

In an exclusive interview with India Today TV, Sagar Sharma's father Roshan Lal Sharma has come forward with claims that his son was "brainwashed" by a friend from Bengaluru.



The government has said there are no intentions to offer subsidies for the import of electric vehicles into the country. This development appears to be a major setback for Tesla.



Tamil Nadu batter Baba Indrajith batted with a taped mouth due to a lip injury during the Vijay Hazare Trophy semi-final against Haryana at the SCA Stadium.



Manoj Bajpayee, at Agenda AajTak, spoke about how new avenues opened for him after getting rejected from National School of Drama.



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'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' actor Andre Braugher died on Monday, December 11. His publicist confirmed the news.....

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In the thrilling climax in Group F of the UEFA Champions League, Paris Saint-Germain secured a spot in the knockout stages with a 1-1 draw against

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Hindi not national language: Stalin after Tamil woman 'humiliated' at Goa airport

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) President MK Stalin condemned the "humiliation" of a Tamil woman at the Goa airport after she said she didn't know Hindi to a Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel. He said Hindi was not the national language of India and it was "concerning" that people were being forced to believe otherwise.

"The recurring incidents of passengers from non-Hindi speaking states facing harassment by CISF personnel for not knowing Hindi and being forced to accept the misguided notion

that Hindi is the national language of India are deeply concerning," Stalin wrote on X. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister responded following an incident involving Sharmila, a Tamil woman engineer who experienced difficulties during a security check at Dabolim Airport in Goa. Sharmila claimed that a CISF officer insulted her after she expressed her lack of knowledge in Hindi when instructed to take a tray in the language.

The officer reportedly asserted that "Tamil Nadu is in India" and insisted that everyone in the country should learn Hindi. Despite Sharmila's explanation that



Hindi is not the national language but only the official one, the officer suggested she Google it. Allegedly, the airport security guard further insulted her by proclaiming loudly that everyone in India should learn Hindi.

Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin also

criticised the central security forces and said their job was to maintain safety and "not impart Hindi lessons". Udhayanidhi, who has been vocal about alleged "Hindi imposition" in the country, urged the Centre to take immediate action against the security personnel.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan changes X bio, says he is 'bhai and mama'

Shivraj Singh Chouhan no longer rules Madhya Pradesh, but he rules the hearts of lakhs as a brother and uncle. That is what Chouhan sought to highlight by changing his profile on X on Thursday.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan's X bio now reads 'bhai aur mama' (brother and maternal uncle) along with 'Former Chief Minister, Madhya Pradesh'.

The BJP beat anti-incumbency in Madhya Pradesh by winning 163 seats in the election for the 230-member Assembly. The Congress could win only 66 seats.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan's women-centric schemes along with the Prime Minister's 'Modi ki Guarantee and Amit Shah's strategy are said to have worked for the BJP in the elections held in November. Chouhan is lovingly referred to as 'mama' by the people of Madhya Pradesh. As the chief minister, Chouhan portrayed himself



as the caring brother with his 'Ladli Behna' scheme.

The 'Ladli Behna' scheme initially provided financial aid of Rs 1,000 and was increased to Rs 1,250 in August this year.

Thereafter, he became popular as 'mama' and 'bhai' to the women of Madhya Pradesh.

After the thumping victory, the BJP, with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha election, picked Mohan Yadav -- an OBC leader -- to lead the Hindi heartland state.

Though the BJP leadership has hinted that there was a larger role, most likely a central ministry, for Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the former chief minister is without any official designation as of now.

'Menstruation not a handicap': Smriti Irani opposes paid period leave for women

Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani has voiced her opposition to the idea of mandatory paid menstrual leave for women employees.

Responding to a question by MP Manoj Kumar Jha in Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, Irani stated that menstruation is a natural part of life and shouldn't be treated as a handicap requiring special leave provisions.

"As a menstruating woman, menstruation and the menstruation cycle is not a handicap, it's a natural part of women's life journey," Irani said.

Warning that menstrual leave could lead to discrimination against women in the workforce, she added, "We should not propose issues where women are denied equal opportunities just because somebody who does not menstruate has a particular viewpoint towards men-



struation." However, acknowledging the importance of menstrual hygiene, Irani announced the formulation of a draft national policy by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. This policy, developed in collaboration with stakeholders, aims to improve awareness and access to proper menstrual hygiene management practices across the country. The Union Minister also highlighted the existing 'Promotion of Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM)' scheme, aimed at adolescent girls from 10 to 19 years old.

Campus News

Media and Human Rights Take Center Stage in Milestone 105th Lecture Series: A Reflective Discourse on 75 Years of Global Advocacy

On the occasion of World Human Rights Day, on the completion of 75 years of human rights on 10 December 2023, the 105th series of Media Lecture Series on the subject of media and human rights was organized under the joint aegis of the media quarterly journal Communication Today published from Jaipur and the prestigious Bharti Vidyapeeth's Institute of Computer Application and Management, Delhi.

Dr. MK Devarajan, former member of Rajasthan Human Rights Commission, in his statement mentioned in detail how a news published in the newspaper even influenced the policies of the state government. He said that the Human Rights Commissions take suo motu cognizance of the news published in the media. He has not only taken action but has also made an important contribution towards the solution. He also discussed various aspects of media coverage which have received prominent place in the media.

Mr. Yograj Sharma of World Human Rights Organization, Delhi said that his organization is actively working towards awareness of human rights in about 18 countries.

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Prof. Sanjeev Bhanawat
Editor, Communication Today
Former Head, CMC University of
Rajasthan, Jaipur
Mob: +91 9414073456
bhanawat.sanjeev@gmail.com



Prof. M. N. Hoda
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**भारती
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Organizing Secretary



Dr. Usha Sawhney
By Editor, Communication Today
Asst. Professor,
Dept. of English, SPPU, Coll. G.D. College, Mumbai
usha.sawhney01@gmail.com

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Justice Shri NK Jain, who was the chairman of the Human Rights Commissions of Rajasthan and Sikkim, expressed deep concern about media trials. He expected the media to publish the news carefully after thoroughly investigating the facts. He said that many times an accused is declared a criminal through media trial and when the court acquits him, the impartiality of the judiciary is questioned. The judiciary

takes decisions from the point of view of law on the basis of facts and evidence. He also talked about empowering human rights commissions.

Former Chairman of the Center for Mass Communication, Professor Sanjeev Bhanawat said that on 10 December 1948, the United Nations General Assembly accepted the International Declaration of Human Rights. In fact, this manifesto is based on the

feeling of not discriminating against human beings on the basis of caste, gender, nationality, language, religion or any other basis. This includes freedom of expression as well as the right to freedom from slavery and torture. Depriving human rights is inhumanity. The importance of these rights has been accepted in the Indian Constitution also under the fundamental rights and directive principles.

Prof. M.N. Hoda, Director of Bharti Vidyapeeth Delhi, underlining the importance of World Human Rights Day in detail, said that it is our endeavor to organize programs regularly on such special days.


Dr. Usha Sahni, Assistant Professor of English at Shaheed Mangal Pandey PG Girls College, started the program with a symbolic

presentation of Saraswati Vandana. He also provided background information on the publication of Communication Today. In the beginning all the guests were welcomed with e-bouquet and at the end they were also given e-certificate and e-memento. At the end of the program, Priyanka Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Bharti Vidyapeeth expressed her gratitude. Other members of the team included Pushpendra Singh, Dr. Sunil Kumar Singh, teachers of Bharati Vidyapeeth and Dr. Prithvi Sengar of IIMT University, Meerut, discharged various responsibilities.




