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Amit Shah to discuss national drug control operations with state task force chiefs

New Delhi(Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will inaugurate the third national conference of heads of Anti-Narcotics Task Forces (ANTFs) on Tuesday, with the two-day meeting set to review progress under the government's Vision Document on Narcotics Control (2026-29) and discuss strategies to tackle drug trafficking and substance abuse across the country.

The conference will bring together heads of ANTFs from all 36 states and Union Territories, besides representatives of central government departments and other stakeholders. Deliberations will focus on strengthening the government's supply, demand, and harm reduction measures, according to an official statement.

Held under the theme "United Resolve, Shared Responsibility", the conference will assess the progress of targets assigned to state and UT ANTFs under the recently released vision document and examine initiatives to combat drug trafficking and substance abuse.

Shah will also release television commercials aimed at creating awareness about the dangers of drug abuse. He is set to lay the foundation stones for new Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) Zone complexes in Lucknow and Dehradun.

Himanta Sarma vs Congress Face Off Over Attack On Party's Campaign Convoy

Guwahati. (Agency)

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Congress General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal traded allegations on Monday following a violent incident in Nagaon district, where a Congress campaign convoy was allegedly attacked with stones.

The incident took place while Congress leaders were travelling to a public meeting at Barma as part of the party's campaign for the Nagaon Lok Sabha bypoll.

The episode triggered tension in the area, with a crowd taking to the streets and waving black flags. Police later resorted to lathi charge to disperse the gathering, while stones were also reportedly hurled at CRPF personnel deployed at the spot.

Sarma blamed factionalism within the Congress for the incident and accused the party of attempting to shift responsibility.

In a post on X, the Assam Chief Minister said the incident took place in the Samaguri Assembly constituency, represented by Congress MLA Tanzil Hussain, son of Congress MP Rakibul Hussain."At its core, this was a clash between rival factions within the Congress itself," Sarma said, pointing out that Congress had secured 1,45,212 votes in the constituency in the last Assembly election, compared with 36,902 votes for the BJP.

He also highlighted Samaguri's predominantly minority population and said the Congress state leadership should take responsibility for its internal differences.

'Global order under stress, multilateralism must assert itself strongly': Jaishankar at UNGA summit

New Delhi(Agency)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said the global order is under growing stress and called for stronger multilateralism as geopolitical competition, tensions and conflicts reshape the international landscape. Addressing the inaugural Partners for Multilateralism Summit on the sidelines of the 81st United Nations General Assembly, Jaishankar said the world was going through a period of significant structural change, marked by heightened competition and geopolitical tensions.

"We meet at a time when the global order is under stress. For some decades the world has witnessed a steady rebalancing, which was a long-expected structural evolution. However, extreme competition, geopolitical tensions, and actual conflicts have given this an entirely different character," Jaishankar said.

He warned that unchecked tensions could weaken the spirit of international cooperation and stressed that multilateralism needed to play a stronger

role at a time of growing uncertainty.

"If left unchecked, it would call into question the very spirit of international cooperation. That is why it is so essential that multilateralism asserts itself strongly at this juncture," he said.Peace, climate and development need cooperationJaishankar said the challenges facing the international community had consequences far beyond diplomacy, affecting global peace, security and development.

"At stake here are very real issues, not just words and expressions. The future of peace and international security, of climate action and climate justice, of emerging technologies and development finance, of countering terrorism and strengthening supply chains, and of ensuring disaster resilience and preparing for pandemics. All depend on a will to cooperate," he said.He noted that many of the international system's achievements had come through collective action and called for existing gains to be protected while efforts continued to address new

challenges.

"Let us recognise that whatever we have achieved so far is only through collective efforts. The lesson here is to safeguard the good while striving for the better," he said.

The minister also called for practical steps



to deal with immediate problems rather than waiting for wider agreements before acting. He said specific issues arising from ongoing conflicts could be addressed alongside efforts to achieve broader peace."That objective can be realised

through a range of efforts, through a combination of initiatives, while ongoing conflicts are concerned, specific dimensions could be addressed even while we strive for a broader peace," he said.

Referring to pressures affecting the global economy and supply systems, Jaishankar said the "four 'F crisis' of Fuel, food, fertiliser and finance cannot be left to itself".Call for safeguards on emerging technologies

Jaishankar also stressed the need for international frameworks to address new technologies and capabilities, along with measures to make global supply chains less vulnerable to disruptions."Where new capabilities and concerns arise, there is a very powerful case for frameworks and guardrails. Where there is a threat of choke points, dominance and disruptions, de-risking and diversifying must be encouraged," he said.He said countries with shared interests should be willing to work together where collective action was necessary, while emphasising that international.

Liquor Bottles Found on Surat Coast Raise Questions Over Prohibition and Law and Order

Amid Gujarat's strict prohibition claims, repeated reports of liquor, gambling, drugs and crime have triggered questions over enforcement in Surat

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Surat: The alleged recovery of several foreign liquor bottles from the Surat coastline has once again raised questions over the enforcement of Gujarat's prohibition laws and the functioning of the local police and administrative machinery. Gujarat has one of India's strictest prohibition regimes, but incidents involving the alleged illegal movement and sale of liquor continue to draw public attention.Surat, globally known as a major diamond and textile hub, has recently faced criticism over allegations of increasing illegal activities. Reports of liquor bottles being found abandoned along the seashore have added to concerns among residents and raised questions about how such material reaches areas that are expected to remain under surveillance.The incident has also sparked a wider debate over law and order in the city. Critics and sections of the public have alleged that illegal liquor trade, gambling and the distribution of drugs are becoming increasingly visible in different parts of Surat. Some have even begun referring to the city as a "mini Goa", although this remains a political and

Surat Under Scrutiny: Liquor, Drugs and Gambling Allegations Spark Law and Order Debate



public characterization rather than an officially established description.The issue has particular political significance because Surat is associated with senior BJP leaders, including Gujarat Home Minister Harsh Sanghavi and BJP state president C.R. Patil. Critics

have questioned whether strict prohibition laws are being effectively implemented on the ground despite repeated assurances of strong action against bootleggers and illegal activities.Public concern has also focused on the possible impact of substance

abuse on young people. Parents and social organizations have called for stronger enforcement against those allegedly involved in the illegal liquor and drug trade. They have also urged authorities to identify and dismantle networks involved in transporting and distributing prohibited substances.The discovery of liquor bottles on the coast, however, by itself does not establish the existence of a large bootlegging network or prove that crime has increased across the city. Those claims would require investigation and official evidence.The incident nevertheless raises a key question for the administration: how are prohibited liquor bottles reaching public areas despite Gujarat's prohibition laws and the presence of police and security infrastructure?Residents are now looking for concrete action, including identification of the source of the liquor, investigation into its transportation and distribution, and accountability wherever violations are established. The authorities' response to the incident will be closely watched as concerns over prohibition enforcement and public safety continue to grow.

PM Modi's vision inspired move to take National Film Awards beyond Delhi: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Interacting with the media, Vaishnaw said, "We are taking the National Film Awards to the best tourist destinations in the country, inspired by the PM Narendra Modi ji."

NEW DELHI(Agency).

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Ashwini Vaishnaw on Tuesday said the centre is taking the National Film Awards (NFA) beyond conventional venues like New Delhi and connecting them with the best tourist destinations across the country, inspired by PM Narendra Modi's vision.

Reported on September 8 that the prestigious awards will be hosted in Kevadia (Ekta Nagar), home to the world's tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in Gujarat.

President Droupadi Murmu will present the awards on September 22.The minister also invited all states to submit proposals

identifying their best tourism destinations for hosting the NFA. He said that the proposals should include the best facilities as well as



a plan for 360-degree development of the destination.

The state whose proposal is selected will host the subsequent awards at the proposed tourist destination.

Vaishnaw said that Ekta Nagar has gained recognition across the

world and is a highly attractive destination, home to the world's tallest statue...He added that when the President and leading personalities from the Indian film industry visit the tourist destination, it would provide an opportunity for more people to experience the destination.

The minister also recalled that when Modi hosted the G20, its events were taken to different parts of the country and held across various states. He said that the NFA are also being taken across the country as part of a larger thought process to explore how film and tourism can be brought together.

Vaishnaw further added that bringing film and tourism together would benefit the tourist destination as well as enable.

'Theft of democracy': BJP slams Congress after court order on Sonia Gandhi's voter roll entry

Latching on to the court's order, BJP spokesperson Praddeep Bhandari hit out at the Congress, saying, "ye loktantra ke chor hain" (Congress and its leaders are thieves of democracy)."

NEW DELHI(Agency).

The BJP on Tuesday attacked the Congress and called the opposition party "loktantra ke chor" (thieves of democracy) after a Delhi court set aside a magistrate's order refusing to probe the allegation that Sonia Gandhi's name was included in the electoral roll three years before acquiring Indian citizenship in 1983.

Hearing a revision plea against the magisterial court's order on Monday, Special Judge Vishal Gogne said the magisterial court did not perform its "core function" of discerning the disclosure of a cognisable offence.He remanded the matter back to the magisterial court to "pass a speaking order in light of the specific

requirements of 175(3) of the BNSS" and directed fresh hearing of the complainant's arguments.

The matter has been posted for further hearing on September 29.

Latching on to the court's order, BJP spokesperson Praddeep Bhandari hit out at the Congress, saying, "ye loktantra ke chor hain" (Congress and its leaders are thieves of democracy)."

Those who talk about 'vote chori (vote theft)' were engaged in 'loktantra ki chori (theft of democracy)' when they were in power, Bhandari said. The BJP spokesperson said the country's law provides that only a citizen of India can vote in the elections but Gandhi's name was included in the electoral rolls when she was vet to acquire Indian citizenship.



40-year-old man dies after Thar hits scooter in Greater Noida, wife injured

Noida.(Agency)

A 40-year-old man died and his wife was injured after a Thar SUV and their scooter collided in the Bistrakh police station area on Monday, police said. The deceased has been identified as Neeraj, a resident of Chipiyana village in the Bistrakh area.

— ians_india (@ians_india) According to police, the accident took place on Monday when Neeraj and his wife were travelling on a scooter. A Thar SUV was also involved in the collision. Both Neeraj and his wife sustained injuries in the accident. They were immediately rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment. However, Neeraj succumbed to his injuries during treatment, while his wife continues to receive medical care. Police said the body was taken into custody and a legal proceedings were done before sending it for postmortem examination.

Police have taken the Thar SUV into custody. Police said efforts were underway to trace and apprehend the driver of the vehicle, who allegedly fled after the accident. Officials said a complaint was being obtained from the victim's family, following which an FIR would be registered and further legal action taken against the accused driver. Police are also expected to examine CCTV footage from the area and gather other evidence to establish how the collision occurred and determine whether the SUV driver was driving rashly or negligently.

Iderjit seeks Saini's intervention to tackle Gurgaon waterlogging, restore natural drains

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Gurgaon MP and Union minister Rao Inderjit Singh has urged Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini to take urgent measures to address recurring waterlogging in the city and protect its natural drainage network, warning that rapid urbanisation and encroachments on natural water channels are aggravating the problem. In a letter to chief minister, Singh referred to discussions held with officials and experts following the waterlogging witnessed during the monsoon in Gurgaon. He said GMC had sought expert inputs from IIT Gandhinagar, while GMDA had also obtained advice from experts, including a Japanese agency, on managing rainwater and flooding. Singh said around 20 acres of land belonging to the tourism department near the Badshapur drain could be developed as a water-retention or water-holding area. According to the letter, the land is surrounded by natural features and could potentially be used to temporarily hold excess rainwater during heavy rainfall. He suggested that such a measure could help reduce the pressure on Gurgaon's drainage system and minimise waterlogging.

The minister also highlighted prolonged water accumulation on agricultural land in several villages, including Daulatabad, Dhankot, Khedki Majra and Chandu. He said farmers had been unable to cultivate parts of their land because of persistent waterlogging, while in some areas rainwater had remained stagnant for years. Singh further pointed to the increasing dependence on groundwater in Gurgaon. Referring to a NITI Aayog report, he said the groundwater level in Gurgaon had fallen from about 18 metres in 2004 to around 38 metres in 2025.

Chintels seeks Gurgaon administration nod to raze Tower J in Paradiso

Noida.(Agency)

Chintels India has sought A written permission from the Gurgaon administration to demolish Tower J of Paradiso in Sector 109, another unsafe structure in the project where five of nine towers have already been razed. The move comes after repeated structural concerns that followed the vertical collapse of living rooms in one of the towers in Feb 2022, which killed two residents. In a letter dated Sept 14, the developer asked the deputy commissioner to grant permission for the demolition and deploy a govt team to supervise it. Chintels said it had contracted Edifice Engineering for the work and was ready to begin once approval was issued. Tower J was declared unsafe for habitation after a structural assessment by IIT Delhi. A district administration order in Aug 2024, based on a joint committee report and the IIT assessment, asked residents to vacate the tower. The assessment found a high risk of reinforcement corrosion because of chlorides in the concrete. It also flagged reduced alkalinity and deterioration of the concrete, warning that corrosion could accelerate even when no visible distress was apparent. The administration concluded that repair and rehabilitation were not feasible because of the high chloride content and its impact on the structure. Residents were directed to vacate and hand over possession to Chintels. The latest request follows the Supreme Court's Sept 3 order on unsafe towers and the redevelopment of Paradiso. The project originally had nine towers in two phases. D, E, F, G and H in Phase I have been completely demolished, leaving A, B, C and J in Phase II. Under the approved arrangement, owners of flats in the four remaining towers will receive redeveloped apartments on the existing Phase II land/towers. The Supreme Court also noted that 80-90 occupants were still living in structures declared unsafe. The occupants of unsafe flats have been asked to vacate and hand over possession by Jan 1, 2027.

The 2024 order had appointed DTP (enforcement) as nodal officer and duty magistrate to oversee execution and facilitate possession.

Aqua Line ridership up 21% since skywalk opened last month

Noida.(Agency)

Aqua Line ridership has risen sharply since the Sector 51-52 skywalk opened last month, according to Noida Metro Rail Corporation. Daily footfall has increased from around 70,000 to 85,000—a jump of about 21%. Residents said the skywalk has made the interchange between the two sectors easier. However, the area below the structure remains barricaded, affecting movement around the site. “Now, NMRC records normally 85,000 commuters per day. On some days, the ridership increased to 95,000. This shows there is an increase of about 20% commuters,” Noida CEO Krishna Karunesh said. The L-shaped, 400m air-conditioned skywalk project, equipped with travelators, was launched in March 2023 with a one-year completion target.



It is also equipped with CCTV cameras and fire safety equipment for passenger safety. However, it faced multiple hurdles, including a change in alignment and construction curbs imposed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) during winter. The skywalk was finally opened

on Aug 28, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan. The skywalk was initially planned as a single-pillar structure, but the discovery of an underground metro cable during excavation led to a redesign with a two-column support system. Later, a beam was found to be

obstructing its entry at Sector 51 station, prompting the Authority to modify the design and extend the skywalk further. The project cost also increased from Rs 25 crore to Rs 33 crore following the design changes. Sanjeev Kumar, a Sector 51 resident, said the skywalk has made the interchange between the two stations easier for commuters. “I take this interchange for commuting. The skywalk protects pedestrians from harsh weather like rainfall, sun and heat while maintaining safe, continuous urban mobility. It normally takes 4-5 minutes to cover this distance as people also use the travelators,” he added.

