



The Researchers

NEWS BOX

Kamala Harris slams Trump's 'enemy from within' remarks, calls him unstable

Pennsylvania Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris on Monday slammed Donald Trump for his ominous comments about "the enemy within" the United States and the threat to deploy the military domestically, in a renewed effort to paint her Republican opponent as a threat to democracy. In a rare move at her campaign rally in the political swing state Pennsylvania, the US vice president showed a clip of Trump, the former president, telling his supporters "those people are more dangerous - the enemy from within - than Russia." Harris, 59, has recently pressed Trump to release his health records, as she has, and knocked him for meandering tangents and focus on fictional characters such as Hannibal Lecter. A second Trump term would be a huge risk for America, and dangerous. Donald Trump is increasingly unstable and unhinged," Harris told the Eric crowd after playing the clip. She went on to say that Trump poses a danger because he believes those who do not agree with him are the enemy. Trump in recent rally speeches has hinted about facing "an enemy from within," more dangerous than a foreign adversary. His campaign did not immediately return a request for comment. In an interview on Sunday on the Fox News program "Sunday Morning Futures," host Maria Bartiromo asked Trump if he was expecting "chaos" on Election Day, and he appeared to suggest the military could be deployed against citizens. "I think the bigger problem is the enemy from within," Trump said. "We have some very bad people. We have some sick people, radical left lunatics."

He added: "It should be very easily handled by, if necessary, by National Guard, or if really necessary, by the military, because they can't let that happen." Trump would not be able to give orders to either National Guard or active-duty military units on Election Day on November 5 because he is not president.

Harris' trip to Pennsylvania on Monday is her 10th to the battleground state since becoming the Democratic candidate in July. The state's 19 electoral college votes will be pivotal to the election outcome. She kicked off her trip to Erie with a stop at a Black-owned coffee shop for a sit-down discussion with Black men. Her campaign is concerned about slipping support from Black voters.

Harris unveiled new policy proposals aimed at Black men on Monday that include forgivable small business loans and access to a new legal recreational marijuana industry.

Trump pauses Arizona rally, praises female supporter: I would say that's beautiful

World During a campaign rally in Arizona on Sunday, October 13, former US President Donald Trump took a brief pause from his usual stump speech to laud a female supporter with compliments, leading to a moment of light-hearted banter about modern political correctness. The rally, held in the key swing state, was part of Trump's effort to flip Arizona back to red in the upcoming presidential election after it went to Joe Biden in 2020. While Trump was discussing his large rally crowd sizes, a woman from the audience shouted, "Because we love you!" The remark caught Trump's attention, and he responded by scanning the crowd to find the source of the praise. "Where is that woman? Stand up! Look at her. Wow! I would say -- that's beautiful," Trump remarked, before joking about the constraints of political correctness, reported the New York Post.

"Is she your wife? You know what? I would say she's a beautiful woman, but if I did say that -- my political career, you're not allowed to say that," Trump said with a smile. The moment drew laughter and applause from the crowd, as Trump used it to criticise what he calls the overreach of "PC culture".

"It's crazy what's gone on! You have to be politically correct, nowadays," he added, before returning to the key topics of his campaign. In his Arizona speech, Trump focused on border security, a central issue of his platform. He pledged to increase US Border Patrol staffing by 10,000 agents if re-elected and promised to push Congress for a 10% pay raise for border agents, along with a \$10,000 signing and retention bonus.

Who am I A South Korean adoptee finds answers about the past — just not the ones she wants

SEOUL. Rebecca Kimmel sat in a small room, stunned and speechless, staring at the baby photo she had just unearthed from her adoption file.

It was a black-and-white shot of an infant, possibly taken at an orphanage in Gwangju, the South Korean city where Kimmel had heard all her life that she'd been abandoned. But something about the photo — the eyes, the ears, an uneasy feeling deep in her gut — confirmed what she'd long suspected: This baby was not her.

Overcome, she started howling like a strange, wounded animal. This photo meant that the stories she had been told about herself were a lie. So who was she? Who IS she? Thousands of South Korean adoptees are looking to satisfy a raw, compelling urge that much of the world takes for granted: the search for identity. Like many of them, Kimmel has stumbled into a web of switched photos, made-up stories and false documents, all designed to erase the very identity she desperately wants to find. These adoptees live with the consequences of a tacit partnership by the South Korean government, Western nations and adoption agencies that has supplied some 200,000 children to parents overseas, despite warnings of widespread fraud. For decades, South Korea tried to get rid of children from biracial parents, poor families, orphanages and unwed mothers, ignoring illicit practices. Western families in turn were eager to adopt from abroad, after access to birth control and abortion crushed the supply of domestic babies. While many adoptions ended happily, the desires of both sides also resulted in the unnecessary removal of generations of children from their families based on fake paperwork. As Kimmel sat weeping in that room in the Seoul adoption agency, she knew little of this background. All she knew was that she needed answers. Kimmel, an artist, thinks she is about 49; her exact age is one of the many things about herself she does not know. She throws herself with intensity into almost everything she does, particularly her all-consuming quest for her roots.

Why Ukrainian military is raiding weddings, nightclubs

Amid the war with Russia, Ukrainian defence personnel are raiding weddings, concerts, nightclubs and bars to nab men who are dodging military service. This comes after Ukraine brought down the conscription age from 27 to 25, and passed a law making it mandatory for all those eligible for service to register online.

to get married and stay with their loved ones. But in this love and war, there is also a constant dread. Many men in Ukraine are living in a constant state of dread, since Ukraine decreased the eligible age for military recruitment from 27 to 25 and removed any exemptions from military recruitment in April. It has also asked anyone eligible for conscription to get registered online. This need for conscription comes against the backdrop of an ongoing Russia-Ukraine war which started in 2022. The ongoing war has led to the loss of life of 10,582 Ukrainian civilians with many more wounded. With a decrease in the number of people, Ukraine is making an all-out effort to recruit men. While many of the conscription raids conducted were in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, the wedding celebration was in the Ukrainian town of Lviv. These raids should be seen in the context of a law passed in April wherein Ukrainian men aged 25-60 can apply for conscription and men aged 18-60 are not allowed to leave Ukraine, reported The Associated Press. This is due to the new law where anyone eligible for military



service must input their information online. UKRAINIAN OFFICIALS RAID A WEDDING TO CHECK MILITARY REGISTRATION OF MEN

It was uploaded to Instagram by one of the guests, Kasyanchuk Sergiy, who said conscription officials rushed into the celebration to check the military registration of men. The video also shows how the crowd pushed the officers away from the people. The people of Ukraine chanted, "shame on you." Finally, the guests asked the officers if they had been officially authorised to conduct these raids. The video shows the officers walking out of the room then.

"This is real lawlessness that cannot be tolerated any longer," said a guest. "People were so much against it they were ready to fight, to chase [the officers] away. That is the reality in Lviv," he added. But these officials raided venues across Ukraine.

FEAR OF BEING 'CALLED UP' FOR MILITARY SERVICE ANYTIME

The Kyiv's Palace of Sports venue was raided by conscription officers during a concert by Ukrainian rock band Okean Elzy. Reports show officers right outside the hall as they stop men and speak to them. As a 27-year-old man left the concert after the last song, he found out about officials questioning people. Then, he saw the soldiers and the police. He also said that his university waiver was taken away after Ukraine passed laws in April which lowered the age of recruitment for men from 27 to 25 and did away with some draft exemptions. Although he did not see the officials act aggressively, he discussed with the Associated Press how men feared being recruited into the military all the time. "That inner state of always being in danger, it's back again," he told The Associated Press.

