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# NEWS MANIA

WEEKLY

Different Voice of Analysis

## 74th REPUBLIC DAY

### INDIA EXHIBITS MILITARY MIGHT, CULTURAL DIVERSITY DURING PARADE



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# 74TH REPUBLIC DAY: INDIA EXHIBITS MILITARY MIGHT, CULTURAL DIVERSITY DURING PARADE

Hundreds of people braved the January chill to watch the Republic Day parade, which passed through the Kartavya Path toward Red Fort.

Republic Day marks the adoption of India's constitution and the country's transition to a republic on January 26, 1950. Every year, the celebrations marking the day feature spectacular military and cultural pageantry. In New Delhi, armed forces personnel march along the Kartavya path in an elaborate display of military might. The epic show on Kartavya path eclipses everything else happening across the country on this auspicious day.

The celebrations, inaugurated with a grand parade, are held in the capital, New Delhi, from Raisina Hill near the Rashtrapati Bhavan (President's House), along the Kartavya path, past India Gate and onto the historic Red Fort. On this day, ceremonious parades take place at the Kartavya path, which is performed as a tribute to India, its unity in diversity and its rich cultural heritage by the states of India by building beautiful tableaux.

MyGov calls on the citizens to participate in various contests on the occasion of 74th Republic Day and do their bit to strengthen India's Republic and Democratic values. The public holiday commemorates the adoption of the Constitution of India on January 26, 1950

India marked its 74th Republic Day on 26 January with a colourful parade while displaying a perfect blend of its military prowess and vibrant cultural heritage at the newly christened Kartavya Path (previously known as Rajpath) in New Delhi..

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, along with President Droupadi Murmu, and her Egyptian counterpart Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who was the chief guest for the Republic Day, joined people and members of the armed forces in marking the occasion which had Nari Shakti (Women Empowerment) and Atmanirbhar Bharat (Self-reliant India) as its central themes.

Hundreds of people braved the January chill to watch the parade, which passed through the Kartavya Path towards Red Fort.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi paid tributes to fallen heroes at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. Extending his greetings to the nation on the 74th Republic Day, PM Modi said, "We wish to move ahead unitedly to make the dreams of the great freedom fighters of the country come true." Modi also thanked El-Sisi for being part of the celebrations.

## Here are the top 10 developments from the Republic Day celebrations:

- In a first, a women's contingent of the CRPF was one of the main highlights of the parade. Several other marching contingents, including the Delhi Police's pipe band comprised 35 women constables. In the BSF camel contingent, for the first time, women camel riders participated on top of decorated camels.

- The Naval contingent, led by a woman officer, featured three women, and six Agniveers, who are soldiers in the first batch of the new armed forces recruitment scheme. The colourful tableaux, which are an integral part of the parade, also witnessed a life statue of a decorated woman soldier in ceremonial uniform in a saluting position. The tableaux paid tribute to all the gallant women soldiers working for the nation.

- Around 45,000 people attended the parade at Kartavya Path and amongst the invites were milk and vegetable vendors, street vendors, small grocery shopkeepers, rickshaw pullers, shramyogis of Central Vista with their families and maintenance workers on Kartavya Path. The celebration reflected the Jan Bhagidari (people's participation) vision of PM Modi.

- The parade began with a combined band and marching contingent of the Egyptian Armed Forces. The Egyptian contingent included 144 soldiers representing the main branches of the Egyptian Armed Forces and it was led by Col Mahmoud Mohamed Abdelfattah Elkharasawy.

- Breaking from tradition, in order to get rid of colonial vestiges, an indigenous 105-mm Indian Field Guns (IFG) offered the 21-gun salute to President Droupadi Murmu. Earlier, vintage 25-pounder guns were used before it was changed to reflect upon the "aatmanirbharta" in defence. According to officials, the military assets which were displayed during the parade included made-in-India equipment. The main battle tank Arjun, the Nag Missile System (NAMIS) and the K-9 Vajra were also showcased.

- A total of 23 tableaux, 17 from states and Union territories, and six from various ministries depicted India's cultural heritage, economic progress, and national security.

- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) showcased one tableau and an equipment. DRDO's theme was "Securing Nation with Effective Surveillance, Communication and Neutralising Threats". Indigenously-developed Wheeled Armoured Platform (WhAP), a modular 8X8 wheeled combat platform, carried on a 70-ton trailer was displayed by the DRDO, news agency PTI reported.

- The parade also saw cultural performances presented by 479 artistes chosen through the nationwide "Vande Bharatam" dance competition. This is the second time that the dancers have been selected through a nationwide competition.

- Three Param Vir Chakra awardees and three Ashok Chakra awardees took part in the parade, and a "veterans' tableau" was put forth with its theme as "Towards India's Amrit Kaal with a Resolve of Veterans' Commitment".



Photo credit : Sipra Das

# REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATIONS POUR IN FROM DIFFERENT STATES, UTS & INDIAN MISSIONS ABROAD

Photo credit : Sipra Das



The 74th Republic Day is being celebrated across Chhattisgarh with gaiety and enthusiasm. The main function was held at the Police Parade Ground in the capital Raipur. Governor Anusuiya Uike unfurled the national flag and addressed the State. The Governor received the guard of honour from the contingents. Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel unfurled the flag at Lal Bagh ground in Jagdalpur, the divisional headquarters of Bastar.

Along with the rest of the nation, Arunachal Pradesh is also celebrating the 74th Republic Day with great enthusiasm today. The main function was held at IG Park in the Capital city, Itanagar.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu unfurled the National Flag on the occasion, which was followed by the ceremonial March Past by various uniformed contingents, NCC Cadets, Scouts & Guides and School Children.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary announced the 'State Awards' and 'Chief Minister's Award for the Cleanest Village in the state'. This was followed by a colourful cultural show by folk dance troupes and school children.

In Odisha, the 74th Republic Day is being celebrated with full patriotic fervour. Governor Prof. Ganeshi Lal unfurled the national flag and took salute of the parade at a function in Bhubaneswar. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and many other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

The 74th Republic Day is being celebrated with patriotic fervor across Maharashtra. Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari unfurled the national flag at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Maidan in Dadar.

In his address, the Governor highlighted various achievements of the state in last one year. He mentioned the opening of the Hindu Hriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackeray Maharashtra Samruddhi Express Highway between Mumbai to Nagpur and the 521-kilometer long route between Nagpur to Shirdi. He also mentioned the inauguration of the Metro route- 2A and Metro route- 7 of the Mumbai Metro inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently.

The Governor also highlighted the new employment opportunities created in the state. He informed that the state has established the new Divyang Kalyan Vibhag for the welfare of differently able people.

AIR correspondent reports that Republic Day functions were also held in various government offices, schools, colleges, housing complexes, social organisations and various district collectorates across the state.

Major buildings in Mumbai, such as Mantralaya, the Western Railway and Central Railway headquarters, important landmarks and private buildings have been decorated, and will be illuminated in the tri-colour this evening.

In Uttar Pradesh, Republic Day functions were organized at all district headquarters, educational institutions and various government offices. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in his message, appealed to the people to perform their duties with honesty while keeping in mind the nation first. In his message, the Chief Minister said today, the country is celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, and this gives the people an opportunity to introspect and commit themselves to achieving the goals set by India's great nationalists. He hoisted the tricolour at his residence in Lucknow. Later, he also participated in the Republic Day parade at Vidhan Sabha building in Lucknow.

AIR correspondent reports that on this occasion the Chief Minister greeted the people of state and also paid tribute to the Jawans who laid their lives while protecting the country. He congratulated the famous personalities of Uttar Pradesh who got Padma awards and also praised the valour and courage of the children who got bravery awards.

Governor of state Anandiben Patel hoisted the national flag at Governor House and also took the salute of Parade in the main function held at Lucknow in which Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath was also present. Children, Youth along with senior citizens were present in large numbers to take a glimpse of the famous Republic day parade in front of Vidhan Sabha in Lucknow where cultural heritage of the state was displayed. Heavy security arrangements were in place across the state on the occasion of republic day. ADG law and order Prashant Kumar said that along with civil police 115 companies of provincial armed constabulary PAC were also deployed for maintaining security.

In Bihar, Governor Phagu Chauhan unfurled the tricolour at historic Gandhi Maidan in Patna on the occasion of Republic Day. In his address, Mr Chauhan stated that the state government is committed to good governance and providing employment to the youth. Mr Chauhan said 28 thousand government jobs have been provided so far. He also informed that the state government is making efforts to provide job opportunities to 10 lakh youth.

In Madhya Pradesh, Republic Day functions were organized at all district headquarters, educational institutions and various government offices. Chief Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan hoisted the tricolor in Garrison Gound in Jabalpur. He greeted the people and also paid tributes to the martyrs.

Governor Mangu Bhai Patel hoisted the national flag at Lal Parade Ground in Bhopal. Tableaux on cultural heritage and the State's progress and achievements were displayed at the event.

In Assam, Chief Minister Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma unfurled the tri-colour at Khanapara in Guwahati. Addressing the gathering, he said India's sovereignty is non-negotiable. He appealed to banned militant group United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I) to shun the path of violence and urged it to come to the discussion table for the development of the state. Mr. Sarma announced that another 43 revenue villages and 17 forest villages from the areas of Gohpur, Dhokiajuli, Sotea and Biswanath will be included in the Bodo Territorial Region.

The Chief minister also said the State government has decided to include more categories of women to provide the benefits of Arunodi schemes to another eight lakh people in the state. The State Government has also decided to enhance the amount of the monthly existing Old Age Pension for widows from Rs. 300 to Rs. 1,250 from 1st April this year apart from enhancement of the amount for Deendayal Dibgangajan beneficiaries from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 1,250 per month. Mr. Sarma also announced that the State Government has decided to provide ration cards to another 40 lakh people in the state, and to provide benefits similar to the PM Ayushman Bharat, the State government has decided to introduce CM Ayushman Asom from the 1st of April.

Mr. Sarma warned that in cases where men marry girls below 14 years, they will be booked under POCSO. Proceedings will be initiated under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, in cases where the girl is between 14 and 18. Sarma said this punitive drive is aimed at addressing the high maternal mortality rate (MMR) and infant mortality rate (IMR) in the state. Assam has the highest MMR in the country, with 195 deaths per 1 lakh live births recorded between 2018 and 2020, according to data released by the Registrar General of India in 2022. Assam's average of child marriage is 31.8%.

The Chief Minister informed that the Right To Public Services portal will be renamed as Seva Setu to provide seamless service of all government services virtually for the people of the State. Mr. Sarma also announced that the government would provide a grant of Rs. 2,000 crore for the infrastructure development of the 500 high schools in the State and informed that several new

universities and colleges would be established in the state this year.

The Chief Minister informed that 2,347 prisoners will be released today from various prisons in the State. Mr. Sarma appealed to the people to celebrate and cooperate to showcase the rich heritage and culture of Assam to the world in the five G20 meetings to be held in the State.

Unbridled enthusiasm and patriotic fervour marked the Republic Day celebrations across Kerala. At the Southern Naval Command headquarters in Kochi, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief Vice Admiral M A Hampi Holi laid a wreath at the War Memorial and inspected the ceremonial parade to mark the occasion.

Commodore Vidhyadhar Harke, Commanding Officer of the first indigenously built aircraft carrier INS Vikrant reviewed an impressive parade on board the vessel this morning. This was the first Republic Day celebrations after the vessel was commissioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in September last year. At the Coast Guard Station in Kochi, veterans and civilian staff enthusiastically participated in the celebrations. Coast Guard District Commander, Kerala-Mahe region DIG N Ravi reviewed the parade.

Naval and Coast Guard vessels anchored in Kochi were dressed overall with festoons and ceremonial flags to mark the occasion.

In Lakshadweep, pomp and gaiety marked the Republic Day celebrations in the ten inhabited islands in the archipelago, where people participated in large numbers. In the capital Kavaratti, Advisor to the Lakshadweep Administrator, A Anbarasu unfurled the National Flag at Kavaratti School Stadium ground. Contingents drawn from Lakshadweep Police, India Reserve Battalion, CRPF, NCC, Scout and other school students participated in the Republic Day parade.

In Ladakh, despite bone chilling cold and snow, the 74th Republic Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at Khree Sultan Choo Sports Stadium in Kargil. Chief Executive Councillor of LAHDC, Kargil, Feroz Ahmad Khan unfurled the National Flag and took salute at the March Past. On the occasion, Kansing Ladakh, Snow and Ice Sculpture team showcased their talent by making beautiful Snow Sculptures of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav Logo and Logo of the G20 Summit, which became a point of attraction as selfie points.

In his address, Feroz Ahmad Khan highlighted various achievements of the Government in the last one year. He mentioned about the various initiatives of LAHDC, Kargil for the development of Kargil whether it be use of technology for making agriculture sector productive particularly through Subsidy Components, Education sector by introducing various schemes like Councillors Model Schools, Laptop Scheme and other initiatives to make quality education available at Government Schools, Sports development etc.

He also mentioned the inauguration of the New District Hospital Kargil at Kurbathang which helped in world class health facilities for the people of Kargil.

The Governor also highlighted the new employment opportunities created in the district. Republic Day functions were also held at LAHDC Secretariat Kargil, all Subdivisions, Block Headquarters, All India Radio Kargil Headquarter Baroo, AIR Drass, AIR Tai Suru, AIR Padum, and various government offices, schools, colleges, housing complexes, social organisations and AIR Hombotlingla at a Height of 13,500 Feet.