However, a portion of the road between Sector 51 and 52 remains barricaded despite the project's completion. Construction debris has also accumulated below the skywalk and needs to be cleared.

LPG e-KYC deadline gets 5th extension, this time till Sept 30

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

LPG consumers in the city who have still not completed e-KYC verification will get one final opportunity, with the deadline extended to Sept 30. Officials said those who fail to complete the process by then will have to buy cylinders at commercial rates. The deadline has been extended for the fifth time after the oil companies initially fixed Aug 15 as the last date. It was subsequently extended to Aug 23, Sept 7 and Sept 14. A senior official said the cost of a cylinder could go up to Rs 1,600 under commercial pricing, against around Rs 1,000 currently being charged to eligible consumers who have completed the e-KYC. According to district supply officer (DSO) Amit Tiwari, around 1.65 lakh consumers in

Ghaziabad are yet to complete their e-KYC despite the extensions. He urged consumers to complete the e-KYC before the latest deadline, as this will be the final extension. Ghaziabad has more than 100 LPG agencies serving over 12 lakh consumers. LPG supplies to nearly 2.5 lakh consumers were suspended until June because of incomplete e-KYC, while new connections were also put on hold during the period, officials said. Officials said the oil companies have held meetings with LPG distributors and directed them to speed up the e-KYC process. Distributors have been asked to ensure that the maximum possible number of consumers complete the verification before the Sept 30 deadline.

Consumers who are currently staying outside their registered area can complete their e-KYC through the

nearest LPG distributor. They can also complete the process themselves through the respective oil company's mobile application by creating an account, officials said. He supply department has also started verifying consumers who have failed to complete e-KYC despite repeated opportunities. Officials said some of the pending connections may belong to consumers who have died, shifted from Ghaziabad or otherwise become inactive. Once the verification is completed, authorities may consider permanently deactivating connections that are found to be no longer valid. Another challenge is that many consumers have changed their mobile numbers without updating them in the LPG records, making it difficult for distributors and authorities to contact them, an official said.

Residents urge Noida Authority to conduct surprise inspections and rising encroachments

Noida.(Agency)

Several Noida residents have urged Noida Authority CEO Krishna Karunesh to conduct at least two surprise field inspections every week, alleging that weakened ground-level monitoring by senior officials has allowed encroachments to return soon after enforcement drives. Their five-point demand includes physical verification before closing encroachment-related Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGRS) complaints, follow-up inspections after enforcement drives, monitoring of repeat-violation locations, confidentiality around surprise enforcement plans and greater emphasis on sustained outcomes than temporary solutions. The residents specifically flagged Atta Market, claiming that large stretches of footpaths and parts of main roads remain occupied by vendors. “When a pedestrian cannot use a footpath safely, this is no longer simply an

encroachment issue; it becomes a matter of public safety and accessibility,” the letter stated. Similar concerns were raised regarding sectors 77, 78 and 79, areas near



Nimbus Hyde Park, Golf View, Mahagun Moderne, Elite Golf Greens, Gaur Sportswood and Supertech Cape Town in Sector 74. Residents have also questioned the process of closing encroachment-related complaints filed through IGRS.

They said such grievances are often closed after enforcement action is carried out and photographs of the cleared site are uploaded. However, they pointed out that this does not resolve the issue as encroachments often return. They are therefore demanding regular physical inspections instead of relying solely on the IGRS system. Responding to the concerns, Noida Authority CEO Krishna Karunesh said regular enforcement drives were being conducted across the city. He said the Authority had deployed five designated JCB machines across different zones and was also issuing notices to vendors.

“The problem is that once we remove the encroachment, it reappears in the next three days. But there will be a considerable difference in the next 10 days,” Karunesh said. He added that several vending zones have been identified and efforts are underway to relocate vendors to designated areas.

FIR against 2 after car falls in drain, man found dead nearby

Noida.(Agency)

An FIR was registered against two persons after the car they were travelling in crashed into a drain in Sector 24, where a man was later found dead. Police are probing whether the victim died after being hit by the car.

The sequence of events remains unclear because there were few witnesses when the accident occurred around 3am on Saturday. Police said Aman alias Armaan and Aniket were travelling from Sector 49 towards Sector 12-22 when the car allegedly went out of control near the underpass close to Wave City Mall. The vehicle, travelling at around 100 kmph, jumped several feet, overturned and landed over the drain.

Police suspect the man, who was near the spot, may have been struck during the crash and fallen into the drain. He suffered multiple injuries and was found dead there. The cops, however, are yet to establish whether the injuries were caused by the car or whether he died under other circumstances.

“The autopsy report mentions multiple injuries and indicates that they were sustained before his death,” an officer said. The victim's identity has not yet been established. Police are checking records at nearby stations and circulating his details on social media to trace his family.

The crash was severe enough to deploy the car's airbags. Aman and Aniket suffered minor injuries, got out of the vehicle and fled, leaving the damaged car behind. Residents spotted it the next morning and alerted police. A crane was used to remove the vehicle.

The car belonged to Shiva, who lives in the same building as the accused at Baraula. Police later traced the vehicle to its owner and identified the occupants.

An FIR was registered on a complaint by Morna police post in-charge Ajit Singh. Police identified Aman and Aniket as residents of Bulandshahr now living in rented accommodation in Baraula. Aniket works in the sanitation department of Noida Authority, while Aman is a gym trainer.

UP rental agreements see a 5-time fee cut

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

In a reprieve for tenants and landlords, stamp duty and registration fees for rental agreements have been reduced by the UP cabinet last week. Officials said that this will bring parity with respect to other states where the rates are already lower. Under the revised rates, a one-year agreement for a property with an annual rent of up to Rs 2 lakh will attract Rs 1,000 in stamp duty and another Rs 1,000 as a registration fee. The total cost will therefore be Rs 2,000, against the earlier cumulative charge of Rs 10,000. It will rise to Rs 2,000 for agreements of more than one year and up to five years, and Rs 4,000 for agreements running beyond five years and up to 10 years.

For properties with annual rent between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 6 lakh, the corresponding stamp duty will be Rs 3,000, Rs 6,000 and Rs 8,000. Similarly, for annual rent between Rs 6 lakh and Rs 10 lakh, the rates will be Rs 4,500, Rs 10,000 and Rs 13,000. The cabinet on Sept 15 also approved a proposal to keep the registration fee equal to the stamp duty under each slab. “We are yet to receive a govt order. But stamp duty and registration fees for lease and rent agreements have been significantly cut down by the cabinet. As of now, we



charge 1% of annual rental value as registration fee and 2% of annual rental value as stamp duty and 4% on developed land which is under municipal limits,” Prem Pratap Singh, AIG (stamp and registration), said. In UP, rent and lease agreements come under Section 4 of the Uttar Pradesh Regulation of Urban Premises Tenancy Act, 2021, which states that no person can let or take

premises on rent except through a written agreement. It adds that a landlord and tenant must jointly inform the Rent Authority in the prescribed form, generally within two months. It, however, exempts residential tenancies of less than 12 months from informing the Rent Authority. A registered agreement provides a formal record of the rent, tenure and other conditions

agreed between the landlord and tenant, which can be useful if a dispute arises.

“The rationale behind lowering the rates is to encourage more people to register their rental agreements. Earlier, it was seen that most people opt for relatively inexpensive notarial arrangements instead of registering their agreements due to high rates,” Noida Bar Association patron PPS Nagar said.

NEWS BOX

Iraq varsity confers honorary doctorate on Dawoodi Bohras' global religious leader

Surat (Agency).

The University of Kufa in Iraq conferred an honorary doctorate on His Holiness Dawoodi Bohra global religious leader, 53rd al Dai al-Mutlaq Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin, in Surat, for contributions to academic excellence, cultural preservation, social welfare, etc.

Surat city is bustling with Ganesh Utsav celebrations; and at the same time, a large number of members of the Dawoodi Bohra community from across the country have been assembling here daily for the past few days to attend spiritual speeches and prayers led by their religious leader, Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin. A large number of people from the Dawoodi Bohra community were seen walking through the walled city to reach Zampa Bazaar to attend prayers at the mosque.

A distinguished Iraqi delegation, led by Prof Dr Hayder Abed Dhahad, Senior Undersecretary of the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and Prof Dr Alaa Naji Alkawla, President of the University of Kufa, conferred the degree upon Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin at a ceremony held in Surat on Monday.

"The Diamond City of Surat serves as a fitting venue to honour His Holiness," said Prof Dr Haider Abed Dhahad.

Masked gang attacks four in Bengaluru's southwest, Police launch manhunt

BENGALURU (Agency).

Panic gripped parts of Southwest police division in Bengaluru on Sunday night, after a group of six or seven masked men allegedly went on an attacking spree with machetes and long knives at two locations in Uttarahalli, leaving four people injured.

DCP (Southwest) SK Soumyalatha said four suspects were identified and three special teams were formed under the Subramanyapura sub-division ACP to trace and arrest those involved. The motive behind the attacks is yet to be established.

The incidents occurred around 9 pm near Maramma Circle, and subsequently near Arehalli arch on Uttarahalli Main Road. The assailants were travelling on three or four motorcycles, a few were wearing helmets and others covered their faces with masks.

The gang allegedly first targeted the public standing by the roadside near Maramma Circle in Hosahalli. Kiran N and Kiran H suffered cut injuries in the attack. One of them is undergoing treatment as an in-patient, while the other was discharged after receiving treatment.

Minutes later, the same group allegedly moved towards Arehalli arch, near a fish stall, where they attacked two more men identified as Raju and Ravi. Ravi reportedly sustained serious injuries to his ear and hand and is undergoing treatment as an in-patient. Raju reportedly sustained minor injuries.

The jurisdictional Subramanyapura police station rushed to the spot and recorded statements from the injured in hospital. Medico-legal cases were registered by hospitals treating the two in-patients.

Rain triggers waterlogging, traffic snarls across Bengaluru

BENGALURU (Agency).

Commuters had a tough time navigating city roads owing to waterlogging at several places following heavy rains during peak hours on Monday evening. Those using private vehicles witnessed traffic snarls in the central business district and other parts of the city. Traffic pile-ups were reported at B Narayanapura Main Road, Marathahalli, Kadubeesanahalli, Varthur Kodi, Krishnarajapuram Outer Ring Road, SJP



Road, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Queen's Road and several other locations across the city. The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), in a post on its official X account, confirmed that normal traffic flow in and around Whitefield was also affected following the rain and advised commuters to use alternative routes. Meanwhile, vehicular movement on the BGS Flyover in the Chamarajpet traffic police station limits was severely affected due to waterlogging, reports said. Traffic police personnel were seen using sticks to clear clogged inlets to the drainages in waterlogged areas on the BGS Flyover.

Bangle in nightclub, fight over a woman: How Pak terror network was busted

A probe into a late-night brawl at a Panchkula nightclub has now been handed over to the ATS, with the police finding alleged links to foreign-based handlers.

Nagpur (Agency).

What began as a late-night brawl over a man wearing a kada (metal bangle) to a nightclub in Haryana has now expanded into an investigation into a suspected cross-border narco-terror network, with alleged links to Pakistan and US-based handlers. The investigation took a turn following the arrest of several accused and the recovery of a sophisticated pistol, reportedly worth lakhs of rupees.

According to police sources, on September 13, six men from Kharar visited Alif Laila club in Panchkula to party, when a bouncer stopped one of them allegedly because he was wearing a kada. The duo got into an argument, which later escalated into a confrontation, allegedly involving a woman. The men were asked to leave the club. The group allegedly re-entered. Around 2.30 am on September 14, two shots were fired inside the club. A Panchkula assistant sub-inspector was also partying with his friends at the time. "One of the men pulled out a firearm and opened fire. At first, it appeared to be yet another case of a nightclub fight," the official said.

Subsequently, three men, Karan, Gurpreet and Lakhbir, were arrested. It was when the police allegedly recovered a Zigana pistol from Karan, who is from Mohali, that the investigation took a turn. Investigators said the firearm, reportedly worth several lakhs, was not an ordinary country-made pistol.



They are now probing how it reached the accused and who supplied it. Subsequently, Ludhiana-based Shiva, whom the police describe as a handler, was arrested on September 21. "What initially appeared to be a nightclub firing has revealed leads that require investigation from a wider security perspective. During the investigation, we

have come across suspected links with foreign-based handlers and a possible narco-terror angle. The matter has therefore been transferred to the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) for a deeper probe into the network," Panchkula Police Commissioner Pankaj Nain said.

Probe reveals calls from US and Pakistan

According to sources, the men were allegedly ground-level operatives in a wider narcotics network that extended beyond Punjab, towards Pakistan and the US. "They worked for a handler in the US. Calls from handlers in the US and Pakistan were seen. When their room was searched, money-counting machines were found. They would make payments sent by these handlers for delivering narcotics here. One week's payment runs in crores," a police officer said. Sources said investigators have identified locations in Punjab allegedly connected to proceeds from cross-border drug trafficking. The cash was reportedly being moved through channels controlled by handlers operating from abroad.

'Wanted to teach owner a lesson': Ex-accountant set fire to Surat textile market over pending Rs 10,000

Surat (Agency).

The Surat Crime Branch on Monday arrested a man on charges of setting fire to a Surat textile market on September 9, leading to an estimated loss of around Rs 24 crores. The accused, identified as Vinod Salve, a resident of Maharashtra's Dhule district, worked as an accountant at a shop in Shyam Sangini Textile market in Surat.

During his primary interrogation, Salve, who quit his job as accountant at the shop a month ago allegedly due to the harassment by his seniors and the shop owner, confessed to setting fire to Shyam Sangini Textile market in a bid to "teach his former owner a lesson about the importance of money", police said.

Salve, according to police, claimed that he did not get his pending salary of Rs 10,000 and that the owner refused to give it during his multiple visits to the shop after he left his job, by giving some

excuse or the other. The fire broke out on the sixth floor of Shyam Sangini textile market in the early morning on September 9. The fire



department got a call around 12.50 am and sent teams to fight the fire that took 14 hours to douse. All the shops on the floor were gutted

while some on the fifth floor of the six-storey building were also affected. Salve was caught based on CCTV footage that showed a masked man sprinkling something on parcels of textile goods stacked in the passage for delivery, and setting them ablaze. As per the footage, the man was inside the building for just four minutes after midnight of September 8. The police lodged an FIR booking an unknown person for arson before Salve was identified.

Bought petrol a day before, Ayodhya visit after fire

On a tip off, the Surat city crime branch officials reached the Dindoli area, a largely migrant ghetto, on Monday and spotted Salve standing on the roadside and detained him.

Salve disclosed that he had worked as an accountant in a textile trading shop on the sixth floor in Shyam Sangini market since April 2026, on a monthly salary of Rs 30,000.

Advisory or fake circular? Punjab Opposition flags 'no police uniform' letter

Chandigarh (Agency).

