



# The Researchers'

### News box

### Israeli strikes kill 37 in Lebanon, Joe Biden rules out 'all-out war' in Mideast

World At least thirty seven people were killed, and over 150 were wounded in Israeli strikes on Lebanon in the past 24 hours, in what is considered one of the most violent raids since Israel intensified its campaign against the Iran-backed terror outfit Hezbollah. Dahiye, the area that houses Hezbollah's headquarters south of Beirut, was pummeled by Israeli bombs in an attack larger than the strike that killed Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah a week ago. Some of Thursday night's strikes hit close to Beirut's international airport. The strikes in Beirut reportedly targeted Hashem Safieddine, Hezbollah's likely new chief, while he was in a discussion with other officials in an underground bunker, according to reports. His fate is currently unknown. US President Joe Biden said he did not believe there was going to be an "all-out war" in the Middle East. He added that more needs to be done to avoid a Middle East war. "How confident are you it's not going to rain? Look, I don't believe there is going to be an all-out war. I think we can avoid it," he said. An Israeli strike in Beirut on Thursday targeted top Hezbollah official Hashem Safieddine, who is widely regarded as the successor to slain Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah. Neither Israel nor Hezbollah has commented on the development, but Israel's Channel 13 reported that Israeli army sources believe the operation was successful. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is set to lead Friday prayers and deliver a public sermon today. This sermon, the first in almost five years, assumes significance considering the volatile situation following the killing of Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah and comes just three days before the one-year anniversary of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza.

**While the death toll has reached 215, the number of people who are missing and those who are unaccounted for remains unclear.**

### Series of loud explosions heard near Beirut airport: Report

Beirut. Huge explosions shook the sky in the vicinity of Beirut's main airport in the early hours of Friday (October 4), minutes after the landing of an aircraft. Data from the Flightradar 24 website showed the flight to be Middle East airlines ME429 from Dubai. Live video from Reuters showed the sky lighting up with several loud bangs heard. Minutes earlier, an aircraft inbound from Dubai could be seen making its final approach and landing. The explosions did not appear to be within the confines of the airport, but were visible from Sin El Fil, 6.8 kilometres northwest of the airport.

### 30 years ago, Nobel Prize crowned hopes of Mideast peace

Oslo, Norway. Of all Nobel Peace Prizes, the one awarded 30 years ago to the Israeli-Palestinian peace process is among the most controversial, featuring a laureate branded a terrorist, a jury member's resignation and a bloodbath. On October 14, 1994, a year after the signing of the Oslo Accords, the Peace Prize was awarded to Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation; Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister; and his foreign minister Shimon Peres. The Nobel committee hailed "their efforts to create peace in the Middle East", after a negotiated solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict appeared finally within reach. "By concluding the Oslo Accords, and subsequently following them up, Arafat, Peres and Rabin have made substantial contributions to a historic process through which peace and cooperation can replace war and hate," the committee said at the time. That hope proved fleeting. Over the following three decades, weapons continued to be fired across the Middle East, killing tens of thousands, and the region now risks descending into full-scale war as fighting rages between Israel and the Islamist movements Hamas and Hezbollah, backed by Iran. As soon as the 1994 prize was announced, protests erupted, with the choice of laureates -- especially Arafat -- harshly criticised. An hour after the announcement, one of the five members of the Nobel committee, Kare Kristiansen, co-founder of the Norwegian parliament's Friends of Israel group, tendered his resignation. "Arafat's past is too tainted with violence, terrorism and bloodshed" to be worthy of a Nobel Prize, said the former Christian Democratic MP, who years later demanded an "apology" from the Nobel committee. As head of the PLO, Arafat, who died in 2004, personified the Palestinian resistance to Israel's occupation, ordering indiscriminate attacks even though he publicly distanced himself from terrorism. The day of the prize's announcement, Rabin was hunkered down in his office dealing with a crisis sparked by Hamas's seizure of an Israeli soldier as hostage. That evening, the Israeli army raided a house in the occupied West Bank. The officer leading the raid was killed, as were three Hamas militants. The hostage was found dead. "I would have preferred to have the two (Israeli) men alive and not to have the Nobel Peace Prize," Rabin said later.

## Hurricane Helene becomes deadliest to hit US mainland since 2005 as 215 die



World Rescue crews and volunteers facing obstacles at every turn in North Carolina's remote mountains paddled canoes across swollen rivers and steered horses past mudslides in the rush to reach those stranded or missing by Hurricane Helene's rampage that killed more than 200 throughout the Southeast. Now a week since the storm first roared onto Florida's Gulf Coast, the search continued for people who have yet to be heard from in places where phone service and electricity were knocked out. Pleas for help came from people running low on medicine or in need of fuel for their generators. How many people are missing or unaccounted for isn't clear. The death toll soared to 215 people on Thursday as more victims were found, making Helene the deadliest hurricane to hit the mainland US since Katrina in 2005. Roughly half the victims were in North Carolina, while dozens more were killed in

South Carolina and Georgia. Each road presents a new challenge for rescuers. Along the Cane River in western North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, rescuers from the Pensacola Volunteer Fire Department were cutting their way through trees at the top of a valley nearly a week after a wall of chocolate-milk colored water swept through for hours. Pensacola, which sits a few miles from Mount Mitchell, the highest point east of the Mississippi River, lost an untold number of people, said Mark Harrison, chief medical officer for the department. "We're starting to do recovery," he said on Thursday. "We've got the most critical people out." Harrison was helping dispatch volunteers driving all-terrain vehicles on supply runs to people still on ridgetops. Many don't want to leave their homes, while others lost their vehicles and need help getting to town. Bradley Billheimer, who



then they come around a bend and the road is gone, and it's one big gully or the bridge is gone," said Charlie Wallin, a commissioner in Watauga County. "We can only get so far." Most people the crews come across turn out to be fine and just in need of water, but every day there are new requests to check on someone who hasn't been heard from yet, Wallin said. When the search will end is hard to tell, he said. "You hope you're getting closer, but it's still hard to know," he said. A week into the search and rescue operations in Buncombe County, which includes the hard-hit tourist city of Asheville and where more than 72 have been killed, the county doesn't have an official tally of people who are unaccounted for or missing. The county sheriff said his office believes more than 200 people are missing.

## Iran's Khamenei to give 1st Friday sermon in 5 years days after attack on Israel

World Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei is set to lead Friday prayers and deliver a public sermon that could shed light on the Islamic republic's plans after a massive missile attack on enemy Israel. Khamenei's rare Friday sermon -- a first in almost five years -- comes three days before the one-year anniversary of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, triggered by the Iran-backed Palestinian group's October 7 attack. The supreme leader, who wields the highest authority in Iran, will lead Muslims in prayer at the Imam Khomeini Grand Mosque in central Tehran, his official website said. The prayer will follow "a commemoration ceremony" at 10:30 am (0700 GMT) for Hassan Nasrallah, the slain leader of Tehran-backed Lebanese armed movement Hezbollah. Iran's Revolutionary Guards, who answer to Khamenei, said Tuesday's barrages of some 200 missiles were in retaliation for Israel's killing of Nasrallah alongside Guards commander Abbas Nilforoushan in a late September strike on Beirut, and of



Hezbollah and other armed groups in the Middle East are part of the Iran-aligned "axis of resistance" opposed to Israel and its ally, the United States. Analysts said Iran's missile attack -- its second-ever directly targeting Israel -- was meant to counter a string of setbacks suffered by Tehran and its regional allies. Iran has said this week's attack was carried out in "self-defence" and warned of "crushing attacks" on Israel if it retaliated. The Islamic republic has also warned the US -- Israel's top arms provider -- against intervening, threatening "a harsh response" if it did. Washington has said Iran must suffer "consequences", which may be coordinated with Israeli officials, for the ballistic missile fire. US President Joe Biden said on Thursday he was discussing possible Israeli strikes on Iranian oil sites. In April, Tehran had sent missiles and drones against Israel in retaliation for a deadly Israeli strike on Iran's consulate in Damascus. In both attacks, nearly all missiles were intercepted by Israel or its allies.

**Biden says US discussing Israel's strikes on Iran oil sites**

Washington The US is discussing strikes on Iran's oil facilities as retaliation for Tehran's missile attack on Israel, President Joe Biden said on Thursday, while Israel's military pressed ahead with its campaign against Iran-backed armed group Hezbollah in Lebanon. As Israel weighs its options after its arch-foe Iran launched its largest ever assault on Tuesday, Biden was asked whether he would support Israel striking Iran's oil facilities. His comments contributed to a surge in global oil prices, and rising Middle East tensions have made traders worry about potential supply disruptions. "There is nothing going to happen today," Biden said. On Wednesday, the president said he would not support any Israeli strike on Iran's nuclear sites. Israel's UN Ambassador Danny Danon told CNN on Thursday his country has "a lot of options" for retaliation and would show Tehran its strength "soon". A US official said Washington does not believe Israel has decided yet how to respond to Iran. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed Iran will pay for Tuesday's missile attack, and Washington said it would work with its longtime ally to ensure Iran faced "severe consequences." Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, speaking in Doha, said on Thursday that Tehran would be ready to respond. "Any type of military attack, terrorist act or crossing our red lines will be met with a decisive response by our armed forces," he said.

## North Korea's Kim threatens to destroy South Korea with nuclear strikes if provoked

SEOUL. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to use nuclear weapons and destroy South Korea permanently if provoked, state media reported Friday, after the South's leader warned that Kim's regime would collapse if he attempted to use nuclear arms. The exchange of such rhetoric between the rival Koreas is nothing new, but the latest comments come during heightened animosities over the North's recent disclosure of a nuclear facility and its continuation of missile tests. Next week, observers say North

Korea's rubber-stamp parliament is expected to constitutionally declare a hostile "two-state" system on the Korean Peninsula to formally reject reconciliation with South Korea and codify new national borders. During a visit to a special operation forces unit on Wednesday, Kim said his military "would use without hesitation all the offensive forces it possesses, including nuclear weapons," if South Korea attempts to use armed forces encroaching upon the sovereignty of North Korea, according to the North's

official Korean Central News Agency. "If such a situation comes, the permanent existence of Seoul and the Republic of Korea would be impossible," Kim said, using South Korea's official name. Kim's statement was a response to South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol's speech at his country's Armed Forces Day on Tuesday. Unveiling South Korea's most powerful Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile and other conventional weapons that could target North Korea, Yoon said the day that North Korea tries to use nuclear weapons would.

## Arab states reassure their neutrality to Iran amid conflict with Israel

Gulf Arab nations reassured Iran of their neutrality in its conflict with Israel during meetings in Doha, emphasising de-escalation amid concerns that regional violence could threaten their oil facilities.

