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PAGE 03
"Will Have To Stop Somewhere": Sharad Pawar

Tiger reserves and the arduous task of conservation

Healy slams 'Australian Boys' egos' after nervy win over Pakistan

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The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

Indian American voices 'will roar' in this election: Joe Biden's advisor

Washington, The voices of the Indian American community are expected to be crucial in the US presidential polls across many states, including the battleground states, Neera Tanden, senior advisor to US President Joe Biden, said in an exclusive conversation with India Today as she analysed the pre-election scenario. According to her, this election could be the culmination of long-standing efforts to ensure that Indian American voices are heard, as Democratic nominee Kamala Harris and her Republican rival, Donald Trump, are set for a razor-thin contest on November 5. "We've all lived through periods where there's more bias and anger. And then there's periods where we feel more welcome. And I just think, you know, we stand at a moment where Indian American voices will not just be heard, but will roar in this election," Tanden said as she explained Harris' campaign addressing various communities. She noted that Kamala Harris' deep understanding of India and her perspective will be a significant asset in fostering stronger US-India relations if she is elected to power. "If we elect Kamala Harris tomorrow, we will have the first president ever who visited India as a child who has Indian relatives who experience what it's like, that really knows India from that perspective, not just as a geopolitical ally, but really from the bottom up," Tanden said. She stressed, "I think her added understanding of India from that perspective will be an unfathomable asset in the bilateral relationship between the United States and India. And I think India will be very proud to have a daughter of India as President". She further noted that a lot of people in the Indian community in the US feel a sense of pride that Kamala Harris is actually on the cusp of being president. "And I just see that there's a lot of, you know, just energy out there. So our Indian Americans are a crucial voting bloc. They are one of the largest ethnic minorities in Pennsylvania, for example, a very important state. But they're a very large voting bloc in Georgia and North Carolina. And I really think this election could be kind of the culmination of efforts for a long time to ensure our voices are heard," Tanden remarked.

Tanden described Harris as a leader deeply focused on how policies impact everyday people, a quality shaped by her background as California's Attorney General. The election, according to her, underscores the importance of inclusive representation, resonating with Indian Americans and other minority communities.

Canadian police officer suspended for attending pro-Khalistan protest outside Hindu temple

OTTAWA. A Canadian police officer has been suspended for participating in a pro-Khalistan protest outside the Hindu Sabha temple in Brampton, according to a media report. On Sunday, protestors carrying Khalistani flags clashed with people at the Hindu temple and disrupted a consular event co-organised by the temple authorities and the Indian Consulate. There were unverified videos circulating on social media about the protest.

The videos appeared to show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, as reported by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. The Peel Police is "aware of a video circulating on social media which shows an off-duty Peel Police officer involved in a demonstration," said Media Relations Officer Richard Chin in an email to CBC News. "This officer has since been suspended in accordance with the Community Safety and Policing Act," he said. "We are investigating the circumstances in totality depicted in the video and are unable to provide further information until such time that this investigation is complete." Peel police previously said three people have been charged after violence erupted as Indian consular officials visited the Hindu Sabha Mandir temple Sunday. Videos circulating on social media show demonstrators holding banners in support of Khalistan, the CBC report added.

Later in the day, demonstrators made their way to the Westwood Mall in neighbouring Mississauga, according to the World Sikh Organisation of Canada.

A short time after, a third protest was held outside the Malton gurudwara, a Sikh place of worship on Airport Road in Mississauga, the report added. "Although these demonstrations occurred at three different locations, they appear to be related to one another. Several incidents between protestors and worshippers broke out," police said in a news release. India on Monday condemned the attack on the temple with an expectation that those indulging in violence "will be prosecuted".

In a statement, the Ministry of External Affairs said that New Delhi remains "deeply concerned" about the safety and security of Indian nationals in Canada.

US election: When will we know who won

WASHINGTON. As Americans prepare to vote on Election Day Tuesday, officials are calling for patience as they tally ballots in what could be a historically close presidential race -- and warning that it could take days to find out who has won.

Under the US system, citizens do not vote directly for their leader. Instead, their ballots elect the 538 members of a group called the Electoral College, which then elects the president and vice president.

Each state casts its Electoral College votes for the candidate that won its popular vote. Bigger states, with more representatives in the US Congress, get a larger share of the 538 Electoral College votes on offer. Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and her Republican rival Donald Trump will be vying to get to the all-important 270 votes that pushes them past the halfway mark and guarantees them the keys to the Oval Office. But with this year's race going down to the wire, experts point to a growing risk of delays and complications like legal challenges over the vote count. Around 81 million people have voted ahead of Tuesday, over half of the total ballots cast in 2020. How long is the count?

The first polls close at 6:00 pm Eastern Time (2300 GMT) but when the race is tight, it could take days before a victor is projected. In 2020, US media declared Democratic candidate Joe Biden the winner on Saturday November 7, although polls closed the Tuesday before.

In 2016 and 2012, voters had a shorter wait. After votes are cast, local election officials, who may be appointed or elected, process and count them. Tallying methods vary from one location to the next.

Missouri sues US Justice Department to block it from sending poll monitors

The Republican-led state of Missouri asked a judge on Monday to block the US Justice Department from sending lawyers to St. Louis on Election Day to monitor for compliance with federal voting rights laws, even after the city's election board agreed to permit it.

Missouri by the state's attorney general and Secretary of State, accuses the Justice Department of making an 11th hour plan that intends to "displace state election authorities" by sending poll monitors on Tuesday to locations throughout St. Louis. Republican former President Donald Trump, who faces Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris in Tuesday's US presidential election, continues to falsely claim that his 2020 defeat was the result of widespread fraud. He has urged his supporters to turn out at polling places to watch for suspected fraud. Missouri is one of 27 states the Justice Department said on Friday it would send staff out to monitor voting locations, as it has done regularly during national elections.

The only location in Missouri it is sending poll monitors to is St. Louis, which in January 2021 reached a settlement with the Justice Department over concerns about architectural barriers and other problems that could have hindered voting by people with disabilities. As part of that settlement, the city's Board of Election



Commissioners agreed to allow the Justice Department to monitor for compliance. This included the monitoring of polling places on Election Day. The settlement was completed at the very end of the Trump administration, when Eric Dreiband previously served as the Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division. The Justice Department declined to comment on the lawsuit. While some of the locations the Justice Department will monitor on Election Day include key counties in the seven battleground states expected to help decide the election, the Justice Department is also sending personnel to a

variety of other locations such as counties in Texas, Massachusetts, Alaska, South Dakota and New Jersey.

Missouri is not one of the seven battleground states. The Justice Department is responsible for enforcing a variety of federal voting rights laws, such as one that requires states to accommodate voters with disabilities and another that requires states to allow US citizens and military members who reside overseas to vote by absentee ballot in federal elections. In 2022, both Florida and Missouri resisted efforts by the Justice Department to send poll monitors to locations including Miami-Dade and Broward County, Florida. Florida, in a letter to the Justice Department that year, said state law prohibited department employees from being inside polling places unless they were on a list of permitted personnel. In response to the concerns, the Justice Department had its staff stationed outside polling locations in Florida and Missouri for the 2022 election.

The 7 states that will swing the fate of Kamala Harris and Donald Trump

World With the 2024 US presidential election set to go down the wire, it will be up to the seven swing states to determine the fate of Democratic candidate Kamala Harris, 60, and her Republican rival and former President Donald Trump, 78. These pivotal states -- Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin -- have 93 electoral votes and are the primary battlegrounds as both candidates vie for the 270 of the total 538 electoral votes required to secure the presidency. Swing states, or battleground states, are those that can shift between Democratic and Republican support depending on the election. These states, with historically



narrow voting margins and varied outcomes over time, draw significant attention from candidates, who focus their campaigns there to sway voters and secure crucial electoral votes. On the final day of campaigning, both Harris and Trump held marathon rallies

in Pennsylvania, the largest of the swing states with 19 electoral college votes. While all seven states are essential to either campaign, three states in particular -- Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin -- are crucial for Harris's path to victory. Known as the "Blue Wall", these states were reliable Democratic strongholds until Trump flipped all three in 2016, breaking the Democrats' winning streak in the region. In 2020, Joe Biden reclaimed these states for the Democrats, but by narrow margins, highlighting their competitive nature and making them must-wins for Harris in 2024.

Bad things can happen: Trump on possibility of losing to Harris amid close race

Former President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump stated that he could imagine the possibility of losing the election to Vice President Kamala Harris. However, he emphasised that he currently holds "a substantial lead" and predicted that the outcome of the election would likely be clear by election night.

Speaking to ABC News, when asked whether he thinks there's any way he could lose the election, the former president said, "Yeah, I guess, you know". "I guess you could lose, can lose. I mean, that happens, right?... But I think I have a pretty substantial lead. But, you could say--yeah, yeah, you could lose. Bad things could happen. You know, things happen, but it's going to be interesting," Trump elaborated. The US is going to the polls on November 5 to elect its next president in what is predicted to be the closest race in American history. While some polls suggest an edge for Harris at the national level, others predict a Trump upper hand in key

Indian-origin actor Poorna Jagannathan endorses Kamala Harris for US election

Washington Indian-origin actor Poorna Jagannathan, who is known for her roles in films like 'Delhi Belly' and 'Yeh Jawani Hai Deewani', as well as the hit Netflix series 'Never Have I Ever', has endorsed US Vice President and Democratic nominee Kamala Harris for the presidential election.

In an exclusive interview with India Today, the 51-year-old actor said, "I am wholeheartedly supporting Kamala Harris. This is a very multi-issue election for me. I am an immigrant, a survivor of sexual violence, believe there should be a ceasefire and peace in the Middle East, and I have experienced the effects of climate change." "And for all these reasons, I am a huge believer in not only what the Democratic Party thinks, but what she (Harris) stands for. It is a very personal election for me," she added. This latest celebrity endorsement for Harris comes just hours ahead of the high-stakes election which will see the Vice President going head-to-head against her Republican rival and former President, Donald Trump. When asked to comment on what the Indian-American voters

thought of the 2024 election cycle, Jagannathan said it was not only members of the Indian community, but groups of people from other minorities coming together to Harris's aide. Regarding her message to Indian-



American voters who were still undecided on which candidate to choose as President, the actor said that the decision "depends on who they are as a person". There is a big divide right now between Indian-American women and Indian-American men. For Indian-Americans in general, you have to remember where we came from and who we are. We may be perceived as the minority or immigrants who are not

threatened when Trump sends Diwali messages. But don't be fooled," she warned. "What happens to one immigrant group will affect us as well. This is exactly what we saw after 9/11. There was so much Islamophobia, it also affected our Sikh brothers and sisters. The horrors that happens to one immigrant group, we are not exclusive to it. Trump's immigration policies are brutal and unfair, and we have to see ourselves as immigrants."

The actor also mentioned abortion rights, one of the most contentious issues in this year's election, and said that it not only affects women but men as well.

Jagannathan has joined a long list of celebrities who have endorsed Kamala Harris in the race to the White House. The list includes top musicians like Beyonce, Taylor Swift, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Wonder, Eminem; actors Julia Roberts, Kerry Washington, Samuel L Jackson, Arnold Schwarzenegger; and NBA stars LeBron James and Magic Johnson.



battleground states, which could turn the tide in his favour.

