighted the popularity of kite flying during festivals such as Makar Sankranti, Republic Day, and Basant Panchami. It warned about the hazards posed by kite-flying threads made from synthetic materials like plastic, nylon, or the commonly used "Chinese thread" (Manja), which are often coated with glass or metallic components. "These threads can cause serious injuries to humans and animals, sometimes even resulting in fatalities, as reported in news incidents in recent years," read the circular. "Additionally, such materials are non-biodegradable and pose a significant environmental threat," it said.

There shall be a complete ban on the sale, production, storage, supply, import, and use of synthetic kite-flying threads, including those laced with sharp materials.

"To ensure safety and environmental protection, kite flying will only be allowed with cotton thread, free of any sharp, metallic, glass, or adhesive components," it said.

# Congress moves to new headquarters as '24, Akbar Road' ends 47-year history

**NEW DELHI.** Delhi is witnessing a historic shift on Wednesday as the Congress party moves to its new headquarters—Indira Gandhi Bhawan on Kotla Road. This moment marks a significant moment in the party's history, as exactly Forty-seven years ago, a devastated Indira Gandhi, left with only a handful of loyalists following the aftermath of the Emergency, shifted the base of the breakaway faction of Congress to a government accommodation—a Type VII bungalow on Akbar Road.

Over the years, this British-era property has witnessed the rise and fall of the Congress party. It has seen the resurrection of Congress, Indira Gandhi regaining power, the death of her son Sanjay Gandhi, her assassination, Rajiv Gandhi stepping into the Prime Minister's office at a young age, his assassination, and Congress gradually regaining its ground in subsequent years

as it led alliance governments in 1991, 2004, and 2009. The property has a rich history of nearly 100 years. Before independence, Sir Reginald Maxwell, a member of the Viceroy Lord Linlithgow's executive council, resided here. In the 1960s, the bungalow also became the residence of Burma's ambassador, where Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi spent her early teenage years. Her mother, Daw Khin Kyi, was appointed the Burmese ambassador to India.In his book 24, Akbar Road: A Short History of the People Behind the Rise and Fall of Congress, journalist and political commentator Rasheed Kidwai details how the bungalow was chosen to become an iconic address in the national capital, and the significant events that unfolded there. According to Kidwai, the Akbar Road property was allotted to Rajya Sabha MP G. Venkataswamy from Andhra Pradesh, who chose to stay



with Indira Gandhi after the 1977 elections, when most of her colleagues had abandoned her.Left without resources and office space, Indira decided to operate her party office from the unkempt house. "Facing the residence of the Chief of the Indian Air Force and the Intelligence Bureau's political surveillance unit (which still exist), it comprised five barely furnished bedrooms, a living room, a dining hall, and a guest room. The

outhouses were neglected, and the garden was a mess of unruly hedges and a riot of weeds," the first chapter of Kidwai's book reads.Congress MP Tariq Anwar from Katihar, Bihar, who worked at 24, Akbar Road, recalls the early days: "Following the split, Congress started out with 24, Akbar Road, as a temporary office, but we stayed there." Anwar, who has worked with four generations of the Gandhi family, added, "Indira Gandhi used to come to the office regularly. I have worked with Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi, and Rahul Gandhi. Indiraji always gave importance to young leaders. After she became PM in 1980, as an MP, I got more opportunities to interact with her. I have seen the party's many ups and downs at 24, Akbar Road, and have numerous memories attached to the office. I will miss the old office and hope it will be a new beginning for the party.

The multi-faceted country of UK has something for everyone. In Bath, I found a little piece of Rome...In Windsor, the true Brit royalty complete with all its grandeur... and in Brighton, the undying party spirit that you would see in Ibiza, the party capital of the world!

But let this not put a damper on the spirits of the more sober - for Brighton has much more to offer than the crazy night life.

Definitely one of the warmest parts of the UK, Brighton is located comfortable on the Southern coast of the country and is blessed with more sunshine than is rewarded to the rest of UK. With high humidity and coastal winds, Brighton has easy weather for all except 3 months of the year - the peak winter months - Dec, Jan and Feb. And then too it is not entirely impossible to take a walk on the sea front or enjoy a cuppa out on your balcony.

The other thing I got lucky with this trip was Food. I happened to be there during the Brighton and Hove Food Festival and it was a complete delight. With food stalls around the market area as well as in the main square, the streets were abuzz with people. From cupcakes and organic muffins to salt water taffy and pies, the smells wafting our way were divine.

When in Brighton, if you're a real party animal, you'll drink more than you'll eat. Head to 'Yates' for great music and 'The Victory Inn' for a range of brews. This is the oldest pub in Brighton - started in 1766. For Britain's famous fish and chips, have lunch at Harry Ramsdens which is known to have the best fish and chips. The restaurant is located on the seafront in Brighton.

#### Shopping

Other than the North Laines, Brighton has a main square where you'll find all the major global brands. High end designer labels are located next to eachother in a row which forms the high street bang opposite which

Brighton

## The party never stops

purchase some lovely street art in Brighton.

#### Places of interest

The Seafront

Different from other beaches in that it has pebbled shores contrary to most white sandy beached coastal towns, Brighton has a large and beautiful coastline accompanied by a walking path as well as a bicycling track. A walk straight down from the Brighton and

Hove station will bring you to the beach which is covered with tiny white, cream, red and brown pebbles. In the summer there are dozens of shacks, ice cream vendors and pubs open all day across the length of the beach. Surprisingly even nearing the end of September, a lot of these are open for

The wind ruffled our hair, gustled in our ears and at times almost made us feel like we would be swooped up with it Wizard of Oz style. Closer to the winter, be sure to wear ear muffs as you stand and

gripping view of the waves.

#### The Brighton Pier

A leisurely walk down the beach will bring you to the Pier - vibrant, colorful and fun, this spot allows for hours of



With trinket shops, bars, restaurants, funny photo spots, thrilling rides and tons of deck chairs to bask in the sun.

The pier makes you enjoy a summery afternoon even in the winter! At the centre of the pier lies a casino with fun and games for all ages.

#### The Royal Pavillion

The Royal Pavillion was built as a residence for the Royal Family for when they visit Brighton. However, Queen Victoria was not very approving of this building as her residence and it was sold to Brighton city in the 1800s and was eventually turned into a museum. Bang in the heart of the city, it is hard to miss this fine amalgamation of Chinese, Indian and Islamic architecture. When inside the gates of this building, spend time examining and appreciating the curves and folds of the building and strolling through the lush green lawns. The property is open to buskers, some of whom are extremely good performers and end up having a sizeable audience sitting in the lawns watching and listening to them.