Dubai. Gulf Arab states sought to reassure Iran of their neutrality in the conflict between Tehran and Israel in meetings in Doha this week on the back of concerns that a wider escalation in violence could threaten their oil facilities, two sources told Reuters. Ministers from Gulf Arab states and Iran attending a meeting of Asian nations hosted by Qatar centred their conversations around de-escalation, the sources said. The Islamic Republic launched its largest ever assault on Israel on Tuesday in what it said was retaliation for Israel's assassination of senior Hamas and Hezbollah leaders and its operations in Gaza and Lebanon. Tehran said its attack was over, barring further provocation, but Israel has promised to hit back hard. US news website Axios, citing Israeli officials, reported on Wednesday that Israel could target oil production facilities inside Iran as retaliation. Urgent de-escalation was at the top of the agenda for all



discussions taking place at the moment, one of the sources said. The Qatari foreign ministry, the Iranian foreign ministry, the UAE foreign ministry, Kuwaiti's foreign ministry and the Saudi government communications office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Iran has not threatened to attack Gulf oil facilities, but it has warned that if "Israeli supporters"

political rapprochement with Tehran in recent years, which has helped ease regional tensions, but relations remain difficult. Saudi Arabia has been wary of an Iranian strike on its oil facilities since a 2019 attack on its key refinery at Abqaiq briefly shut down more than 5 per cent of global oil supply. Iran denied involvement. "The GCC message to the Iranians is, 'please de-escalate'," Shihabi said, referring to the Gulf Cooperation Council that is made up of the UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait. Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, speaking at the event in Doha, said Iran would be ready to respond and warned against "silence" in the face of Israel's "warmongering". "Any type of military attack, terrorist act or crossing our red lines will be met with a decisive response by our armed forces," he said.

## Ex-Donald Trump aide Cassidy Hutchinson now 'proud' to vote for Kamala Harris

Cassidy Hutchinson, a former aide to Trump's White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, announced her endorsement of Trump's Democratic rival, Kamala Harris, in the November 5 presidential election.

Harris, saying her decision was based on the candidate's character and her belief about who can uphold the rule of law, reported the Washington Post. Hutchinson was one of the many individuals who was thoroughly grilled and testified extensively during the January 6, 2021 insurrection investigation by a House committee which probed the attack on the Capitol building by Trump supporters after the 2020 presidential elections. Hutchinson made her decision to support Harris during her Wednesday night appearance on MSNBC. "I've known for quite a long time, number one, that I would never in my life vote for Donald Trump ever again," Hutchinson told MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell. She added that she had known "for a long time" that she would be voting for the Democratic ticket when it was led by President Joe Biden, and now,



Harris. A couple of things weighed into Hutchinson's decision. Firstly, she said, it was based on having seen Trump "up close" and "believing him when he tells us who he is." To make it worse, watching Trump select Ohio Senator JD Vance as his running mate only made the decision easier for Hutchinson. Having endorsed Harris,

Hutchinson has joined a growing number of other Republicans who have announced their support for Harris -- the list includes former Wyoming congresswoman Liz Cheney and her father, former vice president Dick Cheney. "It's just a despicable betrayal of the Republican Party," Hutchinson said. Later she added: "The character of our leaders really matters, too. We need to be able to elect people that we can trust to uphold our rule of law." She added: "But Donald Trump and JD Vance cannot be trusted with the Constitution. They cannot be trusted to uphold our rule of law, and they can't be upheld to enact responsible policy." Trump and his allies have long maintained that the former president has united the party and helped get rid of those with questionable loyalties to his policies.

# Thieves Escape With Ancient Temple



by Ashis Sinha

**Sidhi (MP):** A shocking theft has left the local community reeling as unknown culprits dismantled and stole an ancient temple along with the idol of Maa Jagdamba from Turnath Dham in the tribal

region of Sidhi district. The brazen act of vandalism has prompted widespread outrage and disbelief among residents. The Turra Dham, located approximately 130 kilometers from Sidhi's district headquarters, is home to a temple believed to be over 1,000 years

old. Renowned for its exquisite stone carvings, the temple was hewn from a massive rock, with eyewitnesses estimating its weight to be over 10 tonnes. While some remnants of the structure remain, the temple itself has been virtually uprooted.

Local resident Dayaram Prajapati expressed his shock, stating, "I visited the temple just three days ago, and it was intact. But this morning, when I returned to pay my respects, I found the temple completely destroyed. A pit was dug at the site, and the idol is missing."

Bhupesh Bais, in-charge of the Kusmi police station, suggested that the theft may not be recent. "This matter could be old, but it went unreported until today. The temple is located deep in the forest, making it less accessible and known to the public. We have

alerted the forest department, and an investigation is underway." The incident raises significant concerns regarding the safety of historical and religious sites in remote areas, as the community grapples with the loss of their cultural heritage.

## Minister of State for Coal and Mines, on 3 day visit to Jharkhand



**Ranchi:** Minister of State for Coal and Mines, Satish Chandra Dubey today arrived in Ranchi today for a three-day official visit to Jharkhand. Upon his arrival at Ranchi Airport, he was warmly welcomed by CCL CMD Nilendu Kumar Singh, CMD of CMPDI Manoj Kumar, and other officials, highlighting the significance of his visit for the region.

During his stay, Minister Dubey is set to engage in several key activities aimed at enhancing the coal and mining sector in Jharkhand. On the first day, he will convene a crucial review meeting with CMPDIL officials to evaluate ongoing projects and discuss future initiatives.

On the second day, the Minister plans to visit Hindustan Copper Limited in Ghatshila to deliberate on operational strategies and development plans intended to strengthen the local mining industry.

The third day will feature a major event, during which Shri Dubey will lay the foundation stones for the Karo Coal Handling Plant and the Konar Coal Handling Plant of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) in the Bokaro and Kargali areas. These initiatives are expected to enhance coal transportation and improve overall operational efficiency in the region.

Expressing his commitment to fostering growth in the coal and mining sector, Minister Dubey emphasized its vital role in the economic development of both Jharkhand and the nation. His visit is viewed as a significant step toward bolstering coal and mining infrastructure in the state, promoting employment generation and sustainable development.

## KV HEC Ranchi Hosts 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' Kala Utsav



**Ranchi:** Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1 HEC Ranchi hosted a vibrant cluster-level Kala Utsav under the 'Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat' initiative. The festival featured Principal Meena Tiryak as the special guest, who, along with the venue principal and jury, inaugurated the event by lighting lamps.

The program commenced with a welcome speech by Principal Anita, who honored the guests with shawls. A total of 148 students from seven Kendriya Vidyalayas showcased their talents in various competitions, including painting, storytelling, mono acting, classical dance, solo singing, and instrumental music. Seven esteemed judges evaluated the performances.

Amid stiff competition, winning participants were awarded certificates, and the colorful presentations captivated the audience. In her address, Principal Anita encouraged students to cultivate a passion for participating in competitions. The event concluded successfully under her guidance, with Ashish Mishra hosting the stage and Dr. Vidyasagar Sah delivering the vote of thanks.

## CBI Arrests NIA DSP & Two Associates for Bribery in Gaya

**Gaya:** In a significant corruption bust, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested three individuals, including a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) from the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Patna branch, for allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 20 lakh from former JDU MLC Manorama Devi.

The operation stemmed from an NIA raid at Devi's residence in AP Colony on September 19, where authorities seized Rs 4.3 crore in cash and numerous weapons. The raid, led by NIA DSP Ajay Pratap Singh, reportedly involved a demand for Rs 20 lakh to settle the ongoing case.

Rocky Yadav, the owner of Ramaiya Construction, alleged that Singh had initially threatened him with a demand of Rs 2.5 crore, claiming he would be implicated in a Naxalite case if he did not comply.

Following Yadav's complaint, the CBI confirmed the allegations during their investigation and apprehended Singh along with two accomplices near Magadh University while they were allegedly accepting the bribe.

The CBI is currently conducting a thorough investigation, including a review of Singh's previous tenure. Additionally, Ravindra Yadav, a personal assistant to Manorama Devi, has suggested that the NIA raid may have been politically motivated, implicating a possible connection to RJD leaders.

The NIA has since acknowledged the developments, issuing a statement on X (formerly Twitter) on October 4. The case continues to unfold as further investigations are underway.

## BCCL Holds Cleanliness Check-Up Camp at Loyabad Hospital



by Ashok Kumar

**Loyabad (Dhanbad):** Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) hosted a cleanliness check-up camp on Friday at the Loyabad regional hospital, as part of its ongoing cleanliness awareness campaign. The initiative was led by Dr. Anuj Kumar, with special guests including Kalpanu Kishore and AGM KK Singh from BCCL's vigilance department.

The program began with Dr. Anuj Kumar welcoming the chief guests with bouquets of flowers. The primary objective of the event was to educate attendees about common diseases and to offer preventive health suggestions. During the camp, the chief guests informed participants about various health issues and shared strategies for prevention. Doctors Abhishek and Pushpanjali Nag conducted health examinations for those present, performing all necessary tests on-site and providing medications based on the results.

Dr. Anuj Kumar highlighted the rising prevalence of diseases such as asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, and thyroid conditions. He stated that BCCL is committed to organizing these cleanliness check-up camps to identify individuals at risk and prevent the onset of these ailments. "Identifying symptoms early can greatly enhance management and control of these diseases," he noted.

Emphasizing the importance of timely information for effective treatment, Dr. Kumar remarked, "If diseases are detected early, appropriate treatment becomes possible."

The success of the program was attributed to the collaborative efforts of all hospital staff and community members, including Jaiprakash Pandey from the Safety Committee of Janata Mazdoor Sangh, as well as Irshad Alam, Suraj Niranjana, Ayush Raj, Mamta Singh, and Manju Sharma. The initiative is expected to continue in the future, further promoting health awareness and preventive care in the community.

## 36 Maoists Killed in Chhattisgarh Combat Operation

**RNS:** Around 36 Maoists were killed during a combat operation in a forest along the Narayanpur-Dantewada border in Chhattisgarh on Thursday. This operation marks a notable achievement in the ongoing fight against Maoist insurgency, according to media reports. The anti-Maoist operation, conducted by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and the Special Task Force (STF), began on Wednesday, with contact initiated at approximately 12:30 PM on Thursday. Reports indicate that the encounter continued until the latest updates were received.

During the operation, several assault rifles, including AK-series weapons, were recovered from the site. The operation was prompted by intelligence indicating a significant Maoist presence in the area.

## SC orders SIT probe into Animal Fat Allegations in Tirupati Prasadam (Laddoos)

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court of India has directed the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to investigate allegations that animal fat was used in making laddoos (Prasadam) offered as prasada in the Tirupati temple in Andhra Pradesh. The court's order comes amid significant media attention and public concern regarding the matter.

The SIT will consist of two officers from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), an equal number of state police officials, and a senior representative from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). Justices BR Gavai and KV Viswanathan, who presided over the case, emphasized the need to avoid politicizing the issue, which holds religious significance for millions. The controversy erupted when Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu criticized



his predecessor, YSR Congress chief YS Jagan Mohan Reddy, following a lab report indicating that animal fats were present in the ghee used for making the temple's famous laddoos.

The report, released by the Centre of Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food (CALF), noted the presence of fish oil, beef tallow, and lard in the ghee during the previous administration.

During proceedings, the Supreme Court reprimanded the Andhra Pradesh government for making public statements about the lab findings. The court highlighted that Naidu's comments were premature, especially since an investigation had already been ordered. Justice Gavai remarked, "When you hold a Constitutional post, we expect Gods to be kept away from politics," questioning the necessity

of public statements when an inquiry was underway. The court further criticized the timing of Naidu's remarks, noting that the lab report was issued in July, while his comments surfaced in September. The Supreme Court has called for restraint until the investigation's findings are released, emphasizing the importance of maintaining the sanctity of religious practices.

