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Yogi Adityanath attacks Akhilesh Yadav over Maha Kumbh

Sanjay Kumar Lucknow, Feb 24: Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday slammed the Samajwadi Party in the UP assembly over trouble... We did not play with the religious sentiments of people, unlike the Samajwadi party. Their CM did not have the time to monitor Kumbh and see its arrangements and therefore, he (Akhilesh Yadav) made a non-Sanatani, in-charge of Kumbh," he was quoted as saying by ANI. Yogi Adityanath, reacting to the opposition's claim of mismanagement in the ongoing Hindu festival, said 63 crore people would not have attended Maha Kumbh had there not been world-class facilities. He also claimed that the figure would cross the 65 crore mark on February 26, the last day of the Kumbh Mela. "Had there been no world-class facilities in Maha Kumbh, 63 crore devotees would not have attended it till now...by 26th February, I guess that the way the country and world are attracted towards Maha Kumbh, we will cross 65 crores," he said. Yogi Adityanath said the 2013 Kumbh was fraught with chaos, corruption and pollution.

Maha Kumbh, saying the Akhilesh Yadav government had made a 'non-Sanatani' in-charge of the 2013 mela. The BJP leader was referring to former UP minister Azam Khan. "What you (the opposition) said regarding Maha Kumbh, a person from a particular caste was stopped from entering Maha Kumbh. We had told those who go with goodwill, they can go but if somebody goes with malicious intent, they would be in

trouble... We did not play with the religious sentiments of people, unlike the Samajwadi party. Their CM did not have the time to monitor Kumbh and see its arrangements and therefore, he (Akhilesh Yadav) made a non-Sanatani, in-charge of Kumbh," he was quoted as saying by ANI. Yogi Adityanath, reacting to the opposition's claim of mismanagement in the ongoing Hindu festival, said 63 crore people would not have attended Maha Kumbh had there not been world-class facilities. He also claimed that the figure would cross the 65 crore mark on February 26, the last day of the Kumbh Mela. "Had there been no world-class facilities in Maha Kumbh, 63 crore devotees would not have attended it till now...by 26th February, I guess that the way the country and world are attracted towards Maha Kumbh, we will cross 65 crores," he said. Yogi Adityanath said the 2013 Kumbh was fraught with chaos, corruption and pollution.



'Pashuon ka chaara kha sakte hain': PM Modi

Simmi Kaur Babbar Patna, Feb 24: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday launched a scathing attack at the opposition in Bihar and said that those who believe in "jungle raj hate our heritage and faith", adding that the people of the state will never forgive those abuse Maha Kumbh. The prime minister's remark gains significance in the backdrop of heavy criticism from the opposition over the alleged mismanagement, accidents, lack of 'clean water' at the world's largest spiritual gathering. While addressing a massive gathering in the Bhagalpur district, PM Modi expressed gratitude over his visit to the land of Mandarachal during the time of Maha Kumbh. "This land has faith, heritage and the potential of a developed India. This is the land of Shaheed Tilka Majhi. This is also the Silk City. Preparations are going on for Maha Shivratri here. In such a holy time, I have got the privilege of sending one more instalment of PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana to many people in the country," he said. He mentioned that the NDA government in the state and the Centre is working together to preserve the nation's glorious heritage and build a great future. However, "these people who believe in jungle raj (RJ) hate our heritage and our faith". The prime minister said that the opposition is "abusing" the ongoing Maha Kumbh of Unity, the

biggest festival of the nation's faith, unity and harmony. He noted how more than the entire population of Europe has taken a holy dip in the great Kumbh of unity. "People who are annoyed with the Ram temple are not leaving any opportunity to curse the Maha Kumbh. I know that Bihar will never forgive those who abuse the Maha Kumbh," PM Modi added. Last week, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav had sparked controversy by terming Maha Kumbh Mela "meaningless", blaming the Railways for the stampede at the New Delhi station that killed 18 people. Lalu lambasted the BJP-led central govern-

ment over the incident and demanded that the railway minister resign. Responding to a question about the large crowds heading to Prayagraj for the Mela, he said, "The Kumbh has no meaning...It is just meaningless." Several other opposition leaders have also hit out at the BJP-led government in Uttar Pradesh as well as the Centre, with Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav offering to send CM Yogi Adityanath a book on managing the Kumbh Mela. Yadav had said that he would present a book on the Kumbh Mela study by Harvard University during his party's tenure in the state. The stampede at the Maha Kumbh during the January 29 shahi snan, the recent deadly stampede at the New Delhi railway station and the massive influx of devotees moving towards the Mela have all been some of the major talking points. The issue over lack of 'pure water' has also been raised, with the opposition saying that the Triveni Sangam's water, where devotees are taking a holy dip during the Kumbh Mela, was not fit for bathing. UP CM Yogi Adityanath had clapped back at the 'baseless allegations', saying that circulating "fake videos" against Sanatan Dharma, "Maa Ganga, India or the Maha Kumbh" is like playing with the faith of the crores of people who have taken a holy dip at the ongoing Mela. He said that the Sangam water is not only fit for dip but also for drinking, alleging a propaganda to malign Maha Kumbh after faecal bacteria report by the CPCB.



Cong slams BJP after FinMin report says USAID projects not related to 'voter turnout'

Naresh Malhotra New Delhi, Feb.24: Amid the ongoing row over USAID funding, the Congress on Monday claimed that the Union finance ministry has "thoroughly exposed" the BJP's "lies" with its annual report for 2023-24 stating that the US agency is currently implementing seven projects in collaboration with the Government of India and none of them has anything to do with voter turnout. The BJP has also rejected allegations of the Congress and accused Rahul Gandhi as well as the party of colluding with foreign forces in a bid to weaken India. The latest annual report of the finance ministry has disclosed that the agency funded seven projects worth USD 750 million in 2023-24. "Currently, seven projects worth a total budget of USD 750 million (approx) are being implemented by USAID in partnership with the Government of India," as per the finance ministry's annual report for 2023-24. Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "None other than the Union Finance Ministry has thor-

oughly exposed the lies of the PM and his jhoat brigade, including his dapper External Affairs Minister." As stated in the finance ministry's annual report for 2023-24, USAID is currently implementing seven projects in collaboration with the Government of India, with a combined budget of approximately USD 750 million, he said in a post on X. "Not a single of these projects has to do with voter turnout. All of them

are with and through the Union Government," Ramesh said. For the financial year 2023-24, an obligation of a total of USD 97 million (about Rs 825 crore) has been made by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) under the seven projects, the ministry report said. The Department of Economic Affairs under the finance ministry, which is the nodal department for bilateral funding arrangements, has also shared the details of projects funded in 2023-24 in the report. During the year, no funding was made for enhancing voter turnout but to projects related to agriculture and food security programme; water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); renewable energy; disaster management and health. A political controversy erupted in the country earlier this month after the Elon Musk-led DOGE (Department of Government Efficiency) claimed that it had cancelled a USD 21 million grant to India to boost "voter turnout". US President Donald Trump also repeatedly claimed that USAID under the previous administration led by Joe Biden allocated USD 21 million in funding to India for 'voter turnout'.



Demand strict punishment for those behind RG Kar incident: Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee

Kolkata, Feb.24: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday referred to the murdered woman doctor of RG Kar Medical College and Hospital as her "sister" and extended deepest condolences to the victim's parents. She also demanded strict punishment for those responsible for the crime. Speaking at a special gathering of senior and junior doctors and medical students at Dhono Dhanyo auditorium here, Banerjee highlighted her government's efforts to ensure justice and emphasised the intro-

duction of the Aparajita Bill, which seeks capital punishment for rape convicts. "I extend my condolences to the family of the sister who was killed in RG Kar hospital. We demand proper punishment in this case," Banerjee said. She added, "I had also taken to the streets in protest against the incident. Our government had passed the Aparajita Bill, but it is still pending (with the President)." A 31-year-old junior doctor was raped and killed at the state-run hospital in Kolkata on August 9 last year, triggering national outrage. The Aparajita Woman and Child Bill (West Bengal Criminal Laws and Amendment) Bill, 2024 was unanimously passed by the West Bengal Assembly in September last. The Bill proposes capital punishment for rape convicts if their crime results in the victim's death or leaves her in a vegetative state. "I entrust my brothers with the responsibility of protecting our sisters and preventing such incidents in the future. Today, there is no gender disparity, which is a very positive development.



'PM Modi speaks in slogans, tricks people of Bihar': Tejashwi Yadav

ST Correspondent New Delhi, Feb 24: Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bihar today, Rashtriya Janta Dal Leader Tejashwi Yadav raised a voice of dissent, calling out the Central and state government for its failure to deliver on promises made to the state. Tejashwi Yadav, the leader of the Rashtriya Janta Dal, arrives in Bihar today ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. Tejashwi Yadav voiced his disapproval, criticising the federal and state governments for not fulfilling their commitments to the state. (HT photo/Santosh Kumar) "There is an election in Bihar, and this is the only election that will be held in Bihar this year. The elections in Delhi have already con-



cluded. We had said earlier that everyone will go to Bihar, and people will flock to Bihar," he said. Yadav emphasized that despite Bihar having provided a "double-engine government" for two decades, the state remains at the bottom of several key development indices. "But Bihar gave these people a chance to run the double-engine government for 20 years. Narendra Modi has been the Prime Minister for 11 years at the center, and Nitish Kumar has been the Chief Minister of Bihar for 20 years," he remarked, pointing out that Bihar ranks poorly in terms of per capita income, investment, and farmer income. "Bihar is at the bottom. Bihar ranks lowest in per capita income and investment. Bihar ranks lowest in farmer income, and Bihar is number one in unemployment, migration, and poverty," Yadav added. While acknowledging that the Prime Minister's visits to Bihar were frequent during election times, Yadav accused Modi of using empty slogans and failing to address the state's real concerns. "It's good when the Prime Minister comes, but when he comes, he only speaks in slogans and tricks the people of Bihar," he said. He recalled Modi's promises to revive sugar mills in Champaran and other districts, a commitment that was never fulfilled. "What happened? Do you understand the issues faced by Bihar's farmers?" he asked, highlighting the severity of problems like share-cropping exacerbating farmer struggles.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta takes oath as MLA as first session of new assembly begins

Navdeep Singh Sahni New Delhi, Feb 24: BJP MLA Arvinder Singh Lovely was sworn-in as the pro-tem Speaker and administered the oath by LG Vinai Kumar Saxena at the Raj Niwas before the session began. The first session of the newly constituted Delhi Assembly commenced on Monday. Delhi chief minister Rekha Gupta and her six cabinet ministers were sworn in as MLAs in the House. Newly elected MLAs Kapil Mishra (BJP) took oath in Sanskrit, Sanjeev Jha (AAP) in Maithili and Manjinder Singh Sirsa (BJP) in Punjabi. BJP MLA Arvinder Singh Lovely was sworn-in as the pro-tem Speaker and administered the oath by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena at the Raj Niwas before the session began. Gupta was the first to take

the oath, followed by her six Cabinet ministers. The remaining MLAs were sworn in thereafter. The proceedings began with legislators singing Vande Mataram. Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva was present in the Speaker's gallery to witness the session. The election for the new Speaker is set to take place later in the day, with BJP MLA

Vijender Gupta likely to assume the position. According to the Delhi Assembly bulletin, Lieutenant Governor (LG) VK Saxena will address the assembly on February 25, following which the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports will be tabled. Later that day, the assembly will open the floor for the motion of thanks on the LG's address. "The most important thing is going to come. We said that we should put the CAG report on the House table in the first session. This is people's hard-earned money, which the previous government misused. They will have to account for each penny before the people," the chief minister had said. On Sunday, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs chose former chief minister Atishi as the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly, PTI reported. With this, Atishi becomes the first woman to hold the post.



'Adolescent love': Delhi HC acquits man of minor's rape

Tejinder Kaur Babbar New Delhi, Feb.24: The Delhi High Court has acquitted a man of a minor girl's rape saying it was a case of adolescent love and physical relations between them were consensual. Justice Jasmeet Singh therefore set aside the conviction of the man, who was 19 at the time of the incident in 2014, and was accused of raping a 17-year-old girl. The high court said punishing him was "perversity of justice". "... what cannot be lost sight of is that, at the time of the incident, the appellant (man) was 19 years of age and the prosecutrix (girl) was about 17 years of age. Thus, it was a case of adolescent love and the physical relations were established consensually. Therefore, to convict the appellant under the POCSO Act would be a perversion of justice," the court held on February 20. The age of majority as prescribed, said the court, must be construed and interpreted in the context of the law for which it was being considered. It found it improper to brush aside the girl's

view on the only ground that she was below 18 when her opinion and desire remained "certain and unshaken". Directing his release from jail, the high court said the prosecution was unable to prove the girl's age beyond reasonable doubt and the benefit of doubt accrued to the appellant. The girl's father lodged a missing complaint in 2014 and she was later found with the man from Ghaziabad. She disclosed of having married in a temple and living at a rented accommodation in Ghaziabad. She claimed of having consensual physical relations with the man. A trial court sentenced him to seven years' rigorous imprisonment under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act. The man challenged his conviction saying the trial court erred in appreciating that the girl was a consenting party to every act and nothing suggested it was a case of sexual assault. The high court advocated for a compassionate approach prioritising "understanding" over "punish-

ment" in criminal cases involving adolescent love, saying the law should evolve to acknowledge such relationships that were consensual and free from coercion. Affirming that consensual and respectful adolescent love was a natural part of human development, the court said adolescents should be allowed to express their feelings and engage in relationships without fear of criminalisation. "I believe that societal and legal views on adolescent love should

emphasise the rights of young individuals to engage in romantic relationships that are free from exploitation and abuse," the court said. The judge went on, "Love is a fundamental human experience and adolescents have the right to form emotional connections. The law should evolve to acknowledge and respect these relationships, as long as they are consensual and free from coercion." The focus of the law, the court said, should be on preventing exploitation and abuse rather than punishing love. "While the legal age of consent is important for protecting minors, I feel that adolescents should be allowed to express their feelings and engage in relationships without fear of criminalisation," the judge said. The verdict added, "I affirm that consensual and respectful adolescent love is a natural part of human development." Dealing with a similar case on January 30, the judge upheld a trial court judgement acquitting a man booked under the POCSO Act.



NEWS BOX

Drinking water wastage, 112 cases booked in Bengaluru

BENGALURU. With summer approaching and many parts of the city staring at possible water crises, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has cracked down against unnecessary wastage of drinking water, registering 112 cases in the past week and collecting fines amounting to Rs 5.60 lakh.

The water board had issued a circular on February 17, to curb the misuse of drinking water and ensure an adequate supply for all residents. Accordingly, it has intensified its campaign against the unnecessary wastage of drinking water. BWSSB officials have identified and penalised 112 violations.

The South Zone recorded the highest number of cases at 33, followed by the West Zone and East Zone with 28 cases each, and the North Zone with 23 cases. Fines have been imposed, and steps are being taken to recover the penalties from offenders, an official release stated.

Under Sections 33 and 34 of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Act, 1964, the use of drinking water for activities such as vehicle cleaning, gardening, construction, entertainment, decorative fountains, and other non-drinking purposes in cinema halls and malls is prohibited. Despite these regulations, many individuals and entities have continued to misuse clean water, ignoring the looming water crisis, the release added. BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar emphasised that drinking water is transported to Bengaluru from nearly 100 kilometers away, making it a precious resource. He urged the public to avoid wastage and collaborate with the Board to ensure equitable water distribution to all areas and residents in need.

As police watch, mentally ill man dies in Tambaram attack

CHENNAI. A lawyer and law graduate were arrested late Saturday night for allegedly attacking a man with mental illness near the Tambaram bus stand and causing his death, even as police were attempting to defuse the situation. Police said the duo attacked the man after he banged on their "new car".

The attack ended in them allegedly pushing Ranganathan (59) to the ground, leading to his death. Police said Ranganathan of Ayanavaram, was being treated for mental illness for three years. On Saturday night, passersby alerted police that he was obstructing traffic.

Two patrol officers reached the spot, took him aside, and contacted his family. They found he had left home a few days ago and his family was looking for him. As the cops were waiting with Ranganathan for his family, a car occupied by lawyer Manikandan (33), and law graduate Vinoth (28), parked nearby. Pushed to ground, victim hit head against cement slab. The duo was heading to a family function and had stopped to buy bottles of water. Police said Ranganathan ran toward the car and banged on the door. Manikandan and Vinoth got down and allegedly began attacking him, claiming that their car was new. Despite police intervention, Vinoth allegedly pushed Ranganathan to the ground, causing his head to hit a cement slab. He was severely injured and rushed to Chromepet Govt Hospital where he was declared dead. The police then arrested Manikandan & Vinoth.

24-year-old woman ends life over dowry harassment in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD. Sick of frequent harassment and abuse from her husband over dowry, a 24-year-old woman in Ramanthapur allegedly decided to end her life on Saturday. The woman, Akulua Manisha, is a resident of Suryapet district. She married her husband, Puligujju Sampath, a year ago, police said.

Manisha's relatives told TNIE that she and Sampath eloped on February 14, 2024. "After getting married, the couple relocated to Ramanthapur. However, after a few months, he started harassing and assaulting

Manisha for dowry which made her life difficult," they said, adding that "his cousin B Muneetha also demanded dowry from her". Sampath, who works as a Lab Technician at Niloufer Hospital,

allegedly had an affair with another woman. A relative informed that Manisha attempted to stop her husband from seeing other girls but she failed, and owing to her dysfunctional relationship with her husband, she finally took the extreme step. "We knew that Sampath was not a good person. Despite asking Manisha to return to her family, she never listened and did not come back," the relatives wept. Meanwhile, Uppal police have registered a case under Section 80 of the BNS against Sampath and an investigation has been launched.

Woman dies after being run over by van driven by minor in Kancheepuram

On getting information, the Sivakanchi police recovered the body, and sent it for postmortem.

CHENNAI. A 53-year-old woman died after a van allegedly driven by a 17-year-old boy hit her while she was drawing a kolam outside her house in Kancheepuram on Sunday morning. A case of death by negligence has been registered, and an inquiry is underway.

According to the Sivakanchi police, the boy is a Class XII student at a school in the locality. His father, Swaraj (name changed), runs a wholesale snacks business and delivers supplies to shops in and around Kancheepuram using the van. Since Swaraj does not drive, he hires a driver to operate the vehicle.

However, on Sunday, his son attempted to move the van and park it outside the house, according to police. As the boy started the vehicle and shifted gears, he inadvertently



caused the car to move by pressing the accelerator. However, in panic, he pressed the accelerator again instead of applying the brakes while attempting to stop the vehicle, police said. Losing control of the van, he ran over Saraswathi, a neighbour. The police

stated that Saraswathi, who was busy drawing the kolam, did not hear the vehicle approaching. The impact of the accident left her severely injured. The van stopped only after hitting a two-wheeler and a pushcart.

Onlookers who witnessed the incident rushed to her aid, pulling her out from under the van and taking her to the Kancheepuram Government Hospital. However, doctors declared her dead upon arrival. On getting information, the Sivakanchi police recovered the body, and sent it for postmortem.

The boy was detained for questioning, and a case of death by negligence was registered. A police source added that when the chargesheet is filed, the boy's father, will also be named in the case.

