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PM Modi, Amit Shah must own up responsibility for Manipur violence: Kanimozhi

Sanjay Kumar



New Delhi, Feb.10: Accusing the BJP of pursuing "fascist politics" in Manipur, DMK leader Kanimozhi on Monday demanded that Prime

only due to the government's "support and apathy" and the BJP-led union government and Biren Singh, who had resigned as Manipur Chief Minister, were mere spectators. The DMK's Lok Sabha MP alleged: "...Manipur is the proof of BJP's fascist politics; not only Biren Singh, PM Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah should own up responsibility for failing to rein in violence and for protecting him (Biren Singh)."

Sonia Gandhi demands govt to conduct population census at earliest

ST Correspondent

New Delhi, Feb.10: Senior Congress leader Sonia Gandhi on Monday asked the government to complete a population census at the earliest, claiming that around 14 crore people in the country are being deprived of the benefits under the food security law.



The legislation, Gandhi said, played a crucial role in protecting millions of vulnerable households from starvation, particularly during the Covid-19 crisis. She also said that the quota for the beneficiaries is still determined based on the 2011 Census, which is now well over a decade old.

PM Modi arrives in Paris for AI Summit, bilateral talks with Macron

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Feb 10: After France, Prime

Palace, which is likely to be attended by a large number of CEOs from the tech domain along with

also hold discussions in both restricted and delegation formats and address the India-France CEO's Forum. The prime minister is also scheduled to inaugurate the new Consulate General of India in Marseille with Macron. The two leaders are also scheduled to visit the Mazargues War Cemetery maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Marseille on Wednesday, and pay tributes to the sacrifices made by the Indian soldiers in World War I. After concluding his France visit, Prime Minister Modi will head to United States for a two-day visit beginning February 12. He will meet US President Donald Trump and also interact with the officials of the new US administration. This will be the first meeting between the two leaders after President Trump assumed office for his second term. Previously, PM Modi visited the USA in June 2017 and hosted President Trump for a state visit to India in February 2020.

Minister Narendra Modi will head to United States for a two-day visit. Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Paris on Monday to co-chair the AI Action Summit and hold bilateral talks with French president Emmanuel Macron. "Over the next few days, I will be in France and USA to take part in various programmes. In France, I will be taking part in the AI Action Summit, where India is the co-chair. I will be holding talks with President @EmmanuelMacron towards strengthening India-France relations. We will also be going to Marseille to inaugurate a Consulate there," the prime minister posted on X ahead of his departure. The prime minister will attend a dinner hosted by Macron at the Élysée



other distinguished invitees to the summit. On February 11, the prime minister will co-chair the AI Action Summit, along with Macron. He will

Mamta Kulkarni resigns as Kinnar Akhara's Mahamandaleswar

New Delhi, Feb 10: The appointment of Mamta Kulkarni as a Mahamandaleswar of the Kinnar Akhara had sparked a controversy with the "founder" of the akhara opposing her inclusion. Mamta Kulkarni, the former Bollywood actress, resigned from her position as Mahamandaleswar of the Kinnar Akhara amid criticism and internal conflicts. Her decision came after questions were raised about her spiritual credentials, given her past in the film industry. The Kinnar Akhara also expelled Kulkarni and her mentor, Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, citing ongoing tensions within the organisation. In a video statement, Kulkarni announced her resignation, addressing the controversy, saying "I, Mahamandaleswar Yamai Mamta Nandgiri, am stepping down from this position."

Why is Ranveer Allahbadia's 'lapse in judgement' under Mumbai police scanner?

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Mumbai, Feb 10: Youtuber Ranveer Allahbadia confessed that his comment as a 'judge' in the 'India's Got Latent' show was "inappropriate" and "wasn't even funny". A complaint was registered with the Mumbai police against YouTuber Ranveer Allahbadia, social media influencer Apoorva Makhija, comedian Samay Raina, and the organizers of the show 'India's Got Latent', after the 'Beer Biceps' podcast show host made a controversial remark that created an outrage in social media. The complainant said that abusive language was used on the show and demanded strict legal action against the accused. The influencer passed the remark as a 'question' to a contestant who participated in the latest episode of comedian Samay Raina's show 'India's Got Latent' as a 'judge'. Ranveer was accompanied by Samay Raina, Ashish Chanchlani, Apoorva Mukhija aka The Rebel Kid and

others. "Would you rather watch your parents have sex every day or join them to finish it once and for all?" Ranveer asked a con-



testant. His fellow 'judges' also appeared to have been taken aback by Ranveer's remark. "What the f***?" Raina retorted. "Kya ho gaya hai Ranveer bhai ko? another 'judge' on the show was heard asking. "Meet the perverted creators who are shaping our country's creative economy. I am

sure each one has a following of millions. This content is not designated as adult content — it can be seen with ease even by a child if the algorithm takes him or her there. The creators or the platform have zero sense of responsibility," posted entrepreneur Neelesh Mishra on X "I am also not surprised at all that four people at the desk — and lots in the audience — celebrated this and had a great laugh. You, the audience, normalised and celebrated this and people like these," he added. Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis said that an individual's freedom of speech ends when he/she "encroaches upon the freedom of others". He also said that action should be taken if someone violates rules. Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi said that she will raise Ranveer's remarks at the parliamentary standing committee for IT "for the kind of vulgar, blasphemous content that is passed off as comedy."

Chidambaram corners MEA on restraints on deported Indians

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Feb.10: Congress leader P Chidambaram on Monday asked the government if External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar raised the issue of handcuffing of Indians being deported from the US in his meeting with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio before deportation. His comments drew a sharp retort from Leader of House JP Nadra who asked why such questions were not raised when similar action happened in the UPA regime. Initiating discussion on Union Budget 2025-26, Chidambaram claimed the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) "stumbled badly in the last week" and it is now clear that the US informed India about the deportation of 104 illegal Indian immigrants who landed in Amritsar. Referring to reports of a meeting between Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio a few days before the deportation, Chidambaram said, "I ask the government did the external affairs minister raise the matter with Mr Rubio? Did he

know about the SOP? He told this house the SOP has been in place for many years since 2012." The senior Congress leader further said, "If he knew about the SOP, did he protest the SOP to the Secretary of State of the US? Did he know about the SOP, requires them to handcuff, tie the legs with ropes (of deportees)...If he knew about it did he protest to Mr Rubio? If he did not protest, why did he not protest?" Chidambaram also sought to know if the external affairs minister offered to send an aircraft to the US to bring the Indian citizens back. Responding to Chidambaram, Nadra said he was surprised as to why the former finance minister did not ask the same questions in 2012 when he was a union minister. The BJP leader noted that the external affairs minister has already given an elaborate statement regarding the matter in the House and explained in detail. "I want to make it clear because it is being portrayed that only you (opposition) are bothered

about the inhuman deportation of the illegal immigrants. Though it is a fact that this concern was not there in 2009, 2010 or 2014 and the concern is now being raised in



2025," Nadra said. National interest should not be looked at through the political lens, he said, adding the process of deportation is not a new one and has been ongoing for several years carried out by immigration and customs enforcement authorities. "The standard operating procedure, deportation

by aircraft used by US Immigration and Customs Enforcement is effective from 2012 and provides for the use of restraints. So the people have come with restraints earlier as well in 2025," Nadra stated. Highlighting another list of 483 Indians, who have been identified as illegal immigrants," Chidambaram said, "I don't know when the deportation will take place. I ask a specific question, will the government send back an Indian aircraft to bring back the Indian illegal immigrants?" Last week, Jaishankar told the Upper House that standard operating procedure for deportation by aircraft provides for the use of restraints as per the US' policy since 2012. However, the SOPs do not include restraining women and children. He made the statement after opposition parties stepped up their criticism over the treatment meted out to 104 illegal Indian immigrants who landed in Amritsar in a US military plane - many deportees saying they were shackled.

Kejriwal to meet Punjab CM, MLAs amid dissent rumours post Delhi poll loss

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Feb 10: Speculations are also rife that Arvind Kejriwal could consider taking a more direct role in Punjab politics after losing Delhi assembly election. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal is set to meet Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, state ministers, and party MLAs in Delhi on Tuesday. The meeting comes in the wake of AAP's rout in the Delhi Assembly elections and growing speculation about internal dissent in the party's Punjab unit. However, AAP MP Malvinder Singh Kang downplayed the reports of dissent, and termed Tuesday's meeting a "routine strategy session". "A party is a continuous process. Feedback from all units are taken to shape its future strategies. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann along with AAP MLAs will meet Arvind Kejriwal to discuss the way forward," he said. According to party sources, the discussions will focus on analysing the Delhi election results and strategising for the Punjab polls scheduled in 2027. AAP, which had been in

power in Delhi for a decade, suffered a major setback in the February 5 polls, securing only 22 seats in the 70-member House. The BJP with



48 seats ended AAP's rule in the capital, raising concerns about the party's electoral prospects elsewhere. Tuesday's meeting has gained significance amid reports of dissatisfaction within the AAP's Punjab unit. Speculation are rife that

some MLAs are unhappy with the party's leadership and could be considering other options. AAP secured a landslide victory in Punjab in 2022, winning 92 of the 117 seats. However, recent developments have led to questions about internal cohesion, with some suggesting that the party's leadership in Delhi continues to exert significant influence over Punjab's governance. There are also speculation that Kejriwal could consider a more direct role in Punjab politics now. With Ludhiana's assembly seat currently vacant, political observers are also discussing the possibility of Kejriwal contesting from there and becoming a part of the Punjab government. The AAP chief lost the assembly elections to Parvesh Verma of the BJP from New Delhi. The defeat in Delhi has come as a blow for the AAP with some opposition leaders predicting a similar "downfall" for the party in Punjab, where just three of its 13 nominees won the Lok Sabha elections in 2024. Punjab being the only state where the AAP is in power now, the outcome of Tuesday's meeting could be crucial for the party's future direction and stability.

Akhilesh flays Adityanath government over traffic chaos in Prayagraj

Lucknow, Feb.10: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday criticised the Uttar Pradesh government over the severe traffic congestion in Prayagraj, claiming it has led to a shortage of essential commodities and inconvenienced devotees visiting the Maha Kumbh Mela. Hitting out at Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Yadav said no responsible minister or person is seen controlling the situation in Prayagraj. The chief minister has proved to be a "complete failure", along with this the deputy chief minister while many well-known ministers related to Prayagraj are missing, the SP chief said. "Due to traffic jam everywhere in Prayagraj, neither food grains, vegetables, spices are available nor medicines, petrol-diesel. Due to this, the condition of crores of hungry, thirsty, tired and exhausted devotees stuck in Prayagraj and Maha Kumbh premises and on the roads leading to Prayagraj is getting worse every hour. This is a very serious situation," Yadav said in a post on X. He also posted a video with the post in which people are sharing their experiences and pointing out at the chaos. "Just like in states, when the constitutional system fails, the command

is given to someone else, similarly, seeing the chaos in Maha Kumbh, a capable person should be given the command of governance. Incompetent people can spread false propaganda, not true system," he added. In another post, the former chief minister said, "People stuck in traffic jam are imprisoned in their vehicles for hours. There is no place even for women to meet their daily needs. There is no arrangement to take care of those who are fainting on the roads. Mobile phone batteries of devotees have run out due to which they have lost contact with their people. Due to lack of contact and information, people are getting restless." Yadav charged that those who should have been among the public are sitting at home. "There is no arrangement for food and water for constables, class four employees or sanitation workers who are standing day and night faithfully hungry and thirsty." Yadav alleged highlighting the situation in Prayagraj. The officers are giving orders sitting in their rooms but are not coming down to the ground, he charged and added that residents of Prayagraj have got nothing except filth, traffic jams and price rise.

NEWS BOX

Tamil Nadu man dumps decomposed body outside butcher shop after being denied meat



A man in Tamil Nadu threw a decomposed body outside a butcher shop after being denied meat. The suspect, a graveyard worker, fled the scene. Police retrieved the body and are searching for him.

Chennai. A man threw a decomposed body outside a butcher shop in Tamil Nadu's Palani Chettipatti after the owner refused to give him meat on Sunday, the police said. The man, identified as Kumar, works at a graveyard and was a regular customer at the shop run by Maniyarasan, the police said. On Sunday, Kumar went to the shop and asked for meat. However, Maniyarasan refused to give him the meat. Kumar left but later returned with a body he had reportedly taken from a graveyard. He threw it in front of the shop and fled, according to the police. Authorities arrived, retrieved the body and transported it back to the graveyard in a mortuary van. The police are searching for Kumar.