Two Opposition leaders in Punjab on Tuesday released an alleged internal Border Range Police circular advising personnel to avoid wearing uniforms while travelling to and from duty, claiming that the force is operating in fear under the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. The Punjab Police, however, dismissed the document as fake. The letter released by state Congress president Amrinder Singh Raja Warring and Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia stated that police personnel should not wear uniforms while coming on duty or returning from duty. It advised personnel to wear plain clothes before leaving home and the police post (chowki). It added that ordinary civilian dress, badge, identity card, police equipment, or any other item that makes a person's police identity obvious should not be displayed in public. However, the Punjab Police issued a statement, saying

it has not issued any such advisory. "Such messages circulating on social media are fake and should be ignored. Citizens and police personnel are advised to rely only on official channels for authentic information," the statement said. The purported letter shared by Warring and Majithia was said to be written by Inspector General of Police, Border Range, Amritsar, Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, to the senior superintendents of police of Amritsar (Rural), Batala, Gurdaspur and Pathankot.

What the letter states

The letter posted on social media sets out "special instructions" on the personal security of police personnel, security of duty points, and tighter vigilance. It advises police personnel to

avoid travelling alone whenever possible. "Movement should be undertaken according to the Buddy Pair System



(companion-pair system). Necessary information regarding departure and safe arrival at the destination should be provided to the concerned officer/control point," it

added. Sharing the letter and an audio recording purported to be of a police official, Raja Warring posted on X, "Rome was burning and Nero was playing the flute...Punjab is burning and Bhagwant Mann is telling jokes on the stage".

Majithia also shared the same letter on X. "Punjab Police, once known for eliminating terrorism and maintaining law and order, has allegedly been rendered helpless under "Guru Dokhi" Bhagwant Mann's leadership.....Fear prevails among Punjabis over the deteriorating law and order situation.....In view of the alarming nature of the audio that is going viral

across various groups, the police must clarify their position and explain whether the situation has deteriorated to such an extent," the post read.

Record paddy area, ageing CRM fleet: Punjab readies 1.25 lakh machines for stubble season

The Agriculture Department expects around 1.25 lakh crop residue management (CRM) machines to be operational this season, even as nearly 67,000 machines distributed since the scheme was launched in 2018 have completed about five years and are now considered non-functional or scrap.

BHOPAL (Agency).

PUNJAB is heading into this year's paddy harvest with a record rice area to cover and a sizeable part of the crop-residue management machinery supplied during the initial years of the anti-stubble-burning programme having reached the end of its operational life.

The Agriculture Department expects around 1.25 lakh crop residue management (CRM) machines to be operational this season, even as nearly 67,000 machines distributed since the scheme was launched in 2018 have completed about five years and are now considered non-functional or scrap. The distinction is significant: the 67,000 machines that have reached the end of their life are not part of the state's projected 1.25 lakh operational fleet for this season. To replenish the fleet, around

22,000 new CRM machines are being added this year under the scheme at an expenditure of about Rs 600 crore, with funding shared between the Centre and



state in a 60:40 ratio. Around 2,000 additional machines are also expected to come through other schemes and grants. The CRM scheme has been integrated

with the national agricultural mechanisation framework on the 60:40 Centre-State funding pattern since 2023-24. "Punjab has distributed around 1.65 lakh CRM machines since 2018. Of these, about 67,000 have now completed their roughly five-year operational cycle, leaving around 98,000 machines from previous years that are considered functional. The department, however, expects the total operational availability this season to be around 1.25 lakh after fresh additions and machines sourced through other schemes," said Director Agriculture Gurjit Singh Brar.

Punjab has more paddy to manage than ever before. Rice, including Basmati and non-Basmati varieties, has touched a record 32.86 lakh hectares, accounting for more than 92 per cent of the state's kharif crop

area.

Super seeder becomes the workhorse

More than 70,000 of the operational machines are expected to be Super Seeders, making the machine the most sought-after CRM equipment in the state after the Happy Seeder dominated the early years of the programme.

A Super Seeder allows farmers to manage standing paddy residue and sow wheat in the same operation, cutting and incorporating the residue while preparing the field for the next crop and sowing the seed. Its growing use has shifted the focus towards machinery that can combine residue management with timely wheat sowing. Punjab now has around 6,100 Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) from where farmers can hire CRM machinery instead of purchasing it.

Tea stall owner killed, 11 injured as SUV 'runs into' pilgrims, pedestrians in Gujarat, crowd sets vehicle ablaze

Ahmedabad (Agency).

A CROWD allegedly set an SUV ablaze after it allegedly ran into a group of pilgrims, the impact killing a tea stall owner and injuring 11 other persons headed on foot to the Ambaji temple in Sabarkantha near Himmatnagar, police said on Monday. The driver of the SUV was detained and was being interrogated, police said.

The incident took place near Dolgadh, just 11 km north of Himmatnagar, the district headquarters of Sabarkantha. The village is on the state highway way to Ambaji town, which lies a further 93 km to the north and is a popular pilgrimage destination that sees several devotees make the trip on foot for the Bhadarvi Poonam fair, which is organised from September 20-26. Police identified the deceased as Bharat Vaghela, who had set up a roadside



stall along the highway to cater to the pilgrims walking to the temple. Sabarkantha Superintendent of Police (SP) Parthrajsinh Gohil said, "The incident took place at 6:30 pm near Dolgadh outside Himmatnagar. As many as 11 persons, including pilgrims and local residents and volunteers, were injured and have been admitted to G M E R S Himmatnagar Civil Hospital."

"The SUV driver is being interrogated regarding the circumstances of the incident. Some local residents have alleged that the driver, who is also a local resident, made a U-turn around the road and drove at high speed towards the people, causing the accident," SP Gohil told The Indian Express. The SP also said that some in the crowd "manhandled the driver and set fire to the SUV."

Universe: Misunderstanding the flood myth

The Bible (500 BC) tells the story of Noah and the Great Flood. God becomes angry with humanity because people have turned away from His commandments. As punishment, He sends a flood to destroy the world. Only Noah is chosen to survive. He is instructed to build an ark, take his family aboard, and preserve a pair of every animal. After the flood, Noah's descendants repopulate the earth. A similar story appears in the Shatapatha Brahmana (800 BC), where Manu meets a tiny fish while washing his hands. The fish asks for protection from the larger fish. Manu saves it, first in a pot, then in bigger containers, until it finally grows large enough to return to the sea. Years later, the fish returns and warns Manu of an approaching flood. Manu builds a boat, takes with him the sages who preserve the Vedas, and is rescued when the great fish pulls his boat to safety. After the waters recede, he restores human society. Because both stories involve a flood, a boat, and a chosen survivor, many people assume that Manu is the Indian version of Noah or that Noah is the Biblical Manu. This comparison overlooks the real meaning of the two stories. In the Bible, the flood is an act of divine punishment. God sends it because humanity has sinned. Noah survives because he obeys God. The message is clear: follow God's commandments or face His wrath.

The Vedic story is completely different. No god sends the flood, and no moral reason is given for why it happens. The focus is not on divine anger but on karma. Manu is rescued because he had earlier shown kindness to the helpless fish. The fish



simply repays that kindness. The story teaches that good actions eventually bring good results. It is the earliest story about karma. These different ideas reflect two very different worldviews. The Bible presents a single God who rewards obedience and punishes disobedience. The Shatapatha Brahmana presents a universe governed by karma, where actions naturally produce consequences.

An even older flood story comes from ancient Sumeria, nearly a thousand years before either text. In this version, the gods become annoyed by noisy human beings and decide to destroy them with a flood. A fish associated with the god Ea warns Utnapishtim, who builds a boat and survives. Like the Biblical story, the Sumerian myth is about powerful gods controlling humanity.

Some historians have tried to connect all three stories because they share floods, boats, and fish. But these similarities are only superficial. The meanings are entirely different. The Sumerian and Biblical stories revolve around divine authority and punishment. The Vedic story is about compassion, gratitude, and the law of karma. There is even a Chinese flood myth which speaks of the world's first water engineer who was chosen by the people as their first king. Comparing myths requires more than noticing similar characters or events. The deeper ideas behind a story matter far more than its outward details. When we look beyond the flood itself, it becomes clear that Manu and Noah belong to very different philosophical traditions. Their stories may resemble, but they teach fundamentally different lessons.

Genetics of Love-Jihad and Love-Jauhar

The legend of Jauhar predates the advent of Islam by several hundred years; however, the vilifiers of Love-Jihad choose not to acknowledge this

Twenty years ago, the phrase 'Love-Jihad' entered the Indian public sphere. The underlying idea was that Hindu women were being enchanted into marrying Muslim men. This was not perceived as genuine love but rather as a clandestine Islamic expansionist strategy, using marriage as a means to propagate the faith. The Hindu lobby that raised this issue never questioned why Hindu women might choose Muslim men over Hindu men; their sole focus was on how to prevent such unions.

Contrast this with another term: 'Jauhar'. This refers to the self-immolation of women in a besieged fortress, choosing death by fire over capture. It is portrayed as an act of true love and fidelity, hence the term 'Love-Jauhar'. This narrative appears in textbooks and on television, embedded in the legends of Rajasthan, where it is consistently presented as a sacrifice and never a tragedy. No one interprets it as a strategy, nor does anyone question whether it was a free choice or forced upon them by husbands or fathers who preferred death by fire to a life of disgrace and shame. Both Love-Jihad and Love-Jauhar address the same underlying concern: a Hindu woman's transgression of boundaries, specifically concerning the body of an upper-caste Hindu woman. This fear has nothing to do with religion. It has more to do with caste. The concept of 'religion' as a term is a 19th-century European colonial invention, based on conversion, which is fundamental to Christianity and Islam. Hinduism, however, does not convert. Like Japanese Shinto and Chinese Han identity, being Hindu is an ethnic identity acquired by birth into a particular caste (jati). The British did not invent caste, as claimed by Sanatanis; rather, they invented the concept of religion as understood by historians.

Religions are inherently imperialistic in nature. They expand their reach through military might, conversion, and marriage. This characteristic is absent in China, Japan, and India. The Chinese choose to assimilate conquered territories, hence they regulate and dissuade Uighur Muslim or Tibetan Buddhist practices. Japan restricts the entry of foreigners into its nation, preferring tourists. Hindus protect boundaries by preventing inter-caste marriage. This practice solidified approximately 2,000 years ago and was documented in the Manusmriti, the most authoritative of all lawbooks on dharma, known as the dharma-shastra. According to Manusmriti, if a Shudra man were to marry a Brahmin woman, their child would become a Chandala. Today, as Hinduism is projected as a casteless religion by Sanatanis, the Muslim man takes the place of the Shudra man. He is contamination to be shunned. Even the Muslim woman



cannot be brought into the Hindu fold where purity of marriage is still determined by caste. Even today, across India, there are new reports of boys and girls who marry outside caste being killed.

The legend of Jauhar predates the advent of Islam by several hundred years; however, the vilifiers of Love-Jihad choose not to acknowledge this. Kalhana's Rajatarangini contains accounts of the Hindu king Harsha during his invasions of Kashmir. The Mahabharata describes Krishna's widows killing themselves by fire, and the Yadava caravan subsequently being raided by Abhira tribesmen, with no Muslim invaders present. Whatever the terminology—be it 'sahagmana,' 'sati,' or 'jauhar'—the practice of burning women began in India 1,500 years ago, according to inscriptional evidence in Eran, Madhya Pradesh, a few centuries after the establishment of caste boundaries. This is not coincidental. History shows that Mughal emperors married Rajput princesses without difficulty, while Rajputs almost never married Mughals, and Mughal princesses often remained unmarried. The flow of purity has always been unidirectional. In warrior communities, giving away a daughter was often an act of submission and shame. Many Sanatanis argue that the women sent to Mughal harems were not daughters of queens but rather daughters of concubines.

There is a more perplexing question that the establishment is unwilling or unable to address: Why did Hindu women want to marry Muslim men? Perhaps they imagined, or sometimes perceived, Muslim men to be more physically vital, while Brahmins and Baniyas prioritised the mind and neglected the body. This was formerly compensated for by gyms and gods with biceps and six-packs, now marketed as ancient Hindu virility. India once had the Anangaranga, which taught men to be expert and considerate lovers. Tradition offers no such schooling, and the neo-Hindu establishment is uncomfortable with it. The Sanatani establishment has primarily been compelled to organise itself against Hindu reformers, rather than against Muslims. Nineteenth-century anti-sati campaigns, led by Rammohan Roy, provoked a Sanatani backlash that redefined itself as the protector of traditions. Here lies the deeper divide.

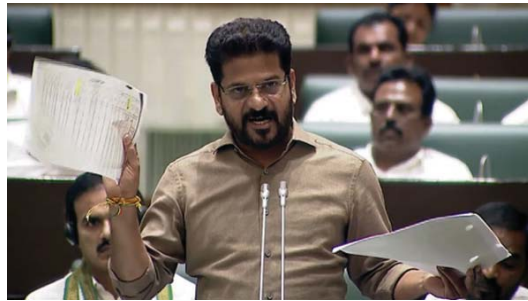
Currently, some people are promoting Hinduism as a religion suitable for everyone, irrespective of birth or caste, based solely on devotion to a guru. This approach is generous, popular, and growing rapidly. Sanatanis are effectively trying to turn Hinduism into a conversion-based religion. But caste proves the biggest obstacle. The idea of a meat-eating bride entering a pure vegetarian household continues to evoke disgust in Hinduism's elite circles.

High stakes for all in Telangana in land probes

What's certain at this moment is that the political fallout for the BRS would be significant if anything amiss is unearthed. On the other hand, any vindication of the BRS leaders' innocence could prove damaging for the CM

Notwithstanding intermittent rains, the unusual heat coursing through Hyderabad perhaps reflects the state of political affairs in Telangana capital. A few weeks ago, the ruling Congress was battling internal squabbles and fierce attacks from opposition BRS over private properties in various parts of the state mistakenly barred from being sold or transferred. Now the tables have turned, with Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy launching a counterattack and turning up the heat. On the floor of the Assembly, he accused BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao, his family members and associates of land grab and ordered an immediate enquiry on the former CM's farmhouse.

To some, the unfolding episode might not seem out of place amid today's fractious political environment. However, there is more to it than meets the eye. Enquiry has begun on KCR's farmhouse to verify if he had illegally taken over 388 acres of government land. The allegations against his son, former IT minister K T Rama Rao, and



senior party leader Harish Rao, a real estate tycoon who stands accused of acquiring as much land as the airport itself, are also serious in nature. It's not yet clear whether the Revanth government will be able to take the probe to its conclusion or the issue will end up in courts. What's certain at this moment is that the political fallout for the

BRS would be significant if anything amiss is unearthed. On the other hand, any vindication of the BRS leaders' innocence could prove damaging for the CM. Besides, the Congress too is facing similar allegations with the BRS claiming the ruling party's leadership owns land parcels near the planned Bharat Future City. The strategies at play have the potential of delivering a devastating blow for either party. For the common man watching the slugfest, the message received is one of rising land prices and probable plunder. To restore faith in the system, an impartial and transparent enquiry is required. It also needs to be wrapped up in a time-bound manner. At the same time, the government has the responsibility to sort out the problems arising out of Section 22A of the Registration Act, 1908, whose misapplication allegedly placed wrong private properties on the prohibited list. At stake are not just political fortunes—all of this directly affects the people of Telangana.

