

Property registrations in Hyderabad struggle to keep pace: Knight Frank Report

Hyderabad: Hyderabad's real estate market has shown disappointing figures for much of 2024, despite occasional rebounds. According to Knight Frank Research and Telangana's Registration and Stamps Department, property registrations in Hyderabad have been on a slow decline for most of the year. In October, there was only a modest recovery in property registrations, with a 2 per cent YoY increase in the number of units registered, totaling 5,894. However, this growth was overshadowed by a significant slump in September, where registrations dropped by a staggering 22 per cent compared to the same period in 2023. Moreover, the volume of residential property registrations remained tepid. The total registration value in October reached Rs 3,617 crore, marking a 14 per cent YoY growth, but this comes on the back of escalating prices that are out of reach for many prospective homebuyers. The rise in demand for properties priced over Rs 1 crore sharply contrasts with the more affordable

market, which has experienced a steady decline. In fact, homes under Rs 50 lakh accounted for only 59 per cent of sales in October 2024, down from 66 per cent in the same month last year. Meanwhile, homes priced above Rs 1 crore saw a sharp 36 per cent YoY increase in registrations. Larger homes, typically over 2,000 square feet, are gaining traction. In October, these properties accounted for 12 per cent of registrations, up from 10 per cent last year.

Meanwhile, property sales in October were dominated by Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts, which together accounted for nearly 85 per cent of the total transactions. In contrast, the Hyderabad district, home to prime areas such as Banjara Hills and Jubilee Hills, contributed only a modest 16 per cent of the registrations. Additionally, the average transaction price for properties in Hyderabad rose by 7 per cent YoY in October. While Sangareddy saw the largest increase of 13



per cent, other districts like Medchal-Malkajgiri and Rangareddy experienced

moderate hikes of 8 per cent and 6 per cent, respectively.

Factionalism within Congress leaves cadre in a fix in Telangana's Patancheru



Sangareddy: Factions within the Congress in Patancheru constituency have left the cadre in a fix. The Congress cadre was divided into three groups in the constituency. While a faction of the cadre was moving with party constituency in-charge Kata Srinivas Goud, two other factions were moving with MLA Gudem Mahipal Reddy and Neelam Madhu, respectively. While Kata was an old horse of Congress in the constituency, Neelam Madhu joined the party before the Lok Sabha elections. He got the opportunity to contest on the party ticket from the Medak Lok Sabha constituency for a losing cause.

Mahipal Reddy, who had won from

Patancheru three times in a row on a BRS ticket, defected to the Congress post the General elections. However, he had never participated in Congress' official programmes. It seems the differences further flared up between these two groups over the recent transfers and postings of police officers. Mahipal Reddy, who was in the good books of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and other party top brass, had his say in getting posts to his loyal police officers recently. Reddy had some challenging times immediately after the Congress came to power. The police officials, who reportedly got posts with the help of Kata Srinivas Goud,

had filed multiple cases on Reddy and his younger brother Madhusudhan Reddy. The MLA, who met the Chief Minister recently, had reportedly pursued him to give some key posts to his loyal officers in the Patancheru constituency. It immediately flared up the differences between Kata and Mahipal Reddy. Kata, who went to Gandhi Bhavan on Thursday, raised his voice against the party leadership, accusing them of favouring Mahipal Reddy, who suppressed the Congress in Patancheru for more than a decade. He further alleged that the officers, who suppressed the Congress in Patancheru, were getting key postings now

with the help of the MLA. He met Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and other Congress leaders and complained to them. Meanwhile, Mahipal Reddy and Kata had stayed away from Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president B Mahesh Goud's meeting held in Sangareddy this week. On the other hand, Neelam Madhu was moving closely with all the top leaders of the party and building his own cadre silently. Neither in-charge Minister Konda Surekha nor district Minister Damodar Raja Narasimha put any effort in sorting out these differences while they look to damage the party in the constituency.

Bonus payments to farmers hit by delays

Hyderabad: The State government has procured 21.73 lakh metric tonnes of paddy worth Rs 5040.012 crore so far as part of the MSP operation. Despite this substantial procurement, only Rs.2,760.22 crore has been paid to the farmers so far. The procurement included 5.67 lakh metric tonnes of fine varieties as against 16.06 lakh metric tonnes of coarse varieties.

The procurement of the fine varieties involved bonus payment to the tune of Rs 283.25 crores. However, only Rs 8.17 crore

of this amount has been disbursed so far. The government has announced an incentive bonus of Rs 500 per quintal on the fine varieties.

The procurement process has involved a total of 350,311 farmers, with paddy being brought to procurement centers in large quantities as harvests continue in full swing.

The announced bonus for fine variety paddy has seen 78,686 farmers cultivating this variety, while 271,655 farmers have cultivated coarse variety paddy.

Why has Gautam Adani been indicted in the U.S. over alleged \$250mn bribery scheme?

The story so far: Federal prosecutors in New York on Wednesday (November 21, 2024) indicted Adani Group Chairman Gautam S. Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and six others on multiple counts of fraud. The charges stem from an alleged multibillion-dollar scheme to bribe Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms on solar power contracts, which were projected to generate over \$2 billion in profits. "This indictment alleges schemes to pay over \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials, to lie to investors and banks to raise billions of dollars, and to obstruct justice," a press release issued by the US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York, said quoting U.S. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Lisa Miller. The individuals named as defendants, alongside Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani, include Vneet Jaain, CEO of Adani Green Energy Ltd; Ranjit Gupta, who served as CEO of Azure Power Global Ltd from 2019 to 2022; Rupesh Agarwal, who was with Azure Power from 2022 to 2023; and Cyril Cabanes, an Australian-French dual citizen, along with Saurabh Agarwal and Deepak Malhotra — all of whom were affiliated with Canada-based pension fund Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ). Solar power plant project at the heart of the indictment

The indictment alleges that Gautam Adani and his associates paid over \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials between 2020 and 2024. These payments were reportedly made to secure contracts projected to generate \$2 billion in profits over 20 years and to develop India's largest solar power plant project.

