

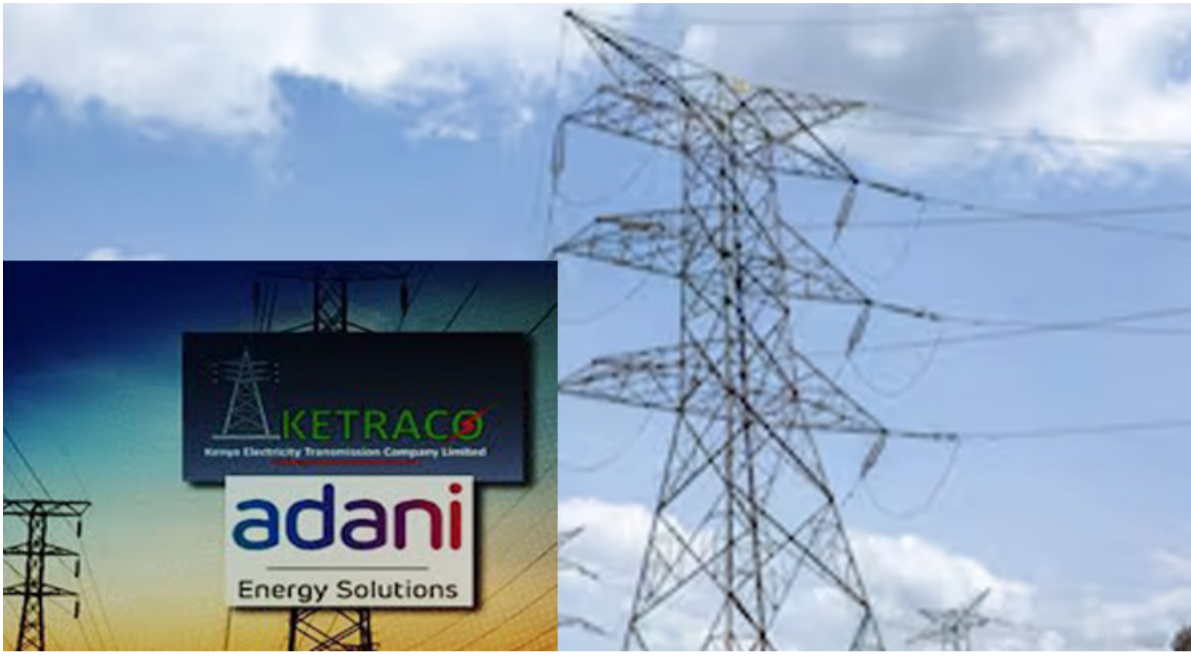


# Adani Secures \$736 Million Deal to Build, Operate Power Lines in Kenya for 30 Years

**Nairobi:** Gautam Adani's conglomerate, Adani Energy Solutions Ltd (AESL), has formalized a 30-year partnership with the Kenya Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (Ketraco) to construct and manage vital electricity transmission lines across Kenya. This collaboration aims to strengthen the country's power infrastructure, addressing the issue of frequent blackouts.

Under the agreement, AESL will oversee the development, financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of key transmission lines and substations throughout Kenya. The initiative is projected to significantly boost the reliability of the power supply in the region.

The total cost of the project is estimated at 95.68 billion Kenyan shillings (approximately USD 736 million), with funding secured through a combination of debt and equity.



This financing will be repaid over the duration of the 30-year contract, with final costs

determined through a competitive bidding process led by Ketraco and AESL. Importantly, the Kenyan gov-

ernment will not incur any financial liabilities for this project. After three decades of operation, AESL is set to

transfer the project and its assets back to Ketraco, ensuring long-term sustainability and operational efficiency.

The project encompasses the development of three transmission lines and two substations. Previously, the Adani Group had explored operating the main airport in Kenya; however, that proposal was halted due to public protests. Additionally, Ketraco is working with a consortium that includes Africa 50, an infrastructure investment platform, and Power Grid of India to establish two further transmission lines. These partnerships highlight Kenya's commitment to forging strategic alliances that align with its development goals. This initiative reflects the Kenyan government's focus on securing the nation's energy future through collaborative efforts. As noted by Wandayi, these actions are crucial for enhancing the reliability of the energy supply while promoting sustainable growth in the power sector.

## Omar Abdullah likely to take oath on 16 October



**Srinagar:** Omar Abdullah, the vice-president of the National Conference (NC), is poised to take the oath of office as the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir on October 16. In a significant move, Abdullah met with Jammu and Kashmir's Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, on Friday evening to formally stake his claim to form the next government. This follows his election as the leader of the NC legislative party earlier in the week.

During the meeting, Abdullah presented letters of support from the Congress party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Aam Aadmi Party, and five independent lawmakers, solidifying the coalition needed to establish the new government.

Addressing the media after his meeting with the Lieutenant Governor at Raj Bhawan, Abdullah emphasized the importance of ending the six-year-long President's rule in the region. He stated, "We need to prepare the Cabinet's note to end the President's rule, which we will submit to the Rashtrapati Bhavan and the Union Home Ministry."

He expressed optimism that the necessary procedures would be completed by Monday, allowing for preparations to be finalized by Tuesday. "If all goes well, we will take the oath on Wednesday," he said.

Abdullah has urged the Lieutenant Governor to expedite the oath-taking process, highlighting the need for the elected government to assume office promptly. He remains hopeful that the formalities will be finalized in time for a ceremony next week.

## Gaya Residents Celebrate Launch of First Direct Weekly Train Service to Mumbai Since Independence



by Suresh Pd Nikhar

**Gaya:** In a festive boon for residents, Indian Railways is introducing a direct weekly train service from Gaya to Mumbai's Lokmanya Tilak Terminal (LTT) for the first time since independence. The train will be formally inaugurated at Koderma station, but it was sent off in a ceremonial fashion from Gaya Junction, decorated elaborately under the guidance of Anant Kumar Mishra from the Carriage and Wagon Department.

The train departed from Gaya Junction at 9:00 AM, with station manager Binod Kumar confirming its route. The empty rake was then dispatched to Koderma for the formal inauguration, where regional MP Annapurna Devi is set to be the chief guest.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav will flag off the train via video conference, marking the launch of two trains on the same day, including the Gaya-Lokmanya Tilak Terminal Weekly Express.

This new service is a significant development for Gaya residents, who previously relied on the Howrah-Mumbai Mail for travel to Mumbai. With this train, passengers can expect to cover the 15 km distance to LTT in just 10-15 minutes.

Officials believe this initiative will enhance connectivity and convenience for the people of Gaya and the broader Magadh region, playing a crucial role in regional development.

## One more Bangladesh journalist murdered, PEC demands justice

**Geneva:** Expressing serious concern over the murder of another journalist in Bangladesh, the global media safety and rights body Press Emblem Campaign (PEC) urged the authorities to punish the culprits and adequately compensate the victim's family. Senior journalist Swapan Kumar Bhadra, who worked for many Bengali newspapers like Dainik Swajan, Aker Khabar and Khabar Patra, was hacked to death on 12 October 2024 by three miscreants in front of his residence at Majhipara in Mymensingh locality of the south Asian nation.

Currently, Bhadra (65) was not writing for any newspaper, but the former vice-president of Tarakanda Press Club remained active on social media where he highlighted various pertinent issues like terrorism, drug-menace and anti-social activities. The local police have already arrested a youth named Sagar Miyan and continued the search for the two others. The outspoken media person has left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter with other close relatives.

## Bokaro Mourns the Loss of Esteemed Writer Dr. Nar Narayan Tiwari



by Arun Pathak

**Bokaro:** The literary community is in mourning following the passing of Dr. Nar Narayan Tiwari, a prominent writer and general secretary of the Bharti Sahitya Parishad, who died on October 10, 2024, at the age of 76. Dr. Tiwari, a resident of Sector 6D, had retired as a senior Hindi teacher from the Bokaro Steel Plant's education department and was an influential figure in the local literary scene.

He was visiting Vrindavan with his family when he passed away. His body has since been taken to his ancestral village, Ballia.

