



The Researchers'

NEWS BOX

In A First, Israel's PM Set To Testify In Bribery, Corruption Trial

World Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to testify on Tuesday in his bribery, fraud, and breach of trust trial. The hearing will begin in an underground room at the Tel Aviv District Court, moved from Jerusalem due to security concerns. Netanyahu is expected to testify three times a week for at least two weeks, according to local reports. This is the first time a sitting Israeli PM has been charged with a crime, IANS reported citing Xinhua news agency.

The trial began in early 2020 and involves three cases against Netanyahu. He is accused of bribery, fraud, and breach of trust. Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister, denies the charges. He claims the trial is a politically driven "witch hunt." On November 24, the court partially granted Netanyahu's legal team a 15-day postponement for his testimony. However, it dismissed a recent plea for a delay from 12 ministers in Netanyahu's cabinet. The trial was earlier paused for over two-months due to Israel-Hamas conflict. If convicted, Netanyahu could face severe penalties, including jail time. This would make him the first sitting Israeli prime minister to be sentenced for criminal charges.

Netanyahu's trial is further complicated by ICC arrest warrants issued in November. The warrants, targeting him and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, accuse them of "crimes against humanity and war crimes" committed between October 8, 2023, and May 20, 2024.

Donald Trump's Pick Kash Patel Meets Senators As His Nomination Gains Momentum

Washington. The Nomination of Indian-American Kash Patel as FBI Director gains momentum as he meets several influential Senators at Capitol Hill, many of whom openly came out in his support.

If confirmed by the US Senate, Patel would be the first-ever Indian-American to head the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the powerful investigating agency of the United States. Today I reminded Kash that transparency brings accountability, and it's badly needed at the FBI. As a former congressional investigator, Kash understands that cooperation with Congress is not optional and whistle-blower protection is essential," a statement from Senator Chuck Grassley, the incoming Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said after meeting Patel. Once formally nominated, I'd look forward to holding a hearing on Kash's nomination in the Senate Judiciary Committee," he said following the meeting.

"I just wrapped a wonderful meeting with Chairman Chuck Grassley. I share his love for government transparency and whistle-blower protection," Patel wrote in a social media post. Earlier in the day, the Iowa Senator in a letter demanded the current FBI Director Christopher Wray step aside from the post he has held for the last seven years. An FBI Director's position is for ten years.

For the good of the country, it's time for you and your deputy to move on to the next chapter in your lives... (I) must express my vote of no confidence in your continued leadership of the FBI," Grassley wrote in his letter to Wray. A day earlier, incoming President Donald Trump expressed his full confidence in Kash Patel. "He's going to do what he thinks is right," Trump told NBC News in an interview. "If they think somebody was dishonest or a corrupt politician, he probably must do it. But I'm not going to direct him," he said. Senator Joni Ernst from Iowa also endorsed Patel. "Kash Patel will create much-needed transparency at the FBI. He shares my passion for shaking up federal agencies, downsizing the D.C. bureaucracy, and having public servants work on behalf of the American people!" he wrote on Twitter. "I just finished a great meeting with Sen. Joni Ernst. We discussed the importance of transparency at the FBI and deploying agents in the field to fight fentanyl and crime in Iowa. The FBI needs courageous leadership to implement reform. Sen. Ernst is that partner," Patel said after the meeting.

4-day workweek in Tokyo from next year: Is population decline reshaping Japan's workforce

World The Tokyo administration found a new way to address the country's low birth rates and that is to implement a four-day workweek scheme for its staff.

Tokyo's Governor Yuriko Koike has declared that from April onwards, metropolitan government staff will have the choice of a three-day off each week.

"We will review work styles ... with flexibility, ensuring no one has to give up their career due to life events such as childbirth or child care," she stated during her policy address at the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly's fourth regular session, NBC news reported. This initiative aims to encourage procreation amongst Japanese couples, as the country's fertility rate has reached an unprecedented low. According to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, last year's rate fell to 1.2 children per woman during her reproductive years, despite increased governmental efforts to promote family formation. Population stability requires a minimum rate of 2.1. Koike introduced an additional measure allowing parents of elementary school pupils to reduce their working hours in exchange for a proportional salary adjustment.

"Now is the time for Tokyo to take the initiative to protect and enhance the lives, livelihoods and economy of our people during these challenging times for the nation," she declared.

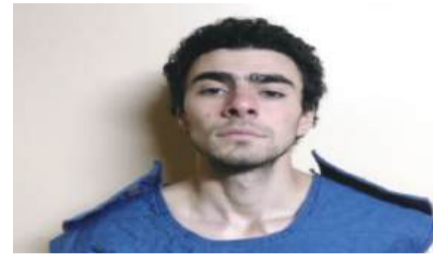
Japan registered only 727,277 births last year, as reported by the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry. This low figure may be attributed to the country's overtime work culture, which often forces women to choose between professional advancement and motherhood.

Suspect in UnitedHealthcare CEO killing charged with murder in New York, court records show

ALTOONA. After UnitedHealthcare's CEO was gunned down on a New York sidewalk, police searched for the masked gunman with dogs, drones and scuba divers. Officers used the city's muscular surveillance system. Investigators analyzed DNA samples, fingerprints and internet addresses. Police went door-to-door looking for witnesses. When an arrest came five days later, those sprawling investigative efforts shared credit with an alert civilian's instincts. A Pennsylvania McDonald's customer noticed another patron who resembled the man in the oblique security-camera photos that New York police had publicized. Luigi Nicholas Mangione, a 26-year-old Ivy League graduate from a prominent Maryland real estate family, was arrested Monday in the killing of Brian Thompson, who headed one of the United States' largest medical insurance companies. He remained jailed in Pennsylvania, where he was initially charged with possession of an unlicensed firearm, forgery and providing false identification to police. By late evening, prosecutors in Manhattan had added a

charge of murder, according to an online court docket. He's expected to be extradited to New York eventually. It's unclear whether Mangione has an attorney who can comment on the allegations. Asked at Monday's arraignment whether he needed a public defender, Mangione asked whether he could "answer that at a future date." Mangione was arrested in Altoona, Pennsylvania, after the McDonald's customer recognized him and notified an employee, authorities said. Police in Altoona, about 233 miles (375 kilometers) west of New York City, were soon summoned. They arrived to find Mangione sitting at a table in the back of the restaurant, wearing a blue medical mask and looking at a laptop, according to a Pennsylvania police criminal complaint.

He initially gave them a fake ID, but when an officer asked Mangione whether he'd been to New York recently, he "became quiet and started to shake," the complaint says. When he pulled his mask down at officers' request, "we knew that was our guy," rookie Officer Tyler Frye said at a news conference in Hollidaysburg, New York



Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said at a Manhattan news conference that Mangione was carrying a gun like the one used to kill Thompson and the same fake ID the shooter had used to check into a New York hostel, along with a passport and other fraudulent IDs. NYPD Chief of Detectives Joseph Kenny said Mangione also had a three-page, handwritten document that shows "some ill will toward corporate America." A law enforcement official who wasn't authorized to discuss the investigation publicly and spoke with The Associated Press on condition of anonymity said the document included a

line in which Mangione claimed to have acted alone. "To the Feds, I'll keep this short, because I do respect what you do for our country. To save you a lengthy investigation, I state plainly that I wasn't working with anyone," the document said, according to the official. It also had a line that said, "I do apologize for any strife or traumas but it had to be done. Frankly, these parasites simply had it coming." Pennsylvania prosecutor Peter Weeks said in court that Mangione was found with a passport and \$10,000 in cash \$2,000 of it in foreign currency. Mangione disputed the amount. Thompson, 50, was killed last Wednesday as he walked alone to a midtown Manhattan hotel for an investor conference. Police quickly came to see the shooting as a targeted attack by a gunman who appeared to wait for Thompson, came up behind him and fired a 9 mm pistol. Investigators have said "delay," "deny" and "depose" were written on ammunition found near Thompson's body. The words mimic a phrase used to criticize the insurance industry.

Netanyahu claims Israel-occupied Golan Heights in Syria will remain Israeli 'for eternity'

JERUSALEM. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Monday that the Golan Heights, occupied by Israel for almost 60 years, would remain Israeli "for eternity." Speaking at a press conference in Jerusalem, Netanyahu thanked US President-elect Donald Trump for recognizing Israel's 1981 annexation of the territory during his first term and said "the Golan will be part of the State of Israel for eternity." Israel's Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said Monday that his country's military takeover of the buffer zone along its border with Syria was a temporary move, after Islamist-led rebels took control in Syria.

Israeli troops that have moved into the buffer zone on the edge of the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights "constitute a violation" of the 1974 disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria, a UN spokesman said Monday.



"This is a limited and temporary step we took for security reasons," Sa'ar said in a press conference at the foreign ministry in Jerusalem. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday that he had ordered the army to "take control" of the zone -- on the east of the Israeli-annexed Golan -- after the fall of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad the same day. Sa'ar and an Israeli government spokesman both confirmed that Israeli troops had moved beyond the demarcated buffer zone onto the slopes of Mount Hermon.

The UN peacekeeping force deployed in the Golan Heights, known as UNDOF, "informed the Israeli counterparts that these actions would constitute a violation of the 1974 disengagement agreement," said Stephane Dujarric, spokesman for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. He said that the Israeli forces that entered the zone were still present in at least three locations. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on Sunday he had ordered the army to "seize" the demilitarized zone in the Syrian-

controlled part of the Golan Heights after rebels swept Syrian president Bashar al-Assad from power.

Most of the Golan Heights plateau has been occupied since 1967 by Israel, which later annexed it in a move not recognized by most of the international community. In 1974 a buffer zone was established to separate the Israeli-held and Syrian territories, with UN peacekeepers stationed there.

Amid the downfall of Assad, Israel announced a troop deployment to the Golan Heights citing "the possible entry of armed individuals into the buffer zone." Israeli

forces "will continue to operate as long as necessary in order to preserve the buffer zone and defend Israel," it added. Israeli troops "have entered the area of separation and have been moving within that area where they remain in at least three locations throughout the area of separation," Dujarric said. "There should be no military forces or activities in the area of separation. And Israel and Syria must continue to uphold the terms of that 1974 agreement, and preserve stability in the Golan," he said.

Ex-Assad Regime Syrian Officials Indicted In US For War Crimes Against Americans

World A US federal indictment has charged two former senior Syrian intelligence officials from the regime of former President Bashar al-Assad with "war crimes against Americans and other civilians," the Department of Justice announced. The indictment accuses Jamil Hassan, 72, and Abdul Salam Mahmoud, 65, of conspiring to commit war crimes by subjecting detainees, including US citizens, to cruel and inhuman treatment at detention facilities such as the Mezzeh Military Airport prison near Damascus, according to the justice department. Warrants for their arrest have been issued, though both remain at large, the statement read on Monday.

"The perpetrators of the Assad regime's atrocities against American citizens and other civilians during the Syrian civil war must answer for their heinous crimes," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement. As alleged,

these Assad regime intelligence officials whipped, kicked, electrocuted, and burned their victims; hung them by their wrists for prolonged periods of time; threatened them with rape and death; and falsely told them that their family members had been killed. The Justice Department has a long memory, and we will never stop working to find and bring to justice those who tortured Americans," he added. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco reaffirmed the US's commitment to accountability, stating, "The Assad regime may have fallen, but our commitment to accountability continues unabated. For the second time in a year, the Department of Justice has brought charges against those who committed war crimes against US citizens, deploying a previously unused federal law to hold accountable individuals who engaged in cruel and inhuman atrocities during

armed conflict."

FBI Director Christopher Wray said the bureau remains dedicated to collaborating with international law enforcement to ensure justice is served. "Hassan and Mahmoud allegedly oversaw the systematic use of cruel and inhumane treatment on perceived enemies of the Syrian regime, including American citizens," he said. According to the Justice Department, Hassan, as the Director of Syrian Air Force Intelligence, managed a network of detention centres, including Mezzeh Prison, Mahmoud, a Brigadier General, directed operations at the prison.

From January 2012 to July 2019, the two allegedly conspired to identify, intimidate, and punish individuals detained at Mezzeh, including protesters, medical aid providers to regime opponents, and those who publicly criticised the Assad regime.