The U.S. prosecutors have claimed that the seeds of the bribery scheme were sown between December 2019 and July 2020 when Adani Green Energy and another renewable energy company listed on the New York Stock Exchange secured contracts from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a state-owned entity dedicated to promoting renewable energy adoption across the country. At the time, Adani Green Energy proclaimed in a press statement that it had won "the world's largest solar award". According to the indictment, the \$6 billion investment was projected to yield over \$2 billion in post-tax profits over 20 years. However, the project encountered an unexpected setback — its high energy costs made it unaffordable for Indian States, leaving the SECI grappling to attract customers to sign on. Between 2021 and February 2022, several States including Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir agreed to participate in the solar power initiative. Around the same time, more individuals joined the bribery scheme, including former employees of CDPQ — Cyril Cabanes, Saurabh Agarwal and Deepak Malhotra. Violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act The indictment accuses Adani and his associates of conspiring to bribe Indian officials to secure energy contracts in a purported violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Although enacted in 1977, the law has been more stringently enforced in recent decades resulting in substantial fines for major companies, including Germany's Siemens, Brazil's state-owned Petrobras, and a subsidiary of Halliburton, the oil services giant. President-

elect Donald J. Trump reportedly wanted to strike down the legislation in his first term since he considered it "unfair" to American companies. Another prominent critic of the law, Jay Clayton, whom Trump appointed as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, contended in a 2011 paper that U.S. anti-bribery policies disproportionately burdened American companies in international transactions, thereby undermining U.S. competitiveness. The prosecutors alleged that the defendants meticulously tracked their bribes and offers to Indian officials using messaging apps, phones, and PowerPoint presentations, often employing "code names" in their communications. It was further claimed that two of the defendants even engaged in discussions to delete "incriminating electronic materials, including emails, electronic messages and a PowerPoint analysis." Securities fraud Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani, and Vneet Jaain are accused of conspiring to deceive investors by issuing bonds supported by falsified and misleading financial data. According to the indictment, the scheme involved employing fraudulent tactics, such as withholding crucial information and fabricating corporate resolutions, to attract U.S. investors to their bond sales. The indictment outlines that Adani Green Energy Ltd. attempted to raise funds from U.S. and international investors in connection with a 2021 bond offering by making false and misleading claims regarding the company's anti-corruption and anti-bribery measures. The defendants also face charges of conspiring to commit wire fraud by making false promises and fraudulent claims to secure loans and investments for their energy ventures. According to the indictment, Adani and his nephew lied to investors when their businesses took out a \$1.35 billion loan and issued \$750 million in bonds in 2021. Additionally, they are accused of withholding information from investors regarding ongoing U.S. investigations into their business practices in 2023 and 2024. Former employees of CDPQ — Cyril Cabanes, Saurabh Agarwal, and Deepak Malhotra — have been accused of obstructing an investigation into the bribery scheme by deleting emails and agreeing to provide false information to the U.S. government. CDPQ, a shareholder in Adani companies, invests in infrastructure projects. In response to the indictment, CDPQ issued a statement saying, "CDPQ is aware of charges filed in the US against certain former employees. Those employees were all terminated in 2023 and CDPQ is co-operating with US authorities. In light of the pending cases, we have no further comment at this time." The US Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed a parallel civil lawsuit against Adani and his associates "for conduct arising out of a massive bribery scheme". The complaint alleges that they engaged in a scheme that involved "paying or promising to pay the equivalent of hundreds of millions of dollars in bribes to Indian government officials to secure their commitment to purchase energy at above-market rates". This was reportedly done while simultaneously raising \$175 million from U.S. investors, based on "materially false and misleading" statements. Additionally, the US securities watchdog has sought the imposition of monetary penalties and a lifetime prohibi-



tion on the defendants from serving as directors or officers in any company governed by the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

What happens next? If proven, the charges could invite hefty financial penalties and a ban on the defendants from holding directorial or executive positions in companies that fall under US exchange regulations. The case will now proceed to the "arraignment" stage where the concerned judge will formally communicate the charges to the defendants and decide whether to grant bail or not. The defendants will then be required to enter a plea — either guilty or not guilty. If they plead not guilty, the case will move forward to a jury trial. The indictment risks reigniting a reputational crisis for the Adani conglomerate, which had been previously ac-

cused of "brazen accounting fraud, stock manipulation and money laundering" by Hindenburg Research, a small investment firm in New York. Although the Adani Group denied those claims, its stock price plummeted following the release of the report. On Thursday, Adani Green Energy Ltd, the company at the heart of the allegations, cancelled a \$600 million bond sale, the proceeds of which were intended to repay a foreign-currency loan. Several Adani Group shares, including those of the flagship firm Adani Enterprises, also suffered massive losses and hit their lower circuits in early trade. An Adani Group spokesperson has denied the allegations as baseless and maintained that the conglomerate is fully compliant with existing laws.

Smoking alters throat microbiota and worsens flu risk, study finds

New Delhi: Smoking cigarettes can cause changes in throat microbiota and worsen influenza A virus infection, finds a study. Smoking has long been known as unhealthy. It is known to lead to chronic pulmonary disease and has also been associated with increased risk for influenza-related illness, among a host of other conditions. More recently, scientists demonstrated a link between cigarette smoke and a disordering of the oropharyngeal microbiota composition. However, this association has not been clear. The soft palate, side and back walls of the throat, tonsils, and the back of the tongue make up the oropharynx. To decode, researchers from the University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland led a mice study.

They showed that gut and oropharyngeal microbiota are altered by chronic cigarette exposure in mice. Markus Hilty, Associate Professor at the Institute for Infectious Diseases, at the varsity said that smoking alone does not impact respiratory disease. "The smoker's microbiota may also impact respiratory disease and/or infection. In our case, it impacts viral infection," said Hilty. In the study, the team exposed mice to cigarette smoke, and then cohoused them with air-exposed mice (control) and germ-free mice. The experiment allowed the trans-



fer of the microbiota from donor mice to germ-free mice. The results, published in *mSystems*, a journal of the American Society for Microbiology, showed that the original germ-free mice were colonised either with bacteria from a smoke-exposed or air-exposed mouse. Further, the team infected the recipient mice with influenza A virus and monitored the disease course. They found that the original germ-free mice who received bacteria from smoke-exposed mice had a more severe disease course, which was measured by increased weight loss. In addition, virus infection was linked with substantial changes in the oropharyngeal microbiota composition. The changes were particularly visible on day 4 and day 8 after infection. Hilty urged physicians to consider "cigarette-induced disordering of the microbiota as probably an important factor during viral infection".

Harsimrat K Badal calls for justice for farmers and Punjab in All Party meet on eve of parliament session

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), November 24 – Senior Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) leader and Bathinda MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal Sunday made a fervent appeal for ensuring justice to the farmers of Punjab who were being denied minimum support price (MSP) on paddy and facing severe DAP fertilizer shortage as well as Punjabis whose right over Chandigarh had been further diluted by approval of a proposal to allocate land in the union territory to Haryana to construct a separate Vidhan Sabha, a party release states so. Participating in the all-party meeting on the eve of the winter session of parliament, Mrs Harsimrat Badal said both the centre and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) governments were responsible for the plight of the farmers of the State.