## Nepal to Export 40 Megawatts of Electricity to Bangladesh via India's Power Grid

**Kathmandu:** In a landmark agreement, India, Nepal, and Bangladesh have signed a trilateral deal to export 40 megawatts of electricity from Nepal to Bangladesh, utilizing India's power grid for the first time. The agreement, finalized in Kathmandu, marks a significant expansion of Nepal's electricity trade, which has primarily been limited to India until now. Under the terms of the agreement, Bangladesh will import the electricity through existing transmission infrastructure in India. The power will be transmitted from Nepal to India via the 400 KV Dhalkebar-Muzaffarpur cross-border transmission



line, with the Indian grid facilitating its onward delivery to Bangladesh. The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) will measure the exported energy at the Muzaffarpur point, anticipating earnings of approximately 330 million rupees from the sale. Additionally, during the meeting, the three nations agreed to collaborate on

the development of the Sunkoshi-3 hydropower project and finalize a joint venture agreement in the next session. They also plan to conduct a feasibility study for a proposed cross-border transmission line dedicated to energy trade between Nepal and Bangladesh.

## Israel will be defeated: Khamenei

**Tehran:** In a first Friday sermon in five years, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei pledged to defeat Israel addressing a massive gathering at a mosque in Tehran, media reports said. Speaking in front of ten of thousands of supporters, Khamenei called the missile strikes on Israel a "public service".

Israel will not win against Hamas and Hezbollah, said Khamenei in his address. The supreme leader of Iran also lauded Hassan Nasrallah, the chief of Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut last week. Khamenei said Nasrallah's death won't go in vain urging all Muslims to back Lebanon in defeating Israel.

## UK hands over Chagos Islands to Mauritius

**London:** The United Kingdom announced on Thursday that it has reached an agreement to transfer the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, concluding decades of negotiations and disputes over Britain's last African colony. This landmark agreement follows 13 rounds of talks that began in 2022, sparked by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and UN General Assembly recognizing Mauritius's sovereignty claims in 2019 and 2021. Historically, before granting independence to Mauritius in 1968, the UK separated the Chagos archipelago to create the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). This separation involved the unlawful expulsion of 1,500

to 2,000 islanders, enabling the UK to lease Diego Garcia, the largest island, to the United States for military purposes. Despite UN rulings demanding the return of the islands, the UK had initially dismissed these findings, asserting that the ICJ's decision was merely advisory. The forced displacement of the Chagossian community, which had lived on the islands for centuries, was carried out between 1967 and 1973. This included not only Diego Garcia but also Peros Banhos and Salomon. In a symbolic act of defiance, the Mauritian ambassador to the UN, Jagdish Koonjul, raised the Mauritian flag at Peros Banhos in February



2022, marking Mauritius's first expedition to the territory since the islanders were expelled. Under the new agreement, the UK will retain control of the military base on Diego Garcia while recognizing

Mauritius's sovereignty over the Chagos archipelago. UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy emphasized the UK government's commitment to maintaining a strong relationship with Mauritius. However, many Chagossians

have expressed frustration over their exclusion from the negotiations. Chagossian Voices, a community organization, condemned the lack of consultation, stating that the indigenous inhabitants' views have been "consistent-

ly and deliberately ignored." The United States welcomed the agreement as a "historic" step, reaffirming its support for the negotiations between the UK and Mauritius. The U.S. Department of State noted that the agreement secures the future of the joint U.S.-UK military facility on Diego Garcia. In a related statement, India's Ministry of External Affairs expressed support for the agreement, highlighting its commitment to Mauritius's sovereignty claims and the broader decolonization process. The agreement is seen as a significant development in resolving the longstanding Chagos dispute in compliance with international law.

## Police Reshuffle in Kanpur: Inspector Pradeep Kumar Singh Takes Charge of Govind Nagar

by Sunil Bajapi

**Kanpur:** In a significant reshuffle, several police station in-charges in Kanpur have been removed for negligence, with Police Commissioner Akhil Kumar appointing Inspector Pradeep Kumar Singh as the new in-charge of Govind Nagar. This change follows previous appointments in Babupurwa, Shivrajpur, and Ghatampur, where Singh demonstrated effective action against crime. Inspector Singh is recognized for his commitment to law and order, successfully aiding victims and maintaining public safety. The Police Commissioner aims to prioritize dedicated officers, and Singh's appointment reflects this focus.



Known for his integrity and proactive approach, Singh has a track record of tackling crime while ensuring justice for the innocent. His leadership style is characterized by a protective attitude towards both the vulnerable and the community, reinforcing the importance of duty in the face of challenges. Singh's tenure in various capacities has solidified his reputation as a diligent and trustworthy officer dedicated to upholding the law.

# UP Bypolls: Why Is Congress Defying 'Big Brother' SP's 1-2 Seat Proposal?

**The Congress and Samajwadi Party are at odds over seat-sharing for the Uttar Pradesh bypolls, testing the unity of the INDIA alliance.**

**New Delhi:** The INDIA-bloc is facing some anticipatory hurdles in establishing the seat sharing arrangement for the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Bypolls. As per sources the Samajwadi Party (SP) is reluctant to give up more than two seats to the Congress party, whereas the grand old party has appointed in-charges and observers for 10 seats. These in-charges have already started holding conventions at the respective constituencies to prepare the party's organization

down to the booth level. Congress is reportedly eyeing the Mirzapur's Majhwa seat, Prayagraj's Phulpur, Ghaziabad, Khair, and Meerapur. Of the



10 bypoll seats, 5 were previously held by the BJP-led NDA and 5 by SP. Congress argues SP is weaker in the NDA-held seats and wants those allocated to them, leaving SP to focus on its previous wins.

Political analysts view this as a strategic move by Congress. Success in securing 5 seats could set a precedent for the 2027 Assembly elections, where Congress may aim for 200 out of 403 seats.

Recently, Congress state president Ajay Rai stated that Congress only wants to negotiate with SP for the seats where the BJP and its allies had won last time. Congress is willing to support SP on the seats it has a stronghold. However, this stance is causing friction, as SP fears losing ground by conceding too many seats.

**Repeating The 2017 Formula**

In the 2017 Assembly elections, SP and Congress teamed up, calling themselves the 'do ladko ki jodi' (two boys' alliance). SP ran for 298 seats, while Congress contested on 105. In the 2024 Lok Sabha polls under the INDIA alliance, SP contested 63 seats and Congress 17, successfully outperforming the BJP. SP won 37 seats, while Congress secured 6.

Now, Akhilesh Yadav aims to replicate this strategy in the upcoming bypolls, offering Congress only 1-2 seats. However, emboldened by its Lok Sabha performance, Congress is pushing for a larger share, pursuing a stronger position for future elections.

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## Arvind Kejriwal, wife Sunita move to new house in Lutyens' Delhi

**New Delhi:** Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal vacated the Delhi Chief Minister's residence at 6, Flagstaff Road on Friday and moved to a bungalow located in Delhi's Lutyens' area. Kejriwal, who recently stepped down as the Delhi Chief Minister, moved in to a bungalow at 5, Ferozeshah Road near Mandi House, which was previously allotted to AAP Rajya Sabha MP Ashok Mittal, along with his family. Earlier in the day, Kejriwal and his wife Sunita were seen leaving the Chief Minister's residence in a car.



Kejriwal had earlier said he would vacate the Chief Minister's residence during the auspicious Navratri period, which began Thursday. Kejriwal resigned as Delhi Chief Minister last month after being granted bail in the Delhi liquor policy case. The AAP chief said he would return to the post again only after he gets a "certificate of honesty" from the people of Delhi in the Assembly polls due in February next year. Kejriwal was in Tihar Jail for nearly six months in connection with alleged irregularities in the Delhi liquor policy of 2021-22. Kejriwal and his party have consistently denied the allegations, accusing the BJP of a political vendetta.

## Congress wants to take youth to dark world of drugs: Amit Shah on Delhi drug bust

**New Delhi:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday accused the Congress of leading the nation's youth into the "dark world of drugs" following a recent drug bust in Delhi involving a consignment worth Rs 5,000 crore. Tushar Goyal, the main accused, was arrested following the recovery of more than 500 kg of cocaine and 40 kg of hydroponic marijuana worth over Rs 5,600 crore in a raid conducted in south Delhi on Wednesday. The Congress has denied any links with Tushar Goyal, the alleged kingpin behind Delhi's biggest drug bust. Amit Shah, in a post on X, claimed that while the Modi government is committed to a "zero tolerance" policy on drugs and is working to guide the youth towards education, sports, and innovation, Congress is allegedly using its

political influence to enable drug trafficking. "While the Modi government is adopting a zero-tolerance policy for a 'Drug-Free India,' the involvement of a prominent Congress leader in the Rs 5,600 crore drug consignment seized from North India is extremely dangerous and shameful," Shah posted.

He highlighted the impact of drugs on the youth in states like Punjab and Haryana during the Congress regime, contrasting it with the Modi government's efforts to steer the youth towards sports, education, and innovation. He further accused

Congress of attempting to drag the youth back into "the dark world of drugs." "The sin of Congress leaders



using their political influence to push the youth into the quagmire of drugs will never be allowed to succeed by the Modi government," Shah stated, adding that the government is

committed to dismantling the entire drug network, regardless of the political standing of those involved.

While the Congress has denied any link with Tushar Goyal, the latter reportedly admitted during questioning that he previously served as the chairman of the RTI cell for Delhi Pradesh Congress until 2022. Investigators also discovered that Goyal had a social media profile where he listed his title as RTI Cell Chairman, Delhi Pradesh Congress. Goyal, who used the alias "Dikki Goyal" on social media, posted photos with several prominent Congress leaders, including Lok Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda and Haryana unit chief Uday Bhan.

## "Will Quit Politics If BJP Proves Even Inch Of Land...": Bhupinder Hooda

**Chandigarh:** Launching a counter-offensive after the BJP alleged that the Congress, during its rule in Haryana, gave land of farmers at peanuts to their 'damad', Bhupinder Singh Hooda Thursday said if the saffron party showed proof that even a single inch of government land was given to Robert Vadra, then he would quit politics. They say land was given to Robert Vadra, husband of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and son-in-law of Sonia Gandhi. I challenge them to give details of the land," Mr Hooda, whose party is eyeing to return to power in Haryana after a decade long hiatus, told reporters in Karnal.

The former chief minister alleged the BJP is spreading false propaganda about Robert Vadra that he was given land. "I challenge that the Congress did not give even an inch of government land to Robert Vadra. If the BJP shows proof of giving land to Vadra, I will leave politics," he said. The BJP rode to power in Haryana for the first time on its own in 2014. The party had then made alleged irregularities in land deals during the previous Mr Hooda regime a major poll issue. Even in the 2024 Assembly polls, BJP leaders during campaigning, targeted the Congress over this.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while campaigning in Haryana recently, said, "Under the Congress rule, 'dalalon' (middlemen) and 'damad' used to call the shots". Union Home Minister Amit Shah had also targeted the then Mr Hooda regime, saying, "Dealers, 'dalals' (middlemen) and 'damads' (son-in-law) used to rule during the Hooda government's time and corruption was rampant." In a poll rally in Gurugram's Badshahpur, Shah had alleged, "Several acres of land in Gurugram was destroyed to make 'Delhi's damad' wealthy. The Congress party gave land of farmers at peanuts to their 'damad'.