CRUT launches trial run of ADAS in Mo Buses to curb road accidents



BHUBANESWAR. In a bid to curb frequent road mishaps involving Mo Buses in the capital region, CRUT has started trial run of advance driver assistance system (ADAS)-fitted vehicles as part of its integration in the entire fleet. CRUT officials said ADAS sensors will alert drivers when they get close to any other vehicle. Besides, the system will also help

drivers identify the traffic signals and lanes on which they are supposed to ply. It will also monitor the maximum speed limit that has been set at 40 kmph for city areas.

Around eight to 10 vendors have evinced interest to provide the system to CRUT. Accordingly, a trial run of the advanced technology on proof-of-concept (POC) basis was launched earlier this week, they said.

The trial is being carried out in four different buses including e-buses. It will continue for 10 days after which tender will be floated to finalise the vendor. "As the system will be linked to CRUT's command control centre, we will also be able to monitor drivers in realtime," an official said. Once finalised, ADAS will be installed in all 520 Mo Buses including 150 e-buses in Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Sambalpur and Rourkela.

The system will initially be installed in the capital region which may take three months time, they added. Keeping in view the increasing cases of Mo Bus accidents, which have even resulted in a couple of deaths, H&UD secretary Usha Padhee chaired a high-level review meeting on Saturday and asked CRUT authorities to conduct periodic evaluation of their operation including safety standards and drivers' conduct.

13 arrested in Kochi joint raid for possession of drugs including MDMA

During the raid in a hotel located on SRM Road, two persons were nabbed with 31.46g of MDMA.

KOCHI. A total of 13 people were arrested with psychotropic substances like MDMA during a joint raid by police, the excise department, narcotics control bureau (NCB), customs, railway police, and the dog squad in Kochi on Sunday.

The raid against drug use and trafficking focused primarily on previous drug offenders, individuals currently out on bail, their suppliers, and locations such as railway stations and lodges where drug transactions are suspected to occur.

During the raid in a hotel located on SRM Road, two persons were nabbed with 31.46g of MDMA. The arrested are Subin, 26, a native of Idukki, and Bijin Abraham, 21, a native of Pathanamthitta. In another incident, 1.53g of MDMA and 1.50g of cannabis were seized from near a lodge in Palarivattom, resulting in the arrest of Kollam natives Roshan, 20, and Najmal, 24. Other nine accused persons were arrested from various parts of the city.

The raid was conducted under the leadership of Kochi City police commissioner Putta Vimaladitya, DCP Ashwathi Gigi, narcotics cell ACP Abdul Salam, customs commissioner Padmavati, customs SPs Vikas Kumar and Vivek V, NCB assistant director Venugopal, excise assistant commissioner Sudheer, and RPF DySP George Joseph.

Primary focus on previous offenders

The raid focused primarily on previous drug offenders, individuals currently out on bail, their suppliers, & locations such as railway stations and lodges where drug transactions are suspected to occur

'System has failed us': Kerala's Eloor residents left gasping for solution to pollution

s such as Pathalam, Eloor East, Mepirikunnu, and Ilanjikkal—the four wards of Eloor municipality—have been the worst hit by air and water pollution.

KOCHI. As soon as we crossed the regulator-cum-bridge on the Eloor-Edayar stretch of the Periyar on a humid evening, a pungent odour that hung thick in the air hit us hard. The result of emissions from almost every factory in the area, it left us disgusted; and, we hoped to leave as soon as possible.

However, this sorry state is nothing new for residents of Eloor industrial area, who, for several days now, have been protesting against local authorities and the state Pollution Control Board (PCB). Those especially in areas such as Pathalam, Eloor East, Mepirikunnu, and Ilanjikkal—the four wards of Eloor municipality—have been the worst hit by air and water pollution. All they seek is a permanent solution to their concerns.

"We have been raising complaints with the PCB for several years, demanding action to help the residents. We are worried about pollution-related health issues. As the system has failed us, we have decided to raise our voices," says a visibly exhausted Shabeer O V, a Pathalam native and representative of Jana Jagratha Samithi in Eloor.

There are around 350 industrial units in the area. Most of these produce

chemicals, rubber products, and fertilisers. "We are not against industries and seeking their closure. Our demand is that the PCB properly monitor their functioning," points out Ayooob P M, councillor of Pathalam ward. Despite having approached PCB officials several times, no action has

been forthcoming, he adds. After the demand to tackle the issues was raised from various corners, the PCB directed officials to monitor factory emissions in the area.

According to S Sreekala, chairperson of the Kerala PCB, directives have been issued to industries in the area. "Chief engineers will visit the units to ensure their safe functioning. We have also constituted a team to monitor emissions. They will be surveilling the region at

nighttime," she said. The concerns are not new. Following the fish-kill incident last year, the Periyar Malineekarana Virudha Samithi, the Jana Jagratha Samithi and the public intensified their protests, demanding that the PCB take action against those violating regulations.

"We have systems in place to control pollution. Most of the factories use devices such as bio-filters. We demand the increase of the capacity of these filters and their proper functioning," noted Shabeer.

"Effluent wastewater from most of these factories is let out into the Periyar. Around 50 families stay in the area. It can result in several health issues," says Ajeesh Poovathumpambill, a local resident.

"There is also the issue of water pollution. The PCB needs to identify the sources and resolve the problem as soon as possible," adds Ayooob.

"The odour from the polluted air makes its way as far as Kadungalloor panchayat. Residents of wards 7, 8 and 9 are also affected. There is even a hospital in the area. The pollution leaves patients suffering from respiratory issues as well," points out Shabeer.

Odisha govt to expand AI camera surveillance to Satkosia, Debrigarh sanctuaries

A provision of Rs 150 crore has been made by the government and the project will most likely be taken up from the start of the 2025-26 financial year.

BHUBANESWAR. With the Similipal experiment proving a big success, the state government has decided to expand the artificial intelligence (AI) surveillance system to Satkosia and Debrigarh wildlife sanctuaries this year at an investment of around Rs 150 crore.

Forest officials said the AI camera-based surveillance in Similipal Tiger Reserve has added teeth to the forest monitoring and wildlife protection measures while a similar exercise in Rourkela has proved effective in mitigating human-elephant conflict in the region. This has prompted the government to expand the system to other sanctuaries and forest reserves. The AI-based fire monitoring and protection surveillance towers will be installed in Debrigarh



Wildlife Sanctuary as well as the Satkosia landscape covering Dhenkanal, Angul, Satkosia and Mahanadi wildlife divisions this year. "A provision of Rs 150 crore has been made by the government and the

project will most likely be taken up from the start of the 2025-26 financial year," said an official.

He said the department is planning to deploy five AI-enabled camera towers in both Satkosia and Debrigarh as these protected areas with rich biodiversity continue to face constant threats from wildfire and other environmental challenges.

"Introduction of advanced camera towers may prove to be a significant step toward preserving the vital ecosystems of the two sanctuaries, where the government is planning to take up tiger supplementation programme in the near future," the officer said.

50 per cent infertility cases linked to male factors: Doctors

BENGALURU. "Recent studies suggest that 40-50% of infertility cases are linked to male factors. Over the last decade, we have witnessed a steady rise, particularly among younger men," said Dr Praveen Joshi, Organising Chairman, Comprehensive Infertility Conclave (CIC) 2025.

He was speaking at CIC 2025, organised by Global Healthcare Academy, held here on Sunday, where experts emphasised the need for early diagnosis and comprehensive fertility care, as infertility is becoming a growing concern among couples in India. They laid stress on early diagnosis and comprehensive fertility care.

On the increasing and worrying trend of infertility in urban areas, Dr Joshi said, "Contributing factors for male infertility include low sperm count, poor motility, hormonal imbalances and genetic conditions. Lifestyle habits like smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, obesity and prolonged exposure to heat and radiation are also contributing to the rise in male infertility."

Additionally, rising pollution levels in cities like Bengaluru have been linked to declining sperm health, Dr Praveen said.

Addressing female infertility, the organising secretary of CIC 2025, Dr Meghana Nyapathi said, "According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5) (2019-20), infertility affects about 18.7 of every 1,000 married women aged 15-49 who have been married for at least five years.

Some regions, like Goa, Lakshadweep and Chhattisgarh, have even higher rates. In Karnataka, the District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS) showed that around 5.9% of ever-married women face infertility issues, with slightly higher numbers in rural areas (6.1%) than in urban pockets (5.5%). "These differences highlight the urgent need to improve reproductive healthcare for women across different regions. Despite advancements in reproductive medicine, infertility remains a stigmatised and underdiagnosed issue, particularly among men," said Dr B S Ajaikumar, Executive Chairman, HealthCare Global Enterprises Ltd, emphasising the importance of breaking societal taboos surrounding infertility.

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Advocate Manish Sharma
Advocate Pooja Bhaskar Sharma

Roads and sidewalks shrink as encroachments choke Gurgaon

Gurgaon. Street vendors hastily set up their carts, shops extend their displays onto the sidewalks and cars park haphazardly along the narrowing streets. As the morning sun rises over the city, Gurudawara Road — which has several showrooms, wholesalers and shops of all kinds — already bears witness to a familiar chaos. This scene, replicated across numerous sectors, represents a growing crisis that's literally shrinking the city's road space. "It takes around 15-30 minutes to cover the 200-metre stretch of the road, a distance that should be a five-minute drive," Amit Kumar, a software professional who commutes daily through the road, says. "The roads have become obstacle courses with vendors, illegal structures and random parking eating up driving space." The problem is particularly acute in older parts of the city, where urban planning struggles to keep pace with rapid population growth. Areas like Khandasa Mandi, once a manageable marketplace, have transformed into

congestion hotspots. Here, the original road width has been reduced to nearly half by permanent and temporary encroachments. Local shop owner Ramesh Gupta explains, "Everyone wants a piece of the road. Shopkeepers extend their displays, vendors set up stalls and customers park wherever they find space. It's a vicious cycle." Architect and city planner Ahimanyu Mehta said Gurgaon — once known for its sleek malls, corporate towers and modern infrastructure — is facing a persistent challenge that is gradually choking its roads. Widespread encroachments by street vendors, illegal shops and haphazard parking have turned many roads into narrow, cluttered lanes, causing severe traffic congestion, particularly in older, densely populated areas. Mehta said, "The problem is not restricted to Old Gurgaon. The situation is the same in all parts of the city. The issue continues to disrupt the daily commute for thousands of residents, hampering not just vehicle

movement, but also the quality of life in these communities." As the city's population grows, so does the number of vehicles on the roads, further exacerbating the issue of encroachment. On roads like those in Sector 12, Sector 14 and areas surrounding Galleria Market, metro station, Sector 48, bus stand, Udyog Vihar, HUDA sector markets, narrow lanes are increasingly blocked by street vendors setting up their makeshift stalls. Shabby shops extending onto the pavement, parked cars blocking entire lanes and temporary structures built on public land for commercial use have made these roads unrecognisable. Once wide thoroughfares are now bottlenecks, often leaving drivers stuck in long queues during peak hours. For those who need to travel in emergency vehicles, the situation becomes even more perilous. Ambulances and fire trucks find it nearly impossible to navigate these clogged roads in a timely manner, creating a grave risk to public safety. Despite

repeated complaints from residents, there has been little action to remedy the situation. MCG, the authority responsible for maintaining city roads, has been criticised for its failure to effectively clear the encroachments. Plans for relocation of vendors or redevelopment of markets have remained largely unimplemented. As a result, the same streets, which should facilitate smooth movement and connectivity, continue to suffer from poor planning and a lack of proper enforcement. "What was once a five-minute drive from my house now takes almost 30 minutes, especially during peak hours," says Ravi Kumar, a resident of Sector 14. Urban planning experts suggest a multi-pronged approach to address the crisis. "We need designated vending zones, strict parking enforcement and regular monitoring," urban development consultant Rajesh Yadav says, adding, "But most importantly, we need political will and community participation."

Tracks to green cover: Gurgaon breathes fresh life into 75 ponds

Gurgaon. Work to revive 75 ponds and water bodies across the city is in full swing, with officials saying that around 65% of the project has been completed since it began in 2022. These water bodies, officials said on Sunday, were once neglected and decaying, but they are starting to come to life with thriving plants and animal species. Their restoration will help the city replenish groundwater levels and reduce the risk of flooding every monsoon. Other than cleaning up the waterbodies, the project involves carrying out plantation drives nearby and laying down walking tracks along with other facilities to transform them into community areas.

The initiative is part of state govt's Amrit Sarovar Mission, under which 8,000 water bodies across Haryana are to be revived for a budget of Rs 1,000 crore. The Haryana Pond and Waste Water Management Authority oversees this initiative and research firm The Celestial Earth is documenting all the work to feature the progress in a coffee table book. "Gurgaon's waterbodies are silent witnesses to the city's evolution — reviving them is not just an act of conservation, but a step toward a resilient and sustainable future," said Dr Tania Bhattacharya, founder and CEO of The Celestial Earth. Among the ponds to be revived are those in Sector 12 and Bhandoni — both important areas where waterlogging is common. Others being restored are ponds in Dhankot, Daultabad, Bajghera, and Kadarpur, along with Ghata jheel. According to officials, the city has been divided into four zones for the initiative.

In zone 1, 64% of 17 ponds over 33.6 acres of area have been restored. The figure is 44% for 18 ponds in zone 2 (51.6 acres), 88% for 12 ponds in zone 3 (28 acres) and 70% for 28 ponds in zone 4 (43.4 acres). "Restoring waterbodies in Gurgaon is a commendable step towards water security, ecological revival. But true sustainability requires more than just restoration — it demands scientific rigour, long-term planning and strong community stewardship. A pressing concern is unchecked disposal of solid waste and cow dung in village drains. Despite significant investment, poor maintenance and lack of local cooperation are clogging wastewater treatment systems," said Dr Fawzia Tarannum, strategic adviser, Gurulaj.

Minimum temp drops by 2.6°C, air stays 'moderate' in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. The city on Sunday recorded a minimum temperature of 9.8 degrees Celsius. This marked a decline from the previous day's minimum temperature of 12.4 degrees Celsius by 2.6 notches and surpassed the season's normal by 0.4 degrees. The maximum temperature stabilised at 24.8 degrees Celsius, 1.9 degrees above the previous day's 22.9 degrees and 0.4 notches below the seasonal average. According to IMD, some parts of Haryana may experience lightning and thunderstorms on Feb 26 and 27 owing to a fresh western disturbance. Meanwhile, the city's air quality index (AQI) decreased to 116 — in the 'moderate' category — from 129. According to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (Safar), AQI is anticipated to ameliorate over the next three days due to advantageous conditions for pollutants' dispersal. "The predominant surface winds, likely from the north, will prevail at speeds below 15kmph during morning hours for the next three days. Northwest wind speed may intensify to 20-30kmph during the afternoon," Safar predicted. An AQI reading between 0 and 50 is considered 'good', 51 and 100 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 'moderate', 201 and 300 'poor', 301 and 400 'very poor', and 401 and 500 'severe'. Meanwhile, Delhi recorded a minimum temperature of 10.3 degrees Celsius on Sundays, below the normal by two degrees, compared to 12.5 degrees the previous day. The IMD attributed the below-normal temperature to cooler northwesterly winds. An IMD official stated that the western disturbance will affect northwest India from Feb 24 and Delhi-NCR by Feb 27, bringing reduced wind speeds and increased cloudiness, affecting temperatures. The maximum temperature was 26.7 degrees Celsius, slightly above normal, compared to 24.7 degrees Celsius the previous day, and could approach 30 by Wednesday due to slower winds.

Bus terminal, taxi stand: GMDA plans transit hub in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. GMDA will construct a bus terminal and a dedicated taxi stand in Sector 53, aiming to enhance the public transportation facility in the city. The metropolitan authority has identified 1.9-acre land for the bus terminal and 0.78 acres for the taxi stand, which will serve as an integrated public transport facility. However, before moving forward with the project, GMDA has sought the transfer of land from the Haryana Sahari Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP).

A senior official of GMDA said, "The land has already been earmarked for building the bus terminal and taxi stand. Now we have sought possession of land from HSVP before we can move forward with the plan, including feasibility studies and project execution. The site is ideal considering the high demand for public transport in the area and it will help in streamlining traffic movement and provide better connectivity to residents." While the city has two bus depots — Sector 10 and Sector 52-53 — it lacks dedicated terminal facilities, resulting in buses often being parked on roadsides, exacerbating congestion. A bus terminal is a point where a bus route starts or ends and where buses wait before departure. Officials said the planned bus terminal will facilitate smooth intracity bus operations and the taxi stand will provide a dedicated space for taxis, autos and other last-mile connectivity options, addressing the prevalent issue of haphazard parking along roadsides, which often leads to traffic bottlenecks. The city has long struggled with inadequate public transport facilities, leading to an overreliance on private vehicles, cabs and shared auto-rickshaws. Sector 53, located along the Golf Course Road, has several major residential and commercial complexes.

Urban forest soon in Wazirabad, native trees to replace kikar in Haryana

Gurgaon. Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav hasasked Haryana govt to formulate a comprehensive strategy to transform Wazirabad area into an urban forest. The minister — who visited the city on Friday to kickstart the Aravali Green Wall project — specified that the initiative should focus on replacing the invasive kikar (protopis juliflora) trees with indigenous species, establishing a more sustainable ecosystem. He instructed the state govt to identify areas dominated by kikar trees and designate them as "nagar van (urban forests)" this month. A detailed management scheme will be devised to methodically remove the kikar trees and establish local species. This endeavour is part of the broader Nagar Van Yojana, which advocates urban forestry across India. Currently, the city's first 'nagar van' is developing in Ghata. The forest department has nearly completed fencing the area — the van spans 40 acres — at a

cost of Rs 1.5 crore. Yadav emphasised the urgency of initiating preparations. "If we commence now, by June, we can remove prosopis juliflora and begin digging pits for the new trees," he said. The preliminary groundwork is anticipated to be finished by July, establishing the foundation for a substantial transformation over the next five years. The initiative aims to enhance the local environment whilst involving the community. Residents will be encouraged to participate in tree planting and maintenance activities, fostering a sense of stewardship towards the urban forest. "In five years, the area will look beautiful, which is currently covered with kikar. We have implemented such an urban forest programme in Bhiwadi. In Gurgaon DLF area you can ask each family to plant a tree guard and plant trees. If you start preparing now, by June, you can remove all the kikar and start digging pits. If you start today, you can expect one lakh people to join by June. But the preparation should start today. I want this to be a major innovation for Aravalli and we have five months left.