“Our farmers had to sell short as they were continuously harassed in Mandis on account of moisture content in their paddy crop. This is not all. The farmers are being denied supply of DAP fertilizer with the central government reducing the allocation of the fertilizer to Punjab by as much as Rs 1.28 lakh tonnes”. She said farmers in Punjab also suffered due to the sale of spurious seed of early varieties of paddy which the AAP government failed to prevent as well as sale of fake DAP fertilizer. She also highlighted how Sheller owners in Punjab were complaining

that even last year’s paddy stock had not been moved out of the State and that various State governments were rejecting rice sent to them from Punjab on flimsy grounds. The MP also reminded the centre that an MSP Committee which had been promised when the Kisan Andolan was lifted, was yet to be formed to the satisfaction of Kisan organizations. The Bathinda MP also registered her strong objection to the allocation of land in Haryana for construction of a separate Vidhan Sabha by Haryana. She said this was in violation of the Punjab Reorganization Act even as she insisted State boundaries could be amended by parliament alone. Asserting that Chandigarh was an inalienable part of Punjab and should be transferred to the State immediately, she called for halting the allocation of land to Haryana in the union territory. Mrs Badal also delved on how democratic functioning was being thwarted in the Panjab University, Chandigarh with the government not holding elections to the varsity’s Senate and moving to scrap the body altogether. She asserted the SAD would oppose this tooth and nail and demanded elections be held to the Senate immediately. The SAD leader also expressed her anguish at the delay in the release of Sikh detainees whom she referred to as Bandi Singhs. She said even though the central government had issued a notification on the



550th birth anniversary of Sri Guru Nanak Dev ji in 2019 to release all the Bandi Singhs, the same had not been done till now. She said the central government was dragging its feet and denying parole to Bhai Balwant Singh Rajoana by not taking a decision on the latter’s mercy petition for the last twelve years. Mrs Badal also called for release of all Punjab government funds which had been withheld by the centre including those for the

National Health Mission, Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, Ayushman Bharat as well as Rural Development Fund (RDF) dues. She also pressed for grant of fair compensation to land being acquired by the Amritsar- Jamnagar Expressway under the Bharat Mala project and condemned the AAP government for committing atrocities on farmers who were agitating peacefully for their right to fair compensation.



Today, State Bank of India conducted a drive to create awareness on Cyber Frauds at Parks, Railway Station, Indoor Stadiums, Retail outlets, Panchayat office, schools, Pensioners association etc., across the state of Telangana.

More than 1000 staff participated at 100 locations across the State in this awareness drive. It is the largest awareness drive taken up by India’s largest Bank in the interest of the Public to safeguard their money from fraudsters.

The awareness campaign witnessed huge participation from all segments of the

public. Bank’s efforts in spreading awareness regarding the increasing trend of spam, fraud calls and messages was very much appreciated. Various Audio & Video Clips including our Honourable Prime Minister’s Mann Ki Baat address on ‘Digital Arrest Scams’ were played. Many customers shared their experiences of receiving calls and texts with fraudulent links.

The awareness was conducted for explaining the modus operandi of fraudsters and ways to avoid falling into the trap of fraudsters etc.

Various officials from LHO also



participated in the awareness programs and informed the public to be vigilant and report such instances by calling the toll free number 1930 or by lodging a complaint at

www.cybercrime.gov.in

G Ramakrishna

Assistant General Manager

(AGM, Marketing, Communications & CSR)

Air quality in Hyderabad is good, TS PCB clarifies

Hyderabad: The Telangana Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) on Monday urged people of Hyderabad not to believe false claims made in social media that air quality in Hyderabad was deteriorating and the Air Quality Index (AQI) of New Delhi, which hovers between 300 and 360, and that of Hyderabad are same. The AQI of Hyderabad is generally in the range of Good to Moderate i.e. less than 200. The AQI in Hyderabad in the last few days i.e. November 22, November 23 and 24 is Moderate with AQI measured hovering from 120, 123 and 123

respectively. An action plan for improving the air quality in Hyderabad is under implementation because of which PM10 and PM2.5 concentrations have decreased from 97 to 81 micro grams per meter cube and 40 to 36 micro grams per meter cube respectively from 2019 to 2023. The ‘SAMEER App’ of CPCB is the official app of Government which gives the AQI of the cities and also that of the individual stations based on the Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS). Hence general public are advised to locations.

CPA Australia and ASSOCHAM partner for global summit on the Future of Business Resilience & Risk Mitigation

CPA Australia, one of the world's largest professional accounting bodies, in partnership with the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), India's oldest apex industry chamber, organised a landmark global summit on "The Future of Business Resilience & Risk Mitigation: Innovations, Strategies, and Alliances" in Bengaluru, India. As part of CPA Australia's vision to drive partnerships and knowledge sharing in the region, the event brought together policymakers, business leaders and financial experts to explore cutting-edge strategies for building risk-resilient, future-ready businesses.

With the rapid evolution of technology and an ever-changing risk landscape, the summit fostered a dialogue among key stakeholders about innovation and risk management and leveraging technology to develop actionable strategies for business growth. The summit featured distinguished speakers and guests including Dr. S. Selvakumar, Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industry Department, Government of Karnataka; CA Dr. Ashok Haldia, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Task Force for Accounting Standards, Sustainability Accounting and Integrated Financial, Reporting and Former Secretary, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI); S Sampathraman, Chairman and Managing Director, DPK Engineers, and Past Chairman, Karnataka State Development Council. Dr. S. Selvakumar, Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, emphasized the urgent need for



skill development in his address, stating, "Focusing on skill development is critical to ensure our talent remains resilient and capable of mitigating business risks." In a keynote address to the invited guests, Gavan Ord, Lead for Business Policy at CPA Australia,

noted that as per a recent survey by the organisation in the Asia Pacific region, "India is leading the AI adoption trend in the region", Gavan added to his keynote. Mr. Rakesh Rajan, Chief Digital Officer, Reserve Bank Innovation Hub spoke on the survey insights presented by Mr. Gavan, specifically

talking about growing AI adoption in India, he stated, "India is a vast country and is doing well in terms of AI adoption. In the banking sector, there is vast amount of data and by using AI and Machine Learning we can identify transactional patterns and behaviour of customers to mitigate risks."