Nazi Swastika flags seen at boat parade organised by Trump supporters, spark row



World A boat with Nazi Swastika flags tried to join a boat parade organised for Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump in Palm Beach, Florida. Several videos surfaced online, showing masked individuals shouting "White Power," "Heil Trump," and "Make America White Again!" The videos showed five individuals, including two bearded males with sunglasses, and

three additional individuals with face coverings trying to join the parade. The individuals had Nazi Swastika flags tied to the boat, along with flags supporting Donald Trump and carrying the message "Make America Great Again!" The individuals also reportedly used racial slurs while chanting slogans in support of Donald Trump. One of the individuals on board seemed

to be holding a picture of My Pillow CEO Mike Lindell, a well-known Trump supporter who recently retaliated against allegations that his product pricing was unintentionally associated with neo-Nazi ideology.

The organiser of the boat parade, Carlos Gavidia, claimed that the individuals on the boat were not a part of the boat parade that was carried out for Donald Trump. He shared a video on Facebook showing a large boat belonging to a Trump supporter dousing the neo-Nazis with water churned up by the boat's propellers. "These patriots took care of the infiltrators that came in, pretending to be with us wearing masks and having terrible flags supporting the Nazis!" Gavidia said while sharing the video. The incident also sparked a massive row on social media, with many terming the incident as "sickening". Meanwhile, Donald Trump's niece Mary L Trump, who is a frequent critic of the former President, shared images of the boat carrying the Nazi Swastika flags with the message, "What the f*** are we even doing?"

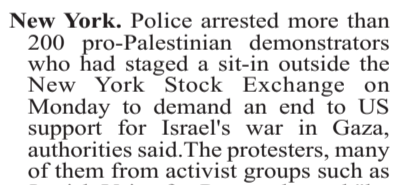
Canada cops' self-goal on charges of India targeting Sikh Canadians

World In the midst of escalating diplomatic tensions between India and Canada over the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) seems to have scored a spectacular own goal. During a press conference on Monday (local time), the RCMP claimed their investigation into Nijjar's killing revealed links between agents of the Indian government and "homicides and violent acts" in Canada. It also alleged that these agents had been coercing and threatening businesses and individuals in Canada's South Asian diaspora. But the real entertainment began when a journalist sought clarification, asking if the alleged "transnational repression, foreign interference and organised crime" specifically targeted the Sikh Canadian community. "So, yes, I mean, it (India) is targeting the South Asian community," fumbled RCMP Assistant Commissioner Brigitte Gauvin, before adding, "but what we've seen is they are specifically targeting pro-Khalistan elements in Canada." For years, India has accused Canada of providing a



platform to Khalistani separatists and not doing enough to stem their anti-India activities. New Delhi has also raised concerns over the maple country being a safe haven for people with links to organised crime. The journalist pressed on, asking if Sikhs not associated with the Khalistan movement were also being targeted. Gauvin, clearly aware of the quagmire, backpedalled, refusing to provide specific details to "preserve the integrity" of the ongoing investigation. Still, the assistant commissioner insisted that organised crime groups, particularly the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, were at the centre of this so-called intrigue, working with agents allegedly connected to the Indian government. "What we have seen is, from an RCMP perspective, they use organised crime elements. It has been publically attributed and claimed by one organised crime group in particular - Bishnoi Group. We believe that the group is connected to agents of the Government of India," she said, though evidence to substantiate these bold claims was notably absent.

Pro-Gaza protesters stage sit-in outside New York Stock Exchange, 200 arrested



New York. Police arrested more than 200 pro-Palestinian demonstrators who had staged a sit-in outside the New York Stock Exchange on Monday to demand an end to US support for Israel's war in Gaza, authorities said. The protesters, many of them from activist groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace, chanted "let Gaza live" and "stop funding genocide" in front of the exchange's iconic building near Wall Street, in lower Manhattan. None of the protesters got inside the stock exchange, but dozens crossed a police security fence set up outside its main building on Broad Street. A police spokesperson said 206 arrests were made, without providing details. Jewish groups involved with the protests said around 500

demonstrators attended. The stock exchange had no immediate comment. The protesters directed anger at American defence contractors and weapons manufacturers. Others chanted slogans against Israeli attacks in Lebanon, where Israel says it is waging war against Iran-backed Hezbollah militants. "(Hundreds) of Jews and friends are shutting down the New York Stock Exchange to demand the US stop

arming Israel and profiting from genocide," Jewish Voice for Peace said on X. Israel denies genocide allegations at the World Court, and says its military operations in Gaza target Hamas militants. There was also a much smaller number of pro-Israel counter-protesters at the site, who carried Israeli flags. The demonstration was the latest expression of anger against American support for Israel's assault on Gaza, which it launched after Hamas killed 1,200 in Israel and took 250 others hostage in the October 7, 2023, attacks, according to Israeli tallies.

Israel's subsequent military assault on blockaded Gaza has killed nearly 42,000 Palestinians and displaced nearly the entire population, according to Gaza health officials.

UN Security Council voices concern for peacekeepers after Israeli attacks

New York. The United Nations Security Council on Monday expressed strong concern after several UN peacekeeping positions in southern Lebanon came under fire amid clashes between the Israeli military and Iran-backed Hezbollah militants.

In a statement adopted by consensus, the 15-member council also urged all parties - without naming them - to respect the safety and security of the personnel and premises of the UN peacekeeping mission, known as UNIFIL. "UN peacekeepers and UN premises must never be the target of an attack," said the council, reiterating its support for UNIFIL and the operation's importance for regional stability. The Security Council also called for the full implementation of its resolution 1701, which was adopted in 2006 with the aim of keeping peace on the border between Lebanon and Israel. The council "recognised the need for further practical measures to achieve that outcome," but did not offer specifics.

Since the start of Israeli ground operations in Lebanon on October 1, UNIFIL positions have been affected 20 times, including by direct fire and an incident on

Sunday when two Israeli tanks burst through the gates of a UNIFIL base, the UN said. "Five peacekeepers have been injured during these incidents, including one peacekeeper who sustained a bullet wound," UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters on Monday. "The source of that gunfire has yet to be confirmed by UNIFIL." For the past two weeks, Israel has been telling UN peacekeepers to move 5 km (3 miles) back from the so-called Blue Line - a UN-mapped line separating Lebanon from Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights - for their own safety.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday in a statement addressed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres: "The time has come for you to withdraw UNIFIL." UN peacekeeping chief Jean-Pierre Lacroix said on Monday that UN troops would not move. After briefing the Security Council behind closed doors, he told reporters that he would meet with Israeli UN Ambassador Danny Danon on Tuesday. Lacroix added that the UN is "reviewing constantly the situation, and we have contingency planning for all



scenarios."

UNIFIL MANDATED 'TO ASSIST'

Deputy US Ambassador Robert Wood told reporters ahead of the council meeting that it was important that UNIFIL be able to do its job. The Security Council authorized UNIFIL - under resolution 1701 - "to assist" Lebanese forces in ensuring southern Lebanon is "free of any armed personnel, assets and weapons other than those of the government of Lebanon." "We have to stand against ... every suggestion that if resolution 1701 was not implemented it's because UNIFIL did not implement, which was never its mandate," said Lacroix, stressing that UNIFIL had a supporting role. Danon said last week that the

Lebanese army and UNIFIL had failed to gain control of the area.

He argued that Israel was now acting to enforce resolution 1701, telling the Security Council: "Our soldiers are now in the field, along the border in Lebanon, exposing and dismantling Hezbollah's infrastructure." "The United States and France have said that strengthening Lebanon's army would be crucial to implementing resolution 1701.

"UNIFIL cannot prevent hostilities," Russian UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said on Monday. "UNIFIL is being jeopardized and endangered and one country openly threatens its personnel, which is unacceptable." UNIFIL is also authorised under resolution 1701 "to assist" - if requested by the Lebanese government - in preventing the illicit transport of weapons into the country. The resolution 1701 also bans parties from crossing the Blue Line by ground or air. UN officials have long reported violations by both sides. Danon told the Security Council last week that it "must ensure the right mechanisms are in place for the Lebanese army and UNIFIL to meet their obligations."