Dr. Tiwari's death has left a profound impact on the literary world in Bokaro, with many prominent figures expressing their condolences. Notable tributes came from Sukh Nandan Singh Saday, a patron of Bharti Sahitya Parishad, along with President Shiv Kumar Singh, and senior litterateurs such as Buddhinath Jha and Tulanand Mishra.

Colleagues and friends, including Dr. Asha Pushp, Dr. Ram Narayan Singh, and members of the Janwadi Writers Association, described his passing as an irreparable loss to literature and the community.

## Fire Erupts at Begusarai Plastic Bottle Factory



by Suresh Pd Nikhar

**Gaya/Begusarai:** A massive fire broke out in a plastic bottle factory in Begusarai here on Sunday. The fire is estimated to have caused a loss of Rs 1 crore. The incident took place in the industrial area of Mosaddpur in the Refinery police station area. The fire was brought under control after a lot of effort, said sources.

It is being told that people suddenly saw smoke rising from a plastic bottle factory in the industrial area located in Mosaddpur. Soon after seeing the fire the local people informed the fire brigade.

As soon as the information was received, the fire brigade team reached the spot, but by then the fire had engulfed the entire factory. It is suspected that the fire was caused by short-circuit. After about two hours of hard work, the fire was brought under control with the help of the fire brigade team and local people, but by then all the goods kept in the factory were burnt to ashes. It is estimated that a loss of about Rs 1 crore has occurred. While Refinery police station in-charge Amarjeet Pratap Singh said that information about the fire has been received, but no one has given any written information about the incident.

## Goddess Kali Crown Gifted by PM Modi Stolen from Bangladesh Temple



**Dhaka:** A crown belonging to Goddess Kali, gifted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his 2021 visit, has been stolen from the Jeshoreshwari Temple in Bangladesh, according to media reports. The theft occurred around 2 PM on Thursday, with local police now investigat-

ing the incident. Reports indicate that temple priest Dilip Mukherjee had left the premises after completing the day's worship. CCTV footage captured a man entering the temple, allegedly stealing the crown before fleeing the scene. The silver and gold-plated crown was placed on the deity by

Modi during his visit to the temple in March 2021, located in Satkhira's Shyamnagar. The 12th-century Kali temple is situated in Iswanipur village. In response to the theft, the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh expressed its concern via a post on X, stating, "We have seen reports of the theft of the crown gifted by PM Modi to Jeshoreshwari Kali Temple (Satkhira) in 2021 during his visit to Bangladesh. We express deep concern & urge the Government of Bangladesh to investigate the theft, recover the crown & take action against the perpetrators."

## Mithila Sanskritik Parishad to Reconstitute Executive Committee; Kojagara Mahotsav Planned for October 16

**Bokaro:** The Mithila Sanskritik Parishad convened a general meeting on Sunday at the Vid-yapati Auditorium of Mithila Academy Public School, where significant organizational decisions were made. Chaired by former General Secretary Satischandra Jha, the meeting addressed issues related to the council, the Mithila community, and the school's development.

A key resolution passed unanimously declared the current executive committee invalid, citing procedural violations in its formation. The assembly approved a proposal to establish a new, legitimate executive committee, which will be presented for general assembly approval. Additionally, a five-member



committee was formed to investigate alleged financial irregularities within the school, led by Chairman Jha and including Sudip Kumar Thakur, DK Ishwar, Dilip Kumar Jha, and Jaiprakash Chaudhary. The Parishad's next meeting is

set for October 20 at 10:30 AM to ratify these decisions and address further matters. It was also announced that the Kojagara Mahotsav, a major traditional festival of Mithila, will be celebrated on October 16, with a 10-member team, led by Arun

Pathak, overseeing the cultural program. The meeting included insights from various council members and concluded with a commitment to strengthening the council's objectives and community ties.

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**Ways to protect yourself from Dengue**

- Remove mosquito habitats
- Use mosquito repellent
- Keep your home clean
- Use netting for windows and gaps
- Clear clogged drain
- Light up your home and use air conditioning
- Wear long clothing

# Baba Siddique shot dead: Opposition slams 'collapsed' law and order in Maharashtra

**Baba Siddique was shot while he was bursting firecrackers outside his son and MLA Zeeshan Siddique's office on the occasion of Dussehra.**



responsibility for the assassination and step down. "The state's collapsed law and order situation is a cause for concern. The shooting of former state minister Baba Siddique in Mumbai, the financial capital of the country, is regrettable. If the Home Minister and the rulers are going to push the cart of the state so mildly, it could be an alarm bell for the common people," he said. Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi asked how the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra could even think about protecting common people when they couldn't protect a leader of their own alliance. "The question that is being raised is where is the law and order in Mumbai today? Today, if a protected person is murdered in this manner, then the question arises of how safe the common people will feel," she said. Congress leader KC Venugopal called

Siddique's death a "massive loss" to the people of Maharashtra. He then went on to criticise the Eknath Shinde-led government over the shooting, claiming that the incident showed that "criminals no longer fear the law in Maharashtra".

"This incident is a serious indictment of the crumbling law and order situation in Maharashtra. Siddique ji had on multiple occasions intimidated the authorities about the threats to his life and he suffered despite being under Y plus security. That this shooting took place on the road, in the middle of bustling markets, shows that criminals no longer fear the law in Maharashtra," Venugopal said. Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said the incident took place due to the government's policies of providing support to criminals. He said girls, common people and even political leaders aren't safe in the state.

Shiv Sena (UBT) spokesperson Anand Dubey said Mumbai was once known for its law and order, but things took a turn for the worse after the Mahayuti government came to power in the state. Baba Siddique was shot while he was bursting firecrackers on the occasion of Dussehra outside his son and MLA Zeeshan Siddique's office around 9.20 pm. As Siddique was bursting firecrackers on the occasion of Dussehra, three men emerged from a vehicle, their faces covered with handkerchiefs.

## Trial Of Baba Siddique Murder Case To Take Place In Fast-Track Court: Eknath Shinde

**Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde declared that the encounter specialist Daya Nayak will investigate the incident.**

**Mumbai.** Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has said that the trial of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique's murder case will take place in a fast-track court. The Chief Minister also declared that the encounter specialist Daya Nayak will investigate the incident.

He said, "The Mumbai Police have been directed to maintain law and order and they should see that nobody takes law and order into their hands. Gang war should not revive. Strict action should be taken against those who indulge in such incidents." Meanwhile, NCP-SP MP Supriya Sule in a statement said, "Shocking news! Baba Siddique is no more. Reportedly he was shot dead. This is absolutely unacceptable when a member of the ruling government alliance is unsafe & killed in his own son's office, that too in Mumbai, it speaks volumes about the law and order situation in Maharashtra!"

NCP-SP Legislator Rohit Pawar said, "The news of senior leader and former minister Baba Siddique's death in firing is very shocking. I share the grief that



has befallen the Siddique family. A heartfelt tribute!" The firing on NCP leader and former minister Baba Siddique took place on Saturday night at the Khetwadi Junction, Bandra, amid darkness as the streetlights were switched off and there were no CCTV cameras in the area. According to the preliminary information given by the police, a total of six rounds were fired at him from two pistols. Three of the bullets hit Baba Siddique in the chest while one bullet hit the leg of the person who was with him in the car. Even though Baba Siddique's car was bullet-proof, the bullet entered the glass. Therefore, the police sources said that the attackers must have sophisticated pistols. "Baba Siddique was shot at close range. Later, the three attackers, who had covered their faces with handkerchiefs, were running away when the mob caught two of them and handed them over to the police. At present, the forensic team of the police has reached the spot. Police recovered a pistol and bullet casings from the spot. The pistol found at the spot was of 9.9 mm detachable magazine of 13 rounds. This pistol is said to be a sophisticated and modern one," the police sources added. According to the police sources, the attack took place when Baba Siddique was leaving his son Zeeshan's office. "As today was Vijayadashami, processions of the goddess were passing through this area. So there was the sound of musical instruments and crackers in this area. It has come to light that the attackers took advantage of this and shot at Baba Siddique."