> Spelt slightly differently as 'Laines', this is area can probably be called the energy centre of Brighton. Divided into the North Laines and South Laines, Brighton wouldn't be the same without North Laines -

Think shopping fun, crazy, exciting shopping - from clothes and shoes, to quirky gift items and bags to tattoos.

designer jewellery and fancy dress shops, the North Laines are a great haunt for the wandering window shopper as well as the serious buyer! And the Laines spread out in four directions from a little square with a fountain in the centre - you feel like you've been transported into a fairytale world inhabited by hobbits.

South Laines - Think food and drinks - lip smacking, finger licking, delectable food! From streetside bars, to organic food restaurants to quaint little coffee shops, the South Laines have it all. Step in to Casa Don Carlos for authentic Spanish fare complete with Sangria and Tapas.

Do not miss the 'Naked' coffee shop. With corporate looking sofa seating on the ground floor and large throw pillow floor seating on the first, the tea and coffee shop provides a space for meetings as well as lounging. The hot chocolate topped with cream and marshmallows is to die for, as are the gluten free breads and homemade cakes. Way to go organic food!

#### How to get there

#### By rail

There are plenty of trains out from London getting in to Brighton. The Southern Railways operate between London Bridge and Brighton with trains almost every two hours. Alternatively the First Capital Connect trains operate out of Waterloo. The train journey from London to Brighton and back can cost anything between 20 and 40 GBP depending on how lucky or unlucky you are (the luck factor usually applying only if like me you land up at the station to buy your ticket). It is however advisable that you purchase the ticket in advance or book online. The journey takes just a little over an

The journey by road can be completed in under an hour. Infact Brighton is less than half an hour away from London Gatwick. It is said to be a fairly good journey traveling south on the M25.



# Midnight boat rides at

# St. Petersburg



Saint Petersburg, shoots unflattering looks. Is it just the strange Russian temperament I've encountered on this trip or can she actually be annoyed at me for arriving two-and-a-half minutes later than 11.30 pm, the reporting time, I wonder. It is only after our twilight cruise zips through narrow canals and reaches the imposing Neva river that I infer her reaction - the bridge we're beholding has begun to creak open from the middle as traffic on both sides and that of click-happy visitors underneath has paused

By ten minutes after midnight, its illuminated ends open

Subsequent bridge sightings and sips of 'champanska'

make me feel like I'm in a fine coffee table book. Also, note to self: in this far-west Russian city, sunset will happen well past midnight (or won't happen at all one month every year), bridges will creak open at the stroke of midnight and tourist boats will leave just before midnight.

With dozens of channels of St Petersburg serving as arteries to the Neva, it's only fair that one takes the water way to explore it. After Peter the Great discovered this swampland in 1703 and planned it with careful imaginations of Vienna, London and Paris, the result was a heady ode to Europe,

which today also bears a silent Tsarist hangover. And the Turns out it's more of a have-at-home poison, especially 'kanals' have inspired articulate bridges (539 to be precise, highest in the world) so make sure you tag your architect friends in your Facebook pictures.

#### Take my weird for it

Always a sucker for history or culture walks, I went into overdrive at St Pete's. Judging by one of the day cruises I took, this city feels like one huge gleaming museum, with its onion-domed churches, lavish palaces and former homes and working spaces of Russia's greatest artists including Pushkin, Dostoyevsky and Tolstoy. However, it didn't need me a guide to spot the reasonable share of Soviet blandness here, for just around corners sculpted with Greek Gods, I'd run into an oddlooking apartment or a defunct prison from the Cold War.

These reminders of the city's military history can be eerie for some, and the lack of English signs or the locals' shy demeanour could only confuse matters.

But then, there are sights of the most opulent buildings (St Isaac's Cathedral, Mariinsky theatre, Winter Palace) which make up for the above and swoop you to the time when St Pete's was Leningrad and further back, when it was the capital of imperial Russia. Throw in some stern-looking, bignosed modern Russian characters (cabbies, shop attendants, waiters et al) and you'd have a blog-ful of anecdotes.

#### Eat, play, love

The cuisine is perhaps where Peter's idea of this city being the 'window to Europe' seems to have worked. Most of St Pete's eat streets look Parisian by ambience, feel German for their love of beer and sound Spanish with their live gigs. While it would be callous to ignore the pastas and tapas, it'll be criminal to miss local hits such as the blini (stuffed pancake), kartoshka (huge potato filled with all the vices you can think of) and Baltika beer (the city is a proud home to Eastern Europe's most popular

brew) And wait, after having had 'Russian' salad in fast food joints or the Stroganoff in aspiring European restaurants back home, it was worthwhile tasting the real deal here. Especially the latter, whose original beef version comes from the noble kitchen of the Stroganovs, prominent art collectors of this

I hit upon a couple of 'surprise entrants' though; in finding a sushi place more easily than a traditional Russian place (yes, Japanese is the 'Chinese' here). Secondly, it felt foolhardy to expect locals downing vodka like we down nimbu pani.

during the bitter winter.

If, however, you like them drinks mixed with music and in the company of damsels, Nevsky Prospekt is what you should mark on your map. Not to give you yardsticks, but here are the takeaways of my weekend here:

1. After extensive pub crawls here, I figured that there's much to experience in both the hole-inthe-wall and the 'closedfootwearonly' categories of bars (snooker with drunk middle-aged men and grooving to David Guetta respectively, for instance).

2. The absolute mayhem on the streets with loud, drunk revelers spilling out and loitering till breakfast hours, is enjoyable and free of moral police.

3. Beer's cheaper than water and can be picked up at convenience stores (FYI, President Medvedev signed a bill which acknowledged beer as 'alcoholic' only this year!)

4. Many Sharapova-esque damsels are drop-dead stunning. but unless you have a Rapidex Russian booklet or some prolific gestural skills up your sleeve, you wouldn't get close to scoring with any. All this said, if there's one reason why you must take your partner or children to this ex-Tsarist kingdom, it's for the charm you'd find after getting over its weirdness'. Many would credit this to its proximity to Europe (an hour's ride from Helsinki), but its homegrown appeal shouldn't be overlooked. The petunias which dot the lampposts, the violinists who fill sidewalks with Kalinka or just the sharp, stylish locals you spot on the other side of unending subway escalators - you could either find all this strange or fascinating. But then it would just take a river cruise down the Neva on a white night for you to decide on

#### Getting there

-There are direct flights to St Petersburg from Delhi. Stopover at Moscow and spend at least 3 days exploring. Spend 2 days in Tashkent.

-The best months to visit Russia - May and October, ideally June for its stunning white nights. Some brave travellers would even vouch for St Pete's freezing winter charm.