Meanwhile, the High Commission of India in Colombo is also celebrating the 74th Republic Day in all its diplomatic offices in Sri Lanka. Remembering the sacrifices of the Indian peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka, High Commissioner Gopal Baglay laid a wreath at the IPKF memorial. He will unfurl the National flag at India House in Colombo this morning.

## FRIENDSHIP – Online or Real ?



**Bornali Biswas**  
Editor in Chief

The term called friendship has changed with time. What makes a true friendship anymore? Is it whether or not the person knows your birthday, or how many hours you spend talking on the phone or hanging out in person? With all the ways we can communicate now — Whatapp, Skype, ICQ, AIM, Gchat, Facebook Messenger, Grindr, etc. — and with all the people on our buddy lists, who are we really friends with? Is it possible to have friends who are purely for the Internet and others you interact with in real life? What's the difference?

**ONLINE FRIENDS :** We associate with Facebook Friends to exchange our views, share feelings, learn various things and feel proud to have different types of Friends. These Friends are called DIGITAL FRIENDS. Today we like them, so we accept their request to induct into the Facebook Platform. Actually, a slightly insensitive gesture of Facebook Friends creates misunderstanding and we never take a chance to keep them on the list. It is a very easy procedure to eliminate them by deleting their names from Friend List. Online friends are people you don't really know but you met them once at a conference, on a social networking site, on Twitter, or maybe you added them to your Facebook because they're friends with someone you know. Plus they're popular, and you do enjoy collecting Facebook friends based on their popularity. An online friend is someone you know is available every time you see that little green dot next to their name, so you write them and say hello. But sometimes it's possible to have an online best friend who you've never met before in real life, but who keeps you company when you're writing a long paper or bored at work. You talk to each other at least every other day. You even have inside jokes and think about going out to visit them wherever they live, you know, to take things to the next step. But online friends who become real friends are only 1%.

**REAL LIFE FRIENDS :** Real life friends keep you company when they can, when they're not busy with something else or watching a favorite television show. An online friend is available whenever they have that promiscuous little green dot beside their name, but your real life friends have things to do and you don't always know what they're doing or when they're busy. You can make plans with your real life friends for tea or brunch, and you can compliment them on their new haircut. Even if you talk to your real life friend online, you KNOW they're a real friend when they are 'invisible' and they will still talk to you. Your real life friends know you the best and are not afraid to tell you about yourself. Sure,

your online friends can offer an opinion, even a decisive one, but there is nobody like a real life friend to tell you when you need to get it together. A real life friend says things like, Don't you already have a girlfriend/ boyfriend? Should you really be serious with your relationship? A real life friend will make you feel good even when you're feeling depressed about the job market or going through a difficult period in your life. An online friend can console you, but just doesn't have the same context.

**PHYSICAL FRIENDSHIP** could be restored by negotiating with other friends but there is no chance in DIGITAL FRIENDSHIP. We welcome them with lovely affection. It is pretty clear that DIGITAL FRIENDS are rarely met physically. We get the pleasure to go through their positive gesture on the Facebook Platform. There are certain qualities that are completely different from Physical Friends. The PHYSICAL FRIENDS are judged by their Cooperative Attitudes, Helping Nature, Mutual Understanding, Jolly Character, and last but not least Maintaining Secrecy. But DIGITAL FRIENDS will have different qualities. They are judged from a different angle. When we rarely get a chance to meet, the only correspondences keep us alive. So writings are very important to keep DIGITAL FRIENDSHIP alive always.

Nowadays Friends queue up. DIGITAL FRIENDSHIP is judged by certain qualities. Writings with prompt action, positive responses, respect for everyone, avoiding political confrontation, not interfering with other's TIMELINES unless important, never disturbing anyone by sending borrowed posts, avoiding video callings, and never sending unsocial posts are the basic qualities that are preferred by Digital Friends. We welcome new friends by sending a message in messenger. So it is the proper time to express gratitude, love, regard, and respect briefly. But we should not project ourselves by sending GIFs in their replies.

Physical Friendship could be restored by negotiating but Digital Friendship can't be restored if any misunderstanding is established. And the most surprising and annoying fact about Digital friends are non existence ..Yes ,I mean it ..you are friend in facebook and eventually happen to meet in any event or public place etc,there are only 10% of them who will reciprocate and extend their hand to make the friendship in real sense remaining 80% will not recognise you either.

Despite having 5000+ friends in list one is simply alone and I believe the term Friendship is all together Misunderstood these days!!! Surprisingly with the changing development even real friends are busy in the digital world sitting next with you in a cafe, garden, house and more . . . .Alas!!

## TRUTH ABOVE ALL

# WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF JOSHIMATH, AN INDIAN TOWN IN THE HIMALAYAS?

Who or what is a genius? Is every Tom, Dick and Harry we come across a "genius"?

A person may look or talk smart. But does that make him a genius? Is every genius born one? The questions may go on and on but the answer is a simple "NO"! Roughly defined, a genius is an exceptionally intelligent person with amazing creative power or natural ability.

The Huxley brothers, after extensive research, had arrived at the conclusion that most of the human brain remains dormant.

However, in the case of a genius, the use of the brain would be a few notches higher than the normal. That the human mind uses, at the most, a mere 11% of the brain's capacity may or may not be a myth.

NOT all Nobel Laureates, for instance, can be labelled "geniuses". So many of them are not at all deserving laureates. But certain individuals down history have been recognised as true geniuses and ,for all the right reasons.

To cite a few instances, one can go back to the Renaissance and come up with at least two names. Those are Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo.

The first was versatility personified. Apart from being a great painter, he did a lot for which medical science and aviation, among other sectors, remain indebted to him. The second was an artist who took the breath away with what he did with the Sistine Chapel and David.

Both fascinate millions to this day. In literature, there is Shakespeare and then there is Tagore, both bottomless wells of creativity. Since the death of the former over four centuries back, more than 400 research papers have been churned out every year. Go to the world of science and consider personalities like Sir. Isaac Newton,

Madame Curie and Albert Einstein. In the world of music there is Ludwig Van Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. There are a few others but the names cited ought to do for now.

All of them continue to inspire and intrigue researchers to this day. Both Samuel Taylor Coleridge and, much later, an Indian National Professor of great eminence,

Professor Debidas Chatterjee, tried hard to explore "Ways and means of creative imagination" and find what made the works of these extraordinary geniuses possible.

What spark sets off the creative process. Both had made significant progress but, before they could complete their research, they died. That was, indeed, sad or else we could have had a good idea of how these brilliant minds worked to leave the rest of the world in awe. Unfortunately, in recent times, you have had several using the term "genius" rather loosely.

If, for instance, a cricket batsman flicks a fast bowler to the

fence, the commentator exults, "That was the work of a genius!"

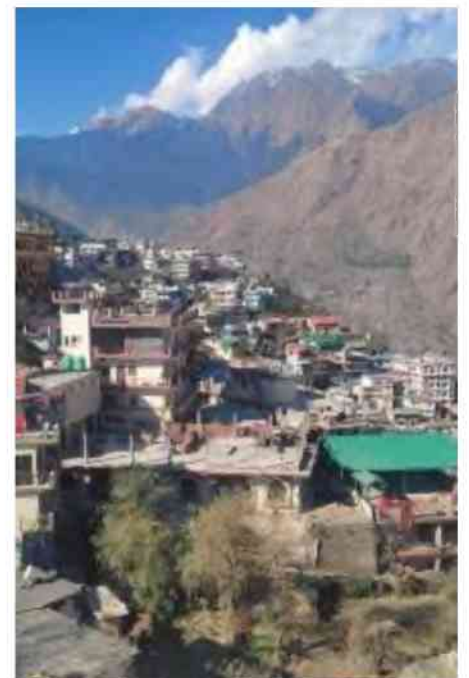
In recent times, following all the sound and fury over Michael Wolfe's "Fire and Fury", a certain Donald J. Trump kept repeating he was "super smart" and a "stable genius".

Whatever is a "stable genius"? Does a real genius, "stable" or otherwise, shout from the rooftops that he is one?

In the good old days, if a "responsible" person or a leader would talk as irresponsibly, it would be inferred he had "lost his marbles".

Has Trump, the "stable genius" finally trumped himself or lost his marbles completely? Perhaps, he could read a bit about the real geniuses and take a lesson in humility. But, in his case, that may be asking for the moon.

UTPAL CHATTERJEE is an acclaimed Indian journalist and public speaker. He was until recently the Sheriff of Calcutta and its first citizen. He has interviewed 21 Heads of State, nine Nobel Laureates and travelled with Indian Prime Ministers as part of their respective media delegations. Having done his fellowship in Journalism from Oxford, he has travelled abroad on other official assignments more than 50 times across all the continents except Africa and Australia. He is on the panel of experts of BBC, London. Earlier, he worked for several leading Indian national newspapers and journals. In addition to several international and national recognitions, he has recently been recognised for being an OUTSTANDING INDIAN for "his contribution to enriching National values, public service and international journalism"



## PM Honors The Top 21 Andaman & Nicobar Islands After 21 Indian Heroes



In a ceremony held on January 23 in honor of Parakram Diwas, Prime Minister Narendra Modi named the 21 largest nameless islands of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands after recipients of the Param Vir Chakra.

Additionally, PM Modi revealed a replica of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep, formerly known as the Ross Islands, where a national memorial honoring Netaji would be erected. Amit Shah, the home minister, attended the ceremony in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands as well.

The largest unnamed island was given Major Somnath Sharma's name in honor of the first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra, who died in combat on November 3, 1947, while battling Pakistani infiltrators close to Srinagar Airport.

In 2021, the government designated January 23 as Parakram Diwas to mark the anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth.

During the Prime Minister's visit to the island in 2018, Ross Islands was renamed Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep in recognition of Netaji and the historical significance of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Shaheed Dweep and Swaraj Dweep were also given to Neil Island and Havelock Island, respectively.

The first recipient of the Param Vir Chakra has the largest nameless island, the second recipient of the Param Vir Chakra has the second largest unnamed island, and so on.

This action will serve as a lasting memorial to our warriors, some of whom gave their lives to preserve the integrity and sovereignty of the country.

On the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, Prime Minister Modi will present floral tributes at his portrait in the Central Hall of Parliament House alongside Speaker of the Lok Sabha Om Birla, Leaders of the parties in the Lok and Rajya Sabha, Members of Parliament, former Members of Parliament, and other dignitaries.

On January 23, 1978, the then-President of India, N Sanjiva Reddy, unveiled the painting of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

It was acknowledged, according to the Lok Sabha Secretariat, that floral tributes may be a powerful tool for educating the nation's youth about the achievements and efforts of these towering national giants.

As a result, the program dubbed "Know Your Leaders" has been introduced by the Lok Sabha Secretariat's Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE).

Netaji, who was born on January 23, 1897, was a significant figure in the Indian independence movement.

The Azad Hind Fauj was founded by Subhash Chandra Bose. Although Bose's death in a plane crash in Taipei on August 18, 1945, remains controversial, the Central government confirmed that he had passed away in the incident in a 2017 RTI (Right to Information).

The Prime Minister inaugurated the hologram statue of Netaji at India Gate in Delhi last year in honor of the 125th anniversary of the independence fighter's birth.

## ANOTHER PRESENT FROM THE MODI GOVERNMENT TO TRAIN PASSENGERS IN THESE PLACES IS THE MINI VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS

The Modi Government may soon introduce the tiny version of the semi-high-speed trains following the success of the Vande Bharat Express Trains in India. Soon, the Indian Railways intends to operate this eight-coach Vande Bharat Express, which will be half the size of the larger Vande Bharat Express.

The 16-coach Vande Bharat Express, which currently runs between major cities and takes about 6-7 hours to complete, will be replaced by a shorter-distance, 4-5 hour variant. The railroads might operate this train in remote areas with low passenger load factors. Amritsar-Jammu, Kanpur-Jhansi, and Nagpur-Pune are a few instances.

By March or April 2023, the Indian Railways hopes to launch the first tiny Vande Bharat Express as a pilot. The small Vande Bharat train could be introduced on an all-Indian scale by the Ministry of Railways if the pilot experiment is a success.

With the introduction of the tiny Vande Bharat Express,



the Railways would not only be able to serve routes with faster travel times, but they may also try to boost their earnings.

The 8-coach train's layout and design are nearly complete, and the Integral Coach Factory is creating a prototype of it (ICF).

Sleeper Vande Bharat Express

In addition to the miniature Vande Bharat Express, the

sleeper version of the semi-high-speed train will soon be available to customers. Concerned officials have announced that the Vande Bharat Express would now take the position of the Shatabdi Express, with the sleeper version serving as a substitute for Rajdhani Express trains.

The sleeper version of the Vande Bharat Express, which has been making headlines and drawing passengers since its debut, will be built to run at a speed of 220 kilometers per hour, the authorities stated.

Vande Bharat Express Trains in India

There are eight Vande Bharat Express trains operating in the nation at the moment, connecting Secunderabad, Visakhapatnam, Howrah, New Jalpaiguri, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra, Bilaspur, Nagpur, Mumbai Central, Gandhinagar, Mysuru, MGR Chennai Central, Amb Andaura, and Varanasi with New Delhi.

## SHRI NITIN GADKARI MEETS JAPANESE DELEGATION FOR STRENGTHENING CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES



Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari met the Japanese Delegation led by Dr. Masafumi Mori, Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Japan and the co-chairman of the Joint Committee Meeting for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad National High Speed Rail Project, in the presence of Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki, Ambassador of Japan to India in New Delhi.