And today they are talking about farmers," Shah had said. Mr Hooda also said, "The BJP does not have any issue, so they accuse me of nepotism." "My grandfather was a freedom fighter. I am proud that my father late Ranbir Singh has signed the Constitution along with Baba Saheb (B R Ambedkar). We have reached here today after a long struggle," he said. Mr Hooda hit out at the BJP government, alleging it has a dubious record of 78 persons being killed in the state "as it ran a government of lathis and bullets". Speaking to reporters in Karnal on the last day of election campaigning, Mr Hooda launched a full-frontal attack on the BJP and said that the BJP has run a government of lathis and bullet in the state for 10 years. "During this anti-people government, a record 78 people were killed by police bullets," he alleged. "During the Dera episode (in 2017) in Panchkula (violence which broke out after Dera Sacha Sauda chief Gurmeet Ram Rahim Singh was convicted for raping two disciples), 40 people died.

## Centre Approves 2 Agri Schemes With Outlay Of Rs 1 Lakh Crore

**New Delhi:** Union Cabinet on Thursday approved rationalisation of various agri schemes into two umbrella programmes — PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana and Krishonnati Yojana — with an expenditure of over Rs 1 lakh crore to promote sustainable agriculture and ensure food security. "The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the proposal... for rationalization of all Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) operating under Ministry of Agriculture into two-umbrella schemes — Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (PM-RKVY) and Krishonnati Yojana (KY)," an official statement said. The PM-RKVY scheme will promote sustainable agriculture, while the KY will address food security & agricultural self-sufficiency. The two umbrella schemes — PM-RKVY and KY — will be implemented "with total proposed expenditure of Rs 1,01,321.61 crore". "This decision reflects the government's priority towards agriculture and farmers," Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said

on social media platform X. Of the total proposed outlay, the projected expenditure towards central



share of department of agriculture is Rs 69,088.98 crore and states share is Rs 32,232.63 crore, the statement said. "This includes Rs 57,074.72 crore for RKVY and Rs 44,246.89 crore for KY." As many as 18 schemes have been included in these two umbrella schemes. These

schemes are implemented through the state governments.

"This exercise ensures that all the existing schemes are being continued. "Wherever it was considered necessary to give filip to any area for farmer's welfare, the scheme has been taken up in mission mode, for example National Mission for Edible Oil-Oil Palm [NMEO-OP], Clean Plant Program, Digital Agriculture & National Mission for Edible Oil-Oil Seeds [NMEO-OS]," the statement said.

The scheme 'Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region' (MOVCDNER), a component under the KY, is being modified by adding an additional component namely MOVCDNER-Detailed Project Report (MOVCDNER-DPR), which will provide flexibility to the Northeastern states to address critical challenges. "the schemes, the States are given an opportunity to prepare a comprehensive strategic document on agriculture sector of the State in a holistic manner," the government said.

# "Democracy In Danger If You...": Supreme Court To Lt Governor On MCD Panel Polls

**There was high drama all through last week as the BJP and the AAP went head-to-head over the election for the 18th seat, won by the former after the AAP boycotted and the Congress abstained.**

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court has questioned Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena's "glaring hurry" in holding last week's election to the 18th and final seat of the city municipal corporation's Standing Committee, and stayed voting to pick a Chairman in the now BJP-controlled House.

A bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice R Mahadevan also questioned the legal premise behind the Lieutenant Governor ordering an election in apparent violation of the norm. Nomination issue is also there... Mayor (Shelly Oberoi of the ruling Aam Aadmi Party) is there to preside. Where do you (the LG) get the power?" the court asked. What happens to democracy if interfere like this? Is there politics in this too?" the judges demanded of the Lieutenant Governor,

asking a significant question given the raft of complaints the Supreme Court and various High Courts are hearing against Governors of other states. Having asked the questions, the



court then sought a response from Mr Saxena on a petition filed by Ms Oberoi challenging the election of the BJP's Sundar Singh Tanwar to the committee. And, responding to a plea by

senior advocate Abhishek Singhvi, appearing for the AAP, the court also said, "We are telling you... don't hold election now. Issue notice. List after two weeks." Mr Singhvi had said,

"Standing committee has members. They can announce election any time!" There was high drama all through last week as the BJP and the AAP went head-to-head over the election for the 18th seat. The BJP won after the AAP boycotted and the Congress abstained. This meant the BJP now controls the Standing Committee, which is seen as the real power behind Delhi Municipal Corporation, and, with 10 of its 18 members, can select the Chair. The AAP does have the numbers in the House - with 125 councillors - but amid concern that some may have been poached by its rival and could flip at the time of voting, leaving an unpleasant surprise to deal with, the party protested the Lieutenant Governor's rush to

vote. The night before the election was held - with only BJP members present - the AAP rejected a 10 pm call to vote, arguing a) that there was not enough time to summon its councillors and, b) that only the Mayor had the right to summon a municipal body meeting. "We live in a democracy. It is the law that whenever the House is called, 72 hours will be given... every councillor needs time. There seems to be a conspiracy to do something wrong, that is why they (the BJP) are doing all this..." AAP boss and former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said on X. Earlier Ms Oberoi had written to the MCD Commissioner, Ashwini Kumar, denouncing the Lieutenant Governor's election call as "illegal", but that was overruled by Mr Saxena. The row over this election is the latest in a long line of bitter squabbles between the AAP and Mr Saxena, the centre's rep in the national capital, with the ruling party accusing him of acting as a proxy to disrupt governance and discredit it ahead of an Assembly election in February 2025.

## Why crop diversification has eluded Punjab

A CURSE necessarily hangs over all partisan electoral politics: good intentions are repeated ad nauseam, turning clichés before becoming policy. Crop diversification is exactly that. Pragmatic economics demands it, and the state wants it, but the interests of a politically dominant landowning class lie elsewhere, and the Centre isn't helping. It's been on the table for more than 40 years, first appearing in the Johl Committee Report of 1986, and then in 2002, followed by 2013, 2018, and, now, the 2023 policy initiatives.

Agriculture is one subject that brooks no delay when it comes to policy since factors involved include even God—otherwise spelt as rainfall, drought, heatwaves, cold spells, frost, snow, storms, floods, cyclones, pests, fungal/bacterial action and climate change. Still, our political leadership and bureaucracy have dilly-dallied on crop diversification files, often marked 'Urgent'. That 'urgency' cannot be overemphasised as we have reached a 'do-or-die' situation Punjab sensed fairly early that an effective way to mitigate some negative outcomes of wheat-paddy monocultures was crop diversification. Monoculture was not an autonomous choice; India needed food security. The input-responsive dwarf varieties ushered the Green Revolution and Punjab rose to the occasion with the consolidation of landholdings; infrastructure like tubewells, link roads and mandis; and institutions for credit, inputs, marketing and research and development. Punjab's farmers worked hard. India's rice production, a mere 23.54 million tonnes (mt) in 1949-50, jumped to 64.15 mt by 1985-86, while the wheat output during the same period recorded a seven times increase: from 6.39 mt. The country's total foodgrain production tripled, from 54.92 mt. By the early 1980s, we became self-reliant in food and even exported wheat for the first time in 1985. By this time, the FC's procurement was declining, farm incomes had begun to slide as production costs kept rising. Consequent protests by farmers led to the constitution of a committee under Dr SS Johl to look into the foodgrain price and procurement policy. Its 1986 report recommended shifting 20% of the area under paddy/wheat to fruits, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds, green fodder for sustaining Punjab's resources. But in 1987, the monsoon in India failed. Rice production fell by 5.07 mt, wheat by 5.9 mt and total foodgrain production, expected at 154 mt, stopped at 138.97 mt. Foodgrain stocks, a reassuring 28.28 mt on July 1, 1986, had nosedived to 11.90 mt on July 1, 1988. That India had been able to feed its burgeoning population despite the drought ruining the kharif crop in 21 states was a matter of pride. But it also revived concerns about depleted stocks. Neither politicians nor policy formulators cared anymore for the Johl Committee's wisdom. Instead, Punjab focussed even more on paddy, again not an autonomous choice; India needed it.

The neoliberal agricultural policy regime of the 1990s meant greater deregulation of input prices. Also, since PDS became a target scheme as part of larger structural adjustment reforms, buffer stocks of foodgrain affected procurement levels. Add to it the near-freeze on the MSP for five years from 2000-01 to 2005-06 - Rs 610 to Rs 650 per quintal for wheat; Rs 540 to Rs 600 for paddy. We had a full-blown crisis on our hands. The high cost of production and the resultant squeeze in income led to farmers' indebtedness and the rise in farmer suicides. The only coping mechanism was the open-ended procurement of paddy and wheat at MSP. Politics responded with free power for agriculture in 1997, giving impetus to paddy cultivation. It was time for a new committee to look into the crisis. Dr SS Johl headed it again in 2002. Its report recommended shifting a million hectares under wheat and paddy to less water-guzzling, soil- and ecology-friendly crops like oilseeds and pulses. This involved cost.

## Undue focus on profit led to Boeing's fall from the sky

Boeing must go back to its original job of 'aircraft manufacturing', which made it the world leader. The marketing messiahs can never bring the company back to flight safety.

THE Seattle-born Boeing Aerospace has certainly fallen on bad days, thereby giving jitters to US defence, civil aviation and Wall Street investors. The iconic Boeing had been on a monopoly-like takeover spree of St Louis, Missouri headquartered McDonnell Douglas-MD (August 1997) since after the simultaneous demise of the USSR and First Cold War. Today, it faces an existential threat as it is afflicted by technology failure, quality and safety issues of product, high financial loss and, now, the unheard of labour trouble in the cradle of the world's capitalism. In fact, the latter arguably constitutes the gravest threat to the recovery of Boeing Company any time soon in the cut-throat competitive aviation market.

History shows that in the perilous industry of aviation, even the best of flying machines have crashed and corrective measures initiated subsequently. When the brand new Boeing 737-MAX crashed in 2018 and 2019 in quick succession, the bosses of the famed US manufacturer pooch-pooched it, trying to pass the blame for the fatal mishaps and the deaths of 346 persons aboard on to pilot error even before the accident inquiries had made their findings. The worst act was that many detected an unusual "nexus" between the behemoth Boeing Company and US government officials of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). An eerie feeling grew that not all was well with Boeing and someone somewhere was shielding some unpardonable wrongdoings of the manufacturer for the sake of profitability, corporate greed and monstrous money-making Wall Street stock market investors.