Elon Musk warns Republicans against standing in Trump's way, or his

DES MOINES. A week after President-elect Donald Trump's victory, Elon Musk said his political action committee would "play a significant role in primaries."

The following week, the billionaire responded to a report that he might fund challengers to GOP House members who don't support Trump's nominees. "How else? There is no other way," Musk wrote on X, which he rebranded after purchasing Twitter and moving to boost conservative voices, including his own. And during his recent visit to Capitol Hill, Musk and entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy delivered a warning to Republicans who don't go along with their plans to slash spending as part of Trump's proposed Department of Government Efficiency. "Elon and Vivek talked about having a naughty list and a nice list for members of Congress and senators and how we vote and how we're spending the American people's money," said Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga. Trump's second term comes with the specter of the world's richest man serving as his

political enforcer. Within Trump's team, there is a feeling that Musk not only supports Trump's agenda and Cabinet appointments, but is intent on seeing them through to the point of pressuring Republicans who may be less devoted.

One Trump adviser, speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss internal political dynamics, noted Musk had come to enjoy his role on the campaign and that he clearly had the resources to stay involved. The adviser and others noted that Musk's role is still taking shape. And Musk, once a supporter of President Barack Obama before moving to the right in recent years, is famously mercurial. "I think he was really important for this election. Purchasing Twitter, truly making it a free speech platform, I think, was integral to this election, to the win that Donald Trump had," said departing Republican National Committee co-chair Lara Trump, the president-elect's daughter-in-law. "But I don't know that ultimately he wants to be in politics. I think he considers himself to be

someone on the outside." During the presidential campaign, Musk contributed roughly \$200 million to America PAC, a super PAC aimed at reaching Trump voters online and in person in the seven most competitive states, which Trump swept. He also invested \$20 million in a group called RBG PAC, which ran ads arguing Trump would not sign a national abortion ban even as the former president nominated three of the justices who overturned a federally guaranteed right to the procedure. Musk's donation to RBG PAC — a name that invokes the initials of former Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a champion of abortion rights — wasn't revealed until post-election campaign filings were made public Thursday. Musk has said he hopes to keep America PAC funded and operating. Beyond that, he has used his X megaphone to suggest he is at least open to challenging less exuberant Trump supporters in Congress. Another key Trump campaign ally has been more aggressive online. Conservative activist

Charlie Kirk, whose group Turning Point Action also worked to turn out voters for Trump, named Republican senators he wants to target. "This is not a joke, everybody. The funding is already being put together. Donors are calling like crazy. Primaries are going to be launched," Kirk said on his podcast, singling out Sens. Joni Ernst of Iowa, Jim Risch of Idaho, Mike Rounds of South Dakota and Thom Tillis of North Carolina as potential targets. All four Republican senators' seats are up in 2026. For now, Musk has been enjoying the glow of his latest conquest, joining Trump for high-level meetings and galas at the soon-to-be president's Mar-a-Lago resort home in Palm Beach, Florida. The incoming administration is seeded with Musk allies, including venture capitalist and former PayPal executive David Sacks serving as the "White House A.I. & Crypto Czar" and Jared Isaacman, a tech billionaire who bought a series of spaceflights from Musk's SpaceX, named to lead NASA.



17 ways to do up your

Living Room

'My place has everything that a party house needs'

About A Boy is a film about a guy who has not worked a single day. He gets royalty out of a song that his dad sang. But what is really cool about him is his apartment. Punit's apartment is inspired by that. Like the character in the film, Punit too, would like to be self-sufficient in life

"I wake up in the morning and go down to the second floor for breakfast to my parents' place (Punit stays on the 22nd floor) or the breakfast comes up. They have started teasing me that this is why I meet them. Then lunch comes up and for dinner, I usually go down."

"My kitchen is totally stocked with ingredients and everything required to cook, though it has never been used. I also have a fully stocked bar even though I don't drink. And, surprisingly, my dad stocked it up for me."

"When my dad came to see my place for the first time, he opened my room and died of shock seeing the fully open shower. He said, 'What if someone opens the door and sees you?' To make it worse, I had put a blue light in the shower. I can see the world taking a shower from inside, though the world cannot see me from outside. He found it ridiculous and could just not get it. Manish (Malhotra who is Punit's chacha) came and said, 'I thought it will be cool, but the bathroom is too sexy.' It was too much for him to handle. My grandfather came in and said, 'How will your wife take a bath here when you get married?'"



Interior expert Raseel Gujral lists simple fun ways to do up your living room.

Personality

I want to walk into a space that makes me sigh! The living room should be designed in such a way that it speaks to you with volume and personality.

Unusual pairing

The rush of being surprised by unexpected beauty. For example a beautiful antique in an otherwise contemporary living room setting is something unexpected.

Art talks

Nothing can replace the timeless appeal of original art. Exquisite pieces of art can hold an entire space together.

Touch of unapologetic glamour Glamour needs no justification. Every living room should have a hint of glamour — need not be loud, just a touch of Venetian glass can change the look of a room!

Colour

Colour is oxygen — it makes you breathe. Each colour makes you feel different — it lights up your life!

Transform the mundane The layering of materials can transform the simple to the sublime. An intricately worked on carpet in an empty space can transform the otherwise mundane area to something interesting. A simple sofa with exotic cushions can change the look of your living room.

Sense of origin Never lose it. When you fill your room with furniture it should not shout but should have gentle flavours.

Conversation pieces Key pieces should anchor a space, not let it float away. You may have a small room and fill it with a hundred small pieces. Visually it's unappealing and your pieces do not get noticed either. Have one large painting or one large sculpture in the room instead.

Let your experiences and travels talk There is no substitute to personal style. Your living room should reflect it in the things that you pick on your travels!



means everything serves a specific function.

Lift your spirits Details. Ones that make you fall in love over and over. Fill your room with little things that give you joy. It can be a simple photo frame, a beautiful vase, anything that lifts your spirit!

Surprise yourself

The compulsion to constantly surprise yourself. The furniture you place in the living room should have a story, so every time you walk in, it should surprise you. A thing of beauty is a joy forever Buying objects of beauty — is beginning a love affair, every time. The joy of finding something new and bringing it home — like picking up a lamp in an antique market.

Change is good

The drama of everyday life. Keep changing the look of your home. Paint a sculpture an electric red this will add drama! Lighting The play of light and shadow — in pattern and history. Place your pieces in such a way that the light and shadow will form designs in your room.

Find your own inspiration Fashion, art, life — everything is a stimulus. One is inspired by books, clothes, fashion shows etc. This inspiration should be brought in to your rooms.

Dare to differ

There is nothing more boring than the black dress syndrome. Do not follow the herd. Do up your house differently. Paint a wall in a deep mahogany!

Minimalism

Today to be minimal means leaching every bit of personality. Minimalism is in! Do not do anything over the top. Your room should be simple and sophisticated. Minimalist interiors don't necessarily mean everything is stripped down. It



A good night's sleep is very essential for a healthy life. It is not just the number of hours that plays an important role in ensuring a good sleep but also the level of comfort that depends on the mattress that you choose to relax on.

6 simple tips to choose a

Mattress

three important attributes of a mattress. In India, most customers tend to prioritise the cost of the mattress over other components and end up complaining later.

Check for all options and variations

Check whether the mattress is firm, stylish and accompanied with a pillow-top the brand promises to offer. Do not settle for anything mediocre.

Shop at a real mattress store

Avoid shopping from department stores. Salespeople at a mattress store are usually more trained and skilled enough to help you with the correct choice.

Do not forget to check the warranty

A good mattress will have a minimum of a 10 year 'full' replacement or a 'Non-prorated warranty'.

Test before you finalise

Once you've made up your mind on a particular mattress, try lying down on it for at least 10 to 15 minutes. This will help you check for its comfort and reliability. Do not hurry with the big purchase and let not your decision be only influenced by the salesman.

Mattresses are not the same for every person; some are designed to cushion your stiff back while others provide support according to a person's height, age or weight. We generally do not pay much attention to these factors before buying a mattress; but neglecting such concerns can affect our sleeping habit.

Puneet Verma, General Manager of a US-based mattress firm and store (with several branches in many cities in India) shares some guidelines on what to keep in mind before selecting a

mattress:

Age of your existing mattress

If you've been having trouble sleeping, the problem might not be your mattress, but its age. Every mattress comes with its own expiry date. After a certain period of time, mattresses no longer retain their original comfort quality. This is the time that you should consider changing your mattress to prevent further troubles to your body.

The three S's

Softness, support and size are



Aaditya Thackeray for Belagavi as Union Territory, Siddaramaiah says childish

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah slammed Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray's demand for Belagavi to be declared as a Union Territory, calling it a "childish statement".

- ▶ **Aaditya Thackeray alleges Marathi-speaking people facing injustice in Belagavi**
- ▶ **Siddaramaiah questions why Belagavi should be declared Union Territory**
- ▶ **Belagavi dispute stems from 1957 reorganisation of states on linguistic lines**



Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray demanded that Belagavi, a city in Karnataka bordering Maharashtra, should be declared a Union Territory, drawing a jibe from Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah who called Thackeray's statement "childish". "It's a childish statement. The Mahajan (Commission) report is final. So, neither should we ask for anything and nor should they. How can it be declared as Union Territory? And, if Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti (MES) protests, will we keep quiet?"

Siddaramaiah told reporters on Monday. Thackeray on Monday alleged that injustice was being meted out to Marathi-speaking people in Belagavi and demanded that the region be declared a Union Territory. He said while celebrations were on over the formation of the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra, the situation was "deteriorating" in Belagavi. As the winter session of the Karnataka Assembly began on Monday, members of the Maharashtra Ekikaran Samiti were opposing it. The outfit organised a congregation in

Belagavi, but the Karnataka government reportedly prohibited the gathering and banned leaders from Maharashtra from entering the state. WHAT IS THE BELAGAVI DISPUTE? The Belagavi border issue dates back to 1957 when states were reorganised on linguistic lines. Maharashtra laid claim to Belagavi, which was part of the erstwhile Bombay Presidency, as it has a sizeable Marathi-speaking population, and over 800 Marathi-speaking border villages that are currently a part of Karnataka. Karnataka maintains that the demarcation done on linguistic lines as per the States Reorganisation Act and the 1967 Mahajan Commission Report is final. To assert that Belagavi is an integral part of the state, the Karnataka government built the 'Suvarna Vidhana Soudha' here, modelled on the Vidhana Soudha, the seat of the state Legislature and Secretariat in Bengaluru.

Kiren Rijiju jabs Rahul Gandhi over 'PM-Adani' interview: Enjoys creating tamasha

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said while Rahul Gandhi enjoys creating a tamasha and abusing PM Modi, other MPs have responsibilities towards the people who have elected them.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju lashed out at Rahul Gandhi over his mock interview on the Gautam Adani bribery case in Parliament complex, saying the Leader of the Opposition "enjoys creating a tamasha" and abusing the Prime Minister. In a scathing post on X, Rijiju sought to highlight the apparent rift in the opposition camp to assert that the Samajwadi Party and the Trinamool Congress were interested in participating in Parliament discussions.

the INDIA bloc over Congress's insistence on raising the Adani bribery case in Parliament to the exclusion of other issues. "The Samajwadi Party, TMC, all Congress MPs in Rajya Sabha, some Congress MPs in Lok Sabha and many party MPs are really interested in participating in the Parliament debate and discussion. Rahul Gandhi has nothing to lose because he can't feel people's pain and problems, but

"Rahul Gandhi enjoys creating a tamasha and abusing the Prime Minister, but other MPs have responsibilities towards the people who have elected them. All he has to do is create a tamasha here and then go abroad to enjoy his holidays," the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs tweeted.



On Monday, Rahul Gandhi, who has alleged a nexus between Modi and Adani, conducted a mock interview with Congress leaders wearing masks of the Prime Minister and the businessman. The development came amid relentless Congress protests in Parliament over a New York court indicting Adani for paying bribes to Indian government officials to secure solar power contracts. Rijiju also raked up the apparent divide in

other MPs do," the Union Minister said. The Samajwadi Party and TMC have disassociated themselves from the Adani protests, and have said they want the House floor to be used to raise issues such as the Sambhal mosque violence and the targeting of minorities in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Parliament proceedings witnessed another washout on Monday.