Exhausting Bangalore hustle: Never again will I curse Delhi-Noida traffic

☛ The trees are still there. So is the famous Bengaluru weather. But everything else? After 20 years, the city is almost unrecognisable

After almost 20 years, I visited Bangalore recently. We had to attend a conference in Hubli and decided that we'd keep aside a few days for Bangalore to catch up with friends we hadn't met for a long time. In any case, having read so much about the buzzing life there, I decided that we must see for ourselves what has changed. The short answer to that was: Everything! The lovely parks and verdant neighbourhoods have become crowded spaces with towering high-rise apartment blocks and although the trees still stand, they are now a dwarfed and apologetic presence in this new concrete jungle.

As for the traffic, the less said the better. Just covering a few kilometres can take up to two hours in a car or cab and if, God forbid, you have an early morning flight to catch, you have to leave at 4 am to be there by 6 am. As if the volume and chaos of cars and traffic jams were not enough, half the city has been dug up for the Metro that is expected to help commuters. The joy of going out to meet friends in a convivial club or restaurant is wiped out by the sheer logistics of a rendezvous. Never again will I curse the Delhi-Noida or Delhi-Gurgaon traffic. Nothing can possibly be worse than being stuck on Bangalore's narrow winding roads choked with cars, two-wheelers, buses, trucks and delivery vans. Whew!

What is still wonderful is the balmy Bangalore weather. Often, you don't even need a fan and in the 10 days or so that we spent in this region, we did not feel the need for an air-conditioner. This despite the fact that there is a severe dry spell there and Dharwad farmers are worried about the prevailing drought. Those of us who live or travel mainly in North India can be unprepared for the evident prosperity and civility of India south of the Vindhyas. I must add, however, that when you hear rapid Kannada being spoken, you can be forgiven for thinking that there



is an argument going on instead of greetings being exchanged! The harsh consonants and pitch of voice are so alien to our ears.

South Indian food is another experience. We were served a sadya lunch with dozens of little dollops of pickles, chutneys, papads, avial, and rice, sambar and rasam topped with payasam and heavenly aromatic filter coffee. I snored shamelessly through the session of lectures that followed but there were others who looked as if they were dozing secretly too. All in all, we returned exhausted and

'fully fed up' as they say in sadra Punjab to mean replete with food and drink. Another shock awaited us here: the BRICS conference meant that large areas of Delhi were cordoned off for the delegates and traffic diversions took one on a safari in another direction if you were forced to enter Delhi for some reason. Happy to be holed up in peaceful Noida, I savoured the peace and quiet this meant. I wonder though, what happens to those who need to go to a hospital in such a situation, but the answer is that we have so many medical facilities across the NCR that one

can be reassured about getting help in case of an emergency. Children and their parents got a long weekend off as office-goers were encouraged to work from home and schools were shut down. I'm told the streets were so quiet that one wondered if a leopard had just passed by. Now about a film that has made box office history: 'Hanuman Ansh'. Made on a shoestring budget of just about Rs 2 crore, it has raked in almost a hundred times more and is being dubbed now into Tamil and other languages. I've wanted to go and see it but no hall has free seats and viewers stay on for two consecutive screenings. My interest is partly because I want to see what has made it such a blockbuster but the more important reason is that my husband's family were devoted followers of Neem Karoli Baba. He was a regular visitor to our home and whenever we went up to Almora, a mandatory stop at Kainchi was always on the trip.

Babaji never gave gyan: he just looked at one with such love in his eyes that it felt as if he had entered one's secret heart and taken away all one's tension. Reclining on a takhat, clad in just a rough blanket, he accepted no gifts or offerings. Often he shooed away a visitor rudely for a reason only he knew. But the love he exuded and the peace that descended on one when seated close to him can only be described by someone who has felt it.

Babaji passed away in September 1973, the same year as our first-born arrived in December. He had told my mother-in-law, 'Main tere ghar aaunga,' so she always believed that her first grandson was the reincarnation of Babaji. The stories about Babaji from Steve Jobs to Virat Kohli are now well-known but for us, he will always be the protector of our family. He loved my husband, a dedicated atheist, so much that even now, I am convinced that he is there for us.

Daily
Morning - lime shot, green juice, cleansing and moisturising Lemon is the most alkalizing food in your daily diet. It contains about 8% citric acid, which once ingested, metabolises to an alkaline state tilting the body's intracellular fluid towards a healthy alkalinity. In an alkaline state, every system in the body works at its optimum level. Regular lemon intake stimulates the production of enzymes and digestive juices in the stomach and helps scavenge the free radicals. Moisturizing is a vital step in skin care regimen. Oily skin needs hydration too, but since it's prone to acne, attention should be paid to the choice of moisturizer.
Day - sunscreen application and reapplication Use sunscreen every day to protect your skin. No matter what type of skin you have, an oil-free sunscreen used before you go outside can help the skin look young and fresh, and keep it healthy.

Here's your Beauty calendar



Only once before the party
Medium-depth or salon exfoliation Facials, as we all know, are skin treatments intended to improve the cosmetic appearance of the skin. They are meant to cleanse, firm, smoothen and moisturise the skin. A full-treatment facial often means stepping into a new world of pampering and relaxation. Some facials treat specific skin problems, such as acne, dryness or wrinkles. You can opt for basic facials at home, using hand-mixed pastes and compounds, mild peeling agents, or can incorporate procedures, using electrical stimulation of facial muscles to temporarily tighten the skin.

PARTY COUNTDOWN
A week before the party
Implement new changes - hair cut, make-up etc If you are planning on a new hair cut or any new treatment, this is the time. It will give you enough time to recover if the treatment or product does not agree with your skin type.
Increase water intake - minimum 3litres a day
Drink lots of water with lime because your goal is to make your system as alkaline as possible. Avoid caffeine as it could lead to further dehydration.
Have Isabgol daily at night, drink green tea It helps in good bowel movement which flushes out the excess toxins. It eventually reflects in healthy skin.
Be more consistent and regular with your exercise
Exercise nourishes your skin by bringing more blood flow and oxygen to it, resulting in post-exercise glow. Have supplements of

vitamins A, C and E, and minerals like selenium and zinc (antioxidant properties).
Include vegetable juices in your diet
Regular intake of juices of deep-coloured vegetables is a natural source of anti-oxidants which helps the skin to remain fresh and glowing in all seasons. The antioxidants help eradicate (flush out) the free radicals (toxins) from our body that cause aging, as well as diseases.
Attend to body hair If you are enrolled for laser hair reduction sessions, schedule your appointment for the same. Else, meet your beautician for getting excess hair waxed. Caution: Do not wax hair from your face, chest and back - as it can lead to sudden acne break-out.
Visit the salon For acne prone skin, a clean-up will help in exfoliating the dead cells. Visit your doctor first. For normal to dry skin, a facial helps in hydration. The face massage improves blood circulation and thus rejuvenates the skin.
48 hours before
Pamper your hands and feet Grooming hands and feet is an extremely important part of your skin care routine. It boosts your confidence level.
24 hours before
Visit the spa Nothing like a relaxing day at the spa to de-stress before the party. Besides de-stressing, it also peps you up for the party ahead.
On Dec 31 night
- Apply a hydrating facemask for a few minutes
- Wash your hair with shampoo and a detangling conditioner. Detangle while still wet, by running a wide-toothed comb through your hair
- Apply a leave-in conditioner and wrap your hair with a hot towel. Leave for 20-30 minutes
- Blow dry and set your hair to complement your face
- Dress in your finest attire, but do pay attention to the comfort level
- Get a soft, flowy dress if you want a feminine look. Wear a figure-hugging dress only if you are sure of carrying it well
- Team your dress with comfortable shoes and throw on a stole to keep yourself warm and cosy. Accessorising right completes 'the look'
- Orange is the new red this season. The trick lies in finding the correct shade of orange lipstick/nail colour as per your skin tone
- A bold lip colour, like orange or red, may look over the top when paired with smoky eyes. So, use a subtle nude lip colour and a coat of clear gloss
- Do not over-dress. Do not over accessorize. Do not wear all the make-up on your dresser
- Body odour and mouth odour are a turn off for both the sexes. Ensure that you smell good
- Be safe and have a great night.

Regular exercise
If you are walking for 30 minutes a day, make it 60 minutes. But exercise alone will not be enough to lose weight and get into the LBD. As diet contributes 70% towards weight loss, the correct way is to eat right and lose weight, which also helps in maintaining a healthy look on the skin.
Night - cleansing, makeup removal, night cream [post 25 years of age] Non-stop parties = cosmetics overdose. Ensure that your skin doesn't get the hangover. A very important aspect

of skin care is proper make-up removal. Clogged pores caused by stale make-up can lead to oily skin and occasional break -outs. Late nights could make you want to go to bed without removing your make-up once a while, but remember, it is extremely important to follow a strict cleansing routine on a regular basis. For the eyes, an oil-based eye make-up remover used on a cotton swab is the most effective way to ensure there isn't an unsightly residue left over the next morning. For the face, steer clear of soap, use a cleanser instead. Use a night repair cream on the

and turmeric powder to make a face pack can make the skin glow instantly. Turmeric has antioxidant as well as anti inflammatory properties, while gram flour is a common ingredient in face packs known for their gentle-cleansing and smoothening properties. Make a thick paste using 2 tbsp gram flour, a pinch of turmeric powder and 1 tsp lemon juice. Apply this face mask. Leave it till on till it dries. Wash thoroughly with cold water. It is a great home-made scrub for healthy-looking skin.

Multi-toned mani is the next big thing in Nail art

We bet all of you are tired of glittery and glossy manis, and are yearning for fuss-free classy manis to be back. Good news! The one nail art that is going to take the manicure world by storm is multi-toned manis.
In this particular art, one needs to paint a different shade of the same colour on each

nail. One can either put the colours randomly, or make a transition from dark to light to give a gradient effect. Elegant, isn't it?
Julie Kandalec, creative director of a New York-based salon, has already forecasted that the trend will be the next big thing in nail art. Though actor Lauren Conrad has already tried it, we are waiting for others to follow suit.



Ageing begins from when a child is born. However, there are other factors that can lead to premature ageing, including the usage of incorrect skincare products and gorging on unhealthy foods. One can achieve a perfect skin by including turmeric, ginger and green leafy vegetables in the food intake, says an expert.

Natural choices to combat ageing

Speaking at the Anti-Ageing Health and Beauty show, held at the London Olympia this past weekend, Geraldine McCulgan of the College of Naturopathic Medicine said: "What you eat today... you wear tomorrow."

The beauty therapist shared some helpful tips on natural choices for anti-ageing and the small changes that one can effect in one's lifestyle to help slow down ageing.

Accelerating ageing is affected by the following:

Glycation - the process of sugar and it affects joints

Inflammation
Lack of nutrients
Overload of toxins
Free radical damages
Stress
Loss of ATP (Adenosine triphosphate) which regulates cellular energy
Lack of oil and water

So if you want to slow down ageing, McCulgan recommends following a diet made up of whole grains, vegetables, legumes, mild-sweet and non-sweet fruits. One can also try the following things:

-Avoid refined sugar
-Eat protein with every meal
-Swap refined sugar products with wholegrain alternatives
-Eat plenty of fibre rich vegetables
-Include cinnamon - lowers blood sugar levels
-Consult the ORAC (Oxygen Radical Absorbance Capacity) scale - which identifies the anti-oxidants in foods
Inflammation is behind many degenerative diseases, so here we have some advice from Geraldine on how to reduce it:
-Eat organic
-Turmeric
-Ginger
-Green leafy vegetables
-Fermented foods
-Acid/Alkaline balancing
-Omega 3 fatty acids



How to curl your hair with straighteners

1. Brush your hair thoroughly to make sure your tresses are tangle-free. "Dry your hair completely," says hairstylist Asgar Saboo.
2. Apply a heat protection spray and comb through.
3. Part your hair in three sections: upper, middle and lower, then apply hairspray to each section and clip it.
4. Start working on the layers beginning at

the bottom of your scalp. Grabbing section by section, clamp the iron and turn it back on itself a half turn gliding the straightener near the hair roots towards the ends and softly twisting it at the same time.
5. When all the sections have been curled, gently run your fingers through your hair. Apply a strong-hold hairspray.





Beauty benefits of Charcoal

Gone are the days when you walk into a beauty store and the saleswoman tries to sell you products with tea tree oil extracts or salicylic acid. If you are looking for an excuse to lay off the chemicals in skin products available in the market, charcoal is the best option. With international celebs posting pictures of wearing charcoal face masks on social networking sites, it's definitely on our lust list this month. CT finds out what's there to love about it.

THE SECRET OF BLACK MAGIC...

If you think charcoal has made it to the beauty and the health market recently, you cannot be more wrong! This ingredient first started doing the rounds in the 19th century as a cure for hangovers and flatulence. Beautician Nishi Anand explains, "Charcoal has come back to the beauty market again

because of its ability to absorb toxins and cleanse the system. Whether it is in the form of capsules, beauty masks or otherwise -this product is nowadays used for a maximum number of beauty and health purposes."



PURIFIES AND DEEP CLEANSSES THE SKIN

Charcoal is known to absorb 100 to 200 times its weight in removing impurities from your system, thereby keeping your skin clean, youthful and

flawless. Beauty professional Riddhima Negi says, "When it comes to domestic market, the beauty industry is opening up to the benefits, charcoal has to offer. It's effective in treating body odour, acne and relieving from insect bites and rashes."

OFFERS ANTI-AGEING BENEFITS TOO...

Due to its ability to prevent cellular damage to the adrenal glands, its important to cleanse toxins and chemicals routinely from your body. Health experts and doctors often recommend the use of creams or face masks that contain charcoal in it to prevent ageing and delay the signs of it. It tightens skin to shrink bags and smooth fine lines. Take that, saggy jawline and wrinkly neck! jawline and wrinkly neck!



When it comes to beauty , it's always a confusion between what you need, what you want and what really works. Products come and go, few making it to your permanent beauty kit. Charcoal beauty products were there since long but showed great effects only recently. Sure, a lot of people are intimidated by the colour of a skin product but trust us to say that it can make a huge difference to your look.

A new polish to Jewellery

Jewellery has been as integral part of our culture since time immemorial.

Trendy designs and deeper pockets have resulted in rise in jewellery demand. The best way to make a man feel like a king, or a woman, a queen, is by way of precious gems and jewels. An adornment beyond ages and boundaries, it has reached new heights with innovations and realisations. The amalgamation of skill and design over the years has resulted in con temporary pieces that leave one awestruck. From sparkling stones to solitaires, all of us have our personal favourites. Speaking more on it, Kunal Narula, an entrepreneur, said, "Jewellery caters a variety of demand today. India proudly boasts of a large number of legacy workers mastering jewellery making and that of various intricacies including polki, kundan, cut work and others. The modern age sees an emergence of simple and elegant designs as well as recycled and junk jewellery, which have become a part of the run."

gemmologist, enterprising e-jewellery stores and many others. Gold, silver and diamond have always been an attraction for all, but the catching trends of various other genres of jewellery in the market has allured a lot of locals as well as tourist crowding for everything Indian. The economical affordability is crucial for its liking. A lot of markets in the city showcase only jewellery and have



Adding on, he said, "Today, gems or other precious stones are not only the definition of primness, but it is the way they are carried and that makes the difference. Junk jewellery has reached the pinnacle of its curves and is widely worn and appreciated." Other jewellery that is gaining popularity is the one made of silver. It is affordable and is seen having wide options. The jewellery industry has also given rise to many new professions due to its increasing demand, such as designers,

ladies on the hunt for the most appealing pieces. Jewellery plays an important role in not only representing one's own self, but also expressing their liking and personality as it has its own language beyond words. India is a country, where jewellery is a symbol of riches and power. Hence, India is a hub of different and intricately-patterned jewellery that is appreciated and known worldwide. Jewellery is no more restricted to a domain of females only; males have taken on the adornment to show a to tally new dimension. Collar jewellery seems to have gained popularity with in the affluent class and is normally worn with kurtas and sherwanis.



