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## POLL FRENZY HITS FEVER PITCH

### Gandhis embark on Vijay Sankalp Yatra



Rahul Gandhi with Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Kumari Selja during a public meeting in Ambala on Monday. ANI

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accompanied by his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, launched the four-day 'Haryana Vijay Sankalp Yatra' for October 5 assembly polls, targeting the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP government in Haryana for "benefiting the big corporate houses and ignoring

youths, farmers and poor". "The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) belongs to big industrialists and Haryana does not need such a government. In Haryana, what we need is not a government of the elite, but one that prioritizes the needs of farmers, labourers, and the underprivileged," he said addressing a gathering before commencing the Yatra commenced in Naraingarh

### Unbridled attack on Congress by BJP



UP CM Yogi Adityanath, BJP candidate from the Hansi Assembly seat Vinod Bhayana and others wave to supporters during a public meeting in Hisar. ANI

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

As the election campaign in Haryana intensifies ahead of the October 5 polling day, senior BJP leaders, including Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, have taken centre stage in leading the party's efforts. Their focus has sharpened on securing the crucial Rajput community's

vote, a key demographic in the state.

Following the intense campaigning by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in the past couple of days rallies by Rajnath and Adityanath have drawn attention to BJP's developmental achievements while delivering pointed criticism of Congress's past governance and

### Chautalas: Once rulers, now fight for survival

CHANDIGARH: Once the undisputed powerhouse of Haryana politics, Chautalas or Devi Lal clan, which has produced a deputy PM and two CMs, now finds themselves battling for political survival and family members fighting each other to protect political bastions.

With eight members of the Chautala family contesting in Haryana Assembly elections, five of them are directly pitted against each other. This infighting is emblematic of the clan's decline from absolute power to mere players in a fragmented electoral battle.

In the rural Rania constituency, Abhay Chautala's son Arjun, representing the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), faces his grand-uncle, former cabinet minister Ranjit Singh Chautala.

DETAILS P4

### J&K votes today in final phase, 415 candidates in fray

AGENCIES  
JAMMU

Over 20,000 polling staff have been mobilised Monday across seven districts of Jammu and Kashmir in the eve of third and final phase of assembly elections, according to officials.

The electoral fate of 415 candidates including two former deputy chief ministers Tara Chand and Muzaffar Beig will be decided

Over 39 lakh voters eligible to exercise their franchise at 5,060 polling stations

In this phase. The highlight of the voting will be participation of west Pakistani refugees, Valmiki Samaj and Gorkha community who got the voting

rights in assembly, urban local bodies and panchayat elections only after the abrogation of Article 370. They have earlier voted in block development council and district development council polls in 2019 and 2020 respectively.

Over 39.18 lakh voters are eligible to exercise their franchise at 5,060 polling stations in this crucial phase, covering 40 assembly

P4

### Remains of 4 persons found nearly 6 decades after crash of an IAF plane

SAURABH SHARMA  
NEW DELHI

In a major development, the search operations to recover the remains of personnel from the ill-fated Indian Air Force (IAF) AN-12 aircraft that crashed on Rohtang Pass in 1968 have achieved significant breakthrough with the recovery of the remains of four more individuals.

The mission, led by the Dogra Scouts of the Indian

Army in collaboration with representatives of Tiranga Mountain Rescue, is a part of the larger Chandra Bhaga Mountain Expedition.

According to the a statement from the Indian Army, the joint team has recovered the remains of four more individuals from the site, marking a significant success in one of India's longest-running search and recovery operations.

The tragedy dates back to February 7, 1968, when

an IAF AN-12 aircraft, carrying 102 passengers, went missing after taking off from Chandigarh and encountering severe weather conditions near the Rohtang Pass.

For decades, the wreckage and remains of the victims remained lost in the icy terrain.

It was only in 2003 when mountaineers from the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering discov-

P4

## SC on laddu row: Keep gods out of politics

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Observing that Gods should be kept away from politics, the Supreme Court on Monday questioned Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's public statement that animal fat was allegedly used in making Tirupati laddus under the previous Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy-led regime.

The apex court said the laboratory test report was "not clear at all" and it prima facie indicated that 'rejected ghee' was subjected to test.

"It is very clear from the report that this is not the ghee which has been used.

Unless you are sure, how did you go to public with that?" a bench of Justices B R Gavai and K V Viswanathan said.

"It is not clear at all and it is prima facie indicating that these were rejected ghee which were subjected to test. If you yourself have ordered investigation, where is the need to go to the press?" the bench told senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, who was appearing for Andhra Pradesh.

The top court was hearing a batch of pleas, including those seeking a court-monitored probe into the alleged use of animal fat in making Tirupati laddus.

Observing that these



pleas pertain to an issue which affects the sentiments of crores of people living in the world, the bench noted the chief minister had gone public making a statement that animal fat was being used to make Tirupati laddus under the previous regime.

It said according to the

state, an FIR was registered on September 25 and a special investigation team (SIT) was constituted on September 26 to probe the matter.

"It could thus be seen that the statement made by the chief minister was even prior to the FIR being lodged and the SIT being constituted on September 26, in as much as the chief minister has gone in public on September 18," the bench said.

"We are prime facie of the view that when investigation is under process, it was not appropriate on the part of a higher constitutional functionary to go in public to make a statement

which can affect the sentiments of crores of people," it said.

The bench asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to assist it in deciding whether the investigation by the state-appointed SIT should continue or the probe should be conducted by an independent agency.

While posting the matter for hearing on October 3, the apex court asked the top law officer to ponder over the issue and assist it in this regard.

The bench noted there were some news reports which said executive officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) had

P4



President Droupadi Murmu congratulates actor Mithun Chakraborty on being conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for his remarkable contribution to Indian cinema, on Monday. ANI

### Pakistan invites Zakir Naik to deliver lectures

ISLAMABAD: Wanted for alleged money laundering charges, controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik has arrived in Pakistan on Monday morning at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, amid tight security for his lecture series at Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

DETAILS P11

### Sensex sheds over 1,000 points on fund outflows

MUMBAI: Indian stock indices slumped sharply on Monday early trade, and continued to remain under pressure as the session progressed.

Sensex fell over 1,000 points at the time of filing this report. Nifty fell about 300 points.

Nifty bank, auto, financial services, and realty were among the top losers on Monday.

DETAILS P7

### PM speaks to Netanyahu, says no place for terror

Says India committed to supporting efforts for an early restoration of peace and stability."

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a telephonic conversation with his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday and

discussed recent developments in West Asia. PM Modi expressed India's commitment to supporting efforts for early restoration of peace and stability.

PM Narendra Modi called it crucial to prevent recent escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages.

In a post on X, PM Modi stated, "Spoke to Prime Minister @netanyahu about recent developments in West Asia. Terrorism has no place in our world. It is crucial to

prevent regional escalation and ensure the safe release of all hostages. India is committed to supporting efforts for an early restoration of peace and stability."

In October last year, Israel launched a counter-offensive against Hamas after hundreds of Hamas terrorists burst into Israeli borders, killing over 1200 people and taking over 250 hostages, out of which 100 continue to be in captivity.

P4

### ED books Siddaramaiah in MUDA case

AGENCIES  
BENGALURU

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday registered an Enforcement Case Information Report (ECIR) in an alleged money laundering case against Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, linked to the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), the sources said.

Meanwhile, Congress General Secretary in-charge communications

Jairam Ramesh said that Karnataka Chief Minister will be proved innocent.

"It is no secret that the ED has become a tool for the non-biological Prime Minister to harass political opponents and carry out politics of vengeance and revenge. In May 2023, the people of Karnataka rejected him badly. He is unable to forget that humiliation. The Congress believes that he and his ED will soon be fully exposed. We have nothing to fear in any way."

### SC pulls up Mamata govt

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday expressed dissatisfaction over "tardy" progress by the West Bengal government in installation of CCTVs and construction of toilets and separate resting rooms in government medical colleges, and directed the state to complete ongoing work by October 15.

The apex court was hearing a suo motu case related to the rape and murder of a postgraduate medic at the R G Kar Medical College and

Hospital in Kolkata.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justices J B Pardiwala and Manoj Misra noted that no part of the work carried out by the state government was above 50 per cent.

Why is the progress so tardy. You have to take action," the bench told senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing for the West Bengal government.

Dwivedi said some progress has been made and "we need more time to finish the task".

P4

### 'Do well': CJI wishes Dalit boy good luck after restoring his IIT seat

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday came to the rescue of a Dalit youth, who lost his hard-earned IIT Dhanbad seat after missing the deadline to deposit Rs 17,500 admission fees by few minutes, by asking the institute to admit him in the same batch of the BTech course.

Observing that "a talented student like the petitioner should not be left in the lurch", a bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud kept its promise to help the youth and took recourse of Article 142 of the Constitution to order the IIT Dhanbad to grant Atul Kumar (18) the admission in the Electrical Engineering course.



Atul Kumar speaks to the media after the Supreme Court asked IIT to admit him to the BTech course, in New Delhi, Monday. PTI

On September 25, the bench, also comprising justices JB Pardiwala and Manoj Misra had assured him of all possible help after he claimed that on June 24 he missed the 5 pm deadline of deposit admission fees to block a seat by 15 minutes.

"We cannot allow such a young talented boy to go away," the CJI said at the outset and was irked over

the objections raised by the institute.

The counsel for IIT Seat Allocation Authority said the login details of the candidate that he was logged in at 3 pm which proved that it was not a last-minute log-in as claimed.

The counsel said that repeated reminders through SMS and WhatsApp were also sent to the candidate.

"Why are you opposing so much? You should see if something could be done," the bench said, adding that here is a son of a daily wage who belongs to a marginalised section of the society and a BPL (below poverty line) family.

There is no conceivable reason why the petitioner would not have paid

P4

# VASUNDHARA RAJE IN FRAY FOR BJP NATIONAL PRESIDENT POST

AJIT MAINDOLA  
NEW DELHI

Former Chief Minister of Rajasthan and current national vice president of the BJP, Vasundhara Raje Scindia has entered the fray as a potential candidate for the position of national president of the party. Her candidacy is seen as a strategic move to address the complexities of caste politics, particularly in light of the upcoming elections.

As the BJP navigates the complexities of caste politics and gears up for crucial electoral challenges, Vasundhara Raje Scindia emerges as a strong contender for the national presidency. Her leadership has the potential to reinvigorate the party's strategies while addressing the diverse concerns of its

voter base. Speculation is rife in political circles, and as the new year approaches, the ultimate decision will likely have significant implications for the BJP's future.

With discussions intensifying regarding the appointment of a new BJP president, Raje's name is gaining traction among party circles. Although the final decision has yet to be made, her inclusion in the conversations surrounding potential candidates reflects her influence and the urgency felt within the party. Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Sanjay Joshi, Devendra Fadnavis, and Keshav Prasad Maurya are also prominent names being considered, indicating a competitive race for the leadership role. The current state president, JP Nadda, whose tenure officially ended in June,



continues to oversee party responsibilities until a new leader is appointed. The BJP faces immediate challenges with upcoming elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, and Jharkhand, suggesting that the announcement of the new president might be postponed until after these electoral contests. The BJP is acutely aware of the growing significance of caste dynamics in the political land-

scape, especially with the Lok Sabha elections on the horizon. The party's recent experiences, particularly in Haryana, underscore the necessity for a leader who can navigate these complexities effectively.

Vasundhara Raje is uniquely positioned to fill this role. As a female leader with deep connections to the Rajput, Jat, and Gurjar communities, she embod-

ies a potential solution to the party's challenges with these influential voter blocs. Historically, dissatisfaction among Jats has led to electoral setbacks for the BJP in regions like Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Raje's leadership could prove pivotal in consolidating Jat votes and strengthening the party's position.

Raje's rapport with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat enhances her candidacy. Should she be selected, it would not only fortify her standing within Rajasthan but also empower the current state leadership, including Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and State President Madan Rathore. This collaborative dynamic could yield a more robust BJP in both state and national arenas.

# Kharge hits back: 'Amit Shah should focus on Manipur, caste census'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI



*The Congress party is determined to get the caste census done. We will get it done," the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said.*

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge hit back at Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday following the minister's criticism of Kharge for linking his health to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Taking a jibe at the Union Minister, Kharge took to social media platform X and said that Shah should pay attention to serious issues like "Manipur and Caste Census."

Referring to a survey conducted by the BJP-led NDA government, where he stated that 92 per cent of the urban sewers and septic tank cleaners come from SC, ST and OBC categories, Kharge slammed the BJP and stated that they are against the caste census because it would reveal what categories of people are engaged in what type of work for their livelihood.

He further reaffirmed Congress's determination to conduct a caste-based census.

"Home Minister Amit Shah should pay attention to serious issues like the Manipur, Census and Caste Census. A survey conducted

by your own government says that 92 per cent of the workers cleaning urban sewers and septic tanks come from SC, ST, and OBC categories. BJP is against caste census because then it will be known by which work SC, ST, OBC, EWS and all other classes are earning their livelihood. What is their economic and social status? What kind of targeted benefits of government schemes should they get? The Congress party is determined to get the caste census done. We will get it

done," the Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said.

Earlier today, Union Home Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party leader Amit Shah came down heavily on Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and said that the Congress leader had outperformed himself, the party leaders and the party in being "distasteful and disgraceful" during his speech on the last day of campaigning for the third and final phase of the Jammu and Kashmir assembly polls.

# Sitharaman condemns Congress president's remark on PM Modi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Union Finance Minister and BJP leader Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday backed Home Minister Amit Shah in condemning Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge for his remark about staying alive till Prime Minister Narendra Modi is removed from power.

In a post on X, Shah said Kharge's comments show the "hate and fear" the Congress has for Prime Minister Modi. "Yesterday, the Congress President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge Ji has outperformed himself, his leaders and his party in being absolutely distasteful and disgraceful in his speech. In a bitter display of spite, he unnecessarily dragged PM Modi into his personal health matters by saying that he would die only after removing PM Modi from power," Shah said.

"It just shows how much hate and fear these Congress people have of PM Modi, that they are thinking of him con-



stantly. As for the health of Mr. Kharge Ji, Modi Ji prays, I pray and we all pray that he lives a long, healthy life. May he continue to live for many years and may he live to see the creation of a Viksit Bharat by 2047," the Home Minister said in a post on X. Kharge had taken unwell while addressing a poll rally on Sunday at Jasrota in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress leader Thakur Balbir Singh said that the Congress President felt suffocated due to the extreme heat. After resting for a while, Kharge resumed his speech, reassuring the crowd that his health was

fine and saying that he was not going to die so early.

The Congress president said that he would stay alive until Prime Minister Narendra Modi was removed from power.

Responding to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's post on X, Nirmala Sitharaman wrote, "Aptly said, HM Amit Shah ji. The leadership of INC India never loses any opportunity to display their hate towards narendramodi ji. This speech of @khargeji is one such instance. We join in praying for the long life of Congress president @khargeji. We wish he lives to see #ViksitBharat India 2047."

# Gehlot, other Rajasthan Congress leaders enter fray to rally in Haryana elections

AJIT MAINDOLA  
JAIPUR

As the Haryana elections approach, top leaders from the Rajasthan Congress have ramped up their campaign efforts. Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot is leading the charge as a senior observer and star campaigner, holding public meetings in Haryana since last week.

In the final two days of campaigning, several key figures joined the effort, including Rajasthan MP Pramod Tiwari, state president Govind Singh Dotasara, Leader of the Opposition Tikaram Julie, national general secretary Jitendra Singh, Sachin Pilot, and former RTDC president Dharmendra Rathore. Together, they are working to bolster the Congress campaign in Haryana.

Congress leaders are optimistic about a strong showing in the upcoming Haryana elections, claiming a "tsunami" of support for the

party. Former Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot addressed three public meetings on Monday, emphasizing that leaders from neighboring Rajasthan are in high demand in Haryana.

Former RTDC President Dharmendra Rathore stated that the people of Haryana, frustrated by issues like inflation, unemployment, anti-farmer policies, and the BJP's mismanagement, are ready to support a Congress government. He criticized the BJP, saying it has lost the trust of the people and is not seen as a competitor in this election.

Gehlot campaigned for Congress candidates in several locations, including Rao Narendra Singh in Narnaul, Chiranjeevi Rao in Rewari, and Rao Dan Singh in Mahendragarh. Upon arriving at the Narnaul Police Line Ground helipad, he and MP Pramod Tiwari were warmly welcomed by Haryana Congress leaders and local officials, including MLAs and former chairpersons.

# Voters of India's '1st polling booth' near LoC demand basic amenities

TDG NETWORK  
KUPWARA

A day ahead of third and final phase of Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, over 400 voters from Seemari village, home to India's "first polling booth" along Line of Control (LoC), demand basic necessities such as better road access, free electricity, immediate healthcare services, increased ration supplies and mobile network.

Residents are urging political parties and local authorities to address these urgent issues to improve their quality of life. They express concern that leaders forget about them after elections, noting that the only support they receive in times of need—whether for employment, food, medicine, or other essentials—comes from the Indian Army deployed along the LoC.

In Seemari village, a total of 443 voters will participate, comprising 226 men and 217 women.

Mohammad Sharif, a resident of the village, said, "This is Seemari village, the last one on the India-Pakistan border, and it has India's first polling booth. We continue to vote, but we lack roads, hospitals, electricity, and stores. We have



been facing many challenges. Voting is our right, and while we participate, the government needs to address our needs. Leaders come to seek our votes but often forget us after elections. Although the government support us, the funds rarely reach us; these funds seem to disappear along the way. Some leaders have visited and spoken with us, but they haven't made any commitments to meet our demands."

Another local Ali Asgar said that the village lacks road facilities, and three nearby villages—Phagwan, Truthihaji, and Kadhama—also have no road connectivity.

"When someone falls ill, they are carried on a cot to reach a nearby road to avail vehicle since it can't access the area. The sick person has to pay Rs 1,500 for a reserved vehicle from

the nearest road to get to the Tangdhar hospital. Although there is a clinic here, it has no medicine, and the roads are in poor condition. We spend over Rs 500 on electricity (monthly), but we only receive four hours of supply each day. During elections, we exercise our right to vote, yet we see no benefits from it. Leaders promise us roads and electricity, but nothing materializes. We receive a 5 kg ration on a monthly basis, which isn't enough to last a month. This is the last remote village with over 400 voters, and we also lack a mobile network and job opportunities," he said.

Another resident of the Seemari village Naseer Awan added that leaders come here to seek votes and make numerous promises, but they don't return for next five years after elections are over.

# 'We have seen no action on our demands': Junior doctors in WB



TDG NETWORK  
KOLKATA

Junior doctors who have been on protest against the rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata have said they haven't seen any action on the directives given by the Chief Secretary as per their demands.

"Our agitation so far centred around only one agenda, and that was justice for Abhaya. It has been 10 days since we met with the Chief Secretary concerning our safety and security in hospitals, but we haven't seen any action on the directives

given by the Chief Secretary as per our demands," Aniket Mahato, a junior doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, told ANI.

"What we got was another similar incident in Sagar Dutta Medical College and Hospital. If we get something fruitful in the SC hearing tomorrow, we will rethink it; otherwise, we will go for a complete seizure... We have organised a mass rally on 2 October," he added. Dr Shreya Shaw, a doctor at RG Kar College and Hospital told ANI that their demands have been the same since the beginning of the protest.

# Bengal BJP MP seeks HM's intervention on illegal immigrants from Bangladesh

SUPROTIM MUKHERJEE  
KOLKATA

BJP West Bengal state general secretary and Purulia MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato has written to the Centre highlighting the problem of illegal immigration from Bangladesh into West Bengal over the past few years. This, he said, has significantly altered the demographic landscape, leading to a host of security, economic, and social challenges. He also blamed the ruling Trinamool Congress for actively encouraging the influx of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

In a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday, Mahato said that the Jungle Mahal region, which spans Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram, and parts of West Midnapore, has long been a cultural and economic hub for indigenous communities. How-

ever, the influx of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants has drastically shifted the region's demographic balance, he said.

Mahato, referring to Amit Shah's recent speech in Sahibganj, Jharkhand, where he had said that "unchecked infiltration" could lead to a demographic takeover within the next few decades, Mahato wrote that this issue was not limited to Jharkhand; it was deeply affecting West Bengal as well.

"In Jungle Mahal, this demographic shift is creating profound challenges for local Hindus and tribal populations, who find themselves outnumbered in many areas. Illegal land acquisitions, fake marriages, and identity fraud facilitated by illegal migrants are eroding the economic and social stability of the region," Mahato wrote.

He said that the indigenous population was fac-

ing rising unemployment, as job opportunities were being increasingly seized by illegal immigrants, and tribal communities are being displaced from their ancestral lands.

Mahato wrote: "It is deeply concerning that this crisis is not only being ignored by certain political parties but is actively being facilitated by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and its allies in the I.N.D.I. alliance. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has openly invited Bangladeshi nationals to seek refuge in the State, effectively creating a vote bank of illegal immigrants."

He alleged that the ruling political party in West Bengal was actively working to naturalize illegal immigrants by providing them with ration cards, voter IDs, and other official documents, allowing them to settle permanently in the State.

# SC DIRECTS TO MAINTAIN STATUS QUO ON ASSAM'S SONAPUR DEMOLITION DRIVE

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed to maintain status quo on Assam's Sonapur demolition drive and issued notice to authorities concerned.

This development comes after over 40 residents of the Sonapur area of Assam filed a contempt petition alleging wilful violation of the top court's interim order dated September 17, 2024, directing that no demolition should take place across the country without prior permission.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi appeared for the petitioners in the matter. A bench of justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan issued notice to the Assam government and others on the petition seeking contempt proceedings against the local authorities for violating the top court's earlier order. "Issue notice. In the meantime, parties to maintain the status quo," the top court said.



Over 40 residents of Assam's Sonapur area moved the top court, alleging wilful violation of the court's interim order dated September 17, 2024, directing that no demolition should take place across the country without prior permission as the local authorities have begun an eviction drive in the state's Kachutoli village.

In the plea filed through advocate Adeel Ahmed, the petitioners sought to initiate contempt proceedings against the alleged contemners for committing gross deliberate and wilful contempt of the top court for deliberate and wilful violation of the top court's earlier

order.

On September 17, the top court, in an interim measure, ordered that till the next date of hearing, it is directed that there shall be no demolition anywhere across the country without seeking permission of this Court. The top court also clarified that the order would not be applicable if there is an unauthorised structure in any public place, such as a road, street, footpath, abutting railway line, or any river body or water bodies, and also to cases where there is an order for demolition made by a court of law.

The petitioner said that concerned authorities have

not followed the order passed by the court for the event of eviction and have flagged or put up red coloured stickers on the walls of the petitioners without sending any kind of notice or letter stating the issue of eviction or demolition.

The petitioners, including Faruk Ahmed, along with others, said that they have been residing in the said villages of Kachutoli Pathar, Kachutoli, and Kachutoli revenue village under Sonapur mouza in the district of Kamrup Metro for many years.

Further, the petitioners stated that they have been residing in the said lands by virtue of a deed of power of attorney that has been executed in their name by the original pattadars of the said lands. The petitioners said that they are not the owners of the said lands, and they do not have any ownership rights but are enjoying occupation and residing over the said lands by virtue of the power of attorney document, which is

a legally valid process, the petitioner said. They cited Gauhati High Court's order dated September 20, 2024, whereby Advocate General gives an undertaking to that effect that no action would be taken against the petitioners till the representations are disposed of in the manner directed by the Supreme Court in the order dated February 3, 2020.

"However, here in the present case, the respondent-authorities have not followed the order passed by the court for event of eviction and have flagged or put up red sticker on the walls of the petitioners without sending any kind of notice or letter stating issue of eviction or demolition," the petitioner said.

The petitioners claimed that they have been residing in the said scheduled lands for around last seven, eight decades since generations, but they have never engaged in any disputes or clash with the tribal or protected people living in the adjoining areas.

# SC grants interim protection to actor Siddique in rape case

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday granted interim protection from arrest to Malayalam actor Siddique in connection with the ongoing investigation into a case related to the rape of a young actor.

A bench of justices Bela M Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma granted interim protection from arrest to Siddique on the conditions set by the trial court and subject to his joining in the investigation.

The top court granted the interim protection while hearing the actor's petition seeking anticipatory bail. The apex court also issued notice to the Kerala government and victim in this regard.

Siddique had approached the Supreme Court seeking anticipatory bail in the case after it was dismissed by the Kerala High Court earlier this month. Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi and Advocate Ranjeeta Rohatgi represented Siddique in the apex court.



Appearing for Siddique, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi said that the complaint was lodged in 2024 after 8 years of the alleged incident. The advocate also said that the actor will present himself for investigation. The court questioned what the state had been doing for eight years.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati appearing for Kerala said that Siddique has acted in 365 Malayalam movies and it is not possible to talk about such alleged perpetrators. Advocate Vrinda Grover for the victim took the court through the case and apprised that the actor approached the victim in 2014 through Facebook.

Earlier, Kerala Police issued a lookout notice against

actor Siddique, suspecting he may have fled the state in connection with the case.

The notice has been issued to all district police chiefs in Kerala as well as the police chiefs of all states. Actor Siddique was allegedly on the run after the Kerala High Court dismissed his anticipatory bail application.