However, the Republican candidate also hinted that he might claim victory prematurely on Election Day itself. Trump told ABC News that he believes the country will know the winner by Tuesday night, and when asked when he expects to address the nation, Trump told Karl, "I'll be out there at the right time". Anticipating Trump's plan to claim victory, the Kamala Harris camp said they are preparing to counter the claim. "We are sadly ready if he does and, if we know that he is actually manipulating the press and attempting to manipulate the consensus of the American people... we are prepared to respond," Harris said.

It may take several days for the US to officially declare the election winner, although the outcome is expected to become clearer soon after the polls close.

Elon Musk's lawyer admits \$1 million giveaway to voters was not random

World Elon Musk's pro-Trump group does not choose the winners of its \$1 million-a-day giveaway to registered voters at random, but instead picks people who would be good spokespeople for its agenda, a lawyer for the billionaire said on Monday.

Musk lawyer Chris Guber was trying to persuade a Pennsylvania judge that the giveaway was not an "illegal lottery," as Philadelphia district attorney Lawrence Krasner alleged in a lawsuit seeking to block the contest ahead of Tuesday's US presidential election. "There is no prize to be won, instead recipients must fulfil contractual obligations to serve as a spokesperson for the PAC," Guber said in the hearing before Judge Angelo Foglietta.

The hearing in the battleground state comes just one day before Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris and Republican former President Donald Trump will square off in the tightly contested race. Musk and his political action committee are backing Trump. Tesla CEO Musk's offer is limited to registered voters in the seven states expected to decide the election - Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. America PAC says its two remaining winners will be from Arizona

and Michigan, meaning that Musk would likely be able to continue the giveaway even if Foglietta blocks the lottery.

"The only people protected by Pennsylvania law are in Pennsylvania," said Richard Briffault, a professor at Columbia Law School.

But in courtroom testimony, Krasner said he would seek financial penalties against Musk and America PAC. He said he would not seek to take money back from the 16 voters who have so far won the contest. "I'll be seeking a lot more money than that for what Elon Musk and America PAC have done," Krasner said under cross-examination.

Since Oct. 19, Musk has been giving a \$1 million check every day to a randomly selected voter who has signed his petition supporting free speech and gun rights. Musk became an outspoken Trump supporter this year and has promoted the former president on his social media platform. Krasner, a Democrat, sued Musk and his political action committee in state court on Oct. 28 to try to block the giveaway, which he called an illegal lottery that violates state consumer



protection laws. A lawyer for Krasner's office, John Summers, called Guber's comments a "complete admission of liability."

"We just heard this guy say, my boss, my client, called this random," Summers said. "We promised people that they were going to participate in a random process, but it's a process where we pre-select people." Summers later showed the court a clip of Musk at an Oct. 19 Trump rally telling attendees that America PAC would "randomly" award \$1 million to people who sign the petition every day until the

election. In the video, Musk also said "all we ask" is that the winners serve as spokespeople for the group.

"This was all political marketing masquerading as a lottery, albeit an illegal lottery," Krasner said. Philadelphia is the largest city in Pennsylvania, one of seven battleground states likely to determine the outcome of the race between Trump and Harris. Whichever candidate wins, the state will receive its 19 electoral votes out of a total of 270 needed to win. The giveaway falls in a grey area of election law, and legal experts are divided on whether Musk could be violating federal laws against paying people to register to vote.

The US Department of Justice has warned America PAC the giveaway could violate federal law, according to media reports, but federal prosecutor have not taken any public action. Musk has so far given nearly \$120 million to America PAC, according to federal disclosures. The Trump campaign is broadly reliant on outside groups for canvassing voters, meaning the super PAC founded by Musk, the world's richest man, plays an outsized role in what is expected to be a razor-thin election.

CBI Raids 20 locations across three states in Rs 1,250 Crore illegal mining case

Ranchi/Patna/Kolkata: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted widespread raids on Tuesday at 20 locations across Jharkhand, Bihar, and West Bengal in connection with a major illegal mining case valued at Rs 1,250 crore.

The raids, targeting cities including Ranchi, Gumla, Sahebganj, Kolkata, and Patna, led to the seizure of over Rs 60 lakh in cash, more than 1 kg of gold, 1.2 kg of silver, gold ornaments, mobile phones, and several incriminating documents. The CBI's searches uncovered documents related to property sales, shell companies, and illicit investments, as well as 61 live cartridges, agreements, and sale deeds linked to the illegal mining activities. The agency's investigation suggests that these operations resulted in significant financial losses to the government, primar-



ily due to unpaid royalties and violations of mining laws.

This case, which was registered by the CBI on November 20, 2023, follows directions from the Jharkhand High Court. The accused face a range of charges, including conspiracy, theft, criminal intimidation, and violations of the Arms Act, the SC/ST Act, and the Jharkhand Mines and Minerals Concession Rules, 2004.

The focal point of the in-

vestigation is the large-scale illegal mining operations in Sahebganj district, which have been linked to key individuals and firms using multiple tactics to conceal their activities and launder the proceeds. The CBI's findings suggest that these activities have been ongoing for an extended period, causing substantial financial harm to the government.

The raids are part of the broader investigation into the Nimbu Pahad illegal

mining case. Notably, Vijay Hansda, the village head from Nimbu Pahad, had initially provided testimony in the case but later retracted his statement. Key suspects under investigation include Pankaj Mishra, Vishnu Kumar Yadav, Pavitar Kumar Yadav, and Rajesh Yadav, among others.

The CBI's probe follows an earlier investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which led to the filing of an FIR against the accused. The original complaint was filed by Hansda at the Muffasil Police Station in Sahebganj and later transferred to the SC/ST police station for further investigation.

CBI DSP Krishna Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Investigating Officer, as the agency continues to gather evidence and expand the scope of the probe into the illegal mining syndicate.

BJP Expels 30 Rebel Leaders for Defying Official Candidates in Jharkhand



Ranchi: In a move to enforce party discipline, the Jharkhand BJP, under the leadership of state president Babul Marandi, has expelled 30 rebel leaders for six years for defying party policies by contesting against officially nominated candidates in the upcoming assembly elections.

A press release from the BJP's state office named the expelled leaders, which include prominent figures like Chandrama Kumari, Kumkum Devi, Lakshmi Devi, and Julie Yadav from various districts including Palamu, Hazaribagh, Dumka, Boka-

ro, and Latehar. Other leaders expelled for violating the party's election strategy include Balwant Singh, Arvind Singh, Bhaiyya Banke Bihari, Chitranjan Sahu, Colonel Sanjay Singh, and Harsh Ajmera, among others. The BJP's decision comes as part of its efforts to maintain unity and discipline within the party ahead of the crucial elections. The party has emphasized that these actions were taken due to the rebels' open opposition to official party candidates, which goes against the BJP's electoral policies.

Renowned singer Sharda Sinha passes away at 72



New Delhi: Famous folk singer and Padma Bhushan awardee Sharda Sinha passed away this evening at the age of 72 due to complications arising from cancer. She had been receiving treatment for multiple myeloma, a form of bone marrow cancer, at AIIMS Delhi since October 25. Sinha succumbed to refractory shock caused by septicemia while on a ventilator. Sinha's son, Anshuman Sinha, confirmed the news, saying, "Your prayers and love will always be with mother. She has been called by Chhathi Maiya to her side." A revered figure in Bihar's music scene, Sharda Sinha was known for her soulful renditions of songs associated with the Chhath festival, a major cultural celebration in Bihar. Her melodious voice became synonymous with the festival, and her songs remain timeless favorites. She was also celebrated for her work in Maithili, Bhojpuri, and Magahi languages, making a significant contribution to regional folk music. In addition to her regional contributions, Sharda Sinha also sang for Bollywood films. She was featured in popular tracks for films like Maine Pyar Kiya and Hum Aapke Hain Kaun. Her song "Taar Bijli" from Anurag Kashyap's Gangs of Wasseypur became a cult hit.

Sharda Sinha was honored with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award, in recognition of her exceptional contribution to music. She had earlier received the Padma Shri in 1991 and the Sangeet Natak Akademi award for her excellence in the arts.

Earlier this year, she lost her husband, Braj Kishore Sinha, who passed away after suffering a brain hemorrhage following a fall. The couple had celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary just months before his death.

Sharda Sinha's death marks the end of an era for Bihar's music and culture, with her songs continuing to resonate deeply with millions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences, stating, "The echo of her melodious songs associated with the great festival of faith, Chhath, will always remain."

Prashant Kishore Takes Campaign to Belagnj Ahead of Bihar By-Elections



by Suresh Pd Nikhar

Gaya: As Bihar's assembly by-elections draw near, political activity is heating up across the state. Prashant Kishore, the prominent campaign strategist and leader of Jan Suraj, is stepping up his efforts by engaging directly with voters in the Belagnj constituency. Kishore has been visiting various villages, including Kormathu, Irki, and Korma, where he has addressed large public gatherings, earning substantial support, particularly from local women.

During a public meeting in Kormathu, Kishore urged voters to cast their ballots wisely, emphasizing the future of Belagnj. He continued his outreach with similar gatherings in Irki and Korma, rallying support for his movement.

In a media interaction, Kishore responded to questions about RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's prediction of a 2025 victory. Kishore accused the RJD of fostering a criminalized political system in Belagnj for the past 35 years. "Criminals have been ruling Belagnj with the support of the Muslim community, using that influence as their political lifeline. But now, Jan Suraj has cut that lifeline. The RJD will finish third in this election. Mark my words," he said.

Kishore also criticized Nitish Kumar's JD(U), accusing the Chief Minister of making political compromises to retain power, including appointing controversial figures like Surendra Yadav to his cabinet. "Voting for Nitish Kumar means supporting the problems created by the ongoing land survey. Think carefully," Kishore warned.

The campaign took a dramatic turn when Kishore condemned the tearing of a Jan Suraj flag in Balua, Tarari assembly. The flag, which features an image of Mahatma Gandhi, was vandalized, prompting Kishore to respond: "Tearing our flag is an insult to Mahatma Gandhi, not to me. It shows how threatened the political establishment is by the Jan Suraj movement."

Meanwhile, Jan Suraj candidate Jitendra Paswan, who is contesting from Imamganj, has been intensifying his campaign. Paswan has been visiting households in the Dumriya and Banke Bazar blocks, seeking blessings and urging voters to support the 'School Bag' symbol on November 13.

With election day fast approaching, the political climate in Belagnj is becoming increasingly charged, as Kishore's Jan Suraj movement gains momentum and sparks intense debates across the region.

India, the Sleeping Giant, Poised for Strong Volleyball Performance at 2026 Asian Games, Says Expert

by Ashis Sinha

New Delhi: Indian volleyball is making significant strides, with the global authorities even from the International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) & eminent foreign coaches and experts expressing high hopes for the sport's future ahead of the 2026 Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games. As a new wave of world-class talents emerging across the country, there is growing optimism that India's volleyball team will be a formidable contender on the international stage.

"Indian volleyball has an ocean of world-class potential," said Dr. Jaideep Sarkar, the Chief Coach of Indian Men's Volleyball Team which has given a stellar performance in the previous year's Hangzhou Asian Games 2022-23 making a record of the steepest rise in the history of Indian Volleyball at the highest level of its international participation as well as defeated back to back the reigning Silver & Bronze medalists the mighty South Korea and the Chinese Taipei for the first time in Asian Games respectively.

Dr. Jaideep Sarkar, who is also an Olympic Educator cum advocate of Olympism and representative of the apex International Olympic Community through the International Pierre De Coubertin Committee (CIPC), has been closely involved in the sport's development in India and holds the posi-



The 2026 Asian Games, set to take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, will be a pivotal moment for Indian volleyball. The competition will offer a chance to test the country's mettle against Asia's top teams like Japan, Iran, China, South Korea

tion of the Secretary General of the Mongia National Volleyball Academy in Jharkhand.