-On the lower side by European standards, St Pete's costs are remarkably lesser than Moscow's.

-Beer pint: 150 Roubles in bars. About 50 Roubles outside (Rs 80)

-Main course: 250 Roubles (Rs 414) » Budget hostel: 800 Roubles - 1000 Roubles (Rs 1300-Rs 1500)

-Flights: Return fares from Mumbai-Moscow during non-winter times range from Rs 42,000 - Rs 55,000. A second-class A/c train ride to St Pete's costs approx 2700 Roubles (Rs 4,500).

-Web: www.saint-petersburg.com

### 'IT hiring may not keep pace with biz growth'

BENGALURU. As IT firms saw revenue productivity increase amid lower headcount, HCLTech CEO C Vijayakumar said adding headcount may not necessarily keep pace with revenue growth.

He noted that the IT industry's requirement for skilled professionals will continue to rise steadily, leading to higher billing rates. "I think you should keep in mind that some of the growth came from improving utilisation for many companies. There are also some onshore-offshore mix changes that could have driven growth. The service industry has a long-term correlation with adding people. I don't think that is changing. Maybe the people addition may not be at the same level as revenue growth, but your wage bill increase will continue to rise in line with the revenue because you need higher-skilled and more experienced people. All of that will drive the wage bill higher," Vijayakumar told TOI in a post-earnings interaction on Tuesday.

TOI reported that the Indian IT sector's overall revenue per head grew approximately 6% year-on-year in the initial six months of FY25. With a single-digit growth outlook, many large IT firms have not added people for the last two years, and this could be the reason for improved revenue productivity.HCLTech has reduced its fresher recruitment target from 10,000 to 7,000 for the year. HCL added 2,134 employees in the Dec quarter, taking the total headcount to 220,755. When asked about rolling out low single-digit hikes, Vijayakumar clarified that the average hike for eligible candidates was around 7%.

Even as developers are coming to grips with how GenAI will impact their roles, especially with low to medium complexity code already being automated, Vijayakumar said, "I think it's about embracing generative AI that is really the big message to the developer community. If you can embrace and see in the new scheme of the workflows and see where incremental value can be added.'

### Sula Vineyards rises 4% after posting highest revenue in Q3FY25; details

NEW DELHI.Sula Vineyards share price gained 3.87 per cent at Rs 389 a piece on the BSE in Wednesday's intraday trade. This came after the company reported a strong sales update for the quarter that ended December 31, 2024 (Q3FY25). India's leading wine producer, Sula Vineyards announced its Q3 and nine-month (9M) FY25 sales update, showcasing strong performance in its core segments. For Q3FY25, Sula recorded its highestever revenue from Own Brands at Rs 194.7 crore, reflecting a 1 per cent year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth. The Elite & Premium portfolio, featuring brands like the 'Source' and 'RASA', led this growth with a 6 per cent Y-o-Y increase.

The wine tourism business continued its impressive trajectory, posting its highest-ever O3 revenue of Rs 16.4 crore, an 11.5 per cent Y-o-Y growth. This performance was driven by increased guest spending and strong occupancy rates at Sula's properties. Net revenue for Q3FY25, including other income, stood at Rs 217.3 crore, marginally lower by 0.7 per cent Y-o-Y. For the nine-month period ending December 2024, net revenue grew by 1.7 per cent Y-o-Y to Rs 489 crore, with Own Brands contributing Rs 436.5 crore (a 3.6 per cent increase) and wine tourism contributing Rs 39.9 crore (a 4.1 per cent rise).

On the equities front, Sula Vineyards share price has underperformed the market, falling 24 per cent in the last six months, while losing 38 per cent in the last one year. In comparison, the BSE Sensex has slipped 4.9 per cent in the last six months, while gaining 4.6 per cent in the last one year.

### Maruti Suzuki stock hits 12week high; rallies nearly 4% on healthy outlook

NEW DELHI. Shares of Maruti Suzuki India (MSIL) hit a 12-week high of Rs 12,194.50 on the BSE in Wednesday's intra-day trade on a healthy outlook. The stock of the passenger cars and utility vehicles company is trading at its highest level since October 22, 2024. It had hit a 52-week high of Rs 13,675 on August 1, 2024.

Thus far in the month of January 2025, MSIL has outperformed the market by surging 12 per cent after reporting healthy volumes for the month of December 2024, with a growth of 29.6 per cent year-on-year (YoY) at 1.78 lakh units. Exports witnessed double digit volume growth with an increase of 39.2 per cent YoY at 37,419 units. In comparison, the BSE Sensex is down nearly 2 per cent so far in the month.

With long-term growth drivers remaining intact, persistent strong growth in SUVs (approx 45 per cent of domestic sales), increasing penetration of compressed natural gas (CNG) (approx. 35 per cent of volumes), a surge in exports, and the entry of electric vehicles (EV) by the end of FY25, analysts remain upbeat on MSIL's long-term operating performance.

While analysts at Emkay Global Financial Services remain cautious on the overall passenger vehicles (PV) space (weak underlying fundamentals, intensifying competition in EVs), the brokerage firm said they prefer MSIL therein on a relative basis, on emerging green shoots in small cars, relatively better launch visibility (7-seater SUV in H2CY25), undemanding valuation (below LTA on 1YF basis).MSIL's strategy of consistent new launches, export expansion highlighted by achieving 3 million cumulative exports, and efforts to normalise inventory levels contributing to its volume growth and robust sales performance, are upsides for the company, according to the brokerage firm.

# PepsiCo enters bidding for Haldiram stake against Temasek, Alpha Wave: Report

#### PepsiCo has initiated discussions with the Aggarwal family, who own Haldiram, for a minority stake.

**NEW DELHI.**PepsiCo has joined the race to acquire a stake in Haldiram Snacks Food, India's largest ethnic snacks company, reported The Economic Times. The company has initiated discussions with the Aggarwal family, who own Haldiram, for a minority stake. This makes PepsiCo a late entrant in a competition that already includes global investment firms Temasek and Alpha Wave Global. Executives quoted in the report said PepsiCo's leadership from its

New York headquarters has started direct talks with the Aggarwal family in recent weeks. These discussions are still at an early stage and may not necessarily result in a deal. Unlike its Indian unit, the funding for this stake purchase will reportedly be led by PepsiCo's US-based parent company. The Aggarwal family is seeking a valuation of Rs 85,000-90,000 crore for Haldiram as they look to bring in an external investor for the first time.