How to do Eyelash tinting look in five steps

Your home can be a great source for skin care products, especially your kitchen is full of natural elements that help take care of your kin.



These simple skincare techniques, are all homemade and can be easily done; they are excellent ways to help you achieve that flawless glowing skin.

1. Mash fresh fruits well and applied directly on the skin. It will give your skin a fresh glow.
2. Mix 1 part of lemon juice, 1 part rose water and 4 parts of chilled water. Spray it on your face regularly during the day. It will keep your skin dew fresh and cool.
3. Multani mitti or fuller's earth is the main element in major face packs. Known for its skin cleansing benefits, it is also rich in minerals to nourish your skin. Try this soothing face pack. Mix 2 tsp of multani mitti with half a tablespoon of sandalwood powder and 2 tsp of chilled rose water. Apply even on your face and neck. Leave it on till the mask dries. Rinse off with cool water and find your skin refreshed and clean.
4. Powder sun dried orange peel and mix it with milk. Apply this to your face regularly and watch your skin glow.
5. Raw potato juice is an excellent remedy for treating marks and scars on your skin.



Homemade remedies for flawless and glowing Skin

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Bank Union's proposed strike from September 28 to 30: Govt urges employees of PSU banks to withdraw strike

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Delhi: The government on Monday appealed to employees of public sector banks and regional rural banks to call off their proposed 3-day strike from September 28 to 30 as it has already fulfilled one of their main demands by holding the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme in abeyance. "Given that most concerns of the Unions have been substantially addressed, that the remaining demand continues to be examined, and that the government continues to proactively introduce welfare measures for the banking workforce, bank employees are urged to refrain from resorting to strikes, work towards resolving issues through dialogue, and ensure that banking services remain uninterrupted," a Finance Ministry statement said. The United Forum of Bank Unions and certain other Unions of Public Sector Banks as well as Regional Rural Banks have called for a series of strikes in support of their demand for implementation of a five-day banking week, and withdrawal of the Performance Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. Taking due note of the concerns raised, the government, after detailed discussion, decided to keep the PLI scheme in abeyance. This proactive initiative by the government fulfilled one of the two main demands of the Unions, the statement said. Banking as a service is relied upon by every citizen, and its continuity directly affects the everyday lives of the general public. In the interests of bank employees, the government declared the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month as public holidays for public sector banks in 2015. The remaining Saturdays continue to serve as an important opportunity for many citizens to access banking services easily.

Rupee rises 13 paise to 95.65 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The rupee appreciated 13 paise to 95.65 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday supported by a pullback in crude oil prices and positive domestic market sentiment. Forex traders said the rupee opened positive this morning with Brent crude retreating from elevated levels on easing immediate supply concerns, as Saudi Arabia increased exports through the Strait of Hormuz and markets were hopeful of partial restoration of the damaged East-West pipeline. At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.75, then touched 95.65 against the American currency, registering a gain of 13 paise from its previous close. On Monday, the rupee appreciated 18 paise to close at 95.78 against the US dollar.

"The rupee remains range-bound. Softer crude is its main support, offset by a firm dollar after the Fed's hike and continued foreign portfolio outflows," said Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodity and Currency Research, Kotak Securities.

Banerjee further said: "We see 96.30 as the upper cap, with strong Reserve Bank intervention expected as the pair approaches 96.30-96.50, and support at 95.50 and then 95." "The central bank has also been actively draining the surplus liquidity created by the special deposit inflows through bond sales and reverse-repo auctions, which is keeping the adjustment orderly," he added.

PhonePe receives initial UAE central bank nod for payment licenses

New Delhi. (Agency)

Digital payments platform PhonePe said on Tuesday it received in-principle approval from the UAE central bank for two licenses covering retail payment services, card schemes, and stored value facilities. The Walmart-backed fintech firm said the approval follows initial regulatory due diligence



and that it still needs final central bank sign-off before it can begin commercial operations in the Gulf state. "Upon receipt of final regulatory approval, the company looks forward to collaborating with regional banks, licensed payment service providers, and local technology vendors," it said. Launched in 2016, PhonePe offers a payments application that lets users recharge, pay bills, and send money using India's Unified Payments Interface network. Earlier this year, the company put its closely watched initial public offering on hold, citing geopolitical uncertainty and volatile global market conditions. The company has said it will revive the listing process once market stability improves. PhonePe is targeting a valuation of \$9 billion to \$10.5 billion in the IPO, two sources with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters in March. The IPO filing showed Walmart plans to cut its stake in the fintech firm by about 12% through the offering.

IIT-B student death: Experts debate caste bias, student pressure and accountability

Noel Tata has proposed exploring a split or wider restructuring of Tata Sons as an alternative to listing the holding company. The move adds to the internal debate over RBI compliance, SP Group's exit route and capital flows across the Tata Group.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata has proposed exploring a restructuring of Tata Sons, including the possibility of

splitting the holding company into multiple entities, as an alternative to listing it to meet regulatory requirements, reported Economic Times. The proposal was made at the Tata Sons board meeting on September 17, the report said, citing people familiar with the matter. It was not immediately clear whether the board would take up the proposal for consideration. Tata Trusts, the majority shareholder in Tata Sons, has maintained that the holding company should remain unlisted and has been exploring alternatives after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rejected Tata Sons' application to surrender its registration.

WHAT DOES THE PROPOSAL INVOLVE?

The restructuring could potentially take different forms, including a demerger, moving assets into subsidiaries, a merger

or a broader scheme of arrangement, the ET report said. Given the size of Tata Sons



and its wide portfolio of businesses, such a restructuring could involve regulatory, commercial and tax complexities.

Tata Sons is the holding company for several major group businesses, including Tata Consultancy Services, Tata Motors, Tata Steel, Tata Capital, Tata Communications, Tata Consumer Products, Tata Investment Corporation, Air India, Tata Digital, Tata Electronics

and Agradas. The proposal comes as Tata Sons faces a regulatory requirement after being classified as an upper-layer non-banking finance company. The company had sought to surrender its registration after repaying its debt, but the RBI rejected the application.

LISTING VS RESTRUCTURING

The proposal comes amid a wider disagreement within Tata Sons over its future structure.

At the September 17 board meeting, the board voted to reappoint N Chandrasekaran as Tata Sons chairman for another five years. Noel Tata opposed the reappointment as well as the move towards a listing, according to the report. The holding company is understood to have started preparing for a potential public listing after the RBI's decision, with February 2027 emerging as an approximate internal target for a possible market debut, ET had reported earlier.

NSE IPO allotment: How to check status, listing date and expected listing price

New Delhi. (Agency)

The NSE IPO allotment is expected to be finalised on September 22, 2026, after the Rs 22,561.57 crore public issue was subscribed 5.71 times during the three-day bidding period. The IPO, which opened for subscription on September 17 and closed on September 21, is entirely an offer for sale of 12.64 crore shares. The issue has a price band of Rs 1,700 to Rs 1,785 per share, with a lot size of eight shares. At the upper end of the price band, the minimum investment for a retail investor was Rs 14,280. The issue was subscribed 1.39 times in the retail category, 12.68 times in the QIB (Ex Anchor) category and 6.55 times in the NII category by September 21. HOW TO CHECK

NSE IPO ALLOTMENT STATUS Investors who applied for the NSE IPO can check their allotment status using either the BSE website or the registrar's portal — MUFG Intime



India Private Limited. On the BSE website: Visit the BSE IPO allotment page. Select 'Equity' and choose 'NSE' from the drop-down list. Enter your application number and PAN. Fill in the captcha code and click 'Search' to view your allotment

status. On the MUFG Intime website: Go to the MUFG Intime India IPO allotment page. Choose 'NSE' from the list of issues. You can search using your Application Number, Demat Account Number, or PAN. Enter the required details, fill in the captcha code, and click 'Submit' to view the allotment status. Following the finalisation of the allotment, refunds for investors who did not receive shares will be processed, while successful applicants will have their allotted shares credited directly to their demat accounts.

NSE IPO LISTING DATE

The NSE IPO is scheduled to list on the BSE on September 24, 2026. The allotment is expected to be finalised on September 22, followed by the subsequent process.

RBI could implement 2 rate hikes in 2026 amid sticky inflation: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

Global financial services firm Nomura's Head of Global Macro Research, Rob Subbaraman, has said he expects the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to raise interest rates in both October and December monetary policy meetings as inflation pressures build.

India's growth remains resilient, with Nomura forecasting 7 per cent GDP growth for FY27, while inflation is expected to breach 6 per cent in the coming months, he said. IANS said, quoting a TV report. Subbaraman highlighted prospects for India to attract more global investment and gain space on the global value-chain chart, particularly through higher-end manufacturing. India holds immense opportunities across sectors but could face laggardness in select sectors if the AI investment narrative remains very strong in the US and Northeast Asia. India could attract more capital, with



FCNR-B deposits seeing stronger-than-expected flows, along with possibility of a strong balance-of-payments surplus, he said.

Markets are watching diplomatic developments at the UN General Assembly and the expected meeting between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping this week.

On global policy, Subbaraman said at least one more US Federal Reserve rate increase is expected this year, likely in December. He flagged the risk of more increases if inflation remains elevated, adding that the latest FOMC projections point to a broadly hawkish policy direction. Of 18 policymakers, 12 expected one more hike this year; four see two more and only two expect no further increase. The Fed last week raised its policy rate by 25 basis points to 3.75 per cent—4 per cent.

Subbaraman said markets are hoping diplomacy can ease global tensions and US-China trade restrictions that could lower energy costs and long-term yields.

India-New Zealand FTA to come into force from 20 October 2026

Mumbai. (Agency)

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement, is going to enter into force on 20th October 2026 said the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The FTA was signed on 27th April 2026 in New Delhi, by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal and New Zealand's Minister for Trade and Investment Todd McClay.

Goyal and McClay have spoken via virtual conference and announced the date for entering into force of the agreement following the completion of internal processes in both countries. The legislation was passed by the New Zealand Parliament on 16th September, 2026. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to New Zealand in July 2026, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in four decades, provided further momentum to the bilateral relationship and emphasised the importance of the early implementation of the India-New Zealand FTA, said Ministry of Commerce & Industry. The visit also marked an important elevation in the relationship, with India and New Zealand announcing a Strategic Partnership and endorsing the India-New Zealand Strategic Partnership: Roadmap

to 2030 as a shared framework to guide cooperation over the next four years including an aspirational goal of doubling bilateral two-way trade in goods and services to NZ\$7 billion (approximately ₹35,000 crore) by 2030.

Operationalisation of the FTA will serve as a key enabler for translating the ambitions of the Strategic Partnership: Roadmap to 2030 into tangible economic outcomes. "The India-New Zealand FTA would provide fresh momentum to the bilateral partnership, create greater synergies between the two economies, enable economies of scale and contribute to enhancing overall competitiveness. We have chosen the auspicious day Dusshera-Vijay Dashmi for the entry into force of the India-New Zealand FTA. I am confident that the entry into force will overcome all hurdles that stood between our trade, technology and investment relationship, and will ensure prosperity for people of both sides," Goyal said.

From the entry into force, every single tariff line covering 100% of India's exports to New Zealand becomes duty-free, offering Indian industry a level playing field that puts it

on par with New Zealand's other trading partners. Sectors that power livelihoods across the country - textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, gems and jewellery, engineering goods and processed foods - stand to gain



immediately as New Zealand's peak tariffs of up to 10% are eliminated. Indian manufacturers will also benefit from tariff-free access to critical inputs such as wooden logs, coking coal and metal scrap, sharpening their competitive edge in global markets, said commerce ministry. "At the same time, the Government has safeguarded the interests of Indian farmers by keeping sensitive products such as dairy, animal meat (except sheep), key agricultural commodities, sugar and edible oils

excluded from tariff concessions," it added. A calibrated market access has been structured for New Zealand's apples, kiwifruit and Manuka honey through Tariff Rate Quotas with Minimum Import Price and seasonal

import windows, alongside safeguards to protect domestic farmers. The Agreement establishes an Agriculture Productivity Partnership to strengthen cooperation in agriculture, with dedicated Action Plans for kiwifruit, apples and honey aimed at improving productivity, quality and farmer incomes in India. Centres of Excellence will be established for orchard management, post-harvest practices, supply chains, food safety and sustainable beekeeping, facilitating the exchange of knowledge, technology and capacity. A Joint Agriculture Productivity Council will monitor that the market access is complemented by cooperation activities by New Zealand under Agriculture Productivity Partnership. The FTA also sets the stage for deeper investment gains for India, with New Zealand's commitment to facilitate USD 20 billion in investment into India.

Idol immersion: 139 tonnes of waste cleared from five beaches in Chennai

CHENNAI (Agency).

The Greater Chennai Corporation on Monday said that it has cleared a total of 139.63 MT of waste from the five immersion points across the city, following the Vinayagar Chathurthi idol immersion event held from September 19 to 21. According to the official data shared by the civic body, a total of



11,653 idols were immersed over the three days at five designated beach locations — Pallavakkam, Pattinapakkam, Kasimedu, behind the popular weighbridge at Thiruvottiyur, and Ennore. The total waste collected include 84,690 kg of wooden pallets used as idol platforms, 16,390 kg of flower waste, 3,650 kg of wet waste, 33,555 kg of dry and other waste, and 1,350 kg of food waste.

The highest number of idols were

immersed at Pattinapakkam (6,479), where 37.5MT of waste was collected, including 17MT of wooden pallets, 11MT of dry waste and 8MT of flower waste. In contrast, though the number of idols immersed at Palavakkam beach stood at 704 — significantly less compared to Pattinapakkam — the amount of waste cleared was 78MT, largely on account of 57MT of wooden pallets, apart from 3.7MT of flower waste, 1.5MT of wet waste, 14.5MT of dry waste and 1.3MT of food waste. Kasimedu, Ennore, and Thiruvottiyur recorded 13,693 kg, 9,711 kg, and 493 kg, respectively. Besides, many of the residents who came with their Vinayagar idol to get them immersed in

Pattinapakkam on Sunday alleged that the machinery, including earthmovers and cranes, was fewer in number. When contacted, a city corporation official told, “Usually, the machinery was also provided by police officials. But this time, GCC provided the machinery. In Pattinapakkam alone, seven earthmovers and excavators, 11 tractors, 11 tippers, and 12 BOVs along with 152 sanitary workers were deployed for immersion and waste clearing.”

‘Why do you need reservation?’ Dalit student alleges caste bias at Prayagraj NLU

The court has also directed the university to constitute an independent committee to re-evaluate the student’s answer sheets and ordered that the HoD be relieved of all administrative responsibilities until the inquiries are completed.

Lucknow (Agency).

The Allahabad High Court has constituted a two-member committee of judicial officers to inquire into allegations of caste-based discrimination and humiliation made by a Dalit student against the Head of the Department of Law at Dr Rajendra Prasad National Law University, Prayagraj, and to examine how the university dealt with his complaint.