The Creek Planet School Shines Bright at Creedotsavam 2024

A Spectacular Celebration of Talent, Sportsmanship, and Excellence



Hyderabad: The Creek Planet School celebrated its annual event, Creedotsavam 2024, with excitement and enthusiasm at the Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi Athletic Stadium, Gachibowli. This year's theme, "Synergetic Extravaganza...the blazing glory of the CREEKS," showcased

the school's commitment to excellence, creativity, and teamwork. The event, inaugurated by Chief Guest Wing Cdr. B. Srikanth (Retd.), featured an impressive opening ceremony, followed by vibrant performances by students. Various competitive sports events highlighted the talent and sportsmanship of

the participants. Creedotsavam 2024 was a resounding success, with over 6000 students participating. A total of 15,000 certificates, 113 trophies, 113 runner-up trophies, 357 gold medals, 357 silver medals, and 357 bronze medals were awarded in individual sports such as table Tennis, Chess, Running,

Swimming, Skating, and Hurdle Race. Additionally, 1,500 medals were awarded for team events including Kho-kho, Football, Throwball, Volleyball, and Badminton. T Pandu Ranga Chary, the Vice Chairman, shared his thoughts on the event: "Creedotsavam is not just a celebration of sports; it is a reflection of our commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals who excel in both academics and athletics. We take pride in the values of teamwork, discipline, and excellence that our students embody." The Creek Planet School management T Pandu Ranga Chary (Vice Chairman), Narendra P Edupuganti (Founder & Managing Director), Dr. Jayashree Nair (Head Academics), Dr. Jeevani Gadde (COO), Principals and Vice Principals of the school were present at Creedotsavam and presented medals and trophies to the winners. *Campus Performance Highlights*- Venus Campus: Secured the highest number of medals, showcasing outstanding performance in various sports.

- Mercury Campus: Notably excelled in individual events, collecting multiple awards.

- Neptune Campus: Achieved significant placements, particularly in the running categories. - Orbit Campus: Impressive participation contributed to their overall medal tally. - SR Seeds Campus: Showcased talent in various events, especially in Rubik's Cube competitions.

Philanthropist Seth Chhaju Ram Will Always Be Remembered As A Beacon Of Knowledge And Social Upliftment: CM Haryana

Chandigarh (JAG MOHAN THAKEN), November 25 – Remembering philanthropist Seth Chhaju Ram, the Haryana Chief Minister, Nayab Singh Saini said that Seth Chhaju Ram worked tirelessly to spread education, especially in rural areas, lifting society from ignorance to enlightenment. His contributions to the nation's development remain unforgettable, he said. While addressing the gathering at the event commemorating 100 years of the Jat Shikshan Sansthan and the 159th birth anniversary of Seth Chhaju Ram held on Monday at Chhaju Ram Memorial Jat College in Hisar, the Chief Minister highlighted the importance of education and skill development for youth. Earlier to this, the Chief Minister also inaugurated a Yoga and Indoor Multipurpose Activity Hall and announced to give Rs. 31 lakhs for this Sansthan from his discretionary fund. C M Saini said that the present state government is committed to ensure that by the year 2030, every youth of the state should be skilled and become financially prosperous.

Nayab Singh Saini said that the 'Viksit Haryana' we see today owes much to Sansthans like these. He said that Jat Shikshan Sansthan have made significant contributions to the progress of the state and the nation. Seth Chhaju Ram deeply understood the value of education. Hence, he established numerous educational institutions that have given the country many IAS officers, judges, sportsmen, scientists and politicians, who have brought pride to India on the global stage, said the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister emphasized that, following the ideals of Seth Chhaju Ram, the present state government has taken several initiatives in the past decade to promote education. Colleges have been established within a 20-kilometer radius across the state. Over the last 10 years, 77 new government colleges have been opened, including 32 exclusively for girls, increasing the total number of colleges in the state to 182. The government's goal is to ensure primary education for every child, vocational training for students studying in secondary classes, and specialized education for students pursuing higher education. To achieve this, the State Higher Education Council has been established, said Sh. Nayab Singh Saini.

The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister, Narendra Modi envisions an education system that empowers youth with employment skills, builds character, and instils moral values. The new National Education Policy (NEP) has been introduced to achieve this goal. While the central government aims to fully implement NEP by 2030, Haryana will achieve this milestone by 2025, making it the first state in the country to do so, said Saini. He said that several measures have been taken, such as introducing NSQF in schools, the "Pahal" scheme in colleges, incubation centres in universities, and MoUs with industries to provide training aligned with industry requirements in technical institutions. Through the Haryana Skill Development Mission, over one lakh youth have been skilled to enable them to become self-reliant, said the Chief Minister. The Chief Minister highlighted that the state government has provided over 1.71 lakh government jobs based on merit without any favouritism. During the third term, the government aims to offer 2 lakh permanent government jobs on a merit basis, demonstrating its commitment to this



objective. The state is striving to provide higher and skill-based education to its youth, he said. The Chief Minister also shared Haryana's remarkable performance in sports. He said that out of six medals won by India in the Olympics, four were secured by athletes from Haryana, showcasing their hard work and the state's sports policy. Speaking on this occasion, Cabinet

Minister, Ranbir Gangwa praised Seth Chhaju Ram for establishing educational institutions not only in Haryana but across the country. He said that these Sansthans are imparting excellent education to children from all sections of society. Ranbir Gangwa announced to give Rs. 11 lakhs to Jat Shikshan Sansthan from his discretionary fund. Addressing the gathering Education

Minister, Mahipal Dhanda said that Haryana is rapidly progressing in the field of education, and Seth Chhaju Ram's contributions have been instrumental. He emphasized that the present state government is working tirelessly to uplift all sections of society by following the path shown by Seth Chhaju Ram. He also announced Rs. 21 lakhs for the Jat Shikshan Sansthan from his discretionary fund.

Hyderabad Swimming Championship Finishes Strong, Showcasing Young ????????



Ajit, D. Shiva Yadav, B. Prabhakar, and Dayakar.

CCMB inaugurates PM Bhargava auditorium on occasion of 37th Foundation Day

Hyderabad: CCMB inaugurates PM Bhargava auditorium on occasion of 37th Foundation Day. Dr N Kalaiselvi, Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), who was the Guest of Honor, inaugurated the auditorium complex, which is a three-floored complex with a 300-seater auditorium, a 100-seater lecture hall and 2 smaller 25-seater lecture halls.

Hyderabad: The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) inaugurated the PM Bhargava auditorium, a day before its 37th Foundation Day. Named after the institute's Founder Director, Dr Pushpa Mittra Bhargava, renowned for his vision of how science should integrate with society, the auditorium is the first one for CCMB to have on its campus. Dr N Kalaiselvi, Director-General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), who was the Guest of Honor, inaugurated the auditorium complex, which is a three-floored complex with a 300-seater auditorium, a 100-seater lecture hall and 2 smaller 25-seater lecture halls. CCMB Auditorium 1 Alluding to the many research institutes and Osmania University in the vicinity of CCMB, Dr Kalaiselvi said, "Hyderabad should consider naming this street as the Science Corridor of Hyderabad. An auditorium complex like this is an asset for the entire community."