The case is being investigated by a Special Investigation Team of the Kerala government. The museum police in Thiruvananthapuram registered a case against Siddique on August 27 under charges of rape and criminal intimidation, based on the complaint filed by a young actor. Siddique categorically denied the allegation. The Malayalam film industry has recently been rocked by a "Me Too" movement exposing various allegations of sexual abuse.

Following the allegations, Siddique resigned from his position as general secretary of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA). Consequently, the entire 17-member executive committee of AMMA also resigned.

# Andhra Pradesh: Temples in Vijayawada under security cordon ahead of Navratri

TDG NETWORK  
VIJAYAWADA

A heavy security cordon has been thrown in and around temples across Andhra Pradesh's Vijayawada district in the run-up to the Navratri celebrations.

Speaking to reporters on Sunday, Vijayawada City Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu said that foolproof arrangements have been made to ensure security and hassle-free darshan for devotees.

According to the police, around 4500 police personnel will be deployed across the city as part of the arrangements. The police have also set up a command centre in Vijayawada

to oversee the security, and CCTVs have been installed across the district, the officials said.

Besides the CCTV surveillance, drones will also be used for monitoring areas around the temples, the police said.

"Dussehra festival is being organised from October 3 to October 12. During this festival, we are making foolproof and hassle-free arrangements for all devotees coming to the shrine. Around 2500 police personnel and 27 platoons of force for law and order duties will be deployed," Police Commissioner SV Rajasekhara Babu said.

"We are going to build a command centre which will be operated by 200

members and altogether around 4500 police personnel will be deployed to ensure the safety and smooth flow of the darshan. This time we are coming up with innovative measures like ensuring shift timings for all the personnel. The command centre will also be technology-based and 20 drones will be there," he added.

Rajasekhara Babu said that the security arrangements have been made expecting a higher influx of devotees than last year.

"Last time, 13 lakh devotees came, however, this time we are expecting around 16-17 lakh devotees. 20 CCTV cameras will also be installed," he said.

# 4 foreign nationals living illegally in India with fake passports arrested

TDG NETWORK  
BENGALURU

Four foreign nationals who had been living in India illegally were taken into custody by Bengaluru police from the Jigani area of rural Bengaluru.

According to Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara, the foreign nationals had been residing in the country for the past 10 years and had come to Bengaluru a year ago.

The State Home Minister further questioned the intelligence agency for not getting any information about them. He further stated that they also possessed fake Indian passports.

"As per the information I got, they have been in India for the last ten years; they came to Bengaluru a year ago. I don't know definite information about their stay for 10 years; if they have been here for 10 years, why did the intelligence agency not get the information? They went ahead with making fake passports, which will be done through a thorough inspection," Parameshwara said. He stated police had started their investigation of why they came here.

Speaking on this matter, Bengaluru Rural SP CK Baba said that a case had been registered and an investigation was underway.

# Goa govt implements Unified Pension Scheme for employees

TDG NETWORK  
PANAJI

The Goa cabinet has implemented the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) for government employees.

The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by CM Pramod Sawant on Monday.

Speaking with ANI, CM Sawant said, "In today's Cabinet meeting, two major decisions have been taken by the government of Goa. A unified pension scheme has been implemented in Goa as per the norms of the Central government. "It is a matter of happiness for the government employees."

The UPS assures a life-

*The Goa Chief Minister also announced a ban on land use change in the state.*

long pension of 50 per cent of the last drawn salary while under National Pension System (NPS) pension was linked to the accumulated value of the contributions made by the employee and the government during the former's working life.

While the Old Pension Scheme does not entail any contributions from

the employee, the UPS requires the employees to contribute 10 per cent of their salary to the pension fund. UPS is set to come into effect from April 1, 2025.

The Goa Chief Minister also announced a ban on land use change in the state. "...The second major decision taken is that land use change has been banned by the Goa government..." CM Sawant told ANI. The Cabinet approved an amendment to the Code of Communitade which restricts the change of land use.

Comunidade land designated for a specific purpose cannot be utilized for any other objective.

# MP govt recognises heat waves as natural disasters

TDG NETWORK  
BHOPAL

In a significant decision, the Madhya Pradesh government has included heat waves in its list of natural disasters.

This means that individuals who suffer fatalities due to heatwaves will now receive compensation similar to that provided for other natural calamities.

Following directives from the central Ministry of Home Affairs, the state government has officially notified heatwaves as a local disaster under the Madhya Pradesh Disaster Management Act of 2005. The new regulation is set to take effect in the summer of 2025.

As a result, individuals affected by heatwaves will be eligible for the same financial assistance that is currently available for

those impacted by floods, earthquakes, and lightning strikes.

"The State Government hereby notifies heatwave (hyperthermia) as a local disaster as per clause 3.2 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, and the Guidelines on the constitution and administration of the State Disaster Response Fund issued by letter No. 33-03-2021-NDM-I, dated 12th January 2022, from the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs (Disaster Management)," the Madhya Pradesh government said in an official statement.

Notably, a number of deaths were reported from the Northern India during the summers, as temperature rose significantly.

The heatwave in large parts of the country claimed 114 lives and more than

40,000 suspected heatstroke cases were reported between March 1 and June 19 this year, according to sources from the Union Health Ministry.

The maximum number of deaths due to heatstroke, till June 19 2024, were reported from Uttar Pradesh (37), Bihar (17), Rajasthan (16), and Odisha (13).

Heatwaves are intense periods of excessively high temperatures, often accompanied by high humidity. They typically occur from April to June and can lead to serious health risks, including heatstroke and dehydration.

The impact is especially severe in northern and central regions, where temperatures can exceed 45°C (113°F). The effects can be devastating, affecting agriculture, water supply, and overall public health.

# Assam: Biker dies in rhino attack

TDG NETWORK  
MORIGAOAN

A bike rider died after being attacked by a rhino near Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary on Sunday, as per officials.

The deceased person was identified as Saddam Hussain (37), a resident of the Sonapur Kachutali area of the Kamrup (Metro) district.

According to the reports, the rhino came out of the wildlife sanctuary and attacked the biker near Haduk Bridge near the sanctuary while he was travelling from Mayong to the Chamata area on his motorcycle. Nayan Jyoti Das, Forest Range Officer of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, told ANI over a phone call that the deceased had died after an attack by the rhino.

"The rhino came out of the wildlife sanctuary. We are investigating the incident," the forest official said.



Members of various Hindu organisations stage a protest over the Sanjauli mosque row at Kullu in Himachal Pradesh on Monday. ANI

# Bihar: Flood-like situation in several parts of state

TDG NETWORK  
MUZAFFARPUR

Several parts of Bihar are grappling with severe flooding due to heavy discharge of water from the Kosi Barrage in Birpur, following heavy rainfall.

Incessant rainfall in the catchment areas of Nepal has led to rivers touching

or flowing above the danger level at several places in the bordering districts.

A massive volume of water has been released from the Kosi and Gandak barrages following heavy rainfall in the catchment areas of rivers in northern Bihar and Nepal.

Several parts of Sitamarhi were also affected due to



floods after a breach in the Mandar dam in Belsand

block on September 29. Floodwaters have entered

the Katra Bakuchi Power Grid in Muzaffarpur, leaving 45,000 homes in darkness. Following instructions from department officials, power has been cut off as a precaution. Officials said they plan to restore electricity after the decrease in water level.

An engineer at the power station, Sunil Kumar, said

that the water has entered the control room of the power grid. "Keeping in mind the safety, the power supply can be shut down anytime in 22 panchayats in Katra block. Approximately 42,000-43,000 consumers will have to face the problem. Power will be cut off after the instructions of the department officials..."

"Administration is not active, no one has come to see the situation yet," a resident of Muzaffarpur said.

The water of the river Kosi has engulfed many northeastern districts of the state; normal life is affected by floods-like situations in Supaul. Several homes and facilities in the affected areas have filled with water.

"Our homes are filled with water; I have seen this kind of flooding after 1961. No one has come to meet us yet," Joginder Mehta, a resident of Supaul said.

"I have been here in the village since 1980, houses have been broken, and we are also facing a loss in agriculture as well," another resident said.

## CHAUTALAS: ONCE THE RULERS, THEY NOW FIGHT BITTER BATTLES

NEERAJ MOHAN  
CHANDIGARH

Once the undisputed powerhouse of Haryana politics, the Chautala or Devi Lal clan, which has produced a deputy prime minister, two chief ministers who together ruled the state six times, numerous ministers, and several MLAs, now finds itself battling for political survival and the family members fighting each other to protect their fading political strongholds.

With eight members of the Chautala family contesting in Haryana Assembly elections, five of them are directly pitted against each other. This infighting is emblematic of the clan's decline from absolute power to mere players in a fragmented electoral battle.

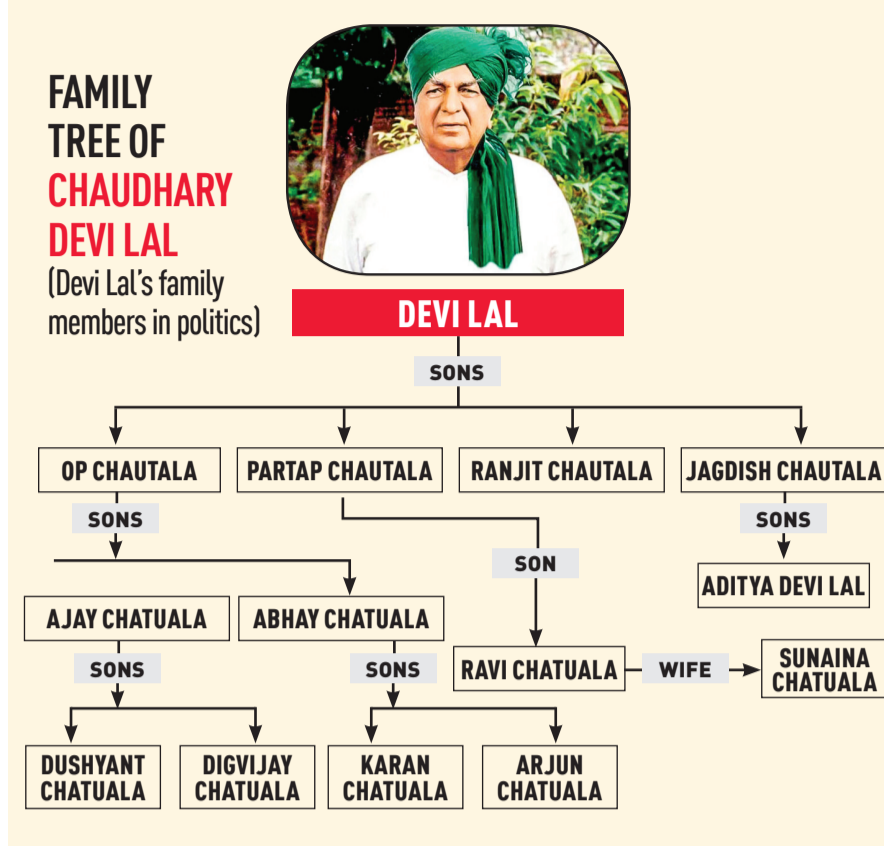
Rania Witnesses Fight Be-

tween Oldest and Youngest Chautala

In the rural Rania constituency, Abhay Chautala's son Arjun, representing the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), faces his grand-uncle, former cabinet minister Ranjit Singh Chautala. This generational face-off is particularly symbolic as it encapsulates the larger struggle within the family.

Ranjit Singh, once a stalwart of the Congress and a former ally of the BJP, is now contesting as an independent after being denied a ticket by the ruling party. The 79-year-old veteran politician is locked in a fierce battle with 31-year-old Arjun, with both the BJP and Congress fielding candidates from the Kamboj community, threatening to split the crucial Jat vote and further complicate the outcome.

"I am confident the people



of Rania will again support me. My term as a BJP minister was successful, and I delivered development projects for my constituency," Ranjit Singh confidently asserts in his election rallies.

However, Arjun Chautala, the younger face among the Chautala family contenders, appeals to voters through the family legacy of his great-grandfather Devi Lal, in an attempt to reignite the emotional connection with the grassroots. Arjun Chautala attempts to bridge generational divides by appealing to younger voters, while Ranjit Singh leans heavily on his decades-long political experience and personal rapport with the electorate.

Dabwali, the Chautala family's traditional stronghold, presents an even more convoluted picture. Three members of the clan are fighting for dominance

in this assembly segment, turning the election into a family feud.

Ajay Chautala's younger son, Digvijay Chautala, represents the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), a breakaway faction of the INLD. He is locked in a contest with his cousin Aditya Devi Lal, who recently defected from the BJP to join the INLD, after being denied a ticket by the saffron party. Adding further complexity, Congress candidate Amit Sihag, son of Dr. KV Singh, a distant cousin of Om Prakash Chautala, is also in the race, making it a true family showdown.

The Dabwali seat holds significant political value for the Chautalas, as it was once represented by Ajay Chautala and his wife, Naina Chautala, in successive terms. With all three Chautala candidates banking on family loyalty and personal

connections to the electorate, the contest has become a litmus test for the family's dwindling influence.

"The people of Dabwali know my family's contribution to the region. We have been here for decades, and I will restore our legacy," says Digvijay, staking his claim to the constituency that has long been a bastion of the Chautalas.

The Chautalas' decline mirrors the fortunes of the two main political factions of the family — the INLD and the JJP. Both parties failed to secure any seats in the last Lok Sabha elections, with the INLD securing only 1.84% of the vote and the JJP just 0.87%. In 2019, Devi Lal's great-grandson, Dushyant Chautala, managed to secure a brief victory by becoming Haryana's Deputy Chief Minister after his JJP allied with the BJP.

## Maharashtra declares indigenous cow as 'Rajya Mata' Gandhis embark on Vijay Sankalp Yatra

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra government, led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, on Monday conferred the title of 'Rajya Mata' to indigenous cows to promote their welfare, ahead of the upcoming assembly elections in the state.

In a cabinet meeting chaired by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde also decided to implement a subsidy scheme offering Rs 50 per day for the rearing of these cows in 'goshalas'.

"A decision was taken in the Maharashtra cabinet meeting to implement a

subsidy scheme of Rs 50 per day for rearing of indigenous cows. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde presided over the meeting. Since the Goshalas could not afford it due to their low income, the decision was taken to strengthen them. This scheme will be implemented online by the Maharashtra Goseva Commission," the Maharashtra Chief Minister's Office stated.

The initiative, managed by the Maharashtra Goseva Commission, aims to support struggling goshalas and reverse the declining population of indigenous cows, which fell by 20.69 per cent according to the

2019 census. "Each district will have a District Goshala Verification Committee. According to the 20th animal census in 2019, the number of indigenous cows has been found to be as low as 46,13,632. This number has decreased by 20.69 per cent compared to the 19th census," it added.

The scheme will be implemented online by the Goseva Commission, under which each district will have a District Goshala Verification Committee.

Maharashtra Deputy CM Devendra Fadnavis said that the state government has also decided to extend help for the rearing of in-

digenous cows at Goshalas. "Indigenous cows are a boon for our farmers. So, we have decided to grant this ('Rajya Mata') status to them. We have also decided to extend help for the rearing of indigenous cows at Goshalas," Devendra Fadnavis told reporters.

The State government also approved; ten percent increase in the salary of Kotwal, eight thousand rupees per month as well as incentive subsidy for Gram Rozgar Sevaks.

Among other measures, the state government also decided to speed up the subway work from Orange Gate to Marine Drive.

CONTINUED FROM P1

of Ambala district.

Rahul Gandhi launched a scathing attack on the ruling BJP government, asserting that it functions as "Adani's government" rather than representing the people of Haryana.

He emphasized that the people of Haryana do not need "Adani's government," but one that genuinely addresses their needs. "My goal is to redistribute as much money as Modi has given to his friends back to the poor, oppressed, and underprivileged of India," he declared, drawing thunderous applause from the audience.

He highlighted severe issues plaguing the state, including rampant unemployment, inflation, and the controversial Agniveer scheme, which he characterized as a scheme to deprive soldiers of their rightful pensions. He pointed out that many young individuals in Haryana are forced to spend exorbitant amounts to seek jobs abroad due to the lack of local opportunities. "The youth of Haryana are spending 50 lakh rupees to risk their lives overseas because there are no jobs

here," he lamented.

Promising Caste Census the Congress leader also touched on the lack of representation for marginalized communities, stating that OBCs, Dalits, minorities, and tribal populations are significantly underrepresented in governance, with only a handful of OBCs among the 90 officials running the central government.

Priyanka also addressed the crowd, invoking the spirit of justice associated with Haryana's rich history. She criticized the BJP for the humiliation faced by the people of Haryana over the past decade, including the mistreatment of farmers and youth. "In the last ten years, the people of Haryana have only received disrespect," she asserted, adding that it is time for the Congress to restore dignity and honor to the citizens of Haryana.

Priyanka emphasized that the BJP government had failed to fulfil its promises to farmers, women, and youth, stating, "The BJP is going, and Congress is coming back. The honor of the people is returning." She urged the public to support Congress candidates in the upcoming elec-

## IN SHOW OF UNITY RAHUL HOLDS HOODA AND SELJA'S HANDS TOGETHER

The launch of the Yatra also served as a platform for showcasing unity among Congress leaders in Haryana, particularly amid rumors of discord between prominent figures Bhupinder Singh Hooda and Kumari Selja. In a display of unity, Rahul orchestrated a significant moment as he brought together Hooda and his long-time rival in the party Kumari Selja, to hold hands before they set off on the Yatra from Naraingarh in Ambala district. This gesture symbolizes a concerted effort to present a united front as they rally support for their party in the lead-up to the elections.

Gandhi made a point to have both leaders on stage, publicly displaying solidarity by having them hold hands after his speech, which was well-received by the crowd.

tions, framing it as a vote for justice and equity.

The Yatra marks a return of the Congress to the political arena in Haryana, following a period of relative quiet. Starting at 11 am, Rahul and Priyanka traversed around 100 kilometers in an open jeep, directly engaging with the people and addressing pressing local issues. This Yatra is part of Congress's strategy to counter the BJP's extensive campaigning, which has dominated the political landscape in the region.

The Yatra covered a series of constituencies from Ambala and Kurukshetra districts as both the leaders addressed several gath-

erings towns, including Yamunanagar, Mulana, Shahabad, and culminated in a grand assembly in Kurukshetra. With two more Yatras planned before the campaign period concludes on October 3, Rahul Gandhi aims to replicate the success of the Bharat Jodo Yatra, covering more ground in less time to galvanize support for Congress. During their visit the Gandhi siblings also met with the employees and drivers of the Safexpress warehouse and listened to their issues. The yatra will resume on Tuesday from Bahadurgarh and will cover several constituencies of Jhajjar and Sonapat districts.

## SC on laddu row

CONTINUED FROM P1

also made a statement that adulterated ghee was never used.

Rohatgi said some of these petitions were not bona fide and they were meant to espouse the cause of the erstwhile government besides attacking the present government.

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing for TTD, said since the ghee which was supplied earlier was found to be contaminated, it was found necessary to get the samples analysed.

"Only when the report came, the steps were taken," he said.

"You had ordered an investigation to SIT and till the outcome of such an investigation, what was the necessity to go to the press?" the bench observed, adding, "At least, we expect the Gods to be kept away from politics."

The bench observed that the report was received in July and the chief minister made a statement on September 18.

"Whether that ghee, of which the sample was not found confirming to the standards, was used in the preparation of laddus?" the

bench asked.

It asked the necessity to go to the press when the state had ordered an investigation.

"You know, it has not affected the sentiments of one lakh or two lakh persons, but crores and crores," the bench said.

"Where is the proof that this was the ghee which was used in preparation of the laddus?" it said, while asking whether any second opinion was taken on the issue.

Mehta said this was a "matter of faith" and if adulterated ghee was used, it was "completely unacceptable".

He said someone will have to go into the question whether adulterated ghee was used, who was responsible and whether it was negligence or deliberate.

When the bench asked Luthra about reported statement of TTD's executive officer, the senior counsel said the petitioners have relied on newspaper reports.

"Take proper instructions and make the stand because what you are saying has grave implications ...," the bench said.

## 'Do well', says CJJ

CONTINUED FROM P1

the amount if he had the wherewithal to pay the Rs 17,500 fee, the bench said, adding, "The only thing that stopped him was the inability to pay and as the Supreme Court of India we need to see that."

The bench said the court has to take into account the social and economic background of the youth.

"We are affirmatively of the view that a talented student like the petitioner

should not be left in the lurch. The power of the Court under Article 142 of the Constitution to do complete justice is to address such situations," it said and directed, "The petitioner should be admitted to the same batch in which he would have been admitted and should be given all consequential benefits such as hostel admission." The youth was standing in the packed courtroom with folded hands and the CJJ wished him good luck.

## PM speaks to Netanyahu

CONTINUED FROM P1

The war has spiralled into the region lately, with Houthis rebels in Yemen also targeting Israel and other countries in the Red Sea. Israel has also continued striking Hezbollah in Lebanon. As the conflict heads towards escalation, all major countries have called for a ceasefire and hostage deal, while also stressing for a two-state solution as a means to achieve durable and sustainable peace in the

region.

On September 27, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that the war with Hamas can end if the latter lays arms and releases the hostages, while asserting that Israel will continue its fight until it achieves "total victory."

Issuing a stern warning to Iran, Netanyahu said there is "no place" in Iran, where the "long arms" of Israel cannot reach, while adding that it is true for the "entire Middle East."

## J&amp;K votes today

CONTINUED FROM P1

bly segments in Jammu, Udhampur, Samba and Kathua in the Jammu region and Baramulla, Bandipora and Kupwara in north Kashmir, on October 1. Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Jammu zone, Anand Jain, said adequate security arrangements have been put in place in the poll-bound areas to ensure "terror-free and peaceful" polling.

Amid tight security arrangements, thousands of election staff along with poll material left their respective district headquarters this morning to take positions at their designated polling stations by this evening. The voter turnout was robust in the earlier phases, with 61.38 per cent participation recorded in the first phase on September 18 and 57.31 per cent in the second phase on September 26. This is the first Assembly election in Jammu and Kashmir since the abrogation of Article 370 of the Constitution in August 2019, with the results set to be announced on October 8.

## IAF plane crash

CONTINUED FROM P1

ered the wreckage, sparking multiple expeditions over the years by the Indian Army.

The search for the remaining victims continues. 1) Malkhan Singh. Identified by a voucher found in his pocket, Malkhan Singh's identity was confirmed with the help of documents obtained from Pioneer Records Office.

2. Sepoy Narayan Singh (AMC). Narayan Singh, a sepoy from the Army Medical Corps (AMC), was identified by his paybook found on his person. Singh hailed from the village of

Kolpadi, Chamoli Tehsil in Garhwal, Uttarakhand. His next of kin (NOK) is his wife, Smt Basnati Devi.

3. While documents recovered from the third body have not conclusively identified the individual, details of the next of kin were found. The wife, Smt Parvati Devi, and father, Mr. Netram, were notified of the discovery.

4. Craftsman Thomas Charan (EME). The remains of CFN Thomas Charan from the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers were identified, with further confirmation through his paybook.

## Unbridled attack on Congress by BJP

CONTINUED FROM P1

stance on national issues.

Addressing a rally in Charkhi Dadri, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh took a dig at the Congress, highlighting the BJP's clean governance. "PM Modi's government has been at the centre for 10 years, and not a single minister has been charged with corruption. In contrast, during Congress's tenure, several leaders faced corruption charges, and some even ended up in jail," said Singh.

He further emphasized BJP's focus on transparency and fair governance. "When Congress was in power, securing a job required recommendations or bribes. We have ended that corrupt system," Singh said. He recounted his earlier promise from Haryana's soil in 2013 about implementing the One Rank One Pension (OROP) policy. "BJP not only implemented OROP but has revised it thrice now, proving that we fulfill our promises," he asserted.

The Defence Minister also praised the BJP's farmer-centric initiatives, stating that under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, 3.25 lakh crore was direct-

ly transferred into farmers' bank accounts. "Haryana stands as the state that procures 24 crops at MSP and offers additional price support through the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana," he added, emphasizing the state's remarkable progress in ensuring water supply to nearly every household through the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Meanwhile, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath made a strong pitch for BJP candidates at rallies in Narnaul, Bawani Khara, Panchkula, and Hansi. Adityanath urged voters to re-elect Captain Abhimanyu from Narnaul, emphasizing that their votes for the lotus symbol (BJP's emblem) would bring prosperity akin to the blessings of Goddess Lakshmi.

Launching a scathing attack on Congress, Adityanath remarked, "The 'Accidental Hindus' who have been raised in the culture of Rome cannot tolerate the construction of the Ram Temple." He stated that PM Modi's leadership ended the 500-year-long wait to see Lord Ram established at Ayodhya, a moment celebrated by millions except

## SMRITI IRANI CHALLENGES CONGRESS TO NAME KUMARI SELJA AS CM CANDIDATE

CHANDIGARH: Former Union Minister and BJP leader Smriti Irani took a dig at the Congress on Monday, urging the party to prove its pro-Dalit stance by declaring Kumari Selja as their chief ministerial candidate in Haryana. "If Congress cares so much for Dalits, they should make Kumari Selja their candidate—maybe Bhupinder Singh Hooda will support her," Irani said at a press conference.