The court has also directed the university to constitute an independent committee to re-evaluate the student’s answer sheets and ordered that the HoD be relieved of all administrative responsibilities until the inquiries are completed.

The student, who is pursuing BA LLB (Hons), has approached the court alleging that the HoD and the warden of the boys’ hostel had used his academic and administrative authority for caste-based humiliation and retaliation. He also alleged that the varsity administration had shielded the HoD by failing to act on his complaint.

The petitioner alleged that the remark was directed at him because the concerned faculty member was aware that he had topped the Constitutional Law-I examination. He also

Vinod Diwakar said the allegations were serious and required examination by an impartial agency. The court constituted a committee comprising Judge, Small Cause



claimed that his answer sheets were subjected to stricter evaluation because of his caste and alleged that the HoD had, on earlier occasions, made insulting remarks concerning caste and reservation. In its order dated September 16, a single bench of Justice

Court, District Court, Prayagraj, and Special Chief Judicial Magistrate, Prayagraj to conduct an inquiry and submit a report to the court before the next hearing on September 24. Until further orders, the HoD has been relieved of all administrative responsibilities.

IIT Bombay suicide: Students don’t seek professor’s suspension anymore, only as ‘precautionary measure’

The student representatives’ new statement now emphasises that the students’ demand concerning Professor Doolla was to temporarily relieve him of his administrative duties as dean, and not to presume his guilt.

Mumbai (Agency).

As protests demanding justice for 20-year-old Sahil Wakode continue, the student representatives issued another statement on Monday night, saying they stand by Professor Suryanarayana Doolla’s right to a fair and impartial investigation, and sought his suspension as a “precautionary measure”, revealing differences among the students’ sections over the protests and their demands. Sahil Wakode died by suicide hours after he was allegedly caught using ChatGPT for answers inside his examination hall. Professor Suryanarayana Doolla, the invigilator who had also allegedly caught Sahil, was suspended from his deanship on Monday. IIT Bombay, however, retained him as a professor.

The statement also emphasised that the students’ demand concerning Professor Doolla was to temporarily relieve him of his administrative duties as Dean of Administrative Affairs during the probe, and not to presume his guilt. However, one of the 18

demands the student representatives submitted to IIT Bombay Director Shireesh B Kedare on Sunday night called for Professor Suryanarayana Doolla’s suspension with immediate effect. His removal as dean had angered the students, who had argued yesterday that they had sought his suspension as a professor.



“We do not stand for or condone cheating or any form of academic misconduct. At the same time, the loss of our fellow student, Sahil, is a deeply tragic event that has compelled us to reflect on the systems and processes within our institute,” the statement read. About Prof. Doolla, the statement

said, “Our position has never been one of presuming guilt or prejudging the ongoing investigation. We stand with Professor Doolla as a member of our faculty community and believe that the investigation must be allowed to proceed fairly and impartially.”

The statement also mentioned that relieving him of his administrative duties was sought “as a precautionary measure to ensure that the investigation remains completely independent and cannot be influenced in any manner,” adding that the findings and appropriate action should follow the established investigative process. The student representatives further sought to draw a line between the campus-led movement and outside organisations, saying the concerns should remain within the institute.

“The loss of Sahil should not become a platform of external political interest, organisation, or narrative to shape the concerns of the IIT Bombay student community,” said the statement.

IMD predicts heavy rain in Karnataka for 3 days, issues orange, red alerts

Bengaluru (Agency).

Some parts of Karnataka are expected to receive spells of heavy rainfall over the next three days due to a low-pressure area developing in the Bay of Bengal, which coincided with the Southwest Monsoon’s withdrawal from the state. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for the entire state for Wednesday, a red alert for coastal areas on Thursday, and an orange alert for the South Interior region.

Rainfall will continue in the South Interior and coastal Karnataka regions on Friday, with some parts forecast to receive a spell of very intense showers. Karnataka has received light to moderate rainfall over the past couple of days following a prolonged dry spell.

Deficit rainfall

According to Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre data, the state has faced one of the worst monsoon seasons in recent years. Compared with deficits in earlier monsoon months, rainfall in September has been the lowest, adding to concerns.

The monsoon rainfall deficit in September is currently 67 per cent. Against a normal of 107 mm, the state has received only 35 mm to date. In June, the deficit was 42 per cent (116 mm against a normal of 199 mm), 29 per cent in July (192 mm against a normal of 271 mm), and 23 per cent in August (169 mm against a normal of 220 mm). Poor monsoons also meant reservoir levels were well below those recorded in previous years. For instance,

Rainfall is expected to continue through Friday, even as Karnataka records a 67 per cent rainfall deficit in September.

water storage at KRS reservoir was 27.76 TMC on September 21, compared to 47.73 TMC recorded on



the same date last year.

Reservoirs in North Karnataka, however, were better off than dams in the South. Almatti, the largest dam in North Karnataka, had 115 thousand million cubic feet of water, compared to 123 TMC, its full capacity, last year.

Vande Mataram showdown in Karnataka Assembly as Opposition sings full version

The Karnataka Government issued an order saying only two stanzas of the national song should be sung at state government functions and official ceremonies, drawing criticism from the BJP.

Bengaluru (Agency).

The row over the full rendition of Vande Mataram surfaced at the Karnataka Assembly and Legislative Council Monday, with BJP legislators singing the full version of the national song to protest

a few others recited the song from memory, most Opposition legislators brought printed copies to sing it in the Assembly. A similar scene played out at the Legislative Council where BJP and JD(S) members continued reciting the



the state government’s decision to restrict its recital to two paragraphs at official functions. The incident took place on the first day of the three-day special session convened to discuss implementation of the Kasturirangan Report and the state’s drought situation.

At the beginning of the day’s proceedings, all legislators rose to render Vande Mataram. After two stanzas of the national song, Assembly Speaker G S Patil and the ruling Congress members read the Preamble of the Indian Constitution, while BJP and JD(S) legislators continued singing its full version, with some help. While BJP legislators such as Suresh Kumar, Sunil Kumar, B Y Vijayendra, and

song even after the treasury benches concluded the rendition after the first two paragraphs.

Karnataka issued an order on September 8 saying that only two stanzas of the national song be sung at state government functions and official ceremonies, soon after the Centre passed an Act regarding the rendition of Vande Mataram.

The move drew criticism from the Opposition BJP, with legislators such as S N Channabasappa raising the issue on multiple occasions, including at an event attended by Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in Shivamogga recently. Other BJP leaders have also condemned the move to recite only two paragraphs.

Apple executive shot dead in Lucknow: Ex-cop gets 10 years, family calls it ‘murder’

Vivek Tiwari was shot dead during police patrol in Lucknow. A court has sentenced a former cop involved in the case to 10 years’ rigorous imprisonment.

Lucknow (Agency).

Eight years after Apple sales executive Vivek Tiwari was shot dead in Lucknow during a late night police check, a court on Monday sentenced a former constable to 10 years’ rigorous imprisonment. Prashant Chaudhary was convicted last Thursday of culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The court acquitted co-accused constable Sandeep Kumar, who was out on bail. Speaking to The Indian Express after the verdict, Tiwari’s brother-in-law, Vishnu Shukla, said the family will challenge both the sentence and Kumar’s acquittal. “This is only half justice for us,” he said. “How could a trained police constable have made a mistake while firing his service weapon?... It was a clear case of murder.” District Government Counsel, Lucknow,

Rakesh Pandey, said: “Chaudhary appeared before the court from jail under tight security.



The court sentenced him to 10 years’ imprisonment and imposed a fine of Rs 20,000.” Tiwari, from New Hyderabad Colony in Lucknow, is survived by his wife, Kalpana, an Officer on Special Duty at the

Nagar Nigam, and two children. He was 38.

What happened on September 29, 2018

According to the prosecution, Tiwari and his colleague, Sana Khan, were returning home in his car around 1.30 am on September 29, 2018. As they reached near Makdoompur outpost in Gomti Nagar Extension, Chaudhary and Kumar, who were on a bike, signalled to them to stop. When Sana rolled down the window to ask why, Kumar allegedly struck her with a baton. Police claimed Tiwari did not stop and continued driving. Chaudhary then allegedly pulled out his service pistol and fired at the vehicle. The bullet struck Tiwari, causing him to crash into a divider. The two constables then fled the scene. Sana sought help from the police control room and rushed Tiwari to a hospital, where he died during treatment.

IIT-Bombay student suicide: Key takeaways from CCTV footage and police probe

Mumbai (Agency).

Two days after IIT-Bombay second-year student Sahil Wakode died by suicide after he was allegedly caught using ChatGPT during an examination, CCTV footage from the exam hall and hostel has emerged, providing investigators with a timeline of the events leading up to his death. The footage from the 12.30 pm to 12.45 pm window reportedly shows Professor Suryanarayana Doolla questioning Wakode after appearing to notice him looking at something in his pocket, before taking him aside from

other students. The footage could help investigators establish what happened inside the examination hall and whether the interaction was routine or involved any confrontation.

A second CCTV recording reportedly shows Wakode entering his hostel room around 1.25 pm. He did not leave the room again. The Mumbai Crime Branch, led by ACP Dharamveer Bansod, is expected to analyse the footage as part of its investigation. Police have also searched Wakode’s room but have not found a suicide note so far.



NEWS BOX

Infantino open to independent FIFA governance review after backlash over failed FFE project



New Delhi. (Agency)

FIFA President Gianni Infantino has indicated he'd be open to an independent review of its governance system and signaled a willingness to consider reforms.

Facing intense scrutiny and criticism following the failure of the “FIFA Forward Enterprise” (FFE) project, Infantino sent a letter on Monday outlining this proposal to all FIFA Council members and the 211 member associations ahead of the next FIFA Council meeting scheduled for Oct. 15.

“I will ask the Council whether it wishes to commission an external, independent assessment of FIFA’s current governance framework for major strategic initiatives and to recommend potential improvements,” Infantino stated in his letter, which was seen by The Associated Press. “I will propose that the Council establish a direct, structured, and time-bound consultation with the confederations and member associations on how to further strengthen FIFA’s decision-making processes,” he added.

Backlash over private investors plan

Under the FIFA Forward Enterprise concept, private investors would have purchased shares in the World Cup and other competitions. However, the project leaked publicly sooner than Infantino had anticipated, sparking sharp criticism and creating a rift among member associations. Some of the most high-profile members — including several from European soccer body UEFA — withdrew their support for Infantino. “The proposal entered the public domain before FIFA’s planned institutional process had been completed and before it could be presented in full to the Council and the member associations. I recognize that, without full context, this caused concern and created the impression that decisions had already been taken. They had not,” Infantino said in the letter.

Legal pressure, strategic ambitions

The fallout has escalated beyond internal disagreement. Last month, UEFA started drafting criminal charges against Infantino in U.S. courts regarding the FFE plan, requesting the release of all relevant documents.

Asian Games, table tennis: 21-year-old Yashaswini fires India into quarterfinals



KOZHIKODE. (Agency)

India's women's table tennis team moved to within one victory of a historic Asian Games medal after edging past 2022 bronze medallists Thailand in a thrilling 3-2 pre-quarterfinal tie on Tuesday.

The victory kept India's hopes of adding to their modest medal tally in the sport alive. India have won only three table tennis medals in Asian Games history, with the men's team's bronze in 2018 their only medal in the team events.

India @ Asian Games Day 3 Updates

The women's team had to dig deep after falling behind twice before Sreeja Akula delivered in the deciding match. 21-year-old Yashasswini Ghorpade continued her fine run, winning both her matches in the pre-quarters. They will face traditional powerhouses North Korea in the quarter-finals, with victory guaranteeing India a medal. Sreeja began the tie by letting slip a strong start against Orawan Paranang. She won the opening two games 11-7, 11-1, but Paranang fought back to take the next three 9-11, 6-11, 10-12.

Yashaswini Ghorpade restored parity with a gritty 3-2 victory over Suthasini Sawettabut. The 21-year-old fought back after trailing 1-2, winning the fourth and fifth games 11-9, 11-9 to level the tie. Thailand moved ahead again when Diya Chitale lost a five-game battle to Jinnipa Sawettabut. Chitale won the second and third games to take a 2-1 lead, but Jinnipa responded to win 11-7, 11-13 in the final two games and put Thailand within one victory of the quarter-finals. Ghorpade, however, refused to let India slip away. She produced perhaps the most dominant performance of the tie, sweeping Paranang 11-5, 11-8, 11-9 to make it 2-2.

Caroline Weir wants to help OL Lyonnes return to the top of women's soccer

The Women's Champions League begins Tuesday and sees 18 teams competing over six match days in the league phase.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Not only did OL Lyonnes miss the chance of a record-extending ninth Women's Champions League title, the crushing 4-0 loss to Barcelona in last season's final underlined its rival's ongoing status as the best side in the game. When goal-scoring midfielder Caroline Weir joined Lyon from Real Madrid in the offseason, she understood how much that loss hurt.

“Everyone that was here last season knows what it took to get there. Obviously the disappointment of that final, I know the players felt that,” Weir told The Associated

Press in an interview at the club's training ground on Monday. “I’m a new player, I’m here to learn from the players who have that experience. Also the coach (Jonatan Giráldez) has been there and done it.”

The Women's Champions League begins Tuesday and sees 18 teams competing over six match days in the league phase, with the top four advancing to the quarterfinals and the clubs finishing between fifth and 12th entering knockout-phase playoffs.

After shrugging off a minor muscle injury, Weir could make her Lyon debut at Swiss club Servette on Wednesday. “It starts now,” the 31-year-old Weir said. “It’s exciting that the games are coming a little bit quicker.”

Prolific goal scorer in Spain

She scored freely in Spain — 20 goals overall last season and 28 during the 2022-23 campaign — and is aware what makes Barca tick. Painfully so, since Barca crushed Madrid 12-2 on aggregate in last



season's quarterfinals. Weir played in the first leg, a 6-2 home loss. “We all know how good they are on the ball,” she said.

The last five women's Ballon d'Or awards have been split by Barca players Alexia Putellas and Aitana Bonmati.

“Their mentality, they’ve gained so much experience of winning and I think that tells in their performances,” Weir said of Putellas and Bonmati. “Physically (too), I think that sometimes gets overlooked with

the Barcelona team, if you look at their players individually, whether that be speed, strength.”

Barren Champions League run for Lyon

Barca's first Champions League title in 2021 ended Lyon's run of five in a row and, although Lyon won the competition the following year, it has not done so since. Barca has reached the past six finals, winning four. Weir hopes she can help her club improve in key moments under the guidance of Giráldez, who previously guided Barca to two Champions League titles. “The coach has been very clear with me about his expectations and what he likes of me as a player — impact the game in the final third (of the pitch),” she explained. “If that's scoring goals or assisting, that's where I judge my seasons. At the end of the season, I will look at that impact, especially in big games.”

While Weir's scoring rate has increased.

Elavenil Valarivan-Parth Mane pair finishes fourth in 10m air rifle mixed team final in Asian Games

NAGOY . (Agency)

The Indian shooting pair of Elavenil Valarivan and Parth Mane finished fourth in the 10m air rifle mixed team final after failing to carry the momentum of a strong qualification round performance at the Asian Games here on Tuesday. Valarivan and Mane, having already won a silver in different events, could not pose a challenge to the rest of the field, including China, South Korea and Japan. The Indian duo was trailing the field all through the final before being eliminated with a score of 376.3. The Chinese pair of Wang Zifei and Sheng Lihao pocketed the gold medal with a world record total of 507.1.