The Hyderabad Swimming Championship 2024, organized by the ORCA Aquatic Championship, concluded successfully at Glendale Academy, Suncity, Hyderabad. The event attracted enthusiastic young swimmers from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, representing esteemed schools and sports clubs including Glendale Academy International, Zion Sports, ORCA Aquatic Championship, Sadana Infinity International, Ocrich, and Gachibowli Swimming Academy. Swimmers from Hyderabad, Vijayawada, and Khammam showcased their exceptional skills in a variety of swimming events, marking the championship as a resounding success.

Winners of the championship included Amelia, Tuhina, Niara, Deeksha, Pricila, Ridhaan Jaswal, Agastiya, Vakul, Manan Chandra, Iqra, Avisha R., Pavika, Yashika, Vihaan, Samik, Pranav, Delisha, and

Chanisya. These talented athletes excelled in a range of competitions including freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke, butterfly, as well as relay and kickboard races. The championship adhered to the strict regulations of FINA and SFI, ensuring a professional and equitable platform for all participating swimmers.

The event was organized by a dedicated team of experienced swimmers and certified life-savers from prestigious institutions such as the Rashtriya Life Saving Society (India), Sports Authority of India, and NIS (National Institute of Sports). It served as an excellent platform to nurture young talent and promote lifelong dedication to health and fitness through swimming. Medals and certificates were awarded to the winning participants, while all early registrants received participation certificates and refreshments. The medals were presented by guest of honour Vinay Goud, Director of Aarush Group, along with

'This is the fabric of our country': As actor Vikrant Massey speaks about his interfaith roots, we sought stories of young adults navigating dual faiths

In today's world, as barriers of religion, caste, and other divisions are increasingly fading, many are growing up in households where their parents practice different faiths. 12th Fail actor Vikrant Massey, who revealed his parents had an interfaith marriage—his father is a Christian and mother, a Sikh—recently shared his experience of growing up in such an environment. Adding to the family's pluralistic story, Massey also mentioned that his brother, Moeen, embraced Islam. "My brother does Laxmi puja on Diwali. His conversion is his personal choice. But we celebrate Diwali and Holi together here. On the occasion of Eid, we celebrate it at his place, having biryani. Today, that fulcrum is absent (in society)," Massey said. "My father has been to Vaishno Devi temple (located in Katra, Jammu and Kashmir) six times. He is a Christian and goes to church twice a week even now. But that's what India has always been like. We go to gurudwaras and many Hindus go to Ajmer Sharif Dargah (located in Rajasthan). This is our Hindustan. Why is it so surprising? There's a temple in my house. My son's name is Vardaan. This is the fabric of our country."

While most children are raised with a singular religious perspective, kids of parents who practice different faiths gain a deeper understanding of two distinct worldviews. Indianexpress.com spoke with several individuals who grew up in interfaith households to learn about their experiences — the benefits and challenges, the unique traditions, moments of inner conflict between faiths, and how these dynamics shaped their relationships with family members and peers.

Growing up with parents of different faiths Pranjali Kumar, 21, recalled her childhood with traces of two distinct spiritual traditions—her father's Hindu customs and her mother's Christian practices. "I was exposed to two distinct religious traditions, which instilled open-mindedness and curiosity in me," she told indianexpress.com. This exposure gave her a balanced perspective on life, and encouraged her to explore and embrace diversity, fostering a lifelong journey of self-discovery. Similarly, Sahil Khan, 25, described his home as a "beautiful amalgamation of faiths." He grew up celebrating Christmas with Christian friends and Eid with Muslim neighbours. "Religious hatred never entered our house or mind. Living in a dual-faith household ingrains tolerance in you whereas in households with a single religion, this often seems like a matter of personal choice," he said.

"I was exposed to two distinct religious traditions, which instilled open-mindedness and curiosity in me," said 21-year-old Pranjali Kumar. "I was exposed to two distinct religious traditions, which instilled open-mindedness and curiosity in me," said 21-year-old Pranjali Kumar. (Source: Pranjali Kumar) Sonia Rodrigues, 36, said that experiencing both Hinduism and Roman Catholic traditions taught her that, at the core, "all religions share the same foundational principles: love, forgiveness, compassion, and the pursuit of truth." "I fasted on Ekadashi and during Lent, celebrated Diwali and Christmas alike. This balance taught me to embrace universal human values," she said. "My mother was Catholic and my dad a Hindu," said Rhea Cheryl Shivan, 32. "While they had a Christian wedding, my dad wasn't obliged

to convert. I was raised Catholic, as is common in many households in my family and friend circles, but my father occasionally shared aspects of his religion with us (He's a believer in a higher power but not necessarily a practicing Hindu)," she told indianexpress.com. Shivan's parents raised her to be very mindful and respectful of all religions, and said that her home library was a symbol of inclusivity, with the Bible, the Bhagavad Gita, and the Quran side by side. Feeling conflicted between the two religions

"I don't believe I ever felt conflicted between two religions," Shivan said, adding that culturally and socially, people usually tend to adopt the practices of the maternal side, and this was the case for her. "Hindu festivals or religious practices became moments of exploration and learning. This continues to be true today." Khan echoed this, "Never happened." However, for Kumar it was the opposite. "There were certainly moments when I felt conflicted or torn between the two religions. During religious holidays or family gatherings, I often found myself navigating between different traditions and practices. However, my parents were always supportive and understanding, allowing me to explore both faiths without feeling pressured to choose one over the other." "My parents believed that religion should never be imposed," said Rodrigues. "I was equally fine fasting on Ekadashi or Mahashivratri as I was during Lent. Festivals like Diwali and Christmas were celebrated with the same enthusiasm and joy." Rhea Cheryl Shivan (second from right) spoke about how her parents raised her to be very mindful and respectful of all religions Rhea Cheryl Shivan (second from right) spoke about how her parents raised her to be very mindful and respectful of all religions (Source: Rhea Cheryl Shivan) Relationships with extended family members or peers "Coming from a family where many of my parents' generation had interfaith marriages, relationships vary," Shivan said. She acknowledged that not all family members and friends are as open and accepting of other religions as they are. "There have been heated debates, but also unifying moments—especially during weddings—when we manage to blur the lines and celebrate love and togetherness, irrespective of religion." Rodrigues confessed that her parents had a love marriage, but not against the family's will. "As a result, our relationships with extended family members have remained warm and positive. In fact, being part of an interfaith household often adds an interesting dynamic to these relationships." Khan said, "My social life has also been enriched." He believes his openness towards other religions draws him to people from diverse backgrounds, and his peers are often curious to learn about different religions from him.