Both sides exchanged views and opinions in the field of Road Transport and Logistics service-related road infrastructure and deliberated upon capacity development and technology sharing in the field of sustainable transport development, alternate clean and green fuel, development of innovative transit technologies for movement of passenger and cargo. Emphasis was laid on India-Japan sustainable development initiative for the North-East region of India along with North-East Road Network connectivity improvement projects.

The meeting paved the way for strengthening India's continued partnership and collaboration with Japan for deriving effective solutions to contemporary challenges in Transportation and Logistics, based on the firm foundation of both countries' shared values and convergence of interests in strategic and economic matters.



## BHARAT GAURAV TOURIST TRAIN "SHRI JAGANNATH YATRA" FLAGGED OFF FROM DELHI BY SH. DHARMENDRA PRADHAN



Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train "Shri Jagannath Yatra" was flagged off today from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station on its auspicious tour by Sh. Dharmendra Pradhan Minister of Education, Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, along with Sh. Ashwini Vaishnav Minister of Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, and Sh. G Kishan Reddy Minister of Tourism, Culture and Development of North Eastern Region. Chairman and CEO, Railway Board, Sh. Anil Kuma Lahoti, Secretary Tourism Sh. Mr. Arvind Singh, senior officers of various ministries and IRCTC were among those present on the occasion. IRCTC Ltd, a public sector undertaking under Ministry of Railways, is running the train.

Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train started on its very special tour Shri Jagannath Yatra with 528 tourists, covering some of the very prominent pilgrimage and heritage destinations of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Orissa.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pradhan said that the train fulfils the Prime Minister's vision to enable common citizens of the country to travel within the country, particularly pilgrimage sites. He said that high quality facilities have been provided for the passengers, including accommodation, food and local transportation. He said that such initiatives will not only provide opportunities to the people to be aware about rich Indian cultural heritage, but also provide employment to many.

Wishing the pilgrims a safe and happy journey, Shri Vaishnav said that eight such pilgrim circuits have already become operational, giving an opportunity to the believers to expose themselves to Indian culture. He said that India has very large number of tourist

destinations, and the Prime Minister has been guiding his Ministry to provide easy access, suitable amenities, and proper information to the people for tapping them properly.

Shri Reddy said that lakhs of Indians want to visit religious places but are not able to do so due to lack of convenience and affordability. He said that today's initiative, coinciding with the Tourism Day and Voters' day, will go a long way in promoting domestic tourism, particularly among the common people of the country. The Minister said that domestic tourism in the country is expanding rapidly.

The train embarked on its journey on the 8 days tour wherein the one among the Char Dhams of India ie Jagannath temple of Puri will be visited by the tourists. The visit of Varanasi, Baidyanath Dham, Konark and Gaya are added attractions of the tour.

The 8 day Bharat Gaurav Tourist train tour has its first stop at Varanasi, the ancient holy city, where tourists will visit Kashi Vishwanath temple & Corridor along with the Ganga ghat. After Varanasi, the train will move to Jashidih Railway station in Jharkhand and tourists will proceed to visit Baidyanath dham Jyotirling temple. Further train will depart from Jashidih to Puri where stay for two nights has been arranged for them in the hotels. While at Puri, tourists will visit Jagannath temple, Golden Puri beach, Sun temple at Konark and temples of Bhubaneswar. After Puri, Gaya will be the last destination where the visit of Vishnupad temple will be covered in the tour. Train will return back to Delhi on 1st Feb 2023.

Coupled with a modern state of the art AC rake, the tourist train has options to board/de-board the train at Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Kanpur and Lucknow stations in the tour.

Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train launch is in line with the Government of India initiative "Dekho Apna Desh" to promote domestic tourism. At a price range starting from Rs. 17,655/- per person, the tourist train will be an all inclusive tour package covering train journey in 3rd AC, Night stay at hotels, All meals (VEG ONLY), all transfer & sight-seeing in buses, Travel Insurance and services of guide etc. All necessary health precautionary measures are being taken care of.

Source : PIB/PTI

## ACCORDING TO CJI, INDIA'S LEGAL SYSTEM HAS UNDERGONE TREMENDOUS TRANSFORMATION



The art of a judge, according to Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on January 21, is to interpret the Constitution's language in accordance with modern society while maintaining its integrity. Every time a legal concept is brought over from another jurisdiction, it ends up changing depending on the local circumstances. Speaking on the topic of "Traditions and Transitions: Palkhivala's Legacy in an Interconnected World," the Chief Justice of India claimed that the basic structure concept originated in India and then spread to nearby nations like Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal.

According to him, the Indian Constitution's identity has developed as a result of interactions between Indian citizens and the document, which have been supported by judicial interpretation. When the road ahead is unclear, the fundamental structure of the Constitution directs and guides its interpreters and implementers, he said. At the ceremony, Julio Ribeiro (94), a former top Mumbai police officer, received the Nani A Palkhivala Civil Liberties Award. He donated the prize money to Harsh Mander's NGO, the Aman Biradari Trust.

Speaking at the 18th Nani Palkhivala Memorial Lecture, which was held at NCPA and was sponsored, among others, by the Bombay Bar Association, the CJI noted that Palkhivala was a lawyer who championed legal doctrines like the fundamental structure of the Constitution, which gave the Indian Constitution its foundation of stability and consistency. Palkhivala was also a philosopher, corporate thinker, and leader.

At the occasion, he published a book titled "Nani A Palkhivala: Early Writings (1937-1947)," edited by Rashmi Palkhivala, Behram Palkhivala's sister-in-law. Pianist Ayan Deshpande (8) and other members of the SOI Academy Orchestra under the direction of Marat Bisengaliev also gave a lovely performance.

## "WILL CLOG PARLIAMENT": SUPREME COURT ON PIL TO ALLOW CITIZENS TO DIRECTLY PETITION PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT ISSUES

The Supreme Court took an unfavourable view of a public interest litigation (PIL) petition seeking a declaration that citizens have a fundamental right to directly petition the parliament and invite deliberation on important issues of public interest [Karan Garg vs Union of India and ors].

A bench of Justices KM Joseph and BV Nagarathna on Friday expressed its reservations regarding the prayers raised in the plea, saying that allowing the same could impede the functioning of the parliament.

"There are two aspects to it. India's population is more [than other countries that have such systems]. What will possibly happen if we were to recognise? You want it to be declared as part of Article 19(1)a. It will completely clog the working of Parliament," Justice Joseph remarked.

The judges also wondered if the plea was maintainable, keeping in view that the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, rather than their Secretaries-General were made parties. Nevertheless, the bench directed that a copy of the petition be served on the standing counsel for the Central government, but declined to issue formal notice to the government. The matter will be heard again after two weeks.

## CONSUMER FORUM DIRECTS OLA TO PAY ₹15,000 COMPENSATION TO CUSTOMER AFTER AC IN CAB DID NOT WORK FOR 8-HOUR TRIP

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at Bangalore (Urban) recently directed cab aggregator app Ola to pay ₹15,000 compensation to a customer for deficient service as the air-conditioning in the cab he hired was not working [Vikas Bhusan v. Bhavish Aggarwal].

A bench led by President of the Commission M Shobha stated in its order,

"It is the duty of the OP to provide all services to the customers as per promise made by them. They have made the customer complainant to suffer inconvenience and mental agony during his trip without providing the service of AC for the entire trip period of 08 hours. Therefore, the OP have committed deficiency of service and also unfair trade practice on their part," the order stated.

In October 2021, the complainant with his colleagues hired a cab through the Ola app and chose the 80 kilometres or 8-hour trip option. He claimed that the AC was not functional for the duration of the 8-hour



trip.

The complainant noticed that there was no mechanism to redress the grievance during the trip and that cancellation would lead to forfeiture of the booking amount. He got in touch with customer service the very same day and demanded a refund. However, the company said that as per the rate card, there was no additional charge for AC and, therefore, it could not issue a refund.

The complaint was escalated to the senior management, after the company issued a refund of ₹100 without any discussion with the complainant.

Aggrieved, the complainant registered a complaint via the National Consumer Helpline for deficiency in service. He sought compensation of ₹50,000 and a refund of the booking amount of ₹1,837 with interest.

Ola filed its response to the legal notice sent by the complainant. However, owing to a lapse of 45 days, the Commission rejected it on September 7, 2022.

The Commission recorded that despite sufficient opportunity being provided to the aggregator, it had neither appeared to argue nor had filed written arguments before it. Thereafter, it recorded that Ola's website and app mention that Ola cabs in the concerned category are equipped with an AC, extra legroom etc.

It ruled that since Ola had refunded ₹100 for deficiency in service, it had accepted that the AC was not working even after collection of entire booking amount.



Advocate Rohan J Alva, assisted by advocate Aby P Verghese, appeared for the petitioner during today's hearing. The counsel submitted that the petition raises substantial questions of constitutional law.

He added that the two houses of parliament were impleaded out of abundant caution, and given that they could implement the prayers sought through some administrative measures.

"We have an engaged electorate that is attentive to issues. But there is no avenue to engage with the lawmakers after they have been elected. This is there in House of Commons, we are based on Westminster model. These practices are in vogue abroad," he further submitted.

The petition, filed through advocate Joby P Verghese, called for the creation of a system, rules and regulatory framework that would empower citizens to petition the Parliament of India to have debates, discussions and deliberations on issues and concerns raised by citizens.

Explaining how the proposed system could work, the petitioner suggested the following process:

- If enough number of signatures are gathered, then the a petition will be converted into a Public Petition, which then would be published on a platform and become visible to the public.
- At this stage, after the Public Petition gets higher support in the form of more signatures from the public, a written response from the respective government department/ ministry would be mandated.
- If the signatures on the petition cross a higher threshold requirement with respect to the number of signatures that are to be obtained, after being converted into a Public Petition, then it would be identified as an Extraordinary Petition involving an issue concerning a high number of citizens, which would immediately mandate that the issue be formally taken up for discussion in Parliament.

The petitioner submitted further that he had already filed representations before the government for introduction of such a system, but to no avail.

"... the creation of such a system law-makers will enjoy direct access with the citizens. It would be a platform that could transform and evolve the current system into a more efficient tool for all the stakeholders in the Indian parliamentary system. There is an urgent need to improve the level engagement of the citizens with the government and the democratic system," the petition highlighted.

The petitioner also stressed that there is no justifiable reason to exclude citizens from fully realising the promise of participative and direct democracy by engaging with the parliament on issues of larger public interest.

## ESTABLISH ONE-STOP CENTRES FOR REGISTRATION OF CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN IN EVERY DISTRICT: DELHI HIGH COURT TO GOVERNMENT



The Delhi High Court directed the Delhi government to establish 'one-stop centres' in every district where all crimes against women and children can be registered. A Bench of Chief Justice Satish Chandra Sharma and Justice Subramonium Prasad passed the direction while noting that the same was mandated by the Supreme Court in its December 2018 order passed in Nipun Saxena v. Union of India.

"In fact, the State Governments are already in contempt in not adhering to the time limit fixed by the Apex Court in setting up such centres within one year from the date of the judgment passed by the Apex Court which was passed on 11.12.2018," the High Court said.

The apex court had directed that these centres be established in each district of the country, and that they should have trained staff, psychiatrists on call as well as video conferencing to record statements of the survivors among other facilities.

In Tuesday's judgment, the High Court also directed the Delhi government to lay down clear-cut criteria to be adopted for revealing the identities of victims of sexual crimes when the same is required, which was also mandated by the Supreme Court in Nipun Saxena.

The High Court passed the directions while disposing of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by one Yashdeep Chahal filed in the year 2019 seeking action against media houses for revealing the identity of a rape victim in Hyderabad.

After hearing the case, the Bench noted that the Supreme Court has already laid down guidelines in this regard and passed several directions.

"The Apex Court has categorically stated that the press can report that the case was fixed before court and some witnesses were examined, it can also report as to for what purpose the case was listed but it cannot report what transpired inside the court or what was the statement of the victim or the witnesses."

The Bench was informed by Amicus Curiae that a similar issue regarding compensation to the victims and criminal action under Section 228-A IPC is pending before the High Court of Telangana.

Since the same issue is pending before the Telangana High Court, the Court said that it was not for it to initiate proceedings against media houses and reported individuals or to direct the investigating authorities to take cognizance of the offence.