South Korea's Ban Hyojin and Park Hajun

settled for silver with a score of 502.9, and Japan's Naoki Hanakawa and Misakia Nobata got the bronze with a



439.7. Vietnam was disqualified after finishing fourth in the qualification. Valaviran could not shoot as consistently as she did in the individual and women's team events, where she won silver medals.

India managed 103.6 in series 1, increased their overall tally to 207.9 in series 2 before reaching 312.3 at the end of series 3, well behind South Korea, who tallied 314.3 after 15 shots. India were eliminated from the medal race after the 18th shot. In the qualification, Valarivan and Mane shot 634.6 to finish second in the classification.

The Chinese pair of Zifei and Lihao entered the final with a score of 638.9, a qualification world record total.

South Korea's Hyojin and Hajun were third in qualification with an aggregate of 633.2. Vietnam's Thanh Thao Phi and Tam Quang Nguyen finished fourth with a 631 before being disqualified. Mane was a part of the silver-winning Indian men's 10m air rifle team earlier in the competition.

Smriti Mandhana scripts history, becomes 1st batter to complete 11,000 runs in women's intl cricket

Team India star Smriti Mandhana created history by becoming the first batter to complete 11,000 runs in women's international cricket. Mandhana achieved the feat during India's clash against Sri Lanka in the women's cricket final at the Asian Games 2026.



the milestone in just 10 balls in the final against Sri Lanka at the Korogi Sports Park in Nisshin, Japan. Mandhana is the highest run-scorer of all time in the history of women's international cricket with over 11,000 runs to her name in 308 matches across formats, including 18 centuries and 76 fifties. The elegant left-hander has 788 runs to her name in 9 Test matches and 5411 runs in 120 ODIs in her career so far. She has scored over 4800 runs in 179 T20Is and continues to be a consistent performer for India across all formats of the game. Highest run-getters in women's international cricket:

S m r i t i M a n d h a n a – 1 1 , 0 0 1

runs* Mandhana surpassed Bates to become the highest run-scorer of all time in women's T20Is during India's clash against Bangladesh in the semifinal of the Asian Games 2026 on Sunday, September 20. Mandhana played a 37-run knock against Bangladesh in the semifinal and continued her impressive run with the bat in the final against Sri Lanka on Tuesday. Mandhana, Shafali provide India with strong start in final

Opens Mandhana and Shafali Verma combined to get India off to a flying start in the final against Sri Lanka at the Asian Games 2026 on Tuesday. Shafali slammed a quickfire 48 off 29 balls, while Mandhana notched up a half-century as the duo added 99 runs for the first wicket in the final. Mandhana shared another valuable stand of 42 runs for the second wicket with Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur, who was dismissed after scoring 19 off 17 balls. Mandhana is still unbeaten in the middle and will be hoping to convert her fifty into a century in the final.



perhaps had was for veteran PV Sindhu to beat World No.3 Akane Yamaguchi in the opening match of the tie.

SINDHU vs YAMAGUCHI

The opening match of the quarter-final tie turned out to be a fascinating contest. Yamaguchi's defence was tested again and again by Sindhu in the opening game.

Yamaguchi was able to pull into a 17-13 lead, but a resilient Sindhu came from behind to win the opening game 23-21. The opening game lasted 26 minutes and took a lot out of the Indian shuttler. Sindhu perhaps thought that her best chance of beating Yamaguchi was to finish things off in the second game itself, as the Japanese is well known for her defensive capabilities and court coverage. Sindhu took a hyper-aggressive approach, coming hard at Yamaguchi at the net and smashing anything above her eye-line. The method backfired, as Sindhu ended up conceding a lot of points through errors throughout the game. Sindhu lost the second game 18-21 in 23 minutes.

Revealed! Why MS Dhoni wanted Zaheer Khan as CSK head coach

MS Dhoni reportedly played a key role in former India pacer Zaheer Khan's appointment as the head coach of the Chennai Super Kings ahead of IPL 2027.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former captain MS Dhoni played a key role in Chennai Super Kings (CSK)'s decision to appoint former India pacer Zaheer Khan as the new head coach of the franchise. Dhoni was reportedly handed the responsibility to find the replacement for Stephen Fleming, and he recommended Zaheer after speaking to multiple candidates. CSK officially confirmed

Zaheer's appointment as their head coach on Monday, ending months of speculation surrounding the top job. Zaheer will replace Fleming, who was sacked by CSK earlier this year, marking an end to his 18-year-long association with the franchise. As per a report in The Indian Express, Dhoni, who was given the responsibility to find Fleming's successor at CSK, spoke to several candidates before putting forth Zaheer's name. CSK's managing director revealed it was Dhoni who suggested Zaheer, and the CSK management agreed that the former India pacer was an ideal fit for the role. “It was MS who suggested Zaheer, and the cricket management team, comprising Rupa and Ruturaj Gaikwad, agreed that he fits the role,” CSK managing director Kasi Viswanathan was quoted as saying by The Indian Express. As per the report, CSK wanted someone who had no

ties with other franchises across the globe and could solely focus on the franchise. Zaheer fit the bill perfectly as he is currently

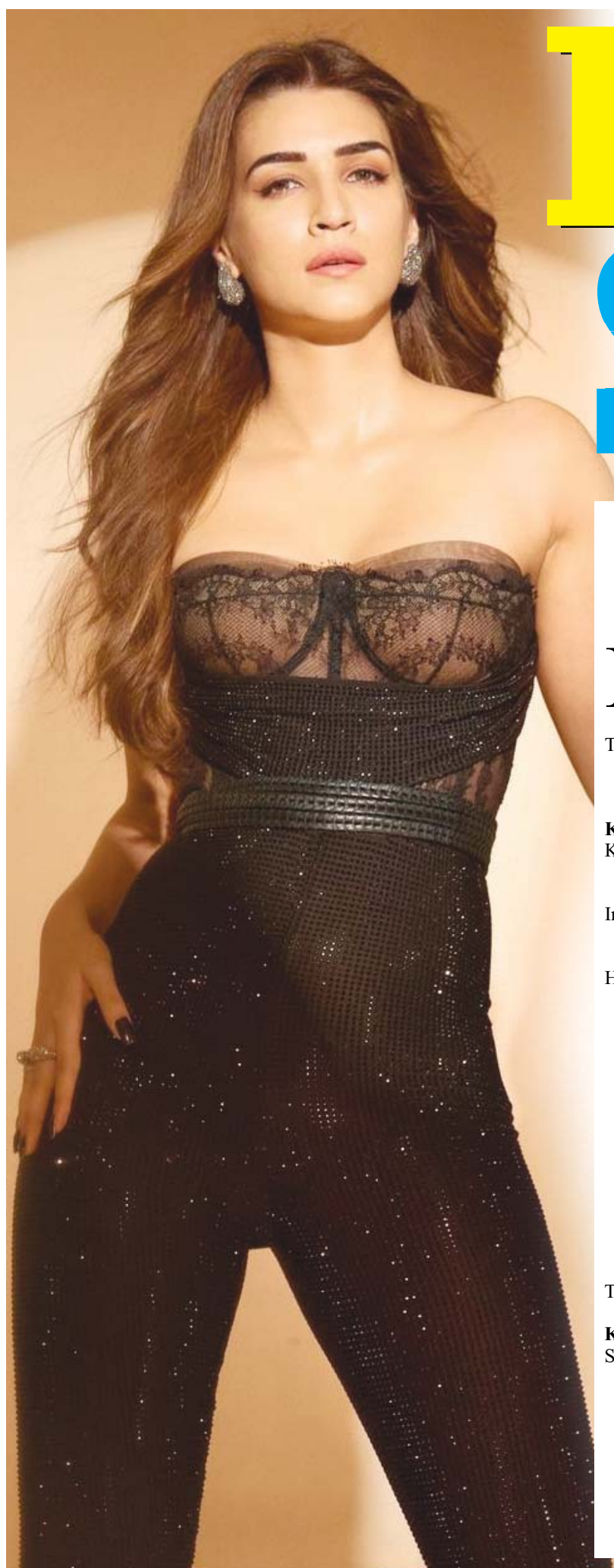


associated with no other team in the IPL or any franchise league globally.

MS Dhoni wanted to work with a familiar face

One of the major reasons behind CSK

appointing Zaheer as head coach was Dhoni's preference to work with someone familiar. As per a report in PTI, Dhoni insisted on having someone with whom he is familiar. Several overseas candidates, including former England captain Morgan, were linked with the CSK head coach position, however, it is understood that the management wanted an Indian coach. As per the report in PTI, sources close to CSK claimed that there was no chance of the franchise hiring Morgan. Hemang Badani, who is currently serving as the head coach of the Delhi Capitals, was also heavily linked with the CSK head coach post. However, his poor run with Delhi Capitals in the last two seasons went against him as the CSK management were not convinced if he was the right candidate for the job.



Kriti Sanon

Tries Pottery, Shares Handmade Creations: 'I Love Being A Work In Progress'

Kriti Sanon has finally crossed something off her long-standing wish list. The actress spent time learning pottery and shared a series of pictures from the session on September 20, giving fans a glimpse of her trying her hand at the craft.

The photos show Kriti seated at a pottery wheel, working with clay and experimenting with different shapes. Along with the pictures, she also shared a note about making time for things one keeps postponing and turning "one day" into "Day One".

Kriti Sanon Tries Her Hand At Pottery

Kriti kept things relaxed for the session, wearing a sleeveless maroon top with blue jeans and a striped apron. She completed the look with a printed headscarf while focusing on the pottery wheel in front of her.

In the pictures, the actress can be seen carefully shaping clay with both hands. The session appears to have involved several attempts, with Kriti trying different forms instead of sticking to just one design.

Her finished pieces included bowls and cups in earthy clay tones. Some had clean shapes, while others featured deliberately uneven or wavy edges that retained a distinctly handmade feel. One of the pieces that stood out was a heart-shaped vessel. Another creation featured a softer, irregular rim, showing the different shapes Kriti experimented with while learning the technique.

The photos also captured her concentration during the process, with the actress visibly focused on controlling the clay and getting the shapes right.

Kriti Says Pottery Had Been On Her List For Years

Sharing the pictures on social media, Kriti wrote about finally doing something she had wanted to learn for a long time. "That thing you've been wanted to do or learn for years, the one that always made it to your 'Things I wanna do this year' list but you never made time for it.. Instead of saying 'One day', yet again, make today your 'Day One'!" she wrote. Kriti then revealed that pottery was one of the activities she had repeatedly wanted to try but had not managed to make time for earlier. "One of the things on my list was Pottery!" she added. For the actress, the experience was not simply about making the finished pieces. She appeared equally taken by the process of starting from scratch and picking up a skill she had never tried before.



'Ghoom Ke Chamat Maaro': Angry Salman Khan Slams Paparazzi For Taking 'Back Shots'



The recent Bigg Boss 20 Weekend Ka Vaar saw the OG Salman Khan returning. The actor schooled trolls in the best way possible and took a sharp dig at paparazzi for clicking actresses from the wrong angle. Visibly upset, Salman, while talking about how some cameramen take backshots of actresses, asked the women to hit them if they do so.

"Ek taangon ka shot mil jaye, and one from behind, jo shot lete hain, which none of the heroines or girls like," Salman Khan said, adding how it has happened with his co-star from Dabangg 3, Mahesh Manjrekar's daughter Saiee Manjrekar. He even mentioned how his niece Alijah Agnihotri faced this awkward situation and said, "And then the one shot they take from behind, which none of the heroines like? There must be a few who say it's okay, I don't mind it. But what about those who don't like it? I recently saw Saiee Manjrekar was so awkward with that, Neha Dhupia fought against it. My own niece, she was walking, and they kept clicking from behind. And what did the caption say? Guess who it is. Who are they to do this?" Calling this practice utterly "disgusting," Salman added, "Woh kaun log hain? I am saying this to all the girls who don't like this: jahan aisa hua, ghoom ke chatmat maaro. Bolna apni maa behenon ka yeh shot lete ja, aur humko dikha. (When this happens, turn around and slap them. Ask them to click their mother or sister like this and show it to you). Disgusting people. They do this all the time at every function."

He further continued, "What is this mentality? 90% of the girls that I know and all those who have become mothers now, they never wanted this earlier and don't want this now. I want to see these guys who take these shots. Aur pata chal gaya mujhe ki kaun hai toh phir toh (Once I find out who they are)..."

Salman Khan Speaks About Trolling On Bigg Boss 20

In the Bigg Boss 20 Weekend Ka Vaar promo, Salman reacted to the way celebrities are targeted online. Without taking any names, he talked about age-shaming, weight, looks, families and even motherhood.

Samay Raina Breaks Silence On Medha Shankr Wedding Rumours With A Cheeky Reply: 'Will Have To Postpone'



Comedian Samay Raina and actress Medha Shankr recently hit the headlines after a viral post on Reddit claimed that the rumoured lovebirds are set to get married in December this year. The post claimed that while they are currently enjoying their vacation, Samay wants to marry the 12th Fail actress 'as soon as possible'. Now, both Samay and Medha have dismissed the speculations, and their hilarious posts make it clear they're not taking the wedding rumours too seriously. While Medha called the rumours 'baseless', Samay shared a cheeky remark and joked about being busy with his India tour.

Samay Raina Reacts To December Wedding Rumours With Medha Shankr

On Sunday, Samay Raina took to his Instagram stories to re-share a post which read, "Samay Raina to marry Medha Shankr in December?" He dismissed the rumour by sharing the post with the song "Jhooth Bole Kauwa Kaate" playing in the background.

Reacting to the rumours, he joked, "December mai toh mera India tour hai @medhashankr sorry will have to postpone."

Medha Shankr Reacts To Wedding Rumours With Samay Raina

Meanwhile, Medha also reacted to the rumours. Re-sharing Samay's Instagram story, she dropped laughing emojis. In another Instagram story, she shared a meme along with the caption, "Me scrolling past all the baseless wedding rumours like." Check it out below!

The latest wedding rumours surrounding Samay Raina and Medha Shankr reportedly originated from an anonymous Reddit post that surfaced online a few days ago.

The Reddit user claimed to be close to Samay's family and claimed that, after speaking to his mother, they had learned that Samay and Medha were planning to get married in December 2026. The post also claimed that the two were currently on vacation together.

"I'm very close to Samay Raina's family, and after speaking to his mother yesterday, I can say that Samay Raina and Medha Shankr are planning to get married this December."



Sidharth Malhotra

And Kiara Advani To Welcome Second Child? Salman Khan Says, 'Another One Soon'

Sidharth Malhotra and Tamannaah Bhatia graced Bigg Boss 20 Weekend Ka Vaar to promote their upcoming film The Vvaan: Force of the Forest. During their appearance, host Salman Khan asked Sidharth about his life after marriage with Kiara Advani and fatherhood. "How's married life and how's fatherhood?" Salman asked, to which Sidharth replied, "Very good. Very good." Salman then teased Sidharth about how he had once repeatedly encouraged him to get married. "Tumse poocha tha us time par shaadi kar, shaadi kar, shaadi kar. Tab toh sharmili dulhan ban gaye the yeh," he joked. Sidharth then explained why he and Kiara had kept their relationship private for so long. "Hamara raaz humne raaz rakha tha bhai. Woh raaz humne sahi time pe khola," he said. Salman immediately added to the joke, "Woh raaz abhi bachche mein hai."