Nevertheless, when the failure and gross misdemeanour of the famed aeroplane-maker became too brazen to be hidden, Boeing capitulated owing to the sheer pressure of the enlightened American air transport passengers whose acquaintance with aviation is like the developing world's familiarity with the rickshaw and the rickety bus. Boeing had been caught red-handed and had to plead "guilty of criminal fraud" charge. In July 2024, the US Department of Justice determined that the company had violated an agreement that had protected it from prosecution for more than three years. Boeing's luck has run out and now it is penance time. Serious acts of omission and commission are tumbling out of the



cuPunjab board. The latest is production stoppage owing to labour unrest on pay, perk, privilege and contract renewal terms. An additional salvo against Boeing was fired by the NTSB on September 27. It issued "urgent safety recommendations" for some B-737, including the embattled MAX line, warning that critical "flight controls could jam", especially when "applied during landing, or rollout, causing loss of control or departure from runway." The NTSB recommended that Boeing should urgently come up with an alternative solution and warn the pilots about it. The moot question today is: why and how an institution like Boeing, known for flight safety, tech quality and enduring long-haul comfortability, has come to such a sorry state of affairs. The answer, after going through the open source record of the last five decades, appears simple but deplorable and avoidable.

After the August 1997 MD and Boeing merger, the latter was elevated as the largest aerospace company in world, with 2,38,000 employees and backlog exceeding \$100 billion. Boeing's Phil Condit became the Chairman and CEO, and MD's Harry Stonecipher became the President. It, however, soon became a contrast of two biggies. Condit's psyche was that of a high-tech engineering company's rock-steady boss, harping on quality product automatically attracting customers in commercial aviation. Stonecipher, on other hand, was a high-profile marketing salesman passionate about

maximising profit, with an eye on the interests of Wall Street investors to pump up stock and multiplying money rather than maintaining machine quality on which depended hundreds of lives in air. It's a titanic contrast of cultures between a techie who is an integral part of the industry and that of a trader whose ethos and ethics banked on quick buying and selling to make billions of dollars.

From "courage, will, perseverance and skill" of the "Boeing family" of the "industrial house", the former MD boss tried to transform his new company to imbibe "teamwork" of a "trading house". Angry old-timers quipped: "When MD guys came in, they just went through them (old Boeing engineers) like a knife through butter" and appeared "hunter killer assassins and Boeing Boy Scouts." Newcomer Stonecipher soon became the de facto number one. He inducted a former General Motors executive to handle Boeing's finance to make it a

"shareholder-friendly company" despite the conscientious protestors' reasoning: "Have you ever seen a bean-counter build an airplane?" Henceforth, Boeing aircraft had to follow "return on net assets" (RONA). The high-tech aircraft started turning into fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) in 1997. Twenty-seven years down the lane, the results are there for all to see. The FAA, NTSB and US Congress are all worried and use strong language owing to the meteoric descent of Boeing from its glorious flight path of 100-plus years. But the USA today is no longer the industrial powerhouse. It is a price-conscious, profiteering traders of glorious predecessors. No wonder, the US aviation industry's downhill as chicken has come home to roost.

The founder of the company, William E Boeing, is a forgotten hero. The man is known for perfection, accuracy, precision and intolerant of shoddy work in the workshop. The saying goes that the founder "exclaimed at the sight of a frayed cable on one of his planes that he would close shop rather than send out work of this kind." The successors of that great predecessor obviously cannot fit into his shoes as they are too big and broad for them. Hence, unless Boeing goes back to its original job of "aircraft manufacturing", which made it the world leader, the marketing messiahs can never bring the company back to flight safety, tech quality and product durability to win the trust, faith and confidence of the users of the Great Boeing of yore.

## Curb cyber slavery

### Curb cyber slavery

THE lethal cocktail of human trafficking and cybercrime has taken its toll on tens of thousands of Indians, who are trapped in Southeast Asian countries and are being forced to commit cyber fraud and other illegal activities. No less alarming is the fact that these persons are luring their own compatriots into investing in dubious cryptocurrency schemes. Around 30,000 of the 73,000-odd Indians who travelled to Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar and Vietnam on a visitor visa from January 2022 to May 2024 are yet to return; more than half of these 'cyber slaves' are in the 20-39 age group, while Punjab tops the statewide list of missing persons, followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The modus operandi of illegal recruitment agencies is rather simple: job-seekers from India are offered 'lucrative' posts of data entry and call centre operators; once they reach their destination, their passports are taken away and they have no option but to do



under duress what their employers want. The inter-ministerial panel set up by the Centre to look into the

matter has reportedly identified gaps in the banking, immigration and telecom sectors; thus, inter-departmental cooperation is the need of the hour to tackle this menace. At long last, the Union Ministry of Telecommunications has decided to disconnect around two crore mobile connections that were procured on the basis of forged documents or are being misused for cybercrime. Such is the audacity of cyber fraudsters that they managed to dupe renowned industrialist SP Oswal of Rs 7 crore. Crime control is vitally important, but it must go hand in hand with a reality check. The desperation of Indians to take up jobs in other developing countries runs counter to the country's reputation of being the world's fastest-growing major economy. The lofty goal of Viksit Bharat will remain a pipe dream if domestic job opportunities fail to meet the needs and aspirations of skilled young people.

## Centralised setup weighing down MEA

Ministry's work is so vast and complex that it requires several secretary-level officers to supervise it

THE BJP's bench strength in the realm of foreign affairs has been boosted by the entry of Bhaswati Mukherjee, who joined the party three weeks ago. Mukherjee specialised in European affairs and multilateral diplomacy during her distinguished diplomatic career. Two other leading former diplomats, Hardeep Puri and S Jaishankar, are Cabinet ministers. Jaishankar has been Prime Minister Narendra Modi's choice as External Affairs Minister (EAM) since 2019. Clearly, Modi has great confidence in Jaishankar's diplomatic abilities for he chose him as the Foreign Secretary (FS) when he was only a few days away from retirement in 2015. That led to the premature end of then FS Sujatha Singh's term. She adopted the honourable course of retiring and refused to accept any office. Puri's considerable talents and experience of multilateral and commercial diplomacy, including extraordinary expertise in World Trade Organisation matters, have not been consistently used, though he served for a while as the Minister of State in the Commerce Ministry. As a Cabinet minister, he has managed the portfolios of Urban Affairs and Petroleum; now, only the latter. Puri, Mukherjee and Jaishankar belong to the 1974, 1976 and 1977 batches, respectively, of the Indian Foreign Service.

Modi now has two persons in the party, apart from Jaishankar, with substantial diplomatic experience to take soundings on any foreign policy matter, should he want to do so. Many leaders look for fresh ideas and consult other knowledgeable persons in the government as well as the party on critical issues. This does not detract from the authority of the ministers concerned. Also, it is entirely Modi's prerogative as the Prime Minister to choose the Cabinet members and allot portfolios to ministers. As he is now heading a government in which the BJP does not enjoy a majority on its own, this, at

least, applies completely to his own party. For almost a decade, Jaishankar has had a substantial influence on India's foreign policy. Over the same period, he has had a decisive say in the complexion of the policymaking framework in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). In both areas, Jaishankar has followed Modi's instincts.

Two points would serve as illustrations. Modi places great emphasis on the value of personal rapport between leaders. In May 2015, while addressing the Indian community in Shanghai, he had referred to his relationship with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Modi had said: "The heads of two states sharing such affinity, such closeness, such brotherhood! This is 'plus one' to what is traditionally discussed in world relations. And many will need time to understand this. I believe that India and China have a special responsibility towards the welfare of the humanity. Both India and China, in order to fulfil this responsibility, will need to prepare their own people and work hand in hand with each other."

Jaishankar was not among those who took time to understand the significance of this 'plus one' factor in inter-state relations. While delivering the ISS (International Institute of Strategic Studies) Fullerton lecture in Singapore two months after Modi's China visit, Jaishankar, then the FS, dwelt on India-China ties as well. He said, "That the two neighbours, whose parallel, if differential, rise offers a somewhat unique situation in world history, agreed on a constructive model of relationship is no small thing. Past precedents in global history have

been largely otherwise. This is not just a conceptual proposition. Those of you who would have watched the Modi-Xi interaction in Xian would have noted that this approach was reflected in their demeanour. The mood today allows for frank and direct



conversations between the leaderships. Their shared appearances — including the 'world's most powerful selfie' — and utterances would have been difficult to envisage a year ago." Jaishankar's imprint on the foreign policymaking setup in the MEA has a background. The ministry's work is so vast that it requires a number of secretary-level officers to supervise it. These MEA secretaries were traditionally led by the FS as the 'first among equals'. The FS had always been the MEA's administrative head and also coordinated work,

where required, but all secretaries were independent in terms of the work allotted to them. They reported and also directly advised the political leadership in matters relating to their charge. This balance was disturbed after Jaishankar became the FS.

It was often seen that he was present at the PM's meetings with foreign leaders, especially abroad, even if the leader belonged to a nation where another secretary was responsible for the bilateral engagement. In the past, only the secretary concerned was present to assist the PM during his interactions with such leaders. With Jaishankar as the FS being there too, the importance of the dealing secretary diminished in the eyes of the foreign interlocutors, both within the MEA and in other sections of the Indian bureaucracy.

With Jaishankar acting as a 'funnel' of information and the assessments on foreign policy issues being directly brought to Modi's attention, a greater element of 'centralisation' occurred in the MEA. This was contrary to what was needed because the work of the MEA — as in the Finance Ministry — is too complex to be handled by one secretary. Besides, it is the secretary handling an issue or a bilateral relationship continuously who has far greater knowledge of it than the FS. This process of undermining the role of other secretaries has continued even after Jaishankar became the EAM. This led to some of them preferring to accept the kind of ambassadorial assignments which, in the past, no secretary-level officer would have done.

Jaishankar, both as the FS and the EAM, has had a unique opportunity to decentralise and strengthen the functioning of the ministry. But that has not happened so far, and it is doubtful if it would happen in the future.