EC announces Maharashtra, Jharkhand Assembly Polls Schedule

RNS | New Delhi: The Election Commission of India has officially announced the election schedule for the upcoming assembly polls in Maharashtra and Jharkhand. Maharashtra, which has 288 assembly seats, will conduct its elections in a single phase on November 20. In contrast, Jharkhand, with 81 assembly seats, will hold its elections in two phases on November 13 and November 20. Additionally, by-elections for 48 assembly seats and 2 Lok Sabha seats, including the high-profile Wayanad Lok Sabha seat, will also take place on November 13 and 20 across 15 states. The counting of votes for all elections is scheduled for November 23.



Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar revealed at a press conference that the term of the 288-member Maharashtra assembly will conclude on November 26, while Jharkhand's assembly term will end on 5 January 2025. In Jharkhand, approximately 2.60 crore voters are eligible to cast their ballots, comprising 1.31

- Maharashtra to Vote in a Single Phase on November 20
- Jharkhand Elections to Be Held in Two Phases on November 13 and 20
- By-Elections Scheduled for 48 Assembly and 2 Lok Sabha Seats
- Vote Counting Set for November 23

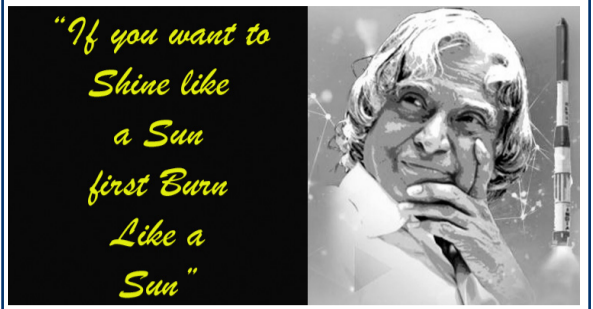
crore male and 1.29 crore female voters. Among them, 11.84 lakh are first-time voters, and 66.84 lakh belong to the youth demographic. The elections in Jharkhand will see 43 constituencies voting in the first phase and 38 in the second phase. The first phase on November 13 will cover constituencies including Koderma, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, and Gumla, among others. Meanwhile, the second phase on November 20 will encompass seats such as Dhanbad, Giridih, and Bokaro. In Maharashtra, there are 9.63 crore eligible voters who will participate in the upcoming assembly elections.

EVMs Are 100 Percent Foolproof: CEC Rajiv Kumar



New Delhi: Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar firmly asserted that Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are "100 percent foolproof." His remarks come in response to ongoing allegations of manipulation from opposition parties. Speaking to reporters in New Delhi, Kumar emphasized that public participation in elections has addressed concerns surrounding the integrity of EVMs. "The confidence of voters is evident in their engagement during the electoral process," he stated. Opposition parties, notably the Congress, have repeatedly questioned the reliability of EVMs, particularly following the recent setbacks in the Haryana assembly polls. Several Congress leaders have once again voiced their apprehensions regarding the voting technology. Kumar's comments aim to reinforce confidence in the electoral system amidst the ongoing debate over EVM reliability.

Nation Honors Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam on his Birth Anniversary



New Delhi: Today, India celebrates the birth anniversary of Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, the former President and renowned aerospace engineer, born on October 15, 1931, in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. Fondly referred to as the "Missile Man of India," Dr. Kalam made significant contributions to the nation's space and missile programs. Dr. Kalam was instrumental as Project Director in the development of India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle, which greatly advanced ISRO's capabilities, particularly with the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). Following his two-decade tenure at ISRO, he focused on indigenous guided missile development, leading to the successful creation and operationalization of the AGNI and PRITHVI missile systems. His leadership was pivotal during the critical Pokhran-II nuclear tests, which established India as a nuclear weapons state. An esteemed scientist, Dr. Kalam received honorary doctorates from 30 universities and institutions, along with numerous accolades including the Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, and Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honor. In 2002, he was elected as the 11th President of India, further cementing his legacy as a champion of science and education.

As the nation reflects on his remarkable contributions today, tributes from various sectors continue to highlight Dr. Kalam's enduring impact on India's scientific and technological advancement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has also paid tribute to Dr. Kalam on this special day. In a social media post, Modi expressed that the former President's thoughts and vision will guide the country toward achieving the goal of a "Viksit Bharat" (Developed India).

India Colombia sign MoU for AV production



New Delhi: India and Colombia today signed a MoU on Audiovisual Co-production in New Delhi. Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Dr. L. Murugan signed the agreement along with Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, Jorge Rojas Rodriguez. MoU signed today will enable Indian and Colombian film producers to utilize a platform for collaboration on various facets of filmmaking. Colombia is the 17th country to sign Audio Visual co-production Agreement with India. The agreement is expected to benefit producers from both countries in pooling their creative, artistic, technical, financial and marketing resources for the co-production.

Jan Arogya Kendra, CCL Hosts Free Health Camp in Ranchi



Ranchi: Jan Arogya Kendra, in collaboration with Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), organized a free respiratory health checkup camp at Adarsh Vrudha Ashram, Piska Nagdi. The camp provided essential medical services to 40 elderly residents, who received examinations from specialist doctors and access to free medications as needed. The health checkup included tests for hemoglobin, blood sugar, ECG, and hypertension, all offered at no cost to the participants. This initiative is part of CCL's ongoing efforts to promote health and well-being among its employees and community stakeholders while fulfilling its commitments to the country's energy needs. Key contributors to the camp included CMS Dr. Ratnesh Jain, CMO Dr. Preeti Tigga, and several other medical professionals and paramedical staff who played vital roles in the organization and execution of the event. This health camp was part of Special Campaign 4.0, through which CCL is implementing various health and wellness programs across all its operational areas, including its headquarters.

Janwadi Lekhak Sangh Holds Tribute for Dr. Nar Narayan Tiwari



Bokaro: The Janwadi Lekhak Sangh (Jales) held a condolence meeting to honor the late Dr. Nar Narayan Tiwari, a respected litterateur and member of the Jharkhand State Council, who passed away unexpectedly on October 10 while traveling in Mathura-Vrindavan. His last rites are being conducted in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. Chaired by senior poet Gopal Prasad, the memorial in Sector 4D featured reflections from prominent litterateurs, including Prahlad Chandra Das and Lalan Tiwari, who shared cherished memories and highlighted Dr. Tiwari's contributions to literature. Tiwari, author of "Kranti Rath," "Manisha Manjari," and "Manav Chintan," was remembered for his dynamic presence in Bokaro's literary community. The event concluded with a two-minute silence to pay tribute to Dr. Tiwari, emphasizing his lasting impact on literature. Jales District Secretary Ajay Yatish expressed gratitude to all attendees for honoring their beloved colleague.

Former Naxalite Arrested with Weapons in Gaya



by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Gaya: The Gaya police, in collaboration with the Special Task Force (STF), have apprehended a former Naxalite, Baidhanath Singh Yadav, for possessing illegal weapons and ammunition. Yadav, a resident of the Gurua police station area, was arrested near Kathwara turn following a tip-off about his presence in the area. During the operation, officers recovered a loaded rifle and 20 cartridges from Yadav, along with a mobile phone. Notably, the recovered rifle was reported stolen from the Chandauti police station in 1997, as confirmed by Senior Superintendent of Police Ashish Bharti in a press conference. Yadav has several cases registered against him in the Chandauti, Aams, and Gurua police stations. The police had received intelligence indicating that he was in possession of firearms at his residence in Kothwada. When officers approached the area, Yadav attempted to flee but was quickly apprehended by the police and STF personnel. A case (No. 329/2024) has been filed at Gurua police station, and interrogation of the arrested individual is currently underway.