Temasek and Alpha Wave Global have already submitted binding offers for a 10-15% stake in Haldiram. These offers were made last month, putting the firms in an advanced stage of negotiations. Temasek is said to be leading the discussions, with reports suggesting a potential investment of over \$1 billion as per the report. Haldiram is a market leader For PepsiCo, which dominates the western in ethnic snacks, offering over 500 types

of products, including namkeen, sweets, ready-to-eat meals, and pre-mixed food items. The company reported revenue of Rs 12,800 crore in FY24, more than double that of PepsiCo's snacks business in India, which earned Rs 4,763.29 crore during the nine-month period from April to December 2023.

snacks market with brands like Lay's,

Kurkure, and Doritos, this move could provide a foothold in the fast-growing ethnic snacks segment. PepsiCo holds a 24% market share in western snacks but has limited presence in traditional Indian snacks like namkeen and

The Indian snacks market, worth Rs 42.694.9 crore in 2023 according to IMARC Group, is expected to grow to Rs 95,521.8 crore by 2032. However, it is highly fragmented, with numerous regional players such as Balaji, Bikanerwala, and Bikaji Foods competing alongside Haldiram. These

regional brands often offer lower prices, direct distribution, and better retailer margins, challenging larger players like PepsiCo.PepsiCo India has been under pressure to expand its snacks division, especially as its beverages business is managed almost entirely by Varun Beverages Ltd (VBL), a listed company under RJ Corp.

# Sensex, Nifty open higher; IT stocks rebound after recent slump

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Wednesday, driven by a rally in IT stocks which has been under pressure for the past couple of trading sessions. The market was also helped by a rise in banking and energy sector stocks.The S&P BSE Sensex gained 144.53 points to 76,644.16, while the NSE Nifty50 added 16.15 points to 23,192.20 as of 9:30 AM.Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that with only five more days to go

for Trump's inauguration as US president, soon there will be clarity on Trump's actions and its likely impact on the markets. It appears that the dollar and US bond yields have peaked for

There are reports that Trump will begin with low tariff hikes putting pressure on major exporters to the US, even while leaving room for negotiations. If this



scenario plays out, further rise in dollar and US bond yields will be arrested. Till then, the FII selling will continue, preempting any rally in the market," he added.Nifty IT rebounded and gained 0.49%, setting a positive tone for the market.Nifty Midsmall Services showed strong performance, rising 1.21%, while Nifty Realty climbed 1.04%. Nifty Midsmall IT & Telecom advanced 1.07%, and Nifty PSU Bank gained 0.70%. Nifty Oil & Gas and Nifty Metal both moved up by 0.70% and 0.66% respectively.

The banking sector remained firm with Nifty Bank rising 0.40% and Nifty Private Bank adding 0.30%. Nifty Auto gained 0.20%, while Nifty Financial Services showed a modest increase of 0.06%.On the declining side, Nifty Midsmall Healthcare led the losses with a drop of 1.57%, followed by Nifty Healthcare Index falling 1.48%. Nifty Pharma declined 1.38%, while Nifty FMCG slipped 0.66%. Nifty Consumer Durables fell 0.30%, and Nifty Financial Services Ex-Bank marginally decreased by 0.01%. Nifty Media remained unchanged at 0.00%."Market will witness lots of stock-specific action in response to the Q3 results. Market has been rewarding performers delivering better-than-expected results and punishing those delivering worse-thanexpected results. Therefore, look out for performers," said Vijayakumar.

#### Adani Green share price surges over 6% in early trade. What's driving the rally?

NEW DELHI. Shares of Adani Green Energy surged more than 6% in early trade on Wednesday, touching an intraday high of Rs 1,080 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

At 10:20 a.m., the stock was trading 3.28% higher at Rs 1,040.60, continuing its positive momentum after jumping as much as 19% in the previous session, making it the top gainer among Adani Group companies. Today's rally follows the company's announcement that its subsidiary, Adani Renewable Energy Forty Eight Limited, has commissioned a 57.2 MW wind power component of its hybrid project at Kĥavda,

According to a regulatory filing, this development brings Adani Green Energy's total operational renewable capacity to 11,666.1 MW. Power generation from the new plant is expected to commence on January 15, 2025, pending



## Meta To Lay Off 3,600 Employees, Mark **Zuckerberg Targets Low Performers**

New Delhi. Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp is planning to let go of about 3,600 employees or nearly 5 per cent of its

workforce, according to a report from company led by CEO Mark Zuckerberg has made the decision to dismiss these workers due to their performance being deemed below expectations. Meta, which employed around 72,400 people as of September, aims to replace these positions with new hires.CEO Mark Zuckerberg, in the memo explained that the decision to let go of

employees is part of a strategy to "raise the bar on performance management and move out low-performers faster." Such layoffs are a common practice

among major U.S. corporations. They follow similar cuts announced by Microsoft last week, which impacted less than one percent of its workforce.



Why is Meta laying off employees and who will be affected?

Meta is cutting jobs as part of its goal to reach 10 per cent "non-regrettable" attribution by the end of the current performance cycle, as per the memo. The job cuts will primarily affect employees who have been with the company long enough to receive a

performance review and are considered underperforming. impacted that they will receive "generous severance." Microsoft to Cut Low-

**Performing Employees** 

Microsoft is also planning to let go of low-performing employees. The company is following a similar approach to Meta. While the exact number of affected workers hasn't been disclosed, a recent report from Business Insider suggests that multiple departments, including some

key ones, will be impacted. This move aligns with Microsoft's ongoing practice of restructuring under CEO Satya Nadella, aiming to maintain a high-performing workforce.

necessary clearances.

This project is part of the company's broader strategy to expand its renewable energy portfolio. In December, Adani Green Energy launched a wholly owned subsidiary, Adani Green Energy Sixty-Eight Limited (AGE68L), aimed at generating, distributing, and supplying power using wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources. Financially, the company reported robust earnings in the second quarter of FY25, with a net profit of Rs 515 crore, marking a 39% year-onyear growth. Total income rose by 30.4% to Rs 3,376 crore, though expenses also increased by 31.3% to Rs 2,837 crore. Despite these gains, Adani Green Energy's stock has declined by 38% over the past year. Its relative strength index (RSI) currently stands at 42.9, suggesting neutral momentum, as per Trendlyne data.

The stock's moving average convergence divergence (MACD) is at -75.3, signaling bearish sentiment. Additionally, shares are trading below key moving averages, including the 20-day, 50-day, and 200-day SMAs.Analysts maintain a positive outlook, with the average target price pegged at Rs 1,966, implying a potential upside of 95%. Of the four analysts covering the stock, the consensus recommendation is a 'Buy.'