Reflecting on the progress Indian volleyball has made, Sarkar emphasized, "The country has made significant strides in recent years, and we are absolutely committed to performing much better in the upcoming 2026 Asian Games. The athletes are dedicated, committed and the system is moving forward - there's no doubt India will continue to rise stronger."

Despite facing challenges such as the lockhomed situation in the National Federation, Indian volleyball has steadily grown in recent years. New talents

are emerging from grassroots and school programs all over India including from silent areas like Assam (where Brahmaputra Volleyball League is playing a crucial role through its dynamic leader Mr. Abhijeet Bhattacharya, ex captain of the Indian team) and professional leagues like PVL and other elite events in South and North India, contributing to the sport's rapid development.

"The momentum we've built cannot be stopped," added Sarkar. "We have set our sights on improving our rankings, and with the current development programs in place, India is well on its way to competing at a world-class level."

The 2026 Asian Games, set to take place in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, will be a pivotal moment for Indian volleyball. The competition will offer a chance to test the country's mettle against Asia's top teams like Japan, Iran, China, South Korea and others.

As India's volleyball scene continues to evolve, experts and fans alike are eagerly anticipating a more competitive and successful future for the sport. With renewed focus and a growing pool of talent, Indian volleyball is poised for an exciting journey on the world stage. "It is well expected that once a full fledged National Volleyball Federation comes into existence, the rest of the issues to churn the scenario will be streamlined. At this juncture it's extremely important to continue the mission of Volleyball development first and awake the sleeping giant India not the individualistic mindset", pointed Dr. Jaideep Sarkar with optimism in his eyes.



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CTPS Concludes Vigilance Awareness Week, Emphasizing Integrity & Accountability



RNS I Chandrapura: The Vigilance Awareness Week at Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) Chandrapura Thermal Power Station concluded with a function at Tejas Bhawan, focusing on the importance of integrity, vigilance, and awareness.

Senior General Manager Vijaya Nand Sharma emphasized that adopting these values is crucial for personal and institutional success. "Work done with integrity is always bound for success," he said.

Senior General Manager Ram Pravesh Sah highlighted the need for moral values and accountability, stressing that instilling these principles in the younger generation is vital for societal progress. Avijit Ghosh, another senior manager, spoke about the importance of honesty for national prosperity, noting that laws are in place to punish intentional wrongdoing.

The event, hosted by Senior Manager Abhishek Ghosh, also honored DVC employees who participated in various competitions during the week. A Gram Sabha earlier in the day at Poplo Gram Panchayat saw local residents and children take an oath to uphold honesty, with Panchayat Head Kartik Mahato and other officials in attendance.

"Ready To Go To Jail If Ladki Bahin Scheme Is Crime": Eknath Shinde

Kalyan: Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena President Eknath Shinde has slammed the opposition for moving court against the 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' and said that if the scheme was a crime, he was ready to go to jail.

"I am ready to go to jail for the Ladki Bahin (beloved sisters)," he said after the inauguration of the office of the party nominee Vishwanath Bhoir from Kalyan West late Monday night. The Chief Minister asked the women voters to support Shiv Sena and the MahaYuti for defeating the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which has been pressing for discontinuing the Ladki Bahin Yojana.

"Dear sisters will get ₹ 1,500 every month under the Ladki Bahin Yojana. The opposition has been consistently advocating the closure of the Ladki Bahin Yojana. If they (the opposition) approach you (women voters) during the poll campaign, ask them why they are opposing the Ladki Bahin Yojana," Chief Minister Shinde said. Further, the Chief Minister called upon the women to grill the opposition asking them why they went to court to stop the scheme. "This is the



government of the common man. So whoever comes to you - the stepbrothers, rivals or opponents - show them their place for opposing the Ladki Bahin Yojana," he advised.

He further claimed that those who will close down the Ladki Bahin Yojana and other welfare schemes will face a backlash. The Chief Minister said that Shiv Sena and MahaYuti were counting on a slew of development projects launched during the last two and half years.

"Let the Maha Vikas Aghadi tell about the development works during its rule. We are

ready to give our account. Is Maha Vikas Aghadi ready for this?" he asked. At another rally after the inauguration of the election office of the party nominee from Worli seat Milind Deora, the Chief Minister accused the Uddhav Thackeray-led government of putting speed breakers by stalling various development projects including the Mumbai Coastal Road, Aarey Metro car shed, Mumbai Metro 3, Atal Setu and park in Mahalakshmi Race Course.

"The MahaYuti removed all speed rakers and completed these projects.

Had it not been done, then these projects would not have been completed in 15 years," he claimed. He said that the MahaYuti government will work to bring back the Marathi Manos, who were thrown out of Mumbai, to the metropolis. He criticised the Shiv Sena-UBT for running a campaign that Mumbai will be separated from Maharashtra after the elections were over. It won't happen. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced the Centre's desire for Mumbai to become a world-class city and a powerhouse. The double engine government means a double guarantee," he said.

Bring BJP in power to bulldoze mafia: Yogi Adityanath in poll-bound Jharkhand



Ranchi. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday launched a scathing attack on Hemant Soren-led Jharkhand government, accusing it of "patronising" the mafia and urged people to vote for the BJP, which would "bulldoze" them. "JMM-led coalition compromising national security, and it should be ousted. Bring the BJP to power to bulldoze the mafia in Jharkhand. BJP ensures no compromise with the nation's security," Adityanath said. In his address, the star campaigner of the BJP also accused the Congress of neglecting the poor and not implementing "any scheme for them".

"Congress ruled the country for a long but did not implement any scheme for poor people. Like Aurangzeb looted the country's wealth and destroyed temples,

the JMM-led coalition and its ministers, including Alamgir Alam looted Jharkhand's people," Yogi Adityanath said.

CONGRESS CREATED OBSTACLES IN RAM TEMPLE CONSTRUCTION

Yogi Adityanath also accused Congress of "creating obstacles" to the construction of Ram Temple in Ayodhya. "Ram Lala now sits in that temple after 500 years and Ram temple consecration has paved the way for Mathura and other temples," he said. The BJP-led NDA is eyeing to return to power in Jharkhand, while the JMM-led INDIA bloc is working to get a second term in the tribal-dominated state. The Jharkhand Assembly polls for 81 seats will be held in two phases -- November 13 and November 20. The counting of votes will be taken up on November 23.

Delhi Lt governor tells court he was informed 'verbally' of tree felling in April

Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena said in an affidavit in Supreme Court that he was told about tree felling verbally on April 12, but was told on June 10 that the felling of trees had already commenced on February 16.

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena told the Supreme Court in an affidavit on Monday that he was informed about the felling of trees in Delhi's Ridge area "verbally" in April, but was told that the felling of trees had already begun only in June. The court had sought clarification from Saxena, who is also the chairperson of Delhi Development Authority (DDA), and the DDA vice chairman, regarding contradictory statements from them when the Lt Governor was apprised of the felling of trees in the Ridge area with the court's permission. A clarification was sought after the court had taken note of Saxena's affidavit which stated that he was made aware for the first time on receipt of the DDA vice chairman's letter on June 10, while the actual act of



felling commenced on or around February 16.

However, the court also noted that the vice chairman's communication to the Lt Governor indicates that he was informed about the "blunder of felling trees by DDA officials" before April 12. Lt

Governor Saxena has now clarified that he was told about tree felling verbally on April 12, but was told on June 10 that the felling of trees had already commenced on February 16. He said that he was informed verbally by the vice chairman of DDA during the review meeting of the PM-UDAY scheme at the Lieutenant Governor's residence, which was attended by the vice-chairperson. The Lt Governor requested the Supreme Court to drop the contempt notice against DDA officials, and give directions to DDA to proceed with the compensatory afforestation work. The former vice chairman of DDA also said in his affidavit that he had verbally informed about the felling of trees in April.

Will Support Shiv Sena Nominee Not MNS': BJP Takes U-Turn On Mahim Candidate

New Delhi: In a dramatic turn of events, the BJP on Tuesday said it would support the Shiv Sena candidate in Mahim, Sada Sarvankar. It had been earlier on the verge of supporting the younger Thackeray brother, Amit, son of MNS chief Raj Thackeray. Sarvankar's refusal to bow out of the fray worked in his favour as his decision was taken in sync with "alliance dharma" and the BJP would not betray its faith in the Mahayuti.



The BJP move effectively stops its ongoing efforts to induct the MNS into the Mahayuti or support the MNS on a few seats. A three-term legislator, now Sarvankar has a triangular contest in Mahim against MNS's Amit Thackeray and Shiv Sena (UBT) candidate Mahesh Sawant. As far as Mahayuti is concerned, the problem of Mahim constituency has gone. Now, Sada Sarvankar is the Mahayuti's candidate and we will work for his victory, said BJP leader Ashish Shelar while giving a sense of finality to the party's stance. Shelar further said, "If the coalition leaders, including BJP, Shiv Sena, and NCP, decide otherwise in their

deliberations, that could change the scenario altogether."

Shelar's backing has given a boost to the Sarvankar camp, which is looking forward to gaining mileage with the non-Marathi voters, more so in Jain and Gujarati communities. This support change comes after Raj Thackeray had attacked Mahayuti on Monday, where he targeted Chief Minister Eknath Shinde over his alignment with NCP leader Ajit Pawar when he had opposed earlier. BJP key leaders such as Devendra Fadnavis, Prasad Lad,

and Nitesh Rane provided initial support to accepting support by Amit Thackeray was opposed since Raj Thackeray had supported Mahayuti in the previous Lok Sabha elections that furthered the cause but Sarvankar refused and said that MNS is not part of Mahayuti because that will work in favor of Shiv Sena (UBT).

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde made the last attempt to discuss with Sarvankar, leaving it entirely on his discretion. Meanwhile, when Monday went by and the withdrawal deadline started approaching, Sarvankar sent a request to Raj Thackeray for a meeting. However, with Raj Thackeray refusing to meet him, Sarvankar finalized his candidature from Mahim. "I informed the Chief Minister that not even if I retire will Amit Thackeray be voted to power. That is something very clear," Sarvankar said, defending himself. He said his winning was important for raising Mahayuti's tally, and asked Raj Thackeray not to sacrifice at the altar of political opportunism a faithful Shiv Sainik.

"Nothing Wrong": Chief Justice On PM's Ganesh Puja Visit To His Residence

On the prime minister's visit, the CJI shared, "The PM visited my residence for Ganpati puja. I do feel, there is absolutely nothing wrong as these are continuing meetings between the judiciary and the executive even at the social level."