India, U.S. finalise \$3.5bn deal for 31 MQ-9B Predator Drones



New Delhi: In a landmark agreement aimed at strengthening India's defense capabilities, the Indian government has officially signed a contract with the United States for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B Predator drones. The deal, which encompasses the tri-service acquisition of the MQ-9B Sky Guardian and Sea Guardian models, was

finalized in New Delhi in the presence of Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane. In addition to the drone procurement, the Ministry of Defence has also entered into a separate contract with General Atomics Global India Private Limited for performance-based logistics. This agreement will facilitate depot-level maintenance,

repair, and overhaul of the drones within India, ensuring operational efficiency and support. According to reports, this significant purchase was recently approved by the government and is expected to be a game changer for the Indian defense forces. The MQ-9B Predator drones represent a next-generation

advancement in remotely piloted aircraft, capable of executing a variety of intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions. With an operational altitude exceeding 40,000 feet and speeds of approximately 400 kilometers per hour, these drones will greatly enhance India's military firepower and operational readiness.

IndiGo Ventures gets SEBI node to launch Venture Capital Fund to invest in aviation startups

New Delhi: IndiGo announced on Tuesday that its corporate venture capital arm, IndiGo Ventures, has received approval from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to establish an Alternative Investment Fund. This significant milestone aims to drive innovation within the aviation sector and beyond. In an official statement, IndiGo highlighted that the fund will focus on investing in startups poised to redefine the future of aviation, specifically targeting pre-Series A, Series A, and Series B funding stages. The initiative will include investments in cutting-edge technologies and solutions within the aviation industry. Additionally, the fund plans to invest in consumer startups that enhance the passenger experience across various sec-



tors, including travel, lifestyle, hospitality, and transportation. Pre-investment activities have already commenced, with IndiGo Ventures engaging with select startups and their founders. For further information about the fund, including its investment thesis and membership details, interested

parties can visit GoIndiGoVentures.com. The fund is anticipated to begin making investments by the end of FY 2024-25. Neetan Chopra, Chief Digital & Information Officer at IndiGo, expressed enthusiasm for the initiative, stating, "As IndiGo embarks on this new journey

with IndiGo Ventures, we are committed to fostering innovation and giving wings to aspirations in aviation and beyond. Startups will benefit from IndiGo's extensive technical expertise and diverse geographical presence, paving the way for the development of new products and services."

Why Does Anarchy and Violence Erupt Only During Hindu Festivals?

...by Sanjay Saxena

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10 Congress MLAs on the chopping block ahead of Maharashtra polls: Sources

At least 10 sitting MLAs are likely to be left off the Congress's candidate list for the upcoming Maharashtra assembly elections, sources told.

Mumbai. At least 10 sitting Congress MLAs are expected to be left off the party's candidate list for the upcoming Maharashtra Assembly elections, according to sources. The decision comes after an internal survey suggested rampant anti-incumbency, with more than 20 per cent of respondents expressing dissatisfaction with these

lawmakers. Sources said the Congress high command has sought advice from the party brass in Maharashtra on how to deal with the fallout of dropping



these MLAs. It is believed that the sidelined lawmakers would be offered posts in the state's Legislative Council (MLC), in a bid to nip dissent in the bud and maintain party unity ahead of the crucial polls. Congress insiders indicate that the reshuffling of candidates is part of a broader effort to counter anti-incumbency and bring in fresh faces to rejuvenate the party's chances in the Assembly elections. It has been in the

opposition for the last two years after the collapse of the Maha Vikas Aghadi government it was a part of.

In 2019, Congress secured 44 seats in the 288-member Maharashtra Assembly. For the upcoming polls, the grand old party is reportedly pushing for around 100 seats in coalition talks with allies Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP. The Congress is looking to improve its standing in the state, seen as vital for its broader national strategy. However, its MVA partners may not be so accommodating of the party's demand for the most seats, especially after its poll debacle in Haryana.

According to sources, the triumvirate is far from reaching a consensus as Congress and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena are at an impasse over seat-sharing in key assembly segments. Meanwhile, the Election Commission (EC) is set to announce the schedule for Assembly elections in Maharashtra and Jharkhand today.

"Rashtra Ratna": PM Modi's Tribute To APJ Abdul Kalam On His Birth Anniversary

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday paid a heartfelt tribute to former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary, calling his life an enduring source of inspiration for all Indians. "Respectful tributes to the renowned scientist and former President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam ji on his birth anniversary. His vision and thoughts will greatly contribute to achieving the goal of a Viksit Bharat," PM Modi wrote in a post on X. In the post, PM Modi shared a video showcasing various photos of both leaders together, in which he praised Dr Kalam for embracing challenges.

Two things came naturally to Abdul Kalam -- ease and simplicity. There are two types of people in this

world: those who look for opportunities and those who look for challenges. Abdul Kalam always sought challenges," the Prime Minister said, emphasising how this characteristic defined Dr Kalam's life. PM Modi further remarked on Dr Kalam's unique achievements, noting how rare it was for someone to become a "Rashtra Ratna" (Jewel of the Nation) before assuming the role of Rashtrapati (President). "This distinction speaks volumes about the extraordinary life and accomplishments of Abdul Kalam," the Prime Minister added. Reflecting on a personal memory, PM Modi recalled a moment when Dr Kalam was asked how he would like to be remembered.



Bahraich violence: Yogi Adityanath meets riot victim's family, situation tense

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met the family of the 22-year-old man who was shot dead during a Goddess Durga idol immersion procession in the state's Bahraich district. The local BJP MLA was also present during the meeting.

Bahraich. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday met with the family members of the 22-year-old man killed in violence in the state's Bahraich district on Sunday, October 13. Ram Gopal Mishra's family members met the chief minister in Lucknow along with the BJP MLA, Sureshvar Singh, and demanded strict action against the accused. "I have seen the condition of my brother, I brought him back after the violence. No one was there, even from the district administration, to take care of my brother. There was negligence on the part of the local administration. We only want his (accused) encounter," Mishra's brother told the media after meeting Yogi Adityanath.

In a post on X, Yogi Adityanath also promised to "provide justice to the



victim's family", while sharing a photo of the meeting. "Today in Lucknow, I met the grief-stricken family members of the youth who died in the unfortunate incident in Bahraich district. In this hour of grief, the Uttar Pradesh government stands with the victim's family with full sensitivity and commitment. Rest assured, providing justice to the victim's

family is the top priority of the UP government. The culprits of this extremely reprehensible and unforgivable incident will not be spared at any cost," Yogi Adityanath said in a post on X. The situation remained tense in the district after the violence that broke out during a Goddess Durga idol immersion procession on October 13. Fresh incidents of violence were reported in the district's Nakawa village, where unidentified men torched a few shops and homes late Monday, October 14, night. The accused also tried to torch a religious structure. However, the situation was brought under control after the police force reached the spot. According to a local official, more than 50 police personnel were present at the spot to maintain the law and order situation.

Brawl between NDA, Opposition MPs during Waqf bill panel meeting

The Opposition accused the BJP MPs of using offensive language against them and walked out of the meeting for the second consecutive day.

New Delhi: A clash broke out between MPs of the ruling BJP and the Opposition during a meeting of the parliamentary committee examining the Waqf (Amendment) Bill on Tuesday. The opposition accused the BJP MPs of using offensive language against them and walked out of the meeting for the second consecutive day. The brawl erupted following a heated exchange between BJP MPs Nishikant Dubey, Dilip Saikia, Abhijit Ganguly and Trinamool MP Kalyan Banerjee and Congress's Gaurav Gogoi over the proposal to include women in Waqf boards. The Opposition alleged that the committee's chairperson, Jagdambika Pal, was not functioning in accordance with rules and failed to take action against the BJP MPs.