Involve all organisations," he said. This venture is expected to yield multiple benefits, including enhanced air quality, improved biodiversity, and superior water retention in the soil. It aligns with Haryana's environmental objectives and the national mission to increase green cover and combat desertification. Major wildlife species found in the Gurgaon Aravallis include wild boars, rabbits and jacksals. To provide drinking water to the wild animals is anticipated to be finished by July, establishing the foundation for a substantial transformation over the next five years. The initiative aims to enhance the local environment whilst involving the community. Residents will be encouraged to participate in tree planting and main-

tenance activities, fostering a sense of stewardship towards the urban forest. "In five years, the area will look beautiful, which is currently throughout the year, especially during summer, the department will develop water bodies in the area. Grasslands will be established in some areas to provide the animals with feeding, hiding

and breeding grounds. Each 'nagar van' encompasses 10 to 50 hectares of land. Meanwhile, a 33-hectare plot in Bir Ghaggar in Panchkula, another spanning 32.5 hectares in Karnal, and a 33-hectare land parcel in Palwal are being transformed into urban forests in Haryana.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SOHRAJ S/O RANJESH R/O B-603, Phase-2, JJ Colony, Nangloi, West Delhi, Delhi - 110041 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SOURAV in my SC Caste Certificate No. SC/03/31/33250/10/2010/893102327. The actual name of mine is SOHRAJ which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, SANJAY MEHRA son of Shri BUTA RAM, residing at 12/34, Ground Floor, Subhash Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110027, declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as SANIYA in my school record written as SANIYA in my school record. The actual name of my minor daughter is SANIYA MEHRA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, MALABIKA PRAGYAN PARAMITA Spouse of JC-78857/L Rank- SUB Name-MEGHANADA Presently residing at BASUDEVPUR, PO-KHALISAHSI, PS-KHANDAPARA, DIST-NAYAGARH, ODISHA-752077, have changed my name from MALABIKA PRAGYAN PARAMITA to MALABIKA PRAGYAN PARAMITA PRADESHI for all future purposes. The actual name of my wife shall hereafter be amended accordingly. Date: 24/02/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as DASHIANA DEVI alias KIRAN MITTAL D/O KHUSHI RAM W/O JAI KISHAN MITTAL R/O D-76, New Gobind Pura Gali No-3, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KIRAN MITTAL.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my client Aamir Khan S/O Yusuf Khan, R/O Tower 2, Flat No. 701, Global Hill View, Sector-11, Ward No. 10, VTC: Sohna, PO: Sohna, District: Gurgaon, Haryana-122103 due to some family disputes with my elder brother namely Dilwar, his wife Sakunath and younger brother Israel who are staying at Jhuggi No. 0-5, G/F, Rangpuri, Pahari, New Delhi-110037. That due to prevailing family dispute I had shifted to above stated address i.e. Tower 1, Flat No. 401, Global Hill View, Sector-11, Ward No. 10, VTC: Sohna, PO: Sohna, District: Gurgaon, Haryana-122103 in the year November 2021 and since then I have no relation with them. If anybody/Any Authority deals with them in any manner will do so at his/her own risk and responsibility, my clients shall not be responsible for any kind of their act and deeds.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHEWALE ANJANA DILIP Mother of No-15715963H Rank-LNK Name-SHEWALE VIJAY DILIP Presently residing at ROOM NO-985, SS-3, GANPATI MANDIR, SECTOR-5, VPO-KOPAR KHAIRNE, DIST-THANE, MAHARASHTRA-400709, have changed my name from SHEWALE ANJANA DILIP to ANJANA DILIP SHEWALE for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 10/02/1968 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/04/1972. The actual name of my daughter is ANJANA DILIP SHEWALE, which may be amended accordingly. Date: 24/02/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHEWALE PANDURANG DILIP Father of No-15715963H Rank-LNK Name-SHEWALE VIJAY DILIP Presently residing at ROOM NO-985, SS-3, GANPATI MANDIR, SECTOR-5, VPO-KOPAR KHAIRNE, DIST-THANE, MAHARASHTRA-400709, have changed my name from SHEWALE PANDURANG DILIP to DILIP PANDURANG SHEWALE for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 07/03/1968 instead of my correct date of birth as 07/03/1958. The actual name of my wife is SHEWALE PANDURANG SHEWALE, which may be amended accordingly. Date: 24/02/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, ARUN SINGH BHATI S/O DESHRAJ SINGH, R/O 185/15-B, Krishna Gali No. 4, Moujpur, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as ARUN and RENU in my minor son's school record. I, aged 13 years in his School Record. The actual name of mine and my wife are ARUN SINGH BHATI and RENU DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, ARUN SINGH BHATI S/O DESHRAJ SINGH, R/O 185/15-B, Krishna Gali No. 4, Moujpur, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as ARUN and RENU in my minor son's school record. I, aged 13 years in his School Record. The actual name of mine and my wife are ARUN SINGH BHATI and RENU DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as DAMSHANA DEVI alias KIRAN MITTAL D/O KHUSHI RAM W/O JAI KISHAN MITTAL R/O D-76, New Gobind Pura Gali No-3, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110051, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KIRAN MITTAL.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Akhlesh Pal S/O Ram Kedar R/O H.No-A151, Street No-9, Prakash Vihar, Karwal Nagar, North East, Delhi-110094 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Akhlesh in my minor son's school record. The actual name of mine and my wife are Akhlesh Pal and Ram Kedar, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, ABHI VICTOR S/O DIPAK CHATTERJEE R/O A-16, First Floor, MBR Enclave, Pochangpur, Sector-23, Dwarka, New Delhi-110077, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced HINDUISM and renounced Christianity with effect from 07-11-2024.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMAD ATIF S/O ABDUL JABBAR residing at B-2/16-C DDA FLATS, INDER LOK, DELHI-110035 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD ATIF for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as UZAIR AHMED son of MUJHTAR AHMED residing at B-13/S2, 2ND FLOOR, SHAHJEE, JOGA BAI EXTENSION, ZAKIR NAGAR, JAMIA NAGAR, DELHI-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as UZAR AHMED.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as JAI BHAGWAN S/O RAMPAT SHARMA R/O House No. - 553, Upper Ground Floor, Sector 9A, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122001, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JAI BHAGWAN SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Savitri Lal Rajak D/O Deonand Lal W/O Rohit Kumar R/O 1078 S-2C Pocket 1 Opposite Vasant Kunj South West Delhi 110070, have changed my minor daughter's (Ahaana) name and shall hereafter be known Ahaana Kumar.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, ARUN SINGH BHATI S/O DESHRAJ SINGH, R/O 185/15-B, Krishna Gali No. 4, Moujpur, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as ARUN and RENU in my minor son's school record. I, aged 13 years in his School Record. The actual name of mine and my wife are ARUN SINGH BHATI and RENU DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Ashan Sarwar D/O: Ghulam Sarwar R/O Permanent, address house no 695 Road no 01, aiganj near mobile tower, Gaya, Bihar - 823001, Present address QTR 558 SECTOR-7 PRAKASH, NEW DELHI - 110022, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Ghulam Sarwar in my 10th, 12th and all educational documents. The actual name of my father is GHULAM SARWAR, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMAD ASLAM SIDDIQUI S/O LATE MASOOD ALAM SIDDIQUI R/O 605, 21, ZAKIR NAGAR, JAMIA NAGAR, NEW DELHI-110025, have changed my name from MOHAMMAD ASLAM TO MOHAMMAD ASLAM SIDDIQUI for all purpose in future.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Sunil Kumar S/O Ram Avtar, R/O H.No 53 A/53/1, East Porlion, Village Malaiqur, 1st Floor, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110009, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as Sunil Diwakar and Usha Diwakar in my minor daughter namely Nisha Diwakar aged 17 years in her 10th class educational document. The actual name of mine and my wife are SUNIL KUMAR AND USHA DEVI, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, DINESH KUMAR JAIN S/O RATAN LAL JAIN R/O 5155, STREET NO-5, NEAR NATIONAL SCHOOL, PATEL NAGAR, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DINESH JAIN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ashok Kumar Ramnarayan Gupta S/O Ram Narayan Gupta R/OB/04, Tower F, Indira-75 Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar Uttar Pradesh 201301. Have changed my name to Ashok Kumar Gupta for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Sakshi Kumar S/O Sukhdev R/O B-92 DDA Janta Flats, Kalkaji South Delhi 110019, Have changed my minor daughter's (Vaishnavi) name and shall hereafter be known Sreeja.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHKUNTALA DEVI Mother of No-15681157/ Rank-HAV Name-BABLU KUMAR Presently residing at ARIYAN, SISIVAN, NAWADA, SISIMA, BIHAR-805111, have changed my name from SHKUNTALA DEVI to SHAKUNTALA DEVI for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1959 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1952. The actual name of my daughter is SHAKUNTALA DEVI, which may be amended accordingly. Date: 24/02/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, SAMIULLAH S/O- MOHAMMAD EKARAM, residing at H. No. - 932, Gali No.-12, Behind Yes Bank, Kapeshera, Po- Gurgaon Road, Dist-South West Delhi, Delhi- 110037, declare that name of my father and my mother has been wrongly written as IKRAM ALI and RIZVANA KHATOON in my class 10th and 12th CBSE market sheet and Certificate and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Political Science IGNOU graduation educational documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are MOHAMMAD EKARAM and RIJWANA KHATUN respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, RISHMA KUMARI W/O SANTOSH KUMAR PAHUJA, R/O WZ-119, STREET NO-02, GURU NANAK NAGAR, TILAK NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018 have changed my name from RISHMA KUMARI TO RESHMA KUMARI PAHUJA for all future purposes.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:-

Name of Work with its Location	Periodic Overhauling (POH) of Auto Tension Devices (ATDs) over DLI Division.
1. Name of Work with its Location	Periodic Overhauling (POH) of Auto Tension Devices (ATDs) over DLI Division.
2. Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 3,33,83,636.22
3. Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 3,16,900/-
4. E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	06.03.2025 (00:00 Hrs.) to 20.03.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
5. E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	20.03.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)
6. Fund Allocation	070-410-32
7. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

NOTICE
This is to inform public at large that M/s Nani Resorts and Floriculture Private Limited has been accorded Environmental Clearance from State Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Haryana (Vide File No. SEAC/HR/2024/269; EC Identification No. EC24C3801HR5971393N; Dated 20/02/2025) for Affordable Residential Plotted Colony Project ROF PRAVASA under DDJAY 2016 at Revenue Estate of Village Harsaru, Sector-88A, Gurugram Manesar Complex, Gurugram Haryana.
NANI RESORTS AND FLORICULTURE PRIVATE LIMITED
REGISTERED OFFICE
M-18, Greater Kailash, Part-II, New Delhi-110048

NAME CHANGE
I, RUCHI W/O Late Shri RAVINDER KUMAR residing at 3387, BAZAR DELHI GATE, DARYA GANJ, DELHI-110002, have changed my name to RUCHIKA KUMAR after marriage as per my documents AADHAR CARD and PAN CARD for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
I, JC-472648A Rank-SUB Name-JITENDRA SINGH RATHORE Presently residing at VPO-JASRASAR, TEH-DIST-CHURU, RAJASTHAN-331001, have changed my mother's name from PREMA KANWAR to SAHEM KANWAR for all future purposes. The actual name of mine is vide Affidavit dated 24/02/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-14653605W Rank-HAV Name-RASHID EQBAL Resing at H. No. B26, SECTOR-C, SUNDER NAGAR COLONY, ASHOKA GARDEN, HUZUR, BHOPAL, MADHYA PRADESH-462023, have changed my name from RASHID EQBAL to RASHID EQBAL for all future purposes. The actual name of mine is vide Affidavit dated 24/02/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, TAJINDER CHADHA son of Shri GURDEEP SINGH CHADHA, residing at House No.136, Block-C, B Block, Sector 3, New Delhi VTC, Janakpuri B-1, PO: Janakpuri B-1, District: West Delhi, Delhi-110058, declare that name of mine and father has been wrongly written as TAJINDER SINGH and GURDEEP SINGH in my PAN Card No. GJPTSH1240KAPUR. The actual name of mine and my father are TAJINDER CHADHA and GURDEEP SINGH CHADHA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Deepika D/o Satya pal Singh R/O Add-Flat no.1202 Tower -5 OC-05 Orange County Gh-04, Ahinsa Khand -1 Indrapuram , Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201014 have changed my name from Deepika to Deepika Singh for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, hitherto known as DEBI SHANKAR son of Shri SESH MANI, residing at A-2/40, Block-A-2, Safdarjung Enclave, South West Delhi, Delhi-110029, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ARUN KUMAR DUBEY.

NAME CHANGE
I, No-15676138M Rank-NK Name-CHHATAN Presently residing at HOUSE No-366, GRAM-AND-HARIYA, PO-AMLA, TEH-AMLA, DIST-BETUL, MADHYA PRADESH-460551, have changed my name from CHHATAN to CHHATAN BARDE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 24/02/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Be it known to all that my clients SH. KRISHAN son of Shri JALE SINGH and his wife Mrs. SANTOSH both are residence of R129 A, Block R, Mohan Garden Uttam Nagar Delhi-110059 have severed all relations with their son namely Sachin and his wife SMT. Muskan Lakra have disowned & disinherited them from all their movable and immovable properties and social relations due to Muskan's unruly behavior and her threat to false implication of entire family of my clients. Whosoever deals with them in any matter, shall do so at his/her own risk & consequences and my clients shall not be held liable for the same.
GUL AFROZ ADVOCATE
Ch. 11, old civil supply building This haziari court, DELHI

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, ARUN SINGH BHATI S/O DESHRAJ SINGH, R/O 185/15-B, Krishna Gali No. 4, Moujpur, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as RENU in my minor daughter namely VANSHIKA, aged 12 years in her School Record. The actual name of my wife is RENU DEVI respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Pradeep Kumar S/O Mr. Prithvi Singh is the owner of Freehold residential house No. 238 (Property ID-ICRU0861) Gali No. 2, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., situated at Lal Dora in the area of Village Sikanderpur Ghosi, Tehsil Wazirabad, District Gurugram, Haryana, by virtue of Transfer Deed Dated 21.05.2024 as Doc. No. 3442, in Book No. 1, Vol. No. 169/5607, on Pages 9.5411-44, on Dated 21.05.2024, SR- Wazirabad... in the chain documents below mentioned document not available i.e. Original Sale Deed Dated 16.11.2022, executed by Mr. Munshi & Mr. Jay Bhagwan in favour of Mrs. Manoj Devi as Doc. No. 15737, in Book No. 1, Vol. No. 3709, on Pages 183.25-56-56, on Dated 16.11.2022, SR- Wazirabad. Our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, which is to be financed by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch- Gurugram, Haryana... If any person(s) have any objections(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 or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

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

NEWS BOX

Surprise rebel alliance could boost Sudan's beleaguered RSF

PORT SUDAN. Sudan's paramilitary Rapid Support Forces have signed a charter paving the way for a parallel government with its allies, including a former foe who analysts say could offer crucial territory, fighters and border access.

Since April 2023, a brutal war between the RSF and the regular army -- represented by the internationally recognised government currently based in Port Sudan -- has killed tens of thousands, uprooted 12 million and visited mass human rights violations upon civilians. Last month, the former US administration declared that the RSF had committed genocide in the western region of Darfur. Until last week, the lesser-known third party to the war was Abdelaziz al-Hilu, whose faction of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North had previously fought both the army and the RSF in the country's south.

In an unexpected turn of events, Hilu appeared in Nairobi last week, and his group was one of the key signatories to an RSF charter for a "government of peace and unity". If his battle-hardened fighters join forces with the RSF, analysts say it could significantly bolster the weakened paramilitaries, led by Mohamed Hamdan Daglo (widely known as Hemedti).

After weeks of losses as the army charges through the country, the new rebel alliance could also grant key border access to RSF-friendly east African states.

On the back foot

The RSF has conquered nearly all of Darfur, but is unable to cement its hold on the region and appears on the verge of losing all of the capital Khartoum to the army. "Hemedti is on his back foot," Marc Lavergne, a professor at France's University of Tours, told AFP.

Who is Friedrich Merz, Conservative leader set to become new German Chancellor

World Germany's conservative leader, Friedrich Merz, is poised to lead the nation after his party, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), won the largest vote share in the country's general elections, overtaking Olaf Scholz's center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD).

At 69 years old, Merz, a long-time rival of ex-chancellor Angela Merkel within the CDU, has led the center-right Union bloc through the election campaign, which consistently outpaced polling.

Known for his strong business background, including roles at investment fund BlackRock and various corporate boards that made him a millionaire, Merz has never held a government leadership position.

Despite this, he seeks to project a statesman-like persona, confident in his ability to deal with unpredictable global leaders, such as US President Donald Trump, whom he has described as "predictably unpredictable."

Merz, a trained lawyer, has been a vocal critic of Merkel's open-door migrant policy, which led to tensions within the CDU, especially regarding support from the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) on controversial issues in parliament. His fiery rhetoric was directed at Scholz and his government throughout the campaign, particularly as he railed against the perceived failures of the "green-left" coalition. Merz, although lacking strong personal approval ratings, was seen as the favored challenger to Scholz, positioning himself as the remedy to what he has labeled "three lost years" for Germany.

Trump fires 1,600 USAID employees, others sent on indefinite paid leave

WASHINGTON. Most employees at USAID will be placed on leave or fired by midnight on Sunday, the aid agency said, as President Donald Trump's administration plows ahead in slashing government spending.

Around 1,600 workers based in the United States will be laid off in a "reduction-in-force" effort, according to a notice on the US Agency for International Development's website. All other staff directly hired by USAID will be placed on administrative leave globally, except those responsible for "mission-critical functions, core leadership and/or specially designated programs."

The move is a step forward in Trump's effort to dismantle USAID, which has more than 10,000 employees and operates an array of humanitarian and development programs around the world.

The agency announced earlier this month that all staff would be placed on administrative leave -- a directive that faced legal challenges. But on Friday, a federal judge lifted an order pausing the Trump administration's implementation of plans to gut USAID. In its statement on Sunday, the agency said that remaining staff expected to continue working would be informed by management by 5:00 pm (2200 GMT) that day. USAID added that it will fund return travel expenses for staff based overseas. "In the coming week, we will provide details on how to retrieve personal items from the former USAID workspaces and return government issued devices," it said. Trump and his allies -- including billionaire donor Elon Musk -- allege USAID is rife with "fraud," but have provided little proof of the accusations. Its budget of more than \$40 billion is mandated by Congress, with its programs ranging from governance to life-saving food assistance. The decades-old agency has, over the years, faced criticism in the aid sector for its overhead costs and questions on whether some of its programs achieve their objectives. USAID has, however, also been a key US tool of global "soft power" -- the ability of a country to persuade others through its attractiveness.

Zelenskyy says debt label on US aid to Ukraine would open 'Pandora's box'

Kyiv,UPDATED. A contentious Trump administration proposal to give the US \$500 billion worth of profits from Ukraine's rare earth minerals as compensation for its wartime assistance to Kyiv has been taken off the table, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday, indicating a more equitable deal is in the works. Zelenskyy had earlier declined a US draft agreement on exploitation of his country's valuable minerals such as lithium used in the aerospace, defense and nuclear industries because it did not contain security guarantees and came with the \$500 billion price tag. "The question of \$500 billion is no longer there," Zelenskyy told a news conference at a forum of government officials in Kyiv marking the three-year anniversary of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The Ukrainian leader said considering aid as a debt to be repaid would be a "Pandora's box" that would set a precedent requiring Kyiv to reimburse all its backers. "We do not recognize the debt," Zelenskyy said. "It will not be in the final format of the agreement."

No further details were given on the state of negotiations. Ukraine has insisted on security guarantees that it needs to deter any potential Russian aggression in the future. Trump's special envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, said on CNN's "State of the Union" that he expects a deal this week allowing the US to play a greater role in exploiting Ukraine's mineral resources. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the administration's minerals plan was to create a US-Ukraine partnership, calling it a "win-win." "We make money if the Ukrainian people make money," Bessent told Fox News Channel's Sunday Morning Futures program. Zelenskyy's chief of staff, Andrii Yermak, left the Kyiv forum early along with Economic Minister Yuliia Svyrydenko for what Yermak said were talks with US officials on a potential deal. Later Sunday, Yermak posted on social media that he'd spoken with US officials, including Bessent and Trump's national



security adviser Mike Walz, saying it had been a "constructive conversation." "We are making progress," Yermak wrote. "The USA is our partner and we are grateful to the American people." **ZELENSKY SAYS HE'D GIVE UP PRESIDENCY FOR NATO MEMBERSHIP** In response to a pointed question from a reporter on whether he would give up his presidency for peace in Ukraine, Zelenskyy said he would if it achieved a durable end to

the fighting under the security umbrella of the NATO military alliance. "If to achieve peace, you really need me to give up my post, I'm ready," he said. "I can trade it for NATO." His comment appeared to be aimed at recent suggestions by President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin that elections should be held despite Ukrainian legislation prohibiting them during martial law.