Tamil Nadu introduces strict regulations for online real money gaming



Chennai. The Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority has introduced new regulations governing real money online games. The Tamil Nadu Online Gaming Authority (Real Money Games) Regulations, 2025, prohibits minors under 18 from playing online real money games. According to the regulations, know your customer (KYC) verification is required for account creation. The initial login must be authenticated using Aadhaar-based verification, including a one-time password sent to the linked phone number. Online game providers must implement the KYC verification process and display pop-up caution messages if a player plays continuously for more than an hour. These messages will reappear every 30 minutes to inform users of their playtime. Players must have options to set daily, weekly, and monthly monetary limits. Whenever money is deposited, a pop-up message will indicate the user's limit and the amount spent so far. Caution messages on the addictive nature of online gaming must be displayed on the login page of gaming platforms. The message "Online gaming is addictive in nature" will appear prominently. Real money games will be restricted between midnight and 5 am. No logins will be allowed during these hours. The regulations seek to regulate online gaming practices and ensure compliance from gaming providers.

Bihar Chief Minister, MLAs and 8 lakh employees hit by salary delays over glitches



Patna. Salary payments to government employees, including Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and MLAs, in Bihar have been delayed for two months, affecting around 8 lakh employees, including ministers, legislators, and officials. The delay is linked to the rollout of a new software system, CFMS 2.0 (Comprehensive Financial Management System), on January 3. Technical glitches in the system have disrupted salary disbursement and bill payments. Among the affected employees are 3 lakh regional staff, 5 lakh teachers, and 50,000 contract workers. They have not received their salaries for December and January. The Bihar government initially introduced financial management software in 2019. The upgraded version was expected to improve the process, but data transfer issues from the old system have led to payment delays. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Samrat Choudhary had on December 27 stated that the technical glitches would be fixed within a few days. However, the issue remains unresolved. As per Finance Department data, the Bihar government disburses approximately Rs 6,000 crore in salaries every month.

Kinnar Jagadguru Himangi Sakhi attacked in UP's Prayagraj

A mob attacked Kinnar Jagadguru Himangi Sakhi's camp in Prayagraj's Mahakumbh Nagar, injuring her and damaging property. The attack followed her criticism of Mamta Kulkarni's appointment. Police are investigating as tensions remain high.



Prayagraj. A mob attacked the camp of Kinnar Jagadguru Himangi Sakhi in Prayagraj's Mahakumbh Nagar on Sunday night. The attackers surrounded the camp and damaged property. Himangi Sakhi sustained serious injuries in the attack. The attackers are believed

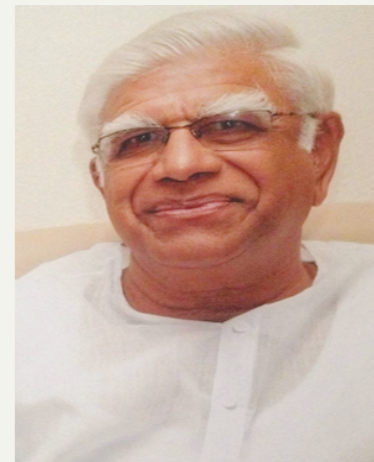
to be linked to Kinnar Akhara's Acharya Mahamandleshwar Lakshmi Narayan Tripathi. Himangi Sakhi had earlier questioned Mamta Kulkarni's appointment as Mahamandaleswar of the Kinnar Akhara. Earlier, while highlighting the former

Bollywood actress' controversial past, Sakhi had questioned Akhara's decision-making process.

Speaking with news agency ANI, Himangi Sakhi had stated, "First of all, who was the Kinnar Akhara formed for? It was formed for the Kinnar community. But now, a woman has been inducted into the Kinnar Akhara. If it is a Kinnar Akhara and you have started giving positions to women, then rename the Akhara. Several other film stars have come to this Maha Kumbh to take a holy dip... We never commented on anyone. But do we have to comment today? A film star like Mamta Kulkarni, who has links to D Company and was sent to jail in a drug case... The entire world knows this. Despite that, you give her 'deeksha' and anoint her as Mahamandaleswar without offering her any 'shiksha'... What kind of 'Guru' are you giving to society?" The attackers arrived in a Fortuner. CCTV footage captured the incident at the camp in Sector 8 of Prayagraj. Police reached the scene after being alerted and brought the situation under control. An investigation is underway. Tension prevailed in Mahakumbh Nagar following the incident.

Hyderabad tycoon stabbed 70 times by grandson over property dispute, die:

A 29-year-old US-educated man in Hyderabad killed his industrialist grandfather over a dispute regarding property distribution, by stabbing him more than 70 times.



Hyderabad. A Hyderabad-based 86-year-old industrialist, Velamati Chandrasekhara Janardhana Rao was stabbed to death at his residence by his grandson allegedly over property distribution, police said on Monday.

The incident reportedly followed a heated argument. The 29-year-old grandson, Kilaru Keerthi Teja, allegedly confronted Rao, the chairman of Veljan Group, claiming unfair asset distribution. Reports claimed that Teja was given Rs 4 crore as his share of the ancestral property.

The dispute escalated quickly, and he stabbed his grandfather 70 times. During the altercation, Teja's mother, Sarojini Devi, tried to intervene but sustained injuries. She was rushed to a hospital and is currently receiving treatment.

Teja had recently returned to Hyderabad after completing his master's degree in the United States and was visiting Rao's residence with his mother when the dispute and attack occurred.

Teja has been arrested, and further investigation is underway. Janardhana Rao was a well-known industrialist and philanthropist, with contributions spanning multiple sectors, including shipbuilding, energy, and industrial applications.

Mini buses to hit 1,469 routes across Tamil Nadu; Chennai to have fewer than 10

CHENNAI. The transport department has identified 1,469 routes for mini-bus operations across Tamil Nadu. Gazette notifications declaring these routes have been issued by collectors in a few districts. For Chennai and other districts, the notifications are expected to be issued next week, after which permits will be given to private operators.

Erode and Tiruvannamalai have the highest number of routes, with 109 each, while Kanniyakumari has only three. Backward districts like Ariyalur and Perambalur have 16 and 14 routes identified, respectively, according to official documents accessed by.

Similarly, districts such as Kallakuruchi (91), Cuddalore (81), Tiruppur (97), and Villupuram (73) are set to have a high number of mini-bus routes. The maximum length of the mini-bus route should be 25 km while the minimum length is 10 km. Surprisingly, in Chennai, which faces a shortage of nearly 2,000 MTC

buses to meet public demand, fewer than 10 routes are likely to be operational, with six to seven routes in north Chennai and two routes in south Chennai.

However, the outskirts of Chennai under Chengalpattu district, including Tambaram, Pallavaram, Sholinganallur, Kilambakkam, Guduvanchery, and other areas, will have buses on 15 routes. Similarly, areas like Poonamallee, Avadi, and Thiruverkadu under Tiruvallur district will have over 10 routes out of the 33 identified for the district. This marks the first time since 1976 that permits for new routes in urban areas will be issued to private operators in the state.

'CUMTA survey on to identify mini bus routes' Transport Commissioner Shunchongam Jatak Chiru told TNIE that the ratio of unserved to served areas has been adjusted from 70:30 to 65:35 to cover more regions. "Identification of potential routes for mini-buses poses huge

challenges. Although the defined norms state that there should be no government bus service or fewer than four single trips per day, we have instructed Regional Transport Officers and collectors to create routes based on demand," he said.

Several districts, including Salem, Thanjavur, Ariyalur, Krishnagiri, and Nagapattinam, have fewer than 20 routes. "In Kanniyakumari, geographical and topographical challenges have made it difficult to identify routes. We have asked collectors to collaborate with local body representatives, such as panchayat presidents, to determine suitable routes. Collectors have also been instructed to modify existing mini-bus routes to align with the revised policy, based on operators' requests," Chiru added.

He added that once the mini-bus routes are officially notified in the gazette, operators can apply for permits to run buses.

Lalu's aide evicted from official residence, RJD leader says will not stay silent

Patna. Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and former member of the state Legislative Council, Sunil Kumar Singh, was forcibly evicted from his government residence in Patna on Sunday. Singh, who is a close aide of former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, was not at home at the time of the eviction. A magistrate and district administration, along with a large police force, arrived at his government residence to carry out the eviction.

Upon receiving the information of the eviction, he rushed to the location. Government sources said that Sunil Kumar Singh's residence was vacated since he is no longer an MLC and his membership ended months ago. Reacting to the forced eviction, Sunil Kumar Singh lashed out at Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, saying he would not remain silent despite the government's actions.



"The Bihar government's building construction department showed its efficiency on Sunday when, in my absence, my government bungalow was forcibly vacated, and my belongings were thrown out. Even after this action, I will not stay silent. I will not submit to this injustice," the former RJD MLC said. The former state Legislative Council has challenged his expulsion from the Bihar Legislative Council for his remarks against Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. The Supreme Court on January 29 reserved its orders on the former RJD MLC's plea.

Probe agency arrests four persons in Tirupati ghee adulteration case: Sources

The CBI arrested four individuals over adulteration in Tirumala laddu ghee supply. The probe revealed forged documents and tender manipulations. The accused will appear in Tirupati court. Investigations continue into violations linked to the previous state government.

Tirupati. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Sunday arrested four individuals in connection with the Tirumala laddu adulteration case, sources told India Today. Those arrested include Bipin Jain and Pomil Jain, former directors of Bhole Baba Dairy in Roorkee; Vaishnavi Dairy CEO Apoorva Vinay Kant Chawda; and AR Dairy Managing Director Raju Rajasekharan. The four were arrested as part of an investigation into irregularities in ghee supply for the preparation of Tirumala laddus.

The probe revealed that representatives of Vaishnavi Dairy secured tenders in the name of AR Dairy, the sources said. Officials found that Vaishnavi Dairy created false documents and seals to manipulate the tender process. Fake records indicated ghee procurement from Bhole Baba Dairy, which did not

have the capacity to supply the required quantities. According to the sources, the accused will be presented before the Tirupati court tomorrow. Special Investigation Team (SIT) member and



CBI Joint Director Viresh Prabhu, who has been in Tirupati to oversee the probe, is expected to be present in court. The case dates back to the previous government led by Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy's tenure, when impure materials

were reportedly found in the laddu prasadam. Earlier, the Supreme Court directed the CBI-monitored SIT probe into the allegations. The team also included members from the Andhra Pradesh government and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The investigation began last year. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) requires 15,000 kg of cow ghee daily for laddu preparation. AR Foods from Tamil Nadu secured a tender to supply ghee at Rs 320 per kg. On July 8, eight tankers of ghee arrived, and four were sent for testing.

On July 17, lab reports confirmed the presence of impure substances in the ghee.

Authorities continue to investigate the case to determine the extent of the violations and those responsible.

Internal rift or missing images? Senior AIADMK leader skips EPS felicitation

Senior AIADMK leader KA Sengottaiyan skipped a felicitation event for party chief EPS, citing the absence of MGR and Jayalalithaa's images on banners. He stated that he had informed organisers about the issue in advance and clarified that he did not boycott but simply chose not to attend.

Tamil Nadu. Senior All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) leader KA Sengottaiyan abstained from attending a function held to felicitate party chief Edappadi K Palaniswami (EPS), sparking speculation of internal discord within the party.

The former minister cited the absence of images of AIADMK stalwarts MG Ramachandran (MGR) and J Jayalalithaa on event banners as the reason for his non-participation. Speaking to the media, Sengottaiyan



clarified that he had informed the event's organising committee three days in advance about the missing images. However, he claimed that his concerns were ignored. "The committee met me three days

earlier. I told them that images of MGR and Amma were missing. Had they discussed it with me earlier, I would have told them. I only came to know of this after the hoardings were placed," he said.

Sengottaiyan emphasised that he did not intend to boycott the event but simply chose not to attend. "My leaders who helped me grow, their images were missing," he added, underlining the significance of MGR and Jayalalithaa in AIADMK's legacy.

Apart from this, he also pointed out

that Jayalalithaa had sanctioned Rs 3.72 crore for the scheme that was being highlighted at the event in 2011. "Then Public Works Department Minister Ramalingam ordered feasibility research. She was the foundation for the scheme, and I alerted them that the pictures were missing," he said.

Sengottaiyan was once considered a potential chief minister candidate after Jayalalithaa's death. His absence from the event has sparked fresh speculation over internal rifts within the party, though he maintains that his decision was purely a matter of principle.