## 'Sonia Gandhi Shed Tears For Terrorists...': BJP Leader Hits Back Over Kharge's 'Terrorist Party' Remark

**BJP's Pralhad Joshi accused Congress-led UPA government of 'being soft' on terror convicts like Afzal Guru.**

president Mallikarjun Kharge's 'terrorist party' remark on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) saying Sonia Gandhi 'shed tears' for terrorists. Joshi further accused Congress-led UPA government of 'being soft' on terror convicts like Afzal Guru. He asserted that it is only under Prime Minister Narendra Modi that the nation has experienced a notable reduction in terrorist activities.

Taking to social media platform 'X', the Union Minister said, "Mallikarjun Kharge mistakenly called BJP as Terrorist party by slip of tongue, however it was Sonia Gandhi who shed tears for terrorists who died in Batla House. It was



congress which was soft on Afzal Guru. It was congress who repealed POTA in 2004. It was their PM Manmohan Singh who shook hands with Separatist Militants" He added that nowadays Kashmiri youth have employment opportunities instead of 'stone', which was the case during Congress's tenure. "As a senior leader, Kharge should double

check what he says," Joshi wrote. On October 12, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge strongly refuted Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion that the Congress party is influenced by "Urban Naxals." Kharge accused the BJP of being a "party of terrorists," holding them accountable for lynchings and serious offenses against Scheduled Castes (SCs) and tribal communities. "Progressive people are being called Urban Naxals...this is his (PM Modi's) habit. His party (BJP) itself is a terrorist party. They engage in lynching, assault people, urinate in the mouths of Scheduled Castes members, and rape tribal people.

## Ex-Professor GN Saibaba Dies Months After Acquittal In Maoist Links Case

**Hyderabad.** Former Delhi University professor GN Saibaba died at a state-run hospital here due to post-operative complications on Saturday, seven months after he was acquitted in an alleged Maoist links case. He was 54. GN Saibaba was suffering from gall bladder infection and was operated on two weeks ago but developed complications subsequently. He breathed his last around 9 pm on



Saturday, an official told. He was admitted to Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS) for the

last 20 days. In March, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court acquitted GN Saibaba and five others in the alleged Maoist links case, noting that the prosecution had failed to prove the case against him.

The court also set aside his life sentence. It had held as "null and void" the sanction procured by the prosecution to charge the accused under provisions of the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention)

Act (UAPA). Following his acquittal, the wheelchair-bound GN Saibaba walked out of the Nagpur Central Jail after 10 years.

GN Saibaba had alleged in August this year that he was not taken to a hospital for nine months by authorities despite the left side of his body getting paralysed and was just given painkillers in the Nagpur Central Jail, where he was lodged since his arrest in the case in 2014.

## "Complete Collapse Of Law And Order": Rahul Gandhi On Baba Siddique Murder

**NCP leader and former Maharashtra Minister Baba Siddique was shot dead by three men in Mumbai's Bandra area around 9.30 p.m. on Saturday**

**New Delhi.** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday said the killing of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) leader Baba Siddique 'exposed' the collapse of law and order in Maharashtra.

In a post on X, he wrote: "The tragic demise of Baba Siddique ji is shocking and saddening. My thoughts are with his family in this difficult time."

"This horrifying incident exposes the complete collapse of law and order in Maharashtra. The government must take responsibility, and justice must prevail," the Congress leader added.

NCP leader and former Maharashtra Minister Baba Siddique was shot dead by three men in Mumbai's Bandra area around 9.30 p.m. on Saturday just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office in Bandra. He was taken to Lilavati Hospital, where he was declared dead. Two of the assailants have been arrested. The 66-year-old leader had represented Bandra (West) seat three times in the Assembly. He switched to the NCP from Congress in February.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced on Saturday that the trial of the murder case will take place in the fast-track court and encounter specialist Daya Nayak will investigate the incident.

He further said the Mumbai Police have been directed to maintain law and order and they should see that nobody takes law and order into their hands. "Gang war should not revive. Strict action should be taken against those indulging in such incidents."

NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule said, "... This is absolutely unacceptable, when a member of the ruling govt alliance is unsafe & killed in his own son's office that too in Mumbai, it speaks volumes

about the law and order state in Maharashtra!" NCP Minister Chhagan Bhujaal appealed to the Deputy CM and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Mumbai Police to take immediate steps to investigate the killings of Baba Siddique and NCP's Byculla Taluka President Sachin Kurmi.

He said, "The news that the senior leader of NCP, Baba Siddique, was shot indiscriminately by unknown persons in Mumbai and his death is very shocking and mind-numbing. It is not even a week since the murder of Byculla Taluka President Sachin Kurmi of the Nationalist Congress Party, this incident is very alarming. My earnest appeal to state home



minister Devendra Fadnavis and Mumbai Police is to take immediate steps to investigate these two cases on a war footing. A heartfelt tribute to Baba Siddique! I share in the grief of his family. We pray that they get the strength to overcome this pain."

A prominent Muslim leader from Mumbai, Siddique was known not just for his political connections across party lines but also for hosting lavish parties. He was close to several Bollywood stars, including Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan and Sanjay Dutt.

## 'Farmers' Protest Created Favourable Wave For Congress In Haryana But...': BKU President Gurnam Charuni

**Bharatiya Kisan Union president Gurnam Singh Charuni contested the Haryana elections from the Pehowa assembly seats but even lost his deposits. The Congress party bagged the seat.**

**New Delhi.** Around a week after the Haryana election results, the bickering continued to hit the Congress and organisations that supported the grand old party. Bharatiya Kisan Union president Gurnam Singh Charuni expressed his dissatisfaction over the poll results and admitted that the organisation created a favourable environment for Congress through farmers' protests.

Charuni, however, also blamed Bhupinder Singh Hooda for the Congress party's defeat. Charuni contested the Haryana elections from the Pehowa assembly seats but even lost his deposits. The Congress party bagged the seat.

I believe that Bhupinder Hooda is quite foolish. The atmosphere created in Haryana in favour of Congress was made by us, made by farmers. ....The biggest reason for the Congress's defeat is that Hooda did not make any compromises, and Congress left everything up to

him. Even now, I want to convey through you to the Congress high command that they should not



make Bhupinder Hooda the leader of the opposition. Because Hooda didn't play the role of opposition leader in the last 10 years, it was the BKU that played opposition," said Charuni. This is not the first time that a Kisan leader has

made such claims. Earlier, former AAP leader and activist Yogendra Yadav had said that they prepared a pitch for the Samajwadi Party and Congress in Uttar Pradesh through farmers' protest but the opposition parties could not capitalize on that. Earlier, farmer leader Rakesh Tikait had also expressed dissatisfaction over the Haryana election results. While speaking to the media at his residence in Muzaffarnagar, Rakesh Tikait, the national spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, said that the public was clearly upset, yet despite such widespread anger towards the government, the BJP is forming the government. He said that this would make the country go down. Tikait further added, "I don't think the public really voted for them; there must have been some manipulation or tampering."

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## How Jats ruined Congress' party in Haryana

ABOUT a month ago, there was a buzz in Punjab and Haryana High Court circles about the consolidation of non-Jat communities in Haryana, against the growing Jat fortification in the Congress. It was the first indication that, perhaps, things were not going according to popular perception. Litigants from districts like Rohtak, Gurgaon, and Faridabad shared their fear and resentment over Jat assertion in the run up to the polls. "People told us that though they had initially decided to vote out the BJP this time, the manner in which aggressive Jats in their neighbourhood had begun to assert their might even before the polls, was making them do a re-think," a lawyer said.

In the din of the election campaign where every analyst and observer felt otherwise, such pieces of information may well have been dismissed as mere straws in the wind. As it turned out, the one party — the Congress — which should have paid attention to the changing pattern of electoral winds was too busy giving hope and muscle to its Jat vote-bank. The Haryana election story will be dissected and analysed for months to come. But a few points stand out. A quiet subterranean consolidation of non-Jat communities like Brahmins, Banias, Scheduled Castes, Punjabis and Other Backward Castes took place without any of them making a noise about it. Contrast this with the high decibel Jat assertion that dominated the airwaves during the election campaign. The high octane coverage of Vinesh Phogat's journey from the airport to her village in Charkhi Dadri with Congress Lok Sabha MP Deepender Singh Hooda accompanying her in a colourful cavalcade was not missed. The BJP maintained a distance. The Jat community went delirious with joy, even as the others watched in sullen silence.