UKRAINE FEARS TRUMP'S POLICY SHIFT TOWARD PUTIN

Trump's engagement with Russian officials and his recent agreement to reopen diplomatic ties and economic cooperation with Moscow have marked a dramatic about-face in US policy that has rattled leaders in Ukraine and across Europe. Zelenskyy has expressed fear that Trump pushing a quick resolution would result in Ukraine losing territory and being left vulnerable to future Russian aggression.

Jane Fonda's speech at SAG awards: 'Woke just means you give a damn about other people'

UPDATED The 31st Screen Actors Guild Awards showered yet more awards on "Shogun," handed "A Real Pain" co-star Kieran Culkin another supporting actor win and featured a fiery moment of political resistance from Jane Fonda on Sunday. Host Kristen Bell introduced the ceremony, streaming live on Netflix from the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, as an ode to both the aspirational spirit of actors who come to Los Angeles to make it, and to the city, itself. The SAG Awards unfolded against the backdrop of the aftermath of the devastating wildfires that began in early January. Those fires forced the guild to cancel its in-person nominations announcement and launch a disaster relief fund for SAG-AFTRA members affected. Bell introduced attending firefighters as "the most attractive tables" among a sea of stars. Fonda, 87, given the guild's Life Achievement Award, provided the evening with its most passionately political moment. Fonda, a famed activist, spoke indirectly about President Donald Trump's administration. "We are in our



documentary moment," said Fonda. "This is it. And it's not a rehearsal." Fonda added that "woke just means you give a damn about other people." "A whole lot of people are going to be hurt by what's happening, by what's coming our way," said Fonda. "We are going to need a big tent to resist what's coming at us." Jean Smart, who had advocated for canceling award shows because of the wildfires, won best female actor in a comedy series for "Hacks." Smart didn't attend, but participated in a pre-taped introduction as her character, Deborah Vance. Also not in attendance:

Martin Short, though he upset Jeremy Allen White to win best male actor in a comedy series for "Only Murders in the Building." The Hulu series also won for best comedy ensemble. "Wait, we never win. This is so weird," said Selena Gomez. "Marty and Steve (Martin) aren't here because, you know, they don't really care." Colin Farrell won his first SAG award, for his performance in "The Penguin" and also became the first winner ever introduced, by Jamie Lee Curtis, as "the man who gave me COVID at the Golden Globes." Farrell bounded to the stage and promptly responded, "Guilty as charged," before blaming Brendan Gleeson for giving it to him.

The night's first televised award went to Culkin, who has won just about every award in the category. Gripping the SAG trophy, he could quickly tell the difference. "It is funny that the heaviest of all awards is given by actors," said Culkin, who characteristically riffed his way through a rambling acceptance speech before swearing sincerity: "Believe it or not, this actually means a lot to me."

Far-right AfD cheers historic gains in German polls: Next time we'll come first

Berlin. For the first time since the Second World War, a far-right party has come second in a German national election, a result that will keep it outside government but make it a fearsome opponent of the ruling parties. The Alternative for Germany, which has morphed since it was founded in 2013 from a party of libertarian economists to an anti-immigration, pro-Russia group, is forecast to have won the backing of one-in-five Germans. The AfD has little chance of joining the government as the other parties maintain a "fire wall" to keep it out of office, but leader Alice Weidel implied in her victory speech that it was only a matter of time before that changed. Our hand remains outstretched to form a government," she told supporters, adding that it would be tantamount to "electoral fraud" if the first-placed conservatives



chose to govern with left-wing parties rather than them. If that happened, she said, "next time we'll come first." Weidel, the leader of a nativist party that preaches traditional family values while raising her children with a Swiss-based woman of Sri Lankan background, said the AfD was now "a mainstream party." Once internationally isolated, it now has an

ally in the White House, where Donald Trump's adviser Elon Musk, the world's richest person, regularly posts his support. "It's the most amazing feeling. I've been here since its founding and to see it on 20% is amazing. We'll be kept out of coalition, but as you can see, the conservatives are taking all of our positions," said Gilbert Kalb, an AfD member celebrating at the party's headquarters. If cheers were slightly muted, that was because, although its vote share doubled since 2021, the result fell short of the more optimistic expectations. Traditionally a pensioners' party, the AfD made inroads among the young, many of whom have experienced years of sluggish economic growth. Exit poll data indicated 22% of 25-to-34-year-olds voted for the party, compared to 10% of those aged 70 and over.

Ukraine-Russia war 3 years on: Trump's dramatic policy shift rattles world

World Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a "special military operation" to "demilitarise and denazify" Ukraine on February 24, 2022. This was the beginning of the ongoing war between the two neighbouring nations that has so far killed, injured and displaced hundreds of thousands of people and reduced cities to ashes. As the war marks its third anniversary today, Russia controls nearly one-fifth of Ukraine - or an area about the size of the US state of Ohio - including Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014, about 75 per cent of the Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions and more than 99 per cent of the Luhansk region. As the raging war marks its third anniversary today, the world is witnessing a major policy shift as Ukraine's ties with the US, the country's biggest military backer, have rapidly deteriorated since Donald Trump's return to the White House in January. The US President's engagement with Russian officials and Washington's so-called peace talks with Moscow aimed at ending the war without Kyiv's consent, has rattled leaders and allies across the world.

While Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has expressed concerns that Trump's pressure for a quick resolution to end the war would result in the battered nation losing territory and being left vulnerable to future Russian aggression, American officials have asserted that he would be involved in the peace talks when they officially begin. On February 12, Trump and



President Vladimir Putin spoke about improving relations and ending the war, and was followed by a meeting between US and Russian officials in Riyadh on February 18. Zelenskyy, however, has rejected the outcome of US-Russia talks, while asserting that there would be "no talks behind Kyiv's back", triggering a public spat between him and the US President.

While Zelenskyy described Trump as "living in a Russian disinformation bubble", the US President called his Ukrainian counterpart a "dictator" and a "modestly successful comedian".

Trump hit back, describing Ukraine's wartime leader as a "dictator without elections," referring to the absence of a democratic vote in Ukraine since 2019.

On Sunday, the Ukrainian leader also announced that he would "give up" his presidency in exchange for peace. "If you need me to leave this chair, I am ready to do that. And I also can exchange it for Nato membership for Ukraine," he told reporters. EUROPE'S SHOW OF STRENGTH FOR UKRAINE

In a show of strength amid the worsening US-Ukraine relations, European Union leaders will head to Kyiv on Monday in an effort to devise a response to the Trump administration's policy changes.

Pope Francis in critical condition after 'mild kidney failure', remains alert

Pope Francis receiving high oxygen flows, but no recent respiratory crises

Doctors say some blood tests showed 'initial, mild, kidney failure'

Global prayers for Francis amid speculation of his potential resignation

Rome. Pope Francis remained in critical condition on Sunday and blood tests showed early kidney failure, but he remained alert, responsive and attended Mass, the Vatican said, as the 88-year-old pontiff battles pneumonia and a complex lung infection.

In a late update, the Vatican said Francis hadn't had any more respiratory crises since Saturday night but was still receiving high flows of supplemental oxygen. Some blood tests showed "initial, mild,

kidney failure", but doctors said it was under control. "The complexity of the clinical picture, and the necessary wait for drug therapies to provide some feedback, dictate that the prognosis remains guarded," Francis' doctors concluded. Prayers for Francis, meanwhile, poured in from around the world, from his native Argentina to the seat of Sunni Islam in Cairo to schoolchildren in Rome.

In New York, Cardinal Timothy Dolan admitted what church leaders in Rome weren't saying publicly: that the Catholic faithful were united "at the bedside of a dying father." "As our Holy Father, Pope Francis is in very, very fragile health, and probably close to death," Dolan said in his homily from the pulpit of St. Patrick's Cathedral, though he later told reporters he hoped and prayed that Francis would "bounce back." Doctors have said Francis' condition is touch-and-go, given his age, fragility and pre-existing lung disease.

His condition has revived speculation about what might happen if he becomes unconscious or otherwise incapacitated, and whether he might resign.

PRAYERS FOR POPE AT VATICAN



Francis was supposed to celebrate Mass on Sunday morning in St. Peter's Basilica and ordain deacons as part of the Vatican's year-long Holy Year commemoration. The organiser of the Holy Year, Archbishop Rino Fisichella, celebrated the Mass in his place and offered a special prayer for Francis from the altar before delivering the homily the pope had prepared.

"Even though he is in a hospital bed, we feel Pope Francis close to us. We feel him present among us," Fisichella told the hundreds of white-robed deacons.

A pre-written message that had been prepared for Francis to read Sunday, but he did not deliver, said he was "confidently continuing my hospitalisation at the Gemelli Hospital, carrying on with the

necessary treatment; and the rest is also part of the therapy!" The message asked for prayers for him -- as he always asks -- and noted the upcoming anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, "a painful and shameful occasion for the whole of humanity." Meanwhile, in Francis' native Argentina, Catholics prayed for the pope at the Buenos Aires cathedral and the city's iconic obelisk was lit up: "Francis, the city prays for you." In Cairo, the grand imam of Al-Azhar, the seat of Sunni learning who forged a close bond with Francis, wished him well. "I pray to Allah to grant my dear brother, Pope Francis, a swift recovery and to bless him with good health and well-being so that he may continue his journey in serving humanity," Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb wrote in a Facebook post. The American Jewish Committee also offered prayers. "We stand together with our Catholic brothers and sisters during this challenging time," the group wrote on X.

And school children from around Rome deluged the Gemelli hospital with get-well cards, while Italian bishops led rosary prayers and celebrated special Masses across Italy.

NEWS BOX

AIIMS-Bhubaneswar opens liver transplantation clinic



BHUBANESWAR. Even as it gets ready to start liver transplantation services soon, the AIIMS-Bhubaneswar on Saturday opened a dedicated clinic for the purpose in the gastroenterology department.

The clinic will operate from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm at the Gastro OPD complex every Tuesday. Patients requiring liver transplantation will be screened and subsequently a waiting list will be prepared. Executive director Dr Ashutosh Biswas said as the national institute is set to commence the liver transplantation procedure soon, a dedicated clinic to evaluate patients suffering from end-stage liver disease (ESLD) was essential.

"We have already started kidney transplantation and the service is running successfully. A set of surgeons and trained support staff are with us now. Once the liver transplantation commences, it will bridge the gap in liver care and offer a ray of hope to countless patients, who are forced to go out of the state and spend lakhs," he said.

The liver transplantation clinic will be jointly managed by the departments of surgical gastroenterology, gastroenterology, paediatric surgery and paediatrics. It will cater to patients from Odisha and neighbouring states, offering comprehensive assessment and treatment.

Drusya Vedika audience club holds classical dance recital, social play



VIJAYAWADA. Drusya Vedika, a Vijayawada-based audience club, organised a cultural evening on Sunday at Velidandla Hanumantharaya Grandhalayam Hall. The event began with a traditional Kuchipudi dance recital by the disciples of Ch Ajay Kumar. Around 25 dance artists performed classical pieces such as Ganapathi Talam, Bho Sambho, Ananda Tandavam, and Siva Thandavam, earning applause from the audience.

Following the dance recital, a social play titled 'Angikam Bhuvanam Asya' was staged. Written by A Hrudaya Raj and directed by Ramesh Babu Vempati, the play depicted the struggles and ambitions of theatre artists despite their everyday hardships. The cast included Vempati Ramesh, Pogarthi Nageswara Rao, Dundi Krishna, Sridhar, Saritha, and Rajeswari. Chief guests Devineni Kishore Kumar and Ambati Madhumohan Krishna praised the artists and organisers for their efforts in promoting cultural arts. The event was coordinated by Naren Borra, Kathi Syam Prasad, and Evani Ramesh Babu.

Four arrested for detaining 2 men, demanding Rs 5L

The Triplicane police said that one of the victim, Farman, was a textile businessman in Rajasthan.

CHENNAI. Four men were arrested on charges of forcibly detaining two men from Rajasthan at a lodge in Triplicane and demanding money from them. The police said that one of the accused had befriended one of the victims, who was in Rajasthan, on social media and invited him to Chennai. The Triplicane police said that one of the victim, Farman, was a textile businessman in Rajasthan. He had befriended M Muhamed Khalid (26) of Chennai through social media. Farman's sister died recently and to console him Khalid invited him to Chennai.

On Tuesday, Farman came to Triplicane and was staying at a lodge there. Farman's friend Muhammad Munajur from Rajasthan also had come to Chennai and visited him on Thursday.

The same day, Khalid and three of his friends came to the room. They forcibly detained Farman and Munajur, and demanded Rs 5 lakh from them. The duo were beaten with an iron rod. Munajur managed to pay Rs 6,000 using a mobile application and was then let go. Munajur immediately lodged a police complaint based on which the police went to the lodge and rescued Farman.

Apart from Khalid, the police arrested S Syed Fazal Ahmed (38), N Irfan Basha (24), and M Yuvraj (24). After an inquiry, all four were sent to judicial custody on Saturday. A search is on to nab one more person.

Special court questions IO for giving a go-by to accused in Karnataka

The court, however, discharged Geetha HR, Assistant Engineer, BBMP, from the case.

BENGALURU. The special court for Lokayukta cases pointed out that investigation officers, giving a go-by to accused top officials while filing chargesheets in most cases, depend on the status, position, power and influence of the culprits without assigning any reasons.

This despite incriminating materials against them, said the court and directed the Lokayukta DGP to take up further investigation into the multi-crore Transferable Development Rights (TDR) scam in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and submit the report within two months.

Judge KM Radhakrishna passed the order, while rejecting the application filed by four accused to discharge them from the case taken up suo motu in 2019 with respect to TDR in Kowdenahalli village in Bengaluru East taluk. The chargesheet was filed by then SP Uma Prashanth of the Anti-Corruption Bureau. The court, however, discharged Geetha HR, Assistant Engineer, BBMP, from the case.

"The note sheet found on pages 1277 to 1307 of Book-C in the chargesheet, prima facie unfurls the involvement of not only accused No 1 to 8, 10 but also officials of the TDR section of Mahadevapura. Particularly, the



Superintending Engineer (Road Infrastructure), Deputy Commissioner, Joint Commissioner, Additional Commissioner including Special Commissioner (Planning) and Commissioner of BBMP by involving the village accountant, surveyor, assistant revenue officer of Horamavu and others, in committing the alleged offences.

The most unfortunate action on the part of the investigation officer is giving go-by to all these officials and laying the chargesheet with incomplete investigation against accused No 1 to 8, 10 and 11. No reasons are assigned by her to ignore those against whom incriminating materials are forthcoming," the court said. Stating that it is for the investigating officer to introspect and explain the reasons, the court

observed that this is what investigation officers are doing in most cases, depending on the status, position, power and influence of real culprits. Such an approach needs to be curtailed to ensure faith and transparency in the system. The investigation in this case is obviously incomplete and warrants further investigation to ensure effective justice in the true sense, it added.

Uma Prashanth in the chargesheet against 11 accused, alleged that in 2009, the BBMP had notified 652 square metres of portions of houses and buildings on Survey No. 7 at Kowdenahalli and acquired them to widen TC Palya and Varanasi roads.

Accused from Numbers 1 to 11 conspired with a common intention to get wrongful gain, manipulated, created and forged documents in the name of the 1st accused, in collusion with TDR agents, in violation of government orders, notifications and rules, the chargesheet read. They projected the excess land and fixed inflated rates for 2012-13 rather than the applicable rates of 2013-14 to the extent of crores of rupees. They caused a monetary loss to the true owners of the notified area as well as BBMP by suppressing the truth, it stated.

BJP leader P C George surrenders before Kerala court in hate speech case

KOTTAYAM. BJP leader P C George surrendered before a court in Erattupetta in this district, on Monday in connection with a hate speech case.

"We have received information that George has appeared before the court," a police officer told reporters here. George's move came as the police sought to take him into custody after the Kerala High Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea.

On Saturday, George had requested the police for an extension until February 24 to appear before them for investigation in connection with the hate speech case. Dismissing his petition, the High Court observed that granting bail in such a case would send the wrong message to society.

George, a former MLA, was accused of delivering a hate speech against a minority community during a TV channel discussion. He approached the High Court after the Kottayam District Sessions Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea in the case registered by the Erattupetta police.

No need to be in final year to give Teachers Eligibility Test: Madras High Court

The board was challenging an order passed by a single judge of the court setting aside the rejection of the candidature of five TET candidates in the 2022 TET exam.

MADURAI. Observing that teacher training students need not be in the final year of their course for them to be eligible to write Teachers Eligibility Test (TET), the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court recently dismissed an appeal filed by the Teachers Recruitment Board.

The board was challenging an order passed by a single judge of the court setting aside the rejection of the candidature of five TET candidates in the 2022 TET exam. The candidates, though successful in the written examination, were later rejected by TRB as they were only in their second year of B.Ed degree while appearing for the exam.

A bench comprising justices J Nisha Banu and S Srimathy, who heard the appeal, referred to a



judgment passed by the Supreme Court in 2021, in which it had been held that declaration of result, date of filling up of the forms, appearing in the examination, etc. cannot be the criteria to appear for the TET examination.

The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) had also clarified its guidelines on August 4, 2022 by stating that a person who has been admitted in the training course and pursuing it can appear in the TET. Hence, the rejection of the petitioners' candidature is not justified, the judges

NTR police recover 372 lost phones worth Rs 60 lakh

M Raja Rajan, president of TNHB Colony Welfare Association, is worried that the construction might further result in the loss of trees.



VIJAYAWADA. The NTR district cyber crime police recovered and returned 372 lost mobile phones worth Rs 60 lakh on Sunday.

Speaking to the media at the Command Control Room, Commissioner of Police (CP) SV Rajasekhar Babu stated that the lost phones were tracked using advanced technology. He added

that more than 2,000 mobile phones had been recovered and returned to their rightful owners. Special teams under the cybercrime police station were formed to trace and locate the missing phones using modern technology. "Mobile phones play a crucial role as they store personal data, bank details, and government identity

cards linked to various services," the CP said. He urged the public to utilise the ChatBot mobile application to report lost phones. "This tool enables citizens to report missing devices without visiting a police station. By sending a 'Hi' message to 9440627057 via WhatsApp, users receive a link to a portal where they can submit details such as name, address, International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number, and the phone's last known location," he explained.

CP Babu also cautioned the public against rising frauds involving investment scams, digital arrests, and lottery schemes. He warned that individuals earning money through such means could become accused, as the funds they received might belong to victims of cyber fraud.

Under the Suraksha initiative, city police plan to install 2,000 CCTV cameras in March to enhance security, he added.

Kerala opposition alleges lapses in corporation's canal revival projects

KOCHI. Opposition councillors have alleged lapses in Kochi corporation's canal-rejuvenation projects.

According to opposition leader Antony Kureethara, the civic body received administrative approval for rejuvenation of five canals in 2019, following the 2018 floods.