New Delhi: Addressing the controversy over Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to his residence for Ganpati prayers, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud on Monday said there was "nothing wrong" in it and underscored the need for a "sense of maturity in political sphere" on such issues. Following the PM's visit to the CJI residence, opposition parties led by the Congress and a section of lawyers had raised concerns over propriety and separation of powers between the judiciary and the executive. The BJP, on the other hand, dismissed the criticism as unwarranted and said it was a "part of our culture". Speaking at an event organised by the Indian Express, CJI Chandrachud said one has to respect that the dialogue between the judiciary and the executive takes place as a part of the robust inter-institutional mechanism and separation of powers does not mean the two will not meet. The separation of powers concept does not postulate that judiciary and executive are antagonist in the sense they will not meet or not engage in a reasoned dialogue. In the states, there is a protocol of chief justice and the administrative committee of the high court meeting the chief minister and on the chief minister meeting the chief justice at their residence. In most of these meetings, you are discussing basic issues like budgeting, infrastructure, technology, etc," he said. On the prime minister's visit, the CJI shared, "The PM visited my residence for Ganpati puja. I do feel, there is absolutely nothing wrong as these are continuing meetings between the judiciary and the executive even at the social level. We meet at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Republic Day, etc. We are in conversation with the prime minister and the ministers. This conversation does not involve the cases which we decide but life and society in general." The CJI, who demits office on November 10, said, "There has to be a sense of maturity in the political system to understand this and trust our judges because the work we do is evaluated by our written word. Everything we decide is not kept in wraps and is open to scrutiny." He said a robust dialogue taking place between the executive and the judiciary on the administrative side had nothing to do with the judicial side. "What the separation of powers postulates is that the judiciary should not be performing the role of the executive which is defining policies because the power to frame policy belongs to the government.



Uddhav Thackeray's Sena Expels 5 Rebel Leaders For Not Withdrawing Nominations

New Delhi: Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday expelled five rebel leaders for anti-party activities after they failed to withdraw nominations filed for the November 20 Maharashtra assembly elections. The leaders include Bhiwandi East MLA Rupesh Mhatre, Vishwas Nandekar, Chandrakant Ghugul, Sanjay Awari and Prasad Thackeray.



From the Maha Vikas Aghadi - comprising Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT) and Sharad Pawar's NCP - 14 leaders had filed nominations, defying party command. Among those who withdrew their nominations by the Monday deadline was Congress' Mukhtar Shaikh, who withdrew from the Kasba Peth assembly constituency in Pune and announced his support to the party's official candidate Ravindra Dhangekar. Royal scion Madhurima Raj Chhatrapati's withdrawal as Congress

candidate from Kolhapur North minutes before the deadline left the party without representation in one of its western Maharashtra strongholds. She was nominated in place of ex-corporator Rajesh Latkar after a party office was vandalised by those opposed to the latter.

Among the seven Congress rebels that withdrew their nomination were Hemalata Patil from Nashik Central, Madhu Chavan from Byculla and Vishwanath Walvi from

Nandurbar. Only two NCP(SP) rebels are in the fray.

Among those to withdraw from the electoral race was Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange, who has held on-and-off hunger strikes and protests to demand reservation for the community in education and jobs over the past year. Jarange said, "The Maratha community will decide on its own whom to defeat and whom to elect." The activist on Sunday announced he would support two candidates from Parvati and Daund in the state assembly polls, though he said their names will be disclosed later. After withdrawal of nominations, a total of 4,140 candidates were left in the fray for 288 Maharashtra assembly seats, while 2,938 candidates withdrew their papers. The figure is a 28 per cent increase from the 3,239 candidates who fought the 2019 assembly polls.

"Will Have To Stop Somewhere": Sharad Pawar's Big Retirement Hint

Speculation over Sharad Pawar's final innings in electoral politics has been circulating for some time now, and was raked up again in January by nephew Ajit Pawar.

New Delhi. Nationalist Congress Party leader Sharad Pawar, 83, on Tuesday hinted at retirement as he said he may not contest any more elections after his Rajya Sabha term ends in 18 months. The veteran politician - who set up the NCP in 1999 and is widely regarded as the 'grand old man' of Maharashtra politics - was speaking at his family stronghold of Baramati in western Maharashtra, which will see a Pawar vs Pawar contest in the November 20 Assembly election.



"I am not in power... and my tenure in the Rajya Sabha has one-and-a-half years left. (After that) I will not contest any election in the future. (I) will have to stop somewhere..." he said, thanking the voters of Baramati for making him an MP and MLA a staggering 14 times overall.

The potential close of a nearly six-decade-long political career comes as the NCP and its allies - the Congress and the Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena group - contest this month's election. In that context, the fight for Baramati

is being seen as a referendum on Sharad Pawar's continuing influence over voters, since it sees his grandnephew, Yugendra Pawar, do battle against his nephew Ajit Pawar, whose led the rebellion last year that forced the NCP to split. Ajit Pawar is a five-time MLA from Baramati but, in each of his earlier wins, he had the backing of his uncle's party. This will be the first state poll in which he contests under his own banner.

The result of the election for the Baramati Lok Sabha seat - the people voted

overwhelmingly for Sharad Pawar's candidate - his daughter Supriya Sule - underlines Ajit Pawar's task at hand.

In his comments on Baramati and the rebel nephew, Sharad Pawar seemed to play down the family vs family angle, declaring, "I have no grudge against him (Ajit Pawar) ... he led you for nearly 30 years..." but also pitching the message of a generational change in leadership.

Food for thought from fauji kitchen

We are today grappling with intolerance, divisive narratives and trumped-up 'fassad' (tension/violence), mischievously described as 'food jihad'. Coupled with this is the advocacy for vegetarianism and forced abstinence during specified periods, disregarding dietary preferences and livelihoods. As a disclaimer, having grown up in Rajasthan, I am to a great extent an "exception-tarian", or one who imbibes non-vegetarian food but only occasionally. Fauji did make me a "mauka-tarian", enjoying whatever is served with love, and in good faith.

My first experiment in culinary re-ordering was as the second-in-command, 63 Cavalry. A forced bachelor who would dine in the mess, I pointed out the skewed menu with a daily overdose of non-vegetarian dishes. I called for adhering to the age-old tradition of a chana-bhatura lunch on Tuesday and South Indian fare for the Sunday brunch. I was surprised to see the dining members lading out pickle from jars with chana bhatura. We had three new pickles — chicken, mutton and pork! Pickle being an essential accompaniment, I was stumped. I simply gave up when they served keema dosa on Sunday. The second effort was in trying to post our Sikh cook, Chanan Singh, from the headquarter squadron to the Sikh squadron and to move Mohanan, a South Indian, to the headquarters. The Sikh soldiers, having got addicted to Mohanan's taddkas, were literally up in arms and simply refused to part with him.

When my wife Anita joined me, all married officers were invited for the much-awaited party. Unknown to us, the bachelors had taken the licence to shoot vermin. Shakeel served us the most relished pork chops. When I told him that he need not serve it, it was humbling to hear his response: "I am the host, you love it and I don't eat it." During another tenure, the mess cook in the Brigade headquarters, lovingly called Pandeyji, dished out the most delicious mutton rogan josh despite being a staunch vegetarian himself. In the same Brigade, we had the elite 18 Cavalry with three squadrons (equivalent of a company). Alpha squadron comprised Jats, who can drink but not eat mutton as per the squadron norms, though some did it surreptitiously. Bravo had Hindustani Muslims (HM). They eat their halal meat and are



not permitted alcohol. The Charlie squadron was of Rajputs, who were allowed both meat (but only jhatka) and drinks. The roof of the langar (cook house) of the Jats collapsed and they chose to set up a temporary langar with the Muslims.

Meat goes with rum so the Army issued it on meat days. As the Brigade Major, I was in the shared langar and a bit worried. The good old Muslim senior JCO walked up to me and, as if anticipating my thoughts, told me: "Sahib, don't worry, no Jat will be allowed to consume meat in our langar and break his dharma, but I can't guarantee about the headquarter squadron." The headquarter has a mixed, all castes' staffing on a deputation basis and some Jats do consume mutton there. The wise JCO's parting words still ring in my ears, "After all, we follow deen-imaan and dharma." I wish all of us could be true to ourselves, and let others be — to each his own. There's much food for thought there.

Tiger reserves and the arduous task of conservation

Return to pre-Galwan patrolling protocols is a prerequisite for satisfactory disengagement

The year was 1985. The late Shyam Sunder, then head of the Karnataka Forest Department, was camping in the Shettihalli forest resthouse of the Shivamogga division, deep inside the Western Ghats. As Deputy Conservator of Forests, Shivamogga, I accompanied him, along with the Conservator of Forests, for a field visit and camping. The resthouse had only two rooms. After dinner, I left for another resthouse at Sirigere, 15 km away. My half-an-hour journey was through a magnificent forest. No human, livestock, stray dog or wild animal was encountered on the way. The next morning, however, while returning on the same route to Shettihalli, my driver and I sighted a tiger crossing the road, 50 metres ahead of us. Spellbound, we watched the tiger for 10-15 seconds till it disappeared in the jungle. When I shared this experience with my seniors, they were thrilled. They said sighting a tiger was uncommon and many forest officers had retired without sighting a tiger in their entire service. With the help of state forest departments, an all-India tiger census was regularly carried out. Tiger numbers were assessed on the basis of pugmarks. States showed growth in numbers until the early 2000s, when it was found that the entire census was flawed and some departments had reported more tigers than they actually had. Tiger states came under heavy criticism and the Central government took strict action. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) was constituted and the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, amended in 2006. It coordinated with states to take legal and administrative action to revive the tiger numbers. Anti-poaching camps were established inside forests, staff were upskilled and legal training and assistance provided to ensure that the poachers who hunted tigers for skin and body parts were brought to justice. More forest areas were brought under the purview of the NTCA. Nine areas, originally included under Project Tiger in 1973, covering nearly 16,000 sq km, were increased to 53 tiger reserves (TRs) in 2024, covering approximately 75,000 sq km. The methodology for tiger estimation, which was earlier based on pugmark count, was made more robust by Dr Rajesh Gopal, who was member secretary, NTCA, from its establishment till 2014, with the assistance of scientists of the Wildlife Institute of India. The new methodology involved eight days' field protocol in all tiger-bearing forests, putting in use new data-gathering techniques. The



methodology is peer-reviewed globally and published in leading scientific journals. Using this methodology, the tiger number in the country, which was reported to be 10,000 in 2002, was found to be 1,411 in 2006. Thereafter, estimation was done every four years. The tiger numbers started growing — 1,710 in 2010, 2,226 in 2014, 2,967 in 2018 and 3,682 in 2022. The most worrying part has been the loss of area under tiger occupancy. Anthropogenic pressure, diversion of forests for infrastructure and mining projects, encroachment and forest fires account for rapid degradation and fragmentation of tiger habitats and the tigers do not survive in human-dominated areas. This is the reason why the NTCA focuses on the relocation of families from the core areas of the tiger reserves. Though it is a long-drawn process and the Forest Rights Act, 2006, has come in the way, relocation of families is still progressing at a slow pace. Relocation of tribal families from core areas of TRs is done after taking their consent. The package is quite attractive; all male members above 18 years constitute a family and were provided Rs 10 lakh, which has been revised to Rs 15 lakh from 2018. The families not opting for cash had another

option and were provided agriculture land, houses and cash (20 per cent of the whole package) and relocated. While working as Chief Wildlife Warden, Karnataka, in 2010-11, I could relocate 19 out of 25 families in a tribal hamlet named Dalimbe Kolli in Nagarhole TR. Six families who did not give their consent were left out. It became difficult for the state to provide them the basic necessities like piped water, electricity, hospital and school. The families are now repenting. The state is also in a dilemma as the families have grown to 20 in number and there are cost overruns.

Tiger is a territorial animal and has to fight another tiger to gain territory. As habitats are lost, fragmented tigers get pushed out of the reserves and are exposed to human areas. They have to depend on livestock for prey, which is detrimental to both humans and tigers. Conservation efforts get a setback if human lives/livestock are lost. Often tigers are poisoned/shot by humans. The best forests in the country are notified and included in tiger reserves. We need to conserve tiger reserves for our own welfare as vast stretches of the forests provide origin and catchment of rivers.