BVICAM explores the fusion of Creativity and Technology: Webinar sheds light on the Transformative Power of AI in Interior Design

The Webinar, being organized as part of celebrations of 75th Anniversary of glorious independence of India, was held in the benign presence of senior dignitaries from all collaborating societies and chapters. The webinar was aimed to give a comprehensive view of "AI in Interior Design". Prof. M. N. Hoda, Director, BVICAM and Executive Vice Chairperson, IEEE Delhi Section, welcomed the dignitaries and the participants. He emphasized and motivated the participants to keep learning continuously regardless of disruptions, all around us. He introduced the topic and focused on the consistent



R.K. Singh



prof k subramanian

(R.K. Singh's application(s))

81%

Artificial Intelligence in Interior Design

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- 1-Diverse Vision-About Technology
- 2-Diverse Vision
- 3-Understanding AR and VR
- 4-Interior Design Artificial Intelligence
- 5-How AI is Transforming world of ID
- 6-Benefits of Artificial Intelligence in Interior Design

need of customizing and transforming the interior design industry to meet the customer expectation.

Mr. R. K. Singh ICT and Broadcast Media Consultant Former Engineer-in-Chief, Doordarshan was the lead speaker for the webinar. He highlighted how the interior design industry was

evolving each day. Through real-life examples he showcased how artificial intelligence was transforming the industry, helping it personalize and customize products according to customer expectations. He also explained how Augmented Reality (AR) and Virtual Reality (VR) were important

to the interior design industry.

The session concluded with a Question & Answer session where participants willingly asked their queries. Prof. M. N. Hoda gave his heartfelt appreciation to Mr. R. K. Singh for his valuable session. He also thanked all the participants and panelist for giving their precious time in attending this webinar and making all the webinars hosted by BVICAM, a huge success. Dr. Ritika Wason, Deputy Director, BVICAM, New Delhi and Ms. Ayushi Chopra, Associate Professor, BVICAM, were the conveners of the

webinar and has coordinated the entire webinar. The other faculty members of BVICAM; Ms. Preeti was working at the backend to make it successful and present it, in a seamless manner, to the participants. The webinar attracted huge participation from across the world and Bharati Vidyapeeth's Institute of Computer Applications and Management (BVICAM), New Delhi, proved itself, once again, as a perfect host.



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NEWS

Parliament intruder Manoranjan wanted to replicate Bhagat Singh's act: Police

Manoranjan D, one of the two intruders who jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the visitors' gallery on Wednesday, was associated with a social media page called 'Bhagat Singh Fan Club' and wanted to replicate Bhagat Singh's act of throwing bomb into the Central Assembly, police said.

The officials also mentioned that he appeared to be of a "revolutionary type".

"We didn't come across any criminal background. He was a very quiet person but looking at the books he read, he appeared to be a 'revolutionary type'," a senior police officer told news agency PTI.

Another officer also said

that Manoranjan seemed to be an admirer of Bhagat Singh, who had symbolically bombed the Central Assembly in Delhi.

"It appears like they wanted to replicate what Bhagat Singh and group did during the freedom struggle," the officer said.

Neelam Devi, who protested outside Parliament on Wednesday, also posted a picture of herself with a portrait of Bhagat Singh, and she participated in the wrestlers' protest that took place in Delhi earlier this year.

Neelam, in her last post on X (formerly Twitter) before the Parliament attack, had questioned why there wasn't a 50 per cent quota for



women in Parliament and legislative assemblies. In a major security breach on the anniversary of the 2001 Parliament terror attack on Wednesday, Manoranjan and his accomplice Sagar Sharma jumped into the Lok Sabha chamber from the public gallery during Zero Hour. They shot slogans and released yellow gas from canisters before being overpowered by some MPs.

Simultaneously, Neelam and another accused, Amol Shinde, protested outside the Parliament, spraying coloured gas from canisters and shouting "tanashahi nahi chalegi (dictatorship won't work)" outside Parliament premises.

Five people, including these four, have been arrested and charged under stringent anti-terror laws.

15 MPs suspended for 'unruly conduct'

One Rajya Sabha and 14 Lok Sabha MPs were suspended for "unruly conduct" in Parliament.

Manickam Tagore, Kanimozhi, PR Natrajan, V K Shrikantam, Beni Bahan, K Subramanyam, SR Pratiban, S Venkateshan, and Mohammed Javed are among the Parliament members who were suspended. Earlier on Thursday, the Lok Sabha passed a resolution suspending five Congress MPs for the remainder of the session. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi moved a resolution to suspend the five. T N Prathapan, Hibi Eden, Jothimani, Ramya Haridas and Dean Kuriakose Kuryakus were the MPs who were suspended.

Opposition leaders slam BJP, demand Amit Shah's reply on Parliament security

Opposition leaders on Thursday criticised the BJP-led Union government for the major security breach in Lok Sabha, and also demanded a clarification from Home Minister Amit Shah over the issue. Before the Parliament winter session started today, opposition parties held a meeting and decided to raise the issue of security breach strongly in both houses of Parliament. Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Priyanka Chaturvedi on Wednesday said, "This is a severe security breach and is shameful for the country. If we can't keep the temple of democracy safe, how can we keep entire country's law and order in place. Home Minister Amit Shah must give a clarification...What did we learn from the incident that happened 22 years ago?"

Similarly, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut also took a dig at the government and said, "Parliament has the best security but still some boys entered there. They didn't have any weapons that is right, but they jumped in the Parliament. The government has been busy for the last one month in the election campaigns, formation of the government, oath



ceremony and the country's security is in the air. It's 'Ram Bharose'..."

Meanwhile, Congress MP Rajeev Shukla and several other Rajya Sabha MPs gave Suspension of Business Notice on the Parliament security breach incident, demanding a discussion on security breach in Parliament and a reply from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the issue.

Congress MP Manickam Tagore also gave an Adjournment Motion notice in Lok Sabha demanding a discussion on the issue.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MP Raghav Chadha also targeted the government and raised several questions over the security lapse in Parliament. "How did these intruders get in? How did they manage to smuggle spray cans where even a pen isn't allowed? What action is the government taking against the MP who allegedly signed on their visitor passes? Will he be expelled?", he said.

MK Stalin seeks halt on loan repayment for people affected by Cyclone Michaung

In a letter to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin sought a three-month moratorium on loan repayment for families and business units based out of Cyclone Michaung affected districts such as Chennai, Thiruvallur, Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram. "I wish to draw your attention to the urgent need for providing a moratorium on loan repayments to the families impacted by Cyclone Michaung in Chennai, Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram and Thiruvallur districts.

The 37 lakh families living in the aforementioned four districts of Tamil Nadu have borne the brunt of relentless rain which has caused significant disruption to their livelihood and damages to their properties," he wrote in the letter. Stalin said though the state government had been able to restore normalcy in people's daily lives, the impact on their livelihood lingered for many.

He wrote, "Small businessmen, traders and MSME units impacted by the floods are yet to return to their regular economic



activities. Many of these families and business entities have availed loans for various purposes and would find it impossible to repay their dues in these difficult circumstances. There is an urgent need to mitigate the burden of immediate debt servicing by relaxing repayment schedules till they come out of this crisis."