The BJP MPs, on the other hand, alleged the Opposition members were abusing the chairperson. The Waqf (Amendment) Bill was tabled by the Centre on July 28. However, amid strong objections from opposition parties, the legislation was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on August 8. On Monday, the Opposition staged a walkout after Anwar Maniappady, former chairperson of the Karnataka State Minorities Commission, accused Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge of being involved in Waqf land scams. Maniappady was among the members called for deposition on the legislation. Citing rules, the Opposition MPs claimed that "unproven allegations" against "high dignitaries" cannot be made at the meetings of these panels. They claimed that the committee chairperson overruled their objections and allowed the deposition to continue. Last month, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey wrote to Pal raising "serious concerns" about the massive 1.25 crore submissions received on the Waqf bill and sought an investigation by the Union Home Ministry. Dubey alleged that fundamentalist groups, individuals like Zakir Naik, or "foreign powers" might be involved.



Congress MLA Hiranman Bhika Khoskar Joins Ajit Pawar Faction Ahead Of Polls

Ajit Pawar led-Nationalist Congress Party said Mr Khoskar's joining will strengthen the party in Nashik and surrounding areas ahead of the Maharashtra Assembly elections.

Mumbai: Congress MLA from Igatpuri, Hiranman Bhika Khoskar, has joined the Ajit Pawar led-Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), ahead of the Assembly elections in Maharashtra. Mr Khoskar and his supporters officially joined the NCP at Ajit Pawar's residence in Mumbai on Monday.

Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and State NCP President Sunil Tatkar welcomed Khoskar into the party. "Hiranman Bhika Khoskar joined the NCP with dozens of his supporters including former Zilla Parishad member Sampatnana Sakale in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar and Maharashtra NCP President Sunil Tatkar in Pune," said NCP's statement.

The party further highlighted that it is the "second biggest" member joining the NCP



and mentioned that veteran actor Sayaji Shinde also joined the party in Mumbai. The party also reiterated that Mr Khoskar's joining will be strengthening the party in Nashik and surrounding areas ahead of the Assembly elections. "Khoskar enjoys much support in Nashik region particularly in the tribal community," the statement added. Announcing the new

member in a post on X, the party highlighted multiple other members who joined the party who have been zilla parishad members and also former officials in various districts. Sandeep Gopal Gulve, Sampatnana Sakale, former Zilla Parishad member Jamnadan Mama Mali, Former Zilla Parishad member Uday Jadhav, Vinayak Malekar, Jairam Dhande, Prashant Kadu, Pandumama Shinde, Dnyaneshwar Kadu, Sarpanch Jagan Kadam, Feroze Shaikh, Dilip Chaudhary, Tukaram Sahane, Ramesh Jadhav, Dashrath Bhagde, Sudam Bhor, Arun Gaikar, Shivaji Sirsat also joined the NCP. "With the entry of Khoskar, the strength of the NCP party has increased," said the post. Maharashtra Assembly elections will be held in 288 constituencies.

Lawrence Bishnoi gang member provided weapons to Baba Siddique's killers: Cops

The main target, as confirmed by the police, was not Zeeshan Siddiqui but Baba Siddiqui. The shooters were given a photograph of Baba Siddiqui along with a flex banner to identify him.

Mumbai. Shubham Lonkar, who made a social media post claiming responsibility for the murder on behalf of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, supplied weapons to the shooters responsible for the murder of former Maharashtra minister Baba Siddiqui. Shubham's brother, Pravin Lonkar, played a pivotal role in providing both financial and logistical support to the shooters. The two brothers, along with several accomplices, held multiple meetings in Pune to plan the murder.

The 66-year-old leader was shot dead while leaving his office for his residence in Bandra West on Saturday night. A total of six rounds of bullets were fired at Baba Siddique, three of which struck him. The NCP leader was declared dead after being taken to the hospital. Sources revealed that a meeting between Shubham Lonkar, Shiv, Dharmaraj, and Gurmali Singh took place in Pune to finalise details of the murder. Though no specific amount was promised to the shooters initially, they were assured a significant sum after the successful execution of the murder. Each shooter was, however, given Rs

50,000 upfront for expenses related to the operation. The main target, as confirmed by the police, was not Zeeshan Siddiqui but Baba Siddiqui. The shooters were given a photograph of Baba Siddiqui along with a flex banner to identify him. "There was no fixed amount promised, but they were assured a big reward," an investigator familiar with the case said. The shooters arrived in Mumbai in September, with Dharmaraj and Shiv Kumar coming first, and Gurmali Singh joining them later from Haryana. The attackers reportedly fired at the NCP leader from a distance of six to seven feet, with Dharmaraj using pepper spray to escape the scene. After shooting Baba Siddique, Dharmaraj Kashyap used pepper spray in the air to create a diversion and flee the scene. Despite the chaos, the shooters managed to escape initially. The police are currently investigating the authenticity of social media posts claiming responsibility for the murder. Both Facebook and Instagram have been contacted to verify if the Lawrence Bishnoi gang was involved as claimed.



PM Modi Calls For Framing Dos And Don'ts For Ethical Use Of Digital Technology, AI

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday made a fervent pitch for putting in place a global framework for the use of digital technology and ethical use of artificial intelligence (AI), saying security cannot be an afterthought in an interconnected world. Speaking at the inauguration of the International Telecommunication Union - WTSA and India Mobile Congress here, he favoured clear 'dos' and 'don'ts' to safeguard citizens.

"There is a need for a global framework... guidelines for digital technology," he said. "Time has come when global institutions have to accept the importance of a rule-based framework for digital technology." Digital rules are important not just because they involve personal privacy, media disinformation, the accountability of tech giants, and other issues of societal importance, but also because trade in goods and services rely on international flows of data. Stating that digital tools and applications are beyond any physical

boundaries and no country alone can safeguard its citizens from cyber threat, the Prime Minister said, "dos and don'ts have to be framed at the



global level." "For this, we have to work together. Global institutions have to take responsibility," he said. He cited the example of the aviation sector and said a similar framework is needed for the digital world. Global aviation regulations layout a set of technical, legal, and operational requirements to ensure the safety, security, and efficiency of international flights.

Consumer Rights: Not so intelligent chatbots

I have yet to come across consumers who do not have a complaint about chatbots that are being increasingly deployed by e-commerce sites to deal with customer queries and complaints.

Initially, compared to the highly frustrating experience of going through complex and lengthy Interactive Voice Response (IVR) menus to speak to a customer care executive, artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted automated chats seemed like a welcome change, given their quick and easy accessibility. However, poorly designed and executed chatbots that fail to answer queries or resolve complaints have left consumers totally disappointed and angry. First and foremost, most of these chatbots are not programmed to deal with a wide range of problems that consumers encounter in their transactions on e-commerce sites. Yet, businesses force consumers to go through that frustrating experience, before connecting them to a human being, thereby wasting the time of consumers. Under the Consumer Protection (E-Commerce) Rules, every e-commerce entity must display prominently the email address, landline and mobile numbers of customer care as well as grievance officers. But many are violating this mandate with impunity.

In a case where a wrong product was delivered to a customer, the only answer she could get from the chatbot was that it was a 'non-returnable item'. That may be so, but she had not got what she had ordered and there was no way of communicating this on the chat. It was only after wasting considerable time that she got a phone call from a consumer care executive. She later learnt that the phone number from which she got a call was programmed to only make calls and not receive calls. The e-commerce entity practically barred consumers from calling them! In another case where the chatbot provided by a bank could not answer her query, the consumer asked for the helpline number on which she could speak to an official. The repeated response was: "Sorry, I am still learning. Can you please rephrase it for me once again? I can help you with bank-related queries"! A consumer found on an online clothes retailer website that the default option for payment was through cash on delivery. Since he could not locate the option to pay through credit card, he tried the chatbot for help. It did not even understand his query.

Chatbots are also known to 'hallucinate' or give incorrect information. In the United States, where many companies are using chatbots endowed with advanced AI technologies, there have been instances of companies withdrawing them following highly erroneous advice or use of profanities. A parcel delivery firm in Britain, for example, disabled the AI function in its online chat system after a customer, frustrated by its poor responses, made it compose a poem on how bad the company's customer service was!