INDIA bloc rift widens: Lalu Yadav latest to back Mamata Banerjee for top role

Ever since Mamata Banerjee set off a churn by evincing interest in leading the INDIA bloc last week, several non-Congress leaders have closed ranks behind her, with Lalu Prasad Yadav being the latest addition.

New Delhi. The rift in the opposition camp widened as RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav became the latest leader to back West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to lead the INDIA bloc. The leadership tussle in the dispirited opposition camp comes at a time when Congress has been left licking its wounds following the debacle in Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly polls after an impressive Lok Sabha show.



Ever since Mamata Banerjee set off a churn by evincing interest in leading the INDIA bloc last week, several non-Congress parties have closed ranks behind her, including Jagan Mohan Reddy's YSRCP. The Samajwadi Party, NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) and Shiv

Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leaders were quick to endorse her pitch. Lalu Prasad Yadav also lent his weight to Mamata Banerjee's demand, further queering the pitch for Congress. "We will support Mamta Banerjee. She should be allowed to head the INDIA bloc," the former Bihar Chief Minister said. Asked about the Congress's

"reservation" to Mamata Banerjee's demand, Lalu Yadav said the party's objection doesn't matter. "The Congress's opposition will not make any difference," he said.

Earlier, Lalu Yadav's son and senior RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav also said he had "no objection" to Banerjee leading the coalition, but stressed that the decision must be reached through consensus.

JAGAN REDDY'S PARTY ALSO SUPPORTS MAMATA BANERJEE Interestingly, the YSRCP, which was perceived to be close to the BJP till it was routed by the NDA in the Andhra Pradesh Assembly polls, also joined the growing chorus to hand over the INDIA bloc leadership to Mamata Banerjee.

TECOM payment for SmartCity exit share buyback, not compensation: Pinarayi Vijayan

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan addresses controversy over TECOM's exit from SmartCity Kochi, rejecting Opposition claims of compensation and affirming government control over future IT development projects.

Thiruvananthapuram. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Monday addressed concerns over the government's decision to repay Dubai-based TECOM for its exit from the SmartCity project in Kochi, clarifying that the payment is not compensation but the cost of TECOM's shares in the venture.

Speaking to the media, Vijayan said the transaction represents a rightful settlement of TECOM's investment, as determined by an independent evaluator, and not a payout for losses. "There is a common misconception that the payment to TECOM is a compensation amount," he said. "In reality, it is the value of the Dubai firm's 84 percent stake in SmartCity." Under the framework agreement governing the project, the government must repay the lease premium of Rs 91.52 crore and infrastructure expenses in the event of lease cancellation. Clause 7.2.2 of the agreement mandates the appointment of an independent evaluator to estimate the share price, a process currently underway.

The Chief Minister also assured that the SmartCity Kochi project would remain under full government control moving forward, dismissing allegations of a hidden real estate agenda. "Rumours that the government will abandon SmartCity are baseless. Our focus is on advancing Kerala's future IT development," he said.

The controversy arose after Leader of the Opposition VD Satheesan accused the government of intending to hand over 246 acres of prime land, initially leased for the project, to select individuals. He alleged that the decision lacked transparency and was driven by ulterior motives. He questioned the rationale behind compensating TECOM, a company he labeled a "non-performer".

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Lalu Prasad takes vulgar jibe at Nitish Kumar's women's rally: Only to letch

RJD chief Lalu Yadav sparked controversy on Tuesday with a sexist comment about Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Mahila Samwad Yatra, suggesting it was intended to "letch at women".

New Delhi. RJD chief Lalu Yadav stirred controversy on Tuesday with a sexist remark directed at Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Mahila Samwad Yatra, saying that they are going to "letch at women."



This remark came as Nitish Kumar announced plans to launch the Mahila Samwad Yatra, a state initiative aimed at directly engaging with women. Rajiv Ranjan, a senior leader of the Janata Dal (United), strongly criticised Lalu Yadav's comments on Nitish Kumar's women rally. Ranjan said, "Lalu must not know how the people of Bihar tolerated him in the past. These are people with a deplorable mindset. Their true character has now been revealed."

Samrat Chaudhary, Bihar's Deputy Chief Minister, also condemned Lalu Yadav's remarks. Describing them as "unfortunate", Chaudhary said that the use of such language raises concern. "Lalu Yadav should consider going to a hospital,"

Chaudhary said, suggesting that the former leader's mental state had deteriorated. "Laluji is on the last stage... he is unable to understand things and say anything," said Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha. Priyanka Chaturvedi, Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena MP, also criticised Lalu Yadav's remarks about Nitish Kumar's women's rally, labelling them as "sexist." Chaturvedi said, "This is a sexist

comment. Even Lalu's own family members might advise him to refrain from making such statements." Kumar's 'Mahila Samwad Yatra,' set to start on December 15, aims to review the progress of the government's 7-Resolves programme while engaging with women across the state to gauge their concerns and strengthen their participation in governance.

'WILL SUPPORT MAMATA BANERJEE'

On the INDIA bloc's leadership, Yadav said that Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee should be given the position. "Congress's objection means nothing. We will support Mamata... Mamata Banerjee should be given the leadership (of the INDIA bloc)," Yadav told news agency. JMM MP Mahua Majhi said her party had not issued any formal response on the matter. "There is no official statement from our party yet. I cannot say anything about it. Every party has their opinion."

Priyanka Gandhi carries PM-Adani bag to Parliament, Rahul Gandhi calls it cute

The bag had a striking design with a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and industrialist Gautam Adani on one side and the slogan "Modi Adani Bhai Bhai" printed on the other.

New Delhi. Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadera carried a quirky bag to Parliament on Tuesday (December 10). The bag had a striking design with a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and billionaire



industrialist Gautam Adani on one side and the slogan "Modi Adani Bhai Bhai" printed on the other. Rahul Gandhi, amused by the bag, held it up during a conversation and said, "This is quite cute." Initially, he checked the front design

featuring the Modi-Adani image and then turned it around to read the slogan on the back. Upon seeing the slogan, Rahul said with a smile, "Look how cute this is!"

Rahul also asked Priyanka about the designer of the bag, which made her laugh.

Priyanka Gandhi's dig at the Central government is the latest in a series of attacks by the Opposition, accusing it of avoiding discussions on the bribery charges against Adani in the US. Since the session began on November 20, both Houses have experienced constant disruptions over the issue. On Monday (December 9), Congress MPs Manickam Tagore and Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka wore face masks of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani as Opposition leaders again protested in Parliament, demanding a probe into the bribery case in the US involving

- ▶ **Priyanka Gandhi carried a quirky bag to Parliament**
- ▶ **Bag featured Modi-Adani image and 'Modi Adani Bhai Bhai' slogan**
- ▶ **Rahul Gandhi found the bag amusing and called it cute**

the billionaire industrialist. Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, was seen clicking pictures of Tagore and Ulaka and also asked to describe their "relationship". In response, they mockingly said, "Hum dono milke sab karenge (we will do everything together). We have had a relationship for years". Opposition MPs from the INDIA bloc, except from Trinamool Congress, Samajwadi Party and the Aam Aadmi Party, join the protests on Monday, seeking a joint parliamentary probe into the case. The protesters stood outside the Makar Dwar of

Parliament and raised slogans like "Modi, Adani ek hain" and "we want justice". On December 6, Rahul Gandhi took a potshot at PM Modi and asked the latter not to be afraid of the Adani probe and attend the Winter Session. Last month, US prosecutors charged Adani, his nephew Sagar and other defendants for paying over \$250 million in bribes between 2020 and 2024 to Indian government officials to win solar energy contracts on terms that could potentially bring in more than \$2 billion in profit. The Adani Group has dismissed the charges as "baseless".

Touchstones: Pant, Lungi, dhoti, salwar

The other day, a reader sent me a funny post about the huge amount paid to Rishabh Pant (Rs 27 crore) while the South African cricketer, Lungi Ngidi, was paid a mere Rs 1 crore as franchise fees. The bottomline said, 'Knew that a Pant is costlier than a Lungi. But didn't know that it is 27 times costlier!' My maiden name was Pant too, and then another funny episode came to my mind. I must have been about 11 years old and studying in Nainital. In those days, the production quality of our Hindi textbooks was pathetic and the broken line sketch accompanying a poem by the poet Sumitranandan Pant in my textbook made it difficult to make out the contours of the poet's face. Also, I had inherited my textbook from an older cousin (as was the custom in those frugal days), who had added lavish flourishes to the picture: so, earrings hung from poor Pantji's ears, a bindi adorned his forehead and a nath dangled from his nose. The poet also proudly sported long, curled locks so I had a gender-baffling portrait of this famous Romantic (chhayavadi) poet in front of me. Our Hindi teacher, who knew my mother was a writer, asked me one day: 'Ira, are you related to Sumitranandan Pant?' I looked at that funny picture, and since his name was Sumitranandan, assumed foolishly that it must be that of a woman. 'Yes,' I replied airily, 'she is my aunt.' For years after that, that teacher would ask me, 'So, how is your aunt, Ira?' and I would blush. Funny as it seems today, it is a reminder of how privileged we were to know the literary fraternity of Allahabad, where our family went after Nainital. Allahabad in the 1960s was where some of the most iconic Hindi writers and poets lived. Periodically, they would gather at someone's house for a sahitik goshti (literary soiree) and discuss their work to each other. Many young and aspiring writers joined such sittings to read out their work and have it critiqued and assessed by such eminent names. Their modest lives and mutual respect are a distinct memory and something to remember in these times when every young writer wants to write a bestseller, and make a pile of money by selling it to a big publisher. There are actually agencies now that offer their services (at a huge cost, naturally) for editing (and often re-writing the original work), marketing and ensuring high visibility. I suppose these are a sign of our fiercely competitive times for I see such hustling everywhere. In films, music and the performing arts, the shy, self-effacing person stands no chance. The hype created by this ecosystem has seriously damaged creativity in most spheres and many 'outstanding' first performers and writers sink without a trace soon enough. In contrast, the place occupied by an older generation is beyond all this. Whether writers, lyricists, poets or artists, their reputation has been built over time and reading or listening to their work is a perennial pleasure. Related to this is another concern and that is our dismissal of anything that is not written in English. The wealth of talent that exists in our regional languages is something I have written about earlier and now with good translations, I hope this trend will hold. The enormous popularity of Tamil and Telugu cinema is an example of how subtitled or dubbed into Hindi makes it possible for viewers to open their eyes to a new world and genre. The most visible proof of this is our English language media that had, until quite recently, occupied prime time space. Regional language newspapers and local broadsheets were considered beneath their notice and something that was bought by the sahib log for their staff. The shoe is on the other foot now: our mainstream English media gets left behind, for, the regional language media far outstrips these old ladies of Bori Bunder where advertising is concerned. Look at our Parliament, the glib English speakers who wear expensive handloom and flash designer bags and glasses, grab all the media attention. Most of them are inheritors or dynasts and patnis.

Rewriting the rules of survival in Gir territory

The resilience of the big cats is a testament to nature's ability to adapt, even in the face of human encroachment and environmental change

"The world is not to be put in order. The world is order incarnate. It is for us to harmonise with this order.