Trinamool's Derek O'Brien suspended after face-off with Rajya Sabha Chairman

Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien was suspended from the Rajya Sabha for "ignoble misconduct" after a face-off with the House Chairman amid the uproar over the Lok Sabha security breach incident. An hour the Rajya Sabha began proceedings on Thursday, the opposition MPs trooped into the Well of the House, demanding a discussion on the Parliament security breach. The opposition MPs moved 28 notices seeking the suspension of business for the day to dis-

cuss the security breach. Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar disallowed the notices and opposition MPs moved into the Well of the House. They shouted slogans and demanded Union Home Minister Amit Shah's reply. Dhankhar condemned the "unruly behaviour" of the MPs, saying it violated the rules. At this point, the Trinamool Congress MP Derek O'Brien moved into the area in front of the Chair and flung his arms in the air. This infuriated Dhankhar, who named O'Brien and



said he should leave the House. A person named by the Chair has to withdraw from the proceedings for the day. Dhankhar also called Derek O'Brien's conduct a "defiance" of the Chair and "serious misconduct".

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NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

'Israel government most conservative in history': Biden on bombings in Gaza

US President Joe Biden, taking a tougher stance on Israel amid its war with the Hamas terrorists, has said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government is the most conservative one in the country's history.

Biden's remarks, made to donors to his 2024 re-election campaign, were his most critical to date of Netanyahu's handling of Israel's war in Gaza.

"This is the most conservative government in Israel's history. This government in Israel is making it very difficult," Biden said at the fundraiser, specifically mentioning Israel's far-right politician Itamar Ben-Gvir, who is Israel's national security minister. Ultimately, Israel "can't say no" to a Palestinian state, which Israeli hardliners oppose, the US President remarked. Biden also said Israel was losing support over its "indiscriminate" bombing of Gaza and that Benjamin Netanyahu should change,



exposing a new rift in relations with the Israeli Prime Minister.

"Israel's security can rest on the United States, but right now it has more than the United States. It has the European Union, it has Europe, it has most of the world... But they're starting to lose that support by indiscriminate bombing that takes place," Biden said.

Biden said, "We have an opportunity to begin to unite the region and they still want to do it. But we have to make sure that Bibi (Netanyahu) understands that he's got to make some moves."

On several occasions, Biden

has expressed strong support for Israel's military operation against Hamas terrorists in Gaza. However, he and his team have expressed growing concern about the death of Palestinian civilians.

On Wednesday, Biden plans to meet at the White House, the family members of Americans taken hostage by Hamas during its October 7 attack in which 1,200 people were killed, a White House official said.

The ongoing war between Israel and Hamas terrorists has so far killed 18,000 Palestinians, while more than 50,000 have been left injured.

Court rejects Donald Trump's fresh request for early verdict in civil fraud trial

Donald Trump's lawyers rested his defence Tuesday and sought anew to immediately end the New York civil fraud trial that threatens the former president's real estate empire. The judge said "there's no way I'm going to grant that." Trump's lawyers thwarted in a similar bid last month were swatted down as they asked Judge Arthur Engoron to cut the trial short and issue a verdict clearing Trump, his company and top executives of wrongdoing. The judge reiterated his feeling that state lawyers had met their legal burden for seeing the three-month trial through to its conclusion. New York Attorney General Letitia James alleges Trump duped banks, insurers and others by inflating his wealth on financial statements used in securing loans and make deals. Engoron has already ruled on James' top claim that Trump committed fraud. Trump's lawyers renewed their request for what's known as a

directed verdict a day after Trump, the leading contender for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, skipped a planned return to the witness stand as the defence's last big witness. Trump lawyer Christopher Kise said the defence plans to send Engoron paperwork by the end of the week fully detailing arguments for a directed verdict. "You'd be wasting your time, but I'm not going to tell you not to send me something," Engoron told Kise. But, he warned, "It doesn't mean I'll entertain" or even read the written request. State lawyer Kevin Wallace complained the long-shot bid — essentially an academic exercise given Engoron's position on the matter — was a "colossal waste of resources." Closing arguments are scheduled for Jan. 11, just four days before the Iowa caucuses start the presidential primary season. Engoron, who is deciding



the case in place of a jury, which is not allowed in this type of lawsuit, said he hopes to have a decision by the end of January.

Trump's lawyers first asked for a directed verdict on Nov. 9 after state lawyers rested their case. Engoron said he was taking the request "under advisement" and ordered the trial to proceed as scheduled. A few weeks later, Engoron rejected the defense's request for a mistrial, denying its claims that he was politically biased and had irreparably harmed Trump's right to a fair trial through "astonishing departures from ordinary standards of impartiality."

US seeking to extradite Indian man charged in Pannun murder plot



The Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic has confirmed the arrest and provisional custody of Nikhil Gupta. This action was taken at the behest of the United States, which has accused the Indian national, Gupta, of being involved in a 'murder for hire' plot targeting Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun. The US authorities allege that, under the direction of an unnamed Indian government employee, Gupta conspired to kill Pannun on American soil. Gupta, 52, was arrested by Czech law enforcement authorities in June this year. According to Vladimir Repka, a spokesperson for the Czech Ministry of Justice, Gupta was arrested at the request of the United States, which later submitted an extradition request. The charges against Gupta include conspiracy to commit murder for hire, as detailed by US authorities. The extradition request, filed by the US in August

2023, cites conspiracy to commit murder for hire. Following preliminary investigations, the Municipal Public Prosecution Office in Prague moved to declare Gupta's extradition admissible. However, this decision is not yet legally binding. The US Justice Department has charged Gupta with involvement in the alleged murder on November 20. In a statement, the US officials said, "an Indian government employee, working together with others, including Gupta, in India and elsewhere, directed a plot to assassinate on US soil an attorney and political activist who is a US citizen of Indian-origin residing in New York City". Gupta had agreed to pay \$100,000 to an assassin to carry out the killing, with an advance payment of \$15,000 already made on June 9, 2023. However, the individual he contacted for the hitman turned out to be a confidential source working with US law enforcement.

Russia-Ukraine War

Dozens injured, homes and hospital damaged in Russian missile assault on Kyiv

Russia's second missile assault on Kyiv this week injured at least 34 people and damaged homes and a children's hospital, Ukrainian officials said on Wednesday, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy pleaded in Washington for more help for his country. Ukraine's air defence systems downed all missiles targeting the capital about 3 am (0100 GMT), Serhiy Popko, head of Kyiv's military administration, said on the Telegram messaging app. The full scale of the attack was not immediately clear. Falling debris caused injuries and destruction in three of Kyiv's districts on the eastern side of the Dnipro River that cuts



through the capital, officials said. Windows and entrances were shattered by debris at a children's hospital in Kyiv's Dniproviskyi district, but based on initial assessments, there were no casualties, Mayor Vitali Klitschko said on Telegram. Debris also hit several residential buildings in the Dniproviskyi district, injuring at least 34 people, with 15 requiring hospitalisation, including two children, Klitschko added.