"But that activity and work on the Konthuruthy canal are yet to be completed even though a DPR for the 1,528 crore project was prepared," he said. UDF councillors accused the mayor of conducting seminars and exhibitions, instead of completing the projects.

"The mayor is trying to divert attention by organising seminars on new canal projects, without even being able to complete revival of the 'chantakulam' at Erakulam Market, which is just 700 metres long," he added.

Parliamentary party secretary M G Aristotle said that even the '180

crore Amrut project for the TP Canal is yet to be completed, urging revival of the market canal.

Canal expo The six-day exhibition on the history of the Thevara-Perandoor canal, organised by the Centre for



Heritage, Environment and Development (C-Hed) as part of the United Nations Environment Programme, will conclude on Tuesday. The exhibition, being held at Subhash Park, aims to create public awareness on the significance and history of the canal.

Ambulance driver refuses to ply on damaged road in Coimbatore, tribals carry body in doli for 3 km

Forest department officials confirmed that the road was full of potholes for three kms and vehicles cannot be operated on it.

COIMBATORE. Sending a strong message to authorities to lay road, a group of tribal men took the body of man in a doli (makeshift cradle) and walked for over three km from Neeradi to Kadambankombai near Karamadai on Saturday. According to sources, Mani (48) of Kadambankombai died due to heart attack in the Mettupalayam government hospital, and the body taken in an ambulance. After reaching Neeradi, the driver refused to proceed further citing lack of proper road. Subsequently, a group of men wrapped Mani's body in cloth and carried it in a doli on their shoulders for

three km and buried it near their settlement. The video of the incident went viral on Sunday. Tribal people said they have been requesting the Karamadai forest range officials and Mettupalayam tahsildar to lay a road to Kadambankombai coming under Nellithurai panchayat so that 15 families who have been residing there will benefit. Forest department officials confirmed that the road was full of potholes for three kms and vehicles cannot be operated on it. "We are aware of the people's suffering. We are planning to send the proposal to the government again," said an official in the Coimbatore forest division.



The transformation more women teachers could bring

The participation of women in India's teaching workforce has seen a significant transformation over the years. According to the latest data from the Unified District Information System for Education, the number of women school teachers increased from 47.1 lakh (49.98 percent) in 2018-19 to 52.3 lakh (53.34 percent) in 2023-24. Women first surpassed the halfway mark in 2019-20, and their representation has steadily grown.

However, disparities persist between private and government schools, with private institutions showing a higher rate of women teacher participation—a 20 percent rise in recent years. Important reasons for this could be their urban-centric locations, which reduce commuting challenges and perhaps better facilities. However, these positions often come with lower salaries, reflecting societal perceptions of women as secondary income earners. Among government schools, states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Punjab lead in female teacher representation—at 78, 67 and 64 percent of the respective totals.

Higher education remains a male-dominated domain. Data from the 2021-22 All India Survey on Higher Education shows that women constitute only 43 percent of faculty members. Globally, women dominate teaching roles in primary and secondary education but face a significant drop in tertiary education. According to Unesco, 68 percent of primary and 54 percent of secondary teachers are women, but only 41 percent of tertiary educators are female. In countries like Latvia and Russia, women represent over 80 percent of primary teachers, while in Sub-Saharan Africa, the figure drops to 41 percent due to systemic and cultural barriers. In India, women's underrepresentation in higher education reflects deeper societal biases, such as gender discrimination, lack of mentorship, and the disproportionate burden of household responsibilities.

Many scholarly studies have demonstrated the positive impact of female teachers on students' academic and emotional development. Women bring unique strengths such as empathy, communication skills and nurturing abilities that foster supportive learning environments. Moreover, gender balance among teachers reflects an equitable and inclusive society, and research shows that students, particularly girls, perform better when taught by female educators. Female teachers also play a critical role in addressing sensitive issues like menstruation taboos and child marriage, which often impede girls' education in developing countries. However, systemic challenges such as inadequate salaries, unsafe transportation, workplace harassment, and expensive certification processes deter women from entering or advancing in the teaching profession. The dual burden of professional and household responsibilities further limits their capacity for career growth. To address these challenges, institutions must implement family-friendly policies, such as flexible work hours and childcare support. Governments must adopt targeted measures to address these barriers and promote gender equity in education. Providing housing allowances, transport facilities, and enhanced safety measures for women in remote schools can significantly improve their participation. Expanding financial aid for women pursuing education degrees and offering leadership training can empower women to take on administrative roles.

Bangladesh's initiative to provide stipends for female teachers in rural areas is a successful model worthy of emulation. Addressing regional disparities and incentivising women's participation in underrepresented areas would not only improve gender parity but also enhance the overall quality of education. In early childhood and primary education, female teachers are particularly effective. Studies in educational psychology highlight that classrooms led by female teachers show a 20 percent higher rate of inclusive participation. Women often integrate social-emotional learning and employ cooperative teaching methods that cater to the diverse needs of students.

Rooting for distinct branches on a strong tree

This wasn't the first time that the separation of powers was questioned while selecting the chief election commissioner. Where should the line be drawn, by whom?

India's 26th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) has taken charge. There was expected political noise before and during the appointment of Gyanesh Kumar, and that noise is not to be frowned upon in a democracy. One has to only see the combativeness of the confirmation process for President Donald Trump's nominees in the US to value this noise. Having said that, let us get into the quality of the noise generated. Rahul Gandhi, who was on the panel to select the CEC, handed over a dissent note. His primary objection was that the selection panel should have included the Chief Justice of India (CJI), or the government should have waited until the top court decided on a petition that demanded it. The matter was to come up before the court on February 19 (it was not posted for judgement though), but the sitting CEC was retiring on February 18. Therefore, the selection panel met a day before to pick a new CEC. The government's outer layer of defence was in this chronology.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court did not seem to be in any great hurry to hear the petition on February 19. It was reported that both the judge who was to hear it and the solicitor general were tied up with other cases. For some perspective, in a March 2023 judgement, the Supreme Court had included the CJI as a member of the selection panel, but the government had overturned this instantly by amending the law. Interestingly, on February 15, in what looked like perfect timing in a perfect setting, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, speaking at the National Judicial Academy, raised a larger issue of principle. He asked if a CJI should get himself involved in executive appointments. He said the involvement of the judiciary in executive matters presented a "constitutional paradox". He felt there was a need to ensure each institution operated within its own domain. It was a valid question, and an assertion of the separation of powers.

The Dinesh Goswami committee in 1990 had not only recommended that the election commission be a multi-member body, but had also said the CJI should be on the panel to pick the CEC. From 1993 on, the commission became a multi-member body, but no government allowed the CJI to sit on the selection panel. The apparent reasoning here could be, as much as the CEC is expected to be non-partisan, shouldn't the CJI also be kept free from the worldly business of appointments so that he is not mixed up when petitions against the CEC and the

election body lands up before him? Also, if one were to implicitly trust the neutrality of the chair that the CJI occupies, then by definition such trust should be extended to the CEC too. It is entirely possible that the chair quietly places the weight of history and legacy on the occupant and enables him to act independently. At least, that is the trust with which a democracy operates.

When such is the case, should Rahul Gandhi have merely dissented, which is his right, or implant doubt as he did? He had said the CEC appointment was a "midnight operation". Are the two—doubt and dissent—same or is there a line of separation? In the recent past, Gandhi has had a problem with all things related to



elections—electronic voting machines, electoral rolls, the integrity of the election commission, and now, the appointment of a new CEC. To add to this, there is the story of foreign funds to boost voter turnout. To the ghost of George Soros there is now the appendage of USAID.

In all fairness, Rahul Gandhi is not the only leader of opposition to embrace distrust wholesomely. L K Advani, as leader of opposition, cast deep doubts on any and all actions of the Sonia Gandhi-Manmohan Singh regime. For instance, Navin Chawla as both an election commissioner and CEC stoked controversy. As a commissioner, he was accused of unabashedly siding with the Congress by his own boss, N Gopalaswami, the CEC. Gopalaswami wrote to the president seeking his dismissal. Not only was he not dismissed, but Chawla

was made the CEC after Gopalaswami's retirement in 2009. Chawla went on to handle the 2009 general election in which, incidentally, the Congress-led coalition retained power. But tragically, under another CEC they appointed, V S Sampath, the Congress coalition was swept out of power in 2014. Similarly, under a CEC the Modi regime appointed in 2018, they saw a spectacular victory in 2019, but under another CEC they appointed in 2022, Rajiv Kumar, they saw an embarrassing loss of majority in 2024.

From 1950 till 1993, the election commission had only a CEC. When the Narasimha Rao government made it a multi-member body, the then strongman-CEC, T N Seshan, opposed the move in the Supreme Court, but lost. Making the CEC a multi-member body was in line with what the Goswami committee had recommended. The commission was indebted to the Justice V M Tarkunde committee that had worked under the guidance of Jayaprakash Narayan in 1974, just when the Emergency was looming.

One part of the Emergency's history is about election fraud petitions and doubts about the overseeing body. After the 1971 elections that gave Indira Gandhi a massive win, there were multiple petitions in the Supreme Court, and the one by Jan Sangh leader Balraj Madhok was particularly sensational because he charged Indira Gandhi with using chemicalised ballots.

The assignments CECs undertook post retirement have also created retrospective doubt on their non-partisan attitude. After all the talk of uprightness, T N Seshan in 1999 contested the Lok

Sabha elections on a Congress ticket against Advani. MS Gill became a minister in the Manmohan Singh government, and V S Rama Devi became a governor. Despite these examples, appointments made by the executive branch have had diverse representation and wider accountability than one directed by the judiciary. For instance, the story of J M Lyngdoh's appointment as election commissioner in 1997 by H D Deve Gowda was a culmination of his peculiar search for a Northeastern Christian candidate. Gowda wanted to signal to the Northeast, where he had politically and emotionally invested heavily, that he had their interests at heart. Lyngdoh turned out to be a shining example of probity and public service. Nobody complained about Deve Gowda.

Surprise choice

BJP snubs top aspirants for Delhi CM's post



Parvesh, son of former Delhi CM Sahib Singh Verma, presumed that he had done enough to bag the top post

In recent years, the BJP has developed a knack for springing a surprise while selecting chief ministers. Delhi is no exception. The party has picked first-time MLA and former councillor Rekha Gupta, dashing the hopes of prominent aspirants like ex-MP Parvesh Verma and three-time MLA Vijendra Gupta. The choice bears the Sangh stamp—Rekha cut her political teeth on the platform of the ABVP, the RSS-affiliated student organisation. The BJP is expecting her to go all out to implement the women-centric schemes spelt out in the party manifesto. These schemes, including the monthly aid of Rs 2,500 each for Delhi's women—Rs 400 more than what the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) promised—played a key role in the BJP's remarkable victory. The decision to choose a lesser-known face underscores the party's strategy to sideline heavyweights, who might become too big for their boots if they are given the all-important chair.

when he defeated AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal. Vijendra, who has now been elected Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, was also fancying his chances after achieving a hat-trick of wins. Both have no option now but to help the CM run the government smoothly, thanks to the party top brass' ability to nip discord in the bud. The template of preferring a low-profile, compliant CM has been tried out by the BJP with success in several states, such as Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Haryana. Yogi Adityanath is a rare one who can hold his own before PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, even as party chief JP Nadda himself remains relegated to the shadows. An impression has gained ground that double-engine governments are being run largely from the Capital. The Rekha Gupta-led dispensation is set to take the same route. And there will be no scope for excuses if the new Delhi government fails to meet the people's great expectations.

Don't choke education budget to enforce NEP

There is near-unanimous consensus in Tamil Nadu against the three-language formula the Centre is trying to enforce through the National Education Policy. Holding back funds allocated for education in the state amounts to coercion

School education has been the subject of many disputes in India, particularly regarding what and how to teach. One recent dispute involves Chief Minister M K Stalin's strong condemnation of the Union government for reallocating funds intended for Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) scheme to other, BJP-ruled states. This is not an isolated incident. More and more states ruled by opposition parties have accused the Centre of discrimination in distributing discretionary transfers. The funds due for Tamil Nadu under the SSA were not released on the pretext that the state government had not signed a memorandum for implementing the PM-Shri schools, which requires implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) in Tamil Nadu—which this state and many others have vehemently opposed. Freezing funds that constitute 7-8 percent of the state school education budget to impose a centralising agenda of the Union Government, which directly impacts lakhs of students, isn't just a blot on federalistic ethos, but is also a travesty of Indian democracy. Denying a state funds recommended by the constitutionally mandated 15th Finance Commission—unless it complies with the Centre's arbitrary and legally non-binding policies—is nothing short of authoritarian coercion. The Tamil Nadu government has been implementing a number of commendable aspects of the NEP through schemes such as Ennum Ezhuthum (for foundational literacy and numeracy), Pudhumai Penn (guidance for girl students to get into higher education), and the CM Breakfast scheme, many of which pre-date the NEP's rollout. On a number of fronts the state has surpassed NEP targets. For instance, the NEP aims to achieve a 50 percent gross enrolment ratio by 2030. But Tamil Nadu's GER in 2022 was already 51 percent, making it almost a decade ahead

in implementation. The Tamil Nadu government has primarily objected to the NEP on two grounds: the three-language policy with significant curriculum changes, and implementing the 5+3+4 system. Imposition of the three-language formula is being viewed as a measure to pave the way for Hindi to enter through the backdoor. A 2022 information request revealed that the Kendriya Vidyalayas in Tamil Nadu did not have a single Tamil Teacher. Paragraph 4.5 of the NEP initially states, "The three languages learned by children will be the choice of states and of course the students themselves." But a later part of the clause adds, "so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India". One can only assume that the other language would mostly be Hindi, and not Odia or Bengali. This is why many states such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka fear imposition of Hindi through manipulative mechanisms.

But this should not be viewed as a measure to deprive individuals of the opportunity to learn Hindi or any other language. The Dravidian parties in Tamil Nadu have never opposed the voluntary learning of Hindi or any other language—they only oppose their direct or indirect imposition. On the contrary, with 5,80,000 students appearing for the Prathmik exams in 2024, Tamil Nadu

has a legacy of large cohorts voluntarily choosing to learn Hindi. Another poignant question is why an education policy should deprive individuals of the freedom to learn international languages such as German, Japanese or Mandarin, given their strong economies face significant labour shortages and are seeking both skilled and unskilled workers from India.



This is pertinent because the Union government is insisting on liberal work visa regimes while negotiating trade agreements with various countries. Limiting access to foreign language learning, thus, impedes its

own policy objectives.

In Tamil Nadu, opposition to the three-language formula is not solely from the ruling party—it has garnered near-unanimous support across party lines, which should be understood as an expression of the collective will of the state's polity. The second point of contention is the NEP's recommendation to conduct public examinations for students in the third, fifth and eighth grades. The World Bank's research has identified that in developing economies, failing school exams is the biggest factor contributing to higher dropout rates, particularly among girls. So, to achieve high literacy, Tamil Nadu decided to introduce the first public exam after the 10th grade. This policy has ensured that the state maintains the highest GER for girls in the higher secondary.

The Centre's approach of directly imposing its ideological agenda on elected state governments through schools reinforces a centralisation fetish that we have seen increase over the last 10 years. The states that were denied funds—Kerala, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and West Bengal—are among the top performing states on NEP objectives that include bridging gender and social gaps as well as promoting equal opportunities. Instead of incentivising states that have performed well, the Centre is penalising them. Tamil Nadu is already squeezed for funds, receiving back only 29 paise for every '1 it contributes to the central kitty. Denial of apportioned funds to such a top-performing state will only hinder India's growth. Countries can prosper only when individual states thrive. What they require is more autonomy and solutions tailor-made for their socio-economic growth.



Do you often play dumb or intelligent at Workplace?



Do you often see your boss playing down his or her competence to appear warmer to you while you struggle to appear more intelligent to impress him or her at the workplace?

Do you often see your boss playing down his or her competence to appear warmer to you while you

struggle to appear more intelligent (which you may not be) to impress him or her at the workplace? Mind it that you are not alone.

According to interesting research, people at the workplace may adjust their behaviour to break stereotypes about themselves or match the stereotypes of others - even if it means playing dumb or giving the cold shoulder.

The team from Princeton University showed four experiments with approximately 150 to 200 participants in each.

They found that both supervisors and subordinates chose to present themselves in diverging ways either by trying to break down these stereotypes or by mirroring or "matching" the expected behaviour of the other person.

Past studies have shown that managers are typically seen as competent and cold while lower status employees may be seen as warm but not entirely competent.

"In doing this, people might actually talk past each other, making people have more of an awkward



misunderstanding," said Jillian Swencionis, lead author from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

"Our findings illustrate just how invasive perceived inequality and social hierarchies really are, impacting both interpersonal relationships and workplace encounters," the author added.

The stereotypes people hold about others may not necessarily be true so when they're trying to "match" the other person, they're matching what they think the other person is like.

"These kinds of diverging impression management strategies may be one reason for misunderstandings or otherwise awkward situations people have in these interactions," Swencionis noted in a paper published in the Journal of Experimental Social Psychology.

To reach this conclusion, researchers used Amazon's Mechanical Turk (artificial intelligence project), recruiting 202 participants. The studies show this clear pattern in which people are uncomfortable with status divides because of how they are stereotyped or perceived. As a result, they present themselves in diverging ways.

"The bigger picture is that supervisors trade off warmth and competence and subordinates know this. Someone seen as highly competent will seem colder, and someone seen as really warm will seem dumber, regardless of the fact that these dimensions don't really operate in opposition," explained Susan Fiske, study co-author from Princeton University.

Human resource managers, job applicants, reference-letter writers, organisational managers and candidate image handlers all need to know this, the authors noted.

3 types of bosses and how to deal with them

Identifying certain dominant traits of your boss could be the key to handling him/her in a tactful manner. Here are the types of bosses you could come across and how to deal with them.

As a professional, you are likely to deal with varied kinds of bosses, some easy to work with, while others, for the lack of a better word, a nightmare. While you may understand that the only option you have is to work around your boss' tantrums, the same can take a toll on your productivity. Here is a list of the boss species and what you should keep in mind when working with them:

LAIID-BACK

Laid-back bosses are known to be most comfortable to work with. While they do keep an eye on the work being done by the team, they usually stay aloof and only interfere when absolutely needed. Usually, this boss species understands that the quality of work matters and not the process. Neel Naik, copywriter, Leo Burnett agrees, "With a laid-back boss, you take initiative to improve yourself. That's because he doesn't interfere with your work.

He gives you the freedom to work in a setup that you are most comfortable in, and when the work is done on time, the boss knows he made the right choice by allowing that freedom. Laid back bosses never take your credit, unlike most other boss types. My boss simply wants the work to get done. He doesn't care about anything else as long as that keeps happening." In a nutshell, laid back bosses are realistic, practical and believe in getting the task at hand completed without interfering in their team's creativity.

Work Tip: Though your boss doesn't interfere,



always keep him in the loop and seek suggestions to avoid issues in the future.

UNTRUSTWORTHY

A boss who hovers over every step taken by his team mates, an untrustworthy boss is probably the most difficult to deal with. Not only are such bosses hyper, but they also tend to constantly pick on unreasonable issues, disguising them as mistakes and trying to correct

them. Consequently, the attrition rate of such bosses is high. Shares Ashima Jain, who works with a travel agency based in Mumbai, "My manager would constantly pick on team members, often without a concrete reason.

Since we are a travel planning agency, most of our work depends on a client's needs. But unfortunately, my boss refuses to understand this and often imposes

his decisions on us, and in turn, on the client. This has not only led to a loss of business, but also hindered us from meeting our targets.