The BJP ran an effective low key campaign that focussed on stoking fears of Jat dominance, the return of 'kharachi parchi' — the so-called bribe-giving system of handing out jobs — as well as its welfare agenda for smaller backward groups. The BJP's transparent job recruitment policy resonated with voters, giving them hope that going ahead, the distribution of jobs would be more equitable. Candidates and workers, in small roadside meetings reminded people of how a return of the Bhupinder Singh Hooda style of governance would impact their lives. That they would go back to existing on the fringes of governance while the powerful Jat community would corner government largesse. For many communities, like the Banias and Sainis, bitter memories of the 2016 Jat agitation when they suffered the loss of both property and lives, were rekindled. More than anything else, however, the Haryana election results reflect a larger social churn in which marginalised communities are openly clamouring for their place in the sun. They remain fearful of the aggressive dominance of a single community, but are willing to quietly hit back to retrieve their rights. The BJP has successfully tapped into this vein of fear.

Whether OBC or Dalit, the overriding theme in the countryside that has led to the current sharp polarisation seems to be their growing aspirations coupled with an acute consciousness of their rights. To say 'no' to dominant groups riding roughshod and no longer as willing to make way for powerful communities. Even less willing to wait for a better tomorrow. And so the BJP stepped in and offered to hold their hand. In rally after rally Amit Shah repeated the mantra — how the BJP was determined to expand reservations for backward castes in Group A and Group B government jobs. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini missed no opportunity to stress his OBC caste, pointedly asking the Congress if they would ever nominate an OBC as chief minister.

The Congress' high decibel campaign — greater rhetoric, but reduced reliance on cadre support — was no match for the BJP's meticulous election management, which returned to the RSS' formidable grassroots network, with pracharaks fanning out into the villages to spread the party's message. It all happened so quietly, that many even in the BJP were perhaps taken by surprise when the poll results came in.

## India's economy up despite West Asia conflict, but dangers loom

In its own self-interest, India should make a strong push for peace in West Asia.

A YEAR has elapsed since the Israel-Hamas conflict erupted on the world stage. There were worries that it would stall India's trajectory towards a higher growth path in the post-Covid recovery phase. These fears have been put to rest as the gross domestic product (GDP) rose by a surprising 8.2 per cent in 2023-24. The first quarter of the current fiscal has been subdued, at 6.7 per cent, but the central bank expects an overall growth of 7.2 per cent in 2024-25. However, external headwinds could still be a spoiler, given the latest developments in West Asia. Israel's attacks on Hezbollah in Lebanon have been followed up by Iran's flurry of retaliatory missiles. The situation remains tense in the region amid fears over the prospects of a wider regional conflagration. In case this becomes a reality, it would be a big blow to the global economy and India, too, would face the consequences.

Even in the past year, India has not remained unscathed by geopolitical tensions. The disruption of the movement of merchant shipping through the Red Sea has led to a diversion of most Europe- and US-bound cargoes to the longer and more expensive route via the Cape of Good Hope. This has come as a double whammy for exporters as they simultaneously face new carbon emission rules laid down by the European Union for a wide range of products. The Russia-Ukraine war also continues to have ramifications in the form of depressed demand in critical western markets. Import costs are similarly rising as many shipments from the west are now moving through the longer route to avoid the Suez Canal and the ongoing depredations of the Yemen-based Houthis.

The situation remains an irritant, with roughly two-thirds of all merchant shipping reported to be avoiding the traditional passage through the canal. It must be remembered that 12 per cent of the global trade uses this key shipping lane. On the other hand, oil markets have moved to the bearish mode after the initial shock of the onset of the Israel-Hamas conflict. Prices have been drifting lower partly due to the fact that the oil-producing areas have not been directly affected, at least as yet. The other factors, including reduced demand from China and excess supplies in the market, have weighed more heavily on the crude oil prices. Currently, despite a spike after missile attacks by Iran, the benchmark Brent crude is ruling at around \$77 per barrel while the West Texas Intermediate crude is around \$73. These are manageable levels for India which imports over 85 per cent of its fuel needs. The fact that oil prices have not shot up over the past year despite the challenging geopolitical scenario has been a considerable relief for this country. The situation is now changing in several respects. Most important is the prospect of an economic revival in China. One of the main factors behind the softening of oil



prices was the slowdown in the world's largest importer. The latest monetary stimulus package announced by the Chinese government seems to be the first step in bringing the economy back to better health. In case these measures succeed, the demand for oil could pick up significantly and this, in turn, would push up global prices.

The Indian equity markets are already facing the brunt of the enthusiasm of foreign institutional investors (FIIs) for stocks in China, where valuations are considered more lucrative. The FIIs have turned sellers in the past month, lured by the fact that the Hang Seng index shot up by 26 per cent. At the same time, the scenario on the Israel-Iran front has become even more ominous, with reports emanating that more strategic attacks may be on the way. These indicate that Israel could be thinking of launching missiles at Iran's oil installations or ports.

Most of Iran's crude is sold to China owing to the sanctions imposed on it by the US. But its availability has been a moderating factor in the world markets. Attacks aimed at cutting off Iranian crude supplies would immediately lead to a spurt in the prices. In case this happens, a region that produces most of the hydrocarbons needed to run the global economy will be engulfed in a war. As far as India is concerned, it will be worried about the fate of millions of expatriate citizens residing in the Gulf region who may be at risk due to the conflict. Rescue operations may be needed to evacuate them in some cases. Any strife will also affect the flow of remittances to this country which

have been a major source of revenue in recent years. The outcome of the hardening oil prices will be inflationary pressures on the domestic economy. Costs will rise for industries reliant on oil and gas as feedstock. The power sector could face serious shortfalls in availability, leading to outages in parts of the country. Fertilisers is another key area that would bear the burden of higher costs and this could potentially affect the agriculture sector.

Disruption in the global supply chains would affect countries around the world, including India. It is difficult to make a detailed assessment of the impact as it would depend on the extent to which the conflict widens in West Asia. There is no doubt, however, that it could potentially create an even bigger shock to the world economy than the Russia-Ukraine war, owing to the energy resources located in the region. In this context, it must be noted that the biggest oil producer in the world is now the US. Yet, the Gulf region accounts for a sizable amount of oil and gas supplies to the rest of the world, with Saudi Arabia being the largest exporter. It is also the midway point for trade flows between Europe and Asia. Even a regional conflict will, obviously, spill over to create ripples elsewhere. As far as India is concerned, it has so far managed to push ahead with economic recovery despite mounting geopolitical challenges. In case the Israel-Iran conflict remains sporadic, the domestic economy is resilient enough to sustain the pace of growth. But if it expands into a wider war.

## Congress in a spot

Mandate for NC-Cong signals a fresh start

A stunning defeat in Haryana and a dismal performance in Jammu & Kashmir have undermined the Congress' pre-eminent position in the INDIA bloc ahead of the Maharashtra and Jharkhand Assembly elections. The grand old party was sitting pretty after an impressive show in the Lok Sabha polls, but things have changed after the October 8 verdict. Some of its allies, such as the Shiv Sena-UBT (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray), the CPI and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), have advised the Congress to introspect and review its strategy for the upcoming polls. With the Maha Vikas Aghadi's seat-sharing talks in Maharashtra entering the last lap, the Shiv Sena-UBT and Sharad Pawar-led NCP are sensing an opportunity to extract a better bargain from the Congress.



Lok Sabha polls, winning 13 of the 17 seats it contested (Shiv Sena-UBT and the BJP won nine each). However, there is simply no room for complacency after the party made the blunder of regarding Haryana as low-hanging

fruit. Its decision to go solo rather than tying up with AAP has come under scrutiny. Though AAP drew a blank, its vote share of 1.79 per cent impacted the outcome of the neck-and-neck race between the BJP and the Congress.