Source :barandbench.com

# PADMA AWARDEES OF THIS YEAR 2023

## Padma Vibhushan Receptents List

Name	Field	State/Country
1. Shri Balkrishna Doshi (Posthumous)	Others	Gujarat
2. Shri Dilip Mahalanabis (Posthumous)	Medicine	West Bengal
3. Mulayam Singh Yadav (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh
4. Shri Zakir Hussain	Art	Maharashtra
5. Shri S M Krishna	Public Affairs	Karnataka
6. Shri Srinivas Varadhan	Science & Engineering	USA

## Padma Bhushan Receptents List

Name	Field	State/Country
1. Shri S L Bhyrappa	Literature & Education	Karnataka
2. Shri Kumar Mangalam	Birla Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
3. Shri Deepak Dhar	Science & Engineering	Maharashtra
4. Ms. Vani Jairam	Art	Tamil Nadu
5. Swami Chinna Jeeyar	Others-Spiritualism	Telangana
6. Ms Suman Kalyanpur	Art	Maharashtra
7. Shri Kapil Kapoor	Literature & Education	Delhi
8. Ms Sudha Murty	Social Work	Karnataka
9. Shri Kamlesh D Patel	Others- Spiritualism	

## Padma Shri Receptents List

Name	Field	State/Country
1. Dr. Sukama Acharya	Others- Spiritualism	Haryana
2. Ms. Jodhaiyabai Baiga	Art	Madhya Pradesh
3. Shri Premjit Baria	Art	Dadra and Nagar Haveli
4. Ms Usha Barle	Art	Chhatisgarh
5. Shri Munishwar Chanddawat	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
6. Shri Hemant Chauhan	Art	Gujarat
7. Shri Bhanubhai Chitara	Art	Gujarat
8. Ms Hemoprova Chutia	Art	Assam
9. Shri Narendra Chandra Debbarma	Public Affairs	Tripura
10. Ms Subhadra Devi	Art	Bihar
11. Shri Khadar Valli Dudekula	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
12. Shri Hem Chandra Goswami	Art	Assam
13. Ms. Pritikana Goswami	Art	West Bengal
14. Shri Radha Charan Gupta	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
15. Shri Modadugu Vijay Gupta	Science & Engineering	Telangana
16. Shri Ahmed Hussain & Shri Mohd Hussain	Art	Rajasthan
17. Shri Dilshad Hussain	Art	Uttar Pradesh
18. Shri Bhiku Ramji Idate	Social Work	Maharashtra
19. Shri C I Issac	Literature & Education	Kerala
20. Shri Rattan Singh Jaggi	Literature & Education	Punjab
21. Shri Bikram Bahadur Jamatia	Social Work	Tripura
22. Shri Ramkuiwangbe Jene	Social Work	Assam
23. Shri Rakesh Radheshyam Jhunjhunwala (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra
24. Shri Mahipat Kavi	Art	Gujarat
25. Shri Ratan Chandra Kar	Medicine	Andaman & Nicobar Islands
26. Shri Mahipat Kavi	Art	Gujarat

Name	Field	State/Country
27. Shri M M Keeravaani	Art	Andhra Pradesh
28. Shri Areez Khambatta (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Gujarat
29. Shri Parshuram Komaji Khune	Art	Maharashtra
30. Shri Ganesh Nagappa Krishnarajanagara	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
31. Shri Maguni Charan Kuanr	Art	Odisha
32. Shri Anand Kumar	Literature & Education	Bihar
33. Shri Arvind Kumar	Science & Engineering	Uttar Pradesh
34. Shri Domar Singh Kunvar	Art	Chhatisgarh
35. Shri Risingbor Kurkaland	Art	Meghalaya
36. Ms Hirabai Lobi	Social Work	Gujarat
37. Shri Moolchand Lodha	Social Work	Rajasthan
38. MS Rani Machaiah	Art	Karnataka
39. Shri Ajay Kumar Mandavi	Art	Chhatisgarh
40. Shri Prabhakar Bhanudas Mande	Literature	Maharashtra
41. Shri Gojanan Jagannath Mane	Social Work	Maharashtra
42. Shri Antaryami Mishra	Literature & Education	Odisha
43. Shri Nadoja Pindipapanahalli Munivenkatappa	Art	Karnataka
44. Prof(Dr.) Mahendra Pal	Science & Engineering	Gujarat
45. Shri Uma Shankar Pandey	Science & Engineering	Gujarat
46. Shri Ramesh Parmar & Ms. Shanti Parmar	Art	Madhya Pradesh
47. Dr. Nalini Parthasarathi	Medicine	Puducherry
48. Shri Hanumantha Rao Pasupuleti	Medicine	Telangana
49. Shri Ramesh Patange	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
50. Ms Krishna Patel	Art	Odisha
51. Shri K Kalyanasundaram Pillai	Art	Tamil Nadu
52. Shri V P Appukuttan Poduval	Social Work	Kerala
53. Shri Kapil Dev Prasad	Art	Bihar
54. Shri S R D Prasad	Sports	Kerala
55. Shri Shah Rasheed Ahmed Quadri	Art	Karnataka
56. Shri C V Raju	Art	Andhra Pradesh
57. Shri Bakshi Ram	Science & Engineering	Haryana
58. Shri Cheruvayal K Raman	Others	Kerala
59. Ms Sujatha Ramdorai	Science & Engineering	Canada
60. Shri Pareshbhai Rathwa	Art	Gujarat
61. Shri B Ramakrishna Reddy	Literature & Education	Telangana
62. Shri Mangala Kanti Roy	Art	West Bengal
63. Ms K C Runremsangi	Art	Mizoram
64. Shri Vadivel Gopal & Shri Masi	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
65. Shri Manoranjan Sahu	Medicine	UP
66. Shri Patayat Sahu	Others	Odisha
67. Shri Ritwik Sanyal	Art	UP
68. Shri Kota S S	Art	Andhra Pradesh
69. Shri Sankurathri Chandra Sekhar	Social Work	Andhra Pradesh
70. Shri K Shanathaiba Sharma	Sports	Manipur
71. Shri Nekram Sharma	Others	Himachal Pradesh
72. Shri Gurcharan Singh	Sports	Delhi
73. Shri Laxman Singh	Social Work	Rajasthan
74. Shri Mohan Singh	Literature	J & K
75. Shri T C Singh	Public Affairs	Manipur
76. Shri P C Sood	Literature	Andhra Pradesh
77. Ms Neihunuo Sorhie	Art	Nagaland

Name	Field	State/Country
78. Janum Singh Say	Literature	Jharkhand
79. Shri Kushok Thiksey		
Nawang Chamba Stanzin	Others	Ladakh
80. Shri S Subraman	Others	Karnataka
81. Shri Maa Subong	Art	Nagaland
82. Shri P K Sundaram	Social Work	Tamil Nadu
83. Ms Raveena Ravi Tandon	Art	Maharashtra
84. Shri V P Tiwari	Literature	UP
85. Shri Dhaniram Toto	Literature	WB
86. Shri T R Upreti	Others	Sikkim
87. Dr Gopalsamy Veluchamy	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
88. Dr Ishwar Chander Verma	Medicine	Delhi
89. Ms Coomi Nariman Wadia	Art	Maharashtra
90. Shri Karma Wangchu (Posthumous)	Social Work	Arunachal Pradesh
91. Shri G M Zaz	Art	Jammu & Kashmir



# GLITZ MANIA

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## THE SECOND TEASER OF BHOLAA DISPLAYS THE ACTION-PACKED WORLD OF AJAY DEVGN'S BHOLAA!



Ajay Devgn's BholaA is grabbing all eyeballs since the first look of the film came out. The anticipation amongst the audiences topped the highest of heights after the first teaser was launched, taking the excitement amongst the masses a notch higher. The mass maharaja has now unveiled the second teaser of the film and it promises to be an action spectacle which is full of masala, intensity, and entertainment.

In the teaser Ajay Devgn looks extremely fierce and dynamic. The teaser also introduces the stellar starcast in unique characters - Tabu in her action element as a cop, Deepak Dobriyal in a never seen before as the key villain, Sanjay Mishra as the grey cop, Vineet Kumar, Gajraj Rao, amongst others.

BholaA is Ajay Devgn's fourth Directorial and it's a story of a fearless father who fights against all odds to reach his young daughter. From drug lords, corrupt forces, and multiple setbacks there's no stopping for BholaA, he's a fighter on the outside and a protector on the inside.

Rightly known as Ajay Devgn's most daring-film-to-date, the one-night story of BholaA is based on a man who's unstoppable because of his belief that makes him highly powerful in every way, for him to fight enemies in various forms, human or not.

BholaA is arriving on 30th March 2023. Watch the movie at a theatre near you in 3D and IMAX.

## KANGANA RANAUT HAS WARNED BOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES AGAINST FALSE NARRATIVE



Actress Kangana Ranaut has warned Bollywood celebrities against allegedly spreading a "false narrative" that they are suffering from "Hindu hate". Meanwhile, Shah Rukh Khan starrer Pathaan has earned Rs 35 crores nett on day 3 of its release, according to early estimates.

## SHREYA GHOSHAL'S BROTHER MARRIES IN A GRAND TWO-STATE CEREMONY



Soumyadeep Ghoshal, the brother of the Bollywood actress Shreya Ghoshal, wed Roshni Pradeep in two lavish wedding ceremonies. The couple wed in two states in a ceremony that was truly out of a storybook. Shreya, the adoring sister, showered the newlyweds with her affection and posted photos of her brother's wedding celebrations.

Shreya uploaded images from her brother's lavish wedding celebrations to her Instagram account on January 20, 2023. The first image was of Soumyadeep, Shreya's brother, and his Bengali wedding celebration. The bride looked lovely in a red-colored outfit. She was dressed as a good Bengali bride, radiating her brightness.



Additionally, Shreya shared a photo from her brother's South Indian wedding. He was seen donning a golden sherwani during the occasion. His bride, on the other hand, was dressed in a golden-hued silk saree with a top that had tasseled sleeves. She added gold jewelry to complete her outfit.

Shreya wrote her younger brother a touching note to go with it. She remarked that she found it hard to believe he had wed. Shreya also shared her joy at being present for her brother's two-state wedding. She brought much joy to her brother as well.

For those who are unaware, Soumyadeep Ghoshal is both a singer and a music producer. In contrast, Roshni Pradeep, his wife, is a classical dancer and a software engineer. She also has a dance-specific Instagram account.

## RASHMIKA MANDANNA SPOTTED AT MISSION MAJNU SUCCESS BASH

Sidharth Malhotra and Rashmika Mandanna along with the cast and crew of Mission Majnu got together to celebrate the success of their film on Friday. Mission Majnu was recently released on Netflix.



## ICE COLD IN ALEX AND VICTIM STAR SYLVIA SYMS PASSES AWAY AT 89

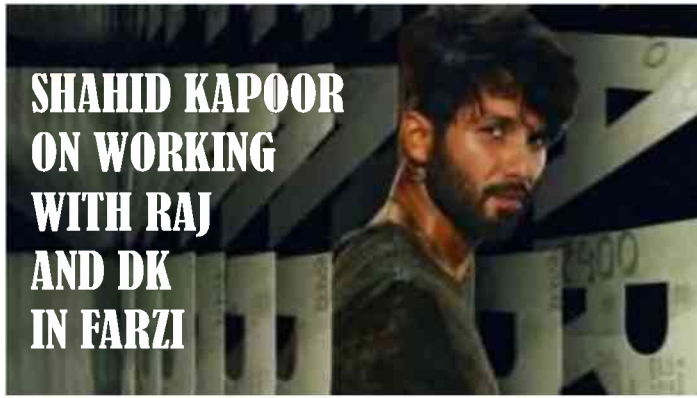
Actress Sylvia Syms, who starred in classic British films including "Ice Cold in Alex" and "Victim," has died, her family said Friday. She was 89. Syms' children said she "died peacefully" on Friday at Denville Hall, a London retirement home for actors and entertainers. "She has lived an amazing life and gave us joy and laughter right up to the end," children Beatie and Ben Edney, said in a statement. "Just yesterday we were reminiscing together about all our adventures. She will be so very missed."

Born in London in 1934, Syms became a British cinema stalwart, appearing in many of the best-remembered British movies of the 1950s and 60s.

She starred opposite John Mills in World War II adventure "Ice Cold in Alex" in 1958 and appeared the next year in rock musical "Expresso Bongo" with Laurence Harvey and Cliff Richard. She played the wife of Dirk Bogarde's closeted gay lawyer in the 1961 thriller "Victim," the first British film to deal openly with homosexuality.







**SHAHID KAPOOR ON WORKING WITH RAJ AND DK IN FARZI**

Shahid Kapoor is all set to make his digital debut with Prime Video's upcoming crime thriller, Farzi. Created by Raj & DK, who are known for their edgy thrillers, the series has already piqued the interest of the audience.

Shahid Kapoor is all set to make his digital debut with Prime Video's upcoming crime thriller, Farzi. Created by Raj & DK, who are known for their edgy thrillers, the series has already piqued the interest of the audience. As the fans await for the collaboration to create magic on the screen, the lead actor recently opened up about his experience of working with the director duo.

Talking about working with Raj & DK, actor Shahid Kapoor shares, "They really allow the actors to come out and express themselves and sometimes they are really worried with what we are doing with the shots.. But they let you do what you want to do and I felt very free. I also feel that this show has been made in a very fluid manner. It's very contemporary the way we shot the show, the way the characters have been written and developed allows every actor to really like dig-in deep because there is enough meat there if you really go looking hard for it and it's very democratic. I think they let everybody bring what they feel and then they kind of final it together to make it what they feel is right. I had a lot of fun and I felt very free. I think they felt very nervous like what's up with him but I was having a great time."

**IS REGINA CASSANDRA'S PORTRAYAL OF KAVYA IN JAABAAZ HINDUSTAN KE INSPIRED BY IPS OFFICER SANJUKTA PARASHAR?**



The recently released web series Jaabaaz Hindustan Ke, starring Sumet Vyas, Regina Cassandra, Barun Sobti, Chandan Roy, Mita Vashist, Deepika Amin, and Sandeep Dhabale, has been getting rave reviews all over. The show is about IPS officer Kavya Iyer (played by Regina) and how she faces and braves all odds to lead an investigation in an ISIS-K bomb attack case. Is the actress' character inspired by IPS officer Sanjukta Parashar?

Parashar is known to be another name for terror in the state of Assam. She's said to have eliminated around 16 terrorists, confiscating tons of ammunition and weapons in 15 months. And Regina plays a role etched in similar intensity. When asked about the same and how she feels playing this character, the actress said, "Getting under the skin of Kavya was an enriching experience. From emoting the character of a tough IPS officer and getting the body language correct to playing a mother and daughter was demanding but exciting. Kavya is a strong-headed individual who manages to navigate through difficult situations and finds her way which really inspired me."