Mysterious mineral produced in ocean could keep Earth cool, even induce ice age

Geologists from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have identified a clay mineral known as smectite that possesses the remarkable ability to capture and store carbon for millions of years, potentially playing a significant role in cooling our planet. Found within the intricate layers of the seafloor, smectite's accordion-like structure is adept at trapping organic carbon, a process that has been occurring since the dawn of plate tectonics. As oceanic crust collides with continental plates, rocks are pushed to the surface and weather into various minerals, including smectite. This mineral then descends back to the ocean bed, ensnaring remnants of deceased organisms within its microscopic folds, thereby preventing the carbon from re-entering the



atmosphere as carbon dioxide. The implications of this natural phenomenon are monumental. MIT researchers, led by graduate student Joshua Murray and geology professor Oliver Jagoutz, have traced the production of smectite back through several major tectonic events over the past 500 million years. Their findings suggest that each time these clays were formed in sufficient quantities, they could have contributed to the cooling of the Earth, even inducing ice ages. Published in the prestigious journal Nature Geoscience, their research is

the first to establish a direct link between plate tectonics and the onset of ice ages through the creation of carbon-sequestering smectite. To confirm their hypothesis, the team delved into geological records, examining the weathering patterns of magmatic minerals and the types of clays they produce. They incorporated these findings into simulations of the Earth's carbon cycle to determine the impact of each mineral. Smectite stood out not only as a product of tropical tectonics but also as an incredibly efficient captor of organic carbon.

COP28

12-year-old Indian activist disrupts summit demanding end to fossil fuel

In a bold act of defiance, 12-year-old Indian climate activist Licypriya Kangujam took the global stage by storm at the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2023 (COP28) in Dubai. The young environmentalist from Manipur, who serves as a Special Envoy of Timor Leste, interrupted a high-level plenary session with a clear message: "End fossil fuels. Save our planet and our future." Following her demonstration, she was escorted out and informed that her accreditation to the conference had been revoked. The incident sparked outrage as Kangujam took to social media to express her frustration and call for support from UN officials, including Secretary-General António Guterres and COP28 President Simon Stiell. "What is the reason to cease my badge for protesting against the fossil fuels? If you're really standing against the fossil fuels, then you must support me and you must immediately release my badges," Kangujam



tweeted. She argued that the actions taken against her were a "gross violation and abuse of Child Rights in the UN premises," which contradicts the principles of the United Nations. The young activist's plea underscores the tension between the need for free expression and the strict regulations governing protests at the summit. Her actions come at a critical time when the debate over phasing out fossil fuels is at the forefront of climate discussions, with nearly 200 countries attempting to address this pressing issue. Licypriya Kangujam has been a vocal advocate for climate action since she was seven years old, earning recognition and awards for her efforts, including a World Children's Peace Prize.

2024 could see Earth temporarily breach global warming threshold

The Met Office, Britain's national weather service, has issued a stark warning that the global average temperature could temporarily surpass the critical 1.5-degree Celsius mark as early as next year. This forecast, as reported by Reuters, comes at a crucial time when world leaders are engaged at the COP28 climate summit in Dubai, where the urgency to address climate change is a central topic of discussion. According to the Met Office, the current year is on track to become the warmest ever recorded, and projections indicate that 2024 may set even higher temperature records. The anticipated range for the average global temperature is between 1.34C and 1.58C above the pre-industrial levels of the late 19th century. This potential



spike in temperature is attributed to the ongoing trend of global warming, which has seen an increase of 0.2C per decade, coupled with the impact of a significant El Niño event. Nick Dunstone, who spearheaded the forecasting efforts at the Met Office, emphasised that while a single year's rise above 1.5C does not signify a long-term average warming threshold breach, it nonetheless underscores the need for decisive action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Meftal safety alert: Doctors open up about rampant use of menstrual painkillers

The Government recently issued a safety alert about the popular drug Meftal, urging people to be cautious about its side effects, especially since it can cause an adverse reaction like Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) syndrome. This is because of the presence of its main ingredient, mefenamic acid which causes severe allergic reactions. Meftal-Spas has been quite a widely sold painkiller that women often consume during their period cramps. Although these painkillers, which are NSAIDs or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, are quite safe, the Government has advised against consuming them without a prescription. But this isn't the first time that the public has been alerted about the side effects of a painkiller. In 2018, the popular over-the-counter pain relief medicine, Saridon, along with 327 other fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs were banned citing safety issues and a 'lack of therapeutic justification'. However, in 2019, after a



legal battle, the Supreme Court exempted Saridon from the list. Despite knowing the side effects of various painkillers, many women still end up popping a pill whenever they experience menstrual cramps. Period pain has been associated with many reproductive issues, and the severity of the pain has to be examined. Doctors have been vocal about minimising the consumption of painkillers during menstrual cramps. With a Government advisory coming to the fore about Meftal's side effects, will women stop taking this trusty painkiller during their cramps? Here's what doctors are saying about the rampant use of Meftal and other painkillers when a woman

experiences menstrual pain. Speaking to IndiaToday.In, Dr Prathima Reddy, Director & Lead Consultant, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, SPARSH Hospital, Bengaluru, said that it's a "concerning fact that the dependence on painkillers among women to manage period pain and headaches is increasing." "While these medications offer temporary relief, they may not necessarily address the underlying causes of discomfort and can even pose health risks with long-term use," said Dr Prathima Reddy. The expert suggested shifting away from "symptomatic solutions" and towards "embracing healthier coping mechanisms."

OpenAI drama exposes secret WhatsApp group where Mark Zuckerberg, other tech CEOs hangout and gossip

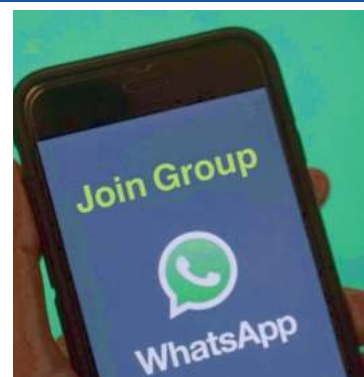
Sam Altman's sudden exit and dramatic comeback at OpenAI was making headlines a couple of days back. The young CEO was abruptly fired from his position by the OpenAI board and got to know about it barely minutes before it was announced. The reason behind Altman's departure from OpenAI is still unclear and is a topic of discussion for many. And as per latest reports, top tech CEOs like Mark Zuckerberg were also quite curious about the reason behind Altman's exit

from OpenAI. A New York Times report states that there is a WhatsApp group in which Altman's exit was discussed. The group reportedly has various CEOs including Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and Dropbox chief Drew Houston.

Secret WhatsApp group of top CEOs

The NYT report states that when Sam Altman was ousted as OpenAI's CEO in November, his Silicon Valley counterparts were busy speculating about why.

And they were doing so in a private WhatsApp group chat that comprised over 100 Silicon Valley CEOs. "Sam is out," read one person's message to the group chat on November 17, as per The Times. But no one seemed to know the real reason behind Altman's firing. The Times reported that a flurry of messages ensued, including speculation about what Altman might have done to get the chop. At the time of announcing Altman's departure from OpenAI, the



board had said that the reason behind firing him was that he had been "inconsistent" with his communications. Therefore, the board said, they had "lost their trust in Altman's ability to lead OpenAI."

WhatsApp releases new pin chat feature

Meta announced a new pin message feature for WhatsApp on Tuesday. This feature allows users to pin one message at the top of a chat, mimicking the ability to pin chats in the home window. The rollout is now underway for Android, iOS, and PC users. According to WhatsApp, pinned messages allow users to highlight important messages in both group and individual chats. This feature is designed to save users time by making it easier to find important messages quickly.