As the Congress high command returns to the drawing board, it needs to be more accommodative of its INDIA partners. With the BJP in the ascendant in Jharkhand, the Congress should be humble enough to play second fiddle to the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. In Maharashtra, too, it must prioritise what is best for the alliance over what suits its own interests. The BJP has regrouped very well after its underwhelming show in the parliamentary polls — hubris has made way for coalition dharma. The Congress can learn a lesson or two from its archenemy.

## Let's not fail the voters of J&K

This election, like the one held in 1977, has called for restoration of the people's dignity

SO, the election results are out after much conjecture and wild guesses. The UT of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) now has an elected Assembly. But as one commentator on a popular TV programme surmised, "What were all the promises about — including the promise of restoration of statehood?", considering that the Vidhan Sabha is only a cipher with nominal authority. So, does the 2024 J&K election have any significance in the context of being part of the world's largest democracy and given that this was the first Assembly poll since the state lost both its statehood and its supposed special status under the now-trashed Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019? This was also the first Vidhan Sabha election held after the extension of the notification of Scheduled Tribe (ST) status in February to the Muslim Rajput (Pahari) community, primarily residing in Poonch and Rajouri areas of the Jammu division with a scattering in Kashmir — nearly two years after the Delimitation Commission redrew constituencies and submitted its report in May 2022. The latter meant that 44 per cent of the population, which constitutes residents of Jammu, would vote in 48 per cent of the seats, while the 56 per cent living in Kashmir would exercise their franchise in the remaining seats. Yet, the election campaign was lively, even rowdy and redolent of the 1977 election, which returned a triumphant Sheikh Abdullah to power, roundly defeating a coalition led by none other than the Janata Party, the ruling party at the Centre led by then Prime Minister Morarji Desai. And this time, too, avowedly separatist and radical elements entered the fray, although under different entitles but not disavowing their stated agenda. One



idiotic 'leader' called upon the winner to refuse to form the government. What then, one might ask the gentleman, was the purpose of fighting the election? This election, like the one held in 1977, has called for the restoration of the people's dignity. The 2024 poll results are as decisive as those of the 1977 election. What could be disconcerting is that all Hindu-majority seats have almost unanimously gone to the BJP. But the ruling party's effort at polarising the tribal community worked decisively in favour of the National Conference (NC), the choice of most Kashmiris. On the eve of the election, I had spoken to an old friend from Sakhi Maidan, a Rajput village in ST-reserved Mendhar constituency

in Jammu. He told me that he had given his word as a Rajput to the BJP leadership to vote for that party if ST status were granted. They had kept their word, he said, and now he must keep his. The Mendhar seat was won by Javed Ahmed Rana of the NC, which bagged six ST-reserved seats, with the Congress getting one, Independents (likely to join the NC-Congress coalition) two and the BJP none. There is then no polarisation in the support base of any party except the BJP. Does the party need to review its appeal? Yet, the big question remains: With the Vidhan Sabha being an organism with little authority, what is all the fuss about? The CM-designate, Omar Abdullah, has already given a call

for the restoration of statehood, but there is little doubt that his election to the position will not give him the authority to deliver on this demand. Nevertheless, the enthusiasm generated, the debate and discussion and the interest aroused in this election across the country, crowned by the widespread participation in the process by all sections of the population — be it in Jammu or Kashmir — carry their own lessons. The most noteworthy of these is that India and its natural constituent (J&K) clearly acted together as one entity in upholding democratic rights — to contest as well as to speak out. Is that not the common aspiration of every Indian? Should this not be recognised inasmuch as also the dream of every Kashmiri? The economic and political challenges facing the people of J&K, which they share with the nation, are common knowledge. Omar has identified these in outlining the tasks that he has set for himself.

Economic amelioration amid rising inflation, education and healthcare, gender equality, all working together in what is constitutional decentralisation, harnessing public mobilisation through panchayati raj — these are all common aspirations. The people have passed through decades of suffering and violence. The victorious alliance has shown its sensitivity to these issues in its manifesto. Are we going to allow them to deliver? The voters of J&K have given their voice to joining a national aspiration. But what they have also said loud and clear is that they want to do this themselves and not forcibly through an authoritarian hand.

बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाङ्गलादेश के बेङ्गले यानबाहनेर प्रवेश शुरू

प्राय २४ घण्टा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाङ्गलादेश के बेङ्गले यानबाहनेर प्रवेश शुरू होइये छे। गत सभ्य १५ टार पर बेङ्गल सरकार आदेशे बाङ्गलादेश-बेङ्गल मथन सीमाके पण्यवाही यानबाहनेर प्रवेश निश्चि करार होइये छि।

मईया के पूजन जायब - रिमता



मईया के पूजन जायब, मईया के लाल रंग चुनरी ओढ़ायब, मईया के प्रथम पूजब माँ शैलपुत्री घी के भोग लगायब, मईया के द्वितीय पूजा माँ ब्रह्मचारिणी शककर भोग लगायब, मईया के माँ चंद्रघंटा की पूजन तृतीय खीर के भोग लगायब, मईया के चतुर्थ पूजन माता कुष्मांडा मालपुआ चढ़ायब, मईया के पंचम पूजा माँ स्कंदमाता कदली फल भोग लगायब, मईया के षष्ठम रूप में माँ कात्यायनी शहद भोग लगायब, मईया के सप्तमी पुजब माँ कालरात्रि गुड़ के भोग लगायब, मईया के अष्टमी पुजब माँ महागौरी नारियल भोग लगायब, मईया के नवमी पूजन माँ सिद्धिदात्री तिल के भोग लगायब, मईया के लाल रंग फुलवा चढ़ायब, मईया के

यूरोपीय संघ का वन-कटाई विनियमन और कार्बन कर अनुचित : पीयूष गोयल

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केंद्रीय वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री पीयूष गोयल ने शुक्रवार को यूरोपीय संघ (ईयू) का वन-कटाई विनियमन (ईयूडीआर) और कार्बन कर अनुचित है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस्पात उत्पादों पर ईयू के सुरुक्षा उपाय को भी तर्कहीन बताया है।

करने में एक सुविधाकर्ता के रूप में कैसे कार्य कर सकता है, जिससे शूभारंभ के अवसर पर उद्योग और ईयू के प्रतिनिधियों को संबोधित करके हुए कहा कि कुछ इस्पात उत्पादों पर ईयू के सुरुक्षा उपाय भी तर्कहीन हैं। उन्होंने अपने संबोधन में कहा कि हमारे देश में व्यापार, निवेश और विनिर्माण क्षेत्रों में अवसरों की भरमार है। उन्होंने कहा कि कुछ इस्पात उत्पादों पर ईयू के सुरुक्षा उपाय भी तर्कहीन हैं।



संघीय मंत्री पीयूष गोयल और उनके दल के सदस्यों का आधिकारिक शूभारंभ समारोह की शुरुआत करते हुए।

शुद्ध प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह अबतक 18 फीसदी बढ़कर 11.25 लाख करोड़ रुपये

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। चालू वित्त वर्ष 2024-25 में शुद्ध प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह 10 अक्टूबर तक 18.35 फीसदी बढ़कर 11.25 लाख करोड़ रुपये रहा। इससे पिछले वित्त वर्ष की इसी अवधि के दौरान का प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह 9.51 लाख करोड़ रुपये रहा था।

देश का औद्योगिक उत्पादन अगस्त महीने में 0.1 फीसदी घटा

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। देश का औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक (आईआईपी) सालाना आधार पर अगस्त में 0.1 फीसदी घट गया है। पिछले 22 महीनों में पहली बार औद्योगिक उत्पादन में इतनी बड़ी गिरावट दर्ज की गई है।

व्हाइटओक कैपिटल म्यूचुअल फंड ने पेश किया एनएफओ



नई दिल्ली। व्हाइटओक कैपिटल म्यूचुअल फंड ने अपने न्यू फंड ऑफर (एनएफओ) - 'व्हाइटओक कैपिटल इंसोजी बेस्ट-इन-क्लास स्ट्रेटजी फंड' को निवेशकों के लिए पेश करने की घोषणा की।

उत्तर चढ़ाव का सामना करने के बाद लाल निशान में बंद हुआ शेयर बाजार, सेंसेक्स और निफ्टी लुढ़के