# Quadrant Future Tek soars 44% in 2 days; zooms 85% against issue price

NEW DELHI.Shares of Quadrant Future Tek (Quadrant) rallied nearly 20 per cent to Rs 537.80 on the BSE in Wednesday's intra-day trade, extending its Tuesday's 20 per cent surge amid heavy volumes.

The stock of electrical cables company has soared 44 per cent from its listing price, after making a strong market debut on Tuesday. It has zoomed 85 per cent against its issue price of Rs 290 on the BSE. At 10:06 AM; Quadrant was quoting 18 per cent higher at Rs 531, as compared to 0.30 per cent rise in the BSE Sensex. A combined 12.49 million equity shares representing 31 per cent of total equity of the company changed hands on the NSE and BSE on Wednesday.

Quadrant is a research-focused company specialising in Train Control and Signalling Systems under the KAVACH project, enhancing safety and reliability for Indian Railways. It also manufactures specialty cables for railways, defence, and renewable energy, using advanced Electron Beam

technology for superior performance. The company has received significant contracts for its KAVACH system and partners with RailTel to expand its deployment in India and abroad.



The company sits on a strong order book, including a notable Rs 979 crore contract for KAVACH implementation, which highlights its robust revenue visibility. Strategic partnerships, such as with RailTel for KAVACH deployment, bolster its position in domestic and

international markets. With favourable industry tailwinds and increasing demand for its offerings, Quadrant is well-positioned for sustained growth, analysts at Nirmal Bang Securities said in

IPO note.

Quadrant primarily operates in two business divisions, speciality cables and train control and signalling division. Under the speciality cables divisions, the company faces competition with other players providing speciality cables to railways namely Apar Industries, Polycab and Radiant Corporation Pvt. Ltd.

As on the date of Red Herring Prospectus (RHP), entities namely, Medha Servo Drives Pvt. Ltd, HBL Power Systems and Kernex Microsystems (India) has been

approved by The Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO) for supply of KAVACH equipment based on initial system design approved.

Quadrant, specialising in the production of specialty cables and advanced train control and signaling systems, such as the

KAVACH project for Indian Railways, leverages cutting-edge technologies like Electron Beam Cross Linked polymers.

These innovations enhance the durability and performance of its products across demanding sectors including railways, defense and electric vehicles. With significant infrastructure developments and government initiatives like the Rs 557 crore funding for the KAVACH project, Quadrant is well positioned within its industry, said analyst at KRChoksey Shares and Securities in a

'With a PE ratio of 79x and an EV/EBITDA of 34x, Quadrant Future Tek Limited's valuation is notably higher than some of its peers, justified by its strong market position, robust growth prospects and solid financial performance, evidenced by a robust ROE of 33 per cent. The premium valuation is further underpinned by its large addressable market and significant project wins, specifically in KAVACH, which enhances its growth potential and ensures sustainable growth prospects," the brokerage firm said.

#### **NEWS BOX**

#### NorthEast United hold FC Goa to thrilling 1-1 draw

GUWAHATI. Hosts NorthEast United FC came from behind to hold FC Goa to a 1-1 draw in a fiercely-contested Indian Super League (ISL) match here on Tuesday.Mohammad Yasir gave FC Goa the lead in the 65th minute, but Jithin MS equalised for NorthEast United in the 76th minute as the two teams shared the spoils. This was the 11th draw between the two sides, the highest number of stalemates between any teams in the competition's history.

The Highlanders began the game on the front foot, with Guillermo Fernandez and Alaaeddine Ajaraie making threatening runs that kept the FC Goa defenders on

However, the first clear opportunity of the match fell to FC Goa when Dejan Drazic delivered a precise cross to Armando Sadiku in the penalty area. Sadiku's header, however, lacked the power to trouble Gurmeet Singh in goal. Shortly afterwards, Ajaraie came close to opening the scoring when Buanthanglun Samte sent a long pass his way. The Moroccan forward raced through on goal but saw his effort tipped over the bar by Hrithik Tiwari.Despite soaking up pressure from the hosts for much of the first half, FC Goa finished the half on a strong note. The second half began in a similar fashion, with NorthEast United showing great intent but struggling to break through FC Goa's resolute defence.

In the 59th minute, assistant coach Naushad Moosa made a tactical adjustment, introducing Nestor Albiach and Ninthoinganba Meetei in place of Guillermo and Muthu Mayakkannan.

Nestor almost made an immediate impact when he combined with Ajaraie in a slick give-and-go move, but Hrithik lost the ball amidst a crowd of players, allowing Odei Onaindia to clear the danger. Against the run of play, FC Goa broke the deadlock in the 65th minute. Jay Gupta sent a long ball into the penalty area, which Mohammad Yasir played towards Brison. The youngster returned the ball to Yasir, who fired it into the bottom-right corner, giving the Gaurs a crucial lead.

The Highlanders responded with determination, opting for counterattacking football. Ajaraie showcased excellent hold-up play before delivering a brilliant through ball to Jithin MS, who calmly slotted the ball past Hrithik in the 76th minute to restore parity. Both teams pushed for a winner in the closing stages, but neither could find the decisive goal, leaving the match tied at 1-1.

#### Trying to focus on building my innings, says Shafali Verma

CHENNAI. Shafali Verma is very much aware of where she stands at the moment. The India opener last turned up in the Blues during the ODI series against New Zealand after the early exit in the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup. Verma had scores of 33, 11 and 12 in the home ODIs versus White Ferns after finishing the global event with a disappointing 97 runs at 24.25. She was neither a part of the team that toured Australia nor the home series against West Indies and Ireland.In these trying times, the 20-year-old has gone back to the domestic circuit. From the senior women one-dayers — where she finished as leading run-scorer with 527 runs at 152.31 SR — to the ongoing senior women challengers in Chennai, Verma has been accumulating runs for fun.It was no different on Monday as Team A, which had already qualified for the final, took on Team D at the MA Chidambaram Stadium. During the chase of 212, Verma smashed 115 off 70 balls — a knock that had 14 fours and six 6s — and by the time she got out the victory was all but sealed. It was her third century in the format since getting dropped and she has also scored five fifties. Apart from the lone LBW shout early on against Saika Ishaque, there was not a moment where she looked like she was getting out. So much that it felt like she was too good for this level.

Ask her if making a comeback to the Indian team has been an extra motivation, Verma answers it in a matter of fact manner."I think this is my job to do well for the team. I know I am dropped from the (Indian) team but it is my job to play well for the team (whichever I play for). And now, my focus is on challengers and I want to do well in the final and we win the trophy," she told the select media at the venue after the match on

The 20-year-old said that the message from the team management has been about believing in herself and backing your strengths. While there is no doubt about her batting ability, one of the concerns raised was about her fielding. Although she didn't do much wrong in that department on Sunday, one has to wait and see how things are going forward.