Irani also promoted the Haryana government's 'Lado Lakshmi Scheme,' promising Rs 2,100 per month for women from BPL families. Expressing confidence in BJP's prospects, she highlighted the Modi government's transparency, stating Rs 74,680 crore had been transferred to Haryana through DBT schemes.

for the Congress, who he claimed, "shed crocodile tears over it."

Adityanath lambasted Rahul Gandhi without naming him, saying, "Those who criticize the Ram temple inauguration as a mere celebration were themselves raised in a culture of constant revelry." He added, "Congress was involved in corrupt partnerships with notorious mafias in Uttar Pradesh and has always been a source of terrorism, extremism, and corruption in the country."

The UP Chief Minister took sharp jabs at Congress, alleging that they looted the nation for decades and stashed money

in Swiss banks. "While BJP workers served the people during the pandemic, where was Rahul Gandhi? He was seeking solace in Italy," Adityanath commented, highlighting Congress's alleged disconnection from the country's concerns.

"Congress represents the roles of Ravan, Meghnad, and Kumbhakaran, while BJP stands for Ram Rajya and good governance," Adityanath proclaimed, stating that Haryana has witnessed unprecedented growth under the "double-engine government" led by BJP at both the state and central levels.

Yogi Adityanath accused Congress of disrespecting Hindu beliefs.

# ATISHI DRAWS ROADMAP FOR POTHOLE-FREE CITY ROADS

The Chief Minister on Monday inspected and identified damaged roads

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi cabinet ministers led by Chief Minister Atishi hit the ground running on Monday morning, inspecting and identifying damaged roads across the city to ensure a pothole-free national capital by Diwali.

In an official statement, Atishi said she has taken the responsibility of south and south-east Delhi. Saurabh Bharadwaj has taken the responsibility of east Delhi, Gopal Rai has taken north-east Delhi, Kailash Gahlot has taken west and south-west Delhi, Imran Hussain has taken central and New Delhi and Mukesh Ahlawat have taken the responsibility of north and north-west Delhi.

Atishi, accompanied by Public Works Department (PWD) engineers, visited different areas in south and southeast Delhi.

In a post on X, the chief minister said she found roads at NSIC Okhla, Modi Mill flyover, Chirag Dilli, Tughalabad, Mathura Road, Ashram Chowk and its underpass in a dilapidated condition. People have to face problems because of potholes on these roads, she said.

The chief minister directed the officials to start the repair work on a war footing and said "Under the guidance of Arvind Kejriwal, it is our endeavour that all Delhiites get pothole-free roads by Diwali".

BSES laid the line in front



Delhi Chief Minister Atishi inspects the roads of Okhla Industrial Area, in New Delhi on Monday. (ANI Photo)

of NSIC Metro Station, but the road was not repaired after that. Here people not only face problems due to broken roads but there is also a traffic jam. In this way, every inch of the road will be inspected. All the roads will be built within the next three to four weeks, Atishi said.

Bharadwaj and former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia inspected roads in east Delhi.

Sisodia, in a post on X, alleged that the BJP sent him and former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to jail in fake cases to stall the work being done by the AAP government for the people of Delhi.

Because of this, the condition of roads has worsened, he said.

Sisodia said that now that Kejriwal is back, all the pending work will be finished quickly.

He has asked the CM and all ministers to urgently improve the condition of the roads in the national capital. Delhi's roads will soon get better since Kejriwal has taken charge of it. Ministers Gopal Rai, Kailash Gahlot, Imran Hussain and Mukesh Ahlawat also inspected roads.

Rai inspected roads in northeast Delhi, Gahlot in west and southwest Delhi, Hussain in New Delhi and central Delhi and Ahlawat in north and northwest Delhi.

"Today I inspected the roads of Noor-e-Ilahi and Yamuna Vihar in northeast Delhi. Dust pollution occurs first after the rain. Therefore, our effort is to control it. Apart from this, the anti-dust campaign is starting from October 7. Under this, we are forming about 523 teams to go to the field," Gopal Rai said.

After the inspection, Gahlot posted on X that this morning, along with senior officials of PWD, he inspected the main roads of Najafgarh, Bahadurgarh Road and Dhasan Road.

Due to the prolonged monsoon, the condition of roads is not good and people are facing problems due to potholes at many places, he said.

During the inspection, instructions were given to the officers that all necessary repairs on the road should be done as soon as possible so that people do not face inconvenience in commuting, he mentioned in the post.

During the inspection, Gahlot found that the PWD drains were broken and due to lack of cleaning, there was waterlogging around them. The roads were damaged due to continuous water ac-

cumulation. The minister directed the officials to immediately repair and clean the drains, as well as start road repair work immediately, the statement said.

Ahlawat said he inspected the road located in Sultanpur Majra Assembly constituency around 10 am and instructed the PWD officials to get the road repaired as soon as possible.

"Wherever there is a problem, those roads will be repaired. The roads which need to be rebuilt will be rebuilt, those which need repair will be repaired and the roads which have potholes will be filled. Rohtak Road has suffered a lot of damage due to rain and the drains have also broken. Therefore, the water will be removed first from there by installing a pump, after that it will be repaired," Ahlawat said. AAP senior leader Jasmine Shah, who accompanied Ahlawat, said that the PWD officials have been directed to install round-the-clock pumping so that water doesn't get collected, and urgent repair work on the road is initiated.

"Through the combined efforts of ministers, MLAs and PWD officials, we shall ensure Delhi becomes pothole-free before Diwali," he shared.

Similarly, Hussain stated that he and party MLA Durgesh Pathak have inspected the PWD roads in Paharganj and Motiya Khan and instructed the present officers to repair them as soon as possible.



President Droupadi Murmu with Delhi Chief Minister Atishi during a meeting at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.

## BJP blames AAP leaders for poor roads

TIKAM SHARMA  
NEW DELHI

The Delhi unit of BJP has blamed Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) for the poor condition of Delhi's roads. The opposition party criticised AAP for neglecting road maintenance for the past decade and accused the party of suddenly promising to fix potholes just.

According to Delhi BJP, the Public Works Department (PWD), responsible for maintaining roads, was for years under the control of Satyendra Jain, who is often described as the "most corrupt member" of the Kejriwal government.

After Jain, Manish Sisodia took charge, and for the past year, the department has been under Atishi Marlena, who the BJP claims operates under the direction of Kejriwal and Sisodia.

Delhi BJP President Vinendra Sachdeva, speaking to the media, said that Kejriwal, Jain, Sisodia and Marlena are primarily responsible for the city's deteriorating roads. He expressed confidence that the people of Delhi would reject them in the upcoming assembly elections.

Sachdeva also pointed to corruption within the Delhi Jal Board and the PWD, particularly in their failure to clean drains and sewers, as a major contributor to road damage. This negligence, he said, leads to yearly waterlogging, further worsening road conditions and causing cave-ins across the city.

Drawing a comparison to the poor road conditions during Lalu Yadav's time in Bihar, the BJP asserted that despite any last-minute inspections or repairs by Atishi Marlena and her team, Delhi's residents would not forgive them. Sachdeva warned that the Kejriwal government would be held accountable for its corruption and incompetence.

## Drug smuggling gang busted

228 kg marijuana worth Rs 1.4 cr seized

SAURABH SHARMA  
NEW DELHI

In a major anti-narcotics operation, Delhi Police have dismantled an interstate drug smuggling network, seizing 228 kg of marijuana (ganja) worth approximately Rs 1.4 crore.

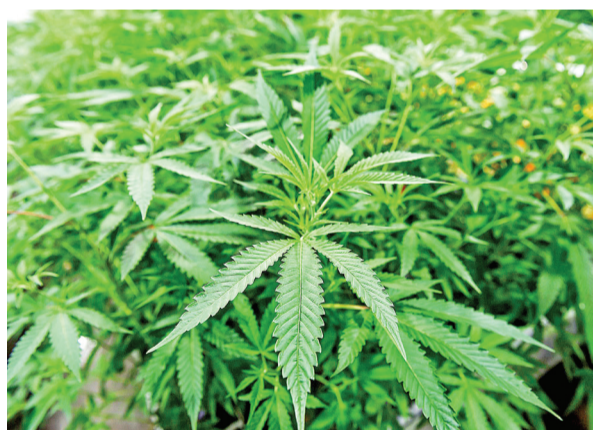
The illegal consignment was being trafficked from Andhra Pradesh - Odisha border to the Delhi/NCR region.

Police arrested two accused identified as drug supplier Jeevan Sunar who is a resident of Gaziabad, Uttar Pradesh along with the receiver in Delhi named Parmanand, a resident of Badli, Delhi.

They were caught by the Delhi Police officials on the basis of the secret intelligence.

Both accused were engaged in supply/peddling narcotic substance in Delhi after procuring from the border area of Orissa-Andhra Pradesh.

During interrogation, accused Jeevan revealed that



The illegal consignment was being trafficked from Andhra Pradesh - Odisha border to the Delhi/NCR region.

he had been peddling ganja after procuring from the border of Orissa-Andhra Pradesh on the directions of Parmanand and his associates.

The second accused Parmanand was also arrested from the spot while unloading/transporting the Ganja from the truck to his Car.

During further inves-

tigation, the name of the source of the ganja was also revealed as Rajesh Adikathia who is a resident of Odisha.

Rajesh has already been arrested by Crime Branch in a ganja supply case.

Both suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

## Tytler moves HC challenging charges against him

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Jagdish Tytler has moved the Delhi High Court challenging a recent trial court order that framed charges against him for murder and other offences related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The charges against Tytler include unlawful assembly, rioting, and promoting enmity.

Tytler, who recently appeared before the trial court, pleaded not guilty to these



charges. He has now approached the High Court, against charges framed against him in connection with the riots.

The plea filed through

Advocate Vaibhav Tomar on behalf of the petitioner, Jagdish Tytler, submitted that the Impugned Order is perverse, illegal and lacks application of mind. By way of the Impugned Order, the Trial Court has erroneously framed charges against the Petitioner/Revisionist overlooking settled principles of law on the point of charge.

"The grounds on which such charges have been framed are unfounded. There is no credible evidence to corroborate the al-

legations levelled against the Petitioner. The Impugned Order is misconceived, has been passed mechanically and without application of mind, and is liable to be set aside," the plea said.

Tytler also cited his medical ground while changing the trial court order. Additionally, the plea mentions that the petitioner has undergone multiple biopsies in 2009, 2011, and 2016, and in 2021, he suffered a severe fall at home, rendering him unconscious, after which he

was admitted to Medanta Hospital in Gurgaon. The bench of Justice Manoj Kumar Ohri is scheduled to hear the matter on Tuesday.

On May 20, 2023, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed a charge sheet against Congress leader Jagdish Tytler in connection with the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The CBI accused Tytler of inciting, instigating, and provoking a mob assembled at Pul Bangash Gurudwara, Azad Market, on November 1, 1984.

## Two labourers die in Rohini as roof of under-construction building collapses

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Two labourers were killed and two others injured after the roof of an under-construction building collapsed in the Madanpur Dabas area of northwest Delhi's Rohini on Sunday, police said.

The deceased were identified as Ram Chander (30) and Raj Kumar (30), both residents of Bhagya Vihar in Delhi, they said.

One of the injured was

identified as Sonu (32) of Meer Vihar, while the identity of other injured person is yet to be ascertained, a police official said, adding both of them are undergoing treatment at a hospital.

"At 5:31 pm, a PCR call regarding casualties due to collapsing of a roof of an under-construction building was received at Kanjhawala police station. A police team rushed to the spot in Madanpur Dabas in Kanjhawala where it came to know that four injured people were shifted to hospital," Additional DCP (Rohini) Pankaj Kumar said.

The additional DCP further said that the police team reached the hospital and was informed that two injured persons were declared brought dead. "Preliminary inquiry revealed that the roof of the under-construction building collapsed suddenly in the evening on the labourers while they were working," the officer said.

## Kejriwal to vacate CM residence soon

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party national convener Arvind Kejriwal will soon vacate the Chief Minister's residence in Delhi's Civil Line area and is looking for a residence around the New Delhi assembly constituency, from where he is also an MLA, the party said on Saturday.

It added that an "intense" search for a new address

near his New Delhi constituency.

"AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal will soon leave CM residence and search for his new house has been intensified. He is giving preference to living around New Delhi, from where he is an MLA to remain connected with the people. Many MLAs, councillors, party workers and common people are offering them their houses to the AAP Chief," AAP said in a statement.

## Green war room launched executing Winter Action Plan

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Environment Minister Gopal Rai on Monday launched Green War Room at the Delhi Secretariat for better implementation of the Winter Action Plan against pollution.

He said due to the steps taken by the Delhi government, a huge reduction in pollution has been recorded. While the number of polluted days was 243 in

2016, it has come down to 159 in 2023.

Delhi's air pollution has reduced by 34.6 per cent. As part of the public awareness campaign, a "Harit Kalash Yatra" will be taken out in Connaught Place on October 1, added the Delhi Environment Minister.

Addressing the media, Rai said, "Winter is round the corner in Delhi. With the onset of winter, the environment in Delhi becomes increasingly unfavourable.



The wind speed is going to decrease gradually, the rain will stop, and the temperature is going to fall.

Under such unfavourable conditions, the level of pollution in Delhi starts going up. Owing to these three factors, the gases that otherwise get dissolved reach the ground, and because of that, the level of air pollution starts increasing."

The Environment Minister said, "The additional feature of the Green War Room this year is to analyse data with drone mapping. Secondly, the data of the Real Time Source Apportion-

ment Study, which is done at our centre at Deendayal Upadhyay Marg, will also be analysed from the Green War Room. Thirdly, analysis of the satellite data on the smoke produced from stubble burning at various places will also be done on a daily basis in the war room."

Gopal Rai added, like the previous years, the entire Delhi will be connected with the Green War Room through the Green Delhi app. Through the Green

Delhi app, the whole of Delhi becomes a participant in the fight against pollution.

The theme "Milkar Chalen, Pradooshan se Laden" (Let's fight pollution together) can be made meaningful with public participation. Through the Green Delhi app, people in Delhi can see any activity that causes pollution anywhere. "Join the fight against pollution by downloading the Green Delhi app from the Play Store today. And in this en-

tire fight, you too become a green warrior," he said.

Gopal Rai said the work that is done from the war room is the monitoring of hotspots because hotspots are the biggest hurdle in the pollution level of Delhi in winters as they increase the total AQI of Delhi. When the AQI of Delhi is 200, the AQI at 13 hotspots is 125 to 150 more than normal. This makes the AQI level of the whole of Delhi jump.

The Environment Min-

ister further said, the data of 24-hour monitoring stations that have been set up at different places in Delhi from where we monitor PM10 and PM2.5 will be analysed at the Green War Room. Also, the air pollution that we used to measure in terms of PM10 and PM2.5 earlier will now be analysed in terms of the Air Quality Index to know the actual position. So, AQI monitoring will also start today on a daily basis.

# DELHI COP HIT & DRAG DEATH CASE: ONE ACCUSED HELD BY DELHI POLICE

Court grants three days custody of accused Rajnish to police

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi police said they have arrested one of the accused in the case of the death of a police constable on September 29 in the National Capital's Nangloi area.

The accused has been identified as Rajnish, and police said efforts are on to arrest the second accused. Tis Hazari Court in Delhi grants three-day custody remand of accused to the Police.

"Police arrested one of the accused, Rajnish, in the case. The offending vehicle has been seized. Multiple teams have been formed for investigation, and several raids have been conducted in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana, as per Delhi police.

"Sustained efforts are being made for the arrest of the second accused," police added.

Meanwhile, in the Delhi High Court, a habeas corpus petition was mentioned by a counsel concerning an alleged road rage incident in which a Delhi Police constable lost his life. The counsel informed the court that the wife of the accused has been picked up by the Delhi Police and is currently in their custody.

The advocate further stated that the accused fled the scene, and instead, a family member (the wife) was detained.

The bench led by Chief Justice Manmohan, also comprising Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, taking note of the matter, has scheduled it for a hearing on October 1, where the legality of the



*"Police arrested one of the accused, Rajnish, in the case. The offending vehicle has been seized. Multiple teams have been formed for investigation, and several raids have been conducted in Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana, as per Delhi police."*

wife's alleged detention will be examined.

The advocate, through Habeas Corpus plea, seeks release of illegal detention

of accused wife.

In the tragic road rage incident in the Nangloi area two days ago, a Delhi Police constable, identified as 30-year-

old Sandeep, was killed after being dragged for about 10 meters by a speeding car.

The incident occurred when constable Sandeep, noticing the driver's reckless behavior, requested the driver to slow down.

However, instead of complying, the driver suddenly accelerated, striking Sandeep's motorcycle from behind. Sandeep and his bike were dragged along the road before colliding with another vehicle.

The car involved in the incident has since been seized, but the driver remains absconding. CCTV footage from the area captured the moments leading up to the incident, aiding the ongoing police investigation.

The incident has led to a serious investigation, with the accused reportedly fleeing the scene after the crime.

# AAP Minister attacks LG Saxena for 'increase in crime rate' in Delhi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI



Lashing out at Delhi L-G VK Saxena, Delhi Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said that several crimes have been taking place in the national capital, and since Saxena became the L-G, the law and order situation has deteriorated.

"Since VK Saxena has become the LG of Delhi, the law and order here have deteriorated...Several crimes are taking place in Delhi. We have requested him several times that he should inspect the police stations...There is a continuous increase in the crime rate, and the LG is silent on this...Today our legislators have written a letter to him and have sought time from him for a meeting so that we could discuss the law and order situation here," said Saurabh Bharadwaj.

at three major places, and everyone had received calls for extortion. Even AAP MLAs Sanjiv Jha and Ajay Dutt have been threatened for ransom by gangsters. At the place where bullets were fired the previous day, he had been receiving threats for the past six months. He even filed an FIR but the police did not take any action," the Delhi minister posted on X.

Speaking on the firing incident that occurred in a car showroom in the Naraina area of Delhi on Friday, September 27, Bharadwaj said, "The showroom owner is in panic. He has been asked to pay a ransom

of Rs 5 crore. If he does not pay, then everyone has been threatened with death. Ever since Vinai Saxena became LG, the crime rate in Delhi has increased. We thought that he was abroad, and that is why he is not saying anything, but now that he has returned, he has still not given any reaction. There is no discussion on when he will visit the showroom of Naraina."

Earlier in the day, Delhi MLAs wrote to the L-G, raising concerns about increasing incidents of gangsters demanding extortion from businesses in Delhi. They have sought an urgent meeting with LG.

# Three nabbed for supplying ganja from Shillong to Delhi

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Delhi Police arrested two people along with one 'child in conflict of law' (CCL) belonging to Nagaland for supplying illicit 'Ganja' from Shillong to the national capital through airways and the post office.

The accused have been identified as Ato Sumi (30) and R. Kechyelo Seb (22).

As per the Police, it has recovered 4.590 Kg Illicit Ganja from the room of accused person's, two parcels weighing 12 kg held in post office to be delivered to accused and their mobile phones.

According to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, South West, Rohit Meena, on September 19, information was received regarding the sale of illicit Ganja by 2-3 persons at Humayunpur Village, New Delhi.

"Immediately, a team of Special Staff led by SI Ashok Kumar Meena was constituted. On receiving of the information, a raid was conducted at Humayunpur village on the identity of the secret informer and apprehended



*The Delhi Police also mentioned that the accused Ato Sumi also received the amount of illicit Ganja in his bank accounts.*

three accused along with illicit Ganja of approx. 4.590 Kg from their room," DCP Meena said.

"During course of investigation, they were interrogated and arrested in the present case and they disclosed that they received the illicit Ganja from Shillong,

Meghalaya from one Kawi (they are not known by the original name of supplier) through post office in parcels," he said.

The Delhi Police also mentioned that the accused Ato Sumi also received the amount of illicit Ganja in his bank accounts.

"For the purpose of investigation regarding source and supply, accused persons were taken on 10 days PC remand and CCL was sent to judicial custody as his age proof documents were not available and he disclosed his age of year 2006 before the court. During investigation of the case, accused Ato Sumi was interrogated and as per his disclosure as well as data available in mobile phone of the accused, it was found that he received the illicit Ganja from Shillong, Meghalaya through post office in Vasant Kunj," DCP Meena added.

Police also mentioned that the three bank accounts of the accused Sumi were frozen with total amount of Rs. 37,45,502.

"Further investigation of the case is under process to arrest of the source and receiver of illicit Ganja in the present case," they said.

# 4 killed, one injured in car-tractor crash in Noida

TDG NETWORK  
NOIDA

Four people were killed and one other was injured after their car hit a tractor in Uttar Pradesh's Noida, the police said on Monday.

The incident took place in Sector 24 in Noida late Sunday night, they said.

According to the police, the victims were residents of Delhi and had come to Noida for dinner. Their car was hit by the tractor while they were returning back to Delhi.



*Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi offered condolences to the families of the deceased and also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured.*

The police said that the victims were rushed to a nearby hospital but were pronounced dead on arrival. The bodies have been stored for post-mortem while one of the five is hospitalised and is currently being treated for his injuries, they added.

A case has been registered in this regard, and the tractor involved in the crash has been taken into custody, the police added.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi offered condolences to the families of the deceased and also wished for the speedy recovery of the injured. The Chief Minister has also instructed officials to ensure proper treatment of the injured person. He said that the Chief Minister's office is actively coordinating with the local administration to ensure that necessary steps are taken to assist the victims' families and address any further safety concerns on the roads. (ANI)

# Section 163 of BNSS imposed in Delhi for 6 days

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

In view of inputs regarding calls for holding protests, demonstrations, and campaigns in the national capital during the first week of October, the Office of Commissioner of Police, Delhi, on Monday announced to enforce Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) at several locations in Delhi. It will be effective from September 30 to October 5.

In a statement, the Commissioner's office stated, "The general atmosphere in Delhi is sensitive from a law and order point of view due to various current issues like prevailing communal atmosphere in view of the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill and issue of Shahi Idgah in Sadar Bazaar area, politically charged issue of MCD Standing Committee elections and, pending declaration of results of DUSU Elections, etc."

Further, the Jammu, Kashmir, and Haryana legislative assembly elections are underway, and, thus, there is a need to have a continuous check on the movement of persons and vehicles



from Delhi borders, the order said.

"In view of the above, I, Sanjay Arora, Commissioner of Police, Delhi in exercise of the powers conferred to undersigned by virtue of section \*163 Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (BNSS) read with Govt. of India, Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department), New Delhi's Notification No.2654 dated 16.07.2024, do hereby make this written order in the Districts of New Delhi, North and Central apart from all

Police Stations having territorial jurisdiction over the State borders of Delhi for a period of 6 days w.e.f. 30/09/2024 to 05/10/2024 (both days inclusive) to prohibit, (i) assembly of five or more unauthorized persons, (ii) carrying of fire-arms, banners, placards, lathis, spears, swords, sticks, brickbats etc (iii) pocketing or dharnas in any public area etc. and doing so shall be punishable under Section 223 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita 2023," the Commissioner's office stated.

# 22-year-old man stabbed to death in Delhi's Tigri

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

A 22-year-old man was stabbed to death in Delhi's Tigri area on Sunday, said the police.

According to Delhi Police, Tigri Police Station received information regarding the stabbing incident. Upon reaching the spot, they rushed the victim to the AIIMS trauma centre, where he was declared brought dead.

The deceased was identified as Kamal Singh Rana, a

*The deceased was identified as Kamal Singh Rana, a resident of Sangam Vihar. The police said that he sustained multiple stab injuries.*

resident of Sangam Vihar. The police said that he sustained



multiple stab injuries.

One person was detained in connection with the incident.

The accused was identified as Ritikesh (19), a resident of Sangam Vihar.

# STOCK INDICES PLUNGE AMID GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS, FII OUTFLOWS

Before the recent slump, a 50-basis-point rate cut by the US Federal Reserve supported Indian stocks, attracting capital.

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Indian stock indices slumped sharply on Monday early trade, and continued to remain under pressure as the session progressed.

Sensex fell over 1,000 points at the time of filing this report. Nifty fell about 300 points.

Nifty bank, auto, financial services, and realty were among the top losers today.

Continued profit booking, escalation in geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, and fresh Chinese stimulus attracting FDIs are contributing factors behind the downtrend in the Indian benchmark indices on Monday, said Mumbai-



*This surge has been triggered by hopes of revival in the Chinese economy in response to the monetary and fiscal stimulus announced by the Chinese authorities," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services.*

based market expert Ajay Kedia.

"Market is likely to move

into a consolidation phase in the near-term. One significant factor that is influ-

encing foreign portfolios is the outperformance of the Chinese stocks which is reflected in the massive surge in the Hang Seng index by around 18 per cent in September. This surge has been triggered by hopes of revival in the Chinese economy in response to the monetary and fiscal stimulus announced by the Chinese authorities," said V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services. "This means FIIs may continue to sell in India and move some more money to better performing markets. FII selling is unlikely to impact the Indian market significantly since the massive domestic money can easily absorb whatever the

FIIs are selling. Investors can use dips to buy quality largecaps which are fairly valued," said Vijayakumar.

On Friday too, after logging sixth straight session highs, stock indices in India closed the week's trade marginally in the red, presumably attributable to profit booking.