Indignation & integration

One of the loveliest journeys in the world is the flight from New Delhi to Guwahati and, if you are heading to the tea gardens or the Arunachal hills, the flights to Dibrugarh or Itanagar are equally awe-inspiring. For, you fly west to east along the Himalayan ranges, past Mount Everest and the snows of Kanchenjunga. Along either side of the Himalayas, mountains that tectonic plates continue to raise heaven-wards, are two ancient civilisations. The Indian peninsula, which continental drift has embedded in the Asian plate, and the Middle Kingdom of China. Recent tensions across the border echo similar situations in the past. We had been friends. Pandit Nehru had backed mainland China's claim for a seat in the UN Security Council. Then came the flight of the Dalai Lama, in 1959, to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. He was followed by thousands of Tibetans. A government-in-exile was set up.

Perhaps it was this sanctuary, generously given by India, after an uprising in Tibet that riled China. The origins of the conflict that erupted between the neighbours in 1962, in the wake of these events, have long been disputed. Firstly, who ruptured the happy 'Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai' discourse? Secondly, why did India not use its Air Force, which was perhaps much superior to the Chinese air force in those days? Thirdly, when war did begin, why did our Prime Minister allow the evacuation of the Indian Army from the North-east? It is time to remember another Prime Minister, who in the course of the Second World War, had vowed, "We shall fight on the beaches. We shall fight on the landing grounds. We shall fight in the fields, and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills." After the evacuation at Dunkirk in the summer of 1940, Churchill admitted in the British Parliament that "wars are not won by evacuations". In the course of having served in India's far-flung forgotten frontiers in the North-east, for a period of three-and-a-half decades, I have heard numerous people, among them politicians, officers, students and common citizens, say that the great cause of the sense of alienation of the people of North-east India was Pandit Nehru's statement at the time, after the withdrawal of the Army from the North-east, that "my heart goes out to the people of Assam and the entire region". The people of Assam and the North-east felt abandoned and at the mercy of the Chinese. The banks were making a bonfire of the paper currency in their vaults. Coins were being dumped into rivers, lakes and water bodies. The business community was decamping. There was a sense of panic and defeat. The Red Army was making its way down the mountain passes through Arunachal. The Chinese army, worried and mindful about ambushes in a territory about which they had little geographical idea, did not come down in trucks, tanks or armoured carriers. They were moving on foot, each company holding aloft at the head of every marching column the pictures of two widely different leaders. One was of Chinese premier Zhou Enlai and the other of Pandit Nehru.

As they came down the defiles of the Arunachal Himalayas into the verdant valley of the Brahmaputra, they kept on asking people, whom they came across, whether they resembled or looked like Nehru or Zhou Enlai. This was psychological warfare. The common people were being told that they resembled Zhou Enlai and the marching soldiers, and were therefore their people. In those days, what was insensitively called a lunatic asylum was located on the outskirts of Tezpur district. The doctors and the paramedics had fled. The inmates came out in a state of bewilderment onto the roadside and saw columns of the Chinese Red Army moving past. In utter confusion, some of them started clapping, believing that they owed their freedom and rescue from the facility to these men walking by.

The first administrative casualty of the advent of the Chinese was the District Magistrate of Tezpur, who had made the blunder of flying off to Kolkata to drop his wife and children. At the time of the gravest peril for the nation and the district, the officer was missing and became the first IAS officer to be dismissed in Independent India.

The sky's forgotten sweepers, invisible cleaners

Vulture conservation efforts lend hope of restoring the balance in nature's intricate web

We ruled the skies once as silent sentinels, gliding effortlessly over forests, hills and human settlements. We, the vultures, were nature's custodians of balance, the earth's invisible cleaners, ensuring that death didn't breed disease. Our wings carried the weight of civilisations' secrets, and our keen eyes bore witness to empires rising and falling. But, by the late 1980s, a shadow fell upon us — a silent, insidious plague that dimmed the skies of our tropical paradise. One by one, we succumbed, not to age or predators, but to an invisible toxin embedded in the flesh we devoured. Humans called it Diclofenac, a painkiller for their beasts of burden, but for us, it was poison. For over a decade, humans remained oblivious to the massacre. By the time the scientists discovered the truth, our numbers had plummeted into oblivion. The populations of three resident Gyps vultures — White-rumped, Long-billed, and Slender-billed — had declined significantly by 2004, pushing them to the brink of extinction. Amidst the despair came hope, from unlikely allies. The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) emerged as our champions. BNHS, in collaboration with the Forest Department of Haryana, established the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre in Pinjore, while WII took a lead role in Kangra district, Himachal Pradesh, and beyond. At Pinjore, nestled near the verdant slopes of the Bir Shikargah Wildlife Sanctuary, scientists toiled to bring us back from the brink. Aviaries, incubators and surgical rooms became our lifeline. By February 2023, this haven housed 399 vultures, including 138 White-rumped vultures, 209 Long-billed vultures, and 52 Slender-billed vultures. Meanwhile, in Kangra, the Himachal Forest Department initiated its own efforts in 2004, protecting nesting and roosting sites in Parol, Salol, Chadev, Daulatpur and Mastgarh. Their dedication bore fruit. Recent surveys revealed 506 new nests, sheltering some 2,500 eggs. In Kangra's Pong Dam Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, a sanctuary within a sanctuary emerged — a 'vulture restaurant'. Here, de-skinned carcasses were laid out, free from toxins, inviting us to dine safely.

These became oases of life amid the poisoned lands, symbols of hope not just for us but for humanity's ability to learn and adapt. The WII's research was instrumental in identifying Diclofenac as the primary cause of our mortality. Their advocacy led to a nationwide ban on its veterinary use in 2007-2008. This was a watershed moment, a turning point in the war against extinction. Yet, the skies were far from safe. Vulture-toxic drugs, including the banned Diclofenac, still



circulated in black markets. Other harmful drugs, like Aceclofenac and Nimesulide, loomed as silent threats. To counter these dangers, humans created 'vulture safe zones' in regions like Majuli Island in Assam, the Terai in Uttar Pradesh, and Bundelkhand in Madhya Pradesh. Back in Pinjore, hope took flight. In 2023, eight White-rumped vultures — six captive-bred and two wild-caught — were released into the skies. Five survived the cautious reintroduction, and one, in a poetic twist of fate, paired with a wild bird. They nested, and when their fledgling takes wing, it will be born of the wild — a bridge between captivity and freedom.

In August 2024, 10 Long-billed vultures from Panch Teng Reserve in Maharashtra were released, each equipped with GPS tags. As they chart their paths across the skies, they carry with them humanity's tentative steps toward

redemption. For us, the skies remain a gamble, each carcass a potential threat, each flight a testament to survival against odds. Yet we endure — a fragile thread in nature's intricate web, a reminder of the balance that sustains all life. The humans have learned that without us, death lingers and disease festers. Their efforts at Pinjore, Kangra and beyond reflect not just science but a profound humility — a recognition of their role in our near-demise and their duty in our recovery.

At the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre and the vulture sanctuaries of Kangra, humans nurture life from fragile shells and protect roosts in ancient trees. They perfect the art of resurrection. The released birds are not merely vultures — they are symbols of coexistence, reminders that humanity holds the power to undo its errors.

Lawless in Dhaka

Bangladesh treading a perilous path

THE hope of a new dawn in Bangladesh, kindled by PM Sheikh Hasina's ouster in August last year, lies extinguished today. The vandalism witnessed this week in many parts of this young country is nothing short of self-immolation — restless protesters are actually harming Bangladesh's present as well as future while trying to erase its past. Houses of Awami League leaders were torched, while murals of the nation's founder and Hasina's father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were demolished or defaced in several districts. It was apparently a backlash against the ex-PM's online address, in which she urged her supporters to confront the interim government, whom she accused of seizing power in an unconstitutional manner. Unfortunately, the government is itself fanning the flames. Justifying the attack on Mujib's Dhanmondi residence, chief adviser Muhammad Yunus' press office termed it a response to Hasina's 'violent behaviour'. The new rulers seem to



believe that they can create Naya Bangladesh on the bedrock of hatred and vengeance. This disturbing mindset will only push the vulnerable nation deeper

into chaos and instability. The government as well as protesters are obviously frustrated that Hasina continues to make her presence felt six months after she fled and took refuge in India. And New Delhi has stood its ground so far, giving the Yunus dispensation no assurance on the demand for her extradition. The fresh spate of violence makes it evident that Hasina will not get a fair trial if at all she is sent back to Bangladesh. Moreover, Dhaka is making things worse for itself by antagonising New Delhi, which has been its all-weather friend right from the days of the 1971 war of liberation. Hasina's long tenure was no doubt marked by autocratic excesses, but that is not reason enough to destroy the nation's heritage. Bangladesh must rein in hate-mongers and law-breakers for its own good; otherwise, the onerous task of restoring democracy will become an ever-elusive pipe dream.

Loving the country, from a distance

I am yet to meet someone who was successful overseas, has returned to the homeland and is happy about it

One of the somewhat unusual aspects of my work is that there are periods of intense activity that are followed by a complete lull. In the first, there isn't a moment to scratch one's head and in the second, there is time enough to count the follicles off one's pate. Similarly, there are short bursts of considerable interaction with an individual or a team, and then, more often than not, our paths never cross again. Some of these moments come with television productions, and others are with travellers from various parts of the world. One such was with the British comedian and TV presenter Sanjeev Bhaskar, when he was working on the series, 'India with Sanjeev Bhaskar', that aired in 2007 to mark the 60th anniversary of the Independence of India and Pakistan, and of Partition.

Bhaskar, who was appointed as the Chancellor of the University of Sussex in 2009, is better known for his comedy series, 'The Kumars at No. 42' and 'Goodness Gracious Me'. The latter was considered a game-changer with its satire and fine parody. Everything good was Indian. All famous people, real or fictitious, were Indian — Superman, Santa Claus, Sherlock Holmes, and even Leonardo da Vinci and the Queen. Seen from Western suburbia, the best place in the world was India.

It is from a distance that we Indians seem to love our country more. Often enough, satire and parody, like Sanjeev Bhaskar's, give us insights and fling truth at our faces. Beyond a couple of people who have done so for reasons that are patriotic, I am yet to meet someone who was successful overseas, has returned to the homeland and is happy about it. Most of the returnees have come for personal reasons. Yes, there are a few that I know of who have tried, but somewhere along the line, have given up and gone back to wherever they came from.

From the United Kingdom, let us shift to the other place of preferred migration for Indians, the United States. At an



estimated 7,25,000, they constitute the second largest group of illegal migrants in that country, and with the new administration, as they are caught, face deportation. On the other hand, legal migrant Indians in the US are thriving. Unlike those that moved to Britain who were often blue-collar workers, the migrants to USA were highly qualified and skilled personnel. In 1965, the Immigration and Nationality Act of the US abolished national origin quotas; this had been in place since the 1920s. Now, the doors opened to Indian professionals. They moved in droves and today, with other Asians,

constitute the wealthiest ethnic group in that country. Within my own family, I have more relatives in the US than in India. This, I do not say with pride, but with a measure of regret. They have left, stayed and thrived as legal citizens of another nation, simply because their homeland did not provide the opportunities that became available to them elsewhere. This has been the great dichotomy between what we are educated for, what we are capable of, and where we actually spend our lives. Merit and capability take a backseat, and other factors determine success or failure. Placing a warning sign

saying 'kismet' over the chasm that divides the two, is not good enough. Almost three decades back, my fairly aged parents were going for the first time to spend time with my sister in New York. Applying for visas was not the online process that one has now. On the night before their interview, on a lane behind the US embassy in New Delhi, one witnessed a story of hope, of desire, of trepidation unfold. To secure their place on the morning roll call of interviewees, I was despatched around midnight to stand in line on their behalf. That was a night of great insights. 'Jugaad' had taken over that back lane. I learnt that I could pay someone to 'stand in line' on my behalf. There was a chai-wala moving with his stove and attached kettle. Beyond parody, beyond farce, there was someone with a Polaroid camera taking photographs for those who had not brought them to submit with their applications. As the night shifted towards dawn, the place became packed. Not all who were there were proxies like me, nor were they all there for a visa. Entire families had come along. It was a night that gave me material for a short story in one of my books.

In the morning, my parents arrived and I sat down in the taxi they had hired, to wait for them. The driver must have been about my age and was from a village near Amritsar. He told me that he wanted to go abroad. He had been rejected for both USA and the UK, and was now prepared to go anywhere. "Anywhere?" "Yes, as long as it was foreign." His qualifications: he had passed the 10th and could drive. "Main pind vich nahin rehna" (I don't want to stay in the village), he said. When my parents returned, the driver asked my parents if their passports had been visa-stamped. "Yes," replied my father. "What did they ask you?" the boy asked in Punjabi. "Nothing," was the reply. "The passports were taken by an official and returned with the stamp."