In February, Air Canada was held liable for the incorrect information on a discount claim given by its chatbot to a customer. It was asked to pay him \$812 by a civil resolution tribunal in Canada.

Last year, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau in the United States issued a warning against advanced AI chatbots being used by banks and said they posed the risk of providing inaccurate financial information, besides affecting customer privacy and data protection.

In the absence of proper encryption, authentication and authorisation, chatbots can also inject malware or ransomware into the users' devices. Companies must pay more attention to what consumers want, give them an option to choose an automated or human interaction and not force chatbots as the primary customer service delivery channel. Chatbots may save them money, but they will also take away customers!

Shrinking habitat of markhor, the shy wild goat

Markhor (*Capra falconeri*), known for its spiralled horns, quietly roams the rugged mountains in the landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir. Known for its grace and strength, the markhor is more than just a wild goat — it's a symbol of...

Markhor (*Capra falconeri*), known for its spiralled horns, quietly roams the rugged mountains in the landscapes of Jammu and Kashmir. Known for its grace and strength, the markhor is more than just a wild goat — it's a symbol of the region's natural beauty, biodiversity and heritage. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), markhors are found in Afghanistan, India, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, between the altitudes of 600m and 3600m. However, due to habitat loss, illegal hunting and climate change, the markhor was classified earlier as 'Endangered' and later, in 2015, as 'Near Threatened' by the IUCN.

The future of markhor isn't just about conservation — it's also about the people who live alongside it, the pastoralist communities whose lives are intertwined with these mountains and valleys. For centuries, the pastoralist communities, the traditional herders of this region, have shared the landscape with the markhor. Moving seasonally with their livestock, these pastoralists knew the land, the wildlife and the rhythms of nature. The markhor found refuge in the high altitudes of the Pir Panjal range, in areas like Hirpora, Tattakutti, Tosamaidan and Kazinag National Park. The relationship between these communities and the wild was one of coexistence — each respecting the other's space.

But times have changed. Roads have been cut through the mountains, high-tension power lines pass through the wildlife sanctuaries and due to the armed conflict in the region, the markhor's habitat is shrinking. The population of the markhor has also been significantly impacted by poaching for their prized horns. Various conservation efforts are in place like the Markhor Recovery programmes run by the J&K Government, beside initiatives from organisations like the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI), WWF India, and the School for Rural Development and Environment (SRDE). While legal protection and conservation efforts have helped stabilise numbers, poaching and habitat destruction still pose a significant threat. Conservative estimates put the population of the markhor at around 350. Yet, the pastoralists who know these mountains believe the numbers are higher, possibly over 500.

Says Shamim Ahmed, conservation officer at SRDE, "Pastoralists play a crucial role in conservation. Through awareness of wildlife laws, sustainable



herding practices and community-tourism initiatives, they gain new income opportunities and incentives to protect the land and the wildlife. It's not just about saving the markhor — it's about empowering communities to preserve their heritage." His words resonate with local leaders like Samir Khazir, a sociologist with WTI, who emphasises the role of the community: "Conservation isn't just about the animal — it's about the people who live here, who understand the land in ways outsiders can't."

Yet, challenges remain. The installation of concrete fences, barbed wire and landmines blocks the natural movement of wildlife, putting animals like the markhor at risk. The NHPC high-tension power lines through markhor habitats only add to the disruption, not just fragmenting the landscape but also introducing noise and pollution, further disturbing these already shy animals. Climate change threatens the markhor by pushing them to higher altitudes where food is scarce. The herding communities, too, feel the pressure. With development projects shrinking their pastures, they are forced higher into the mountains, into the markhor's territory. As the line between human and wildlife space blurs, so do the chances of conflict.

The markhor competes with livestock for grazing land, and although poaching has decreased, it's still a threat, especially in the remote areas where law enforcement is weak. In a region long troubled by political instability, conservation often takes a backseat. Resources that could be used to protect wildlife are diverted elsewhere, leaving both the markhor and the communities that rely on the land vulnerable. Dr Sajjad Shafi, the newly elected MLA from Uri, understands the delicate balance. "Uri's biodiversity is fragile," he says, "and my focus will be on conserving wildlife like the markhor and ensuring peaceful coexistence between people and nature."

There's hope for both the markhor and local communities through climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies. Wildlife-friendly infrastructure — designed with corridors for animals — can ease pressure on the markhor's habitat by allowing them to move freely and safely. Sustainable livestock practices, like rotational grazing and creating new pastures, would reduce the competition between the herders and wildlife. These efforts will not only protect the markhor, but also support local livelihoods, ensuring that both wildlife and the communities can thrive together.

Save Buddha Nullah

Turn rejuvenation plans into reality

THE recent review of the Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project underscores the urgent need to restore this vital waterway. A tributary of the Sutlej river flowing through Ludhiana, it has long been a significant resource for the region. However, rampant pollution has turned it into a toxic drain, threatening both public health and the environment. The Central and state governments' commitment of Rs 840 crore to rejuvenate the nullah is promising, yet progress has been sluggish, with pollution sources still unchecked. Industrial waste from Ludhiana's dyeing units, untreated sewage and solid waste have severely polluted the nullah.

One major problem is the lax enforcement of pollution control regulations. Although the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) recently ordered three common effluent treatment plants to stop discharging into Buddha Nullah, compliance remains spotty. These facilities continue to disregard the ZLD (zero liquid discharge) mandate, and over 120 pollution



points remain unchecked, adding to the degradation. A recent decision to form a joint task force by the Centre and the Punjab Government is a step in the right direction. This team of experts is set to inspect critical pollution

points, address infrastructure gaps and recommend long-term solutions. This collaborative approach underscores that restoring the nullah requires strict oversight, improved waste management and community involvement.

The situation is critical. For the residents of Ludhiana and surrounding areas, the pollution in the nullah results in contaminated drinking water, increased health risks and degraded agricultural lands. Civil society and environmental groups have advocated for stronger pollution controls, immediate action at the pollution sources and public awareness on waste management. The Buddha Nullah rejuvenation project represents an opportunity to reverse years of environmental degradation. This lifeline must be restored to its pristine state so it can again support the ecosystem and serve the people sustainably.

Touchstones: Powerful, innocent promises

If only we could learn to listen to the voices that hesitate to speak loudly, what a great country we could be

I am no historian, economist or political scientist. However, I do have a good memory (even at 73) and can remember almost all that happened to fashion my life in these seven decades. My friends call me a storehouse of useless information and although they don't always mean that as an acknowledgement of my powers of recall, I take it as a compliment. So, I am currently writing a book to document all the trivia that has a history of its own and that links others of my generation to a galaxy that is light years away from the globalised world that has rendered faceless, or useless, all those who are not connected digitally.

The '50s and '60s were the foundational decades of our country as we know it now. Moreover, for those like me, who were born then, it went along with a way of life and an upbringing that left a deep imprint on each one of us. Everything that is still good in this country dates to that time, but all that eventually derailed the innocent promises of that age can also be traced back to those decades. My birth in 1951 was the year when India had just been given its Constitution. So, I like to believe that the values that it was founded on were also the same that were instilled in us as my generation grew up. Today, when I look around, I find that all those who stand up for those moral values belong to that age group. You will find them in each public demonstration against the erosion of human rights, the division of this country on the basis of caste and creed, the centralisation of power and the snuffing of weak voices.