Prior to the latest slump, the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy committee loosening interest rate by steep 50 basis points, in particular, had been lending fresh support to Indian stocks. The steeper the rate cut in the US, the more the tendency to flight of capital to alternative investment destinations, including India.

## Small savings interest rates unchanged for Q3: Statement

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The central government has kept the interest rates unchanged on various small savings schemes for the October-December quarter, according to an official notification from the Ministry of Finance.

The interest rates on small savings schemes are typically reviewed every quarter by the government.

For the Public Provident Fund (PPF), one of the most popular small savings schemes, the interest rate will continue to be 7.1 per cent. This scheme is widely favored due to its tax benefits and long-term savings potential.

The Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS) will also maintain its interest rate at 8.2 per cent. This scheme is specifically designed to provide financial security to senior citizens, offering higher returns compared to other savings options.



Deposits made under the Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, which is aimed at encouraging savings for the education and marriage expenses of girl children, will continue to earn an interest rate of 8.2 per cent. This scheme is an integral part of the government's 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' initiative.

The National Savings Certificate (NSC), which is a fixed-income investment plan, will keep its interest rate at 7.7 per cent. This scheme is considered a secure investment with moderate returns.

The Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (PO-MIS), which provides regular

monthly income to investors, will offer an interest rate of 7.4 per cent. The Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP), a government-backed savings scheme designed to double the investment over a specific period, will continue to provide an interest rate of 7.5 per cent.

Additionally, the 5-Year Recurring Deposit (RD) scheme, which allows investors to deposit a fixed amount every month, will offer an interest rate of 6.7 per cent.

These small savings schemes offer guaranteed returns at regular intervals, compounded monthly, quarterly or annually, as the case may be.

## RBI flags irregularities in gold loan practices

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Reserve Bank of India has found irregular practices in the grant of loans against pledges of gold ornaments and jewellery by some entities. It has thus advised all "supervised entities" to comprehensively review their policies, processes, and practices on gold loans to identify gaps.

They have been asked to initiate appropriate remedial measures in a timebound manner.

RBI recently reviewed loans pledged against gold ornaments and jewellery.

The review, as well as the findings of the onsite examination of select supervised entities, indicate several ir-



regular practices.

The major deficiencies include shortcomings in the use of third parties for sourcing and appraisal of loans; valuation of gold without the presence of the customer; inadequate due diligence and lack of end-use monitoring of gold loans; lack of transparency during an auction of gold ornaments and jewellery on default by the customer; weaknesses in the monitor-

ing of loan to value (LTV); and incorrect application of risk-weights.

Against that backdrop, RBI said that the gold loan portfolio should be closely monitored, especially in light of significant growth in the portfolio in certain entities.

"It should also be ensured that adequate controls are in place over outsourced activities and third-party service providers," RBI said.

## Adani Mundra cluster joins global push for green Hydrogen, decarbonisation

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Three Adani portfolio companies -- Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL) (through its subsidiary Adani New Industries Ltd), Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), and Ambuja Cements Ltd. -- have joined the World Economic Forum's 'Transitioning Industrial Clusters' initiative, forming the Adani Mundra Cluster.

According to a statement from the Adani Group, this initiative aims to enhance collaboration and align the vision of co-located companies to drive economic growth, generate employment, and advance decarbonisation by 2050.



Since its inception in 1993, the port business at Mundra has evolved into a thriving, port-led industrial cluster.

Now recognised as India's largest port, Mundra has become a dynamic hub for companies across diverse sectors, ranging from advanced solar module and wind turbine manufacturing to challenging-to-decarbonise cement

company's goal of achieving net-zero by 2050.

Additionally, the Adani Mundra Cluster will become one of the world's largest integrated green hydrogen hubs, with a planned capacity of 1 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) of green hydrogen production by 2030, expanding up to 3 MMTPA by 2040.

This will be supported by a fully integrated value chain comprising 10 GW of solar modules, 5 GW of wind turbines, and 5GW of electrolyser manufacturing capacity, alongside associated port infrastructure.

The cluster will also have production facilities for green hydrogen derivatives such as ammonia, further

solidifying its leadership in the green energy transition.

"By joining the World Economic Forum's Transitioning Industrial Clusters initiative, the signatories will have the opportunity to collaborate with global industry peers, think-tanks, policymakers, and experts to pioneer innovative approaches towards decarbonisation," said Karan Adani, Managing Director of APSEZ and Director of Ambuja Cements. "The Adani Mundra Cluster aspires to become an integrated green hydrogen manufacturing hub, helping to decarbonise the hard-to-abate sectors of the Indian economy and reduce the country's dependency on energy imports," Karan Adani added.

## Consumer durables to hit Rs 5L cr, create 5L jobs by 2030

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The consumer durable industry is projected to reach approximately Rs 5 lakh crore and will create around 5 lakh skilled jobs across the value chain by 2030, as per a report put out by industry body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The report titled "Vision 2030: India's rise as a global force in Consumer Electronics and Durables" was also released during the summit.

The report delves into the current landscape of the Consumer Electronics and Durables sector.

"India's consumer durables sector is on a strong growth path, supported by

*Partner and National Leader - Consumer Product and Retail Sector, EY-Parthenon said that, "Progressive government initiatives like Atmanirbhar Bharat, Make in India are creating a favourable environment for the sector's growth.*

liberalized investments, a thriving startup ecosystem, innovation and R&D. With industry corridors and industrial parks streamlining land availability and clearances, there's immense potential for the industry to capture both domestic and global markets", said Amardeep Singh Bhatia, Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and

Internal Trade (DPIIT). Highlighting the importance of sustainable growth, he urged the industry to keep in mind the principles of circularity. He was addressing the Consumer Electronics and Durables Summit organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

He also said that industry should focus on exports and

future demand while planning investments or joint ventures for expanding production. He cited the examples of other countries like Thailand, China where the focus was largely on exports.

He said that though the consumer durable industry has a strong footprint in Africa and the Middle-East, the parameter of success for the industry would be if they are able export to countries with whom they have collaborations like Japan and other developed nations.

To achieve that industry must ensure quality, stay ahead in terms of technology and increase spend on R&D.

## Rajasthan secures Rs 8L cr in MoUs

TDG NETWORK  
JAIPUR

The investor meet of the upcoming 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024 was successfully held here in the national capital, under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.

The investor meet facilitated the signing of MoUs worth over Rs 8 lakh crore with Bureau of Industrial Promotion (BIP), the nodal department for organising the investment summit, for making investments in the state.

Rajasthan government said that with today's signing of MoUs in Delhi, the

total value of investment MoUs have swelled to over Rs 12.50 lakh crore.

The investor meet that saw the congregation of top business leaders and industry groups, witnessed the signing of investment MoUs across a range of sectors such as Renewable Energy, Power Transmissions, Oil and Gas, CNG, Logistics, Cement, Agrotech among others.

The companies and industrial groups with whom the MoUs were signed include MoUs signed with Tata Power, Indian Oil, Avaada Group, NHPC, Reliance Bio Energy, Torrent Power, Sterlite Power Transmission, Mahindra

Susten Private Ltd, THDC India, Oil India, Jindal Renewable Power, Essar Renewables, Indraprastha Gas, Adani Logistics, JK Cement, BL Agro Industries, Titagarh Rail Systems among others.

Besides, the investors and leaders of national and international business and corporate world, innovators, startups and other relevant stakeholders were also invited to make investments in the state and participate in the upcoming 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024 which is scheduled to be held in Jaipur on 9th-10th-11th December.

"Rajasthan stands at the

cusp of a transformative era, embracing a new vision for growth and prosperity. We are not only laying the foundation for a stronger economy, but also building a sustainable future for generations to come. Our commitment to this transformation is reflected in a comprehensive set of initiatives designed to attract investment, boost local production, and empower our people," said the CM.

"Our government has set an ambitious goal of doubling Rajasthan's economy from USD 180 billion to USD 350 billion in the next five years, and we will make it happen."

## Ahmedabad airport wins platinum award for sustainable energy initiatives

TDG NETWORK  
AHMEDABAD

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (SVPIA), Ahmedabad, managed by Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL), a subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, has been awarded the prestigious Platinum Award in the Airport Sector under Facility Category at the Society of Energy Engineers and Managers (SEEM) Awards held in New Delhi last week.

Ahmedabad Airport received this award for numerous sustainable and energy-efficient initiatives like the installation of a new, highly efficient centrifugal chiller with a low energy

*Over 50 presence sensors were installed in offices to control lighting and lower power consumption. Energy efficient plug fans replaced belt-driven fans, reducing energy consumption by 25%.*

consumption, resulting in 30 per cent energy saving.

Over 50 presence sensors were installed in offices to control lighting and lower power consumption. Energy efficient plug fans replaced belt-driven fans, reducing energy consumption by 25% in the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system, SVPIA said in a statement.

Further, eight Internal Combustion Engine (ICE)

vehicles were replaced with Electric Vehicles (EVs), leading to annual diesel savings of approximately 5,000 litres, as well as reducing greenhouse emissions.

33 Tons of Refrigeration (TR) Fan Coil Units (FCUs) were placed in various areas against split units, saving around 25 per cent of electricity compared to conventional air conditioning units.

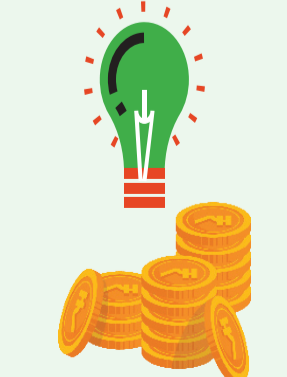
## Sold his dream for billions-and regretted it

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

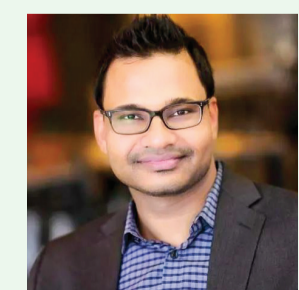
In 2017, Jyoti Bansal sold his software startup AppDynamics to Cisco for a whopping \$3.7 billion, a dream deal for most. However, Bansal quickly realised the decision came with emotional costs. AppDynamics was a labour of love, born from his own struggles as a software engineer, and its sale left him feeling lost. What should have been a triumph became a moment of reflection.

Bansal's initial reaction was one of celebration, but after the party subsided, he felt empty. The acquisition was a sudden conclusion

### STARTUP CORNER



to his nine-year journey of building the company from the ground up. It wasn't



Jyoti Bansal

just about the money for him; it was about solving problems and creating something meaningful. While the deal financially transformed him and hundreds of his employees, Bansal realized that the joy of entrepreneurship was more fulfilling than the financial windfall.

Despite the hard decision to sell, he reflected

on the sleepless nights spent weighing the pros and cons. The offer arrived just as AppDynamics was preparing to go public, which added pressure. The decision was far from easy—Bansal had to consider factors like Cisco's vision, the cultural fit, and the financial impact on employees, many of whom became millionaires overnight. Still, Bansal couldn't shake the feeling that the company had more potential left untapped.

After the sale, Bansal took time off to travel and explore the world, but the brief escape wasn't enough. In just six months, he had crossed off everything on

his bucket list, from trekking the Himalayas to hiking Machu Picchu. He soon realized that retirement wasn't for him, and the joy of building businesses pulled him back into the startup world. Harness, his new venture, launched soon after, targeting software developers with new tools. Interestingly, in 2022, Harness was valued at \$3.7 billion, the same amount for which AppDynamics was sold. However, this time, Bansal's outlook has changed. While he might consider acquisition offers for Harness, the emotional weight of the AppDynamics sale has made him more cautious.

# EFFECTS OF LINGUISTIC INTOLERANCE ON NATIONAL INTEGRITY

## OPINION

DR. ALISHA VERMA &  
DR. MONA MAHECHA



Recently, Bengaluru has experienced a notable increase in language conflicts, which has been intensified by a recent social media post. A woman expressed disapproval of Swiggy's failure to employ delivery personnel who speak Kannada, therefore igniting a renewed contentious discussion over language preferences in Karnataka. Her comments have intensified the continuing debate between insiders and outsiders, as many local residents advocate for giving preferential treatment to Kannadigas in terms of employment opportunities. Although language pride is permissible, such occurrences give rise to apprehensions regarding discriminatory attitudes, particularly in a multicultural metropolis such as Bengaluru. The current article examines the consequences of such intolerance, underscoring the need of fostering inclu-

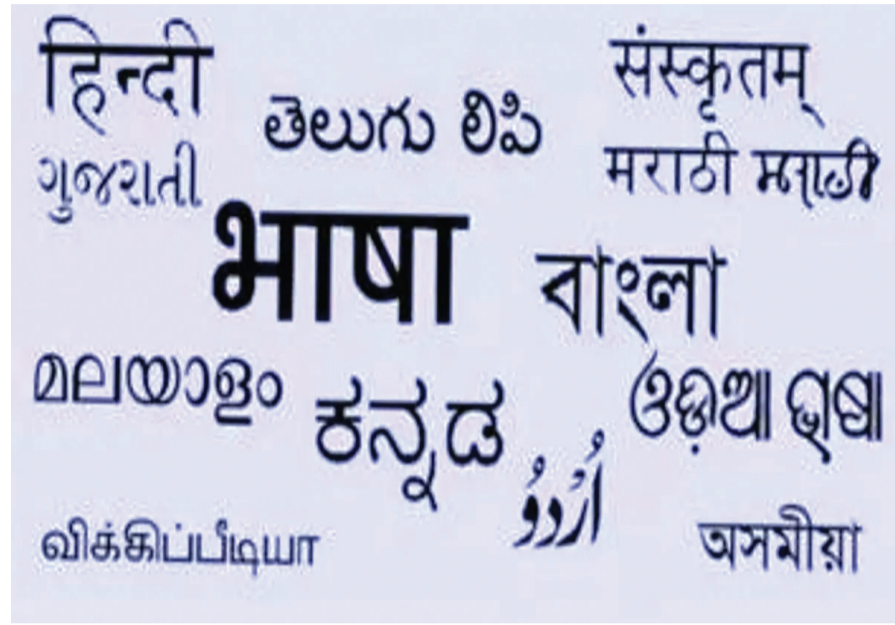
siveness and cohesion in India's heterogeneous social structure.

**Intolerance based on language** has been a concern in Karnataka for some time. A similar dynamic existed in the past with many people who are not native Kannada speakers, and the criticism they faced for failing to blend into the local language and culture. The topic of regional languages has also become delicate in the southern states, where similar emotions have been observed. The locals' need for linguistic conformity is a symptom of a bigger problem with exclusion and separation, as these incidents repeatedly demonstrate. These kinds of thinking make India a less friendly place for foreigners and go against the multicultural and multilingual identity's unifying principles.

**Another incident of such kind** is the opposition to the metro line between Tamil

Nadu and Bengaluru. The Bengaluru-Hosur Metro extension development issue exemplifies the perils of intolerance in an ever more globalised society. Resistance to such a scheme based on concerns about migration not only impedes regional growth but also obstructs national advancement. Infrastructure initiatives of this nature promote economic expansion, generate employment opportunities, and improve connectivity, therefore benefiting both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Resistance stemming from language and geographical disparities, however, weakens the cooperative mindset necessary for economic advancement. Through the promotion of inclusiveness, India may fully accept and exploit its variety for the purpose of economic expansion. Conversely, intolerance restricts possibilities, suppresses creativity, and undermines the nation's potential in the international arena.

**There is a grave danger to India's national harmony** from intolerance based on language. Communities become more fragmented when native speakers push for linguistic uniformity and marginalize people who do not share their language. The very idea of federalism—that different regions and states should be able to live together peacefully—is threatened by this kind of bigotry. It causes societal disintegration by making it harder for people to move about the nation for work or to settle down. Such exclusive views have the potential to drive a wedge between individuals, diminish national pride, and impede India's



progress toward unity and diversity.

**Encouraging a Welcoming and Inclusive Attitude** is important in a diverse country like India. Inclusive language involves employing terminology that acknowledges and honours individuals from diverse backgrounds, abilities, genders, and cultures. The Preamble of our Indian Constitution grants freedom of expression to everyone. Restricting someone with language can hinder their ability to express themselves openly. Communication is essential in creating bonds and nurturing relationships between individuals. When individuals converse in a language that isn't universally comprehended, it can establish a barrier to effective communication. When individuals communicate solely in their native tongue in the presence of those who speak different languages, it can inadvertently leave others out of discussions, decision-making, and social engagements. Fostering an environment

that welcomes diversity necessitates a commitment to cultural awareness and the assurance that every person is appreciated, respected, and part of the society. It is essential to consider language differences and modify communication approaches to guarantee that all parties understand each other clearly.

**Language is one of the important aspects of National Unity.** The Cultural Unity in India transcends mere rhetoric; it embodies a tangible reality that captures the very spirit of this remarkable nation. Language, frequently perceived as an obstacle, serves a distinctive purpose in promoting cultural unity in India. India is a land of hundred of languages and thousands of dialects, that is a beauty of India's diversity. It is a famous saying that "कोस-कोस पर बदले पानी, चार कोस पर बाणी" (The water changes every mile, and the language changes every four miles). It clearly shows that how diverse India is. The use of multiple languages is prevalent, as

people frequently communicate in their native language alongside Hindi or English, fostering connections across linguistic barriers and enhancing national unity.

In the context of language conflicts, it is crucial to honour all languages and cultures; however, it is not acceptable to force one's own language onto others. The significance of regional languages in contributing to the rich diversity of our nation cannot be overstated. It is essential to recognize that to truly grasp the culture of a region, one must engage with its local language for a deeper comprehension. Understanding the regional language of a place holds significance, yet it is crucial to ensure inclusivity for those who may not be familiar with it, rather than imposing the necessity to learn it.

*Dr. Alisha Verma is an Assistant Professor of Law at Symbiosis Law School, Pune*  
*Dr. Mona Mahecha is an Assistant Professor of Law at Manipal University, Jaipur*

## PERSPECTIVE STOP THE MOURNING

### NASRALLAH WAS A TERRORIST IDEOLOGUE, NOT A SAINT

In one of the most daring anti-terror operations the world has ever seen, Israel under Benjamin Netanyahu wiped out the entire top leadership of the Hezbollah, including Hassan Nasrallah, the terrorist body's secretary general, last Friday, on 27 February. However much the efforts to normalise and legitimise Nasrallah as a spiritual leader and the ideologue of the Hezbollah "militia", the fact is that it was under Nasrallah that the group became a major force of terror, targeting the Jewish community as well as Americans in significant terror attacks all over the world. To give just two instances, in Argentina in 1994, Hezbollah targeted a Jewish community centre in a suicide bombing that killed 85 Jews and injured 300. While in 1996, in Saudi Arabia's Khobar Tower bombing, it killed 19 US Air Force personnel, injuring 372. Prior to Nasrallah taking charge of the Hezbollah in 1992, the group—Nasrallah was one of the founders of Hezbollah and therefore complicit—the group carried out major terror attacks against western forces, killing hundreds of soldiers and civilians. Two of the biggest such attacks was the April 1983 suicide bombing of the US embassy in Beirut, that killed a total of 63 people, including 19 Americans; and the



October 1983 terror bombing of the US and French marine barracks in Beirut that killed 299 soldiers. The Hezbollah's charter mentions destruction of Israel as its main goal, hence the intention is to cause another Holocaust of the Jewish people. No wonder the worst of Hezbollah's attacks have been directed at Israel—not just soldiers, but civilians. Incessant rocket attacks, kidnaps, assassinations—all have been part of Hezbollah's playbook. Its kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers in July 2006 resulted in a war with Israel. The UN Security Council Resolution 1701 of 11 August 2006, which ended the Israel-Lebanon war, speaks of the creation of a demilitarised zone between the Blue Line, which is the Israel-Lebanon border, and the Litani river. It was Hezbollah that violated the demilitarised zone, by not only bearing arms but also by setting up rocket and missile launch pads there. Over a period of time, the Lebanon government was hijacked by the Hezbollah, which started controlling the levers of power in Lebanon by calling itself a political party, even though it had assassinated Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. Hezbollah's terrorist activities extended abroad, where the Jews in particular were targeted. Hezbollah has had huge caches of weapons hidden even in civilian homes and on UN compound. One day after the horrific massacre of Israelis by Hamas on 7 October 2023, Hezbollah declared war on Israel and has ever since fired thousands of rockets and even ballistic missiles on Israel, which has displaced over 70,000 Israelis from the northern areas. It was actively planning to carry out a Hamas like massacre in northern Israel. Nasrallah ran the Hezbollah with an iron hand. He was very much a dictator, and his influence extended on other terrorist groups of the region. Nasrallah ran a reign of fear and terror and under him Hezbollah committed several atrocities against civilians, even against the Lebanese population. Whatever Nasrallah said were cues to the Hezbollah fighters to unleash mayhem on their enemies and adversaries.

The short point is that Nasrallah, if he is to be considered a spiritual guide of the Hezbollah, their ideologue, then he had a singular ideology—that of the destruction of Israel, and he worked hand in hand with Tehran in trying to get this objective fulfilled. That this would result in mass murder, was not a problem for him. In fact he supported the worst kind of torture, brutalities and massacre that the Hamas committed. That this would result in Israeli retaliation and heavy civilian casualty in Lebanon, did not worry him. Lebanese citizens were "cannon fodder" for him. All this shows a complete lack of moral compass. How is such a man worthy of respect? Hence, it's strange to see rallies even in India supporting him. Why should Nasrallah become an election issue in Kashmir? What kind of radicalisation has been spread, what kind of brainwashing has taken place that thousands of people would come out to mourn his death? What relevance does Nasrallah have for India that he is to be mourned as if he is a martyr? These are serious questions that may even have security implications for India. And even if some people mistakenly believe that Nasrallah was a saint, the least they can do is not to demonstrate on the streets in his support. It raises many doubts in the minds of onlookers.

JOYEETA BASU

## Courage to be our authentic self and price of conformity

## OPINION

DR. SUPREET GILL



The famous yet melancholic Czech-German writer Franz Kafka, who struggled with his own identity throughout his ephemeral life, once said, "He is terribly afraid of dying because he hasn't yet lived." This profound statement, born from Kafka's own inner turmoil, resonates deeply with a universal human fear - not of death itself, but of reaching life's end only to realize we never truly lived. This profound statement serves as a stark reminder of the tragedy that unfolds when we fail to embrace our authentic selves. In today's world, we are con-

stantly bombarded with societal expectations, peer pressure, and the curated highlight reels of others' lives. Amidst this chaos, our true selves often get lost or buried, too afraid to emerge. We adopt masks, play roles, and conform to expectations, all while our genuine desires, passions, and potential remain locked away, yearning to be expressed.

While the global pandemic undoubtedly ushered in an era of chaos and uncertainty, many seized upon the forced introspection to uncover aspects of themselves that had long remained dormant and unacknowledged. A curious alchemy seemed to unfold, as individuals from all walks of life experienced unexpected transformations. The housewife of three decades suddenly blossomed into a singing sensation, her voice unleashed from the shackles of routine. The corporate titan, once consumed by the relentless pursuit of wealth and

status, rediscovered the paintbrush and the artist within. Even a seasoned law professor shed her academic trappings to embrace the freedom of the open road as a passionate biker. This begs a crucial question: Why are we so terrified of judgment and the scrutiny of the outside world that we suppress our deepest passions and talents, resigning ourselves to roles and identities that felt ill-fitting? The implications are both sobering and thought-provoking, for in our collective fear of vulnerability, we may have sacrificed the very essence of who we are.

One such event truly provoked me to ponder the stifling weight of societal expectations and how they can so often suppress our real, authentic selves. A friend confided in me about a significant transformation in his life—his newfound courage to embrace his sexual orientation. My heart went out to him, for I knew all too well the immense difficulties facing those with non-heteronormative identities in our society. Having met his parents, simple individuals, like my parents, consumed by the daily grind of financial obligations and traditional concerns like making the next home loan instal-

ment or saving enough to secure a decent dowry for their daughter; I could only imagine the intense pressure and judgment he might face from them and they in turn might face from society. His homemaker mother, whose entire sense of self-worth and social standing was likely tied to the perceived "achievements" of her offspring, would undoubtedly be devastated by such a "deviation" from the norm. In that moment, I extended my unwavering support to my friend, yet I also cautioned him that the path ahead would be arduous. To be one's true self in the face of such entrenched societal prejudices requires immense courage - a quality I knew one may not always possess. I did not weave grand narratives of defiant rebellion, for I recognized that sometimes, self-preservation and acceptance of one's limitations are acts of wisdom, not weakness. The simple truth is that the weight of societal expectations can be Herculean, and we must tread carefully, honouring both our authentic selves and the realities we confront. The quest for self-actualization is rarely a straight, unimpeded path, but rather a winding, often precarious route that demands immense fortitude

and self-compassion.

Being our authentic selves is not just about our sexual orientation. The homemaker, the doctor, the law professor would have harboured unexplored feelings of being something more - each must undoubtedly be suppressed by "what was expected of them". During a recent lecture, an incident occurred that sparked reflection. While taking attendance, one student responded to my call with a loud salute instead of the customary "present, Ma'am." His classmates reacted with smirks and mockery, but I intervened, emphasizing the importance of respecting individuals who are courageous enough to embrace authenticity. I pointed out that living one's truth, particularly in today's environment of intense societal pressure, is a challenge few of us can truly face; and those of us who do must be celebrated and not mocked.