The picture was mesmerising — two farmers, their hands resting on weathered knees, seated calmly amid golden fields. Just a few paces behind them, two sub-adult male Asiatic lions stood tall, their watchful eyes surveying the landscape. It was a photograph that seemed almost surreal. Social media was abuzz with opinions — was it real or just another digital fabrication? My curiosity got the better of me, and I found myself drawn into an investigation, piecing together accounts from Gujarat's forest officials, wildlife experts and local communities. What emerged was a tale of change, adaptation and an evolving coexistence between humans and the wild. The Asiatic lions, with their shorter manes and regal strides, have a history as expansive as their former range — from Greece to India. By the early 20th century, their empire had dwindled to the dry deciduous forests of Gir in Gujarat. Less than 200 lions remained, clinging to survival in the sanctuary that would become their last refuge. Gir National Park, a sprawling mosaic of forests, scrublands and grasslands, has been a lifeline for these lions. Here, prides thrive in familial bonds, hunting deer, antelope and wild boar in the soft light of dawn and dusk. Among them, the Maldharis — traditional herders — have long lived as neighbours, their livestock an occasional temptation for the hungry predators. Efforts to mediate this uneasy coexistence, from compensation schemes to grazing alternatives, have shaped the park's conservation narrative for decades. These conservation measures and relentless efforts of the Forest Department have resulted in a significant increase of lions. As per the latest census, the number of lions in Gir is above 650. But the Gir forest itself is changing. Teak plantations, planted over the years, have grown dense, transforming open expanses into shadowy corridors. The forest floor is now a thick carpet of dry teak leaves, crackling underfoot with every step. For lions, stealth — so crucial for hunting — has become a challenge. The leaves, while innocuous to the untrained eye, act as an acoustic alarm for the prey, scattering potential meals before a lion can pounce. The leaves also pose another threat: they are a tinderbox, waiting for a spark to ignite biodiversity loss, destroying ground nests, invertebrates, and the fragile ecosystem underfoot. Furthermore, the lions have outgrown the carrying capacity of protected area, and, therefore, the prides often move out of the notified boundaries of the national reserve. As per



wildlife experts, the notified area of the park (1,410 sq km) is just enough to support 350-400 lions, and hence, some lions have sought solace beyond the protected area of Gir's boundaries into the agro-pastoral landscape of Saurashtra, covering nine districts. Surprisingly, their new home, the agricultural fields, which are open stretches, mimic the savannahs of their evolutionary past, and hence offer space to roam and better opportunities to hunt. Blue bulls, wild boars, and deer — drawn to farmers' crops — have unwittingly brought lions into the fold. For the big cats, it's a buffet; for the farmers, it's a blessing in disguise. "We don't mind the lions," one farmer told me. "They keep the crop raiders away." This unspoken alliance between the predator and the farmer has cultivated a remarkable tolerance, even towards the occasional hunt of domestic cattle by these lions. Unlike in dense forests, the fields allow lions to hunt with ease, and the well-fed pride reduces damage to crops. It is important to note that this phenomenon isn't unique only to Gujarat. It was observed in eastern India where tea plantations were

grown over a century ago. The leopards of the area found it easy to hunt and hide in the newly-developed tea garden habitat, rather than dense woodlands. It seems these apex predators are more adaptable than we once believed. But not all is idyllic. With lions venturing closer to human settlements, the risk of conflict looms. Therefore, the growing overlap of human and lion habitats underscores the need for proactive measures. Community education, better livestock management and innovative coexistence strategies will be essential. Engaging locals as stakeholders, not just spectators, in conservation efforts could turn potential conflicts into collaborative solutions.

The story of Gir's lions is far from over. From the dense teak forests to the sunlit agricultural fields, these big cats are rewriting the rules of survival. Their resilience is a testament to nature's ability to adapt, even in the face of human encroachment and environmental change. For me, the photograph that started this journey has become more than just an image — it's a symbol of coexistence.

Reviving Aravallis

Project to reclaim vanishing hills takes shape

THE Aravalli Green Wall Project, an eco-restoration initiative by the Union Environment Ministry, promises to be a turning point in combating land degradation and desertification. Covering over 1.1 million hectares across Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Delhi, this 1,400-km-long and 5-km-wide green corridor aims to restore the Aravalli hills' ecological vitality. Once a thriving ecosystem of hills, forests, fauna, aquifers and natural drainage, the Aravallis now bear the unfortunate distinction of being the country's most degraded forest range. Over 30 hillocks have already vanished, particularly in Haryana's Gurugram, Faridabad, Mewat, Mahendragarh and Rewari districts. Relentless urban expansion has replaced verdant landscapes with concrete jungles, disrupting the ecological balance. Within decades, habitats thriving for millennia now teeter on the brink of extinction. The cost of this development has been immense, with the loss of



indigenous species, widespread deforestation and drying up of critical groundwater recharge zones. Inspired by Saudi Arabia's green initiatives, the Green Wall Project

aims to reverse this destruction. Indigenous species and community engagement lie at its core. Haryana's proactive measures, such as reviving 75 water bodies and restoring 35,000 hectares of degraded land, exemplify the potential of collaborative efforts among states to tackle this environmental crisis. The World Bank is supporting the Aravalli project with funding for initiatives like afforestation, water conservation and pollution control.

However, the project's success depends on enforcing conservation laws to prevent illegal mining and encroachments. Preserving legal safeguards, such as the Punjab Land Preservation Act, is crucial. The states must transcend political boundaries to protect these shared ecological treasures. The Green Wall Project is a fight to reclaim the Aravallis and reverse decades of destruction. With robust public-private partnerships and community involvement, the initiative offers hope to revive these ancient hills.

Consumers Beware! — Why feedback has lost its meaning

If businesses are genuinely interested in consumer response to their queries, there ought to be respect for the negative feedback and acknowledgement of suggestions for improvement

You walk into a shoe store, buy a pair of flip-flops and even as you are stepping out, you hear a 'ping' on your mobile. You know what it is: a WhatsApp message from the brand, requesting your feedback on your shopping experience! When you get out of a cab, you are asked to rate your experience. You get off an airplane, and the airline wants your feedback on the service. You go to a restaurant and the owner requests you to fill out a questionnaire. You get your car serviced and you are urged to give your opinion on the service performance. You call the customer care number of a business and you are immediately asked to rate your satisfaction with the resolution of your complaint.

From hairdressers and telecom operators to couriers, gymnasiums, hospitals and online and offline stores, businesses are chasing you for feedback, cluttering your message boxes and WhatsApp with survey forms that are supposed to help them improve the quality of their goods and services! However, the formats of these surveys make you wonder whether they are serving consumer interest in any way!

Here is a sample: "On a scale of 0-5, how likely are you to recommend the store to your friends or colleagues?" asks a typical 'customer satisfaction' survey. If you say it is unlikely that you would recommend it to anyone, the questionnaire should ask you to cite reasons and request suggestions for improvement. However, the online feedback form gives you only four predetermined answers to choose from. If your answer is not one of them,

that's too bad! You try to suggest improvements, but after two lines, the online questionnaire abruptly closes, never mind that you have not even completed your sentence.

If businesses are genuinely interested in consumer response to their queries, there ought to be respect for those giving them negative feedback and a desire to seek and acknowledge suggestions for improvement. After all, consumers are investing their time in responding to these surveys in the hope of seeing better services and products. In fact, most consumers say that the way these feedback forms are designed, there is no opportunity for them to give meaningful suggestions and even where they do get such a chance, they do not see any improvement based on their constructive criticism. So much so that the 'feedback request' seems more like a meaningless, routine exercise, a charade to give consumers a false impression that the businesses care for their views and opinions.

Here is an example of a consumer who ordered some clothes from an online marketplace while on a holiday in another city. The clothes were delivered the next day as promised, but were not what she had ordered. However, the website showed that the item chosen by her had been delivered. Since the



customer interface on the website did not provide for resolution of such a complaint, she was forced to call the helpline number, not once, but three times, without success.

What was even more frustrating was that after every call, she got a text message on her cellphone asking her to evaluate the customer care service. She gave it the lowest ranking every time, but there was no way for her to explain, through the survey, that the customer care personnel could not even understand the problem, let alone come up with a solution. Any wonder then that consumers feel that filling up these forms is a futile exercise, a waste of time and the

feedback messages are an annoyance.

I am not discounting the importance of customer feedback to businesses, but commenting on the poor format used by them and the lack of transparency and accountability in the entire process. How is it that businesses never acknowledge the suggestions made by consumers, nor inform them of the action taken based on the responses? In fact, one wonders what happens to all those feedback forms that customers so painstakingly fill in the hope of seeing an improvement in service. Surely, consumers too are entitled to feedback! And how about feedback forms with simple, open-ended questions such as "What did you dislike about our service" or "What problem did you face with our customer service" or "How can we improve our customer interface?"

If businesses are serious about consumer opinions, they must provide them with an opportunity to have their say, voice their grievances. Feedback should be designed to elicit meaningful information from consumers on the deficiencies in the system and utilised to bring about positive changes. And consumers must get feedback from businesses on the action taken on their suggestions and complaints. That would not only enhance consumer interactions with businesses, but also improve the quality of consumer feedback and thereby the quality of goods and services.

बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे, बाड़खण्डे थैके बेङ्गले यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू

प्राय २४ घण्टा पर, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेछे एबं बाड़खण्डे थैके बेङ्गले यात्रा समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश शुरू हयैछे। गत सप्ता १८ टार पर बेङ्गल सरकार आदेशे बाड़खण्डे-बेङ्गल मखन सीमाञ्छे पण्यवाही यानवाहन प्रवेश निषिद्ध करा हयैछिल।

एर फले रात थैके दुपूर पर्यक्ष प्राय २० किमी दीर्घ यानजट सृष्टि हय। चालकदेर समस्यार कथा विवेचना करे, MASS बेङ्गल सरकारके चाप देय बाड़खण्डे सीमाञ्छे थैके बेङ्गले प्रवेश करा समस्त यानवाहन बन्द करार जन्य। एर फले, बेङ्गल सरकार पिछू हटेते बाध्य हय एबं अवशेषे भारी यानवाहन प्रवेश आवार स्वाभाविक हय।

बेङ्गल सरकार एह अनुमति पर, ट्राक चालकरा शक्तिर निष्ठास फेलेन। प्राञ्चन निरसा विधायक अरूप च्याटर्जि बाड़खण्डे मुख्याम्बी हेमञ्च सोरनेर एह उद्योगे प्रशंसा करेन। तनि बेलन, मुख्याम्बी हेमञ्च सोरनेर एह विषये क्रमागत शुरुकृते दिऐछेन। बेङ्गल सरकार साथे इतिबाचक आलोचना करार पर बेङ्गल सरकार निषेधाञ्छा तुले नेय। एर पर, सारिजेत दाड़िये बाका समस्त पण्यवाही यानवाहन बीरे बीरे बेङ्गले प्रवेश करतेशे शुरू करैछे। NH-९ दीर्घ यानजट एखन सीमित ह्छे एबं यानजट ७ भाङ्गते शुरू करैछे।

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एयर इंडिया फ्रांस की एयरबस से खरीदेगा 100 और नए विमान

एजेंसी नयी दिल्ली। टाटा की अगुवाई वाली एयर इंडिया ने फ्रांस की विमान निर्माता कंपनी एयरबस को 100 नए विमान खरीदने का ऑर्डर दिया है। इन विमानों में 10 वाइडबॉडी ए350 विमान और 90 नैरोबॉडी ए320 फेमिली विमान, जिसमें 321 नियो जेट भी शामिल है। ये 100 नए विमानों का ऑर्डर उन 470 विमानों से अलग है, जो एयर इंडिया ने पिछले साल एयरबस और बोइंग दोनों को दिए थे।

एयर इंडिया ने 'एक्स' पोस्ट पर जारी एक बयान में बताया कि हमें 10,350 और 90,320 फेमिली विमानों के लिए नए ऑर्डर देने की घोषणा करते हुए खुशी हो रही है, जो

पिछले साल दिए गए 250 एयरबस विमानों के हमारे पक्के ऑर्डर में 100 और विमान जोड़ देगा। इसके



साथ ही हमारे द्वारा ऑर्डर किए गए नए विमानों की कुल संख्या बढ़कर 570 हो गई है, जिनमें से कई पहले ही हमारे बेड़े में शामिल हो चुके हैं, क्योंकि हम एयर इंडिया को विश्वस्तरीय, वैश्विक एयरलाइन बनाने का काम जारी रखे हुए हैं। टाटा संस और एयर इंडिया के

चेयरमैन नटराजन चंद्रशेखरन ने कहा कि ये अतिरिक्त 100 एयरबस विमान एयरलाइन को भविष्य के