This is, of course, a romantic view and peculiar to a certain section of the upper middle class, who had a long history of a liberal education behind them but who lived modest lives. In the small towns of Uttar Pradesh, this meant that we were products of a mix of Hindi medium and English medium education. We went to posh missionary schools that still taught us



British rather than Indian history, prayed in chapels and abided by the rules of a Christian way of life. At home, our lives were different: we spoke in our own tongues, had pet names such as Chhotu and Motu that we hid from our school friends. Our mothers had a strong belief in religion and taught us prayers such as the Durga Saptashati and the Shiv Pancharatnam sloka, while at school we started the day with the Lord's Prayer, said Hail Marys and prayed to St Jude, hope of the hopeless. At home, St Jude was replaced by the Hanuman Chalisa. That is probably how we grew up, firmly anchored in our secular world.

As I remember that time now, our day began with the prayers my mother recited as she did her morning rituals, then walked to school and stood still at noon as the chapel bell rang for the Angelus and Benediction. And when we went out to play after school and homework was done, my mother told us to return home before the evening azaan floated from the local mosque. Whether we believed in other religions or not, we were made aware from an early age that this country belonged to people of different faiths and that no religion was superior to another. This background was already receding even when we

were growing up. In the secular world that was fashioned by the State to promote equality and tolerance, ritual worship and cultural traditions became a casualty. I have no shame in admitting that I still say my prayers each day, and that includes the Christian ones learnt in school, alongside the Sanskrit ones we were taught as children and recited at home. Since we grew up in what was a home where often three generations lived under one roof, we learnt tolerance for the eccentricities that accompanied my mother and mother-in-law's way of life. So, not only was our kitchen a staunchly vegetarian one, but as long as my mother-in-law controlled it, onions and garlic were a no-no. However, as our boys grew up in Chandigarh and often ate with their Punjabi and non-Brahmin Hindu friends, they began to ask her why it was forbidden to get meat or chicken cooked in our home. My father-in-law (a wonderfully liberal and fair man) then stepped in as the magisterial voice on such occasions. He told my mum-in-law firmly that she had run her own home according to her prejudices but now that she lived with her son and daughter-in-law, she had no right to impose those taboos. 'You are one against six,' he reminded her. 'Always remember that there is a difference between the Queen and the Queen Mother.' Give and take comes naturally to those of us who grew up in large clans. Alas, with the rise of the modern nuclear family living in gated communities, we are in danger of becoming uncaring of others and self-centred in a way that is alarming. Looking out for the needy, the disadvantaged and those less fortunate may be our State policy, but I see little of it in urban homes now.

NEWS BOX

IND vs NZ: New Zealand's Ben Sears ruled out of series, Jacob Duffy called in

New Delhi. New Zealand pacer Ben Sears has been ruled out of the Test series against India due to a knee injury, a statement from the Blackcaps revealed on October 15, Tuesday. Sears has been replaced by Jacob Duffy in the squad for the 3-match series, which will begin on October 16 in Bengaluru.

Sears had complained about pain in his left knee while training during the Sri Lanka series and had undergone Tests in New Zealand last week. His trip to India was delayed as the scans revealed a tear in the meniscus. While New Zealand cricket sought out medical advice and was hoping the pacer could make the cut for the squad, the doctors advised New Zealand cricket to rule him out of the series. Duffy, who has been called in as Sears' replacement, will be leaving for India on Tuesday. The 30-year-old is yet to play a Test match for New Zealand, having represented them in 6 ODIs and 14 T20Is so far. Duffy has 299 first-class wickets to his name.



What Stead said about Sears' injury
New Zealand coach Gary Stead said that they were disappointed to see Sears miss out but feel excited with the prospect of having Duffy as an option. Stead admitted that Duffy has the chance to make his Test debut during the course of the series. "We're obviously disappointed for Ben who made a strong start to his Test career during the home summer and offers a genuine pace option," said Stead.

"It remains to be seen how long we'll be without him for, but we're hopeful his road to a full recovery will be a short one."

"It's an exciting opportunity for Jacob who has been around Test the squad before. With three Tests ahead of us, he has every chance of making his Test debut." New Zealand are already without the services of Kane Williamson for some duration of the series as the star batter is recovering from an injury.

UEFA Nations League: 10-man France edge past Belgium, Germany beat Netherlands

New Delhi. Randal Kolo Muani's brace propelled France closer to the Nations League quarter-finals with a 2-1 victory over Belgium in their League A Group 2 encounter in Brussels on Monday. Kolo Muani opened the scoring from the penalty spot after Wout Faes handled the ball in the box, but Belgium equalised through Loïs Openda just before halftime. Belgium's captain Youri Tielemans had missed an earlier penalty, sending his shot over the bar. Kolo Muani secured the win with a header in the 62nd minute, converting Lucas Digne's cross, as France held on for the win despite playing the final 14 minutes with 10 men after Aurelien Tchouameni received a second yellow card. Belgium, missing key players Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku, created several chances but were wasteful in front of goal, a recurring issue for the team. Openda had been a bright spot, winning the missed penalty after being brought down by William Saliba and later



scoring a well-timed header from Timothy Castagne's cross.

France, without Kylian Mbappe, held firm despite Belgium's pressure and saw a goal disallowed for handball before Kolo Muani's decisive second goal. With Italy leading the group on 10 points and France just behind on nine, both teams are in strong contention for the quarter-finals. Belgium, with four points, still have work to do.

Leweling stars for Germany on debut
Germany's Jamie Leweling marked his international debut in style, scoring the decisive goal in a 1-0 win over the Netherlands in their Nations League Group A3 clash on Monday. The 23-year-old midfielder, one of two new faces in the squad, had an early goal disallowed for offside in the second minute. However, he made no mistake in the 64th minute, smashing the ball into the top corner after the Dutch failed to clear a corner. Germany dominated from the outset, keeping the Netherlands under constant pressure.

OTD in 2021: CSK scripted redemption to win 4th IPL trophy, beat KKR in final

- ↳ CSK won their 4th IPL trophy on October 15, 2021
- ↳ They beat KKR by 27 runs in the final in Dubai
- ↳ Ruturaj Gaikwad scored 635 runs to win Orange Cap



↳ Chennai Super Kings scripted their redemption by winning their 4th IPL title in Dubai. The MS Dhoni-led side beat Eoin Morgan's KKR in the final by 27 runs.

New Delhi. On this day in 2021, Chennai Super Kings lifted their fourth IPL trophy, defeating Kolkata Knight Riders by 27 runs in the final held in Dubai. It was a moment of redemption for MS Dhoni's men, who bounced back after missing out on the playoffs in the previous season. CSK's consistent performances throughout IPL 2021 were capped off by an impressive win in the final, with young opener Ruturaj Gaikwad playing a pivotal role in their success during that particular season with a century and four fifties. Batting first, CSK posted a daunting total of 192/3. Faf du Plessis led the charge with a brilliant 86 off

59 balls, anchoring the innings with well-timed boundaries and clever running between the wickets. Ruturaj Gaikwad also made an impact with a steady 32, setting a solid platform at the top. Robin Uthappa (31) and Moeen Ali (37*) added crucial runs towards the end, taking CSK to a challenging score. CSK's epic redemption CSK beat KKR in final In response, KKR made a flying start with openers Venkatesh Iyer (50) and Shubman

Gill (51) adding 91 runs for the first wicket. However, CSK's bowlers pulled things back remarkably, picking up wickets at regular intervals. Shardul Thakur was the pick of the bowlers with 3/38, while Ravindra Jadeja and Josh Hazlewood also kept things tight, ensuring KKR could not maintain their momentum. With this victory, CSK became four-time IPL champions, joining Mumbai Indians as the most successful franchises in the tournament's history.

Ruturaj Gaikwad's performances stood out throughout the season. His tally of 635 runs earned him the Orange Cap, making him the youngest player to win the prestigious award. He was also awarded as the Emerging Player of the Season for his performance. Gaikwad also became the first cricketer to win both the IPL title and the Orange Cap in the same season, marking a significant milestone in his young career.