Sidharth Malhotra calls fatherhood the best role

Sidharth and Kiara welcomed their daughter, Saraayah Malhotra, in July 2025. The couple announced her name a few months later. Speaking about becoming a father, Sidharth said, "I think it's the best role possible — to become a father." He also spoke affectionately about his daughter, saying, "Hamari bahut hi pyaari beti hai, jo abhi 15 mahine ki ho gayi hai takreeban. Abhi bhi naye-naye sab bol rahi hai

aur seekh rahi hai. I think the best feeling in the world and hopefully aise hi rahega."

Salman then joked, "Hopefully you will have another one soon!"

Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani relationship

Sidharth and Kiara reportedly grew closer while



working together on Shershaah. They kept their relationship largely away from the public eye before getting married in an intimate ceremony at Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer on February 7, 2023.

Sidharth puts Salman on the spot

The conversation then turned towards Salman himself. After discussing his own marriage and experience as a father, Sidharth asked the superstar, "Aapka kya khayal hai shaadi aur bachchon pe?" Salman said, "Mere khayal bahut achhe hain shaadi aur bachchon par. Lekin main woh share nahi karna chahta."

NEWS BOX

EAM Jaishankar discusses regional, global issues with foreign counterparts on margins of UNGA session

world.(Agency)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar held a series of bilateral meetings with his foreign counterparts in New York, discussing regional and global developments on the sidelines of the high-level United Nations General Assembly session. Jaishankar arrived in New York on Sunday to lead the Indian delegation at the 81st session of the UN General Assembly. His engagements on Monday began with a meeting with French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot. Jaishankar said their regular meetings and telephone conversations had helped maintain momentum in the India-France Special Global Strategic Partnership. The two ministers discussed regional and global issues, including the Ukraine conflict and the Gulf crisis, as well as multilateral matters such as reform of the UN Security Council. Jaishankar also met Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiha, weeks after his recent visit to Kyiv. "Welcomed the opportunity to meet FM @andrii_sybiha again, after my recent visit to Ukraine. Our conversation focused on developments over the past few weeks," Jaishankar said in a post on X. Sybiha said the two ministers discussed peace efforts, bilateral cooperation and international developments, including the situation in the Black Sea and its impact on global markets. He said restoring freedom of navigation in the Black Sea was critical for global food security and added that Ukraine valued India's engagement. The two sides also discussed preparations for the next meeting of the India-Ukraine Intergovernmental Commission, which Sybiha said would include a strong business component focused on innovation.

In Bangladesh, Pakistan's Jinnah photo stirs anger

DHAKA.(Agency)

Pakistan founder Muhammad Ali Jinnah died nearly eight decades ago, but his photograph has become the centrepiece of a fresh battle over history at Bangladesh's top university. The image of Jinnah was shown at a new museum display this month at Dhaka University -- only to be torn down, exposing a bitter dispute over how Bangladesh remembers its complicated history. Abu Tayyab Habildar, the university student who ripped the photograph, called Jinnah a "villain". The row shows how the legacies of nationality, religion and language that shaped Bangladesh are politically potent -- and how the 2024 revolution that toppled Sheikh Hasina has upended old narratives. Pakistan and Bangladesh were once the western and eastern wings of a single country, created by the violent partition of British-ruled India in 1947. They were separated by more than 1,500 kilometres (930 miles) of Indian territory. Bangladesh won independence from Pakistan after a bitter 1971 war, during which Pakistani forces were accused of widespread atrocities. Hundreds of thousands were killed -- Bangladeshi estimates say millions -- and many in Dhaka still demand Islamabad apologise for the killings. Jinnah was not an Islamist, but his campaign for a separate Muslim homeland makes him a potent symbol for Bangladesh's opposition Islamist politicians, who seek to emphasise the country's Muslim identity. "In Bangladesh, Jinnah was never celebrated," said political analyst Altaf Parvez. "The ground is fertile for the rise of the Islamists. They need a suitable leader, and that is why there is so much fuss around Jinnah." Part of history The Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU), led by Bangladesh Chhatra Shibir, the student wing of the country's largest Islamist political party, said the photograph was part of a chronological display tracing the university's history.

'Messy, troubled, unpredictable': Diplomats describe a world in turmoil as UN opens annual meeting

In interviews leading up to the annual meeting, current and former ministers, ambassadors and officials from across the world painted a stark picture of the crises plaguing the international community.

UNITED NATIONS.(Agency)

There is not much that diplomats can agree on these days. But if asked about the state of the world ahead of the annual meeting at the U.N. General Assembly, heads of state and government and ministers alike will describe a globe in massive turmoil. With two escalating wars raging in Europe and the Middle East, a

global economy in flux, and a shifting world order, international leaders are arriving in New York on Tuesday to an outlook that is massively different from this time last year. "World leaders will be gathering at the United Nations in an era of deep uncertainty," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres told reporters recently. "At the same time, power is shifting. The world is changing. And our institutions must change with it." The last nine months alone saw the audacious U.S. military operation that plucked Venezuelan leader Nicolás Maduro from power before a deadly crackdown took place in Iran after tens of thousands of pro-government demonstrators took to the streets to challenge the country's theocracy. Shortly after, the U.S. and Israel launched a joint attack against Tehran, kicking off an ongoing and spiraling conflict, now involving nearly every country in the region, which has

since resulted in the effective closure of a critical waterway. Meanwhile, the more than four-year war between Russia and Ukraine shows no end in sight as both



sides have only ramped up military attacks in recent days while numerous diplomatic efforts to end the conflict have failed to break through.

In May, an outbreak of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and

Uganda raised further questions about the lack of international preparedness for the next pandemic. Deadly earthquakes in Venezuela and Colombia, as well as massive flash floods in Nepal and Tibet, highlighted the worsening impact of human-caused global warming on communities around the world. In interviews leading up to the annual meeting, current and former ministers, ambassadors and officials from across the world painted a stark picture of the crises plaguing the international community and whether the U.N. and its 193 member states can address them.

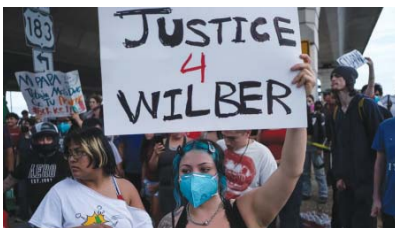
They spoke to the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to speak freely about international concerns. "It is a critical time to try to see if some of these issues can be resolved diplomatically," former U.S.

Man shot by US immigration agent describes pain of bullet still inside him

Austin, United States.(Agency)

A Venezuelan national shot and wounded by a US immigration agent in Texas was jailed with the bullet still inside his body, his lawyer said Monday. Wilber Rafael Garces Perez, 28, told reporters he was delivering an order for DoorDash on Sunday when his vehicle was rammed by an ICE agent and he was shot. "I'm in a lot of pain because the shot fractured my clavicle and at the hospital where they took me they couldn't remove the bullet because it's close to the spinal cord...I'm not doing very well, I still have the bullet inside," he told reporters by phone. Hours later, his attorney Kate Lincoln-Goldfinch said Garces Perez was "moved to another hospital as he

is now experiencing left side paralysis," in a post on X. The shooting in Austin, Texas, on Sunday marked the latest instance of violence by Immigration and Customs



Enforcement (ICE) agents tasked with enforcing President Donald Trump's immigration crackdown. Homeland Security Investigations, which is a part of ICE,

is leading the investigation into the shooting with the assistance of the FBI, the Department of Homeland Security said. Garces Perez had "illegally entered our country under the Biden administration and had a final order of removal," DHS said on X. But his lawyer maintains he was in the US "legally with a work permit." Lincoln-Goldfinch told a press conference that he had earlier been transferred from a hospital to a detention center in Pearsall, some 135 miles (215 kilometers) southwest of Austin. his back, and they didn't take the bullet out, and they didn't give him pain medication, and they transferred him to ICE, to a processing center where he spent the night without a bed," Lincoln-Goldfinch said.

Fulfilling earlier US-China agreements is a work in progress as Trump and Xi are to meet for the second time this year

Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson said earlier this month that the two sides hope to implement the tariff reductions "at an early

world.(Agency)

The U.S. and China have made uneven progress in fulfilling the trade commitments announced after their two leaders met in Beijing in May. As U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping sit down in Washington this week, the question is whether their second face-to-face meeting this year can jolt their governments into moving forward on issues ranging from exports of beef and Boeing aircraft to artificial intelligence.

Modest progress is likely, but analysts don't expect any major breakthroughs from Xi's visit, which begins Wednesday. "Instead, the main deliverable really



is that the trip is happening, and the symbolism and the optics of that," said Sara Schuman, the former senior U.S. negotiator for China trade and an adjunct fellow with the Washington-based Center for a New American Security. The two countries agreed in

May on a framework of "constructive strategic stability," under which they would seek to prevent disagreements from escalating. One hope is to find areas of cooperation, even if

fundamental differences remain. Positive signals on a Board of Trade Much of the speculation about this week's meeting has been on the possible launch of a Board of Trade, together with reciprocal tariff reductions on \$30 billion of goods in each direction. Both steps were agreed to in May. A Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesperson said earlier this month that the two sides hope to implement the tariff reductions "at an early date." Analysts expect an announcement, though some think it will fall short of \$30 billion.

G7 leaders condemn Houthi strikes on Saudi Arabia

world.(Agency)

G7 nations called on Yemen's Houthis Tuesday to halt strikes on Saudi Arabia, offering a show of solidarity with Riyadh as the Tehran-backed fighters have added a new threat to the Middle East war. The Houthi movement staged a lightning offensive in recent weeks to take over Yemen's entire Red Sea coast, including Mokha, threatening global trade and pushing up energy prices up. Gains made by Yemen's Houthis have cemented Iran and its allies hold over two key waterways, including the Strait of Hormuz, that the wider Gulf and top crude exporter Saudi Arabia rely on to ship out its oil. G7 leaders representing Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States said in a statement "we call on the Houthis to immediately cease all military actions." "All threats and attacks against civilian shipping, and to return to the political process in good faith," it added. They also called on Iran "to end its arming of and support for the Houthis," alleging Tehran is in violation of past UN Security Council resolutions. The war in impoverished Yemen, which began in 2014 with the Houthi capture of the capital Sanaa, had been largely frozen since 2022 but resumed in July.

Saudi Arabia has led a coalition backing the internationally recognised government since 2015. Its intervention escalated the war, which has triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Saudi strikes on Yemen's strategic Red Sea port Mokha killed at least six people and wounded eight others, the Houthi-affiliated news agency Saba reported Tuesday. The strikes come off the back of a Houthi attack on Riyadh on Saturday which marked the first to target the Saudi capital in years and a major escalation by the pro-Iranian fighters.

Britain agreed to give military support to Saudi Arabia, media reports said Monday, adding that the UK would provide "defensive" air-to-air refuelling for Saudi jets. France also pledged their support saying it is ready to work on "securing" Saudi energy infrastructure targeted by Iran-backed Houthis, adopting a "strictly defensive approach", a diplomatic source told AFP Monday. "This in no way involves taking part in the conflict with the Houthis," the source added. The Houthis have carried out attacks against facilities belonging to the Saudi oil giant Aramco in the Red Sea port city of Yanbu.

The East-West Pipeline -- a crucial crude oil export route -- has also been shut down following drone attacks launched from Iraq, according to Riyadh. The head of Yemen's governing body Rashad al-Alimi held a call with US President Donald Trump to request American support against the pro-Iranian fighters, a source in Alimi's office told AFP on Monday.

Worsening El Nino threatens Asia with drought, potentially raising food prices globally

BANTEN,.(Agency)

Indonesia: All signs are pointing toward a record-breaking El Nino this year, which experts say may cause severe drought in Asia and other extreme weather across the world, threatening food security for millions of people. El Nino is part of a natural climate cycle of warming ocean temperatures, but this year's is expected to reach new extremes of drought, heat waves, flooding and other climate-related disruptions in South America, Africa and Asia. Southeast Asia is one of the world's most climate vulnerable regions. It's already beset by an energy crisis triggered by the war in Iran. El Nino is already fueling wildfires across farmland, depleting water supplies for major cities and hurting fish catches in the region. Asian governments that have been drawing on their financial reserves to mitigate the war's ripple effects of higher energy costs and scarce fertilizer supplies have less capacity to cope with this year's intensifying El Nino, which is

forecast to peak in December. The phenomenon may amplify other crises in Southeast Asia, according to Paul Teng, with Singapore's ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, who said, "El Nino is only compounding all the other problems that we see." During El Nino years, sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean are warmer than usual. This happens every few years and often alters global weather patterns. This year, the seas already are hotter than average, with global oceans hitting new temperature records in August as the climate warms, said Kareff Rafisura, chief of the Disaster Risk Reduction Division at the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. This intensifying El Nino may be the "strongest in living memory," according to the United Kingdom's national weather and climate service. Similarly, the U.S.' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said there is a 69% chance that this will be the strongest recorded El Nino since record-keeping began in 1950.

What's next for Germany's troubled chancellor after a string of state election defeats

BERLIN.(Agency)

Friedrich Merz says he intends to stay on as the leader of Germany and his party after a string of state election defeats. But it's unclear how much room for maneuver the chancellor still has, only 16 months after he took office. The 70-year-old sought within minutes of polls closing Sunday in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania and Berlin to shore up his position in his center-right Christian Democratic Union. He made a highly unusual election evening appearance to insist that he would press ahead with reforms meant to get the sluggish economy moving. "What has to be done now requires backbone, steadfastness and patience," Merz said. "I will demonstrate that as the CDU party leader and above all as chancellor of our country." The key is Merz's party. The big question is whether the CDU will support him in that, and for how long. The party's eight state governors publicly backed him before Sunday's two elections.

But Merz's statement on Sunday itself underlined the erosion of his authority in recent weeks, and it remains to be seen whether support from powerful regional leaders and lawmakers will hold. Merz has



one advantage: there's no single obvious successor waiting in the wings. Potential options who have been named include the governors of North Rhine-Westphalia, Hendrik Wüst; Bavaria, Markus Söder; and Hesse, Boris Rhein. For now, though, no one has signaled any interest in taking over, and Wüst has an election to fight next spring in

his own state, Germany's most populous. It won't be easy to deliver Survival is one thing, but this month's state elections haven't made it easier for Merz to govern effectively. Merz already agreed the outline of proposed reforms with his junior governing partners, the center-left Social Democrats. But politicians on both sides of the governing coalition have questioned details of them during these election campaigns, particularly aspects of an overhaul of the pension system, and it's unclear whether he can get them through parliament the way he planned. The governing coalition has only a 12-seat majority in the 630-seat Bundestag, the national parliament's lower house. It will need to show discipline that it hasn't always mustered to pass the reform plans, which won't be easy if lawmakers grow more nervous. But that thin majority also complicates any plan to replace Merz: any successor would need to get elected in the Bundestag. Previous chancellors have given up their party's leadership