Mid-air mess in HP

Strictly regulate paragliding to ensure safety

THE death of two foreign paragliders in two days in Himachal Pradesh has cast a long shadow on the Paragliding World Cup 2024, which starts today at Bir-Billing in Kangra district. A Belgian national was killed after his parachute did not open following a mid-air collision with another paraglider at Bir-Billing on Tuesday. Shockingly, 10 paragliders were flying simultaneously when the inevitable mishap occurred. A Czech woman met her end after she crashed into a mountain in Manali on Wednesday. As many as 10 paragliders, mostly free-fliers, have been killed in the hill state in the last two years. Yet, the business-as-usual approach continues unabated. Every adventure sport entails a risk to life and limb, but tragic accidents can be minimised by strict adherence to safety protocols. This week's deaths are a wake-up call for the state paragliding authorities as well as the organisers of the November 2-9 World Cup, which will feature participants from around 50 countries.



Paragliding is a popular adventure sport in Himachal, but the safety of fliers has been a matter of concern. Untrained

pilots and unregistered private paragliding schools — these are key factors that endanger the lives of paragliders. No guidelines have been laid down to regulate paragliding schools in the state. The state Tourism Department has worsened the mess by failing to make a government-funded paragliding school operational at Bir-Billing, even three years after it was set up at a cost of Rs 8 crore.

Attributing the mishaps solely to the recklessness of fliers reflects an evasive attitude. Paragliding should be suspended till foolproof security measures are put in place. There is a need to weed out unprofessional and unauthorised persons involved in this sport, for at stake is Bir-Billing's reputation as a paragliding paradise. Hosting the World Cup is a big achievement, but it's more important to work on improving flier safety throughout the year. All stakeholders must take urgent steps to ensure that the mid-air thrills eclipse the perils.

GOOD SPORT: The very essence of life

Lessons from sportspersons must be learnt so that we become better at what we do

Everything in this life has a beginning and an end — Rafael Nadal's plain words, uttered when he announced his retirement recently, may appear far too trite, even banal, to mark the end of the greatest era in men's tennis, but they contain the essence of life. The greatest sportspersons do self-realisation the best; few people assess themselves with such brutal — yet clinical and forensic — honesty as, say, Rafael Nadal. "He was much better than me," Nadal would say after a loss; after a particularly bad show, he'd just say: "I did a disaster." Press conferences with sportspersons are exercises in banalities, but players such as Nadal, combining sensibility and rationality and honesty, provided nuggets of wisdom that contain life lessons for us mortals. Sportspersons are possibly the only professionals who try to improve their skills every day of their life; for this, they must be brutally honest with themselves — they must confront their faults, their weaknesses. On the other hand, most of us mortals, mired in careerism and an inflated sense of the self, can't even see our faults.

Eighteen and ebullient in 1989, Viswanathan Anand was the young tiger, ready to take on the world, for which he saw "thrilling possibilities" for himself. Fifty-five next month, Anand has run his race, he's made his reputation. Anand took on the world in an online chess game last week — and beat over 60,000 opponents. Chess — not even a sport, and certainly not a game that runs on adrenaline — appears to be ideal for the aged. But professional chess champions are young — Kasparov and Carlsen became world champions at 22, Karpov at 23; Ding Liren is something of an oddity, winning the crown at 31. His challenger, D Gukesh, is 18, and Arjun Erigaisi 21. Anand is ancient, but he's still the world No. 10 — Gukesh and Erigaisi are the other Indians in the top 10. Anand became the champion of the world in his



late 30s; Gukesh could well become a teenaged champion. Chess great Viswanathan Anand was the India No. 1 for close to four decades; when this writer asked him about the prospect of being deposed by players young enough to be his sons, Anand just laughed philosophically and said everything must end. Indeed, Nadal and Anand — and Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravichandran Ashwin — would succumb to the vagaries of time; the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak, and even the spirit begins to waver with the passage of time. Ashwin is 38, Rohit will turn 38 next year, Kohli will be 36 next week. The road ahead for them is much shorter than the road travelled — we're seeing the end of a golden era, during which India achieved possibly their greatest feat in Test cricket: two consecutive series wins in Australia. It doesn't get better than that. Now they've lost a Test cricket series at home after 12 years, and for the first time ever to

New Zealand — the end of the greats is nigh.

In football, there was an end of an era, too — neither Lionel Messi nor Cristiano Ronaldo was nominated for the prestigious Ballon d'Or, presented to the best footballer in the world; the two had won the award 13 times in the last 16 years — eight for Messi, five for Ronaldo. The award this time went to Rodrigo Hernandez, a man who had admitted to his own frailties as "the lame one who never did anything"

during his days in university.

Rani Rampal, former India hockey captain, too, has life lessons for us — daughter of a cart-puller who earned Rs 80 a day, the girl who was rejected by a district-level coach for being malnourished, has gracefully walked away from the sport: "It's time for me to step off the field as a player and begin a new chapter... Hockey has been my passion, my life, and the greatest honour I could ever have asked for."

A feel of nature's masterpieces

Depending on the time of year of their birth, several hill children don't crawl. If, at some point in winter, they are expected to move on both hands and feet, they just may not. Swaddled in heavy clothing to keep the cold away, their tiny limbs cannot move freely. Come spring and suddenly, the little people may present a surprise by standing erect and taking their first steps. In the mid-hills, where many of us live, the deep bite of winter is still a couple of weeks away and these young ones, for the moment, can freely crawl, clamber and run. Once grown, today's toddlers will walk every day for a few, if not several, miles for the rest of their lives. The monsoons have ended, leaving behind a verdant landscape that shall soon pass into winter's quiet repose. While the weather is changing and there is a slight chill in the air, autumn, my favourite time in the hills, is here. The last tree fern has wilted. The cob of the 'snake plant', a species of arisaema, has long turned traffic-light red and announced that the monsoons are over. The leaves on the deciduous trees are changing colour and moving

into shades of rust, crimson and gold. If some doubt remained about an end to the months of rain, the magnificent deodar trees are pouring dusky pollen all over the place.

For someone like me, one reason for living in the hills is to walk. Autumn is one of the best times to revisit the trails I've known for most of my walking life. This may be something about taking life slow, but it is also about nourishing both body and mind. Hopefully, should it choose to, the soul (if it exists) may also decide to dance. This has very little to do with the obvious benefits of walking. It is more about the simple pleasure of being able to do so. Nature was always democratised. As a species, we humans evolved alongside this. It was always accessible. We were, and are, just a part of a far wider and more complex pattern that makes our planet. Adding to those undemocratically grandiose words and to the hundreds if not thousands of pieces that have been written extolling the virtues of walking, let me add my two bits.

बेज्लन सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खणु थैके बेज्ले यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू

प्राय २८ घंटा पर, बेज्लन सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबे बाड़खणु थैके बेज्ले याग्या समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू हयैछे। गत सभ्या १८ टार पर बेज्लन सरकारे आदेशे बाड़खणु-बेज्लन मथन सीमांछे पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हयैछिल। एर फले रात थैके दूपर पर्यंत प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि हय। चालकदेर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेज्लन सरकारके टाप देय बाड़खणु सीमांछे थैके बेज्ले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बद्ध करार जन्य। एर फले, बेज्लन सरकार पिछू हटेते बाध्य हय एबे अवशेषे भारी यानवाहन प्रवेश आवार स्वाभाविक हय।

बेज्लन सरकारे एहि अनुमति पर, द्वाक चालकरा शक्तिर निष्ठास फेलेन। प्राञ्चन निरसा विधायक अरूप च्याटर्जि बाड़खणु मुख्यामबी हेमञ्च सारनेनेर एहि उद्योगे प्रशंसा करेन। तनि बेलन, मुख्यामबी हेमञ्च सारनेन एहि विषये क्रमागत शुरुत दिग्दर्शन। बेज्लन सरकारे साथे इतिवाचक आलोचना करार पर बेज्लन सरकार निषेधाञ्जा तुले नेय। एर पर, सारिते दाड़िये धाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीरे बीरे बेज्ले प्रवेश करत शुरु करैछे। NH-१ दीर्घ यानजट एखन सीमित हछे एबे यानजट ७ भाङ्गते शुरु करैछे।

सम्पत्ति बाड़खणु प्रवल वृद्धि पर, माईथन एबे पाकेत बाधेर जनशुतर वेडे याग एबे बाध खुले जल बेज्लेनर दिके छेडे देय हय, एर पर बेज्लन सरकार बेजराचारी मनाकार ग्रहण करे एबे बाड़खणु थैके बेज्ले प्रवेश करा पण्यवाही यानवाहन सीमांछे धामानोर आदेश देय।

मईया के पूजन जायब

स्मिता
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
शक्कर 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 स्कंदमता
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

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नई दिल्ली। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर कच्चे तेल की कीमतों में जबदस्त तेजी आने के बावजूद घरेलू स्तर पर पेट्रोल और डीजल के दाम आज स्थिर रहे, जिससे दिल्ली में पेट्रोल 94.72 रुपये प्रति लीटर तथा डीजल 87.62 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर पड़े रहे। तेल विपणन करने वाली प्रमुख कंपनी हिन्दुस्तान पेट्रोलियम कार्पोरेशन की वेबसाइट पर जारी दरों के अनुसार, देश में आज पेट्रोल और डीजल की कीमतों में कोई बदलाव नहीं हुआ है। दिल्ली में इनकी कीमतों के यथावत रहने के साथ ही मुंबई में पेट्रोल 104.21 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर और डीजल 92.15 रुपये प्रति लीटर पर रहा। वैश्विक स्तर पर साप्ताहिक पर अमेरिकी कूड 1.76 प्रतिशत उबलकर 70.71 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर पहुंच गया। इसी तरह लंदन ब्रेट कूड 1.61 प्रतिशत की तेजी के साथ 74.28 डॉलर प्रति बैरल पर रहा।

एसीएमई सोलर का आईपीओ 06 नवंबर को खुलेगा, प्राइस बैंड 275-289 रुपये प्रति शेयर

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। अक्षय ऊर्जा कंपनी एसीएमई सोलर होल्डिंग्स लिमिटेड अपना आरंभिक सार्वजनिक निगम (आईपीओ) लाने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार है। एसीएमई सोलर का आईपीओ निवेशकों के लिए बुधवार, 06 नवंबर को खुलेगा। कंपनी ने इसके लिए मूल्य का दायरा (प्राइस बैंड) 275-289 रुपये प्रति शेयर तय किया है।

कंपनी ने जारी एक बयान में कहा कि एसीएमई सोलर होल्डिंग्स का आईपीओ बुधवार, 06 नवंबर को खुलेगा, जो 8 नवंबर को बंद होगा। एंकर निवेशकों इसके लिए 5 नवंबर को बोलो लाना शुरू है। कंपनी की योजना इस आईपीओ के जरिए 2,900 करोड़ रुपये जुटाने की

है। एसीएमई सोलर ने इसके लिए मूल्य का दायरा 275-289 रुपये प्रति शेयर तय किया है। एसीएमई रुपये के नए शेयरों के निर्गम और एसीएमई क्लीनटेक सॉल्यूशंस के द्वारा 505 करोड़ रुपये मूल्य के



सोलर होल्डिंग्स के आईपीओ में निवेशक न्यूनतम 51 इक्विटी शेयरों और उसके बाद 51 इक्विटी शेयरों के गुणकों में बोली लगा सकते हैं। कंपनी का आईपीओ 2,395 करोड़