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। सप्ताह के आखिरी कारोबार दिन घरेलू शेयर बाजार लगातार उत्तर-चढ़ाव का सामना करने के बाद गिरावट के साथ लाल निशान में बंद हुआ। आज के कारोबार की शुरुआत भी कमजोरी के साथ हुई थी।

30 शेयरों में से 17 शेयर बढ़त के साथ और 13 शेयर गिरावट के साथ बंद हुए। जल्द ही निफ्टी में शामिल 50 शेयरों में से 30 शेयर हरे निशान में और 20 शेयर लाल निशान में बंद हुए।

देश का विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार 3.709 अरब डॉलर घटकर 701.176 अरब डॉलर पर

नई दिल्ली। देश का विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार 4 अक्टूबर को समाप्त होने में 3.709 अरब डॉलर घटकर 701.176 अरब डॉलर रह गया। इससे पिछले हफ्ते विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार 12.588 अरब डॉलर बढ़कर 704.885 अरब डॉलर के रिकॉर्ड सर्वकालिक उच्चतम स्तर पर पहुंच गया था।

चेन्नई में होगा भारत की पवन ऊर्जा दशता का प्रदर्शन

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। तमिलनाडु की राजधानी चेन्नई में 23 अक्टूबर से पवन ऊर्जा पर तीन दिवसीय अंतरराष्ट्रीय व्यापार मेला और पवन ऊर्जा सम्मेलन आयोजित किया जा रहा है जिसमें 25 देशों के सौकड़ों उर्जा विशेषज्ञ और कारोबारी शामिल होंगे।

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा ने सचिन तेंदुलकर को बनाया वैश्विक ब्रांड एंबेसडर

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा (बीओबी) ने क्रिकेट के दिग्गज सचिन तेंदुलकर को बैंक का वैश्विक ब्रांड एंबेसडर बनाए जाने की आज घोषणा की।

रुपया नौ पैसे लुढ़ककर पहली बार 84 डॉलर के पार

एजेंसी मुंबई। तेल की कीमतों में हाल में हुई वृद्धि तथा शेयर बाजार से विदेशी संस्थागत निवेशकों के भाग्यहीन होना कारोबार को नुकसान उठा कर लाल निशान में बंद हुआ।

दिवस के 83.98 रुपये प्रति डॉलर की तुलना में नौ पैसे लुढ़ककर 84.07 रुपये प्रति डॉलर तक गिर गया।

रिलायंस डिजिटल का इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स महोत्सव भारत को देता है मौका, दिल खोल के जश्न मनावे को!

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारत के सबसे बड़े इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स रिटेलर, रिलायंस डिजिटल का 'इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स महोत्सव' सेल इस दशहरा के अवसर पर भारत के फेरिटिव मूड को बढ़ाने के लिए पूरे तरह तैयार है।

वाल्लु सेमसंग 4K UHD टीवी बिल्कुल प्री. फिटनेस के शौकीन लोगों के लिए स्मार्ट वॉच पर आकर्षक डीलस इंतजार कर रही हैं।

आइए तैयार हो जायें! चूंकि यह एक विशेष सुविधाएं भी मिलेंगी। इसके लिए ग्राहकों को खाने में 10 लाख रुपये का तिमाही औसत शेष बनाए रखना होगा।

इसमें 538/माह से शुरू होने वाली नो-कोस्ट ईएमआई के साथ 71000 का कैशबैक भी शामिल है।



## NEWS BOX

## Suryakumar Yadav told us India were defending 170, not 300: Ravi Bishnoi

Hyderabad. India spinner Ravi Bishnoi picked 3 wickets in the first chance he got against Bangladesh. Speaking about the team's mentality with the ball, Bishnoi said that Suryakumar Yadav told the Indian team that they were not defending 300 but 170 runs. India had hammered 297 against Bangladesh in the first innings of the match, the highest T20I total by any Test-playing nation in the history of the game. However, India were aggressive with the ball in their defence and restricted Bangladesh to just 164 runs. "When we walked into bowl, Suryakumar Yadav told us that we were defending 160-170 and not 300 as it would help us prepare for matches later on which will have such scores. It was a good surface to bat on but that's the mentality we had," Bishnoi said. India vs Bangladesh, 3rd T20I: Highlights | Full Scorecard

Saba Karim, commentating for the broadcaster asked Bishnoi what the difference was between this Indian team



and the others. Bishnoi replied that the main difference was the aggression and it was clear to see in front of everyone.

"This is the new generation, and you can see what the difference is. 298 runs was the target and look how we attacked and bowled them out for 160s. The approach is when you are on the top, be on the top," Bishnoi said.

"With this Indian team, we have been told by the management that every day is a new day. Once yesterday's match is done it is done, we cannot live with it," he further added. India hammered Bangladesh 3-0 in the T20I series. Before that, the team had beaten Bangladesh 2-0 in the Test series as well. Both victories were categorised by aggressive batting and bowling from the Indian team.

## 5 Records Broken By Sanju Samson During His 111-Run Knock In 3rd T20I Against Bangladesh

New Delhi. Sanju Samson was in red-hot form for Team India on Saturday (October 12) during the third T20I against Bangladesh, which was played at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad. The right-handed wicketkeeper-batter opened the innings for the hosts and top-scored by amassing a total of 111 runs from 47 balls. During his stay at the crease, he hammered 11 fours and eight sixes. It was due to his super show with the bat that India managed to post a total of 297 runs on the board, which in the end proved to be enough for Men in Blue to win the match by 133 runs. 1st Indian wicketkeeper to score century in T20Is: Samson created history on Saturday by becoming the first Indian wicketkeeper-batter to score century in T20Is. He crossed the 100-run mark with a boundary on the 40th ball of his inning. Before Samson, the record for the highest individual score by an Indian stumper in T20Is was in the name of Ishan Kishan, who scored 89 runs against Sri Lanka in February 2022. 1st batter to score 100 in India-Bangladesh T20I match: The century in



Hyderabad also helped Samson become the first batter to score a century in 17 T20I matches played so far between India and Bangladesh. Before Samson, the record for the highest individual score in an India-Bangladesh T20I match was in the name of Rohit Sharma, who hammered 89 runs in Colombo on March 14, 2018. Most sixes in an India-Bangladesh T20I match: Samson smacked as many as eight sixes during his 111-run knock against Bangladesh in the third T20I. The eight sixes helped him break Nitish Kumar Reddy's record of scoring most sixes in an India-Bangladesh T20I match. Reddy smashed seven sixes for India during the 2nd T20I against Bangladesh, which was played in Delhi on October 9, 2024. 2nd fastest century by an Indian in T20Is.

## 'Stronger' &amp; 'special': Tahuhu's tale of hard work, persistence

Once Tahuhu made it to the national setup, it was not smooth sailing as she had to face multiple obstacles that included health concerns and being dropped from the squad.

SHARJAH. After taking one of the wickets against India in New Zealand's first match of the women's T20 World Cup at Dubai International Stadium, Lea Tahuhu made a heart sign with her hands looking at the dressing room. "I thought she was doing it to me actually," joked captain Sophie Devine before adding "No, I think it was certainly for Grace back home and little Louie as well, who's only a couple of months old. Lea is a really special person to me and to this whole group," Devine said with a beaming smile on her face. Devine knows the journey the Kiwi pacer has been through to get to the level she

is right now. Penny Kinsella, the former New Zealand player and women's selector would know. After all, she was one of those who saw the potential in Tahuhu and selected her back in 2011.

"So essentially, as a young bowler, she was the most challenging and aggressive of the bowlers," Kinsella told this daily from New Zealand. "She always ran in hard. She always tried hard. She was pretty erratic in those days. She bowled a lot of wides. But you don't see many women run in like she did with that kind of intent. She was going to bowl as fast as she could and she was going to try and take wickets. It's that balance between that raw kind of pace and the need to maintain economy rates was crucial," she mentioned.