संबंधों के महत्व को भी रेखांकित किया। उन्होंने कहा कि 2023 में एयर इंडिया ने बोइंग से 220 विमानों का भी ऑर्डर दिया था, जिससे एक आक्रामक बेड़े विस्तार रणनीति का पता चलता है। उल्लेखनीय है कि एयरलाइन के 100 अतिरिक्त विमानों के ऑर्डर के बाद एयरबस की ओर से एयर इंडिया को कुल 344 नए विमानों की डिलीवरी करनी है, जिसमें से अब तक छह, 350 विमान आ चुके हैं। वहीं, एयर इंडिया ने 2023 में बोइंग को भी 220 वाइडबॉडी और नैरोबॉडी विमानों के ऑर्डर दिए थे, जिनमें से 185 विमानों की डिलीवरी होनी बाकी है।

सर्राफा बाजार में तेजी से महंगा हुआ सोना, चांदी की भी बड़ी चमक

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। घरेलू सर्राफा बाजार में आज तेजी का रुख नजर आ रहा है। सोना आज 160 रुपये से लेकर 170 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम तक महंगा हुआ है। इस तेजी के कारण देश के ज्यादातर सर्राफा बाजारों में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 77,930 रुपये से लेकर 77,780 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के दायरे में कारोबार कर रहा है। इसी तरह 22 कैरेट सोना 71,450 रुपये से लेकर 71,300 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के बीच बना हुआ है। चांदी के भाव में भी आज मामूली तेजी आई है, जिसके कारण दिल्ली सर्राफा बाजार में इसकी कीमत बढ़ कर 92,000 रुपये प्रति किलोग्राम के स्तर पर आ गई है। देश की राजधानी दिल्ली में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 77,930 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 71,450 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह कोलकाता में भी 24 कैरेट सोना 77,780 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 71,300 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर कारोबार कर रहा है। लखनऊ के सर्राफा

बाजार में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 77,930 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 71,450 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक



71,350 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम दर्ज की गई है। इन प्रमुख शहरों के अलावा चेन्नई में 24 कैरेट सोना आज 77,780 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर और 22 कैरेट सोना 71,300 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम की कीमत पर बिक रहा है। देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा के सर्राफा बाजार में भी आज सोने के भाव में तेजी आई है।

वहीं, पटना में 24 कैरेट सोने की कीमत 77,830 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम हो गई है, जबकि 22 कैरेट सोना 71,350 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। इसी तरह जयपुर में 24 कैरेट सोना 77,930 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम और 22 कैरेट सोना 71,450 रुपये प्रति 10 ग्राम के स्तर पर बिक रहा है। देश के अन्य राज्यों की तरह कर्नाटक, तेलंगाना और ओडिशा के सर्राफा बाजार में भी आज सोने के भाव में तेजी आई है।

गोल्ड ईटीएफ को लेकर निवेशकों का रुझान बरकरार, नवंबर में लगातार 8वें महीने हुआ रिकॉर्ड निवेश

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। दुनिया भर में गोल्ड ईटीएफ (इंक्विटी ट्रेडेड फंड) की मांग में कमी आई है, लेकिन भारत में गोल्ड ईटीएफ को लेकर निवेशकों का रुझान लगातार बना हुआ है। इस साल नवंबर महीने में लगातार आठवें महीने गोल्ड ईटीएफ में रिकॉर्ड धनराशि का निवेश हुआ है। डिर्पाजिटी के आंकड़ों के मुताबिक इस महीने गोल्ड ईटीएफ में कुल 17.5 करोड़ डॉलर का निवेश किया गया है। जानकारों का कहना है कि सोने की तरह ही गोल्ड ईटीएफ को भी निवेश के लिए सेफ इंस्ट्रुमेंट माना जाता है। ऐसे में घरेलू शेयर बाजार में अक्रूर से ही जारी उथल-पुथल के कारण निवेशकों का रुझान गोल्ड ईटीएफ की ओर बढ़ा है। अक्रूर के बाद नवंबर में भी निवेशकों ने गोल्ड

ईटीएफ को हाथों-हाथ लिया है। मार्केट एक्सपर्ट मयंक मोहन का कहना है कि शेयर बाजार में जारी उथल-पुथल के साथ ही गोल्ड ईटीएफ को लेकर केंद्र सरकार द्वारा नियमों में बदलाव करने के कारण भी निवेशकों के लिए अब गोल्ड ईटीएफ पहले से ज्यादा आकर्षक हो गया है। इस साल केंद्र सरकार ने नूतन बजट में गोल्ड ईटीएफ से जुड़े टैक्स के नियमों में बदलाव किया है। नए नियमों के मुताबिक गोल्ड ईटीएफ को एक साल की अवधि पूरा होने के बाद बेचने पर 12.5 प्रतिशत की दर से कैपिटल गैन टैक्स लगेगा। पहले कैपिटल गैन टैक्स निवेशक के टैक्स स्लेब के हिसाब से लगता था। नियमों में किए गए इस बदलाव के कारण निवेशकों के लिए अब गोल्ड ईटीएफ पहले की तुलना में ज्यादा आकर्षक हो गया है।

आईपीओ आने के पहले ही विशाल मेगा मार्ट ने ग्रे मार्केट में मजबूत स्थिति बनाई

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। विशाल मेगा मार्ट का आईपीओ 11 दिसंबर को सफलतापूर्वक शुरू हो चुका है, लेकिन इसके पहले ही ग्रे मार्केट में इस शेयर ने मजबूत स्थिति बना ली है। ग्रे मार्केट में ये शेयर आज अपर प्राइज बॉन्ड से 24 रुपये ऊपर पहुंच गया है। यानी इस शेयर पर फिलहाल 30.77 प्रतिशत का ग्रे मार्केट प्रीमियम मिल रहा है। पिछले सप्ताह ग्रे मार्केट में विशाल मेगा मार्ट के शेयर को 13.50 रुपये का ग्रे मार्केट प्रीमियम मिल रहा था। ग्रे मार्केट से मिल रहे संकेतों के आधार पर माना जा रहा है कि विशाल मेगा मार्ट के आईपीओ को इन्वेस्टर्स की ओर से जबर्दस्त रिस्पॉन्स मिल सकता है। विशाल मेगा मार्ट का 8,000 करोड़ रुपये का आईपीओ

11 दिसंबर को खुलने के बाद 13 दिसंबर को बंद होगा। आईपीओ के तहत बोली लगाने के लिए 74 से 78 रुपये प्रति शेयर का प्राइस बैंड तय किया गया है, जबकि निवेशक 190 शेयर के लॉट में पैसे लगा सकेंगे। शेयरों का अलॉटमेंट 16 दिसंबर को किया जाएगा। इसके बाद 18 दिसंबर को बीएसई और एनएसई पर इसकी लिस्टिंग होगी। इस आईपीओ के तहत 10 रुपये फेस वैल्यू वाले 1,02,56,41,025 शेयरों की ऑफर फॉर साले विंडो के जरिए बिक्री की जाएगी। जानकारों का कहना है कि ग्रे मार्केट में विशाल मेगा मार्ट के शेयरों को हाथों हाथ लिया जा रहा है। इससे इस बात का संकेत मिलता है कि आईपीओ को निवेशकों की ओर से जबर्दस्त रिस्पॉन्स मिल सकता है। विशाल मेगा मार्ट को इन्वेस्टर्स, शेयर होल्डिंग पैटर्न और

में पैसा लगाने के पहले कंपनी द्वारा सेबी के पास जमा कराए गए रेड हेरिंग प्रॉस्पेक्टस (आरएचपी) में उल्लिखित रिस्क फैक्टर का अध्ययन अवश्य करना चाहिए। आरएचपी के मुताबिक विशाल मेगा मार्ट अपने स्टोर्स में जिन चीजों को भी बेचता है, उनका वो खुद उत्पादन नहीं करता है, बल्कि उनके लिए वो पूरी तरह से थर्ड पार्टी वेंडर्स पर निर्भर करता है। ऐसे में थर्ड पार्टी वेंडर्स की लागत में बदलाव होने या अन्य किसी भी वजह से विशाल मेगा मार्ट की प्रॉफिटैबिलिटी प्रभावित हो सकती है। इसी तरह विशाल मेगा मार्ट को एनफोर्समेंट डायरेक्टरेट की ओर से दो नोटिस मिल चुके हैं, जिसमें जांच एजेंसी ने प्री मर्जर कैपिटल स्ट्रक्चर, प्रमोटर्स, डायरेक्टर्स, शेयर होल्डिंग पैटर्न और

2010-11 के दौरान खोले गए स्टोर्स से जुड़ी जानकारी मांगी गई है। जांच के बाद विशाल मेगा मार्ट को ईडी की ओर से क्लीन चिट नहीं मिलने पर दंडात्मक कार्रवाई का भी सामना करना पड़ सकता है। रेड हेरिंग प्रॉस्पेक्टस में इस बात का भी उल्लेख किया गया है कि विशाल मेगा मार्ट की सबसे अधिक बिक्री त्योहारों के समय में होती है। ऐसे में कंपनी की बिक्री और कारोबारी नतीजे अलग-अलग क्वार्टर में अलग-अलग हो सकते हैं। इसके साथ ही विशाल मेगा मार्ट की आय मुख्य रूप से कर्नाटक, असम और उत्तर प्रदेश में स्थित स्टोर्स के जरिए होती है। सितंबर में खत्म हुई पहली छमाही के दौरान विशाल मेगा मार्ट को इन तीन राज्यों से ही 36.3 प्रतिशत की आय हुई थी।

अदाणी समूह राजस्थान में 7.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करेगा

एजेंसी जयपुर। अदाणी पोर्ट एंड एसिड लिमिटेड के प्रबंध निदेशक तथा सीईओ करण अदाणी ने सोमवार को राजीव राजस्थान ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टमेंट समिट के उद्घाटन सत्र में घोषणा की कि अदाणी समूह राजस्थान में 7.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करेगा। उन्होंने बताया कि हम राजस्थान में दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा ग्रीन एनर्जी इकोसिस्टम विकसित करेंगे। इसके अलावा चार नए सीमेंट प्लांट भी लगाए जाएंगे, जिससे लाखों लोगों को रोजगार मिलेगा। इसके अलावा जयपुर एयरपोर्ट पर भी वर्ल्ड क्लास विकास कार्य किए जाएंगे। अदाणी ने कहा है कि राजस्थान में अदाणी ग्रुप अलग-अलग क्षेत्रों में 7.5 लाख करोड़ रुपये का निवेश करेगा। उन्होंने

कहा कि राजस्थान की जीडीपी को अगले पांच सालों में दोगुना करने का मुख्यमंत्री भजन लाल शर्मा के लक्ष्य



को देखते हुए हमारा भी विश्वास बढ़ा है और हमने भी निवेश बढ़ाने का फैसला किया है। हम दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा ग्रीन एनर्जी इकोसिस्टम

बनाएंगे। इन निवेशों से राजस्थान में ग्रीन एनर्जी के क्षेत्र में नौकरियों में तेजी आएगी। हम राजस्थान में भारत

ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के नेतृत्व की सलाह करते हुए कहा कि भारत एक बदलाव के दौर पर है। पीएम मोदी ने जब 2014 में कार्यभार संभाला था, तब भारत की जीडीपी 1.85 ट्रिलियन डॉलर थी, जो आजादी के बाद के 66 सालों में बनी थी। पिछले एक दशक में मोदी के नेतृत्व में यह दोगुना से भी ज्यादा हो गई है। मोदी ने जब 2014 में नेतृत्व संभाला था, तब निफटी 8 हजार पर था, आज वह 23 हजार तक पहुंच चुका है, जो निवेशकों, उद्यमियों और नागरिकों के भरोसे को दिखाता है। मोदी के नेतृत्व संभालते वक्त 23 प्रतिशत आबादी गरीबी में जी रही थी, जो आज घट कर 11 प्रतिशत रह गई है। 25 करोड़ लोगों को गरीबी से बाहर निकाला गया है।