For Verma, the focus has been on spending time in the middle and playing the long innings. She admits that not much has changed in terms of her batting technique but is trying to build the innings and convert starts. She is aware of the fact that the longer she stays, the higher the possibility of her

# Liverpool held to draw by Nottingham Forest, Manchester City let 2-goal lead slip

New Delhi . Liverpool were forced to settle for a draw by in-form Nottingham Forest while Manchester City capitulated and let a 2-goal lead slip away from home against Brentford on Tuesday, January 14. Elsewhere, Chelsea had captain Reece James to thank for their draw against Bournemouth, while Graham Potter got his first win as West Ham United manager as they edged past Fulham in a 5-goal thriller.

Diogo Jota's crucial second-half header salvaged a 1-1 draw for Liverpool against an impressive Nottingham Forest on Tuesday, preserving their six-point lead at the top of the Premier League. Forest, enjoying an extraordinary campaign after narrowly escaping relegation last season, stunned the league leaders early on. Chris Wood struck in the eighth minute, capitalising on a vibrant atmosphere at the City Ground.

Liverpool, whose sole league loss this season came against Forest in September, seemed on course for another upset. However, Jota rose to the occasion in the 66th minute, nodding in from a corner to restore parity. The visitors pushed for a winner, with Jota and

Mohamed Salah both testing Forest goalkeeper Matz Sels late on. Sels' heroics ensured Forest held on for a valuable point, leaving Liverpool six points clear of secondplaced Forest, who have played one game

#### Manchester City let lead slip

Elsewhere, Manchester City squandered a two-goal lead as Brentford mounted a dramatic late comeback to secure a 2-2 draw in a thrilling encounter. City, aiming to build momentum after a turbulent November and December, looked to have turned a corner following recent wins over Leicester and West Ham. Yet their defensive frailties resurfaced at the Brentford Community

Stadium.After a cagey first half, Savinho nearly broke the deadlock in the 50th minute with a powerful shot that rattled the post. Erling Haaland spurned a golden opportunity minutes later, heading straight at the keeper.City eventually found their rhythm in the 66th minute when Kevin De Bruyne's pinpoint cross was expertly volleyed home by Phil Foden. The visitors then shocked the home crowd in The England international doubled the lead 12 minutes later, pouncing on a rebound after Savinho's effort was

Brentford, however, refused to die. Yoane Wissa pulled one back in the 82nd minute, setting up a tense finale. In stoppage time, Christian Norgaard completed the comeback with a glancing header that beat Stefan Ortega, despite the goalkeeper getting a hand to it. The draw leaves City in sixth place on 35 points, 12 behind Liverpool, while Brentford climb to 10th on 28 points.

#### James to the rescue for Chelsea

Meanwhile, Reece James rescued Chelsea with a stunning 95th-minute free-kick to earn a 2-2 draw against Bournemouth at

Stamford Bridge. James, returning from injury as a second-half substitute, curled a brilliant shot into the far corner, denying Bournemouth a famous win.Chelsea had dominated the first half, taking the lead through Cole Palmer. However, Bournemouth levelled early in the second half when Justin Kluivert converted a

the 78th minute, with Antoine Semenyo blasting a fierce strike past Robert Sanchez at the near post to make it 2-1. Despite James' late heroics, it was another frustrating outing for Chelsea, who are now winless in five league matches. They remain fourth on 37 points, while Bournemouth sit seventh with 34 points. West Ham United edged past Fulham in a thrilling 3-2 victory on Tuesday, marking a winning start for new manager Graham Potter in his Premier League debut with the Hammers. Despite being outplayed for much of the first half, West Ham struck twice in quick succession to turn the tide. Carlos Soler opened the scoring, and Tomas Soucek doubled the lead just two minutes later, leaving the visitors

# Hours after shock PSL retirement, Pakistan pacer Ihsanullah makes U-turn

shock retirement from the Pakistan Super League (PSL), pacer Ihsanullah decided to reverse his decision. The 22-year-old claim that he had made the call in the heat of the moment and apologised for his actions. Ihsanullah officially announced his retirement from the PSL following his omission from the season 10 draft. The 22-year-old expressed frustration over the lack of recognition despite his consistent performances, leading to his decision to step away from Pakistan's premier T20 competition. Speaking in a candid interview with Public News, Ihsanullah shared his disappointment at being overlooked during the draft held on January 13. He clarified that his decision was not made in the heat of the moment but was a well-considered choice after thoroughly reflecting on the situation. The pacer also claimed that he would make

the doubters 'chase him' by bowling at a



pace of 150-160 km/h. However, as quoted by ARY News, Ihsanullah has gone back on his statements and said he made the retirement call purely on emotions. The 22year-old also said that his friends and family messed with his head."There's no plan for retirement, I announced the decision yesterday in emotions".

When I wasn't picked in the PSL draft, my friends & family also messed with my head

hard and make a comeback in domestic cricket to ensure he would have buyers next time around and also apologised to the Multan Sultans for his statement.

Ihsanullah, who made a name for himself with an impressive 22 wickets at an economy rate of 7.59 during PSL 8 for Multan Sultans, quickly caught the attention of selectors and earned a spot in Pakistan's T20I squad. He made his international debut against Afghanistan in March 2023 and later featured in a series against New Zealand. Ihsanullah also earned his maiden ODI cap during the same series. However, his promising rise was abruptly derailed by an elbow injury, which led to significant controversy over the handling of his recovery. An independent investigation into the matter resulted in the resignation of Pakistan's chief medical officer, further highlighting the mishandling

#### Australian Open: Aryna Sabalenka survives 2nd set scare to beat Jessica Bouzas

New Delhi . Defending Champion and World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka was able to survive a major second set scare against Spain's Jessica Bouzas Maneiro to progress to the third round of the Australian Open 2025 on Wednesday, January 15. Sabalenka was able to win the match 6-3, 7-5 to win her second round match after finding herself in a lot of trouble in the second set of the match. Bouzas, a star on the rise in tennis, made the World No.1 sweat as she was leading in the second set 4-1 and 5-2 at one point before the Belarussian made a stunning comeback to win the match. Sabalenka didn't have the best of times in the first match against Sloanne Stephens as she was forced to fight hard in the first set before winning the match. A similar sort of script unfolded in the game on Wednesday.



ienka started the game by breaking the young Spaniard's serve and took a 2-0 lead. However, Bouzas would bounce back by breaking the World No.1's serve to cut the deficit. The chaos would continue as the duo would trade breaks once again as Sabalenka was left frustrated, despite leading the set 3-2.