शेयरों की बिक्री पेशकश (ओएफएस) का संयोजन है। गुरुग्राम स्थित कंपनी नए निगम से प्राप्त 1,795 करोड़ रुपये की राशि का उपयोग अपने कर्ज के भुगतान के

एफकोंस इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर को लिस्टिंग वाले दिन ही मिला 1000 करोड़ रुपये का आर्डर

एजेंसी मुंबई/नई दिल्ली। शापूजी पल्लोनजी समूह की प्रमुख कंपनी एफकोंस इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड को शेयरों की लिस्टिंग वाले दिन ही भोपाल मेट्रो फेज वन के BH-05 पैकेज के निर्माण का टेंडर मिला है। यह प्रोजेक्ट करीब 1006.74 करोड़ रुपये का है, जिसे EPC मोड के तहत 36 महीनों में पूरा किया जाना है। एफकोंस इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड के शेयर इश्यू प्राइस के मुकाबले 8 फीसदी की गिरावट के साथ शेयर बाजार के दोनों प्रमुख स्टॉक एक्सचेंजों पर लिस्ट हुआ। नेशनल स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (एनएसई) पर कंपनी का शेयर 463 रुपये के इश्यू प्राइस के मुकाबले 426 रुपये पर लिस्ट हुआ, जबकि बीएचएस स्टॉक एक्सचेंज (बीएसई) पर शेयर सात फीसदी की गिरावट के साथ 430 रुपये पर खुला।

शापूजी पल्लोनजी समूह की प्रमुख एफकोंस इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड ने अपने आईपीओ के लिए 10 रुपये अंकित मूल्य वाले प्रत्येक इक्विटी शेयर के लिए मूल्य का दायरा

440 से 463 रुपये तय किया था। कंपनी की योजना इसके जरिए करीब 5430 करोड़ रुपये जुटाना था।



एफकोंस इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर का यह इश्यू टोटल 5,430 करोड़ रुपये का था। इसके लिए कंपनी ने 4,180 करोड़ रुपये के 90,280,778 फ्रेश शेयर जारी किए हैं, जबकि कंपनी के मौजूदा निवेशकों ने ऑफर फॉर सेल (ओएफएस) के जरिए 1,250 करोड़ रुपये के 26,997,840 शेयर बेचे हैं। उल्लेखनीय है कि एफकोंस इंफ्रास्ट्रक्चर लिमिटेड एक भारतीय समूह की कंपनी है। इसका इतिहास

छह दशकों से ज्यवान पुराना है। इस कंपनी के पास घरेलू और अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर जटिल और चुनौतीपूर्ण इंजीनियरिंग, खरीद और निर्माण (ईपीसी) परियोजनाओं की एक विस्तृत शृंखला को सफलतापूर्वक पूरा करने का ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड है। इसके अलावा एफकोंस का समय से पहले परियोजनाओं को पूरा करने का इतिहास है, जिसमें जम्मू-उधमपुर राजमार्ग प्रोजेक्ट, नागपुर मेट्रो रीच-3 और आगरा लखनऊ एक्सप्रेस-वे जैसी उल्लेखनीय परियोजनाएं शामिल हैं।

वित्त मंत्री से मिले सीआईआई अध्यक्ष और महानिदेशक, कई मुद्दों पर हुई बातचीत



एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। भारतीय उद्योग परिषद (सीआईआई) के अध्यक्ष संजीव पुरी और सीआईआई के महानिदेशक चंद्रजीत बनर्जी ने केंद्रीय वित्त मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण से नई दिल्ली में मुलाकात की। इस दौरान उन्होंने कई महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दों पर बातचीत की।

हालांकि, इस बातचीत का विस्तृत व्योरा अभी मिल पाया है। उल्लेखनीय है कि भारतीय उद्योग परिषद (सीआईआई) सलाहकारी और परामर्श प्रक्रियाओं के माध्यम से उद्योग, सरकार और नागरिक समाज के साथ साझेदारी करके भारत के विकास के लिए अनुकूल वातावरण बनाने और बनाए रखने के लिए काम करता है।

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। आस्था का पर्व छठ पूजा 5 नवंबर को नहाय-खाय से शुरू होकर 8 नवंबर तक चलेगा। इस चार दिवसीय छठ पूजा के दौरान विहार एवं झारखंड के अलावा देश के अन्य राज्यों में बसे पूर्वांचल के लोग बेहद उत्साह एवं उमंग के साथ छठ पूजा करने को तैयार हैं। एक अनुमान के मुताबिक देशभर में लगभग 15 करोड़ से अधिक लोग इसमें शामिल होंगे जिससे 12 हजार करोड़ रुपये का व्यापार होने की संभावना है। कम्पेडरेशन ऑफ ऑल इंडिया ट्रेडर्स (कैट) के राष्ट्रीय महामंत्री और दिल्ली की चांदनी चौक से भाजपा सांसद प्रवीण खंडेलवाल ने कहा कि इस वर्ष छठ पूजा 96 घंटे (4 दिनों) में देशभर में करीब 12 हजार करोड़ रुपये का व्यापार होने की संभावना है। खंडेलवाल ने कहा कि कपड़े, फल,

वैश्विक अनिश्चितता और घरेलू मोर्चे की कमजोरी से टूटा शेयर बाजार, छोटे निवेशकों को बाजार से दूर रहने की सलाह

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू शेयर बाजार आज एक बार फिर बड़ी गिरावट का शिकार हो गया। दिन के कारोबार में सेंसेक्स ने 1,490 अंक से अधिक का गोटा लगाया। इसी तरह निफ्टी भी 485 अंक से अधिक अंक तक लुढ़क गया। सेंसेक्स 79 हजार अंक के स्तर से नीचे फिसल गया तो निफ्टी भी 24 हजार अंक के नीचे आ गया। मिडकैप और स्मॉलकैप इंडेक्स भी आज इंट्रा-डे में करीब 1.50 प्रतिशत तक टूट गए। हालांकि, बाद में निफ्टी और सेंसेक्स दोनों सूचकांकों की स्थिति में काफी सुधार भी हुआ। माना जा रहा है कि आज की गिरावट के लिए वैश्विक हालात प्रमुख रूप से जिम्मेदार रहे। इसके साथ ही घरेलू मोर्चे पर कंपनियों के कमजोर

सर्साफा बाजार में सपाट स्तर पर कारोबार, सोना और चांदी की कीमत में कोई बदलाव नहीं

सोना 80,390 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 73,690 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। वहीं पटना में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 80,440 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम हो गई है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 73,740



रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह जयपुर में 24 कैरेट सोना 80,540 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 73,840 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 73,690 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह कोलकाता में भी 24 कैरेट सोना 80,390 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 73,690 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। लखनऊ के सर्साफा बाजार में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 80,540 रुपये

एनटीपीसी और ओएनजीसी ने संयुक्त उद्यम कंपनी बनाने के लिए मिलाया हाथ

संयुक्त उद्यम कंपनी (जेवीसी) एनजीईएल ने ओजीएल के साथ 50:50 संयुक्त उद्यम कंपनी के

ई-मोबिलिटी, कार्बन क्रेडिट और ग्रीन क्रेडिट शामिल हैं। इसके अलावा ये नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा संपत्तियों के अधिग्रहण के अवसरों की तलाश करेगा और तमिलनाडु और गुजरात में आने वाली ऑफशोर पवन टेंडरों में भागीदारी पर विचार करेगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि एनटीपीसी भारत की सबसे बड़ी पॉवर यूटिलिटी कंपनी है जिसकी कुल स्थापित क्षमता 76475.68 मेगावाट (संयुक्त उद्यम सहित) है। 1975 में स्थापित एनटीपीसी देश की एकीकृत बिजली कंपनी बनने की दिशा में आगे बढ़ रही है, जिसका लक्ष्य 2032 तक 130 गीगावाट की कंपनी बनना है। वहीं महारत्न का दर्जा प्राप्त ओएनजीसी देश की सबसे बड़ी कच्चे तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस कंपनी है, जो भारतीय घरेलू उत्पादन में लगभग 71 फीसदी का योगदान देती है।

निगम के लिए कॉर्पोरेट मामलों के मंत्रालय को एक आवेदन भी प्रस्तुत किया है। यह संयुक्त उद्यम विभिन्न नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा (एनआरई) और नई ऊर्जा के अवसरों में प्रवेश करेगा, जिसमें सौर, पवन, ऊर्जा भंडारण,



निवा बूपा का आईपीओ सात नवंबर को खुलेगा, प्राइस बैंड 70-74 रुपये प्रति शेयर

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। स्वास्थ्य बीमा कंपनी निवा बूपा हेल्थ इश्योरेंस लिमिटेड अपना आरंभिक सार्वजनिक निगम (आईपीओ) लाने के लिए पूरी तरह तैयार है। निवा बूपा इश्योरेंस का आईपीओ निवेशकों के लिए गुरुवार, 07 नवंबर को खुलेगा। कंपनी ने इसके लिए मूल्य का दायरा (प्राइस बैंड) 70-74 रुपये प्रति इक्विटी शेयर तय किया है। कंपनी ने जारी एक बयान में कहा कि निवा बूपा हेल्थ इश्योरेंस लिमिटेड का आईपीओ 07 नवंबर को खुलेगा, जो सोमवार 11 नवंबर, 2024 को बंद होगा। इसमें एंकर निवेशक आईपीओ खुलने से एक दिन पहले 6 नवंबर को बोली लगा सकते हैं। कंपनी की योजना इस आईपीओ के माध्यम से 2200 करोड़ रुपये जुटाने की है। इसके लिए मूल्य दायरा 70-74 रुपये प्रति



करोड़ रुपये तक के नए निगम और बूपा सिंगापूर होल्डिंग्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड, फेटल टोन एंटरप्राइज द्वारा 1,400 करोड़ रुपये तक की बिक्री की पेशकश (ओएफएस) का मिश्रण है। कंपनी नए निगम से प्राप्त इनकम का उपयोग 1,500 करोड़ रुपये की सीमा तक पूंजी आधार को बढ़ाने, शोधन क्षमता के स्तर को बनाए रखने, मजबूत करने और सामान्य

प्रधानमंत्री इंटरशिप योजना के लिए आवेदन की अंतिम तारीख 10 नवंबर

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। प्रधानमंत्री इंटरशिप योजना के लिए ऑनलाइन आवेदन की प्रक्रिया चल रही है। इच्छुक और योग्य अर्थ्यथी इस योजना के लिए आधिकारिक वेबसाइट <https://pminternship.mca.gov.in/login> पर 10 नवंबर तक ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा कर सकते हैं। इस योजना के तहत 21-24 वर्ष की आयु के उम्मीदवार आवेदन करने के पात्र हैं। योजना के

तहत भारत की टॉप 500 कंपनियों में 12 महीने तक इंटरशिप करने का अवसर मिलेगा। कॉर्पोरेट मामलों के मंत्रालय ने 'एक्स' पोस्ट पर जारी एक बयान में बताया कि पीएम इंटरशिप योजना के लिए आवेदन करने का मौका न चूके! अंतिम कॉल का इंतजार न करें! इच्छुक और योग्य कैडिडेट्स को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे आधिकारिक पोर्टल पर जाकर इस योजना के लिए आवेदन कर दें, क्योंकि इस योजना के लिए आवेदन की प्रक्रिया 10 नवंबर को बंद हो जाएगी। अपने भविष्य को आकार देने के लिए इस अवसर का लाभ उठाएं।

मंत्रालय के मुताबिक करीब 800 करोड़ रुपये की अनुमानित लागत वाली इस योजना की शुरुआत 2 दिसंबर से पायलट प्रोजेक्ट्स के तहत इंटरशिप के लिए होगी। इसकी घोषणा केंद्रीय वित्त एवं कॉर्पोरेट मामलों की मंत्री निर्मला सीतारमण ने केंद्रीय बजट 2024-25 में की थी।

1800 116 090

कॉर्पोरेट मंत्रालय द्वारा विकसित <https://pminternship.mca.gov.in/login/> पोर्टल डब्ल्यू डब्ल्यू डब्ल्यू पीएमइंटरशिप.एमसी.जी.ओ.वी.आई.एन के जरिए इस योजना को लागू किया गया है। प्रारंभिक जानकारी के मुताबिक पहली बार शुरू हुई इस योजना के तहत अभी 280 कंपनियों की ओर से 1,27,000 इंटरशिप के ऑफर दिए गए हैं। इस योजना के पायलट प्रोजेक्ट के लिए सवा लाख

NEWS BOX

Haris Rauf rues not defending 203 in first ODI vs Australia: We were untidy

New Delhi. Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf felt his team was on course to defend the low total of 203 against Australia in the first ODI of the three-match series on Monday, November 4 at Melbourne Cricket Ground, Melbourne. After being pout in to bat first, Pakistan were bundled out for 203 in 46.4 overs but gave a strong reply with the ball as Rauf picked up 3/67 in nine overs.