संजय मल्होत्रा आरबीआई के गवर्नर नियुक्त, शक्तिकांत दास की लेंगे जगह

एजेंसी नई दिल्ली। केंद्र सरकार ने वित्त मंत्रालय में राजस्व सचिव, संजय मल्होत्रा को रिजर्व बैंक ऑफ इंडिया (आरबीआई) का अगला गवर्नर नियुक्त किया है। मल्होत्रा, बेनेगल रामा राव के सात साल से ज्यादा कार्यकाल के बाद दूसरे सबसे लंबे समय तक आरबीआई का गवर्नर रहने वाले शक्तिकांत दास की जगह लेंगे। मंत्रिमंडल की नियुक्ति समिति की ओर से जारी विज्ञापित के मुताबिक राजस्व सचिव संजय मल्होत्रा को 11 दिसंबर, 2024 से तीन वर्ष के कार्यकाल के लिए रिजर्व बैंक के कार्यकाल के लिए रिजर्व बैंक का अगला गवर्नर नियुक्त किया गया है। राजस्थान केज के 1990 बैच के भारतीय प्रशासनिक सेवा (आईएएस) अधिकारी संजय मल्होत्रा,

भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) कानपुर से कंप्यूटर विज्ञान में इंजीनियरिंग स्नातक हैं, उन्होंने प्रिंसिपल विश्वविद्यालय,



यूएसए से सार्वजनिक नीति में मास्टर डिग्री हासिल की है। शक्तिकांत दास को पहली बार दिसंबर 2018 में आरबीआई का गवर्नर नियुक्त किया गया था, जब तत्कालीन रिजर्व बैंक प्रमुख उर्जित पटेल ने अपना कार्यकाल समाप्त होने से पहले इस्तीफा दे दिया था। उसके बाद दिसंबर

2021 में दास को तीन साल की पुनर्नियुक्ति दी गई थी। उनका मौजूदा कार्यकाल 10 दिसंबर, मंगलवार को समाप्त होगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि 33 वर्षों से अधिक अनुभव के साथ संजय मल्होत्रा ने बिजली, वित्त, कराधान, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी और खनन सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में काम किया है। वे वर्तमान में वित्त मंत्रालय में सचिव (राजस्व) के पद पर कार्यरत हैं। इससे पहले वे भारत सरकार के वित्त मंत्रालय के वित्तीय सेवा विभाग में सचिव थे। संजय मल्होत्रा को राज्य और केंद्र सरकार दोनों स्तरों पर वित्त और कराधान में व्यापक अनुभव है। वर्तमान भूमिका में वे प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष करों दोनों के लिए कर नीति को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

स्टार्टअप में निवेश, मार्गदर्शन के लिए फिलपकार्ट के साथ उद्योग विभाग का समझौता

नयी दिल्ली। उद्योग एवं आंतरिक व्यापार संवहन विभाग (डीपीआईआईटी) ने एक महत्वपूर्ण कदम के रूप में भारतीय घरेलू ई-कॉमर्स बाजार फिलपकार्ट के साथ संजय मल्होत्रा ने बिजली, वित्त, कराधान, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी और खनन सहित विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में काम किया है। वे वर्तमान में वित्त मंत्रालय में सचिव (राजस्व) के पद पर कार्यरत हैं। इससे पहले वे भारत सरकार के वित्त मंत्रालय के वित्तीय सेवा विभाग में सचिव थे। संजय मल्होत्रा को राज्य और केंद्र सरकार दोनों स्तरों पर वित्त और कराधान में व्यापक अनुभव है। वर्तमान भूमिका में वे प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष करों दोनों के लिए कर नीति को आकार देने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। स्टार्टअप को पहचान कर रहा है। यह सहयोग स्टार्टअप को बाजार अनुसंधान के लिए सरकारी अधिकारियों द्वारा प्रकाशित उद्योग रिपोर्ट, शोध पत्र, डेटासेट और अन्य अध्ययनों तक पहुंच प्रदान करेगा और अक्सर के लिए स्टार्टअप द्वारा दायर फास्ट-ट्रैक पेटेंट आवेदनों तक पहुंच प्रदान करेगा। देश में स्टार्टअप इंडिया के महत्वाकांक्षी कार्यक्रम के बारे में अपने दृष्टिकोण को साझा करते हुए संजीव, संयुक्त सचिव, स्टार्टअप इंडिया ने कहा कि यह नवाचार एवं उद्यमिता की भावना को दर्शाता है जो हमारे देश की प्रगति को आगे बढ़ाता है।

मुंबई में होगा वर्ल्ड हिन्दू इकोनॉमिक फोरम 2024 का आयोजन

एजेंसी मुंबई। वर्ल्ड हिन्दू इकोनॉमिक फोरम (डब्ल्यूएचईएफ) का वार्षिक सम्मेलन बोकेसी में 13 से 15 दिसंबर 2024 तक जियो वर्ल्ड कन्वेंशन सेंटर में आयोजित किया गया है। इस तीन दिवसीय कार्यक्रम के मुख्य वक्ताओं में उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ, गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री भूपेंद्र पटेल, महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस, केंद्रीय मंत्री

पीयूष गोयल, एनएसई के सीईओ आशीष कुमार चौहान, जियो फाइनेशियल सर्विसेज के चेयरमैन के.बी. कामथ और हीरानंदानी गुप के एमडी निरंजन हीरानंदानी हैं। यह जानकारी डब्ल्यूएचईएफ के आयोजन समिति के अध्यक्ष राजेश शर्मा ने दी। राजेश शर्मा ने कहा कि डब्ल्यूएचईएफ सम्मेलन दुनिया भर में आयोजित किए गए हैं। कोविड भूषेन्द्र पटेल, महाराष्ट्र के मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस, केंद्रीय मंत्री

अर्थव्यवस्था बनने के मार्ग पर अग्रसर है और आर्थिक क्षेत्र में विश्व स्तर पर एक साझा प्लेयर के रूप में स्थापित होने जा रहा है। भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान (आईआईटी) खडगपुर के पूर्व छात्र स्वामी विज्ञानानंद द्वारा स्थापित डब्ल्यूएचईएफ का उद्देश्य स्थायी आर्थिक मॉडल को बढ़ावा देने, व्यापारिक क्षेत्र में आसपी सहयोग बनाने, समाज को समृद्ध बनाने और विश्व स्तर पर पहुंचाने का है। इस वर्ष के फोरम में 24 से अधिक सत्र और 100 से अधिक वक्ता सम्मिलित होंगे। यह फोरम प्रभावशाली नेताओं, उद्यमियों और व्यापारिक क्षेत्र के दूरदर्शी लोगों सहित 1,000 से अधिक वैश्विक प्रतिनिधियों को एक साथ लाएगा। यह मंच वित्त, प्रौद्योगिकी, विनिर्माण और प्रशासनिक जैसे क्षेत्र के प्रमुख वक्ताओं के माध्यम से महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी साझा करने का अनुभव प्रदान करेगा। यह उन उद्यमों के क्षेत्र

में सहयोग को बढ़ावा देता है जो नैतिक आधार पर, समुदाय-संचालित मूल्यों में निहित रहते हुए समृद्ध लाते हैं। स्वामी विज्ञानानंद ने कहा कि हम विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के प्रभावशाली व्यक्तियों के साथ जुड़कर इस बात पर चर्चा करने के लिए उत्साहित हैं कि सभी को लाभान्वित करने वाले टिकाऊ आर्थिक विकास को कैसे आकार दिया जा सकता है। 2012 में स्थापना के बाद से डब्ल्यूएचईएफ

ने हांगकांग, बैंकॉक, नई दिल्ली, लंदन, लॉस एंजिल्स, शिकागो और मुंबई में सफल वार्षिक मंचों के साथ-साथ कुआलालंपुर, ऑकलैंड, फिजी, डरबन और फ्रैंकफर्ट जैसे शहरों में क्षेत्रीय मंचों का आयोजन किया है। डब्ल्यूएचईएफ 2024 को आयोजन समिति के उपाध्यक्ष संजय खेमानी ने कहा कि मुंबई भारत का विकास इंजन है। हमारे मुख्यमंत्री देवेंद्र फडणवीस

के पास प्रगति, मजबूत शासन और आर्थिक विकास को बढ़ावा देने का एक प्रमाणिक ट्रैक रिकॉर्ड है। वैश्विक स्तर पर हो रही घटनाओं को ध्यान से देखें तो आने वाले वर्ष निर्णायक और महत्वपूर्ण होने जा रहे हैं, इस दृष्टि से डब्ल्यूएचईएफ ने 2024 हमें भविष्य के व्यावसायिक परिदृश्य की कल्पना करने में और सांकेतिक कदम उठाने में मदद करेगा। डब्ल्यूएचईएफ 2024 को आयोजन समिति के सचिव

रविकांत मिश्रा ने बताया कि हमारी टीम ने पारंपरिक और तेजी से उभरते दोनों क्षेत्रों के वक्ताओं की एक असाधारण सूची तैयार की है। एस.एम. सुंदरसन, एलएंडटी सेमिकंडक्टर टेक्नोलॉजीज के प्रमुख, सिद्धार्थ मोहंती, एलआईसी के अध्यक्ष, अमित कल्याणी, भारत फोर्ज के उपाध्यक्ष जैसी प्रमुख हस्तियां, व्यापार और वित्त की दुनिया से जुड़े लोग अपनी इनसाइट्स साझा करेंगे।

जीवन में पहली नौकरी का उत्साह जहाँ मेहनत से मन लगा कर काम करने में मदद करता है, वहीं शुरू-शुरू में थोड़ा बहुत नर्वस होना भी स्वाभाविक है। इस दौरान जहाँ नियमों में बंध कर अपने कार्य को सुचारु रूप से करना जरूरी है, वहीं बॉस सहित अपने सहकर्मियों से सही तालमेल बिठाना भी अनिवार्य है। कुल मिला कर कार्यक्षेत्र में खुद को काम के अनुसार ढालना एक कला है।



फर्स्ट जॉब उम्मीदों और चुनौतियों की शुरुआत

नई जॉब, नए अनुभव

राघव देसाई 23 साल के हैं। उनकी पहली नौकरी कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट के जरिए लगी। बकौल राघव, 'ऑफिस का वर्क कल्चर काफी अच्छा है। सभी सीनियर काफी मददगार हैं। यहां तक कि उनके द्वारा दी गई सलाह ध्यान से सुनने लायक होती है। ऐसी पॉजिटिव सोच न सिर्फ सीखते रहने के गुण को बनाए रखती है, बल्कि उसे अपना कर अनुभवी व कुशल कर्मी के रूप में आपकी पहचान बनती है।

उधर अपनी 6 माह पुरानी पहली नौकरी के बारे में रीमा झा कहती हैं, 'नए कल्चर व नए लोगों के साथ काम करना जितना रोचक है, उतना ही कठिन भी। शुरुआती दिनों में नए लोगों के साथ एडजस्ट करना मेरे लिए थोड़ा मुश्किल हुआ, लेकिन अब सब ठीक है।' रीमा अपनी इस जॉब से खुश हैं, लेकिन कहती हैं कि जब तक मन लगेगा, तभी तक इसे करेगी, नहीं तो बदल लेंगी। वहीं कुछ दिन पहले अपनी पहली नौकरी जॉइन करने वाले रवि आर्या कहते हैं, 'मैं फिलहाल जल्दी जॉब नहीं बदलूंगा और कम से कम एक साल तक यहीं काम सीखना चाहूंगा।' पहली नौकरी पाना जहां आपका सपना सच होने जैसा होता है, वहीं

कुछ छोटी-छोटी बातों को नजरअंदाज नहीं करना चाहिए।

ब्रांड की जगह रुचि पर ध्यान दें

बड़े ब्रांड की बजाए अपनी रुचि पर ध्यान दें। ऐसा काम करें, जो आपको रचनात्मकता को रूप दे, फिर चाहे कंपनी बड़ी हो या छोटी। ऐसा भी देखा जाता है कि युवा अपने अभिभावकों या वरिष्ठों की सलाह पर अधिक चलते हैं और विशेषज्ञों की कम, जबकि होना इसका उलटा चाहिए। एक्सपर्ट्स के मुताबिक अगर आपको सीखने का मौका मिल रहा है तो ये काफी है। कुछ लोग पहली जॉब से जल्द से जल्द उम्मीदें पाल लेते हैं, लेकिन ये गलत है। पहली जॉब में आपको कितनी सैलरी मिल रही है, ये बहुत ज्यादा मायने नहीं रखता। कुछ समय अपने काम को समझने में लगाना चाहिए और अपनी स्किल्स को और मजबूत बनाना चाहिए। पहली जॉब एक मकान की बुनियाद की तरह होती है।