However, the World No.1 snapped back into form, putting her service woes behind her and fired off three winning games to take the first set. The Spaniard was, however, on the top of her game in the second set with confidence on the baseline coming to her aid.

Errors started to creep into the game of Sabalenka, who found herself trailing 2-5 and on the verge of losing the second one. However, the World No.1 would dig deep and broke Bouzas to make the game 5-5. The Spaniard would have 2 double faults to allow Sabalenka to take the lead in the contest and serve for the match. Despite having 2 match points, Sabalenka was given a bit more trouble by Bouzas, who would make it deuce and hold the chance of forcing it into a tiebreaker. However, the World No.1 was able to hold on and extend her winning streak in Melbourne to 16 matches. Sabalenka will now face Clara Tauson in the next round.

# Aakash Chopra questions India's T20 World Cup hero's absence in England series

New Delhi.Former India cricketer turned commentator, Aakash Chopra questioned the absence of India all-rounder Shivam Dube from the squad for the upcoming T20I series against England. Dube last played for

India in the T20I series on the tour to Sri Lanka in July 2024. He was further picked for the following series against Bangladesh but didn't feature in the playing XI. However, he was dropped from the team for the subsequent four-match T20I series in South Africa due to injury. Recently, Aakash Chopra spoke about Dube's sudden mysterious absence from T20Is despite him being a part of India's T20 World Cup 2024 winning squad."What

happened to Shivam Dube? I wanted to talk about Ruturaj (Gaikwad) as well but he is not able to make his place. Rajat Patidar is

also there. Obviously, there is a lot of batting. However, now I am going to focus a **Dube's remarkable performance in Syed** little bit on Shivam Dube. He was a member of the T20 World Cup-winning team," Chopra said on his Youtube Channel.



Furthermore, Chopra mentioned Dube's valuable contribution in the final of the tournament where the southpaw scored a quick-fire 27 off 16 balls, smashing three fours and a six. Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024-25

"When you win, everyone should get the credit. He even played decently in the final.

Before that, there were definitely some questions that he wasn't fielding or batting well. However, then he played well and became the T20 World Cup champion," Chopra added.

Dube recently had a good season for Mumbai in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2024-25, scoring 151 runs from five innings at an average of 75.50 and a stunning strike rate of 179.76 with a highest score of 71 not out off 37 balls vs Services. In his T20I career so far, Dube has scored 448 runs from 24 innings at an average of 29.86 with three fifties to

his name. With the ball, he's scalped 11 wickets in 23 innings. It remains to be seen when does he get the opportunity to don India's T20I jersey again.

# Australian Open: Olympic champion Zheng stunned, Mirra Andreeva survives scare

New Delhi. The Olympic champion and last year's runner-up at the Australian Open, Zheng Qinwen, was dumped out of the competition, while Mirra Andreeva survived a major scare against Japan's Moyuka Uchijima to win the match in 3 sets. Zheng was defeated 7-6, 6-3 by Laura Siegemund in what was a frustrating day for the Chinese star on Wednesday. The Olympic champion was looking to emulate her compatriot Li Na's run during the 2014 edition and win the tournament.Zheng faced early pressure, narrowly saving a break point in the third game with the help of her powerful serve. However, Siegemund, the oldest player in the women's draw, showed no signs of intimidation, matching Zheng from the baseline and disrupting her rhythm. Despite Zheng's reputation for her Serving for the set, The German faltered as her strong serve, Siegemund excelled in her returns, hitting 11 winners off the return in



the opening set. At 4-4, the German created two break-point opportunities after Zheng received a time violation. Although Zheng saved the first, an unforced error on the second handed Siegemund the break.

footwork deserted her, allowing Zheng to break back comfortably. The set headed into

a tiebreak, where Siegemund capitalised on two mini-breaks to lead 6-3 and clinched the set on her first opportunity. Riding on the momentum, Siegemund broke Zheng's serve early in the second set to take a commanding 2-0 lead. Zheng, appearing sluggish, managed to level the score after benefitting from two moments of good miraculous return that skimmed the sideline after traveling around the post. However, Zheng's composure unravelled after a second time violation in the next game cost her a first serve at 15-30. Frustrated, the Olympic champion argued with the umpire about her inability to see the shot clock, but her protests were dismissed. The incident left her visibly rattled, and she double-faulted on break point, gifting Siegemund a 3-1 lead.Zheng's struggles continued as a string of unforced errors

handed Siegemund a 4-1 advantage. The German maintained her focus and served out the match, securing a memorable victory. Siegemund now advances to the third round, where she will face the winner of the all-Russian matchup between Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova and Anastasia Potapova. Andreeva survives Uchijima test

fortune—a net cord winner and a The 14th seed Andreeva was forced to dig deep into her arsenal by Uchijima as she won the match 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 to reach the third round. The 17-year-old had won the first set but found herself in all sorts of triouble in the rest of the game.

The Russian dropped the second set to the Japanese star and found herself almost exiting the competition. Uchijima, who was serving for the match in the third set with a 5-4 score, was unable to hold on to her advantage and allowed Andreeva to force a tiebreaker





FILM

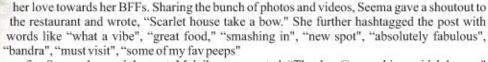
## 'Scarlet House, Take A Bow'

ollywood BFFs Seema Kirah Sajdeh and Malaika Arora recently enjoyed quality time with one another At Scarlett House Bombay. And their families had also joined them. From posing with their close ones to indulging in some scrumptious meals, the evening was completely filled with love and laughter. Seema posted a couple of pictures on her Instagram handle to update her fans about the beautiful evening. In the opening frame of Seema Kiran Sajdeh's carousel, she was seen posing for a group picture with her best friends, Malaika Arora and her sister, Amrita Arora. Seema's son, Nirvan Khan, Malaika Arora's son, Arhaan Khan, and Amrita Arora's husband, Shakeel Ladak, also joined the frame captured on a lovely spot in the Mumbai restaurant. In the following slide, Seema was seen descending the stairs, followed by the other glimpses, giving a sneak peek into the guests joining them. The Fabulous Lives of Bollywood Wives fame's pictures also featured Abedin Sham, a co-founder of Abode Bombay, a boutique hotel in Mumbai, Richa Sajdeh and her husband, Bunty Sajdeh, the Managing Director and CEO of Dharma Cornerstone Agency.