His lack of trust is a major factor for the number of people quitting the team."

Work Tip: Before beginning an assignment, seek their guidance and constantly update them about the progress to avoid team clashes and criticism.

MICROMANAGER

The trait of a typical micromanager is someone who wants to be a part of each task that his/her team undertakes. Right from why a team mate is late to work, to wanting to know the details of even the smallest work undertaken. Working with a micromanager, though daunting at most times, can sometimes be positive. Rahil Shah, who works with a telecommunication company, says, "My boss insists on knowing the details of the work we put in every hour. Whether it is answering simple client queries to how we are preparing for a multi-team presentation, he needs to know it all. I have been questioned a number of times on why I came to work a few minutes late, an issue other team managers would never consider."

While most professionals are not comfortable with being micromanaged, most often, a continuous evaluation by the boss helps them meet their targets and also allows them to pitch for a better annual appraisal. Though a few micromanagers are harsh on their team, often breaking their team morale, most of them keep a hawk's eye on the work undertaken to maintain the quality and meet deadlines.

Work Tip: If you are aware that your boss wants to be a part of everything, make sure he/she is well informed about the work you do, your weekly work plan as well as your achievements on a regular basis. This will help avoid conflict.

Chaos as cops block Congress workers' march to Rajasthan Assembly over 'dadi' dig

During a discussion in the Rajasthan Assembly on February 21, state Minister Avinash Gehlot made the controversial "in your Dadi's name" remarks, seen as an allusion to former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

New Delhi. Congress workers on Monday staged a massive protest outside the Rajasthan Assembly in Jaipur amid an ongoing uproar over a Rajasthan minister's controversial remarks against former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The protest, however, turned violent as the demonstrators clashed with police as they were stopped from marching towards the Assembly where the Budget Session is currently underway. Videos of the protest showed participants trying to climb police barricades, with some resorting to physical altercation. Videos of the protest showed participants trying to climb police barricades, with some resorting to physical altercation. Videos of the protest showed participants trying to climb police barricades, with some resorting to physical altercation.

The Congress and said, "In the 2023-24 budget also, like always, you named the scheme after your 'dadi' (grandmother) Indira Gandhi." The remark triggered an immediate uproar in the House, which led to three adjournments and the suspension of six Congress MLAs, including state party chief Govind Singh Dotasara, for the rest of the Budget session. Since then, Congress legislators have staged a sit-in at the premises demanding an apology from Avinash Gehlot. Assembly proceedings witnessed three adjournments on Monday as Congress MLAs continued sloganeering against the controversial remarks and the suspension of legislators. While the Congress has continued lashing out at Avinash Gehlot, the minister, however, claimed that the remark was not made out of disrespect. "Elderly in the family are addressed as Dadi. It was not done out of disrespect," he said in defence.



RSS-backed Muslim wing holds meeting on Waqf bill and UCC

NEW DELHI. The All India Executive Meeting of the Muslim Rashtriya Manch (MRM), held on Sunday, brought together over 100 office-bearers from across the country. The meeting, chaired by MRM's mentor Indresh Kumar, focused on promoting unity, brotherhood and greater participation of the community in nation-building. The RSS-affiliated group also passed significant resolutions on Waqf reforms, the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), equal rights, de-addiction and an Imdad Fund for the underprivileged.

Key figures at the meeting included former ministers Dr. Shahid Akhtar, Abu Bakar Naqvi, S.K. Muddin, Mazahir Khan, Bilal Ur Rahman, Dr. Shalini Ali, Dr. Majid Talikoti, Hasan Noori and others. Speaking after the meeting, Shahid Sayeed, national convener and media in-charge, said, "The meeting had serious deliberations on the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024, communal harmony, equal civil rights for Muslims and the need for transparency in the use of Waqf properties. Discussions also touched on the resolution of disputed religious sites like Kashi and Mathura and the launch of a de-addiction campaign for Muslim youth." Indresh Kumar said, "A Uniform Civil Code is necessary to ensure equality and justice for all communities. Different laws for different groups create discrimination and a single code will guarantee equal rights for everyone, including Muslim women." He added, "India's soul lies in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The world is one family), where every religion enjoys equal rights."

'I Have Options If You Don't Need Me': Shashi Tharoor's Message To Congress

NEW DELHI. If the Congress does not want Shashi Tharoor's services, he has other things to do - this is the message the diplomat-turned-MP has sent to the party high command amid an ongoing row over his praises for the rival Left government in Kerala. He also flagged the absence of a Congress leader in Kerala on The Indian Express' Malayalam-language podcast 'Varthamanam', which is set for Wednesday's launch. A teaser of the podcast is already out. Mr Tharoor, who has been elected four times from his home state, has upset his party by praising the CPM's policies in Kerala and the state's growth. His praises for Prime Minister Narendra Modi over meeting with US President Donald Trump had also drawn criticism.

Defending his remarks, he said on the podcast that the people have supported his right to express himself over the state's development.

"If the party wants me then I will be there for the party. If not, I have my own things to do. You should not think that I don't have any option to spend time. I have options. I have my books, speeches, invitations from across the world for talks," he said.

The 2024 national elections saw a Congress resurgence, but the same did not reflect in the state elections that followed. Mr Tharoor said the Congress needed to expand their appeal in Kerala, or else they would sit in the opposition for the third straight time.

The Congress cannot win elections with the support of only its committed support base, he asserted. "At the national level, the Congress vote was around 19%. Would we be fine with our own vote base? Only if we get 26-27% additional, we can come to power. We need those who have not backed us in the last two elections," he added.

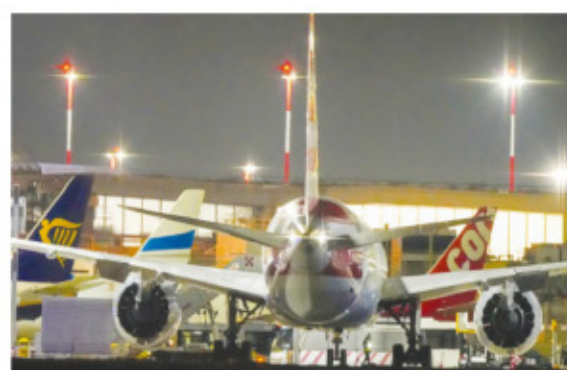
He said he even got the votes of those opposing the Congress due to the way he expressed himself. "I came back to this country to serve it. I was doing well in the US and earning a lot of money," he said.

The Tharoor Row

Mr Tharoor, a prominent Congress face in Kerala, sparked a buzz of rift after he praised the LDF government's handling of the Kerala economy in a newspaper article. The Left welcomed his remarks, but it drew fire from his own camp.

Bomb threat forces NY-Delhi flight to divert, land in Rome

NEW DELHI. An American Airlines flight from New York's John F Kennedy International Airport to Delhi was forced to make an emergency landing in Rome on Sunday night following a mid-air bomb threat. The Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, with over 280 passengers aboard, diverted its course over the Caspian Sea before heading westward toward Italy. According to flight tracking data, Flight AA292 took off from New York at approximately 8:30 pm on Saturday for its scheduled 14-hour journey to the Indian capital. However, around



10 hours into the flight, the aircraft executed an abrupt turn near the Black Sea, reversing its path before heading toward Rome's Fiumicino Airport.

Upon nearing Italian airspace, the plane was reportedly escorted by Italian fighter jets as a precautionary measure. It landed safely in Rome at around 5:30 p.m. local time.

While authorities have not disclosed the precise nature of the security alert, sources suggest that a bomb threat was received mid-flight, necessitating an immediate assessment by airline and security officials.

The decision to divert to Rome instead of a closer landing site was attributed to American Airlines' established operational base in the Italian capital.

MK Stalin demands complete withdrawal of Advocates Amendment Bill 2025

NEW DELHI. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin demanded the complete withdrawal of the Advocates Amendment Bill 2025, calling it a direct assault on the autonomy of the legal profession. In a post on X, he accused the BJP government of systematically undermining the independence of the judiciary since 2014. He alleged that the central government first attempted to hijack judicial appointments through the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), then ignored the collegium's recommendations for judicial appointments and



transfers, and is now trying to weaken judicial independence by seeking control over Bar Councils. "By eroding the autonomy of the legal profession, the BJP government aims to curb judicial independence," Stalin stated. Criticising what he termed the BJP's aversion to the Tamil language, the Chief Minister pointed out that the Bill seeks to rename the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu & Puducherry as the Bar Council of Madras. "Tamil Nadu is not just a name, it is our identity," he asserted.

Stalin also noted that while strong opposition forced the Union government to withdraw the draft Bill, the indication that it would be reconsidered and processed afresh was unacceptable. He reiterated his party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam's (DMK) demand for a complete withdrawal of the Bill and urged the Union government to respect the autonomy of the legal profession.

Panel on cost soon to firm up sub project

NEW DELHI. Formation of a cost negotiation committee is under way to speed up the Indian Navy's Project 75 (India) project under which submarines will be built in alignment with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

The CNC to be formed soon will include officials from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), Navy and Defence Finance in addition to representatives of Mazagon Dockyard Limited (MDL) that will lead the project under strategic partnership (SP) with Germany's TKMS (ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems), said sources. "Once the project is firm up, MDL and Germany must adhere to the objectives of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan. TKMS will need to meet 100% of the commercial and technical requirements, including transfer of technology and Indian content," an



MoD source said.

"This area will be closely scrutinised to ensure that actual design knowledge is transferred to India after the delivery of the first submarine, allowing India to freely use this technology as needed," the source added.

"A contract will be signed between the MoD and MDL. Further, there will be a contract between MDL and TKMS. Work share and responsibilities will be finalised under the contracts," another

source said. "Firstly the design will be confirmed and then it will be work converted into a functional system. The transfer of technology from the original equipment manufacturer (OEM) should be such that the next class of submarines should be totally Indian, from scratch to operational system," the source said.

"Historically Germans are not known for sharing such extensive knowledge in defence programmes, so the successful implementation of the SP model is will be seen as significant," the source added.

Another concern voiced by the sources emanates from the past experience of the cost and time overrun in construction of the Scorpene Class submarines. In the case of Scorpene (P75), the Naval Group of France was involved with the MDL.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta Takes Oath As Member of Legislative Assembly

New Delhi. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta along with her council of ministers took oath as members of the Legislative Assembly on Monday. The first session of the House commenced this morning and will see all newly-elected legislators taking oath. Alongside Delhi Chief Minister, the BJP ministers Parvesh Verma, Ashish Sood, Kapil Mishra, Ravinder Singh Indraj, Pankaj Kumar Singh and Manjinder Singh Sirsa also took the oath. AAP's 22 MLAs, including Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, Atishi, also took oath during the first session of the House. Rekha Gupta had taken the oath as Delhi's Chief Minister on Thursday at a grand ceremony in Ramlila Maidan. The swearing-in event, marking BJP's comeback after

27 years, was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, and several Chief Ministers from BJP-ruled states. The event was not only a political

milestone but also a show of strength for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). With her appointment, Rekha Gupta has become the fourth woman Chief Minister of Delhi, following in the footsteps of Sheila Dikshit, Sushma Swaraj, and Atishi. She is also the fourth



BJP leader to hold the top post in the capital, succeeding Madan Lal Khurana, Sahib Singh Verma, and Sushma Swaraj. The first session of the Delhi Assembly is set to last for three days. The proceedings began with BJP MLA Arvinder Singh Lovely taking oath as the pro-tem Speaker, a temporary position responsible for conducting House proceedings until a full-time Speaker is elected. Lieutenant Governor (L-G) Vinai Kumar Saxena administered the oath to Lovely at Raj Niwas. The election for the Assembly Speaker is scheduled to take place at 2:00 p.m. According to the Assembly bulletin, L-G Saxena will address the House on February 25, after which the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports will be tabled.

NGT asks authorities to complete drain desilting by May 31 before monsoon

The directive comes amid concerns that incomplete desilting could lead to severe waterlogging and flooding.

NEW DELHI. Even months before the arrival of the monsoon in the capital, the issue of desilting drains has once again come to the forefront. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Irrigation and Flood Control Department (I&FCD) to ensure that desilting work on 24 city drains is completed by May 31. The tribunal has also ordered the department's additional chief secretary to submit an undertaking by February 25, confirming that the deadline will be met.

The directive comes amid concerns that incomplete desilting could lead to severe waterlogging and flooding. In an order dated February 21, the tribunal, led by Chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, judicial member Justice Sudhir Agarwal, and expert member A. Senthil Vel, referred to a status report submitted by the I&FCD on February 20. The report outlined progress on the desilting of

the 24 drains that flow into the Yamuna and provided a timeline for their completion. According to the report, some drains are nearing completion. As of February 14, work

Drain (49.21%), Kushak Drain (48.93%), Tughlakabad Drain (37.34%), and Sunehri Pul Drain (36.87%).



However, several drains remain largely untouched, raising concerns about whether the deadline will be met. The lowest desilting progress was reported in Sonia Vihar Drain (0.08%), Shastri Park Drain (0.34%), Sen Nursing Home Drain (0.54%), Kailash Nagar Drain (0.55%), and Barapulla Drain (1%). "It has been pointed out that if the desilting work is not completed by the I&FCD within the timeline then this year monsoon will start and the residents of the colony from where these drains are flowing may face the same flooding or overflowing problem of these drains which they had faced in the previous monsoon," the bench noted. To ensure accountability, the NGT has mandated that the additional chief secretary of I&FCD appear virtually at the next hearing slated on February 27.

on the Moat Drain of Vijay Ghat was 84.92% complete, while the Civil-Military Drain stood at 78.51%. Other drains with notable progress included the Maharani Bagh Drain (50.24%), Abul Fazal

Signs that a co-worker likes you



Signs that a co-worker likes you

Office romance is not uncommon. In fact, a large percentage of people dream to find their special someone within their office premises. But it can be tricky as many companies see an office romance as a breach of policies. Every love has its pros and cons, but if you still want to go ahead with someone from the office, then you need to be sure that the other person likes you. Here are some signs a co-worker might be into you.

They talk to you the most

If that certain coworker keeps talking to you a lot, in between meetings, coffee breaks and more, then chances are high that they might be interested in you. If you're new in the office, they will certainly take an initiative to introduce you to the office curriculums but if you're no longer new, and they still prefer to talk to you, then you know what to expect!

Wants to know more about you outside of the office

Your coworker will make it a point to know more about you, outside your employee profile. They would want to know your preferences and dislikes and build up a conversation at any time of the day. What's best is that they might even ask you to go out for a brunch with them. Take it as a hint for a date!

Brings you coffee

Work and coffee go hand in hand. It's almost impossible to survive office pressure without a good cup of coffee. And so, your coworker might even bring you coffee to clear your mind up! Now, that's a move only people do, who care about you. That person will make it a point to get you coffee at your most pressuring times, just to help you ease up.

Helps you out anytime

They might be crazy busy, but if your coworker is always up for helping you out despite their heavy workload, then be rest assured that they're into you. Taking out time and putting efforts into doing the heavy work for you is simply a bonus point if your coworker likes you.

Engaging in interesting conversations

Your coworker will always have something to talk about, so that you both may never run out of topic to converse on. It becomes quite evident that they love talking to you. They even seem to know your birthday and other special dates because they're simply into you! Another strong indication of their feelings towards you is by wanting to know more about your love life, and if you're single!



How to get your first Job right



No matter where your career takes you in the future, the memory of your first job will live with you for the rest of your life. Your first job, which represents your transition from college to the corporate world, must be replete with learning opportunities and provide a strong platform for building a solid foundation that can ensure that your career is on the growth track.

Profile first

The work you do is very important. A very crucial parameter in choosing your first job

is the profile on offer. Choose a job that exactly fits your interests, does justice to your educational qualifications and career aspirations and is something you are passionate about.

Explains Nishant Kantawala, founder and CEO, IndieMix, "Many freshers make the error of ranking salary as the most important criteria while evaluating job offers. Always remember that money is not always important. You have the rest of your career to grow your earnings. Instead, focus on the

quality of work you pursue."

Considering the fact that most companies are branching out to multiple locations today, both in India and abroad, freshers must also be open to exploring locations beyond their home city. To veto an interesting opportunity just because it involves re location may be a decision you will later regret; working in varied locations will enrich your personality and add value to your profile.

Learning is the key

Since your first job is all about learning and development, ensure that you imbibe crucial skills that are integral in building your career.

"You should work in an organisation which supports and facilitates learning to the best of its ability. For example, an organisation with an extensive training and development programme for workers would be highly beneficial. Planned training programmes will give structure and rigour to your training," believes Prabha Shankar, recruitment consultant, Shell Consulting India.

Agrees Srishti Roy, creative head, Orange Vistas, "I was recruited from campus as a trainee at my first job with a leading creative agency. It was an extremely well planned, hands-on experience, exposing me to all aspects and workings of the business. This gave me a very grounded, yet holistic view of the industry and helped me perform well at work."

Corporates vs start-ups

Securing the right job is vital as it sets the tone for the rest of your professional life. here are a few tips on how to go about it

There is no right or wrong answer to the debate between working at an established corporate or a start up. A first job with an established corporate will add weight to your CV and give you the opportunity to learn coveted business practices. However, life at a start-up will be dynamic and provide you a range of hands-on experiences across different profiles. While both start-ups and corporates have their merits and demerits, remember that the industry you choose to work in matters more.

"My advice would be to enter a booming or upcoming sector or industry. There is no point joining a sector which is incurring losses, as this limits your growth, learning, opportunities and the buzz of activity within the sector" opines Kantawala.

Lasting impression

It's all too easy to get misguided while choosing your first job. People around you will always have an opinion on the matter --whether family relatives or peers. Additionally, companies and hiring agent will make their own pitches to you. Spend time doing thorough research on the company, its policies, the industry, etc, to craft your own point of view.

Don't hesitate to ask your recruiter questions. Many freshers hesitate to seek clarifications to their doubts as they are unsure about how their questions will be received. Obtain absolute clarity about the job before you take a binding decision. Don't make the error of looking at your first professional stint as just another job; rather, value it as the building blocks of your career.



5 tips for women to take control of their Careers

Focus on your strengths and make a few wise moves to jumpstart your career.

Working women face unique challenges at the workplace. Lack of investment in professional development, the absence of a role model and juggling between work and family life are just a few of the barriers. However, it is possible to cross these hurdles and come out a winner. Suggests Deepa Sapatnekar, head of communication, LinkedIn India, Korea and MENA region, "Don't wait for your employer to give you guidance on your career path. Choose someone you admire at your company or elsewhere, and look at the career steps they made to be successful.



Find out, for instance, how long they stayed in their role, and how often they moved to a new company."

More ways to take control:

1. Seek out women who can act your mentor. Join business networking sites LinkedIn groups to find professional women in your industry or region and make new connections.
2. Ask questions about what you should look for in a mentor.
3. Research positions similar to your own to understand the skills involved and pay scales so you can have regular informed conversations about your remuneration.
4. Save time and effort by using online networks to meet like-minded women professionals, mentors and key business contacts.
5. Can't find the time to attend networking events? Take a bit of time each day online to reach out to one key contact.

Must-follow work Etiquette rules

What do those opting for an etiquette class with a royal legacy have in store?

You never get a second chance to make a first impression, says Nisha Mehta, a senior trainer with The English Manner, a British finishing school that recently opened doors at an Andheri five-star.