The triumph in 2021 further cemented MS Dhoni's legacy as one of the greatest leaders in T20 cricket. The title win was a testament to CSK's resilience and team spirit, as they once again proved why they are among the most consistent teams in the IPL.

R Ashwin defines beauty of Test cricket ahead of IND vs NZ: It's pinnacle of sport

- ↳ R Ashwin will be back in action during India vs New Zealand Test series
- ↳ India host New Zealand for a three-match Test series, starting October 16
- ↳ The 1st test match will take place at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru



New Delhi. India's veteran spinner Ravichandran Ashwin defined the beauty of Test cricket in a video released by the BCCI on their official social media handle. The video gave snippets of the Indian team's practice session in Bengaluru with a voice-over by Ashwin from behind. The veteran spinner said that the format requires

adaptability and every day the team needs to come up with a new approach and strategy. Meanwhile, the Indian team has been training hard in the nets ahead of the all-important Test series vs New Zealand. "See, Test cricket is always about adaptability, right? You can't start Day 5 like how you started Day 1. Every day you need to be able to adapt along with conditions. That's why they say Test cricket is the pinnacle of this particular sport," Ashwin said in the video. Ashwin will be back in action for India after he won the Player of the Series award for a 2-0 clean-sweep vs Bangladesh last month. He will hope to emulate a similar kind of performance against the Kiwis. With 527

Test wickets to his name, Ashwin has a chance to surpass Nathan Lyon's tally of 530 and become the off-spinner with most wickets in the format from the current era.

IND vs NZ: What to expect
India host New Zealand for a three-match Test series, starting October 16, Wednesday. The 1st Test will take place at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru. New Zealand will be led by Tom Latham after Tim Southee stepped down from captaincy duties after their 0-2 Test series loss against Sri Lanka. New Zealand have failed to win any of their last five Test matches, whereas India have won each of their last five matches in red-ball cricket. The Rohit Sharma-led side stand at the top of the points table of the World Test Championship rankings. The Indian team will aim to strengthen their position at the top as they currently have 74.24 PCT. New Zealand, on the other hand, slumped to sixth position in the rankings with 37.50 PCT.

India and New Zealand last played a Test match in Bengaluru back in 2012. India won the match by five wickets by playing just four specialist bowlers (two pacers and two spinners).

What happened the last time India hosted New Zealand in Bengaluru Test in 2012

New Delhi. India is set to host New Zealand for a three-match Test series, starting October 16, Wednesday. India lead the overall head-to-head record with 22 wins in 62 games and 27 draws. Meanwhile, New Zealand won 13 matches in the format against India. As M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru is set to host the 1st Test, let us recall as to what happened the last time India hosted the Blackcaps in the format at this very venue. India clinched a 2-0 series victory over New Zealand by winning the second Test at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, by 5 wickets in August 2012. The hosts chased down 261 on the fourth day, thanks to a steady knock from Virat Kohli and valuable contributions from skipper MS Dhoni and Cheteshwar Pujara. After winning the toss and opting to bat first, New Zealand posted 365 in their



first innings. Ross Taylor led the way with a brilliant 113, while Kruger van Wyk added 71 to take the visitors to a competitive total. Prayan Ojha was the pick of the Indian bowlers, taking 4/90. In reply, India managed 353, falling 12 runs short of New Zealand's total. Virat Kohli stood out with a patient 103, his second Test century. MS Dhoni (62) and Suresh Raina (55) chipped in with crucial runs to keep India in the game. For New Zealand, Tim Southee impressed with figures of 7/64, troubling the Indian batters with swing and seam.

Virat's 2nd Test hundred
New Zealand's second innings was wrapped up for 248, despite Ross Taylor's quick 35. R Ashwin once again starred with the ball, finishing with 5/69, taking his match tally to 12 wickets. His consistent bowling proved decisive in restricting the Kiwis. Chasing 261 for victory, India's top order struggled early, losing three quick wickets. However, Kohli (51) held the innings together, and Dhoni (48*) finished the job with composure. Cheteshwar Pujara's steady 48 also provided crucial stability during the chase.

Kylian Mbappe, LaLiga president accuse FIFA of destroying football ecosystem

New Delhi. A players' union, the European leagues' group, and Spain's LaLiga have jointly filed a complaint against FIFA, alleging "abuse" regarding the governing body's international match schedule. The complaint was submitted to European Union antitrust regulators amid growing concerns over player well-being, with many athletes facing fatigue, injuries, and mental strain despite their substantial salaries.

The complaint asserts that FIFA's control over the international calendar constitutes an abuse of dominance and violates EU law, according to FIFPRO Europe, European Leagues, and LaLiga in a joint statement. The European Leagues, an association that includes major leagues like the Premier League, Bundesliga, Serie A, and Ligue 1—excluding LaLiga—has voiced specific concerns about the revamped Club World Cup set to take place next year. The tournament will expand from



seven to 32 clubs and is scheduled for nearly a month in the U.S., potentially disrupting clubs' pre-season tours aimed at enhancing global fan engagement. Premier League CEO Richard Masters expressed that the situation has reached a "tipping point," emphasising feedback from players who feel overwhelmed by the excessive number of matches. LaLiga President Javier Tebas criticised FIFA for prioritizing its own interests while disregarding the broader

impact on the football ecosystem.

In a video statement during a news conference held by the three organisations, French captain Kylian Mbappe echoed these sentiments, stating, "When it's too much, it's too much." FIFA, however, maintains that the international calendar was established with input from representatives across all continents, including Europe, and in consultation with FIFPRO and various leagues. In addition to the expanded Club World Cup, the upcoming World Cup will also grow from 32 to 48 nations. UEFA has similarly adjusted its schedule with a new Champions League format but has not been included in the current complaint, as FIFA is seen as responsible for the international calendar. Mathieu Moreuil, Premier League director of international football relations and EU affairs, noted that relations with UEFA are different due to ongoing dialogue.

IND vs NZ 1st Test, Bengaluru weather report: Will rain play spoilsport

- ↳ India and New Zealand are all set to renew their rivalry in the Test arena with the first match of the series happening at the iconic Chinnaswamy stadium on October 16. Will the weather in Bengaluru play spoilsport

New Delhi. India and New Zealand are all set to renew their rivalry in the Test arena with the first game of the 3-match series emanating from the iconic Chinnaswamy stadium in Bengaluru from October 16,

Wednesday. The Indian team will be aiming to get the preparations in before the Border Gavaskar Trophy against Australia down under, which will begin in November. Rohit Sharma and his men will be buoyed by the fact that they won the series against Bangladesh where the team showed two different facets to their game. While the Chennai Test showed the team's resilience, in Kanpur the Indian team showed that they could easily dominate a bowling attack. New Zealand are coming into the series after being beaten 2-0 by Sri Lanka recently. They will also be without Kane Williamson for some part of the series as the star batter recovers from an injury. However, they still have firepower in the side that can Test the hosts. With all the elements for a thrilling series in store, will the weather be kind to both teams in Bengaluru?



India vs New Zealand 1st Test: Bengaluru weather report
According to Accuweather, Bengaluru is expected to be cloudy throughout with some showers also expected. Tuesday is expected to be a day filled with rain showers as there is

a 90 percent chance. On Wednesday, which will be Day 1 of the contest, the rain percentage is 41, with thunderstorms predicted in the afternoon.

Read: IND vs NZ 1st Test predicted XIs
The percentage is 40 on Thursday and will be the highest on Friday at 67. On Saturday, it will decrease to 25 percent before rising to 40 on the final day of the game on Sunday. India vs New Zealand: Squads
India: Rohit Sharma (C), Jasprit Bumrah (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, KL Rahul, Sarfaraz Khan, Rishabh Pant (WK), Dhruv Jurel (WK), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Mohd. Siraj, Akash Deep

Vivian Dsena Slams

Chaahat Pandey

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

Bigg 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...'



Alia 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



Janhvi 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...'

Television 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."