COP28

Climate summit to go into overtime as fossil fuel issue divides nations

As the COP28 climate summit in Dubai extends beyond its scheduled conclusion, nations are locked in a critical debate over the future of fossil fuels. The initial draft deal presented by the United Arab Emirates, which presides over the summit, has sparked controversy for its perceived lack of ambition in addressing the urgent need to reduce reliance on coal, oil, and gas. The draft, revealed on Monday, outlined eight potential pathways for countries to reduce emissions, including a suggestion to cut both the consumption and produc-

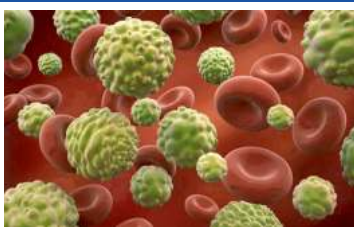
tion of fossil fuels to achieve net zero by around 2050. This marked the first instance of a U.N. climate summit proposing a reduction in the use of all fossil fuels. However, the proposal stopped short of explicitly calling for a "phase-out," disappointing many nations and environmental advocates who emphasize the necessity of immediate action this decade to prevent catastrophic climate impacts. Negotiators eagerly awaited a revised text on Tuesday, with the original deadline of 0700 GMT passing without a consensus. Historically,



COP summits often run overtime, and this year's event is no exception. Key players such as Australia, Canada, Chile, the European Union, Norway, and the United States have voiced their dissatisfaction with the draft, advocating for a definitive commitment to transition away from fossil fuels.

Indian researchers reveal key to enhancing immunity against cancer

Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have made a groundbreaking discovery that could significantly improve the effectiveness of cancer immunotherapy, a treatment that harnesses the body's immune system to combat cancer cells. The study, recently published in Frontiers in Immunology, delves into the intricate role of Interferon-gamma (IFN- γ), a cytokine critical for immune response, and its interaction with various cancer cells. Cancer immunotherapy has been a beacon of hope for patients, offering a more targeted approach than traditional treatments like chemotherapy or radiation,



which often harm healthy cells. However, the cost and varying efficiency of these therapies have posed challenges. The IISc team's research aimed to address these issues by investigating how different cancer cells respond to IFN- γ activation. Avik Chattopadhyay, a PhD student at IISc's Department of Biochemistry and the first author of the study, explains, "IFN- γ is secreted by T cells or natural killer cells and can trigger apoptosis in tumor cells.

Betelgeuse, star doomed to explode anytime, eclipsed by asteroid in deep space

Astronomy enthusiasts across Europe had their telescopes trained on the night sky in anticipation of a significant celestial event the occultation of Betelgeuse by asteroid Leona. However, the spectacle turned out to be more subdued than many had hoped for. Initial observations suggest that the change in the star's brightness was not as pronounced as predicted. Fabrizio Melandri, an amateur astronomer from Terranova Da Sibari, Italy, shared his experience of the event. "Observing with the naked eye, the drop in brightness was barely visible," spaceweather.com quoted him as saying. To capture and illustrate the



subtle change, Melandri employed his camera to take a one-minute star trail exposure. The resulting image revealed a modest and brief dip in Betelgeuse's luminosity, noticeable about halfway through the shot. Betelgeuse, a red supergiant star located in the constellation Orion, was expected to dim significantly by at least three magnitudes as asteroid Leona passed in front of it. This prediction was based on the anticipated coverage of the star by the asteroid.

83-year-old man gets call from bank to update KYC online, later loses life savings

In a distressing incident of an online scam, an 83-year-old retired government official from Kolkata fell victim, losing Rs 2.5 lakh. The victim, named S.P. Sinha, residing in Thakurpukur, had diligently visited his bank branch for all transactions and information until one day when an apparent call from the bank made him lose his life savings. The fraudulent scheme unfolded when Sinha received a call from an individual claiming to be situated at "table number 3" of the very branch where Sinha held his pension account, reports Metro. The caller asserted that he was

reaching out to verify Sinha's KYC (know your customer) details online. Since Sinha had been visiting the bank and the same table for his work, he got convinced and agreed to follow the caller's instructions to update his KYC online. "On November 11 (the day before Diwali), I received a call in the afternoon. The man said he was calling from the bank (the branch where Sinha has his pension account). He also mentioned my account number. When I said the bank was closed that day, he said only the 'verification' section was open and that I needed to update my KYC,"



Sinha told the publication. However, he eventually started facing difficulties in the process as everything was technical on the mobile. Trusting the caller's legitimacy, Sinha handed over the phone to his 11-year-old grandson, assuming the younger generation might navigate the online procedures more adeptly.



Business & Economics

Apple's local iPhone production in India could be hit if India follows the European Union

Technology giant Apple has told the government that its local production targets could suffer if the country follows the European Union, requiring existing iPhones to have universal charging ports. A government document accessed by news agency Reuters suggests that Apple has lobbied for an exemption on delay.

Apple's plea comes as the government wants to implement a norm that requires smartphones to have universal USB-C charging ports, similar to a rule set in progress by the EU. The government has been in talks with manufacturers about the rollout of the requirement in the country by June 2025. Most manufacturers, including the likes of Samsung, have agreed to the plan, but

Apple is not on board yet. It may be noted that Apple has offered a unique lighting connector port on its iPhones for years. However, the EU has gone ahead with the universal charger plan as it would save about \$271 million for consumers, while India said the move will reduce e-waste.

The EU's charging port rules come into effect in December 2024, and India wants the same to kick in by June 2025. According to the Reuters report, in a closed-door meeting chaired by the IT ministry on November 28, Apple asked officials to exempt existing iPhone models from the rule as it would otherwise struggle to meet production targets set under the country's production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme. PLI provides fiscal incentives to



electronics manufacturers in India for both new investments and annual increases in phone sales. This incentive program has been widely utilised by Apple suppliers, such as Foxconn, to enhance iPhone manufacturing operations within the country. "If the regulation is implemented on earlier models of mobile phones, they (Apple) will not be able to meet the PLI targets," said Apple's

regulatory and product compliance executives during the meeting. Two people familiar with the discussions said Apple did not quantify the production impact in the meeting and the IT ministry has decided to review its request and reach a decision later. The universal charger rule could be a big blow for Apple, which has seen its sales soar in India over the past few years.

Banks push for 5-day work week

India's banking sector has formally proposed declaring all Saturdays as official holidays, according to confirmation from the Union Finance Ministry in Parliament today. Responding to queries about the Indian Banks Association (IBA) seeking the implementation of a five-day work week, Minister of State for Finance, Bhagwat Karad, affirmed that the IBA had indeed submitted a proposal to this effect. Since 2015, banks in India have observed public holidays on the second and last fourth Saturdays of every month. The demand for a five-day work week has been a prolonged one, particularly from public banks. The proposed change, if implemented, is poised to reshape the banking industry's operational landscape.