कंपनी को समझने का प्रयास करें

जल्दी ही कि जिस कंपनी को आपने



स्टेबिलिटी पर प्रश्नचिह्न लगेगा। दरअसल आपने किस कम्पनी में कितने समय काम किया और क्या सीखा, ये बहुत मायने रखता है। दरअसल हर कंपनी कर्मचारी की ट्रेनिंग पर अपने रिसोर्स खर्च करती है और अगर आप जल्दी ही कंपनी छोड़ देते हैं तो न तो उन स्किल्स का आप इस्तेमाल कर पाते हैं और न ही वह सब आपकी प्रोफाइल में जुड़ ही पाता है।

कैंपस सेलेक्शन के फायदे

कुछ लोग यह मानते हैं कि ग्रेजुएशन के बाद सीधे कैम्पस प्लेसमेंट से प्रगति रुक जाती है। करियर में अच्छी उन्नति नहीं मिल पाती। लेकिन ऐसा नहीं है। इसके भी रास्ते हैं। अगर आपने ग्रेजुएशन के बाद जॉब जॉइन की है तो आप पोस्ट ग्रेजुएशन करके अच्छी पदोन्नति पा सकते हैं, क्योंकि नौकरी छोड़ी थी। दरअसल उन्हें लगा था कि वह अपने कार्य के साथ न्याय नहीं कर पा रहे हैं और इसलिए वह संस्थान के लायक नहीं हैं।

नौकरी बदलने की होड़ में शामिल न हों

अक्सर देखने में आता है कि पहली नौकरी जॉइन करते ही उसे बदलने की होड़-सी लग जाती है। ये आपकी गलतफहमी है कि अगर आप जल्दी-जल्दी कंपनी बदलेंगे तो आपका प्रोफाइल मजबूत होगा। रितेश सिंह जब एक बड़े मीडिया हाउस में इंटरव्यू के लिए गए तो उनसे पूछा गया कि आखिर उन्होंने बीते 5 साल में 7 नौकरियां क्यों बदलीं? पर उनके पास उसका कोई उचित जवाब नहीं था। दरअसल जल्दी-जल्दी जॉब बदलना आपके नेगेटिव प्रोफाइल को बढ़ाता है, इसलिए इससे बचें। अगर आप जल्दी-जल्दी जॉब बदलेंगे तो किसी भी कंपनी में जाने पर सबसे पहले आपको

विचार जाने गए, जिससे पता चला कि 80 प्रतिशत सीईओ अपनी पहली नौकरी में करीब पांच वर्ष टिके रहे थे। इस अध्ययन से यह भी पता चलता है कि पहली नौकरी किस तरह आपके करियर की बुनियाद मजबूत करने के लिए जरूरी होती है। यदि आप पहली नौकरी में लंबा समय गुजारते हैं तो कहीं भी सफलतापूर्वक काम कर सकते हैं, इसलिए विशेषज्ञों का मानना है कि एक सफल शुरुआत से आधा लक्ष्य पूरा हो जाता है। हालांकि एक अच्छी शुरुआत के लिए कई बातों की दिमाग में रखना होता है।

अनुशासनहीनता न हो

कुछ वरिष्ठ मैनेजमेंट प्रोफेशनल्स का मानना है कि कंपनियां फ्रेशर्स को काम के जरूरी हुनर सीखने का पूरा मौका देती हैं। इसके बावजूद अगर वह जरूरी काम नहीं सीख पाते तो भी चिंता की बात नहीं होती। लेकिन याद रखना चाहिए कि अनुशासनहीनता, झूठ, गलत व्यवहार आदि को कहीं भी बर्दाश्त नहीं किया जाता।

सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर फिल्ड में करियर की नई संभावनाएं

जिस तरह से इंटरनेट दुनिया का विस्तार हो रहा है, माना जा रहा है कि आने वाले समय में कम्प्यूटर सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर की काफी डिमांड होगी।



टेक्नोलॉजी और कम्प्यूटर, दोनों को मिलाकर तैयार सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर का फिल्ड आने वाले समय में और विस्तृत होगा और करियर की नई संभावनाओं को सामने लाएगा। इस बात से इनकार नहीं किया जा सकता कि कम्प्यूटर टेक्नोलॉजी ने समाज में जबर्दस्त बदलाव लाने का काम किया है क्योंकि इसके जरिए कम्प्युनिकेशन सेक्टर, इंटरनेट एक्सेस प्लॉट, इंटरनेट सिस्टम को नई दिशा मिली है। जिस तरह से इंटरनेट दुनिया का विस्तार हो रहा है, माना जा रहा है कि आने वाले समय में कम्प्यूटर सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर की काफी डिमांड होगी। मालूम हो, सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर वह शख्स होता है जो ग्राहकों की जरूरतों के मुताबिक कम्प्यूटर प्रोग्रामिंग या एप्लीकेशन डेवलप करता है।

शिक्षा- सॉफ्टवेयर डेवलपर बनने के लिए आपके पास कम्प्यूटर साइंस, सॉफ्टवेयर इंजीनियरिंग सहित इसके समकक्ष विषयों में बैचलर डिग्री होनी चाहिए। अभ्यर्थी के पास गणित की डिग्री काफी मायने रखती है क्योंकि सॉफ्टवेयर की प्रोग्रामिंग में गणित का इस्तेमाल काफी अहम है।

इंटीरियर डिजाइनर सजाते हैं घर और दफ्तर



घर हो या दफ्तर, हर जगह अगर मेरी छाप दिख सके तो बात बन जाए। शायद आज हर व्यक्ति कुछ इसी तर्ज पर सोचता है। इस सोच को पूरा करने और अपने घर और दफ्तर को मन-मुताबिक सजाने के लिए हमें एक प्रोफेशनल की जरूरत पड़ती है। ये प्रोफेशनल कहलाते हैं इंटीरियर डिजाइनर, जो अपनी कला और हमारी पसंद को मिला कर जगह को एक नया रूप देते हैं। बतौर इंटीरियर डिजाइनर, आपको प्रबंधन की कला के अलावा एक्सक्लूसिव फर्नीचर, आर्ट पीसेज और फर्निशिंग के बारे में प्रशिक्षण दिया जाता है।

इंटीरियर डिजाइनर का काम

एक इंटीरियर डिजाइनर का काम उपलब्ध जगह का अधिकाधिक इस्तेमाल करना है। साथ ही जगह को अपने क्लाइंट की पसंद और उसके बजट को ध्यान में रखते हुए अधिक से अधिक व्यावहारिक बनाना भी है। वह नए-पुराने घर-दफ्तर, होटल-रेस्तरां, स्टाडियो आदि को लोगों की पसंद के मुताबिक तैयार करता है। आमतौर पर इंटीरियर

अगर आप फ्रिएटिव हैं, मेहनत से मुंह नहीं मोड़ते और नए कॉन्सेप्ट के लिए हमेशा तैयार रहते हैं तो बतौर इंटीरियर डिजाइनर आपको सफल होने से कोई नहीं रोक सकता। अच्छे इंटीरियर डिजाइनर्स की मांग दिनोदिन बढ़ रही है।

डिजाइनर दीवारों और छतों के किसी भी ढांचे को सजाने का काम करता है, जिसमें वे फर्निशिंग यानी चैंड, टेबल कवर, बेड कवर, सोफा कवर आदि के साथ फर्नीचर और घर में लाइट का प्रबंध करता है। यह प्रबंध सिर्फ देखने में ही नहीं, बल्कि रहने के लिहाज से भी व्यावहारिक होता है। आपकी किचन में कितने ड्रॉर होंगे, गैस के साथ चिमनी लगनी चाहिए या वेंटिलेशन का कोई और तरीका हो, इन सब मुद्दों पर भी वे मदद करता है। घर में हर कमरे के लिए अलग रंग, अलग फर्निशिंग्स व फर्नीचर को चुनने में वह सहायता करता है।

कैसे करें शुरुआत

इंटीरियर डिजाइनरिंग में कई संस्थान डिप्लोमा कोर्स मुहैया करा रहे हैं। इन पाठ्यक्रमों के लिए आप 12वीं के बाद आवेदन कर सकते हैं। इनमें प्रवेश के लिए कई संस्थान प्रवेश परीक्षा के साथ आपकी ड्राइंग की कला भी आंकते हैं। बेहतर रहेगा कि आप अपनी रचनात्मकता दिखाने के लिए एक पोर्टफोलियो तैयार करें, जिसे आप संस्थान की ओर से आयोजित इंटरव्यू के दौरान दिखा सकते हैं। आप विभिन्न पॉलिटेक्निक या निजी संस्थानों से इस कोर्स के लिए अधिक जानकारी हासिल कर सकते हैं। इसके अलावा कई नामी-गिरामी संस्थान व विश्वविद्यालय, खासकर डिजाइनरिंग से जुड़े हुए, अपने यहां छात्रों को 4 वर्ष का डिग्री कोर्स भी मुहैया कराते हैं, जिसमें वे डिजाइनरिंग के विभिन्न पहलुओं के साथ क्राफ्टमैनशिप की भी कुछ जानकारी अपने छात्रों

को देते हैं। इसके अलावा आप किसी अन्य विषय में ग्रेजुएशन करने के बाद भी इस प्रोफेशन को अपना सकते हैं। आमतौर पर कला या विज्ञान विषयों में ग्रेजुएशन करने के बाद छात्र पोस्ट ग्रेजुएशन डिप्लोमा के जरिये इंटीरियर डिजाइनरिंग की विभिन्न शाखाओं जैसे रजिडेंशियल डिजाइनरिंग, बिजनेस डिजाइनरिंग या लैंडस्केप डिजाइनरिंग में स्पेशलाइजेशन हासिल करते हैं।

क्या हों खूबियां

अगर आपमें रचनात्मकता है और अधिक से अधिक लोगों के साथ मिल कर नई-नई चुनौतियों का मुकाबला करना चाहते हैं तो इंटीरियर डिजाइनरिंग आपके लिए एक अच्छा करियर विकल्प हो सकता है। आप किसी भी विषय की जानकारी के बाद यह पाठ्यक्रम पढ़ सकते हैं, लेकिन अगर आपको कला के अलावा डेकोरेटिव सामान, घर में इस्तेमाल होने वाले उत्पादों और आर्किटेक्चर की मूलभूत जानकारी है तो आपके लिए डिजाइनरिंग की राह और आसान हो जाएगी। इसके साथ ही अपने करियर को सफल बनाने के लिए आपको बातचीत की कला के साथ ही सुनने की कला भी आनी चाहिए। अगर आप थोड़ी मेहनत और हर बार नए कॉन्सेप्ट के लिए तैयार हैं तो यहां आपको सफल होने से कोई नहीं रोक सकता। साथ ही आप में फैंशन, परंपरा और संस्कृतियों को समझने की क्षमता होनी चाहिए, ताकि आप क्लाइंट की पसंद को अपनी रचनात्मकता से साकार रूप दे सकें।

पाठ्यक्रम - एमबीए इंटीरियर डिजाइनर, एम.एससी. इंटीरियर डिजाइन, बी.एससी. इंटीरियर डिजाइन, बी.ए. ऑनर्स इंटीरियर आर्किटेक्चर एंड डिजाइन, बी.ए. इंटीरियर डिजाइन, पी.जी. डिप्लोमा इन इंटीरियर डिजाइन एंड स्टाइल, डिप्लोमा इन स्टाइलिंग फॉर इंटीरियर्स, डिप्लोमा इन इंटीरियर डिजाइन, डिप्लोमा इन इंटीरियर डेकोरेशन एंड डिजाइन फीस - किसी भी अच्छे निजी संस्थान से इंटीरियर डिजाइनरिंग में डिप्लोमा कोर्स की सालाना फीस लगभग दो से तीन लाख रुपये तक हो सकती है। वहीं पॉलिटेक्निकस सरकार द्वारा तय नियम एवं शर्तों के मुताबिक फीस लेते हैं। फीस व स्कॉलरशिप संबंधित अधिक जानकारी के लिए संबंधित संस्थान से संपर्क करें।