However, his efforts went in vain as a bit untidy bowling led to Pakistan losing the game by two wickets with Australian captain Pat Cummins taking his team home with captain Pat Cummins taking his team home with an unbeaten knock of 32* (31). Reflecting on Pakistan's bowling after the game, Rauf mentioned that they were a bit untidy which led to a few extras. However, the speedster mentioned that the entire team put their best efforts but the game didn't go their way. "We did give away extras but when you attack, you have to accept that these things happen. We did make mistakes, and we were a bit untidy. We know these little things make an impact. If you're a good bowling unit, then you can cover the batters falling 20-30 runs short if you tighten up in the field as well. We could have defended this and we all tried really hard. The game



didn't go our way, but we gave no quarter in terms of our energy and our effort," said Rauf.

Haris Rauf's game changing spell

Australia were cruising at one stage courtesy of a massive 85-run stand between Josh Inglis (49) and Steven Smith (44). However, Rauf brought his team back into the game as he broke the partnership by dismissing Smith, getting him caught at point. He further got rid of Marnus Labuschagne (16 off 13) and Glenn Maxwell (0 off 1) off consecutive balls leaving Australia on 139/6 in 20.2 overs.

Shaheen Afridi (2/43) also dismissed Inglis (49) courtesy of a brilliant catch from Irfan Khan at deep mid wicket. However, lower order resistance from captain Cummins saw Australia home as they went 1-0 up in the series. Meanwhile, after losing first ODI, Pakistan will be eager to make a comeback in the second ODI on November 8.

Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso calls Liverpool one of Europe's best ahead of clash

New Delhi. Bayer Leverkusen coach Xabi Alonso has hailed Liverpool as one of Europe's top teams as he prepares his side for a pivotal Champions League showdown at Anfield on Tuesday. With both teams in impressive form, the encounter is set to be a high-stakes battle as they vie for supremacy in Group C. Alonso's team currently sits sixth in the competition standings with seven points from three games. Liverpool, under the management of Arne Slot, are riding high with a perfect nine points, leading both the Champions League group and the Premier League. Speaking at a press conference on Monday, Alonso underscored the intensity of the challenge that lies ahead. "For us, it is a big challenge. Liverpool at the moment are



one of the best, if not the best, in Europe," Alonso remarked. "They are showing that in the Premier League and Champions League. They have a good squad and a great coach. We're looking forward to it—let's see what happens." Alonso, a former Liverpool midfielder who made over 200 appearances for the club from 2004 to 2009 and was part of the squad that famously won the Champions League in 2005, acknowledged the formidable task Leverkusen will face. With Liverpool in exceptional form, the Spaniard emphasized the importance of staying focused and resilient throughout the match. "You can play 70 minutes great, and in 20 minutes the game is gone, so mentally and emotionally we need to be ready," Alonso said. "In all areas, they are really strong, so the process works really well. The manager [Slot] has done a fantastic job in three months." Returning to Liverpool is always a meaningful experience for Alonso, but he's keeping his focus strictly on the task at hand. "Unfortunately, there is no time for tourism — maybe a little run or walk tomorrow," he said. "I know the city very well; I love it, but tomorrow I will focus on the game and only the game." Reflecting on Liverpool's evolution since his playing days, Alonso added, "It feels great to be back here after a few years. It's always special. You notice the development of the club; the new stand looks amazing.

AUS vs PAK: Healy slams 'Australian Boys' egos' after nervy win over Pakistan

← **Former Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy sharply criticized Australia's poor batting in their first ODI against Pakistan at the MCG, where they scraped a two-wicket win, chasing 204 in 33.3 overs.**

New Delhi Former Australian wicketkeeper Ian Healy slammed Australia's unconvincing batting performance in their opening ODI against Pakistan at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). Despite securing a two-wicket win and chasing down Pakistan's modest target of 204, Healy expressed frustration at Australia's approach, calling it "schoolyard cricket." "We have a lot to learn," Healy stated on SENQ, highlighting that Australia's preparation for the Champions Trophy is running out of time. "We're gearing up for the Champions Trophy, so there aren't many opportunities left before a final team has to be selected. We should be playing these games properly, but



they're treating it like a schoolyard." Australia managed to achieve the target in just 33.3 overs, but Healy was unimpressed, pointing out their lack of discipline. "The disregard for conditions was unacceptable," Healy said, referencing the unpredictable pitch, which bowlers like Mitch Starc noted was two-paced with uneven bounce. "So what do we do? We try to slog the Pakistani bowlers all over the place. The batters didn't learn anything from what the bowlers told them; they didn't respect the opposition enough." Healy also emphasized how Pakistan's bowlers, led by Haris Rauf, gained momentum as Australia

flattered, underscoring his frustration with what he called "the Australian boys' egos." Healy insisted that they couldn't "set aside [their egos] for even half an hour." Pat Cummins, Australia's skipper, emerged as the hero, steadying the chase with a calm 32 off 31 balls. Coming to the crease at 155 for 7, Cummins managed the final stages with his trademark composure, adding to his record of clutch performances. Together with tailender Mitchell Starc, he led Australia to victory, hitting the winning runs in the 34th over. Cummins also shone with the ball, claiming two wickets and demonstrating his all-round skill. Starc was

awarded Player of the Match after removing Pakistan's openers and finishing with figures of 3-42, setting the tone in the first innings.

Pakistan's innings had mixed fortunes, as they stumbled early with Saim Ayub and Abdullah Shafique falling cheaply to Starc. Captain Mohammad Rizwan led the scoring with 44, while Babar Azam, returning after missing key Tests, added 37 before a mistimed shot saw him bowled by Adam Zampa. Late contributions from Naseem Shah (40) and Shaheen Afridi (24) pushed Pakistan past 200. Australia's chase, however, stumbled. Openers Matt Short and Jake Fraser-McGurk failed to capitalize, while Steve Smith (44) and Josh Inglis (49) added stability before Pakistan's Rauf triggered a collapse, dismissing Marnus Labuschagne and Glenn Maxwell in successive balls. With Australia teetering, Cummins took control, guiding them home.

The victory secured a 1-0 lead in the three-match series, yet Healy's comments underscore the need for improvement. "Inglis and Smith showed restraint, and then Pat Cummins had to as well," Healy remarked, stressing that the team must bring more respect and focus in the upcoming matches. The series will continue with the second ODI in Adelaide on Friday, followed by the final ODI in Perth on Sunday, before concluding with three T20 matches.

Virat Kohli turns 36, Yuvraj, Raina lead birthday wishes for batting stalwart

New Delhi, Star India batter Virat Kohli is celebrating his 36th birthday on Tuesday, November 5 as wishes have been pouring in for the India star from his fans and co-cricketers. Kohli made his international debut way back in 2008 as he opened the innings alongside Gautam Gambhir in the first ODI vs Sri Lanka in Dambulla. The young lad from Delhi was dismissed for just 12 (22) on his debut but began showing signs of his potential as he scored a half-century (54 off 66) in the fourth ODI of the series. Since then, there has been no looking back for the batting star as he's emerged as arguably the greatest batter of the modern era for his marvellous exploits across all three formats. Kohli has made a reputation for himself for scoring big knocks while batting second earning him the title of 'chase master.' The right-handed batter is the best batter in limited-overs cricket (ODIs and T20Is) while chasing, a feat backed by numbers. Kohli has the most runs in winning cause batting second in both ODIs and T20Is which further stamps his authority as the best



chaser ever in the history of the game. Kohli's major records in international cricket The star batter has a world-record 50 centuries in ODI cricket surpassing his idol Sachin Tendulkar. He's also the highest run scorer in T20 World Cup history (1292) having won the prestigious Player of the Tournament award twice in the event. Earlier this year, he also retired as the second-highest run-scorer in T20Is with 4188 runs to his name. Kohli has slammed 80 international centuries, the second most by a player behind the legendary Sachin Tendulkar (100). He's also the most successful Test captain from India, and fourth most successful overall having 40 wins from 68 matches at a win percentage of 58.82. In Tests, Kohli has accumulated 9040 runs from 118 matches with 29 centuries to his name. Hence, on Kohli's big day, several players posted special messages for the star batter to honour the legendary career of the star cricketer and wished him.

Match-fixing scandal in Mizoram: 24 footballers, 3 clubs banned in local league

← **The Mizoram Football Association has banned three clubs and 24 players after uncovering a match-fixing scandal in the Mizoram Premier League. The association is determined to maintain the sport's integrity and has assured strict penalties for those involved.**

New Delhi. In a shocking development, three clubs, 24 players and three club officials have been banned by the Mizoram Football Association (MFA) for alleged match-fixing in a recently-held competition in the state. Three clubs -- Sihphir Venghlun FC, FC Bethlehem, and Ramhlun Athletic FC -- have been banned for three years along with three match officials for allegedly



manipulating the outcome of matches in the Mizoram Premier League. "It has come to the notice of the Mizoram Football Association, after investigations with local law enforcement agencies that certain clubs, officials and players in the recently concluded MPL-11 had indulged in acts of corruption, for which they have been penalized after careful deliberations," the state football body said in a statement. The MFA imposed life bans on two players, five-year bans on four players, three-year bans on 10 footballers, and one-year bans on eight men involved in the alleged corruption. "These activities involving a few miscreants represent a severe breach of our

values, undermine the integrity of our sport and disrespect the fans who passionately support Mizoram Football," read the MFA statement. "As a consequence of these findings, we have imposed strict penalties on those involved.

"We also assure stakeholders that clubs found to be complicit in these activities will face sanctions affecting their participation in future competitions, and players and officials implicated will be subject to suspensions and other disciplinary measures deemed appropriate by the MFA," it added in the statement. The three clubs are all part of the top state league and Sihphir finished among the top four, losing out in the semi-final to eventual winners Aizawl FC.

Seeking support from the football community in this challenging time, the MFA said, "We call upon football fans, partners, and the broader football community to stand with us as we address this challenging chapter." The association admitted that the scandal could damage the league's reputation and stressed its commitment to moving forward with transparency and integrity.