Share Market

Paytm shares fall 3% after Postpaid facility faces disruption, company clarifies

Shares of Paytm's parent company, One97 Communications Limited, fell over 3 per cent on Wednesday after the company temporarily halted its Postpaid loan facility. At the closing bell, shares of the company were down 3.12 per cent at Rs 813.30 apiece. Many Paytm Postpaid



users took to social media platform X and said they were unable to access the loan facility despite clearing dues. On clicking the Postpaid loan icon on the app, a message read: "We are upgrading the experience and enhancing the security measures. We will be back soon." According to social media posts on X, users have been facing issues with the Postpaid loan facility since November 30. A Postpaid user said, "Today, multiple users including me experienced issue with Paytm Postpaid being blocked without any apparent reason. As a longstanding customer of Paytm, this is utterly disappointing. The

company should issue a clear statement if there's a glitch. I am confident there is an internal issue, as there's no reason to be blocked when we consistently pay our bills on time." Several other users tagged the company on X and complained that their Postpaid accounts are not working despite clearing dues. "Hey team, I'm the user of Paytm & Paytm Post paid from the so many years Paytm Postpaid not working from 1st December. Please solve this issue and inform me," said another Postpaid user on X. "Merchant loans, which are given to MSME as business loans, will continue to be a focus for Paytm.

Gautam Adani's net worth soars \$12 billion in a day as company stocks rally

Within a few days, Adani has jumped 7 spots on the list of the world's richest individuals to 15th position, just a couple of places below India's richest person, Mukesh Ambani

Billionaire Gautam Adani's wealth has surged over \$12 billion in a day as shares of Adani Group companies continued their spectacular rally on the stock markets for the third consecutive session.

On Wednesday, Gautam Adani's net worth was up \$12.3 billion on the Bloomberg Billionaires Index and now stands at \$82.5 billion. Within a few days, Adani has jumped 7 spots on the list of the world's richest individuals to 15th position, just a couple of places below India's richest person, Mukesh Ambani.

If shares of Adani Group continue this momentum for one or two trading sessions, Gautam Adani is likely to overtake the Reliance Industries Limited chairman, who has a net worth of \$91.4 billion and is 13th on the list of the world's richest people. It may be noted that Adani Group's market capitalisation crossed Rs 14 lakh crore in early trade and was seen inching closer to Rs 15 lakh crore in early trade.



However, shares of some listed companies of the firm have retreated after hitting their day's high due to profit booking.

At around 12:50 pm, flagship company Adani Enterprises' shares were down over 1.5 per cent, while Adani Ports was up 1.25 per cent. Earlier in the day, Adani Ports had gained nearly 7 per cent. Adani Green Energy fell marginally but was trading over 15 per cent higher. Adani Total Gas was up over 17 per cent after hitting a 52-week high in early trade. Adani Transmission, Adani Power and Adani Wilmar were up nearly 10 per cent, 6 per

cent and 4 per cent, respectively. Amongst other Adani Group companies, NDTV was up over 9 per cent, while ACC was down over 2.71 per cent and Ambuja Cements fell 1 per cent. While not all Adani Group stocks have been able to maintain strong momentum today, the past two trading sessions have significantly bumped up the valuation of the listed companies. The rally in Adani Group shares peaked on Tuesday after reports claimed that the US has termed short-seller Hindenburg Research's allegations of fraud against the conglomerate as irrelevant.

Education

NMC sends show cause notice to 50% of medical colleges for violation of standards

Approximately half of the medical colleges have reportedly received show cause notices from the National Medical Commission (NMC) for non-compliance with the established standards. Reports suggest that approximately 50 percent of medical colleges in India are at risk of losing recognition due to their failure to adhere to the standards set by the National Medical Commission (NMC).

A total of 349 medical colleges, comprising 197 government-aided institutions and various private ones, have been served with show cause notices.

A show cause notice has been issued by the NMC to a medical college in Idukki, Kerala, following the discovery of deficiencies in at-



tendance and a failure to meet the required faculty standards outlined in the Minimum Standard Requirements 2020, according to sources.

"If colleges will not rectify the error then admission in these colleges will be kept on hold for one year," sources told ANI.

HERE'S WHAT THE SHOW CAUSE NOTICE READ:

"Your college has failed to meet the required faculty re-

quirement (MSR 2020) for the existing MBBS Course being run in the college for 2023-24. This has been viewed seriously by the Competent Authority," the show cause notice read.

"Therefore, your college is hereby directed as to why action should not be initiated against the non-compliance of the provisions contained in MSR as well as directions issued by NMC." Moreover, a show cause notice was issued to the med-

ical college in Barmer, Rajasthan, as it reportedly failed to meet the required faculty standards outlined in the Minimum Standard Requirements 2020 for the ongoing MBBS Course in the academic year 2023-24. Furthermore, numerous colleges fail to adhere to the compulsory attendance guidelines for faculty and senior resident doctors. According to clause 3.2 of the MSR 2023 guidelines, a minimum of 75 percent attendance is required for all faculty and senior resident doctors.

Government data indicates a nearly doubled growth in the number of medical colleges, rising from 387 to 654, since 2014. Similarly, the number of MBBS seats has surged by 94 percent during this period.

CBSE Board Exam 2024 datesheet out

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released the much-awaited detailed examination schedule for the Classes 10 and 12 board examination 2024 on December 12. As per the datesheet, the Class 10 board examination 2024 will begin on February 15 and will conclude on March 13, and the Class 12 board examination 2024 will begin on February 15 and will conclude on April 2, 2024. Since yesterday, Class 10 and 12 students have taken over the popular social media app X (formerly Twitter) and have flooded it with memes. CBSE has already released sample papers for the students of Classes 10 and 12.

Shaheed Bhagat Singh College denies admit card to 100 students over low attendance

Delhi University's Shaheed Bhagat Singh College issued a notice on Monday, stating that approximately 100 students have been denied admit cards for exams due to attendance falling below 40 percent.

For the second time within a month, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College at Delhi University has prevented students from taking exams due to insufficient attendance.

STUDENTS WITH BELOW 40 PERCENT ATTENDANCE WILL NOT GET ADMIT CARDS

As per the issued notice, students enrolled in the BA programme and BCom at the college will not be provided admit cards if their attendance in any semester is below 40 percent.

Arun Kumar Attree, the principal of Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, informed that the college will release a subsequent notification for students with inadequate attendance in the evening batch.

The notifications are being issued by Delhi University norms that set minimum attendance criteria for students to be eligible to



appear for exams, he said. "Some students are very casual in attending classes. Many of these students take admission while they prepare for competitive exams or study a different parallel course. We will consider the cases of those students involved in sports or cultural activities as per university norms," says Attree.

On December 8, the college prevented 1,397 students enrolled in Honours programs from participating in exams due to their attendance falling below the specified limit.

Students with attendance ranging from 40 percent to 66.66 percent must submit an undertaking by December 12 to compensate for the deficient attendance in the upcoming semester. Failure to submit the undertaking within the specified time frame will result in denying admit cards, as mentioned in the notice.

Jamia Millia Islamia to offer FYUP with flexible entry and exit options

Jamia Millia Islamia University will offer four-year undergraduate programmes (FYUP) with flexible entry and exit options from the academic session 2024-2025

In a significant development, Jamia Millia Islamia University is set to introduce four-year undergraduate programmes (FYUP) with multiple entry and exit options, starting from the academic session 2024-2025. University officials announced this move on Sunday, aligning the shift with the National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020.