The unspoken rules, the invisible cages we construct around ourselves and one another, are meant to guide us towards a perceived notion of respectability and success. But in doing so, are we truly creating a society of happy, fulfilled individuals? Or are we simply forging gilded prisons, trapping

the authentic self behind bars of conformity?

As the legendary Pink Floyd, a legendary British rock band metaphorically observed about choices and the trade-offs people make in life, "Did You Exchange A Walk On Part In The War For A Lead Role In A Cage?" - where "walk-on part in the war" represents participating authentically, even if in a small or less recognized way, in important or meaningful endeavours. By contrast, the "lead role in a cage" suggests achieving a prominent position that seems desirable but ultimately traps and confines us. This choice reflects how we sometimes give up our true identity and genuine contributions to conform to societal expectations and seek validation, trading authenticity for acceptance and recognition that may feel restricting and unfulfilling.

Kafka's quote also resonates deeply because it speaks to a common human experience - the realization that in our efforts to fit in, to be accepted, or to avoid judgment, we may have inadvertently sacrificed the very essence of who we are. It's a chilling wake-up call, reminding us that a life lived inauthentically is hardly a life lived at all.



# MOUNTING WORK PRESSURE CLAIMS MORE LIVES IN INDIA

Close on the heels of a young EY employee ending her life, two more people have committed suicide citing work pressure. We take a deep dive into modern-day work demands to examine if tech advancements have eased the pressure or compounded it.

The tragic suicide of Tarun Saxena, a 42-year-old area manager at Bajaj Finance, has sparked a nationwide conversation about the growing pressure at workplaces, particularly in India's corporate and financial sectors. Tarun's death, following an intense period of overwork and mental strain from unachievable targets, highlights a disturbing trend in the modern workplace where expectations often surpass human endurance. Saxena's case is one of several recent incidents, including the suicide of 26-year-old Anna Sebastian Perayil, a chartered accountant at Ernst & Young, both of which shine a light on toxic workplace cultures pushing employees to the brink.



In just ten days, three employees in India have taken their own lives, each leaving behind notes that point to one common cause—unbearable work pressure. As technology drives productivity to new heights, it also demands more from workers, sometimes with deadly consequences.



According to the WHO, burnout is now recognised as an occupational phenomenon. Employees who suffer from it are at a higher risk of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression.

round-the-clock expectation is especially prevalent in roles related to software

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB), workplace-related suicides in India have been rising, with 1,362 suicides reported in 2021, a 16% increase from 2020. This alarming trend highlights the mounting pressure employees face, especially in high-stress sectors like finance and IT.

## HOW TECHNOLOGY IS TRANSFORMING MODERN WORKPLACES

With the rapid rise of technology, the workplace has evolved dramatically. Automation, AI, and digital platforms have reshaped industries, particularly in sectors like BFSI (Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance), where employees are now tasked with not only traditional roles but also managing complex software systems, data analytics, and tech-based operations. While this evolution increases efficiency, it often leads to a blurring of boundaries between work and personal life, especially as digital tools enable employees to stay connected 24/7. This creates a continuous work cycle that leaves little room for mental or physical recovery.

Tech-driven expectations are increasing, especially in sectors like BFSI, IT, and consulting, where performance metrics are tightly linked to sales, target achievement, and client retention. Many employees feel trapped between unrelenting digital surveillance and the constant pressure to deliver results, which can escalate stress levels.

## WHAT IS THE 'ALWAYS-ON' CULTURE?

In the tech sector, the "always-on" work culture has become a pervasive issue, significantly contributing to employee stress and burnout. As technology enables constant connectivity, many workers in tech feel pressured to remain available at all hours, leading to a blurred line between work and personal life. This

development, IT services, and product management, where tight deadlines, rapid innovation cycles, and global collaboration add to the strain.

A McKinsey Health Institute survey found that approximately 25% of employees globally experience burnout symptoms, with tech workers particularly affected due to their industry's demand for long work hours and high performance. The disconnect between employee needs and employer understanding exacerbates the problem, as 22% of workers feel that employers often underestimate the impact on their mental health.

Gartner also highlights that managers are increasingly under pressure to balance employee well-being with corporate productivity in hybrid and remote work environments. They note that low- and mid-level managers feel "squeezed" by competing expectations, adding to the stress levels in tech-driven workplaces.

Companies like Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Infosys and Wipro are starting to realise that this model is unsustainable, and some are implementing measures like flexible work hours, mandatory time off, and mental health resources. However, more systemic changes are needed to address the root causes of burnout in the tech sector.

This always-on culture not only impacts mental health but also leads to reduced productivity over time, as chronic burnout results in disengagement, higher turnover, and decreased organisational loyalty. Tech companies are beginning to adopt proactive measures

## TDG DEEP DIVE

such as no-meeting Fridays and encouraging proactive rest rather than reactive breaks after high-stress periods. However, these practices are still not widespread across the industry

## WHY CERTAIN SECTORS ARE MORE VULNERABLE

Among various sectors, BFSI stands out as particularly vulnerable. Companies in this field often operate under intense market pressures to hit financial targets, and employees are held accountable for both personal performance

and larger institutional success. Sales roles, in particular, can be gruelling, as employees like Tarun Saxena are expected to meet recovery targets for unpaid EMIs. When these targets aren't met, employees face threats of salary cuts, public humiliation, and even job loss. This relentless cycle of pressure creates a toxic work environment, often without adequate mental health support.

In cases like Saxena's, customer defaults during

According to a Deloitte survey, nearly 77% of professionals reported feeling burnout in their current jobs, and 91% say that unmanageable stress negatively affects the quality of their work. Burnout is recognized by WHO as an occupational phenomenon, highlighting its severe impact on employees.

times of economic instability—such as post-pandemic slowdowns—worsen the situation. Sectors that lend heavily to high-risk customers, including retail, agriculture, and MSMEs (Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises), are particularly affected, contributing to rising NPAs. Employees tasked with managing these recovery

of additional provisions for these NPAs, which directly affects their earnings and lending capacity. The knock-on effect is that employees like Saxena are pressured to recover funds from customers who may be unable to repay, exacerbating stress levels in the workplace.

The RBI's report on NPAs shows that while the GNPA ratio has improved from 11% in 2018 to 5% in 2023, the pressure to recover unpaid loans remains high. Employees tasked with handling these defaults, especially in BFSI, face immense stress, often leading to severe mental health consequences.

eries face immense pressure as companies prioritise financial performance over employee well-being.

BFSI employees are often required to meet difficult targets, as defaults on loans directly impact the profitability of the organisation. On average, banks are forced to allocate 25-30%



of additional provisions for these NPAs, which directly affects their earnings and lending capacity. The knock-on effect is that employees like Saxena are pressured to recover funds from customers who may be unable to repay, exacerbating stress levels in the workplace.

This pressure is further compounded by the fact that employees in such roles are sometimes held personally accountable for defaults. In Saxena's case, he was reportedly forced to cover the EMIs that he could not collect from customers. Such practices put an additional financial burden on already stressed employees, pushing them towards extreme measures.

The psychological toll of constantly dealing with non-recoverable loans, alongside the fear of job loss

and mental well-being.

## MOUNTING PRESSURE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Workplace pressure is mounting not only due to increasing targets but also because of the expectation to be constantly available. Employees are often evaluated not just on results but on how quickly they respond to requests, emails, or clients, which leaves them with little downtime. This can result in severe burnout, a condition that has been linked to various cases of work-related suicides in India and globally. The World Health Organization recognised burnout as an occupational phenomenon, and studies show that individuals experiencing burnout are at a higher risk for mental health issues like depression

and mental well-being. Support employees in setbacks, particularly with targets or difficult clients.

and mental well-being. Support employees in setbacks, particularly with targets or difficult clients.

## Mental health integration:

- Provide regular access to mental health professionals.
- Promote work-life balance.
- Train managers to recognise and address burnout signs.

## Set realistic goals:

- Encourage team collaboration over competition.
- Introduce flexible work hours and mental health days.
- Reevaluate performance metrics for sustainability.

## GLOBAL TRENDS: SWEDEN AND DENMARK

In contrast, Sweden and Denmark are known for

Spotify offer generous parental leave, with a focus on ensuring that both parents can take time off without compromising their careers. Denmark follows a flexible work model known as "flexicurity," which balances flexibility for employers with security for employees. Workers can adjust their schedules and even take sabbaticals without fear of losing their jobs. Danish law also mandates five weeks of paid vacation annually, ensuring employees have ample time to recharge.

## Mental Health and Well-being:

- In both countries, mental health is considered an integral part of employee welfare. Denmark offers access to free mental health services, often funded by the state, and encourages open conversations about mental health at work. Sweden provides similar support, with companies integrating wellness programs that focus on stress management and physical health through exercise initiatives and counselling.

## Results of evolved workplaces:

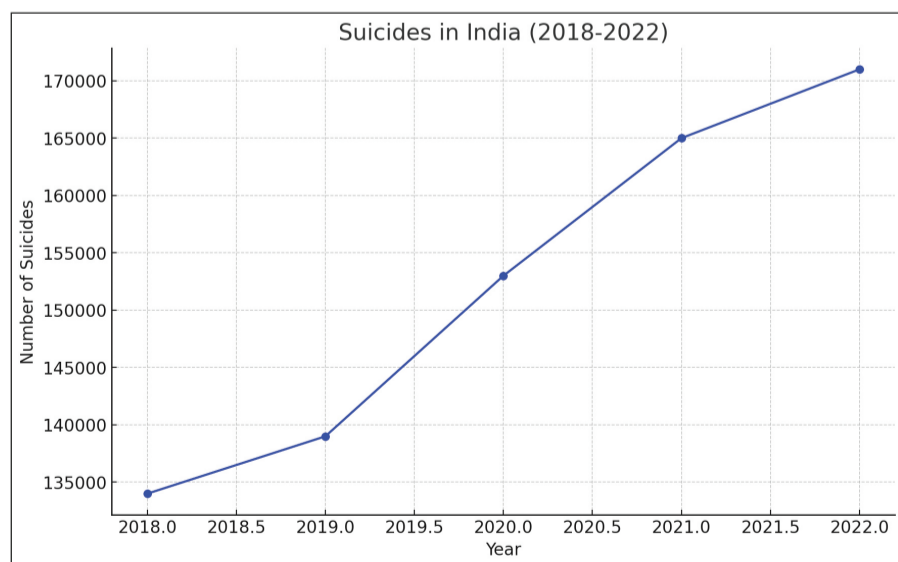
- As a result, employees in Sweden and Denmark report significantly lower levels of stress and burnout compared to those in countries like India. In fact, Denmark consistently ranks as one of the happiest countries globally, with a focus on "hygge", a cultural concept emphasizing comfort, work-life balance, and well-being.

## COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: WHAT CAN INDIA LEARN?

The comparison underscores that India's workplace culture while evolving, has yet to fully embrace a balanced approach to work and well-being. Swedish and Danish workplaces show that a focus on flexible hours, mental health support, and personal well-being does not come at the cost of productivity. It can lead to greater engagement, higher retention, and improved long-term performance.

For India to move in this direction, companies would need to implement stronger work-life balance policies, such as flexible hours, remote work options, and mandated mental health programs. Moreover, shifting the focus from purely performance-driven metrics to employee satisfaction and well-being could create more sustainable and productive workplaces in the long run.

Compiled by  
Ruchira Talapatra



and anxiety. The financial burden on employees, like Saxena, who were forced to cover unpaid EMIs, adds another layer of stress. This kind of systemic pressure makes it hard for employees to manage their finances and mental health, further contributing to workplace dissatisfaction and potential crises.

## HOW TO GROOM TALENT FOR MODERN WORKPLACE DEMANDS

Holistic approach beyond technical skills:

- Focus on resilience, emotional intelligence,

their strong focus on work-life balance and employee well-being. These countries have implemented structural policies that actively promote a healthy balance between work and personal life, and companies are required to ensure employee well-being as a priority.

## Work-life balance:

- Sweden has adopted a 6-hour workday in some sectors while maintaining full-time salaries. The goal is to increase productivity while allowing employees more personal time. Swedish companies like IKEA and

# ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT ADJOURNED HEARING ON PIL FOR CBI PROBE INTO LOP RAHUL GANDHI'S CITIZENSHIP TILL OCTOBER 24

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court in the case observed and has adjourned the hearing wherein the Public Interest Litigation, PIL is filed seeking a Central Bureau Investigation, CBI probe into Congress leader and LoP in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's alleged British Citizenship.

The counsel, Deputy Solicitor General of India, Surya Bhan Pandey, sought time to receive written instructions from the Union Home Ministry with regards to the status of the representation-cum-complaint, received by the Ministry, seeking cancellation of Gandhi's citizenship. The Deputy Solicitor

General of India, Surya Bhan Pandey informed the bench comprising of Justice Rajan Roy and Justice Om Prakash Shukla that he has received verbal instructions from the Union Home Ministry that it is in receipt of a representation from PIL petitioner S. Vignesh Shishir wherein requesting the cancellation of Gandhi's Indian citizenship.

Earlier, the court asked the Union of India whether it had received the representation-cum-complaint sent by the Public Interest Litigation, PIL petitioner to the competent authority and, if it had, what its status was.

The Division bench in the case has passed the said order wherein the court



noted that a similar PIL plea (by the same petitioner) had been moved earlier, which was dismissed as withdrawn, with a liberty to the petitioner to the petitioner to approach the competent authority under Section 9(2) of the Citizenship Act, 1955, as far as it is permissible in law.

It has been claimed by

the PIL petitioner that he has moved two representations with the Competent Authority in the Union Home Ministry seeking cancellation of Gandhi's Indian citizenship as per the Rules and Regulations of section 9 (2) of the 1955 Act r/w Rule 40 (2) of the Citizenship Rules 2009 and Schedule III of the

2009 Rules.

The section 40 of the 2009 Rules deals with the Central Government's authority to determine whether, when, or how any citizen of India acquired the citizenship of another country.

## AVERTMENTS MADE IN THE PIL PLEA

In his Public Interest Litigation, PIL plea, Petitioner Vignesh claims that after the HC dismissed his earlier PIL plea, he moved a detailed representation before the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, which is still pending.

The PIL plea filed by him states that he made a detailed enquiries into the issue, got several 'new inputs', and sent emails to

the UK government seeking details about Gandhi's citizenship records.

Further, the petition states that he learned that the UK government has already received a request from one VSS Sarma (respondent no. 14) seeking the details in 2022. After that, he (PIL petitioner-Vignesh) contacted Sarma, who agreed to share the 'confidential' emails he received from the UK Government.

It has been alleged by the PIL petitioner that in those 'confidential' emails (of 2022), the UK Government has indicated that it has records of Rahul Gandhi's British Nationality, and such 'personal data' is governed by the UK General Data Protection Regu-

lations as per the Country's Data Protection Act, 2018.

Adding to it, the PIL plea states that the Government can't provide information about Gandhi unless the UK Govt gets a signed letter of authority from Gandhi.

Further, the PIL plea claims that the alleged mail from the UK Government is an 'outright admission' that Gandhi is a citizen of the United Kingdom.

The PIL plea states that the Central Bureau Investigation, CBI conduct a detailed probe into the matter, get a Letter of Rogatory from a competent court in India and extract all the Government records and information available with the Government of the UK/Britain regarding Gandhi's

citizenship.

The plea filed also prays for a direction to the Chief Election Commissioner, Chief Electoral Officer UP, and Returning Officer, Raebareilly, to cancel Gandhi's electoral certificate.

The court noted that Bhartiya Janata Party, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy has also filed a petition in the Delhi High Court regarding Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's citizenship.

The Delhi High Court in the case asked the counsel appearing for Union Government to obtain a copy of the petition pending before the Allahabad High Court on the issue.

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration on October 24, 2024.

## CBFC Informs Bombay High Court On Emergency Film's Release: Kangana Ranaut Has Agreed To Cuts Suggested By Revising Committee

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Bombay High Court was informed by the Central Board for Film Certification, CBFC that Kangana Ranaut, the producer and lead actor in the controversial film 'Emergency', has agreed to the cuts or changes as suggested by the Censor Board's revising committee. The Division bench comprising of Justice Burgess Colabawalla and Justice Firdosh Pooniwalla was hearing the present matter. The bench in the case was hearing the petition filed by Zee Studios, the co-producer of the film, seeking certificate for the film's release.

Earlier, the Central Board for Film Certification, CBFC through its counsel Dr Abhinav Chandrachud had informed the bench that the revising committee has suggested certain cuts in the film after which it can be released.

Therefore, the co-producers sought time to figure out if the changes can be made. When the matter was taken up for hearing, the counsel, senior advocate Sharan Jagtiani appearing for Zee Studios informed the bench that Ranaut had a meeting with the CBFC and has agreed with the suggestions with regards to certain cuts to the film.

The counsel submitted that,

She i.e., Kangana has informed us through an email that she met CBFC and has agreed with the cuts.

The counsel submitted that, she has said that the matter is now between her and the censor board.

The Senior Advocate stated that time is required for deciding as to how the cuts are to be implemented.

The bench of CJIDY Chandrachud informed the bench that the cuts would hardly affect even a minute of the film as these are related to some words here and there. The court asked the senior counsel to take proper instructions on the same.

In the present case, the bench was hearing the pe-

tion filed by Zee Studios, seeking a direction to the CBFC to issue a certificate for the release of the film.

It has been contended by the co-producer that the censor board has initially granted an e-certificate and had also intimated Ranaut about the same through emails. However, it refused to hand over the hard copy of the certificate citing various objections to the film, raised particularly by Sikh Community.

On the other hand, the CBFC has maintained that it never issued an e-certificate and that the emails, which are being relied upon by Ranaut and Zee, were auto-generated mails. The bench

in the case ordered that BFC to consider the objections, if any, to the film and take a decision by September 18.

In a previous hearing, the bench was irked to know that the CBFC has now referred the matter to its revising committee. Meanwhile, before the bench, the Zee Studios alleged, that the CBFC was acting on behalf of the Central Government and was thus purposely delaying the film's release as the BJP, which is in power, doesn't want the film to impact the upcoming elections in Haryana, since it is being seen as 'Anti-sikh.'

Accordingly, the court listed the matter for further consideration till Thursday.

## Supreme Court Grants Interim Protection From Arrest To Malayalam Actor Siddique In Rape Case In Aftermath Of Justice Hema Committee Report

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court in the case Siddique v. State Of Kerala And Anr observed and has granted interim protection from arrest to Malayalam actor Siddique in a rape case registered against him based on allegations levelled by a young actress.

The bench comprising of Justice Bela M. Trivedi and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma was hearing the present matter.

The bench in the case observed and has issued notice to the respondents.

The counsel, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi informed the court that the petitioner seeks anticipatory bail in this case.

The counsel stated, 'Others got bail but I am refused.' Siddique also sought bail on grounds of delay.

A complaint was lodged in 2024, after 8 years. There are some Facebook posts. Just because I am a well-known actor.'

On the other hand, the Advocate Vrindra Gover appearing for the complainant stated that, 'See his conduct. In 2014, she [complainant] was only 19 years old. He approached her on Facebook and liked her picture. In 2016, she was invited to a preview by a superstar. I have said in detail what happened in the hotel [where the

alleged incident took place].'

Adding to it, she stated that, 'This is what happens when voice is raised against Harvey Weinstein-like persons.'

She also informed the court that the delay in filing the complaint is justified and one has to look at the revelations in the Justice Hema Committee report from a larger context.

The Additional Solicitor General, Aishwarya Bhatti appearing for the State opposed the grant of anticipatory bail.

Adding to it, she stated that there are cases, where there being no cases, where there is no sunlight, and no sanitation.

She stated: "He acted in 365 Malayalam movies. It is not possible to talk about such perpetrators."

On September 24, Justice C.S. Dias of the Kerala High Court dismissed the petition filed by him seeking anticipatory bail, observing that the materials on record indicated the prima facie involvement of Siddique in the crime.

While challenging the High Court order, he filed a Special Leave Petition in the Supreme Court. The State and the victim have filed caveats. Following the publication of the Justice Hema Committee report regarding the exploitations faced by women in Malayalam cinema, the woman made

public allegations that Siddique sexually exploited her in 2016 when she met him in a hotel room after he offered her opportunities in the film industry.

Following her public allegations, she lodged an FIR under Sections 376 (rape) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of the Indian Penal Code, IPC.

The Kerala High Court in the case observed and has rejected the contention of Siddique that the delay in the registration of FIR was fatal.

The High Court observed that, 'whether the survivor's above explanation is plausible will have to be ultimately evaluated and decided after a full-fledged trial. Nevertheless, the contention that the above delay vitiates the entire prosecution case is not a ground for scraping the complaint, particularly while considering a bail application. The victims of sexual abuse and assault may experience psychological, emotional and social barriers that feed the delay in reporting the matter, which necessarily has to be understood in the context of the trauma.'

The High Court while considering the facts and circumstances of the case also held that the acts alleged against Siddique would come within the ambit of the expanded definition of "rape".

# Justice Manmohan Sworn In As Chief Justice Of Delhi High Court

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Justice Manmohan took oath as the Chief Justice of Delhi High Court on September 29, 2024.

The oath was administered to Justice Manmohan by Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena at the Raj Niwas, the LG's

secretariat. The swearing in ceremony was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Atishi. The event was attended by Speaker of the Delhi Assembly, Ram Niwas Goel; Leader of the Opposition, judges of the Delhi High Court, Principal District and Sessions Judges of Delhi District Courts, the

Registrar General of the Delhi High Court, Chief Secretary of the Government of Delhi and the Commissioner of Police. On September 21, the Central Government notified the appointment of Justice Manmohan.

Justice Manmohan was serving as Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court

earlier. On July 11, the Supreme Court Collegium had recommended the appointment of Justice Manmohan as Delhi High Court's Chief Justice. Justice Manmohan will retire on December 16. Justice Manmohan was designated as senior advocate by Delhi High Court on January 18, 2003.

Justice Manmohan was appointed as Additional Judge of Delhi High Court on March 13, 2008.

Justice Manmohan was made Permanent Judge on December 17, 2009.

Justice Manmohan was appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of Delhi High Court w.e.f. November 09, 2023.

## Punjab And Haryana High Court Directs Not To Deploy Punjab Police For Security Of Judge Known For Exposing "Large-Scale Lapses Of Punjab Police": Security Breach

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Punjab and Haryana High Court in the case observed and has directed not to deploy Punjab Police for security of a sitting High Court judge who exposed 'large-scale lapses which being on the part of investigating agencies' of Punjab and whose security was compromised in a recent incident.

The Division bench comprising of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Anil Kshetarpal was hearing the present matter. The bench in the case observed and has ordered deployment of officers of a 'neutral' police force and not Punjab Police, for securing the movement of the Judge.

The court in the case observed that it is well known that large-scale lapses on the part of investigating agencies in the State of Punjab were exposed by various judicial orders passed by the learned Judge since last 12/24 months. The said court deems it appropriate that the security per-



sonnel dealing with security of the learned Judge ought not to be members of Punjab police force, but either of UT Administration or of State of Haryana. The deployment of a neutral police force but not of State of Punjab in order to secure the movement of the learned Judge shall certainly assuage the feeling of insecurity perceived by the learned Judge.

The said development comes in light of a September 22 incident where a man pulled out the gun of Judge's Personal Security Officer, PSO at Golden Temple and ran towards the entrance of the Golden Temple 'with possible intent to harm the Judge'.

Therefore, his advancement was thwarted by the PSO and in the scuffle that followed, the miscreant shot himself in the head. Further, the bench in the case directed that, 'the personnel manning security of the learned Judge within and outside Chandigarh shall immediately be changed from Punjab Police to police personnel which belongs to either UT Administration or the State of Haryana.'

The report has been submitted by the Punjab Government with regards to the nature and stage of investigation being conducted into the incident. Therefore, the UT administration, Chandigarh also

apprised the Court on enhancement of security of the Judge.

The court in the case observed that, 'From the stand taken by the State of Punjab with regard to progress in investigation, the said court finds that the same though lies within the exclusive domain of the State, but the threat perception has to be assessed as perceived by the learned Judge.'

The court in the case observed and has sought suggestion from UT Administration and Haryana Government for appropriate investigating officers not below the rank of Superintendent of Police of a district to conduct investigation in the incident. However, the court also impleaded Union of India through Secretary, Home Affairs and State of Haryana through its Home Secretary as parties to the petition.

The counsel, ASG Satya Pal Jain assured the Court that all possible assistance within 'four corners of law' will be provided. Accordingly, the court list-

ed the matter for further consideration on October 01, 2024.

The counsel, Mr. Gurminder Singh, Advocate General, Punjab, with Mr. J.S. Gill, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab. The counsel, Mr. Saurav Khurana, Addl. Advocate General, Punjab, and Mr. Salil Sabhlok, Senior DAG, Punjab.

The counsel, Mr. Amit Jhanji, Senior Standing Counsel, UT Chandigarh, with Mr. J.S. Chandail, Addl. Standing Counsel, for Union Territory, Chandigarh.