**SQUID GAME: THE CHALLENGE IS GIVING ITS CONTESTANTS NEAR-DEATH EXPERIENCES!**

'Even if hypothermia kicked in then people were willing to stay for as long as possible because a lot of money was on the line,' said one contestant to British tabloid The Sun. Netflix's Squid Game may have been an entertaining and exhilarating watch for its fans across the world but definitely not for the contestants that participated in the show. The massive money that's on the line lures people all over to put their lives at stake to play this deadly game that still continues to enjoy huge viewership.



And now, a report says Netflix's in-development Squid Game: The Challenge is proving to be deadly for the contestants. They were filming a game called Red Light, Green Light and the temperature was as low as -1 degree Celsius. This resulted in one of them being taken from the set on a stretcher. The show is currently being filmed in the U.K.

The prize money on the line is \$4.56 million (£3.7 million) and over 456 contestants have participated for this much-awaited spin-off. "Even if hypothermia kicked in then people were willing to stay for as long as possible because a lot of money was on the line,"

**PAMELA ANDERSON'S HUSBAND OF 12 DAYS JON PETERS IS LEAVING \$10 MILLION FOR HER IN HIS WILL: "I WILL ALWAYS LOVE PAMELA"**



In the last few weeks in the scandals and controversy realm of Hollywood, one name has been the most trending for all the explosive reasons. No, we aren't talking about Kim Kardashian or Kanye West for once and it is none other than the woman who defined Hollywood glamour quotient single handedly in her time, Pamela Anderson. In recent times since she has begun talking about her personal life around the release of her memoir, we have heard some very shocking stories about her love life. But looks like there is a silver lining too that comes from her husband of 12 days.

For the unversed, Pamela (55) was married to Jon Peters (77) in 2020. While the two still say that they have all the love for each other in their hearts, reports claimed that their marriage only survived for 12 days. Yes, you read that right. The Baywatch fame got separated from Jon in less than two weeks of their marriage. Turns out Peters still wants to look after her even post their separation.

**TROLL MOCKS SELENA GOMEZ OVER 'SHAKING' TOO MUCH IN MAKEUP TUTORIAL ON TIKTOK**



Selena Gomez is undeniably a queen and she is one of those Positivity Ka Dose that we all need every then and now. The singer never misses a chance to give her best version to the world and when it comes to preaching self-love, there is no one like Sel.

Sel has always been vocal about the issues that she has witnessed in her life. Be it her relationships, or body issues, she has also always spoken about the things that feel right to her heart but as they say, haters only know how to pull down others. Today, we bring to you another story when haters trolled her over shaking the video too much in a makeup tutorial but her kind answer made our day and left us inspired.

## SARASWATI PUJA FOR THIS KOLKATA PANDAL HAS AS ITS SUBJECT THE RECRUITING SCAM FOR BENGALI TEACHERS



The teachers' recruitment scandal has been chosen by a pandal committee in North Kolkata's Kankurgachi neighborhood as its theme for this year's Sarawati Puja, which will be observed on January 26.

Three Sarawati idols can be found in the pandal. The festival's primary idol will be worshipped there.

Another statue of the goddess Sarawati is perched on a scale, and on the other scale is a mountain of riches. The clay sculptures of Partha Chatterjee, the former education minister of Bengal, and Arpita Mukherjee, his assistant, are standing next to them, showing the enormous sum of money that the Enforcement Directorate confiscated from the TMC leader's residences.

Indirect allusions to the teacher recruitment scam, in which hopefuls were given jobs in exchange for sizable sums of money paid to ministers, can be seen in the placement of the third idol of Goddess Sarawati inside a cage alongside another cage containing advertisements of tutors promising to teach Bengali and English to interested candidates over the course of 50 days.

A stage with clay statues of people portraying the protesting job seekers who have been conducting demonstrations on the streets of Kolkata against the alleged scam and looking for jobs based on their merit has been constructed alongside the cage.

The idea for this year's Sarawati Puja in the Kankurgachi pandal, which would focus on the teachers' recruitment scandal in Bengal, came from Biswajit Sarkar, the brother of BJP activist Abhijit Sarkar who is believed to have died in the post-election violence in Bengal in 2021.

The committee members gave Jayanta Barua, a well-known artist, credit for realizing their concept.

## ASSAM GOVERNMENT ATTENDS SANKARDEV SISHU-VIDYA NIKETAN'S SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Guwahati: Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi, while attending the closing function of Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan's silver jubilee celebration at Ramdia in Kamrup district on Tuesday, commented that the success of any educational institution is determined by the impact it creates in young minds and its ability to teach its students to dream big.

"I sincerely believe that a successful educational institution should be in a position to enable its students to dream big and helping them to translate their dream in reality", said Governor Mukhi adding that Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan, Ramdia being a premier centre of education has completed its glorious 25 years, should continue working to create ripples of joys, success, laughter, achievements as well as some challenging moments for its entire fraternity.

## WITH HIS FAVORITE CUISINE, "NETAJI'S HOTEL" SERVES UP A FLAVOR OF HISTORY

This hotel gave away the "puishaak-er chochchori" that was served on January 23. But for this well-known "pice" hotel, situated at Bhawani Dutta Lane close to College Street, it wasn't just another promotion to draw clients.

Instead, it has become a custom that the 110-year-old Swadhin Bharat Hindu Hotel (95 years in its current address) firmly upholds as their own small and humble tribute to the illustrious liberation hero, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, on his birthday every year.

Bose was a frequent patron of their restaurant, according to the current owner Arunangshu Panda. On January 23, the first 100 customers received a free meal of vegetables



along with the customary "payesh" and desserts.

Old timers who frequent the restaurant assert that it once served as a hideout and location for secret meetings of revolutionaries, with a back exit leading to a covert path

outdoors. The British police beat Mongobinda, the hotel's founder, severely during a raid, but he was able to hold them off long enough for the rebels to leave unharmed.

Bose once accompanied Chittaranjan Das to lunch, according to Panda. On August 15, 1947, the restaurant's previous name, Hindu Hotel, was changed to Swadhin Bharat (Independent India). Hindu College (later Presidency College) and Hindu School served as the inspiration for the name of the "pice" hotel.

Even now, they still serve food on banana leaves and provide water in earthen glasses. The meals "uchchhey shukto," "dim bora," "rui korma," and "kosha mangsho" are also very well-liked.



The importance of education is that it should never be used as an instrument for earning degrees and it should be adequately used to develop an all-round personality with a keen commitment to social development, he stated urging the management and teachers of Sankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan, run by Shishu Shiksha Samiti Assam (affiliated to Vidya Bharati Akhli Bharatiya Shiksha Sansthan) to work dedicatedly for holistic development of the students.

"It is a fact that every child is born with inherent talents. Our primary responsibility should be to nurture those inherent qualities with love & care and help him to become an able citizen of the country with a humane heart to work for the society," said the Governor.

Quoting the lines of Nelson Mandela that education is the most powerful weapon which one can use to change the world, Governor Mukhi said that education should be used to find the genesis of any problem and find solution accordingly. Moreover, he said that the success of any educational institution is determined by the impact it creates in young minds. The minds of the young students will one day grow to become the pioneers in their chosen fields, but learning is always a life-long process, added the Governor.

"It is the students on which the nation depends, and it is the students' skill and wisdom which have been India's greatest strength. Hope the new generation serves society both globally and locally and become a powerful force for 'Vocal for Local'," said Governor Mukhi adding that he wanted to congratulate the entire fraternity of Shankardev Sishu-Vidya Niketan, Ramdia on its 25 years of completion.

In presence of Kamrup district magistrate Keerthi Jalli, KKHSOU dean Dibya Jyoti Mahanta, SMDC chairperson Nripen Das, RSS Assam Karjyabah Khagen Saikia along with a host of other dignitaries, the Governor lauded the faculty members of the school for providing all opportunities which enabled their students to inculcate in them values, commitments and services for manifesting a knowledge driven society.

## THE LIFE OF KALPANA CHAWLA

"When you look at the stars and the galaxy, you feel that you are not from any particular piece of land, but from the solar system."

This inspirational quote was said by Kalpana Chawla, the first Indian-born woman and the second

Indian person to fly in space. She was born in Karnal, Haryana, on March 17, 1962, to Banaras Lal Chawla and Sanjyothi Chawla and was the youngest of four children. She developed her extraordinary interest in flying after first seeing a plane at around the age of three. During her schooling at Tagore Baal Niketan Senior Secondary School, she went to local flying clubs and watched planes with her father. Chawla obtained a degree in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College. She was discouraged by her professors while selecting the course since there were limited opportunities in India for girls to pursue this career. Thus, after completing her engineering degree, she emigrated to the USA and attained citizenship there to continue her studies. She obtained her master's degree from the University of Texas and earned a doctorate in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado in 1988. In the same year, she started working at NASA's Ames Research Centre, on powered-lift computational fluid dynamics. In 1993, she joined Overset Methods, Inc. as vice president and Research Scientist. Further, she joined NASA's Astronaut Corps in March 1995 and was selected for her first flight in 1997.

Her first space mission began on 19th November 1997, aboard the space shuttle Columbia on flight STS-87. The shuttle made 252 orbits of the Earth in just over two weeks. Kalpana Chawla was a mission specialist and prime robotic arm operator for the flight. She used the robotic arm to deploy a satellite called SPARTAN 201, which



was meant to study the outer layer of the sun. Unfortunately, the satellite malfunctioned and never conducted any research.

In 2000, Chawla was selected for her second flight as part of the seven-astronaut crew of STS-107. The mission was repeatedly delayed due to scheduling conflicts and technical problems. It was finally launched on 1st February 2003. The crew performed nearly 80 experiments studying the Earth and space science. Unfortunately, a briefcase-sized piece of insulation had broken off during the launch. It had damaged the thermal protection system, causing hot gas to steam into the shuttle's wing as it re-entered earth's atmosphere. The shuttle became unstable and broke apart, and within a minute, the crew was all killed.

She was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, the NASA Space Flight Medal, and the NASA Distinguished Service Medal. Along with an asteroid belt, several streets, institutions and universities have been named in her honour. India's meteorological series of satellites, which were called METSAT were also renamed after her.

Even though Kalpana Chawla died a tragic death, she left an unforgettable legacy that inspires thousands of Indian women to this day. She showed how there are no limits to what one can achieve.

Shraddha Gupta  
Grade - IX  
Indus Valley World School



**ANTARCTICA DISCOVERS A RARE 7 KILOGRAM METEORITE**

Five new meteorites have been found by an international team of researchers, including an enormous 7.6 kilogram meteorite from Antarctica.

Only a hundred or so of the approximately 45,000 meteorites that have been removed from Antarctica over the past century, according to the researchers, who also include those from the Field Museum in Chicago and the University of Chicago, are larger.

The experts claim that one of the finest sites to look for meteorites in Antarctica. The meteorites' degree of weathering is limited

by the area's arid climate. The scenery is also perfect, with the black space rocks standing out sharply against the white meadows.

But it's hard to know where to search because of the size of the ice field. This is where a recent advancement in mapping technology is useful. The first team to employ it was this one.

The Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences will examine the five meteorites.

The scientists predicted that research on meteorites will eventually improve our understanding of the cosmos as a whole.

**4-YEAR-OLD BOY JOINS MENSA, BECOMING THE YOUNGEST IN THE UK**



In other non-native languages, such as Welsh, French, Spanish, and German, he can also count to 100. The child prefers to unwind by doing a word search over playing video games or watching television.

His parents were perplexed and amazed by his abilities, so they contacted health visitors to have them evaluate him. Teddy had to go through an hour-long online evaluation with professionals when he was three years, and seven months old at the time.

He passed the Stanford Binet test with a score of 139 out of 160, placing him in the 99.5th percentile for his age, and was later accepted into Mensa. Additional evaluations showed that Teddy had the letter and word recognition of a kid who was eight years and 10 months old at the age of three years and eight months.

The young child, who will begin school in September, recently obtained a diploma attesting to his membership in Mensa, making him one of the nation's youngest members.

**HINDI ADDRESS FROM AN ISRAELI DIPLOMAT, COURTESY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**



Israel recently posted a Hindi-language video speech illustrating how artificial intelligence (AI) has made it easier to communicate in a variety of languages. The Hindi-language film featured Ambassador David Saranga, Head of the Israel Foreign Ministry's Digital Diplomacy

**HOW PAKISTAN MANAGED ONE OF THE BIGGEST BLACKOUTS ITS EVER HAD**

After a widespread blackout, electricity is now being restored in Pakistan, and Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has ordered a probe into the system breakdown that contributed to the nation's struggle with rising energy prices.

After the national system collapsed on January 23 morning, a large portion of the 220 million population was left without electricity, forcing hospitals to turn to backup generators and severely disrupting mobile and Internet services.

In cities like Karachi and Lahore, connection restoration efforts went on well into the night, causing many outages to last longer than 12 hours despite the freezing weather.

Energy Minister Khurram Dastgir Khan told reporters late on January 23 that Sharif has



ordered an investigation into the most recent blackouts. Low power demand has made the system more vulnerable, therefore a thorough examination that will take all potential factors into account has started.

Despite numerous recent disruptions, including a significant collapse of the national grid in January 2021, Pakistan has made little headway in

modernizing its deteriorating power transmission system.

Pakistan has been heavily struck by a global shortage of energy as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has increased the cost of fuel imports and made the country's problems with skyrocketing inflation and depreciating currency worse. An increase in energy prices is one of the requirements for receiving funding from the International Monetary Fund.

Fuel rationing and rolling blackouts have been in effect for some time, and a current round of plans aims to reduce electricity use by roughly half. Employees in the public sector have been asked to work from home, and businesses including markets, restaurants, and shopping centers have been ordered to close earlier than usual.