Currently, the university's undergraduate programmes follow a three-year format. However, a recent notification dated December 8 reveals that the Vice Chancellor, Najma Akhtar, has approved the recommendations for amendments in Ordinance 15-B (XV-B) (Academic) to implement the UGC Guidelines on Multiple Entry and Exit Academic Programmes Offered in Higher Education Institutions.

According to the revised ordinance, the Bachelor's Degree Programmes in the Faculties of Sciences, Life Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages, Fine Arts, and Management

Studies will span eight semesters (equivalent to 4 academic years). Students, however, will have the flexibility to complete the 8-semester programme within a maximum stipulated period of 7 academic years (14 semesters), accounting for any gaps or unattended semesters or years. Under the innovative multiple exit and entry options, students exiting after one year will receive a certificate, while those leaving after two years will be eligible for a diploma. Students who complete three years will be conferred with a bachelor's degree. The full four-year duration will lead to a bachelor's degree with honours or research.

Exceptional students securing a CGPA of 8.5 and above in the first six semesters, and aspiring to undertake research at the undergraduate level, can opt for a research stream in the fourth year. This involves conducting a research project or dissertation under the guidance of a faculty mem-



ber from the university/college.

The university may allocate seats for lateral entrants to the 2-year/3rd year/4th year of a first-degree programme, depending on the available academic and physical facilities.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has emphasised that this adoption of multiple exits and entries will not only provide flexibility in the curriculum but also introduce novel course options to students. Additionally, students will have the choice of pursuing a single major or double major path, along with interdisciplinary subject selections, as part of the recently notified curriculum and credit framework for undergraduate programmes by the UGC earlier this month.

Campus News



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mca@bvicam.ac.in

FOR ENQUIRY PLEASE CONTACT
+91 - 8130176573
+91 - 9667507437





ENTERTAINMENT

Bobby Deol on Apne 2, Yamla Pagla Deewana 2: Don't want to disappoint fans

It's been a while since talks about 'Apne 2' and 'Yamla Pagla Deewana' sequels have been doing the rounds. However, nothing materialised as of now. Now, in an exclusive interview with India Today.in, Bobby Deol has finally shared an update on both sequels. Meanwhile, Bobby is basking in the success of his recently released film, 'Animal'.

'Apne', a sports drama which was released in 2007 starring Sunny Deol, Dharmendra and Bobby Deol, was a huge success at the box office. Post the success of 'Apne', the Deol family

came together for a comedy-drama 'Yamla Pagla Deewana' in 2011, which ended up as a blockbuster yet again. However, the sequel of 'Yamla Pagla Deewana', 'Yamla Pagla Deewana 2' and 'Yamla Pagla Deewana: Phir Se', were box office duds. Though 'Yamla Pagla Deewana 2' and 'Yamla Pagla Deewana: Phir Se' didn't work at the box office, the audiences are still rooting for another sequel from the Deols. Addressing the buzz around the sequel, Bobby told IndiaToday.in, "We are not getting a good script for 'Apne 2' and we just don't want to make a



film. We need to have a great story. Look at 'Yamla Pagla Deewana' - it was really nice, but the other two were not made properly, and the stories were not nice. So we don't want to do that. We do not want to disappoint our fans. When we have a good script and a good story, we will work on it."

Clint Eastwood reacts to fan who urged him to watch 'Jigarthanda Double X'

Karthik Subbaraj's 'Jigarthanda Double X', fondly called 'Jigarthanda 2', is a tribute to Clint Eastwood and Satyajit Ray. A fan of the Tamil film, starring Raghava Lawrence and SJ Suryah, urged Clint Eastwood to watch 'Jigarthanda 2' as it pays tribute to him. Much to the surprise of the fans, the legendary actor-director replied to the fan through his official X handle and promised to watch the film.

Karthik Subbaraj's 'Jigarthanda Double X' is one of the most celebrated films of 2023. The film is an ode to filmmaking and nature.

A fan named Vijay tagged Clint Eastwood on X and urged him to watch the film.



He wrote, "Dear @RealTheClint We are Indians We made a Tamil movie called Jigarthanda Double X. Its available in Netflix. We have given u a great tribute in the whole movie. We made some animated scenes like u in ur young age. Please watch it once u get some time. Much to everyone's surprise, Clint Eastwood replied to the fan and wrote,

"Hi. Clint is aware of this Movie and he states he will get to it upon Completion of his New Film. Juror 2. Thank You. Director Karthik Subbaraj's 'Jigarthanda Double X' is a prequel to the film of the same name. The film, starring Raghava Lawrence and SJ Suryah, paid a hat-tip to Clint Eastwood, Satyajit Ray and Rajinikanth as well.

Rana Daggubati's 1st look poster from 'Rakshasa Raja' out on his 38th birthday

Rana Daggubati is celebrating his 38th birthday today, December 14. To make his day grander, the makers of his next film 'Rakshasa Raja' have unveiled the actor's first-look poster. For the high-octane gangster drama, Rana reunites with director Teja. The duo had earlier worked together for 'Nene Raju Nene Mantri'.

The film's title was revealed during the celebration of Rana Daggubati's birthday. On December 14, Rana shared his first-look poster from his upcoming cinematic venture, 'Rakshasa Raja' and wrote, "#RakshasaRaja begins."



In the poster, Rana is seen holding a massive gun on his shoulder with bullets on the other. Sporting vibhoothi and tilak, he looks ferocious with a cigar in his mouth. The anticipation surrounding 'Rakshasa Raja' is further heightened by the promise of an enthralling blend of intense emotions, family drama, and a riveting exploration of the crime world.

Hollywood

Andre Braugher, 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' and 'Homicide' actor, dies at 61

'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' actor Andre Braugher died on Monday, December 11. His publicist confirmed the news and added that he was suffering from a 'brief illness' for the past few months. He was 61 years old. Andre Braugher is survived by his actor-wife Ami Brabson and his three sons, Micheal, Isaiah and John Wesley. Andre's death came as a huge shock to many of his fans across the globe. Andre Braugher was famous for his role as Captain Raymond Holt in the comedy show, 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine'. Back in the 90s, he rose to fame by playing the role of Detective Frank Pembleton in 'Homicide: Life on the Street'. He also grabbed an Emmy for his performance in 1998.



After 'Homicide: Life on the Street', it was 'Brooklyn Nine-Nine' that made him famous. He appeared as the deadpan Raymond Holt alongside Andy Samberg in eight seasons. His exceptional performance fetched him two Critics Choice Awards for Best Supporting Actor in a Comedy Series. In addition, he received four Emmy nominations as well. Braugher also made his directorial debut in Showtime trilogy 'Love Songs', and acted in it as well.

'Salaar' producer on Prabhas' film getting 'A' certificate: Look at 'Animal'

'Salaar Part 1 - Ceasefire' featuring Prabhas as an action hero, is one of the most anticipated films of the year. Just two weeks before the release, the film received an 'A' certificate from the Censor Board of Film Certification (CBFC). In an exclusive chat with IndiaToday.in, Hombale Productions' Vijay Kiragandur revealed that due to major changes in censor rules over the years, the film has been given a 'A' certificate. Vijay also



emphasised that 'Salaar' was not given 'A' certificate because of any vulgarity but only because of its intense action sequences. "The action sequences are so intense, so we did not want to disturb the flow.