आप अपनी त्वचा को खूबसूरत बनाए रखने के लिए कई तरह के जतन करते हैं, लेकिन ये ब्लैकहेड्स ... जब तक त्वचा पर उभर आते हैं और सारी कोशिकाओं पर पानी फेर देते हैं। लेकिन ज्यादा परेशान होने की जरूरत नहीं... अजीब ब्लैकहेड्स ही तो हैं। यह लीजिए हम बता देते हैं, आपको इस मुसीबत से निजात पाने के ढेरों उपाय। अब तो खुश ... चलिए जान लेते हैं ब्लैकहेड्स हटाने और त्वचा को साफ व बेदाग बनाने के ये 13 उपाय -

**1 कॉर्नस्टार्च -**  
कॉर्नस्टार्च यानि मक्के का आटा और विनेगर को तीन अनुपात एक मात्रा में मिलाकर पेस्ट बना लें। अब इस पेस्ट को ब्लैकहेड्स वाले हिस्से पर लगाकर कम से कम 15 मिनट तक रखें। इसे आप आधा घंटा भी लगाकर रख सकते हैं। अब आधे घंटे बाद गुनगुने पानी से धोकर साफ कर लें। इससे आपकी समस्या दूर हो सकती है।

**2 दही -**  
दही सेहत के साथ सौंदर्य का भी खजाना है। किसी कटोरी में तीन चम्मच दही लेकर उसमें लगभग दो चम्मच जैतून का तेल और इतनी ही मात्रा में नींबू का रस डालकर पेस्ट तैयार करें। अब इस पेस्ट को अपने चेहरे या ब्लैकहेड्स वाले स्थान पर लगाकर, पांच से सात मिनट के बाद ठंडे पानी से धो लें। फिर देखिए असर।

**3 बादाम -**  
बादाम के पाउडर को जौ के आटे में मिलाकर गुलाबजल के साथ मिक्स करके पेस्ट तैयार करें। अब इस पेस्ट को प्रभावित स्थान पर उंगलियों के पोरों से लगाएं। लगभग 15 मिनट के बाद इसे ठंडे पानी से धो लें। इस प्रयोग से ब्लैकहेड्स की समस्या खत्म होती है।

**4 चावल -**  
जौ हल, चावल भी आपके चेहरे को बेदाग और खूबसूरत बनाने में मदद करता है। इसके लिए चावल को दूध में लगभग 5 घंटे तक भिजोकर, इसे मिक्सर में पीसकर स्क्रब बना लें। अब इसे सामान्य स्क्रब की तरह ही प्रयोग करें। इससे ब्लैकहेड्स की समस्या समाप्त होगी।

**5 दूधपेस्ट -**  
ब्लैकहेड्स प्रभावित स्थान पर दूधपेस्ट की एक पतली सी परत लगाएं और लगभग 20 से 25 मिनट तक इसे रहने दें। इसके बाद जब आप इस परत को हटाएंगे, तो त्वचा पर ब्लैकहेड्स या सफेद दाने आपको नजर नहीं आएंगे। इस प्रयोग को दो हफ्ते तक एक दिन छोड़कर करें। ऐसा करने से यह समस्या पूरी तरह से समाप्त हो जाएगी।

**6 नींबू -**  
नींबू में प्राकृतिक अम्ल होता है, जो त्वचा की गंदगी साफ करने में मदद करता है। इसके लिए एक नींबू का रस निकालकर उसमें एक चुटकी नमक मिलाएं और इस मिश्रण को ब्लैकहेड्स वाले स्थान पर लगाकर लगभग 20 मिनट तक रखें। इसके बाद इसे हल्के गर्म पानी से अच्छी तरह से धो लें। यह नुस्खा काफी कारगर है।

**7 आलू -**  
आलू भी इस मामले में बड़े काम की चीज साबित होगा। कच्चे का आलू का टुकड़ा ब्लैकहेड प्रभावित स्थान पर अच्छी तरह से रगड़ें। अब इसके रस को कुछ समय तक त्वचा पर रहने दें और 15 मिनट के बाद धो लें।

**8 धनिया पत्ती -**  
हरा धनिया स्वाद बढ़ाने में जितना कारगर है, उतना ही सुंदरता के लिए भी। इसकी पत्तियों को चुटकी भर हल्की के साथ पीसकर पेस्ट बना लें। इस पेस्ट को ब्लैकहेड वाले स्थान पर लगाकर रखें और

## इन 13 तरीकों से

# त्वचा होगी साफ और बेदाग

कुछ समय बाद धो लें। ब्लैकहेड तो कम होंगे ही, त्वचा में जान आ जाएगी।

**9 ओटमील -**  
ओटमील को ग्राइंडर में पीसकर गुलाबजल डालकर पेस्ट बना लें। अब इस पेस्ट को चेहरे पर 15 मिनट लगाकर रखें और ठंडे पानी से धो लें। इससे भी त्वचा की गंदगी साफ हो जाएगी।

**10 बेकिंग सोडा -**  
बेकिंग सोडा में जरा सा पानी डालकर पेस्ट बनाएं और इसे स्क्रब की तरह त्वचा पर लगाएं। इससे त्वचा के ब्लैकहेड और अन्य गंदगी समाप्त हो जाएगी। इसे 15 मिनट प्रयोग करने के बाद ठंडे पानी से धो लें।

**11 मेथी की पत्तियां -**  
मेथी की पत्तियों को पीसकर चेहरे पर लगाने से भी त्वचा की अंदरूनी सफाई हो जाती है, और झाड़ियां, दाग आदि नहीं रहते। इसका प्रयोग प्रतिदिन रात के वक्त किया जा सकता है।

**12 शहद -**  
ब्लैकहेड्स से निजात पाने के लिए आप शहद का प्रयोग भी कर सकते हैं। इसके लिए शहद की एक परत त्वचा पर लगाकर रखें और कुछ समय बाद इसे धो लें। इससे भी त्वचा के ब्लैकहेड और अन्य समस्याएं समाप्त हो जाएंगी।

**13 टमाटर -**  
यह आपकी त्वचा को साफ करने के लिए बेहद कारगर चीज है। टमाटर को मैश करके इसका छिलका उतार दें और इसे प्रभावित स्थान पर कुछ घंटों के लिए लगाकर रखें और छोड़ दें। अब हल्के गर्म पानी से इसे धो लें। ऐसा करने से भी ब्लैकहेड और सफेद दानों की समस्या हल हो जाएगी।



## खूबसूरती

### चाहिए तो पढ़ें 5

चेहरे पर उतरती है, तो आंतरिक सुंदरता बेहद आकर्षित करती है। मेडिटेशन आपके हृदय भाव और स्वभाव से आपके खूबसूरत बनाता है। यह आंतरिक खूबसूरती कुछ समय के लिए नहीं बल्कि हमेशा आपके साथ रहती है। खूबसूरती चाहिए तो पढ़ें 5 टिप्स

**योग-व्यायाम -** योग, व्यायाम या एक्सरसाइज, कुछ भी कह लें, लेकिन यह आपके शरीर और आत्मा, दोनों को एक साथ खूबसूरत बनाता है। आपके अंदर सकारात्मक ऊर्जा का संचार करता है, जो आपके चेहरे पर साफ तौर पर दिखाई देता है। योग, मानसिक और शारीरिक दोनों तरह से प्रभावित करता है। और व्यायाम शरीर में रक्तसंचार को सुव्यवस्थित करता है, जिससे आपके चेहरे का ग्लो बढ़ जाता है, और विकृतियां भी दूर हो जाती हैं।

### फल व सब्जियां

- भोजन में तेल व मसालेदार पदार्थों के बजाए सात्विक भोजन एवं भरपूर मात्रा में फल और सब्जियों का सेवन आपके लिए बेहद

**आत्मविश्वास -** खूबसूरत दिखने के लिए आप चाहें कुछ भी आजमाएं, चेहरे की चमक आत्मविश्वास से ही बढ़ती है। वैज्ञानिकों ने भी इस बात की पुष्टि की है। जब भी आप किसी कार्यक्रम या समारोह में शामिल होते हैं, या फिर कोई इंटरव्यू देने जाते हैं। हर जगह आत्मविश्वास से लंबरेज चेहरा आकर्षित करता है। आपका यही आकर्षक आपको सबसे बेहतर बनाता है, जिसके कारण आपके आसपास के लोग खुद में आत्मविश्वास की कमी महसूस करने लगते हैं। कई बार आपका आत्मविश्वास आपके बिना कुछ किए ही आपको सफलता दिला देती है। प्रसन्न मन- मन की खुशी हमेशा चेहरे पर झलकती है, और चेहरे की चमक अपने आप बढ़ जाती है। हंसमुख चेहरा हर किसी के दिल में जगह बना लेता है, और हर कोई उसकी तरफ खुद-ब-खुद आकर्षित होने लगता है। किसी समारोह में तो यह खुशामिजाज चेहरा हर किसी के आकर्षण का केंद्र होता है। प्रसन्न मन का फायदा आपके चेहरे और स्वास्थ्य दोनों पर पड़ता है। प्रसन्न चेहरे की रौनक देखते ही बनती है।

**मेडिटेशन -** मेडिटेशन आपके मन को एकाग्र करने के साथ-साथ आपके मन को शांत करता है, जिसका असर आपके चेहरे पर प्रत्यक्ष तौर पर दिखाई देता है। मन की शांति जब, सौम्यता और धैर्य के साथ फायदेमंद हो सकता है। इसके इलावा इनमें पोषक तत्वों के साथ पानी की मात्रा भी होती है। हर तरह के फल का नियमानुसार सेवन आपके शरीर में विटामिन व मिनरल्स की कमी को दूर कर शरीर को स्वस्थ खता है, और चेहरे पर प्राकृतिक चमक लाता है। सकारात्मक नजरिया - आप अपने जीवन में चाहें कितने भी सफल क्यों न हों, कितने भी बेहतर क्यों न हों, वह सफलता कोई मायने नहीं रखती, जब तक आप खुद सकारात्मक न हों। सकारात्मकता का आपके व्यक्तित्व पर उतना ही असर पड़ता है, जितना पोषक तत्वों का शरीर पर। सकारात्मकता आपको अंदर से खूबसूरत बनाती है। आप अपने अंदर एक रौनक महसूस करेंगे, जो आपके चेहरे पर भी दिखाई देती है।

हम खुद को खूबसूरत दिखाने के लिए तरह-तरह के जतन करते हैं। कभी कपड़ों के जरिए, तो कभी मेकअप और तरह तरह के स्टाइल अपनाकर हम खूबसूरत दिखने में सफल तो हो जाते हैं, लेकिन यह खूबसूरती कुछ ही समय तक रहती है। हम आपको बता रहे हैं कुछ ऐसी बातें, जो बनाती है, आपको अंदर से खूबसूरत -

## मौजिक मुल्लानी मिट्टी का

चेहरे की चमक को बरकरार रखने के लिए मुल्लानी मिट्टी का प्रयोग किसी भी उम्र में किया जा सकता है। इसके इस्तेमाल से त्वचा में कसाव और रंगत में निखार आता है। यह स्किन के लिए बढ़िया टोनर और मांशचराइजर भी है। तो फिर क्यों न मुल्लानी मिट्टी से सौंदर्य निखार के कुछ नुस्खे आप भी आजमाएं।

**रोमकूपों की सफाई हो जाए**  
मुल्लानी मिट्टी का प्रयोग त्वचा के रोमकूपों की गंदगी की सफाई के लिए करना हो तो 2 छोटे चम्मच मुल्लानी मिट्टी में 4 छोटे चम्मच टमाटर का रस मिलाकर चेहरे पर प्रतिदिन लगाएं। रोमकूप साफ हो जाएंगे। इसे हाथों या अन्य जगह भी लगा सकती हैं।

**झाड़ियां दूर हो जाए**  
चेहरे की झाड़ियां दूर करने के लिए थोड़ी

चम्मच, चंदन पाउडर, 2 छोटे चम्मच नारियल पानी, 2 छोटे चम्मच खीरे का रस मिलाकर चेहरे पर 15 मिनट के लिए लगाएं। सप्ताह में 1 बार लगाने से त्वचा साफ, सुंदर और आकर्षक हो जाएगी।

### सांवलापत्र दूर हो जाए

त्वचा का सांवलापत्र कम करने के लिए 2 चम्मच मुल्लानी मिट्टी में चौथाई छोटा चम्मच गिलसरीन और 2 बड़े चम्मच गुलाबजल मिलाकर चेहरे पर 10 मिनट तक लगाएं। फिर साफ, गुनगुने पानी से धो डालें। सप्ताह में दो बार इस फेस पैक का प्रयोग करने से सांवली त्वचा