**THERE IS NO ROOM TO RESTRICT WOMEN'S EDUCATION IN THE NAME OF ISLAM**

The education of women, according to Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is crucial to the growth of any administration. Hasina continued by saying that her administration will bring Bangladesh's women along in its transformation into a developed country.

The education of women cannot be stopped in the name of Islam, Sheikh Hasina rebuked the Afghan administration.

The Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which has been under fire from around the world for imposing numerous restrictions including a prohibition on women's education, has recently permitted females to enroll in public and private primary schools.



The Taliban's Ministry of Education announced in early January that it will now permit girls to continue their studies up to sixth grade.

But there is a catch to the announcement. Taliban requested that schools and education centers be opened for girls under the sixth grade and that all students dress according to Islamic dress.

Although the judgment gives Afghan girls some hope, the ban on women's education in middle and high school as well as the country's limits on the majority of jobs for women continue to be in force.

The Taliban regime stepped up its campaign against women's education last month, with the higher education ministry declaring an indefinite ban on women attending universities in Afghanistan.

Also prohibited by the dictatorship are girls attending middle and high school, most jobs for women, and even going outside in public without wearing head-to-toe attire.

In addition to being prohibited from accessing parks and gyms, women are also not permitted to travel without a male relative.

Bureau, discussing AI innovation.

Israel urged users to recommend languages they should try out as they described this as their next AI passion. Israel posted the Hindi video in response to a user's request and tagged the Indian embassy, asking it what it thought of the Hindi translation.

Translations of the video into Turkish and Greek were also distributed. Israel expressed gratitude to a domestic business, D-ID, for assisting it with intercultural communication.

A new AI chatbot called ChatGPT has become the internet craze of the moment after multiple people posted their interactions with it on social media.

**ISLAMIC STATE LEADER BILAL AL-SUDANI KILLED BY US MILITARY IN SOMALIA**



US officials announced on Thursday that the United States killed a top commander of Islamic State (ISIS) in northern Somalia. An unnamed source told Reuters that the operation killed the US-identified commander of ISIS in Somalia, Bilal al-Sudani, and around ten of his accomplices.

After getting consent from President Joe Biden earlier this week, officials announced the operation had just been finished.

The official stated that the killing of al-Sudani occurred due to "hostile force's

retaliation," even though US soldiers were prepared to take him.

No American service members or civilians were killed during the operation, however one service member was injured when an American military dog bit them.

The second government representative said the United States has alerted two counterterrorism allies, including the government of Somalia.

It is uncommon for the United States to launch a military campaign against ISIS in Somalia, since previous operations have focused on al-Shabaab, the country's leading terrorist organisation. U.S. troops carried out an airstrike in Syria just before the end of 2016 that claimed the lives of two high-ranking members of ISIS.

American troops have been helping the Somali government combat the Shabaab insurgents for quite some time now, mostly via frequent aircraft attacks.

A US station in Djibouti, to the north of Somalia, is suspected of serving as the staging ground for some of these operations.

Between 2017 and 2020, the number of US airstrikes in Somalia increased to the dozens annually, and this was accompanied by two to four ground operations each year.

National security think tank New America found that since Biden took office in 2021, the number of air strikes has decreased to 16 in 2022, while there have been no ground strikes reported.

Source :Retures,PTI,PIB

## STARS IN THE SKY ARE FADING AND DISAPPEARING

According to a recent study, as more light pollution fills the night sky, the stars above us are becoming fainter. Researchers have discovered this after studying data from more than 50,000 amateur astronomers. The phenomena brought on by the constant nightly glare of electric lights look to be intensifying. Researchers discovered that between 2011 and 2022, fewer visible stars were observed at the observation sites, which was consistent with an annual increase in nighttime sky brightness of 7 to 10%. This was higher than what satellite data had previously indicated.

According to research presented in the journal Science, artificial light is responsible for a 10% annual rise in the background sky, which obscures the brightest stars in the night sky.

According to a 2017 study based on satellite observations, the brightness and size of Earth's artificially lighted outdoor surface at night were increasing by roughly 2% annually. Concerns regarding the ecological effects of light pollution on people and animals have been highlighted. According to research, light pollution, for instance, poses a hazard to fireflies, which use specialized light-emitting organs and flashes to communicate during mating and reproduction.

"The yearly change of 10% is far larger than I anticipated — something you'll notice clearly in your lifetime," according to Christopher Kyba, a physicist at the German Research Centre for Geosciences in Potsdam and a study co-author. Kyba and his associates used the

following example: When there are 250 stars visible on a clear night, a child is born. Only 100 stars are still visible when that child reaches the age of 18 years.

Similar methods were used to gather study data from amateur astronomers participating in the charity Globe at Night project. Volunteers search for the constellation Orion, keeping in mind the three stars that make up his belt and compare what they see in the night sky to a succession of charts that display an expanding number of nearby stars.

According to the experts, there is still room for improvement in the way that lighting is directed, distributed, and utilized.

## SIDEWALK FOOD VENDORS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO USE GAS OR COAL IN KOLKATA

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has informed hawkers that they would not be permitted to use gas or coal ovens at their food stands because they produce flames.

The prohibition, which is a component of the hawking regulations created by the state government, might not take effect right away. According to KMC authorities, the town vending committee, which includes hawkers, recently discussed the rule banning the use of coal and gas in pavement booths.

On January 21, a fire started at a food stand on the sidewalk along SN Banerjee Road. The flames were quenched by one firefighter. An official in the fire brigade's command center confirmed that no one was hurt. But there is a



significant possibility of a fire spreading quickly.

But with so many hawkers, it will be impossible to supply them all with electricity. According to Shaktiman Ghosh, a member of the Hawker Sangram Committee, there are 1.43 lakh street vendors selling food in the city.

The state government's hawking regulations forbid hawkers from using plastic sheets to

cover their kiosks. Additionally, no stall may face the road, and none may occupy more than one-third of the pavement. Stalls also cannot intrude on the next road.

Kumar, a member of the municipal council, stated that food kiosks on sidewalks cannot be larger than 4 feet by 6 feet.

But in Kolkata, the majority of laws are broken. In New Market, several hawkers sell their goods along the roads. The city's roads have been invaded with stalls.

The KMC has given the hawkers permission to construct a tin shade over their booths in place of plastic sheets. A plan to construct frames at the back of the stalls to display adverts or graffiti has also been approved by the KMC.

## SCIENTISTS AT KU DISCOVER A CONNECTION BETWEEN CHOLESTEROL AND HAIR GROWTH

A study by the university's Advanced Centre for Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research in Cutaneous Biology (AcREM-Stem) and the department of zoology has found that blocking cholesterol production damages hair follicles permanently by encouraging fibrosis.

The study, which was published in the Journal of Endocrinology and Reproduction, highlighted the importance of cellular cholesterol (also known as endogenous cholesterol, which is produced by the body) for skin health, hair growth, and the development of hair follicles. It was discovered that hair follicles with very active fibrogenic responses had tissue degradation and homeostasis disruption (the ability to maintain internal stability in an

organism).

The research team included S. Najeeb, T.M. Binumon, S. Surya, and L. Nikhila. It was led by assistant professor P. Sreejith of the Zoology department.

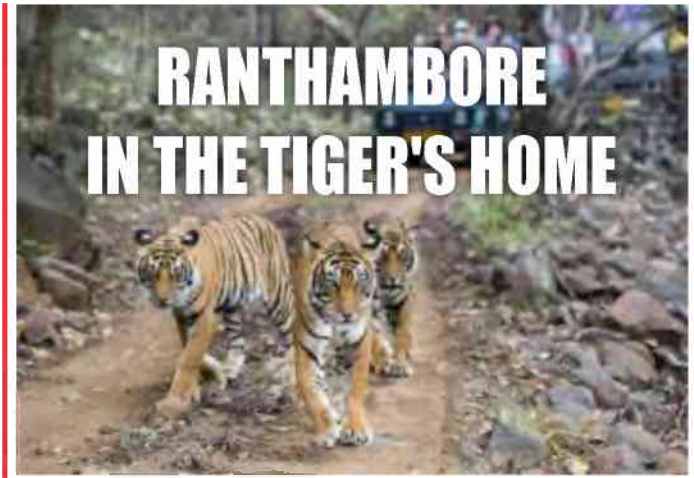
As stated by Mr. Najeeb, the study's primary author, cholesterogenic alterations may contribute to cicatricial alopecia, an inflammatory condition that permanently destroys stem cells in hair follicles and results in scarring (or fibrosis). The study also demonstrated the importance of the peptide endocrine hormone angiotensin in hair follicle cells.

To determine the degree of the effect of statins (or cholesterol-lowering medications) on hair

loss, the study's focus has been expanded. As part of the study, the researchers gathered information from 30 grama panchayats across the State.



## RANTHAMBORE IN THE TIGER'S HOME



A recent Instagram image by Varun Dhawan showed a full-grown tigress lazing about just a few feet from the jeep that the Bollywood star was ostensibly traveling in for a jungle safari.

Riddhi (T124), the daughter of Arrowhead (T84), who lives in the best tiger habitat between the three lakes in the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan, is the star of Varun's Instagram video. Many people believe the Ranthambore reserve to be the greatest in India for finding and photographing royal Bengal tigers because of the dry deciduous and thorny forests that create a distinctive scenery there. Every year, hundreds of people—from ordinary people to celebrities to wildlife experts—visit this home of the big cats.

In order to distinguish the tigers from other species, they are given identification numbers here as well as in the other reserves that begin with the letter "T." This facilitates the identification, tracking, and gathering of crucial information regarding their behavior, habitat use, and mobility.

Riddhi, one of the young adult tigresses of Ranthambore, is frequently observed in zones 3 and 4. She has previously engaged in multiple territorial battles with her sister Siddhi. Riddhi was recently captured on camera mating with Ganesh, a young adult male tiger. I was taken aback and alarmed by that video because just a few days prior, Riddhi had been briefly seen cuddling cubs. In the rainforests, there is a common notion that a tigress mating soon after giving birth indicates that the cubs have passed away. For other felids, the same is true.

Where Machali resided

Tigers are given names that correspond to their look, personality, or other distinctive traits in addition to their T numbers. A prime example is Machali, also known as T16 or the Ranthambore Tiger Queen, who was given her given name in honor of a fish-shaped marking on her face. Machali, who was 19 years old and was thought to be the tiger that had been photographed the most worldwide, passed away in August 2016. Tigers typically live until 15 or 16. A National Geographic article states that visitors who came to observe Machali brought in about \$10 million USD annually to the reserve.

Five safari zones were initially present in the

Ranthambore reserve, and five more were eventually added. Although Zones 1 to 5 are said to be the best for seeing tigers, Zones 6 to 10 also have a good chance of doing so. There have been numerous reports of sightings in Zone 10 during the previous two months. Each zone has distinct features, vantage points, and animals, including tigers, leopards, and various birds. Zone 2, which has many waterholes, is particularly noteworthy because of the volume of observations there.

Starting in October 2022, the reserve administration will enforce a strict zone-permit restriction that forbids guides from communicating walkie-talkie reports of tiger sightings to other guides. They risk losing their jobs for transgressions.

In the past, these tip-offs would cause visitors to race in their cars across zones to the location of the sighting. Due to the new "no free zone" and "no full day" permit requirements, during a safari, the vehicles must stay inside a specific zone and cannot stay in the park for an extended amount of time. In my experience, these regulations are not only in place but also strictly followed. Therefore, to significantly increase your chances of sighting the gorgeous big cats in the wild, do your research on the zones before traveling to Ranthambore.



## IITG's Alcheringa to begin from 2nd Feb



Nava Thakuria Guwahati: Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati's annual festival Alcheringa to begin on 2 February next with an aim to celebrate the India's victory over one of the most significant pandemics in recent history and also encourage the attendees to rejuvenate and rejoice in the success. The 27th edition of Alcheringa, the four-day extravaganza in the IIT Guwahati premises, will be organised with the theme of 'Pledge to Persist'. Recognised as the largest cultural festival in northeast India, Alcheringa (also known as Alcher) will witness over 80 events with thousands of participants.

Initiated by a group of IITG students, the festival will incorporate various competitions including Electric Heels (group dance competitions), Voice of Alcheringa (solo singing competition), Halla Bol (street play competition), Rock-o-Phonix (rock band competition), Mr and Ms Alcheringa (personality contest), Haute Couture (team-based fashion designing event), etc and also back-to-back live concerts, incredible pro shows, highly-anticipated creators camp and never-before-seen informal activities.

In earlier occasions, Alcheringa hosted popular artistes like Sajid Wajid, Mika Singh, Lucky Ali, Mohit Chauhan, Shankar-Ehsaan-Loy, KK, Shaan, Sonu Nigam, Vishal Dadlani, Shekhar Rajvani, Ash King, Sachin Jigar, Amaal Mallik, Gaurav Taneja, Karan Sehgal, Arunabh Kumar, Babar Ali, Deepak Pareek and many more, informed the media communication head Muhammad Bin Quasim. He expects that participants from more than 500 colleges and hundred thousand visitors would make the event a memorable experience for everyone.

## AFTER BEING LAID OFF FROM GOOGLE, AMAZON, AND META, AN INDIAN ENGINEER EXHORTS OTHERS TO RETURN TO INDIA



The repercussions of the ongoing mass layoffs are still being felt in the technology sector. Many tech workers have lost their employment as a result of layoff announcements from corporate companies including Google, Amazon, Meta, and Microsoft in recent months. Following these layoffs, a Meta

## TRAM WORLD CAFE AT GARIAHAT TRAM DEPOT COMBINES MODERN AND HISTORICAL DÉCOR

A cafe is now operating out of the Gariahat Tram Depot in Kolkata, the Asian city with the oldest still-in-use tramway. On December 23, Tram World Cafe, located on Garcha Road in south Kolkata, formally opened its doors.