The counsel, Mr. R.S. Cheema, Senior Advocate, Mr. Vinod Ghai, Senior Advocate, Mr. R.S. Rai, Senior Advocate (through video conferencing), with Mr. A.S. Cheema, Advocate,

The counsel, Mr. Satish Sharma, Advocate, Mr. Arnab Ghai, Advocate, Mr. Arjun Singh Rai, Advocate, for Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Association, Chandigarh. Mr. Jasdev Singh, Acting President, High Court Bar Association.

## CJI DY Chandrachud To Litigant: 'You Can't Seek In-House Inquiry Against Judge For Denying Relief'

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

The Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud on September 30, 2024 took exception to a litigant seeking in-house enquiry against a judge for not granting him relief.

The litigant, a party-in-person mentioned the petition before the CJI in which the litigant added retired Chief Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi as a respondent.

The litigant stated that the petition was filed in May 2018.

The bench of Chief Justice of India, CJI DY Chandrachud, while expressing surprise and dismay at the petition told the party: "How can you file a Public Interest Litigation, PIL with the judge as a respondent? There has to be some dignity. You cannot just say I want an in-house inquiry

against a judge. Justice Ranjan Gogoi was a former judge of the Supreme Court. Gogoi retired as the Chief Justice of India, CJI. You cannot say I want an in-house inquiry against a judge because you did not succeed before the bench. Sorry, this court cannot tolerate this.'

The litigant stated that Justice Gogoi had wrongfully dismissed the petition filed by him, challenging his termination from service, relying on an illegal statement and that there were 'gross errors of law' in the judgment. The bench of Chief Justice of India told the litigant that, 'Right or wrong, there is a final judgment by the Supreme Court. Your review has been dismissed. Now you have to file a curative. But you say you do not want to file a curative.'

The bench of CJI explained that, 'When the litigant,

who said he hailed from Pune, started making submissions in Marathi, the bench of CJI also started replying in the same language. In Marathi, CJI tried to make the party understand that a petition cannot be filed against a judge merely for denying him relief. When a High Court judgment is challenged in the Supreme Court, the High Court judge who decided the matter is not made a party.'

The bench of Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud told the litigant that if he deleted the name of Justice Gogoi's from the array of respondents, then the Registry would consider processing it. The party agreed to do so.

Do not say 'Yeah' in Court During the hearing, the CJI also reprimanded the petitioner for using the informal "yeah".

# ISRAEL AIRSTRIKES HIT POWER PLANTS, SEAPORT IN YEMEN

AGENCIES  
TEL AVIV

The Israeli Air Force (IAF) recently launched airstrikes on military targets in Yemen, specifically targeting Houthi-controlled sites, including power plants and a seaport.

Sharing a post on X, the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) said, "The IAF struck military targets belonging to the Houthi terrorist regime in Yemen in response to their recent attacks against Israel."

It added, "The targets included power plants and a seaport, which were used by the Houthis to transfer Iranian weapons to the region, in addition to military supplies and oil."

Reiterating its commit-



ment to ensuring the safety of the Israeli citizens, the IDF said, "Over the past year, the Houthis have been operating under the direction and funding of Iran, and in cooperation with Iraqi militias, in order to attack the State of Israel, undermine regional stability, and disrupt global freedom of navigation. The IDF is determined to continue operating at any distance--near

or far--against all threats to the citizens of the State of Israel."

The Houthi-run health ministry said in a statement that Israeli strikes led to the death of four people while 29 others were injured.

Following the IAF operation against Houthi forces in Yemen, IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Herzl Halevi reaffirmed Israel's ability to target enemies at farther

distances, according to a report by Times of Israel.

"This isn't a message, it's an action," the IDF chief said after strikes on Houthis in Yemen.

He added, "We know how to reach very far, we know how to reach even farther, and we know how to strike there accurately," Halevi said.

Israel Defence Minister Yoav Gallant following the strikes by the IAF on Yemen said, "I visited the IAF command and control center, where I followed the strike conducted today against the Houthi terrorist organization. Our message is clear - for us, no place is too far."

Meanwhile, tensions also escalated in the Middle East after Hezbollah launched missile strikes targeting Haifa and northern Israel.

# Protests held over Hezbollah leader Nasrallah's death in Pak

AGENCIES  
KARACHI

Violent protests erupted in Pakistan's Karachi on Sunday as demonstrators clashed with police while attempting to march towards the US consulate. The unrest was sparked by an Israeli strike in Lebanon that led to the death of Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, according to a report by ARY News.

The protest was led by participants of Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM). Following the killing of Nasrallah, several political-religious parties staged protests in different regions of Pakistan, including Karachi.

To disperse the crowd, law enforcement used measures including lathi charges, tear gas shelling, and even aerial firing. The protesters damaged two police vehicles and set a



*Sindh Interior Minister Zia-ul-Hasan Linjar has urged for increased security measures to safeguard civilians and journalists, emphasising the need for additional police deployment to restore order in the region.*

motorcycle on fire. The Station House Officer (SHO) Mach was seriously injured by stone pelting and was rushed to the hospital, ARY News reported.

Sindh Interior Minister

Zia-ul-Hasan Linjar has urged for increased security measures to safeguard civilians and journalists, emphasising the need for additional police deployment to restore order in the region.

# 'Living Conditions in Gaza are inhumane'

AGENCIES  
ABU DHABI

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has said people in Gaza are living in "inhumane" conditions. The agency said on the social media platform X, that piles of waste are accumulating in central Gaza, while sewage water is leaking into the streets. "Families have no choice but to live next to this accumulated waste, exposing them to foul odours and the imminent risk of a health disaster," the UNRWA added. The UN agency called for an immediate ceasefire.



# Pakistan invites controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik to deliver lectures

AGENCIES  
ISLAMABAD

Wanted for alleged money laundering charges, controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik has arrived in Pakistan on Monday morning at the invitation of the Government of Pakistan, amid tight security for his lecture series at Islamabad, Karachi and Lahore.

According to the Express Tribune, he is set to have public interactions across the country. He is accompanied by his son, Fariq Naik, who is an Islamic scholar and will tour the country with him for the lectures.

Upon his arrival at the New Islamabad Airport, he was received by leaders from the top echelons of the Pakistan government, which included the Chairman of the Pakistan Prime Minister's Youth Program, Rana Mashhood and Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Syed Atta-ur-Rehman, as



*According to the Express Tribune, he is set to have public interactions across the country.*

reported by the Tribune. Official sources note that his month-long tour will include meetings with senior government officials and involve participation in various public events. In a post on X, Zakir

Naik's team announced, "On the invitation of Pakistan Dr Zakir Naik & Shaikh Fariq Naik's Pakistan Tour 2024 Public Talks: Karachi - 5th & 6th Oct Lahore - 12th & 13th Oct Islamabad - 19th & 20th Oct." Earlier on August 20, while on a visit to India, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said that if sufficient evidence is presented in the case related to fugitive preacher Zakir Naik then the country will 'not condone terrorism'.

# Nepal flood: Death toll reaches 193 as rescue, search efforts continue

AGENCIES  
KATHMANDU

The death toll in Nepal's flood has reached 193 as authorities' revamp rescue and search efforts across the whole nation since the onset of disaster on Saturday, the Home Ministry confirmed.

As per the Spokesperson of the Home Ministry, Rishi Ram Tiwari, 31 people still remain missing with 4500 people rescued from various locations across the nation.

Tiwari stated that food and other emergency relief materials have been provided to the victims, and the injured are receiving free medical treatment. A meeting of Disaster Risk Management Authority held on Monday morning has decided to further expedite the rescue efforts for those stranded in the highway and displaced by the floods and landslide.

The meeting also has decided to provide first tranche of grant for reconstruction of houses damaged by the flood and land-



slide since Saturday. "It has been aimed to be completed within a week after issuance of provisions and identification of actual victims in next three days," the meeting has decided.

Influenced by water vapor from the Bay of Bengal and a low-pressure system in the region, Nepal since Thursday evening which eventually sparked humanitarian crisis all across nation.

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Authority (NDRRMA) also had issued warning for 56 out of 77 districts about possible disaster advising people to adopt caution. Home to world's 9 of the ten highest peaks in the world, Nepal this year al-

ready had estimated more rain than average and 1.8 million people will be affected by. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) also had estimated 412 thousand households to be affected by monsoon-related disasters. The monsoon season in Himalayan Nation generally begins on June 13.

The exit, which was usually on September 23, has been extended to late October. This year, the clouds from the south entered Nepal from the western region on June 10, three days ahead of the usual onset date. Last year, the weather phenomenon started on June 14, a day after the normal onset day.

# INDIAN EMBASSY ISSUES HELPLINE NUMBERS TO HELP STRANDED CITIZENS

**Kathmandu :** The Indian Embassy in Nepal has said that the officials are in touch with the Indian nationals who have been stranded due to floods and landslides in Nepal, adding that the embassy is arranging for their safe return. An emergency helpline number has also been established to assist the stranded Indian nationals. The embassy is coordinating closely with Nepali authorities to facilitate the evacuation of Indian citizens who are stranded, it added. The Indian Embassy in Nepal has also released the emergency numbers for those who require assistance. On X, Indian Embassy in Nepal wrote, "Indian citizens in Nepal who require assistance may contact the following emergency numbers (with WhatsApp): +977-9851316807 - [Emergency Helpline] +977-9851107021 - [Attache (Consular)] +977-9749833292 - [ASO (Consular)]."

ing citizens in who are stranded because of this situation," wrote Indian Embassy in Nepal on X. "2/3 The Embassy is in touch with some of these groups and arranging for their safe return. Embassy is also coordinating closely with Nepali authorities to facilitate the evacuation of Indian citizens who are stranded," it added. The Indian Embassy in Nepal has also released the emergency numbers for those who require assistance. On X, Indian Embassy in Nepal wrote, "Indian citizens in Nepal who require assistance may contact the following emergency numbers (with WhatsApp): +977-9851316807 - [Emergency Helpline] +977-9851107021 - [Attache (Consular)] +977-9749833292 - [ASO (Consular)]."

# India, Kuwait hold meet to advance trade, investment ties

AGENCIES  
KUWAIT CITY

India's Ambassador to Kuwait, Adarsh Swaika, held a meeting with Kuwait's Minister of Commerce Industry, Khalifa Abdullah Dhahi Al-Ajeel Al Askar, on Monday. The two sides discussed avenues to advance bilateral trade and investment cooperation through collaborative efforts.

Talking to X, the Indian Embassy in Kuwait stated, "Amb @Adarshswaika met with H.E. Khalifa Abdullah Dhahi Al-Ajeel Al Askar, Minister of Commerce Industry of Kuwait. Discussions focused on avenues to advance bilateral trade & investment cooperation through collaborative efforts." Indian envoy Adarsh Swaika also met Kuwait's Chief of General Staff, Lieutenant General Bandar Salem Abdullah Al-Muzayan. The two officials discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation between India and Kuwait.

"Amb @Adarshswaika called on Lt Gen Pilot Bandar Salem Abdullah Al Muzain, Chief of General Staff of Kuwait. They discussed various aspects of bilateral defence cooperation between India and Kuwait, including forthcoming visit of 3 Indian naval ships to #Kuwait," the Indian Embassy in Kuwait posted on X.

On September 22, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Kuwait's Crown Prince, Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al-Hamad Al-Sabah Al-Sabah, on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York.

During the meeting, the two leaders expressed commitment to deepen and diversify bilateral trade for the mutual benefit of two nations. It was the first meeting between PM Modi and the Crown Prince of Kuwait. In a press release, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) stated, "Prime Minister conveyed that India attaches utmost importance to its bilateral relations with Kuwait."

Both leaders recalled the strong historical ties and people-to-people linkages between the two countries. They noted with satisfaction that the two countries were supporting each other with energy and food security requirements. "They expressed their firm commitment to deepen and diversify bilateral ties for the mutual benefit of both countries. Prime Minister thanked the Crown Prince for ensuring the well-being of the Indian community in Kuwait, which is the largest diaspora group in the country," it added.

# Imran Khan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM booked for violence at PTI rally

AGENCIES  
RAWALPINDI

A day after former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-I-Insaaf (PTI) staged a protest in Rawalpindi which turned violent the Police have registered FIRs on hundreds of them as reported by Dawn.

The police of Pakistan's Punjab province filed the FIRs after the protests turned violent, despite calls for peaceful gathering by the jailed former Prime Minister. Hundreds of protesters along with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Ali Amin Gandapur actively participated in the protest which was held despite Section 144 being imposed by the provincial government.

According to Punjab province's Code of Criminal Pro-



cedure, Section 144 results in a ban on public gatherings, rallies and activities for a specific time duration. According to Dawn, three FIRs were found to state that Imran Khan had called for the protests to be held at the Liaquat Bagh in Rawalpindi.

Express Tribune also noted that a senior police officer, on condition of anonymity, said that the leadership of PTI had called for protest

despite being aware of the imposition of section 144. The police thus arrested more than a hundred PTI leaders and workers on various charges such as the Anti-Terrorism Act 1997, violating the ban on protests, shouting slogans against the government and institutions, obstructing the police, damaging police vehicles, snatching weapons and injuring police officials.

# Pakistan lawyers urge judges to reject proposed constitutional court

AGENCIES  
KARACHI

Around 300 lawyers from various provinces of Pakistan have urged judges of the superior judiciary not to participate in any proposed constitutional court, even if such bills are approved by the Pakistan Parliament, Dawn reported.

In an open letter addressed to the judges of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the High Courts, the senior lawyers stated, "We urge you not to recognize this proposed court if such a bill is passed."

adding that, "We urge those of you who may be hand-picked to serve on it not to do so. Complicity will offer no defence of the Constitution; it will be its defacement." Among the signatories are

prominent lawyers such as Munir Ahmed Khan Kakar, Abid Saqi, Riasat Ali Azad, Abid Hassan Minto, Bilal Hassan Minto, Salahuddin Ahmed, Afzal Harifal, Abdul Moiz Jafarii, and Mohammad Jibrin Nasir, among others, as per Dawn.

The lawyers expressed concern that the higher judiciary has, for many decades, legitimized a sustained assault on the Constitution and democracy in Pakistan. "We remember the pen that first carved necessity on the tombstone of our first Constituent Assembly."

We recall all the instances when it prevented an elected government from completing its term. We also remember the last time a PCO (Provisional Constitution Order) was upheld," they noted. The lawyers asserted that

there is no distinction between a PCO court and the proposed constitutional court.

"We view the proposed court as no different; it will be a PCO court, and those who take the oath to serve on it will be PCO judges."

However, we also remember how you, yourselves, corrected history by overturning that same decision. Your own judgments now recount how our courts have failed us. This moment presents you with a choice.

The very fact that an attempt is being made to mutilate our courts indicates that--today--you are not yet on the wrong side of history. We urge you: do not yield. When today's history is recorded in tomorrow's judgments, let it be said that you were not complicit."

# UAE provides potable water at medical points in Gaza

AGENCIES  
ABU DHABI

The United Arab Emirates continues to support the brotherly Palestinian people in overcoming the humanitarian challenges faced by the residents of the Gaza Strip. The Operation Chivalrous Knight 3 team distributed potable water to medical

points and areas where displaced people have gathered in Khan Yunis as part of a campaign aimed at alleviating the suffering of patients and supporting medical points. The Operation's volunteer teams also provided water tanks to medical points to ease the difficulties in accessing water amid the challenges



faced by Gaza's residents. The UAE is addressing the water crisis in the Gaza Strip through various projects, including repairing water lines and networks in Khan Yunis and northern Gaza, supplying water tanks, and distributing potable water to displaced people in camps, in an effort to alleviate their suffering amid the difficult

circumstances faced by the residents of the Gaza Strip. The people of Gaza expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the UAE for its ongoing efforts to assist displaced families and the sick in the Gaza Strip.

They also commended the UAE's crucial role in delivering water and basic necessities to those affected.

## HEAVENLY VISITOR



The new comet has passed its closest to the Sun and is now moving closer to the Earth. C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan-ATLAS) is currently moving out from inside the orbit of Venus and on track to pass its nearest to the Earth in about two weeks, Zacatecas, Mexico. NASA

## Biden to speak with Netanyahu following Nasrallah's death

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON DC

US President Joe Biden is set to engage in a phone call with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, marking their first conversation since Israel's targeted killing of Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, according to a report by Times of Israel.

Notably, the precision strike by Israeli Defence Forces in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Friday killed Nasrallah. Asked whether an all-out war can be avoided, Biden said, "It has to be." The US backed the operation, saying that Hassan Nasrallah's death



"is a measure of justice for his many victims." In a statement, Biden had said, "Hassan Nasrallah and the terrorist group he led, Hezbollah, were responsible for killing hundreds of Americans over a four-decade reign of terror. His death from an Israeli airstrike is a measure of

justice for his many victims, including thousands of Americans, Israelis, and Lebanese civilians."

The statement further said, "The strike that killed Nasrallah took place in the broader context of the conflict that began with Hamas's massacre on October 7, 2023. Nasrallah,

the next day, made the fateful decision to join hands with Hamas and open what he called a "northern front" against Israel." Following Nasrallah's death,

Netanyahu had issued a warning to Iran's Ayatollah regime and asserted that those who target Israel will face consequences and that no location in Iran or the Middle East is beyond Israel's reach. He called Nasrallah as "main engine of Iran's axis of evil" and added, "Nasrallah was not just another terrorist, he was the terrorist. He was the axis of the axis, the main engine of Iran's axis of evil. He and his people were the architects of the plan to destroy Israel.

## US CONDUCTS STRIKES IN SYRIA, KILLS 37 TERRORISTS

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON DC

The US on Sunday conducted precision strikes in Syria, killing 37 terrorist operatives, including high-ranking leaders from ISIS. In a statement, the US Central Command (CENTCOM) said, "CENTCOM Forces conducted two targeted strikes in Syria, killing 37 terrorist operatives, including multiple senior leaders of the terrorist organisations of ISIS and Hurras al-Din, an Al Qaeda affiliate."

The statement further said, "The airstrikes are part of CENTCOM's ongoing commitment, along with partners in the region, to disrupt and degrade ef-



forts by terrorists to plan, organise, and conduct attacks against civilians and military personnel from the US, our allies, and our partners throughout the region and beyond."

Notably, earlier on September 24, CENTCOM Forces had conducted a targeted strike in north-west Syria, that led to

the death of nine terrorist operatives, including Marwan Bassam 'Abd-al-Ra'uf, a senior Hurras al-Din leader responsible for overseeing military operations from Syria.

"Hurras al-Din is an Al Qaeda-affiliated organisation based in Syria with global aspirations to conduct attacks against US

and Western interests. The successful strike against Marwan Bassam 'Abd-al-Ra'uf comes a month after a successful strike that killed another Hurras al-Din senior leader, Abu-'Abd al-Rahman al Makki," the CENTCOM said.

CENTCOM in its statement, also informed of a strike conducted on an ISIS training camp on September 16, which resulted in death of 28 ISIS operatives. It said, "Additionally, on the early morning of September 16, CENTCOM forces conducted a large-scale airstrike on a remote ISIS training camp in central Syria, killing at least 28 ISIS operatives, including at least four senior leaders..."

## 93 dead, millions without power as hurricane Helene creates havoc in US

AGENCIES  
FLORIDA

Hurricane Helene's destruction across the Southeast has left 93 people dead, millions without power, and several families stranded in floodwaters, according to a report by CNN. Deaths have been reported in South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. At least 36 people are dead in North Carolina, according to county and state officials. At least 25 are dead in South Carolina, including two firefighters in Saluda County, authorities said.

In Georgia, at least 17 peo-



ple have died, two of them killed by a tornado in Alamo, according to a spokesperson for Gov. Brian Kemp. In North Carolina, county and state officials have confirmed 36 fatalities, while in South Carolina, 25 people have lost their lives, in-

cluding two firefighters in Saluda County. In Georgia, a spokesperson for Governor Brian Kemp reported at least 17 deaths, with two victims losing their lives to a tornado in Alamo. In Florida, at least 11 people have died, Gov Ron DeSan-

tis said on Saturday, including several people who drowned in Pinellas County. Two people lost their lives in Virginia, officials said on Sunday, and two deaths were reported in Tennessee, CNN reported.

Buncombe County in North Carolina has received approximately 600 missing persons reports through an online form, County Manager Avril Pinder said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden has assured that his administration is coordinating with state and local officials to provide necessary support and resources to communities affected by Hurricane Helene.

## 14 injured in Russian attack in Ukraine

AGENCIES  
KYIV

Russia on Sunday launched an attack on the Ukrainian city of Zaporizhzhia, targeting residential buildings. The strikes resulted in 14 people being injured. Sharing a post on X, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said, "Today in Zaporizhzhia, fourteen people were injured following a Russian strike."

The rubble clearing continued throughout the day, and two people were rescued. Aerial bombs were dropped on ordinary residential buildings and city infrastructure." Zelenskyy strongly con-



demned Russia's attacks on Ukraine, specifically targeting the regions of Kharkiv, Donetsk, and Sumy with guided bombs. He said, "Additionally, Russian forces carried out strikes with guided

bombs in the Kharkiv, Donetsk, and Sumy regions." He added, "In Hlukhiv, several residential buildings were damaged. In the Kharkiv region, apartment buildings, energy infrastructure, and medical fa-

cilities were hit.

This is the daily terror Ukraine faces." Reiterating Ukraine's need for long-range capabilities and air defence systems, Zelenskyy added, "Russia is using around a hundred guided bombs each day against Ukraine."

This is a constant reminder to all our partners who can help--that Ukraine needs more long-range capabilities, more air defence systems, and stronger sanctions against Russia."

Earlier on September 22, Russia had launched an attack on a residential building in Kharkiv, which

left 21 civilians injured. Sharing a post on X, Zelenskyy had said, "Last night, Russia struck Kharkiv again, this time with aerial bombs targeting an ordinary residential building. As a result, 21 people were injured, including an 8-year-old child and two 17-year-old teenagers. Sixty residents were evacuated from the building. All are receiving the necessary assistance."

The Ukrainian President had further said that over 900 guided aerial bombs, and nearly 30 missiles of various types were used throughout the week by Russia.

## Taiwan's allies rally for its inclusion in the UN

AGENCIES  
NEW YORK

Taiwan's diplomatic partners - Paraguay, the Marshall Islands, and Palau - voiced their support for Taiwan's inclusion in the United Nations during the General Debate at the 79th session of the UN General Assembly.

Focus Taiwan reported, citing Central News Agency, that the top leadership of the three countries showcased their support for Taiwan's UN membership and rallied for it at the UN session. In his address, Paraguayan President Santiago Pena emphasized Paraguay's

commitment to the principle of "leave no nation behind" and expressed support for including countries that are excluded from significant international forums, helping them become integral members of the global governing body.

He stated that this friendship is based on "the shared values of democracy, the rule of law, and free trade," forged through the adversity of two geographically small countries living alongside great powers. According to Focus Taiwan, Pena said that Taiwan's exclusion from the international community is an

"injustice" that cannot be overlooked. "Their contribution to the international community should be recognized. If there is a country that today should be a part of the United Nations and is not yet so, that is Taiwan." The Republic of Palau's Vice President Uduch Sengebau Sr reaffirmed her country's strong and enduring relationship with Taiwan and called for its meaningful participation in international organizations. She stated, "Taiwan's exclusion undermines the principles of inclusivity and cooperation that the United Nations represents."

## SpaceX Crew-9 docks at ISS to bring back NASA's Sunita Williams, Butch Wilmore

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON DC

After months of uncertainty, NASA astronaut Nick Hague and Roscosmos cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, travelling in the SpaceX Dragon capsule, successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on Sunday to bring back Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore, who had been stuck there since June 2024.

As they stepped aboard, they were greeted by the Expedition 72 crew, NASA astronauts Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore. SpaceX launched the rescue mission on Saturday that will bring them home next year. Hague and Gorbunov entered the ISS after opening



the hatch between the space station and the pressurized mating adapter at 7:04 p.m. EDT before opening the hatch to Dragon, NASA said in a statement.

Hague and Gorbunov were welcomed by the space station's Expedition 72 crew, including NASA astronauts Matthew Dominick, Michael Barratt, Jeanette Epps, Don Pettitt, Butch Wilmore, and Sunita Williams, as well as

Roscosmos cosmonauts Alexander Grebenkin, Alexey Ovchinin, and Ivan Vagner. In a post on X, NASA's Johnson Space Center wrote, "The official welcome!"

The Expedition 72 crew welcomed Crew 9, NASA astronauts Nick Hague, the Crew 9 commander and cosmonaut Aleksandr Gorbunov, the Crew 9 mission specialist, after their flight aboard the SpaceX Dragon

spacecraft."

Notably, for a short time, the number of crew aboard the space station will increase to 11 people until Crew-8 members Dominick, Barratt, Epps, and Grebenkin return to Earth in early October.

On Saturday, SpaceX had launched a reduced two-man crew to the ISS, carrying supplies and two empty seats for Starliner astronauts awaiting a return home in February after an unplanned eight-and-a-half-month stay in orbit, CBS News reported. The launch was delayed by two days due to high winds, rain, and clouds associated with Hurricane Helene. The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket finally ignited and lifted off from pad 40 at Cape

Canaveral Space Force Station at 1:17 pm EDT, following a north-easterly trajectory directly aligned with the ISS's orbital plane. Inside the Crew Dragon "Freedom," Hague monitored the automated ascent alongside Gorbunov, who was on his maiden flight. Typically, Crew Dragons launch with four crew members; however, two Crew 9 astronauts--Stephanie Wilson and Zena Cardman--were removed from the mission in August to accommodate seats for Starliner commander Barry "Butch" Wilmore and pilot Sunita Williams when Crew Dragon returns to Earth in February. Notably, Sunita Williams and Butch Wilmore have been at the ISS since June.

## Statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh defaced in Brampton

AGENCIES  
BRAMPTON

In a shocking incident, the statue of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, a revered figure in Sikh history, was defaced by a group of protesters led by Hosaam Hamdan, identified as a Palestinian protester.

The act, carried out in Brampton, has ignited outrage among Sikh leaders and the broader community, with calls for swift action against those responsible.

Harmeet Singh Kalka, President of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee (DSGMC), expressed his strong condemnation of the incident.

He said, "Maharaja Ranjit Singh Ji, a monumental figure symbolising Sikh pride, valour, and unity, should be honoured and respected, not subjected to such dis-

*Kalka further urged Canadian authorities to take "immediate and decisive action" against the radicals involved, stressing the importance of preventing such divisive acts from occurring again.*

graceful vandalism. This act of intolerance is a direct assault on the principles of peaceful coexistence and diversity, which are the bedrock of any civilized society."

Kalka further urged Canadian authorities to take "immediate and decisive action" against the radicals involved, stressing the importance of preventing such divisive acts from occurring again.

Manjinder Singh Sirsa, National Secretary of the BJP, also spoke out against

the vandalism on social media, calling it a "disgraceful" act.

"Maharaja Ranjit Singh, a towering symbol of Sikh pride, bravery, and unity, deserves respect, not vandalism. Such acts of intolerance are a direct attack on peaceful coexistence and have no place in civil society," Sirsa posted on X.

He echoed the sentiments of Kalka, urging Canadian authorities to take "swift and stern action" to prevent future incidents of this nature.

## 'HEALED A PART OF ME: ANGELINA JOLIE ON HER ROLE IN 'MARIA'



TDG NETWORK  
WASHINGTON

Angelina Jolie shared her experience of playing the role of Maria Callas in director Pablo Larrain's biographical psychological drama film 'Maria', reported Deadline.

She called it a "once in a lifetime" role, adding, "I mean, it's certainly the most challenging."

'Maria' is a film about opera singer Maria Callas. It is directed by Pablo Larrain, written by Steven Knight, and produced by Fremantle.

Angelina spent seven months memorising six of the tragic arias linked with Callas, who died of a heart attack at her Paris home on September 16, 1977. She was 53.

Playing such a role itself comes with a responsibility and Jolie shared that she always wanted to work with director Pablo Larrain and for her getting "this kind of work is not asked" very often. "And if it's asked of me, it's not often with this kind of material and this director, so these things come once in a lifetime," she added.

Her experience in the film, "to be in the footsteps of someone you truly admire," as she puts it, "was beyond

anything I could imagine, and it was a gift emotionally for me."

While talking about the role, she said, it "changed me as a person. It helped heal a part of me."

The role, she says, "changed me as a person. It helped heal a part of me."

Recalling how she prepared for the role and how it affected her personally, she shared, "It would be too personal to explain. But from that first day [on set] not being able to breathe and crying to singing at the top of my lungs at La Scala, Milan, those moments changed me," according to Deadline.

'Maria' recently received an eight-minute standing ovation at its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival, held at the Sala Grande Theatre. Moved by the reception, Jolie was seen wiping away tears.

Larrain's biographical drama follows the American Greek soprano Maria Callas as she retreats to Paris after a glamorous yet tumultuous life in the public eye. The film reimagines her final days as she grapples with her identity and legacy.

'Maria' is produced by Jonas Dornbach, Janine Jackowski, Juan de Dios Larrain and Lorenzo Mieli.

## PICTURE PERFECT

Bollywood actor Ranbir Kapoor poses for a photo with cake during his 42nd birthday celebration, in Mumbai. ANI



## IIFA ROCKS 2024: 'PONNIYIN SELVAN PART - 2', 'JAWAN', 'ANIMAL' WIN TOP HONOURS

TDG NETWORK  
YAS ISLAND (ABU DHABI)

IIFA Rocks 2024 delivered an unforgettable evening filled with music and star-studded moments on Sunday. The night was also special as it celebrated some of the biggest talents in the industry. Leading the pack was Punjabi sensation Karan Aujla, known for his chart-topping hits, who took home the International Trendsetter of the Year Award.

IIFA Rocks 2024 - Winners List

Best Background Score: A R Rahman - Ponniyin Selvan Part - 2

Best Cinematography (Tamil): Ravi Varman - Ponniyin Selvan Part - 2

Best Production Design (Tamil): Thota Tharani - Ponniyin Selvan Part - 2



Best Cinematography: G K Vishnu - Jawan

Best Sound Mixing: Sampath Alwar, Chris Jacobson, Rob Marshall, Marti Humphrey - Jawan

Best Special Effects (VFX):

Red Chillies VFX - Jawan

Best Editing: Sandeep Reddy Vanga - Animal

Best Sound Design: Sachin Sudhakaran, Hariharan M - Animal

Harshvardhan Rameshwar - Animal

Best Screenplay: Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Jaskunwar Kohli, Anurag Pathak, Aayush Saxena, Vikas Divyakirti - 12th Fail

Best Background Score:

## DILJIT DOSANJH GIFTS SHOES TO PAKISTANI FAN, SAYS BORDERS ARE MADE BY POLITICIANS



TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Diljit Dosanjh, who is currently in Europe for his Diluminati tour, gifted a pair of shoes to a Pakistani fan during his Manchester concert in UK. However, what he said later is what impressed his fans. "Borders are made by politicians", said Diljit as he learnt his fan was from Pakistan as the entire stadium cheered for the actor-singer.

plause as Diljit expressed gratitude to the fan before she left the stage.

Diljit Dosanjh is receiving appreciation from his fans for his gesture with people commenting on the video: "Politicians divide hearts. Music connects hearts."

The Manchester concert was quite special for another reason as the singer introduced his mother and sister to the world for the first time. In a video, Diljit could be seen walking amid the

*Punjabis love everyone. The borders are created by politicians, but for me, they are all the same. I welcome people from both my country and Pakistan." The crowd erupted in applause as Diljit expressed gratitude to the fan before she left the stage.*

In a touching moment captured on video, Diljit presented the shoes to a female fan with folded hands. When she shared her roots, he responded in Punjabi, "Be it Hindustan or Pakistan, for me, they are both the same. Punjabis love everyone. The borders are created by politicians, but for me, they are all the same. I welcome people from both my country and Pakistan." The crowd erupted in ap-

plause when he stopped to hold hands of an elderly woman, who was in tears. Diljit paused singing as he revealed to the crowd, "She is my mother". After his revelation, Diljit continued to sing before he paused again to kiss his mother's forehead as his fans cheered. He then stopped again to introduce his sister, who was standing beside his mother. He held her hand and said, "She is my sister."

TDG NETWORK  
NEW DELHI

Telugu film "Devara: Part 1", helmed by Koratala Siva, earned Rs 304 crore at the worldwide box office in opening weekend, the makers said on Monday.

The post on the official handle of the film on X read, "A hurricane named '#Devara'... has wiped out every nook and corner with his 'X' style of destruction #BlockbusterDevara."

Two-part epic "Devara" is billed as a high-octane action drama set in the forgotten coastal lands of India. The first part was released in Telugu, Tamil, Hindi, Malayalam and Kannada last week.

The film is produced by Yuvasudha Arts and NTR Arts and presented by Nandamuri Kalyana Ram.

As per Comscore, Devara Part 1 opened at the second



place at the worldwide box office, behind the Wild Robot but ahead of Beetlejuice Beetlejuice and Transformers One. While Devara earned \$32.9 million in its opening weekend, The Wild Robot made \$44 million with Beetlejuice Beetlejuice (\$29 million) and Transformers One (\$25 million)

on third and fourth place. As per the makers, the Jr NTR film has earned Rs 304 crore gross globally in its opening weekend.

On Sunday, the collections of the film in India was a shade higher than Saturday, as the film minted around Rs 40.3 crore on Day 3 of its release. The Day 2 col-

lections were Rs 38.5 crores in the domestic market taking the global tally to a whopping Rs 243 crores. Devara already managed to beat the likes of Stree 2 to receive the second biggest opening for an Indian film in 2024. The top place is held by Prabhas' Kalki 2898 AD.

## BENNY BLANCO, SELENA GOMEZ ENJOY MAGICAL WEEKEND AT DISNEYLAND

TDG NETWORK  
WASHINGTON

Music producer Benny Blanco and actress-singer Selena Gomez spent a fun and romantic weekend together at Disneyland in Anaheim, California.

The couple, who have been dating for some time, enjoyed the theme park's attractions with a touch of Disney magic.

Taking to his Instagram account on Sunday, Blanco, shared an adorable where the two are seen cozying up on the Radiator Springs Racers ride, a popular attraction from Disney's Cars movie. Both are dressed in hoodies, and Gomez can



be seen pulling down her medical mask to kiss Blanco through his mask.

Gomez and Blanco publicly confirmed their rela-

tionship in December 2023, although they had been together privately for six months before making it official, according to People

magazine.

Since then, the couple has shared affectionate moments on social media, showcasing their bond through heartfelt posts.

They have also been seen together at various public events, including the Golden Globes, Primetime Emmys, and courtside at a basketball game between the New York Knicks and Philadelphia 76ers in April.

During an earlier interview reported by People magazine, Blanco hinted at the possibility of marriage, describing Gomez as his best friend and expressing admiration for their relationship.

## BRAIN PICKING



There is no right time and right place for love... it can happen any time.



- SHAH RUKH KHAN  
(Indian Actor)

'DO PATTI' STARRING KAJOL, KRITI SANON SET TO STREAM ON NETFLIX FROM OCT 25



TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

The much-awaited thriller-drama 'Do Patti', starring Kajol and Kriti Sanon, has finally received a release date.

Netflix revealed that the murder mystery, directed by debutant Shashanka Chaturvedi and written by Kanika Dhillon, will be available for streaming from October 25.

The makers announced the release date with a 1-minute 32-second video giving viewers a glimpse of the suspense thriller.

Netflix, on Monday, took to its X account to share the film's much-awaited teaser with a caption, "Ab hoga khel shuru, lekin iss kahaani ke hai do pehlu Do Patti releases on 25 October, only on Netflix. (The game will now start, but this story has two sides. Do Patti releases on 25 October.)"

The film is set in the fictional town of Devipur, Uttarakhnad, where Kajol, who plays a fierce cop, is on a mission to uncover the

truth in an attempted murder case. Kriti Sanon takes on a double role for the very first time, portraying twin sisters involved in the investigation, each hiding secrets that add to the unfolding drama.

The film also marks the big-screen debut of Shaheer Sheikh, who plays Dhruv Sood, a character caught in a web of love and intrigue. It also marks Kajol's second collaboration with Kriti following their earlier film, Dilwale.

Do Patti is produced by Kanika Dhillon and Kriti Sanon.

Kajol's other projects include the action thriller Maharani - Queen of Queens, where she reunites with Prabhudeva after 27 years.

Directed by Charan Tej Uppalapati, the film will be released in several languages, including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Kriti, on the other hand, was last seen in 'Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya' and 'Crew'.

## ALLU ARJUN CELEBRATES WIFE SNEHA REDDY'S BIRTHDAY WITH A SURPRISE BASH



TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Actor Allu Arjun celebrated his wife Sneha Reddy's birthday in Goa, making sure it was a birthday she would never forget.

The Pushpa actor, along with their two children, celebrated Sneha's big day in Goa on Sunday. But what made it even more special was the surprise Allu had planned for her. Sneha's friends were secretly flown in by Allu to join the celebration, making her day even more memorable.

Sneha shared glimpses

of the celebration on her Instagram, giving fans a sneak peek into her birthday bash. Along with the pictures, the actress added a caption that read, "Had the best birthday, surprises, gifts, massages, food, love and so much more. Forever grateful #blessed."

On the work front, the actor will be next seen in 'Pushpa: The Rule'.

Produced by Mythri Movie Makers and Muttamsetty Media, the film will see Allu, Rashmika Mandanna, and Fahadh Faasil reprise their roles as Pushpa Raj, Srivalli, and Bhanwar Singh Shekawat.

# DIABETES AND DNA: HOW GENETICS INFLUENCE RISK AND DISEASE PROGRESSION

DR RAMESH MENON

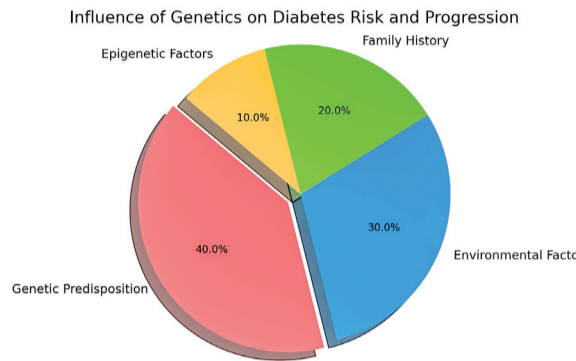
Diabetes (commonly used to refer to type 2 diabetes mellitus), is a chronic condition that affects how the body processes glucose, has long been understood to have a genetic component. The risk of developing diabetes is influenced by a blend of genetic predispositions and environmental factors, including diet and lifestyle choices. The other forms of diabetes such as type 1 diabetes, MODY (mature-onset diabetes in young), gestational diabetes etc. are also influenced by genetic factors, though there are specific mechanisms and risks vary. The relationship between genetics and diabetes is multigenic and complex.

The recent ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) report indicates that the prevalence of diabetes in India has increased by nearly 50% over the past decade, with an estimated 90 million people expected to be living with diabetes by 2030. Over half of these individuals are unaware of their diabetic condition, which could lead to serious health issues if not identified and treated.



## THE ROLE OF GENETICS IN DIABETES

Type 1 Diabetes typically manifests in childhood or early adulthood and is characterized by an autoimmune attack on the insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. While Type 1 diabetes was previously known as juvenile diabetes, it can develop at any age. Genetics play a significant role, but the exact cause can be multifaceted. Certain genetic markers, particularly within the HLA (human leukocyte antigen) gene complex, are associated with an increased risk. However, having the genetic predisposition does not guarantee the development of the disease. Autoantibodies that target pancreatic cells can be present years before symptoms arise, but not everyone with these autoantibodies will develop



Type 1 diabetes. Environmental factors, such as viral infections and infant nutrition, also contribute.

Type 2 Diabetes, which usually develops in adults over 45 but increasingly affects younger individuals, is primarily linked to insulin resistance. Variants in several genes, including TCF7L2, KCNQ1 etc. have been strongly associated with an increased risk of type 2 diabetes. Family history is a significant risk factor, as individuals with relatives

who have type 2 diabetes are more likely to develop the condition themselves. Lifestyle factors, such as obesity and sedentary lifestyle, interact with these genetic predispositions to increase risk. With urbanization and the rise of digital technology, many young people lead in-

creasingly sedentary lives, spending long hours in front of screens with little physical activity. This lack of exercise contributes to weight gain and insulin resistance, key factors in the development of type 2 diabetes.

Gestational Diabetes occurs during pregnancy and is characterized by high blood sugar levels that can affect both the mother and the baby. Women who develop gestational diabetes often have a family history of

diabetes, either Type 2 or gestational diabetes itself. This condition is associated with complications such as high birth weight and an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life. The prevalence of gestational diabetes is rising, influenced by increasing maternal age and weight.

## PERSONALIZED TESTING AND AWARENESS

By identifying specific genetic markers and variations, healthcare providers can develop customized management plans. Polygenic Risk Score (PRS) based screening tests analyze millions of genetic markers to determine an individual's susceptibility to type 2 Diabetes and is typically a once in a lifetime screening test that can guide long-term lifestyle choices. Such screening tests provide information on one's genetic predisposition to diabetes and empower individuals to make informed lifestyle and health decisions.

Dr Ramesh Menon is an Associate Director of Genomic Medicine & Personal Genomics Divisions at Bioinformatics Department, MedGenome Labs.

# Frozen Shoulder & Stress



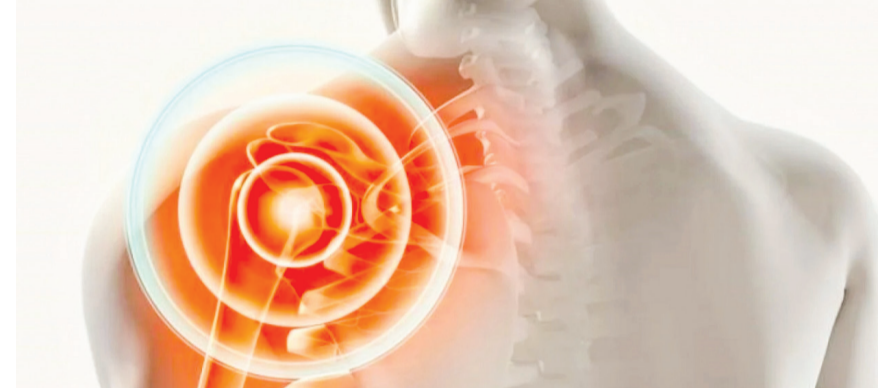
DR. ROHIT LAMBA

Tightness and strain in the shoulders is a common indication of anxiety and stress. It becomes a part of the body's fight or flight mechanism or a way to survive an apparent threat. If it's related to stress, the condition can

period of time, it could manifest as tightness, discomfort and pain.

Stress management skills can work wonders to manage Frozen Shoulder caused by stress. It could also relieve pain. You can manage stress by practicing meditation on a regular basis, doing yoga and stretching exercises. Outdoor activities like going for a run or a brisk walk and breathing exercises prove to be highly effective stress management techniques.

## BELLY FAT & BACK PAIN



be managed with yoga, stretching exercises and various other relaxation methods.

Prolonged exposure to stress and anxiety can cause inflammation which leads to stiffness or a 'frozen' state of the joint capsule. The tension and anxiety can get built up in the shoulder joint and if it is continuous over a long

The spine is the central support for the entire musculoskeletal system. It was intended for strength and flexibility to support your body and allow movement. Having a potbelly or belly fat changes the curvature of your spine. The stomach pulls the spine forward, stretching the muscles and ligaments and put-

ting pressure on the spinal discs.

When these spinal curves are in alignment, the body weight is equally distributed. To maintain this balance, one needs to have strong and flexible muscles in the back, abdomen and legs. This added strain arises because the lower part of your spine is not receiving sufficient support from your weak abdominal muscles. Your back muscles try to sustain a proper spinal balance but frequently end up strained.

If you have excessive

abdominal fat, following a balanced diet and exercise regime can help you achieve and maintain a healthy body weight and fortify your muscles.

Dr. Rohit Lamba is the Head of Department & Senior Consultant of Bone, Joint Replacement & Orthopaedics at SHALBY Sanar International Hospitals, Gurugram.

## NUTRIENT THERAPY FOR FATIGUE: KEY SUPPLEMENTS TO BOOST ENERGY AND WELL-BEING



FOOD IS MEDICINE

DR ANISH DESAI

Fatigue, characterized by a persistent lack of energy, mental exhaustion, and diminished muscle endurance, is a common concern that negatively impacts the quality of life. The causes of fatigue are multifactorial and can be linked to various conditions, including chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS), multiple sclerosis (MS), fibromyalgia, cancer, and even general lifestyle factors such as poor diet or lack of rest. Studies suggest that some nutrients may be promising interventions for managing fatigue symptoms.

Coenzyme Q10 is a naturally occurring antioxidant that plays a critical

weakness. It is naturally present in red meat, poultry, fish, and dairy products.

Vitamin D plays a crucial role in immune function and energy metabolism. Low levels of vitamin D are commonly associated with fatigue, particularly in patients with chronic illnesses like multiple sclerosis or those recovering from infections or surgery. Studies indicate that restoring adequate vitamin D levels can alleviate fatigue and improve overall well-being. It is primarily sourced from sun exposure, but dietary sources include fatty fish (e.g., salmon, tuna), egg yolks, and fortified foods such as milk and



role in cellular energy production, particularly in the mitochondria. Research suggests that individuals with conditions such as CFS and fibromyalgia may have deficiencies in CoQ10, leading to mitochondrial dysfunction and reduced ATP production, contributing to fatigue. Supplementation with CoQ10 has been shown to improve both physical and mental fatigue in various populations. It is found in fatty fish (e.g., salmon, mackerel), organ meats (e.g., liver, kidney), and whole grains.

L-carnitine is essential for transporting long-chain fatty acids into the mitochondria for energy production. Deficiencies in L-carnitine have been associated with fatigue, particularly in patients with cancer, hypothyroidism, and neurodegenerative diseases. Research shows that supplementation with L-carnitine can significantly reduce fatigue by improving energy metabolism and reducing muscle

cerals. Vitamin C is known for its antioxidant properties, which help reduce oxidative stress, which can contribute to fatigue, especially in individuals undergoing strenuous physical activity or dealing with chronic diseases. Vitamin C supplementation has been studied for its ability to boost energy levels and reduce feelings of exhaustion. Sources of vitamin C include citrus fruits (e.g., oranges, lemons), strawberries, bell peppers, and broccoli.

Nutrient therapy presents a promising avenue for alleviating fatigue in healthy individuals and those with chronic conditions. Incorporating these supplements into a holistic treatment plan, especially for individuals suffering from chronic fatigue, provides a comprehensive and supportive approach to managing their condition, potentially leading to improved quality of life and enhanced physical and mental endurance.

# The importance of sleep in health

SUBAH & HARSHVARDHAN SARAF

In today's fast-paced world, quality sleep is essential for maintaining mental and physical well-being. Sleep helps recharge the body, boost memory, and enhance the immune system. Here's how you can optimize your sleep for maximum benefits:

● **Technology Cut-Off:** Gadgets emit blue light that hampers melatonin production, a hormone crucial for sleep. Disconnect from screens like smartphones and laptops at least an hour before bedtime to help your brain transition into sleep mode.

● **Wind-Down Routine:** Ease your mind with relaxing activities such as reading, journaling, or meditation before bed. Just as an airplane needs time to land, your brain needs time to prepare for sleep. Set up your environment with calming alternatives to screen time, making it easier to relax.

● **Prime Sleep Hours:** The most restorative sleep occurs between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m. Try to sleep during these hours to maximize your body's natural healing processes. Studies show this period is when



your body undergoes tissue repair, immune system strengthening, and energy restoration.

● **Strengthening Immunity:** A study published in Sleep found that those who slept fewer than 5 hours were five times more likely to catch a cold compared to those sleeping over 7 hours, showing a clear connection between sleep and a strong immune system.

By adopting these practices, you can achieve deeper, more restorative sleep. Sleep isn't just about quantity; it's about the quality of rest you get. Start today



by implementing small changes to unlock the full potential of sleep and im-

prove your overall health. Will you take action or fall into the cycle of neglect?

*Wind-Down Routine: Ease your mind with relaxing activities such as reading, journaling, or meditation before bed. Just as an airplane needs time to land, your brain needs time to prepare for sleep.*

Subah & Harshvardhan Saraf are the Co-founders of Satvic Movement.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY



Undercooked meat can carry a variety of harmful bacteria and parasites, posing significant risks to your health. Common pathogens such as E. coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, and Listeria are often found in raw or undercooked meats, and they can lead to severe foodborne illnesses. Symptoms can range from mild gastrointestinal discomfort, such as nausea, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps, to more serious complications like fever, dehydration, and long-term digestive issues. Additionally, certain parasites, like Toxoplasma or Trichinella, may also be present, which can result in infections that affect other parts of the body, including the muscles and nervous system. For individuals with compromised immune systems, pregnant women, young children, and the elderly, these illnesses can be particularly dangerous. To avoid such risks, it's crucial to cook meat at the appropriate internal temperature, ensuring all harmful microorganisms are destroyed. By practicing safe cooking and handling techniques, you can significantly reduce the chance of foodborne infections and protect your overall health.

Dr Ekta Singhwal

# ANTAHKARANA: A POWERFUL HEALING SYMBOL IN EVERYDAY LIFE



JYOTSNA G BANSAL

require any special attunement or belong to a specific Reiki system but still is widely used by Reiki healers all over the world. It is considered a powerful and effective healing tool when combined with Reiki. Reiki healers believe that Antahkarana symbol works directly with the aura, heals emotional pain and enhance the flow of life force energy (Chi).

This simple, ancient & sacred symbol is widely used in Reiki healing practices to

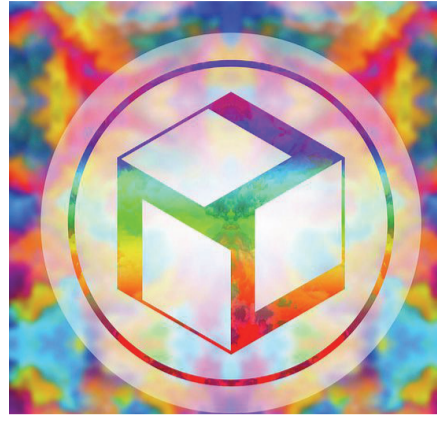
- balance chakras & energy
- clear negative energy
- prevent energy blockages
- cleanse crystals
- remove negative energy from objects (including electronic devices)
- enable the grounding of the body
- connect the body to

Ancient symbols carry wisdom and offer ideas about healing and spiritual growth. The Antahkarana is one such powerful symbol. The Antahkarana word originates from Sanskrit, where "Antar" means "within" or "interior," and "Karana" means "cause" or "sense organ." It translates as "the inner cause" or "internal organ."