What's your summer Beauty Remedy?

For most working professionals, heading to a salon once every week is next to impossible. At such a time, most women rely on homemade treatments that are not only inexpensive, but also make it easy to care for your skin and hair while sitting at home.

We share with you some easy-to-do ones -

To get rid of tan

Instead of booking yourself for a fruit facial at your local salon, apply a spoon of yoghurt mixed with either honey or lemon squeezed into it to improve your complexion. You should try this therapy at least thrice in a week so that the tan reduces faster.

Treating eyebags

Most women fail to recognise that eyebags or lines under the eyes can be easily treated at home by performing a few facial exercises combined with the application of sandalwood and rose water paste, instead of going in for non-invasive eye treatments.

Removal of dead skin cells

Instead of applying a scrub on your face and body every two to three weeks, you can make a thick paste of rice and milk and apply it on your body once every week. This course mixture will remove the dead skin cells from your face and body and will make it shine.

Treating hair fall

Most women experience hair fall during summer. This is because apart from washing your hair on a daily basis, you are also prone to excessive sweating on your scalp. To make sure that you don't lose out more hair, apply a paste of reetha and coconut oil on your scalp twice in a week. You can wash your hair with buttermilk to ensure that your hair stays luscious and shiny while also reducing hair fall.

Dark patches on the skin

Apart from tanning, another problem which is quite persistent during the warmer months is dark patches on the sun due to exposure to the harmful rays of the sun. To ensure that your skin stays smooth, soft and without blemishes, you can unboiled cold milk along with a paste of almonds and apply this mixture on the patches to reduce the discolouration.



6 face packs to get rid of Suntan

- It is natural that our skin would get tanned when exposed to this scorching heat.
- Apart from applying sunscreen lotion you can also try out these face packs to help remove the tan.



It's blazing hot in Chennai. Despite the heat we have to step out for work and for other activities. It is natural that our skin would get tanned when exposed to this scorching heat. Apart from applying sunscreen lotion you can also try out these face packs to help remove the tan. City-based skin care expert Vasundhara Ravi gives us six homemade face packs that will keep your skin looking fresh this summer.

Barley pack

Grind 30 grams of barley with 20 grams of khus khus. Mix this powder with five drops of lemon juice and a few drops of rose water to make a smooth paste. Apply this paste on the exposed areas. Leave the pack on for half-an-hour and wash your face with cold water.

Dal pack

Take two tablespoon of tuvar dal, two tsp green

gram dal, two tsp cucumber seeds, two tsp channa dal. Grind all these into a fine powder. Add two pinches of kasturi manjal and two tsp cucumber juice to this powder and make a paste. Apply this on the tanned areas. Leave it for half-an hour and wash it.

Fruit pack

Soak 10 grams of dry raisins and two dates in 50 ml tea decoction for two hours. Then grind this into a smooth paste. Add a tsp of papaya pulp, apply the mix on face, neck and other exposed areas. Rinse after 10 minutes.

Orange pack

Dry orange peel (mandarin orange) and powder it. Take a tsp of this powder and add one tsp curd, a tsp Multani mitti, and one tsp sandal paste. Add a little water and mix it into a fine paste. Apply the paste on the tanned areas and leave it on for 20 minutes. Wash off with water.

Aloe vera pack

Mix two tsp of aloe vera pulp, three tsp tomato juice, one tsp Multani mitti and one tsp sandal paste. Apply on tanned areas. Leave on for 15 minutes, pat on cold milk. Leave on for five minutes and then wash off with water.

Potato pack

Mix one tsp potato juice (grate and squeeze), one tsp tomato pulp and two tsp green gram flour. Apply this mixture all over the tanned areas. Leave it on for 20 minutes and wash.

Are skin woes dampening your summer spirit?

Fret not, here's addressing a host of skin-related queries so that you can make the most of that gorgeous summer shift dress.

Sweltering weather is synonymous with rising hems and plunging necklines. So don't let problem-ridden skin come in the way of daring summer dressing. "Eat for beauty," advises nutritionist and food consultant, Naini Setalvad. Paying a little attention to the changing needs of your body this summer can go a long way.

What are the diet essentials for the summer months?

Setalvad recommends a heavy breakfast, a light lunch and a medium dinner. "Fried food, red meat and dry fruits (except raisins) should be avoided. Eggs are heat producing and should be kept to a minimum; fish is a good option. Light grains like rice and wheat are okay for the diet but millets should be avoided," she states. "Yoghurt cools down the digestive system. So try to include raitas in your meals or use yoghurt as a salad dressing," she adds. Dr. A prati m Goel, dermatologist, says that antioxidants helps to counter the damage caused by over exposure to the sun. "Raw tomatoes are an excellent source of antioxidants. The bottom line for great summer skin, however, is maximum hydration," she explains.

What does one drink in summer for optimum hydration?

Setalvad strongly recommends raw mango drinks (popularly known as aam panna in most parts of India). Avoid alcohol and sugary fluids like sherbets and aerated drinks. Salted lemon water, buttermilk, jal jeera and caffeine-free herbal infusions like peppermint or coriander drinks are ideal.

Does a predominantly fruit and vegetable diet ensure great skin?

Not all veggies are ideal for summer. Pumpkins, snake gourds, cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce are good for light summer meals. Setalvad suggests incorporating slices of raw mango into

Go skintastic this Summer!

salads or snacks. "Mango pickle is an excellent option since it helps to replenish the essential salts lost due to perspiration," she explains. Melons and mangoes are well known 'summer fruits'. However, the innocuous mango is often thought to be responsible for pimples. "Don't blend mangoes with milk or sugar," warns Setalvad. Mango is alkaline while milk is acidic, resulting in a disrupted pH. This

an emulsion of your regular moisturiser by mixing it with a little water and applying this to the face and neck. She suggests a natural remedy to rejuvenate tired, summer skin. "Pack grated cucumber in a piece of muslin cloth and place this on the face for 20 minutes," she suggests. Fungal infections proliferate in summer due to dampness induced by excessive perspiration. Using a light anti-fungal dusting powder can help nip rashes and infections.

How does one choose the right sunscreen?

The stunningly bold Honda Amaze is here

Honda

Recommended By Colombia

'Sunscreen' is a golden word in summer. But it is a fact that it doesn't agree with all skin types. In such cases, make the most of physical protection in the form of broad-rimmed hats, sunglasses, full-sleeved cotton clothing, etc. "If sunscreen is too greasy for you, use aloe vera and calamine. This is especially good for acne-prone skin," says Dr Goel. He explains that over-the-counter sunscreens are of two kinds chemical and physical. "The chemical ones need to be applied 20 minutes prior to sun exposure whereas the physical ones (that contain titanium or zinc oxides and benzones) act instantly," she says.

Handy tips

- As inviting as they are, avoid pack aged facial wipes as most of them contain alcohol that could eventually harm your skin.

- Mineral water sprays are a good alternative when there is no provision for a face wash.

- Use a cold compress after long periods of sun exposure. It helps to instantly cool down the skin. Applying tomato juice or buttermilk relieves minor sunburn.



causes indigestion and skin break outs when the body tries to eliminate the accumulated toxins. Setalvad also suggests sprinkling dry ginger powder on mango in order to reduce the risk of flatulence.

What is the basic skin care regimen that one should follow during summer?

Your skin needs moisturising even in summer. Dr Goel recommends making

300 km-long traffic jam chokes Maha Kumbh, Akhilesh Yadav's jab at UP government

►As a result of the severe traffic jam, many devotees were unable to reach the Sangam area to take a holy dip amid the ongoing Maha Kumbh. The pilgrims have raised serious concerns over management issues.

New Delhi. As millions of devotees are still ascending to Prayagraj to attend the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela, severe traffic jams have paralysed the city, with pilgrims not being able to reach the Triveni Sangam -- the confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers -- on time to take the holy dip. The Prayagraj Sangam railway station has also been closed till Friday due to excessive crowd.

Taking a jab at the Uttar Pradesh government over mismanagement, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav said, "The hungry, thirsty, distressed and tired pilgrims stuck in traffic jams should be looked at with a humane perspective. Are common devotees not human beings?" On Sunday, hundreds of vehicles could be seen queued up on the Sangam road and moving at a snail's pace as police barricaded the stretch for an orderly movement of pilgrims. The road connects to the Civil Lines, and if one does not want to choose that, they can take the Shastri Bridge route to reach Triveni Sangam. Police in Madhya Pradesh's Maihar said that it was "impossible to move towards Prayagraj as there is a traffic jam of

200-300 km". Since the Maha Kumbh commenced on January 13, more than 43 crore devotees have taken a holy dip in the Sangam. On Sunday, Akhilesh Yadav posted several tweets, highlighting the traffic situation in Prayagraj and called on the Uttar Pradesh government to make immediate emergency arrangements for the stranded pilgrims.

In one post, the Samajwadi Party chief said, "On the occasion of Maha Kumbh, vehicles should be made toll free in UP. This will reduce travel problems and also the problem of traffic jams. When films can be made entertainment tax free, then why not vehicles be made toll free?" Akhilesh Yadav went on to say that "there is already a jam in Nawabganj 30 km before the entry into Prayagraj towards Lucknow, a jam in Gauhania 16 km before the Rewa road, and a jam of 12 to 15 km towards Varanasi and news of the crowd entering even the engine of the train is being published everywhere. Normal life has become difficult."

"The UP government has failed. It is visible only in false advertisements full of arrogance but is actually missing on the ground," he added.

As a result of excessive crowd, the Prayagraj Sangam railway station has been closed until February 14. Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Northern Railway), Lucknow, Kuldeep Tiwari, said, "Since the passengers were facing difficulty in getting out of the station due to heavy crowd outside Prayagraj Sangam station, it was decided to close Prayagraj Sangam station in view of the heavy crowd of devotees." The North Central Railway has implemented a single direction traffic system at the Prayagraj Junction station till further orders in view of the huge crowd of devotees.

North Central Railway Senior Public Relations Officer Amit Malviya said that for the safety and convenience of the passengers, entry will be given only from the city side (towards platform no.-1) and exit will be only from the Civil Lines side.

He said that unreserved passengers will be given entry through direction wise passenger shelter. Meanwhile, devotees have questioned the administration about mismanagement of the traffic situation.

3 labourers dead after consuming spurious liquor in dry Gujarat

Three labourers died after they consumed spurious liquor in Gujarat's Nadiad. The bodies were sent for a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of deaths.



New Delhi. Three labourers died after consuming country liquor mixed with some suspicious liquid in Gujarat's Nadiad, police said. The victims were engaged in various works like painting and selling panipuris.

The families of the victims said they all died due to consumption of spurious liquor in the Jawahar Nagar area of Nadiad late Sunday night. A forensic report revealed that methanol was not present in the spurious liquor.

The three bodies were sent for a post-mortem examination to determine the cause of the deaths, police said. Gujarat has been a dry state and the manufacture, storage, sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages has been banned since its bifurcation from the erstwhile Bombay State in May 1960. Last month, the Gujarat Police arrested two people after they busted an illegal manufacturing unit involved in making spurious liquor in Mehsana district.

After receiving a tip-off, the police raided the factory manufacturing spurious foreign liquor, which was being made by mixing colour, malt, chemicals and alcohol, and sold by filling it in bottles with stickers of top liquor brands.

In December last year, the BJP government in the state allowed consumption of alcohol at hotels, restaurants and clubs offering 'wine and dine' service in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar district.

All individuals employed in GIFT City and authorised visitors are allowed to consume alcoholic beverages within the designated area. However, hotels and restaurants are ordered not to sell liquor bottles.

India in talks with US for combat vehicles, fighter jet engine deal: Report

Last month, Trump asked PM Modi, who heads to Washington on Wednesday for a two-day visit, to buy more US-made security equipment, opens new tab and move "toward a fair trading relationship".

New Delhi. India is in talks with the United States for the purchase and co-production of combat vehicles as well as finalising a fighter jet engine deal, people familiar with the matter said, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets President Donald Trump this week.

The world's biggest arms importer, India traditionally relies mainly on Russia. Last month, Trump asked PM Modi, who heads to Washington on Wednesday for a two-day visit, to buy more US-made security equipment, opens new tab and move "toward a fair trading relationship".

India and the United States have been in protracted talks over the co-production of Stryker combat vehicles made by General Dynamics, opens new tab and also used by the US Army.