में काफी हद तक निखार आ जाता है।

### झुर्रियों से बचाव हो जाए

चेहरे को झुर्रियों से बचाने के लिए बादाम की 4-5 गिरियां पीस लें। इसमें 4 छोटे चम्मच खीरे का रस तथा 2 छोटे चम्मच मुल्लानी मिट्टी मिलाकर पेस्ट बनाएं। महीने में चार बार इसका नियमित प्रयोग करें। कुछ दिनों बाद झुर्रियां कम हो जाएंगी।

### केश मुलायम, रेशमी और घने हो जाए

दो बड़े चम्मच मुल्लानी मिट्टी में 1 बड़ा चम्मच दही घोलकर उसमें एक बड़ा चम्मच नींबू का रस मिलाएं। अच्छी तरह केशों की जड़ों में लगाएं और थोड़ी देर बाद धो लें। इससे केश मुलायम, रेशमी तथा घने होने के साथ अधिक समय तक काले भी रहेंगे।

अरहर की दाल का पाउडर, दही व पिसी हल्दी में थोड़ी सी मुल्लानी मिट्टी मिलाकर पेस्ट बना लें और चेहरे पर लगाएं। कुछ दिन के नियमित प्रयोग से झाड़ियां दूर हो जाएंगी।

### मुंहासे गायब हो जाए

मुंहासे सता रहे हों तो 2 छोटे चम्मच मुल्लानी मिट्टी, 1 छोटा चम्मच नींबू का रस, 1 छोटा चम्मच बेसन और चुटकी भर हल्दी मिलाकर पेस्ट बनाएं। मुंहासों वाली स्किन पर मुल्लानी मिट्टी का लेप सप्ताह में दो बार लगाएं। इससे त्वचा स्वस्थ व निर्मल हो जाएगी और मुंहासे भी गायब हो जाएंगे।

### त्वचा हो जाए मुलायम

त्वचा को मुलायम व चमकदार बनाने के लिए 2 बड़े चम्मच मुल्लानी मिट्टी में चौथाई छोटा

NEWS BOX

India pacers, ft Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya gear up for Bangladesh T20Is

New Delhi India's pacers, including Arshdeep Singh, Hardik Pandya, and Harshit Rana, were spotted undergoing intense net practice ahead of the T20I series against Bangladesh, which begins on October 6. After dominating the Test series with a 2-0 win, India aims to replicate their success in the T20 format. In a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), the fast bowlers were seen sweating it out in Gwalior, the venue for the first of three T20Is. Suryakumar Yadav will lead the young squad, featuring promising talents like Harshit Rana and IPL 2024 breakout star Mayank Yadav, who could make his India debut during the series. Suryakumar's side, packed with youthful energy, most recently triumphed in a 3-0 series against Sri Lanka, where India's bowling attack played a



crucial role in their success. The team's dynamic lineup includes both experienced players like Hardik Pandya and young players like Riyan Parag, Mayank Yadav and returnee Varun Chakravarthy eager to prove their worth. Under the coaching of Gautam Gambhir, India has increasingly relied on part-time bowlers, showcasing depth and variety in their bowling attack. This strategic approach, which paid off against Sri Lanka, will be crucial in the upcoming Bangladesh series. Full India squad for Bangladesh T20Is: Suryakumar Yadav (C), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Rinku Singh, Hardik Pandya, Riyan Parag, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shivam Dube, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Varun Chakravarthy, Jitesh Sharma (wk), Arshdeep Singh, Harshit Rana, Mayank Yadav. The series presents an exciting opportunity for these pacers to shine on the international stage, with expectations high, especially for players like Arshdeep and Hardik, who have been integral parts of India's T20 setup. The addition of fresh faces like Mayank Yadav adds another layer of excitement as fans await his potential debut. With momentum from their Test series win and the hunger for T20 success, India's pacers will be crucial to securing another series victory against Bangladesh.

Manchester United's Erik ten Hag asks for 'trust in process' after Porto scare

Porto. Manchester United manager Erik ten Hag once again called for patience and trust from fans, despite the club's recent struggles, including a 3-3 draw against Porto in the Europa League on October 4. United squandered a two-goal lead, with early strikes from Rasmus Hjlund in the 7th minute and Marcus Rashford in the 20th, but defensive lapses allowed Porto to equalize and eventually take the lead. A stoppage-time header from Harry Maguire salvaged a point for United. After the match, Ten Hag urged fans not to judge the team based on their current difficulties but to evaluate their progress at the end of the season. He emphasized that his process is still ongoing, and it is crucial to give it time to show results. Despite a busy summer transfer window, United have managed just three wins from their nine matches across all competitions



this season. "We will get there. Don't judge us in this moment. Judge us at the end of the season. We are in the process and we will improve. We are now two seasons where we achieve finals. We have to develop and progress this team." Ten Hag said. "We started the game very good, we dominated, scored two good goals, but then we lost control. So the start was good, the middle part was not good, and then we finished very good." Ten Hag added. United's draw against Porto marks a four-match winless streak, adding pressure on Ten Hag and the club. The Dutchman's future at the club is becoming more uncertain as poor results continue to mount. However, Ten Hag remains confident in the support of the board and is determined to turn things around. The manager insists that the team's long-term progress is more important than their current setbacks. He believes that once the new signings and tactical changes fully settle in, United will find consistency. United's next challenge comes against Unai Emery's Aston Villa in the Premier League on October 6, a must-win fixture as they look to break their current slump and restore faith in Ten Hag's process.

My father Mahavir Phogat worked hard for Vinesh, she never thanked him: Babita

**Babita Phogat revealed how her father, Mahavir, helped Vinesh overcome personal loss and become one of India's most decorated wrestlers. Babita said it has been disappointing to see Vinesh not acknowledging coach Mahavir's contributions.**

New Delhi Babita Phogat, cousin of former Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat, expressed her disappointment over Vinesh's perceived lack of gratitude, particularly regarding her coach and uncle, Mahavir Phogat. Following the controversy surrounding the Paris Olympics, Babita claimed that Vinesh failed to acknowledge Mahavir's significant contributions to her career. Vinesh was disqualified from the Paris Olympics just before the gold medal match due to being 100 grams overweight, a situation that overshadowed her earlier achievements.

Vinesh's stellar run at the Paris Olympics ended on a sour note after the disqualification, which prompted her retirement from wrestling and a subsequent shift into politics, joining the Indian National Congress. The disqualification, despite her successful Olympic journey, marked a dramatic turn in her career.

Speaking on Sushant Sinha's podcast, Babita, a Commonwealth Games gold medalist from 2014, revealed her frustration regarding Vinesh's lack of appreciation for Mahavir Phogat. After the passing of Vinesh's father, Mahavir took on the role of her coach, playing a crucial part in her development as a wrestler. You must have seen when Manu Bhaker returned home with her Olympic medal, her coach was by her side. Similarly, Aman Sehrawat came back with his medal and had his coach with him. But when Vinesh returned, Dipender Hooda was there with her. It's better for people to just give him (Dipender) the Dronacharya award. I believe that if my father had been standing beside her at the airport, there wouldn't have been so much politics surrounding this situation," Babita said.



'MAHAVIR CRIED WHEN VINESH WAS DISQUALIFIED'

Babita said she saw her father Mahavir crying when Vinesh was disqualified from the Olympic final earlier in the year. "I have seen my father cry just three times in my life. First, when my sisters and I got married, Second, when my uncle died and third, when Vinesh got disqualified from the Olympics," she said. "These things need to be understood. I have seen how my father never allowed Vinesh to feel the absence of her father. When my uncle passed away, Vinesh, along with her

brother and sister, left wrestling. My father went to their home, confronted their mother, and brought them back to the sport. Even when they didn't reach the training ground at 4 a.m., he would go to their house and bring them. When someone puts in so much hard work into training and never receives a thank you, it is understandably emotional for any coach," Babita added. Vinesh was also one of the key figures in the protest against former Wrestling Federation of India President, Brij Bhushan Singh, accused of

sexual misconduct. Her involvement in the protests and her increasing role in Indian politics have kept her in the national spotlight.

Babita, who is a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, highlighted how Vinesh's entry into politics has changed her, suggesting a growing distance between the sisters since Vinesh's political debut. The clash between the two sisters adds another layer to the already complex narrative surrounding the Phogat family, a household synonymous with Indian wrestling success.

Manchester United's mishaps continue after surviving Porto scare in Europa League

**Manchester United blew a two-goal lead, ultimately settling for a 3-3 draw against Porto in the Europa League. Late heroics from Harry Maguire saved them from defeat, but criticism of their performance continues to mount.**



Having already suffered a 3-0 defeat at home to Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur, pressure was mounting on manager Erik ten Hag to secure a positive result in this European fixture. Unfortunately for United, the draw only added fuel to the criticism the team has faced in recent weeks. Adding to United's woes, they went down to 10 men once again after captain Bruno Fernandes was shown a second yellow card, just a couple of days after his suspension from the Tottenham game was overturned. Porto

quickly capitalized on United's defensive lapses, with veteran defender Pepe scoring in the 27th minute. Samu Omorodion followed with two goals—one in the 34th minute and another just after halftime in the 50th minute—to push Porto ahead. Despite their struggles, United managed to salvage a point thanks to a stoppage-time header from Harry Maguire. His late equalizer spared them the embarrassment of back-to-back defeats, but it was not enough to hide the mounting concerns over the team's performances. This latest result makes it two draws in two Europa League matches for Ten Hag's United, who are now under increasing scrutiny to turn their season around. The pressure is only set to grow as the side seeks to find consistency and fight their way out of a tough start to the campaign.

Afghanistan all-rounder Rashid Khan's grand wedding in Kabul

New Delhi. Afghanistan all-rounder Rashid Khan celebrated a grand wedding ceremony in Kabul on October 3, 2024. The star spinner tied the knot in Afghanistan's capital, with videos from the celebration quickly going viral on social media. The event was attended by many of his national teammates, further highlighting the significance of the occasion for the Afghanistan cricket fraternity.

Rashid Khan is widely regarded as one of the top spinners and all-rounders in the T20I format. His recent performances have only solidified his standing as one of the premier cricketers in the world. In September, he played a pivotal role in Afghanistan's historic ODI series win against South Africa, further showcasing his remarkable skills. With 152 wickets in 93 T20I matches and



190 wickets in 105 ODIs, Rashid's career is an impressive story of success. Beyond his individual performances, Rashid has also taken on leadership responsibilities. He recently led Afghanistan in the 2024 T20 World Cup, guiding the team to one of their most successful campaigns on the global stage. His efforts, both as a leader and a player, have elevated Afghanistan's stature in international cricket. Rashid Khan's wedding celebration further showcased his grand stature within Afghanistan, not only as a cricketer but also as a national icon. The immense attention his wedding received highlights his popularity and the significant impact he has had on the sport and his country. With his career still on the rise, Rashid Kh2222an continues to be one of the most prominent names in the cricketing world, and his future looks just as bright as his current achievements.