Once Tahuhu made it to the national setup, it was not smooth sailing as she had to face multiple obstacles that included health concerns and being dropped from the squad. Kinsella believes that just made Tahuhu stronger. "She has been able to reinvent herself, because of what she learned, having entered into the New Zealand setup. Establishing herself also within the Canterbury setup, which was full of really strong women, who were clever



about cricket and knew how to prepare, she started to find that knack of preparing herself

so that she was going to get rhythm. That was her thing. 'If I can keep my rhythm going, then I can use that to enhance my ability to contribute both in T20 and 50 over cricket'," Kinsella sounded like a proud senior.

Apart from her cricket, being married to another cricketer and former New Zealand captain, Amy Satterthwaite, changed the way Tahuhu started looking at her cricket. With the addition of their two kids, Grace and Louie, the family is there to cheer for Tahuhu when she is on national duty.

"I think so because you are not living and breathing cricket all the time, you have a chance to move away from that. If you are co-dependent on cricket, to give you your identity as a professional, it's a difficult balance. You're on the edge of the sword all the time in terms of selection. And we know, because she lost her contract, that would have been devastating. And it hasn't been the devastating blow that it could have been if she didn't have those people around her," Kinsella said.

"Bring home the World Cup, Mummy," said baby Grace in one of the videos published by ICC's social media handles. If White Ferns are to do it, Tahuhu could be one of the forces behind it.

## Hardik, Samson pose with Hyderabad ground staff after India hammer Bangladesh

India stars Hardik Pandya and Sanju Samson posed for photographs with the ground staff at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad in a heartwarming gesture following India's series win over Bangladesh.



New Delhi. Star cricketers Hardik Pandya and Sanju Samson took time to pose for photographs with the ground staff at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad in a heartwarming gesture following India's emphatic victory over Bangladesh. The pictures, which captured the joyful moments with the dedicated ground crew, quickly went viral on social media, winning the admiration of fans across the country. Sanju Samson's maiden T20 International century and a dominant all-round team performance helped India secure a massive 133-run victory, completing a 3-0 whitewash over a lackluster Bangladesh on Saturday. The series sweep further cemented

India's status as a formidable force in T20 cricket. Samson, responsible for opening the innings, displayed explosive batting, smashing an unbeaten 111 off just 47 deliveries. His innings, with 11 boundaries and 8 towering sixes, marked the second-fastest T20I century by an Indian, trailing only Rohit Sharma's 35-ball hundred. Captain Suryakumar Yadav added to the carnage, scoring 75 off 35 balls, as the duo powered India to a mammoth total of 297/6.

India's score of 297 was the second-highest team total in T20I history, behind only Nepal's 314 and ahead of Afghanistan's 278/3. It was also India's highest score in the format, showcasing their dominance throughout the series. Bangladesh, chasing an insurmountable target, could only muster

164/7 in their 20 overs. Pacer Mayank Yadav (2/32) and leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi (3/30) played crucial roles in stifling the visitors' batting lineup, ensuring India's comprehensive win. While Sanju Samson was named Player of the Match for his scintillating century, it was Hardik Pandya who earned the Player of the Series honors. Pandya's consistent performances with both bat and ball throughout the series were instrumental in India's dominance. He contributed 118 runs at a staggering strike rate of 222.64 and also chipped in with key wickets. After the match, Pandya and Samson's gesture of posing with the ground staff drew praise for their humility and acknowledgment of the behind-the-scenes efforts that contribute to the smooth conduct of games. With the T20I series now behind them, India will turn their attention to the upcoming three-match Test series against New Zealand, starting on October 16 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. India will be aiming for another clean sweep, which would guarantee their spot in the World Test Championship final for the third consecutive time, regardless of the outcome of the Border-Gavaskar series later this year.

## Sanju Samson 3.0 Unlocked Making sense of his Hyderabad T20I heroics

New Delhi. It's not easy being Sanju Samson. Identified as a teenage prodigy, the batting superstar from Kerala has faced numerous challenges. After making his debut in 2015, Samson had to wait five more years for another opportunity to represent India in the T20I format. While he has shown flashes of brilliance at the highest level, his consistency has often contrasted with his performances in the Indian Premier League with the Rajasthan Royals. Since his comeback in 2022, Samson has had a relatively more consistent run in terms of opportunities. That year was one of his best in the format, as he scored 179 runs, including a fifty, in six matches. However, a World Cup call-up eluded him. In 2023, he received eight more opportunities but averaged just 15.60 runs per innings. Before the series against Bangladesh in 2024, he had six chances to impress, but the Kerala



batter struggled to make an impact. It seemed as if time was running out for the 29-year-old. When captain Suryakumar Yadav confirmed before the series opener in Guwahati that Samson would be opening alongside Abhishek Sharma, it looked like the team management was giving him one last chance to deliver, considering the intense competition for opening spots. Samson himself felt that his time in

T20Is might be over after he recorded two ducks in a three-match series against Sri Lanka. "I was a bit doubtful after a couple of ducks in Sri Lanka as to whether I would be getting a chance in the next series," he said after smashing a 47-ball 111 that powered India to a Himalayan total of 297 in 20 overs on Saturday in Hyderabad. Samson persisted through the lows and the lack of opportunities. Every time he wore the pink of the Rajasthan Royals, he made sure to send reminders to the selectors. The talent he displayed must have been irresistible for those making the decisive calls. Despite his inconsistent run at the highest level, Samson kept coming back into contention.

## SAMSON FINALLY ARRIVES AT THE PARTY

On Saturday, October 12, Samson finally arrived at the party.



on May 13, 2010, and in that fixture, Aussies hammered India by seven wickets. The Women in Blue could only manage to post a total of 119 runs on the board for the loss of five wickets, which the Southern Stars easily chased down in 18.5 overs for the loss of three wickets. Captain Alex Blackwell top-scored for the Australian team by remaining unbeaten on 61 runs.

2012: In the 2012 Women's T20 World Cup match, Australia defeated India by 8 wickets in Galle on September 27, 2012. Erin Osborne's 3 for 13 helped Jodie Fields & Co. restrict India to 104 for 8 in 20 overs, and then Meg Lanning's 39 and Jess Duffin's 36 not out helped them achieve the required target for the loss of two wickets in 17.2 overs. 2018: India secured its first win over Australia in the Women's T20 World Cup on November 17, 2018.

## Cristiano Ronaldo on target as Portugal maintain perfect Nations League start

Portugal maintained their perfect record in Group A1 with a 3-1 win over Poland. Bernardo Silva and Cristiano Ronaldo were pivotal in the victory, keeping Portugal at the top of the league standings.

New Delhi Portugal's Bernardo Silva and Cristiano Ronaldo led their team to a comfortable 3-1 victory against Poland in the Nations League on Saturday, maintaining their perfect start in Group A1 with three wins from three games. Silva opened the scoring in the 26th minute,

slotting home after a headed assist from Bruno Fernandes. Captain Ronaldo doubled the lead 11 minutes later, scoring his 133rd international goal with a first-time finish after Rafael Leão's shot hit the post. Poland pulled one back in the 78th minute through Piotr Zieliński, who blasted the ball into the roof of the net. However, their hopes of a comeback were dashed when Jan Bednarek scored an own goal in the closing minutes. Portugal remain top of League A Group One with nine points, three ahead of Croatia, who came from behind to beat Scotland 2-1 earlier that day. Poland, having won 3-2 against Scotland in their opener before losing 1-0 to Croatia, sit third with three points, while Scotland are yet to register a point. The match began with Poland on the attack, with Robert Lewandowski nearly connecting with a



cross early on, but Portugal goalkeeper Diogo Costa reached the ball first. Portugal quickly gained control, forcing Polish keeper Lukasz Skorupski into action, particularly with a close-range effort from Diogo Dalot and a curling shot from Fernandes in the 14th minute. Despite Poland's efforts, their defense crumbled

when Silva struck the opener. Ronaldo then calmly added a second after Leão's impressive solo run ended with a shot off the post, leaving Ronaldo to finish the rebound. The 39-year-old forward, who had already scored in Portugal's wins against Scotland and Croatia, netted his 11th goal of the season for club and country. He could have added another but opted to pass to Fernandes, who fired over the bar.

Poland's best chance after the restart came from Lewandowski, who narrowly missed with a header. Ronaldo was substituted in the 63rd minute, with Portugal coach Roberto Martinez continuing to manage his playing time. Zieliński's goal gave Poland hope, but they failed to create clear chances to level the score before Bednarek's own goal ended their two-year unbeaten.