They are also working to wrap up contract talks on co-production of fighter jet engines in India for the Indian Air Force, a deal agreed in 2023, said two sources who sought anonymity as they were not authorised to talk to the media.

"We certainly wish to expedite the transaction which we would like to have with the United States," Defence Production Secretary Sanjeev Kumar told reporters on Sunday, adding that such efforts were underway. But he did not elaborate. Officials of India's state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, opens new tab are set to meet in coming weeks with US officials and the aerospace unit of General Electric, opens new tab, maker of GE-414 engines, for talks to finalise the deal by March, the sources said. GE, HAL, General Dynamics, the US embassy in New Delhi and Indian defence and foreign ministries did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

New Delhi has started talks with the Trump administration on a plan to buy Stryker vehicles after they were demonstrated late last year for the Indian Army, two other sources said, also speaking on condition of anonymity.

The plan envisages that India will acquire a few hundred Strykers with a mounted anti-tank guided missile system, they added, and later co-produce them through a state-run firm, the sources said. It was not immediately clear if the two potential deals would feature in talks between Modi and Trump.

Task cut out for the BJP to clear civic morass in Delhi

New Delhi. BJP has won massively in Delhi. Its tally of 48 seats better its 1993 performance when it won 47 seats. Delhi since then has changed enormously, therefore the factors contributing to BJP's victory would be much different than what led it to come to power in 1993.

For someone who has followed Delhi politics since 1993, there were few takeaways on factors contributing to BJP's massive mandate in 2025. First, as I had mentioned in my column last week, BJP needed the Baniyas and Punjabis to vote for them. There are 35 seats dominated by the combined votes of these two communities, it won on 29.

Now this marked a massive difference from the 2015 and 2020 polls, when the saffron party, which saw these two communities as its natural voters, could win just two out of these 35 seats. Once the support of Punjabi and the Baniya voters, who voted for the BJP in the consecutive Lok Sabha elections but not in Vidhan Sabha, was ensured, moving towards not just the halfway mark of 35 but crossing it with wide margin was going to be easy.

What other factors could have contributed? First and foremost the support of the Purvanchal voters. Their support was also acknowledged by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his thanksgiving speech. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's announcement during the run-up to the polls that he was going to grant property rights in the 1,700 unauthorised colonies massively got the support of the Purvanchali residents living in these colonies.

While mobilising support in the unauthorised colonies, BJP also made inroads into the constituencies reserved for the Schedule Castes and dominated by the minorities especially in the trans-Yamuna areas of East and North East Delhi. This also led to the chipping at the base of Aam Aadmi Party vote bank. It's not easy to dismantle a ruling party which has survived so long on voter's greed by distributing freebies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi intervening and promising to retain all the freebies which were being given by the Aam Aadmi Party, helped neutralise the attraction on this count for the Aam Aadmi Party. The saffron party went a step further by adding value to some of these freebies including the pension for women, a major support base for Aam Aadmi Party.

Though the Aam Aadmi Party won a majority of the minority seats but there were signs of fracture in the Muslim support for Arvind Kejriwal's party. Some of the Muslim community leaders who won on the AAP tickets are those who have travelled from the Congress to the Aam Aadmi Party.

'Transferring cases between agencies must be exception': Delhi HC

NEW DELHI. The Delhi High Court has said that shifting an ongoing criminal investigation from one agency to another should only occur in rare and extraordinary circumstances, cautioning that such moves can severely impact police morale and must be avoided. Justice Subramonium Prasad, delivering a strong-worded order, dismissed attempts to transfer a cheating case from the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of Delhi Police to a superior agency like the CBI or Special Cell, stating that baseless allegations against investigating officers are not



enough to warrant such intervention.

"Transfers are justified only in cases where top officials of state authorities are implicated. Mere accusations against an investigating officer do not suffice unless there is concrete evidence of collusion with the accused," the court ruled.

The pleas were filed by individuals accused of defrauding homebuyers and investors, allegedly siphoning off large sums of money. The investigation, currently being handled by EOW, is focused on tracing the financial trail and identifying where the embezzled funds have been parked. Seeking to shift the probe to a Special Investigative Team led by a retired judge or a higher agency, the petitioners argued that the probe required independent oversight. Reaffirming Supreme Court guidelines, the verdict said transfers should only be ordered when it is evident that an inquiry lacks fairness.

Punjab man dies of heart attack on illegal 'dunki' route to US

A Punjab man died of a heart attack in Guatemala while attempting to reach the US via an illegal route. Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal urged young people to avoid such risks and promised efforts to repatriate his body.

New Delhi. A man from Punjab died of a heart attack in Guatemala while travelling to the United States via an illegal route, a state minister said on Sunday.

Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Punjab's NRI Affairs Minister, identified the man as Gurbpreet Singh from Ajnala. He urged young people not to take such routes and instead seek skill education in India. Singh was part of a group attempting to reach the US through what is known as the 'dunki' route, a pathway used by migrants trying to enter the country. His family



reportedly paid Rs 16.5 lakh to agents for the journey. The incident comes days after 104 Indian migrants, including 30 from Punjab, were deported from the United States on a military aircraft on February 5.

Dhaliwal visited Singh's family and offered condolences, news agency PTI reported. He said the government would work to bring Singh's body back to Punjab. He also said that instead of spending large sums on illegal immigration, young people could use the money to start businesses in the state.

Gujarat school principal slaps teacher 18 times, video goes viral

A Gujarat school principal was caught on CCTV slapping a teacher 18 times, prompting an investigation. The dispute involved accusations of misconduct from both sides. Authorities have launched an inquiry before deciding on further action.



New Delhi. A school principal in Gujarat's Bharuch district was caught on CCTV slapping a teacher 18 times, triggering an investigation by education authorities. The incident took place at Navyug School, where

Principal Hitendra Singh Thakor was seen striking teacher Rajendra Parmar. The dispute reportedly stemmed from complaints about Parmar's handling of mathematics and science lessons.

inappropriate behaviour and verbal abuse in class. Parmar, in turn, alleged that the principal attacked him in anger during a school meeting. Following the video's circulation, District Education Officer Swatiba Raul ordered an investigation into the incident. An education inspector will submit a report before any action is taken.

During the meeting, both men exchanged accusations. Parmar claimed Thakor made students massage his feet, while Thakor alleged that Parmar invited students to his home.

Man dies after brutal thrashing on bus over spilled curry in Delhi

A post-mortem revealed gruesome internal injuries, including severe trauma to his private parts, indicating extreme violence.

NEW DELHI. Infuriated over some spilled curry on a bus seat and floor, three men, including the RTV bus driver, brutally assaulted a man and shoved a rod into his private parts, and later dumped the dead body on the city outskirts, police said on Sunday. The deceased, identified as Manoj aka Babu, was a resident of Narela and worked as a cook at wedding functions. His body was discovered on February 2 after a PCR call alerted Bawana police station about an unidentified body by the roadside. Initially, no external injuries were visible, and the body was kept at BSA Hospital's mortuary. "Manoj was identified through his brother Jitendra, who had reported him missing. At

first, there were no allegations of foul play," said DCP (Outer North) Nidhin Valsan. However, a



friend Dinesh had attended a wedding in Sultanpur Dabas, where they worked as cooks. "After wrapping up, they

spilled curry on the bus seat and floor. The driver and his accomplices erupted in rage. They allowed Dinesh to get off but restrained Manoj, forcing him to stay inside. "They ordered him to wipe the curry using his shirt, then began verbally abusing and thrashing him. Amid the assault, driver Ashish pulled out a rod and shoved it into Manoj's private parts. He soon fell unconscious. The assailants then dumped his body near Bawana flyover before fleeing," the DCP said. A case under relevant sections of BNS has been registered. Using CCTV footage, cops have identified and seized the RTV bus and arrested one of the accused, Sushant Sharma. The driver and another accomplice.

packed leftover food and boarded an RTV bus to return home. Inside the bus were the driver, Ashish aka Ashu, and two of his associates," the DCP said. While nearing Bawana Chowk, Manoj accidentally



Sure you have waited for long to go for that vacation and enjoy a little tanning session. But then when you come back home you realise that the little tan sessions went too ahead leaving you with tanned hands, face and practically the whole you. So here are certain home remedies which will help you to get rid of

Homemade Face packs for tan removal

1. Cucumber, Rose Water and Lemon Juice:

While lemon acts as natural bleach, cucumber and rose water acts as cooling agents. In a small bowl take a table spoon each of cucumber juice, lemon juice and rose water and mix in well. Apply the mix with cotton on tanned areas and keep it for about 10 minutes. Then wash it off with cold water. Apply this pack every day after you get back home from the sun.

2. Gram flour and turmeric mix:

Mix two tablespoons of gram flour with a pinch of turmeric, a tablespoon of milk and a table spoon of crushed orange peel in a bowl with cold rose water. Apply the mix on clean face and let it dry for about 15-20 minutes. Once the pack dries, slowly remove the pack by scrubbing gently in clockwise and anti-clockwise direction; the

exfoliation effect will help in removing the tan.

3. Oat Meal and Butter Milk:

While butter milk is an excellent source for soothing skin and healing blisters and oatmeal is a great natural scrub. In a bowl mix two tablespoon of oatmeal with three-four tablespoons of butter milk and apply on tanned areas. Gently massage in circular motion; let it stay for 15-20 minutes and cleanse with water.

4. Milk and strawberry:

Not only is this combination a healthy one, it also helps in improving skin complexion and reduction of dark spots, freckles and even pigmentation. Take four-five crushed strawberries and mix it with two tablespoons of milk cream and apply it on face. Let it stay for about 20-30 minutes. Rinse it with fresh water.

The many benefits of raw coconut oil

If you are struggling with dry skin and hair, a jar of coconut oil could be your best friend. Its light texture, moisturizing properties and easy availability make it one of the best remedies to dry skin.



Coconut oil is also an effective makeup remover. Regularly using coconut oil on your body not only helps lighten the skin, but also helps rid scars and dark patches. Massage it onto your skin after a bath every day and you can do without a body cream. Its also an excellent hair tonic. A massage with warm coconut oil brings back lost shine and makes hair soft and manageable. It also helps reduce protein loss, which makes your hair healthy and attractive. Trying to grow your hair? Then use coconut oil regularly. This oil is also good for loosing weight, maintaining cholesterol level, boosting the immune system, aiding in proper digestion and regulating metabolism. There is a misconception that coconut oil is not good for the heart because it contains large quantities of saturated fats. But this is far from the truth. Coconut oil contains about 50% lauric acid, which actively prevents various problems that affect the heart, such as high cholesterol levels and high blood pressure.



How to ensure good hair growth

To make your hair stronger and thicker, here's what you need to do.

Oil your hair twice a week

Oiling your hair twice a week will strengthen your hair roots and also make it shinier. Use coconut or almond oil or you can mix both and apply it to your hair. Keep it on for a good 30 minutes before washing it off with a shampoo that suits your hair type.

Apply henna once a month

Though a home remedy, but applying henna on your hair will not only condition it but will also make your hair stronger from within. Do not keep the henna for too long, if you do not want the colour.

Go in for hair strengthening treatments once every fortnight

There are several treatments that are done to treat hair loss. It also strengthens your hair in turn. Since these treatments are chemical-based ones, you should ideally get it done only once every fortnight.

Our feet possess over 25,0000 sweat glands which produce up to a half-cup of sweat daily! Sweaty feet or hyperhidrosis is one of the most common, annoying conditions of the feet. Besides causing socially embarrassing problems like smelly feet, they also lead to fungal infections. Sweaty feet can also result in Athletes Foot, which is a common condition. Here are some tips to combat sweaty feet...

All in the family

Sweating beyond certain limits may also be due to hereditary reasons. If you are facing the problem of sweaty feet, find out whether your parents have this problem too. There are certain medications



available in the market that can control natural perspiration. Always consult your doctor before taking these medicines.

Wash feet daily

Make it part of your daily routine to wash your feet thoroughly. It may sound silly to have to point it out but many people step into the shower and happily clean the upper part of their body but tend to neglect their feet. Wash your feet at least once a day, but preferably twice a day. Use a good antibacterial soap. Really dry your feet carefully and completely, especially, in between your toes. Don't let microorganisms get started growing in the nice, damp places between those toes!

Powder well

Powdering your feet frequently is helpful as the powder absorbs the excessive sweat. So, after bathing and drying your feet, choose to use an antiperspirant foot spray, or a

Tips to keep your feet Summer-fit

foot powder. Put on the antiperspirant first, and then the foot powder, after the spray is dry. You can choose a commercial foot powder

Diet matters

Take proper precautions with food and drinks. Drinks that have alcohol and caffeine and spicy foods greatly increase sweating. So,

Medication

There are good quality lotions, medications and powders available in the market that are good to get rid of sweaty feet. Certain medical foot bath treatments are good antiperspirants, excellent for sweaty feet.