Women's T20 World Cup 2024: India begin title hunt against struggling New Zealand

**Women's T20 World Cup 2024: Harmanpreet Kaur's India will have the upper hand when they face Sophie Devine's New Zealand in Dubai on Friday. India won both their matches in the warm-ups and will be high on confidence before the group games.**

New Zealand Harmanpreet Kaur's India are set to start their campaign in the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 when they lock horns with Sophie Devine's New Zealand on Friday, October 4 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. India are being deemed as one of the favourites to win the World Cup given their strength and the conditions in the

United Arab Emirates (UAE). The Women in Blue played the final in 2020 and the semis in 2018 and 2023, but are yet to get their hands on the coveted trophy. Back in June, the men's team won the T20 World Cup after beating South Africa in the final in Barbados. In July, after their return home, Rohit Sharma's men got a rousing reception where they took part in a victory parade. Jemimah Rodrigues, who is a part of the women's squad, has dreamed of lifting the title. "100 percent. It's nice to keep dreaming about that, and we do dream about sitting on that bus at Marine Lines. I have played a lot of cricket there and getting crowds there. But more than anything, we want to lift the World Cup for India," Jemimah told India Today earlier. India won both their warm-up matches against West Indies and South Africa, which should keep them in good stead. Harmanpreet's only T20I hundred

came against the White Ferns and she will be looking to up the ante this time around as well. Yastika Bhatia and Shreyanka Patil's selection was subject to fitness, but both of them played in the warm-ups and looked in good shape. Jemimah scored a fifty against the Hayley Matthews-led West Indies, and she is expected to be a key in India's top order along with Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Verma. Richa Ghosh adds firepower lower down the order. Deepti Sharma remains India's star all-rounder, having scored 1020 runs and picking up 131 wickets. Renuka Singh Thakur and Pooja Vastrakar are most likely to share the new ball. **New Zealand undercooked?** Focus will be on both Harmanpreet and Devine, who will both be playing in their ninth edition of the mega event. For Devine, the T20 World Cup will be her last as the skipper of the White Ferns.

Smriti Mandhana emotional as families wish India players in video messages

New Delhi. As they prepare for the much-anticipated T20 World Cup, players and the support staff members of the India women's cricket team sat back and watched their families sending them heartfelt wishes from home. In heart-warming video messages, the families of each and every player in the team wished the players the best and urged them to bring the World Cup home. Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur were enjoying the video messages and the India opener was seen getting emotional as she watched her parents and brother wish the team success. Smriti's brother even teased her, giving her a cheeky tip to handle pressure situations in the T20 World Cup.

Coach Amol Majumdar's wife and daughter made it special, recalling the hard work of the support staff in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup. "I know for this World Cup, all of you have worked hard. I hope, there comes a time when all your hard work pays off. We are sending you lots of love, lots of



prayers and lots of good wishes," the head coach's wife said. **WATCH: FAMILIES WISH TEAM**

**INDIA STARS** S Sajana and Asha Sobhana were thrilled to see their parents sending them wishes in

Malayalam while Dayalan Hemalatha was emotional when her mother, speaking in Tamil, wished her the best. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur's mother said she is confident that her daughter will lead the team to the best of her ability and India will return home with the coveted trophy. India will open their campaign against New Zealand in Dubai on Friday, October 4. India have been handed a tough draw, grouped alongside New Zealand, Australia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Group A. India reached the final of the T20 World Cup in 2020 and the semi-final last year. On both occasions, they lost to Australia. Harmanpreet and her side will be keen on ending the drought and a good show against Australia in the group stage will help their confidence. Captain Harmanpreet and seniors like Smriti and Jemimah Rodrigues will look to lead from the front as India begin as one of the favourites to win the title in the UAE.

# Shweta Tiwari's

## Red Flowy Gown Can Make Anyone Green With Envy

Shweta Tiwari, a known figure in the television industry often sets the internet ablaze with her hot and glamorous posts. Regardless of the outfit, her timeless charm and beauty never ceases to amaze fans. Keeping her reputation, Shweta's recent picture shoot certainly does not disappoint. Dressed in a fiery red gown, the actress looked stunning and once again, she strengthened her position among the most beautiful television actresses ever. In the series of pictures, the Kasautii Zindagii Kay star was seen wearing a red floor-length gown that featured an empire waist accentuating her hourglass figure, deep V neckline and voluminous and billowy full sleeves. Additionally, her ensemble also featured a high slit, giving a sneak peek of her perfectly toned legs.

Talking about the look, she kept her golden brown hair open and went with subtle makeup. The actress ditched heavy jewellery to let her dress take centre stage. As soon as the pictures were posted online, the comment section was flooded with reactions from fans. An Instagram user commented, "Can't believe that you're a mommy of two." Another user wrote, "Your smile is so dangerous that if I had a heart, I would have fallen for your smile." One of the users commented, "You look soo pretty." In the captions, Shweta dropped red rose emoticons and gave credit to her makeup artist and stylist.



Shweta has been a part of several big TV shows including Kasautii Zindagii Kay, Jaane Kya Baat Hui, Parvarish: Kuchh Khattee Kuchh Meethi, Rangoli, Mere Dad Ki Dulhan and others.

She also emerged as the winner of the controversial reality show Bigg Boss 4, in which The Great Khali was the first runner-up. She was last seen in the web series Indian Police Force. Helmed by Rohit Shetty, the series featured Sidharth Malhotra, Vivek Oberoi and Shilpa Shetty Kundra in lead roles and premiered on the OTT platform Amazon Prime Video earlier this year. Shweta Tiwari will be next seen in director Rohit Shetty's highly-anticipated film Singham Again in a significant role. The film features a stellar lineup of actors including Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Deepika Padukone, Arjun Kapoor, Tiger Shroff, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh and Jackie Shroff.

Singham Again is all set to hit the theatres on the occasion of Diwali 2024 and will face a big Bollywood clash with Kartik Aaryan's much-awaited horror-comedy Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3.

# Rashmika Mandanna

## Spreads Positivity With On-Point Mirror Selfie, Don't Miss The Post-It Notes

Rashmika Mandanna often delights fans with her social media posts. Sometimes she documents her travel experiences, while at other times the actress shares her upcoming film updates. On Monday (September 30), Rashmika Mandanna decided to spread some positivity through her Instagram Story entry. She dropped a mirror selfie on the photo-sharing application, seemingly trying to impart the stay-positive mantra to her followers. In the picture, the Varisu actress can be seen wearing a yellow tank top and denim jeans. She flashed a smile while clicking the photo. But the real highlight of the snap was the colourful sticky notes, pasted on the mirror, with positive affirmations written on them. One of the notes came with the message, "This too shall pass". Another read, "Kindness above all". The words "A smile can change someone's world. So, smile" were written in the third one. In the last pink-hued sticky note, Rashmika Mandanna revealed that yellow was her favourite colour "because it stands for happiness." The bright top she was wearing appeared to stand as a testament to the fact. Along with the post, Rashmika captioned, "Some kind reminders to get you through the day (monkey and purple heart emoji)." She hashtagged the post as "Notes from RM".



Previously Rashmika Mandanna offered social media users a glimpse into some of her "life essentials". It comprised reading a good book,

indulging in a scrumptious feast, sleeping well, enjoying sweet treats and travelling to her heart's content. Other well-being things on the list were sipping on coffee, having fun, spending time with her pet dog Aura and of course working hard. Rashmika dropped a carousel of pictures on Instagram that captured her engaged in these activities. A part of her caption read, "These are just some of the things I can't do without in my life right now. (I wish I could include all but only 10 can go up no, so part 2 soon) and as much as people see the actor side of me. My friends and family see only and only this side of me."



## Jigra: Vasun Bala Was Upset That Karan Johar Sent The Script To Alia Bhatt, Said 'Why Did You...'



Alia Bhatt and Vedang Raina are set to impress audiences in their action-packed film, Jigra, which has quickly become one of the most talked about films since its announcement. Ahead of its big screen release on October 11, Vasun Bala revealed that he was not happy with how Karan Johar had sent the film's script to Alia Bhatt. Speaking to Tried and Refused Productions, Vasun Bala said, "I had written a very kachha pakka email, stream of consciousness thoughts... sent it to Karan and 6-7 hours later, he called saying that I have already sent it to Alia and I was really not happy with it."

I was like I would have at least done some spell check, grammar check, hygiene, written some very nice hero entry... That email was sent and I asked Karan 'Why did you do this?' He said 'No, no this is how it works. Then he said we'll meet in a couple of days,' he recalled. Alia mentioned that she liked the film from the first half itself. In the upcoming movie, Alia and Vedang play siblings, and their chemistry is already getting praise from the audience. Soon after Alia shared the trailer on her Instagram handle, fans, her industry friends and family, flooded the comment section with positive reactions, including her mother-in-law and actress, Neetu Kapoor, along with Bollywood diva Janhvi Kapoor, who called the actress, 'Lady Bachchan'.

In an earlier interview with The Indian Express, Alia Bhatt shared her reason behind choosing Jigra, where she's on a mission to free her brother, played by Vedang Raina, while he's stuck in a foreign jail. She said, "When Jigra came to me, I was going through my most tigress, protective phase. It is possibly why I went mad about the material. It really, really spoke to me. Maybe it would have spoken to me prior as well, but it spoke to me very differently. It hit a different chord. Maybe something else must have come out of that. It is not like I can measure or mould that, but motherhood does make a difference."

## Aditya Roy Kapoor, Anil Kapoor And Sobhita Dhulipala Celebrate The Night Manager's Emmy Nomination



Aditya Roy Kapoor, Anil Kapoor and Sobhita Dhulipala's The Night Manager has earned a nomination for the International Emmy Awards. This Disney+Hotstar crime thriller will face off against Les Gouttes de Dieu (France), The Newsreader-Season 2 (Australia) and Iosi, El Espia Arpentido-Season 2 (Argentina) for the accolade. The 2024 International Emmy Awards ceremony is set to take place on November 25 in New York, with comedian Vir Das as the host. The thrilled cast and crew of The Night Manager celebrated this achievement in style. Social media was abuzz with videos showcasing the lead cast — Aditya, Anil and Sobhita — alongside their director, Sandeep Modi, as they posed together. Anil Kapoor, known for his suave style, looked effortlessly chic in a black T-shirt and pants, layered with a grey shirt. His look was completed with a classy watch, a sleek chain and polished black shoes. Aditya opted for a relaxed vibe in a grey T-shirt and jeans, paired with stylish sneakers.

Sobhita made a striking entrance in a multi-coloured midi dress that added a splash of brightness. The dress featured an asymmetrical hem and a cinched waist, perfectly complementing her minimal makeup, allowing her outfit to take centre stage. Other cast members of The Night Manager were also spotted, adding to the festive atmosphere of the success celebration.

Anil Kapoor, who plays the antagonist Shailendra Rungta, an arms dealer, in The Night Manager, shared his excitement on the Emmy nomination. "I just couldn't believe it. I called Sandeep and the entire team. We were messaging each other," said the actor while speaking to NDTV. An elated director of The Night Manager also shared an Instagram Story on the day of the announcement, expressing his happiness and thanking God for this milestone achievement. Apart from Anil Kapoor, Aditya Roy Kapoor and Sobhita Dhulipala, Saswata Chatterjee, Tillotama Shome, Ravi Behl and Rukhsar Rehman are also part of The Night Manager. This crime thriller is a remake of the 2016 British series of the same name, led by Tom Hiddleston, which is based on a spy novel by John Le Carré. The show received a nomination for the 2024 International Emmy Award in the drama series category on September 20.