Pep Guardiola expecting challenging season for injury-hit Manchester City

New Delhi. Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has admitted his team faces a more challenging season than recent campaigns, with injuries disrupting their hopes of maintaining dominance in the Premier League and Europe. Speaking ahead of Tuesday's Champions League group-stage match against Sporting CP, Guardiola acknowledged the difficulty of navigating a season with a squad that injuries to key players have significantly weakened.

City's formidable 32-game unbeaten Premier League streak ended on Saturday in a shock defeat to Bournemouth, just days after an exit from the League Cup at the hands of Tottenham Hotspur. With key players missing, Guardiola knows that maintaining the high standards fans expect may be out of reach. "I know our standards, but we've only lost one game," Guardiola said on Monday. "We could lose again in the Premier League against Brighton, Tottenham, or Liverpool," he said, acknowledging the calibre of their



upcoming opponents. City currently trail Liverpool by two points in the league. Despite a strong start in the Champions League, Guardiola warned that this season would be tougher, given the injuries plaguing the squad. "Sometimes, to win the treble, everything has to align perfectly. This season, it hasn't," he said, underscoring the

importance of an injury-free roster for success at the highest levels. City will be missing Ballon d'Or winner Rodrigo and emerging talent Oscar Bobb for an extended period, while John Stones, Jack Grealish, and Ruben Dias are also sidelined and will not make the trip to Portugal. Manuel Akanji, Nathan Ake, and Kyle Walker, though in the squad, are nursing various fitness issues. While star midfielder Kevin De Bruyne and young talent Savinho are on the mend, forward Erling Haaland is fortunately fit for selection. Currently third in their Champions League group with two wins and a draw, City will be aiming for their third consecutive European victory against a strong Sporting side. Sporting, currently unbeaten this season, is level on points with City and sits just behind them on goal difference. Guardiola anticipates a tough encounter with Ruben Amorim's side, which they decisively beat 5-0 in the 2022 Champions League round of 16.

Sunil Gavaskar exclusive full text: 'Australia series to decide future of seniors'

Legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar in an exclusive conversation with India Today, dissected India's series loss against New Zealand and the spoke about the future of senior players.

New Delhi. Legendary India cricketer Sunil Gavaskar in an exclusive conversation with India Today dissected India's 0-3 whitewash against New Zealand on home soil. The Rohit Sharma-led side faced a shambolic 0-3 series loss for the first time in their Test history which has posed several questions on the current lot of players and the team management.

Reflecting on India's loss, Gavaskar delved deep into the technical shortcomings of the Indian batters, future of batting stars Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma and also shared his

prediction for the upcoming Border Gavaskar Trophy. Here's the full excerpt from the interview: Is this a new low for the Indian team? "It is a new low because of the way this Indian cricket team has been performing at home over the last so many years. Over the last so many years they have come back from behind. They've won matches against England and Australia, who have always been thought of as being even better and sterner opponents than what New Zealand could be. And that is the reason why, you know, this was totally unexpected, against Australia against England, one could have said, yeah, they've got, they've got the team, they've got the players. But against this New Zealand team, therefore, it was not expected that India would lose all three test matches," said Gavaskar.

Collective failure of batting brought the downfall "I think it's a failure of the batting. Everybody, you know, literally, I think, struggled with the bat on pitches where there was help for



the bowlers. So I think that was probably the main reason the batters didn't score enough runs, particularly in Pune and in Mumbai," Gavaskar told India Today.

Impact of white-ball cricket on Test batting "Yes, I think it's been a situation ever since the White ball game has come in. The white ball game encourages batters to play with hard hands, where you're looking to push at the ball to get the ball away. Now on pitches where the ball is doing something, whether it is seam swing turn, I think you need to be playing with at least one soft hand, if not two

soft hands. And therefore you know that bat speed, which can be then controlled, where the edges, which are now going to the slip fielders would fall just a little short if you played with soft hands. So it's the bat speed that has been the cause, because India is now playing a lot more of the white ball game than test matches," he added.

Need to use the feet effectively vs spinners "Yes step out and get to the pitch of the ball and drive. I know Ian Chappell used to say the sweep is played by batters, the regular orthodox sweep is played by batters who who can't use their feet. And it's just like, you know, get out of jail kind of shot if it comes out great. If it doesn't come out, you're, you know, backpack in the pavilion. So, while the reverse sweep was not very much in fashion during our time when it is played well, I think it is one of the finest shots that one can see. I really love watching the reverse sweep being played by being played properly. You know, whether it's hit in the air and into the stands or the way they control it with the.



Huma Qureshi

Shares Her Reaction To Shah Rukh Khan Painting Her Toenails During Ad Shoot: 'There Is God'

Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan has captivated fans globally, and he's also the favorite of many fellow actors. Recently, Huma Qureshi shared a memorable experience from an ad shoot with him, where she revealed he's her "all-time favorite." During the shoot, Shah Rukh went the extra mile by painting her toenails, leaving her so moved that she immediately called her mother, saying, "There is God." In a conversation with Mashable India, Huma Qureshi recounted her admiration for Shah Rukh Khan and her first meeting with him while filming an ad for a paint company. At that time, she was still new to the industry and hadn't made her film debut. She played Khan's pregnant wife in the ad, and in one poignant moment, he painted her toenails.



Reflecting on the experience, she said, "So that day I think I called my mother and said, there is a God. You know, and he listens to people's prayers because I got to work even on an ad shoot with my favorite actor in the world." Huma also shared her reaction to a cherished photo with King Khan, calling it 'such a lovely picture' and expressing how much she admires him as her 'most favorite actor in the whole wide world.' She explained that the photo was taken spontaneously when both their cars arrived at the same time for an event. With photographers nearby, they posed together, marking their first picture. The Double XL actress admitted that every time she meets Shah Rukh, she's too awestruck to ask for a photo, making this one all the more special. As Diwali approaches, Shah Rukh Khan is preparing to celebrate in style. His iconic Mumbai residence, Mannat, is now decked out in beautiful lights, adding a festive ambiance. A recent video shared by Pinkvilla on social media gives fans a peek at the dazzling Diwali setup at the Jawan actor's home, with lights illuminating every corner. This festive decoration may also hint at the grand celebration SRK is reportedly planning for his upcoming 59th birthday. According to India Today Digital, the Pathaan star is set to host a star-studded bash at Mannat on November 2.

Meenakshi Seshadri On Her Misunderstanding With Subhash Ghai: 'He Dropped Me For Other Actresses'



Meenakshi Seshadri, a cherished actress from the 90s, recently opened up about her unforgettable role in Subhash Ghai's Meri Jung (1985), a film that highlighted her impressive versatility. In a candid conversation with Friday Talkies, Meenakshi delved into the story behind her collaboration with Ghai, revealing how a miscommunication strained their professional relationship and impacted her career trajectory. Reflecting on her role, she shared, "The role in Meri Jung, Geeta and her sister, both were supposed to be one person. But Subhash ji wanted to cast me, give me a dance sequence. The other aspect (of the role) was where she was a doctor and had a court case against her as she gives poison to a patient."

Ghai's decision to split the character into two roles led to casting Meenakshi as the sister, while another actress took on the role of the doctor. This allowed Meenakshi to showcase her dance skills in a glamorous sequence. She recalled, "So he (Ghai) said that he'll cast someone else for it and give me the sister's role so I can get the glamour element also." Meenakshi credited Ghai's talent for weaving minor roles into the storyline, making them feel essential to the plot. "In reality, my role was not big in Meri Jung, but Subhash ji includes small roles so beautifully in the main story that people feel those characters are very important and valuable. That's also what happened with me," she explained.

Meri Jung solidified Meenakshi's image as a promising star, with fans and critics recognizing her potential shown in her debut film, Hero. However, a misunderstanding during the filming of Meri Jung proved to be a turning point in her career, leading to a premature end to her association with Ghai. She admitted, "While shooting (Meri Jung) I had a misunderstanding with Subhash ji. He had big dreams of giving me big roles, make bigger films and give song sequences, but that couldn't happen. I also handled the situation poorly."

Salman Khan Spotted At Mumbai Airport As He Jets Off For Sikandar Shoot Amid Heavy Security



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan was spotted at the Kalina airport in Mumbai on Saturday afternoon. He reportedly left for the shooting of his upcoming actioner Sikandar, directed by A.R. Murugadoss. A few days ago, it was reported that Salman began the shoot of the film as scheduled, amid death threats issued by gangster Lawrence Bishnoi. Now, the actor has fled out of Mumbai for the shoot, accompanied by heavy security. A video shared by paparazzo Manav Manglani shows Salman Khan getting out of the car, at Mumbai airport. He was seen rocking a casual look, and donned a sky-blue t-shirt with grey ripped jeans. He rounded off the look with black shoes, a black cap, and wore dark



sunglasses. He was flanked by his security personnel as he made his way into the airport. Fans expressed their excitement for Salman Khan's upcoming film Sikandar, and wrote that they can't wait for the film. Clearly, there's massive excitement for Salman Khan's Eid entertainer. Directed by A.R. Murugadoss and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, Sikandar is set to release on Eid 2025, and will see Salman Khan essaying the titular role of Sikandar. The star-studded cast also includes Rashmika Mandanna, Sathyaraj, Prateik Babbar, and Kajal Aggarwal. Sharman Joshi will also reportedly join the film.

On the work front, Salman Khan recently had a cameo appearance in Rohit Shetty's Singham Again. He reprised the role of Chulbul Pandey in this cop-actioner starring Ajay Devgn, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Arjun Kapoor, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff, among others. His cameo was a massive hit among fans, who were extremely thrilled to see the superstar on the big screen.



Aishwarya Rai

Once Turned Down Brad Pitt's Hollywood Film Due To THIS Reason: 'I Couldn't Just Kick...'

Aishwarya Rai was already a major star in India when she started receiving numerous international film offers. Hollywood took notice after her film Devdas was screened at the Cannes Film Festival, prompting her to explore career opportunities in the West. During this period, she was offered a prominent role in Brad Pitt's Troy. Although Aishwarya's part in the film wasn't particularly lengthy, the producers required her to commit 6-9 months to the project. In an earlier interview with SCREEN, Aishwarya recalled this experience, explaining that the filmmakers expected her to block off a large portion of her schedule despite the smaller role. "They wanted me to lock off 6-9 months because it was a huge film," she said. At the time, she hadn't realized that Hollywood often allocated extensive time commitments to ensure project stability and insurance for their films and actors.

Aishwarya went on to share that her role didn't justify such a large time commitment, especially since she had other obligations back in India. "Obviously, we have a way of looking at things like this is your part, lock off that kind of time. Of course, you understand the impact of largesse of that piece of cinema but to lock off that kind of time when you have that kind of albeit very small films here which I was committed to, I couldn't get myself to just kick that to the curb," she explained, adding, "It's exciting because there are huge offers. It's difficult because you know you are walking away from possibly..." Reflecting on this period, Aishwarya noted that many of her senior colleagues spoke of a "glass ceiling" in international cinema, yet she felt she was on the cusp of breaking through it. Despite turning down Troy, Aishwarya went on to act in several international projects during the early 2000s.



Years later, in 2012, Brad Pitt commented on the missed opportunity, stating that they "missed out" on casting Aishwarya in Troy. He told IANS, "Given a chance, I would like to work with Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, because she's a versatile actor. She is one of the most popular actresses of Bollywood, who has achieved huge acclaim in the west for her style, beauty, and acting. I think we missed an opportunity to be cast together for Troy." Ultimately, the role went to Rose Byrne.