वेतन - इंटीरियर डिजाइनरिंग



में दो वर्षीय डिप्लोमा करने के बाद कोई भी छात्र किसी बड़ी कंपनी या डिजाइनर के यहां बतौर इंटरन 20 हजार रुप प य प्रतिमाह तक कमा सकता है। अनुभव के साथ आपकी आय की कोई सीमा नहीं है। बड़े डिजाइनर एक से दो रुम के लिए दो से तीन लाख रुपये बतौर कंसल्टेंसी मांग लेते हैं।

नफा-नुकसान

- मेहनत के साथ इस क्षेत्र में शोहरत व पैसा कमाना मुश्किल नहीं है
- यहां कई जान-मानी हस्तियों के लिए काम करने का मौका मिल सकता है
- कई बार काम पूरा करने के चलते रात को देर तक या सुबह-सुबह काम करना पड़ सकता है
- इंटीरियर डिजाइनरिंग का काम काफी थका देने वाला है, जिसमें कई स्तर के अलग-अलग लोगों से मिलना व उनसे काम निकालवाना पड़ता है



Shraddha Kapoor

Just Made This Fan's Day At The Airport

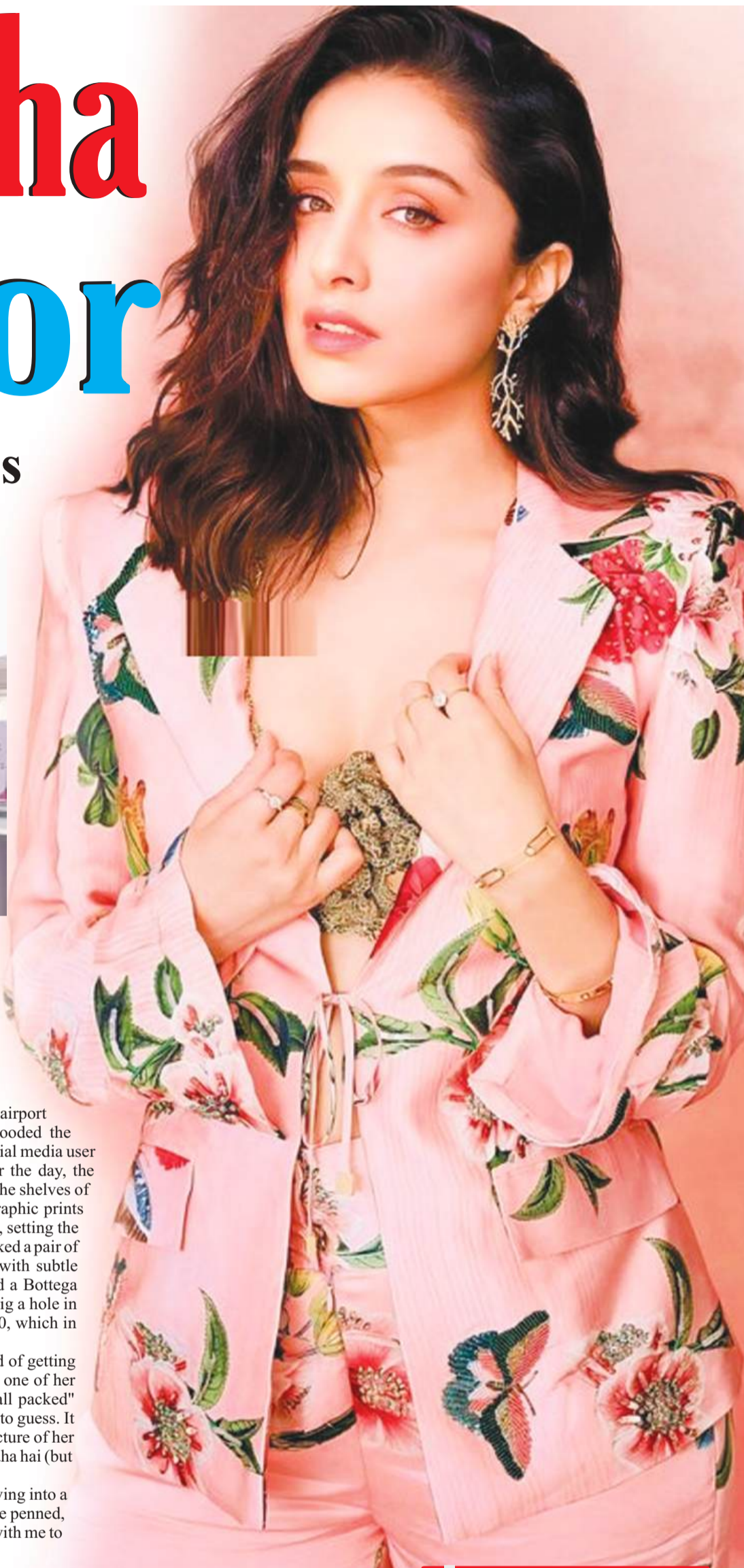


Shraddha Kapoor garnered much love for her appearance in the film *Stree 2*, a sequel to the 2018 hit horror-comedy *Stree*. The actress, who enjoys a huge fanbase on her social media handles, recently depicted her humble nature. She was recently spotted at the Mumbai airport in her best outfit. However, her reaction towards one of her fans is being praised. In a viral video, Shraddha is seen patiently waiting as a fan approaches her for a photo. Rather than dismissing the fan, she kindly invites them for a picture, showcasing her down-to-earth nature and winning hearts with her friendly gesture.

Then, she waved to the fans and shutterbugs present there and entered the airport premises. This won the hearts of many social media users, who flooded the comment section with hearts and other emojis appreciating her. One social media user wrote, "She's a real gem", while another mentioned, "Awesome." For the day, the actress opted for a casual outfit featuring an oversized sweatshirt from the shelves of ace designer Dhruv Kapoor. The full-sleeved number featured bold graphic prints and a round neck. The actress paired it with loose-fitted brown trousers, setting the trend for comfy airport fashion. She kept her entire look minimal and picked a pair of black shoes to complement her OOTD. Middle-parted loose tresses with subtle makeup rounded off Shraddha's airport look. Additionally, she carried a Bottega Veneta Mini Wallace bag, which came with a price tag that can easily dig a hole in many pockets. The mini black-hued leather bag is priced at USD 2,600, which in INR is Rs. 2,20,175.

The *Ashiqui 2* actress is all set to spend some time in Abu Dhabi. Ahead of getting papped at the airport, she dropped a few insights into her packing. On one of her recent Instagram stories, Shraddha also gave a sneak peek into her "all packed" suitcase alongside a "without ticket" partner on the trip. You don't have to guess. It was her furry friend who joined the frame while she was clicking the picture of her luggage. Atop the snap, she wrote, "Packed and ready lekin iska ticket kaha hai (but where is his ticket)?" followed by a pleading face and aeroplane emoji.

In yet another Instagram story, an extremely elated Shraddha was seen diving into a scrumptious *Thepla*, a popular Indian flatbread. Alongside the photo, she penned, "Ghar ka tiffin mere saath Abu Dhabi jayega (Homemade tiffin will go with me to Abu Dhabi) #TheplaForTheWin @visitabudhabi #InAbuDhabi."



Newlywed Naga Chaitanya Says He Wants To Have 'A Couple Of Kids': 'I'd Love To Take Them...'



Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala got married on December 4 at Annapurna Studios in Hyderabad. Meanwhile, the actor is set to appear on *The Rana Daggubati Show* on Amazon Prime Video, hosted by his cousin Rana Daggubati. During the episode, Chaitanya will talk about his future plans, including his desire to have children, and his experiences working with Aamir Khan and Sai Pallavi. Reflecting on his personal life, Chaitanya shared that by the time he's 50, he hopes to be happily married with kids. He said, "When I'm 50 years old, I want to be happily married with a couple of kids, maybe one or two. I'd love to take them racing and go-karting. And relive the special moments of my childhood."

On Friday, the newlyweds made their first public appearance post their wedding, and were seen visiting the Mallikarjuna Temple in Srisailem, Andhra Pradesh. Nagarjuna also accompanied the couple as they sought blessings at the temple. Videos and pictures shared by paparazzo Kamlesh Nand show Naga Chaitanya in a mundu with white shirt. Meanwhile, new bride Sobhita Dhulipala exuded glow in a beautiful yellow silk saree paired with an orange blouse. Nagarjuna was seen in a peach kurta with black pajama. The video shows the newly married couple walking to the temple barefoot. On seeing the paparazzi, Sobhita and Naga Chaitanya smiled at them.

Naga Chaitanya was previously married to actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu. The couple tied the knot in October 2017 after a long relationship. However, they announced their separation in October 2021 due to personal differences and finalised their divorce in 2022.

Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala got engaged in August. They getting married in Annapurna Studios, owned by actor and Naga Chaitanya's father Nagarjuna Akkineni. Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala's wedding was attended by celebrities such as Chiranjeevi, Ram Charan, Mahesh Babu, Allu Arjun and his family, PV Sindhu, Anurag Kashyap, SS Rajamouli, Karthi, and many others.

Govinda's Daughter Tina Says She's Moved On From Films, Now Works With Her Dad: 'I Don't Need To Run The House'



Tina Ahuja, Govinda's daughter, recently shared her thoughts on her acting career, which didn't unfold as she had hoped. Tina made her Bollywood debut in 2015 with *Second Hand Husband*, co-starring Gippy Grewal and Dharmendra, but hasn't featured in films since then, focusing instead on music videos. She revealed that she now assists her father in his professional pursuits, even as Govinda faces his own career challenges. In



an interview with *Bollywood Bubble*, Tina addressed being labeled as an example of "the reverse side of nepotism." She said, "To be honest, I moved on very quickly. Because after a point, it became very irritating to me when people said, 'But you have an institute at home, why are you struggling outside'. It became so annoying after a point, why should I answer the same question again and again?"

Tina Ahuja shared that she now enjoys working on projects with her father, Govinda. She explained that she shifted her focus to doing things she genuinely likes. She added, "I decided that I might as well start working with my dad and start doing things that I enjoy. If things have to happen, they'll happen. I don't need to run the house, by the grace of God. I actually started enjoying working with my father, and I didn't even realise that I'd left a lot of things behind. I was like, 'Chuck it, I don't want to do this. I would like to do things that I want to be a part of'." Tina Ahuja shared that working with her father, Govinda, brought them closer. She said she let go of unnecessary pressure and embraced a more comfortable lifestyle. Tina said, "I was getting better luxuries and treatment doing plan B. Why would I be a main lead and travel by economy when I can work with dad and get a first-class ticket," she said.

Payal Rohatgi

Seeks Fans' Support To Fund Her Father's Cancer Treatment



Payal Rohatgi recently opened up about a personal and emotional battle her family is going through right now. The actress shared a heartfelt post on social media, revealing that her father is battling prostate cancer and appealed for financial assistance. Payal shared the pain of watching her father fighting the disease and how it has shaken her family. She urged her fans and followers to donate generously to support her father's treatment. Taking to Instagram, she shared a video featuring bill papers and the front page of the chequebook with a detailed note. It read, "I have decided to post this on my social media after a lot of internal alignment of my thoughts." She further explained that medical treatments are quite expensive in the country.

She said despite paying medical insurance premiums, the family has not received reimbursement, making it difficult for them to cover the medical treatments. "I understand that every middle-class family has limited funds. My father who is a senior citizen thought he would get reimbursement from the medical insurance company whose premium he had paid but he hasn't due to their internal rules. The medical insurance PREMIUM every year is so much for senior citizens but when genuine medical expenses

don't get reimbursed it's sad. He requested me to put it on my social media and I am doing it as I want to address the criteria based on which medical insurance as an industry works in our country," she added. While explaining crowdfunding, she said this mode needs clarity but everyone uses it. "So here I use it as a medium as my father asked me to. He has a right to get his reimbursement from medical insurance companies. But as rules are not clear so here we talk," she said.



According to the Instagram post, her father is a senior citizen and has been suffering from prostate cancer since 2018, as well as COPD since 2006 and severe osteoporosis since 2008. At last, Payal requested fans to donate and deposit money generously in the given account. Payal appeared as a contestant on the reality show *Bigg Boss* in 2008. She participated in the *ALT Balaji* reality show *Lock Upp* in 2022 and finished as the runner-up. The actress is married to wrestler Sangram Singh.