I am there for a crash course in corporate etiquette, one of the several modules they run, catering to a wide cross-section, from ladies to children above eight. So far, my trainers have been stoic nuns at my convent school to well-meaning grandaunts, generous with knuckle raps when I'd wipe grubby hands on easily-accessible clothing.

"In the old days, children from affluent homes attended finishing schools in Switzerland, while on summer break. Now, ninety six per cent of young adults who approach us can't recognize flatware," she says, referring to the confusion with figuring cutlery and its varied purposes.

The 20 trainers here, have all worked with their English counterparts and boast of a legacy that goes back to founder Alexandra Messervy, a former member of The Royal Household of Her Majesty the Queen, helm part-time courses that use practical situations as tools.

I, like the other 19 in a batch, would have to spare anything between Rs 5,000 and Rs 80,000 depending on the nature and length of module. I can choose from wardrobe planning, social etiquette, flower arrangements, dining, afternoon tea and 'special courses' for ladies.

-How to stand

Department, which has little to do with being expelled from a country on account of illegal status, concerns how I stand, walk and carry myself. I am told I walk like a "little boy". Mehta shows me how to do it right. Feet together, shoulders erect, tummy in and hands by my side. Practising with a book on my head, stepping heel to toe, will help. The unnecessary bounce or noise that your shoes make can easily be undone by adjusting your gait; heels are no exception. Do not stand with your arms locked behind your back - it is a sign of submissiveness best restricted to those called in to the principal's office.

-The way to sit Myth buster: it's okay to cross your legs in front of elders. It is not disrespectful, says Mehta, rubbing what I was told when young. "They tell that to

children who may not be able to handle their skirts," she says. the more casual yet elegant option, though, is to tuck one leg behind the other at an angle. Place your right leg near the right leg of your chair at an angle so that it can serve as marker. The angle, she explains, lends your body a pleasant silhouette without making it stiff.

Never, says Mehta, reveal the sole of your shoe to the person before you. "It is disrespectful," she says, adding, "This applies for men too."

-Shaking hands

When it comes to physical interactions at the workplace, handshakes are the only acceptable form of contact. So, you might as well do it right. Ensure you have clean, manicured nails. Unkempt nails are a deal breaker. Fellows, it's the same for you.

Ideally, maintain a three feet distance between yourself and the person before you. Don't lean in; it signals submissiveness.

When you make contact, the webbed skin between your thumb and index finger must touch the other person's. Grip firmly and shake twice, no more.

Similarly, when handing over your business card, use both hands, holding either edge of the card with the writing facing the person receiving it. Don't forget to smile. When receiving a business card, use the same stance. Also, it's rude to put it down before the person leaves your side.

-Never do

"Don't fidget with your fingers. It gives away more than you intend to," says Anita Newton Engineer, another senior trainer. If your face is calm, kudos for hiding your nerves but make sure your fingers have received the memo too. A person's attention must be stayed on the triangle of your face (eyes drawing down to a point). When you twiddle your fingers, you take their attention away from your face," she explains.

-Email etiquette

Besides basic grammar, be careful with salutations. 'Dear' is appropriate; 'dearest' is too intimate. 'Hi' and 'Hello' are best avoided. If used, it should be restricted to inter-department emails. The email format follows the same rules of a letter. 'Yours truly' is not to be used in official mails unless you work for your wife.



Meta rewards executives with 200% bonuses despite ongoing job cuts

New Delhi. Just a week after laying off 3,600 employees, Meta has decided to give its top executives a big pay boost. According to a corporate filing, the company has increased executive bonuses to 200% of their base salary, more than double the previous 75%.

The decision was approved on February 13, 2025 by Meta's Compensation, Nominating, and Governance Committee (CNGC). However, the new bonus structure does not include CEO Mark Zuckerberg. The company justified the hike by saying that its executive pay was falling behind industry standards, reported Moneycontrol. Meta's board argued that, before the increase, the "target total cash compensation" for its executives was "at or below the 15th percentile of the target total cash compensation of executives holding similar positions" at other major tech firms. Following the increase, Meta said, "the target total cash compensation for the named executive officers (other than the CEO) falls at approximately the 50th percentile of the Peer Group Target Cash Compensation." The company defended the move, saying it was necessary to retain top talent and keep compensation competitive. However, the timing of the announcement has led to criticism.

The announcement comes soon after Meta laid off around 5% of its global workforce. The company said the job cuts were due to "low performance," but many employees and industry watchers have criticised the decision, especially given the large executive payouts. Despite the layoffs, Meta is increasing its presence in India, particularly in Bengaluru. The company is actively hiring for 41 engineering positions in the city, focusing on software development, machine learning, and chip design for its data centres.

Meta has posted several job openings on LinkedIn in the past month, showing its push to build an engineering hub in India. The company is also looking for an "experienced Engineering Director" to lead its India-based team, a role that Meta describes as important for shaping its technical vision in the country. Unlike its offices in Hyderabad, Gurgaon, New Delhi, and Mumbai, which mainly handle non-engineering roles, the Bengaluru office will be a key technology centre. It will support Meta's Enterprise Engineering team, which focuses on internal tools rather than public-facing products like Facebook and Instagram.

Ease of doing business still long way from bottom-up levels: Hiranandani

New Delhi. The Hiranandani group is lining up around Rs 7,000 crore in five projects in and around the megalopolis in the next two fiscal years. In an interaction with Benn Kochuveedan, group chairman Niranjan Hiranandani says though the government push for improving the ease of doing business has been a success from the top-level, a lot needs to improve from the bottom-up levels where all industries face inordinate delays even today. An excerpt:

How has been your experience as a builder of iconic townships since the government pushed on improving the ease of doing business at the ground level? Has your life really changed as in being projected?

Of course, there is palpable change at the top level. But I will stick my neck out and say the desired changes, when looked at from a bottom-up level, is much to be wanted. A lot needs to change from the ground level and upwards. This is not my experience alone, this is what every other builder, every other industrialist, who are still flitting in and flitting out of the myriad government offices, face. Let me repeat, a lot has positively changed from the top for sure, because the prime minister himself has been driving it, but the actual change, which has to be at the ground level, which can really make the real difference, is still missing badly.

What are your suggestions so that there is actual ease of doing business? My answer is that let the change happen at those levels who actually issue the permissions. You have made a shift in your approach to building townships by tying up with a little-known Pune developer called Krisala for developing a posh residential township in the Pune IT hub of Hinjewadi? What is the rationale for this model? Will this be your model going forward? My short answer is yes and no. But my long answer is that as the market evolves, we will also need to evolve. In the management of Krisala, I've seen the urge which I had 25-30 years ago. So this is a win-win for both of us. I have been owning this 105 acres since 2008 and wanted to make it as big and or even bigger than my Powai, Thane or Panvel projects; but could not make it happen so far. So in Krisala I found a group of young people who also share my vision of building large townships.

Adani Group paid Rs 58,000 crore in global taxes in FY24

NEW DELHI. The Adani group, which has constantly come under scrutiny over its business practices, has said that the group's listed entities paid Rs 58,104 crore in taxes and other contributions to government exchequer in 2023-24, showing a 25% gain year-on-year. The company claimed that it has paid Rs 46,610 crore in global taxes in the previous year. The information was released through what it called a "Tax Transparency Report" for the financial year 2023-24. The report covers the group's listed entities—Adani Enterprises Limited, Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited, Adani Green Energy Limited, Adani Energy Solutions Limited, Adani Power Limited, Adani Total Gas Limited, and Ambuja Cements Limited. The figure also includes the tax paid by three other listed companies—NDTV, ACC and Sanghi Industries—that are held by the seven companies.

"Transparency is the foundation of trust, and trust is essential for sustainable growth," said Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, in a media statement.

Indian ITes Industry and GenAI Conundrum as adoption remains under 40%

New Delhi. India's IT enabled services industry is at a defining crossroads. While it is a fact that generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) could be India's next trillion dollar opportunity, for this to happen Indian developers have to adopt it. According to a study, despite over 80 per cent of developers recognizing GenAI's benefits, adoption lingers below 40 per cent. According to the latest Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report 'The GenAI Adoption Conundrum', over 80 per cent of developers acknowledge its advantages, citing increased productivity and efficiency. But even with all-pervasive benefits, proficient adoption of these tools is still at paltry figures.

"This is the GenAI adoption conundrum—where the benefits are visible, but proficient adoption still remains stuck below 40 per cent" said Sambhav Jain, MDP at BCG. "It's like being handed a Formula 1 race car—but choosing to walk instead. Contrary to further belief that GenZ is the GenAI generation, we

observed that proficient adoption among GenZ dipped even further to 31 per cent", Jain added. What ails this adoption is integration issues and inadequate enablement. Jain says that while every company says they are training their employees, this training is not focused on GenAI. "Training today is broad but lacks depth—Almost half developers reported being unaware of how to fully utilize the tool's capabilities in their workflow. Clients are skeptical too, and require clear value proposition & security measures," said Rajiv Gupta, Managing Director & Senior Partner, BCG in a conversation with At a time when AI and GenAI has been the focus area for clients, the Indian developers inability to be prepared can cost the industry a big opportunity.

"This conundrum represents a missed opportunity for Indian IT services. It's not just about access - Scaling is about behavior change, process transformation, and leadership. Many companies have begun their AI journey—running POCs,



experimenting, and seeing early success. Organizations that are getting this right are leveraging a structured adoption playbook," he added.

To break free from this conundrum, India's IT firms must move beyond experimentation and into full-scale adoption. BCG's report outlines a five-part playbook for success; it asks organisations to train for Impact, not Just Awareness—GenAI adoption jumps from 16 per cent to 48 per cent when developers receive five or more targeted training sessions. Two, 92 per cent of enterprise clients are willing to pay a premium for

AI-driven services, but they need proof of tangible ROI. Three, firms must track productivity gains scientifically—measuring AI's impact across efficiency, quality, and output.

Change management is a huge part of this adoption. Addressing psychological resistance among developers is also important. Finally, setting up Centers of Excellence (CoEs) is impactful. Almost 80 per cent of firms with GenAI Centers of Excellence have seen marked improvement in trainings, better resource access & regular scientific tracking.

"GenAI's momentum is at the bottom of the hockey stick effect—what we do next will define our trajectory. We are at a critical inflection point where Indian ITes must lead with conviction, scale GenAI with urgency, and earn the right to shape the future of AI-powered services. The choice is clear: we either embrace this transformation and cement our global leadership, or hesitate, lose ground, and fade into irrelevance," said Gupta.

Earning up to Rs 12.75 lakh Why you should opt for new income tax regime

NEW DELHI. Perhaps, the biggest Budget 2025 announcement by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was that individuals with salaries up to Rs 12 lakh will pay zero taxes under the new tax regime. This regime, though it has few exemptions and deductions, offers reduced tax rates. However, with Rs 75,000 as the standard deduction under the new regime, individuals earning up to Rs 12.75 lakh annually need not pay any taxes. Earlier, taxpayers earning up to Rs 7 lakh paid nil taxes under the new regime. Now that limit has been raised to Rs 12 lakh. This means anyone with an income of up to Rs 12.75 lakh (taking standard deduction into consideration) will now pay zero taxes. The Finance Minister in her Budget 2025 speech said, "I am now happy to announce that there will be no income tax payable upto income of 12



lakh (i.e. average income of 1 lakh per month other than special rate income such as capital gains) under the new regime. This limit will be 12.75 lakh for salaried taxpayers, due to standard deduction of 75,000."

Vaibhav Jajoo, Advocate (CA), Dhruva Advisors LLP said, "From a direct tax perspective, the relief and changes in tax slab rates are welcome measures.

Notably, income up to Rs. 12.75 lakhs (including a standard deduction of Rs. 75,000) has been made tax-exempt under the new tax regime. This is a significant and welcome move to provide relief to the middle class and stimulate spending in the economy."

In other words, those taxpayers with the above-mentioned income threshold of Rs 12.75 lakh annually, and who do not have significant savings or investments, such as those eligible for deductions under Section 80C (HRA, PPF, LIC, ELSS, etc.), should opt for the new tax regime owing to zero tax liability. This, in turn, would raise their consumption levels and give a boost to their savings and investment.

Quality Power IPO listing: Will it make a strong market debut Check latest GMP

New Delhi. Quality Power Limited shares are set to debut on Dalal Street on Monday, February 24 after it witnessed a muted response from investors but was fully subscribed by the end of the bidding process. Quality Power IPO opened for subscription on February 14, 2025, aiming to raise Rs 858.70 crore. The public issue consisted of a fresh issue of 53 lakh shares worth Rs 225 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of 1.49 crore shares worth Rs 633.70 crore. However, the energy transition equipment maker is likely to list at a discount, as indicated by the latest grey market premium (GMP), which has been declining consistently.

GREY MARKET PREMIUM SIGNALS WEAK LISTING
A day before the listing, Quality Power's GMP saw a sharp drop due to

weak investor demand and overall market sentiment. The stock was last trading at a discount of Rs 10 per share in the grey market, suggesting a subdued debut for investors. The GMP remained flat throughout the IPO bidding process, reflecting low enthusiasm for the stock.

The price band was set at Rs 401-425 per share, with a minimum lot size of 26 shares. Through this public issue, Quality Power raised Rs 858.70 crore, which included a fresh issue of Rs 225 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of 1,49,10,500 equity shares.

IPO SUBSCRIPTION

Investor response to the IPO was limited, with the overall subscription reaching only 1.29 times.

The retail category saw a subscription of 1.82 times, while Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs)

subscribed 1.03 times. Non-Institutional Investors (NIIs) showed a subscription of 1.45 times.

These figures indicate moderate demand, particularly from institutional investors, which could impact the stock's performance on listing day. Market analysts have said that Quality Power may witness a weak opening but has potential for long-term growth. "The company is well-positioned to achieve sustained growth within the energy sector. Investors who have received allotments should consider holding their shares for long-term gains," said Palak Devadiga, Research Analyst at StoxBox. Despite the weak listing outlook, brokerage firms maintained a mostly positive stance on the IPO, citing the company's role in the energy transition sector.

FII selling dampens investor sentiment on Dalal Street: When will it stop

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices have been falling since peaking in late September, leading to weak investor sentiment on Dalal Street. The same was witnessed in the last session where the Sensex and Nifty ended the trading session on a weak note, dragged down by shares of banking, financial, and automobile companies. The S&P BSE Sensex ended 424.90 points to 75,311.06 at the closing bell, while the NSE Nifty50 fell 117.25 points to settle at 22,795.90. "Nifty touched its lowest level since June 2024, closing the second consecutive week in negative territory. The index ended slightly below 22,800, signalling weakness in the market. Prices continue to trade below the key 21-day and 55-day EMAs, indicating a bearish trend. Strong selling pressure is expected to persist until Nifty decisively closes above the 23,350 mark," said Puneet Singhania, Director at Master Trust Group.

FII SELLING PRESSURE WEIGHS ON MARKETS

Concerns over foreign investor selling

have added to market worries, with global factors like the US tariff threat.

Dr V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "FII selling continues unabated in the stock market. After selling stocks worth Rs 81,903 crore through exchanges in January, FIIs followed up by selling stocks worth Rs 30,588 crore in February through the 21st. This takes total selling in 2025 so far to Rs 1,12,492 crore (NSDL). This massive selling has resulted in Nifty yielding negative returns of 4% YTD." He pointed out that foreign investors are moving funds to other markets. "After Trump's victory in the US presidential elections, the US market has been attracting huge capital inflows from the rest of the world. But recently, China has emerged as a major destination for portfolio flows. The Chinese president's new initiatives with leading businessmen have sparked hopes of a growth recovery in China. The Chinese stock market responded positively, with the Hang Seng index (where FIIs buy Chinese stocks through



the Hong Kong stock market) shooting up by 18.7% in a month, in sharp contrast to the 1.55% decline in Nifty," said Vijayakumar.

SHIFT IN FOREIGN INVESTOR PREFERENCES

Vaibhav Porwal, Co-Founder, Dezerv, highlighted a shift in global investor preferences. "Since October 2024, India's market cap has fallen by about USD 1 trillion, while China's has risen by USD 2 trillion. This suggests a tactical shift in FII flows. Data from NSDL shows that Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) pulled out approximately Rs 25,000 crore from Indian equities in January 2024 alone, in



the Fed is unlikely to materialise. The Fed might even turn hawkish, impacting US stock markets. If this happens and the US bond yields start declining, FIIs may cease to be sellers in India and may even resume buying. The near-term scenario is highly uncertain. The positive factor in our market is that the valuations of largecaps have turned fair and in certain segments like financials attractive, giving opportunities for long-term investors to buy. Even though the broader market valuations continue to be high, there are opportunities in select stocks in this segment.

sharp contrast to the strong inflows of over Rs 1.7 lakh crore in 2023," said Porwal. According to him, multiple factors have contributed to this shift: India's growth and valuation concerns: While India's long-term growth story remains strong, near-term valuation worries and sluggish corporate earnings have led to profit booking. Indian stocks trade at a premium compared to other emerging markets, prompting global investors to reassess their positions. Strong dollar impact: A strong US dollar often attracts capital to American markets, which are considered safer and more stable. This has been a factor in FII outflows from emerging markets like India.

China's economic rebound: After a long period of correction, Chinese equities have become more attractive. In September 2024, China announced an economic stimulus package that included policy support, regulatory easing, and measures to boost FII sentiment. This has renewed investor confidence in China's recovery story.

NEWS BOX

Champions Trophy: India vs Pakistan clash breaks viewership record on JioHotstar

New Delhi. The wish of over a billion cricket fans in India was fulfilled as they got to see their favourite sight of star India batter Virat Kohli raising his bat to celebrate his century against Pakistan on Sunday, February 23 in Dubai. Staying true to his tag of being a chase master, Kohli played a magnificent innings of 100* (111) studded with seven fours to help India climb a mountain of 242 runs successfully and thrash the arch-rivals by six wickets. Right from the onset of his innings, Kohli looked at his vintage best, playing every shot with authority as he manoeuvred through the field with the utmost ease. It was in complete contrast to his knocks in recent times, where he had looked like a pale shadow of himself desperate to get some runs. Seeing Kohli return to his best, fans were left wondering what exactly he did to find his mojo back



after enduring poor form across formats since 2024. The hunger for a big knock was always there in the eyes of the batting stalwart as he arrived 90 minutes early to prepare himself for the all-important clash. Having been dismissed against spin time and again in recent times, Kohli was determined to work on his weakness by facing local net bowlers in a rigorous practice session to overcome his shortcomings. When the first over of the match was bowled by Mohammed Shami, the viewership jumped to 6.8 crore at the end of it and kept increasing through the match. The viewership reached 32.1 crore in the last over of Pakistan's innings and reached 32.2 crore during the innings break. When India began their run chase, the viewership increased to 33.8 crore and remained stable at 36.2 crore for a substantial period before surging to record levels when India inched towards a victory. **Champions Trophy: Full Coverage | Points Table** The previous record for the highest peak concurrency was at 3.5 crore registered in 2023 when India played Pakistan in the ICC Cricket World Cup on

They told her women shouldn't box, Now she's Ghana's first female world champion

ACCRA. When Abigail Kwartekaa Quartey decided as a teenager to become a professional boxer – an unusual choice for a young woman in a working-class neighbourhood of Ghana's capital of Accra – her family begged her to stop training. Boxing is the pride of Jamestown, which is based around the fishing industry and also known for being home to many boxing stars. But like most sports in Ghana, boxing has often been seen as for men only, and women are discouraged from taking part. And last year, at age 27, she became Ghana's first female world boxing champion and the first woman to travel the world as a member of the West African nation's national team. "My aunts and siblings didn't like it when I started boxing. They would come here to beg my coach not to let me become a boxer," she said at the Jamestown neighborhood's Black Panthers Gym where Quartey has been training since her teenage years. But when last November Quartey defeated British boxer Sangeeta Birdi in Jamestown's



main boxing area, winning the WIBF World Super Bantamweight title, crowds of friends and supporters from the neighborhood celebrated wildly, seemingly forgetting about the prejudice against female boxers. **Triumph after challenges** Ghanaian media pronounced her win "history," but Quartey is quick to point out that she is by no means the first female boxer in Ghana. "There were women in boxing before I ventured into boxing," she said. But they weren't allowed to travel outside the country, she added. Quartey's long road to this spectacular victory highlights the many challenges that female athletes in African countries face in their careers. Quartey grew up in Jamestown and, as a teenager, sold rice with her aunt to help the family make ends meet. The only people who supported her boxing dream were her brother, a fellow boxer, and her coach. In 2017, she stopped boxing and started selling lottery tickets to earn money.