Unusual lip shades for the summer

Experimentation is the name of the game this summer and the trend has trickled to lip colours as well.

This summer has seen pink as the most wearable colour, but if it isn't your colour, then there are a few more unusual colours for you to choose from. Here, we list a few.

Peach: The juicy shade is summer-perfect as it gives a beachy, laid-back vibe that will get you on the vacation mood, pronto. Add kajal to your eyes and you are beach-ready instantly.

Tangerine: It is one of those colours that was just made for summers. If you like peach, but want to heighten the drama a bit, then tangerine is the shade you want to pick.

Orange: It's a fun colour to sport, especially in the heat. The fun and peppy shade has a coolness that helps you grab eye-ball instantly.

Fire engine red: Red hot lips are a perfect choice for summer parties. Instead of wearing a darker brick colour this time of the year go for a bright red shade.

Lilac: This shade of purple may seem a little out-of-the-box at first, but don't be scared. The pale lilac colour transitions easily from a fun day at the beach to a happening night out in the city. That's not all, this gorgeous lip colour will brighten up your complexion, making you glow.



here's another

good reason to give up those booze-fuelled outings.

'Shoe'-time

Give closed shoes a boot this summer. You need to give your feet space to breathe, so try to wear open-toed shoes as much as possible.

Wear cotton socks

Don't buy cheap synthetic socks, stick with good quality cotton socks. Natural fibres have a good built in ventilation system. Change your socks at least once in the middle of the day. Make sure you always have clean, dry socks to change into.

OYO Reports Rs 166 Crore Profit In Q3, Revenue Jumps 31 Per Cent

New Delhi: Travel tech unicorn OYO on Sunday reported a strong financial performance in the third quarter (Q3) of FY25, posting a profit after tax (PAT) of Rs 166 crore. This is a significant rise compared to Rs 25 crore in the same period last year (Q3 FY24).

The company's revenue also saw growth of 31 per cent at Rs 1,695 crore in the October-December quarter (Q3), compared to Rs 1,296 crore a year ago period. According to reports, OYO's adjusted EBITDA for the quarter stood at Rs 249 crore, a 22 per cent increase from Rs 205 crore recorded in the same period last fiscal. The company's gross booking value (GBV) surged to Rs 3,341 crore with a 33 per cent growth from Rs 2,510 crore in Q3 FY24.

However, these financial figures do not include the performance of G6 Hospitality, as its acquisition became effective only in the third week of December.

TRENDING NOW

For the first nine months of FY25, OYO reported a cumulative profit after tax of Rs 457 crore, a sharp improvement from a loss of Rs 111 crore in the corresponding period last year. The company's growth was primarily fueled by strong performance in its key markets of India and the US. Additionally, emerging markets in Southeast Asia and the Middle East played a crucial role in driving the company's expansion. OYO has been actively pursuing strategic initiatives to strengthen its position in the market. The company has focused on the premiumisation of its hotel portfolio in India and has also expanded globally through acquisitions. It recently acquired US-based G6 Hospitality and Paris-based rental home platform Checkmyguest. Global rating agency Moody's upgraded its credit rating from B3 to B2 with a stable outlook. Moody's estimates that the company's EBITDA will reach \$200 million in FY25-26, which will be its first full year of financial consolidation following its recent acquisitions.

It is important to do Financial check-up

NEW DELHI. We all do a health check-up annually, or at least once in 2-3 years. This is just to see the parameters - and decide whether we need to take some corrective action. We give a small quantity of blood and many parameters are checked. We know that it helps us to take some corrective action to improve our health. Similarly, we can check our finances - let's call it a 'Financial check-up'. Having a financial check-up is crucial for several reasons:

Assessing financial health: Just like regular health check-ups, a financial check-up helps you understand your current financial status, including your assets, liabilities, income, and expenses. This assessment can reveal how well you're managing your finances. **Goal setting and planning:** Short-term goals: You might plan for immediate needs like saving for a vacation or paying off credit card debt. Long-term goals: This could involve retirement planning, buying a home, or funding education. **Budget review:** It allows you to review and adjust your budget. Maybe you've taken on new expenses or your income has changed, and your budget needs recalibrating to ensure you're living within your means. **Investment review:** Performance Check: Are your investments performing as expected?

Risk Assessment: Is your portfolio's risk level still appropriate for your current life stage or financial goals? **Diversification:** Ensuring your investments are spread out enough to mitigate risks.

Debt management: Understanding how much debt you have, the interest rates you're paying, and strategizing on how to pay it down more effectively. **Emergency preparedness:** Checking if your emergency fund is adequate. Financial advisors often recommend having 3-6 months' worth of living expenses saved. **Insurance coverage:** Ensuring you have adequate insurance to protect against unforeseen events. **Tax optimisation:** A review might help identify opportunities for tax savings or adjustments in your withholdings or contributions to tax-advantaged accounts. **Credit health:** Reviewing your credit report and score to ensure there are no surprises or errors.

Slowdown story: Middle class buys smaller soaps, bigger TVs

NEW DELHI. There is a slowdown in urban consumption as the middle class household budgets get stretched but that doesn't necessarily mean all spends are down.

There's a consumption dichotomy at play - the segment is moving to smaller packs in fast-moving consumer goods because of price hikes but are availing flexible payment schemes and EMI plans to buy premium durables and pocket heavy items like jewellery. More than 75% of consumer durable purchases are being backed by EMIs, said Nilesh Gupta, director at Vijay Sales. Five years back, this share was at 55-60%.

Easy financing options and low EMIs have enabled the middle class to opt for premium products, Fumiyasu Fujimori, MD, PMIN at Panasonic Life Solutions India told TOI, adding that the segment is buying the firm's IoT enabled connected appliances, inverter ACs and top load washing machines. Think tank PRICE defines the middle class as households earning between Rs 5 lakh to Rs 30 lakh per annum. Credit card companies and brands typically offer incentives to customers buying through EMIs, fuelling this trend; the repo rate cut by RBI could also allow brands to offer better EMI options going ahead, Gupta said.

"Post-Covid, we have seen consumers going for product upgradation and it has not changed," Gupta said. There should be further acceleration in the adoption of premium products among urban and aspirational consumers on the back of the Budget boost which will increase disposable incomes, said NS Satish, president at Haier Appliances India.

Follow finfluencers' tips at your own risk

As SEBI tightens its grip on unregistered finfluencers, it serves as a stark reminder for investors to exercise caution.

NEW DELHI. In a significant move, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken stringent action against Asmita Patel, Asmita School Global, and four other associates, spotlighting the growing risks associated with unregistered financial influencers, or 'finfluencers,' and their impact on retail investors. SEBI has imposed over Rs 53 crore collected by these entities as fees for various investment-related courses, marking a pivotal moment in the regulator's efforts to curb unregulated financial advice. According to SEBI's order, Patel allegedly provided stock recommendations to investors through

private Telegram channels, Zoom meetings, and educational courses without obtaining the mandatory registration from the regulator. The order further revealed that Patel encouraged participants to quit their jobs and enroll in her course, MPAT, promising them the opportunity to achieve "something big."

This case underscores a broader trend of unregistered finfluencers leveraging platforms like Telegram and private online classes to lure retail investors with promises of quick wealth. Often disguised as educational sessions, these influencers frequently offer advisory services, urging participants to invest in specific avenues. However, such schemes often result in significant financial losses for unsuspecting investors.

A fund manager at a leading asset management company (AMC) highlighted the lack of formal training and licensing among many finfluencers. Unlike registered financial advisors who adhere to strict regulatory guidelines and fiduciary responsibilities, these influencers operate without oversight.

"Without proper regulation, investors are often left to navigate advice that hasn't undergone rigorous analysis," the fund manager noted. The fund manager also pointed to potential conflicts of interest,



as many influencers earn affiliate commissions or sponsorship fees, which could compromise the objectivity of their recommendations. In some cases, influencers have been accused of promoting products or even engaging in pump-and-dump schemes, where they hype an asset before selling their own holdings, leaving followers to bear the losses. Market experts have warned that the influence of trending tips and viral

content can lead to herd behavior among investors. Driven by the fear of missing out (FOMO) on high-return promises, retail investors often bypass proper due diligence, making emotional decisions that can result in substantial financial losses when market conditions shift.

A senior analyst at a leading brokerage firm emphasized the importance of skepticism and independent research. "Investors should remain wary of hype-driven recommendations and always verify claims with multiple reliable sources. Consulting licensed professionals for personalized advice is crucial," he advised. In response to the growing menace of misinformation and investor losses, SEBI has intensified its efforts to rein in unregistered finfluencers. To further curb the misuse of social media platforms, SEBI issued a draft circular last month restricting the use of live share price data by finfluencers who disguise stock tips as educational content. The regulator clarified that individuals engaged solely in education cannot provide investment advice or recommendations unless they are registered advisors.

More RBI Rate Cuts On Cards, Stance Likely To Change From Neutral To Accommodative

NEW DELHI. RBI Rate Cuts: As the RBI embarks upon the rate cut cycle, it can be expected that more cuts are also on the cards, while the timing can be debatable, according to a Bank of Baroda note. The RBI MPC unanimously lowered the repo rate by 25bps from 6.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent. Stance was kept at neutral to allow the MPC flexibility on future path of policy action. "Cumulatively, we are pricing in 75bps cut in this calendar year. The April policy would review the economic situation and depending on the growth-inflation dynamics could opt for another cut or change in stance," said Sonal Badhan, economist, BoB. At the time of next rate cut, we also expect change in stance from neutral to accommodative, said the note.

TRENDING NOW

This is the first rate cut since Covid-19 period. Stance of the monetary policy was retained at neutral, also by a

unanimous vote. On liquidity, the central bank has urged banks to lend in the un-collateralised call market, instead of parking that money with the



RBI. Forward contracts have been introduced in government securities. This will enable long-term investors such as insurance funds to manage their interest rate risk across interest rate cycles.

They will also enable efficient pricing of derivatives that use bonds as underlying instruments. This is

expected to improve liquidity to some extent, according to the BoB note. SEBI-registered non-bank brokers (on behalf of their clients) will now be able to access NDSOM platform. This decision has been taken to widen accessibility, which until now was available to regulated entities and to the clients of banks and standalone primary dealers. "The RBI will set up a working group, with representation from various stakeholders, to undertake a comprehensive review of trading and settlement timing of financial markets regulated by the Reserve Bank. The Group will submit its report by April 30," the note said. The Central Bank will also introduce additional Factor of authentication (AFA) in cross-border 'Card Not Present' transactions. This aims to provide safety for online international transactions using cards issued in India.

Government achieves 90% target of first asset monetisation plan

NEW DELHI. As the government launches its second asset monetisation plan, sources indicate that it has already achieved 90% of the target set under the first plan by monetising assets belonging to the government and public sector units (PSUs). The first asset monetisation initiative, known as the National Monetization Pipeline (NMP), aimed to generate R6 lakh crore from core central government assets over four years, from FY22 to FY25. In Budget 2025, the finance minister announced the second asset monetisation plan for 2025-30, targeting R10 lakh crore in new investments.

However, finance ministry sources emphasise that the objective is not to outright sell government assets to raise funds. "The intent is to recycle

assets. If an asset generates a cash stream, monetising it upfront allows us to reinvest the funds in building new infrastructure," explained a



government source.

One approach under the new plan involves private sector participation, where private players develop land or

other assets and generate revenue on a revenue-sharing basis. "This way, the government doesn't have to invest directly. Instead, a private player builds the infrastructure, and we grant a concession," the source added.

The government and PSUs are adopting different models for asset monetisation, including Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), Infrastructure Investment Trusts (InvITs), Toll-Operate-Transfer (ToT) models and Securitisation.

However, the government has clarified that the proceeds from PSU asset monetisation will not appear in the government's books, as these funds remain within the respective public sector entities.



find support at 23,500 followed by 23,400 and 23,300. On the higher side, 23,700 can be an immediate resistance, followed by 23,800 and 24,000, according to Hardik Matalia, derivative analyst, Choice Broking.

The charts of Bank Nifty indicate that it may get support at 50,000 followed by 49,700 and 49,500. If the index advances further, 50,300 would be the initial key resistance, followed by 50,500 and 50,800, he mentioned.