The Antahkarana does not



Male Antahkarana



Female Antahkarana

divine consciousness & strengthen the connection.

One can use the Antahkarana symbol in personal and everyday life as it is very simple to use. Just take out the printouts and use as needed. The symbol cannot cause harm as it works directly through the higher self.

Let's look at how this sa-

cred symbol enhances healing and how we can use its key benefits in our daily life:

1. One of its key benefits is the purification of spaces, objects and even food or water. Simply place Antahkarana in a room to create a healthier environment.
2. Placing it under bed or mattress can improve sleep.

3. Can be placed directly on the chakras for chakra balancing.
4. Place it near electronic devices to reduce the radiation effect.
5. Some people carry it in their wallets for its protective & healing effects.
6. Using Male & Female symbols together on a room's

wall will neutralize the negative energy.

7. Placing any object between 2 Antahkarana symbols will clear all negativities. So, it is effective in cleansing the crystals or any other objects.

8. Using as coaster, will purify and charge the food & water.

9. Place it on your workstation to keep off negativity at your workplace.

10. The symbols are especially helpful in fighting illness as it amplifies Reiki energy, making healing sessions more powerful and efficient.

Reiki healers recommend placing it in Reiki boxes or using it as a base for crystal grids to improve the effectiveness of healing sessions. Also, meditating with the symbol may bring inner clarity and strengthen one's con-

nection to the spiritual realm. Many Reiki healers incorporate it into their healing routines for deep healing, protection and energy balance.

**Reiki Practitioners follow four primary versions of the Antahkarana symbol, each with unique energy properties:**

1. The Male symbol offers direct and intense energy, suitable for fast healing.

2. The Female symbol provides gentler, nurturing energy, ideal for subtle & relaxed healing processes.

3. The Cosmic Cross version opens the heart chakra, allowing positive energy to flow and fostering love.

4. The Squares version helps energy to move freely by removing negativity, blockages and stagnant energy. Users are encouraged to ground themselves with the Male version after work-

ing with the square symbol. Overall, the Antahkarana symbol is considered a part of spiritual anatomy, forming a bridge between the physical body and the higher self. It has its own consciousness and works directly with aura and chakras causing deep healing.

Whether you're an experienced healer or just starting with energy work, learning about the Antahkarana can boost your journey to good health.

Disclaimer: Information & the views expressed in this article reflect the author's personal understanding, learning and interpretation.

*Jyotsna G Bansal is a Reiki Grandmaster, Author, Numerologist, Researcher, Counselor, Crystals & Spiritual Guide, Dowsing & Switchwords Practitioner.*

## Meditation: A tool for kids' well-being

NEHA SOLANKI

In today's fast-paced world, children face unique stressors that can impact their mental health and emotional well-being. Meditation for children is an effective tool for teaching kids valuable coping strategies. This article explores the numerous benefits of meditation for introducing them to this calming practice.

**Benefits of Meditation for Children**

1. **Stress Reduction:** Meditation is an excellent method for stress relief. By helping children focus on their breath and quiet their minds, meditation can alleviate feelings of anxiety and overwhelm.

2. **Emotional Regulation:** Teaching kids meditation fosters emotional intelligence. Children become more aware of their feelings, enabling them to respond to challenging situations with composure and resilience.

3. **Improved Focus and Concentration:** Regular



meditation practice enhances attention span and concentration. Children learn to focus on a single point, which can lead to improved academic performance and engagement in various activities.

4. **Enhanced Creativity:** Meditation encourages creativity in children. Visualization techniques can help them explore new ideas and perspectives, fostering innovation in their thinking.

5. **Better Sleep:** Meditation promotes relaxation, which can lead to improved sleep quality. By calming their minds, children may find it easier to fall asleep and enjoy restful nights, essential for growth and development.

**Techniques for Teaching Meditation to Children**

1. **Start with Short Sessions:** Begin with brief meditation sessions lasting 5 to 10 minutes. Shorter durations are more effective

for children with shorter attention spans. Gradually increase the session length as they grow comfortable with the practice.

2. **Use Guided Meditations:** Guided meditation is particularly effective for kids. There are many meditation apps for children that offer soothing voices and engaging stories tailored to young audiences.

3. **Incorporate Fun Elements:** Make meditation enjoyable by adding play-

ful elements. Use colorful visuals, calming music, or nature sounds to create a relaxing atmosphere. Introduce imaginative themes, such as floating on a cloud or exploring a magical forest.

4. **Practice Mindful Breathing:** Teach children to focus on their breath through mindful breathing exercises. Instruct them to take deep breaths in through their noses and out through their mouths. Counting their breaths or visualizing their breath can help maintain focus.

5. **Introduce Movement-Based Practices:** Integrate movement with meditation through yoga for kids or mindful walking. These activities promote relaxation and mindfulness while helping children connect with their bodies.

6. **Create a Calm Space:** Designate a quiet, comfortable area for meditation, free from distractions. A cozy corner with pillows, soft lighting, and calming decorations helps children associate this space with relaxation.

7. **Encourage Regular Practice:** Consistency is essential in developing a meditation habit. Encourage children to meditate regularly, whether daily or several times a week. Consider making it a family activity to foster a positive atmosphere.

8. **Model Meditation:** Children learn best through observation. When parents or caregivers practice meditation, children are more likely to embrace it. Share personal experiences and the benefits of meditation to encourage their interest.

Meditation is a powerful tool for teaching children stress management and emotional regulation. By introducing kids to meditation techniques in a fun and engaging way, we empower them to navigate life's challenges with greater resilience. Integrating meditation into their daily routines helps cultivate a lifelong habit that supports mental well-being and emotional balance. Embrace the transformative power of meditation for children and watch them thrive.

## Mindfulness and relaxation techniques to explain tragic events to teens without causing fear



DR. ARCHIKA SUDHANSHU

In such a tense world, letting teens know of natural disasters or even global crises becomes an issue as they would pay attention to their surroundings so much more than they did when they were younger. However, teenagers are essentially programmed to receive complex emotions. They must communicate the facts they learn about the significant events in their lives with extreme delicacy. That is, the information must be provided in an understandable manner and should not be scary.

In 2020, as the world faced the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, teens witnessed unprecedented upheaval. Families lost loved ones, schools shut down, and the future seemed more uncertain than ever. Many parents

found themselves struggling to explain the enormity of the crisis without causing panic. These are the very situations where mindfulness and relaxation can be particularly helpful, as they offer the means to foster insight without becoming overly fearful.

Teenagers are at that strange stage of development wherein they are slowly moving away from

or they come across such news, fear, confusion, or powerlessness dawns on them. Meaningful conversation of such subjects will help them build up resilience while reducing the distress that is associated.

**UNDERSTANDING MINDFULNESS**

Mindfulness is the practice of paying attention to the present moment

by focusing on the present moment.

Improves emotional regulation: Mindfulness can help teens identify and manage their emotions more effectively.

**Enhance self-awareness:** By paying attention to their thoughts and feelings, teens can gain a better understanding of themselves.

**Non-Reactivity:** Mindfulness takes an observing



parental care to independent behavior but are emotionally fragile. At this stage of development, the parts of the brain help change very rapidly that supposedly control emotions and decision-making. Therefore, when tragedy strikes

without judgment. It involves being aware of your thoughts, feelings, and sensations without getting caught up in them.

Reduce stress and anxiety: Being mindful can help teenagers alleviate feelings of overwhelm and worry.

mindset instead of reacting. If the youths were to write down their thoughts and emotions without acting on them momentarily in that very moment, they would digest bitter information and not become overwhelmed by it.

**RELAXATION TECHNIQUES FOR TEENS**

The following are some relaxation techniques that can be put in the teens' day-to-day activities.

**Deep Breathing:** Taking deep breaths through the nose can also help to relax the mind and body.

Progressive muscle relaxation: it involves tensing and relaxing different body parts in a systematic manner. It helps reduce physical tension, therefore helping one to relax.

**Visualization:** Visualization is creating mental images of peaceful or calming scenes. This might be helpful as a means of distraction from negative thoughts and feelings.

Yoga and meditation: These practices have the potential to reduce stress and foster mindfulness.

**HOW TO COMMUNICATE?**

Be open and honest but take into consideration their maturity level. Do not sugarcoat the event.

Validate their feelings: Be honest with them and let them know that it's okay to feel sad, angry, or scared.

Invitation to Question: Of course, you are not able

to answer all the questions from teens. But open up the discussion channels such that they feel free to ask anything and share whatever they do not know.

**Perspective:** Comfort them by putting things in perspective. Talk to them about the steps being taken in terms of safety and how communities and administrations work to not let such incidents happen in the future.

Support them: Offer your teen an opportunity to talk through their thoughts and feelings and connect with them. Be empathetic and try to understand them.

**Maintain a positive light:** Focus on the resilience of people and communities in the face of adversity.

By incorporating mindfulness and relaxation techniques into their lives, teens can develop healthy coping mechanisms and build resilience. Remember, it's essential to provide a safe and supportive environment for them to process their emotions and heal from traumatic experiences.

*Dr. Archika Sudhanshu is a Spiritual & Meditation Guru.*

### THE MAGNIFICENT FLYING GOOSE



MYSTIC MUSING

RAJESH M. IYER

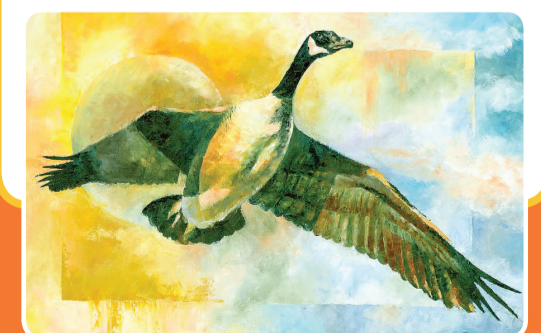
The enchanting meadows were a sight to behold, and as the two monks walked through them on their way to their monastery, the elder among them walked slowly, soaking in the mesmerising beauty. The younger monk was frustrated as he had to slow down to keep pace with his fellow monk. The stones getting stuck in his sandals added to his irritation. That's when he heard the elder monk calling out his name in a rather hushed voice. However, the younger monk was busy clearing the stones from his sandals and didn't bother to respond. Looking at the sky, the elder monk stood mesmerised. With the sky acting as a resplendent background, a solitary goose soared in all its majesty. The goose flew with a seldom-seen flourish, diving down, then rising high, while enjoying each moment as if it were the last. The elder monk had never seen a solitary goose in the sky since geese usually fly in groups in their famous V formation. It was a rare sight, and he didn't want his fellow monk to miss it, so he whispered the young monk's name again and asked him to look up in the sky. He didn't want to raise his voice lest it distract the goose.



When the young monk rid his sandals of stones, he exasperatedly asked the elder monk, 'What happened? What did you want me to see?' The elder monk shook his head and said, 'Nothing,' as the goose had flown far away.

This happens to us all the time. The elder monk is a representative of life that keeps calling us to watch nature in all its pristine beauty. However, we miss innumerable precious moments of life, busy as we are in fretting over smaller issues of life. We are oblivious to life unravelling itself in astounding glory every moment.

Agreed, we need to attend to the problems at hand. However, be cognisant of the fact that the memorable moments in life are passing by even as we don't just address our problems, but keep constantly brooding over them. While we talk about work-life balance, we somehow miss the magical mantra of life, which lies in the answer to the question we need to ask ourselves: Is it possible to remove the stones from the sandal (in other words, tackle pressing issues of life) while admiring the flying goose (i.e., the wonders of life)? Think about it!



**While we talk about work-life balance, we somehow miss the magical mantra of life. We need to ask ourselves: Is it possible to tackle pressing issues at hand while admiring the wonders of life? Think about it!**

# 2ND TEST VS BANGLADESH: INDIA PUSH FOR VICTORY WITH T20-STYLE BATTING

TDG NETWORK  
KANPUR

Ravichandran Ashwin weaved his magic and raised hopes of a result with his two wickets at the end of an action-packed Day 4 of the second Test between India and Bangladesh in Green Park.

Monday turned out to be an entertaining affair for cricket fans all over the world. Despite losing more than two days of play due to rain and a wet outfield, India showed intent and tried to push for the result.

In 85 overs that were bowled in the entire day, a total of 437 runs were scored, and 18 wickets were scythed, summing up the action-packed play that was on offer in Kanpur.

After India declared and managed to take a 52-run lead, Bangladesh openers Zakir Hasan and Shadman Islam stepped up at the crease, looking to see off the day with minimum damage.

However, skipper Rohit Sharma didn't waste time and brought his ace spinner Ravichandran Ashwin straight into the attack. He immediately got his rewards by trapping



Zakir in front of the stumps with a flighted delivery.

Bangladesh sent Hasan Mahmud as the nightwatchman with a couple of overs left. On his second delivery, he found the boundary rope with a half-volley, driving Bangladesh's score.

Akash Deep, at the other end, lured Shadman to force out an edge from him. The ball went straight to

KL Rahul at the third slip but didn't stay in his safe hands, giving Shadman a lifeline. Ashwin continued to inflich his charm with his crafty spinning deliveries. He tossed it up perfectly, giving Hasan an invitation to go after the delivery. He accepted the invitation and went for a big swing, allowing the ball to sneak past the gap and crash into the stumps.

Akash Deep returned, bowled the final over of the day, and brought the enticing affair to its conclusion before Day 5.

Despite losing two wickets in the second session, India continued to go all guns blazing with a simple aim in mind, piling runs on the board. Wickets continued to topple, with Rishabh Pant and Shubman Gill losing their wickets while attempting to put runs on the board.

Virat Kohli and KL Rahul provided much-needed stability while keeping the run rate in check. With some classic drives and strokeplay, India maintained their aim of putting runs on the board at a brisk pace. Rahul used switch hits to effective use, while Kohli put conventional shots on display effortlessly during their 87-run partnership. Kohli tried to play Shakib Al Hasan across the line and lost his wicket for a score of 47(35), falling three runs shy of a fifty.

Rahul stayed on the crease and continued to rely on sweep and reverse sweeps to accumulate runs by rotating the strike and picking the boundary rope.

On the other end, Akash Deep went straight and flawlessly ex-

ecuted back-to-back towering maximums, leaving Shakib Al Hasan clueless and Rohit Sharma as well as Virat all smiles.

India continued to lose wickets as batters tried to go relentlessly for the boundaries. Rahul lost his wicket after he came down the track and attempted to adjust and play a cut shot. He missed the line of the skidding delivery and departed with a score of 68. Following Rahul's dismissal, India decided to declare 285/9 with a 52-run lead.

At Tea, India stood at 138/2, with Shubman Gill (37) and Rishabh Pant (4) unbeaten on the crease. Bangladesh lost quick wickets in the second session of day four and ended their first inning at 233.

Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Ravindra Jadeja picked up the final four wickets in Bangladesh's first inning and let India come and bat. The India skipper and Jaiswal displayed a fiery knock in the second session to overpower the Bangladesh score before the end of the day's play.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 233 & 26/2 (Shadman Islam 7\*, Ravichandran Ashwin 2/14) vs India: 285/9 d (Yashasvi Jaiswal 72, KL Rahul 68; Mehidy Hasan Miraz 4/41).

# Kohli becomes fastest to hit 27,000 international runs



TDG NETWORK  
KANPUR

India's stalwart batter Virat Kohli etched his name in the history books by becoming the fastest player to cross the 27,000 international run mark on Day 4 of the second Test against Bangladesh in Kanpur.

He surpassed 'Master Blaster' Sachin Tendulkar's record as he raced to the elusive feat with elegance on a sunny day in Kanpur on Monday.

Kohli achieved the feat in 594 innings, 29 less than the batting maestro. During his illustrious career, Sachin slammed 27,000 international runs in 623 innings.

Sri Lanka's decorated wicketkeeper batter Kumar Sangakkara achieved the feat in 648 innings. Australia's celebrated skipper Ricky Ponting amassed 27,000 international runs in 650 innings.

As Kohli continued to pull off his effortless drives and eye-catching stroke play, he looked destined for an extended stay on the crease.

But his attempt to play across the line led to his downfall. Shakib Al Hasan's ball kept low and sneaked past the wide gap between Kohli's bat and pad. After hitting the historic milestone, Kohli walked back for a score of 47(35). Kohli now boasts 27,012 international runs, the fastest by any player in the history of cricket. With more than two days of play washed out by rain, India showed aggressive intent moments after bowling out Bangladesh on 233.

After witnessing two days of rain, the people in Kanpur witnessed boundaries pelting down relentlessly. The mayhem of boundaries in Kanpur was started by Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Rohit Sharma. The quickfire stand of 55 runs between the opening duo ended in 3.5 overs, with spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz cleaning up Rohit for a quickfire 23 in 11 balls, with a sole four and three sixes.

During Rohit's dismissal, the scoring rate of these two was 14.34 runs per over, the highest scoring rate in a Test partnership with a minimum of 50 runs, outdoing the England duo of Ben Stokes and Ben Duckett, who stitched a stand of 87 in just 44 balls against the West Indies at Edgbaston this year, scoring at a rate of 11.86 runs per over. Even after Rohit was dismissed, the protective, anchor-like approach of Shubman Gill provided Jaiswal with a safety net to go even harder at bowlers, helping India reach the hundred-run mark in just 10.1 overs, outdoing the team's record of registering the milestone in 12.2 overs against the West Indies just last year.

## Tendulkar to play in inaugural edition of International Masters League

TDG NETWORK  
MUMBAI

Legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar will be back in action on a cricket field as he will feature in the inaugural International Masters League (IML), a six-team T20 competition, to be held later this year across three venues. The IML will have players from India, Australia, South Africa, West Indies, England, and Sri Lanka and will be played in Mumbai, Lucknow and Raipur.

The T20 tournament, to be held annually, is the brainchild of Tendulkar and former India captain Sunil Gavaskar, who will also be the league commissioner.

Tendulkar and Gavaskar will collaborate with PMG Sports and SPORTFIVE, a sports marketing company, in establishing another company in India to stage



the league, a release said.

Parties interested in participating in the league through an ownership of one of the franchise teams were also invited to send expression of interest.

"In the last decade, T20 cricket has accelerated its adoption, and has drawn new fans into the game. There is now a strong desire among fans across ages, to

re-witness age-old battles in newer formats," Tendulkar said.

"Sportspersons never retire at heart and the competitive streak within waits for an opportunity to get back on the field. We have conceived the International Masters League as a meeting point of passionate fans and competitive cricketers," he added.

## Arjun Maini becomes first Indian to get DTM pole in Austrian mountains

TDG NETWORK  
SPIELBERG (AUSTRIA)

Arjun Maini secured the first pole position of his DTM career in a spectacular qualifying at the Red Bull Ring in Austria. After many changes at the top of the timings sheet, it was the Mercedes-AMG driver who held his nerve and clocked the fastest time of 1:30.128 minutes on his final lap.

The Indian will now start race 13 of this season's DTM from the front of the grid for the first time.

"That was really crazy, because my radio was not working so I did not know the result at first. I tried to see the times on the screens around the track. However, they were too far away. The Pole position feels incredible. I can enjoy the moment for a few hours, until the race starts," said Maini after his fine display in Spielberg.

Temperatures of 10 degrees and a track that was still damp in places greeted the drivers for the first qualifying session at the Red Bull Ring. Many drivers initially took to the 4.318-kilometre circuit on wet-weather tyres, before then switching to the Pirelli slicks. The lead seemingly changed hands every second, with the Mercedes-AMG drivers always there or thereabouts. Shortly be-



fore the end, Lamborghini racer Paul moved to the top of the timings sheet and looked set to secure pole, before Maini posted the fastest time on his final lap.

The DTM grid is a highly competitive grid of 20 drivers representing all the manufacturers of Mercedes AMG, BMW, Audi, McLaren, Ferrari, Porsche and Lamborghini. Most of these drivers also drive in the GT3 World Endurance Championships across the Globe as well as the 24 hours of Nurburgring.

The races are held across Europe over eight rounds comprising of two qualifying sessions and two races over each round.

Arjun celebrates podium-finish by bringing out the tri-colour.

## ICC Women's T20 WC warm-up: India, New Zealand, Australia secure wins

TDG NETWORK  
DUBAI

On the second day of warm-up action ahead of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024, New Zealand, Australia, and India recorded comfortable wins against South Africa, England, and the West Indies, on Sunday, respectively.

India began their warm-ups for the Women's T20 World Cup with a 20-run win over the West Indies.

The West Indies put India under pressure early, dismissing the top three batters within the Powerplay. Captain Hayley Matthews (4/17) was instrumental in this, taking the

key wickets of Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana in back-to-back overs.

However, Jemimah Rodrigues and Yastika Bhatia (24 in 25 balls, with a four and six) steadied the ship for India with a crucial 50-run partnership. Rodrigues was particularly impressive, reaching a well-crafted half-century, finishing with 52 off 40 balls, with five fours.

Deepthi Sharma and Pooja Vastrakar provided a late surge to take India past the 140-run mark.

In their chase, the West Indies encountered a similar fate as India, losing three early wickets, including that of captain Matthews.



Shemaine Campbell (20 in 38 balls, with two fours) and Chinelle Henry managed to stabilise the innings with a solid 57-run partnership. However, India retaliated by taking three wickets in the span of just seven balls, shifting the momentum firmly in their favour.

Asha Sobhana (1/7) ended the half-century partnership by taking

a crucial wicket, and Deepthi Sharma (2/11) followed up with two wickets in three balls, leaving the West Indies in a precarious position at 71/6.

Henry fought valiantly, remaining unbeaten on 59 in 48 balls with six fours and two sixes, but the West Indies struggled to find the firepower in the latter stages of their innings. Ultimately, they finished at 121/8 in their 20 overs, falling 20 runs short of the target. Pooja Vastrakar was the top wicket-taker with 3/20 in four overs. Amelia Kerr delivered a stellar all-round display, leading New Zealand to a commanding victory over South Africa in their opening warm-up match.

## Junior World Championship: India win medal in rifle, pistol mixed team events

TDG NETWORK  
LIMA (PERU)

Indian rifle and pistol shooters won medals in both their respective 10m mixed team competitions to stay on top of the medal tally. The two bronze medals won on day two of competitions in the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Junior World Championship Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun by the Indian colts have now taken their tally to five medals (two gold and three bronze). They still remain on top of

the standings.

The 10 meter air rifle and air pistol mixed team were the only two medal events on the roster on Sunday. The rifle shooters went first, and Gautami Bhanot and Ajay Malik shot a combined 628.9 after 30 shots each to finish third among 34 pairs.

That qualified them for the bronze medal match with fourth finishing Croatian pair of Anamarija Turk and Darko Tomasevic, which they duly won 17-9.

China picked their first gold of the competition by

defeating France in the final. The second Indian pair, Abhinav Shaw and Shambhavi Kshirsagar, finished sixth overall with a score of 628.1.

In the mixed pistol, both the Indian pairs finished third and fourth in qualification respectively and set up a bronze showdown between themselves. Lakshita and Parmod prevailed in the end, getting the better of Kanishka Dagar and Mukesh Nelavali 16-8 in the bronze medal match. Germany went on to win gold and Ukraine silver.

## Hockey: Junior Women National Championship 2024 kickstarts

TDG NETWORK  
RANCHI

The 14th edition of the Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2024 has kickstarted at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh AstroTurf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi. As many as 26 teams will compete with each other to lift the trophy in the finals.

The top teams from each pool will qualify for the Quarter-finals which will be played on October 7 fol-

lowed by the Semi-finals which will take place on October 9. The winners of the Semi-Finals will face off each other in final whereas the losing teams in the semi-final will compete with each other for the Bronze Medal on October 10.

The opening day features five matches. Hockey Punjab will face off Hockey Jammu & Kashmir in Pool F. Hockey Maharashtra and Hockey Chandigarh will compete with Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman &

Diu and Hockey Arunachal Pradesh respectively in Pool G. Uttar Pradesh Hockey will be taking on Hockey Gujarat in Pool H whereas Hockey Jharkhand will play against Hockey Rajasthan in Pool B.

Speaking on the opportunity, Hockey India president, Dilip Tirkey said, "We are extremely determined to develop the grassroots hockey talent and platforms like Junior Women National Championship helps the young athletes to showcase their skills and also helps

them get experience of the top level tournament which further helps them at the later stage in their sporting career. We are excited to see the upcoming women hockey stars compete with each other in Ranchi from tomorrow onwards."

Secretary General of Hockey India, Bhola Nath Singh also expressed his views, he said, "The Junior Women Hockey Championship does not only provide the budding athletes a crucial platform but also helps

us identify and scout and nurture talent from a young age. I have no doubts about the success for the tournament and my wishes are with all the young players who are ready to participate in the tournament starting tomorrow in Ranchi"

The teams are divided into eight pools:

Pool A: Hockey Madhya Pradesh, Hockey Uttarakhand, Kerala Hockey  
Pool B: Hockey Jharkhand, Hockey Rajasthan, Hockey Unit of Tamil Nadu