It is a place where hearts from different generations have connected over a love of trams, books, and their city. In contrast to other cafés, books are kept under each table, and patrons are free to add to the collection or take whatever they choose.

The 200-year-old Banyan tree, which is a part of the charm that emanates from this spot, provides the ideal shade for conversation.

This restaurant has all the makings of being the buzz of the town thanks to its 1925 tram equipment, 200 pots of freshly-potted plants, 200 Banyan and Supari trees, and a choice of meal options.

On track

A discussion between Bahri and the West Bengal Transportation Department served as the catalyst for the



formation of Tram World Cafe.

He seized the chance to improve the mood of Kolkata.

Old tram cars that have been freshly painted are scattered throughout the area surrounding the cafe so that customers can admire them in between sips of coffee.

According to a Gariahat Tram Depot employee, the depot has preserved trams from 1938 as part of its efforts to celebrate the 120th anniversary of tramways and to preserve the past.

Private events can also be held in this area.

Wheeled meals

A mixture of newcomers and seasoned professionals in the food and beverage industry has been offered bamboo-constructed stall spaces by Bahri. One such food start-up is The Happy Kona, which offers a variety of Gyoza (Japanese dumplings). The Butter Roasted Gyoza stands out and is offered in two flavors: Steamed Spicy Vegetable and Steamed Soya.

The Spicy Vegetable Gyoza features cauliflower, beans, carrot, baby corn, and cabbage, making it a carefully crafted option for the cafe's younger customers. The Steamed Soya Gyoza is a crunchy combination of soy nuggets, baby corn, and celery.

The Berry Patch and Kaffir Lime Ale are jokingly hand-shaken beverages that pair great with your gyoza and help you take in the space's nature-inspired open-air ambiance.

As you browse the other booths, Cremewich catches your eye because of its best-selling items like the donut cream sandwich and blueberry cheesecake.

## BUDGET 2023: TRADING OPPORTUNITIES, THREE RULES TO FOLLOW, ACCORDING TO MANU BHATIA



Budget Day can be tricky for a trader. It offers opportunities, but with the volatility that can strike during the finance minister's

What are the trading opportunities around Union Budget Day?

Markets will not give a very big move a day before the budget because of the uncertainty (of what will unfold). Generally, we will not get a directional move on the previous day and there are no real trading opportunities from an options perspective.

Budget Day itself can be divided into two parts. During the first half, till the speech starts, we generally see the market moving in both directions. So, there is an opportunity to trade non-directional strategies, short volatility trades such as straddles or strangles. In the second half, after the speech and after all the information is out, then there is a trending move (and there are opportunities for directional trades).

What about the day after the budget?

This time, the budget speech will be on a Wednesday so there will be a good premium decay. So, there will be two things at play. One, as we move closer to the expiry in any week, the theta decay (the value of options coming down over time) usually intensifies. Second, post the event, the VIX or volatility also crashes, so that will accelerate the decay in the premium. So that

will be good for a delta-neutral strategy like a straddle or a strangle.

Also, if there is a good trending move on Budget Day and it (index) closes at one percent or more for the day, then it opens with a gap in that direction. So, if there is a nice good green candle seen on a chart, there is an opportunity to do BTST (buy today, sell tomorrow) trade.

Which sectors generally offer the most opportunities on Budget Day?

I look mostly at the indices. Going stock specific does not work for me because then you have to focus on multiple sectors and within that multiple stocks. Also, stocks are very volatile and slippages are high on Budget Day, so I think it is better to stick to indices on that day.

Which indices are more sensitive and therefore give a clearer directional move in the second half of Budget Day?

Generally, Bank Nifty gives a better trending move because it is based on one sector only. So, if there is an announcement related to banks, then you either get an up or down move. On the other hand, the Nifty is based on multiple sectors, so if there is good news in one sector and the sentiment is bullish but there is bad news in another sector causing a not-so-bullish trend there, then the two cancel each other out (and you don't get a definitive trend).

How do you strategise for Budget Day?

There are a few dos and don'ts. I usually avoid trading if I don't have a concrete plan in place, which includes the level at which I would take the trade and the risk management in terms of the position sizing, stop-loss and so on. This is because it will be extremely difficult to make trading decisions during market hours on Budget Day. I try to plan it in a manner that all the possible outcomes (from budget announcements) are covered and I just have to react to that (the outcomes).

You have all these ready on the system and, according to the announcements, you fire them. Is that the strategy?

Yes. Two things that are really important are the time when the speech starts and the time when the speech is about to end. I do not respond to specific announcements but would generally wait till there are a few minutes for the speech to end. Towards the end of the speech is when you see the maximum decay and you want to trail your profits.

After the speech is done and the event converts into information, then it ends (the trading opportunity is over because everyone has that information). I also avoid trading in stock (options) because the volatility there will be much higher than what you would see in the indices. The more the volatility, the more difficult it will be to take decisions during a live market session.

In dos, always have a risk-management plan on how much capital you are willing to let go. For me, it is generally between 1-1.5 percent on Budget Day. So overall, go with and stick to a plan, have risk management in place, and avoid stocks.

Did you make any mistakes on previous Budget Days and what did you learn from them?

In 2019, I did not get the position sizing right. I realised that instead of risking 1 percent of the capital, I was risking 3-4 percent of the capital. Though I did not end up in a loss that time, from then on I made sure that I had the position sizing in place. Also, on such days, premiums are elevated because of event expectations. Therefore, I would not recommend taking the same position sizing that you take generally on other days. It is better to bring it down. I bring my position sizing down by 30 percent on Budget Day.

# DIGVIJAYA SINGH ON THE SURGICAL STRIKES FOLLOWING THE PULWAMA TERROR ATTACK

Digvijaya Singh, a senior member of the Congress, questioned the surgical strikes against Pakistan and the 2019 Pulwama terrorist incident, which claimed the lives of over 40 security personnel. The BJP responded angrily, saying the Congress is demeaning the army after he accused the government of peddling lies.

The Congress expressed their distaste for the veteran's remarks. "Every car is inspected in Pulwama, a terrorist hotspot. The incorrect side is where a Scorpio comes from. Why wasn't anything checked? Following the crash, 40 of our soldiers perish. The government has not yet provided information regarding the incident to the legislature or the general public," said Digvijaya Singh at a rally during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

"They mention 'surgical strikes,' claiming that we killed a great number of people. Yet there is no evidence. They hold power by spreading a lot of lies," declared the former chief minister of Madhya Pradesh.

A few hours later, Congress said that Mr. Singh didn't represent its viewpoints.



"Senior leader Digvijaya Singh's opinions are entirely his own and do not represent

those of the Congress. Surgical strikes were conducted by the UPA government prior to 2014. All military operations that are in the national interest have received and will receive support from Congress" Jairam Ramesh tweeted.

A day after participating in Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Yatra, Digvijaya Singh was giving a speech in Jammu. The BJP attacked Mr. Singh's remarks, particularly singling out Rahul Gandhi.

Days after 18 soldiers were killed in a terrorist attack on an army installation in Uri, Jammu & Kashmir, India conducted surgical strikes. Jaish-e-Mohammad, a terrorist organization with ties to Pakistan, was held responsible for the attack on a security convoy in Pulwama in February 2019.

India responded with aerial strikes at Balakot, which is located deep within Pakistani territory, days after the attack. In the past, Congress has questioned the Pulwama attack and the aircraft strike. The party has tempered its criticism over the years out of concern about the claim that Congress is doubting our Army.

## INDIAN ARMY DOG GETS BRAVERY AWARD



Indian Army's brave assault dog Zoom, despite being shot twice, was martyred while fighting for the country. Zoom Dog has received the Gallantry Award on Republic Day.

## EX-ARMY CHIEF'S TWEET SHOWS DEFENCE SECRETARY WITH HANDS IN POCKETS AT WAR MEMORIAL; LATTER OFFERS CLARIFICATION



Former Chief of Army Staff Gen V P Malik later tweets saying Giridhar Aramane has clarified that he has the highest respect for all soldiers killed in action. A video clip showing Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane with his hands in the pockets at the National War Memorial on Republic Day has attracted adverse reactions from veterans including former Chief of Army Staff Gen V P Malik.

Gen Malik tweeted the video clip where the defence secretary is seen in the company of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan and the Army, Navy and Air Force chiefs. They were awaiting the arrival of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the war memorial. Aramane can be seen in the clip with his hands in pockets.

Gen Malik tweeted the video clip with the remarks "There is a man apart". Many other veterans also took to Twitter to express their annoyance at what they described as a "disrespectful" attitude at the war memorial by the defence secretary.

## AS WOMEN GET COMMAND ROLES IN INDIAN ARMY, HERE'S WHAT GIRLS PREPARING FOR NDA FACE BACK HOME IN VILLAGES

With the Army clearing the promotion of women officers to the rank of Colonel, doors are now open to women to command regiments and battalions in the Army and then aspire to higher ranks like Brigadier, Maj Gen, Lt Gen and eventually someday as General. The Indian Express spoke to several girl cadets of Mai Bhago Armed Forces Preparatory Institute in Mohali who are undergoing training to prepare them to join the defence services and asked them how the Army's decision impacted their enthusiasm levels.



1. Diksha Dhiman, 20 years

Home: Pathankot

Family: Father repairs electronic devices, mother homemaker

Motivation: We have heard about Capt Shiva Chauhan who has been posted to Siachen glacier as first woman officer. The promotion announcement is also exciting. Every individual holds certain capabilities. It should not be about gender. Vacancies are increasing and we can visualise changes are happening for future for the better.

We are seeing a transition for women which is seen as a motivation to keep us driving. We face lot of challenges.

2. Khushi Dutta, 19 years

Home: Mohali

Family: Father works in education consultancy firm, mother homemaker, brother studying in Canada

Motivation: It is a great opportunity for women to be at parity with males in the Army. It is very motivating. We feel we are being given opportunities which were earlier denied to us.

3. Mehak Dahiya, 19 year

Home: Mohali, originally from Sonapat

Family: Father is govt teacher in Haryana and mother is real estate agent

Motivation: The scope for a career in Army is getting wider with command opportunities. It is motivating to other girls who want to make it a lifetime career. It gives a sense of security.

3. Deepnoor Sahota, 19 years

Home: Gurdaspur

Family: Father professor in computer science engg, mother

principal in government school,

brother studying in Canada

Motivation: I don't see it as women empowerment. If you are a woman in defence services you are already empowered. Opening Artillery for women and command opportunities for women is good. I feel combat branches of Army will also be open for women eventually.

Women are more organised and better at taking informed decisions.

4. Aarti Pathania, 18 years

Home: Village Bambawal, Mukerian

Family: Father is a govt english teacher, mother hindi teacher.

Motivation: The change is happening gradually and that is good. If we deserve it we will get it. Stereotypes are true to some extent. In villages they say why send girls into Army. Ladki hoke kaise kar lagi (how will she do it as a girl). I said "kar loongi" (I will do it). Times are changing.

5. Shweta, 19 years

Amloh

Father is a tailor and mother homemaker

Brother is BEd and gives tuition

My teacher told me about this institute.

These are very encouraging initiatives. Women are also as capable as men. For aspirants like us it is very motivating that we can also hold those higher ranks which men do. Many girls getting motivated in schools to join Army.

6. Navneet Kaur, 19 years

Home: Rajpura

Family: Father ret'd from army and mother homemaker,

brother in class 10

Motivation: Great decision. Women will do well in Command. For combat role too they can do well. History tells us that women have done well in combat. We have example of Rani Jhansi and Mai Bhago as examples also.

7. Sehajveer Kaur, 19 years

Home: Village Aloona, Rajpura

Family: Father is farmer and mother is a housewife.

Motivation: More opportunities give encouragement to girls like me. Only if we put pressure on ourselves where we are

commanding a regiment or battalion can we see the best come out of us.

8. Subin Sandhu, 18 years

Home: Ludhiana

Family: Father is Colonel in Army and mother homemaker

Motivation: The fact that Army is accepting women in command roles is a very good decision. One day or the other they had to do it. Women can do whatever men can.

My father commanded battalion in Siachen. It is a tough life. It will be difficult for women because of biological reasons. But it is not impossible. There is a mindset which has to change.

9. Navkiran Chauhan, 19 years

Home: Gurdaspur

Family: Father passed away in 2007, mother govt teacher, brother in class 12

Motivation: More responsibility is good. Society is evolving and so is Army. Women are breaking shackles. We asked for it because we think we are capable of it. In village they say, "You are very soft, it is very difficult to do". It is definitely a life full of hardship but we are motivated.

10. Palak Virdi, 18 years

Home: Pathankot

Family: Father is a businessman, mother homemaker, younger brother and sister in school.

Motivation: Change is slow but it is gradual and irreversible. Women have all the skills needed and it is good to see Army is accepting this. Women should be given equal opportunities in combat branches also.

## CHESS SETUP BY PUDUCHERRY GIRL BREAKS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD IN 29.85 SECONDS



Think of titles like "Longest Winning Streak" or "Longest Undefeated Streak" when hearing about Guinness World Records related to the game of chess. Right? But have you ever considered setting a Guinness World Record for the quickest time it takes a person to assemble a chess set, one piece at a time? You heard correctly! And what's this? This title is held by a Puducherry-born girl.