How Virat Kohli conquered his spin demons to demolish Pakistan in Dubai

Star India batter Virat Kohli was seen at his vintage best, playing a match-winning innings of 100* (111) against Pakistan in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. The batting stalwart had to conquer his spin demons to rise above the odds and script another masterful chase for the Men in Blue.

New Delhi. The wish of over a billion cricket fans in India was fulfilled as they got to see their favourite sight of star India batter Virat Kohli raising his bat to celebrate his century against Pakistan on Sunday, February 23 in Dubai. Staying true to his tag of being a chase master, Kohli played a magnificent innings of 100* (111) studded with seven fours to help India climb a mountain of 242 runs successfully and thrash the arch-rivals by six wickets. Right from the onset of his innings, Kohli looked at his vintage best, playing every shot with authority as he

manoeuvred through the field with the utmost ease. It was in complete contrast to his knocks in recent times, where he had looked like a pale shadow of himself desperate to get some runs. Seeing Kohli return to his best, fans were left wondering what exactly he did to find his mojo back after enduring poor form across formats since 2024. The hunger for a big knock was always there in the eyes of the batting stalwart as he arrived 90 minutes early to prepare himself for the all-important clash. Having been dismissed against spin time and again in recent times, Kohli was determined to work on his weakness by facing local net bowlers in a rigorous practice session to overcome his shortcomings.

honest. Whether it's Rashid or Rishad, he knows that. There is a problem that's just there and it's ailing him. There's an Abrar, whom he will have to handle against Pakistan. So playing the slog sweep and the sweep shot and going deep inside the crease and then playing the cut shot. And I think,



what also plays a role here is that now he knows how this surface is going to react. So you know, these are the areas, I need to target. This is the bowler, I need to play. And these are my strengths as well that if I were to score runs, I will go sweep and slog sweep and also deep inside the crease and cut shot," said Chopra on Star Sports. Having refined his skills, the King was all ready to pounce on his favourite opponent as he walked to the crease amid loud cheers from fans demanding some sumptuous shots from his blade. Kohli got off to a good start in his

innings as, after scoring a few singles, his trademark cover drive came to the fore, and he moved to 22 (20). **Exorcising the spin demons** Kohli's trial by spin finally began as Abrar Ahmed came on to bowl in the 14th over and he comfortably started the battle with a single. The contest between the two was expected to be a match-defining moment as Kohli had been dismissed by wrist spinners five out of his last six innings. He played three dot balls in the over but never for a second looked perturbed, showing good judgement at the crease, playing both off the front foot and back foot. As his innings went on, Kohli kept on nudging the ball around for singles and doubles and gradually built on his innings. In between, he collected a couple of boundaries against Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah and completed his half-century off 62 balls. The Kohli of the old had returned, as he whittled away the deficit run by run and brought the game into India's grasp in no time. His method was simple, "go after the seam bowlers and not take too many risks against the spinners but keep rotating the strike". Kohli stood true to his mantra as he took no risks whatsoever against the spinners and collected occasional boundaries against the fast bowler to keep the required run rate under control.

IND vs PAK: Hardik Pandya delivers a Bumrah-esque performance to win over fans

Hardik Pandya was an unsung hero for India during their win against Pakistan as he played the role of Jasprit Bumrah during the match. Hardik picked up the wickets of Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan.

New Delhi. They (fans) said, life for me, had come a full circle. They said, from here on, there was no looking back. I had won them (fans) back." These were the words of Hardik Pandya before the India vs Pakistan game as the all-rounder once again produced the goods with the ball for his side in a high-pressure contest. The last year or so hasn't been kind for the all-rounder as he was villainised during the IPL for various reasons. However, Hardik stepped up to the plate when India needed him to bowl the last over in the T20 World Cup final. He got the wicket of David Miller and the rest was history. That was the start of the fan reaction towards Hardik changing and despite losing the vice-captaincy, the all-rounder quietly went about with his work and kept working on his game. | IND vs

PAK, Highlights | The India vs Pakistan game was a crucial one for both sides as a win was needed by both teams in a bid to boost their hopes of making it to the semi-finals. India didn't have the services of Jasprit Bumrah, who was the hero in the last 2 matches against Pakistan in ICC



events. India's start was far from ideal in the match as Pakistan got off to a great start thanks to Babar Azam. To add to the misery at that time, India would lose Mohammed Shami to an injury as well. Hardik steps in to deliver the goods. Hardik came in as the first change bowler for India and Babar would welcome him with a boundary. The all-rounder would be hit for another one soon after as the Pakistan fans were hoping for a Babar special in Dubai.

But Hardik decided to spoil the party as he would ensure India got the breakthrough. While Hardik has always played the role of being a partnership breaker in the past, today his role was like that of Bumrah. The Indian pacer has always taken crucial wickets in the past but also ensured that the run flow was always restricted.

Hardik did the same, and he conceded just 6 runs in his next 3 overs after the Babar wicket one as he kept Mohammad Rizwan and Saud Shakeel tied up. This allowed the other bowlers to get through their overs quickly and further restrict the scoring. It was only after Hardik went out of the attack that Pakistan was able to get the runs to flow and as soon as he came back, the Men in Green started to wobble again. Hardik would then step up in his next over and dismissed Saud Shakeel as Pakistan completely lost their way and ended up scoring just 241 runs. During this, Hardik went on to emulate Kapil Dev as well. Hardik played a brief cameo in the run-chase but his role with the ball has seemingly gone under the radar after Virat Kohli's 51st hundred. India are in with a makeshift pace attack for this Champions Trophy and they need someone to genuinely stand up and deliver.

New Zealand aim to kill two birds with one stone in Bangladesh clash

New Delhi. New Zealand kicked off their Champions Trophy 2025 campaign with a commanding 60-run win over hosts Pakistan on February 19 at Karachi's National Stadium. Twin centuries from Will Young and Tom Latham powered the Kiwis to 320 for five, before William O'Rourke and Mitchell Santner's three-wicket hauls helped bowl Pakistan out for 260 in 47.2 overs. Now, New Zealand have a strong chance of reaching the semis. A win against Najmul Hossain Shanto's Bangladesh on February 24 at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium will secure their spot in the next round. But Monday's clash carries even greater significance. The fate of three teams hangs in the balance. A New Zealand victory will confirm India's place in the semi-finals, while Bangladesh and Pakistan will be officially eliminated. Additionally, Bangladesh's game against Pakistan on February 27 and India's match versus New Zealand on March 2 will become inconsequential in the race for the semis.

As far as Bangladesh are concerned, they would



be looking to make amends after losing to India by six wickets on Thursday in Dubai. The Tigers have happy memories of playing in Rawalpindi after they beat Pakistan 2-0 last year in a Test series.

Is Mahmudullah fit? Before facing the Kiwis, Bangladesh are grappling with an injury concern over Mahmudullah Riyad, a key player in ICC events. Mahmudullah missed the match against India, where the Tigers fielded both Towhid Hridoy and Jaker Ali Anik. However, Bangladesh are still awaiting his full recovery before deciding on his availability for the New Zealand clash. "Well, we're going to find out that today. He has to do a fitness test today and then we'll know after practice today whether he's fit enough for selection," head coach Phil Simmons said in the pre-match press conference. If Mahmudullah plays, Bangladesh will face another selection dilemma. With Jaker scoring a half-century and Hridoy registering his maiden ODI century.

Nobody can handle pressure and provide stability like Kohli: BCCI, IPL top brass

DUBAI. Virat Kohli provides unmatched stability to the Indian team, according to former Sports Minister Anurag Thakur and BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla, who felt the superstar batter displayed exceptional composure under pressure during his century against Pakistan. Kohli's majestic unbeaten century was the backbone of India's six-wicket victory over Pakistan in the Champions Trophy. "Virat Kohli has shown how to handle the pressure and how to play for the country. Through his outstanding innings, Virat has won many hearts and the match for the country," former BCCI President Thakur told PTI. "If you look at Virat's innings, he never went outright for the century. For him, the priority was India's win. He was rotating the strike, not going for his own runs only." "He wanted to play till the last and win the match for India. That is a big thing about



Kohli. For big players like him individual innings is not very important, it's country's victory that matters," he added. After India's bowlers restricted Pakistan to an underwhelming 241, Kohli stitched match-winning partnerships with Shreyas Iyer and Shubman Gill to chase down the target with 45 balls to spare. Kohli's century was simply fabulous. The way he scored his century. The way he provided stability to Indian team,

nobody can do it," Shukla said. "Shreyas & Gill also played very well. The Indian team is back to full form. All the players were fully fit and they were ready to take on Pakistan. And they did it in style. The team looks well oiled for the finals," he added. Kohli's century, his 51st in ODIs, was laced with seven boundaries. "The entire country was waiting for Virat to score a century. The way he played today, it was a fantastic innings to watch," IPL Chairman Arun Dhimal said. "I am pretty sure that IPL has played a major role in India's good show at the ICC tournaments. Look at the bench strength. Not just for Indian cricket, IPL has changed the cricket world over." "That's the change of attitude that has happened over the years. That has made cricket very interesting and that is why you have new audience hooking on to cricket. It augurs well for the game," he added.

Rohit Sharma, Mohammed Shami injuries: Shreyas Iyer provides crucial updates

India vs Pakistan: India captain Rohit Sharma and fast bowler Mohammed Shami were away from the field for a fair amount of time due to injury concerns on Sunday. Shreyas Iyer provides a crucial update on the players after their second group stage game in Dubai.

New Delhi. India batter Shreyas Iyer provided fitness updates for captain Rohit Sharma and fast bowler Mohammed Shami after the India vs Pakistan match in the Champions Trophy. While Shami left the field to receive some treatment on his shin inside the first 10 overs of the match, Rohit was off for an extended period of time, supposedly due to a hamstring injury.

Rohit struggled to chase balls at the very end of India's bowling innings. Former pacer Dale Steyn spotted the issue while commenting on the game and said that Rohit was struggling with his left hamstring. On the other hand, Shami's issues seemed to be solved once he returned to the field to bowl his second spell in the match. Shami, however, did not bowl his full quota of 10 overs but looked in much better shape than in his first spell.

India vs Pakistan, Champions Trophy: Match Report The injury concerns with two of India's star players come at a crucial time in the tournament. India has just one more group stage game left in the Champions Trophy. They are all but qualified for the semi-final, which is set to be played on March 4, at the Dubai International Stadium. Middle-order batter Shreyas Iyer was asked



about the fitness updates of both players in the post-match press conference. Iyer revealed that there were no concerns with either of the players. "Not really. I mean, I had a brief chat with them, both of them were quite comfortable with the way things progressed, and yeah,

from my knowledge, I don't think there is any issue," Shreyas Iyer said after the match. While Rohit has not had any injury concerns in the recent past, he did work on his fitness after being criticised during the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024/25. On the other hand, Mohammed Shami returned to play for India after a long injury layover of 14 months. Shami had an ankle surgery after the ODI World Cup 2023 and took more than a year to return to international cricket. The fast bowler had recently opened up on his fitness journey, where he said that he had to train at the National Cricket Academy for 8 hours every day to shed 9 kilograms.

Jacqueline Fernandez

And Orry Giggles, Vibe Together At Honey Singh's Mumbai Concert



Honey Singh began his Millionaire India Tour in Mumbai on February 23. Jacqueline Fernandez and Orry vibed together at his concert.

Singer-rapper Yo Yo Honey Singh kickstarted his Millionaire India Tour on Saturday, February 22, by performing in Mumbai. Jacqueline Fernandez and Orry were some of the many starry guests at the concert. A video going viral shows Jacqueline and Orry vibing together in one of the VIP stands. Jacqueline wore a pink T-shirt which she paired with a dungaree. Orry sported a semi-formal look in shirt-with-sweater and trousers. The duo was seen giggling together and enjoying with the crowd in the stands. Check out the video here:

Several other videos from Honey Singh's concert have been going viral. One of which being his not-so-subtle dig at rappers Badshah and Raftaar. During a segment of his show, Singh joked that many claimed to be his brothers but also predicted that he won't make a comeback. He further mentioned that 'they' once used to write songs for them and are now of the belief that they can pen his fate.

The Lungi Dance singer said, "Kayee log kehte hain ki wo mere bhai hain. Kayi log kehte hain ki mera comeback nahi ho raha. Aur phir kehte hain wo mere gaane likhte the. Aur phir kehte hain ki wo meri takdir likh denge."

He further added, "To uspe ek sher sunaon? Video banao, usko tag karna. Pichle saal meri taqdeer ne kaiyon ke guroor hain tode. Aur tuje comeback karna padega l**** (Can I share a poetry on that? Record videos, tag him. Last year, my destiny has broken the pride of many. Now you will have to make a comeback)." As a part of his Millionaire India Tour, Honey Singh will cover 10 major cities in the country, starting February 22 to April 5. He will visit Lucknow next, followed by Delhi, Indore, Pune, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, and Jaipur. His concluding tour will take place in Kolkata.

Priyanka Chopra

Shares Glimpse From Daughter Malti Marie's Museum Visit In New York

Priyanka Chopra Jonas is known as a global star and often shares her professional and personal life photos with fans. Recently, the actress treated fans by sharing beautiful moments from a museum visit with her daughter, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas. It

reacting to it. Many dropped adorable comments.

The actress recently visited Mumbai for her brother Siddharth Chopra's wedding to Neelam Upadhyay. After the celebrations, she was spotted at Mumbai

Airport last week in a pastel co-ord set as she departed for Hyderabad. She later confirmed her arrival by sharing pictures on Instagram, leaving fans curious about her professional plans.

On Valentine's Day 2025, Priyanka dedicated a lovely post to her hubby, calling him her 'forever' Valentine. She also shared two pictures, giving fans a glimpse of how their relationship began, versus how it is going! On the work front, Priyanka is currently filming in Hyderabad for SSMB 29, directed by SS Rajamouli and starring Mahesh Babu. The film, described as a globe-trotting jungle adventure, is expected to wrap up shooting by 2026. Fans are eagerly awaiting official updates on her role in



has gone viral. Priyanka was in India to attend her brother's wedding and also shoot for SS Rajamouli's next. In a series of photos and videos posted on her Instagram stories, Priyanka captured Malti's fascination with the museum's displays. Malti is seen enjoying the different lights at the museum. Nick Jonas also shared a photo with guitar and Malti's plush toy doll was kept near him. In no time fans were seen

the highly anticipated project. Before diving into work, Priyanka visited the Chilkur Balaji Temple in Hyderabad, offering prayers. Sharing a photo from the visit, she wrote, "With the blessings of Shri Balaji, a new chapter begins. May we all find peace in our hearts and prosperity and abundance all around us."



Himesh Reshammiya's Wife Sonia Says He Looks At Himself For Four Hours In The Bathroom: 'Who does that?'



Himesh Reshammiya recently launched his wife Sonia Kapoor's podcast, The Sonia Kapoor Show, where they had a lighthearted chat. While discussing his career and his new film, Badass Ravikumar, Sonia teased Himesh about his habit of admiring himself in the mirror for hours. Sonia joked, "What is your favourite thing about yourself? Apart from the fact that you like looking at yourself for four hours in the bathroom." Himesh, surprised, replied, "What are you saying? Tumhe apne show ki TRP leni hai toh tum mere naam pe le rahi ho (You want TRP for your show, so you are taking it in my name)." Sonia defended herself and said, "I am talking facts. You are like this. If you want to take a 9 am flight, you get up at 3 am to get ready. Who does that?"

Himesh said that he likes to take his time getting ready and doesn't want to feel rushed. Sonia replied, "Yeah, so that you can look at yourself in the mirror for two hours." Himesh then went on to ask Sonia, "What are you talking about?" Sonia said, "I am sorry, main pol khol rahi hoon tumhari (I am sorry, I am exposing you)."

Himesh Reshammiya married Sonia Kapoor in 2018. Their wedding came after Himesh's divorce from his first wife, Komal. Himesh, known for his hit songs like "Aashiq Banaya Aapne" and "Jhalak Dikhla Jaa," has had a successful music career, with many chart-topping hits.

On the work front, Himesh's recently released Badass Ravi Kumar minted Rs 8.3 crore in India, 10 days after its release on February 7, as per sacnilk.com. Directed by Keith Gomes, the film is a spin-off to the 2014 drama film The Xpose and also features celebs such as Prabhudeva, Kirti Kulhari, Sunny Leone, Sanjay Mishra, Johnny Lever, Mohan Joshi, Raza Murad and others. The film faced a box office clash with Junaid Khan and Khushi Kapoor's romantic drama Loveyapa.

Kiara Advani-Sidharth Malhotra Cheerfully Interact With Fans During Dubai Vacay



A few days ago, Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani were spotted at the Mumbai airport as they jetted off to Dubai for a vacay. Fans have been eagerly waiting for them to post glimpses from the holiday. During their time in the city, Sidharth and Kiara's fans spotted the couple at a restaurant, and shared a video of their interaction with them. The video clip quickly made its rounds on social media, giving fans a sneak-peek into Sid and Kiara's vacation. A video shared by a fan shows Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani at a restaurant in Dubai. They were seen cheerfully talking to the fans who approached them. While Sidharth seemed engrossed in a conversation, Kiara was seen animatedly interacting with the ladies. The couple then posed for a picture with the fans. Kiara looked beautiful in an easy-breezy chrome yellow kaftan dress. She accessorized with a pearl necklace, golden earrings, watch, a pair of sunglasses and a yellow handbag.



Meanwhile, Sidharth was seen in a white tee, layered with a grey shirt and black jeans. The 'Shershaah' couple engaged with their fans in a friendly and warm manner. They seemed to be in high spirits as they enjoyed the conversation with their fans. Check out the video below!

Meanwhile, on the professional front, Sidharth Malhotra was last seen in 'Yodha', co-starring Disha Patani and Raashii Khanna. He is gearing up for his romantic-comedy film 'Param Sundari' alongside Janhvi Kapoor. Directed by Tushar Jalota, this Dharma production movie is a cross-cultural love story between a North Indian boy and a South Indian girl. Sidharth wrapped up the Kerala shoot schedule a few days ago, before heading to Dubai for his vacay. On the other hand, Kiara Advani was last seen in 'Game Changer', alongside Ram Charan. She has several high-anticipated projects lined up, including 'War 2' co-starring Hrithik Roshan and JR NTR and 'Don 3' with Ranveer Singh.