A few of the pictures also showed the delicious snacks all the pals savoured over

there. One slide showed a plate filled with rice on one side and what appeared to be delicious prawn curry. A glass of some drink was also kept near the platter. Following this, we can spot an assortment of some lovely dishes in another frame. From tarts, pasta and khichdi to many other dishes, the picture screamed deliciousness in all

Seema also posed for some fun selfies with Malaika, Amrita, and their close ones. And in the last picture she was seen pouting towards Amrita, showing



Soon after Seema dropped the post, Malaika commented, "Thank u @seemakiransajdeh love u." Meanwhile, Amrita mentioned her love towards her and penned, "Seemus," followed by red hearts. Many social media users also showered love on them. One user added, "Seema's son can definitely make it in Bollywood. Looks great," while another stated, "Wow looks amazing!" One more comment can be read as "Food looks delic." "Wow beautiful pics," another comment read while someone said, "Bhai ki family h." For the hangout, Seema stunned in a white top teamed with denim pants and a pair of white sneakers. Malaika wore a white crop top with black shorts and heels. While Arhaan sported a white shirt with matching pants, Nirvaan picked a black T-shirt with matching pants and white sneakers. Seema and Malaika's wonderful bond is evident in the recent



# Opens Up On Being Considered A 'Failure' In Film Industry: 'Casting Couch Existed...'

upali Ganguly has opened up about facing the casting couch in the film industry. In a recent interview, the Anupamaa actress mentioned that she was considered a 'failure' in films because it was her conscious decision to step away from Bollywood."I didn't do well in films, and that was a choice I made because predominantly casting couch existed in the industry at that point of time. Maybe some people didn't come across it, but people like me did, and I decided not to make that choice. So, you are considered a failure because you come from a film family," she said, as quoted by Pinkvilla.

The actress further expressed her gratitude towards Rajan Shahi and talked about how the television show Anupamaa changed her life. "I did feel small back then, but thanks to Anupamaa, I feel very proud. The show gave me the stature that I always dreamt of. It has been a lifechanging experience," she added.

Rupali Ganguly's Anupamaa is one of the top television shows today, which has been ruling the TRP charts for years now. However, a report recently claimed that the actress is likely to quit Rajan Shahi's show. Later, Rupali also broke silence on the report and called it baseless.In an emotional message, Rupali Ganguly

expressed her deep connection with Anupamaa and said, "Wow, people really have some overactive imagination. But thank you for talking about me and talking about the show. What can I say? Every person has a core, and my core, I believe, is gratitude. My husband and I both believe that whatever Rajan Ji has given me-the recognition, the platform, the position - I will never be able to repay it in this lifetime. And Anupamaa is not just a show for me; it's an emotion, it's my home, my second home, all my fur babies are



here, and the unit has become like a family.

'So, does anyone leave their family, their home? And God forbid, may it never happen in life. If Rajan Ji ever says that he doesn't need me anymore, then I might fight with him, or argue, and say, 'Please let me stay in Anupamaa.' I opened the gate for this show, and I will remain part of this show till the end. Even if I have to face obstacles, I will not leave," she added.

### Sidharth Malhotra Flies Out Of Mumbai With Kiara Advani Ahead Of His 40th Birthday



idharth Malhotra is all set to celebrate his 40th birthday on January 16. Looks like the Shershaah actor and his wife Kiara Advani have jetted off for a vacay ahead of his special day. The couple made a stylish appearance at the Mumbai airport on Tuesday morning, and as usual, shelled out major couple goals as they walked handin-hand.Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani were spotted at the Mumbai airport by the paparazzi. They looked uber-chic as they got out of the car, and headed towards the airport. The Kabir Singh actress looked gorgeous in a grey V-neck sweater paired with white pants. She left her hair open, and accessorized her stylish look with dark sunglasses and a red handbag. Meanwhile, Sidharth Malhotra looked dapper in a black tee layered with a matching jacket and jeans. He also donned dark sunglasses. Kiara and Sidharth held hands and politely smiled for paparazzi pictures, before making their way inside the airport. Check out the

Soon after the video surfaced, fans gushed over the lovely couple. While one Instagram user commented, "The og couple," another one wrote, "Aww cutest." Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani tied the knot on 7th February, 2023, in a traditional Hindu wedding ceremony in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan. The couple never fails to shell out major couple goals. In December, they melted hearts on social media when they shared a cosy Christmas photo. In the picture, the couple can be seen giving a warm hug, while standing in front of a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Taking to Instagram, the couple wrote, "Merry Christmas from us to you."

On the professional front, Kiara Advani was recently seen in 'Game Changer', starring Ram Charan. Next up, she has Farhan Akhtar's 'Don 3' in which she will be seen opposite Ranveer Singh. If reports are to be believed, she will also be seen opposite Yash in his next film 'Toxic'. Meanwhile, she will also reportedly be entering the Maddock Films supernatural universe with the film 'Shakti

### Aamir Khan's Daughter Ira Khan On Her Bond With Brother Junaid: 'We Fought Every Single Day Until...'



hile Aamir Khan's son Junaid Khan stepped foot into Bollywood with Maharaj last year, his daughter Ira Khan has no plans to foray into the film industry. In a recent chat, Ira opened up about her relationship with her brother Junaid Khan, who will soon make his big-screen debut with the film Loveyapa. Junaid is 5 years older than Ira, and the latter said that they both fought a lot until he finished school. Post that, their sibling bond evolved, and they actually became very close. Speaking with People Of India about her bond with Junaid Khan, Ira said, "I don't know whether this happens with all siblings but either I wanted to be exactly like him in some aspects, while in some aspects I had to be exactly the opposite. He liked Manchester United. So I had to not like Manchester United." She further added, "We fought every single day till he finished school. When he went to college, he got a life, so he stopped troubling me and then we actually became very close. So it was a very big shift but it was a fun

When asked about her relationship with her father Aamir Khan, and whether she knew about his celebrity status since childhood, she said, "I probably didn't fully understand it. But I have known, since I could remember, that he is a celebrity." She also mentioned that students in her school were also aware. "I don't think anyone judged me, but yeah, people wanted to be friends with me because they were excited about who my dad was. But I dont think anyone necessarily thought bad of me. At least not to my face.""With all parents, until you're a certain age, you don't see them as people. You see them as your parents. And in that sense, it was the same. He would travel and be on shoot, and I lived with my mom. But he would always check if anyone in school was troubling me or if everything was fine. We played a lot of board games and we were very competitive. All three of us-Junaid, dad and me. During Covid, we spent a ot of time together," she continued. Meanwhile, Ira Khan has been showing her support for her brother Junaid Khan's upcoming film 'Loveyapa' with Khushi Kapoor. Just yesterday, she shared a video of team Loveyapa's fun, goofy reel which shows Junaid, Khushi and others singing and swaying to the title track of the film. Ira Khan was amazed to see her brother Junaid Khan's fun, lively and playful side.