A video of S. Odelia Jasmine quickly and one at a time laying the chess pieces on the mat was uploaded to the official Guinness World Records Instagram account. The sign in the video's background indicates that she established the record for "Fastest time to arrange a chess set" in 2021. She did so in 29.85 seconds. The date of July 20, 2021, is also verified on the Guinness World Records official website.

More than 42,000 people have liked the video and it has received over 7 lakh 18 thousand views. Most social media users questioned the rules of the record in the comments section, while some humorously commented that they could complete the task faster, and some genuinely admired her efforts.

S. Odelia Jasmine's greatest dream, according to comments left by Guinness World Records on the post, was to win a Guinness World Records title. She worked on breaking this record for a full year. The Guinness World Records also mentioned that four other people had previously held this title in another note. The record was set by David Rush (USA) in 2021 in 30.31 seconds, followed by Nakul Ramaswamy (USA) in 2019 in 31.55 seconds, Alva Wei (USA) in 2015 in 32.42 seconds, and Dalibor Jablanovic (Serbia) in 34.20 seconds.

## SARFARAZ KHAN'S FATHER REMEMBERS HIS SON'S TOUCHING WORDS

Indian cricket has recently been abuzz with speculation about Sarfaraz Khan. Sarfaraz has generated a lot of buzzes recently with the abundance of



runs he has been accumulating in domestic cricket, despite the fact that he has yet to win his first India cap. This has left fans and experts enraged over his continued non-selection for the national side. Despite the external noise, the 25-year-old maintained his composure as he scored another century in the Ranji Trophy two days after being passed over for a berth in the 17-person squad for the first two Tests against Australia.

Sarfaraz's life hasn't exactly been straightforward. In order to make ends meet and support his kid in pursuing his goal of playing cricket, Naushad Khan took on odd jobs. Thus, Sarfaraz cherishes his father's support above all else, which is perhaps what has helped him remain composed throughout his ongoing mental struggle despite the denials.

In an interview with Indian Express, Naushad recalled a touching story about his son's pure innocence in which he briefly compared his life to that of Arjun Tendulkar, the son of renowned Indian batter Sachin Tendulkar, with whom he frequently played or faced in the early stages of his career, before acknowledging the importance of his father's sacrifice.

"Abbu, Arjun kitna naseebwala hai na? (Arjun is so lucky). He is Sachin sir's son, and has cars, iPads, everything," remarked a young Sarfaraz as recalled by his father.

Sarfaraz keeps scoring runs in the Ranji Trophy in an effort to make the Indian Test team for the next home Border-Gavaskar series against Australia.

## IN RESPONSE TO THE VIRAT KOHLI VS. SACHIN TENDULKAR QUESTION, KAPIL DEV DELIVERS A FLAWLESS YORKER

Indian cricket has advanced significantly. After winning the historic and unthinkable 1983 World Cup, the country underwent a shift in its sporting culture, and the minnows of the 1980s are today giants in world cricket across all formats, with BCCI being one of the richest cricket boards in the world. India has seen superstars dominate at the international level over the years and through several generations: Sunil Gavaskar in the 1970s and 1980s, Sachin Tendulkar and the Fab Five, and now Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma. But what does the future hold? Kapil Dev, the captain of the 1983 World Cup-winning team, has a direct opinion.

However, the inquiry and Kapil's response had very little



in common. The former India all-rounder was questioned by Gulf News about the age-old argument between Sachin and Kohli over who is a better hitter. And in response, Kapil gave precisely the right yorker.

The Indian great said that while he might have his favorite, a superstar usually emerges from each generation. In his time, the best cricketers were Gavaskar, Sachin, and now Kohli. According to Kapil, the age after him will have better players.

Cricket fans all across the world have long been troubled and entertained by the Kohli vs. Sachin argument. During Kohli's century drought between 2019 and 2022, it did tend to fade a bit, but it has since flared back up after the former India captain hit three ODI hundreds in his past six innings, putting him just three behind Sachin's ODI century record.

## BRITISH RACING ACE GIVES TOP MARKS FOR MIC

Three-time British Touring Cars champion Matt Neal labeled the Madras International Circuit as unique.

On a business trip to India, Neal, 56, visited the MIC on invitation on Friday during the final round of the Indian National Car Racing Championship and even drove a few laps in the Volkswagen Virtus of the Indian Touring Cars category.

Branding the track as "very technical and challenging" given its mix of tight and fast corners besides a couple of fast straights, Neal opined the circuit is an excellent platform for those cutting their racing teeth.

"I have never driven on a track like this (the MIC) and it



was quite enjoyable. I did about five-six laps. It has a

character that is unique in its own way, like other tracks around the world. The track has a very fast corner at Turn-1, a few mid-speed corners, and some tight sections like the 'S' leading up to the bridge," he said.

The grass run-off areas add to the personality of the track, but you got to respect the limits," said Neal, a six-times BTCC Independents champion between 1993-2006.

"To be honest, I would rate this track about seven on a scale of 10. You could have more variety with fast corners, but it has its own challenges and personality. Definitely in the top half. It is great for motorsport in India as well," Neal said.

## INDIAN NATIONAL CAR RACING CHAMPIONSHIP, ROUND 4 POLE POSITION FOR SOHIL SHAH, RITESH RAI

Bengaluru youngster Sohil Shah and Chennai's Ritesh Rai grabbed pole position in the MRF Formula 2000 and Volkswagen Polo Cup categories, respectively, on the opening day of the fourth and final round of the Indian National Car Racing Championship at the Madras International Circuit on Friday.

The 21-year old Shah set a best time of one minute, 31.668 seconds to qualify for the pole position ahead of championship leader Sai Sanjay from Salem (01:32.095) and Gurugram's Divy Nandan (01:32.246). In fact, Sohil went quicker in the qualifying as compared to his time in



the practice session (01:31.969) earlier in the day.

Meanwhile, 40-year old Chennai racer, Ritesh Rai, who is placed eighth in the championship, put in a hot lap of 01:56.000 to earn himself the pole position in the VW Polo Cup. Qualifying for P2 was Mumbai's Pratik Sonawane (01:56.419) who heads the points table, while Raaj Bakhru (01:56.605), also from Mumbai, will start tomorrow's race from P3.

Gurunath Meiyappan (Race Concepts, 01:54.901) and Ritesh Rai (Performance Racing, 02:03.252) were the fastest in the practice session for Indian Junior Touring Cars and Super Stock categories, respectively.

## SANIA MIRZA, ONE OF INDIA'S GREATEST TENNIS PLAYERS, GETS FITTING GRAND SLAM FAREWELL

Sania Mirza fought back the tears as she spoke on the Rod Laver Arena for the last time. She was typically self-assured and understated in her achievement — reaching the final of her farewell Grand Slam at the Australian Open. "If I cry — these are happy tears, not sad ones," she said. Even though she was unable to lift the trophy, the stage — one of the most iconic courts in the history of tennis — was fitting for her farewell.

This is where Sania belongs — the final stages of a Grand Slam. She is one of the most successful players at this stage in India's history, with six titles. She won the Australian Open twice before, once in mixed doubles in 2009 alongside Mahesh Bhupathi, and then again in women's doubles alongside Martina Hingis in 2016 — her last Major title.

Despite all the incredible highs she saw in her career on the doubles tour, it will always be the 36-year-old's pathbreaking performances as a young woman on the singles tour that define her career. The six-time Grand Slam doubles champion revealed after her semifinal win on Wednesday that the most special moment of her career was actually a 1-6, 4-6 defeat in the third round in Melbourne Park back in 2005, when an 18-year-old Sania came up against the sport's greatest competitor.

And 2005 would end up being a defining year for her. She went on to win her first WTA title in Hyderabad — to



this date, the last ATP or WTA singles title won by an Indian. Later that year, at the US Open, the then-19-year-old would go on to script more history, becoming the first Indian woman to reach the second week of a Grand Slam, losing in the fourth round — the deepest run any Indian has made at a Major singles event since Ramesh Krishnan in 1987.

For 10 years, before moving on to play only doubles, Sania remained India's No.1 singles player, reaching a career-high ranking of World No. 27 in 2007.

Her impact would go beyond that, and the 91 weeks she spent as the World No. 1 doubles player, and the 43 doubles titles she won on tour, and the iconic, thunderous forehand that left many opponents in its wake. Before the likes of Mary Kom, PV Sindhu, and Saina Nehwal

would gain worldwide recognition, Sania was the leading light for women's sport in the 21st century.

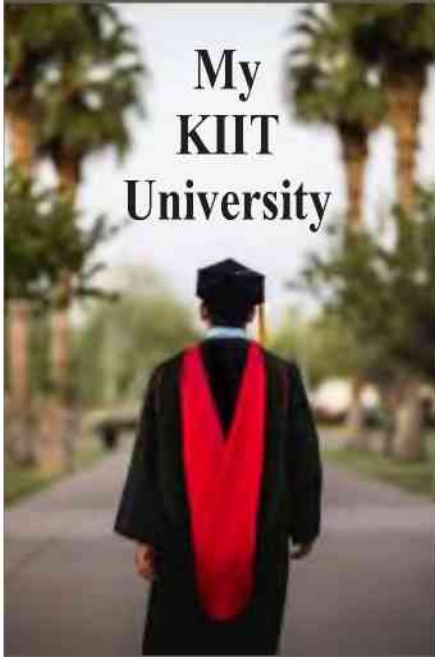
For a young Muslim woman playing at a competitive level, in a globally televised commercial sport, Sania was forced to deal with a level of scrutiny most would not have to. The criticism she has had to field has been far-ranging. The manner of her appearance and outfits on court were relentlessly scrutinised, she was once absurdly accused for disrespecting the national flag, her patriotism was questioned due to her marriage to a Pakistani cricketer, and she was questioned about when she was going to settle down and start a family — to fit traditional gender-norms.

There was never anything traditional about the pathbreaking journey Sania already began by the time she was a teenager, and true to form, she dealt with the criticism in the bold, self-assured manner in which she has dealt with so many opponents on the court.

She knew how much influence her platform gave her (Sania has 10.9 million followers on Instagram, Naomi Osaka, the world's highest-paid female athlete, has 2.7 million). She spoke out against domestic violence, gender pay gaps, and female foeticide, and most of all, against the stereotypes Indian women have to face to make it in professional sport.

# “Artizen's Column”

## Poem of the week



Searched I for many places, For a nest that nurture knowledge  
A congregation of ideal thoughts, And an enormous family of happy faces  
And came across I of this great educational tertiary; A plethora of my happiness, my KIIT University.

Amidst all men in this megalomaniac society,

There stood someone with a greater idea; A purpose to help all prosper and educate  
Began with no delay, our founder, Dr. Achyuta Samanta  
A vision he proposed that changed the life of many  
A step he chose so great to help all of humanity.

Today, our University, stands a home to heroes;  
With ample disciplines to study, everyday, it grows,  
And so much so, that look it has turned 25 !!!  
A home where ideas flourish and knowledge thrives;  
A University that possess innovative erudites

And stands an epitome to better our lives.

Glad I am to be in this College, A place where I feel acknowledged  
Proud I am to be a lovable Kiitian; And honoured to be amidst men of similar interests.  
Thank you O' Almighty for bringing me here, Long live KIIT University, so is all we cheer !!!

By Dibyojyoti Deb

## Art of the week



Name- Pranita Kumbhar  
Title- Walk with Nature

Interpretation- Capturing the Timeless beauty of studio ghibli movies

## Face of the week

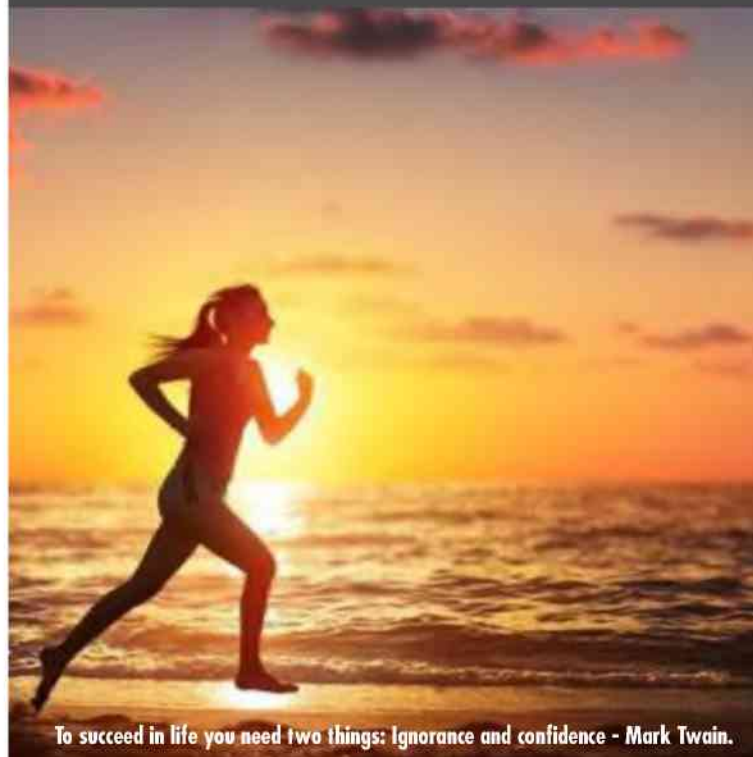


Rebelo Edwin

He is the Apple of our eyes, the little gem that brings joy to our hearts

## Shot of the week

## Thought of the week



To succeed in life you need two things: Ignorance and confidence - Mark Twain.



Name- Anshu singh  
Title-Freedom

Interpretation- feathered visitors across chilika lake , orissa.