'Killer Soup': Manoj Bajpayee, Konkana Sensharma's series to premiere on January 11

Netflix India announced a new crime thriller 'Killer Soup' with a killer cast. Starring Manoj Bajpayee and Konkana Sensharma, the series is inspired by a news headline. 'Killer Soup' promises to serve up a tantalising blend of intrigue and dark humour in this bizarre crime series. Directed and co-written by Abhishek Chaubey and produced by Honey Trehan and Chetana Kowshik, the Netflix series will premiere on January 11. The official In-

stagram page of Netflix India unveiled the first poster of 'Killer Soup'. "A story so bizarre, you need to watch it to believe it. Know the ingredients of this Killer Soup starring Manoj Bajpayee, Konkana Sensharma and Manoj Bajpayee coming to you on 11 Jan only on Netflix," read the caption. In the show, Konkana Sensharma portrays Swathi Shetty, an aspiring but untalented home chef, who devises an eccentric scheme to replace her husband, Prab-



hakar (played by Manoj Bajpayee), with her lover, Umesh. However, when a fumbling local inspector and inexperienced villains intervene, the situation takes an unexpected turn, leading to chaotic consequences.

Sports

Suryakumar Yadav century, Kuldeep Yadav 5-wicket haul fire India to series-saving win

India continued their habit of winning the bilateral T20I series deciders as they came up with a comprehensive show against South Africa in the 3rd and final T20I at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Thursday, December 12. India leveled the series and snapped an unwanted losing streak in the Rainbow Nation. With the first match of the series finishing without a result due to rain, the two teams won a match each in the hard-fought series. The 106-run win was also the biggest margin of victory for India over South Africa in T20I cricket. The Proteas, who were undone by the Indian spinners, were bundled out for just 95 in 13.5 overs. India had lost 2 Tests, 3 ODIs and a T20I on the trot in South Africa, a streak that started in the 2021-22 series



ended on Thursday under Suryakumar, who is proving his mettle as the captain of the side in the shortest format. India's win was set up by captain Suryakumar Yadav, who hit his 4th T20I hundred. Suryakumar was at his imperious best, hitting 8 sixes and 7 boundaries as he helped India post 201 on the board, which in the end proved more than enough. Yashasvi Jaiswal also shone with 60 as he auditioned for the T20 World Cup role wonderfully well, bouncing back from his first-ball duck

in the first T20I. In response, South Africa crumbled under pressure as their batters struggled against the Indian spinners on a pitch that was dry. Kuldeep Yadav shone with a 5-wicket haul on his birthday, while Ravindra Jadeja chipped in with 2 wickets. India bundled South Africa out for just 95. India and South Africa will meet in a 3-match ODI series from Sunday, December 17. KL Rahul will lead the ODI side in the absence of Rohit Sharma.

Jemimah Rodrigues shines on Test debut, smashes under-pressure fifty in Mumbai

India batter Jemimah Rodrigues put in an impressive performance on her Test debut, scoring a brilliant half-century against England in the first innings of their one-off Test at the DY Patil Sports Academy in Mumbai. Jemimah walked in to bat when India had lost the wickets of both openers Smriti Mandhana and Shafali Varma early in the innings. India were left reeling at 47 for 2 in 8.4 overs when Jemimah joined fellow debutant Shubha Sathesh in the middle. The two formed a crucial 115-run stand for the third wicket, which saw both



batters score half-centuries. Sathesh scored a debut fifty as well, amassing 69 runs off 76 deliveries, smashing 13 boundaries before being dismissed by Sophie Ecclestone. Jemimah stitched a 28-run partnership with skipper Harmanpreet Kaur before falling at the hands of Lauren Bell, who had previously dismissed Mandhana as well.

Matt Renshaw auditions for opener's slot with hundred ahead of Warner's farewell

Matt Renshaw, on Friday, December 8, brought up a sparkling hundred for the Prime Minister's XI in the warm-up match against Shan Masood's Pakistan at the Manuka Oval in Canberra. Renshaw isn't a part of the Australian Test squad for the opening Test against Pakistan to be played from December 14 at the Perth Stadium. David Warner and Usman Khawaja are the designated openers for the home team. But with his performance in the practice match,



Renshaw has made a strong case for himself to be picked in the squad for the Melbourne and Sydney Tests if at all the hosts make any changes to their squad. Renshaw hasn't played a Test since taking part in the Lord's Test against England in the Ashes way back in August 2019.

IPL 2024: Shreyas Iyer returns as KKR captain, Nitish Rana appointed vice-captain

Kolkata Knight Riders CEO Venky Mysore announced on Thursday that Shreyas Iyer will continue to be the captain of KKR and Nitish Rana will be his deputy for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024. Shreyas Iyer was ruled out of the IPL 2023 due to injury, with Nitish Rana stepping in as captain throughout the season as the Knight Riders finished eighth in the rankings. Iyer returned to cricket action at the 2023 Asia Cup in September-October, and he also helped India reach the 2023 World Cup final last month. Making the announcement, Venky said: "It was indeed unfortunate that Shreyas missed IPL 2023 due to injury. We are delighted that he's back and at the helm as Captain. The way he has worked hard to recover from his injury and the form he has displayed is



a testament to his character. The Knight Riders also confirmed the return of Gautam Gambhir to the franchise as a mentor last month. Gambhir led the KKR to two IPL titles in 2012 and 2014 before being released by the team before of the 2018 season. Following his retirement, Gambhir served as a mentor for the Lucknow Super Giants for two years (in 2022 and 2023). "We are also grateful that Nitish had agreed to step into Shreyas's shoes last season and did a great job. There's no doubt Nitish as Vice Captain will support Shreyas in every possible way.

Football

PSG qualify for knockouts with 1-1 draw vs Borussia Dortmund, Barcelona stunned by Antwerp

In the thrilling climax in Group F of the UEFA Champions League, Paris Saint-Germain secured a spot in the knockout stages with a 1-1 draw against Borussia Dortmund. The German side topped the group with 11 points, but despite being on equal points with AC Milan, PSG's superior goal difference saw them take the second spot.

The first half of the game remained goalless, despite numerous opportunities created by both Dortmund and PSG. However, the stalemate was eventually broken in the 51st minute as German prodigy Karim Adeyemi capitalized on PSG's loss of possession and scored for the hosts. However, PSG showcased their resilience, retaliating just five minutes later to level the score. This was brought about by young talent Warren Zaire-Emery, who scored after an assist from team star Kylian Mbappe. While Mbappe's following effort was ruled offside, Zaire-Emery's goal saw him become the youngest ever French scorer in the Champions League, at just 17 years and



280 days old. Meanwhile, in Group H witnessed its own fair share of drama. Royal Antwerp, despite standing last in the group standings, surprised fans with a thrilling 3-2 victory over Barcelona. The game started on a high note with teenager Arthur Vermeeren putting Antwerp ahead, only for Barcelona to make a comeback through Ferran Torres. Vincent Janssen's second-half goal put Antwerp on the lead once again.

A late strike once again saw Barcelona draw level, thanks to 17-year-old Marc Guiu. However, Antwerp were not to be denied their maiden Champions League

victory, as teenage substitute George Ilenikhena secured the game-winner from the kickoff, resulting in a historic 3-2 win. The defeat did not hamper Barcelona's journey as they, along with Porto, had already secured their positions in the last 16 before this game. The night held bereaved news for Newcastle United though, who, despite a 2-1 win over AC Milan, had to settle for a Europa League berth.