Vivian Dsena Slams

# Chaahat Pandey

## for Throwing Food on Bigg Boss 18: 'Tu Jaha Se Aati Hai..'

**B**igg Boss 18 continues to deliver intense drama, with Vivian Dsena taking center stage after reprimanding Chaahat Pandey for her disrespectful behaviour. The episode kicked off with a light-hearted yet heated banter over food between Nyrraa Banerji, Avinash Mishra and Shehzada Dhama. What started as a playful fight for milk soon escalated into something more dramatic, with Alice Kaushik and Eisha Singh accusing Nyrraa of overacting. However, the real controversy of the day involved Chaahat Pandey, who threw a pomegranate at fellow housemate Rajat Dalal, hitting him in the chest. She also aimed fruit at Shehzada Dhama, who grew visibly furious at her actions. Rajat was equally irritated, asking Chaahat if she'd have reacted the same way had someone thrown fruit at her. Despite Rajat's complaints, Chaahat shrugged off the incident, mimicking his frustration.

Shehzada, too, expressed his anger at Chaahat, sarcastically showing her how the fruit had been smashed when she threw it. To diffuse the situation, Chaahat joked that she'd eat the squished fruit herself. Despite her lightheartedness, Shehzada pointed out that if the tables were turned, she would have likely made a scene. He humorously mimicked her fainting in such a scenario, sparking a sarcastic exchange between them.

Amid the chaos, Vivian Dsena, known for his calm demeanour, lost his patience and sternly addressed Chaahat. He questioned her upbringing, saying, "Tu jaha se aati hai vaha aise hi karte hai kya? Khana khane ki jagah fekta hai ek dusre pe?" (Is this how things are done where you come from? Do you throw food at each other instead of eating?). He said that food must be respected by everyone, regardless of the situation.

Rajat, still upset, demanded that Chaahat admit her mistake, but she refused to back down. Vivian further remarked, "Pehli baar aisi heroine dekhi joh heroine aur villain ka role sath mei karti hai" (For the first time, I've seen a heroine who plays both the hero and villain). Eisha Singh added humorously, "Saas ka bhi" (Even the mother-in-law's role). Meanwhile, in a separate part of the episode, Muskan Bamne became emotional in the confession room, missing her family, while Bagga and Hema Sharma went on a hunger strike to secure their release from the house jail, further fuelling the high-octane drama.



### Alia Bhatt Reveals Ram Charan Adopted An Elephant In Raha's Name: 'A Giant Elephant Walking In My...'



**A**lia Bhatt's RRR co-star, Ram Charan, adopted an elephant in her daughter Raha's name. Alia made this revelation in a recent chat and said that she appreciated this sweet gesture. Alia said that while she, Jr NTR and Ram Charan couldn't spend much time together while shooting the film, they got close during promotions. Alia told Suresh Productions in a recent chat, "Tarak, Ram Charan, and I, we couldn't spend a lot of time together on the sets of RRR due to different schedules, but around promotions, we became very close."

She said, "This is a very funny story. A month after Raha was born, I had stepped down to walk for a bit. Suddenly, I had someone coming and telling me, 'Ma'am, Ram Charan sir has sent an elephant.' I was stunned. I was like, 'Anything can happen: I might have a giant elephant walking in my building right now.' She added, "It wasn't a real elephant. It was a wooden elephant he sent after he adopted an elephant in the wild in Raha's name. It was such a sweet gesture by him. We call that elephant: Ele, and have kept it near our dining table on the fifth floor. Raha often hops on to it and plays." Ram Charan has often spoken highly of Alia and admired her acting chops. Ram Charan previously told Mid Day, "I have been an admirer of her work since Highway. After Raazi, I became her fan. After working with her, I understood why people love her so much. There were times when I didn't get my Telugu lines properly, but she got them bang-on. She was a thorough professional."

"Meanwhile, Alia Bhatt is currently seen in Jigra with Vedang Raina. The film is directed by Vasan Bala and co-produced by the actress and Karan Johar. The film has opened to mixed reviews and is facing competition at the box office from Vicky Aur Vidya Ka Woh Wala Video, starring Rajkumar Rao and Triptii Dimri.

### Janhvi Kapoor Reveals Facing Life Threatening Moments While Shooting For Devara's Chuttamale Song



**J**anhvi Kapoor is currently basking under the success of her recently released film Devara: Part 1 with Jr NTR. The film also marks her Tamil debut. Well, today she took to her Instagram handle and shared behind-the-scenes photos. The actress also revealed life-threatening moment while shooting for the song Chuttamale in Thailand. Taking to her Instagram handle, Janhvi Kapoor shared photos and videos. "Too late for some #Chuttamale BTS? I think not," read the caption. In a video, the actress was heard saying, "This might be the most life threatening moment. I am going into jellyfish infested waters. Nothing but a thin silk saree to protect me. I hope I survive, I hope it is worth it. I hope it is a memorable shot." In another slide, she showcased the "beware" sign as the water is infested with Jellyfish, whose stinging cells in their tentacles can injure humans. In one clip, the actress was seen talking about climbing "really sharp rock" and then coming to the dangerous waters.

Despite receiving mixed reviews, Devara: Part 1, starring Jr NTR and Janhvi Kapoor, is steadily approaching the Rs 500 crore mark in global box office earnings. Buoyed by the film's success, director Koratala Siva and his team have already initiated discussions about the sequel, Devara: Part 2. In a recent interview, Siva acknowledged the weight of this achievement and expressed his dedication to ensuring the sequel's success.

In an interaction with Zoom, the director was asked about the possibility of cameo appearances in the sequel. He responded that while he's not particularly interested in cameos, he does plan to bring in some well-known names from the film industry for significant roles. "I won't say cameos also. They are very important characters in the film, and we are going to unveil them very soon, character by character," added Siva.

When asked about Janhvi's limited screen time in the action drama, Siva mentioned that her character would unfold in the sequel. "She can bring a lot of freshness into the film and have multiple dimensions in her character, which will be unfolded in part two. There is a lot of drama for her and surprising twists and turns that can happen with her character. So you will have to wait and watch part 2 to see more of Janhvi," added the director.

# Nia Sharma

## BREAKS Silence on Bigg Boss 18 Controversy: 'It Was Colors, and I Was Informed...'

**T**elevision actress Nia Sharma made headlines after being confirmed as the first contestant for Bigg Boss 18 during the grand finale of Khatron Ke Khiladi 14. However, in an unexpected turn of events, she announced on October 6 that she wouldn't be participating in the show, leaving fans disappointed and confused. Now, Nia has finally broken her silence on the fiasco, offering insights into what really happened. In an interview with Pinkvilla, Nia revealed that she was initially meant to join Bigg Boss 18, but a sudden change of plans led to her withdrawal. She explained, "It was Colors, and I was informed at the very last minute. I was supposed to be part of the Laughter Chef integration, but by the time they announced it, Laughter Chef got cancelled." This left her in a strange situation, as the hype around her participation had already been created. Despite the abrupt change, she didn't hold any grudge, adding, "The whole thing was to create buzz, and I think they succeeded." Nia further mentioned that it was entirely the network's decision, and she fully supported their strategy. She said, "If they're doing something using my name, it's completely alright. I have two shows with them, and I respect their planning." Interestingly, Nia appreciated the attention the announcement garnered, admitting that the excitement around her name was massive. "The hype was huge, and I enjoyed it," she remarked. She added humorously, "Until someone actually does Bigg Boss, people don't give a f\*ck."

However, her decision to not participate also came with some backlash. Nia shared that she received hate messages and abuse from some fans who felt let down by her withdrawal. Despite this, she remained unfazed, choosing to focus on the positive side of things. "I felt I owed an apology to my fans for not going, but I take it in my stride. It was fun to experience that level of hype again." Lastly, the Jamai Raja actress remarked, "It was beautiful hype and a review that I saw myself after a very long time. Other than that, it's all about my clothes, it's how I dress up, how naked I am all the time about my cleavage. It's time we moved on from there, and I think after Laughter Chefs quite a lot has changed."