Although a few relatives were initially curious or had questions about his parents' interfaith marriage, Kumar acknowledged that the majority ultimately came to welcome and embrace his family's one-of-a-kind dynamic. "My friends were also interested in my background and frequently inquired about my religious beliefs. These discussions allowed me to share my experiences and promote understanding and tolerance," she said. Psychological benefits and challenges of being raised in interfaith households Neha



Parashar, senior clinical psychologist at Cadabams Hospitals, said, "Growing up with exposure to two distinct faiths fosters open-mindedness and tolerance." She cited a study in the Journal of Intercultural Psychology (2018), which found that children from interfaith families tend to develop a nuanced understanding of cultural diversity. "Adjustment, mutual respect, and communication become foundational values in such households. Skills such as critical thinking, compassion, empathy, and the ability to hold meaningful dialogues are cultivated, strengthening interpersonal relationships," said mental health counsellor Anuckriti Garg. Sahil Khan, 25, described his home as a "beautiful amalgamation of faiths." Sahil Khan, 25, described his home as a "beautiful amalgamation of faiths." (Source: Sahil Khan)

In terms of the challenges, Smitha Kashi, consultant art psychotherapist at Spandana Health Care, stressed that children may experience internal conflicts if the beliefs of both parents are at odds or if extended families express disapproval. "Inconsistencies in how the faiths are practiced can lead to confusion or a feeling of not fully belonging to either tradition. It is crucial for parents to provide clarity and stability while encouraging exploration and dialogue about faith," she said. In families where one faith dominates, Parashar noted that children may feel pressured to favour one belief system over the other, "leading to guilt or anxiety. Development of empathy, adaptability, or critical thinking skills According to Garg, "In interfaith households, without a single theological framework, children are encouraged to explore diverse cultures,

ideas, and perspectives. As a non-normative structure, interfaith families are more likely to foster an appreciation for diversity, inclusivity, and empathy. Learning to navigate the stigma associated with interfaith households equips children to adapt and cope with challenging situations." Parashar concurred, saying, "Children in interfaith families often grow up adapting to two sets of norms, celebrations, and expectations. This adaptability makes them more comfortable in multicultural environments, a key trait in today's globalised world." She is also of the opinion that reconciling differing beliefs, values, or practices pushes children to think critically about their own identities and moral frameworks. "They learn to evaluate which aspects of each faith resonate with them personally, fostering independent thought and intellectual growth," she said. Sonia Rodrigues, 36, said that experiencing both Hinduism and Roman Catholic traditions taught her that, at the core, "all religions share the same foundational principles." Sonia Rodrigues, 36, said that experiencing both Hinduism and Roman Catholic traditions taught her that, at the core, "all religions share the same foundational principles." (Source: Sonia Rodrigues) Can navigating dual religious identities help build resilience or unique coping mechanisms? Yes, navigating dual religious identities can foster resilience, according to Parashar. "Children learn to mediate between differing viewpoints, a skill transferable to social and professional situations," she said. "When supported effectively, they often develop a robust sense of identity, grounded in the ability to synthesise and embrace diverse aspects of their upbringing," Kashi said.

After US indictment, Adani Group stocks shed Rs 2.45 lakh cr market value

New Delhi: After US prosecutors charged billionaire Gautam Adani over his role in an alleged years-long scheme to pay \$250 million bribe to Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms for solar power contracts, the Adani group stocks faced heavy drubbing during the morning trade on Thursday, with the combined market valuation of all the listed firms getting eroded by Rs 2.45 lakh crore. The stock of the group's flagship firm Adani Enterprises plunged 22.99

per cent, Adani Ports dived 20 per cent, Adani Energy Solutions tanked 20 per cent, Adani Green Energy plummeted 19.53 per cent and Adani Total Gas tumbled 18.14 per cent on the BSE. Shares of Adani Power slumped 17.79 per cent, Ambuja Cements cracked 17.59 per cent, ACC fell 14.54 per cent, NDTV dropped 14.37 per cent and Adani Wilmar declined 10 per cent. Some of the group firms also hit their lowest trading permissible limit for the day.

Clearing the air on Delhi's pollution crisis

Since 1984, when M.C. Mehta filed a public interest litigation petition, there has been a flurry of activity to combat air pollution beginning in October and then a long lull. A lot has been achieved, but the growing economy and population have outpaced these measures. This is not unique to Delhi. Los Angeles established its air pollution control programme in 1947 and currently remains among the worst in the U.S., both for PM 2.5 and ozone. The lesson is that urban toxicity is a 'wicked problem' where the problem itself is debated and requires long-term measures. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) began the process of taking a new look at an old problem by asking the government to list the causes of air pollution. However, the National Clean Air Programme, launched in 2019 with its "collaborative and participatory approach," focus on monitoring, set targets, emergency measures, and inclusion of international organisations, has made minimal impact.

The Supreme Court held the right to a clean environment and good health is an inherent part of the fundamental right to life and personal liberty. This is the context of judicial review moving from guiding government decisions to implementing them. The court has asked pertinent questions: despite compliance reports why results on the ground are negligible and what the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), set up in 2021, is doing? It has been dealing with the symptoms developing linear solutions and not responding to interdependent causes driven by rapid urbanisation. The challenge is to move away from coordination between discrete administrative units and enforcement, which is also the standard response of the Delhi government, to transformative action. The population of the city and the surrounding area significantly contributes to year-round toxicity because of vehicular emissions and traffic congestion. Driven by sunlight and low temperatures, a photochemical reaction combines hydrocarbons from the partially unburned exhaust of automobiles with nitrogen oxides, a combustion by-product, to form ozone. This concentration of particulate matter (PM 2.5) causes serious health problems. Dispersed sources in Delhi, Los Angeles, and Beijing, 60% of toxicity comes from vehicles. Another 20% comes from soil dust and less than 20% is from other sources. Stubble burning is temporary and official data show its share in Delhi's PM 2.5 was less than 1% on October 17, prompting the Delhi government to set up committees for dust control.