In Asian markets, South Korean stocks remained nearly unchanged on Monday morning as tech gains offset losses of steel and auto shares amid concerns about the impact of Trump's sweeping tariffs on the industries. Meanwhile, the foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold equities worth Rs 470 crore on February 7, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) purchased equities worth Rs 454 crore.

Online learning is absolutely here to stay; offline is costly

NEW DELHI. Edtech company for professional learning and upskilling Great Learning is leveraging AI to launch new courses starting at R1,500. In 2021, the company was acquired by edtech company Byju's, which is currently undergoing insolvency proceedings, for \$600 million. But Great Learning has now come out of Byju's clutches. The company has been profitable for eight of the last 11 years, and its revenue grew by 23% to \$118 million in FY24 compared to \$96 million in FY23. In an interaction with TNE's Uma Kannan, Mohan Lakshmaraju, Founder & CEO of Great Learning, said that he doesn't regret the transaction (acquisition by Byju's) and that it was the right thing at that time. Edited excerpts:

Post Covid-19 pandemic, not many online edtech companies could survive. What is the future of edtech firms? I think online learning is absolutely here to stay. If you want to increase the gross enrolment ratio from 40 to 60, that's an additional 40 million people, it costs a lot to actually create campus-based learning for all these people. For each person, it typically costs

R10 lakh to create one extra seat in a physical campus. So, it has to happen online. And not all of these people even need to do degrees at the beginning of their career. They may want to learn something, do a job, and they may pursue some other time. Everybody is going to be a lifelong learner. There is no way you can do that in a physical setting, you have to do it online.

ullscreen There are many edtech companies currently in India and are offering various online courses. How are you looking at this competition? Our view on this has always been long-term. We have never raised funding, and we will never do that. We've always been bootstrapped and the reason is because we don't want to put educational objectives subservient to investor objectives. For us, learning is the superhero always. Everything is in service of learning, and we never want to compromise, and that's how we always function. Offline is expensive. We have offline centres (5 or 6) in metros. We have 12 million learners. While the physical centres took us to a few thousand students, online mentored learning took us to a few

lakhs. With AI, I'm hoping it will take us to many millions. When you look back now - Byju's downfall - do you regret being acquired by the company? We are not part of Byju's anymore, but their



lenders are very much our shareholders. Shareholding moved from one place to another, but that doesn't change anything for us. I've been running the company - the whole time, so nothing has changed for us, and we will continue to do that. I think at that time, it was the right decision

(acquisition) for us. Also, that was the time when there was a lot of money sloshing around. All our competitors had raised a lot of money, I didn't want to raise money from investors. Yes, it was a distraction, but because we were never integrated, it did not affect us in any way. I don't regret the transaction and that was actually a good thing that happened to us. We're very glad and relieved that we are not impacted by that and are out now.

You have launched AI Mentor and AI Teacher. How will these innovations transform the overall digital learning experience?

We are introducing about six or seven new courses, but that's just the beginning. There will be more, and these are relatively short courses that one can do in a month. Eventually, we are hoping to get some kind of recognition from the government for AI teacher-enabled courses. Today, the government doesn't recognise that. Currently, if you want to do any degree program, it costs lakhs. We want to offer the same at a low cost.

NEWS BOX

What has made Shubman Gill a quality player: Kevin Pietersen explains

Former England captain Kevin Pietersen has highlighted a key technical adjustment in Shubman Gill's batting, which he believes has transformed him into an elite player. Pietersen praised Gill's approach against England's top pacers, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, noting the significant improvement in his technique and temperament during the ongoing ODI series.

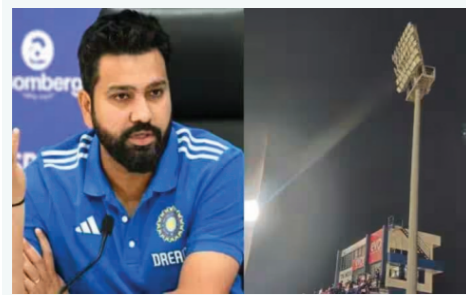
Gill showcased his brilliance with an 87-run knock in the series opener in Nagpur and followed it up with another composed 60-run innings in India's victory over England in Cuttack on February 9. Speaking to Star Sports, Pietersen explained that Gill's recent form is a result of a more composed and assured batting style, allowing him to tackle high-quality pace bowling with greater confidence. "I talked about a trigger when you get into big boy's cricket and you face the faster bowlers. You need a set yourself and it's a start that he's now started to take when he's been batting. I think that it's improved the way that he's played. I think it's improved him as a player, and it's calmed him down because it's given him a little bit



more time. So the technical change in that adjustment that Shubman Gill's made has made him into a quality player," Pietersen said. "What makes it even more intimidating to bowl to, is his ability to just play that pickup shot, that little punch shot of the back foot, because a bowler can't just hover short of a length. What he's getting a full attack the top of the stumps or his bouncer has to be very, very good. So, he's improved this game. He'll want to keep improving, he'll want to stop getting 60 and getting out. He'll want to get the 100 like Rohit," he added. One of the defining moments of the Cuttack ODI was Rohit Sharma's return to form with a commanding century. Gill played a pivotal role in supporting his captain, forming a crucial 136-run partnership that laid the foundation for India's chase. The India vice-captain displayed his signature short-arm pulls and elegant stroke play before falling in the 17th over to a pinpoint yorker from Jamie Overton, finishing with a well-crafted 60-run knock. Gill's performances have further solidified his place at the top of India's batting order, countering the debate about reshuffling the lineup to accommodate Yashasvi Jaiswal. His consistency at the top, especially in high-pressure games, reinforces the success of India's batting order from the ODI World Cup 2023.

IND vs ENG 2nd ODI: Odisha Govt Demands Answers As Floodlight Failure mars Cuttack ODI Report

New Delhi. The Odisha government has announced that it will seek a formal explanation from the Odisha Cricket Association (OCA) following the embarrassing floodlight failure during the second One Day International (ODI) between India and England at Cuttack's Barabati Stadium. The incident, which halted play for nearly 30 minutes, overshadowed the state's much-anticipated return to hosting international cricket after an eight-year hiatus. Barabati Stadium, which last hosted an international match in 2015, was buzzing with excitement as fans packed the stands to witness a high-stakes encounter. However, the enthusiasm turned into frustration when one of the floodlight towers lost power early in India's chase of England's 305-run target. The unexpected disruption forced players off the field and left thousands of spectators fuming. State Sports



Minister Suryabanshi Suraj, who was present at the stadium alongside Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, confirmed the government's decision to question the OCA's preparedness. "An explanation will be sought from the OCA over the floodlight glitch. It happened despite taking all precautions and making elaborate prior arrangements," Suraj stated in an interview with The Times of India. OCA Secretary Sanjay Behera attempted to explain the mishap, attributing it to logistical hurdles. According to Behera, each floodlight tower was equipped with two backup generators. However, when one generator failed, operational challenges in moving the secondary generator—partially blocked by a parked player's vehicle—led to the prolonged delay. "When one generator malfunctioned, we put the second one in service. But it required some time to move as the players' vehicle was parked between the tower and the second generator," Behera told reporters.

Varun Chakravarthi vs Kuldeep: Suresh Raina on Champions Trophy pick for India

ICC Champions Trophy: Former India batter Suresh Raina shared his views on Varun Chakravarthi vs Kuldeep Yadav debate for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025.

New Delhi. Former India cricketer Suresh Raina wants India to go with Kuldeep Yadav over Varun Chakravarthi for the upcoming ICC Champions Trophy 2025. Chakravarthi recently made his debut against England in the second ODI on Sunday, February 9 at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack. The wrist spinner registered figures of 1/53 in ten overs on his debut, which included the wicket of Philip Salt. Chakravarthi has been on a rapid rise ever since his comeback to international cricket in October 2024. Hence, there have been discussions about his inclusion in the Champions Trophy squad as well. However, Suresh Raina feels Kuldeep Yadav's experience of playing big matches



makes him an ideal candidate for the tournament over Chakravarthi. "I think Varun is more used to bowling in T20Is for now, while Kuldeep has variety and wicket-taking ability. Most importantly, he rises to the occasion in big tournaments. I still remember the way he clean bowled Babar Azam in the ODI World Cup 2019. He has a different skill in his hands,

Kuldeep carries massive experience with him of playing big matches," Raina said on Star Sports. Kuldeep is a part of India's squad for the ongoing series against England and as well as the Champions Trophy. The left-arm spinner played in the first ODI in Nagpur and registered figures of 1/53 in 9.4 overs. Earlier, he picked four wickets from three matches in the ODI

series against Sri Lanka in August 2024.

Chakravarthi's marvellous comeback in international cricket. On the other hand, Chakravarthi has been in phenomenal form ever since his comeback to international cricket. Since October 2024, he's scalped 31 wickets from 12 innings at an average of 11.25 and an economy of 7.18 with two five-wicket hauls to his name. He was recently adjudged Player of the Series in the five-match T20I rubber against England, scalping 14 wickets from five games at an average of 9.85. Courtesy of his sensational performance, Chakravarthi has stormed into the top five of the ICC T20I rankings.

The team management wants to make use of Chakravarthi's rich form in the ODI format as well. However, he will have to do something really special in the third ODI against England to make a strong case for his selection as he's in a strong competition with four other spinners.

No Pant, Arshdeep yet: Bangar backs unchanged India XI for 3rd ODI vs England

New Delhi. Former India batting coach Sanjay Bangar has advised the Indian team management to retain the same playing XI for the third and final ODI against England in Ahmedabad. Despite India having already secured the series with a win in Cuttack, Bangar believes it is crucial to maintain consistency rather than experiment with the squad by bringing in Rishabh Pant or Arshdeep Singh. India clinched the series with a 4-wicket win in Cuttack, powered by Rohit Sharma's commanding century and a steady 60-run contribution from Shubman Gill. With the Ahmedabad ODI serving as a formality, many expected India to test their bench strength, including players like Pant, Arshdeep, and Washington Sundar. However, Bangar, speaking to JioCinema, insisted that the team should stick to the current XI and avoid unnecessary changes. IND vs ENG, 2nd ODI: Highlights "I don't think Yashasvi Jaiswal needs to play. If there's merit, you can play Arshdeep Singh, you can try Rishabh Pant. But, there's only



one match left. KL Rahul has not had that many chances to play for long. Whenever he comes on to bat, there are only a few runs left. But his keeping has been good so you might just want to continue your trust in him," Bangar said. Arshdeep might just be played because Mohammad Shami has not had the similar sharpness with his bowling...I would want to see the same

team, which has played so well so far, for another match," he added.

One of the primary talking points is India's pace combination. So far, Mohammad Shami and Harshit Rana have shared the new ball for India. With Harshit not being a part of India's 15-man squad for the Champions Trophy, there is speculation that Arshdeep could be given an opportunity in Ahmedabad to get some game time before the ICC event. However, Bangar suggests that maintaining rhythm and continuity with the current attack is a wiser choice. Another area of discussion is KL Rahul's form. The wicketkeeper-batter has yet to deliver a big knock in the series, raising questions about whether Pant should be given a chance in the final ODI. While Pant remains an integral part of India's plans, Bangar feels that changing the lineup now might disrupt the team's momentum. With the Champions Trophy on the horizon, India will look to fine-tune their best XI, and Bangar's call for stability could reflect the team's long-term strategy heading into the marquee tournament.

Confident Rohit Sharma speaks out against outside noise after Cuttack hundred

New Delhi. India captain Rohit Sharma spoke out against the outside noise and stressed how clarity and being in the right mindset helped him to get back into form during the Cuttack ODI against England on Sunday, February 9. Rohit had been struggling for form in all formats of the game as the 16 innings prior to his knock in Cuttack yielded just 166 runs. Fans were highly critical of the Indian skipper after his dismissal in the first ODI, with many trolling him and saying he should retire from the game. However, Rohit was able to shut out the noise and produced a thrilling innings as he scored 119 off just 90 balls to guide India to victory. Rohit's innings consisted of 12 boundaries and 7 sixes.

IND vs ENG, 2nd ODI Highlights

Speaking to the BCCI's website, the Indian skipper said that he has played the game long



enough to know what is required from him. Rohit said that in his mind he just wanted to bat the way he always does and admitted that one or two knocks doesn't change things for him.

"When people have played for a number of years and scored so many runs over the years. That means something." "I've played this game for a long time now, and I understand what is required of me. So it's just about going out there and doing your things and what I did today was one of my things. In my mind, it was just about doing the things that I do. Try and bat the way I do. I've been here long enough to know one or two knocks are not going to change my mind. But, just another day in the office," said Rohit. As long as I am clear what I want to do, that's all that matters!

Rohit said that his job is to go out and play the game and give his best on the field. The Indian captain said that sometimes his mantra may not work but all he wants is to have clarity about his role.

"Our job is to just get out there and play the game. As long as you know that today, when you go to bed, you know that you've given your best, that is what matters. Every time I walk out to the pitch, I want to try and do well." "Sometimes it happens, sometimes it may not happen. As long as I am clear what I want to do, that's all that matters. Nothing else." "When you have scored so many runs, you've done something. You just need to get back to that mindset of how to get runs.

Days ahead of Champions Trophy, much-awaited ODI debut for Varun

CUTTACK. Just as the Indian team got together for a huddle before the toss at the Barabati Stadium on Sunday afternoon, Raghav Raghavendra, the team's throwdown specialist, dropped everything and ran towards them from the other end of the pitch where he was standing. As head coach Gautam Gambhir had started talking, Raghav snuck a cap in from the side to Hardik Pandya who passed it on to Ravindra Jadeja. Is there a debut... will Varun Chakravarthi finally get a game... questions lingered while Gambhir confirmed the same — in a video that was later shared by the BCCI — asking Jadeja to hand over the cap to Varun. Right from the time of Vijay Hazare knockouts, Varun has been the one name that has constantly come up in discussions. Although he was initially not included in the ODI squad, Varun was later added with the team management wanting to see if he could replicate the T20I performance in the 50-over format. And here he was, at 33 years and 164 days, the second-oldest ODI debut for India after Farokh Engineer (36 years and 138 days). Varun Chakravarthi, ODI cap no. 259.



The architect-turned mystery spinner, who rose from tennis ball cricket to Tamil Nadu Premier League to the Indian Premier League to the Indian team, is taking the field in a format where he has thrived at the domestic level over the past couple of years. It is not just a case of IPL and T20I performances being rewarded and India looking to make the most of a player's ability. In the last few years, Varun has also proven himself in the 50-over domestic tournament. He was the second leading wicket-taker in 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons and with 37 wickets cumulatively, he is the number one spinner in Vijay Hazare in this period.

While he did not play in Nagpur, India captain

Rohit Sharma had confirmed that the spinner is in the scheme of things for the Champions Trophy that is set to be played in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19. "Right now we are not thinking about whether we are going to take him or not but definitely he will be in contention. If things plan out really well for us and he does what is required then definitely there is something that we need to think about," Sharma had said ahead of the first ODI. And the day came in Cuttack as Varun was introduced as early as the ninth over. Having been bamboozled by him through the T20I series, England openers did not want to take him on up front. They were happy to pick up singles and when Phil Salt did try to go after Varun, he ended up top-edging a full delivery handing the spinner his first ODI wicket. From thereon, the spinner continued to keep one end tight, bowling stump to stump in mid 90KPHs. It was only when Harry Brook hit him down the ground for a six — in Varun's sixth over on the trot — he conceded a boundary.

Haris Rauf injury: Pakistan board issues crucial update ahead of Champions Trophy

The Pakistan cricket board expects Haris Rauf to make a full recovery and be fit for the upcoming Champions Trophy after he sustained an injury during the opening match of the tri-series against New Zealand on February 8. Rauf had to cut short his participation in the match during his spell.

New Delhi. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has allayed fears of pacer Haris Rauf missing the upcoming Champions Trophy 2025 as he is expected to make a full recovery from the muscle spasm he sustained during the first match of the tri-series against New Zealand. Rauf, who was impressive in the match, was forced to leave the field due to

injury concerns after bowling just 6.2 overs. He had conceded just 23 runs and got one wicket during that time. Rauf didn't come out to bat in the match as Pakistan lost the game in the end. There were fears that the pacer could miss the upcoming ICC event, but PCB revealed that Rauf sustained a muscular spasm in the lower chest wall region. They said that the injury wasn't serious as initially thought, and he should be fit for the start of the Champions Trophy.

The PCB also revealed that, as a precautionary measure, Rauf won't be playing Pakistan's second match of the ongoing tri-series against South Africa on February 12. "Following MRI and X-ray scans, it has been confirmed that Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf sustained a muscular spasm in the lower chest wall region during



Saturday's match against New Zealand. The injury is not serious, and he is expected to be fully recovered for the ICC Champions Trophy 2025, which commences in Karachi on 19 February."

"However, as a precautionary measure and part of his ongoing rehabilitation, he will not be

available for selection against South Africa on 12 February," read the statement on the website. Pakistan will begin their Champions Trophy campaign against New Zealand on February 19 before taking on arch-rivals India four days later. Their final group game against Bangladesh will be on February 27. Rauf is expected to form the pace trio for Pakistan in tournament alongside Shaheen Shah Afridi and Naseem Shah as the current Champions Trophy titleholders aim to retain their crown. Pakistan Champions Trophy squad: Mohammad Rizwan (captain), Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Tayyab Tahir, Faheem Ashraf, Khushdil Shah, Salman Ali Agha, Usman Khan, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi.

The post shared on Instagram stories served as a reminder that healing is a continuous process and that while the scars of past trauma may remain, it's possible to find hope, embrace joy and cultivate a sense of trust in life.



Natasa Stankovic

Shares Powerful Message On Healing And Trust: 'Not Every Love Hides Pain'

Actress Natasa Stankovic recently shared a poignant message about healing and finding peace even after facing difficult experiences. On Saturday, the actress dropped a post on her social media that highlights the journey of healing and the importance of learning to trust again after experiencing pain. The post shared on Instagram stories also serves as a reminder that healing is a continuous process and that while the scars of past trauma may remain, it's possible to find hope, embrace joy and cultivate a sense of trust in life. The powerful post read, "Your trauma taught you to expect storms, but your healing is teaching you to trust clear skies—to believe that not every hello ends in goodbye, not every quiet holds a storm, not every love hides pain and not every gift carries conditions. Your heart remembers the hurt, but it can learn to welcome joy."



A day ago, Natasa Stankovic dropped a video on her social media giving fans a glimpse of her power-packed fun Friday. In her latest video on Instagram, the actress shows her fitness game by performing an extensive cardio drill using a stepper. Natasa opted for intense variations of workouts, including jumping jacks, jumps on the stepper, front and side movement and step-up workouts while moving sideways with every jump.

Talking about Natasa's personal life, the actress parted ways with her cricketer husband Hardik Pandya in 2024. The two got hitched in May 2020 and renewed their wedding vows according to the Hindu and Christian rituals in February 2023. Hardik and Natasa, who confirmed their separation in July 2024, are parents to Agastya H Pandya. Following their separation, Natasa was brutally trolled by many on social media platforms.

On the professional front, Natasa Stankovic recently appeared in the music video Tere Krke, alongside artist Preetinder. The song was out on October 8 and fans showered her with immense praise for her return to the screen. Meanwhile, the actress made her on-screen debut with the 2013 film Satyagraha after starring in a few advertisements. In the film, she appeared in the dance number Aiyo Ji. Over the years, the Serbian model made several special and cameo appearances in films like Fukrey Returns, Daddy and FryDay. In 2020, she was last seen in the web show Flesh.

Vicky Kaushal Relishes Litti Chokha At A Street Stall In Patna, Chhaava Actor Says 'Garda Udaa Diya'



Bollywood actor Vicky Kaushal, who will next be seen in the historical drama 'Chhaava', has been busy promoting the film. On Saturday, the actor arrived in Patna, Bihar, and was spotted relishing the local delicacy 'litti chokha' at a street stall, proving that he is a true-blue foodie! The actor shared a video of him gorging on the lip-smacking traditional dish from Bihar, and his simplicity left fans amazed. On Saturday, Vicky Kaushal took to his Instagram to share a video in which he is seen gorging litti chokha at a street stall in Patna. When asked how it tastes, Vicky showed genuine appreciation and replied with a Bihari accent: "Bohot badhiya hai (It's very tasty)." In his caption, the Chhaava actor wrote that he couldn't have missed eating litti chokha in Patna, and added a Bihari phrase 'Garda uda diya,' to express how much he loved it! He also promised some exciting news about Chhaava. "#Patna aakar Litti Chokha kaise miss kar jaayein #Chhaava exciting news coming up!" he wrote. Check out the video below!

Vicky Kaushal also re-shared this post on his Instagram stories, and wrote, "litti chokha was LIT!!!" Vicky has been on a promotional spree, and after Patna, he will be seen promoting Chhaava in Mumbai, on 9th February. He will then be visiting Amritsar, Delhi, and Pune, ahead of the film's release on 14th February. Yesterday, the actor was in Kolkata, and he shared a video of himself speaking in Bengali.

About Chhaava

Chhaava is a historical drama that revolves around the life of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. In the film, Vicky Kaushal is set to portray the character of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the eldest son of the Maratha empire's founder. The film also stars Rashmika Mandanna, Akshaye Khanna, Ashutosh Rana, and Divya Dutta in key roles.

Salman Khan Brings Up Arbaaz-Malaika's Divorce During Podcast With Arhaan: You've To Make It On Your Own



On a recent podcast episode with his nephew Arhaan Khan, Salman Khan got candid, touching upon love, life, and the divorce of his nephew's parents, Arbaaz Khan and Malaika Arora. The Bollywood superstar, who marked his debut in podcast with Arhaan's Dumb Biryani channel, advised the youngster that life is all about finding your own path. Malaika Arora and Arbaaz Khan's shocking separation announcement came in March 2016 after 19 years of marriage. They were officially divorced in May 2017 after tying the knot in 1998. Malaika Arora and Arbaaz Khan met and fell in love in their early 20s.

Briefly addressing Arhaan Khan's parents' divorce, Salman Khan said in the podcast, "This dude out here has gone through his ups and downs. After your mom and dad's relationship



(separation), you have to make it on your own. One day you will have your own family and unit. So this is what you have to work on to have your own family. The culture of having lunch and dinner with family should always be there and there should always be a head of the family, who should be respected."

The chat took a heartwarming turn when Arhaan opened up about his future plans, revealing his dream of starting his own restaurant. With a spark of passion in his voice, he talked about his love for food and creating a space where people could connect over great meals. Salman then asked Arhaan, "If you want to run a restaurant then what's with all the classes you have joined? Fighting, gymnastics... these things you are doing for the restaurant?" On the work front, Salman Khan recently delighted fans with a cameo in Varun Dhawan's Baby John. Up next, he's gearing up for some high-octane drama with the action-packed Sikandar.

Is Athiya Shetty's Pink Rose A Gift From KL Rahul?

Athiya Shetty is eagerly awaiting the arrival of her first child with cricketer husband KL Rahul. As she enjoys this special phase, the mom-to-be has been sharing glimpses of her pregnancy journey with fans. Recently, she marked Rose Day with a sweet post, leaving many wondering if KL Rahul had a thoughtful hand in picking her favourite colour. Taking to Instagram stories, Athiya shared a picture of herself dressed in a soft pink outfit. The off-shoulder top with full sleeves and a relaxed fit complemented her pregnancy glow. Posing gracefully with a pink rose in hand, she kept the giver's identity a mystery. However, fans speculated that the romantic gesture could be from KL Rahul, making the moment even more special.

While she didn't reveal more details, Athiya's subtle post added a touch of charm to her ongoing pregnancy diaries, keeping her followers engaged in her beautiful journey.



The mommy-to-be teamed her look with glam makeup and playfully used the sunshine to flex her pregnancy glow. To round off her look, she chose nearly naked eyeshadow, pink-hued lips and a touch of highlighter to add a bling to her charming appearance. Additionally, she left her tresses open to cascade down her shoulders. KL Rahul shared a few unseen photos from his time in Australia, including a heartwarming snapshot of him adoringly gazing at his pregnant wife, Athiya. Also read:

Athiya Shetty debuts baby bump, spotted hanging out with Anushka Sharma in Australia. For the unversed, KL Rahul met his ladylove in January 2019 through a mutual friend, and they instantly felt a connection. Soon, their likings blossomed into a relationship, and after dating for several years, the duo got married in 2023 at Suniel Shetty's farmhouse in Khandala. Last year in November, the couple announced their good news to their fans in a joint post. They posted a picture message featuring tiny feet and an evil eye. Alongside it, they wrote in the caption, "Our beautiful blessing is coming soon. 2025."

Since then, the couple often post glimpses of Athiya's pregnancy journey. In January 2025, KL Rahul took to Instagram and dropped a series of moments from his visit to Australia with his wife. He was in the country for the 2024-25 Border-Gavaskar Trophy.