The usual response to point sources of pollution — legislating new technology and enforcing stringent prosecution — does not work for dispersed sources, which have a strong societal component and few viable options. For example, 35 years ago, when new vehicle emission standards were being discussed, Rahul Bajaj argued that his foreign collaborator was not parting with technology and that he needed two years to develop his own. The government successfully explained the situation to Parliament and the court. Today, the farmers of Haryana and Punjab are in a worse situation. To conserve groundwater, they are required to delay sowing, reducing the time between harvesting and planting the next crop, and technological solutions have not worked. The Supreme Court is not adjudicating between the fundamental rights of the farmers and those of the residents of Delhi to implement a management plan. We have a case of goal displace-

ment, with Haryana and Punjab being pushed to bear the burden of providing clean air to Delhi, even as Delhi itself is not being similarly prodded. Delhi is facing the classic bureaucratic response to a complex political problem. Cosmetic steps, unverified claims, statistical compliance, and shifting responsibility, were earlier noted by the NGT. This raises the question of whether the CAQM can discharge a political function for the needed hard choices. A review of Beijing's approach to controlling air pollution by the United Nations Environment Programme provides useful lessons. The population sizes of both cities are comparable, and Delhi shares with Beijing, and other cities, the three stages of dealing with urban air pollution as a long-term task. It begins with end-of-pipe air pollution control, gradually moving to integrated measures targeting primary pollutants, with the government playing the main role. Later, the focus shifts to secondary pollutants, or particulate matter leading to toxic smog, primarily PM2.5, which requires a regional mechanism, our current stage. The similarity ends there. The UN review points to Beijing's techno-political management system, which builds public awareness to deal with toxicity. First, forecasting severe smog levels through warnings issued at least 24 hours in advance with over 1000 PM 2.5



sensors throughout the city to accurately monitor high-emission areas and periods. Second, Beijing has over 30,000 low-floor buses, five times the number operated by Delhi Transport Corporation. Third, both Beijing and Delhi, as transit centres with no peak-hour traffic, require additional measures to manage regional transportation. The Court should be mandating the Graded Response Action Plan and the preparation of a toxicity

management plan for the national capital and surrounding areas with budgetary allocations and political endorsement rather than episodic prosecution of farmers or requiring smog towers. Mukul Sanwal served as policy adviser to the Executive Director of UNEP and later to the Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC and was closely associated with Inter-Agency Relations in the Chief Executives Board of the UN

Konkona Sen Sharma says she doesn't feel 'female' all the time: 'It's a layer I've put on myself'

Many of us might have felt the need to perform our femininity without even realising it. And we're not alone. Even Bollywood actor and director Konkona Sen Sharma confesses to feeling similarly. In a recent interview with film critic Sucharita Tyagi, the acclaimed actor reflected on the portrayal of femininity in Bollywood and the pressures of embodying "hyper femme" ideals on-screen. Known for her versatility across 50+ films, Konkona described her experience performing in Aaja Nachle, where she played a traditionally feminine role, complete with elaborate attire and styling. She highlighted how Indian cinema often requires female characters to conform to exaggerated ideals of femininity—like voluminous hair and delicate attire—intended to appeal to traditional beauty standards. This idealised version, she notes, is less about natural identity and more about a "hyper femme" construct. "It is so normalised that we don't realise its hyper-femme. The default for women is a hyper-femme version of themselves. Like, especially in India. Like hair, for example. The hair is voluminous. Even the clothes. You're always catering to a notion," Konkona said.

In discussing how women are frequently expected to present an idealised, desirable self-image, Konkona referenced a thought by Margaret Atwood: the image of oneself that women present is often filtered through an invisible "male gaze." The result is a dual experience for many women, wherein they navigate the pressures of projecting feminine desirability while privately feeling detached from such hyper-feminised versions of themselves. For Konkona, and many women, this dichotomy becomes especially pronounced at home, where they embrace a more natural, less constructed version of themselves. "That (male gaze version of herself) is a more hyper femme ver-



sion of myself. For me, I don't feel very female all the time. Sometimes you're just neutral, or you're just human, or whatever. When I'm at home, my hair is just like up on the side, or even the way I'm dressed. In films, I've learnt that. It's a layer I've put on myself. You know, with hair, makeup and wardrobe," Konkona added.

Counselling psychologist Priyamvada Tendulkar adds depth to this discussion by emphasising the importance of unconditional self-acceptance. This idea encourages individuals to value themselves as they are, free from conditions or qualifications often imposed by societal expectations. For women in particular, this means recognising that self-worth need not be anchored in beauty standards or external validation. Priyamvada advocates for viewing oneself as the "primary consumer" of one's life, asking questions like, "What would I like to do? What are

my aesthetics? What makes me happy?" Building relationships grounded in acceptance rather than mere approval can further support a sense of intrinsic value. When we seek only the approval of others, especially when this approval aligns narrowly with appearance or achievements, we risk feeling reduced to mere objects of consumption rather than individuals with agency. Priyamvada encourages cultivating an inner circle that values us unconditionally, allowing us to feel appreciated for what we achieve and who we genuinely are. Recognising oneself as the primary consumer of life's experiences allows a more fulfilling connection to one's identity—one that transcends stereotypes and celebrates individuality. For women, this journey toward self-acceptance is a pathway to experiencing life fully, not as products for external consumption, but as individuals embracing authenticity.

Why has Gautam Adani been indicted in the U.S. over alleged \$250mn bribery scheme?

The story so far: Federal prosecutors in New York on Wednesday (November 21, 2024) indicted Adani Group Chairman Gautam S. Adani, his nephew Sagar Adani, and six others on multiple counts of fraud. The charges stem from an alleged multibillion-dollar scheme to bribe Indian officials in exchange for favourable terms on solar power contracts, which were projected to generate over \$2 billion in profits. "This indictment alleges schemes to pay over \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials, to lie to investors and banks to raise billions of dollars, and to obstruct justice," a press release issued by the US Attorney's Office, Eastern District of New York, said quoting U.S. Deputy Assistant Attorney General Lisa Miller. The individuals named as defendants, alongside Gautam Adani and his nephew Sagar Adani, include Vneet Jaain, CEO of Adani Green Energy Ltd; Ranjit Gupta, who served as CEO of Azure Power Global Ltd from 2019 to 2022; Rupesh Agarwal, who was with Azure Power from 2022 to 2023; and Cyril Cabanes, an Australian-French dual citizen, along with Saurabh Agarwal and Deepak Malhotra — all of whom were affiliated with Canada-based pension fund Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ). Solar power plant project at the heart of the indictment

The indictment alleges that Gautam Adani and his associates paid over \$250 million in bribes to Indian government officials between 2020 and 2024. These payments were reportedly made to secure contracts projected to generate \$2 billion in profits over 20 years and to develop India's largest solar power plant project. The U.S. prosecutors have claimed that the seeds of the bribery scheme were sown between December 2019 and July 2020 when Adani Green Energy and another renewable energy company listed on the New York Stock Exchange secured contracts from the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), a state-owned entity dedicated to promoting renewable energy adoption across the country. At the time, Adani Green Energy proclaimed in a press statement that it had won "the world's largest solar award". According to the indictment, the \$6 billion investment was projected to yield over \$2 billion in post-tax profits over 20 years. However, the project encountered an unexpected setback — its high energy costs made it unaffordable for Indian States, leaving the SECI grappling to attract customers to sign on. Between 2021 and February 2022, several States including Odisha and Jammu and Kashmir agreed to participate in the solar power initiative. Around the same time, more individuals joined the bribery scheme, including former employees of CDPQ — Cyril Cabanes, Saurabh Agarwal and Deepak Malhotra. Violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act

The indictment accuses Adani and his associates of conspiring to bribe Indian officials to secure energy contracts in a purported violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA). Although enacted in 1977, the law has been more stringently enforced in recent decades resulting in substantial fines for major companies, including Germany's Siemens, Brazil's state-owned Petrobras, and a subsidiary of Halliburton, the oil services giant. President-elect Donald

J. Trump reportedly wanted to strike down the legislation in his first term since he considered it "unfair" to American companies. Another prominent critic of the law, Jay Clayton, whom Trump appointed as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, contended in a 2011 paper that U.S. anti-bribery policies disproportionately burdened American companies in international transactions, thereby undermining U.S. competitiveness. The prosecutors alleged that the defendants meticulously tracked their bribes and offers to Indian officials using messaging apps, phones, and PowerPoint presentations, often employing "code names" in their communications. It was further claimed that two of the defendants even engaged in discussions to delete "incriminating electronic materials, including emails, electronic messages and a PowerPoint analysis." Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani, and Vneet Jaain are accused of conspiring to deceive investors by issuing bonds supported by falsified and misleading financial data. According to the indictment, the scheme involved employing fraudulent tactics, such as withholding crucial information and fabricating corporate resolutions, to attract U.S. investors to their bond sales. The indictment outlines that Adani Green Energy Ltd. attempted to raise funds from U.S. and international investors in connection with a 2021 bond offering by making false and misleading claims regarding the company's anti-corruption and anti-bribery measures.

The defendants also face charges of conspiring to commit wire fraud by making false promises and fraudulent claims to secure loans and investments for their energy ventures. According to the indictment, Adani and his nephew lied to investors when their businesses took out a \$1.35 billion loan and issued \$750 million in bonds in 2021. Additionally, they are accused of withholding information from investors regarding ongoing U.S. investigations into their business practices in 2023 and 2024. Obstruction of justice Former employees of CDPQ — Cyril Cabanes, Saurabh Agarwal, and Deepak



Malhotra — have been accused of obstructing an investigation into the bribery scheme by deleting emails and agreeing to provide false information to the U.S. government. CDPQ, a shareholder in Adani companies, invests in infrastructure projects. In response to the indictment, CDPQ issued a statement saying, "CDPQ is aware of charges filed in the US against certain former employees. Those employees were all terminated in 2023 and CDPQ is co-operating with US authorities. In light of the pending cases, we have no further comment at this time." Civil lawsuit The US Security and Exchange Commission (SEC) has filed a parallel civil lawsuit against Gautam Adani, Sagar Adani, executives of Adani Green Energy Ltd., and Cyril Cabanes. The SEC alleges that the bribes were paid to "secure [the Indian government's] commitment to purchase energy at above-market rates that would benefit Adani Green and Azure Power," two renewable energy companies in India. The SEC filed the complaints in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

What happens next? If proven, the charges could invite hefty financial penalties and a ban on the defendants from holding directorial or executive positions in compa-

nies that fall under US exchange regulations. The case will now proceed to the "arraignment" stage where the concerned judge will formally communicate the charges to the defendants and decide whether to grant bail or not. The defendants will then be required to enter a plea — either guilty or not guilty. If they plead not guilty, the case will move forward to a jury trial. The indictment risks reigniting a reputational crisis for the Adani conglomerate, which had been previously accused of "brazen accounting fraud, stock manipulation and money laundering" by Hindenburg Research, a small investment firm in New York. Although the Adani Group denied those claims, its stock price plummeted following the release of the report. On Thursday, Adani Green Energy Ltd, the company at the heart of the allegations, cancelled a \$600 million bond sale, the proceeds of which were intended to repay a foreign-currency loan. Several Adani Group shares, including those of the flagship firm Adani Enterprises, also suffered massive losses and hit their lower circuits in early trade. An Adani Group spokesperson has denied the allegations as baseless and maintained that the conglomerate is fully compliant with existing laws.

Study reveals the 'most aggressive sign' of colon cancer in younger patients

Colon cancer, traditionally considered a disease of older adults, is increasingly affecting younger people, with a noticeable rise in cases globally. New research has shown that individuals under 50 are not only at risk but often present with different symptoms and are diagnosed at more advanced stages of the disease compared to older patients. This trend is concerning, as early diagnosis significantly improves treatment outcomes. A study led by researchers from Taiwan's Chang Gung Memorial Hospital found that younger colon cancer patients, especially those under 50, are more likely to overlook early warning signs, which leads to later diagnosis and more advanced cancer stages. Typical and most aggressive symptoms in younger patients include rectal bleeding, changes in bowel habits, and abdominal pain. These symptoms are often mistaken for less severe conditions, delaying crucial medical

evaluation. The research also revealed that colon cancer in younger people is rising steadily, with annual increases of 3.2% in colon cancer cases and 3.3% in rectal cancer cases. This sharp increase points to a need for greater awareness and vigilance among young adults, who may not consider themselves at risk for a condition traditionally associated with older age. Dr Bharath G, Consultant in Surgical Oncology at Fortis Hospital, Nagarbhavi, stresses the importance of recognising key symptoms, particularly rectal bleeding, which can be alarming but not always cancer-related. While haemorrhoids, anal fissures, and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) are common causes of rectal bleeding, persistent or worsening symptoms should prompt immediate medical attention, he said. Lung cancer While younger people may not consider themselves at risk, staying vigilant about their

health and recognising potential symptoms can lead to earlier diagnosis and better treatment outcomes. (File photo) Symptoms to watch for in younger people In addition to rectal bleeding, Dr Bharath said, young people should be aware of the following symptoms that could indicate colon cancer: Colon cancer in younger patients tends to be more aggressive, with cancers such as signet-ring cell and mucinous adenocarcinoma occurring more frequently, the study also found. These forms of cancer are often diagnosed at later stages (III and IV), making treatment more challenging. Why early detection matters Early detection is critical to improving colon cancer survival rates. The American Cancer Society now recommends starting regular colon cancer screening at age 45, earlier than previous guidelines suggested. However, if troubling symptoms persist, especially those mentioned above.